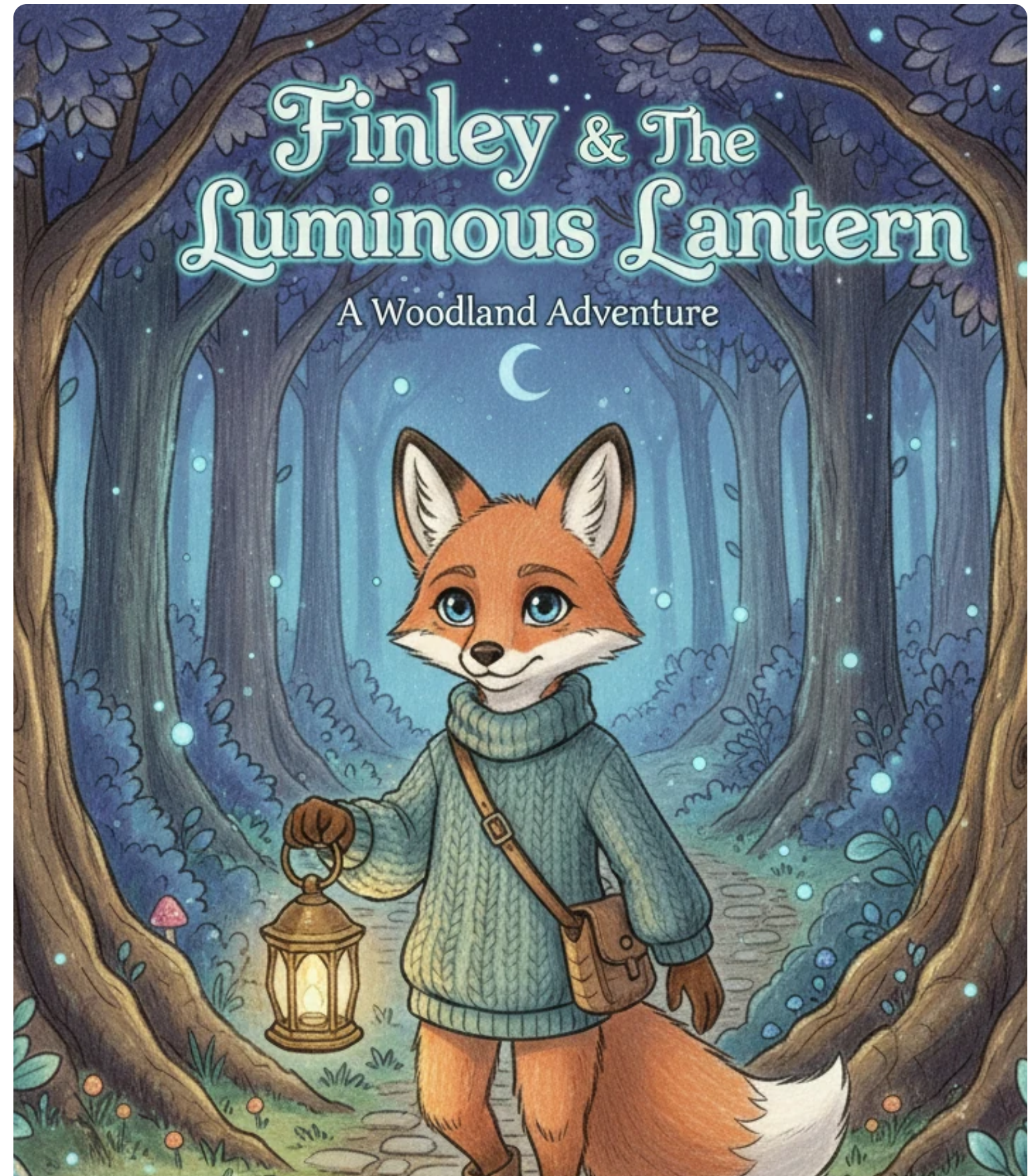


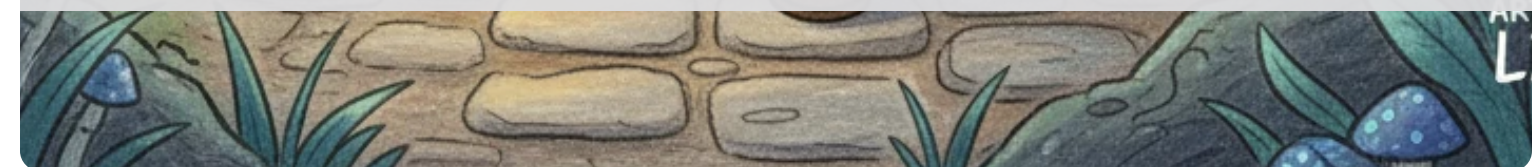
Finley & The Luminous Lantern

A Woodland Adventure



Finley and the Lost Friend

guli tan





Finley the little fox sat all alone on a grassy hill, watching the autumn leaves dance in the wind. The park was filled with laughter, but Finley had no one to play with, and his heart felt a little heavy and quiet.



Suddenly, a rustle came from the tall bushes nearby, catching Finley's sharp ears and making him tilt his head in curiosity. He peeked through the colorful leaves and saw a pair of long, white ears trembling behind a patch of wildflowers.



A tiny bunny with fur as white as a cloud stepped out, her nose twitching with worry and her paws tucked close to her chest. She looked around the big park with wide, teary eyes, feeling very small and very lost in the wide world.



Finley walked over slowly so he wouldn't startle her and offered a warm, friendly smile that reached his eyes. He took off his favorite soft blue scarf and wrapped it gently around the shivering bunny to keep her cozy and safe.



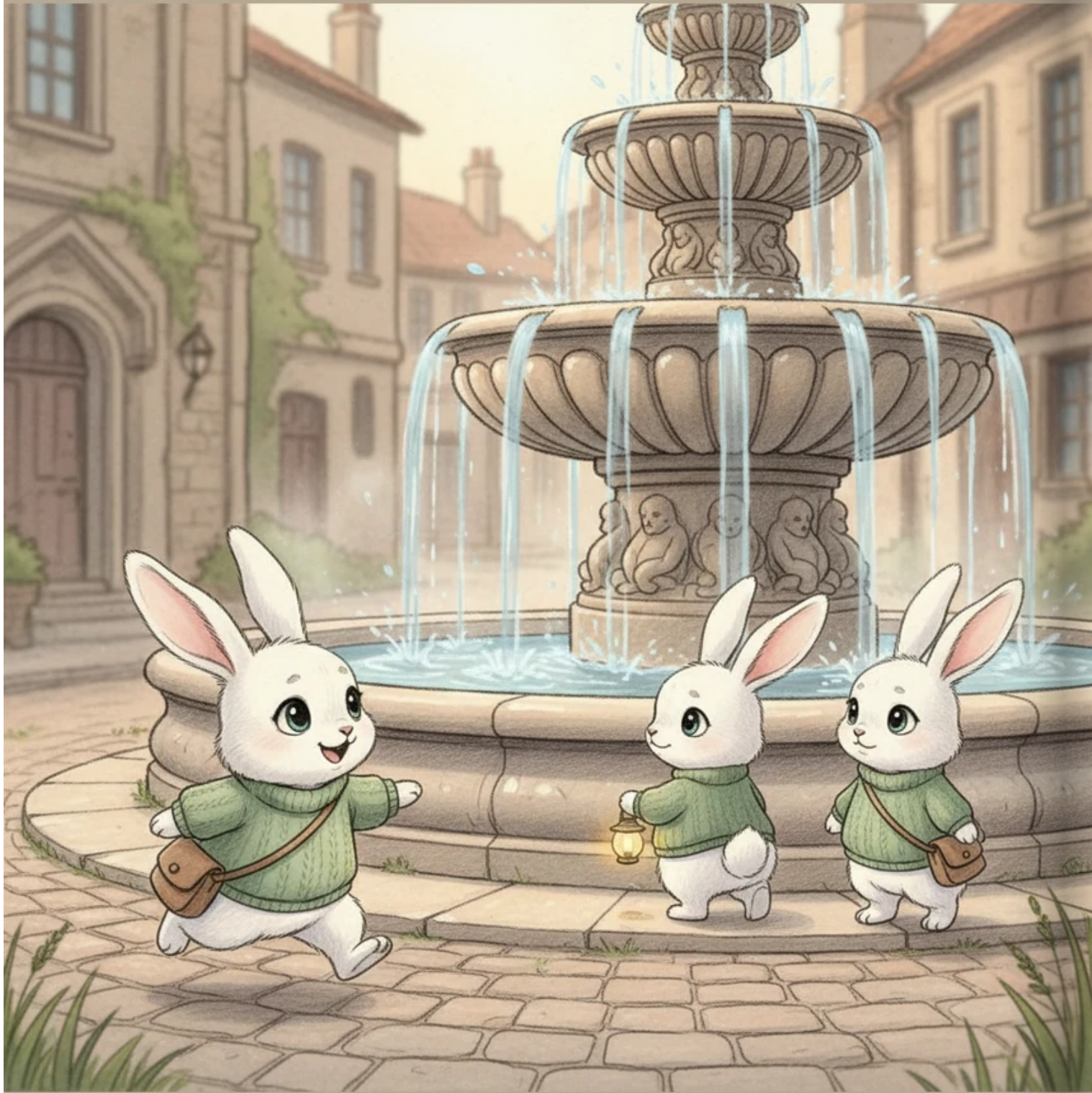
The bunny introduced herself as Bella and explained that she had wandered too far from the big stone fountain while chasing a leaf. Finley promised to help her find her way home, feeling a spark of excitement at having a new companion by his side.



Together, the two new friends set off across the park, hopping over puddles and walking under the shade of giant oak trees. Finley pointed out the prettiest flowers while Bella told stories about her many brothers and sisters, and they realized they liked the same games.



A bright yellow butterfly fluttered down from the sky, circling around them as if it knew exactly where they needed to go. They followed its golden path, laughing as they chased the butterfly through the sun-drenched meadow and over the wooden bridge.



As they rounded a corner, the sound of splashing water filled the air, and the grand stone fountain finally came into view. Bella let out a happy squeak when she saw her family waiting anxiously by the water's edge, their ears perking up at the sight of her.



Bella's family cheered and hugged her tight, thanking Finley for his bravery and kindness in looking after her. Before she left, Bella picked a bright yellow dandelion and handed it to Finley, promising they would meet at the same spot every single day.



Finley's Return

As the sun began to set in a sky of pink and gold, Finley walked back to his hill, but he didn't feel lonely anymore. He looked at the dandelion in his paws and smiled, knowing that he had found a best friend for life and a heart full of happiness.