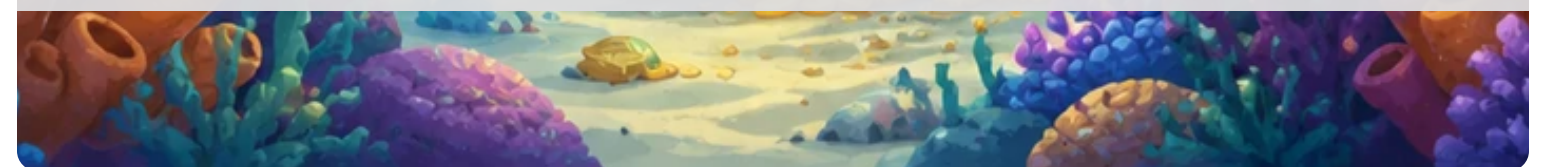




Banjo's Big Blue Splash

Nimisha Sant





Banjo the monkey stood on the sandy beach, staring at a giant, shimmering bubble floating near the water. He reached out and touched it, surprised to find it was a magical diving helmet made of sparkling air.



With a brave heart and a big splash, Banjo leaped into the crystal-clear ocean waves. He was amazed to see that he could breathe and move easily inside his magical bubble as he sank deeper into the blue.



Thousands of tiny, neon-colored fish swirled around Banjo like a living rainbow. They darted through the water, playing a merry game of tag among the swaying green seaweed and bright yellow sponges.



A gentle sea turtle named Tilly swam over and offered Banjo a ride on her sturdy, moss-covered shell. Together, they glided over deep underwater canyons and watched a family of dolphins dancing in the distance.



They arrived at a glowing coral forest where the plants twinkled like bright stars in the night sky. Banjo reached out to touch a soft purple coral that felt just like a squishy marshmallow.



Deep inside a hidden sandy cave, Banjo discovered an old wooden chest overflowing with shiny white pearls. He didn't want the gold; he just loved how the pearls sparkled like tiny moons in the dim blue light.



A shy octopus with eight wiggly arms peeked out from behind a rock to play a game of hide-and-seek. Banjo laughed as the octopus changed its color from bright orange to sandy brown to stay hidden.



Banjo found a tiny, worried seahorse lost in a thick forest of tall, golden kelp. He carefully guided the little friend back to its family, who cheered with tiny bubbles of joy and gratitude.



The sea creatures threw a grand party to celebrate their new land-dwelling friend. Crabs drummed on hollow shells while jellyfish pulsed with soft, rhythmic lights that turned the ocean into a disco.



As the sun began to set, Banjo floated back up to the warm, sandy shore. He waved goodbye to his new ocean friends, knowing he would always have a magical world waiting for him under the sea.