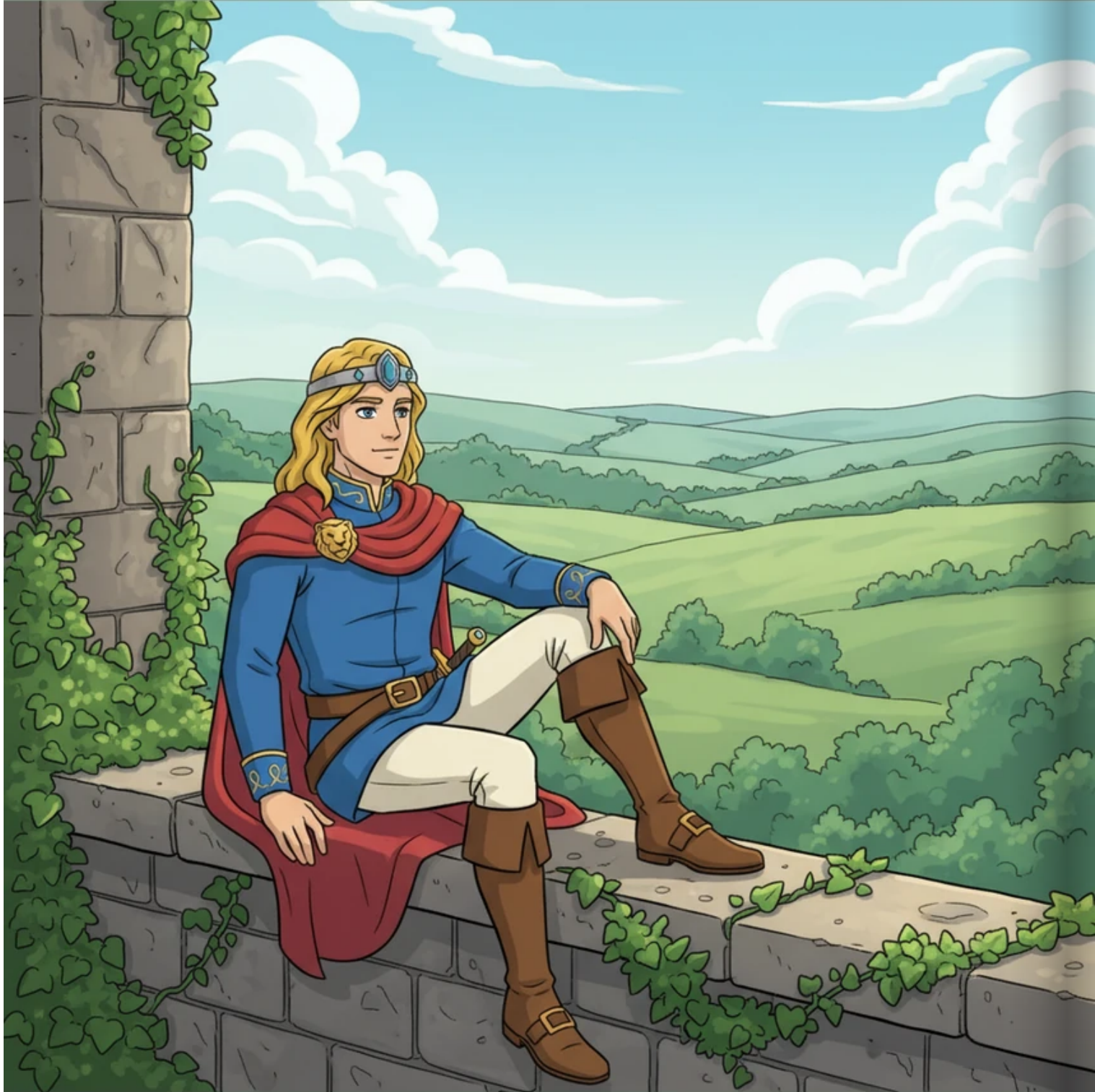




# The Prince and the Emerald Forest Princess

4BOUNA 4BOUNA



Prince Aris sat on the stone balcony of his ivy-covered castle, looking out at the vast, rolling hills of the green valley. While the kingdom was peaceful, he often felt a quiet longing for a friend who truly understood the language of the wind and the trees.



One afternoon, Aris followed a trail of glowing blue butterflies deep into the heart of the ancient woods. There, hidden beneath a canopy of weeping willows, he discovered a pond that shimmered like a fallen star in the dappled sunlight.



Sitting on a giant mossy rock was a small, bright emerald frog with eyes that sparkled like amber. To Aris's surprise, the frog didn't hop away, but instead tilted its head and let out a soft, melodic croak that sounded almost like a warm greeting.



I am Princess Hana, the frog said in a voice as clear as a mountain stream, explaining that a forest spirit had changed her form to guard the sacred waters. Aris listened intently, mesmerized by the way the sunlight filtered through the leaves to dance upon her green skin.



Every day after that, Aris returned to the pond, bringing tiny gifts like wild berries and delicate jasmine blossoms. They shared stories of the world above and the world beneath the lily pads, building a friendship that transcended their different forms.



A sudden summer storm rolled in, turning the sky a deep indigo and shaking the ancient trees with heavy winds. Aris didn't run for cover; instead, he used his cloak to shield Hana and the other small pond creatures from the lashing rain and falling branches.



As the rain softened, a magnificent Great Forest Spirit emerged from the mist, its antlers glowing with a soft, ethereal light. The spirit had watched Aris's selfless care and saw that his heart was as pure as the water he had protected throughout the storm.



With a gentle breath from the spirit, a whirlwind of cherry blossoms began to swirl around the pond, smelling of spring and ancient magic. Aris held Hana carefully in his palms, watching as the green light around her began to glow brighter than the morning sun.



The light faded to reveal a young woman with a dress made of woven lily petals and hair the color of rich, dark earth. Princess Hana smiled at Aris, her amber eyes shining with the same kindness he had shown her when she was small and green.



Together, they walked back toward the castle through the steaming, post-rain forest, but they never forgot the magic of the hidden pond. They became the guardians of the woods, ensuring that the harmony between the kingdom and nature would flourish for generations to come.