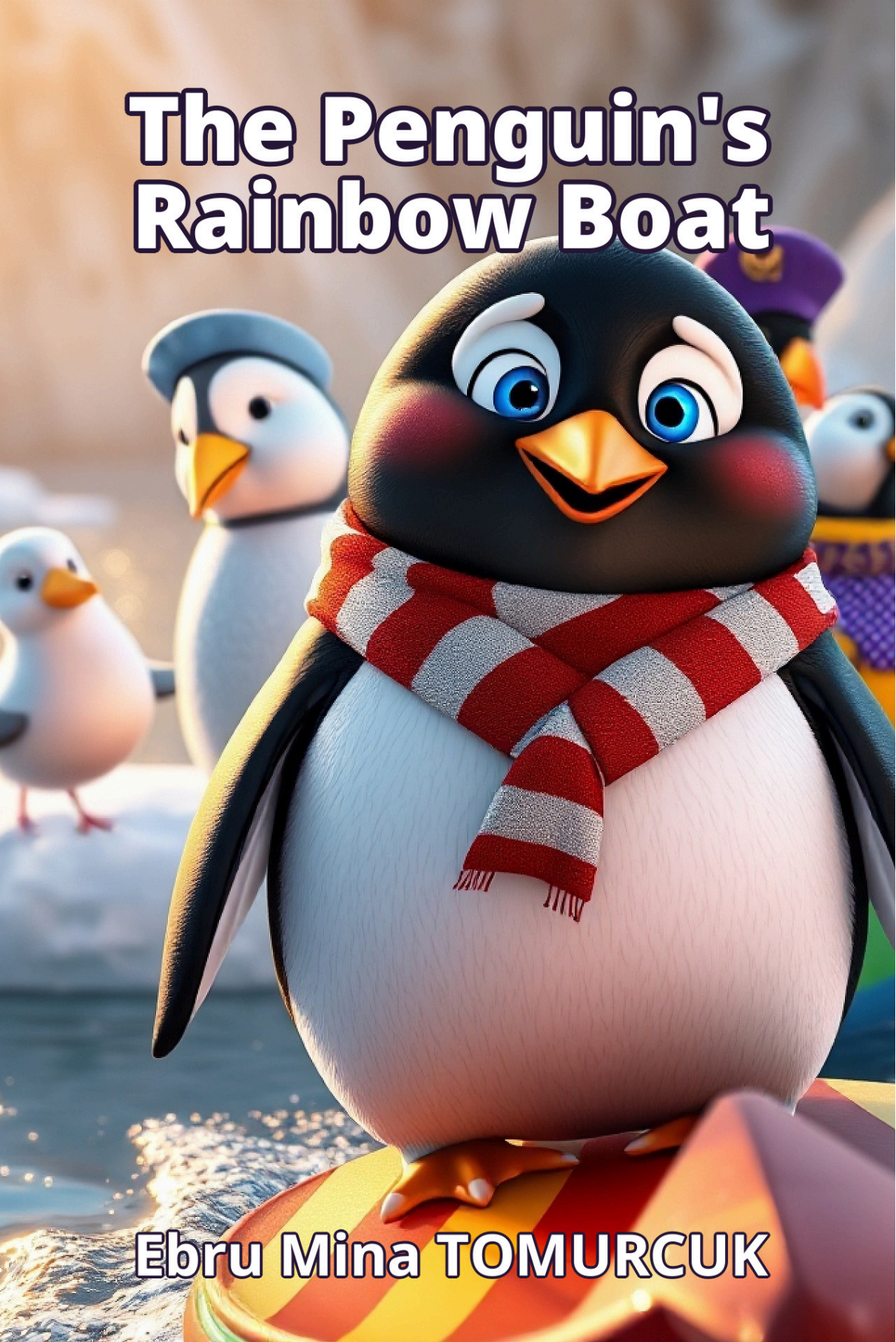
The Penguin's Rainbow Boat



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On a bright morning, Pip the penguin stood on the icy shore and watched the waves roll in. He was round and chubby, with a red-and-white striped sailor scarf around his neck. His bright sky-blue eyes sparkled as he dreamed of sailing far out to sea. 'One day,' he said, 'I will have my own boat and sail everywhere!'

Pip waddled to his little workshop behind the snowbank. He pulled out planks of wood, a pot of glue, and his trusty paintbrush. 'I will build a boat all by myself,' he said proudly. He sawed and hammered and glued, humming a happy tune. His tiny flippers worked all day long, and not once did he ask for help.

When the sun began to set, Pip stepped back to look at his creation. It was a beautiful boat, painted in bright stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple—a rainbow boat! 'It's perfect!' Pip cheered, dancing around it. He tied his sailor scarf tight and admired his colorful work. But the boat sat heavy and still on the snow.

The next morning, Pip tried to push his rainbow boat toward the water. He pushed with all his might, but the boat would not budge. He pushed and puffed and wiggled, but it was far too heavy for one small penguin. 'Oh dear,' Pip sighed, flopping onto the snow. 'How will I ever get my boat to the sea?'

High above, Splash the seagull swooped down. He wore a blue sailor cap with a tiny gold anchor, and his yellow beak curved in a smile. 'What's the trouble, Pip?' he called. Pip looked up with worried eyes. 'My boat is too heavy to push,' he said. 'I built it all by myself, but now I can't launch it.'

Splash flapped his grey wings and landed beside the boat. 'This is a fine boat,' he said, tapping the wood with his beak. 'But you can't do everything alone, Pip. Let me call my friends.' Splash let out a loud, cheerful cry. 'Friends! We need help at the shore!' His voice echoed across the icy bay.

Soon Pippa the puffin arrived, her yellow life vest bright against the snow. She had a striped orange beak and round dark eyes. 'What a wonderful boat!' she chirped. 'I'll help!' Then Captain Cora the cormorant glided in, tall and sleek, with a purple polka-dot neckerchief. She looked at the boat with her emerald-green eyes and nodded wisely.

Captain Cora walked slowly around the rainbow boat. She checked the planks and the glue, and she tapped the bottom with her hooked beak. 'It is a safe boat,' she said calmly. 'But we must launch it carefully. Everyone must push together and listen to my count.' The others nodded. Pip felt a warm glow in his chest.

Splash the seagull took charge. 'All right, team!' he squawked. 'Pippa, you push on the left. Cora, you push on the right. I'll push from behind. Pip, you guide the front.' Pippa flapped her little wings. 'We can do it!' she cheered. Pip gulped. He had never worked with friends before, but he nodded bravely.

Everyone got into position. Pippa pressed her small body against the left side. Captain Cora leaned her long neck against the right. Splash planted his orange feet behind the boat. Pip stood at the front, holding the bow. 'Ready?' called Splash. 'Ready!' everyone answered. Pip took a deep breath. His heart beat fast.

'Now, on my count!' Splash shouted. 'One... two... three... PUSH!' All together, the friends pushed with all their might. The rainbow boat slid forward, inch by inch. 'Keep pushing!' called Cora. Pippa cheered, 'We're moving!' The boat creaked and groaned, but it moved faster and faster across the snow.

With a final great shove, the rainbow boat tipped over the icy edge and splashed into the water. It bobbed up and down, safe and sound. 'We did it!' Pip squealed, jumping into the air. Splash flapped his wings, Pippa spun in a happy circle, and Captain Cora gave a slow, pleased nod. The boat floated perfectly on the waves.

Pip climbed aboard his rainbow boat and reached out a flipper. 'Come on, everyone! Let's take a ride!' Splash, Pippa, and Captain Cora hopped in, one by one. Cora took the steering oar with her strong beak. The boat glided smoothly over the sparkling sea. Pip smiled so wide his beak nearly touched his ears.

The rainbow boat sailed across the bay, with Pip at the front and his friends all around. 'This is the best day ever!' Pip shouted into the wind. Pippa laughed, and Splash called out, 'See? Teamwork makes big dreams come true!' Captain Cora steered them gently, and the little boat danced on the waves.

As the sun dipped low, Pip thought about his day. 'I wanted to do everything alone,' he said softly. 'But I couldn't have launched my boat without you.' Splash nudged him with a wing. 'That's what friends are for,' he said. Pippa nodded. 'And it's more fun together!' Captain Cora smiled her wise, quiet smile.

Back on the shore, the friends sat together and watched the rainbow boat bob in the twilight. Pip tied his sailor scarf a little tighter. 'Next time I build something big,' he said, 'I'll ask for help right away.' His friends cheered. And from that day on, Pip knew that big dreams are easier when friends share the work—and the joy.