

*For all the small people who want to be big people.
Especially for Esther.*

First published in hardback in Great Britain by HarperCollins Children's Books in 2019

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

ISBN: 978-0-00-821279-7

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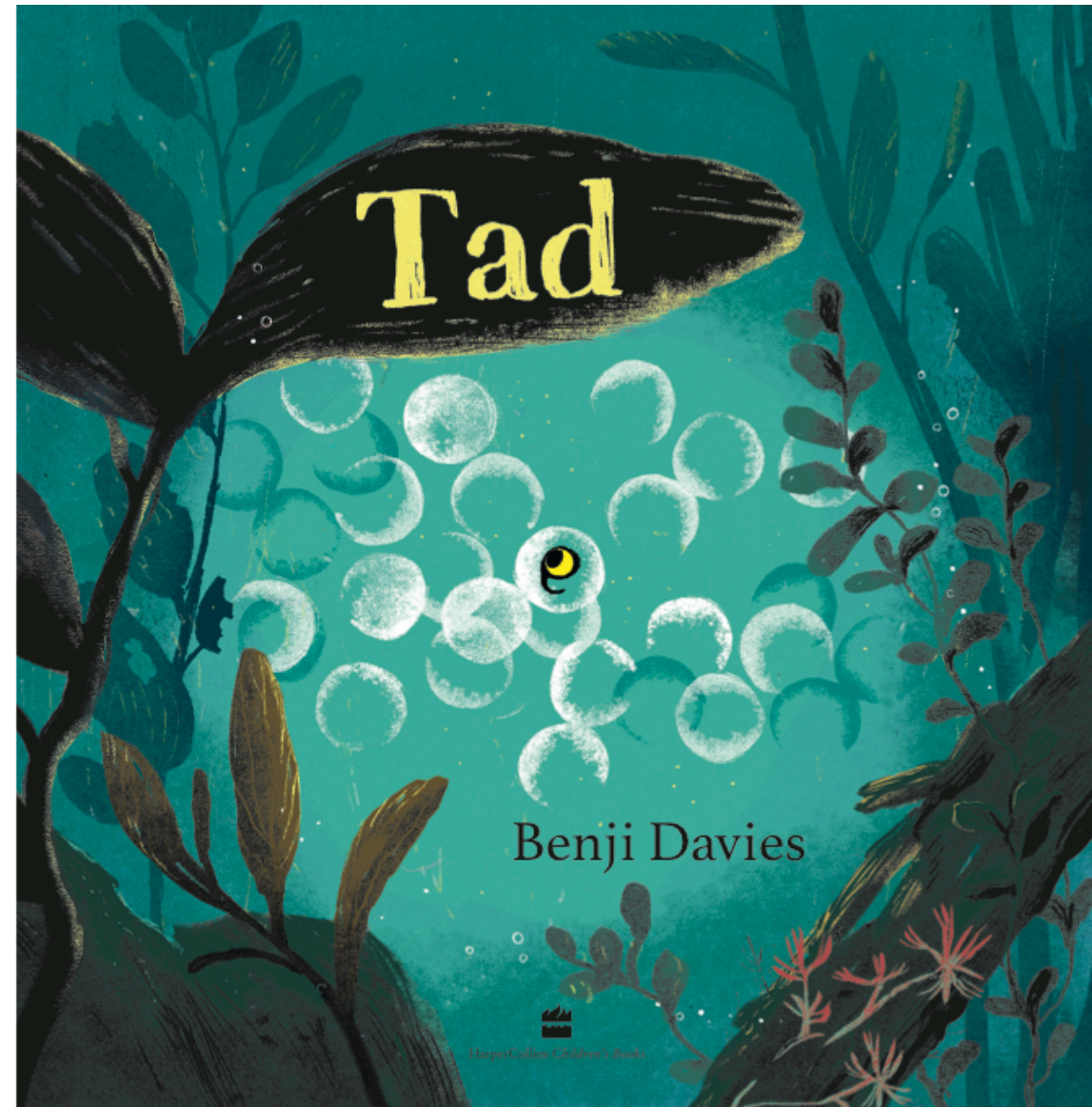
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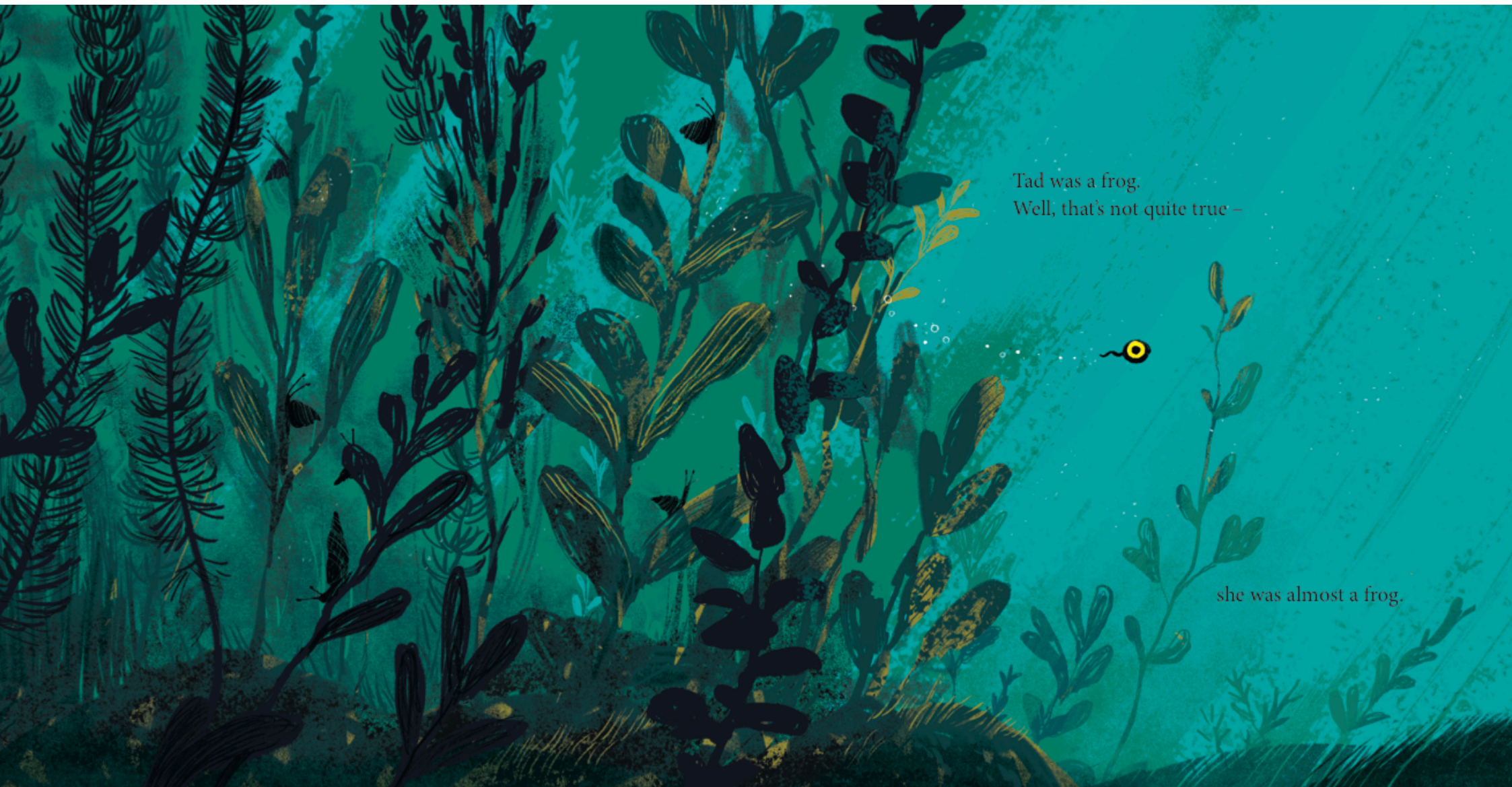
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Printed in China





Tad was a frog.
Well, that's not quite true –

she was almost a frog.



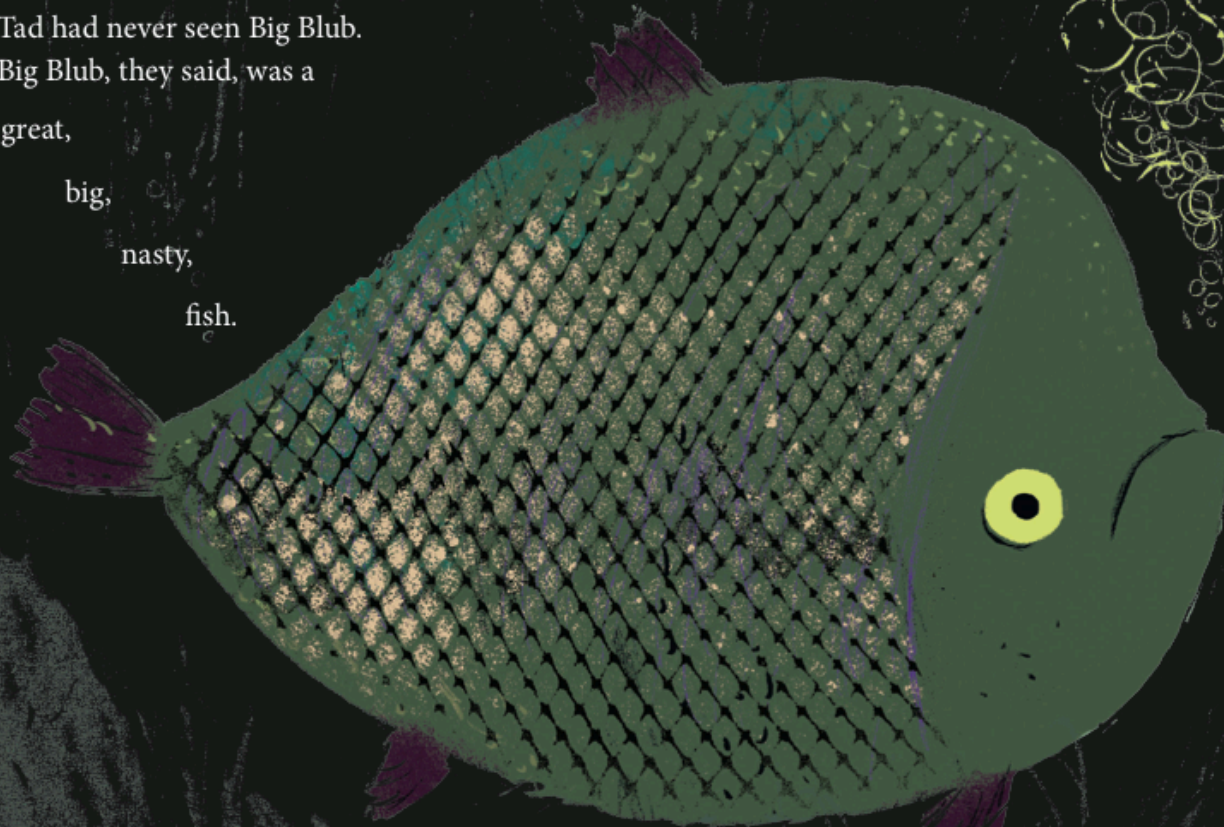
Tad was small.
Smaller than her tadbrothers.
Smaller than her tadsisters.

Tad was the smallest almost-a-frog
in the whole wide pond.

She was so small that she had to wiggle her tail
twice as fast as any of the others just to keep up.

“Keep up!” they would say. “Or Big Blub will get you!”

Tad had never seen Big Blub.
Big Blub, they said, was a
great,
big,
nasty,
fish.



Big Blub swam in the deep, dark, murky
part of the pond.

He was as old as the mud, they said.

He would wait till the sun went in,
till all the pond was grey, then he would
glide out from the dark patches and ...

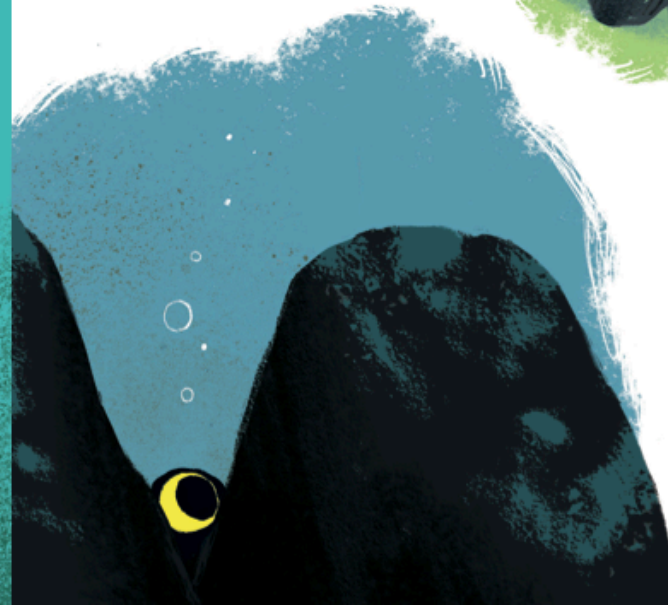
GULP!

No, no – Tad did NOT want to know.
She decided to not believe in Big Blub.



But, just in case, she kept to the shallow, sunny parts of the pond
where Big Blub could not get her.

And when the sun went in
she carefully hid behind the
rocks and plants ...



in hope that Big Blub
would not find her.