

The Duckling Who Braved the Deep

Inspired by Alan Watts
Written by Sundeep Parmar





LITTLE KEYS TO THE UNIVERSE

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DEDICATED TO

Ria & Mia



Big Lessons. Little Stories.



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Piper the duckling loved to follow her mother. Wherever Mama Duck waddled, Piper waddled. Wherever Mama Duck swam, Piper swam. It made her feel safe. But one misty morning, a fog rolled over the lake. The air grew thick and the world turned soft and grey. Piper blinked. Mama's shape faded into the mist. Mama, Piper called, only the water answered, plip, plop, ripple. Piper's heart raced, she paddled in circles near the shore.



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What if I can't find her? What if I sink? What if something's hiding in the deep? She quacked nervously, quack, quack, quack. The shallows felt safe, but Mama wasn't there. To find her, Piper would have to go into the unknown. A graceful figure appeared through the fog. It was Selene, the swan, her white feathers glowing in the mist. Why do you cling to the shore, little one? Selene asked gently. I lost my mama, Piper whispered.



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She's out there somewhere, but the water is too deep. I What if I get swept away? Selene's eyes softened. You are not meant to control the water. You are meant to trust it. Look, she pointed with her beak. Leaves floated past, spinning gently, carried by the current. Pebbles rolled below, gliding forward without effort. The water holds them, Selene said. It carries them where they need to go.



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Piper shook her head. But I'm not a pebble. I'm too small, too scared. What if I sink? Selene moved closer. The lake already knows how to hold you. The only question is, will you let it? Piper gulped. She waddled in deeper until her belly floated. For a moment, she felt lifted. Then panic bubbled up. Quack, quack, quack. I'm floating. I don't like this. I must paddle harder.



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She splashed and kicked wildly, sending water everywhere. The harder she fought, the more tired she became. Selene waited calmly. You are working so hard, little one. Yet the water was holding you all along. Piper stopped splashing. Her chest heaved. She looked at the drifting leaves again. They weren't fighting. They were simply being carried. Just float, she whispered. Just float, Selene nodded. Piper closed her eyes, took a shaky breath and let her legs relax.



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For a moment, she trembled, certain she would sink. But she didn't. The water held her. Her eyes popped open. It works. I'm floating. The current nudged her gently forward. She giggled. Quack. The water is carrying me. The fog shifted. She saw lily pads she had never noticed before. Fish sparkled below like silver lanterns. The lake revealed its secrets one step at a time.



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And then through the mist, she heard it. Quack, mama's voice. Piper followed the sound letting the water carry her. Soon the fog parted. And there was mama duck waiting with open wings. Piper paddled into her side, safe at last. I didn't know where I was going, Piper whispered. Mama nuzzled her gently. But the water did. Alan Watts taught that life is like water.



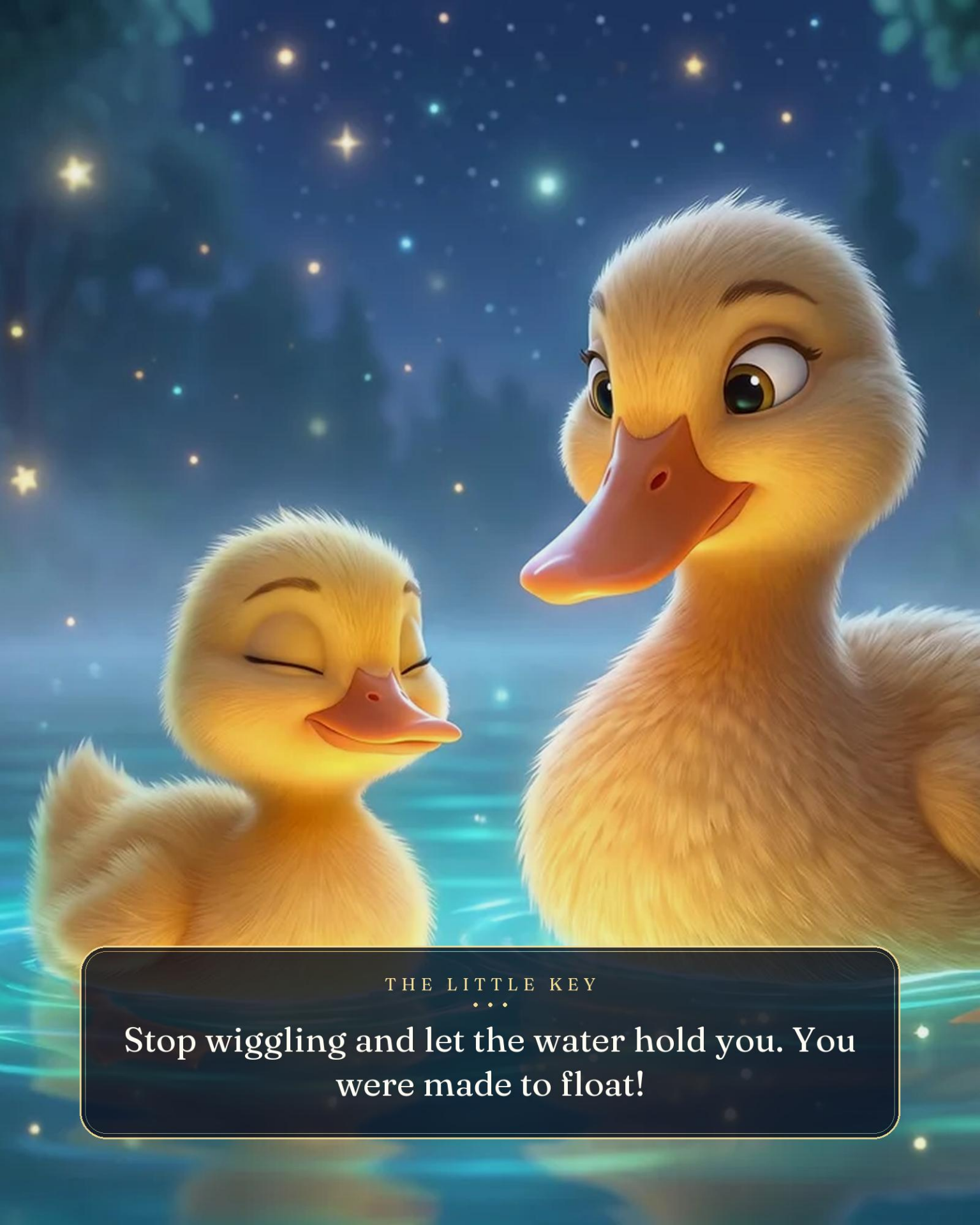
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We cannot push or force it to go our way. But when we surrender to the flow, we discover that life carries us exactly where we are meant to go. Just like Piper the duckling, you don't need to know everything about the future. You don't have to see the whole path at once. You don't need to control every moment. You can trust that life will carry you step by step like water carrying a leaf.



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The river of life is already moving. All you need to do is float.
This story is



THE LITTLE KEY
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Stop wiggling and let the water hold you. You
were made to float!



TRUST THE FLOW

A little duckling afraid of the deep learns to stop fighting the water and trust the gentle flow that carries her. A soothing bedtime story about trust.

For anxious kids afraid to let go — a reminder they were made to float.

Big Lessons. Little Stories.

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