

OFFICIAL READER'S COMPANION

# Yechiel's Fishery Farm

*Field Guide & Collector's Log*

*Updated Edition — Books 1-10*

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Meet every creature, explore every zone,  
and tick the box when you find them in the books.

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*From the Yechiel's Fishery Farm book series*

By Yechiel Kuperman, Marine Biologist


## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE


### Welcome, Field Researcher.

- 1 Read a book.** Every time you meet a creature in the story, find their card in this guide.
  - 2 Tick the box**  next to their name. You have officially discovered them.
  - 3 Write the book number** in the little space that says Book \_\_\_\_\_. That is when you first met them.
  - 4 Read the refrain** — the short sentence in italics. Can you hear them saying it in the book?
  - 5 Use the blank pages at the back** to write in new creatures as you meet them in future books. The farm keeps growing.
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### About the Zones

The farm is divided into zones. Each zone has different water — different salt levels, different temperature, different light. Fish that belong in one zone usually cannot visit another without careful, slow preparation. That is one of the most important things Yechiel teaches.

 **The Greenhouse** — *Warm. Humid. Tropical freshwater. The long tube light goes zz-ZZ, zz-ZZ.*

 **The Salt Wing** — *Marine aquaria. Blue-lit and mysterious. Full of reef life.*


 **The Brackish Bog & Mangrove Edge** — *Half-salty, half-fresh. Muddy roots. Nursery for baby fish.*

 **The Workshop & Back Tank** — *Cluttered. Cozy. Smell of old books and seaweed. Very special things live here.*

 **The Quarantine Lab** — *Where new fish arrive. Careful, slow, patient. Everyone starts here.*

 **The Old Lake** — *Quiet. Ancient. Still freshwater. Empress Matilda lives here.*

\* **The Outdoor Ponds** — *Lively freshwater. Open sky. Coming in future mini-series.*

 **The Puddle Patch** — *Temporary rain puddles. Seasonal. Coming in future books.*

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*"You always have to listen to what the fish say to you, silently." — Yechiel's notebook*



## Zone 1 — The Greenhouse

*Tropical freshwater · warm & humid · the long tube light hums zz-ZZ, zz-ZZ*



### George the Cranky Guppy ★ protagonist

*Guppy / Poecilia reticulata*

**“This water has opinions.”**

Four-spotted fan-tail: orange, cobalt, emerald, gold. Tiny but reacts to salinity like a retired sea captain tasting bad soup.

*Now lives in the Brackish Bog from Book 6 onwards.*



### Plecy the Glutton Plecostomus ★ protagonist

*Common plecostomus / Hypostomus plecostomus*

**“A little mess is a little lunch.”**

Brown-and-gold armored plates. Round sucker-mouth smile. Treats every dirty surface like a banquet table.



Found!

Book

—

### Greta the Glass Catfish

*Glass catfish — transparent schooling fish*

**“You can't see me if I feel invisible.”**

Completely transparent body. Trembling barbels. The gentle mother-figure of the farm.



Found!

Book

—

### Pip

*Glass catfish fry — Greta's daughter*

**“What's that?”**

Tiny transparent fry. Enormous eyes. Asks about everything, always.

*First appears in Book 4.*



Found!

Book

—

### Sir Bubbleton the Gourami

*Gourami / anabantoid, breathes air*

**“One must breathe with dignity.”**

Milky-tea belly, polished-oak back, threadlike pelvic fins. Very formal at the surface.



Found!

Book

—

### Bo the Crowntail Betta

*Betta splendens — male crowntail*

**“It is geometry. Not anger.”**

Deep red to cobalt edges. Every fin like an angry comb. Not angry. It is geometry.

*Rescued from a cup. First appears in Book 5.*



Found!  
Book

### Lila the Betta

*Betta splendens* — butterfly female

**“My body's wild question is different.”**

White as fresh milk, fin-tips faintly edged in blue. Calm. Listens to everything. Misses nothing.

*Rescued with Bo. First appears in Book 5.*



### Gloria the Fancy Veiltail Betta ★ protagonist

*Betta splendens* — veiltail female

**“Obviously, the bubbles are for me.”**

Long rippling veiltail fins. Treats every bubble as personal applause.



Found!  
Book

### Turbo the Zebra Danio

*Danio rerio*

**“I already checked!”**

Blue stripes blurred with speed. Thoughts have fins and are always late for his body.



Found!  
Book

### Queen Tetra (school of 8)

*Cardinal tetra / Paracheirodon axelrodi*

**“We decide together.”**

Neon blue stripe over brilliant red belly. Eight fish. One voice. Cannot decide without the school.



Found!  
Book

### Professor Nitra

*Nitrifying bacteria* — the biofilter

**“The smallest workers save the biggest tank.”**

Invisible. Lives in the filter. Deeply offended that nobody claps for biofiltration.



Found!  
Book

### Ozzie the Oxygen Bubble

*Dissolved oxygen / aeration*

**“Breathe, sparkle, repeat!”**

Silver bubbles. Fizzy laughter. The upward rush of breath made visible.



## Zone 2 — The Salt Wing

Marine aquaria · cool, blue-lit, mysterious



### Mony the Overprotective Clownfish ★ protagonist

Clownfish / *Amphiprion ocellaris*

**“Stand back. This is under my protection.”**

Orange stripes, buzzing fins. A tiny bodyguard blocking the way to something that did not need guarding.

Cameo Book 10. Mini-Series 3 begins Book 11.



Found!

Book

—

### Marina the Mandarin Fish

Mandarin dragonet / *Synchiropus splendidus*

**“I require moving cuisine.”**

Blue, orange, and green maze-like patterns. Picky gourmet. Refuses anything ordinary.



Found!

Book

—

### Tango the Bossy Tang

Surgeonfish / *Paracanthurus hepatus*

**“Algae inspection. Move aside.”**

Blue-and-yellow. Sharp caudal spine. Treats algae grazing like reef traffic control.



Found!

Book

—

### Flash the Cleaner Wrasse

Cleaner wrasse / *Labroides dimidiatus*

**“Hold still. This is professional.”**

Slim blue-striped body. Turns every social meeting into a parasite inspection.



Found!

Book

—

### Dr. Cleaner the Shrimp

Cleaner shrimp / *Lysmata amboinensis*

**“Open your gills and say aaah.”**

Long white antennae waving like sterile instruments. Believes every fish is secretly a patient.



Found!

Book

—

### Stella the Starfish

Sea star / *Fromia* sp.

**“I am almost there.”**

Five patient arms, invisible tube feet. So slow that everyone forgets she is unbelievably persistent.



Found!

Book



### Pulsi the Xenia Dancer

*Pulsing Xenia coral / Xenia elongata*

**"I'm not waving. I'm pulsing."**

Soft polyps opening and closing in rhythmic pulses. Communicates entirely through dramatic pulsing.



Found!

Book



### Coralina the Coral Colony Queen

*Coral colony / Acropora sp.*

**"I am not a rock. I am a kingdom."**

Thousands of tiny polyps. Speaks like one queen. Glows like a palace built from sunset and stone.



Found!

Book



### Sunny the Zooxanthella

*Symbiotic algae inside Coralina*

**"Lunch from sunlight!"**

Invisible to most eyes. Lives inside coral tissue. Believes sunlight is a kitchen and she is the chef.



Found!

Book



### Madame Brainia the Brain Coral

*Brain coral / Diploria labyrinthiformis*

**"Thinking takes tide."**

Maze-like ridges. Because she looks like a brain, everyone assumes she knows everything. She enjoys this.



## Zone 3 — The Brackish Bog & Mangrove Edge

Half-salty, half-fresh · muddy roots · nursery for baby fish



Found!

Book



### Madame Molly — the Peacekeeper

*Molly / Poecilia sp. — euryhaline livebearer*

**“Fresh, salty, in-between — breathe first.”**

Soft cloud-at-dusk grey. Can go anywhere. Stays because the bog needs her.



Found!

Book



### Captain Cory — Cleanup Sergeant

*Corydoras catfish*

**“No pellet left behind.”**

Armored scutes. Barbel-mustaches. Treats one fallen pellet like a military rescue mission.

*Also: “Important is not the same as loud.”*



Found!

Book



### Spike the Bristlenose Pleco

*Bristlenose plecostomus / Ancistrus sp.*

**“Quiet near the nursery.”**

Soft bristles on snout. Guards the egg cave with fierce gentleness. Looks terrifying. Is not.



Found!

Book



### Pinchy the Hermit Crab

*Hermit crab / Paguroidea sp.*

**“Good shell, terrible location.”**

Judges every shell like a luxury apartment. Declares every water event a typhoon. Always wrong.



Found!

Book



### Snailbert the Slow Philosopher

*Mystery snail / Pomacea bridgesii*

**“Many... minutes... ago... I began... to answer.”**

Spiral shell. Silver trail. Wisdom moving at the speed of wet paint.



Found!

Book



### Archie the Archerfish

*Archerfish / Toxotes jaculator*

**“Refraction. Distance. Snack.”**

Still enormous eyes. Tilted mouth. Shoots insects from above the surface. Compensates for light refraction.

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/><br>Found!<br>Book<br>— | <p><b>The Killifish (collective)</b><br/> <i>Killifish — small schooling group</i><br/> <b>“We eat plankton. The name is a coincidence.”</b><br/>         Ask questions that lead Pinchy deeper into being wrong. Record everything.</p> |
|---|--|

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| <input type="checkbox"/><br>Found!<br>Book<br>— | <p><b>Muddy Max the Mudskipper</b><br/> <i>Mudskipper / Periophthalmus sp.</i><br/> <b>“Water is nice. Mud has options.”</b><br/>         Pop-up eyes, muddy elbows. Believes leaving the water is career advancement.</p> |
|---|--|

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/><br>★ | <p><b>Groovy the Mangrove</b> ★ <i>protagonist</i><br/> <i>Mangrove tree / Rhizophora sp.</i><br/> <b>“Mud is where the magic settles.”</b><br/>         Prop roots arching into brackish water. The calm old guardian of every muddy, salty edge.</p> |
|-------------------------------|--|

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| <input type="checkbox"/><br>Found!<br>Book<br>— | <p><b>Lily the Floating Daydreamer</b><br/> <i>Water lily / Nymphaea sp.</i><br/> <b>“Shade first. Panic later.”</b><br/>         Broad floating leaf. Trailing roots below. Turns every emergency into a floating nap.</p> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/><br>Found!<br>Book<br>— | <p><b>Minty the Bog Mint</b><br/> <i>Bog mint / Mentha aquatica</i><br/> <b>“I’m not spreading. I’m expressing myself.”</b><br/>         Cool mint smell. Square stems. Does not grow — she conquers politely.</p> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/><br>Found!<br>Book<br>— | <p><b>Salty Sally the Brackish Molly</b><br/> <i>Molly / Poecilia sp. — brackish ecotype</i><br/> <b>“I packed for both.”</b><br/>         Calm silver turn. Handles changing salinity like a traveler with sandals and snow boots.</p> |
|---|---|



## Zone 4 — The Workshop, Back Tank & Hub

Logbooks · microscope · tea kettle · the Quarantine Lab is next door

The Quarantine Lab is where new fish arrive before joining their permanent zone. Bo and Lila arrived here. Everyone starts here.



Found!  
Book  
—

### Pearl the Seahorse

Seahorse / *Hippocampus* sp.

**“I hold on when the world wiggles.”**

Buttery yellow. Curled tail on seagrass. Pearl is biologically male — carries the young.

*Watches the back tank from across the polite glass channel.*



Found!  
Book  
—

### ◆ Antonia · Beatrix · Caspar

Wild Heckel discus / *Symphysodon discus*

**“The back tank. Very special. Do not rush.”**

From the Rio Negro. Each body the size of a man's head. A single luminous bar. 47+ years in care.

*The reason the farm exists.*



Found!  
Book  
—

### Avichai

Human — Yechiel's grandson, age 5

**“Gwandad. Fishies.”**

Curly hair. Blue star bandana. Cream cable-knit sweater. Asks the questions adults stopped asking.



Found!  
Book  
—

### Jhonny the Cockatiel

*Nymphicus hollandicus* — hand-raised cockatiel

**“JHONNY. (then a whistle)”**

Pale grey body, yellow crest, vivid orange cheek patch. Talks to fish.

Suspicious of new arrivals.



## Zone 5 — The Old Lake

*Quiet · ancient · freshwater · the farm's oldest neighbour*



Found!

Book



### Empress Matilda, Dor 70

*Dor 70 carp / Cyprinus carpio — near-scaleless line*

***“Every change passes. And you are still here. That is enough.”***

Bronze-glinted. Eyes the colour of river silt. Old the way the Old Lake is old.

*Permanent Old Lake resident. Visited the Greenhouse in Book 8.*



## Zones Not Yet Opened

*Outdoor Ponds · Puddle Patch — coming in future mini-series*

*These zones are waiting. Their creatures have not yet been introduced. Watch for them in Books 11 onwards.*

## My Field Research Progress

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Creatures discovered: \_\_\_ / 42

Books read: \_\_\_ / 35

Zones explored: \_\_\_ / 8

New friends recorded: \_\_\_

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**My favourite creature so far:**

**Because:**

**My refrain would be:**

" \_\_\_\_\_ "

**My zone on the farm would be:**

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## Take it slow.

*The fish are patient. The water will wait.*

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*"Some fish tell you where they belong.  
You always have to listen to what the fish say  
to you, silently."*

*— written by Yechiel, in the small wet notebook*

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*From the Yechiel's Fishery Farm series.  
Written with the help of a marine biologist  
and forty-nine years of real fish stories.*