

*My Big Dream Family Tree*

by Bibi Monnahan

Illustrated by Jayde Cardinalli

# Jayde Cardinalli

Keeping up with our artist feature, this week we will be focusing on the creative practice of Jayde Cardinalli as we peek into her latest commission, *Big Dreams*.

Jayde Cardinalli is a California based designer and illustrator who takes inspiration from fashion, textiles, nature, and vintage ephemera. With a BFA in Graphic Design, she is skilled in hand-drawn & digital techniques, animation, product design, and art direction. Jayde's illustrations were recently featured on clothing for GUCCI's runway show after the celebrated creative director Alessandro Michele discovered her work on Instagram. Her work can also be found throughout Facebook in the form of animated characters, and in editorials including Elle, Vogue, and Vanity Fair.

Specially commissioned for Artmart to be donated to "Teach for China" a worldwide children's charity, this monumental work is a dreamscape that took over a month to complete. Cardinalli worked her way up from a black and white sketch before colouring in the details with pastels that set the composition and colour in perfect harmony. Pablo Picasso once said, "Everything you can imagine is real." Cardinalli's diptych is a testament to that and the passion she has for her craft shines through as she invites us into a world of hope and colour.

With the wish that this work will be able to raise money to support the education of children across China, we've also included an original fairytale by Bibi Monnahan to accompany and bring the work to life.









## *My Big Dream Family Tree*

Not so very long ago it was just another bedtime. I always go to bed without complaining and sometimes even skip my bedtime story, telling Mumsey that I'm too sleepy or I pretend to fall asleep. Then Mumsey kisses my cheek, turns off the light, closes my door...and all is darkness. It is my very favorite time...just me and my kitty and all the night to play, pretend and imagine fantastic things.

Tiptoeing out of bed, I slowly and carefully push open the shutters... so as not to make any loud clanking noises. Mister Moon's rays spill through my window making magic pools of light and shadows. Honeysuckle floats into my room moving around me like a quiet ghost. Suddenly a gust of wind bangs one shutter against the sill...and I run back to my bed jumping under the covers with warm and cuddly kitty at my feet. I can hear her cleaning her paws as I fall asleep.

Sometime later at the end of one dream and before the beginning of another...a chattering wakes me and I can hear birds chirping and the church bells tolling across the river. Kitty is already awake and standing in a moonbeam near the window...a cool breeze is moving the curtains in a slow dance. I hop out of bed...my bare feet feeling the cold tiles as I run across the floor to my window. It is not yet sunrise. Blinking into the moonlight my sleepy eyes open wide and then wider.

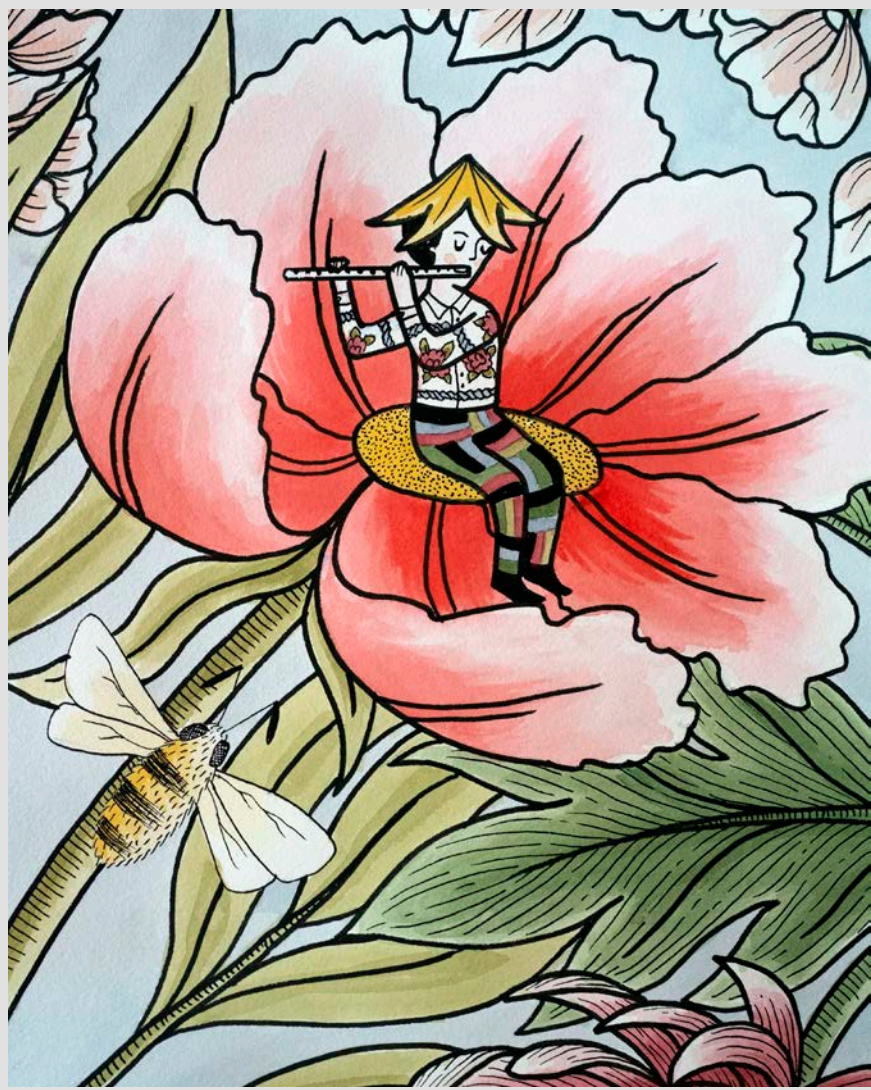
There before me I see hundreds or maybe even thousands of fantastic curving vines that have grown up to my second story window. Gigantic leaves like elephant ears with veined patterns and everywhere enormous flowering blossoms on vines as big as monstrous tree limbs.

Some are pinkish and persimmon and others red like blood oranges and pomegranates. Flowers the size of saucers and some as big as my dinner plate. So very many branches and blooms I cannot tell if it is one tree or hundreds that have grown together. I hear a cacophony of chattering coming from somewhere in the maze of all the vines and blooms. Just then a cloud passes over the moon and illuminates the scene before me. I blink once then twice and each time I blink I see another fantastic thing.

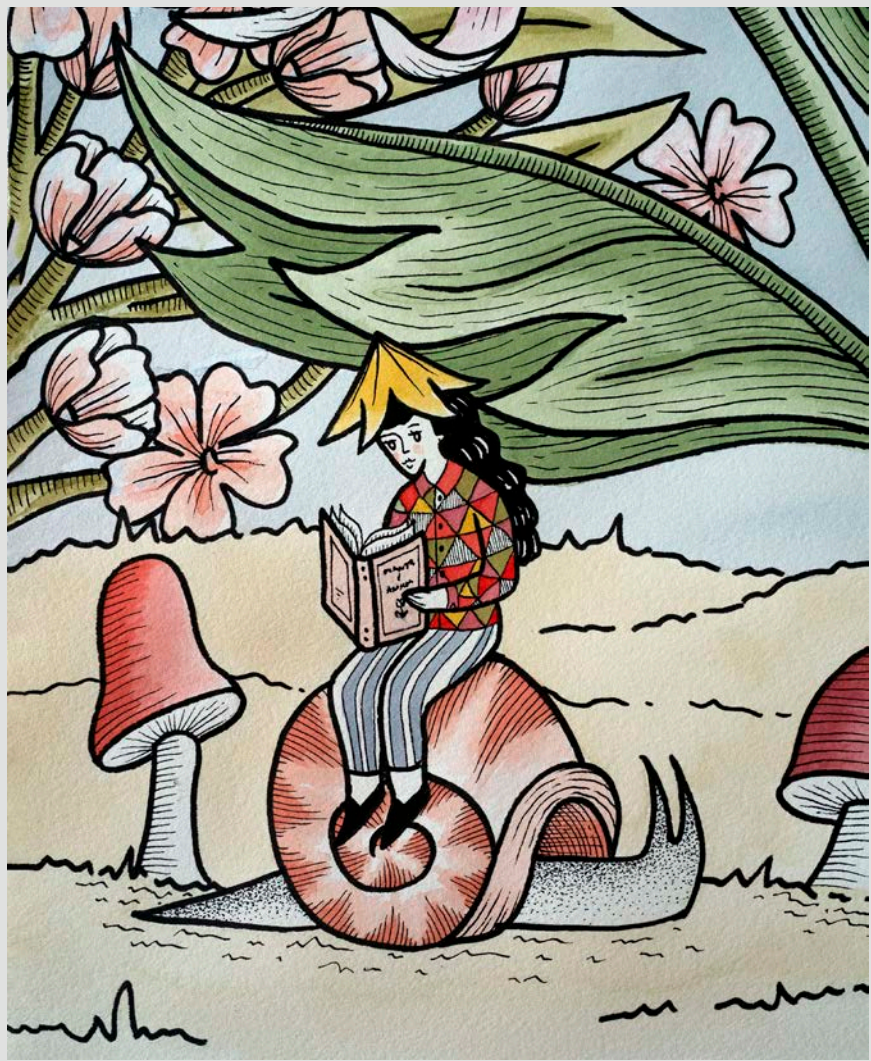
On one branch a boy with stars on his trousers carries a ladder and above him another boy is playing a flute. It is a melody that sounds so familiar. I see a lovely girl on a swing and another standing inside a gilded gazebo shaped like a flower. Other boys and girls are balancing on thin vines and hopping from one to another with great ease. Giant bees are buzzing happily moving from flower to flower. One girl in a polka dot dress is holding a flower shaped umbrella while riding a zebra and another is grazing nearby. Just near the zebras I see a miniature fountain with crystal clear water flowing from its three tiers and massive mushrooms scattered about with their heads cocked to one side like crazy caps. A girl in striped trousers and a pointed hat sits quietly reading a book perched on the back of a snail. In the center of a huge bloom sits another boy looking through a telescope. One boy and girl in a tiny flowering gazebo hanging from a branch wave to me. The girl in the gilded flower cage with an open door beckons me to come and join her. I step up onto my windowsill and grab ahold of one of the vines. I look back at kitty who is watching me as I turn around stepping onto a branch and into the tree.

The End.

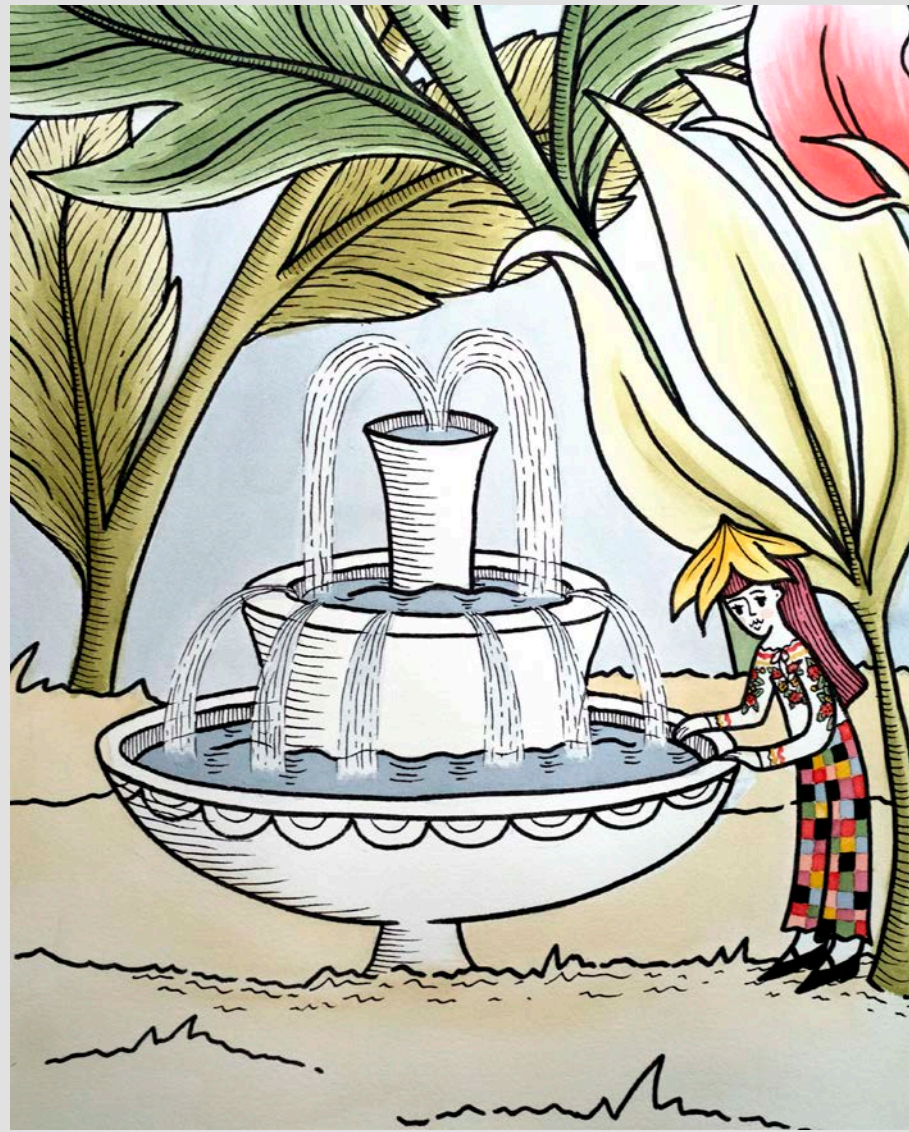
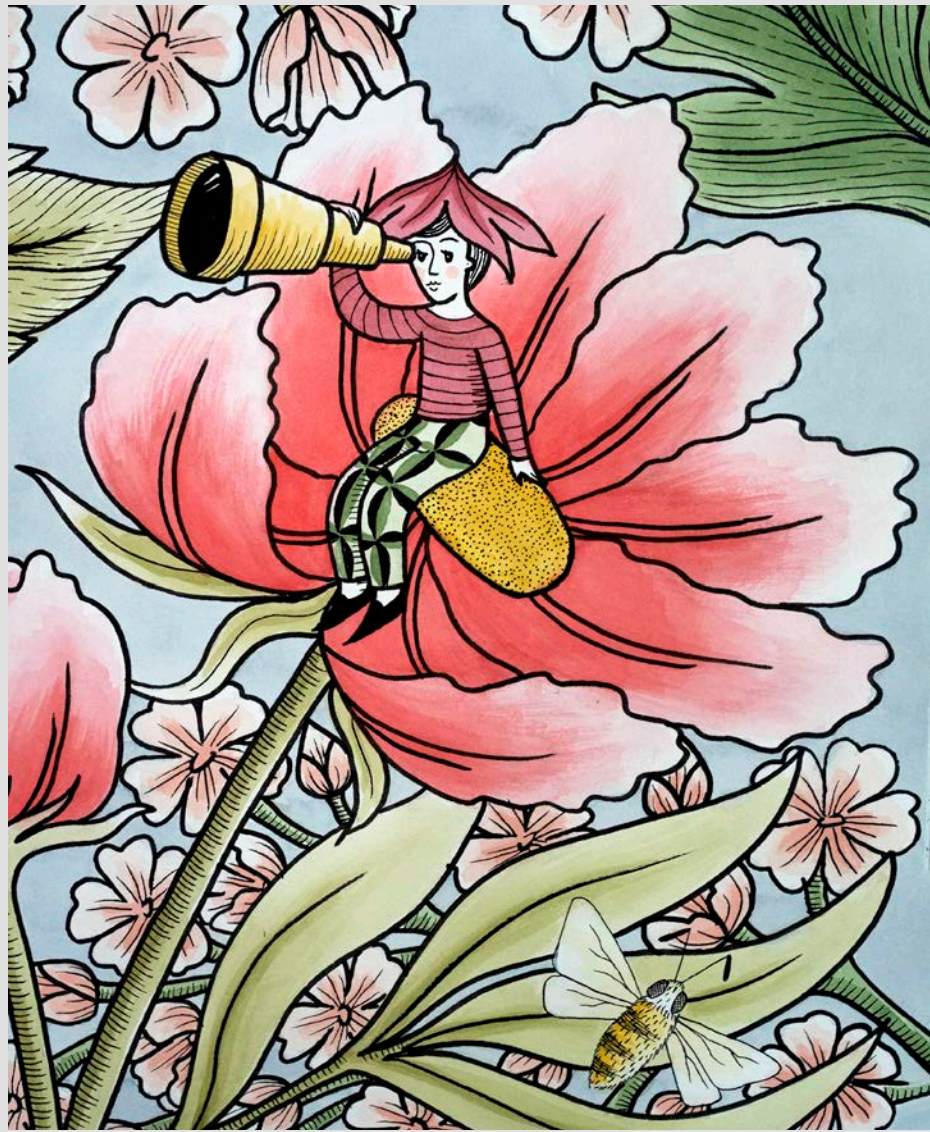














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