

PINK

THE ADVENTURES
OF A MANY FAIRY



BY ROBERT G COWLEY
ILLUSTRATED BY KARMEN ST JOHN-CAIN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: ROBERT G COWLEY

This book has been inspired by my lovely wife Mercy and granddaughter, Anais. They are simply two peas in a pod and when they meet up it is sometimes hard to remember which one is 4^{1/2} years old and which one isn't! So when the Isle of Man closed its borders and their regular contact was stopped it became increasingly difficult, video calls were just not the same. Anais missed visiting 'Gaga's house', particularly her bedroom and the Manx fairy tree in the garden. One day, when they were talking online, I found them both in tears because they couldn't be together... and so I thought a story might cheer them up.

Enter Fairy Jasmine and a magical tale that will hopefully bring a BIG smile to the reader. PINK is a bedtime story, or first reading book, that will stimulate the imagination as well as result in happy and colourful dreams. It is illustrated by Karmen, a talented young artist, who has really captured the essence of the adventure with clever and insightful pictures.

The book has also been written to raise awareness and funds for an important Manx Charity. My first book "NO ENTRY" raised over £1000 and I have a similar target for this book that I hope the generous Manx public will help me to achieve.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR: KARMEN ST JOHN-CAIN

This is the third book illustrated by Karmen who is a 14 year old Manx girl on the autistic spectrum. Although autism is often characterised by difficulties in social interaction and emotional communication, Karmen is remarkable in that her illustrations portray a high level of emotional content and detail.

When not drawing, Karmen can usually be found creating animations, reading, walking with her family or playing with her hamsters!



PINK

THE ADVENTURES OF A MANY FAIRY



For Anais and Sebbie, love Grandad

Written by Robert G Cowley
Illustrated by Karmen St John-Cain

Sponsored by



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ISBN: 978-1-8384957-0-1

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First published by Bunch Books, Isle of Man 2021.

Book design by Bunch Creative.
Printed in the Isle of Man by Words & Spaces.

THE STORY BEGINS...



Anais is a girly girl. She loves pink, sparkles and unicorns in that order and if all three were combined in some way, then all the better. She also loves her Grandma, who she calls Gaga, very much.

Now Gaga lives on the mysterious Isle of Man and sends wonderful parcels every month to her and her brother Sebbie. They always contain clothes with pink sparkly unicorns on them and so it feels just like Christmas when they arrive. Anais loves visiting Gaga's house because it meant going on a plane and talking to lots of strangers... and Anais is very good at talking!


It was at Gaga's house that Anais first met the Manx fairies. Some people might not believe in fairies but on the Isle of Man they are real!

Over the mountain, down a long and winding road, and under a very old bridge is where the fairy Lords and Ladies live. It is important that you say 'hello' to them every time you pass, just for good luck.

In Gaga's garden there is a tree full of fairy houses which all light up at night when the fairies are home.

You must realise it is very difficult to see a fairy because they are so incredibly shy, and if you do find one unexpectedly then they freeze and look just like statues, so you can never be quite sure.

However, Anais knew they were real because they always left some sparkly fairy dust by the front door of their little houses, and she would go and look for the sparkle every morning when she was visiting.



One day Anais was sad.

You see, life had become very busy with starting school, swimming and ballet classes, teasing her little brother and watching her favourite cartoons. With all that, as well as the nasty travel bugs, she hadn't been to the mysterious Isle of Man for ages. She hadn't slept in her special bed or made lots of tea and cake for Grandad in her kitchen, and most of all she hadn't talked to the fairies! And remember, Anais is very good at talking.

Seeing Gaga on a video call was just not the same and on this particular day it had made her so sad that she cried, which made Gaga cry as well.



Something had to be done.

What you should know about Gaga is that she is a very determined lady who, once she sets her mind to something, gets it done. And seeing Anais in tears that day started her thinking, and she thought and thought until she came up with a splendid idea.

If Anais couldn't come to the Island to see the fairies, then she would take the fairies to see her! This was a very good plan but might be quite hard to manage as we know fairies are very shy and always difficult to find.

But Gaga did not want Anais to be unhappy so she was going to make it happen.



The next evening, she went and sat next to the fairy tree. She sat so still she looked just like a statue.

As darkness fell the fairies started to come home and switch on their lights. They didn't take much notice of the big statue near the tree as there was always something new arriving in Gaga's garden. They just busied themselves getting their supper ready.

Gaga waited and waited until she saw the last little fairy coming by and quietly whispered...

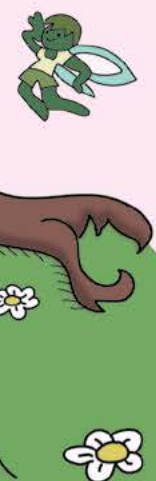
“Hello?”

This took fairy Jasmine very much by surprise and she totally forgot about freezing herself and just sat down on a branch.

Jasmine was in shock and just looked at the big statue, not knowing what to do. Gaga stayed very, very still but again whispered,

“My name is Gaga, and I need your help”.

Fairies are very kind and once she heard the statue asking for help Jasmine was intrigued and flew straight into action. Somehow, with a wave of her hand, Jasmine summoned the rest of the fairies and slowly others appeared out of their houses.



Some were too frightened and just looked out of the windows but one in particular came up and sat on a leaf, looking straight at Gaga.

Gaga quietly explained how unhappy Anais was that she wasn't allowed to visit them in the fairy tree because of the nasty bugs stopping the people and planes coming to the Island.

At first, she wasn't sure if they understood but then she could hear a small voice inside her head saying;

"I'm fairy Rosemary and we don't want Anais to be unhappy, so how can we help?"

"Well, I was hoping that instead of Anais coming here we could go to her house to cheer her up." Gaga said.

This idea caused a flurry of activity and several of the fairies panicked and disappeared back into their houses whilst others buzzed around and landed higher up in the tree.



However, Rosemary didn't move from the leaf and her voice came back into Gaga's head explaining that, to her knowledge, no fairy had ever left the garden let alone the safety of the Island. There was some more buzzing and then she said,

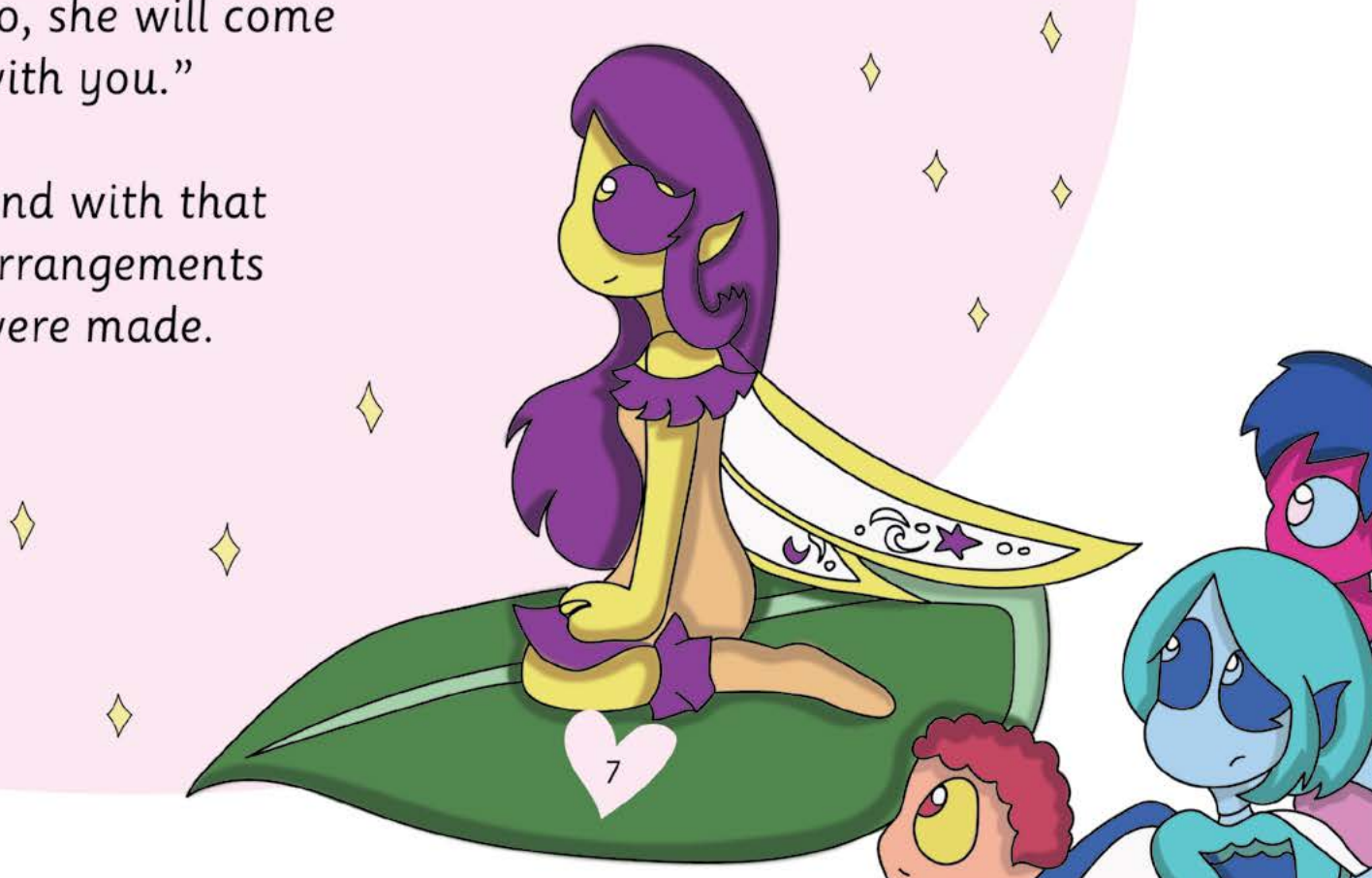
"We will have to have a meeting of the Fairy Ring to talk about it." And with that they were all gone.

After what seemed like hours, two fairies returned and sat back on the leaf in front of her.

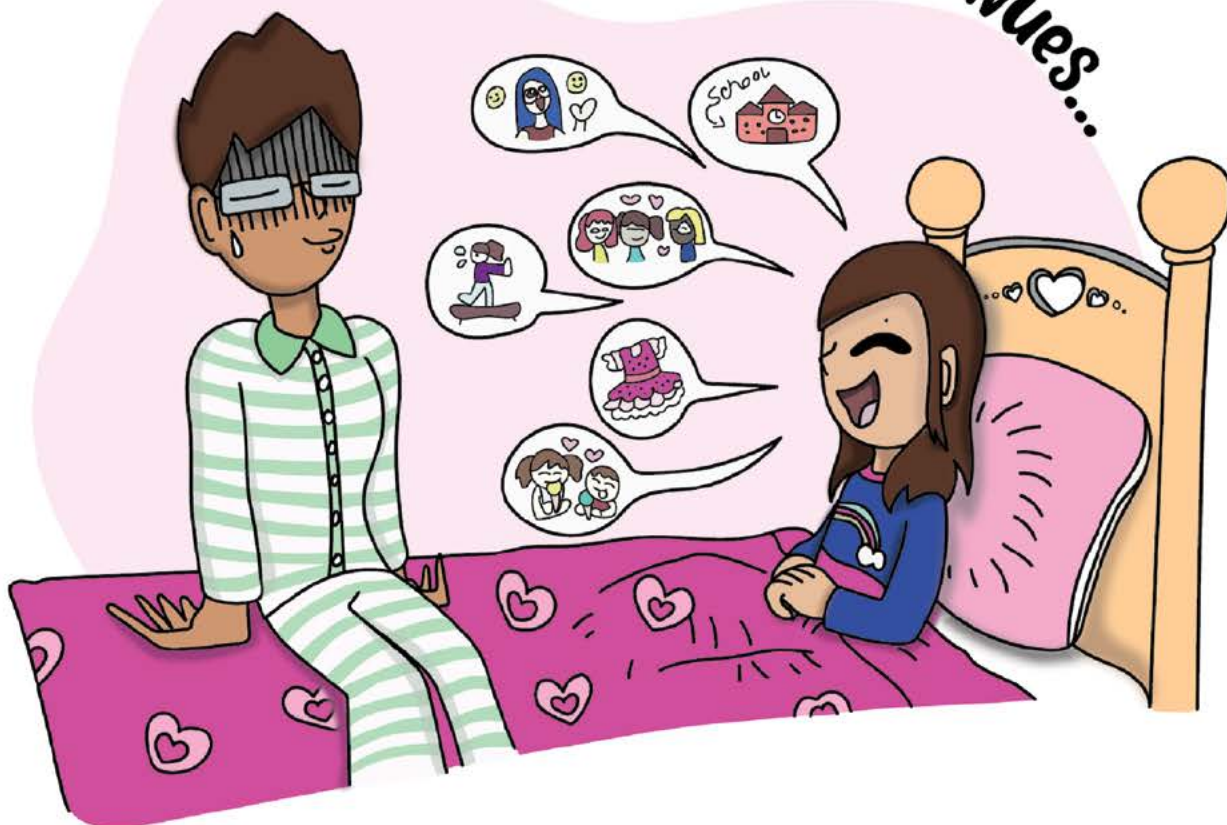
"Gaga, the Ring wanted to help but didn't think that any of the fairies would be brave enough for this adventure. Until Jasmine came forward. She has often watched Anais playing and singing around the house and garden and thinks they could be good friends as they are both very good at talking!

So, she will come with you."

And with that arrangements were made.



THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...



Anais woke up early because she was so excited that Gaga had arrived. She crept out of her bedroom and slowly opened Gaga's bedroom door before rushing in for a big hug! It had been too long since the last visit and there was so much to talk about (and as we know Anais is very good at talking.)

Gaga heard all about her new school, her teacher, the new friends she had made, doing gymnastics, her latest pink outfit and how she and her brother Sebbie had been on holiday and eaten lots of ice cream.

Gaga could not get a word in at all as Anais talked on and on and on!

As Anais's conversation slowed down out popped the question she always asked when Gaga came to visit, "Did you bring me a present Gaga?"

"A very special one" came the reply.

Gaga then told her the story of sitting next to the fairy tree, meeting Jasmine and their journey from the mysterious Isle of Man.

Jasmine had frozen herself and pretended to be a brooch on Gaga's coat so that she could see the world as it passed by and enjoy the adventure. It had been very exciting, especially being on the plane!

Anais for once went quiet. She had so many questions but just looked around the room for a sign that fairy Jasmine was with them.



“She’s not in here silly,” said Gaga, “she’s in your room!”

Anais shot off the bed and back next door with eyes as wide as saucers but, at first, she couldn’t see anything.

Then, in the corner of the room, she spotted some pink fairy dust. She rushed over and examined it closely. Yes, it was definitely fairy dust! Just like the dust she had seen in Gaga’s garden.

So, it must be true... there was a fairy in her bedroom!

Actually, Jasmine was asleep on top of the wardrobe after her amazing trip from the Island and hadn’t heard the commotion as Anais ran around the house telling everyone about the fairy in her room.

Sebbie had briefly taken an interest but as it wasn’t a car, a bus, or a train (and he couldn’t see it) he quickly moved on to other things downstairs.

zzzzzzzzzz



Mummy and Daddy said she must be a very special girl to have a fairy visit, but as it was a school day she had to have breakfast and put her uniform on. Only Gaga knew it was true, so it was their secret.

Anais didn't want to leave for school but Gaga promised that when she got home, she could meet Jasmine and she would answer all her questions.

It was the longest school day ever! When she got home, she dashed up to her room to look for the fairy. There was more pink dust on the floor so Jasmine must be there somewhere... but where?

Suddenly, she spotted her standing on top of the wardrobe, wings out and looking very pretty in pink. She was beautiful!

Anais just stared and then a small voice came into her head saying,

“Hello Anais, I'm Jasmine. We have missed seeing you at the fairy tree in Gaga's garden, so I've come to play with you for a couple of days to cheer you up.”

And with that they started talking... and as we know they were both very good at talking!

Anais had so many questions. “What do you eat? What do fairies do? How did you get here? Can you do magic? Why can’t I see you fly?”

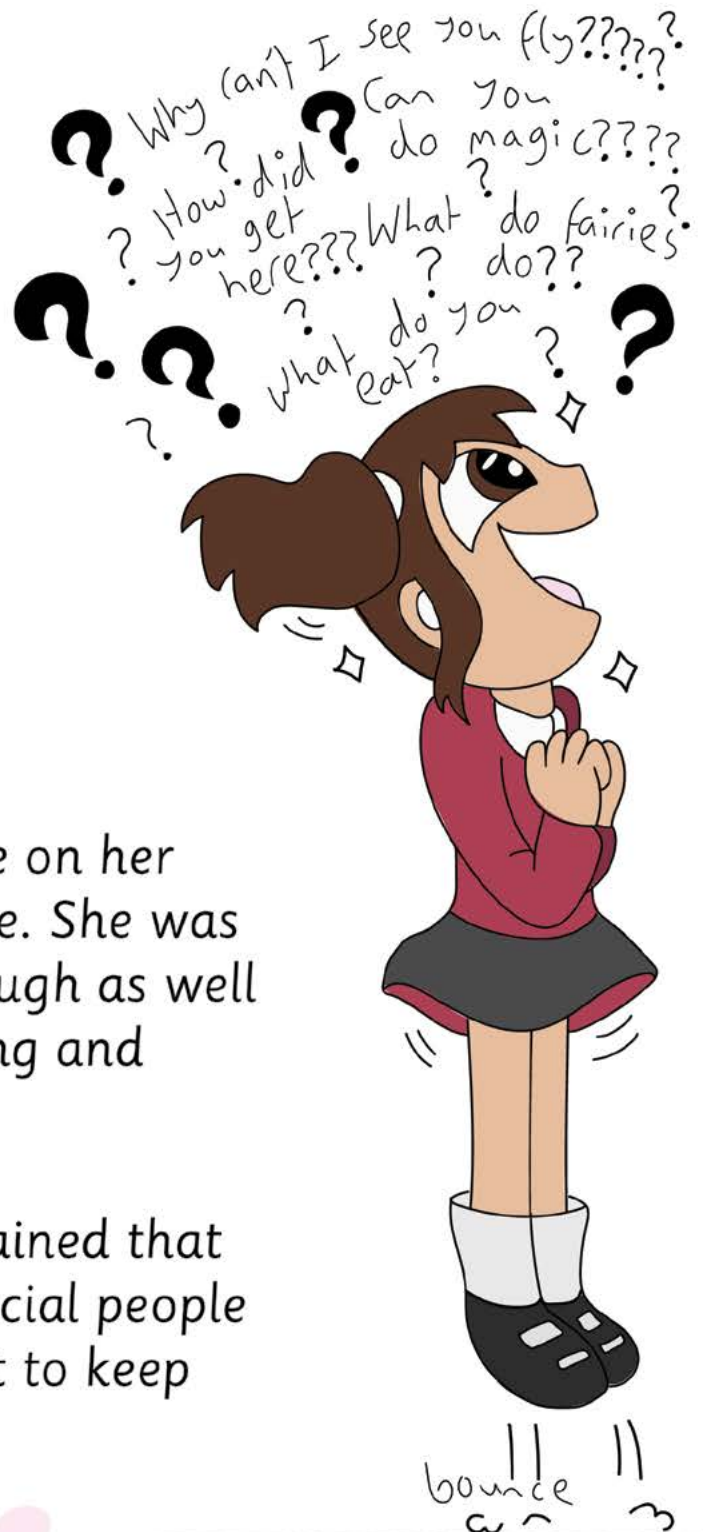
Jasmine laughed and laughed as the questions poured out and tried her best to answer.

“We eat sunshine and drink the rain. We spend our days checking that all the flowers and trees are happy. I came with your Gaga. I can do little bits of magic and you generally don’t see fairies flying because most of the time we are invisible.”

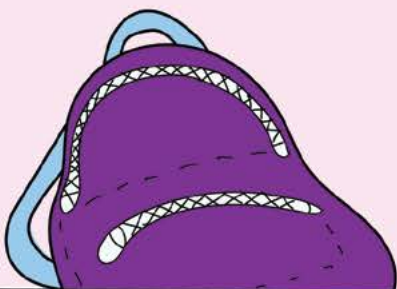
And with that she suddenly disappeared.

Anais looked around and there on her chest of drawers stood Jasmine. She was laughing which made Anais laugh as well and with that a lot more talking and giggling took place.

By bedtime, Jasmine had explained that fairies only lived with very special people like Gaga who they could trust to keep them safe.



And fairies could only be seen by those who really believed in them and usually, only when day was just changing into night. At that time, you might just catch a glimpse or see a shadow as they travelled along.



Most fun of all, fairies could make themselves really, really small and that way they could go out and play together. They would just look like tiny flies dancing in the half-light, when really it would be all the fairies having a Summer Ball.

Anais loved to dance as well. After she changed into her pyjamas for Gaga, she put on a little show and Jasmine clapped.





Mummy, Daddy and Sebbie had been somewhat confused that Anais had spent so much time playing in her bedroom that evening but every time she had tried to explain about fairy Jasmine, they smiled that smile that said it was just her imagination running wild again.

This made her cross but then she remembered that to see the fairies you had to believe in them and clearly, they didn't!

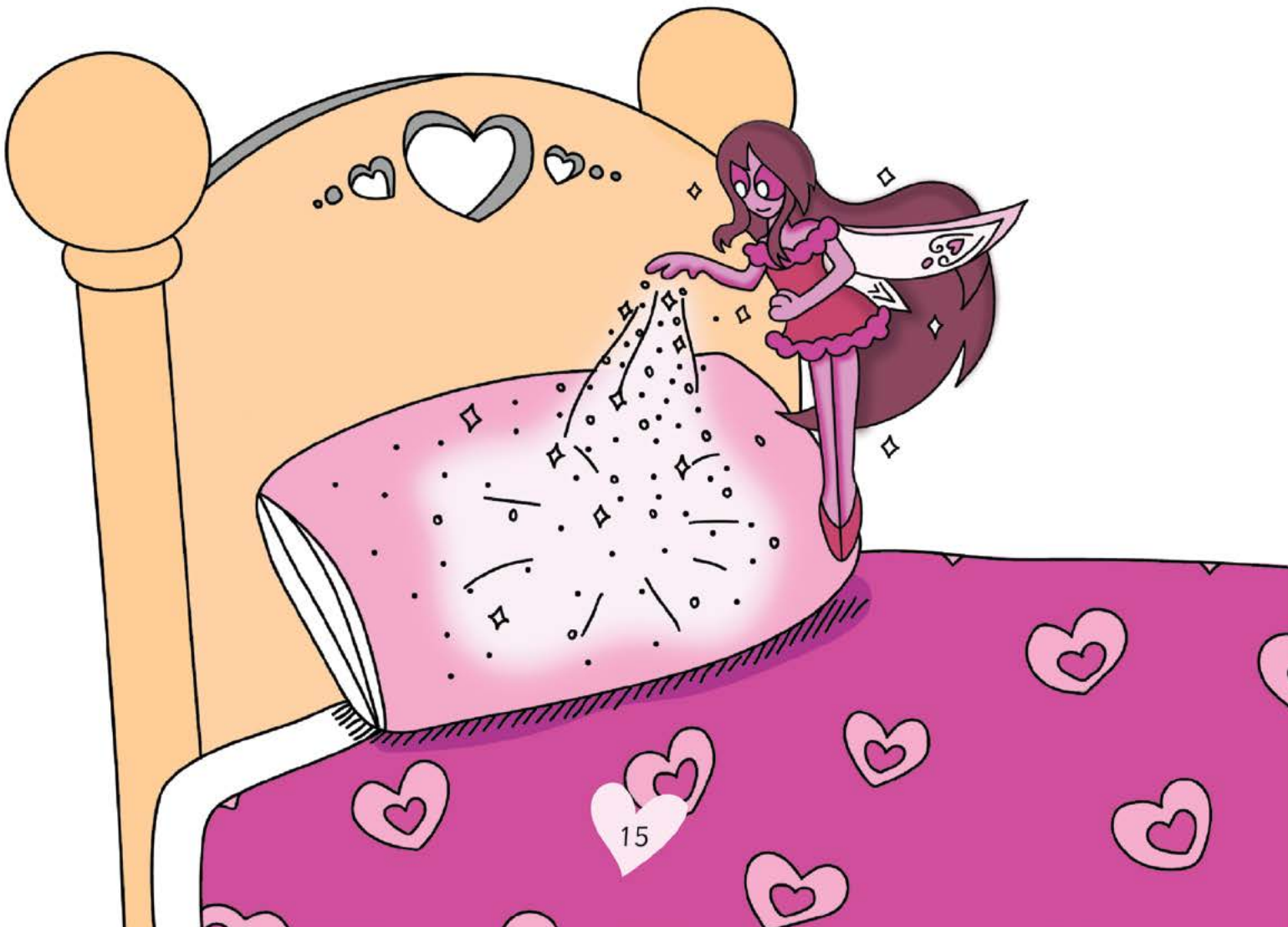
When it came time for Gaga to tuck her in, she said,

“I don’t know how I’m going to sleep I’m still so excited about having you and Jasmine here.”

At that very moment Jasmine appeared next to her on the pillow.

“Don’t worry about sleeping” she said, “I’m going to sprinkle a little dust just here and it will take you off into a wonderful dream where we can laugh and play and dance together until morning.”

Gaga gave Anais a big hug and the lights went out.





So, the next few days were filled with constant chatter.

Anais and Gaga made a special little home for Jasmine to sleep in, which she loved, and each morning there would be pink dust by the front door.

Jasmine would fly around the room as Anais got ready for school and would appear on her shoulder to give her a fairy kiss on the cheek as she left.

Anais told her teachers all about the Manx fairy that had come to visit and they thought it was wonderful. Pictures were drawn of Jasmine standing by her little house and when she got home they were put up on display on the fridge door because they were so very good.

After tea, Anais would dash up to her room to sing and dance with Jasmine until bedtime. It was all such fun!



Sebbie would sometimes come and join in the dancing without seeing anything unusual, and Mummy and Daddy liked to watch from the landing outside.

But only Anais and Gaga could see the pink glow that Jasmine made as she twirled and twirled.

Every night Gaga would tuck them both in. Sometimes, when they slept, it was hard to remember where their dreams started and finished as they both had such amazing imaginations.

On the Friday, just before bed, Jasmine announced that she was organising a big surprise for the next day that would take up all her magic powers.


Anais and Gaga desperately wanted to know what it was but Jasmine said,

“If I tell you it wouldn’t be a surprise! Night night.”

If it hadn’t been for the fairy dust on her pillow, Anais would probably have stayed awake all night.

The next morning, Anais was awake very early and got dressed in her best pink tutu skirt. She looked around for Jasmine but couldn’t find her. She was not in her house or on the wardrobe (her favourite place) or even in the sock drawer where she sometimes went for a nap.





Anais started to panic and rushed next door to Gaga who came to look as well but there was only the pink sparkly dust and no fairy.

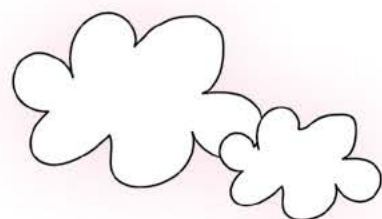
“Don’t worry,” Gaga said, “Jasmine must have gone off to organise that surprise for you. She’ll be back soon.”

So, Anais had to wait. Breakfast came and went, and she waited. She watched TV with Sebbie and waited. She kept going upstairs to her room to check for any signs of Jasmine but nothing. So, she waited.

By lunchtime, she was getting tired. It had been a long and exciting week having been busy at school, going to all her fun activities, as well as having a real live fairy to play with. Gaga took her up to bed for a little sleep.

Just as she was dozing off, Jasmine arrived and started to sprinkle pink fairy dust all over her.

“What’s happening?” said Anais.



“Don’t worry,” said Jasmine, “I need to magic you away so you can enjoy your special treat.”

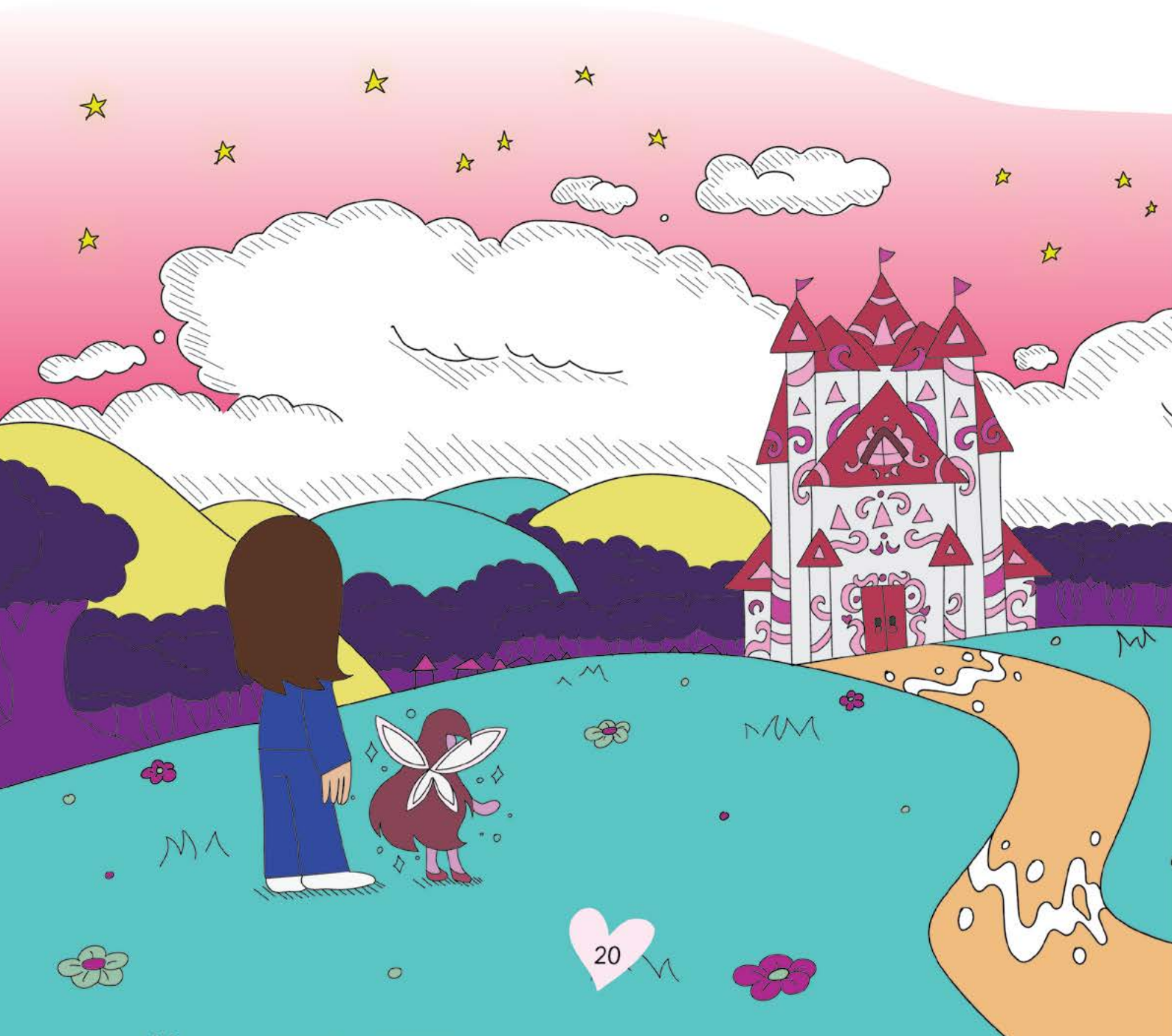
Then the whole room turned bright pink and Anais seemed to float off her bed and onto some clouds. Jasmine was holding her hand, so she wasn’t frightened.



The clouds went up and up, under some twinkly stars and towards what looked like a grand castle. As they got closer she could see that the castle was surrounded by lots of houses. They were all different shapes and sizes. They looked very pretty as they were all brightly coloured.

“Where are we?” asked Anais.

“We are at the Magic Kingdom and you have been given the very high honour of being allowed to visit.” said Jasmine.



They slowly sank down from the clouds and onto the yellow and blue grass next to some purple trees. It was amazing.

Anais's eyes were as wide as wide could be as she looked around and tried to take in all the strange colours and shapes around her.

“Why are we here?” asked Anais.

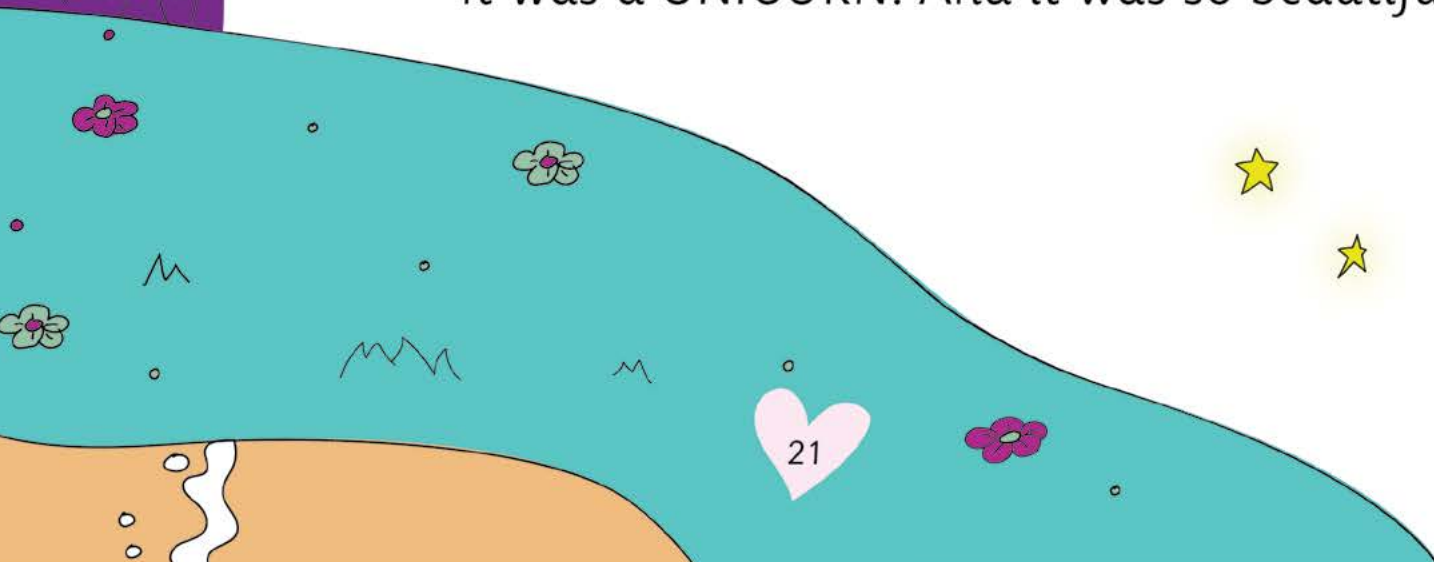


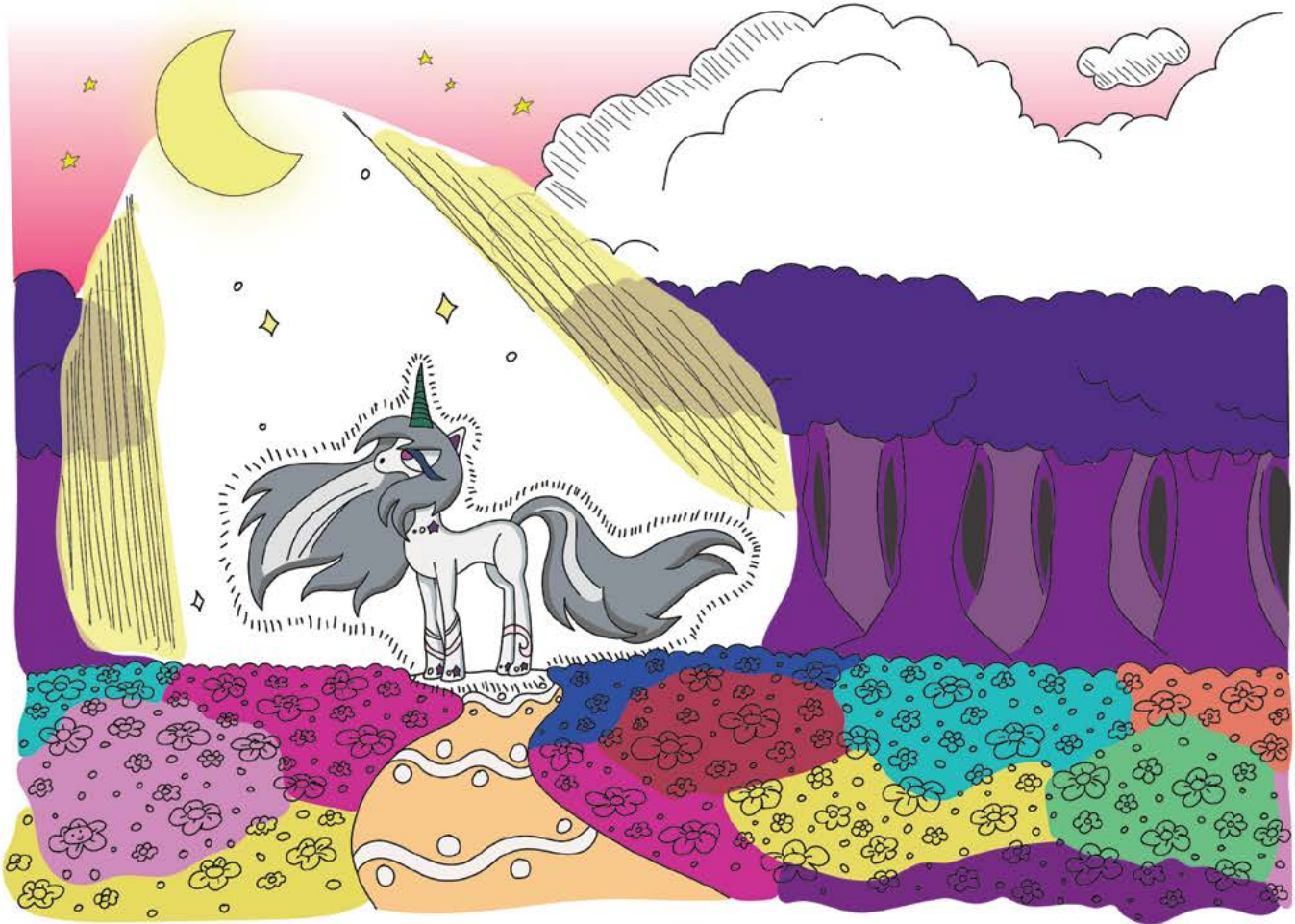
“Well,” said Jasmine, “This is very special. You see the Magic Kingdom is having a visit from Lady Christina and you are going to meet her. She only comes here once every one hundred fairy years and today is the day!”

Jasmine lead Anais down a golden path and into a field full of flowers. Anais could see something in the distance, but it was hard to make out as it was shimmering and looked almost ghostly.

As they got closer Anais suddenly realised what it was, and she was transfixed...

It was a UNICORN! And it was so beautiful.





It had a long and twisting horn, pink eyes that looked out from under a flowing silvery mane, and a coat that was so silky and white, that all the colours of the flowers bounced off it like mini rainbows.

For once in her life, Anais was totally speechless!

She didn't know whether to dance for joy or just sit down and look at this fantastic creature. Millions of thoughts rushed through her head but not a single sound was coming out of her mouth.

Then those thoughts were interrupted by Lady Christina. "Hello Anastasia. I'm Lady C, how are you today?"

Anais just stared into her deep pink eyes and said, “Wow” and, “Wow” again. It was like all her dreams and wishes had come true in one moment and she didn’t know what to do about it!

Lady Christina came closer and smiled. “Jasmine tells me that you love unicorns. Is that right Anastasia?”

Anais pulled herself together and replied, “Yes, they are wonderful! YOU are wonderful! Whenever I’ve blown out my birthday candles to make a wish, it was always to see and stroke a unicorn and now my dreams have come true!”

Lady C laughed. “Well, I can do one better than that. Would you like a ride?”

Anais was overjoyed and almost cried. Jasmine sprinkled some dust over her and in the very next moment, Anais was holding onto Lady C’s silvery mane and trotting off round the field. All the flowers seemed to dance as she went by and somehow the trees were clapping, showering them with multi-coloured leaves.

And then Lady C said, “Hold on tight!” and leapt into the air.

Up they flew, leaving a trail of tiny stars behind them.



They went around the castle where she could see a Prince and Princess, sitting having sandwiches and cake. Then she waved to the Pixies and all the other magical creatures playing below. They flew very quietly over a sleeping dragon on the hilltop (who was snoring very loudly) before returning to Jasmine in the field.



“How was that?” Asked Lady C, with a flip of her mane.

“Amazing.” said Anais, “It was just wonderful and I don’t know how I can ever thank you.”

“No thanks are needed Anastasia. Just promise me that you will keep believing in all of us because without the wishes and dreams of children like yourself then unicorns and fairies would no longer exist.”

Lady C nuzzled down, kissed Anais on the forehead and Anais whispered, “I promise.”



Anais turned round towards Jasmine and said, “Thank you so much!” She was just going to ask Lady C some questions but when she turned back she was gone and there was just a glow fading away into the trees.

“Time to go home.” said Jasmine as she sprinkled the last of her fairy dust over Anais and they both drifted away, leaving the castle behind.

The next thing Anais knew was that she was wide awake in her bed. She shouted to everyone and they came dashing in to find out what all the fuss was about.

Anais excitedly told them about riding on a unicorn and visiting the Magic Kingdom, but only Gaga believed her. Mummy and Daddy smiled and said that must have been a lovely dream, whilst Sebbie found one of his old cars under the bed and started to play with it.

Anais thought, if only they believed in fairies they would understand.

The rest of the day was spent drawing pictures of the Magic Kingdom and crafting a model of Lady Christina, giving an old horse toy a marvelous, magical horn. With silver paper for the mane, pink sequins for eyes and white paint to cover the brown body, it looked just like a real unicorn!

After dinner, she took the best picture and her model of Lady C up to her bedroom to show Jasmine who had been on the wardrobe resting. Again, they talked and talked until bedtime.

As Gaga tucked her in she said, “We have to go home tomorrow back to the Isle of Man. Hopefully you can visit again very soon and see all the fairies in the tree.”

Although the thought of them leaving made Anais sad, she was so tired she quickly fell asleep. The next morning, cases were packed, and Anais had her last long talk with Jasmine.

“Thank you for coming to visit me, it’s made me so happy and I’ll never forget going to the Magic Kingdom to meet Lady Christina. I wish everyone else believed in you like I do.”

Jasmine smiled and said, “Don’t worry about that. I’ve had a wonderful adventure here and have lots to tell my friends when I get home. Manx fairies usually never leave the Island so hearing my stories might encourage others to be brave as well.”





Last hugs were given and then Jasmine made herself into a statue and attached herself to Gaga's coat, ready to leave. The taxi arrived outside and the cases were put in the boot. Mummy, Daddy and Sebbie stood by the front door saying goodbye. Anais, with a tear in her eye, was next to them.

Suddenly Jasmine did something that fairies are not supposed to

do. She jumped off the coat, did a pink twirl in the air, gave Anais a fairy kiss and then flew back onto the coat and became a statue again.

Anais clapped and laughed and squealed, "Did you see? Did you see?"

Mummy and Daddy's mouths fell open and they looked at each other, then at Gaga, then at Anais, and then back to each other. "Did you see that?" they both said at the same time before nodding.

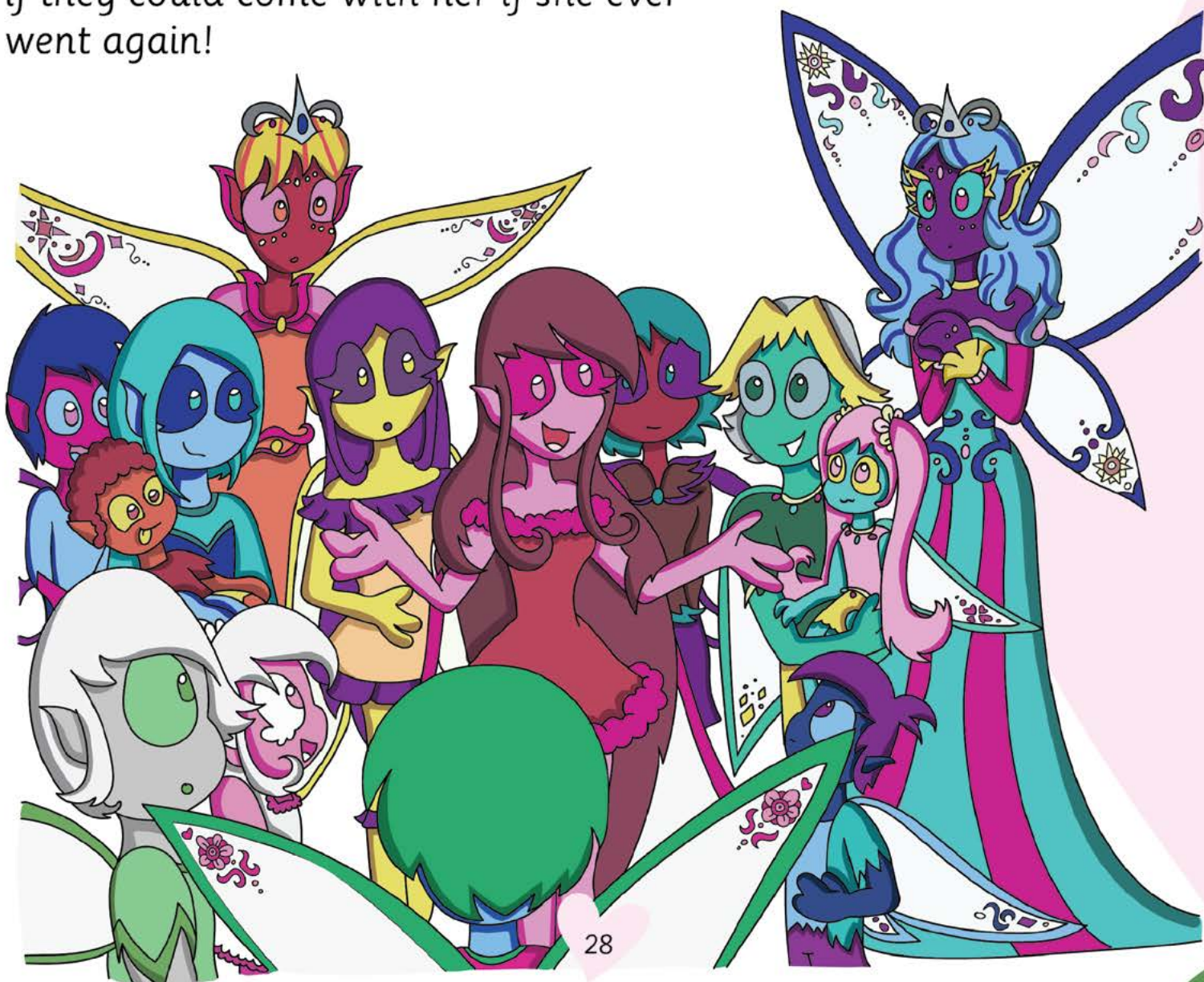
"I told you! I told you there was a fairy in my bedroom!" said Anais. Gaga smiled and waved as she got into the taxi.

"Come and see us both soon!" She called, leaving them all dumbfounded on the doorstep.

After Gaga and Jasmine had gone, Mummy and Daddy sat and listened to Anais. They asked about Lady Christina and looked more closely at all the pictures that she had drawn of the Magic Kingdom.

Being grown-ups, they didn't quite know what to make of it all, but they had both seen the pink twirling Jasmine and noticed all the pink dust in the bedroom. So, they had to agree that perhaps, just perhaps, fairies really did exist!

Back on the mysterious Isle of Man, life at Gaga's house and in the garden would never be quite the same. Jasmine had been invited to the Fairy Ring to tell everyone about her adventure and afterwards some of the younger fairies had asked if they could come with her if she ever went again!



Word spread quickly about Jasmine amongst the other fairies on the Island and it caused quite a buzz. Some of the Fairy Lords and Ladies from the Bridge came to see if the story was true and then more and more magic folk came to the garden. Jasmine would always be happy to tell the story again and again and she became quite the fairy celebrity.

One day, a whole tribe of Pixies arrived and asked to stay. Apparently, their garden had been uprooted by some new owners and so they had all moved out. They were of course made welcome, and soon Rosemary and Jasmine asked Gaga and Grandad to add more and more houses for them all to live in.

The garden had become a very special place. Gaga took great care of the fairy tree, adding many pretty decorations, and they all worked together to keep the plants happy.

Anais and Jasmine continued to meet in their dreams and now it won't be long until they see each other again, which is very exciting. When that happens, they will dance and talk, and talk and dance because, as we know... they are both very good at talking!





This is the real Anais playing in the real life fairy garden! Jasmine is around here somewhere...

THE END

NO MATTER HOW OLD
YOU ARE, YOU SHOULD
ALWAYS DARE TO
DREAM.





These colouring pages were inspired by Freya, Erin + their little fairy!



Colour me in!

WITH SPECIAL THANKS:

They say that it takes a village to raise a child, and in some ways, it seems an appropriate phrase when trying to get a book published too! So a big thank you to...

My lovely wife **MERCY, ANAIS** and the family who inspired “PINK”.

KARMEN: Your illustrations bring my stories to life and everyone can see you have a real talent. I hope these books provide a stepping stone to your future.



IoM ARTS COUNCIL: The support the Arts Council has given to myself, and the Island’s creative community, is very much appreciated.



HARTFORD HOMES: Thanks to Norman and James Greenhalgh for sponsoring this project. Your generosity enabled this Manx fairy story to take flight and to 572 who have helped to promote the book online.



PATRICIA WILD: Likewise, your sponsorship has made a real difference and made it possible to take the project much further than anticipated, thank you.



PHOEBE at BUNCH Creative: It is rare to find someone who’s time, commitment, talent and professionalism are given so freely. I wish you every success in establishing Bunch Creative and Bunch Books as a publishing company on the IOM.



BREAST CANCER NOW: Angie Aire and the charity have played an active role in supporting and promoting this project. They have also helped me reconnect with an old friend, the founder of BCN, Jan Brooks. Thank you.



LEXICON BOOKSHOP: David has now supported both my books without taking any commission. Something I know you do to support local authors and charities. Many thanks.



SHOPRITE: “PROUDLY LOCALLY OWNED” and now proudly providing an Island wide distribution service for “PINK” without taking any profits. Appreciated.



THE FAMILY LIBRARY: Support and encouragement to readers (and authors!) is so important and Sue Jolly and the Family Library provide this in bucketfuls.

JAMES DAVIS: He has been quietly supporting my projects in the background. Thank you.

JANET JONES: Sister, proof-reader, honest critic and vital cog in my writing process.

ERIN + FREYA, AGED 8: Excellent story feedback and also inspiring the colouring pages which will now become a regular part of the Manx Bedtime Story series!

CHRISLY DEHAVEN AND THE MANX PRESS: For bringing “PINK” to the attention of the wonderful Manx public who generously support Manx Charities.

Manx Bedtime Stories #1



**Have you ever wondered what
the MANX fairies get up to?
...THEN READ ON!**

'PINK: The Adventures of a Manx Fairy' is a charming and wonderful tale woven by a grandfather for his wife and granddaughter. It is also beautifully drawn by a young illustrator and shows her pictorial perception of events. An exciting and imaginative read for 3-8 year olds which would appeal to all those children with a vivid imagination. It also has the bonus of a colouring in section at the end so the reader can add their own ideas to the characters!

'PINK: The Adventures of a Manx Fairy' is a fantasy tale aimed at early readers and those who enjoy a good bedtime story. It tells of the adventures of fairy Jasmine and a magical world that can be found inside every child's dreams. This book is a lovely creative collaboration between a grandfather and his nearest and dearest, and sets a great example for family bonding through imaginative play. Illustrated by a young teenager with high functioning autism, it represents an inspiring community effort to raise funds for educational and charitable causes on the Isle of Man.

**A CHARMING AND IMAGINATIVE
ADVENTURE BOOK FOR THE READER
WHO HAS BEEN EVERYWHERE ELSE!**



This book was generously funded by the
Isle of Man Arts Council.



£5



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(They helped us see the fairies!)

ISBN 978-1-8384957-0-1



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