

# You Can Grow Too!



◇ *Written by Oghenevoke Akpude* ◇

◇ *Illustrated by Winnie Chan* ◇



Once upon a time, there were five flower buds in a garden along with many other plants. There was Poppy the Petunia, Sunny the Sunflower, Rosie the Rose, Dana the Daisy, and Jazzy the Jasmine. They were all best friends.



One day, Poppy the Petunia started to grow and she became a beautiful flower. “Hey guys, look at me! I’m a beautiful petunia now! See my pink petals!”



The next day, Rosie the Rose also started to sprout and said, "Guys! I've grown too! I had beautiful red petals now! I have a long green stem too! Look, look!"



Soon enough all the other flowers started growing too with their green stems, beautiful petals, and bright colors.....except Jazzy the Jasmine.



Then one day, the other flowers said, "Jazzy, you haven't grown yet and we all have. I'm sorry but we can't be friends with you anymore."

Jazzy was sad. She cried as she said, "Why can't I grow like them? Why! Why! I've lost all of my friends now!"

Then a fairy was passing by and saw Jazzy crying. She came to Jazzy and asked, "Why are you crying and what's your name?"



Jazzy said, " I'm Jazzy and I want to grow like my friends too...But I can't grow right now"



She said, "Jazzy, you are beautiful just like them too! You don't need to grow petals right now to be beautiful! You just need a good heart and a bright smile! Can you do that for me?"

Jazzy was still sad but she was trying to smile just a little bit as the fairy said goodbye and flew away.



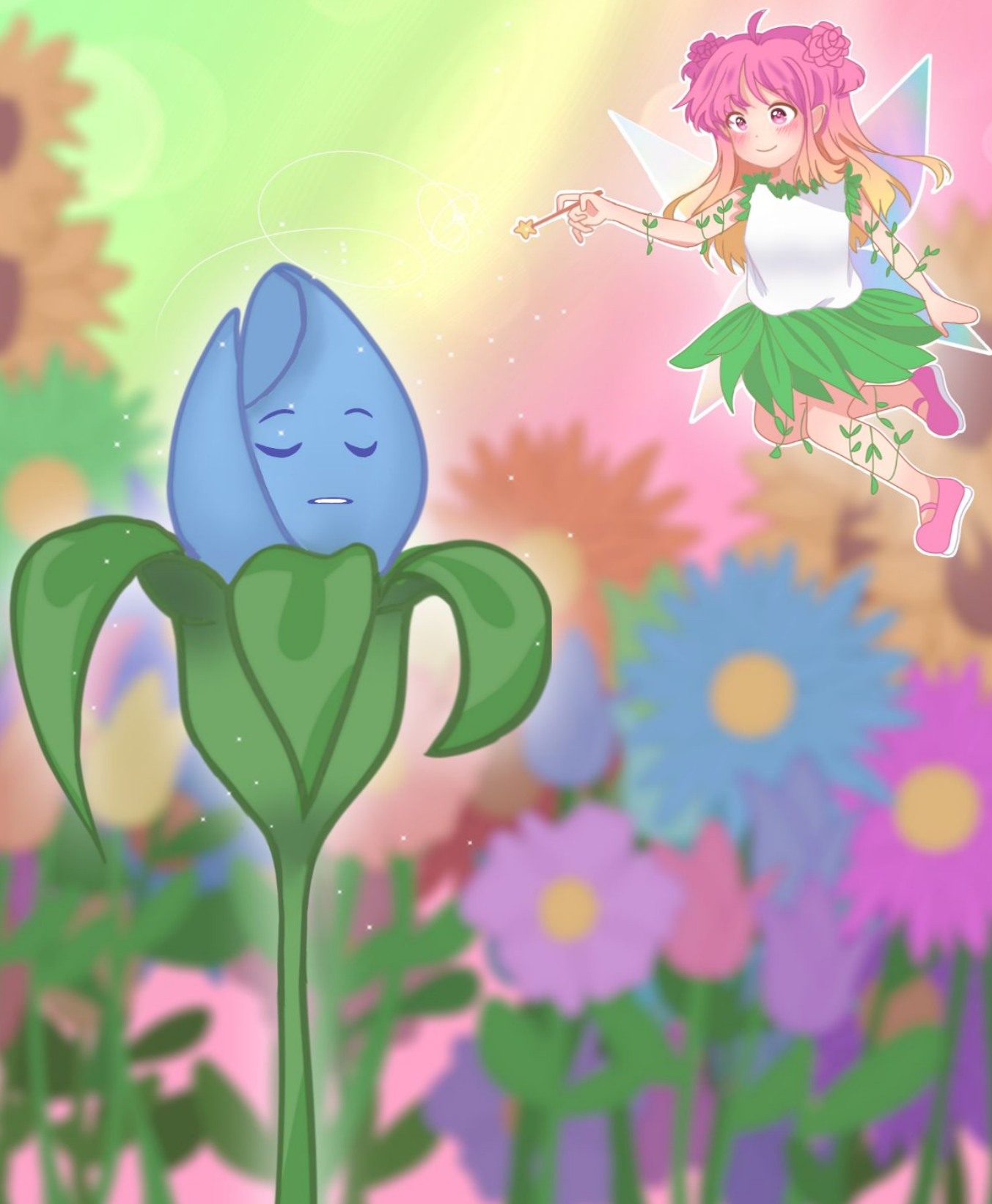
Then, Jazzy thought to herself while smiling, "Maybe I don't need to grow petals to be beautiful.....maybe I am beautiful already!"



Days later, Jazzy saw the fairy again. The fairy said, "Are you okay now?"  
Jazzy said, "Yeah.....I think I'll be fine with not growing petals right now."



The fairy said "Well.....I have a surprise for you! Close your eyes and count to three!"  
Jazzy did as told.



The fairy then said, "Open your eyes, Jazzy!" Jazzy was shocked when she saw herself. She said, "Oh my goodness! What happened to me?"

Jazzy....had indeed now grown to be the most beautiful flower of them all. She had beautiful light blue petals and a nice, long green stem. She was now a flower.



The fairy said, "I needed you to love yourself first before I decided to grow you into the flower you are today."  
Jazzy was excited. She said, "Fairy, thanks so much for this!"



Soon enough, she was now regarded as the most beautiful plant in the garden. Her old friends looked in wonder as they were surprised that their friend who hadn't grown before became more beautiful than them.

The friends said, "Why did we ever stop being friends with the most beautiful flower in the world?"

