

**Forouzan Hezaveh Grigsby**



**THE ADVENTURES  
OF KAYLA KIMIA**

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*by*

Forouzan Hezaveh Grigsby



BOSTON • 2019

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*The Adventures of Kayla Kimia*

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ISBN 978-1-950319-03-9 (hardcover)

Library of Congress Control Number: 2019940930

Illustrations by Nasser Ovissi © 2018

Book Design by M•GRAPHICS © 2019

Published by M•GRAPHICS, Boston, MA

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Printed in the USA

I would like to thank the people who helped me to write this book, but I know that a long list of names will be too boring for you. It is boring even for grown-ups but unfortunately, we have learned to pretend that it is not. So, I will be so quick!

***Nasser Ovissi** loves colors and painting.*

***Tom Grigsby**, my husband, thinks everything is possible. If you tell him that you saw a purple cat, he never tells you that it is just your imagination. Instead he tells you that it is interesting. He believes in you when you cannot believe in yourself.*

***Kayla Kimia Grigsby** is my five-years-old daughter. Her favorite color is golden, and her favorite animals are horses and cats. She is full of joy and creativity.*

***Jo Leonard**, one of my friends who has a big heart and helped me with the edition of this book.*

*My wonderful **dad** who would really enjoy reading this book, but he is on his journey far from our planet.*

*My **mom** who always sees beauties and taught me to see them as well.*

*A big thanks to all of my family, friends, earth, sky, stars, moon, sun, oceans, countries and everything and everyone who helped me to be who I am.*

## SOME WORDS WITH GROWN-UPS

I do not remember when I saw one of Nasser Ovissi's paintings for the first time, but I remember how I felt about them. His paintings take me somewhere in a far country, where there are no words.

My life with Kayla, my five years old daughter, has been a big story which contains thousands of short stories. I mean, for every single act in our daily life, I need to make up a short story for her to move on, otherwise we can get stuck. One afternoon while showing her Nasser Ovissi's paintings, I found myself making up a story for her based on the images. I found out that each painting is a part of a story. I saw a harmony in his paintings that tied them all together. The whole was like a symphony, yet each of them an individual note. A symphony, the symphony of life itself!

I found his phone number and I called him. I told him that I was going to write a story for children based on his paintings. Nasser Ovissi, a world-famous painter, invited me to his gallery without any hesitation to talk about my project. He is a very humble person who actively encourages creativity in others.

Nader Naderpoor, a contemporary Iranian poet, describes Nasser Ovissi very beautifully. He wrote, "Ovissi is the painter of adulthood dreams and childhood storytelling. There is a similarity between our adulthood dreams and childhood storytelling." (*Barresi Ketab* by Majid Roshangar, page 15.) This was the connection that I discovered the day I was showing his paintings to Kayla.

Ovissi has a heart as beautiful and colorful as the flowers he paints, and as big as the women's wide eyes. If you have any feelings for his paintings, try traveling into them as I did. This story is a part of my own journey in the world of his colors.

*Forouzan Hezaveh Grigsby*

Once upon a time there was Kayla Kimia. She was a very beautiful and smart girl who loved nature and animals. Her best friend was a white bird named Sheedara. She had another good friend who was a horse, and his name was Arian.

If you want to know a little bit more about her, I should say that she was a curious girl, but her curiosity was not reason enough for her to discover too many new things. She preferred to relax most of the time.



**I**t was May and the flowers were in bloom. The house smelled of jasmine because of the big jasmine bush by the front door. Kayla Kimia was relaxing in the beauty of spring.



But suddenly Sheedara flew down from the sky and sat next to her very excited. She told Kayla Kimia that she had heard about a man who knew about the secret of beauties. Kayla Kimia, who preferred her relaxed time to anything else, just simply ignored her.

**S**heedara was a very persistent bird. She was not going to give up. She started to sing and talk louder and louder until Kayla Kimia finally turned back to listen. By the time Kayla Kimia became interested in listening to Sheedara's story, it was nighttime.



Sheedara told her about a man whose name was Nasser and that he knew the secret of the beauties. He could teach it to anyone who was really interested in learning about it. Since Kayla Kimia was a smart and curious girl, she thought to herself that this could be very exciting if she could learn about the secret of the beauties.



**S**heedara told her that they needed to get ready. It would be a long journey. Kayla Kimia put on her favorite clothes and brushed her long hair; then decorated her hair with flowers. She looked into the mirror admiring herself then told herself it was time to go.



**T**he next step was inviting her friend Arian. Arian would come to her once he heard the sound of Kayla Kimia playing the Tar. So, she started to play.



A

fter playing for a little while, Arian came with his usual enthusiasm.

Kayla Kimia told him about Nasser and their journey. He was happy to join in.



*I tried to determine an age group for this book but I had no success. Then I found out that you cannot decide an age group for something ageless like love. Love is so simple. I let it flow from my heart to yours through the words and illustrations of this book in a simple language from the eyes of a child.*

*— Forouzan Hezaveh Grigsby*

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“Nicely illustrated story with a beautiful message. This is a must read for every kid and adult in today’s modern and fast-paced world. In a world that we have forgotten the meaning of simplicity and we are constantly looking for something extraordinary in order to find happiness and peace. This book reminds us that the meaning of life glows in the zenith of simplicity.”

*—Tara Safakish, Associate Director, Quality*

“This heartwarming tale was written for the author’s daughter. It has many sweet messages of learning and growth as the young Kayla goes on an adventure in search of beauty, sparked by a collection of beautiful images portrayed in rich colors by a Persian artist. As young readers follow along with Kayla, accompanied by a bird and a horse, they will share in her journey of discoveries.”

*—Jo Leonard, Author*

“What I like about the book is how it shows Kayla's perspective through her everyday life and also different kind of friendships.”

*—Maya Bayat, 7th grade student*

“The vividness of Ovissi's paintings are echoed in the words of the author. The story weaves a journey through the artist's work and takes the readers on a fantastic trip.”

*—Michelle Unadkat, Piano teacher*

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ISBN 978-1-950319-03-9

