

★ **The Invitation****Stacey May Fowles****Marie Lafrance, Illustrator**

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Fern, an anthropomorphized plant, gets an invitation to a surprise exhibition at the local museum, but her anxiety almost prevents her from going. Her friend Fawn, a deer, arrives just in time, encouraging her to go and offering to accompany her. The colored pencil illustrations are a whimsical delight as they follow Fern and Fawn through the woods, with Fawn gently dismantling Fern's catastrophizing. The clouds that hang over Fern and others, representing their anxiety, are a poignant touch—especially as they fade away.

DANIELLE BALLANTYNE (March / April 2023)

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