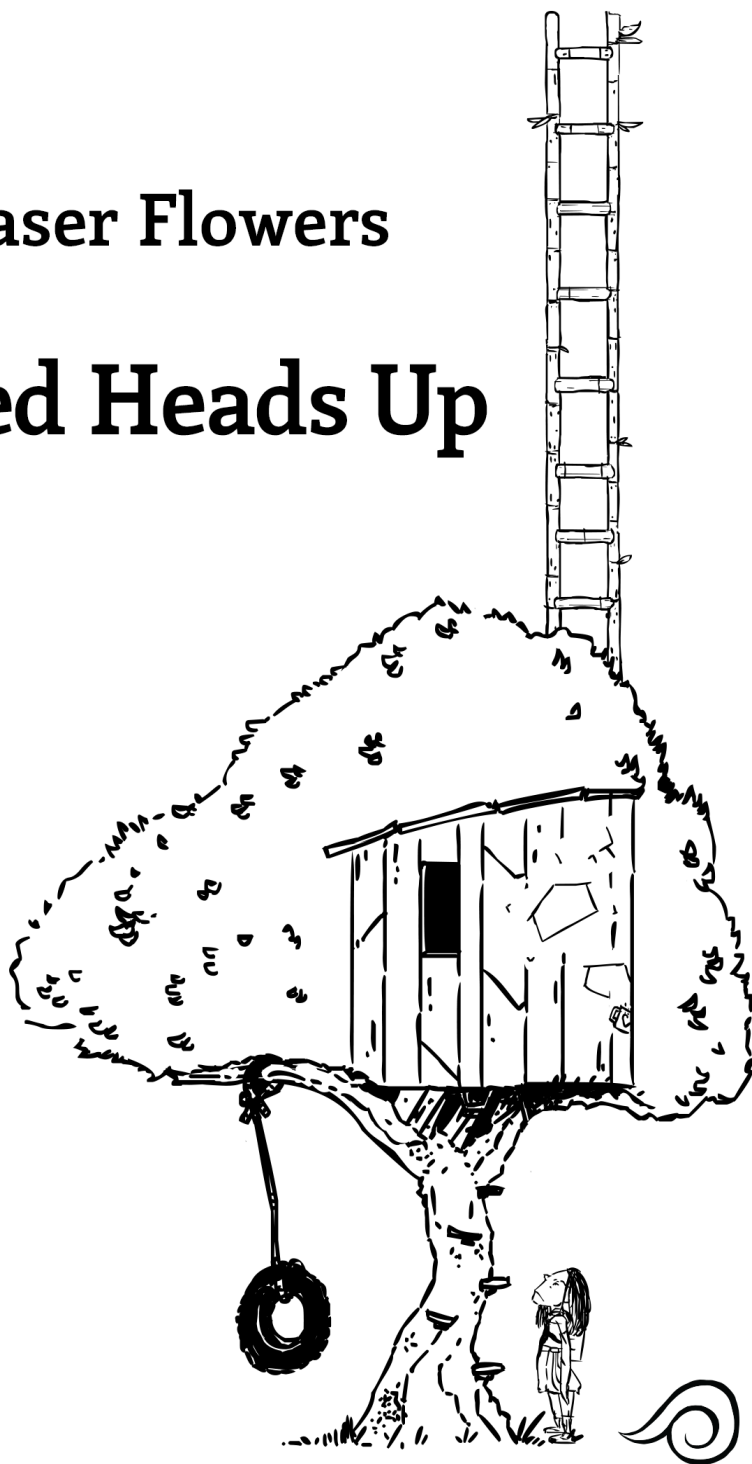


Fraser Flowers

Ted Heads Up



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He opened the skylight and took a deep breath of the fresh air. He looked up and saw the tall maple tree above him with a sprinkling of gold and orange leaves. He shimmied up the tree with the agility of a monkey, until he reached the top of the tree. From there he could see what seemed to be a giant carnival, at which everyone was walking on stilts. There was a Ferris wheel lit up with flashing bright colours. There was a clown in a red-and-white striped suit selling pink cotton candy. Families were playing the various games, such as throwing a ball and dunking the man in the water tank. The mayor of stilt world was giving a speech from a band shell far in the distance; he was introducing the Rickety Rockety Raccoon band. The band began to play and the entire world began to dance. Ted just hung there, mesmerized by the whole scene.

The mayor caught sight of him and he walked over to Ted. He was a plump mayor with suspenders, striped pants, a large curly white moustache and a top hat.

“Hey there son, what are you doing in these parts?”

“I was on my way to the moon.”

“Oh how wonderful, it’s so much fun up there. Sorry son, I’d ask you to stay but being in stilt world is a tricky business. It demands great balance and you people on the ground are too accustomed to walking. There is one thing you could help me out with, though. You see how I’m taller than everyone else?”



“Yes you’re about a foot taller.”

“Well people get angry because they have to look up to me, and they think I’m all high and mighty. I was wondering if you could trim my stilts so I’m level with everyone else.”

“Well I think what we need is a saw.”

“What’s a saw?”

Ted laughed at the mayor. It was hard to talk over the music of the band. Ted looked at the musicians. One was using a fiddle bow to make music with a saw. Ted pointed towards him.

“Hey, that guy’s using a saw!”

“No, that’s a bow singer.”

“Well it’s also a saw. Do you mind if I borrow it from him? I’ll show you how to use it.”

“Certainly.”

The mayor took giant steps toward the band, and Ted watched as he talked to the musician with the saw. The mayor pointed to his stilts and then to the instrument. The music stopped, and the musician handed his instrument to the mayor.

He strode back over to Ted and handed him the saw. As the mayor held Ted's ladder, Ted sawed the lower end off one of the mayor's stilts. Then he did the same with the other stilt. As the mayor climbed back onto his stilts, he gazed around in amazement; he was at the same height as everyone else.

"Thank you very much son! You've truly made a difference in my life."

The people of stilt world saw that their mayor was now their size and he was attracting a crowd. As Ted looked back, he saw the people were clapping and patting the mayor on the back. The mayor raised his hand and waved goodbye. Ted had a feeling everyone would still look up to this kind mayor.