

In conversation with **SHAWN HARRIS**,  
author-illustrator of

# THE Teeny-Weeny Unicorn's GREAT BIG WISH



Art © 2024 by Lauren Harris

Once upon a time, there was a Teeny-Weeny Unicorn that wished to be big.  
What do you wish for?

Maybe I've read too many fairy tales, but I'm a bit wary about making wishes for myself for fear I'll get what I want, but not how I want it. So I make wishes for other people. But I don't tell them about the wishes I've made for them. That way, the wish-granting powers-that-be don't have an opportunity to impose their trademark dramatic irony.

This is the second book featuring the adventures of the Teeny-Weeny Unicorn.  
Where did the idea come from?

When I was a kid, my dad worked at the horse races. His colleagues would often offer to let me ride their horses. But truth be told, I was scared of horses. They're huge! My dad had a weird toenail because years earlier, a horse had stepped on his foot. I did not want a weird toenail. Still, I liked horses. But I would like a teeny-weeny horse more. Put a horn on it, and I would like it most of all.

What medium did you use to create the illustrations for *The Teeny-Weeny Unicorn's Great Big Wish*?

Chalk pastels. It's like finger painting with dust. I made a giant dusty mess.

The Teeny-Weeny Unicorn reaffirms he is the perfect size as he learns what it means to be big. What do you think it means to be big?

If there's always something bigger than you, and there's always something smaller than you, is there such a thing as being big at all? And if there's no big, then the question becomes: What do you think it means to be?

That's the answer I'm looking for.

