It had been a long summer, back in 2099. Grandpa offered to take me off Mum’s hands while she did extra shifts in the OR. We stayed in his narrow boat on the canal that ran through the city’s west side.

Grandpa called himself a merchant, but for me, it was magic. I’d never had the chance to see the canals properly before. From the ground, they looked like free-flowing water streams that wove between buildings and underneath motorways. They shone rainbows down during the day and glistened at night.

Riding one didn’t destroy the magic quite like Mum said it would. Instead, I felt like I’d been taken to a different world.

I saw forests atop skyscrapers, with willows that bowed into the passing water. Bamboo, ivy, and ferns were strung across streets, well above the denizens below.

“‘For the birds,’” Grandpa told me as we travelled by. “It’s magic.”

“Will I work up here one day?” I asked.

“Yes!” He cleared fruit, but his eyes didn’t leave me. “You like it up here?”

I nodded. “I always thought we were just showing off our lovely clean water and neat engineering tricks.”

“‘Out of sight, out of mind’ ignorance,” Grandpa said with a wink. He’d always thought we were just showing off our fantastic engineering tricks that challenged pessimistic predictions of the future. Inspired by the impacts of technology, as well as innovation influenced by nature, she hopes to write fiction that portrays a greener, more optimistic future that offers answers to our contemporary fears.

As an aspiring author, Lannah Marshall enjoys creating fantasy and science fiction that challenges pessimistic predictions of the future. Inspired by the impacts of technology, as well as innovation influenced by nature, she hopes to write fiction that portrays a greener, more optimistic future that offers answers to our contemporary fears.

I’d always thought we were just showing off our lovely clean water and neat engineering tricks. Then it hit me. Sure, Grandma and Grandpa weren’t surgeons, but there were different ways to save lives.

I knew what I was going to be. And I didn’t even have to wait to start.