

Jardiniero

- VP Storybook

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Storybook From Viva Piñata

This is Jardinero's recollection of the story leading up to the player arriving on Piñata Island.

Chapter 1

This is Piñata Island. It's the most incredible place in the world, where living piñata roam wild. In the middle of the island is Piñata Central. It's the place where piñata packed with candy go so they can be sent to parties all over the world. Around Piñata central are lots of gardens. And the people who live on Piñata Island have learned how to care for the land so the wild piñata will stay in their gardens and fill up with candy. Candy-filled piñata can then be sent to Piñata Central, so each party receives the piñata that suits it best. Piñata love parties. When they break open it's like having 5 Birthdays all at once! After the party the piñata returns to Piñata Island to fill up with candy and go to the next party! This is an amazing island and my garden was the most amazing place on this island. I was famous here, but some PEST, Er... took a dislike to me. To make a long story short all my hard work was ruined! I often wish that I were still young and strong enough to put the garden back in order, but those days are gone... Now the garden is yours and you're facing a challenge that even I might not be able to best.

Chapter 2

My name is Jardinero (you've probably heard of me and if you haven't then you should have). I am the best gardener on Piñata Island, even after all this time there's no one as good as I was. The land that you are messing about with used to be my garden. I could make any plant grow and have any piñata stay in the garden... well apart from one piñata. Let's face it, if I couldn't get one, no-one else could. Now forget about all that, you've got a long way to go before you can even call this a garden. Not long after I started the garden I met my wonderful wife. She worked on the ships which traded piñatas and other goods. This was in the days when piñata only left the island by boat. Piñata Central hadn't been built then. We got married the day that the first parts arrived to build Piñata Central. Mother (my wife) stayed on the Island for a whole year and our first child was born. We called him Stardos. When Stardos was 2 years old my wife had to go back to sea, Piñata Central had installed the first Cannoñata and there were requests for more piñata than ever before. My garden was already impressive and I could supply Piñata Central with really good piñata. With mother gone I set about teaching little Stardos about piñata and making the best garden in Piñata Island history!

Chapter 3

Little Stardos grew quickly, just like the garden. I hired a helper called Lester to do some of the less skilled jobs in the garden. He was O.K. but he was always writing things down, drawing pictures and making "plans". I'd ask him to do something and he'd mess it up. I'd tell him how to do it properly and he'd write it all down. If he listened more and wrote less he might have been more useful. I also found him trying to make shortcuts, he'd miss out some important work just so he could pack an extra couple piñata into a crate to Piñata Central. Stardos was learning more and more everyday which was a good job because I found Lester messing around with sweets. One afternoon I was walking down past the Gooseberry bushes when I found Lester stirring a pot of sticky red and black liquid which smelled SOUR. The secret of happy piñata is good candy. It's one shortcut you can't afford to take, start messing with candy and who knows what effect it would have on a piñata! I sacked Lester on the spot and Little Stardos took over his job. Replaced by a little boy! Lester was quite angry about it, but I knew that Piñata Central only wanted the best piñata.

Chapter 4

It was a good job that Stardos was such a natural gardener (like his dad) because our little family soon had a new member. Our second child, Leafos, was born during Mother's shore leave. Mother had to go back to sea very soon after Leafos was born. I brought up Leafos, continued Stardos' training and maintained my fantastic garden. Leafos loved the garden so much, she used to take flowers into her room at night, and it didn't stop there, she tried to take a Moozipan to bed one night and I had to draw the line. The next day I gave her some paper and pencils and she started drawing all the things she saw in the garden, so she could put them up in her room. As she got older she wrote about the plants and piñata as well as drawing pictures. In next to no time her walls were covered with sketches and writing so we made a book to keep it all in. That was the start of my Journal where a record of everything in the garden was kept.

Chapter 5

In the old days, I was an expert romance dancer. Mother was caught by surprise and my second daughter was born at sea. Mother named her after the migrating Storks that followed the ship. Little Storkos spent all her early years on the ships with Mother. She was taught how to read by sailors and the comic books they collected. She grew up running around the decks pretending to have super powers. In the old days the Piñata had to fetch their own eggs from Egg Mountain. Lots of eggs were broken before the parents could roll them home. Piñata Central needed more piñatas to fill all the party requests and all the gardens (even mine) couldn't romance the piñatas fast enough. When Mother's ship docked, Storkos came to the garden. She played and worked in the garden with Leafos and Stardos until one day Storkos went missing. We called for her but she didn't show up until two Bunnycombs had done their romance dance.. Swooping down from Egg Mountain with her cloak flapping behind her, Storkos flew into the garden and gently dropped off

the Bunnycomb egg safe and sound into the garden. Overnight the piñata romance dance problem was solved. Every piñata knew that its egg would be delivered safely. Storkos had become Piñata Island's very own superhero.

Chapter 6

Piñata Central had a regular supply of common piñata types but my garden was the only place to get the really unusual piñata. I worked in the garden with my family, Mother visited as often as she could. Everything was close to perfect and then my youngest son Sidos arrived, like the cherry on the cake. Mother gave up sailing and we lived as a family in and around the garden for a short time. Sidos started to look after a Shellybean, then two and soon he had romanced them. He was very advanced for such a little boy (like a chip off the old man's block). Sidos and his family of Shellybeans continued to spend lots of time together. When Piñata Central requested some Shellybean Piñatas, Sidos happily sent the whole family. Sidos had taught the Shellybeans all sorts of tricks including the 'Tower of Shellybeans' and the 'Shellybean Burst'. Those little Shellybeans must have put on quite a show because when they came home there was suddenly a big demand for Shellybean Piñatas. Obviously Sidos followed in his Dad's footsteps, becoming a piñata expert before he could talk properly.

Chapter 7

You probably heard that I was the most successful gardener on Piñata Island, and that's not a boast it's a fact. Suddenly a rumor started that there was one piñata I hadn't managed to capture. I laughed when people asked me about it but it was starting to bug me. Surely if anyone could lure a Dragonache into their garden it was me. I was lucky though. My old helper Lester showed up one day with an old map he said he'd found. The map showed a route over the sea to a little island where a wise man was supposed to live. Lester said that this man was the last known person to ever see a Dragonache and that he held the secrets to attracting one to a garden.

I immediately started planning a trip. Mother would captain the ship and take us to the old man's island. Stardos was able to look after the garden with the help of Leafos. Storkos would keep an eye out for little Sidos until we returned. I was determined to prove once and for all that I was the greatest gardener that Piñata Island had ever seen!

Chapter 8

Mother was a brilliant captain. All her years at sea had made her able to navigate by the stars and read signs of the coming weather. She followed the course marked on the tatty little map until we found the island. As we approached Mother noticed the tell tale of shallow rocks. She tried to navigate through them but a freak wave smashed the boat against a huge jagged boulder. I fell overboard and Mother, clinging to the boat, was swept back out to sea. I'm a tough old boot though and I made it to safety, stranded on the beach of the strange island. I was sure Mother would be

fine, she really is an expert Sailor!

Meanwhile back on Piñata Island things were taking a turn for the worse. Lester approached Stardos with an offer of help while I was away. Lester claimed he had made some new red and black sweets that were a shortcut to attracting piñata. He invited Stardos over to his lair in the jungle to try them for himself...

Chapter 9

I was washed up on the beach, and when I tried to move, my legs wouldn't do what they were told. I struggled to the middle of the island. There was a shabby hut with an old man sitting outside. "Welcome to my island," he said. I could have survived on my own, but he looked like he needed help. I crawled over to him and told him about my incredible adventure to find a Dragonache. The old man scratched his chin and then said "I think you've been tricked." I suddenly realized that I had abandoned the children to a crooked pest of a man. I demanded that the old man help me to get home! "It's rather rude to rush off," said the old man. "I'm 65 you know, and I still have all my own teeth. I don't get much company these days, so why don't you stop for a chat, and I'll do my best to help you out." I spent the afternoon drinking tea and listening to the old man. It turned out he was a Diggerling, and for years he had been digging strange and wonderful objects out of the ground. One object was a large egg, which as the old man put it "... was as close as he'd ever been to a Dragonache."

Eventually, the Diggerling carried me down to the coast. He had a boat there that he used to visit his daughter, who lived on Piñata Island. The miner agreed to sail me home past the treacherous rocks and back to my family.

Chapter 10

The old man dropped me off at the docks and I built myself this chair out of old scrap I found. I sped down to the garden. It was like my worst nightmare come true. Piñata homes were smashed, the plants had all dried up and the soil had been baked as hard as concrete. Leafos was hiding in the house. She explained that Stardos had gone into the jungle to meet Lester. As soon as he was out of sight a gang of Ruffians had arrived. They smashed up the garden, ripped my journal into pieces and put all the piñata in a crate and sent them to Lester... No, I can't call him Lester anymore. Pester is a better name for him! Storkos had stayed safe on Egg Mountain, and she had no choice but to keep on delivering eggs to other gardens. Little Sidos had run into the swamp with his Shellybeans. They were his only family for some time. This seems to have really affected him. Now he loves seeds (just like the Shellybeans do) and he calls himself Seedos. Stardos hasn't been seen since he went into the jungle but a weird new character now hands around the garden. He's known as Dastardos and he's creepy, but sometimes he reminds me of someone I used to know. Mother hasn't returned to Piñata Island. She must be having quite an adventure! And now we're back to where you came in.

Chapter 11

I can't believe it! It seems like only yesterday when you appeared here on Piñata Island. You didn't look like much of a gardener and my old garden had seen better days. I never thought that anyone could build a garden as successful as mine but here we are. You have made most piñata species resident, grown almost all of the plants and proved that you are one of the best. If I had a hat I'd take it off for you!