Advice
Edwina shared the reality that "freelance illustration is all about all-nighters and slow weeks and delayed pay and low self esteem and belated highs."
Edwina's final words of advice to impart on aspiring illustrators...

"The most important thing is to occupy yourself with a pursuit that suits you. That you speak your own language. If you want kudos, money and have great expectations I would advise against it. If you are OK about strange hours, can live humbly, are open to learning and are fascinated by stories and misfits (other illustrators) then...
There's a Nick Drake song called Hazey Jane where he asks, "Do you like what you're doing? Would you do it some more or will you stop once and wonder what your doing it for." Every time I hear it I smile because I do like what I am doing and I would do it some more...
It's a way of life- it is consistently inconsistent. You can get better at it with practice and determination. It is a quiet practice- much of it is a way of reflection and expression."

Inspiring.

Illustration- pros and cons
Pros
YOU GET TO DO WHAT YOU LOVE
"Every day is different"
Artistic expression, ownership and control (more so than a graphic designer)
Immersion in subject matter, as research is self-initiated
Constant learning, discovery and adventure

Cons
Financial struggle
Artistic compromises
Lack of security
Stress