

Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls 2

Elena Favilli Francesca Cavallo Copyright © 2018, Elena Favilli & Francesca Cavallo

### TO THE REBEL GIRLS OF THE WORLD:

YOU ARE THE PROMISE YOU ARE THE FORCE

DON'T STEP BACK, AND EVERYONE WILL MOVE FORWARD.

### **CONTENTS**

#### PREFACE

**AGATHA CHRISTIE • WRITER AISHOLPAN NURGAIV • EAGLE HUNTRESS ALICE BALL • CHEMIST ANDRÉE PEEL • FRENCH RESISTANCE FIGHTER ANGELA MERKEL • CHANCELLOR ANITA GARIBALDI • REVOLUTIONARY ANNE BONNY • PIRATE AUDREY HEPBURN • ACTRESS BEATRICE VIO • FENCER BEATRIX POTTER • WRITER AND ILLUSTRATOR BEYONCÉ • SINGER, SONGWRITER, AND BUSINESSWOMAN BILLIE JEAN KING • TENNIS PLAYER THE BLACK MAMBAS • RANGERS BOUDICCA • QUEEN BRENDA MILNER • NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST BUFFALO CALF ROAD WOMAN • WARRIOR** MADAM C.J. WALKER • BUSINESSWOMAN **CARMEN AMAYA • DANCER CELIA CRUZ • SINGER** CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE • WRITER **CHRISTINA OF SWEDEN • QUEEN CLARA ROCKMORE • MUSICIAN CLARA SCHUMANN • PIANIST AND COMPOSER CLEMANTINE WAMARIYA • STORYTELLER AND ACTIVIST CORRIE TEN BOOM • WATCHMAKER ELEANOR ROOSEVELT • POLITICIAN ELLEN DEGENERES • COMEDIAN AND TV HOST FLORENCE CHADWICK • SWIMMER GAE AULENTI • ARCHITECT AND DESIGNER GEORGIA O'KEEFFE • PAINTER** 

**GERTY CORI • BIOCHEMIST GIUSI NICOLINI • MAYOR GLORIA STEINEM • ACTIVIST HEDY LAMARR • ACTRESS AND INVENTOR HORTENSIA • ORATOR ISADORA DUNCAN • DANCER** J.K. ROWLING • WRITER **JEANNE BARET • HOUSEKEEPER AND EXPLORER JOAN BEAUCHAMP PROCTER • ZOOLOGIST JOHANNA NORDBLAD • ICE DIVER** KATHERINE JOHNSON, DOROTHY VAUGHAN, AND MARY **JACKSON • COMPUTER SCIENTISTS KATIA KRAFFT • VOLCANOLOGIST KHOUDIA DIOP • MODEL LAUREN POTTER • ACTRESS LEYMAH GBOWEE • PEACE ACTIVIST** LILIAN BLAND • AVIATOR **LORENA OCHOA • GOLFER LOWRI MORGAN • ULTRAMARATHON RUNNER LUO DENGPING • EXTREME ROCK CLIMBER MADAME SAQUI • ACROBAT MADONNA • SINGER, SONGWRITER, AND BUSINESSWOMAN MARIE THARP • GEOLOGIST** MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ • PERFORMANCE ARTIST MARTA VIEIRA DA SILVA • SOCCER PLAYER **MARY FIELDS • MAIL CARRIER** MARY KINGSLEY • EXPLORER **MARY SEACOLE • NURSE MARY SHELLEY • WRITER MARYAM MIRZAKHANI • MATHEMATICIAN** MATA HARI • SPY **MATILDA OF CANOSSA • FEUDAL RULER MERRITT MOORE • QUANTUM PHYSICIST AND BALLERINA MOLLY KELLY, DAISY KADIBILL, AND GRACIE FIELDS • FREEDOM FIGHTERS** NADIA COMANECI • GYMNAST **NADIA MURAD • HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST NADINE GORDIMER • WRITER AND ACTIVIST NEFERTITI • QUEEN OPRAH WINFREY • TV HOST, ACTRESS, AND** 

**BUSINESSWOMAN PAULINE LÉON • REVOLUTIONARY PEGGY GUGGENHEIM • ART COLLECTOR POORNA MALAVATH • MOUNTAINEER OIU JIN • REVOLUTIONARY RACHEL CARSON • ENVIRONMENTALIST RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM • POLITICAL ACTIVIST ROSALIND FRANKLIN • CHEMIST AND X-RAY CRYSTALLOGRAPHER RUBY NELL BRIDGES • ACTIVIST** SAMANTHA CRISTOFORETTI • ASTRONAUT **SAPPHO • POET** SARA SEAGER • ASTROPHYSICIST SARINYA SRISAKUL • FIREFIGHTER **SELDA BAĞCAN • SINGER AND SONGWRITER SERAFINA BATTAGLIA • ANTI-MAFIA WITNESS SHAMSIA HASSANI • GRAFFITI ARTIST SIMONE VEIL • POLITICIAN SKY BROWN • SKATEBOARDER SOFIA IONESCU • NEUROSURGEON SOJOURNER TRUTH • ACTIVIST SONIA SOTOMAYOR • JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT SOPHIA LOREN • ACTRESS SOPHIE SCHOLL • ACTIVIST STEFFI GRAF • TENNIS PLAYER TEMPLE GRANDIN • PROFESSOR OF ANIMAL SCIENCES TROOP 6000 • GIRL SCOUTS VALENTINA TERESHKOVA • COSMONAUT VALERIE THOMAS • ASTRONOMER VIOLETA PARRA • COMPOSER AND MUSICIAN** VIRGINIA HALL • SPY **VIVIAN MAIER • PHOTOGRAPHER** WISŁAWA SZYMBORSKA • POET **YEONMI PARK • ACTIVIST** 

WRITE YOUR STORY DRAW YOUR PORTRAIT GLOSSARY REBELS' HALL OF FAME ILLUSTRATORS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ABOUT THE AUTHORS

### PREFACE

Dearest Rebels,

As you read this letter, the first volume of *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls* is on the nightstands of about one million people. All over the world, children and grown-ups are talking about their favorite rebel girl. Teachers are designing lessons around these pioneers. Politicians are reading these stories at political conventions, young women are opening the book to cheer up after a bad day, and soon-to-be dads are buying it to welcome their daughters into this world.

Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls has been translated into more than thirty languages, and every day we have the feeling that we hear all of your accents when we receive the messages you send us via email, Facebook, and Twitter. When we see the Instagram pictures of this book in your homes, it's a lot like looking at a family album. A family made up of people of every religion, every nationality, every color, every age, every kind. A global family whose members come from small villages (like the ones we grew up in) and from big cities.

One year ago, in our small Los Angeles apartment, we started a little fire. A fire we could gather around to tell each other new kinds of stories.

You joined us. You invited your friends and brought more firewood. You came bringing your hopes, your frustrations, your courage and your fear, your weakness and your strength. You came to listen, but you also came to speak. The fire got bigger. The family grew.

And this is what *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls 2* is about. It's about the stories you told us by that fire. It's about the Asian American female firefighter whom Christine told us about in New York City. It's about the first all-female anti-poaching unit in South Africa, which Rita told us about on Snapchat. It's about the Irish pilot who built herself a plane. Aidan told us about her at a signing event.

Some say that stories can't change the world. But we disagree.

Time and again, you messaged us to say you had discovered a story in our book, and sometimes the story you mentioned wasn't there. The fact is that *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls* is training hundreds of thousands of people to see stories they couldn't see before. It's inspiring them to look for talent where they thought there was none. It's making it easier to find potential in unpredictable places.

When we tap into the talent of an entire population—instead of just half of it—endless possibilities open up.

When we see each other for what we are, free of harmful stereotypes, we create real progress.

When we recognize oppression and take action to end it, we all become stronger.

As you rest your head on your pillow after reading one or three of these stories—whether it's after an exhausting day of play or a long day at work, whether you're in Cape Town or Aotearoa, whether someone read you the story or you read it by yourself—know that you've just sat by a fire with hundreds of thousands of fellow rebels who, just like you, are on a journey.

The Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls series is a small part of a conversation that is bigger than each of us. Bigger than our individual hopes. Certainly bigger than our fears.

Thank you for sitting with us by this fire. Now let's get started.

Francesca Cavallo Elena Favilli

# AGATHA CHRISTIE

#### WRITER

O nce upon a time, there was a girl who loved to write. Poems, love stories, mysteries, letters—she tried them all. Agatha wanted to be a professional writer more than anything. She talked about her dream with her dog, George Washington, during their daily walks. Each new place she and George visited, Agatha looked at as a setting for a story, and every time she met someone, she wondered if that person could be one of her characters.

Agatha sent her stories to magazines but got turned down. The rejection letters kept piling up, but Agatha didn't let that stop her. She was an avid reader and especially loved murder mysteries.

So she wrote her own detective novel.

*The Mysterious Affair at Styles* featured Hercule Poirot, a Belgian detective with a glorious mustache. Many publishers turned down Agatha's manuscript, but finally one said yes.

When the novel was published, it was a huge success and marked the beginning of an unbelievable career. Agatha Christie's books have sold more than two billion copies and have been translated into over a hundred different languages, making her the best-selling novelist of all time.

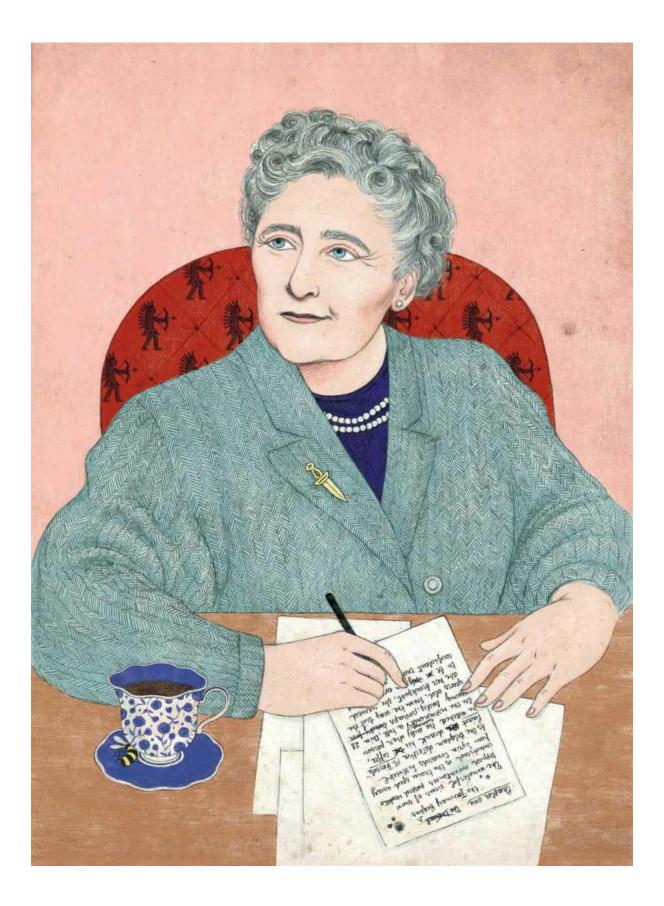
Hercule Poirot with his pointy mustache and Miss Marple with her cute hats became two of the most popular literary detectives ever. They appeared in TV shows and movies, and kept millions of people guessing as they figured out whodunnit.

Through her remarkable career, Agatha wrote sixty-six detective novels, fourteen short story collections, and the world's longest-running play, *The Mousetrap*.

ILLUSTRATION BY GIULIA TOMAI

#### "THE BEST TIME TO PLAN A BOOK IS WHILE YOU'RE DOING THE DISHES."

– AGATHA CHRISTIE



### AISHOLPAN NURGAIV EAGLE HUNTRESS

• nce there was a thirteen-year-old girl named Aisholpan who lived in the icy-cold Altai Mountains. For seven generations, the men in her tribe had hunted with golden eagles to provide their families with food and fur.

Golden eagles are big, fierce creatures with sharp claws and curved beaks that can be extremely dangerous. But to Aisholpan, they were simply beautiful. She longed to train an eagle of her own, so one day she said to her father, "Dad, I know that no girls have ever done this, but if you teach me, I'll be good." Her father, who was a great eagle hunter, paused to think. Then he said, "You are strong. You are not afraid. You can do it."

Her heart sang with joy.

Aisholpan and her dad rode their horses high into the snowy mountains. Finding an eaglet to train wasn't easy. Aisholpan reached a nest with a rope tied around her waist, trying not to slip on the sharp rocks. In the nest, she found a tiny golden eagle, all alone.

She covered the bird's head with a blanket to calm her down, then brought her home. Aisholpan sang and told stories so that the eaglet would recognize her voice. She fed her small chunks of meat and taught her how to land on her glove. "I treat her with respect, because if she trusts me, she won't fly away. We will be a team for a few years. Then I'll return her to the wild. The circle of life must continue."

Aisholpan became the first woman to enter the Golden Eagle competition in Ölgii, Mongolia. After her, three more girls started training to become eagle hunters.

BORN 2003 MONGOLIA ILLUSTRATION BY SALLY NIXON

### "I PLAN TO TEACH MY YOUNGER SISTER EAGLE HUNTING." – AISHOLPAN NURGAIV



# **ALICE BALL**

#### CHEMIST

O nce upon a time, there was no cure for leprosy, a disease that attacks the body and can leave victims terribly disfigured. Because there was no treatment and people believed leprosy was very contagious, sufferers used to be isolated in leper colonies with nothing to do but wait for death—or for a cure to be found.

In search of that cure, an incredibly talented young Hawaiian chemist called Alice Ball was studying the properties of an oil extracted from the chaulmoogra tree. This oil was used in traditional Chinese and Indian medicine to treat skin diseases, and it also had been used for leprosy, with mixed results: sometimes it worked, and sometimes it didn't.

"Why?" was Alice's burning question. "Why doesn't it work *every* time?"

She teamed up with an assistant surgeon at a Honolulu hospital to try to find the answer to that question. She developed a way to separate out the active elements of chaulmoogra oil and created a new extract that could be injected directly into a patient's bloodstream—with amazing results.

Unfortunately, Alice died before she was able to publish her findings. So the University of Hawaii did it for her—without giving her credit! The president of the university even called the extraction technique the Dean Method, as if he had invented it himself.

Many years later, Alice Ball's amazing contribution was finally recognized. Now, every four years on February 29, Hawaii celebrates Alice Ball Day.

Alice was the first African American and the first woman to graduate from the University of Hawaii.

#### ILLUSTRATION BY MARTINA PAUKOVA



# **ANDRÉE PEEL** FRENCH RESISTANCE FIGHTER

Once upon a time, there was a young woman who ran a beauty parlor. Andrée was smart and stylish, and she always had a bright smile for her customers. *"Bonjour, madame,"* she would call out. *"How would you like your hair cut today?"* 

Then the Second World War broke out, and everything changed.

When Hitler invaded her country, Andrée joined the French Resistance, a network of ordinary people who worked in secret against the Nazis. She helped distribute underground newspapers to other members of the Resistance. It was risky and dangerous work. Andrée was soon promoted to sergeant and given the code name Agent Rose.

Many times she risked her life. She would steal out at night and line up a row of flaming torches to signal to Allied planes as they crossed enemy lines. The pilots looked for these bright spots and knew that they could land safely there, thanks to Agent Rose. She helped save over a hundred British pilots from being captured by the Nazis before she herself was captured and sent to a concentration camp.

Sick, starving, and dressed in blue-and-white-striped pajamas, Andrée was lined up with other prisoners in front of a firing squad, about to be shot, when Allied troops arrived and and saved them.

Andrée was hailed as a hero. The president of the United States and the British prime minister both sent her letters to thank her for everything she had done. She went on to live a long life—but she always kept a scrap of that blue-and-white material to remind her of those terrible days, and to confirm that, as she said, "Miracles do exist."