

AMELIA EARHART
MIRIAM MAKEBA
PATRAS
MARIACALLAS
CLEOPATRA
SMONEDILES
RUTHBADER
NINA
GINSBURG
SIMO



GOOD NIGHT STORIES

FOR REBEL GIRLS

100
TALES
WOMEN
CHANEL OF EXTRAORDINARY
MARIE
JANE AUSTEN LOZEN ELIZABETH I SERENAWILLIAMS
CURIE



GOOD NIGHT
STORIES
FOR
REBEL
GIRLS
100 TALES OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

ELENA FAVILLI AND FRANCESCA CAVALLO



• CONTENTS •

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

PREFACE

ADA LOVELACE • MATHEMATICIAN

ALEK WEK • SUPERMODEL

ALFONSINA STRADA • CYCLIST

ALICIA ALONSO • BALLERINA

AMEENAH GURIB-FAKIM • PRESIDENT AND SCIENTIST

AMELIA EARHART • AVIATOR

AMNA AL HADDAD • WEIGHTLIFTER

ANN MAKOSINSKI • INVENTOR

ANNA POLITKOVSKAYA • JOURNALIST

ARTEMISIA GENTILESCHI • PAINTER

ASHLEY FIOLEK • MOTOCROSS RACER

ASTRID LINDGREN • WRITER

AUNG SAN SUU KYI • POLITICIAN

BALKISSA CHAIBOU • ACTIVIST

BRENDA CHAPMAN • DIRECTOR

THE BRONTË SISTERS • WRITERS

CATHERINE THE GREAT • EMPRESS

CHOLITA CLIMBERS • MOUNTAINEERS

CLAUDIA RUGGERINI • PARTISAN

CLEOPATRA • PHARAOH

COCO CHANEL • FASHION DESIGNER

CORA CORALINA • POET AND BAKER

COY MATHIS • ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT

ELIZABETH I • QUEEN

EUFROSINA CRUZ • ACTIVIST AND POLITICIAN

EVITA PERÓN • POLITICIAN

FADUMO DAYIB • POLITICIAN

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE • NURSE

FRIDA KAHLO • PAINTER

GRACE HOPPER • COMPUTER SCIENTIST

GRACE O'MALLEY • PIRATE

HARRIET TUBMAN • FREEDOM FIGHTER

HATSHEPSUT • PHARAOH

HELEN KELLER • ACTIVIST

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON • PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

HYPATIA • MATHEMATICIAN AND PHILOSOPHER

IRENA SENDLEROWA • WAR HERO

ISABEL ALLENDE • WRITER

JACQUOTTE DELAHAYE • PIRATE

JANE AUSTEN • WRITER

JANE GOODALL • PRIMATOLOGIST

JESSICA WATSON • SAILOR

JILL TARTER • ASTRONOMER

JINGŪ • EMPRESS

JOAN JETT • ROCK STAR

JULIA CHILD • CHEF

KATE SHEPPARD • SUFFRAGETTE

LAKSHMI BAI • QUEEN AND WARRIOR

LELLA LOMBARDI • FORMULA ONE RACER

LOZEN • WARRIOR

MAE C. JEMISON • ASTRONAUT AND DOCTOR

MALALA YOUSAFZAI • ACTIVIST

MANAL AL-SHARIF • WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST

MARGARET HAMILTON • COMPUTER SCIENTIST

MARGARET THATCHER • PRIME MINISTER

MARGHERITA HACK • ASTROPHYSICIST

MARIA CALLAS • OPERA SINGER

MARIA MONTESSORI • PHYSICIAN AND EDUCATOR

MARIA REICHE • ARCHAEOLOGIST

MARIA SIBYLLA MERIAN • NATURALIST

MARIE CURIE • SCIENTIST

MARY ANNING • PALEONTOLOGIST

MARY EDWARDS WALKER • SURGEON

MARY KOM • BOXER

MATILDE MONTOYA • DOCTOR

MAUD STEVENS WAGNER • TATTOO ARTIST

MAYA ANGELOU • WRITER

MAYA GABEIRA • SURFER

MELBA LISTON • TROMBONIST

MICHAELA DEPRINCE • BALLERINA

MICHELLE OBAMA • LAWYER AND FIRST LADY

MILLO CASTRO ZALDARRIAGA • DRUMMER

THE MIRABAL SISTERS • ACTIVISTS

MIRIAM MAKEBA • ACTIVIST AND SINGER

MISTY COPELAND • BALLERINA

NANCY WAKE • SPY

NANNY OF THE MAROONS • QUEEN

NELLIE BLY • REPORTER

NETTIE STEVENS • GENETICIST

NINA SIMONE • SINGER

POLICARPA SALAVARRIETA • SPY

RITA LEVI MONTALCINI • SCIENTIST

ROSA PARKS • ACTIVIST

RUTH BADER GINSBURG • SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

RUTH HARKNESS • EXPLORER

SEONDEOK OF SILLA • QUEEN

SERENA AND VENUS WILLIAMS • TENNIS PLAYERS

SIMONE BILES • GYMNAST

SONITA ALIZADEH • RAPPER

SYLVIA EARLE • MARINE BIOLOGIST

TAMARA DE LEMPICKA • PAINTER

VIRGINIA WOOLF • WRITER

WANG ZHENYI • ASTRONOMER

WANGARI MAATHAI • ACTIVIST

WILMA RUDOLPH • ATHLETE

XIAN ZHANG • ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR

YAA ASANTEWAA • WARRIOR QUEEN

YOKO ONO • ARTIST

YUSRA MARDINI • SWIMMER

ZAHA HADID • ARCHITECT

WRITE YOUR STORY

DRAW YOUR PORTRAIT

REBELS' HALL OF FAME

ILLUSTRATORS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FOLLOW PENGUIN

• ABOUT THE AUTHORS •

ELENA FAVILLI is a media entrepreneur and a journalist. She has worked for *Colors* magazine, *McSweeney's*, *RAI*, *Il Post*, and *La Repubblica*, and has managed digital newsrooms on both sides of the Atlantic. She holds a masters degree in semiotics from the University of Bologna (Italy) and she studied digital journalism at U.C. Berkeley. In 2011, she created the first iPad magazine for children, *Timbuktu* magazine. She is the founder and CEO of Timbuktu Labs.

FRANCESCA CAVALLO is a published writer and theater director. Her award-winning plays have been staged all across Europe. A passionate social innovator, Francesca is the founder of Sferracavalli, an International Festival of Sustainable Imagination in Southern Italy. In 2011, Francesca joined forces with Elena Favilli to found Timbuktu Labs, where she serves as Creative Director. *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls* is her seventh children's book.

Elena and Francesca live in Venice, California.

TIMBUKTU LABS is the children's media innovation lab founded by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo. From books to playgrounds, from mobile games to interactive workshops, Timbuktu is committed to redefining the boundaries of children's media through a combination of thought-provoking content, stellar design, and cutting-edge technology. With 2 million users in more than 70 countries, 12 mobile apps, and 7 books, Timbuktu is building a global community of progressive parents.

Timbuktu's products have won:

- 2016 *Play 60, Play On* (an initiative by the NFL foundation to reinvent public playgrounds)
- 2014 First Special Mention at Bordeaux Biennale of Architecture
- 2013 Best Children's Magazine of the Year at London Digital Magazine Awards

- 2012 Best Design Award at Launch Education and Kids
- 2012 Best Italian Startup

If you want to receive occasional updates about Timbuktu's new projects, subscribe at: www.timbuktu.me

Join the Rebel Girls' community on:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/timbuktumagazine

Instagram: [@rebelgirlsbook](https://www.instagram.com/rebelgirlsbook)

Snapchat: [@rebelgirlsbook](https://www.snapchat.com/add/rebelgirlsbook)

To the rebel girls of the world:

Dream bigger

Aim higher

Fight harder

And, when in doubt, remember

You are right.

● PREFACE ●

There are many reasons why this book will always be special to us. Some are obvious: the record-breaking amount of money we raised through crowdfunding (more than one million dollars! *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls* is the most funded original book in the history of crowdfunding), the astonishing number of backers from more than seventy countries, and the privilege of working with dozens of unbelievably talented female artists from all over the world.

Some reasons, though, are less obvious: the messages of soon-to-be moms and dads who told us that this is the first book they have bought for their daughters. The friend of a friend who said that this campaign gave her the confidence to start working on a project close to her heart that she had kept on hold for a long time because “what if I fail?” The email from a mom ecstatic to have a book that could help her share her perspective on the world with her three sons, not only as a mother, but as a woman. Above all, the deep trust that our backers have put in us.

This amount of trust is not something women get to experience very often. We do not take it for granted. How could we? Most of the extraordinary women featured in this book never experienced this kind of trust. No matter the importance of their discoveries, the audacity of their adventures, the width of their genius—they were constantly belittled, forgotten, in some cases almost erased from history.

It is important that girls understand the obstacles that lie in front of them. It is just as important that they know these obstacles are not insurmountable. That not only can they find a way to overcome them, but that they can remove those obstacles for those who will come after them, just like these great women did.

Each of the hundred stories in this book proves the world-changing power of a trusting heart.

May these brave pioneers inspire you. May their portraits impress upon our daughters the solid belief that beauty manifests itself in all shapes and colors, and at all ages. May each reader know the greatest success is to live

a life full of passion, curiosity, and generosity. May we all remember every day that we have the right to be happy and to explore wildly.

Now that you're holding this book, all we can feel is hope and enthusiasm for the world we're building together. A world where gender will not define how big you can dream, how far you can go. A world where each of us will be able to say with confidence: "I am free."

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Elena Favilli

Francesca Cavallo

• ADA LOVELACE •

MATHEMATICIAN

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Ada who loved machines.

She also loved the idea of flying.

She studied birds to work out the perfect balance between wing size and body weight. She tested out materials and tried out several designs. She never managed to soar like a bird, but she created a beautiful book full of drawings called *Flyology* where she recorded all of her findings.

One night, Ada went to a ball. There, she met a grumpy old mathematician named Charles Babbage. Ada was a brilliant mathematician herself, and the two soon became good friends. Charles invited Ada to see a machine he had invented. He called it the *Difference Engine*. It could automatically add and subtract numbers. No one had ever done that before.

Ada was hooked.

“What if we built a machine that could make more complicated calculations?” she said. Excited, Ada and Charles started working. The machine was huge and it required an enormous steam engine.

Ada wanted to go further: “What if this machine could play music and show letters as well as numbers?”

She was describing a computer, way before modern computers were invented!

Ada wrote the first computer program in history.

DECEMBER 10, 1815–NOVEMBER 27, 1852

UNITED KINGDOM

ILLUSTRATION BY
ELISABETTA STONICH



"THAT BRAIN OF MINE IS
SOMETHING MORE THAN MERELY
MORTAL, AS TIME WILL SHOW."
—ADA LOVELACE

● ALEK WEK ●

SUPERMODEL

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Alek who would stop by a mango tree to get a snack on her way home from school.

In Alek's village, there was no running water nor electricity. She had to walk to a well for drinking water, but she and her family lived a simple and happy life.

Then, a terrible war broke out and Alek's life changed forever. As the warning sirens wailed over their village, Alek and her family had to run away from the fighting.

It was the rainy season. The river had flooded, the bridges across it were underwater, and Alek could not swim. She was terrified of drowning, but her mom helped her to cross safely to the other side. Along the way, Alek's mom traded packets of salt for food and passports because they didn't have any money. They managed to escape from the war, and made their way to London.

One day, she was in a park when a talent scout from a famous modeling agency approached her. He wanted to recruit Alek as a model. Alek's mother did not want to hear about it. But the agent persisted, and she finally agreed.

Alek looked so different from any other model, that she instantly became a sensation.

Alek wants every girl on the planet to know, "You are beautiful. It's okay to be quirky, it's fine to be shy. You don't have to go with the crowd."

BORN APRIL 16, 1977

SUDAN

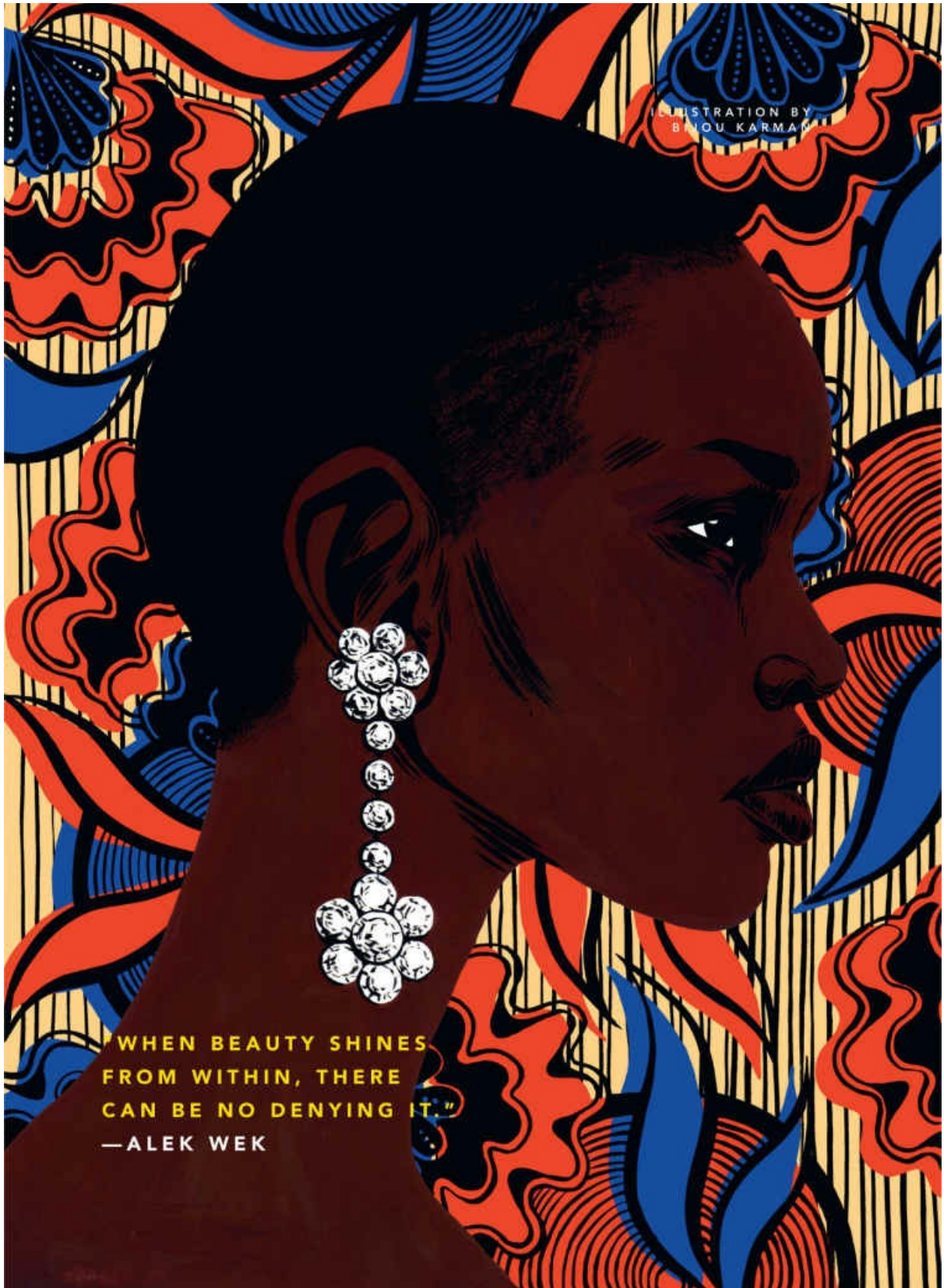


ILLUSTRATION BY
BLOU KARMA

“WHEN BEAUTY SHINES
FROM WITHIN, THERE
CAN BE NO DENYING IT.”
—ALEK WEK

● ALFONSINA STRADA ●

CYCLIST

Once there was a girl who could ride a bike so fast that you could barely see her. “Don’t go so fast, Alfonsina!” her parents would scream. Too late—she had already whizzed past.

When she got married, her family hoped that she would finally give up this crazy idea of becoming a cyclist. Instead, on her wedding day, her husband gifted her a brand-new racing bike. They moved to Milan, and Alfonsina started to train professionally.

She was so fast and so strong that a few years later, she entered the Giro d’Italia, one of the toughest races in the world. No other woman had ever attempted it before. “She’ll never make it,” people said. But nobody could stop Alfonsina.

The race was long and strenuous, with twenty-one day-long stages along some of the steepest mountain roads in Europe. Of the ninety cyclists who started out, only thirty made it across the finish line: Alfonsina was one of them. She was greeted as a hero.

The next year, she was barred from competing. “Giro d’Italia is a men’s race,” the officials declared. But that didn’t stop her either.

She raced all the same and she set a speed record that stood for twenty-six years, even though she rode a 44-pound, 1-gear bike!

She would be happy to know that things have changed a lot since then. Now, women’s cycle racing is hugely popular. It’s even an Olympic sport.

MARCH 16, 1891–SEPTEMBER 13, 1959

ITALY



ILLUSTRATION BY
CRISTINA PORTOLANO

"NOBODY CAN
STOP MY BIKE."
—ALFONSINA STRADA

• ALICIA ALONSO •

BALLERINA

Once upon a time, there was a blind girl who became a great ballerina.

Her name was Alicia.

Alicia grew up sighted, and was already a wonderful ballerina with a great career ahead of her, when she fell ill. Her eyesight got worse and worse. She was forced to stay in bed for months without moving, but Alicia had to dance—so she danced in the only way she could: “I danced in my mind. Blinded, motionless, flat on my back, I taught myself to dance *Giselle*.”

One day, the New York City Ballet’s prima ballerina injured herself. They called Alicia to step in. She was already partially blind but how could she say no? The ballet was *Giselle*!

As soon as she started to dance, the audience fell in love with her.

Alicia danced with grace and confidence even though she could barely see. She trained her partners to be exactly where she needed them at just the right time.

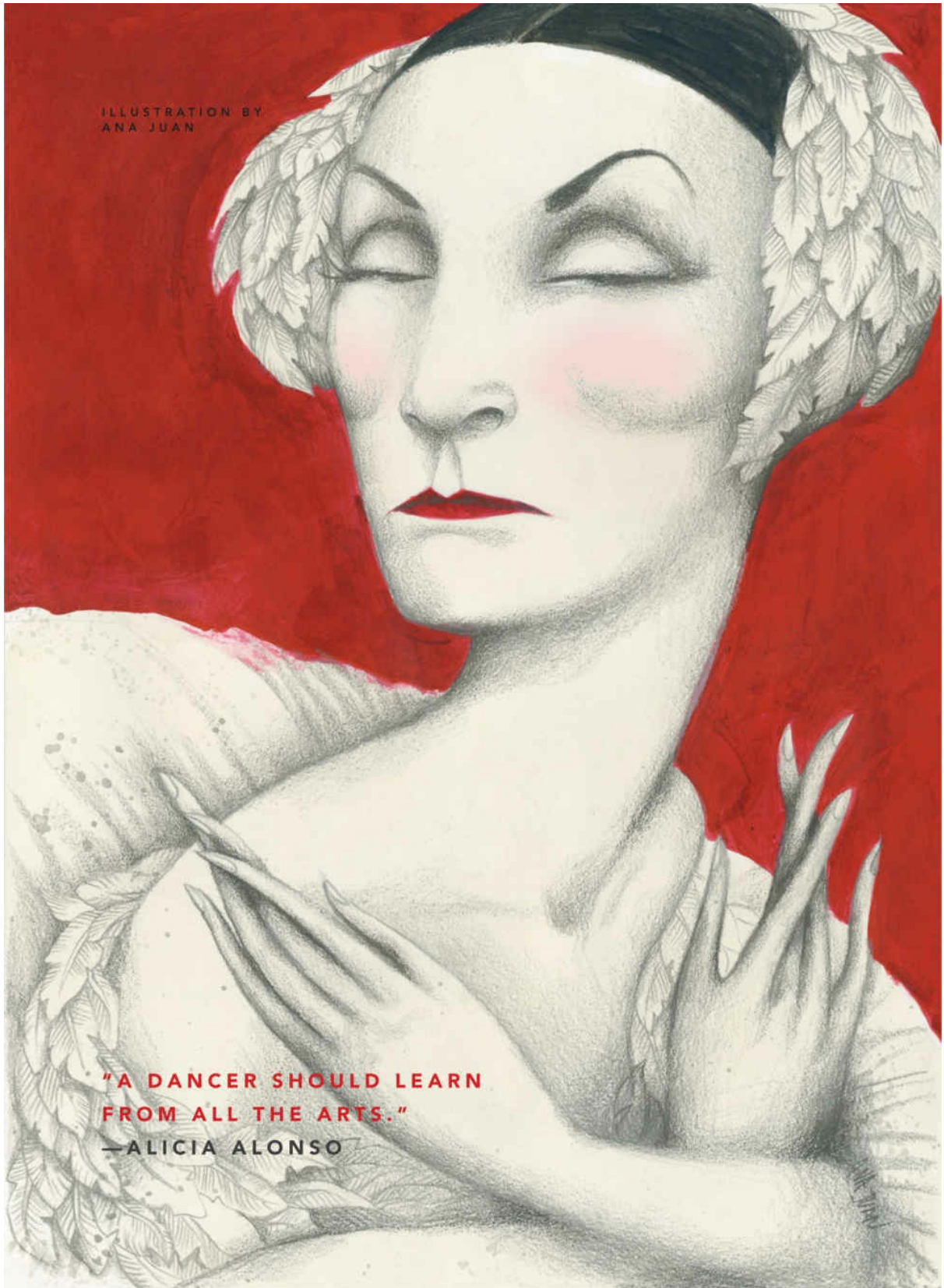
Her style was so unique that she was asked to dance with her ballet company all over the world. But her dream was to bring classical ballet to Cuba, her home country.

Back from her travels, she started to teach classical ballet to Cuban dancers. She founded the Alicia Alonso Ballet Company, which later became the Ballet Nacional De Cuba.

BORN DECEMBER 21, 1921

CUBA

ILLUSTRATION BY
ANA JUAN



**"A DANCER SHOULD LEARN
FROM ALL THE ARTS."
—ALICIA ALONSO**

● AMEENAH GURIB-FAKIM ●

PRESIDENT AND SCIENTIST

In an island nation in the Indian Ocean called Mauritius, there lived a girl who wanted to know everything about plants. Her name was Ameenah.

Ameenah studied biodiversity.

She analyzed hundreds of aromatic and medicinal herbs and flowers. She studied their properties and travelled to rural villages to learn from traditional healers how they used plants in their rituals.

For Ameenah, plants were like friends.

Her favorite tree was the baobab because it is so useful: It stores water in its trunk, its leaves can cure infections, and its fruit (called *monkey apple*) contains more proteins than human milk.

Ameenah thought that a lot could be learned from plants. Plants, like benjoin, for example: “The leaves of benjoin are different shapes and sizes. Animals won’t eat plants they don’t recognize. So they tend to leave this plant alone. Quite smart, don’t you think?”

Ameenah thought of plants as living, biological labs, full of vital information for humans and every other species. “Every time a forest is cut down, we lose an entire laboratory. A lab that we will never, ever recover.”

Ameenah Gurib was elected President of Mauritius and every day she fights hard for all the inhabitants of her country: people, animals and, of course, plants.

OCTOBER 17, 1959

MAURITIUS