



# THE STORY OF ALICE BALL

◦ BY JENNIFER LERUD ◦

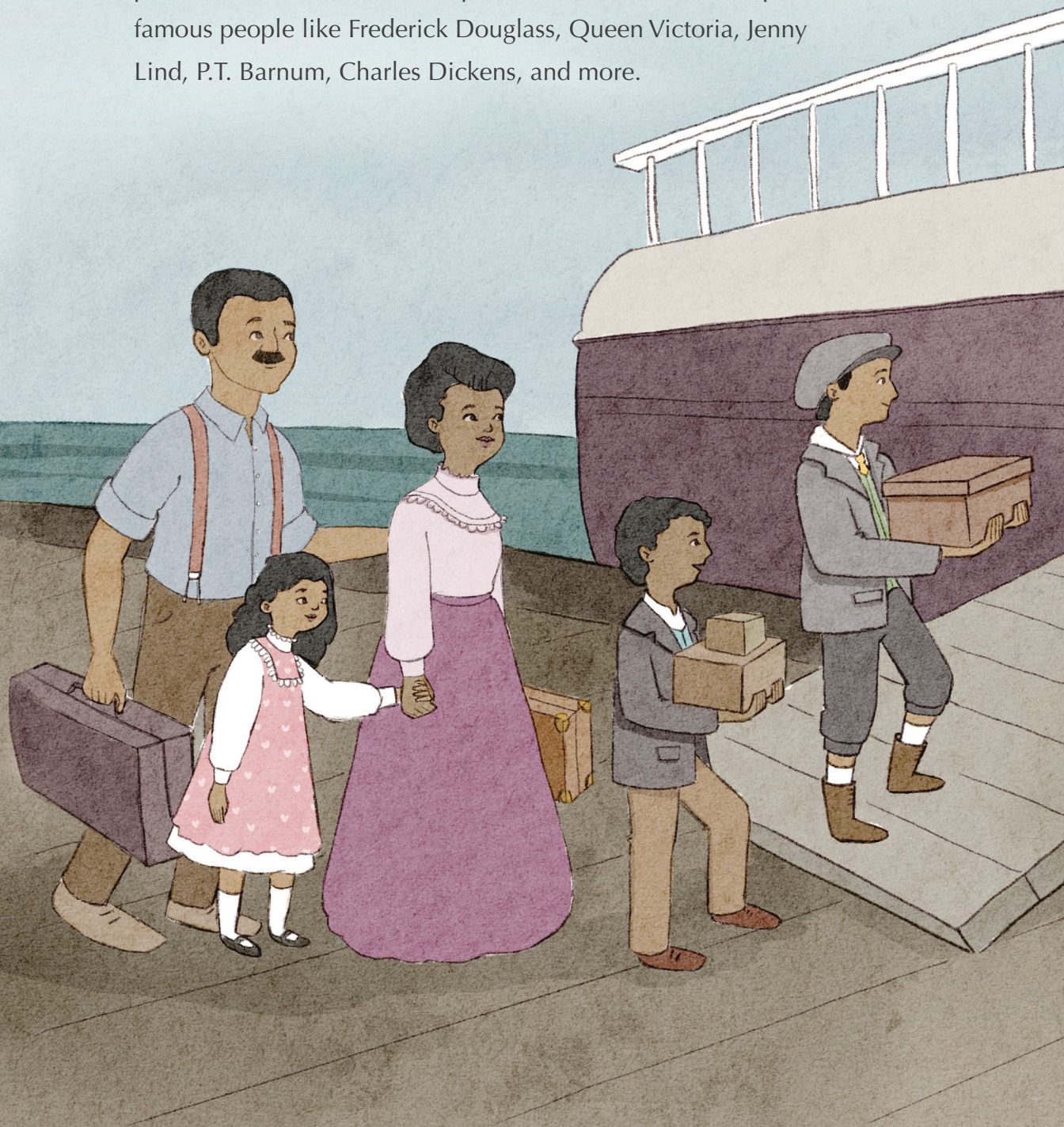


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*Flash!* The camera went off.

Taking pictures was their family's specialty. Alice's father, James Presley Ball, Jr., had a photography studio in Seattle, and he was an editor and a lawyer, too. He'd learned photography from his father, one of the first black men to take daguerreotype pictures in the USA. Alice was very proud of her father, but Grandpa was famous! He'd taken pictures of famous people like Frederick Douglass, Queen Victoria, Jenny Lind, P.T. Barnum, Charles Dickens, and more.





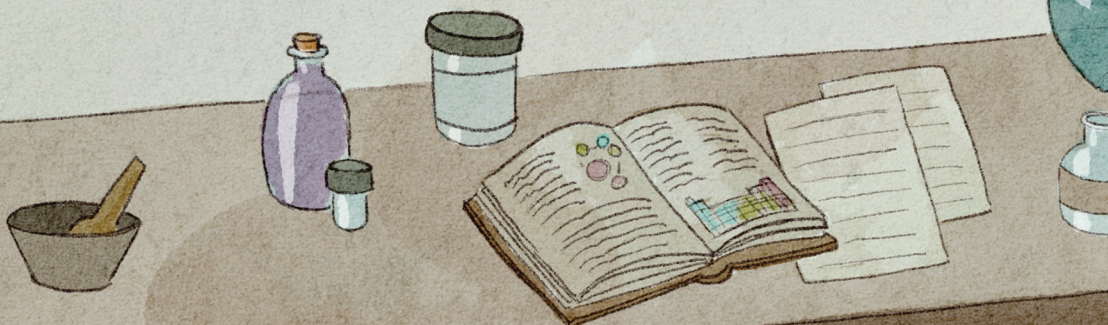


After taking a few more pictures, they boarded the boat. Grandpa moved slowly up the gangplank. He was in awful pain because of his arthritis. They hoped Honolulu's climate would help him feel better. That's why they were all moving there with him.





Back in Seattle, Alice enjoyed learning, especially science. At the time, there was a push in Seattle to have high school students learn chemistry to help the booming pharmaceutical business. The local University of Washington specialized in the sciences too, especially chemistry. Since Alice took to chemistry like a cat to catnip, she enrolled at the university when she graduated from high school in 1910.









One day a medical doctor came to visit Alice. Dr. Harry T. Hollmann worked with leprosy patients, and he'd heard about her work with awa root (kava root). Would she help him to separate the oils of the chaulmoogra plant and find a better treatment for lepers?







Chaulmoogra had been used in Asia as a remedy for leprosy for thousands of years, but some people thought eating or drinking chaulmoogra was worse than the leprosy they suffered from! A breakthrough came in the early 1900s, when Dr. Frederick B. Power successfully separated the plant's essential oils for inoculation, but the oils were not absorbed well and caused painful sores and lumps. A better way had to be found!





# THE STORY OF ALICE BALL

When ten-year-old Alice Ball moved to Hawaii with her family, she had no idea what the future had in store. Her dedication to learning and blessing the lives of others would soon change the world as she instructed students and discovered a cure for leprosy that previously had been unknown. Largely untold for many decades, the true story of this incredible woman is one that should be shared.

■ ORIGINAL PUBLICATION



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