



Cecilia and the Stars

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Illustrated by Eliza Wheeler



About a hundred years ago,
a little girl looked up at the night sky.
The sky was a deep, dark blue.
The yellow stars twinkled.



All of a sudden, there was a burst of light.

The girl's eyes opened wide. It was a meteor.

She had never seen anything so beautiful.

“That does it,” the girl said to herself.

“I am going to spend my life learning about stars.”

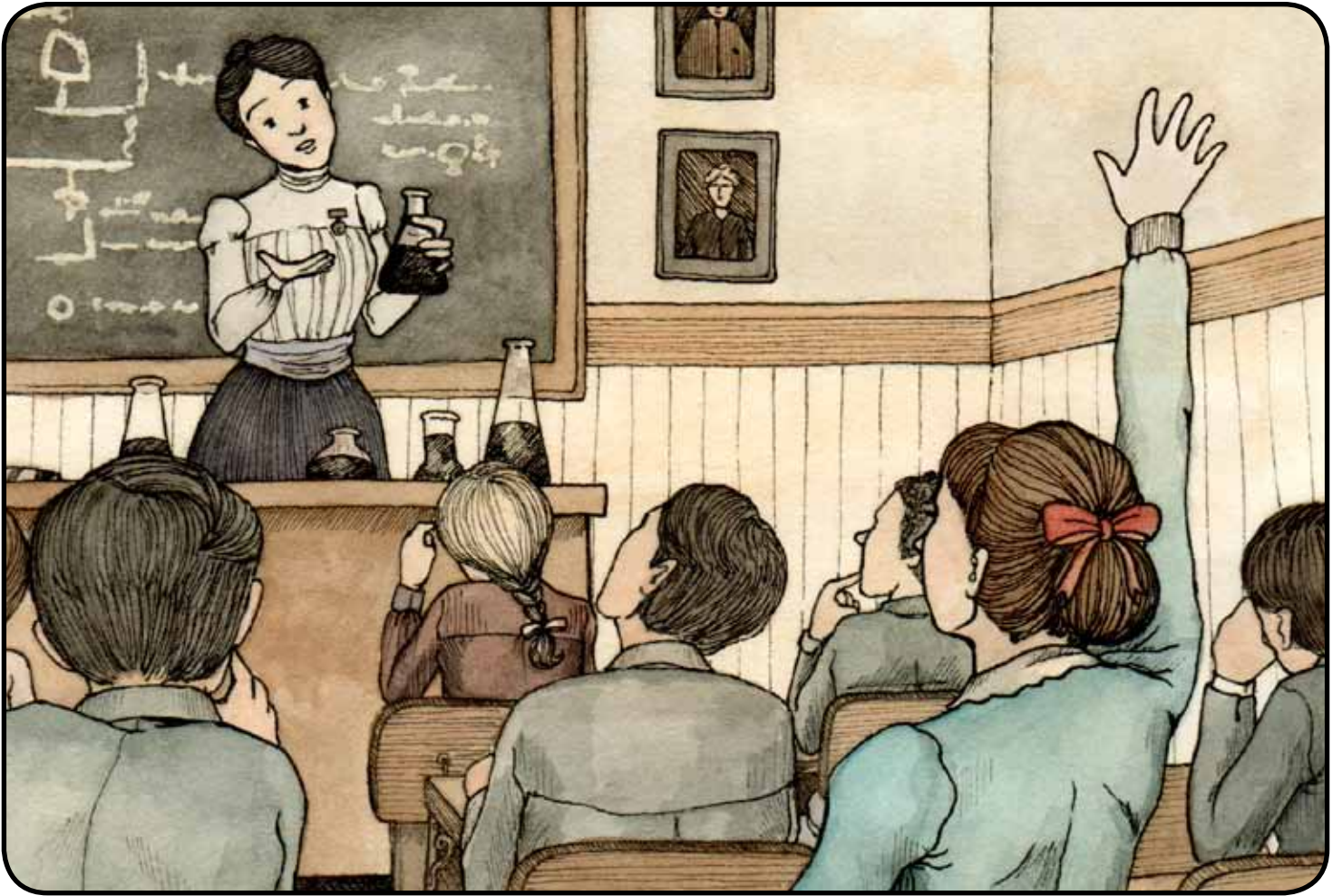


The girl's name was Cecilia. She was five years old.

She lived in England. The year was 1905.

Back then, girls did not grow up to be scientists.

All the scientists in England were men.



That did not stop Cecilia. She studied hard.

Her family and her teachers helped her.

She went to the best college in England.

She got the best grades.

In England, that was not enough.



Cecilia’s teachers told her, “If you were a man, you could become a scientist. But you are a woman.”

“What can I do?” asked Cecilia. “I must become a scientist! I want to study the stars every day.”

“Go to the United States,” her teachers said. “In America, a woman can become anything she wants—even a scientist.”



So Cecilia said goodbye to her family. She said goodbye to England. She made the long trip from England to the United States. She went to Harvard University. She became a scientist. Cecilia made her dream come true. She had a long life, and she studied the stars for all of it!