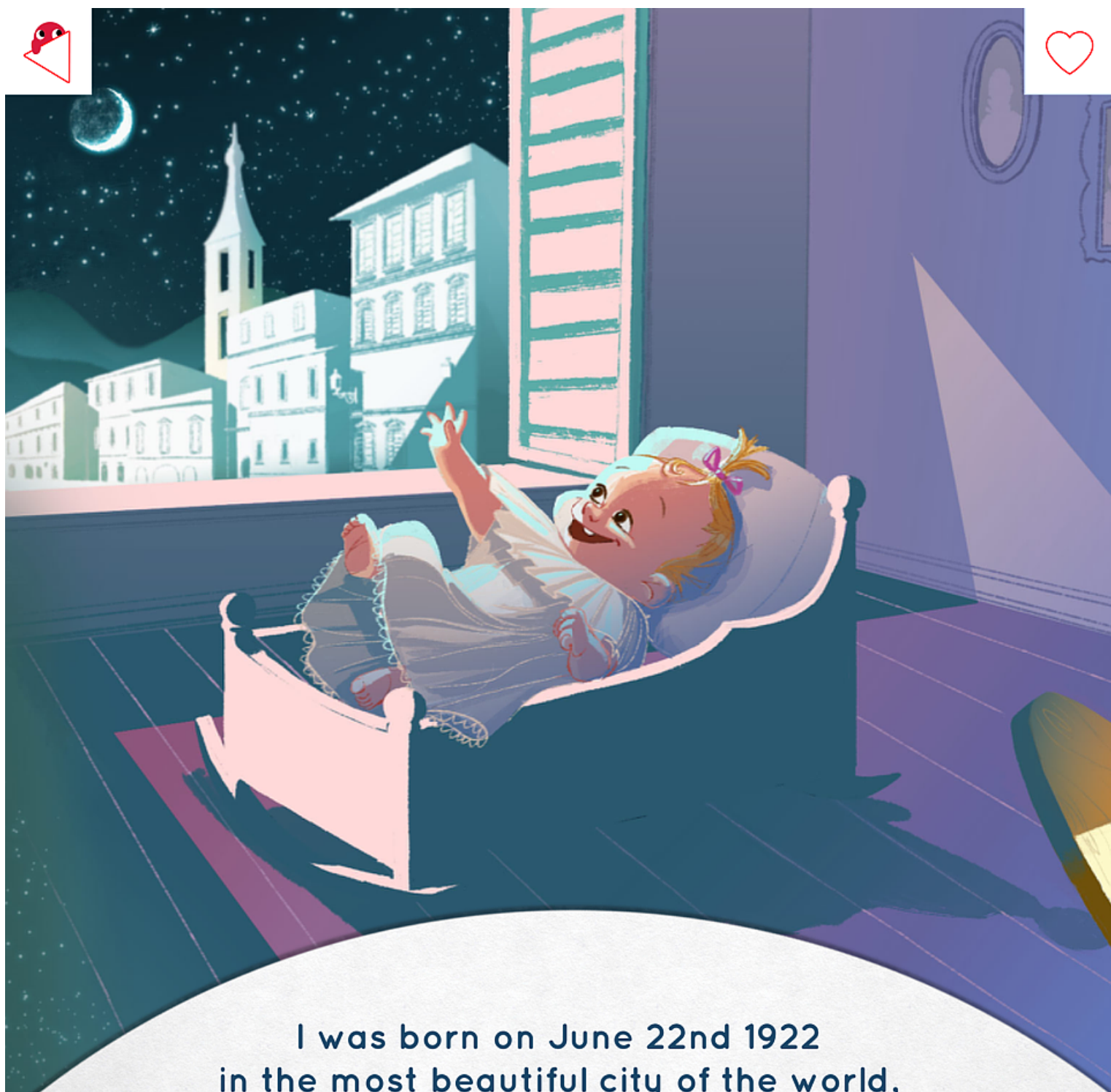




THE STELLAR LADY

LIFE AND DISCOVERIES
OF THE ASTROPHYSICIST
MARGHERITA HACK





I was born on June 22nd 1922
in the most beautiful city of the world,
Florence, Italy. You may not believe it,
but I was born on a street called
"Centostelle" which in Italian means
"One hundred stars".





My parents were committed vegetarians. And so was I. I have never ever eaten meat in my whole life! I've always loved animals very much. Cats in particular have been very good friends of mine.





When in College,
I was a good athlete! My sports were
the high jump (my record was 1.50 m) and
Long Jump (5.20 m) and I won several national
championships between 1939 and 1945. I used to train
for about 3 hours starting at 7am.
After that, I used to go study.





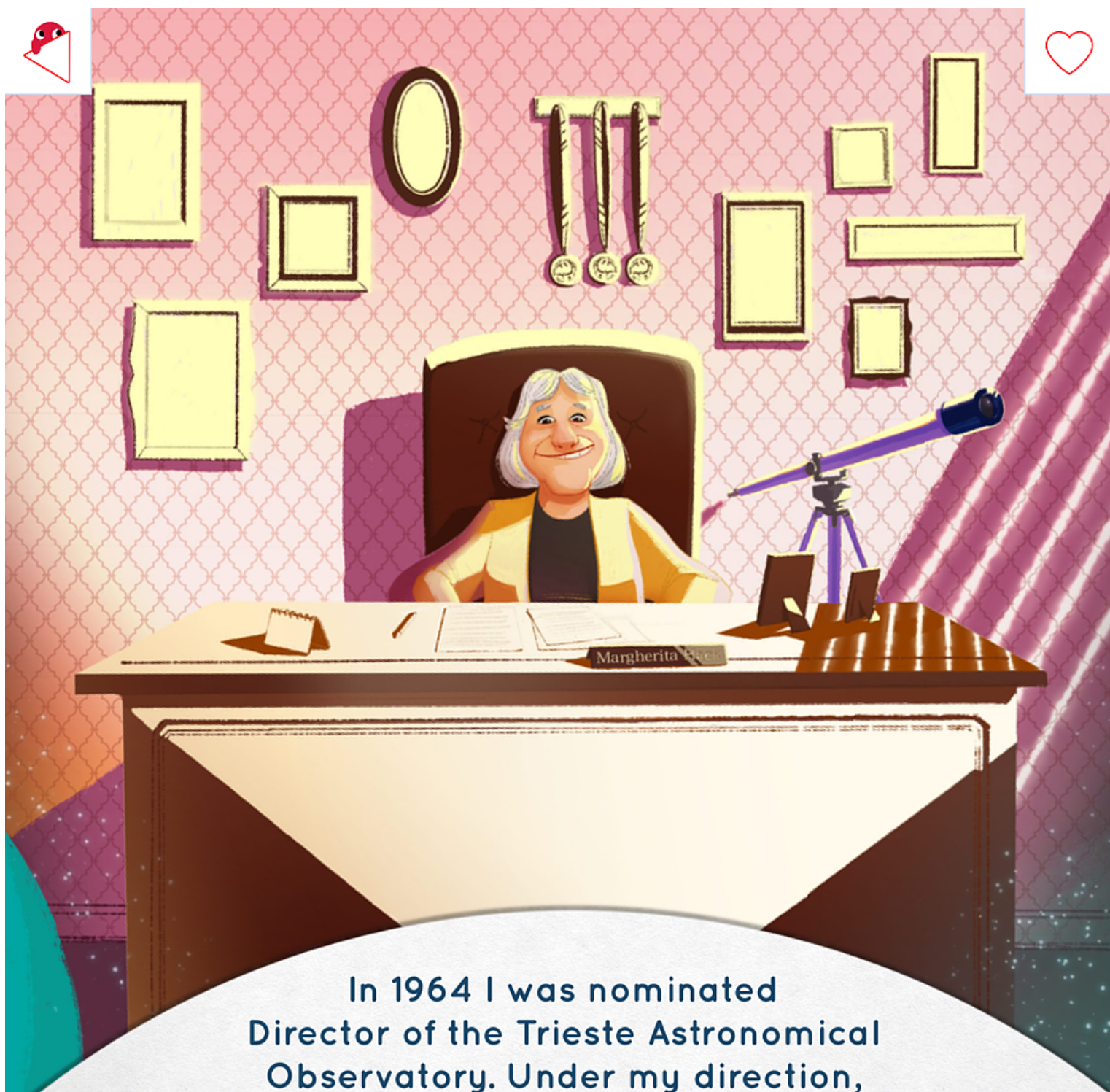
In those years, I started studying a particular kind of stars called Cepheid variables. Cepheids are incredibly bright stars, and they're called "variables" because their brightness changes over time. I studied these incredible stars in the Arcetri Observatory in Florence and graduated in 1945.





Even though I didn't graduate with the highest possible grades, I immediately became an assistant professor and soon after a professor! I got married in 1944, so my husband followed me in several universities all around the world!





In 1964 I was nominated Director of the Trieste Astronomical Observatory. Under my direction, the observatory of Trieste became an internationally renowned institution! I always loved talking about science and I was a full time professor of astronomy at the University of Trieste until 1998.





Margherita Hack died of a heart failure
on June 29th 2013, at the age of 91.
In recognition of her extraordinary work,
in 1995 two astronomers named
a newly discovered asteroid after her:
8558 Hack.

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