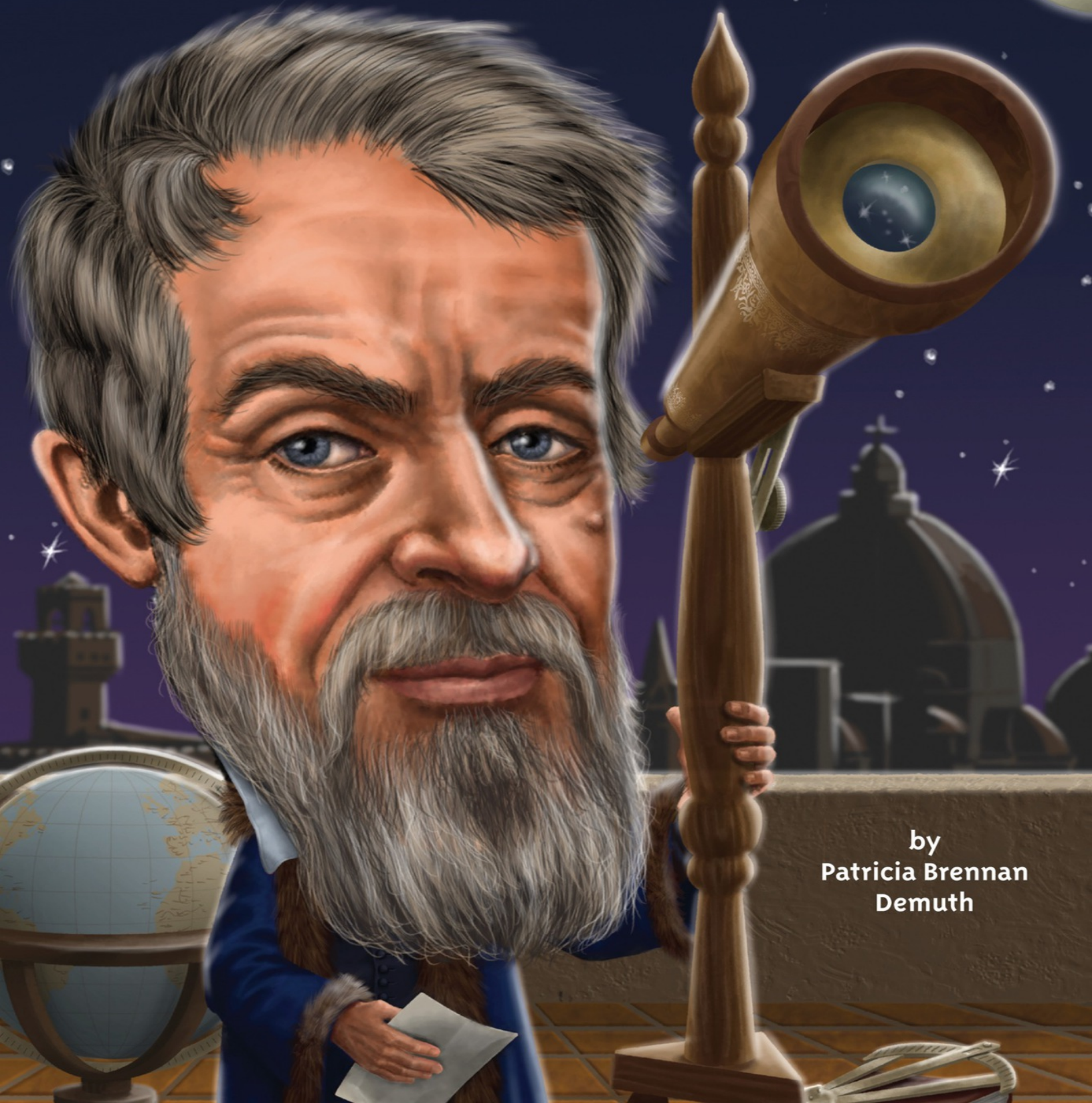


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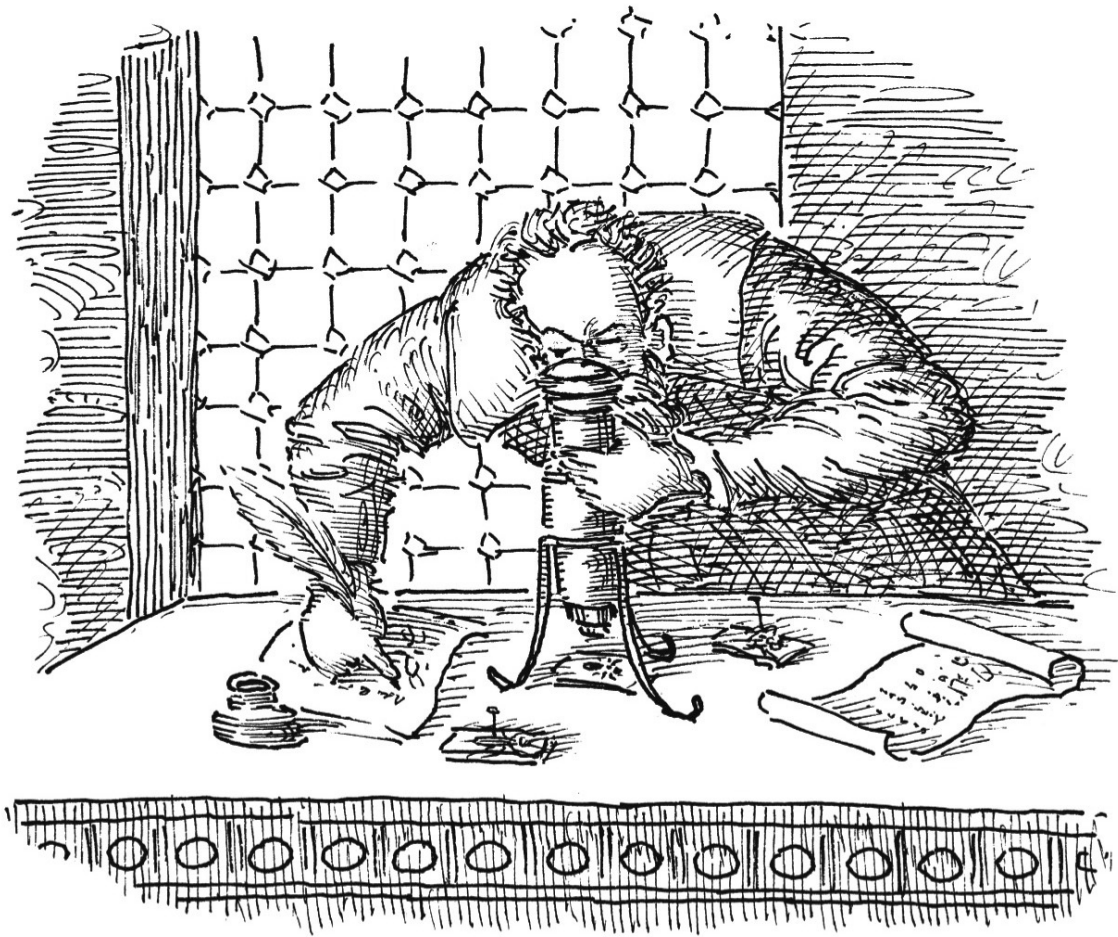


Who Was Galileo?



by
Patricia Brennan
Demuth

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Who Was Galileo?

by Patricia Brennan Demuth
illustrated by John O'Brien

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For Athena Hope Demuth, a shining star—PBD

For Linda—JO

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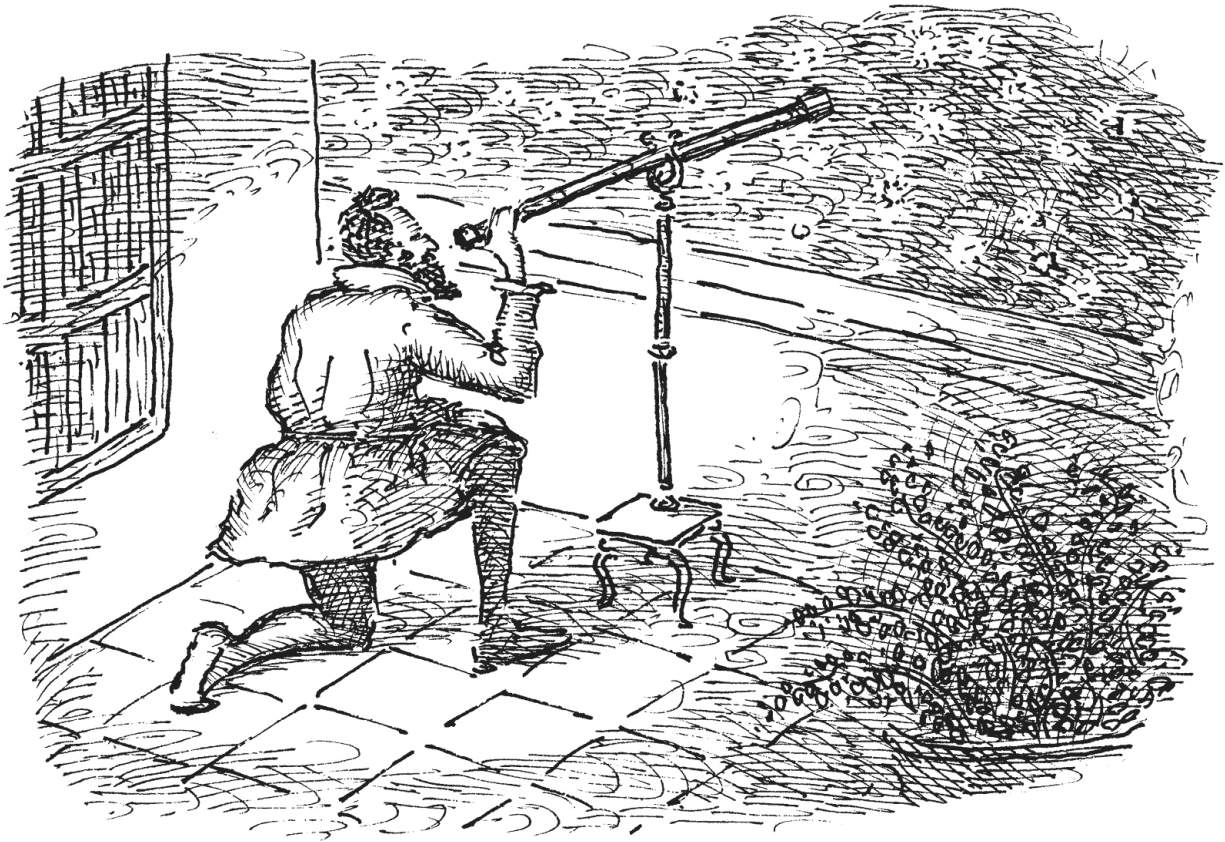
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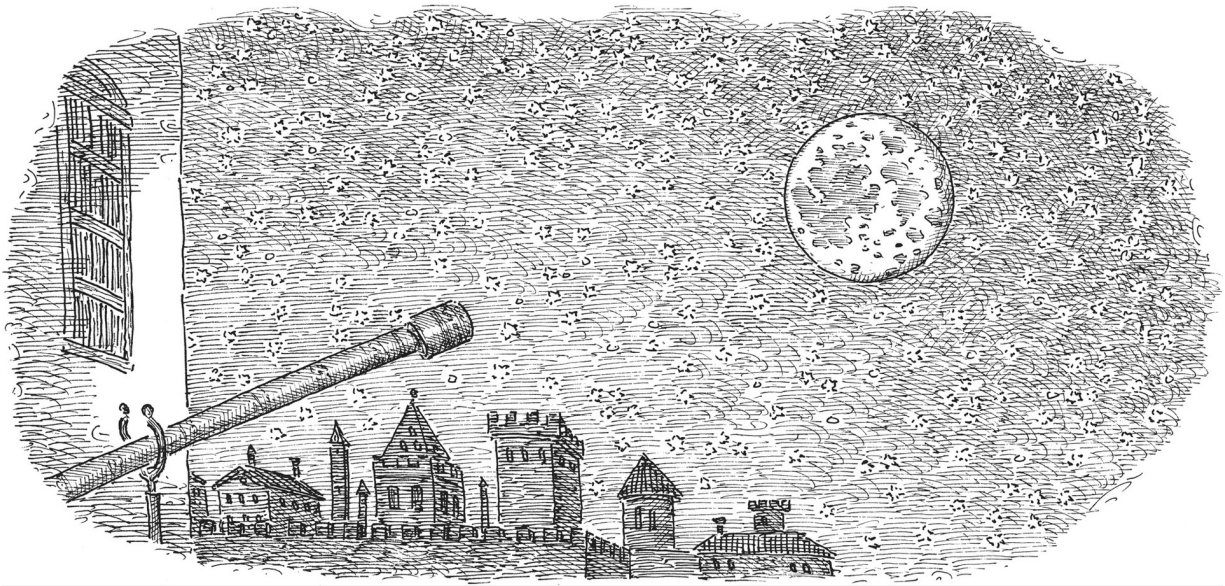
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Who Was Galileo?

AUGUST 1609. PADUA , ITALY .

It was a bright, starry night. A scientist named Galileo walked outside to his back garden. He carried a new telescope that he'd made himself. For weeks, Galileo had been carefully grinding the lenses. Now his telescope could enlarge objects many times their size.





Galileo pointed the telescope upward. Dazzling sights leaped into view—sights no one had ever seen. How could they? These sights were not visible to the naked eye. Over the next few weeks, Galileo roamed the heavens with his telescope. What he saw amazed him. Mountains rose up from the moon’s surface! New stars took form from fuzzy patches in the sky! Moons circled Jupiter!

Yet Galileo’s discoveries led him into trouble. Terrible trouble. What he saw convinced him that the sun was the center of the universe—not the Earth. In 1609 this was a strange idea. For thousands of years, people thought that the sun and all the planets circled Earth once a day. The Catholic church held this belief as well.

When Galileo lived, the church was very powerful in Italy. It had its own court, called the Inquisition. The Inquisition could arrest and try heretics—anyone who spoke against the church’s teachings. Heretics were sometimes tortured, even killed.



Galileo was torn. He himself was a faithful Catholic who honored church teachings. Yet his own eyes pointed him to a different truth.

This truth would put his life at stake.