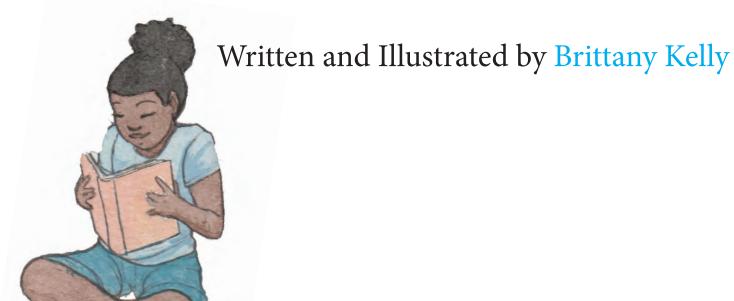
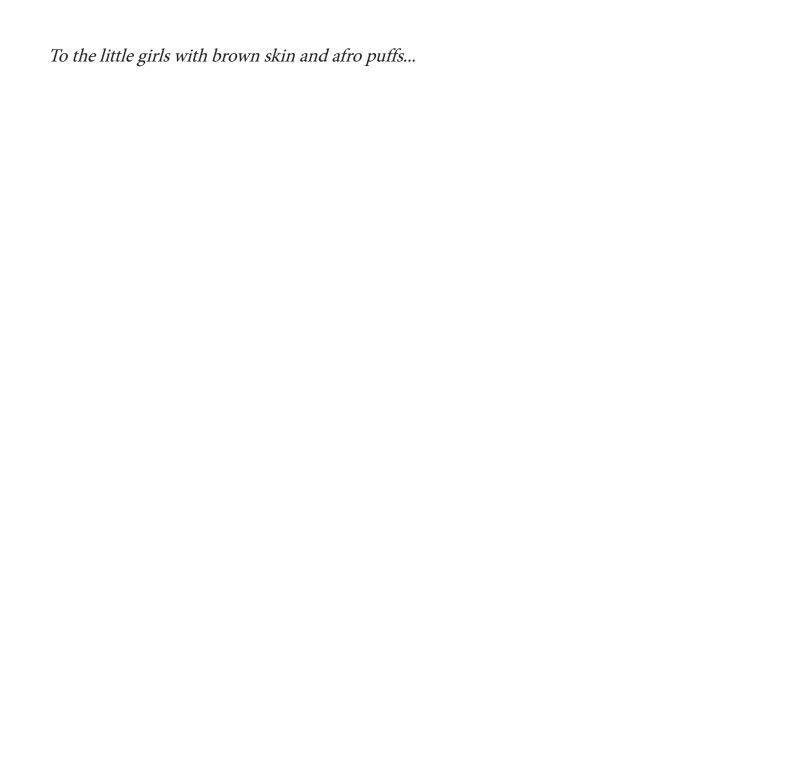
Ella Goes to the Ball

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 \mathbf{O} nce Upon a Time, a girl named Ella lived with her father. Her father owned a very successful catering business, and together with their staff, they spread happiness in the form of food through their whole city.



When Ella's father remarried, he thought that his new wife and her two daughters would bring even more happiness to their home and business. Her daughters were spoiled and slightly unpleasant, but she did seem to love Ella's father.



And so they were happy for a time, until Ella's father fell ill and passed away. It was only after the loss of Ella's father did her stepmother begin to show her true colors.



She had always very discreetly favored her daughters over Ella, but with her husband gone, there was no longer any reason to pretend.



Although she did not kick her out of the household, Ella became more of an employee than a member of the family. She toiled away, working in the kitchens and delivering and serving food while her stepmother and stepsisters enjoyed the fruits of her labor.



But Ella was not discontent. She found her happiness in cooking, and her friends and family with her father's faithful staff.



The head cook who was known only as Cook, was like a mother to her, and she had a daughter named Jenn, who was more of a sister to her than her stepsisters had ever been. Jenn wanted to be a fashion designer, and so she shared her knowledge of fashion with Ella, and Ella shared cooking tips in return.



One day Ella's stepmother arrived with big news. In a week, their catering company would provide food for the biggest party of the season, a birthday masquerade for Charming, the handsomest young man in the whole city. The staff ould be there to work, and she and her daughters were invited as guests.