

SUMMER ISLAND



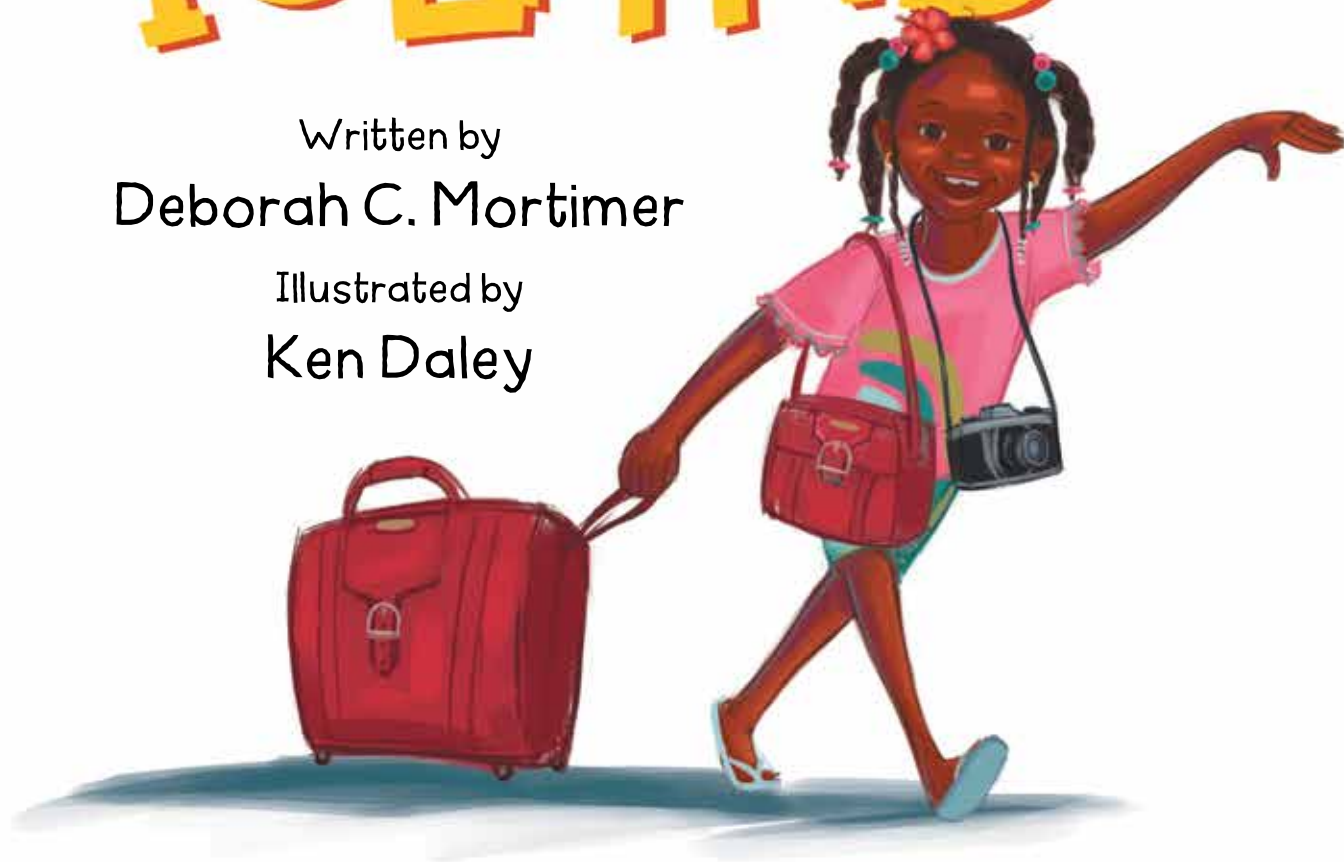
Written by Deborah C. Mortimer

Illustrated by Ken Daley

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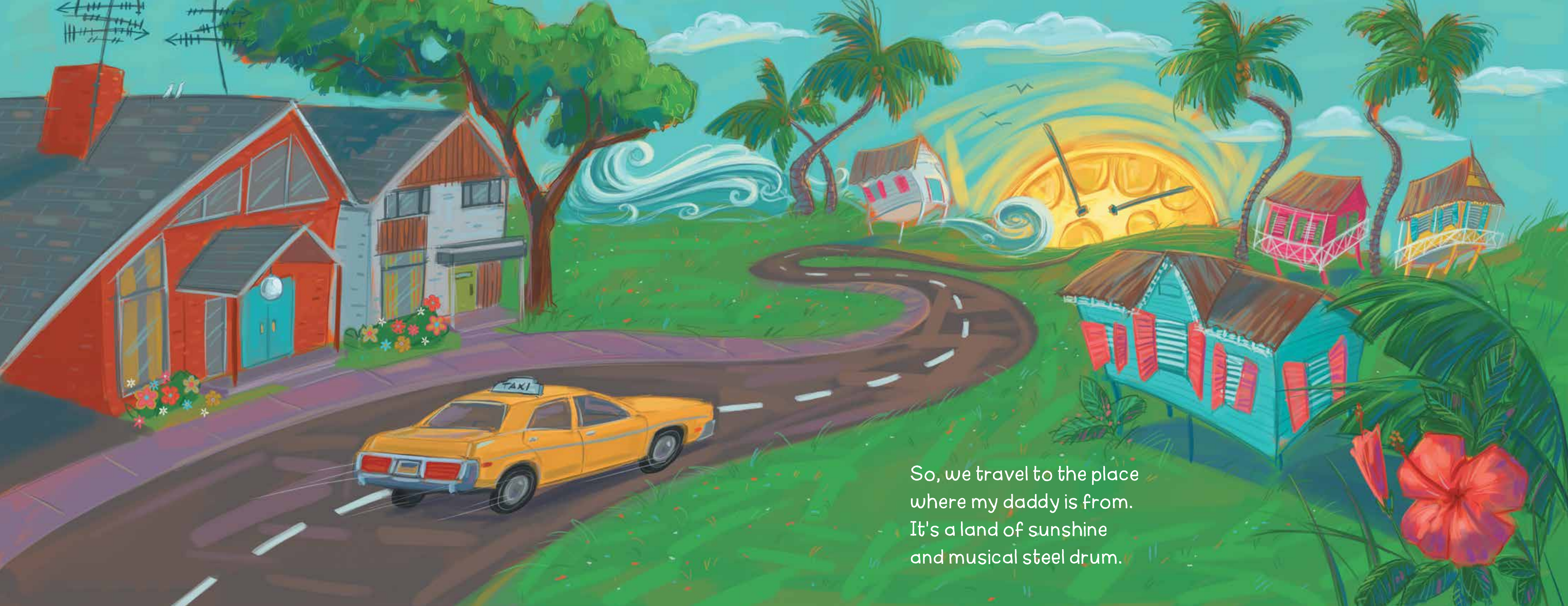
To my granny, Agnes Joseph,
and all my Caribbean family.





Summer is here,
and my parents have planned
An adventure for me
in a distant land.

My bags are all packed
and the plan is all set,
To meet my dad's family.
I haven't met yet.



So, we travel to the place
where my daddy is from.
It's a land of sunshine
and musical steel drum.



Up, up in the air, like a bird we both fly,
Above all the clouds, high up in the sky.

Soon out the window I see a beautiful sight,
Filled with greens and blues and everything bright.

A faraway island surrounded by sea,
We take a plane there, just my daddy and me.

When we get there the wind blows a warm ocean breeze.
The sky is so blue, and all the palm trees!



We're greeted by uncles and aunties and cousins.
So much family and hugs—and kisses by dozens.

The sing-songy way that they say, "HOW ARE YOU?"
Makes me smile 'cause my daddy sounds just like they do!



About the Author



Deborah is a lawyer and former homeschool parent with a passion for writing. A proud first-generation American to parents from Jamaica and Venezuela, Deborah spent many summers as a child with family in Trinidad and Tobago. Inspired by those fond memories, she wanted to share the fun adventures of her time there along with the rich culture of the Caribbean. Understanding the importance of representation in children's literature and the need for diversity, Deborah is driven by her vision of bringing stories that feature relatable, inspiring, and diverse characters not only to the children in her life, but to children everywhere. Deborah's debut book, *Zorah and the Very Big Question*, was released in June 2021 and is the first in the *Zorah* book series, which follows six-year-old Zorah on her journey to understand the world around her. The second book in the series, *Zorah the...Brave?* will be released in 2024. Deborah also released *When You Give a Girl a Puppy...* in 2022.

"Representation is not only important to ensure that children see themselves in the world, but so that all children see, learn about, and appreciate those who are different from them."

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About the Illustrator



Ken Daley is an award-winning artist/illustrator who draws inspiration from his Afro-Caribbean roots. His art and illustrations are inspired by family trips to the 'summer islands' of Dominica and Antigua, where his parents are from. He has exhibited his artwork in Canada, US, and the Caribbean. Ken has illustrated numerous children's books including *Granny's Kitchen*, *Black Boy*, *Black Boy*, and *Joseph's Big Ride*. He also received an Américas Award Honorable Mention and a Kirkus Review Best Picture Book honor for *Auntie Luce's Talking Paintings*. He lives in Ontario, Canada.

www.kendaleyart.com
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Pack your bags and grab your passport!
School's out and we're headed to a beautiful
Caribbean island to meet new family, listen to Granny's stories,
play with cousins and make amazing memories.
You'll want to visit this *Summer Island* again and again!