

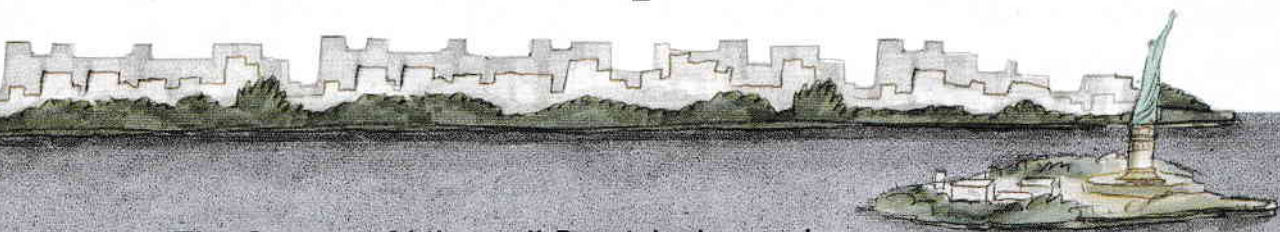
A Land of New Hope

LEVEL 5

Written by: Andy Hopkins and Jocelyn Potter
Series Editor: Melanie Williams



The Open Door



‘The Statue of Liberty!’ Patrick shouted.

‘We’re here, Ronan! The United States of America!’

Ronan ran to the side of the ship.

‘It’s huge!’ he said. ‘And look at those mountains behind it!’

His brother laughed. ‘They’re not mountains. They’re skyscrapers – the tallest buildings in the world. That’s the city of New York. But first, we go there.’ Patrick pointed to a small island. ‘All new immigrants have to go to Ellis Island.’



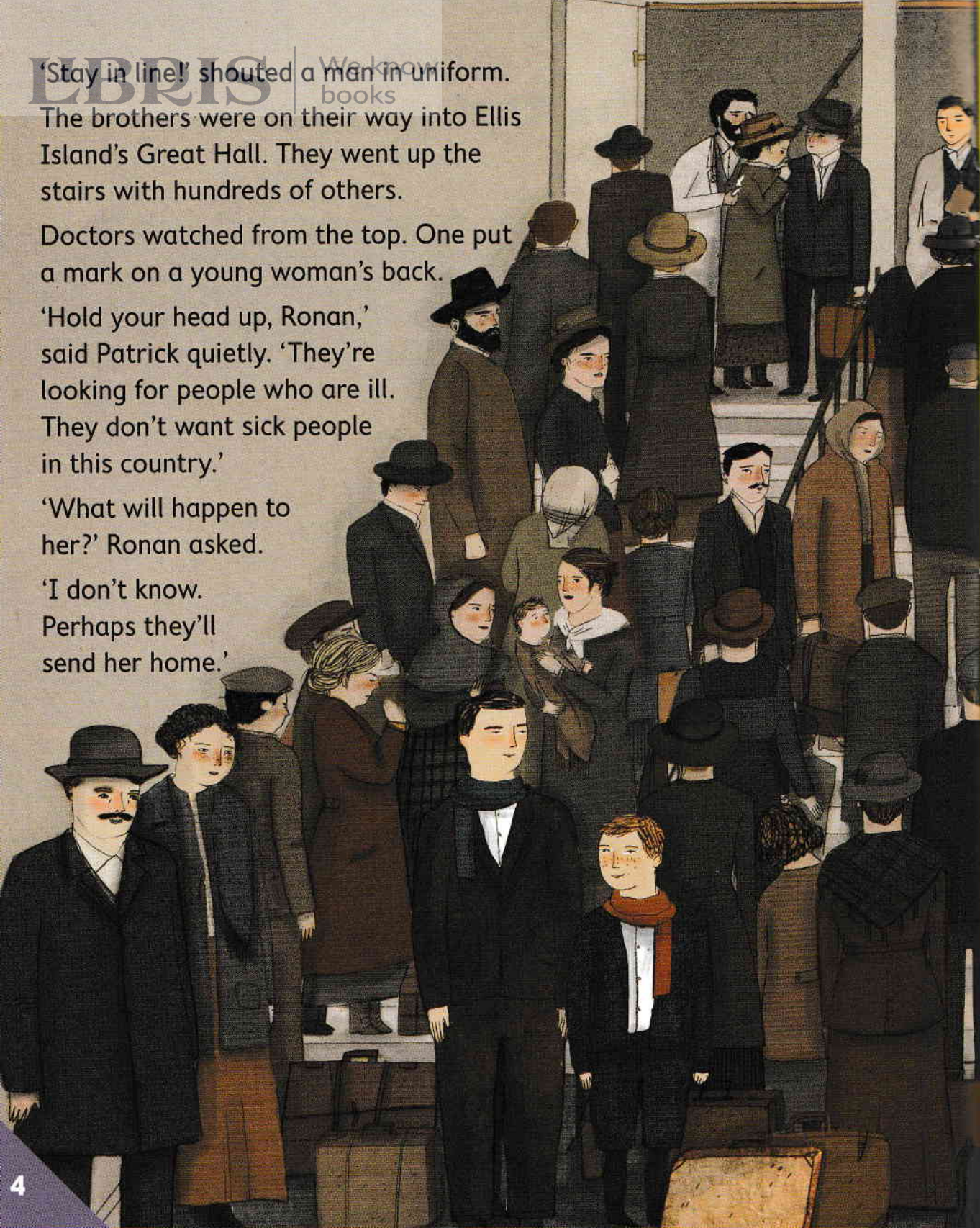
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'Stay in line!' shouted a man in uniform. The brothers were on their way into Ellis Island's Great Hall. They went up the stairs with hundreds of others.

Doctors watched from the top. One put a mark on a young woman's back.

'Hold your head up, Ronan,' said Patrick quietly. 'They're looking for people who are ill. They don't want sick people in this country.'

'What will happen to her?' Ronan asked.

'I don't know. Perhaps they'll send her home.'



Between 1892 and 1924, 12 million immigrants arrived at Ellis Island. In one year, 1907, more than a million came. The immigration station grew larger, with more beds, kitchens and hospitals. Most people only spent a few hours on the island and then entered the country. Some sick people had to spend weeks there. Other people had to stay there before officials sent them home. The United States did not want them.

Today, Ellis Island is a museum.

