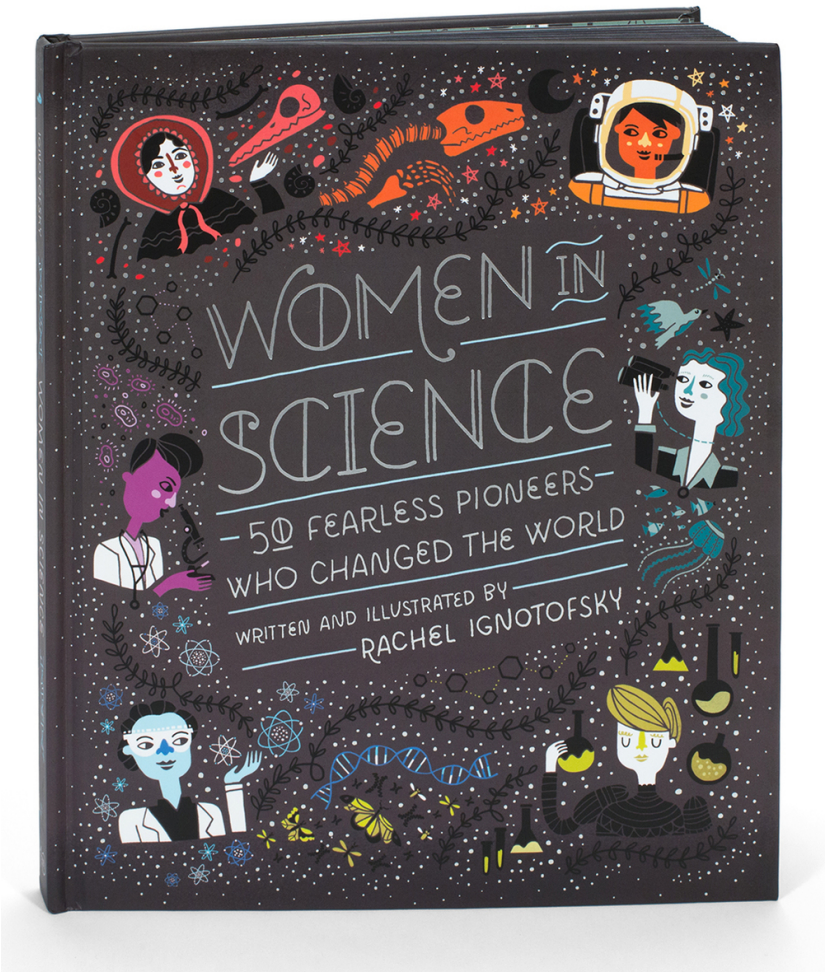
RACHEL IGNOTOFSKY is an illustrator and designer. She graduated from Tyler School of Art's graphic design program and formerly worked as a senior designer and illustrator at Hallmark Greetings. Rachel and her work have been featured in many print and online media outlets such as *Babble, The Huffington Post, Scientific American*, and *Buzzfeed*. She is the author of *Women in Science* and *Women in Sports*.

Illustration as a Tool for Education: Inspiring Girls to Embrace STEM

Women throughout history have contributed greatly to science, mathematics and engineering, but often have not gotten the recognition they deserve. I created my new illustrated book, *Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World,* to celebrate their accomplishments while introducing boys and girls to new female role models. This presentation will tell the often unknown stories of several amazing female scientist and how each have significantly changed their fields, despite sexism and often racism. We will look at the statistics showing the gender gap in STEM fields today and how we can use narrative to empower young women to follow their passions. I know that Illustration is a powerful tool that can be used to make dense information fun and accessible. I will talk about the process of creating this illustrated biography book and other initiatives out there that inspire young girls. 50% of the world is female and we need that brainpower to solve today's big problem.