

A decorative border with stylized, symmetrical scrollwork and floral motifs in black and white, framing the central text.

Alice Mongoose
and
Alistair Rat in
Hawaii

MARY PFAFF

DEDICATION

In celebration of unexpected kindness,
and unlikely friends.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Alice Mongoose's recent renaissance may be credited to the efforts of Mary Pfaff's granddaughter, Dorothy Pfaff. A new generation of parents and children have come to appreciate the books' unselfconscious multiculturalism, sensible life lessons, and positive main characters.

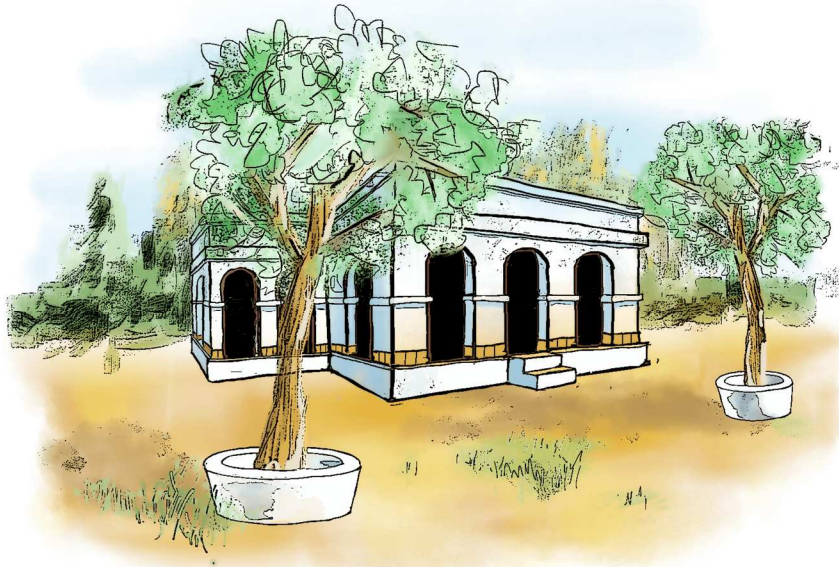
This reissue of the Alice Mongoose stories is faithful to the original printing and in keeping with Dorothy's memories of her grandmother reading to her.

Also by Mary Pfaff:

Alice Mongoose and Alistair Rat have a Restaurant
Alice Mongoose, Alistair Rat, and the Big Sign
Alice Mongoose and Alistair Rat's Hawaiian Christmas

ALICE GOES TO THE MARKET

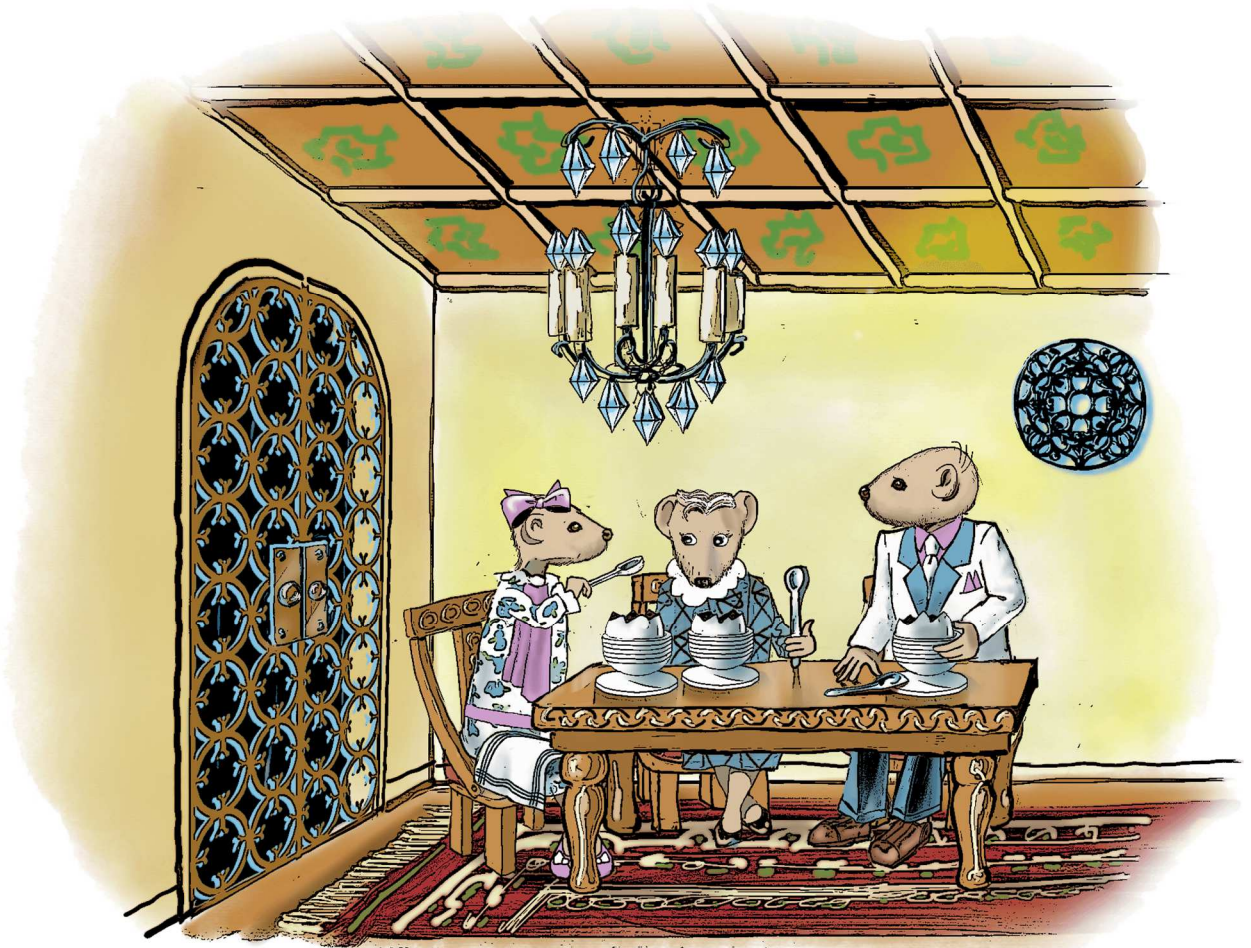
Alice Mongoose lived with her mother and her father in a big house in India.



MARY PFAFF

Every morning, they breakfasted on eggs. At midday, they enjoyed a meal of eggs.

They had eggs for dinner too. Alice, Alice's mother, and Alice's father all loved eggs.



They ate other things, of course. Crabs, worms, and beetles were tasty too. But they liked eggs best of all.

ALICE AND ALISTAIR IN HAWAII

One day, when Alice was out marketing, something caught her eye.



Alice had always dreamed of traveling. Imagine going to Hawaii!

ALICE EMBARKS ON A VOYAGE

lice went home and told her parents she wanted to travel to Hawaii. She was a grown mongoose now. It was time for her to go out on her own.

Alice's parents wanted their daughter to be happy.

Alice's mother helped her to pack her hatboxes and steamer trunks.

Alice's father packed Alice a dozen hard boiled eggs. They were Alice's favorite.

ALICE AND ALISTAIR IN HAWAII

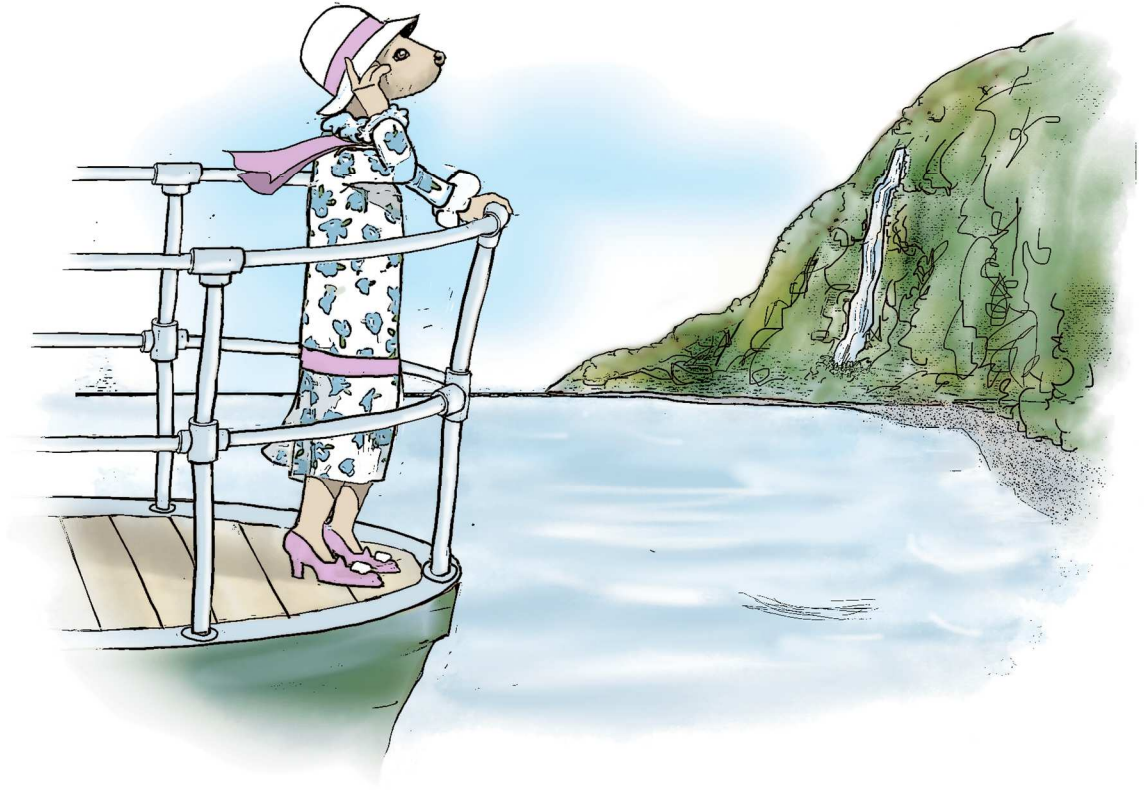


Alice's parents went down to the dock to see her off. They did not cry. Not until after Alice's ship had sailed away.

ALICE GETS BAD NEWS

lice's voyage seemed like it might never end. But after many days of sailing, land was in sight. It was the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii.

ALICE AND ALISTAIR IN HAWAII

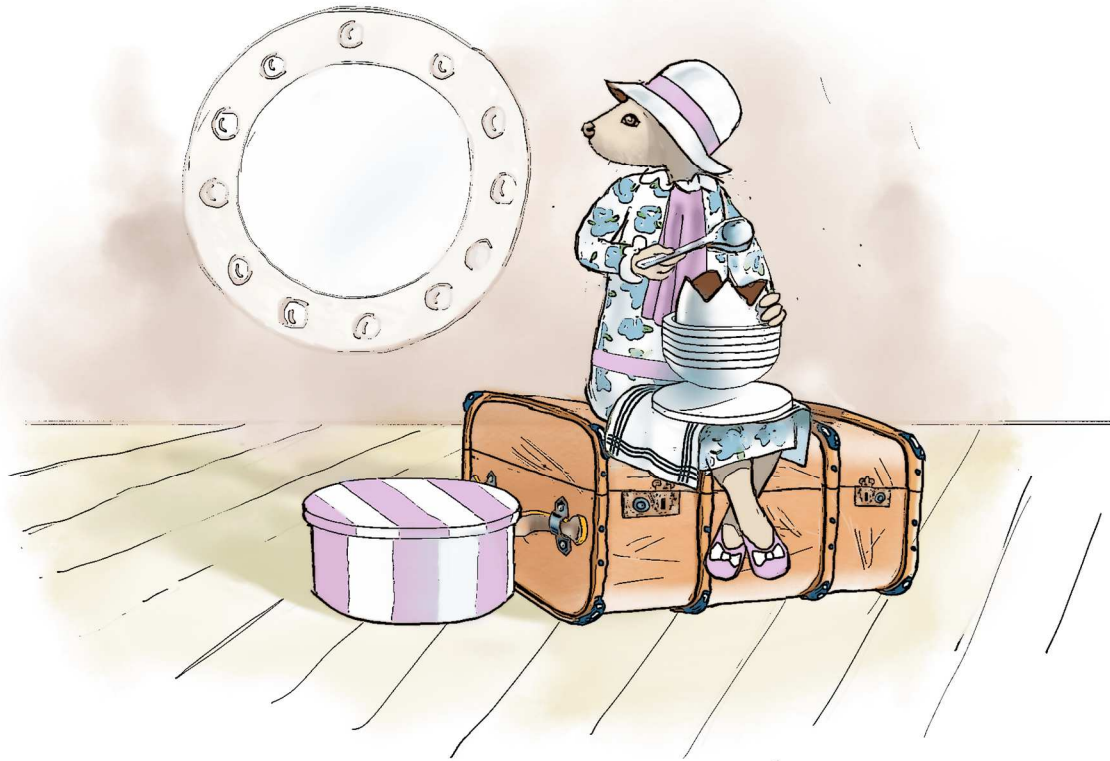


Alice gazed at the soaring cliffs, the tumbling waterfalls, and the waves crashing on the black sand.

Alice had never seen any place like this. She wanted the ship to hurry. She felt impatient, and hoped to get to shore as quickly as possible.

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Alice was looking forward to starting her new job. The idea of making her own way made her feel very grown-up.



Finally, a man came to explain her new duties to her.

ALICE AND ALISTAIR IN HAWAII

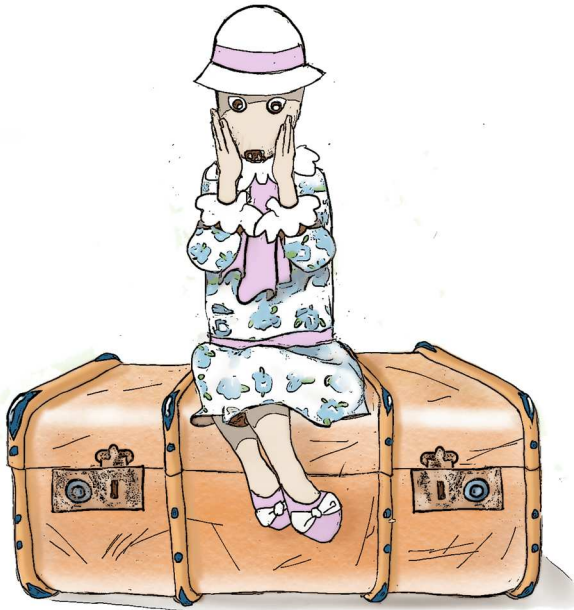
“You will be responsible for protecting our sugar cane,” the man explained.

Alice had never tasted sugar cane, but she liked the idea of protecting something. It made her feel important.

“Rats come in and try to eat our sugar cane,” the man continued.

“Then your sugar cane must be very tasty,” Alice said.

“Your job will be to kill the rats,” the man said.



“I do not like the idea of killing,” Alice said.

MARY PFAFF

She did not feel very good about her new job anymore. She wished she were back home with her parents, who loved her and who never made her kill anyone.



The man laughed. It was not a nice laugh.

“You’ve never met a rat,” the man said. “When you meet one, you’ll know what to do.”

ALICE REACHES THE HAMAKUA COAST

hen the ship arrived in port, Alice felt a little wobbly. She thought it might be due to the long voyage across the sea.

Or it could be that she was nervous about being far away from home for the first time.

Or perhaps it was because the beauty of the Big Island of Hawaii quite took her breath away.

MARY PFAFF



Alice stood for a very long time contemplating the majestic volcanic mountain called Mauna Kea, so tall that its summit was crowned by snow

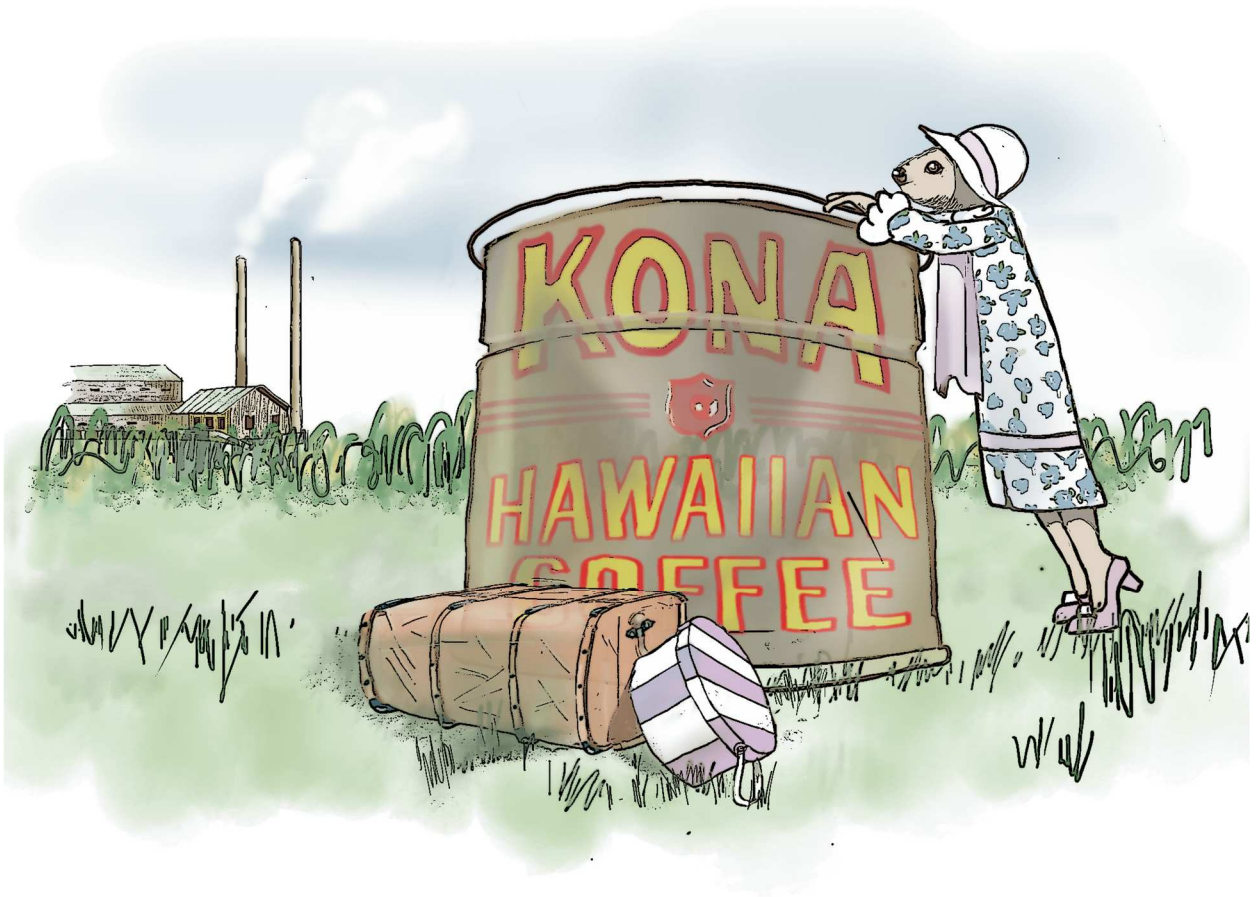
ALICE FINDS A HOME

Alice's first task was to find someplace to stay. She began searching for suitable lodging.

It was not easy.



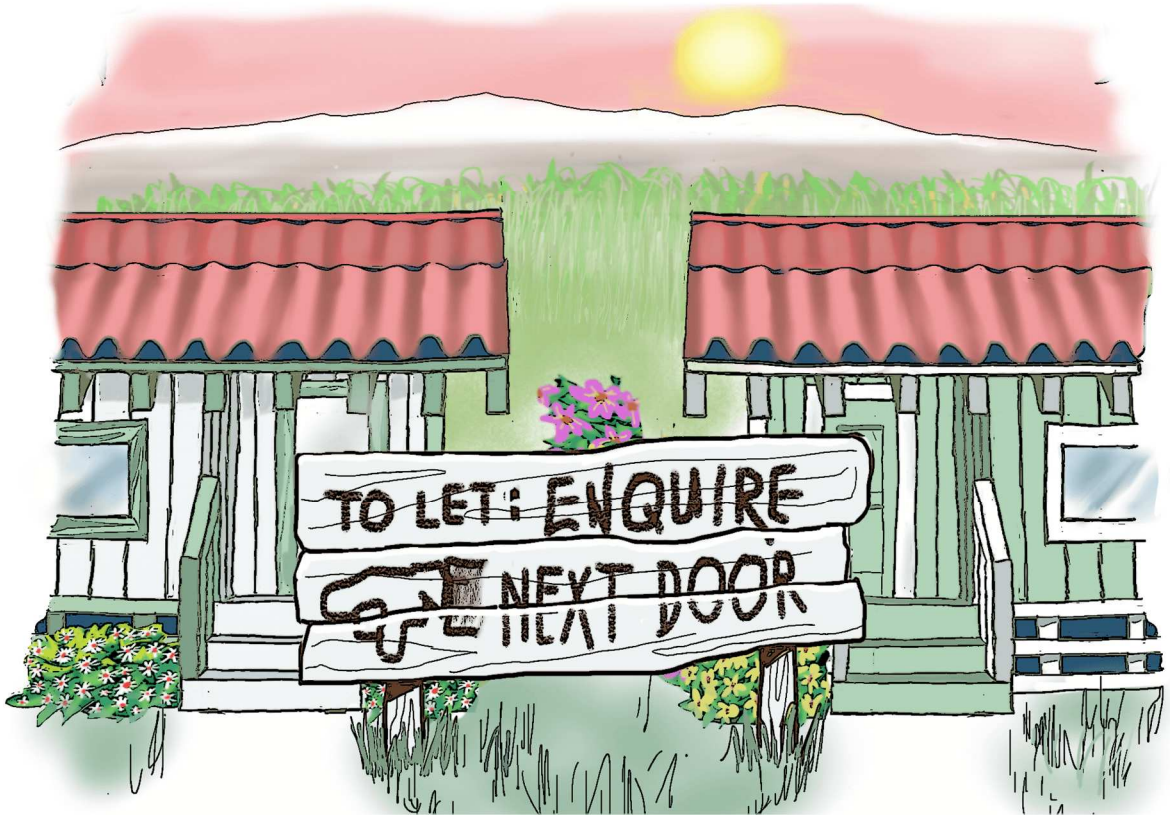
Alice looked and looked.



Just when she felt like giving up, she happened upon a little house to let.

ALICE AND ALISTAIR IN HAWAII

It was not as big as her parents' house, but it was quite charming in its own way.



The dapper little fellow who answered the door was like no one Alice had ever met.

“I would like to ask about the house next door,” Alice said. “My name is Alice. I have just arrived in Hawaii.”

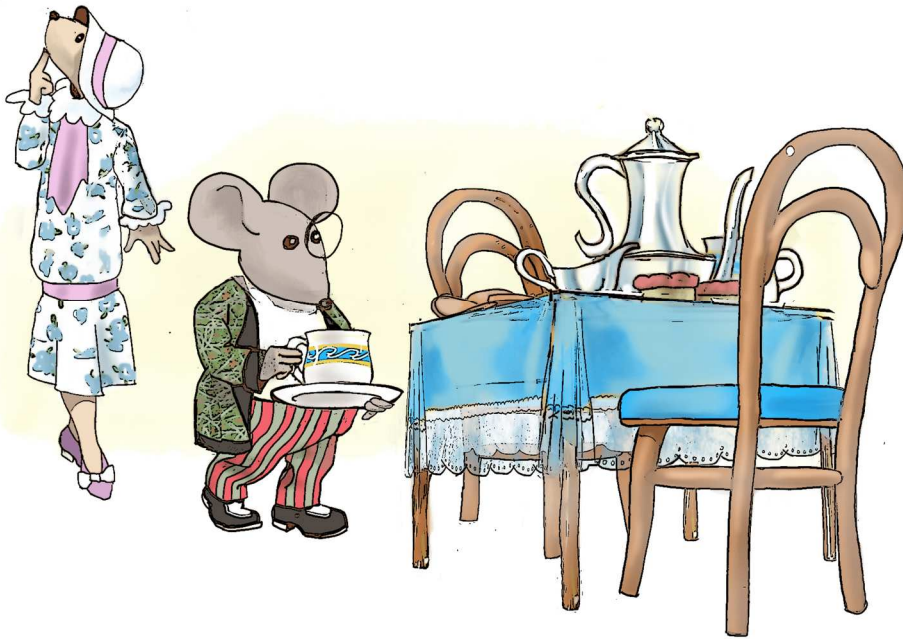


“I am pleased to meet you,” said the dapper little fellow. “My name is Alistair. I am just getting up. Do come in and have a bit of breakfast and a cup of tea.”

ALICE JOINS ALISTAIR FOR TEA

Alice thought that it was strange that Alistair was waking up just as the sun was setting, but she thought it would be impolite to ask him about it.

Alistair's house was cozy and neat.



The smell of good, strong tea reminded Alice of home.

Alice realized she missed her parents very much.



Alistair noticed that Alice looked sad. He quietly handed her a crisp, white handkerchief so that Alice could dab her tears.

“You are very kind, Alistair,” Alice said. “Are you a mongoose? You do not look very much like a mongoose.”

“Dear me no,” Alistair said. “I am a rat. Like you.”

“I am not a rat,” Alice said. “I am a mongoose.”

“That is impossible,” Alistair replied. He adjusted his monocle to get a better look at Alice. (Alistair was very nearsighted, and too vain to wear spectacles.)

ALICE AND ALISTAIR IN HAWAII

“If you were a mongoose,” Alistair insisted, “you would have tried to kill me. Instead of sitting with me and having a nice cup of tea.”



“I have never killed anyone,” Alice declared. “And I would not dream of harming you, Alistair. You have been very hospitable, and you make a splendid cup of tea. Now I should like to have a look at the house next door. I am inclined to take it, if you think I would be a suitable neighbor.”

ALICE AND ALISTAIR BECOME FRIENDS

Alice was delighted to see that the house next door was every bit as cozy as she could have wished.



ALICE AND ALISTAIR IN HAWAII

It had a neat kitchen, and a small bedroom, and even a sunny little nook with a writing-desk, where Alice could write letters to her parents back home.

“I’ll take it,” said Alice. “It’s just what I was looking for. It is a splendid little house.”

“Do you really think so?” Alistair asked.



Alistair was clearly pleased.

“I decorated it myself,” he said.

Oh yes,” Alice said. “It is perfect.”

Alistair beamed. “And you really do not plan to eat me?” Alistair asked.

“Certainly not,” Alice said.

“But you are a mongoose,” Alistair reminded her.

“I do not think I would like to eat you,” Alice said. “I like to eat eggs.”

“Why, *I* like to eat eggs!” Alistair exclaimed. “I often have eggs for breakfast.”

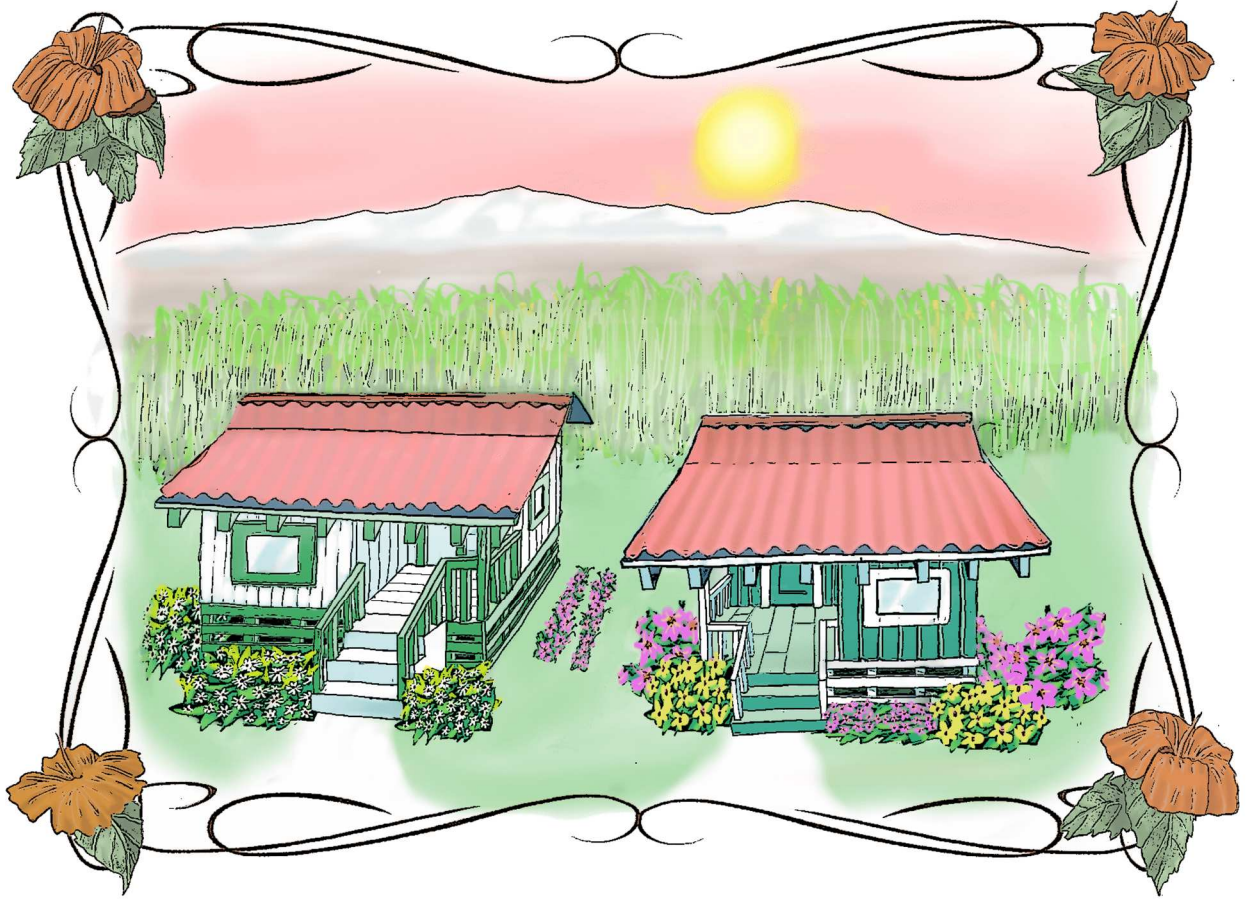
“Well that is something that we have in common,” Alice said.

“Then we shall be friends,” Alistair said.

“Yes,” Alice agreed. “We shall be friends.”

ALICE AND ALISTAIR IN HAWAII

Alice slept soundly that night in her cozy little bed in her new house.



She dreamed of tea and eggs, and of her parents back home, and of all of the adventures she would have in Hawaii.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary Pfaff, acclaimed as “the Beatrix Potter of Hawaii,” was born about 1875 in Brockton, Minnesota. At the age of twenty-two, she moved to Hawaii to work at the Hawaiian Gazette. There she met and married local businessman William Apana. Mary wrote and illustrated the Alice Mongoose stories to entertain their young daughter Mildred. William arranged to have Mary’s delightful sketches and stories printed as hardcover books.

With this reissue of the original stories, a new generation of children can enjoy Alice and Alistair’s adventures on Hawaii’s Hamakua Coast.

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