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非常名人故事汇

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·科技精英·

[美] Joseph Davie / 审定

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前　言

漫长而曲折的人类历史孕育了无数仁人志士、至圣先哲。他们当中有运筹帷幄的军事家、万人敬仰的科学家、才华横溢的文学巨匠、享誉全球的艺术家……他们是历史转折时期的关键人物。本丛书将通过简洁而不失精彩的语言和精美而珍贵的图片再现一位位世界名人，将他们成长励志的故事呈现给广大读者。

翻开历史长卷，我们会发现，在人类活动的各个领域里，都涌现了许多杰出人物，亦可统称为英杰。英杰是伟大人格的代表，是时代精神的凝结，是自我完善的象征，是各自领域里劈波斩浪、奋勇前进的行者。他们用自己光辉的业绩表明，人类的精神、智慧、胆识、能力之花，能够在怎样难以企及的高度上尽情绽放。正是因为时势化育了他们，人类的历史才波澜壮阔、辉煌灿烂、风光旖旎、胜景百出。

一个人在青少年时期，处于长身体、学知识、逐步了解社会的阶段。在这个阶段里，要尽量多了解一些英杰人物，多阅读一些有关人物传记的图书。了解圣哲，就是和圣哲的头脑对话；了解伟人，就是和伟人的心灵沟通。如果你能和古往今来的政治领袖、军事统帅、思想圣哲、文学大师、商业巨子、艺术巨匠、科技精英、体坛名将、影视明星们成为精神上朋友，你就可以领略到常人难以领略到的辽阔天空，你就会站在巨人的肩头去迎接新一轮日出。

为此我们经过认真分析、反复策划、精心制作，推出了“悦读英语”丛书《非常名人故事汇》系列。本系列共分 10 册：《政治领袖》、

《军事统帅》、《思想圣哲》、《创业先锋》、《文学大师》、《商业巨子》、《艺术天才》、《科技精英》、《体坛名将》、《影视明星》。本丛书采用中英文对照的方式，让您在感受地道英文的同时，也能与这些名人进行心灵对话，从他们的身上去探索成功之道。为了方便读者学习和阅读，每篇文章都设置了名人档案、名人名言、热词空间，并在文中将重要单词或词组编号加粗标出，以方便读者记忆单词和提高阅读能力。相信通过对本丛书的学习，不仅能够大大提高你的英语阅读能力，还能够极大地提高词汇量，同时也是一次难忘的心路历程。

编者

2009 年暮春于北京

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我的未来不是梦

I Have a Dream

01

Living for Science—Madam Curie

为科学而生——居里夫人

A scientist in his laboratory is not a mere technician: he is also a child confronting natural phenomena that impress him as though they were fairy tales.

——Marie Curie

实验室里的科学家不仅仅是一位技术人员——他也是一个孩子，各种自然现象仿佛一个个童话故事，让他印象深刻。

——玛丽·居里*

Marie Curie was a Polish-born French physicist famous for her work on radioactivity① and twice a winner of the Nobel Prize. With Henri Bec-

* 玛丽·居里(1867—1934)，出生于波兰，法国物理学家、化学家，世界著名科学家，研究放射性现象，发现镭和钋两种放射性元素，一生两度获诺贝尔奖(第一次获得诺贝尔物理奖，第二次获得诺贝尔化学奖)。而且整整用了好几年的时间研究镭。作为杰出科学家，居里夫人有一般科学家所没有的社会影响。尤其因为是成功女性的先驱，她的典范激励了很多人。

① radioactivity: *n.* 放射性，辐射能

querel and her husband, Pierre Curie, she was awarded the 1903 Nobel Prize for Physics. She was then sole winner of the 1911 Nobel Prize for Chemistry. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.

A young Polish woman traveled **economy-class**① from Warsaw to Paris in autumn 1891. She had enough money to cover university **tuition**②, a small room and the cheapest food, but little else. Maria Sklodowska left behind not only her beloved father and country but her very name. She **registered**③ at the famous Sorbonne university as Marie, the French form of Maria.

Marie was not as well prepared as her fellow students. Nevertheless, through hard work she completed master's degrees in physics and math in only three years. Living on her own for the first time, she focused so hard on her studies that she sometimes forgot to eat. Marie's superior work in physics won her a scholarship. And a group of **industrialists**④, the Society for the Encouragement of National Industry, paid her to investigate the **magnetic**⑤ properties of different steels. To carry out the work she needed a lab.

Pierre Curie had a lab, so Marie was introduced to him in spring 1894. He had the impressive title of Laboratory Chief at the Paris Municipal School of Industrial Physics and Chemistry. In fact his lab facilities were poor, but he let Marie work there. Curie, about 10 years older than

---

① economy-class: *n.* 经济舱
② tuition: *n.* 学费
③ register: *v.* 注册
④ idustrialist: *n.* 工业家，实业家
⑤ magnetic: *adj.* 有磁性的，有吸引力的

Marie, had made important scientific discoveries on magnetism and crystals. But he had never bothered to complete a doctoral thesis.

As the relationship between Pierre and Marie deepened, he convinced her that she should pursue science in Paris, not return to Poland for good. She in turn convinced him to write up his magnetism research and get a doctoral degree. He was then promoted to a professorship, but his teaching duties grew, and his lab got no better.

Pierre and Marie married in July 1895. Over the next two years, Marie completed her research on the magnetic properties① of steels. She submitted her final results shortly before giving birth to their first daughter, Irène, in September 1897. Pierre's father, a retired doctor, moved in with them and helped raise Irène. Marie began looking for a research topic that would earn her a doctorate in science. No woman in the world had yet completed that degree.

Two mysterious discoveries led Marie Curie to her life's work. In December 1895, a German physicist, Wilhelm Roentgen, had discovered rays that could travel through solid wood or flesh. A few months later a French physicist, Henri Becquerel, discovered that minerals containing uranium② also gave off rays. Roentgen's X-rays amazed scientists, who took to studying them with great energy. They mostly ignored Becquerel's rays, which seemed much the same, only weaker. Marie decided to investigate the uranium rays. There was so little work on them for her to read about that she could begin experiments at once.

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① property: *n.* 性质，特性

② uranium: *n.* 铀

First Marie needed a lab. She had to settle for a storeroom in the Paris Municipal School, where her husband, Pierre Curie, was now a professor. The storeroom was crowded and damp, but somehow she had to overcome its problems. She started off by studying a variety of chemical compounds that contained uranium. She discovered that the strength of the rays that came out depended only on the amount of uranium in the compound. It had nothing to do with whether the material was solid or powdered, dry or wet, pure or combined with other chemical elements. If you had a certain amount of uranium—a certain number of uranium atoms—then you got a certain intensity① of radiation. Nothing else made a difference.

This was very strange. Normal properties, color or smell or hardness, changed according to how you treated a substance. Scientists of the time knew that such properties came from the way atoms combined with one another. The atoms themselves, most scientists believed, had all been created at the beginning of time, and could not possibly change. Marie puzzled over this, trying out every possible idea. Perhaps, she suspected, something was happening inside uranium atoms that gave rise to rays.

And not only inside uranium. Trying out various chemicals, Marie found that compounds that contained an uncommon element, thorium, also gave off rays. To describe the behavior of these two elements, Marie made up the term "radioactivity."

Marie got another surprise as she pushed through more compounds.

---

① intensity: *n.* 强烈，剧烈

The mineral pitchblende, rich in uranium, gave off more radioactivity than could be accounted for by the uranium in it (and there was no thorium). She figured the pitchblende must contain another element, fiercely radioactive, and never seen before. The promise of a strange new element was so exciting that Pierre put aside his work on crystals to help speed up the discovery. They worked as a team, each responsible for a specific task.

A chunk of pitchblende may contain up to 30 different chemical elements. The Curies were like detectives searching for a suspected criminal in a crowded street. They had no idea what the new element would be like, except that it was radioactive. After long labor they succeeded in finding not one but two new elements! In July 1898 they published a paper revealing their first discovery. They honored Marie's native land by naming the element "polonium." That December they announced the second new element, which they named "radium" from the Latin word for ray.

When the Nobel Prize for Physics was awarded to Pierre and Marie Curie in 1903, the great honor quickly changed their lives. Pierre was finally appointed to a professorship at the Sorbonne, and the university found funds for a laboratory for him. It also hired Marie—the first woman to win a Nobel Prize—as "laboratory chief."

In 1995 Marie Curie's ashes were enshrined in the Panthéon in Paris; she was the first woman to receive this honour for her own achievements.

出生在波兰的法国物理学家、两次诺贝尔奖的获得者居里夫人，以其对放射物质的研究而闻名于世。1903 年，她与丈夫皮埃尔·居里以及亨利·贝克勒尔共同获得了诺贝尔物理学奖。1911，她单独获得了诺贝尔化学奖。居里夫人是第一个获得诺贝尔奖的女科学家。

1891 年秋，一位波兰女青年乘坐经济舱，从华沙来到巴黎。她有的只是大学学费、一间小屋和最廉价的食物，除此之外，一无所有。Maria Sklodowska 离开的不仅仅是自己热爱的父亲和祖国，还有她的名字。她在著名的索邦大学注册，注册名是 Marie，Maria 的法语形式。

玛丽的基础不如别的同学，但是通过刻苦学习，短短三年之后，她拿到了物理学和数学硕士学位。生平第一次独自生活的她专注于学业，以至有时忘记吃饭。玛丽在物理学方面出色的表现为她赢得了奖学金。国家工业促进协会的企业家们，雇佣玛丽调查不同钢铁的磁性能。为了实施这项工作，玛丽需要一个实验室。

皮埃尔·居里有一个实验室，所以 1894 年有人把他介绍给了玛丽。皮埃尔当时的头衔引人注目，是巴黎工业物理和化学市政学校的实验室主管。但是实际上，他的实验室设备非常简陋，不过他让玛丽在那里工作。长玛丽 10 岁的皮埃尔，在磁学和结晶体方面已经做出过重大的科学发现，但是他一直懒得去完成博士论文。

随着两人关系变得更加亲密，皮埃尔说服玛丽应该留在巴黎继续她的科学追求，而永远不回波兰。玛丽反过来说服了皮埃尔全部写出他的磁学研究，获得博士学位。皮埃尔接着晋升为教授，虽然教学任务增加，实验室条件却未得到改善。

1895 年皮埃尔和玛丽结婚。在接下来的两年里，玛丽完成了钢铁磁性能的研究。她提交最终研究结果之后，不久便在 1897 年 9 月迎来了第一个女儿 Irène 的降生。皮埃尔的父亲，一位退休的医生，搬来帮

助抚养 Irène。玛丽开始寻找可以为她赢得科学博士学位的研究话题。全世界未曾有一个女性拿到过这个学位。

两个神秘的发现让玛丽·居里开始了她一生的研究。1895 年 12 月,德国物理学家伦琴发现了可以穿过紧密材和肉体的射线。几个月之后,法国物理学家贝克勒耳发现含铀矿物质也散发射线。伦琴的 X 射线震惊了科学界,科学家们开始花巨大精力来研究,却大都忽略了贝克勒耳的射线,因为这种射线看起来似乎并无异处,只是更弱一些。玛丽决定研究铀射线。几乎没有这方面的著作可供参阅,于是她马上开始实验。

玛丽首先需要的是一个实验室,而她必须满足于巴黎市政学校的储藏室,因为丈夫皮埃尔·居里就在这个学校任教授。储藏室拥挤且潮湿,但无论如何她都要克服这些困难。起初玛丽研究了各种含铀的化合物,发现射线的强弱仅仅取决于化合物中铀的含量,而与这种物质是固态还是粉状、干燥还是湿润、纯净还是与其它化合元素结合无关。只要有一定数量的铀——一定数量的铀原子——就能得到一定强度的辐射能。别的东西都不起作用。

这一点非常奇怪。一般的性质,如颜色、气味或硬度,都会根据你如何处理该物质而发生变化。当时的科学家已经知道原子的结合方式决定了物质的这些性质。大多数科学家认为原子本身是在时间之初创造的,不可能发生变化。玛丽对这一点充满了疑惑,想尽了各种可能的办法。她怀疑,或许铀原子内部发生了某些变化,才导致了射线。

不光是铀内部发生变化。在试验了各种化学物质之后,玛丽发现含钍这种稀有元素的化合物也会散发射线。玛丽创造了"放射性"这个术语,来描述这两种元素的表现。

在研究更多的化合物过程中,玛丽又得到一个惊喜:富含铀的矿物质沥青铀矿的放射能要比所含铀的放射性能强(该矿物质不含钍)。他