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玛丽·居里和 她的女儿伊伦娜

[美]Rosalynd Pflaum 著 傅 涛 杜丽娟 译





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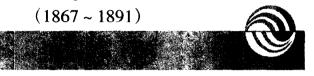
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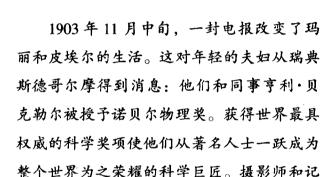


In mid-November 1903, a telegram transformed Marie and Pierre Curie's lives. The young couple received word from Stockholm, Sweden, that they and a colleague, Henri Becquerel, had been awarded the Nobel Prize for physics. Receiving the world's most famous scientific award catapulted the two researchers from celebrity status to international glory. Photographers and journalists took up their trail.

When the press descended on the Curies' home in Paris, Marie and Pierre were out. Only their daughter, Irène, and her Polish nurse were there. The reporters pestered the pair with questions. The nurse froze, then fled to the kitchen, pleading that she did not understand French. One reporter, undaunted, turned to

1. 玛妮雅·斯可罗多夫斯卡

 $(1867 \sim 1891)$



当新闻界突然造访居里夫妇在巴黎的寓所时,恰巧玛丽和皮埃尔外出了。只有他们的女儿伊伦娜和波兰保姆在家。记者们缠着她俩不停地提问题。保姆愣住了,随后声称自己不懂法语,立刻钻进了厨房。一个锲而不舍的记者转向了伊伦娜,问她的爸爸妈妈

者们接踵而至、追寻他们的踪迹。

Irène and asked where her parents were.

"At the laboratory, of course," the sixyear-old replied self-assuredly. She stared hostilely at the intruders. How stupid! Where else would they be? She ignored any further questions and resumed playing with Dido, her black-and-white cat.

The following day, a picture of Irène and Dido made the front pages of the Paris newspapers—as did the conversation with the child and her nurse.

Marie Salomée Sklodowska was born on November 7, 1867, in the family's small upstairs apartment over a girls' boarding school on Freta Street in Warsaw's old quarter. Warsaw was in the part of Poland that, at the time, was occupied by Russia. An ash-blonde with gray eyes, Many—as she was called—was the fourth daughter and fifth child of the school's director, Bronislawa Sklodowska. Manya's father, Vladislav Sklodowski, taught physics and mathematics in small secondary schools. Both

到哪里去了。

"当然是在实验室了。" 6岁的伊伦娜毫不犹豫地答道。她充满敌意地盯着这几个不速之客。多愚蠢的问题呀! 他们还能去哪里? 伊伦娜不再理睬下面的问题,继续与她那黑白花的小猫蒂杜玩了起来。

第二天, 巴黎报纸的头版刊登了伊伦娜 和蒂杜的照片, 还有记者与孩子和保姆的 谈话。

玛丽·赛罗密·斯可罗多夫斯卡生于1867年11月7日,家在华沙旧城区富莱塔大街女子寄宿学校楼上的一套小公寓里。当时的波兰华沙是在俄罗斯占领区里。长着淡金色头发和灰眼睛的玛妮雅——别人常这么叫她——是这所女子寄宿学校校长布罗尼斯洛娃·斯可罗多夫斯卡的第四个女儿,家中的第五个孩子。玛妮雅的父亲乌拉狄斯拉夫·斯可罗多夫斯基在几所二类中学里任物理和数

Manya's parents came from poor families of the minor nobility. Shortly after Manya was born, her mother, in frail health, resigned from the Freta school and devoted herself to raising their large family.

By the time Manya was five, her mother had developed tuberculosis. Bronislawa Sklodowska was determined that her family should not notice her suffering any more than she could help. Every Saturday night, she managed to sit with her brood, listening to Professor Sklodowski read aloud from the classics while she mended the children's clothes and made their boots with a small cobbler's awl and knife. At the rate the five children were growing, store-bought shoes were an unattainable luxury on a teacher's salary.

The Sklodowskis were patriotic to the core. Inevitably, as Russia tightened its control over Poland, Professor Sklodowski was dismissed from job after job on the grounds that he was not sufficiently pro-Russian. Police informers had

1. 玛妮雅·斯可罗多夫斯卡

学教师。玛妮雅的父母都出身于没落的小贵 族家庭。玛妮雅出生后不久,她的母亲就因 为体弱多病辞掉了学校里的工作,把自己的 全部身心都投到了这个大家庭里。

玛妮雅 5 岁时,她妈妈患上了肺结核。 布罗尼斯洛娃·斯可罗多夫斯卡决定要尽自己所能为家里做些什么,而不能让家人过多地为自己的病痛担心。每个周六的晚上,她都设法与孩子们一起听斯可罗多夫斯基教授大声朗读古典名著,她边听边给孩子们补衣服或是用补鞋匠的锥和刀给孩子们做靴子。由于五个孩子长得很快,从商店里买鞋,对于教师的薪水简直是难以得到的奢侈品。

斯可罗多夫斯基一家是十分爱国的。在 俄国不断加紧对波兰控制的情况下, 斯可罗 多夫斯基教授不可避免的一次次的失业, 因 为他不够亲俄。警察的线人渗透到了各行各 业。在搬进下一处住所后, 斯可罗多夫斯基

infiltrated all walks of life. The Sklodowskis, in an attempt to make ends meet in their next apartment, were reduced to taking in boarding students. As the youngest Sklodowski, Manya slept rolled up in an animal skin on the sofa in the dining room. She had to be up at 6:00 A.

M. SO the table could be set for the boarders' breakfasts.

Unfortunately, these strangers did far worse than intrude on the family's privacy. They introduced the dreaded typhoid disease into the household. Soon two of Manya's older sisters were shaking and moaning with typhoid fever, and Zosia, the oldest, died. Two years later, tuberculosis finally claimed Manya's mother.

The linens may have been threadbare, the clothes patched, the meals sometimes skimpy, but food for thought was never lacking in Manya's home. Even after Bronislawa's death, reading together Saturday night remained the high spot of the week for the close-knit family.

一家为维持生计,招了一些寄宿生。斯可罗 多夫斯基家最小的成员玛妮雅只好裹着一块 兽皮蜷缩在餐厅里的沙发上睡觉。她每天早 上不得不6点钟就起床,以便摆好给寄宿生 们吃早饭的桌子。

不幸的是,这伙外人严重地干扰了家里的生活。他们致使家人感染上了可怕的伤寒病毒。很快玛妮雅的两个姐姐就染上了伤寒,浑身发抖,呻吟不止。大女儿佐西亚死了。两年后,肺结核又夺去了玛妮雅妈妈的生命。

虽然身上穿的亚麻衬衫脱光了线,衣服补了又补,一日三餐也常常是对付,但是玛妮雅家里的精神食粮却从未匮乏过。甚至布罗尼斯洛娃去世后,每个星期六晚上的朗读会仍是相依为命的一家人生活中的高潮。

Manya graduated from high school at age 16, amid the customary flourish of trumpets and speeches. On a summer afternoon so stifling that not even a cloud moved overhead, the Grand Master of Education placed around Manya's slender neck a multicolored ribbon with the coveted gold medal of number-one student dangling from it. The sun's rays kept bouncing off that glistening disk as Manya returned to the platform again and again. Soon she had an armful of books as prizes for excellence in mathematics, history, Russian literature, German, English, and French.

Instead of being able to enjoy her triumph, Manya fell sick. Professor Sklodowski wisely decided that Manya needed a prolonged rest, and he shipped her off to the country for a year to visit various relatives. Lancet, Manya's thoroughly spoiled, enormous brown pointer, accompanied her. With no manners, he jumped

16岁的玛妮雅在充满着演讲和号角演奏的毕业典礼中结束了自己的高中生活。那是一个令人窒息的夏日午后,天空中的云彩都懒得动弹,教育长把一条五颜六色的丝带挂到玛妮雅纤细的脖颈上,丝带上坠着令人羡慕的金牌,那是奖给第一名的。玛妮雅一次次返回台上,阳光照射着金牌,反射出耀眼的光芒。不一会,她怀里就抱满了各种书籍——这是因为她数学、历史、俄国文学、德语、英语和法语成绩优异而发给她的奖品。

玛妮雅没等享受胜利的喜悦就病倒了。 斯可罗多夫斯基教授作出了明智的决定: 玛 妮雅需要一段长时间的休息。他安排她乘船 去乡下住一年,拜访一下她的亲戚们。被玛 妮雅宠坏了的棕色短毛大猎犬兰斯特一直陪 伴在她的身边。一见到人,没有教养的兰斯

up affectionately on everyone. In winter, when Manya and her cousins participated in the kulig, Lancet bounded after their sleigh. During an enchanted weekend of carnival, the young group journeyed across the snowy landscape from house to house in a mad round of gaiety. No one danced a faster mazurka or a more enthusiastic krakoviak than Manya, the ribbons in her festival crown swirling round her blonde locks.

When Manya returned to Warsaw, she had not yet decided how she was going to earn a living, but her older sister Bronya was determined to become a doctor. This meant going abroad to study before settling down to practice in Warsaw. The universities in Geneva and Paris were the only two in Europe that admitted women to graduate work. The best way for Bronya to earn the money for her studies was by tutoring others. Manya decided to help her sister by tutoring also.

A friend of theirs persuaded Manya and