

# *Marie Curie*

**(The Servant of Humanity)**

**by**

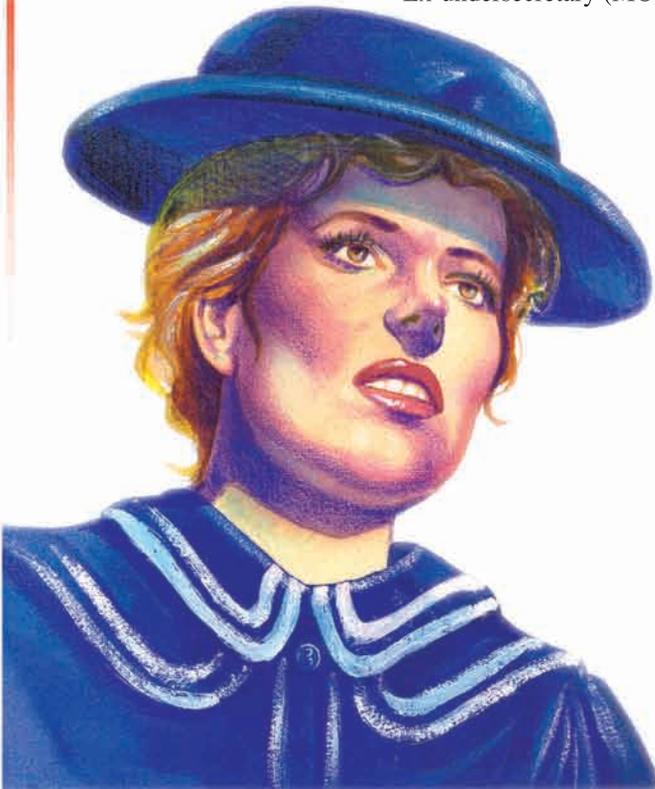
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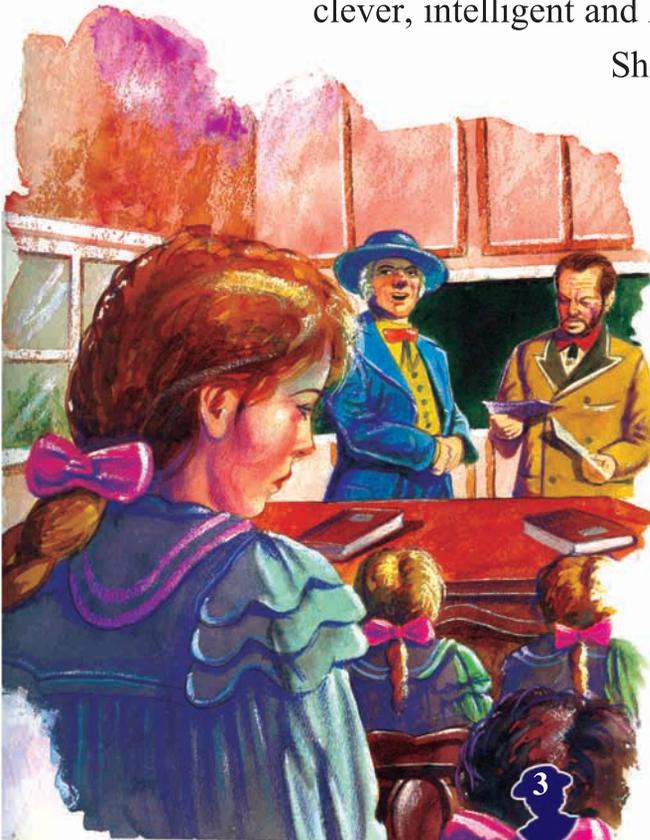
On the twenty seventh (27th) morning of October 1867, while Mr. Sklodowska, the teacher of physics was on his way to school, he heard a noise and cries in his bedroom. His wife, the principal of the girls' Institute was going to give birth with pains. Mr Sklodowska couldn't bear leaving his house at that time. He wants to feel comfortable, and bring his wife help. Within a few hours his wife gave birth to a nice baby. Her name was Manya. Manya came to life after three members in her family. They were three sisters, Zosia, Bronya and Hela and a brother whose name was Jozef.

This family lived in Varsovia City, which is called now “Warsaw,” the capital of Poland. That was before “Warsaw” became under the domain or control of the Russian Imperialism.

Manya was brought up in such a confused atmosphere. She was very clever, intelligent and highly interested in reading.

She read all the scientific books in her father's library. During leisure, Manya was reading adventurous stories. She was a girl of good understanding.

She hated imperialism very much. Russian inspectors at schools behaved badly with teachers. They introduced difficult questions to the pupils to prove that the teachers encouraged them



for revolution.

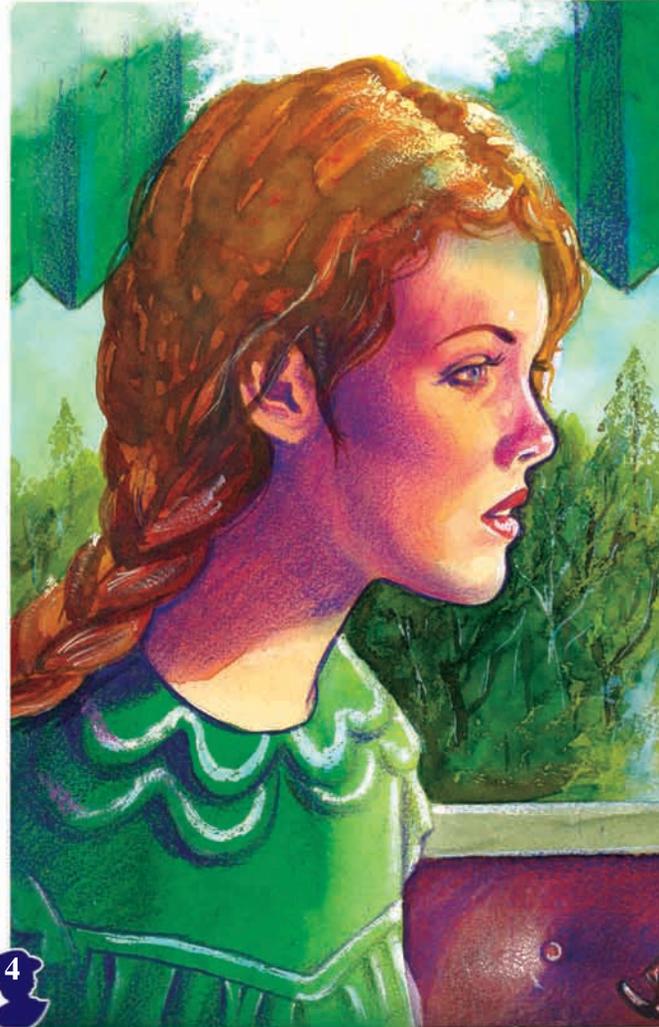
The teachers at school found a great escape in Manya. She was very intelligent and could answer all the cunning questions of those Russian inspectors skilfully. Thus, the inspectors failed to put the teachers in a trap, thanks to Manya's intelligence.

Manya completed her secondary study skilfully. She got a golden medal for that. She was only thirteen years old. University at that time didn't allow girls to join. So, Manya couldn't join the university. She also couldn't go to Paris to join study there, because her father's income couldn't keep up with their needs.

In order to help her husband save the necessary food and lodging for the children, the mother was forced to work in shoe making besides her job as the principal of the girls' institute.

Sadness came over the whole family. The mother and elder daughter Zosia died because of tuberculosis.

To get away of sadness, the wise father thought of a way. He invited some students to join his house. That was to get more income. He asked his daughters to give those students helping lessons for a certain little fee.



Days passed slowly and heavily.

Jozef, joined the faculty of Medicine and Hela was occupied with singing and music. Bronya and Manya, the other two sisters were thinking about their future. They were thinking of a way to overcome the difficulties they face.

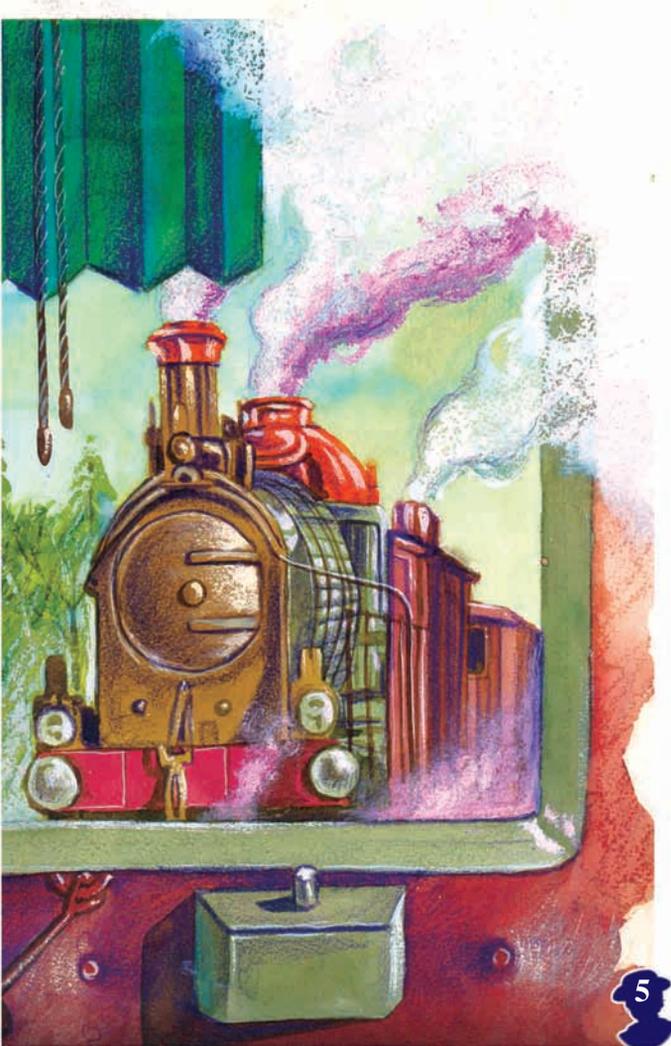
Bronya wished to study medicine, while Manya wished to study science. There was no way but to go and stay in Paris. But how?

Manya said to Bronya, “ Long waiting leads to hopelessness and despair. It distracts hope and weakens enthusiasm for work. We should

begin with a positive step towards our aim.”

Bronya said, “What do you think ?” “You can go to Paris and join the faculty of Medicine there. You can spend out of our savings. Don't worry. I'll search for work with a wealthy family. I'll send you what you need, till you finish your study. Then, your turn comes. You can find work and fulfil my needs till I finish my study”, said Manya. “But why do I travel first ?” “Because you are three years older than me.” A little time later, the two sisters left. .

Bronya left for Paris to join



the faculty of Medicine, while, Manya left for the Polish to work as a baby sitter with a wealthy family, in return for a good fee. On her way to the countryside, Manya found trouble

She took the train, then a sliding carriage for many hard hours to reach the family house. This family treated her badly and life there was unbearable. But, she had great patience. There was something inside to make her bear all these troubles. She wanted to fulfil her promise to her sister. She also wanted to realise her own hopes.

All what Manya could get was sent to her father and family. Nothing was left for herself. She could not change her worn out clothes. She had a true and strong will. She didn't feel weak or broken. With a last stamp, she sent a letter to her brother to encourage him. Severe conditions wouldn't overcome or hinder her to reach her aims.

In spite of all her severe conditions, she couldn't forget her natives. The Russian imperialism had deprived them of learning. So, she chose about twenty boys and girls around her and began to teach them reading and writing.

That would make her face big danger and severe punishment from the Russian authorities. These authorities chased and ran after all those who tried to spread education among people.

Manya stayed working with that wealthy family for six years. She was teaching the children who couldn't find a chance for learning. She didn't feel desperate .

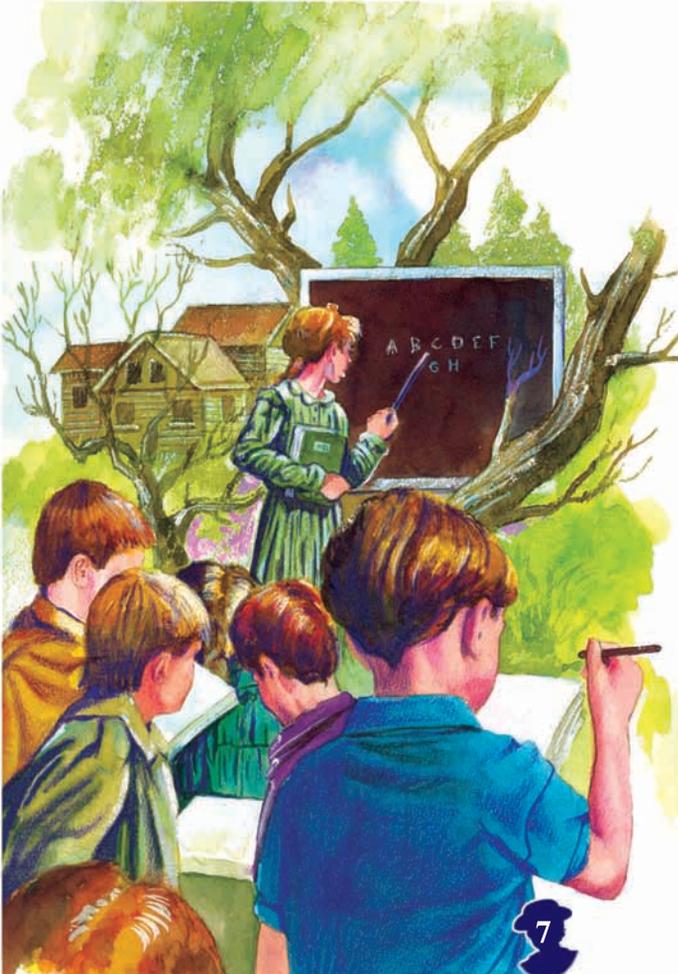
Once, good news brightened her life and filled it with hope. Her sister Bronya had finished her study of medicine. She had also got married to a young Polish doctor. The two were working together. Then, it was

time for Bronya to fulfil her promise to her sister Manya.

Suddenly, the Russian authorities knew about Manya's part in teaching her native children. These authorities decided to punish her and send her to exile. Manya was so clever that she didn't give a chance for imperialism to punish her. She left for Paris happily, hoping for realising her aims. Something troubled her. In Paris, she would be a burden over her sister and her husband.

Her sister's husband was very happy and proud of Manya's greatness.

Manya submitted her papers to join the Faculty of Science. For her great joy and happiness, her papers were accepted.



The way to her faculty was long and tiresome. A carriage with horses took her to the college. She enjoyed all around her. She was eager to go back to her homeland. It was under the bad rule of imperialism. Imperialism forbade her people from education to spend their lives in ignorance and poverty. She was sure that she would come back to her homeland as a loyal servant for the good of her people.

The slow journey to her college every day made Manya uneasy. She decided to have a lodging near her college. Her sister and her husband refused that idea. But, at last they agreed. Manya left to live in a narrow room, near her college.

Her budget was no more than a hundred Franc a month. This money only covered the costs of food and clothes, books and papers, her lodging and the fees of the college.

Manya didn't find any hardships in that matter. She was contented and satisfied. She could do well with her strong will.

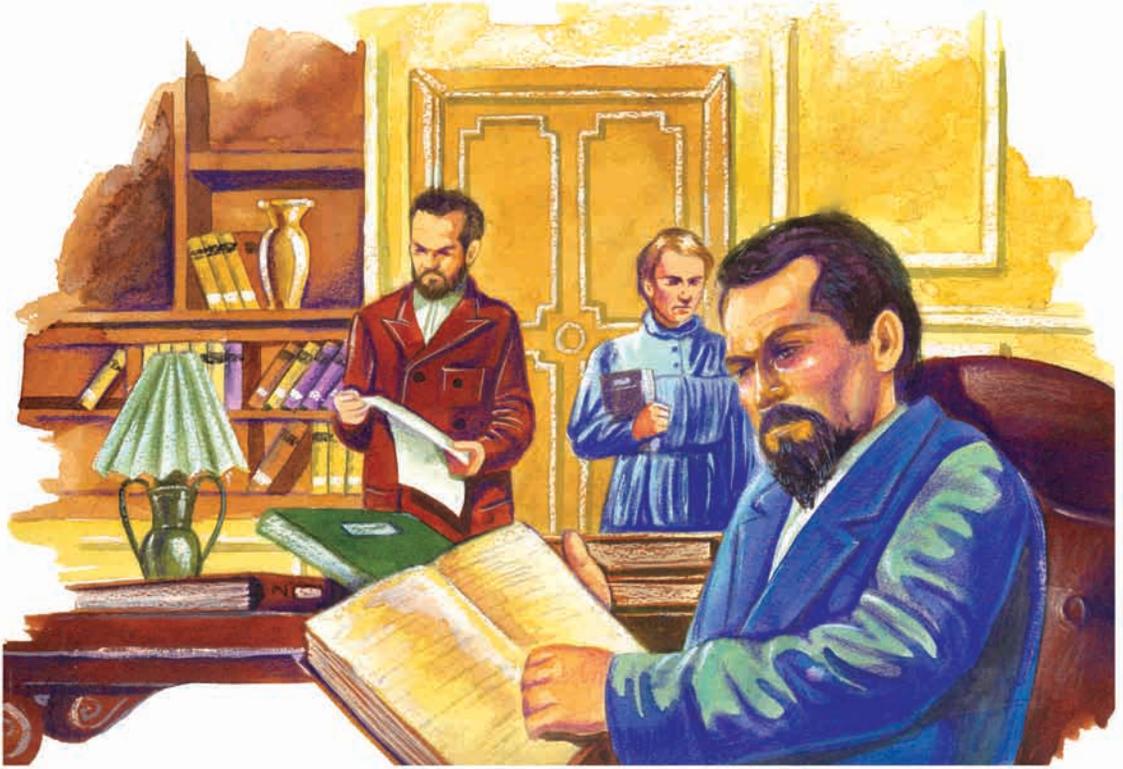
She went to her college on foot in order to save the wage of the carriage. To save the prices of books and the oil of her lamps, she went to public libraries. She spent most of her days only eating bread and butter.

This Polish girl was only engaged in lectures, laboratories (labs), experiments and books, but nothing else.

She was a hardworking student. She was used to sitting on the first seat during the lesson wearing old dark clothes. Her hair was fair, beautiful and smooth.

Manya's ambition was so great. She was patient and stubborn. She could gain two scientific degrees, one in physics in 1893 and the second in mathematics in 1894.

Manya finished her first term in fulfilling her aim. She was not satisfied. So, she thought of the second term of her ambition. She was interested in researches and experiments. So, she would be in need of a laboratory of her own to conduct researches, and scientific experiments.



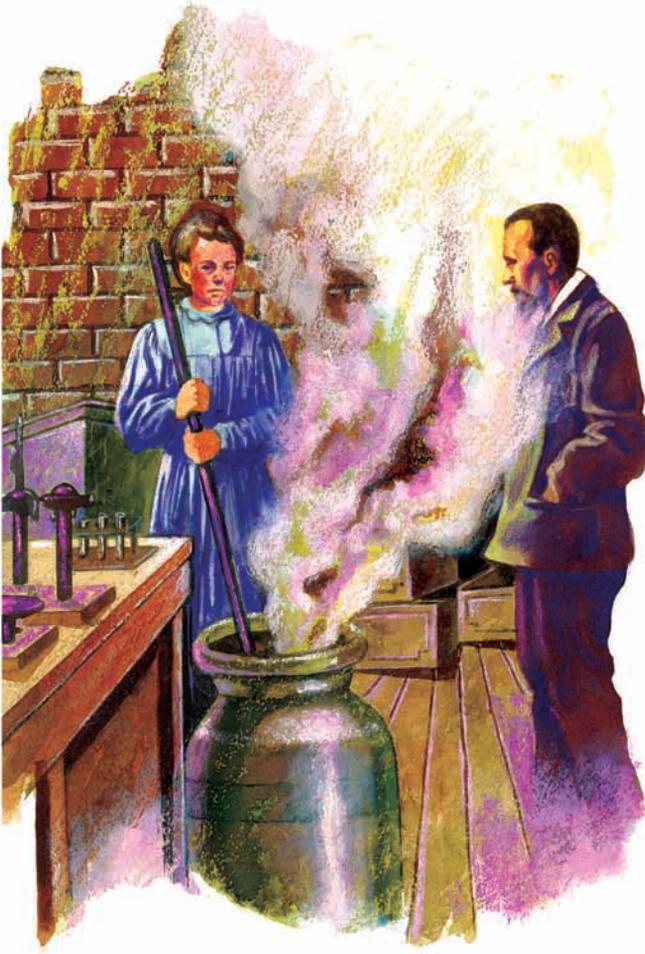
She wasn't working in a college to use its labs, nor she was rich to find a private lab for her.

What would she do ?

A Polish professor who came to Paris to deliver some lectures knew about Manya's problems. This professor knew before about Manya's cleverness, strong personality and long sufferings.

He introduced her to his friend, a French professor. She would be his assistant. He was working as the director of a school for physics. This professor of a French nationality was Pierre Curie, He was calm, clever and of a trustful and peaceful personality.

A year passed when they became a couple (husband and wife). Manya



took her husband's name as usual in Western societies. Her name became Marie Curie.

Marie at that time, had no wedding dress. She had only the lab's dress. She asked her mother in law, Pierre's mother to lend her a dress. After wedding, she would change it into an ordinary dress.

Her sister Bronya prepared her a dark blue cloth for her wedding dress. It was such a simple and a smart dress. Happiness prevailed

everywhere. Her father came to her wedding party. He talked to Pierre's parents saying, “Marie will deserve your love and satisfaction (content). She didn't cause me any troubles since her birth”.

The two scientists began their new life in a (humble) flat. They began their researches and experiments in sciences. They were in great love for work.

At that time, Pierre could have an allowance to use a small storeroom in the basement of the Physics school as a lab for them.

Marie began her experiments in that damp storeroom. She didn't hate

the place, but she found great hope there. She worked hard (in the footprints of the researches of the great professor Henri Becquerel, who was known to them before.

Marie took great interest in following professor Henri's remarks about the radioactivity that comes out of Uranium . These radiations were of greater effect than uranium itself. There might be another element.

Marie and Pierre worked hard together. Marie spent all day boiling uranium. The coming vapours turned the place into hell. This bad smoke burnt the throats and eyes. The husband and wife worked hard with courage and without losing hope patiently for several years.

Within that joy, came deep sadness. While her husband Pierre was coming out of his college after a scientific meeting, a big carriage with horses ran over him. He tried to find help but a truck of soldiers finished his life.

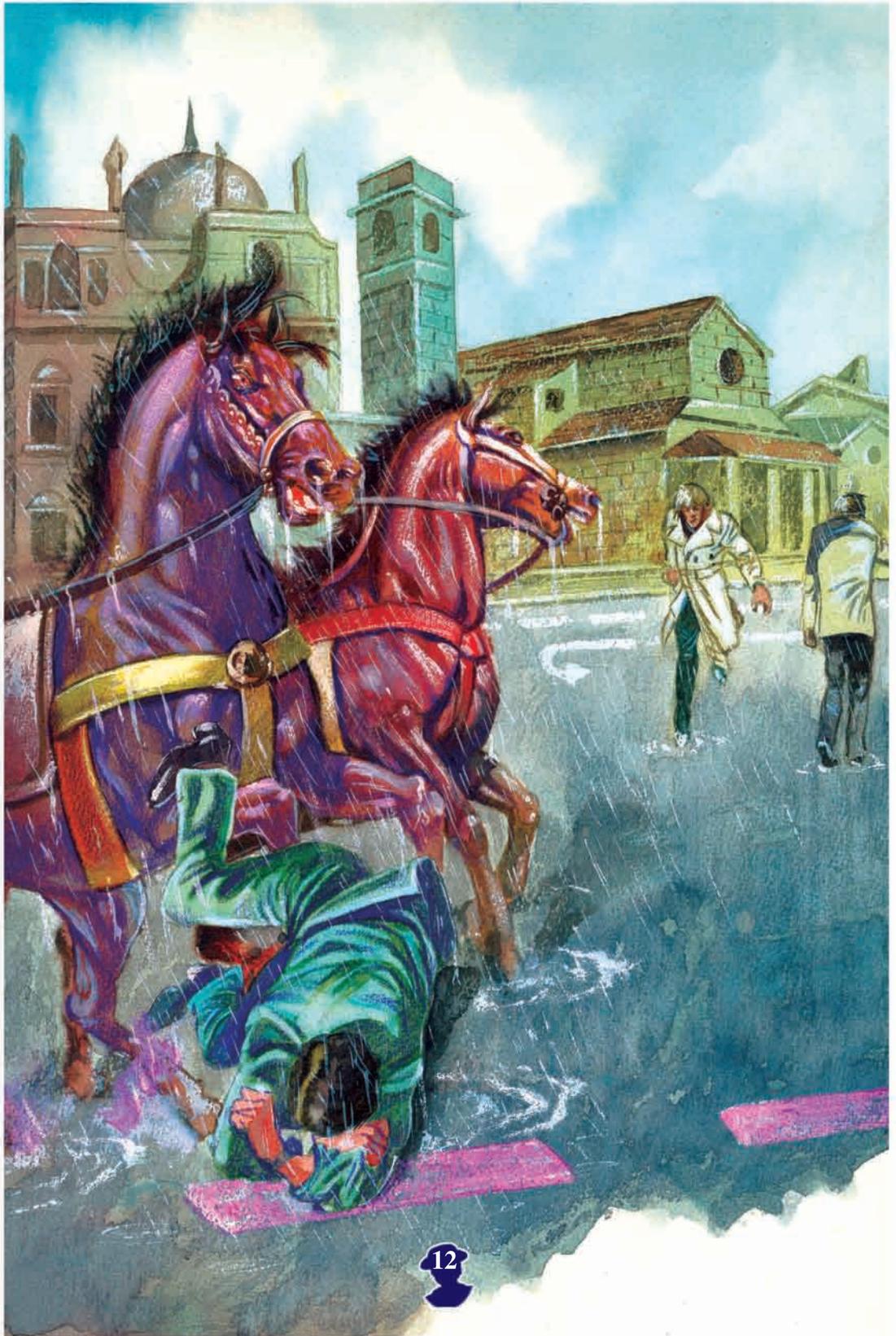
It was a great shock for Marie. She had lost her husband, companion, scientist and colleague.

Her sister Bronya came at once to help her overcome that disaster. She came to relieve her sister's pains.

The first time for Marie to appear was when she replaced her husband as a professor. She should continue the way they began together before.

It was the first time for a woman to have this high place in the university of (Sorbon).

Marie continued her scientific way. The Academy of Sciences in Stockholm granted her the Nobel Prize for the second time in 1911 for her great accomplishments after her husband's death. She was the only





It is a white and glittering element. Strong radiations came out of it. They were of strong effect on the bodies that were exposed to. The strength of these radiations are greater than those coming out of uranium for about two million times. The atomic bomb is made of that element.

The whole world accepted well the news of this discovery. Invitations were sent for this couple of scientists to deliver lectures in universities and scientific societies. The presidents there met them with great respect.

During that time Marie could gain the doctorate degree in 1903. Pierre was appointed professor in the Faculty of Science (Sorbon) University in Paris. Marie was appointed as an assistant to him. Both of them were honoured by Nobel Prize in sciences, besides professor Henri, the one who paved the way for Marie towards the researches that led to the discovery of “radium”.

At last, the two scientists left their small and humble lab. In that lab, they practised their hard work such as carrying metals and fuel besides the fire in the stove etc. They were very happy. They spent their best days there, working, preparing food and stirring boiling liquids.

Gates of fame and honour had been opened in front of Marie Curie. She didn't like fame. She was modest. She informed her brother Jozef about that great success.

Once, she had been with her husband in a party in london. She was wearing a simple black dress. while the ladies in the party wore dresses and jewels of rare quality.

Marie was only thinking about the high prices of these jewels. How many labs could be built by the price of such jewels, The Curies

preoccupation was only in science for the welfare of man. They refused companies and factories to produce the element of radium for their own benefit. They considered this element as ownership for humanity. They were afraid lest it should be used for demolition and destruction. So, they sent the element's secret to all those who asked for. This secret would be for all people, not for one only.

Humanity still harvests the benefit and fruits of Marie Curie the scientist's efforts. Radium is used for treating (curing) cancer.

Marie was eager for her message to continue after her death.



She prepared her daughter Irene Curie for that message. Irene made great and successful achievements as her mother's. As a result, the Swedish Academy granted her the Nobel Prize in 1935. Her second daughter directed herself towards the study of literature and wrote the autobiography of her parents.

As a result of being exposed to the radiations of radium, Marie Curie fell ill. She said good bye to life on the fourteenth of July, 1934.

The element that gave her fame and honour was the direct cause of her death. Before being buried, her sister Bronya hailed on her a handful of her homeland dust.

