

SOB SISTER. May 17, 1921. Nancy Jane Harlan here—for the New York Graphic! The New York Graphic's only girl reporter!

REPORTER. Jack Youngwood for the Newark Ledger! Newark's first source for news!

*(The scene transforms to a street scene of excitement with band music, carnival atmosphere. ROEDER and GRACE join CROWD.)*

SOB SISTER. Madame Marie Curie, eminent French scientist, embarks on a whistle-stop tour of the United States.

REPORTER. First stop—New York City, where she is greeted by an enthusiastic crowd of well-wishers!

SOB SISTER. The high priestess of science is headed for Washington to receive a gift of one gram of radium—valued at one hundred thousand dollars!

REPORTER. Purchased for her by the members of the Marie Curie Radium Club—an association of one hundred thousand American women—

SOB SISTER. —who each gave one dollar to support humanitarian research with radium.

IRENE. Grace! Over here!

GRACE. Irene! Look! I got my certificate. Member, Marie Curie Radium Club!

IRENE. You gave a dollar?

GRACE. It's all for science!

IRENE. Science! What about my room and board?

GRACE. Oooh! There she is!

*(MADAME CURIE steps up to the podium with VON SOCHOCKY and SOCIETYWOMAN. This is Cora Middleton, a well-heeled, well-spoken woman of dignity. She takes a great interest in science—and any other issue likely to place her at the center of excitement.)*

SOCIETYWOMAN. Welcome all, welcome all! I must ask you, ladies and gentlemen of the press, please limit your questions! Madame Curie is about to embark on an exhaustive tour of the country. And she is under strict doctor's orders to rest—although, in the typical fashion of a scientist who can think only of her research, her life's work—she has refused to rest! *(Approval from the CROWD.)*

REPORTER. Madame Curie! What will you do with the radium?

MADAME CURIE *(in a thick Polish accent)*. Eh?

REPORTER. What will you do with the radium?

MADAME CURIE. Uh...I will continue my experiments to find better methods for ze treatment of ze cancer. *(Applause.)*

SOB SISTER. Is radium a cure for all cancer?

MADAME CURIE. Cure for ze cancer? Yes, yes. Cure for ze cancer! Zat is so. It has already cured all kinds of ze cancer.

SOB SISTER. But some doctors dispute that!

MADAME CURIE. Zen zey do not understand ze method. Zere is no question—radium will cure ze cancer.

SOB SISTER. Madame Curie!

REPORTER. Madame Curie!

SOB SISTER. Madame Curie! How have you managed to devote yourself both to science—and to your children?

MADAME CURIE. Ah. It has not been easy. (*Laughter from CROWD.*) But my daughters share my gratitude to ze American women for zere interest in science and my work. I am most grateful.

REPORTER. Madame Curie!

SOB SISTER. Madame Curie!

REPORTER. Madame Curie!

SOCIETYWOMAN. No more questions! Madame Curie is on a tight schedule! Mrs. Andrew Carnegie has sent a car—and will escort Dr. Curie personally—as will I—to Washington—where President Harding will present the gift—of one gram of radium! (*Cheers and excitement as MADAME CURIE and CROWD exits leaving ROEDER and LEE.*)

ROEDER. You see that, Charlie? That is a marketing opportunity! Let's send her one of our customer's watches. Courtesy, the United States Radium Corporation!

LEE. We'll need a press release. (*LEE takes notes as ROEDER ruminates.*)

ROEDER. Radium isn't just for scientists to study. The average American can share in its glory every night. Luminous watches, luminous clocks! Anyone who thinks these are just novelties, consider all the other advances that have taken place in the past fifty years—the electric light. The telegraph—

LEE. The telephone!

ROEDER. The automobile! Inventions all once dismissed as novelties—as toys—

LEE. —are now essentials to modern life. Got it. That ought to sell some watches.