

Girls Who Grew Up to Change the



Clara Schumann



Eleanor Roosevelt

Clara Schumann

Pianist and Composer



By the time Clara was
eight years old, she
was already an
extraordinary pianist.



After one of her concerts in a private home, she was approached by a seventeen-year-old boy ...



... his name was Robert Schumann, and he was a pianist too. He told Clara she was fantastic, and the two were soon good friends.



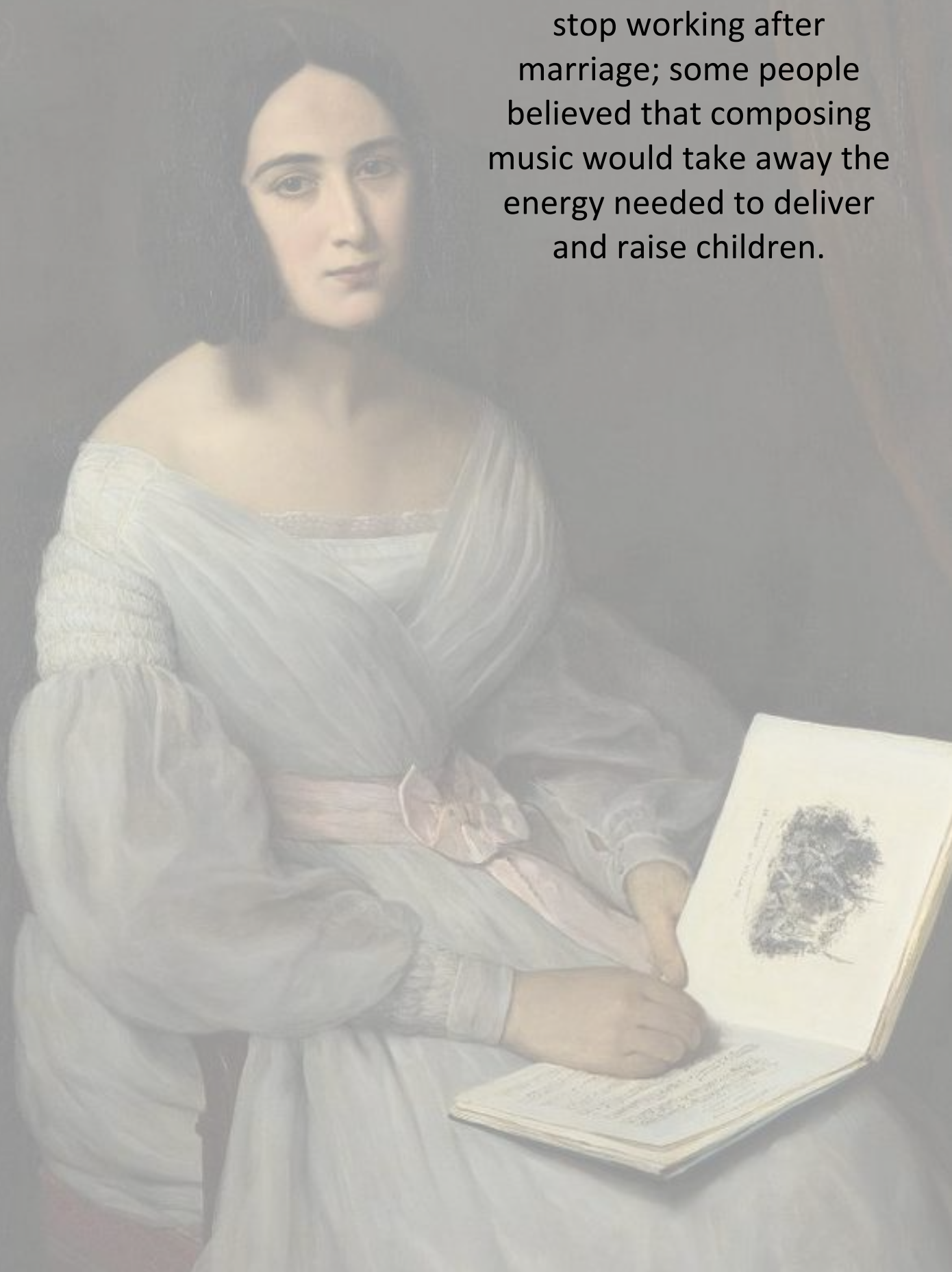
Clara travelled throughout Europe giving concerts, and she became one of the most famous composers and pianists of her time.



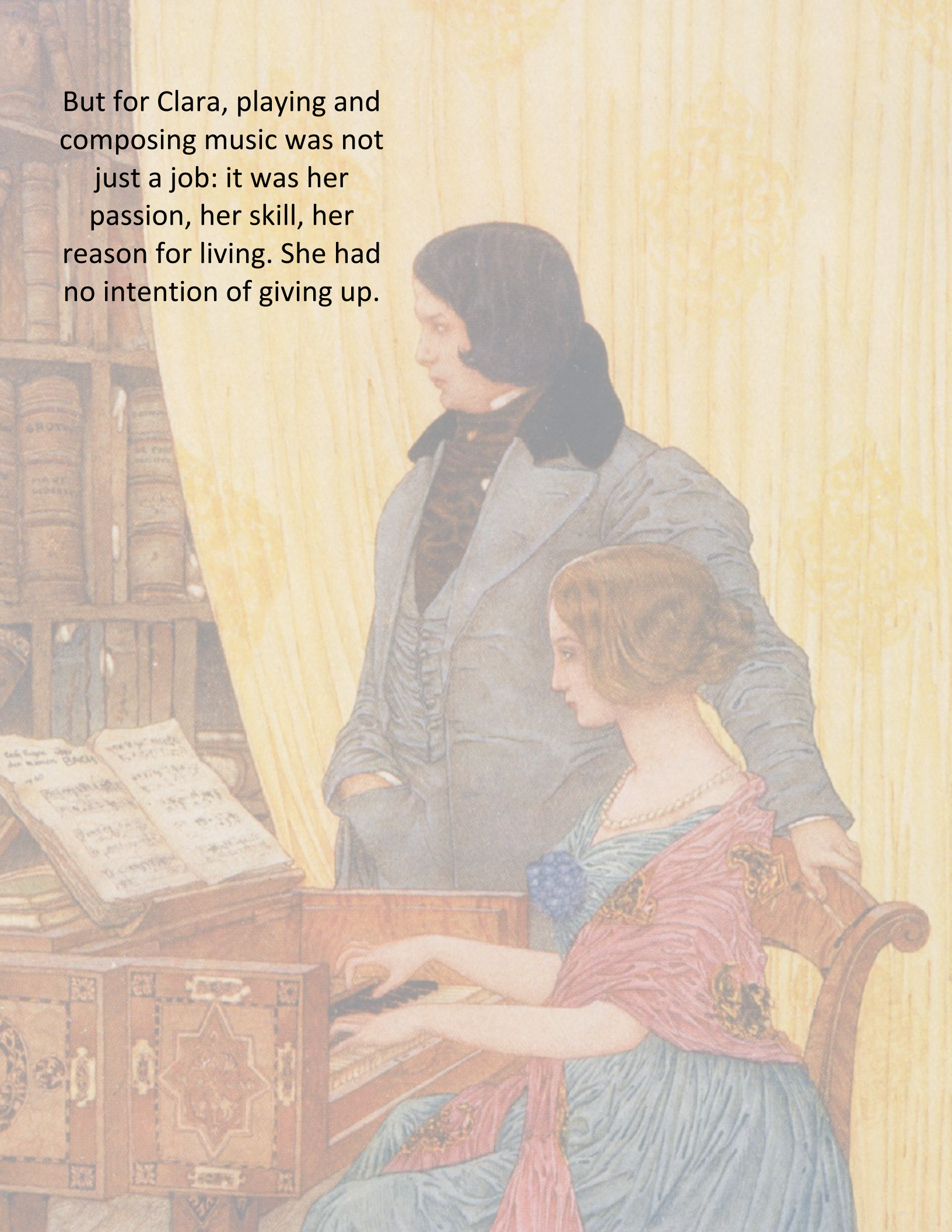
Robert grew closer
and closer, until they
married when Clara
was twenty-one.



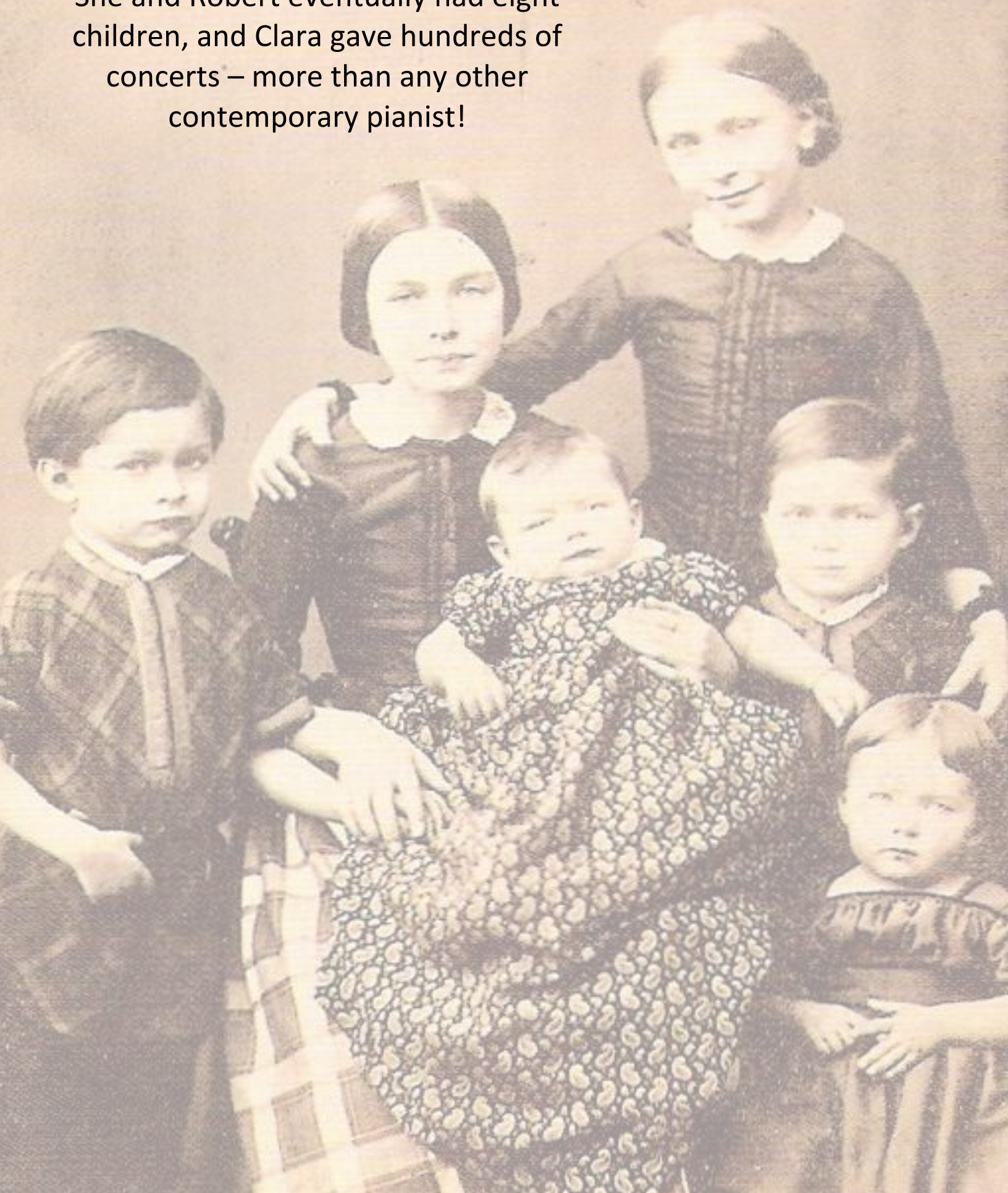
At the time, female musicians were expected to stop working after marriage; some people believed that composing music would take away the energy needed to deliver and raise children.



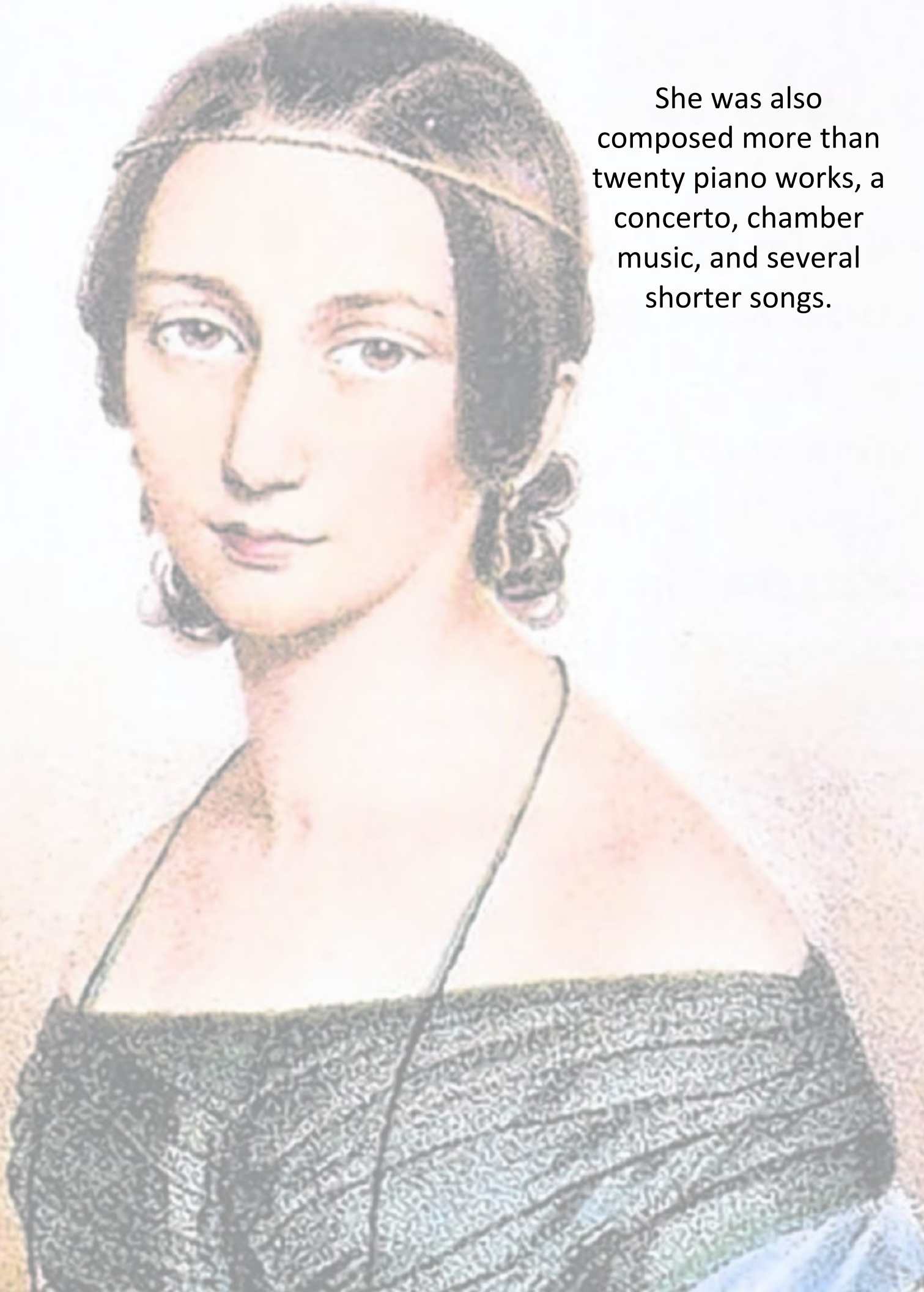
But for Clara, playing and composing music was not just a job: it was her passion, her skill, her reason for living. She had no intention of giving up.



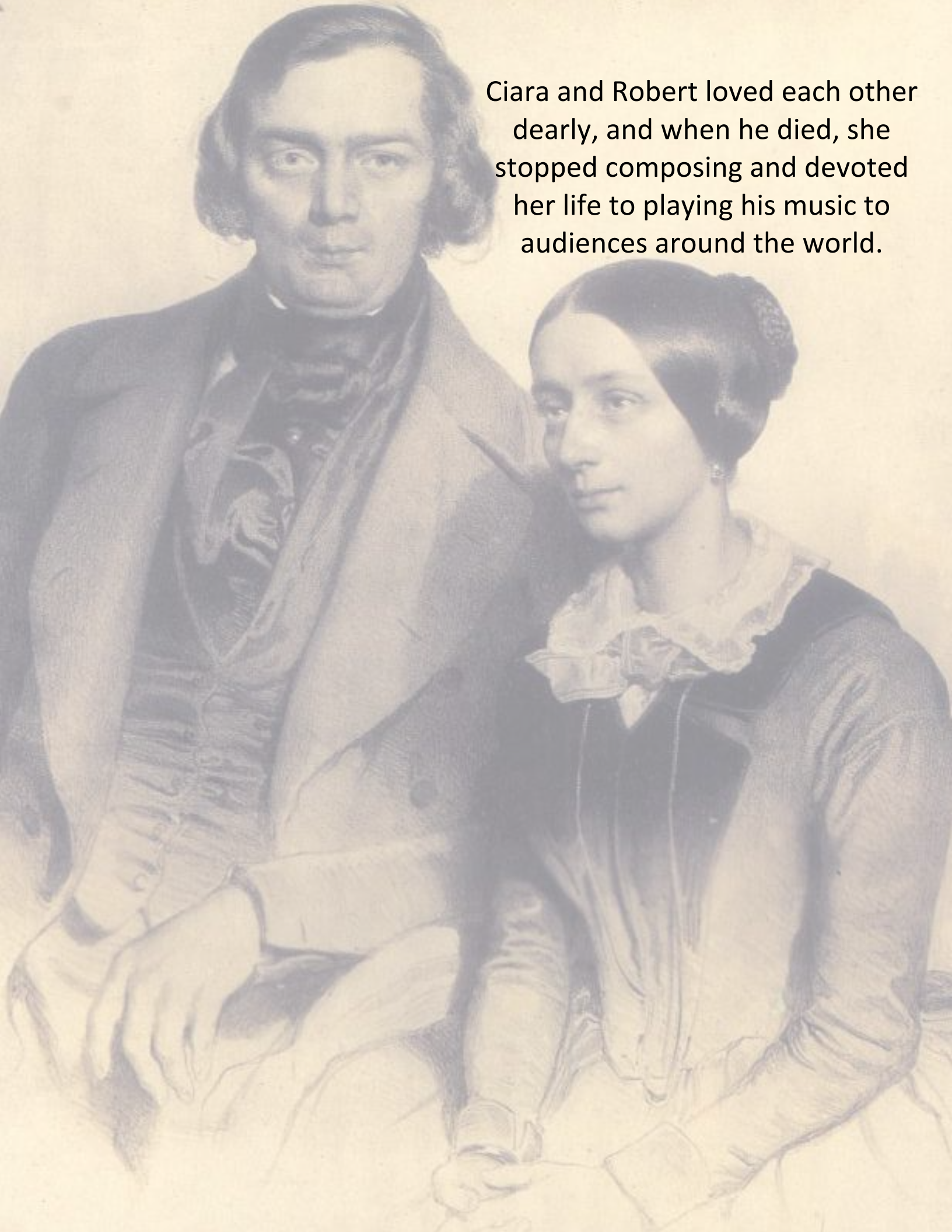
She and Robert eventually had eight children, and Clara gave hundreds of concerts – more than any other contemporary pianist!



She was also composed more than twenty piano works, a concerto, chamber music, and several shorter songs.



Ciara and Robert loved each other dearly, and when he died, she stopped composing and devoted her life to playing his music to audiences around the world.



Years later, as she herself lay dying, she asked her nephew to play the Romance in F Sharp Major, a piece Robert had composed for her. She died before the last notes had faded away.



Eleanor Roosevelt

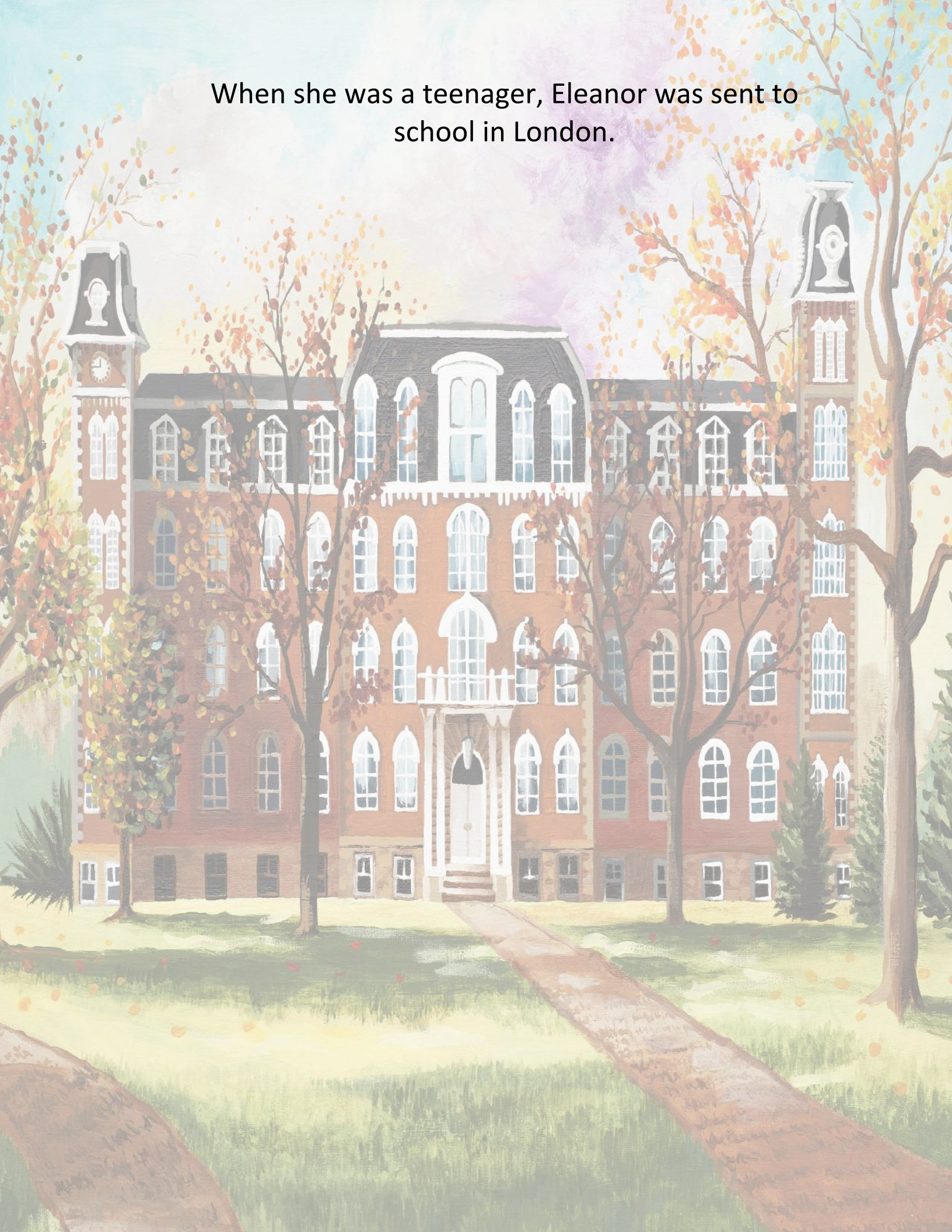
Politician



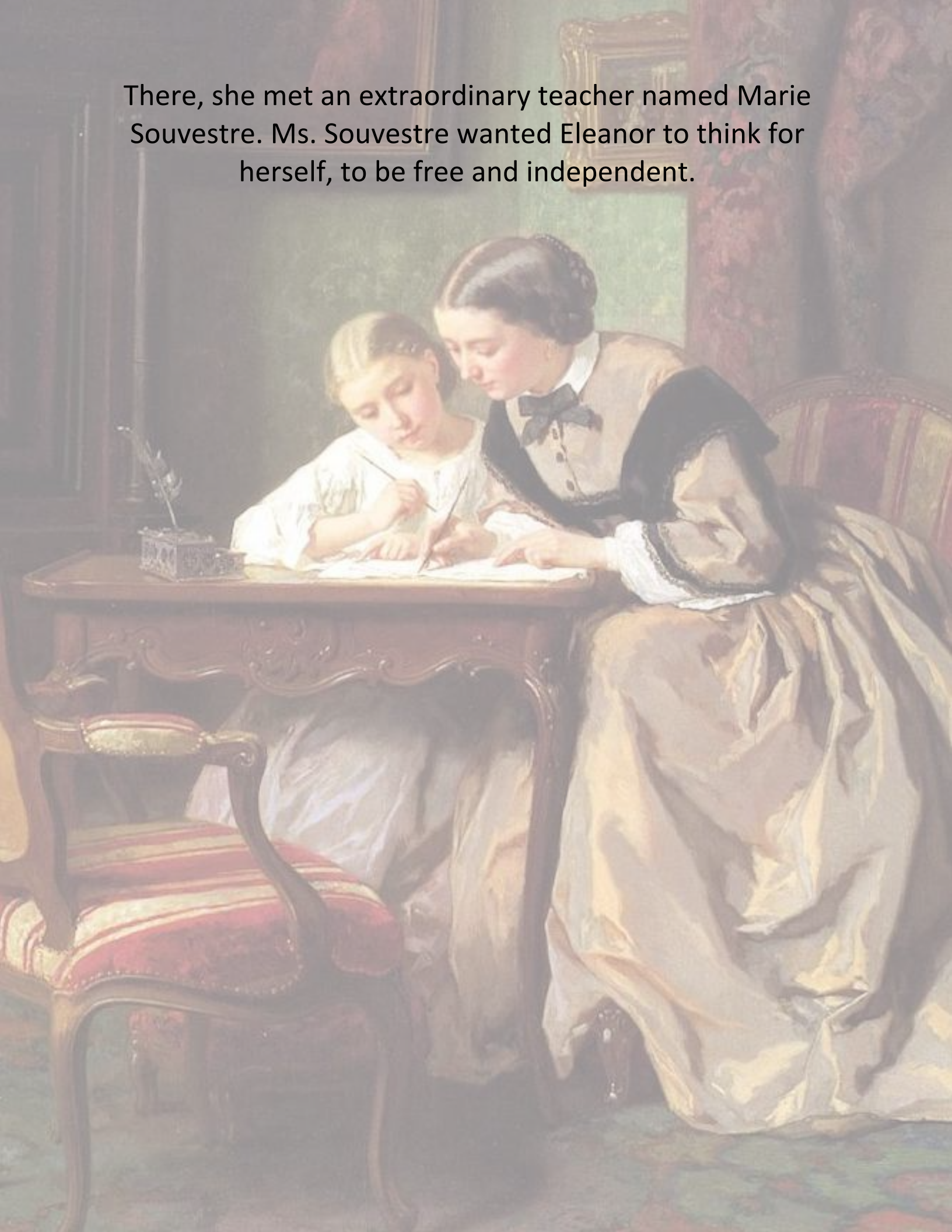
Once there was a serious girl called Eleanor Roosevelt.



When she was a teenager, Eleanor was sent to school in London.

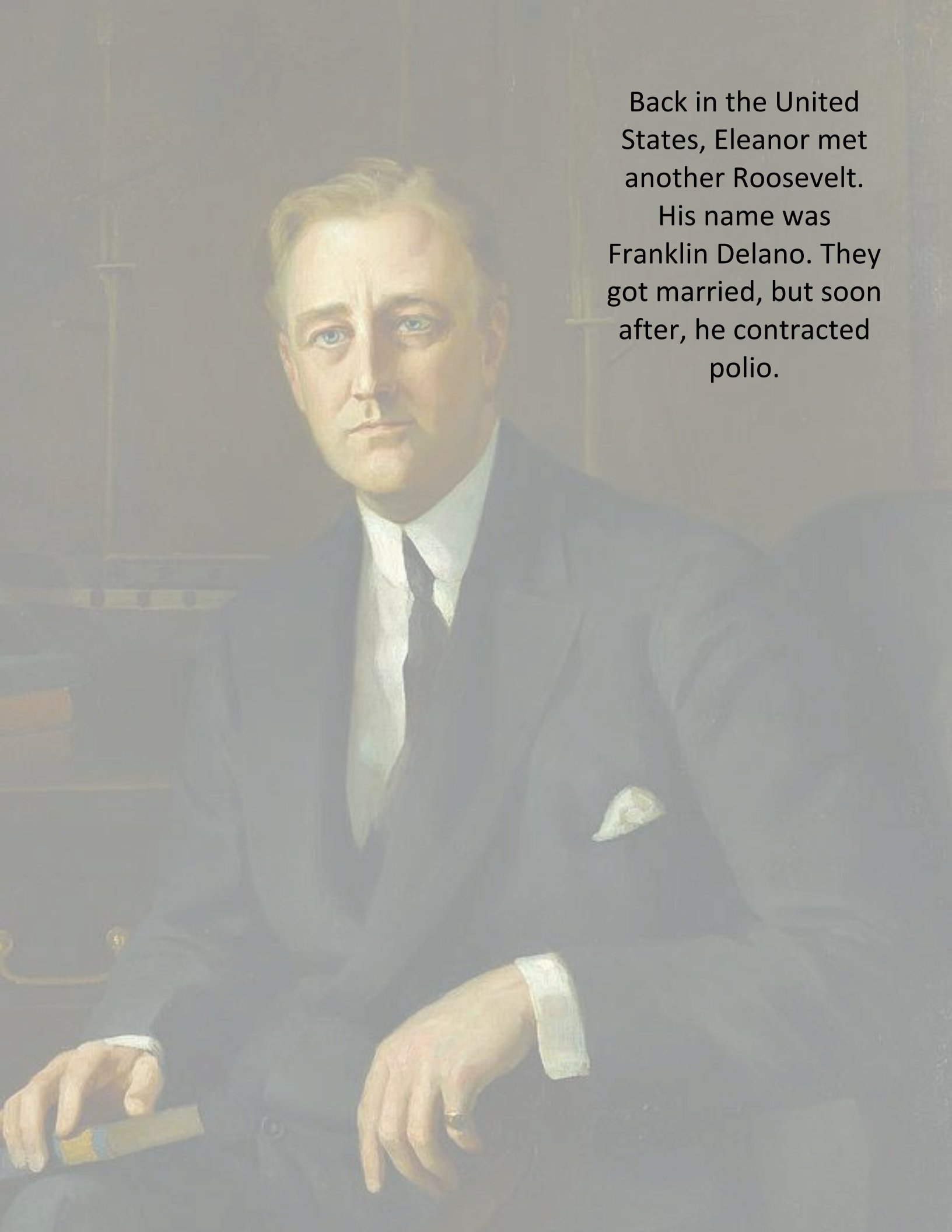


There, she met an extraordinary teacher named Marie Souvestre. Ms. Souvestre wanted Eleanor to think for herself, to be free and independent.



Eleanor studied with her
for three years, then she
was summoned home
because her grandmother
wanted her to get married.

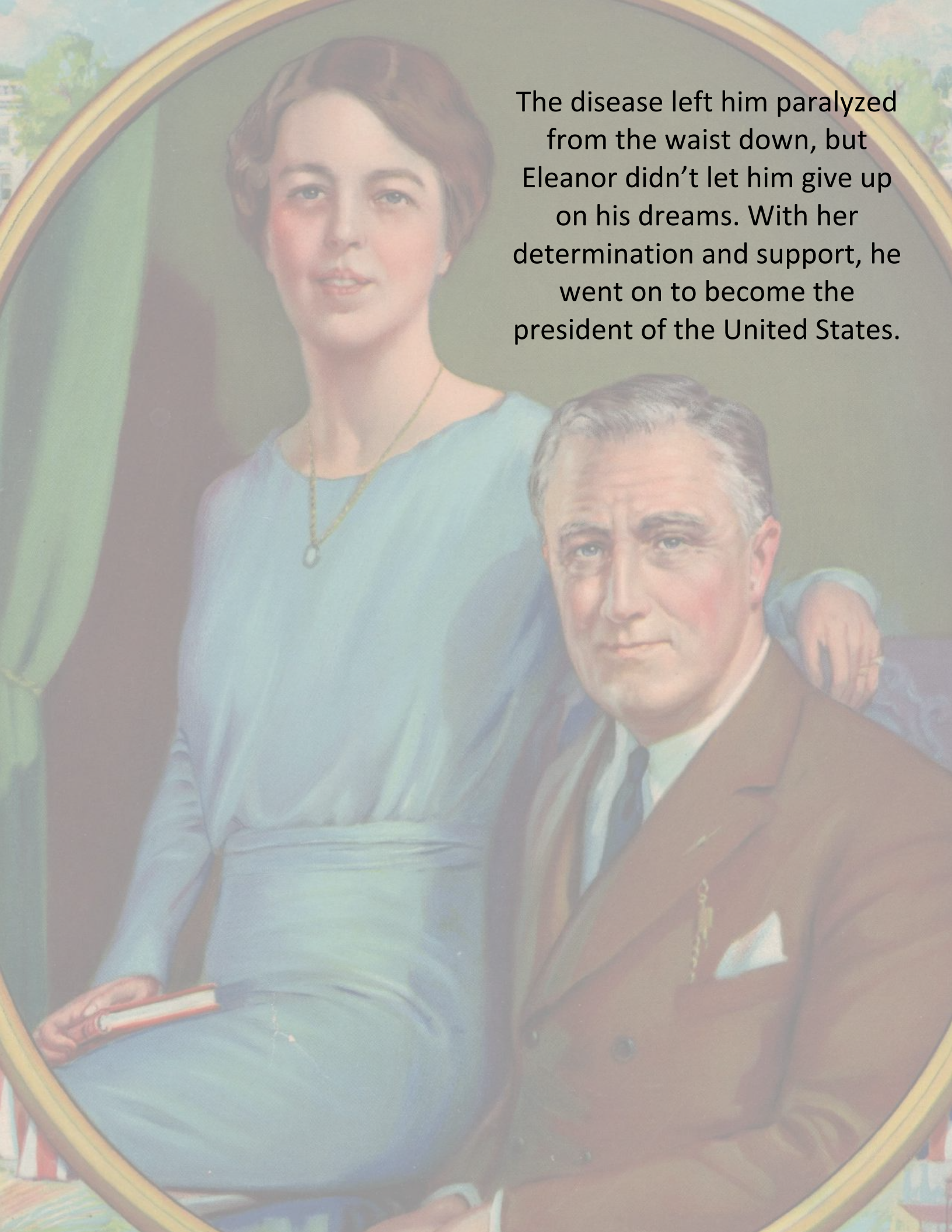


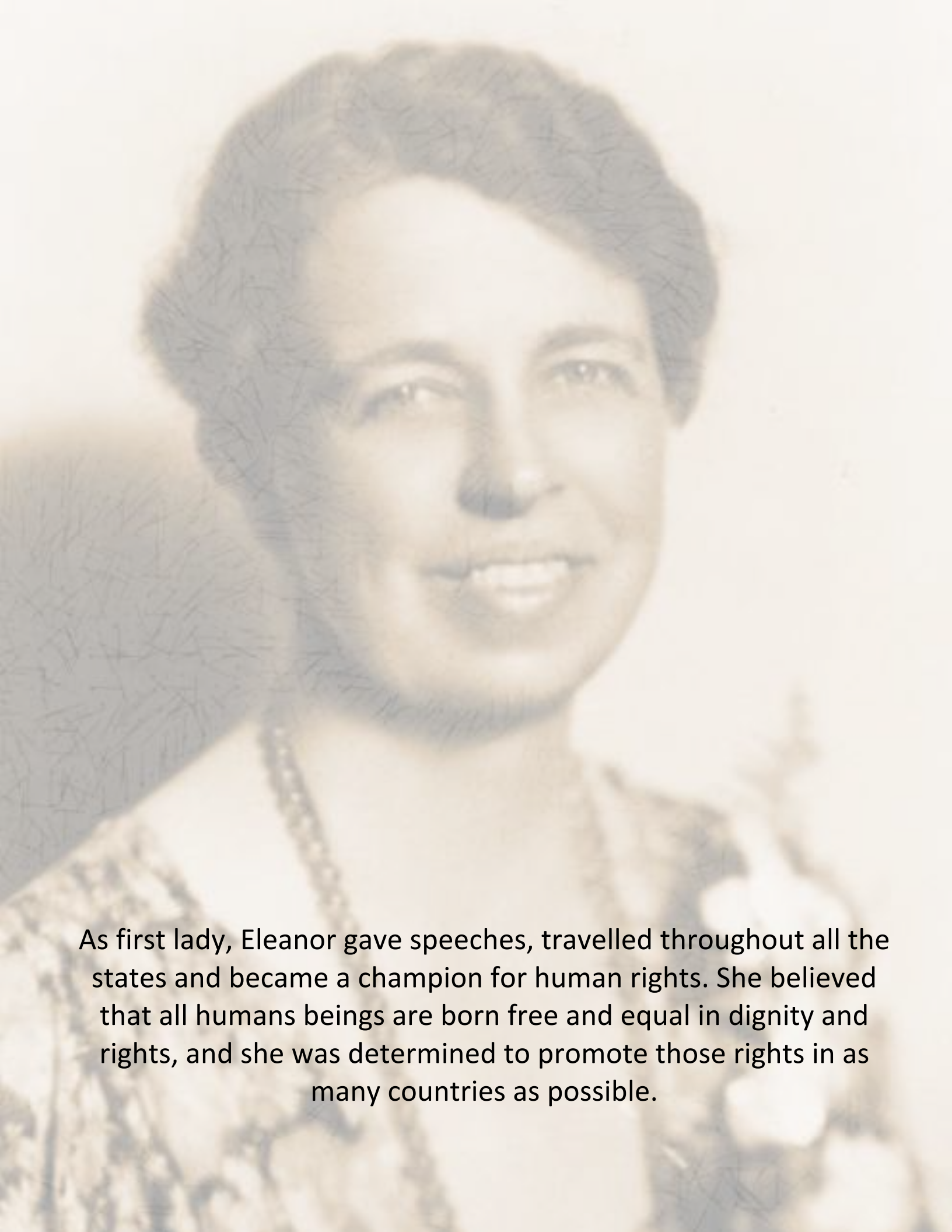
A formal oil painting of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He is seated, wearing a dark blue suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He has light-colored hair and is looking directly at the viewer with a serious expression. His hands are resting on his lap, and a pocket square is visible in his suit jacket. The background is a soft, out-of-focus interior setting.

Back in the United States, Eleanor met another Roosevelt.

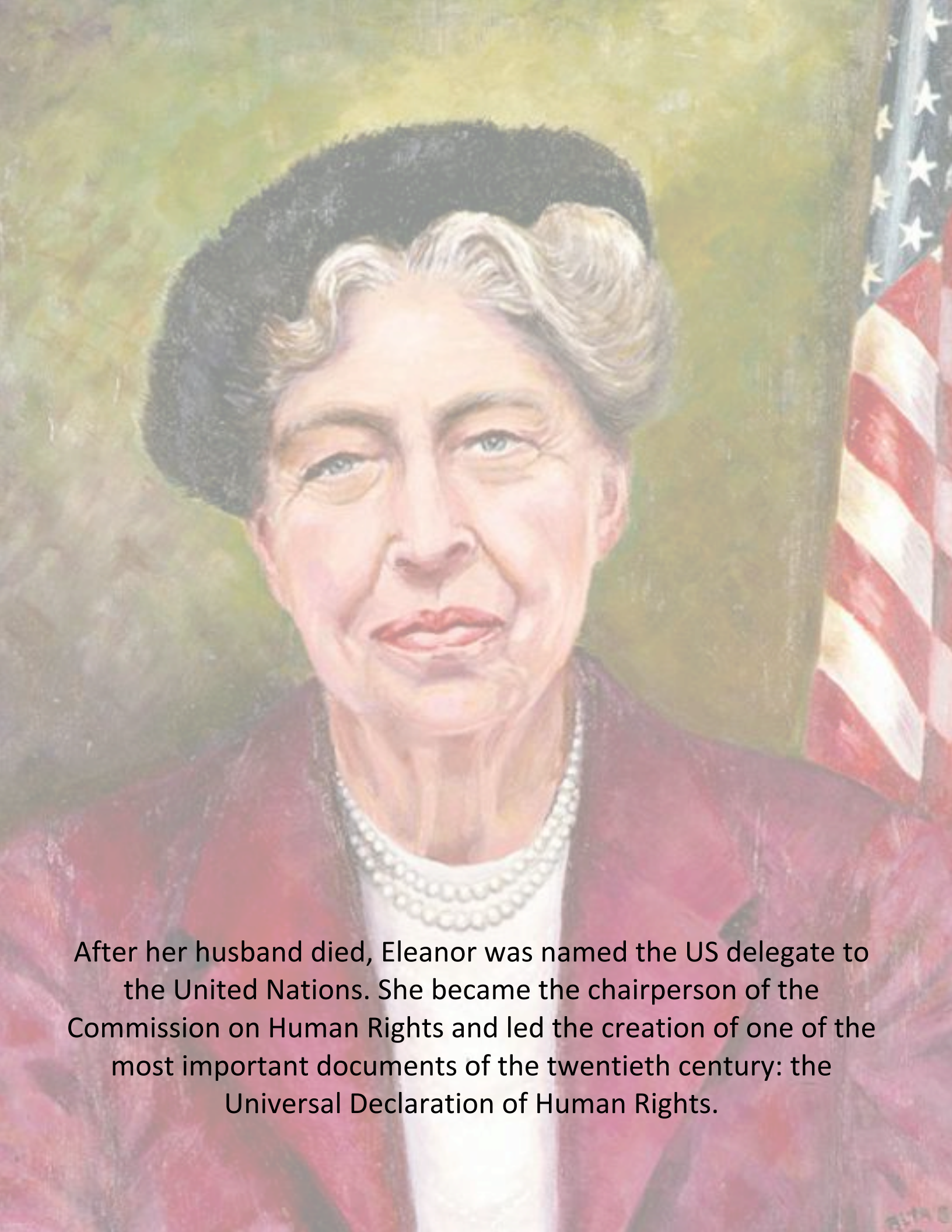
His name was Franklin Delano. They got married, but soon after, he contracted polio.

The disease left him paralyzed from the waist down, but Eleanor didn't let him give up on his dreams. With her determination and support, he went on to become the president of the United States.



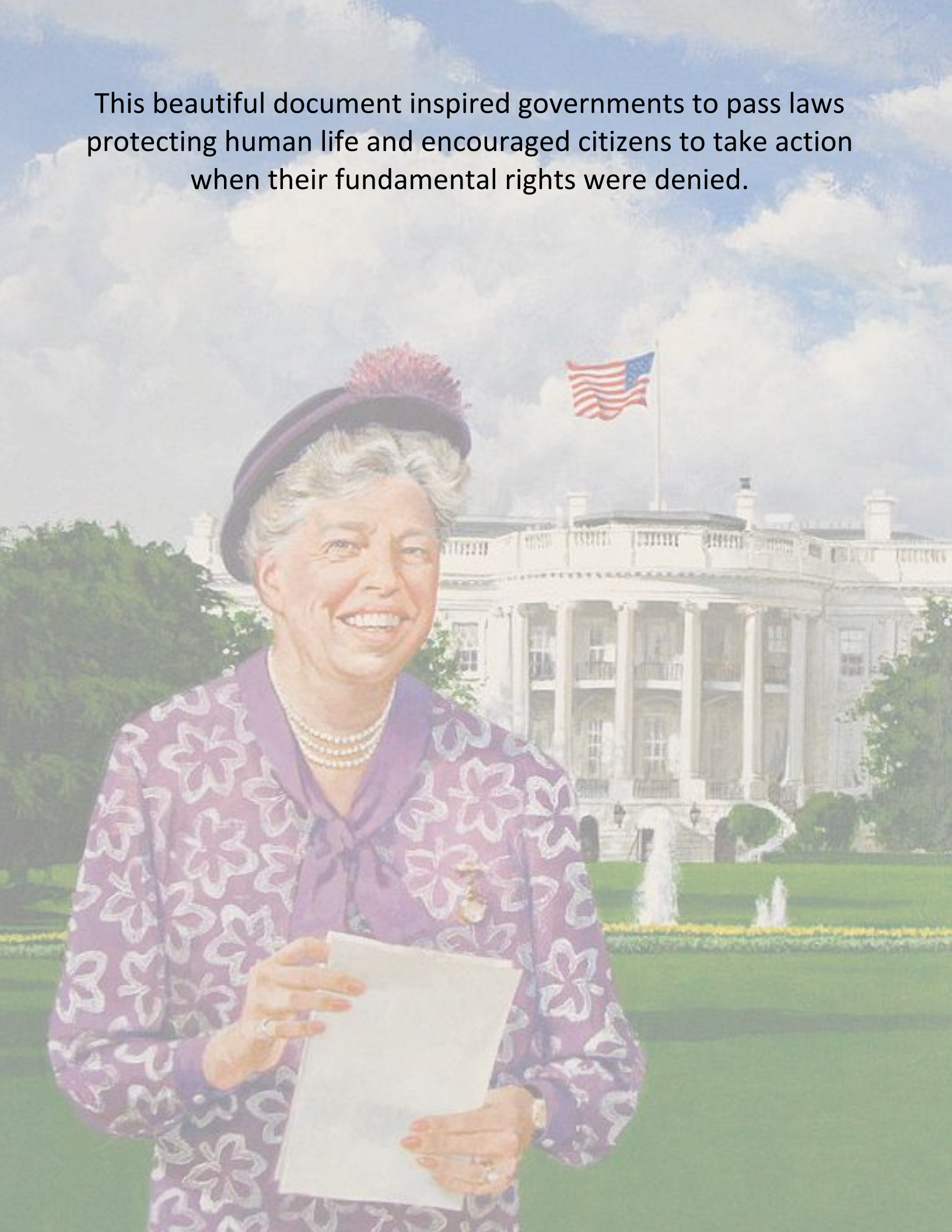


As first lady, Eleanor gave speeches, travelled throughout all the states and became a champion for human rights. She believed that all humans beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and she was determined to promote those rights in as many countries as possible.



After her husband died, Eleanor was named the US delegate to the United Nations. She became the chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights and led the creation of one of the most important documents of the twentieth century: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This beautiful document inspired governments to pass laws protecting human life and encouraged citizens to take action when their fundamental rights were denied.





Thanks to Eleanor – and
to the tireless work of
many representatives
from all over the world –
freedom, equality,
dignity, respect and
safety became common
goals for all people and
all nations.

