

Girls Who Grew Up to Change the



Hortensia



J.K Rowling



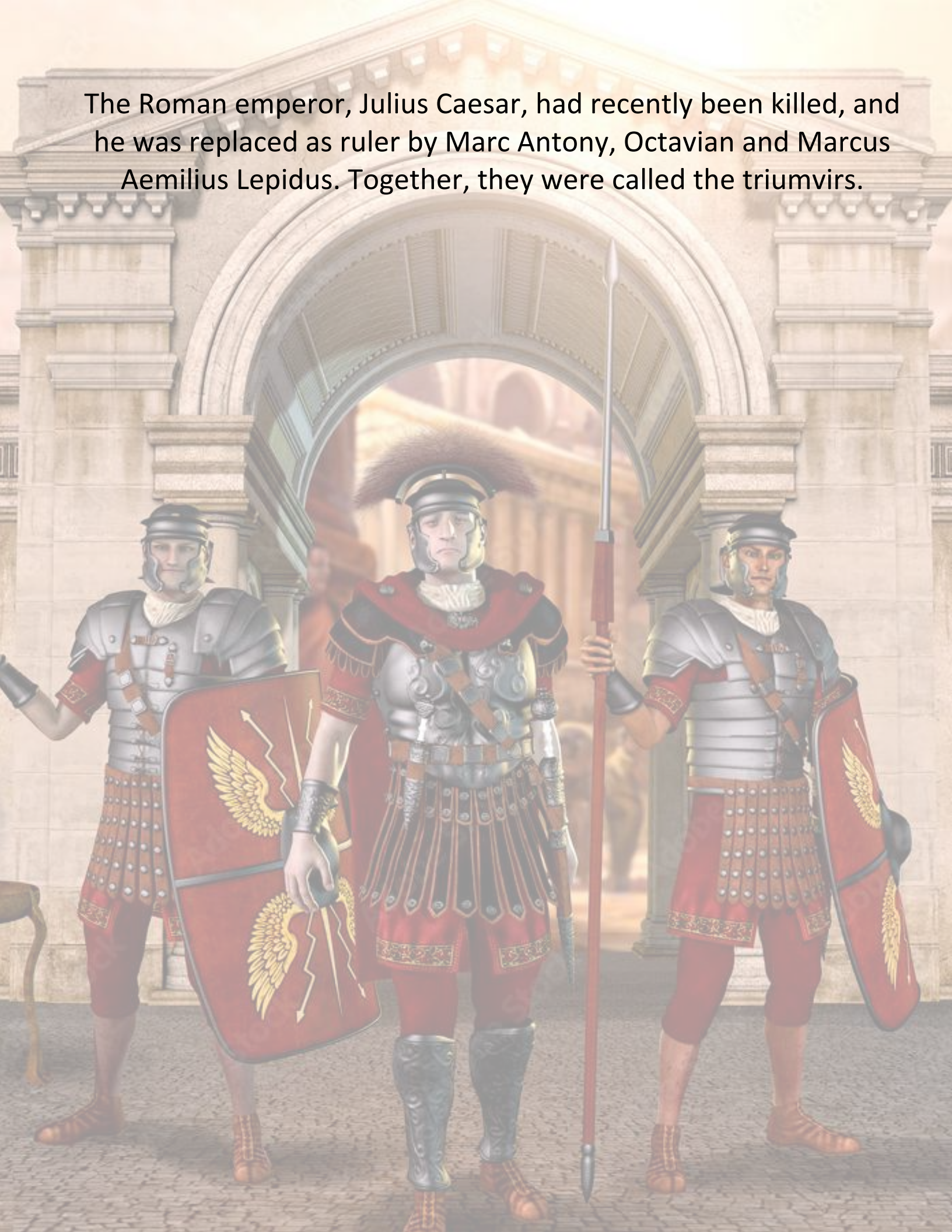
Hortensia

Orator

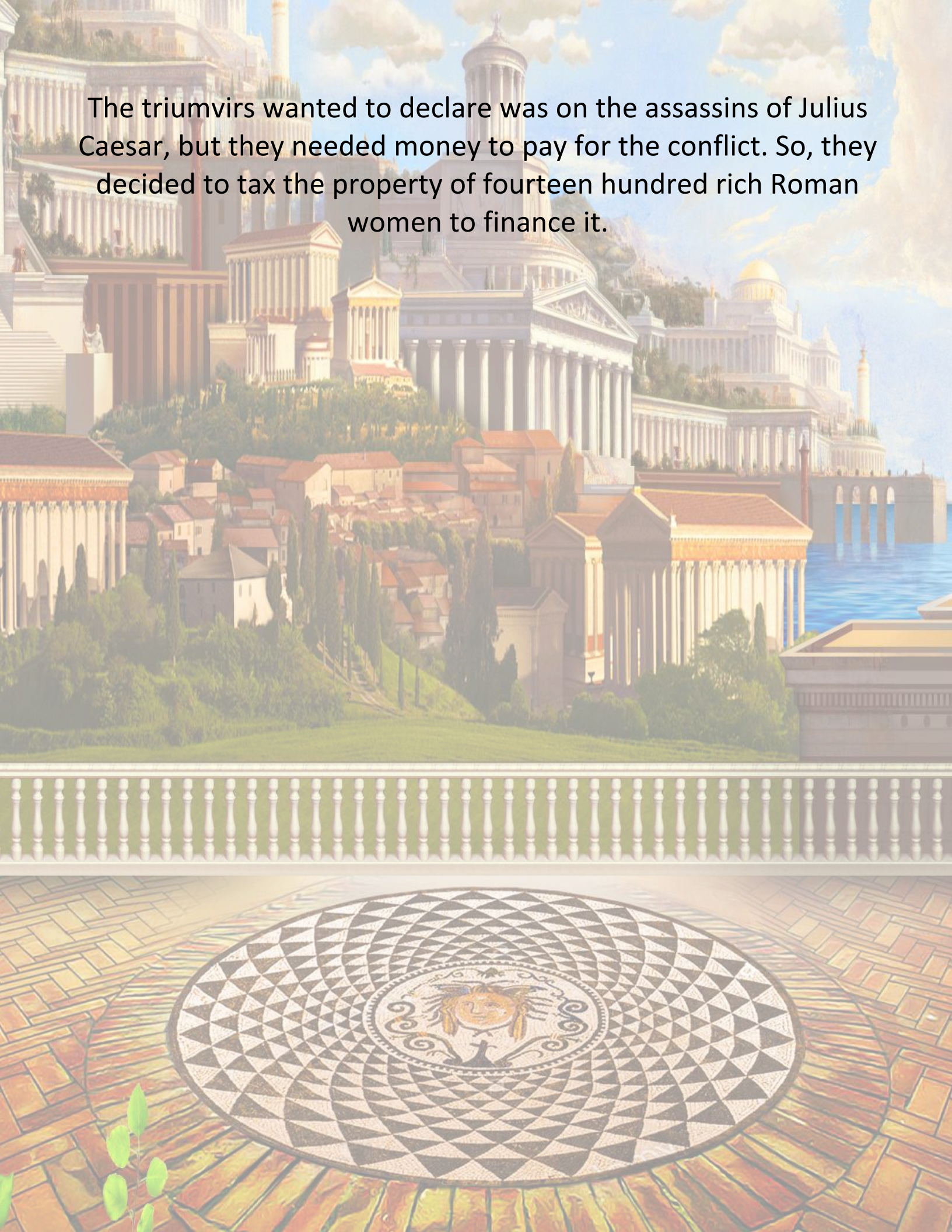
Once there was a woman
who knew how to win an
argument. Her name was
Hortensia, and she lived
through a turbulent time in
the history of ancient Roma.



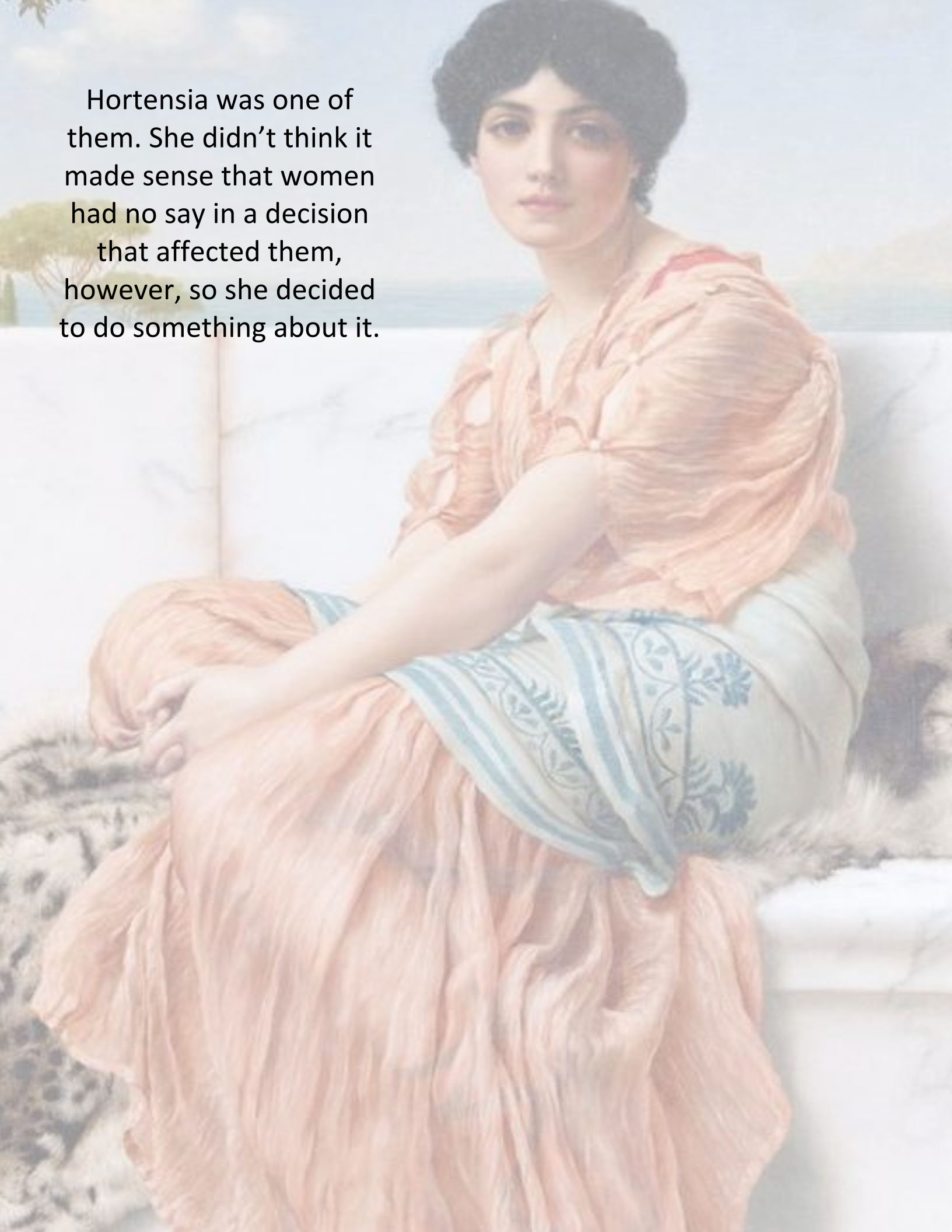
The Roman emperor, Julius Caesar, had recently been killed, and he was replaced as ruler by Marc Antony, Octavian and Marcus Aemilius Lepidus. Together, they were called the triumvirs.



The triumvirs wanted to declare war on the assassins of Julius Caesar, but they needed money to pay for the conflict. So, they decided to tax the property of fourteen hundred rich Roman women to finance it.



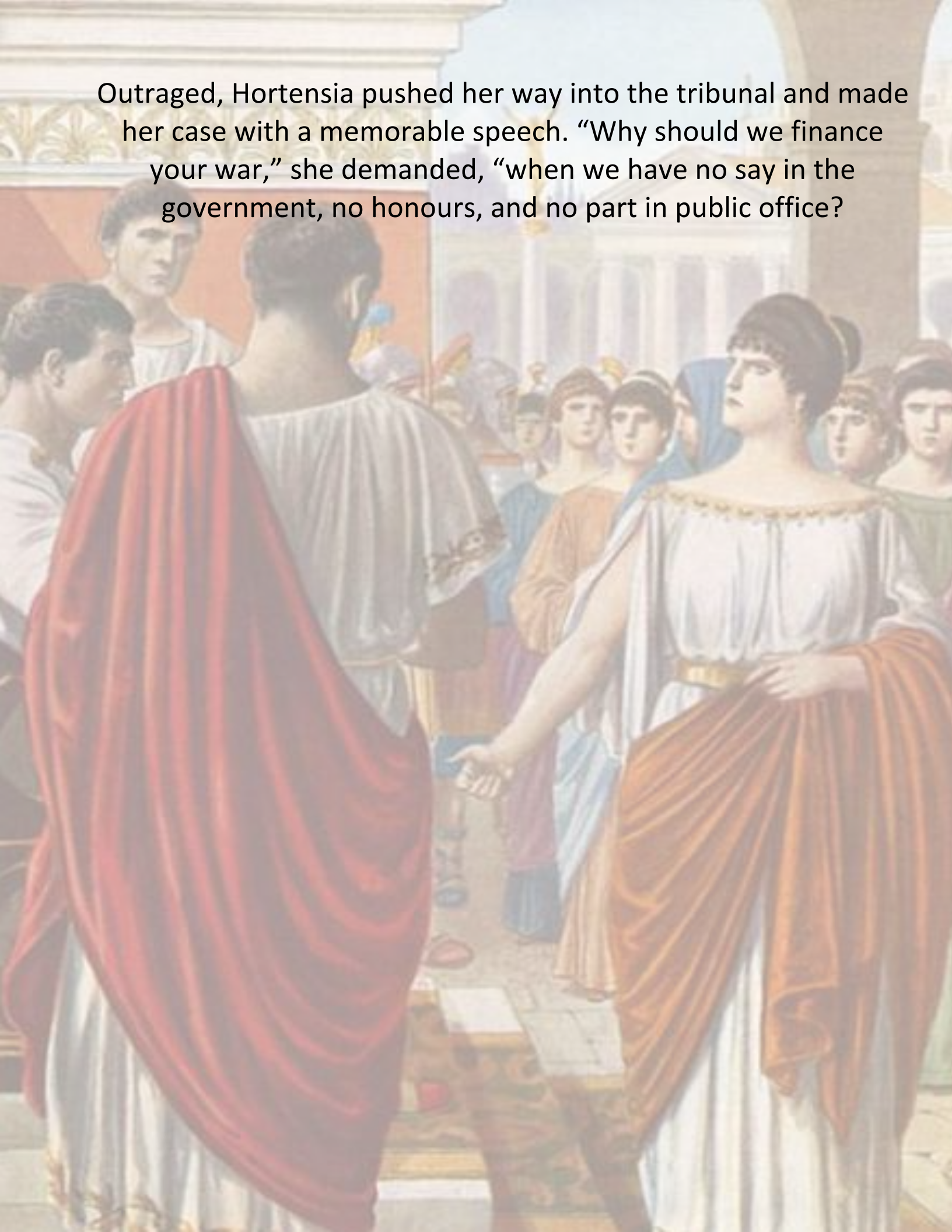
Hortensia was one of them. She didn't think it made sense that women had no say in a decision that affected them, however, so she decided to do something about it.



At first, she tried to persuade the triumvirs' wives to talk to their husbands, but she wasn't successful. Flavia, Marc Antony's wife, was more interested in protecting her husband's decision than her own rights, and she threw Hortensia out of her house.



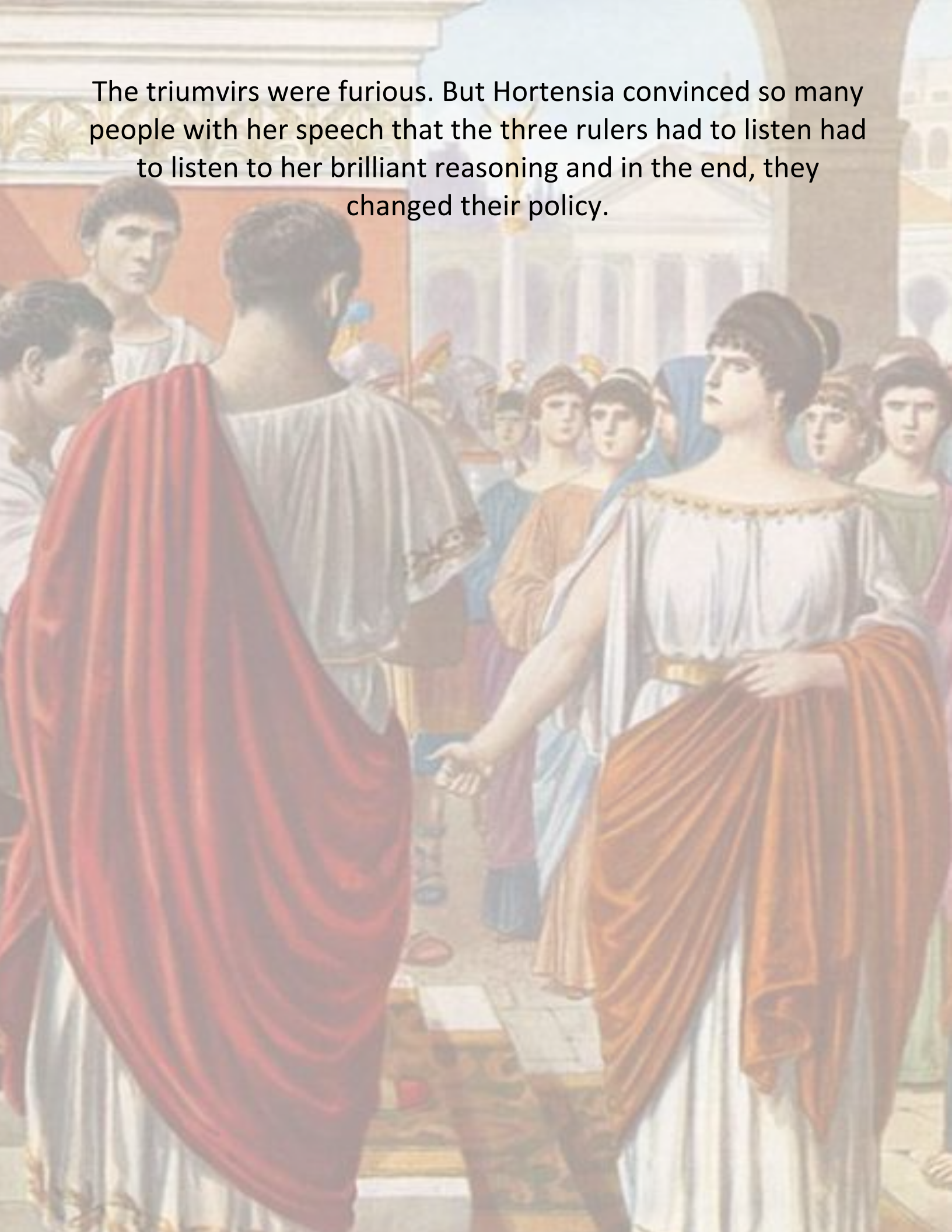
Outraged, Hortensia pushed her way into the tribunal and made her case with a memorable speech. “Why should we finance your war,” she demanded, “when we have no say in the government, no honours, and no part in public office?”

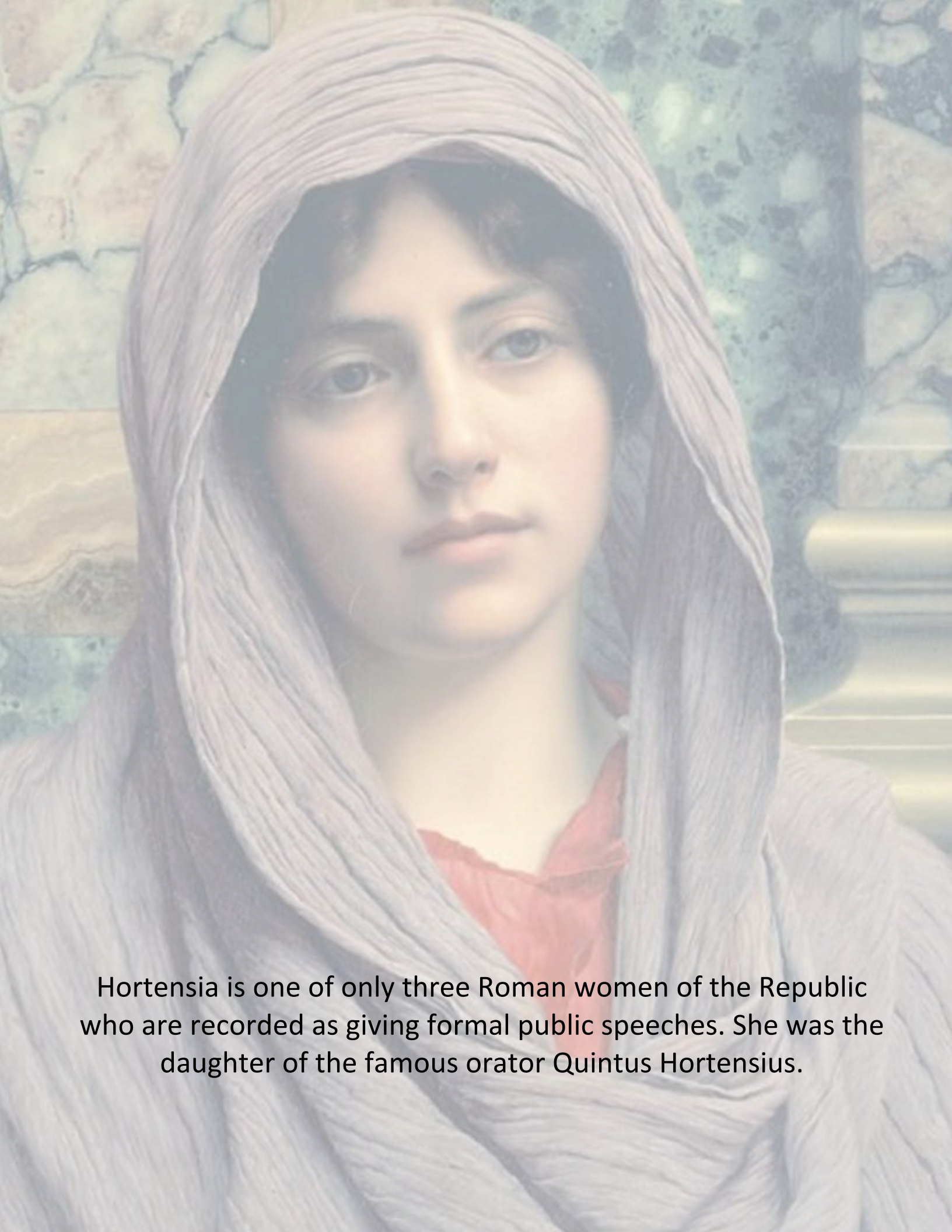


We would gladly pay taxes to help protect our country against a foreign invasion, but you cannot force us to sponsor your civil war.”



The triumvirs were furious. But Hortensia convinced so many people with her speech that the three rulers had to listen had to listen to her brilliant reasoning and in the end, they changed their policy.





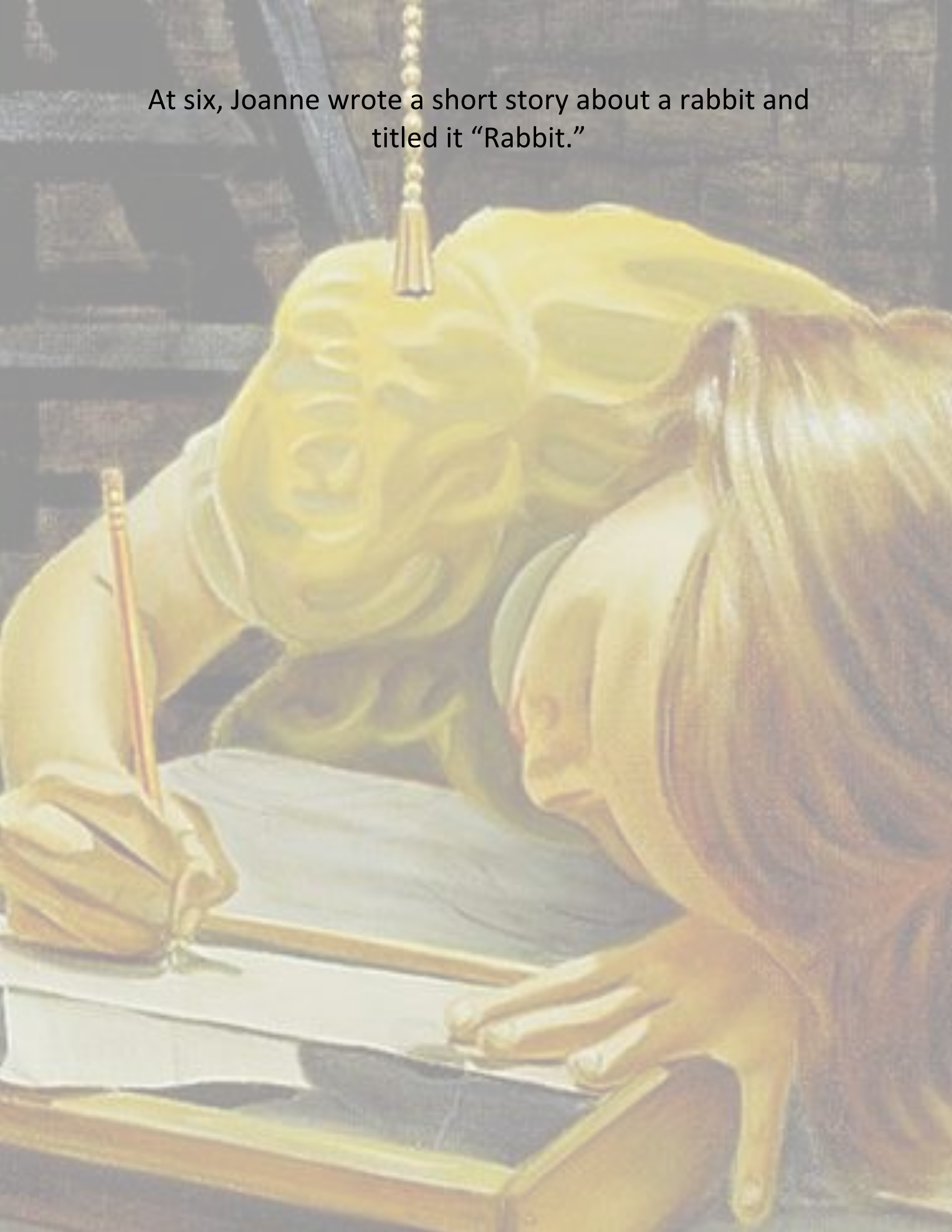
Hortensia is one of only three Roman women of the Republic who are recorded as giving formal public speeches. She was the daughter of the famous orator Quintus Hortensius.



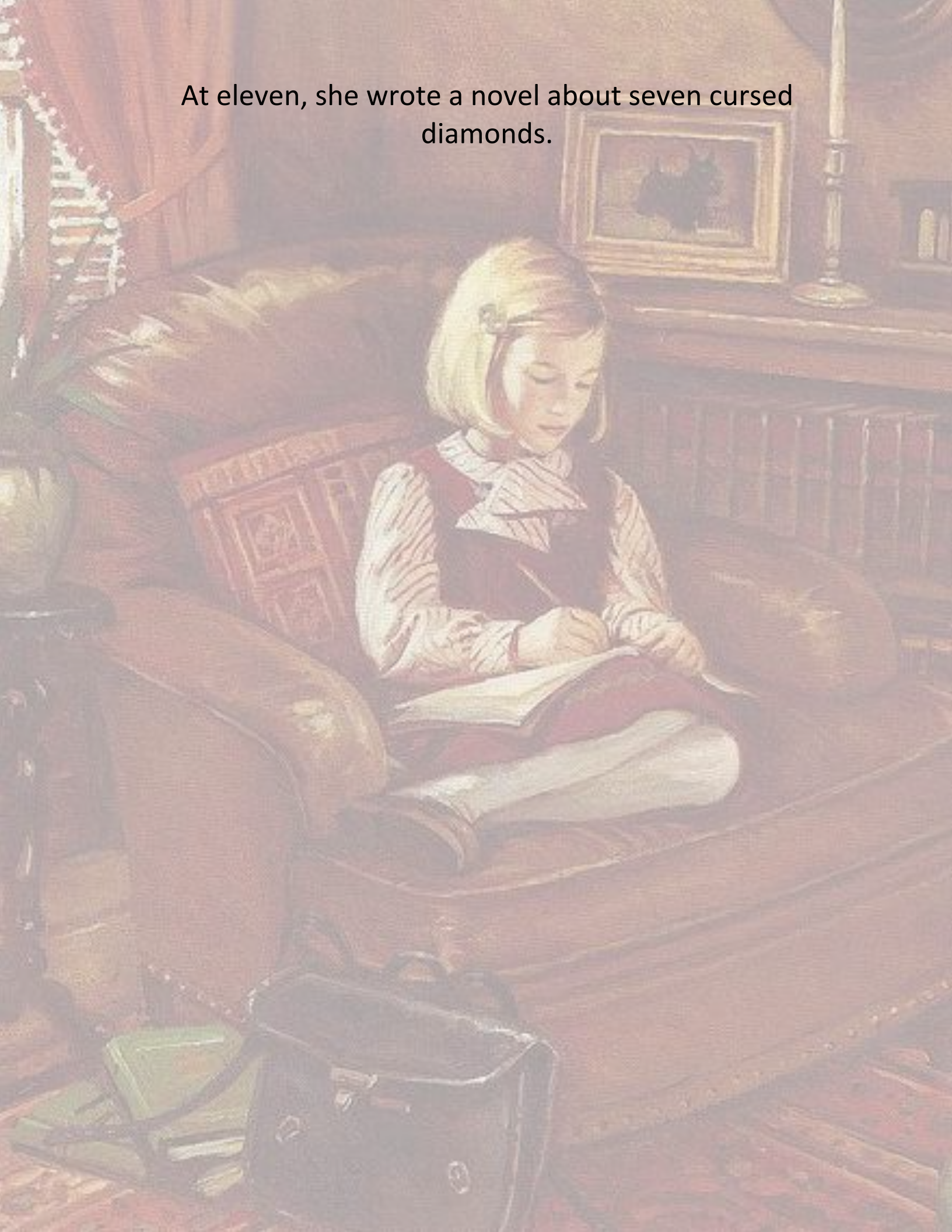
J.K. Rowling

Writer

At six, Joanne wrote a short story about a rabbit and titled it “Rabbit.”



At eleven, she wrote a novel about seven cursed diamonds.



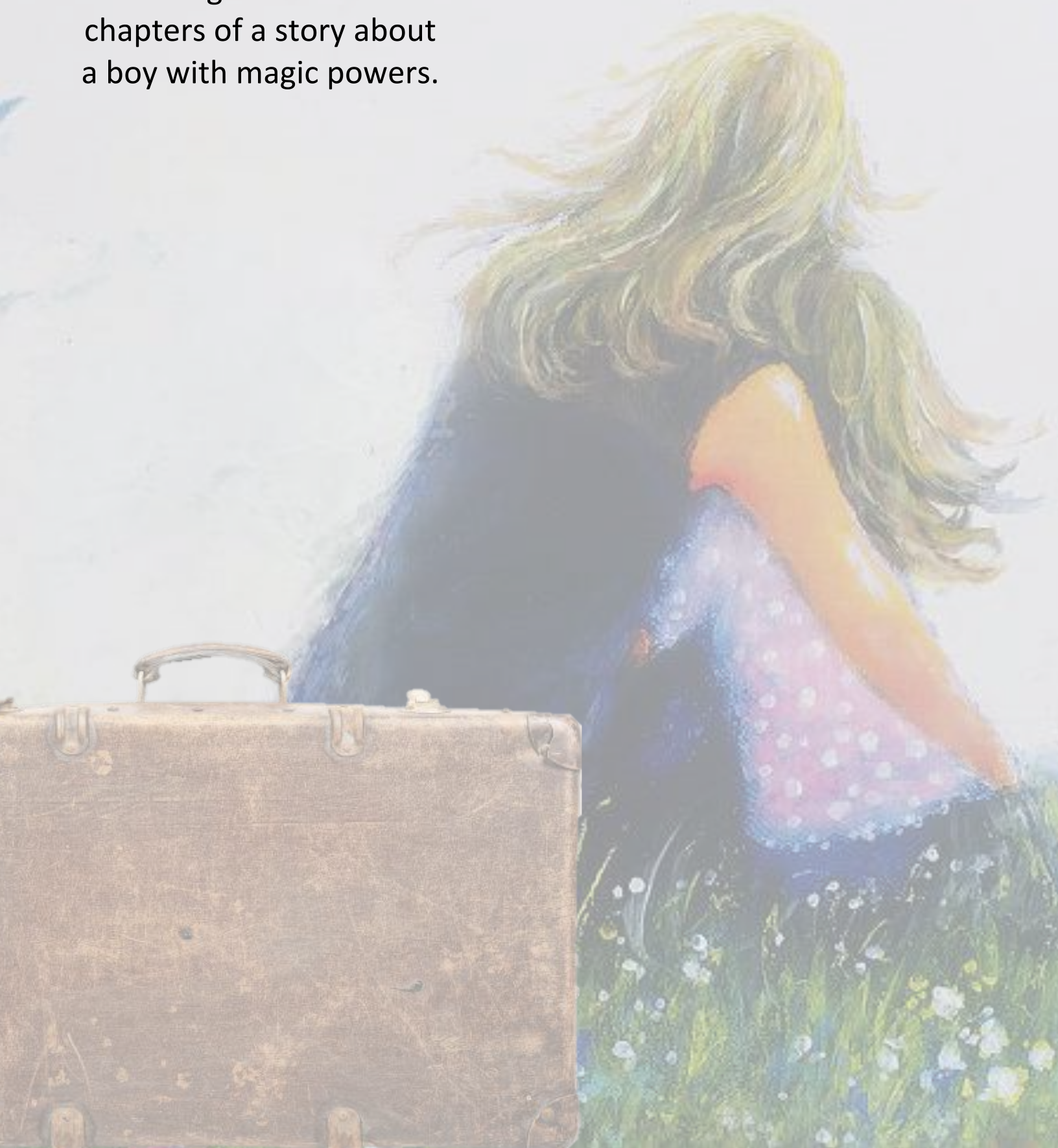
She came from a poor family, and her parents hoped
she would pursue a solid career in law or economics.
But she decided to study literature.



One day, she found herself completely broke. As a single mother with no job and no money, Joanne experienced the pain of the failure that her parents had always warned her about.



Everything she owned
was in a suitcase,
including the first three
chapters of a story about
a boy with magic powers.



That boy was called
Harry Potter.

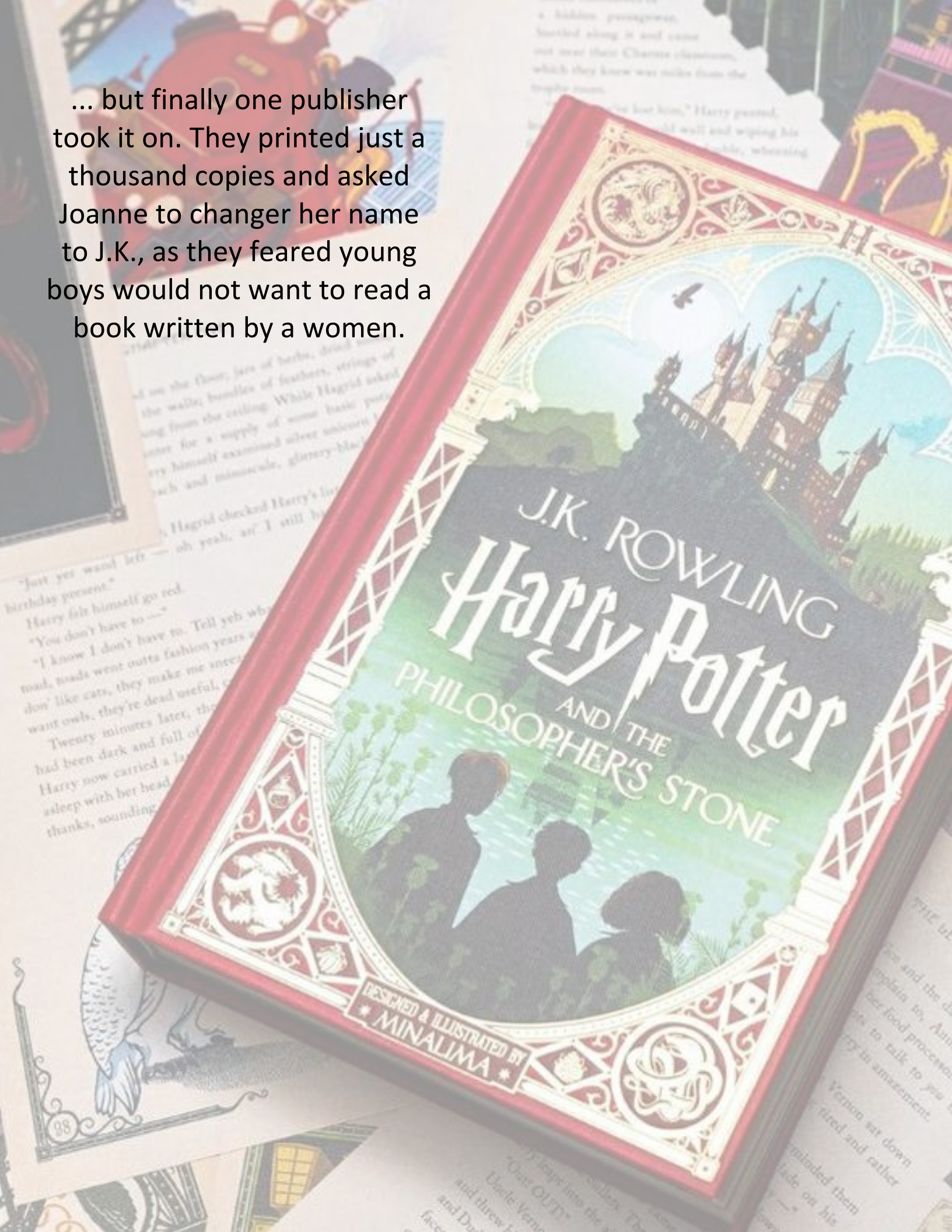


Her manuscript about Harry was
rejected time after time ...

A stack of several white papers is placed on a dark wooden desk. The top paper has a large, bold, red stamp that reads "REJECTED". The stamp is slightly tilted and has a distressed, ink-like texture. Surrounding the papers are various desk items: a pair of glasses at the top, a white mug with coffee on the left, paper clips, and pencils at the bottom right. A portion of a yellow woven object is visible in the top right corner.

REJECTED

... but finally one publisher took it on. They printed just a thousand copies and asked Joanne to change her name to J.K., as they feared young boys would not want to read a book written by a woman.

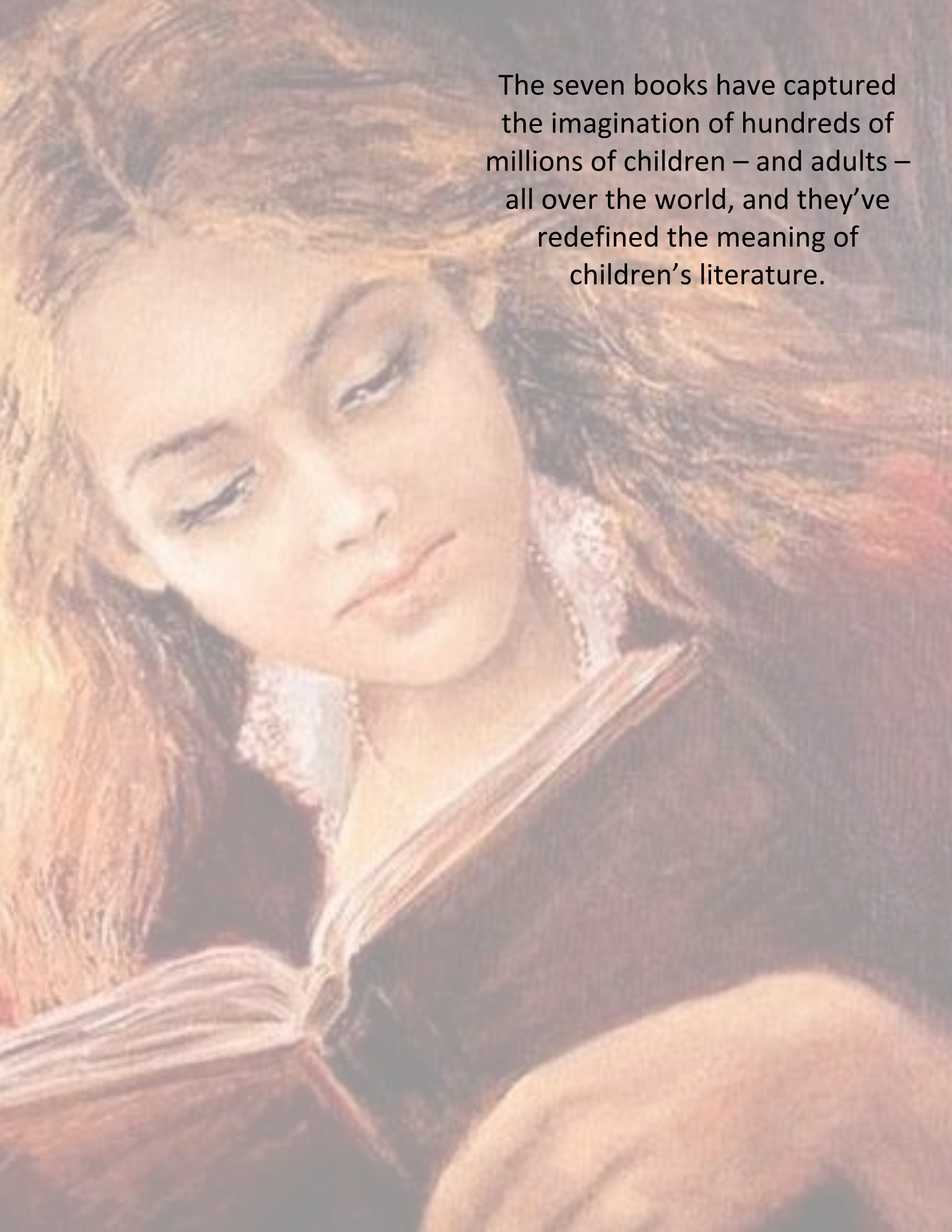


Her agent told her that she shouldn't expect to make money out of her writing, but naturally Joanne decided to keep going.



The Harry Potter series went on to become the most incredible phenomenon in the history of publishing.





The seven books have captured
the imagination of hundreds of
millions of children – and adults –
all over the world, and they've
redefined the meaning of
children's literature.



Joanne always said failure was crucial to her success. “Had I really succeeded at anything else,” she explained, “I might never have found the determination to succeed in the one arena I believed I truly belonged.”

