

**Girls Who Grew
Up to Change the**



WORLD



Sophia Loren



Virginia Hall

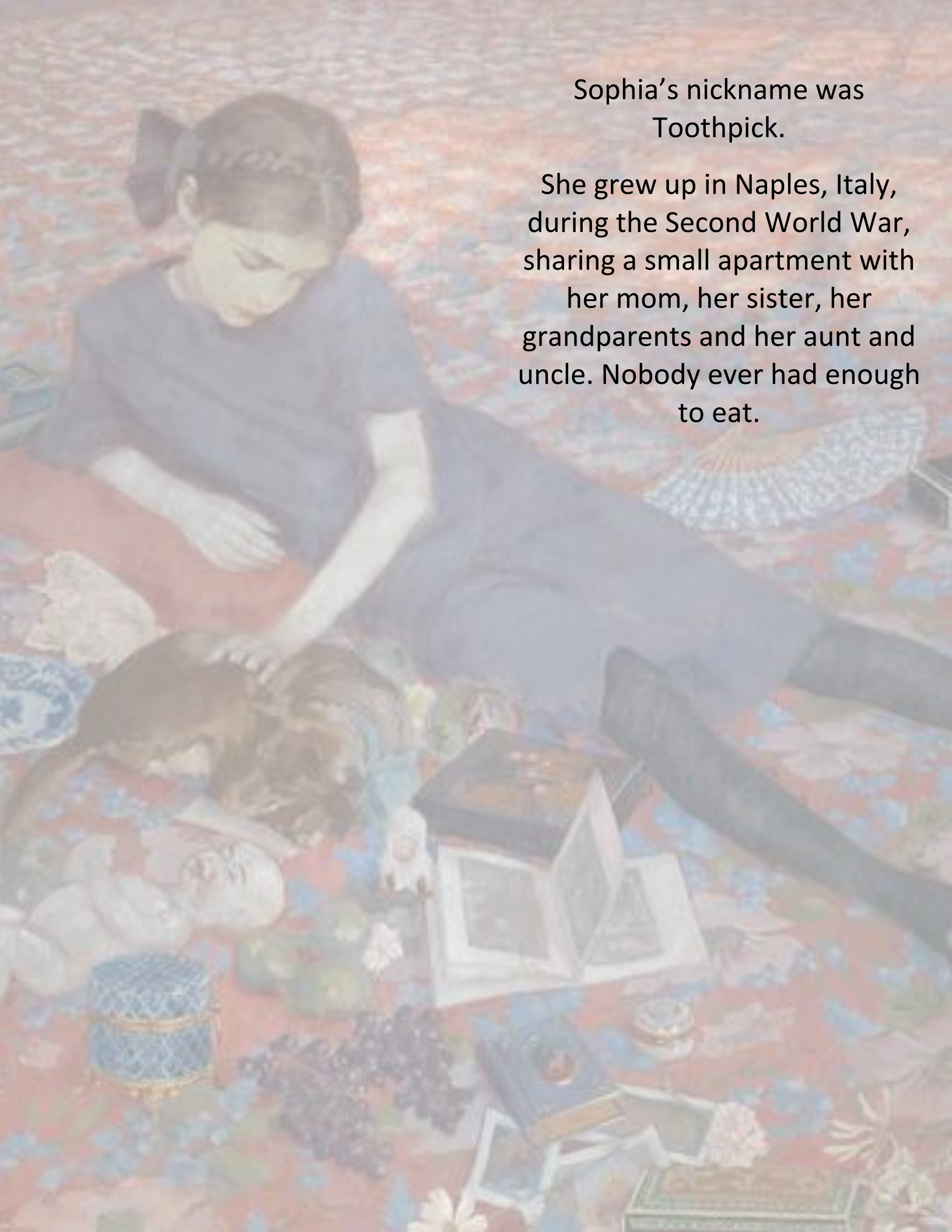


Sophia Loren

Actress

***“Everything
you see I owe
to Spaghetti.”***





Sophia's nickname was
Toothpick.

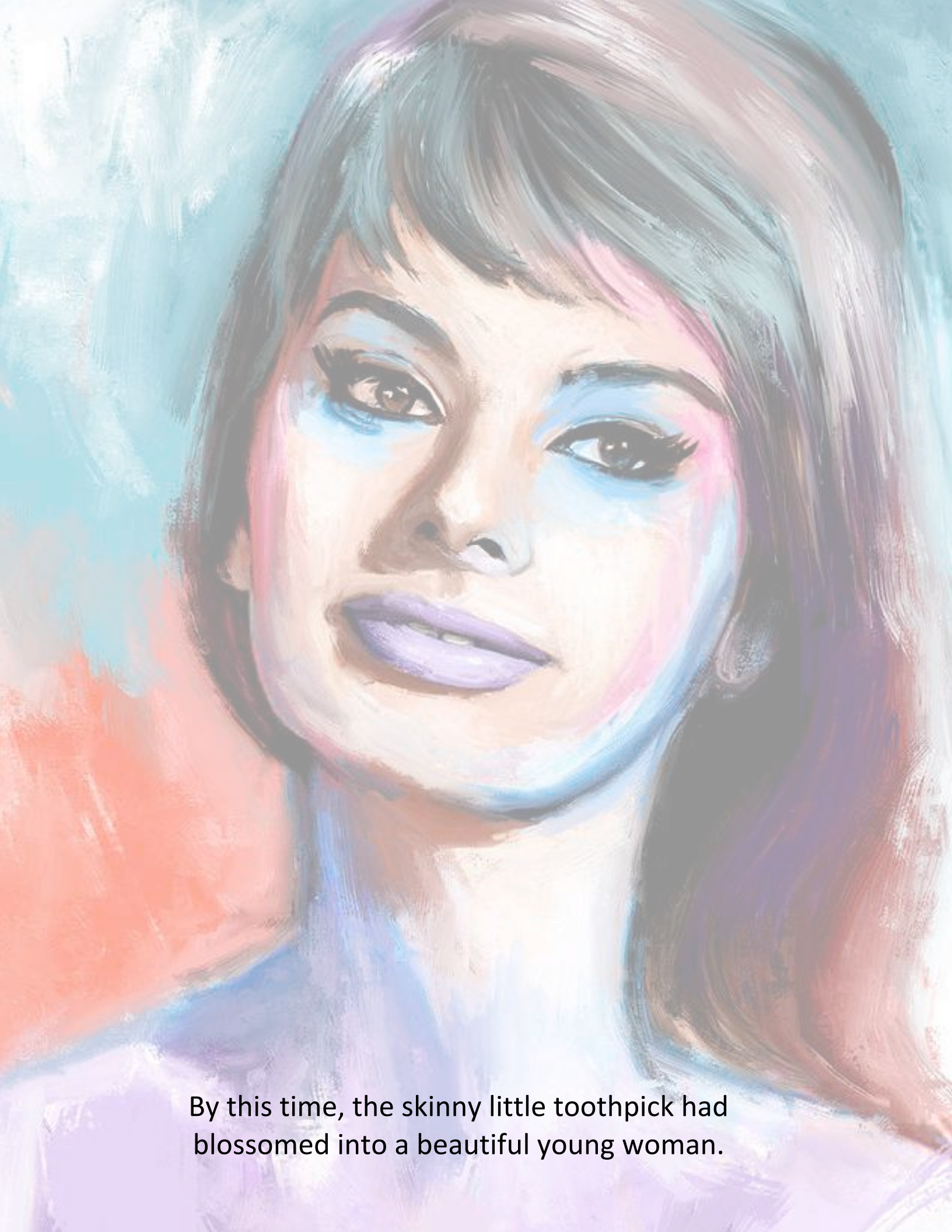
She grew up in Naples, Italy,
during the Second World War,
sharing a small apartment with
her mom, her sister, her
grandparents and her aunt and
uncle. Nobody ever had enough
to eat.

Sophia's mom had often dreamt of becoming an actress, so when she heard that extras were needed on a film shoot in Rome, she packed her bags and headed off, taking Sophia with her.





Sophia was still a teenager, but she realized that she liked being on set, so she decided to stay in Rome and try to become an actress herself.

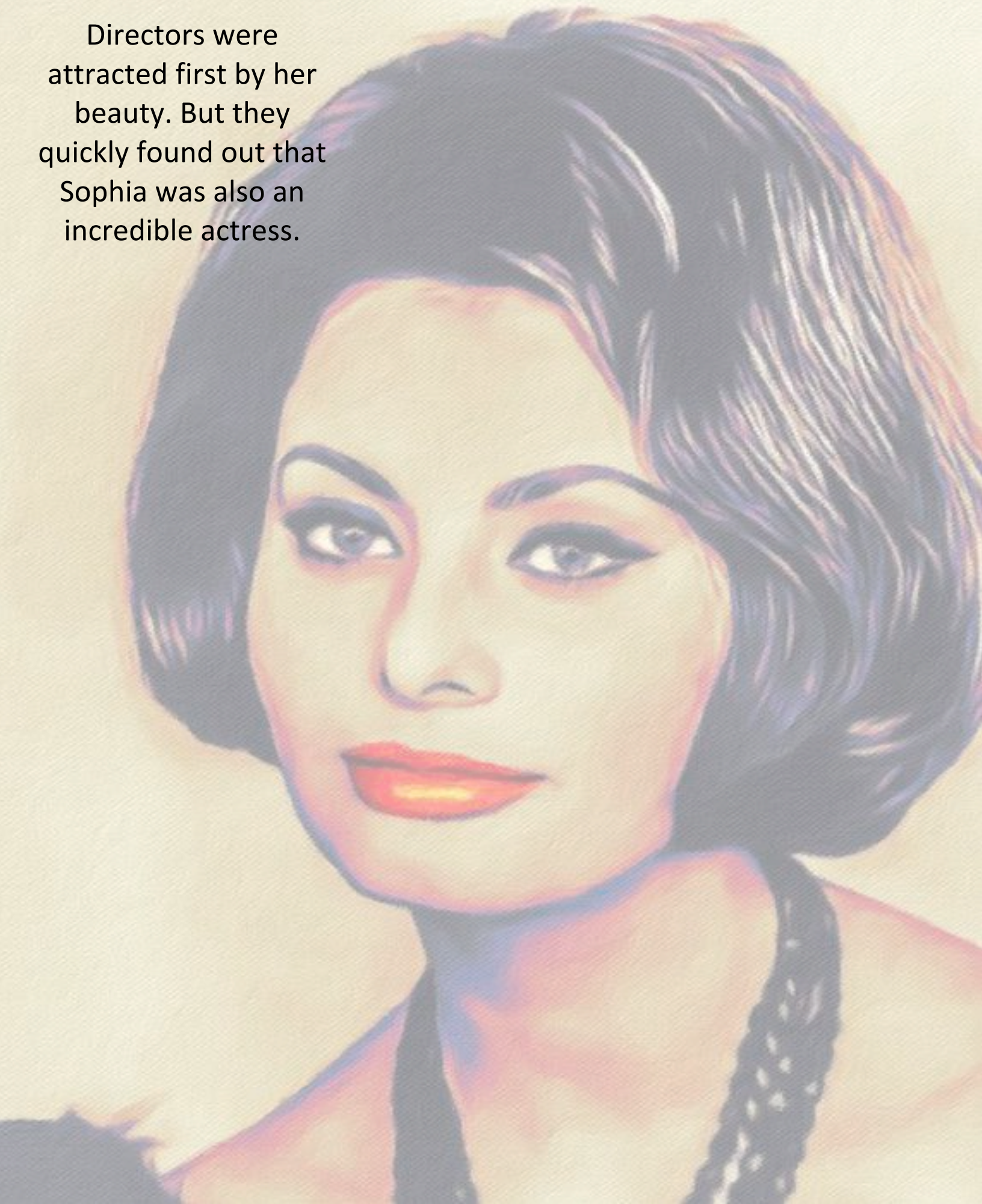


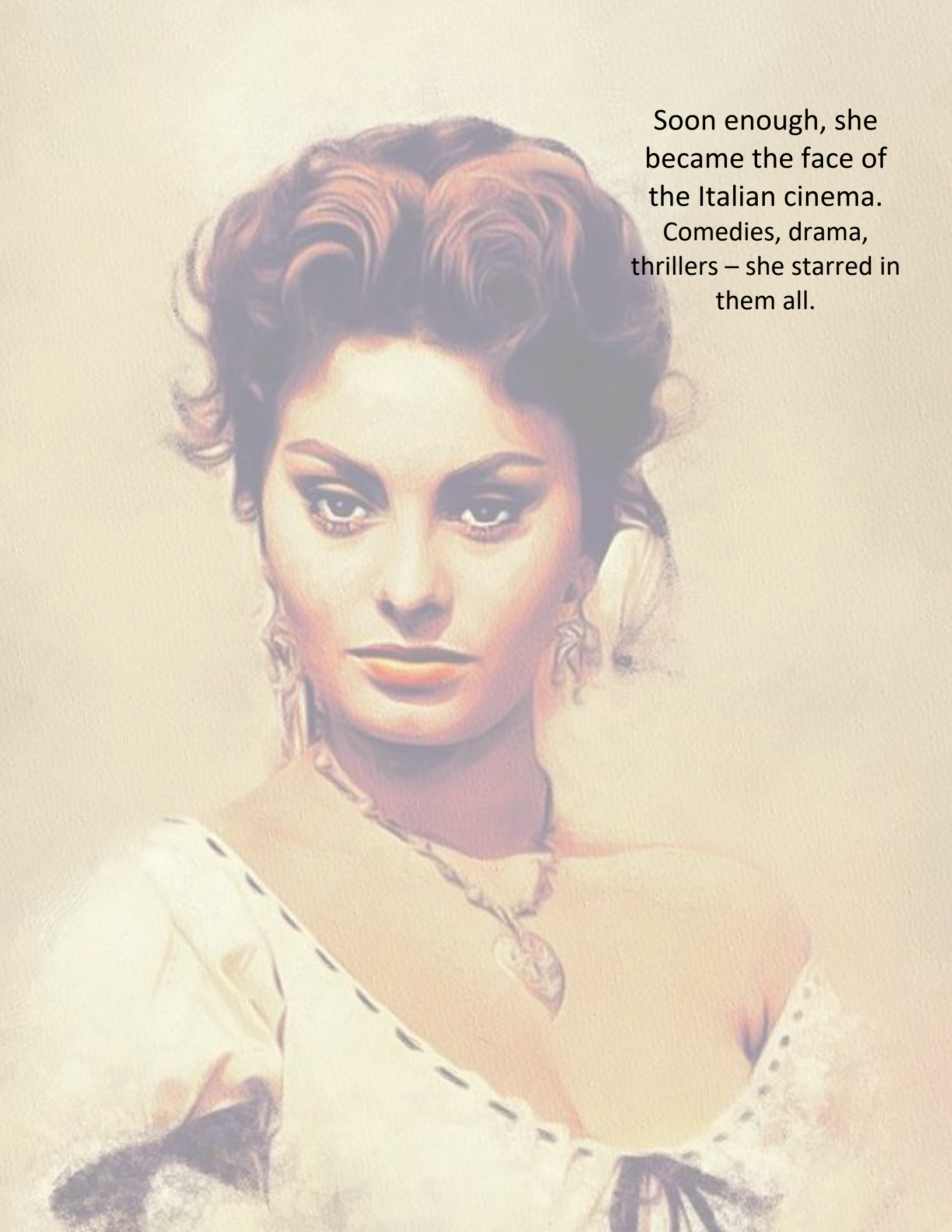
By this time, the skinny little toothpick had blossomed into a beautiful young woman.



Sophia worked as a model for magazines and in fashion shows while she tried to break into the movies.

Directors were
attracted first by her
beauty. But they
quickly found out that
Sophia was also an
incredible actress.





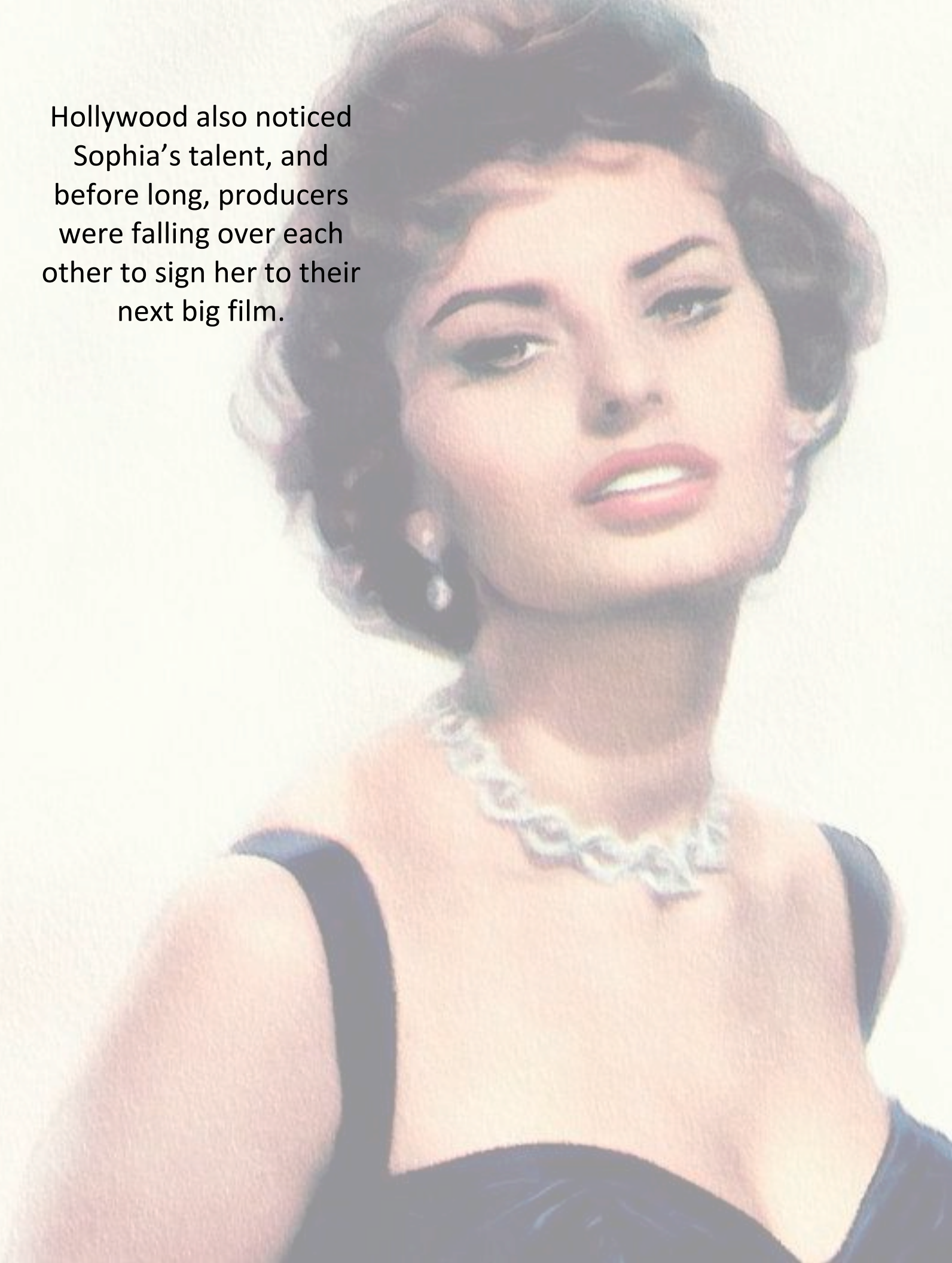
Soon enough, she
became the face of
the Italian cinema.

Comedies, drama,
thrillers – she starred in
them all.

With her mischievous sense of humour, her passion and her strong personality, Sophia embodied the whole country's determination to bounce back after the long, hard years of war, and to work toward a brighter future.

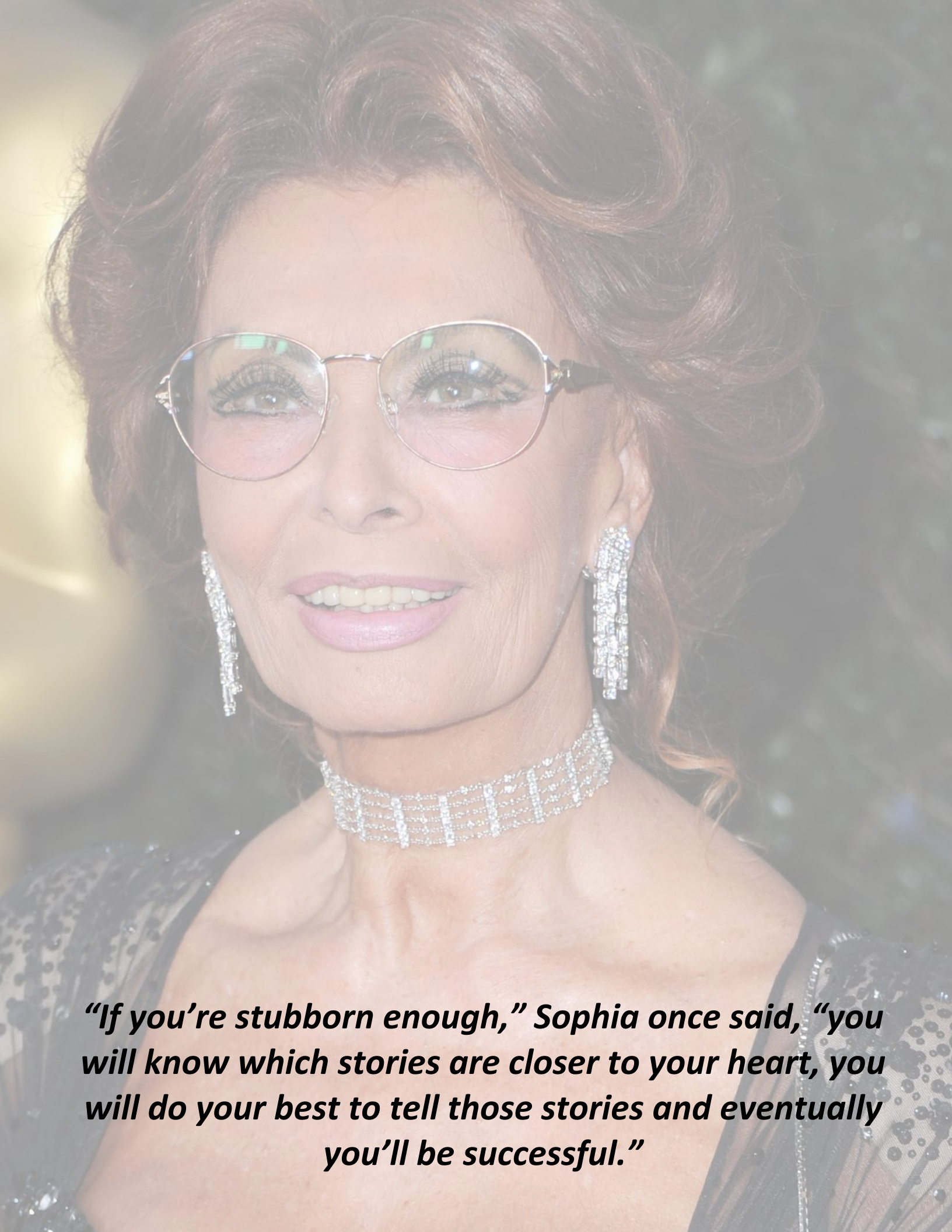


Hollywood also noticed
Sophia's talent, and
before long, producers
were falling over each
other to sign her to their
next big film.

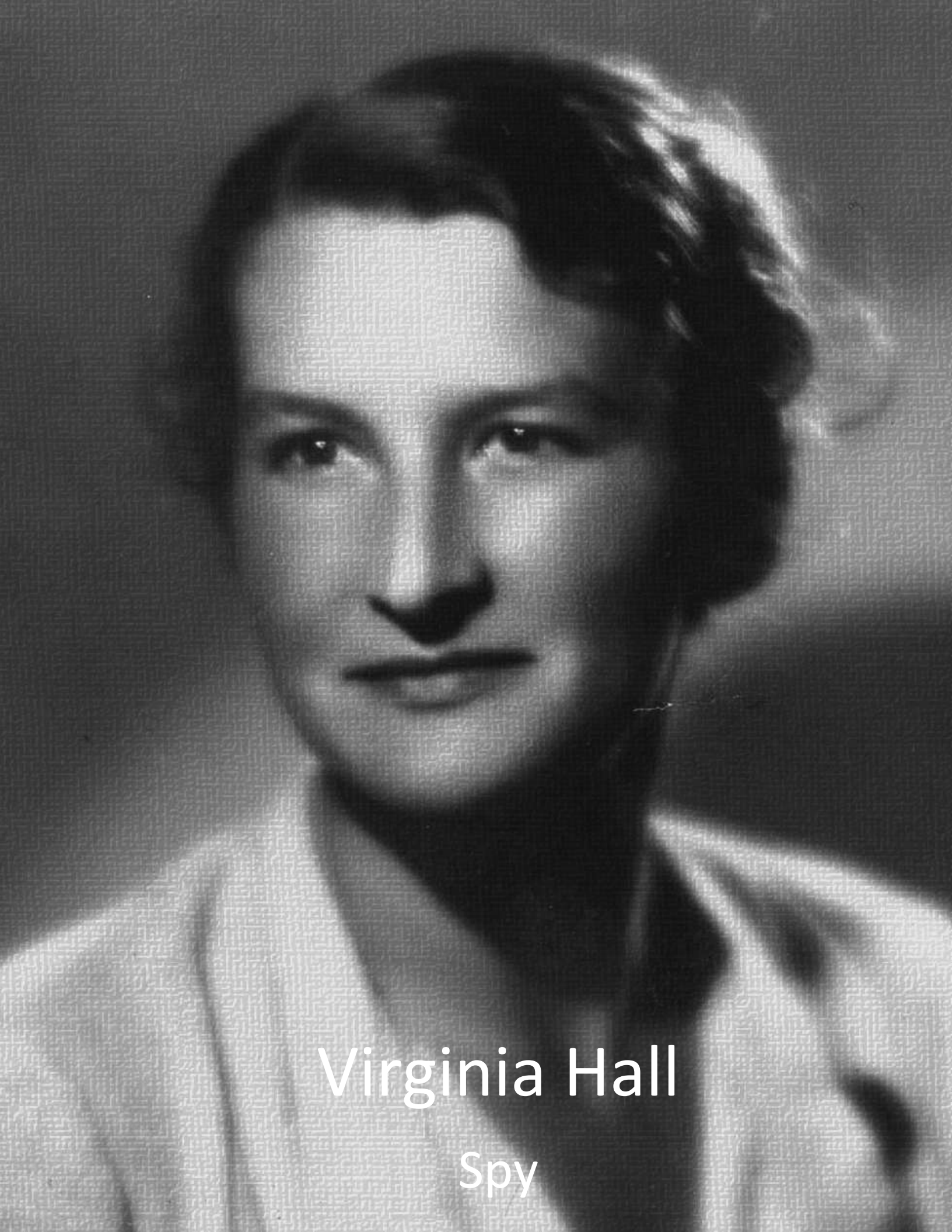


She put that special
sparkle into the golden
age of American cinema.



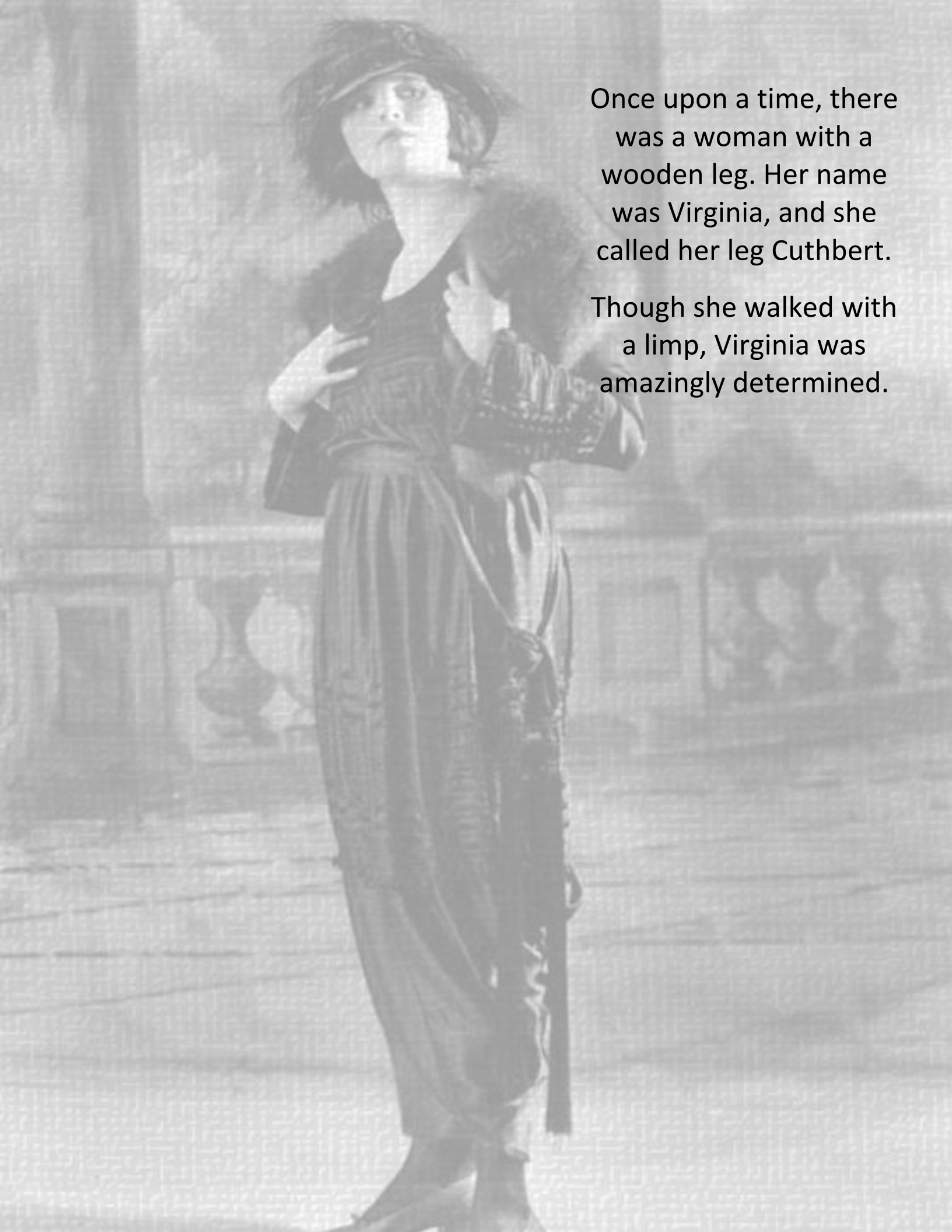


“If you’re stubborn enough,” Sophia once said, “you will know which stories are closer to your heart, you will do your best to tell those stories and eventually you’ll be successful.”



Virginia Hall

Spy



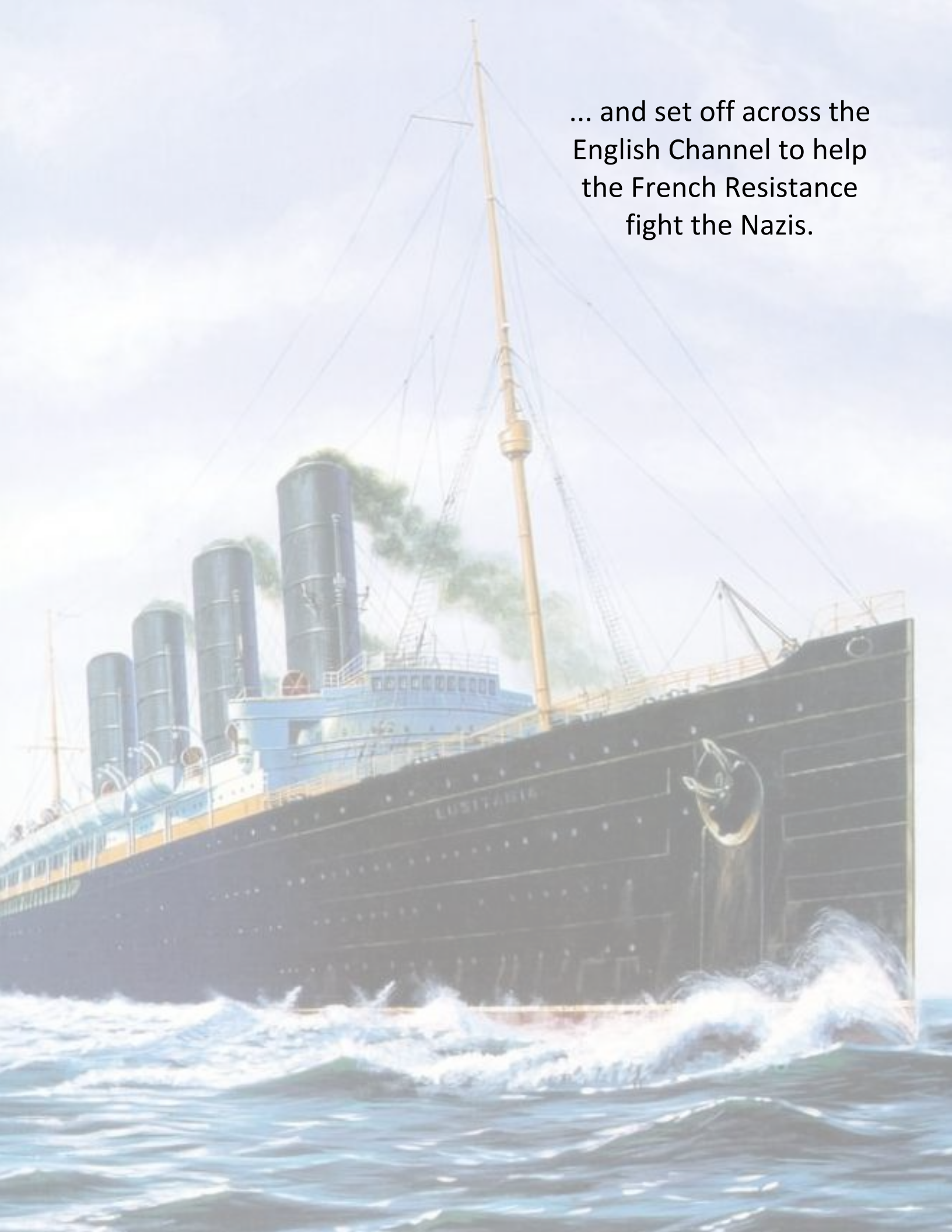
Once upon a time, there
was a woman with a
wooden leg. Her name
was Virginia, and she
called her leg Cuthbert.

Though she walked with
a limp, Virginia was
amazingly determined.

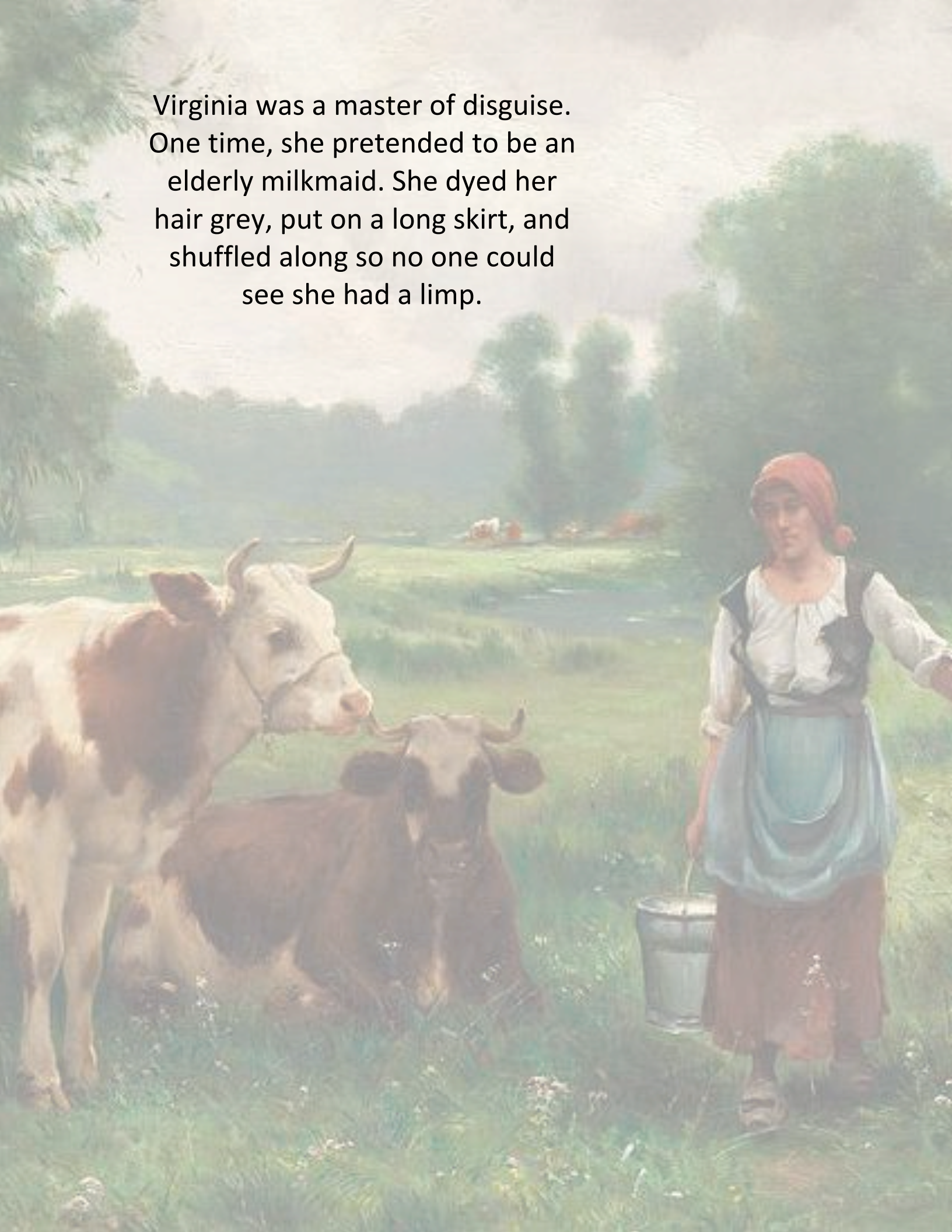
When the Second
World War broke
out, she joined the
British Special
Forces ...



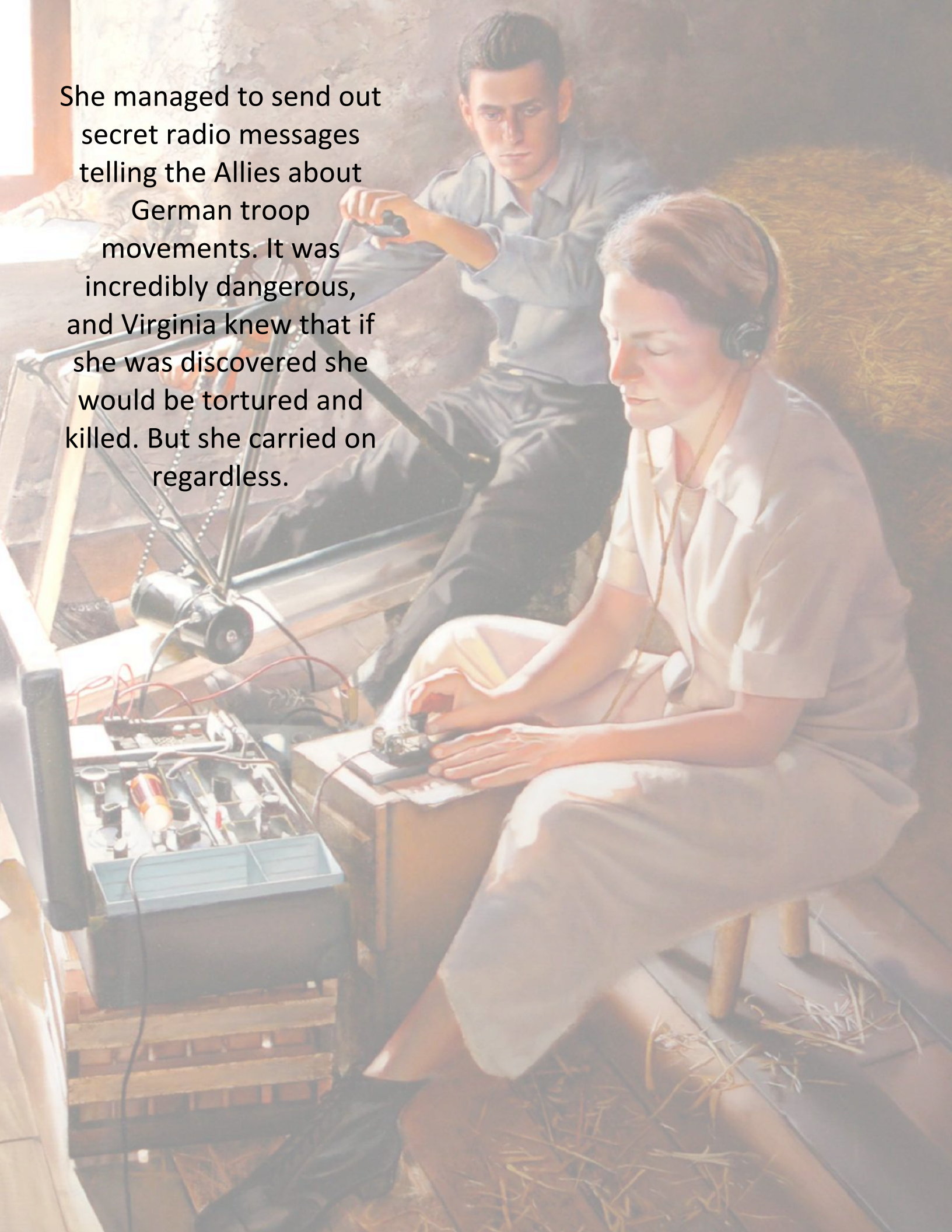
... and set off across the
English Channel to help
the French Resistance
fight the Nazis.



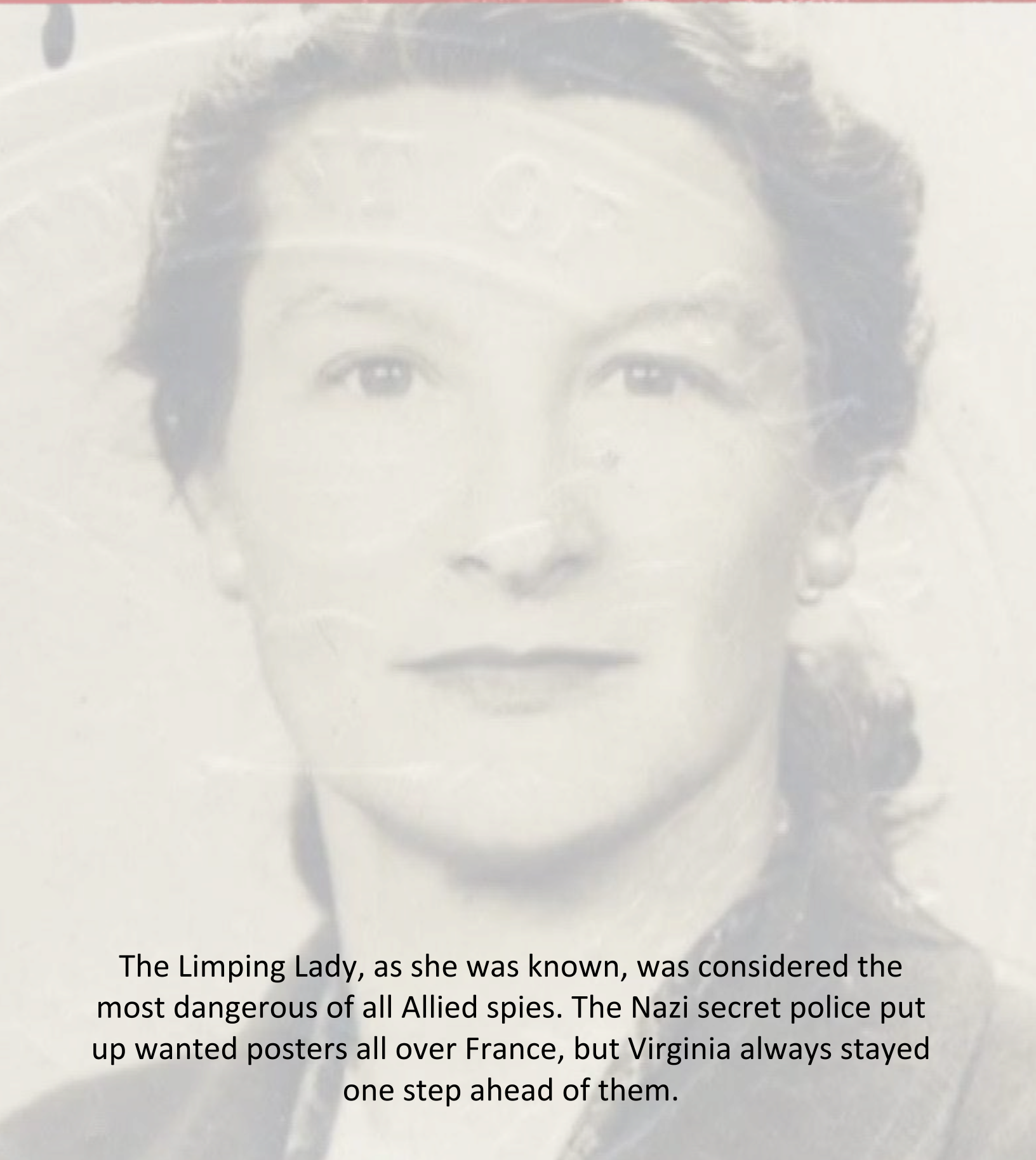
Virginia was a master of disguise. One time, she pretended to be an elderly milkmaid. She dyed her hair grey, put on a long skirt, and shuffled along so no one could see she had a limp.



She managed to send out
secret radio messages
telling the Allies about
German troop
movements. It was
incredibly dangerous,
and Virginia knew that if
she was discovered she
would be tortured and
killed. But she carried on
regardless.



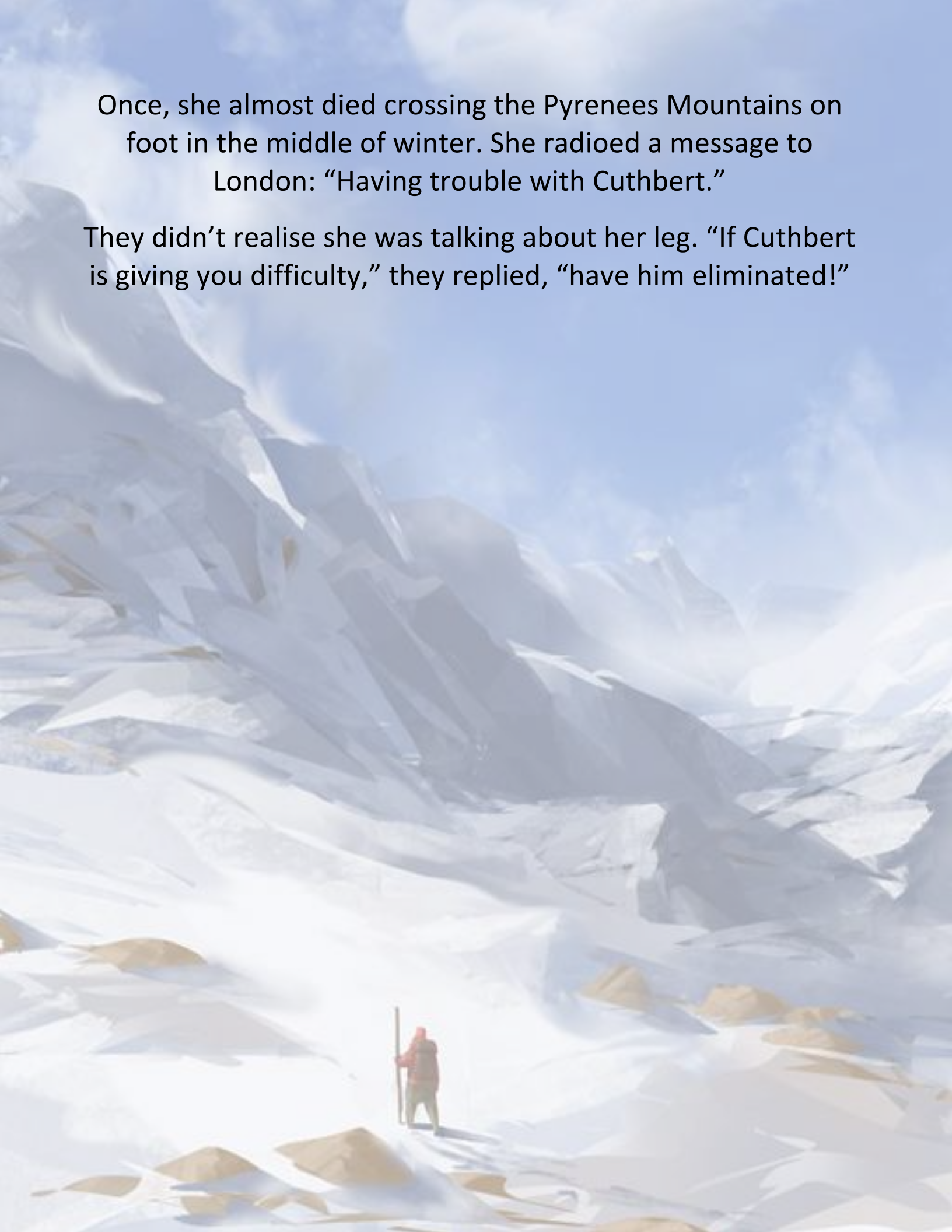
MOST WANTED

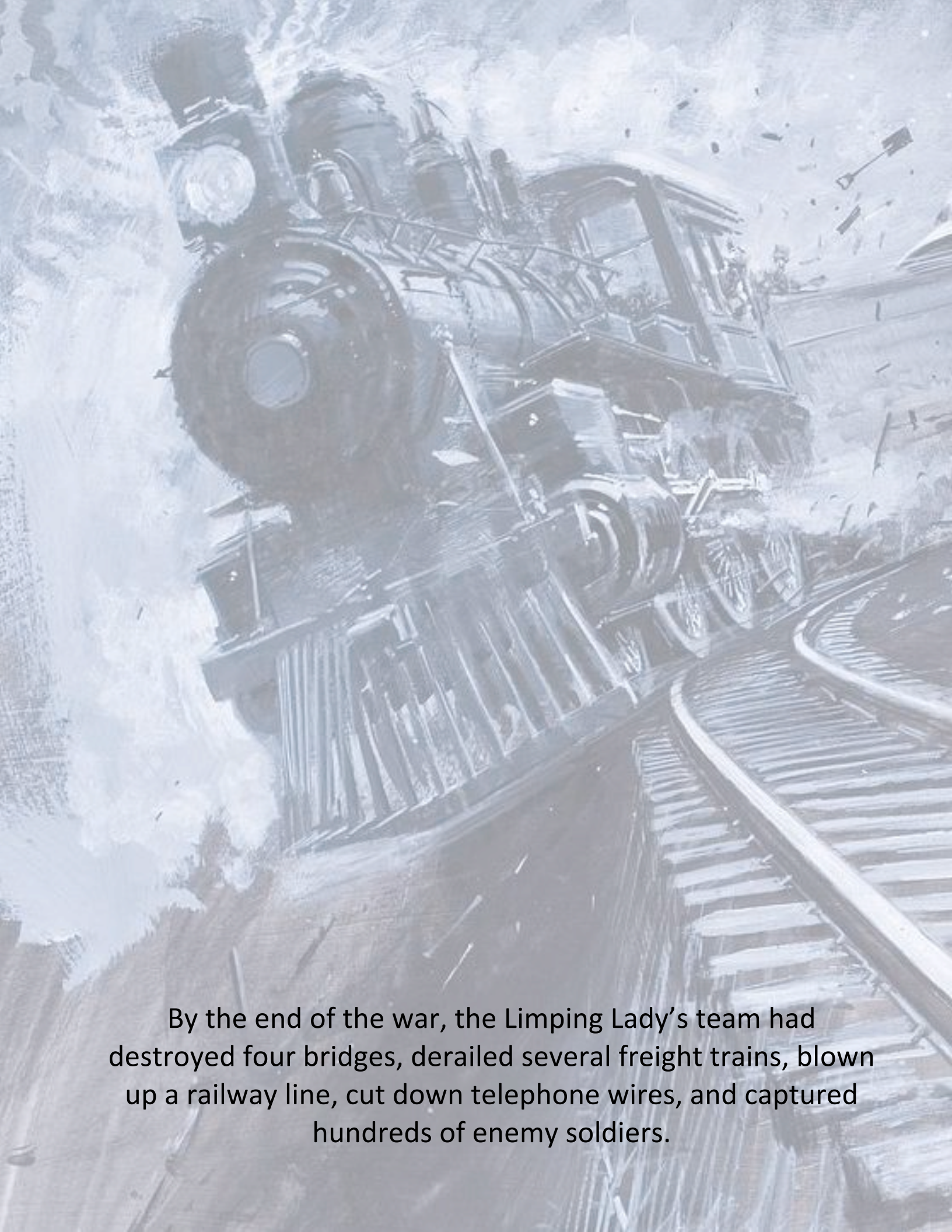


The Limping Lady, as she was known, was considered the most dangerous of all Allied spies. The Nazi secret police put up wanted posters all over France, but Virginia always stayed one step ahead of them.

Once, she almost died crossing the Pyrenees Mountains on foot in the middle of winter. She radioed a message to London: “Having trouble with Cuthbert.”

They didn’t realise she was talking about her leg. “If Cuthbert is giving you difficulty,” they replied, “have him eliminated!”





By the end of the war, the Limping Lady's team had destroyed four bridges, derailed several freight trains, blown up a railway line, cut down telephone wires, and captured hundreds of enemy soldiers.



Virginia was declared America's greatest female spy and received a medal for her bravery.

