

THE INTERRUPTED PATH

Artist

Harriet Muller

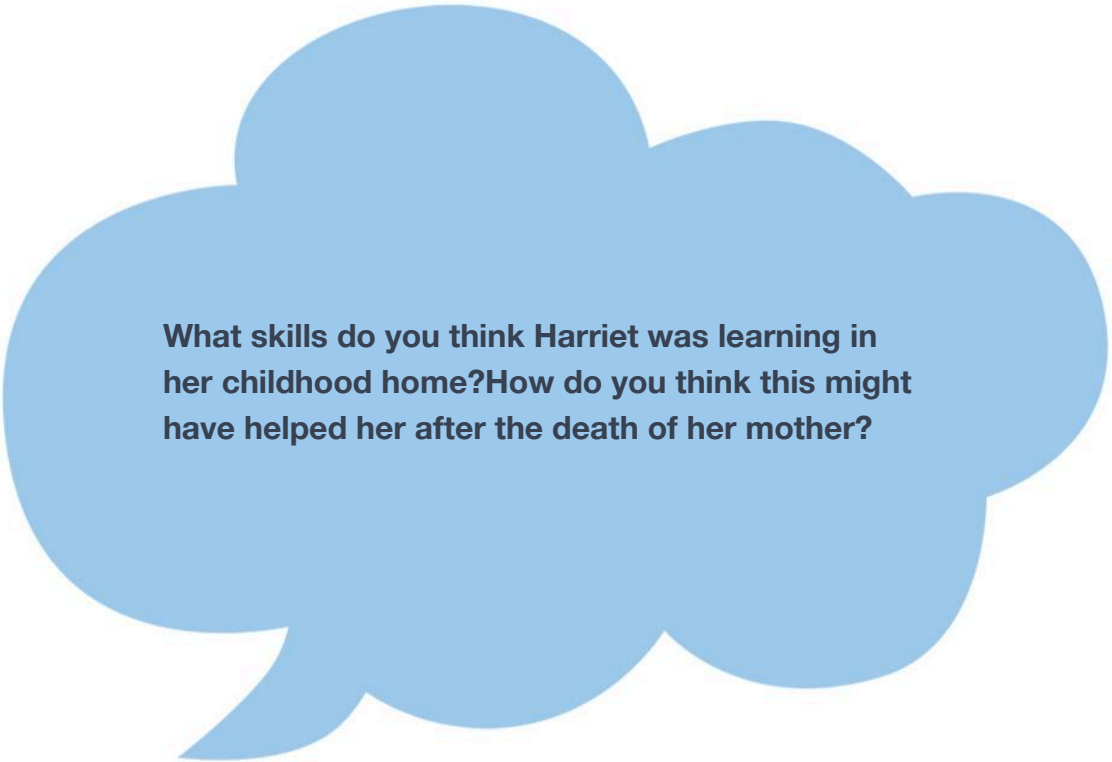
From childhood bereavement to success as an Artist

Part 1: Childhood

In the charming city of St Albans, Harriet Muller grew up surrounded by the warmth of her loving family—a home filled with laughter, creativity, and a touch of the extraordinary. Her dad, a parasitologist, brought the wonders of the natural world into their home. Specimens, both weird and wonderful, found their place among the nooks and crannies, becoming the backdrop for Harriet's childhood adventures. Her mum, from Costa Rica, infused the household with a love for travel, music, and art. A fearless woman, she inspired Harriet to embrace creativity and perceive learning as a constant companion in everyday life. Harriet's world, adorned with art supplies and creepy crawly samples in jars, was a playground of imagination.

At the tender age of seven, a shadow lingered over Harriet's idyllic world. Her mum, a source of boundless inspiration, was diagnosed with cancer. Despite the looming challenge, Harriet's mum ensured that her daughter's childhood remained vibrant and alive. In the midst of life's uncertainties, Harriet found solace in her love for drawing and playing musical instruments, where joy blossomed like a melody.

Over the years, the illness took a toll, and Harriet's mum grew sicker. In a poignant turn of events, Harriet's mum expressed her final wish—to return to her homeland, Costa Rica. Fueled by love and a deep sense of connection, Harriet took leave from school, embarking on this journey with her mum. In the embrace of Costa Rica's beauty, surrounded by the familiar and the cherished, her mum peacefully passed away, leaving behind a legacy of love and inspiration in her home country.



What skills do you think Harriet was learning in her childhood home? How do you think this might have helped her after the death of her mother?

Part 2: Harriet returns to school

After returning to her school, Harriet knew that her life had changed and that she might disappear into her grief. She began grief counseling and her friends were a constant support. Within the halls of her school, a supportive community began to form around her, and her teachers transformed into pillars of comfort and encouragement, standing tall like sturdy oaks in a storm. They became more than educators; they became mentors, gently guiding Harriet through her challenges. Harnessing her love for music, art, and learning, they provided a guiding focus.

It had only been two weeks since Harriet returned to St Albans and despite the whirlwind of change, she undertook her flute exam, spurred on by the encouragement of her flute teacher,

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Fiona. Harriet poured her dedication into practice, culminating in a triumphant pass of her Grade 5 exam.

Amidst this academic journey, Harriet found solace not only in the notes of her flute but also in the kindness of her former tutor. Baking cakes and lending her music CDs, Mr Blades became a source of quiet comfort. As she set her sights on Cambridge, an English teacher stepped into the role of a lunchtime mentor, guiding her through the nuances of grammar, gently steering her through the intricacies of language.

Simultaneously, Harriet's artistic talents began to bloom. Her creations found a home in galleries, showcasing the blossoming artist within her like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon. In a testament to her academic prowess and resilience, Harriet secured her place at Cambridge, where she began the study of Modern and Medieval Languages, opening a new chapter in her life. The tapestry of Harriet's life continued to weave threads of creativity, learning, and triumph, creating a masterpiece as unique as a rare gem.

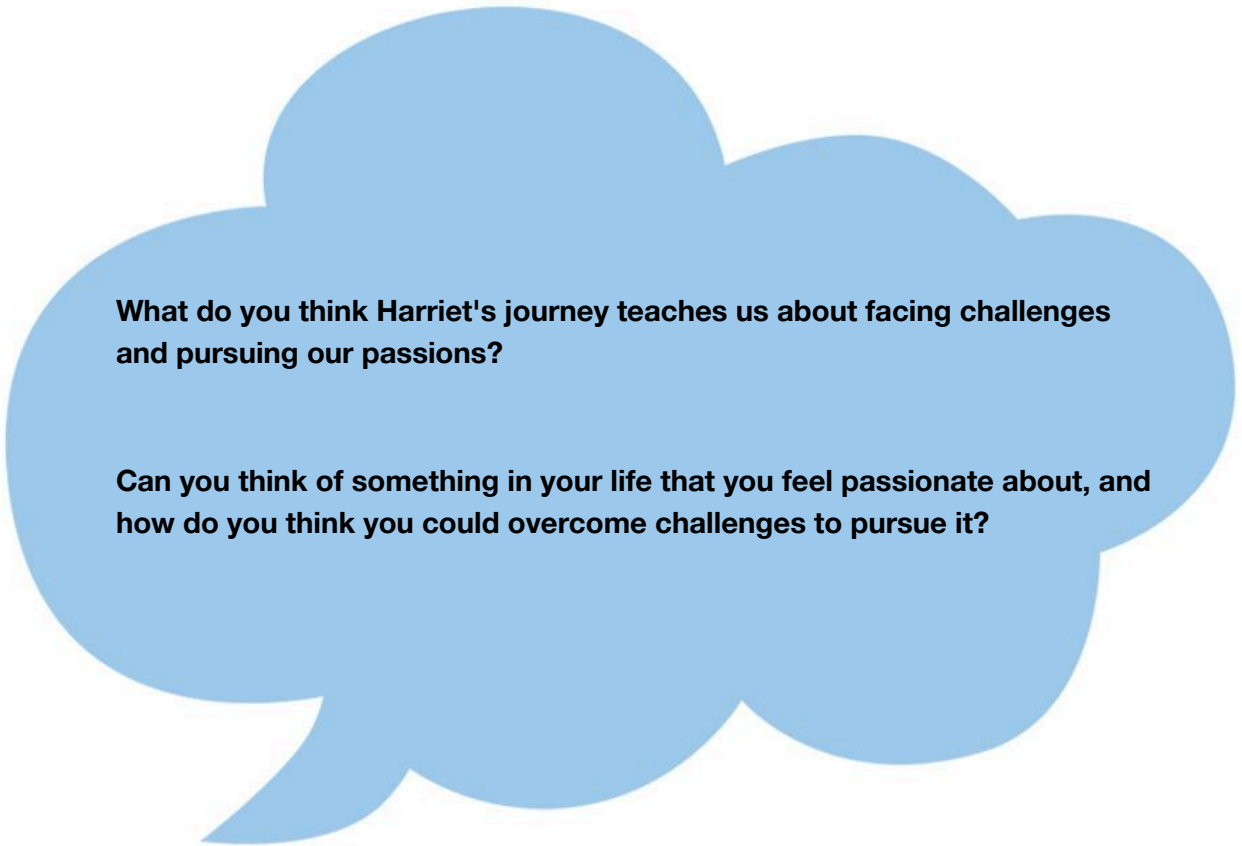
What do you think Harriet did next?

Part 3: Life after School

Harriet opted for a gap year and chose Costa Rica as her destination. Her mission went beyond visiting her mother's grave; she worked as secretary at a school for children with ADHD, honing her Spanish skills. Evenings were dedicated to attending Portuguese and Italian classes, a testament to her relentless pursuit of knowledge. The hard work bore fruit as she began her degree, allowing her to venture abroad and study fine art. Alongside her degree, she delved into courses in pottery and computing, creating a versatile foundation.

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After graduation, Harriet began a journey to Los Angeles to study acting, bravely confronting her fear of speaking and performing in public. Following her heart, she emerged successful, and today, she stands as a thriving artist. Her artwork, a manifestation of her passion, graces galleries worldwide. Harriet's life journey serves as a poignant reminder that while sadness may be inevitable, she has discovered a way to share joy with everyone she encounters.



What do you think Harriet's journey teaches us about facing challenges and pursuing our passions?

Can you think of something in your life that you feel passionate about, and how do you think you could overcome challenges to pursue it?