

The Powerful Force

Within You



by Mengyang Li



CLARE, BETSY'S MOM.



ALEX, BETSY'S DAD.



ELIZABETH (BETSY), A 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL WHO IS GOING TO TAKE HER COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.



AMY, BETSY'S FRIEND, WHO IS GOING TO TAKE THE EXAM WITH BETSY AT HONG KONG.

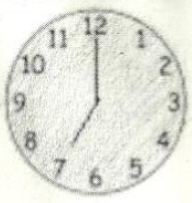


DOCTOR BLAIR.

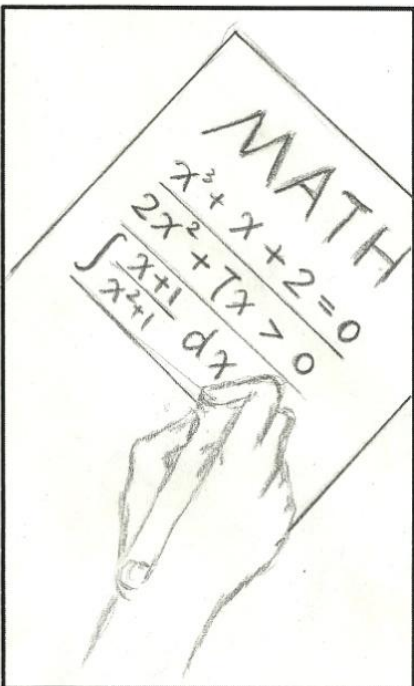
It all started with a question...

WHAT IS THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE TO YOU?

Oct. 2009
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BETSY DID NOT KNOW THE ANSWER, SO SHE PUT HER PAPER BEHIND AND DID SOME OTHER WORK FOR HER COLLEGE ENTRANCE TEST...



IT WAS HER MOM'S VOICE THAT ALARMED HER...

HEY HONEY, IT IS TIME FOR DINNER.

ALREADY, I DID NOT REALIZE IT WAS SEVEN!



SO SHE STOOD UP AND HEADED TO THE DINING ROOM. SUDDENLY, SHE FELT NAUSEOUS.



MAYBE IT IS JUST BECAUSE I HAVE SAT FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. IT WILL BE FINE.

BUT IT GOT EVEN WORSE...



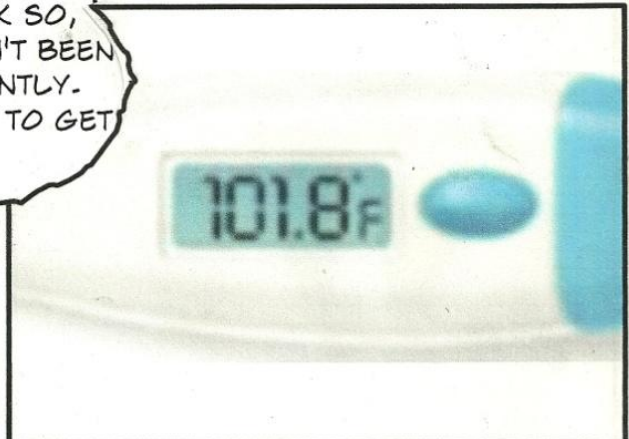
ARE YOU GETTING A COLD



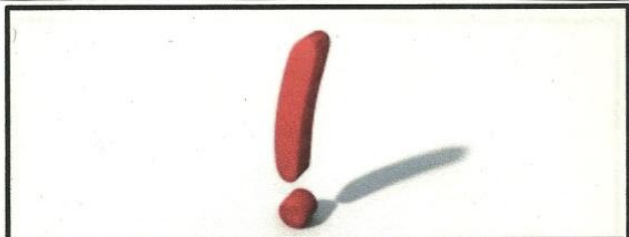
GETTING A COLD RIGHT NOW WOULD BE THE WORST THING, BECAUSE OF THE SEVERE FLU H1N1 WHICH KILLS PEOPLE.



I DO NOT THINK SO, BECAUSE I HAVEN'T BEEN IN PUBLIC RECENTLY. THERE IS NO WAY TO GET THE FLU.



YES, YOU ARE RIGHT. LET US TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE



5 min later...

THEY WERE SHOCKED, BECAUSE IT WAS ONLY 3 DAYS BEFORE THE TEST THAT WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER SHE COULD STUDY ABROAD IN THE US.



BETSY WAS TOO TIRED TO ARGUE. SO SHE WENT TO HER BED AND FELL ASLEEP. LATER THAT NIGHT, HER PARENTS HAD HER TAKE SOME MEDICINE AND HOPED THAT SHE WOULD BE BETTER TOMORROW.

THE NEXT DAY, BETSY STILL FELT BAD AND THE THERMOMETER SHOWED THAT HER TEMPERATURE WAS 100 °F NOW.

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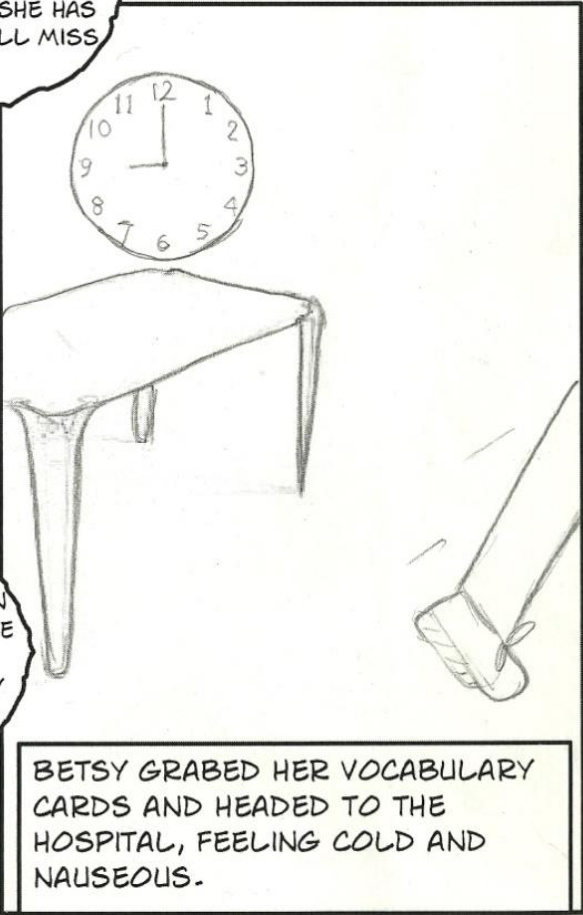
WE HAVE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL.



IT IS HARD TO CONVINCE THE DOCTORS THAT SHE DOES NOT HAVE H1N1. THEY WILL KEEP HER FOR 15 DAYS TO SEE IF SHE HAS IT, WHICH MEANS SHE WILL MISS THE TEST.



BUT IF WE DO NOT GO TO THE HOSPITAL AND SHE STILL HAS FEVER, SHE WILL BE KEPT BY THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS TOMORROW AS SOON AS SHE ARRIVES AT THE AIRPORT.



ALL RIGHT, THEN LET US GO TO THE HOSPITAL NOW AND SEE IF THEY CAN CURE HER.



BETSY GRABED HER VOCABULARY CARDS AND HEADED TO THE HOSPITAL, FEELING COLD AND NAUSEOUS.

IN THE HOSPITAL...



HAVE YOU HAD ANY CONTACT WITH H1N1 PATIENTS OR HAVE YOU BEEN IN PUBLIC RECENTLY, ELIZABETH?

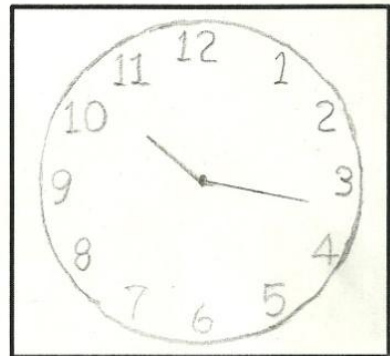
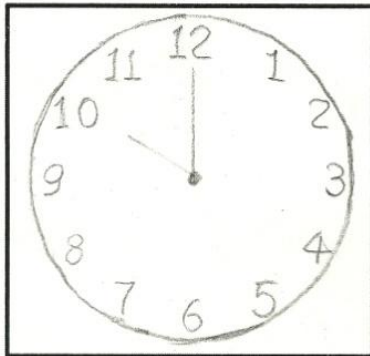
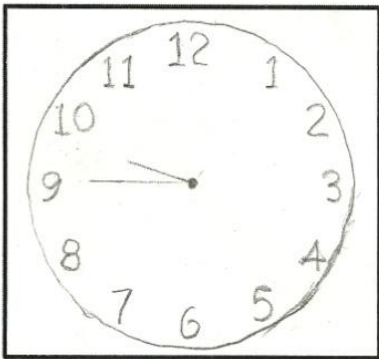


NO. I HAVE BEEN AT HOME RECENTLY PREPARING FOR MY TEST.



THEN LET US CHECK YOU OUT.

AT THE SAME TIME, HER PARENTS CHATTED WITH THE DOCTORS ABOUT HER TEST THING.



ALTHOUGH YOU DO NOT HAVE H1N1, YOU HAVE A FEVER NOW, SO YOU CANNOT GO TO HK. BESIDES IT IS ONE OF THE MOST "DANGEROUS" PLACE NOW BECAUSE OF THE H1N1, YOU CAN STAY AT HOME FOR 4 DAYS TO SEE IF YOUR BODY TEMPERATURE GOES DOWN. IF NOT, YOU WILL NEED TO STAY IN THE HOSPITAL.

WHAT?
NO!



THAT IS MY ONLY CHANCE TO GO TO MY DREAM UNIVERSITY. I CANNOT STAY HERE INSTEAD OF TAKING THE TEST FOR WHICH I HAVE BEEN STUDYING FOR 3 MONTHS. PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME STAY HERE.



SHE ALMOST CRIED. THEY TALKED FOR A LONG TIME. BETSY BEGGED THEM TO LET HER GO.

HALF AN HOUR LATER...

AREN'T THERE ANY WAYS TO KEEP THE TEMPERATURE DOWN?



WELL, THERE IS. BUT WE DON'T SUGGEST YOU APPLY IT BECAUSE IT IS REALLY BAD FOR YOUR ORGANS AND IT WILL MAKE YOU SICK AND YOU'LL WANT TO VOMIT.



THEN LET US DO IT. AS LONG AS I CAN GO TO HK AND TAKE THE TEST, I WILL DO WHATEVER IT NEEDS. IT WILL BE WORTH IT.



3 TIMES A DAY BEFORE MEAL

THE DOCTOR WAS RIGHT. THE DRUGS MADE HER FEEL BAD AND DISTRACTED HER FROM FOCUSING ON HER STUDIES. BETSY, THE STRONG-MINDED GIRL, DID NOT COMPLAIN AT ALL. "GIVE UP" NEVER APPEARED IN HER MIND.

NEVER
GIVE UP!



LATE THAT NIGHT, MOM SAID TO DAD PRIVATELY...



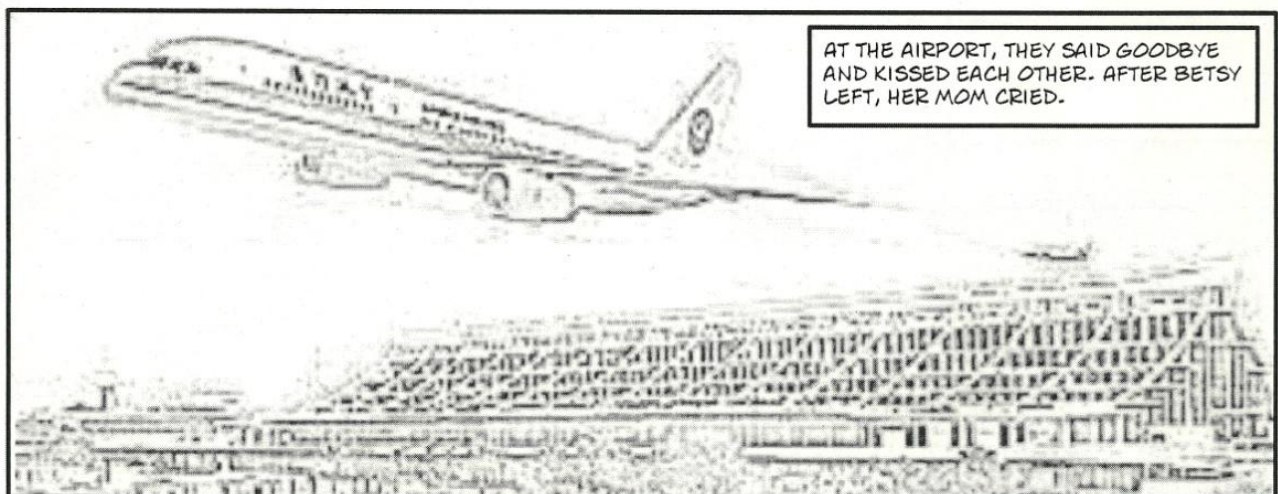
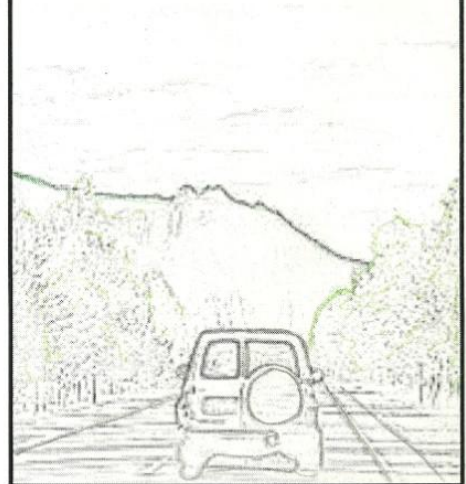
I DOUBT SHE CAN DO IT. WHAT IF SHE ... WE SHOULD TRUST HER? LOOK AT HER FACE. SHE IS SO DETERMINED. WISH HER GOOD LUCK!



BETSY WOKE UP AT 6:30 AM ON OCT. 9. SHE STILL FELT BAD, BUT THANKS TO THE DRUGS, THE THERMOMETER INDICATED THAT SHE DID NOT HAVE A FEVER.



DADDY AND MOM DROVE HER TO THE AIRPORT AT 7:30.



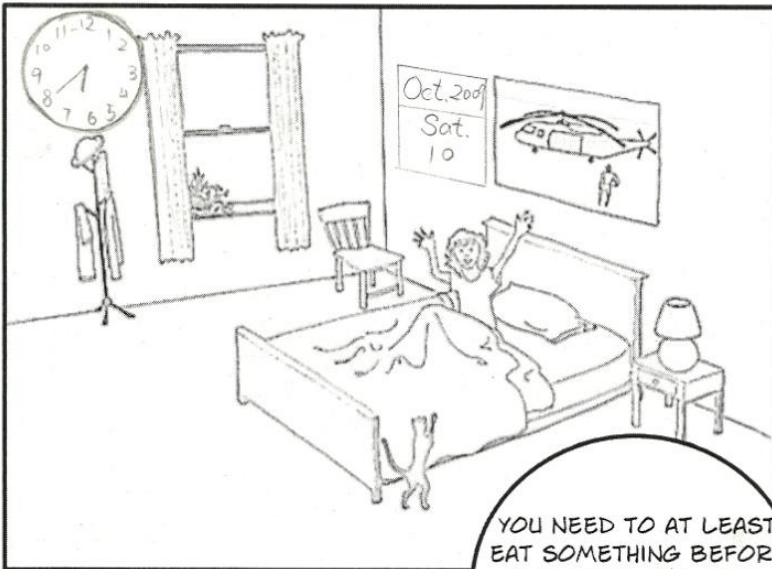
AT THE AIRPORT, THEY SAID GOODBYE AND KISSED EACH OTHER. AFTER BETSY LEFT, HER MOM CRIED.

In Hong Kong...

LATE THAT NIGHT, AMY VISITED BETSY AT HER HOTEL.



THEY VISITED THE TEST CENTER TOGETHER AND WISHED GOOD LUCK TO EACH OTHER.



BETSY TOOK HER MEDICINE AFTER SHE WOKE UP.



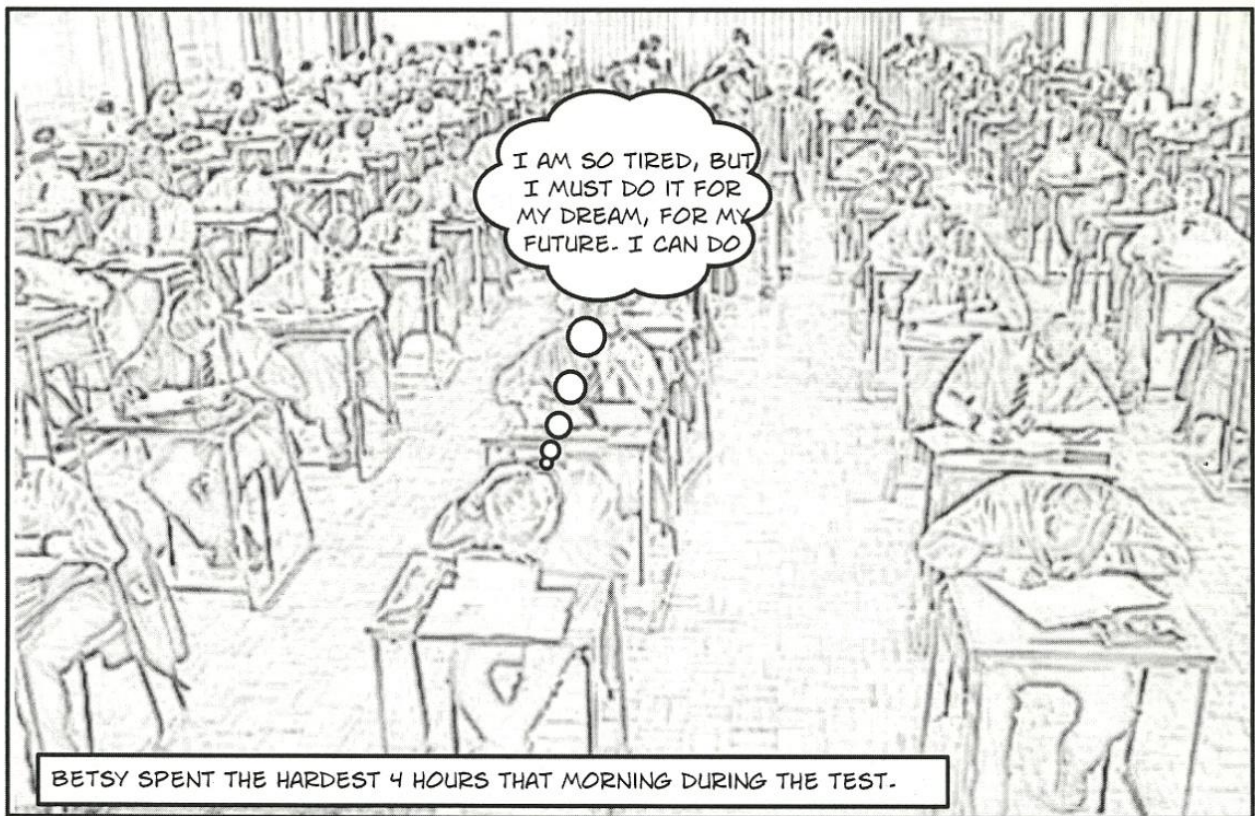
YOU NEED TO AT LEAST EAT SOMETHING BEFORE YOU GO TO THE TEST. OTHERWISE, YOU WON'T SURVIVE THIS HIGH INTENSIVE TEST TEST.

IT WAS HARD FOR HER TO EAT BREAKFAST BECAUSE SHE FELT SICK DUE TO THE MEDICINE.

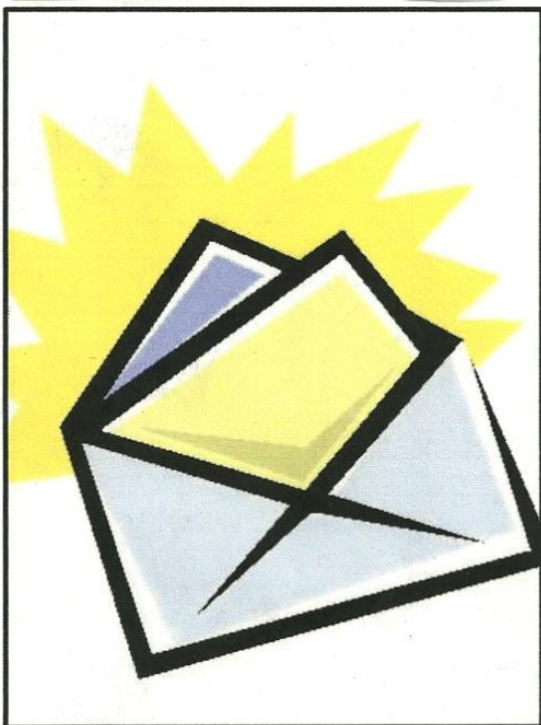


THAT IS ALL I CAN EAT. LET'S GO NOW.





FINALLY, SHE ACCOMPLISHED IT. AND THE NEXT YEAR, SHE RECEIVED MULTIPLE OFFERS FROM UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN AMERICA. ALL HER HARD WORK PAID OFF.



Dear Elizabeth,
Congratulations!
We are pleased to
welcome you as a
member of Class of
2014.

Oct. 2009
Wed.
7



WHAT IS THE MOST POWERFUL
FORCE TO YOU?

**The faith that you believe
you can do anything
no matter how hard it is.**