

第24章

私はファンション・ファデット、恋焦がれたひとと結婚する

<1973年7月31日、母より>

[、、、9月に決めたというマヨルカ島行きは、私にとって涙のこぼれ落ちる程に嬉しい知らせでした。そしてそれに続いての決定打は、お母さんを小躍りさせてしました。待てば海路の日和とやら、ジムとあなたののびやかな航路が真心で続いて行くことを祈るのみ。それにしてもジムの職業は烈しい仕事らしい。あなたが別々に暮らしていく分かる程度以上のものがある筈で、ほんとうにジムに同情します。嫌になればすぐに辞めるというあなたの仕事とは雲泥の差ですね、、、。

兎に角結婚式という形式はスペインでもアメリカでもどっちでもよく、只、二人の意見を平等にぶつつけ合って決めて下さい。このために私が用意しておいたものを近日中に送ります。土曜の朝一時間、規則的な宗教の時間を持つることを羨ましく思います。多忙なジムのためにあなたは手紙など書く時間をマヨルカ島やアルジェリアについての事前の勉強に当てて下さい。]

この母の手紙からジムが結婚を決定したのは7月だったことが分かります。この時ジムの優しい母上に二人の朗報を伝えに行った折のことは、よく覚えています。

Chapter 24

I am La Petite Fadette, for I married a man with whom I was madly in love

My Mother's Letter dated, July 31, 1973:

<...The news from you that you and Jim would go to Majorca to wed in September almost made me jump and weep for joy. All good things come to those who wait. I pray that the great ship you and Jim will take helm together will stay on an unconstrained and serene seaway as it has done to this point. You wrote about Jim's profession a little this time. How intense every day must be for him, being engaged in the profession of law! You, who quit jobs if you find a smallest thing that you don't like, wouldn't know half of what Jim goes through in his profession.... Where you will marry, in Spain or in the U.S., is of no significant issue. Look into every aspect, consider every detail, on equal footing with Jim, and make a decision. I will send, in a couple of days, what I have set aside for you. I envy you for having one hour on every Saturday morning for learning Jim's religion. Think of Jim who is at all times busy. Spend more time in learning a little about Majorca or Algeria, rather than waste your time writing letters. >

From my mother's letter above, I know that it was in July of 1973 that Jim decided to marry me. I remember visiting Jim's mother to give her the news. She was lawn bowling with her friends in a nearby park. As soon as Jim talked to her, she screamed with joy, hugged him and

彼女は自宅の近くで Lawn Bawling(芝生の上でやるボーリング)を友人たちとやってる最中で、ジムが一言云うや「キャッ！」と叫んで彼を抱きしめ、次いで私を固く抱擁し、周り中の人们に喜びを抑えきれないという表情で、我が息子が結婚するということを触れまわりました。この頃ジムはしばしば私を連れて母上の瀟洒なアパートを訪れていました。それ相違な距離を離れて暮らしていたのですが、日曜の朝は三人連れ立って教会に行き、割に頻繁に彼女に会っていたのです。その彼女がすぐ私に美しい封書の手紙をくれ、それには「母親の喜びは色々あるが、中でも大きな喜びは、息子が自分も気に入ってる女性と結婚してくれることです」と書いてありました。

この後私は洗礼を受けました。映画の場面などを考えていたので、もしかしたら、ミシガン湖に腰のあたりまで浸るのかと思っていたら、なんの、ジムとジムのお母さんに付き添われ、レアドン師の前に進み出て、冷たい水をボタボタと額にかけられ、それで終わりでした。

ちょうどその9月末に、ジムの母校ジョージタウン大学が卒業生を募って、地中海のマヨルカ島観光旅行を企画しており、ジムはこれに参加して結婚もマヨルカ島でしようということを思いつきました。マヨルカ島といえば、高校時代に熱き思いで読みふけった『愛の妖精』、あれを書いた、ジョルジュ・サンドと楽聖ショパンが、恋の逃避行をした島です。私は俄然、これこそ我が恋物語と、その大団円を飾るにふさわしい

then me, and she made an announcement to everyone there that her only son is getting married. Jim took me quite often to his mother's elegant apartment in those days. We all lived a few miles from each other, but on Sundays, Jim would pick up his mother and then me to go to church together. I saw Jim's mother quite often in those days. Soon after that day, I received a letter from her in a beautiful envelope. The letter said, "A mother's joy is many, but the greatest joy of all is that her son marries a woman that she loves a lot."

I was baptized soon thereafter. I was thinking of the scenes that I saw in the movies, and I thought that I would walk in to the shallows of Lake Michigan, immersing myself to the waist, maybe. It was nothing like that. I walked up to Father Reardon in his church, led by Jim's mother. Father Reardon poured cold water over my forehead, while praying. That was it.

The alumni club of Georgetown University, Jim's alma mater, was planning a trip to Majorca Island in the Mediterranean for September of that year. Jim was thinking of participating in this arrangement with me, and getting married in Majorca. I knew Majorca as the place where the 19th Century French novelist George Sand and composer Frederic Chopin spent time together in an illicit relationship. I read several of George Sand's celebrated novels, in Japanese translation, in my high school days. "La Petite Fadette," which I read in Japanese first, and then in French some years later, was my favorite. When I first

土地ではないかと、ジムの案に大賛成、すぐスペイン領事館へ出向き、外国人がスペインで結婚するにはいかなる手続きが必要か、問い合わせました。

結果は、2週間ばかりの短期滞在の外国人が、スペインの地で結婚するわけには行かないということが分かり、又一方ジムの家族たちが、式はやはりシカゴでやるべし、とうるさく言ったため、これは実現せず、式はレアドン師の教会で執り行う、新婚旅行のみマヨルカ島と決まりました。

そのマヨルカ島では、やはりジョルジュ・サンドとショパンが暮らした家は、観光客に開放されており、私はショパンが弾いたピアノだと、ジョルジュ・サンドが著作した机だとをちょっと触ってみて、胸の奥では名作『愛の妖精』の素敵な少女ファデットと自分はどこか似てるところがある、だって恋焦がれた人と結婚したのだから、、、と考えていました。

ところで蛇足ですが、往年のアメリカ映画に”A Song to Remember”というショパンの伝記映画がありました。邦題は『楽聖ショパン』、ショパンの出世とサンドとの恋愛を描いた作品で、我が少女時代に、外国映画一辺倒だった母が頻繁に連れてってくれた映画の一つです。このコネル・ワイルドとマール・オベロン共演のハリウッド映画は、アメリカに来てからも何度かテレビで観ました。しかし、ファンション・ファデットという魅力的な女の子を創造したジョルジュ・サンド

read it, I wanted to be like La Petite Fadette (the heroine of the book). "Yes," I thought, when Jim told me about his plan, "Majorca is a good place to wed, for I'm marrying the only love of my life just like La Petite Fadette did!" We inquired with the Spanish Consulate in Chicago about the regulations for foreigners to marry in Spain. Well, we were told that foreigners who are visiting Spain just for a week or two for sightseeing cannot be allowed to marry on that land. In the meantime, Jim's family was not going to be happy about the rather untraditional way of our wedding. Thus, the decision was made to marry in Father Readon's church, and we would then go to Majorca, with the Georgetown alumni, for our honeymoon.

We visited the monastery in Majorca where George Sand and Chopin lived one winter together in 1838, for it was open to the sightseers. I touched the piano that Chopin played, and the desk Sand used, writing her novels.

"Yes," I thought, "I am La Petite Fadette. And, Jim is my Landry."

Incidentally, one of the good, old Hollywood movies my mother often took me to see when I was very young is "A Song to Remember," a biopic of Chopin, starring Cornel Wilde and Merle Oberon. The somewhat notorious love affair between Chopin and George Sand was described in this movie, which I saw a few more times on TV in later life. I didn't like the character of George Sand played by Merle Oberon at all, despite the fact that she

ではあるけど、映画で見たその彼女が、不愉快な女性だという印象は、少女時代も、大人になってからも変わらなかったのです。

created that fascinating young country girl, La Petite Fadette.



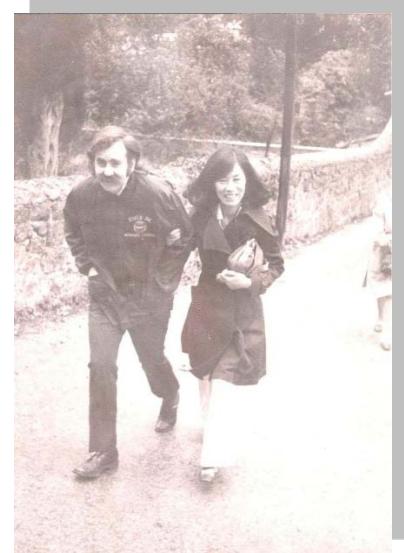
Father Patrick Reardon weds us at St. Clement Church. Jim's sister Lois and her husband Ed on left; another sister Mary Jo and her husband Bob on right.



Jim and me, on Majorca Island.



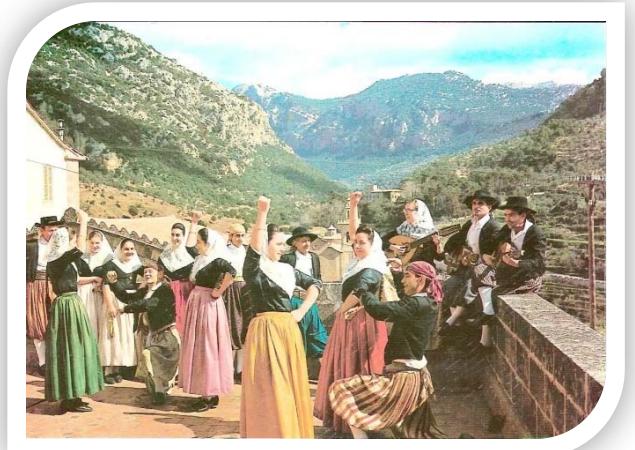
In Majorca.



In Majorca.



The piano Frederic Chopin used.



Local Spaniards dancing for the tourists.

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