THE COMEBACK

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BASED ON A STORY BY ELIZABETH VAN STEENWYK

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PART 1

 ***In this story, a young skater returns to the ice after a serious accident. Her only opponent① is a girl named Jinny Jordan, who is really strong in everything. Can she beat Jinny? Will she be successful in her comeback?②***

 P1 Laurie sat quietly in the empty dressing room at the ice-skating rink③. She had not skated in any competition since the accident six months ago. As she waited for her turn to skate, Laurie was very nervous. She knew that today was a very important day in her comeback。

 P2 “If I can win today," she thought. “I can skate in the World Cup next year. If I do well there, maybe I can make it to the Olympics. That would be fantastic!" 【1】

 P3 Before Laurie had her accident, no one could beat her in competition. From the day when she was ten and started to compete, she had beaten all her opponents.

 P4 “Hello, Laurie,” Kathy said, suddenly bursting through the door. “Welcome back to competition! We’ve missed you these last six months."

 P5 “I've missed being here, " Laurie said

 P6 "How’s the knee?" Kathy asked, looking serious. "Is it going to slow you down? I mean, you were skating so well before you got hurt. We really thought you’d be in the Seniors by now and then in the Olympics.”

 P7 I guess we'll find out tonight just where I stand, "Laurie said

 P8 "We have some new competition this year, Kathy said, tying her laces④. There’s a girl from Connecticut named Jinny Jordan who’s really strong in everything.”

P9 I saw her skating this morning," Laurie said. “She was **unbelievable!”**

P10 “Wait until you see her program tonight, " Kathy said. “She does four double axels⑤ and a triple toe loop⑥ at the end. Can you believe it?”

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**【1】Setting**: Where is Laurie? Why is the competition important to her?

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① opponent n. 对手

 ② comeback n. 复出

③ rink n. 溜冰场

④ lace n.鞋带； v.系鞋带

⑤ four double axels 连续四个阿克塞尔两周跳（花样滑冰动作）

⑥ a triple toe loop 三周点套跳（花样滑冰动作）

P11 Laurie thought about this and knew that she would have to do a triple toe loop too. She had hoped to **leave it out** of her program because it would put an added strain⑦ on her knee. But now there was no choice. "I’ll just have to try the triple and hope for the best,” she thought. "If I don’t try it, I won’t **stand a chance**.”

P12 “Is Jinny ahead in the scoring?" ⑧ Laurie asked.

P13 “She’s the one you have to beat this year," Kathy replied as she hurried out, **slamming** the door behind her

P14 For a moment Laurie sat quietly, getting used to the feeling of being back. Until the accident, everyone had said that she was the one to beat. Now the one she had to beat was Jinny Jordan -- someone she'd never heard of before. 【2】"Does anyone believe that I can still win?" she wondered. "Has everyone **given up on** me since the accident?

P15 The accident. Who could have predicted it? She thought back to that awful, rainy night when she and Mom were driving home after a practice session.⑨ The car in front of them **swerved** on the slippery road and they smashed⑩ into it. Later, examinations at the hospital showed that she had damaged her right knee badly. She would need three months to heal and three more months of treatment and practice if she hoped to regain her skill.

P16 Laurie suddenly jumped up as her right knee sent pain up and down her leg. The doctor said it would do that for a while. She waited for the pain to pass. Then she moved slowly across the room and back to warm up. She did a few knee bends, holding on to the top of the chair for support. 【3】

P17 Suddenly she stood straight up and said to herself, "Who are you kidding! What makes you think you have a chance tonight?

P18 Then she said firmly, “I just *have* to win!”

P19 The door swung open and Laurie saw a young woman who was about her own age. At the moment her arms were filled with a skate equipment bag, a warm-up jacket, and a pair of skates.

P20 The young woman **dumped** some of her belongings onto a chair. The bag fell to the floor with a thud.⑩ "Hi, I'm Jinny Jordan," she said.

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**【2】Setting**: Who is Jinny Jordan? In what way is she important to Laurie?

**【3】Predicting:** Will the accident affect her performance? See if you are right after you finish the whole story.

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⑦ strain n.压力，负担

⑧ ahead in the scoring 积分领先

⑨ a practice session 一堂训练课，一段训练期

⑩ smash v. 猛撞

⑩ thud n. 砰的一声，重击声

**Before You Read Part 2**

From the day she was ten, no one could beat Laurie in ice-skating. But then she had an accident and hurt her knee badly. Since then, a new skater, Jinny Jordan, has appeared. Jinny is a **terrific** （**= very good**）skater, the one Laurie has to beat to win. Now Laurie must skate a very difficult program. Will her knee be strong enough for it? Will Laurie win the contest?

**PART 2**

P1 Laurie felt uncomfortable as she looked at Jinny, "So this is my competition,” thought Laurie. "Because of her, I may lose tonight.”

P2 “I'm Laurie Collins," Laurie told Jinny.

P3 "This **costume** was my mom's idea," Jinny said, looking down at her red, white, and blue skating dress. "I look like a flag. I hope that no one expects me to skate to the music of ‘The Star-spangled Banner’." ①

P4 Laurie couldn’t keep from smiling. She pointed to Jinny's skating bag. "Some **stuff** fell out of your bag, Jinny, " Laurie said. "I guess you didn’t have it zipped up all the way.”

P5 Jinny looked at the clothing and equipment that lay scattered on the floor. As she began to gather her belongings, the door opened.

P6 "Jinny," called Kathy, "You'd better give the tape of your music to the sound engineer right away.”

P7 I thought I gave him my music tape half an hour ago," said Jinny. "Tell him it's the green box with my initials written in white in the right-hand corner.”

P8 "Maybe you'd better remind him. He claims you never gave it to him, and he’s getting angry.”

P9 "Then I don’t know what I did with it, "said Jinny, hurrying out after Kathy.

P10 Laurie laced her skates. As she did she thought to herself," That’s funny. Jinny has a chance to win tonight, and she doesn’t know what she did with her music.”

P11 Laurie knew that music was nearly as important to the program as the skating itself. The music you skated to created mood, rhythm and style. Laurie had worked with her coach for months to select and then tape her music program. If she lost her music tape, she might as well forget about skating. It was that simple. 【1】

P12 Laurie stood up and walked to the chair to do a few more knee bends. Suddenly she saw something small and dark green behind the leg of the dressing table. She bent over to pull it out, and saw the white initials **J.J.** in the top right-hand corner.

P13 “It's Jinny's music tape!" she exclaimed. "It must have rolled out of her bag when she dropped it!”

P14 Laurie stood **motionless** for what must have been only seconds --yet it seemed like years while she thought about what to do.

P15 All I’d have to do is forget that I found this,” she thought. "If Jinny doesn’t have her music, she might as well not skate. Jinny would look pretty **ridiculous** skating without music. And then, "Laurie said to herself, "I would win--because Jinny's the

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**【1】Setting**: Why does the author emphasize the importance of music here?

① The Star-spangled Banner n. 星条旗永不落 （美国国歌）

only real competition I have.”

P16 Laurie shivered slightly as she thought about this. Then she wondered, “Do I really want to win that much? Does winning mean so much to me that I’d be willing to cheat for it?”

P17 The door flew open. "Hey, you go on after Jinny,” Kathy said, “Jinny’s in real trouble. She still can’t find her music.”

P18 Laurie hesitated for a second. Then she **pulled herself together** and said, “Tell Jinny that I found her tape. Would you mind giving it to the sound engineer?”

P19 Minutes later, Laurie made her way to the rink. As she moved to the edge of the ice, she watched Jinny who was skating gracefully to the sound of the taped music. Laurie looked nervously at Jinny and waited.

P20 When the announcer finally called her name, Laurie skated quickly to the center of the rink. She waited until the music filled the stadium. Then, keeping in time with her music, she started with a double toe spin. She immediately followed this by doing a strong spiral② on her right leg that carried her round and round across the ice.

P21 "Good," she thought to herself, "my knee’s **holding up**.”

P22 She felt herself gliding③ as she spun smoothly out of one figure④ and into another. The audience applauded from time to time, enthusiastically supporting her in her comeback.

P23 Just before the music ended, she went into a difficult triple toe loop. As she completed it, she heard the audience gasp. When her turn was over, applause filled the stadium, and she stood there, for a moment, in the center of the ice in the spotlight. ⑤

P24 As she skated off the ice, she waved to the crowd and quickly made her way to the exit where her coach ran up to her and **hugged** her.

P25 "You did it, Laurie!" she said. "You skated perfectly-and beautifully. You didn’t make a single mistake! I think that you've won!”

P26 Laurie said nothing, but she smiled as she took a seat and waited to see what marks the judges would give her. When the marks appeared, Laurie knew that she had beaten Jinny Jordan and everyone else.

P27 Laurie, you won! You won!" Kathy screamed, as she rushed up to her.

P28 "I guess I did," was all Laurie could say.

P29 As she walked back to the dressing room, Laurie thought about Jinny's music tape. She remembered wondering whether or not to return it. "But no one will ever know how close I really came to losing." Laurie said softly to herself. 【3】

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**【2】indirect characterization**: What do you think are Laurie’s character traits judging from her inner thoughts and actions? If you were Laurie, would you have returned the tape? Why or why not?

**【3】Making inferences**: What does Laurie mean by "how close I really came to losing”?

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② spiral螺旋，螺旋形路线。 ③ glide滑动，滑行。

④ figure(溜冰的)花样动作。 ⑤ spotlight t聚光灯。