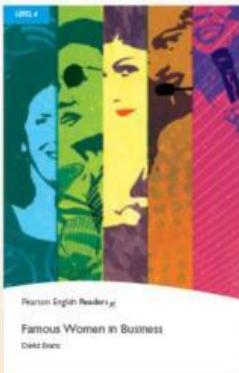


Hanae Mori



As she grew up, Hanae often argued with her father about her future. He wanted her to be like him and to become a doctor, but Hanae wanted to study art.

'Art?' her father used to say. 'Art is a wonderful hobby, but it's not a real subject to study.'

In the end they agreed that Hanae would study literature, and so she left her family and started a course in Japanese Literature at university in Tokyo. But before she could finish her studies, the Second World War started. Like many other women students, Hanae had to stop studying and go to work in a factory. Soon she realised that the war was **going badly** for Japan. Every night she heard the American planes above Tokyo and she listened for the sound of the explosions as the bombs fell on the city around her.

When the war ended in 1945, Japan had a lot of problems. Many of its cities had been destroyed, and millions of its people had been killed. But Hanae wanted to return to normal as quickly as possible. So she went back to university and finished her studies in 1947. At that time there seemed little chance that she would **go into business**.

The year before, Hanae had fallen in love with a rich young man called Ken Mori, whose family owned a factory that made cloth. They were soon married and it seemed that Hanae would become a housewife. Until the end of the Second World War, Japan had been a very traditional society and a woman was simply expected to be a good wife and a wise mother. At first, Hanae was ready to accept this situation.

'I had no problem with becoming a housewife,' she said. But it was soon clear that a life at home, looking after her husband and her family, was not for her. After just a few months, Hanae was bored. She started looking around for something to **keep her busy**.

In the late 1940s, Japanese society was slowly changing. In 1946, Japanese women had been allowed to vote for the first time and a few women had become politicians in Japan's parliament. There were still very few Japanese businesswomen, but if women could become politicians, why couldn't they also **become successful** in other areas? Hanae decided to try business.

She had always been interested in clothes, she loved art and she was married to a man who owned a cloth factory. So the clothes business **was the obvious choice** for her. Over the next two years, she learnt about designing clothes, cutting cloth, selling clothes and running a business. By 1951, she felt that she was ready to make and sell her own clothes. She started in a small way, making clothes for a few people, but then she had a piece of luck. An important Japanese film producer saw one of her designs and loved it. He called Hanae.

'Could you make some clothes for my next film?' he asked. Hanae said 'yes' without even thinking about it.



Hanae Mori

Before you read

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrases below.

argue with have a piece of luck return to normal
run a business seem little chance

- 1 I always _____ my brother about what video games we're going to play.
- 2 After the crisis, it took a long time for things to _____.
- 3 With the home team losing by three goals, there _____ that they would win.
- 4 James _____ on the way home. He found ten euros!
- 5 Your grandad _____ successfully for many years before he retired.

While you read

2  RT1.1 Read and listen to the story. Put events a–h in the order they happen.

- She worked in a factory.
- She became bored with being a housewife.
- She discussed what she wanted to study with her father.
- A film producer called her.
- She met Ken Mori.
- She finished university.
- She started university.
- She started selling her own clothes.

3 Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 Hanae's father agreed to her studying Art at university.
- 2 Lots of bombs fell on Tokyo during the war.
- 3 Hanae went into business immediately after finishing university.
- 4 Her husband was wealthy.
- 5 At first, Hanae was happy to be a housewife.
- 6 The first clothes she made were for a famous film director.

After you read

4 Match the highlighted phrases in the story with the definitions.

- 1 take up her time: _____
- 2 do well in something: _____
- 3 start a company: _____
- 4 was the best option: _____
- 5 the opposite of 'going well': _____

5 Look at the adjectives below from the story and complete the text with them. There is one extra adjective.

bored real successful traditional
wonderful young

In ¹ _____ Japanese society, women weren't encouraged to work – their main responsibility was to look after the family.

However, some women felt ² _____ sitting at home. They wanted to work and be independent, and felt they had ³ _____ skills they could offer to society. So, after the Second World War, more and more women started to work and became ⁴ _____ in business. Things change, and this was a ⁵ _____ thing for some Japanese women, like Hanae Mori.

6 **WRAP UP** Complete the information about the story.

Title: _____

Type: *love story / biography / adventure story*

Main characters: _____

Important object: _____

My opinion: 