**Passage 2: Finding the right career path**

**寻找合适的职业道路**

1 Growing up, most other teenagers I knew were ***wallpapering their rooms with pictures of superstars***. But not me. ***My walls were plastered with high-fashion magazine spreads.***

2 For me, fashion was what life should be like, ***just amplified***. ***A world worth diving into and living in, albeit through images.*** I spent years sitting on my bed, doing homework and ***glancing up at those fashion-plastered walls***. But I never once ***gave even a single thought*** that fashion could be a career option.

3 Because I had always done well in science and my father was a ***reputable*** dentist, I decided to study to become a doctor. I was good with my hands, so my love of art ***sparked a more specific interest in plastic surgery*** — a specialty that, in my mind, combined the best of both worlds, beauty and science. I loved that a ***plastic surgeon*** was in the business of making people feel better about themselves, and I was certain that ***it was the right path for me.***

[单数, 不可数名词] ~ (in sb/sth) the feeling that you have when you want to know or learn more about sb/sth 兴趣；关注

to feel/have/show/express (an) interest in sth

对…感到 / 表现出 / 表示关注

Do your parents take an interest in your friends?

你的父母有兴趣了解你的朋友吗？

By that time I had lost (all) interest in the idea.

那时我已经对此想法（完全）失去兴趣了。

I watched with interest .

我兴致勃勃地看着。

As a matter of interest , (= I'd like to know) what time did the party finish?

我想知道，晚会是什么时间结束的？

Just out of interest , how much did it cost?

我只是好奇问问，这个花了你多少钱？

● There has been a lively interest in the elections in the last two weeks...

近两周来选举受到了热烈关注。

● His parents tried to discourage his interest in music, but he persisted...

他的父母设法打消他对音乐的兴趣,但他始终坚持。

4 After high school, I ***interned*** for a nearby plastic surgeon. I ***had a front-row seat*** in the operating room, watching ***cosmetic surgeries*** that all looked so perfect. That experience, plus my grades, ***earned me a full four-year merit scholarship*** to the University of Maryland. I declared my major in ***neurobiology*** and ***physiology*** and put up with eight a.m. labs four days a week. I took the dreaded ***MCATs*** during my junior year and ***landed a six-week summer internship*** at a hospital in Long Island. I was so excited that I'd been accepted into the program and confident that the experience would prove valuable and educational.

Land

F.JOB 工作

(informal) to succeed in getting a job, etc., especially one that a lot of other people want 成功得到，赢得，捞到（尤指许多人想得到的工作）

[动词 + 名词短语] He's just landed a starring role in Spielberg's next movie.

他刚得到一个机会，在斯皮尔伯格执导的下一部电影里担任主角。

[动词 + 名词短语 + 名词短语] She's just landed herself a company directorship.

她刚在一家公司谋到一个主管的职位。

5 That summer, ***my alarm went off*** every day at six a.m. Getting ready was easy because it didn't really matter what I wore — I'd be covering it all up with a lab coat — unless I was ***doing surgical rounds***, which meant ***changing into scrubs, a hairnet and a face mask.***

6 Our program was meant to show us what it was really like being a doctor, and each morning exposed us to difficult cases. ***By the time lunch came around,*** we couldn't wait to sit down together in the cafeteria to relax and reflect on our experiences that morning. Listening to the ***heated discussion***, I slowly began to realize that I didn't share the passion or enthusiasm they did for what we were doing. But how could that be? I loved everything I was learning in school and during my plastic surgery internship, but hated the practical applications of those lessons in a hospital. It didn't make sense. But an uncomfortable feeling started to worry me, and with every day that passed, it became more difficult to ignore.

7 I also hated that it didn't matter what I wore each day. I missed my clothes. It was like someone had cut my wings. Every Friday afternoon when I came home from the hospital, I couldn't wait to shower and ***pick out my outfit for the night***. ***The medical wardrobe*** is clearly not a reason to ***give up on a profession***, but I was looking for any excuse I could find to convince myself that the career path I was on was the wrong one.

8 I asked myself: Were these reasons big enough to quit medicine? I'd just spent three years working toward a career that I felt like I no longer wanted. But ***the thought of shifting gears so drastically seemed insane*** — and shifting them to what? Could I really walk away from a goal I'd had for such a long time? And what would I tell my parents?

9 ***Sticking with medicine*** would have been the easy path, actually. But when ***everything in your mind is screaming NO***, you can't ignore it and you shouldn't ignore it. I couldn't live my life with regret. My dream had changed and it wasn't my fault. That's precisely why you intern: ***to test the water***. So, I had to choose to ***shut the door on medicine.***

10 I knew ***there was no easy way*** to ***break the news to my parents***, but I wasn't going to ***sugarcoat*** it, so I just ***went straight to the point***. "I've been thinking a lot about my experience this summer, and I don't think being a doctor is for me," I said.

11 "It's your life and your decision," my father replied after a long, awkward silence.

12 "But what are you going to do?" ***pressed*** my mother.

13 "I don't know yet," I said nervously. "But I hope to figure it out soon."

14 With that comment I got up and left the room. ***My head was swirling***. I had ***spilled the beans*** but I didn't feel any better. I was very anxious about my mother's question. ***Her concern was legitimate***. After all, I had only a year of college left, yet I had no idea what it actually was that I wanted to do.

15 Weeks later, when I was back at school sitting on my bed in my apartment, I glanced at my shelf, where a copy of Arthur Elgort's Models Manual was lying. I had bought that book in my senior year of high school. Elgort, a fashion photographer, filled the pages with ***stunning images of supermodels***. ***Completely unreachable, awe-inspiring beauty.*** I had f***lipped through that book countless times*** before. But something was different now. Something felt more important.

16 ***I suddenly flashed back to my magazine-wallpapered room and it all became crystal clear.*** Those magazine pages had always been there, ***right under my nose:*** Fashion was the answer.