接昨天未完的七条

2. She had an unhappy childhood

Victoria spent her formative性格形成的关键期 years at Kensington Palace, where she was born in May 1819. However, in many ways the palace proved a prison监狱 for the princess, and her childhood there was far from远远不 rosy充满希望美好.

Following her father’s death from pneumonia肺炎 when she was just eight months old, Victoria’s early life was dominated主宰 by her mother, the Duchess of Kent, and her ambitious雄心壮志 adviser Sir John Conroy. Keen热衷于 to establish himself as the power behind the throne王权 **in the event事件 of万一发生** a Regency (in which Victoria’s mother would rule with her if she acceded继位 while still underage摄政), Conroy sought尝试 to keep tight紧紧的 control of the princess. Both he and the Duchess had a hostile充满敌意 relationship with Victoria’s uncle, King William, and consequently所以 kept Victoria isolated隔离 from the royal court, even preventing防止 her from attending her uncle’s coronation加冕仪式. 摄政时期accede to the throne 即位加冕

The pair一对 imposed强加 a stifling抑制 code行为准则 of discipline纪律 on the young Victoria, which came逐渐 to be known as the ‘Kensington System’. Along with a strict严格的 timetable of lessons to improve her moral道德 and intellectual智力 rigor严格, this suffocating受到束缚 regime政权/管理制度 dictated that the princess spent hardly几乎不 any time with other children and was under constant持续的 adult supervision监管. Right up until the time she became queen, Victoria was forced to share a bedroom with her mother. She was forbidden被禁止 from ever being alone, or even walking down stairs without独立主格结构(做状语)不同于主句的主语 someone holding her hand. 束缚， 政权regime管理制度

Later in life, Victoria reflected反射/思考认为 that she “led a very unhappy life as a child… and did not know what a happy domestic家庭的 life was”. She retained保持 a deep-seated根深蒂固 hatred of John Conroy for manipulating控制 her mother and imposing such rigid严格的 rules on her, later describing描述成 him as “demon incarnate化身”. 根深蒂固 魔鬼化身

After she became queen, Victoria was able to free herself from the claustrophobic幽闭恐惧症grip抓紧/控制 of Conroy and her mother. Her relationship with her mother remained strained紧张的 and distant遥远/冷漠 for many years and she limited Conroy’s influence at court宫廷. Just two years after Victoria took the throne登基即位, he resigned辞去 his post职位 and left for Italy amid在之中 shame and scandal丑闻.

She spoke several languages

Perhaps in part due因为 to her strict schooling under the ‘Kensington system’, Victoria proved herself to be a remarkably adept擅长做 linguist语言学家. As well as being fluent流利的 in both English and German, she also spoke French, Italian and Latin.

As因为 her mother and governess家庭女教师 both hailed出生于 from Germany, Victoria grew up speaking the language and at one stage某个阶段 reportedly据说 even had a German accent口音, which had to be erased抹去 by tutors家庭教师. When she later married her German cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the couple regularly spoke German together. Although Albert was fluent in English, he and Victoria could often be heard talking – and indeed实际 arguing – in German when in private私下. 萨克森科堡公国，哥达

Later in life, Victoria also experimented做实验 with some of the exotic异域风情 languages from across her vast巨大 empire. Following the arrival of Indian servants at Windsor Castle in August 1887, she was taught Hindustani and Urdu phrases by her favourite Indian attendant侍从服务人员, Abdul Karim. The queen recorded记录 in her diary: “I am learning a few words of Hindustani to speak to my servants. It is a great interest to me for both the language and the people, I have naturally自然的 never come into real contact接触 with before”. 有异域风情的 温莎城堡 印度斯坦语，乌尔都语

4．Her relationship with her prime ministers wasn’t always easy

Over the course of the six decades she sat on the throne, Victoria saw many prime ministers come and go. Yet while she established a remarkably非同寻常 close bond联系 with some, others failed spectacularly壮观的/出乎意料的 to **win her favour获得青睐**

Victoria’s first prime minister, Lord Melbourne, was keen热衷于 to flatter拍马屁, instruct and influence the young queen from the very beginning. The pair were so close that Victoria claimed to love him “like a father”. However, this intense强烈的 friendship with ‘Lord M’ made the queen unpopular with many – she was criticised 批评for being politically partisan党派倾向的 and was even mockingly嘲笑 called her “Mrs Melbourne”. Later in her reign, Benjamin Disraeli similarly相似的 **pulled out all the stops全力以赴** to win Victoria’s favour with charm and flattery. His tactics策略 clearly worked, as因为 the queen told her eldest daughter [also named Victoria] that he would “do very well” and was “full of poetry, romance and chivalry骑士风度”.

Other ministers, however, received获得 a much less enthusiastic热情 response反应 from her majesty: she found Lord John Russell stubborn and rude and referred称作 to Lord Palmerstone as a “dreadful可怕的 old man”. As foreign secretary外交部长，, Palmerstone had invoked引起了/导致了 Victoria’s wrath愤怒 by ignoring忽略 Albert’s suggested amendments修正案 to dispatches派遣 and apparently很明显 attempting尝试 to seduce勾引 one of her ladies-in-waiting. Victoria found Gladstone similarly infuriating激怒, and with her characteristically有代表性的 sharp tongue语言 dismissed him as a “half-crazy and in many ways ridiculous, wild and incomprehensible难以理解 old fanatic狂热分子”. 修正案