

### **3. Jacqueline Meets Herman Steiner, a Future Friend and Coach**

*Jump in the Waves* Chapter 30: "Starting to Achieve"

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When things seemed difficult, chess was always there. I started to solve the weekly problems from the *Los Angeles Times* and sent in the results. The chess editor then was Herman Steiner, who had been the United States champion in 1948. At an auction, Grisha [Gregor Piatigorsky] and I were bidding for a garnet pin, and it turned out that our opponents were Herman and Selma Steiner. We started to talk, and Herman remembered that I had been solving the paper's chess problems. Then he took us to his home where he was running a chess club above the garage. "Sit down and play a game," he offered, and introduced me to a tall young man, a very heavy stutterer. I played and lost. As I got up from the table, Herman Steiner caught me by surprise when he said, "You have just played your first tournament game." Though my mind was far away from tournaments, I remained in this first one. I finished somewhere in the middle, but as I had a natural ability for combinations, I won the brilliancy prize.