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" I was robbed - Sylvie "

I did look up that line in Arthur's book. Thank you for pointing it out.

I don't fully understand it, even as a quip. An event like "The Prize" might give anyone pause to reflect about their own "claims", or more likely about what if "I hadn't taken time off for children" etc. At most it was a quip -- have you seen the conflict in the actual press story? Remember the cliché is standard Brooklynese.

So was there more beneath the surface? Very likely, I suppose. Sylvie did manifestly enjoy the lab, the design of experiments, but always under Arthur's very close oversight. She never participated very much in broader discussions... one just can't tease out how much was years of conditioning about her expected role.

A Komberg ✓

not sure

One of the injustices to women who started out in protected, subordinate positions was they were not stressed, so over the years did not learn how to (perhaps to want to) engage in combative argument and discourse.

20 years of that, and how can one judge what the potential talents might have been?

Nevertheless, my own feeling is that in the end, and in life, Arthur leaned on backward, to give Sylvie at least full credit.

The test, how he would have felt had Sylvie had the urge to work independently of him, in another lab: that never came up, to my knowledge.

For several years, I was happy that Esther worked closely with her; but I am certain that at any time I could have been proud and relieved she had an opportunity for independent status.