

CHUNG HWA BILINGUAL SERIES

THE HOUSE GUEST

BY

SUSAN ERTZ



CHUNG HWA BOOK CO., SHANGHAI

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房 客

THE HOUSE GUEST

by Susan Ertz

IN the silent, half-closed house in the Rue Faubourg St. Honoré, the Marquise de la Tour Givray was writing a letter to her son Gilles, a prisoner of war.

Upstairs in his bedroom, the Marquis de la Tour Givray lay in bed and waited for the Swedish masseur.¹ Sometimes his tired old eyes roamed about the room as though he wondered at finding himself still in it. *In normal times² they would be getting ready to go to La Grange, their country estate.³ Well it mattered very little now, he thought. One place was much like another provided⁴ one's needs were satisfied and one was not disturbed by strangers.

There were three reasons why the De la Tour Givray family had remained in Paris. The first was that the eighty-year-old *head of it⁵ had fallen and broken his hip just before the invasion,⁶ and for him to have joined those tragic, fleeing multitudes upon the roads would have been sheer insanity. The second was that the Marquise wouldn't consider going herself. She hated noise and exertion and she said that she preferred to die, if die, she must, in her own bed. The third reason was that Julie, their youngest daughter, would not leave her work at the hospital.

1. (Fr.)男按摩師。參考: masseuse 女按摩師。 2. = in peacetime, 在

房 客

在巴黎阿諾雷街那所半關閉的寂靜的邸宅中，吉弗萊侯爵夫人正在寫信給她的兒子吉葉士，一個戰爭的俘虜。

在二樓的寢室裏，吉弗萊侯爵躺在牀上，等待着那個瑞典的按摩師。有時，他那疲倦的老眼，在室中到處望着，儼然是發見他自己仍然睡在這房間裏，而有點感着驚異。在往年，他們到了這時候，就準備到他們鄉下的別墅去了。不過就是不去，他覺得也就無關重要。只要日常需要能得到滿足，而又無外人來打擾的話，住在城裏和住在鄉下，倒也都是一樣。

吉弗萊侯家之所以仍然留在巴黎，有三個理由。第一是那位八十歲的家長，剛在德軍侵入巴黎以前，跌了一交，把髖骨跌壞了。以這樣一個受了傷的老年人，若是也去加入那些悲慘地逃着難的人羣，長途跋涉，那真是發瘋。第二個理由是侯爵夫人她自己並不想走。她厭恨嘈雜和費力，她說如果她一定得死，她甯願死在她自己的牀上。第三個理由是他們的心愛的女兒柔麗，不願離開她在醫院裏的工作。

To Julie, the war and France's defeat made all things sombre. Even her new love for Dr. Carrère at the hospital was a sombre love; intense, deep, without gaiety yet possessing a beauty that, she believed, it could never have possessed in happier times. She had dedicated herself to him, to France, and to her work at the hospital. In her work she could put aside her fears for Gilles, her brother, her overwhelming sorrow for France. She could even "at times" forget the dark path down which her mother was now turning. Not in despair, but coldly, purposefully, cynically. The Marquise called her own attitude "realistic," but Julie, in her own mind, had another name for it.

Whenever she met the Ober-Leutnant in the hall or on the stairs, she said "Good morning" or "Good evening," and passed him with lowered head. At first he had scarcely noticed her. Soon, however, he realized that she was lovely and he stared not quite rudely or insolently, but as a man might stare at a puzzling picture. He had given up trying to talk to her. Only his eyes spoke, and "their interest" repelled her.

The Ober-Leutnant had seen the old Marquis only once, and that was on the day he arrived to make a list of the "house's occupants" and to demand a room for himself. After Louise had thrown open the shutters of the "unoccupied bedrooms,"¹⁰ he chose one that she reluctantly opened at his request.

"But this is the bedroom of Madame's son, Monsieur Gills," the old woman protested. "He is a prisoner of war."

對於柔麗，這戰爭以及法國的失敗，使得一切的事物都很沈悶。甚至她新近對那醫院裏的加雷爾醫生的戀愛，都是一種沈悶的愛。熱烈，深沈，而無快樂，可是她却相信，其間自有其美，非昇平時所能得到的。她已經獻身給他了，獻身於法國了，獻身於她醫院的工作了。她在工作中，她可以忘記她對她哥哥吉萊士的憂懼，以及她對法國的那種無法抑制的哀愁。她有時甚至把她母親現在正向着走去的那黑暗的路也忘記了。她並不是因為失望，而是冷淡地，故意地，憤世嫉俗地，來把那回事忘記。侯爵夫人把她自己這種態度喚作『現實主義的』，但是柔麗，在她自己心上，却另外有一個喚法。

每次她在大廳裏或在樓梯上遇着那位德國上尉，她都只應酬一聲就低着頭走了。起初，那上尉也很少注意她。可是馬上他感覺到柔麗很可愛，所以注視她了，倒也不是很無禮地釘着她望，而是像一個人注視着一幅耐人尋味的畫似的。他已放棄了那種找她說話的野心。僅以眉目傳情，而他那種秋波，使她嫌惡。

上尉只見過侯爵一次，那便是在他初來的那一天，調查這屋子裏一共住多少人，同時要求分一間房子給他居紮的時候。在使女魯易把所有的空房子的百葉窗，都打開了之後，他却選中了一間叫魯易開窗而魯易不大願意打開的房間。

『可是這是夫人的愛兒，吉萊士先生的臥房，』那老婦人抗議說。『他現在被你們俘虜去了。』

7. 有時。 8. 他眼睛對她所感到的興趣。 9. 屋子裏住的人。 10. 沒有住人的臥室。

"No matter. These articles can be moved. I like the view of the garden, and it is quiet here."

When she tried to hurry him past the Marquis's door, he paused, opened it abruptly and stepped inside. He saw *the invalid¹¹ stretched out in his bed. The dark, tired eyes of the old Frenchman looking out from under their drooping, paper-thin lids met the light, prominent eyes of the German and held them. Then the Marquis, his expression unaltered, slowly inclined his head. So conquered and conqueror met. The Ober-Leutnant bowed and went out.

It was only the Marquise, therefore, and the two old servants. Louise and Albert, last of a *depleted staff,¹² who had talked to the Ober-Leutnant. The Marquise had been a great beauty, and as no man had ever looked at her without pleasure she could not bear that one should *do so¹³ now. If the sight of her could have turned the Ober-Leutnant to stone she would not have minded, but she would first have taken care that he should see her for what she was, a remarkably handsome woman of sixty.

"We might have done worse," was her comment. "He is stupid, of course, but he will behave as he has been instructed to behave."

She had grown used to him now and sometimes had long talks with him. He had taught German for four years in a boys' school near Melun, and spoke excellent French.

But although she *held in contempt¹⁴ she respected the force behind him and meant to make the best term with it that she could. She wanted to live; her zest for

『不關事。這些東西可以搬開去的。我喜歡這兒可以看見花園，而且這裏清淨些。』

當她想要帶着他快快走過侯爵的房門口時，他却停住了腳，一下把那門打開，走進去了。他看見了那病人伸直地臥在牀上。那位法國的老人，從他那半閉着的如紙一般薄的眼臉之下，用他那深色而疲勞的眼睛望將過去，恰遇着了那個德國人的淡色而明朗的眼睛，他們互相望了一會，於是侯爵表情不變地慢慢地把頭低了下去。就是這樣，那個被征服的人和征服者相見了。隨後上尉行了一禮，便走出去了。

所以只有侯爵夫人，和她最後留下的兩個老用人，魯易和亞爾伯，才和那上尉講過話。那位侯爵夫人原先本是一位絕色的美女，無論是誰看了她都沒有不快樂的，現在她雖老了，仍不能忍受別人看見她感到不快。如果因為看了她，而能使那上尉變成石頭，她倒也不在乎，可以讓他看看，但是她第一得留心他是不是把她看清楚了，她現在雖然六十歲了，而當年的丰姿，仍然隱約可見。

『我們也許要比現在弄得更糟，』她解釋說。『當然，他是有點兒笨，不過他會依照着他的上峯所教他的那樣來動作的。』

她現在對於他已經慣了，有時也和他談得很長久。那上尉曾經在麥倫附近的一個男學校裏，教過四年的德文，說得一口很漂亮的法國話。

不過，她雖則瞧不起他，然而對於他後面的勢力却是尊敬的，而想要盡力地和那種勢力妥協。她要生活；她的求生

11. 受傷的人。 12. 減少了的侍從。 13. = look at her without pleasure.

14. 瞧他不起。參考：to hold him in esteem (respect honour) 尊敬他。

living was quite unimpaired by what had taken place. Since the return of her old friend Philippe des Pages, life was *by no means¹⁵ unendurable. True, Gilles was a prisoner, but perhaps with influence.....who could tell? Philippe was extremely clever. Meanwhile London was being bombed, Berlin was being bombed, Paris was peaceful.

One morning Julie put her head into her mother's bedroom before leaving for the hospital to say that Celeste de Roussy was coming to tea that afternoon. Her mother received this piece of news without enthusiasm.

"I find her so depressing nowadays," she said, examining her nails. "Besides, I am *not at all¹⁶ certain..... We have to be careful, and that brother of hers,¹⁷ Pierre, they say he is a *De Gaulleist.¹⁸ Celeste herself may be one for all I know. It is quite possible that she is watched.¹⁹"

"She is my best friend," Julie said. "And she's so brave! She loves to come here because she can talk of Raoul and because they met in this house."

"She *makes too much parade of²⁰ her widowhood," said the Marquise. "It is in bad taste. Also I am expecting Philippe des Pages. You know he has just lately returned from Lyons."

"I didn't know," said Julie. She looked away so that her mother might not see the disapproval and disappointment in her eyes. She and Gilles had always disliked Philippe des Pages.

"I suppose you have heard things about Philippe," her mother went on. "Nowadays no one's reputation is safe. In any case, it is certain that he had no choice."

的熱望，一點也沒有被當時所發生的情形損毀。自從她的老朋友菲力·巴齊回來以後，生活也並不是那樣受不了。不錯，吉葉士還被德人囚禁着，但是也許用那種勢力可以把他弄回來，誰說一定不可以呢？菲力是一個絕頂聰明的人。同時，倫敦正被轟炸着，柏林也在被轟炸，而巴黎却是安靜的。

有天早晨，柔麗在動身到醫院去以前，把頭伸進她母親的寢室里面來說，那天下午塞萊·羅西要來吃茶。她母親聽到這個消息一點也沒有表示歡迎。

『我看她近來非常頹喪，』她說，一面看着她的指甲，是不是長得太長了。『而且，我一點也沒有把握……我們得小心一點，而她的那個哥哥，皮爾，別人說他是戴高樂派，塞萊本人，據我看，或許也是一個。她很可能被看守着。』

『她是我最好的朋友，』柔麗說。『而且她是那般勇敢！她樂於到這兒來，在這兒她能夠談到拉阿，因為她們是在這屋子裏相遇的。』

『她把她寡婦的身份，顯耀得太厲害了，』侯爵夫人說。『那是很不上品的。而且今天下午菲力·巴齊要來。你知道的，他最近剛從里昂回來。』

『我沒有知道，』柔麗說，她把眼睛望開去，免得她母親看出她目光中的那種否認和失望的樣子。她和吉葉士是素來都不喜歡菲力·巴齊的。

『我猜想你已經聽到過菲力的事吧，』她母親仍繼續說下去。『在現在這種時候，外面的話都不可靠。至少，他沒有辦法，那是實在的。』

15. 決不。 16. 一點也不。 17. =Roussy's. 18. =follower of De Gaulle
抗德的法國將軍戴高爾的黨徒。 19. 被監視着。 20. 太顯耀了。

"Then it is true that his factories.....?"

Her mother interrupted her.

"It's said, of course, that they are now making silk for parachutes.²¹ I thought it best not to ask. Life must go on."

Julie gave a little involuntary shudder. "I'd tell Celeste not to come," she said, "but I can't *get in touch with²² her. This is the day she goes to the creche,²³ and I don't know the address."

"No matter," said the Marquise. "Let her come if she pleases. If she talks foolishly that is her own affair."

Julie came further into the room, closing the door behind her.

"Mother," she said, "I wish you wouldn't see Philippe any more. I don't think he's a man to be trusted now."

"That's absurd," answered the Marquise sharply. "To see my friends is the one pleasure left to me, and Philippe is far too good and too old a friend to be *thrown aside."²⁴

"I don't trust him," said Julie. "I am sure," she added, "that Gilles would feel as I do."

"You must allow me to do as I think best," said the Marquise, drawing her silk *bed-jacket²⁵ about her shoulder. "You are speaking of things you know nothing about."

Julie went out of the room and along the hall. As she passed the open door of the Ober-Leutnant's bedroom she saw that he had already gone out and that Louise and Albert had *made the bed²⁶ and tidied the room.

『那末，真的他的工廠……？』

他母親把她的話打斷了。

『當然，外面是這樣說，說他的工廠，現在織造做降落傘的網子。我想最好是不要問。生命必得延續下去。』

柔麗發出一點兒不自禁的顫抖。

『我告訴塞萊，叫她不要來好了，』她說，『不過我今天見不着她。今天是她到托兒所去的一天，而我又不知道那地址是怎樣寫的。』

『沒有關係，』侯爵夫人說。如果她高興來，你就讓她來好了。如果她要亂說話，那是她自個兒的事。』

柔麗把門關上，走進房間的裏面去。

『媽媽，』她說，『我希望你不要再會菲力了。我覺得他現在有點不可靠。』

『胡說，』侯爵夫人嚴厲地回答，『會會老朋友，是我現在還能得到的一種快樂，而菲力又是一個極好極老的朋友，我們不能把他丟開的。』

『我却不能相信他，』柔麗說。『我覺得吉葉士也是和我一樣的，』她又補上一句。

『你得讓我做自己所認為最對的事，』侯爵夫人說，在她肩上把綢睡衣扯伸了一下。『你說的都是你自己一點也不懂的事情。』

柔麗走出那房間到廳堂上去了。當她走過上尉臥室內打開着的門口，她看見魯易和亞爾伯正在收拾牀鋪和房子，上尉已經出門了。他們把廢紙拿到樓下去倒，掉下一些碎紙

21. 飛機用的降落傘。 22. 接觸，碰頭。 23. 托兒所。 24. 拋棄。 25. 睡衣。
26. 疊牀被。

They had taken the waste-paper basket downstairs to empty it, and some pieces of torn paper had fallen on the landing.²⁷ She stooped and picked them up. One had part of a sentence typed on it. She saw the words "Die verschlechterung."

She knew enough German to know that it meant "deterioration." The long word fascinated her, and she repeated it to herself. As she did so, it seemed to her that she could hear once more the tones of a hatred voice shrilling hysterically over the radio before the outbreak of war. "Beating the tom-toms," Gillies had called it. It brought back the old dread and horror, the feeling that all that was most evil was upon them. And now this word, with its implications, brought a new dread, a new horror, and one that struck from within. She tore the scraps of paper into tiny pieces and threw them into the fireplace.

A moment later she was bicycling towards the hospital. A few streets away was a small newspaper and tobacco shop and, as she reached it, the Ober-Leutnant came out with some papers under his arm. He saw her and stared, as he always stared, and his stare became more intense as she got off²⁸ her bicycle and wheeled it to the curb²⁹ beside him.

"Herr Leutnant," she said a little breathlessly, aware of the amazement in his face, "Herr Leutnant, I would like a word with you, if you please."

He stood stock still,³⁰ his cold, empty eyes unwinking.

"Yeз, Mademoiselle?"

在樓門口。她彎下身去拾了起來。有一片碎紙上，留着打字機打的半個句子，她看見上面打的是德文。

她的德文程度，還夠認識那幾個字的意思是「墮落」。那個長字頗使她感到興趣，她私自把那個德國字反覆地唸着。當她這樣唸着的時候，她覺得她好像重又能夠聽到了在戰事爆發以前，那無線電中的一種尖叫而可恨的話語的聲調。那個吉葉士曾把它喚作：「擊鼓的」，因此，又使她想到那舊時的畏蕙和恐怖，以及對之一種極端的惡感。而現在這個字和其意義，又帶來了一種新的畏蕙和新的恐怖，而且是從內心發出的。她把那碎紙片扯得粉碎，丟到火爐里去了。

隨即她就坐上了腳踏車到醫院裏去。穿過兩三條街，有一家烟紙店，當她走到那店前的時候，那個上尉恰巧手上挾着幾份報紙從那店裏出來。他看到她又照常地注視着，等到她從腳踏車上跳下來，把車子停放在他跟前的馬路旁，他的注視更強烈了。

『上尉，』她說，有一點兒上氣不接下氣地，因為她已經注意到上尉面上那種驚喜的神氣，『上尉，我想和你說一句話好嗎？』

他一動也不動地站着，他那冷而空虛的眼睛一瞬也不瞬。

『好呀，小姐。』

27. 樓梯上房門外的隙地。 28. 離開，下車。 29. 路邊的鋪石。 30. (adj.)一動也不動。

"I've been wondering.....it struck me that you probably don't know many French people and that perhaps you would like to meet some. Tell me if I am mistaken."

She met the incredulity in his gaze with composure.³¹

"Naturally, that is so. I do not meet many French people. You wish that I should? May I ask why?"

She hesitated before answering.

"Well, I suppose you must be lonely, so far from your own people. I.....my mother is asking one or two friends in to tea this afternoon about five. Perhaps you would like to come and meet them. I will try to get back from the hospital *in good time."³²

"Yesterday," he said, "you did not speak to me. Since I have been here you have not spoken. Only 'Good morning.' To-day you ask me to meet your friends. The reason, please?"

Under his brusque,³³ even hectoring,³⁴ manner she saw that he was gratified, flattered.

"I've told you why," she said. "But please don't trouble to come if it's inconvenient. Perhaps I shouldn't have suggested it. I'm sorry." And she put her foot on the pedal of her bicycle.

"But I would like to come," he said quickly. "I am very pleased to accept."

She forced a smile of pleasure.

"Good. And you need not say to my mother that I invited you. So just present yourself and she will welcome you, I am sure." She added, lowering her voice, "This will be a little secret between us, that I asked you to-day."

『我不曉得……我好像覺得你恐怕認識的法國人不多吧，也許你願意會見幾個。我說的對不對？』

她雖則在他注視着的眼中，看出他的不相信來，但仍然是很鎮靜的。

『自然是那樣的，我會見很少的法國人。你要我會見他們嗎？我請問爲什麼？』

她有點躊躇作答了。

『啊，我猜想你一定很孤寂，這樣遠遠地離開了你的家人。我……我母親今天下午五點鐘光景，請了幾個朋友來吃茶。也許你高興來會會他們。我想法子從醫院裏早點趕回來。』

『昨天，』他說，『你又沒有對我說，自從我到此以後，你就沒有和我說過話。僅是應酬一聲「早」。而今天你却要我去會你們的朋友。請把那理由告訴我。』

可是她却從他那魯莽，甚至威嚇的態度之中，看出他的滿意和高興的樣子。

『我已經把理由告訴你了，』她說。『不過，如果不方便的話，你大可以不來。也許我不該向你邀約的。對不起。』於是她把腳踏車上的腳踏板的踏板了。

『啊，我願意來，』他快快地說。『我非常高興接受的。』她嗤笑了一下，以表示快樂。

『好的。你不必對我母親說我請了你，你到時自己去好了，我母親一定會歡迎你的。』又低聲加上一句：『我今天邀你，是只有我們兩個人知道的一個小小的祕密。』

31. 冷靜，沈着。 32. 及早地。 33. 粗暴的。 34. 威嚇的，陵虐的。(出自 Homer 所作 Iliad 中之人名)。

"That is as you please. You are very kind. For so long you have not spoken; I am puzzled."

"Sometimes one changes one's mind, that is all," she said, and mounting her bicycle she rode quickly away, conscious of his stare between her shoulder-blades.³⁵

At the hospital, she and Dr. Paul Carrère had little opportunity to speak to each other. Their love affair had progressed by means of brief meetings snatched at odd moments, by looks, and by a deep sense of mutual trust and understanding.

Her mother had ridiculed the idea of a member of De la Tour Givray family marrying a poor man and a doctor.

"Don't ask for my approval," the Marquise had said. "I think you are mad, but I won't withhold my consent. Society at present does not exist. Some day it will again, and then you will find yourself shut out."

Julie never *referred to³⁶ the subject again, nor did her mother. She had always been a great disappointment to the Marquise because she liked books, games, travel, better than society; because she had an independent point of view. Her elder sister, Francine, now on the Riviera with her husband and children, was the favourite daughter, but first of all and best of all in her mother's eyes was Gilles. With these preferences,³⁷ Julie had no quarrel. They gave her a freedom she would not otherwise have had.

When Celeste de Roussy arrived between half-past four and five she found the Marquise already behind the tea-table. She kissed the older woman, and asked after the Marquis's health.

『好，我不說，謝謝你。因為這樣久，你沒有對我說話；所以我莫名其妙呀。』

『一個人有時候心境是會變的，沒有別的什麼，』她說完，騎上腳踏車快快地走了，覺到他仍在目送着她。

在醫院裏，她和加雷爾醫生很少有互相交談的機會。她們的戀愛是用忙裏偷閒的短時間的會面，和眉目傳情，以及一種互相信任和理解的那種深的感覺而進行的。

她母親覺得以一侯門的小姐而想去和一個窮人，一個醫師結婚，是很可笑的。

『不要徵求我的同意，』侯爵夫人曾經這樣說過。『我看你簡直是發了狂，不過我也不會不承諾的。上流社會現在已不存在了。有一天還是要興起來的，那時候你就會發覺自己是摒除在外面了。』

柔麗以後就再沒有提到這問題，她母親也沒有再提過。她母親對於她素來是很失望的，因為她喜歡書籍，游藝，旅行，較之愛好上流社會尤甚，因為她自己有一種獨立的觀點。她那個現在和她丈夫兒女留在麗維拉的姐姐，弗蘭新，是士母親所喜歡的，不過在她母親的心目中，最好的還是吉葉她。對於她母親的偏愛，柔麗並不吃醋。因為這樣，她倒可以自由，否則一切只好聽命於父母。

當塞萊·羅西在四點半過後來到的時候，她看見侯爵夫人已經坐在吃茶的桌子上了。她吻了一下那年老的女人，隨即又問了侯爵的安。

"He grows stronger every day," the Marquise told her. "Soon, he says, he will take his place in the household once more." She gave a little laugh. "Poor old man, he doesn't realize yet how completely things have changed."

"Better at his age that he shouldn't realize it," said Celeste. "And your guest? Is he still with you?"

"I see no prospect of his leaving us," the Marquise replied. "After all, he is not bad."

"Luckily for you he is at least out all day," said Celeste. "The two German officers who are in my cousin Lucille's house use her library as their office, so they are always there. It would drive me mad. When I think that Raoul died for this.....!"

"He died for France," said the Marquise coldly, "as many another man has done."

"Yes," said Celeste with bitter meaning, "he died for France, and France has died for Germany. I have only one comfort. I tell myself that if he were alive he would either be a prisoner like Gilles, or a prisoner like you and me. I think he would have chosen to die."

"If we could all choose our afflictions,³⁸ Celeste, life would be simpler," said the Marquise. "As it is, we must *submit to³⁹ the inevitable and do the best we can."

Celeste threw up her head sharply. "I will never submit. Never, never!"

They heard the opening and closing of the great front door and footsteps crossing the tiled hall.

"I suspect that is Philippe des Pages," said the Marquise, touching her beautifully arranged grey hair. "He is just back from Lyons, you know."

『他現在一天天的強壯起來了，』侯爵夫人告訴她，『他說，不久他就可以來重理家事了。』她輕笑了一下。『可憐的老人家，他還沒有發覺世界完全變了。』

『在他那樣的年齡，還是不發覺的好，』塞萊說，『你們家裏住的那位客人呢？是不是還住在你們這裏？』

『我看他還一點沒有要走的樣子，』侯爵夫人回答說，『好在他還不壞。』

『幸虧他整天不在家，這一點至少對於你們是好的，』塞萊說。『我表姐家裏住的那兩個德國人，把她的圖書室用作辦公處，一天到晚都不離開那裏。我要遇着這樣的事，就會要使我發神經。拉阿就是這樣死的呀！』

『他是爲法國而死的，』侯爵夫人冷冷地說。『也和其他許多人一樣。』

『是呀，』塞萊很苦痛地說，『他爲法國而死，而法國却是爲德國而死。我現在只有一種可以自慰的辦法。我自己解釋說如果他還生存，他也就會像吉業士一樣成爲俘虜的，或是像你我一樣也被囚禁着。我想他與其這樣，是甯願死去的。』

『塞萊，如果我們大家對於患難都能自由選擇，那人生也就會很簡單了，』侯爵夫人說，『照現在這樣，我們必得屈服於那些不可避免的境遇，而盡力去應付。』

塞萊厲色地否認了。

『我決不屈服，決不，決不！』

她們聽見大門開關的聲音，和有人走過瓷磚鋪的廳堂上所發出的脚步声。

『我想那是菲力·巴齊來了，』侯爵夫人說，理着她那梳得整潔極了的白髮。『你知道，他是剛纔由里昂回來的。』

A tall man with stooping shoulders, thin fair hair that was turning white and a still fair moustache, came into the room. The moustache partially hid a weak mouth, and his face was criss crossed⁴⁰ by fine lines that scarcely showed at a distance. He was nearing sixty but had an air of self-indulgence and false youth. He kissed the Marquise's hand with exaggerated homage,⁴¹ and then Celeste's.

"This is an unexpected pleasure, Celeste. I didn't even know you were in Paris."

"Oh, yes, Paris is my home, after all. And you? How do you do in this prison-house we all share?"

He frowned and made an impatient gesture.

"Oh, come, come! It is not so bad. To-day, except for the quiet streets and closed shops, it seemed almost like our old Paris, I thought. I felt quite cheerful, quite optimistic. Perhaps it was partly the beautiful weather."

"It must have been that," Celeste said. "I can think of no other reason for feeling cheerful."

"Time heals all things," said the Marquise, and there was a harsh note⁴² in her voice. "Even your grief will heal, my dear." She turned to Des Pages, shutting out the other woman. "The De Savarings were here the other day, Philippe. They are most eager to see you. They run their car now on gas, and they say it is an excellent substitute⁴³ for petrol. They go everywhere."

"I'm having mine adjusted too," Des Pages said. "It shall be *at your disposal,⁴⁴ H el ene, and I hope you will use it often."

『一個背有點駝的，頭髮已斑白，鬍子却還沒大變色的高個子，走進室內來了。他的鬍子把他的嘴唇遮了一部分，他的面孔起了點皺，但站遠一點却看不見。他已經快六十歲，但是還裝着放縱和少年的樣子。他帶着特別的尊敬吻了侯爵夫人的手一下，接着又吻了塞萊的手。』

『這是一種意外的快樂，塞萊。我甚至不曉得你也在巴黎。』

『是呀，巴黎畢竟是我的家。你呢？你在我們所共有的這個囚房裏還過得好嗎？』

他皺了一下眉頭，做了一個不耐煩的姿勢。

『啊，罷，罷！這也不算頂壞。今天，除去寧靜的街頭和關閉的店鋪而外，我想這也幾乎和我們舊日的巴黎一樣。我覺得十分愉快，十分樂觀，也許這半是因為好天氣的關係。』

『這一定是因為天氣的關係，』塞萊說。『我再想不出別的理由可以使我們感覺到愉快的了。』

『時間可以診好一切，』侯爵夫人說，她的聲音中帶着粗糙的調子。『甚至你的憂愁，都會痊愈的，親愛的。』她轉向巴齊，把另外那個女人丟在一邊了。『菲力，薩萬朗夫婦早兩天到這裏來過了。他們非常想要見見你。他們現在用瓦斯開汽車，他們把這個拿來代替汽油好極了。他們到處都開着去。』

『我現在也正在把我的汽車改用瓦斯，』巴齊說。『海倫，我的車子可以隨你使用，我希望你常常去坐。』

The Marquise gave a little cry of pleasure. "Philippe! To go about once more—it would be too much happiness! It is what I miss⁴⁵ above all things."

"How can you bear to drive through Paris now?" said Celeste. "Paris to-day is like a ruined, betrayed old woman, slowly dying before our eyes. It is a sight I do not even wish to see."

"You are mistaken," said Des Pages. "Paris will not die. Paris will arise purified and strengthened. She will have learnt new and better ways."

Celeste, who was rarely* at a loss⁴⁶ for a reply, was about to answer him when she saw the Marquise turn her head quickly towards the door.

"But who.....?" began the Marquise. "I expected no more visitors....."

When she saw the Ober-Leutnant she half got out of her chair, then almost immediately she recovered her poise. He gave a little bow.

"You permit, ladies?"

"But certainly," said the Marquise. "You have arrived most opportunely.⁴⁷ Come in, Herr Leutnant, and join us." He bent over her hand, and she then introduced him to Celeste and to Des Pages. Celeste's face* only barely concealed her feelings.⁴⁸ The Ober-Leutnant took a chair close to the tea-table and seemed pleased at finding himself in such agreeable company.

Why had he come, the Marquise wondered, as she poured out his tea. It was the first time he had done such a thing. How dared he come, Celeste asked herself angrily? Were they to be allowed no privacy at all? How ridiculous he looked, sitting on that frail gilt chair,

那侯爵夫人快樂的叫起來。『菲力！再出去兜一次圈子——那一定太幸福了！我現在比什麼還想念的，就是坐汽車。』

『你現在怎樣能夠坐汽車有巴黎兜圈子呢？』塞萊問。『今日的巴黎，就像一個零落的，被遺棄的老婦人一樣，在我們的眼前慢慢的死去。這是一種我不願看見的光景。』

『你錯了，』巴齊說。『巴黎是不會死的。巴黎將淨化而有力地再起來。她將學得一些新奇而又更好的辦法。』

素來長於應對的塞萊，正預備回答他的時候，她却看見侯爵夫人急遽地把頭轉向門口。

『這是誰呀……？』侯爵夫人開始說。『今天再沒有別的什麼客人了……』

當她看見那上尉時，她稍稍立起來，但隨即又坐下了。上尉微微地鞠了一下躬。

『我可以進來嗎，夫人們？』

『當然可以，』侯爵夫人答。『你來得正好。請進，上尉，來加入我們。』他吻了一下侯爵夫人的手，於是她把上尉介紹給塞萊和巴齊。塞萊幾乎要怒形於色了。上尉在茶桌旁邊坐下，對於他自己得以和這樣快樂的人們在一塊兒，看去似乎很高興。

侯爵夫人一面倒着茶，一面覺得奇怪，爲什麼他會來。他這樣是第一次。塞萊却忿怒地自忖，他好大的狗膽，居然不請自來，難道法國人就不許有一點私人談話嗎？他坐在那

45. 所思念物。 46. 茫然，不知所措。 47. 好時機地，正好地。 48. 僅僅只夠掩藏住她的感情。

so big, so "out of place"⁴⁹ at a tea-table! She derived a perverse⁵⁰ pleasure from the fact that he looked absurd.

"Already," he said, balancing his cup and saucer precariously while he took a piece of cake, "the birds in the Bois are singing beautifully. It makes me think of the way they sing in "the Black Forest"⁵¹."

"Yes," said Celeste, "even this year the birds sing. They have no hearts."

He turned heavily in her direction, moving his whole body.

"I see you do not understand birds as well as I do. In the Black Forest I used to catch song-birds and put them into cages for my mother. They became her pets and grew "fond of"⁵² her."

"Indeed?" said Celeste. "And did you first put out their eyes? That, I understand, makes them sing even better."

"Madame de Roussy is joking, of course," said Des Pages quickly, throwing Celeste a warning glance. "No one does that. It is a myth. You know your way about Paris very well now I suppose, Herr Leutnant?"

"But naturally. I have been to Paris often before. Also I study maps. I need not ask a single question. It is not always convenient to ask questions. Sometimes one is told wrong, and when one returns the person responsible has disappeared unpunished."

"That was always apt to happen," said the Marquise. "It is a a trick the Paris *gamin*⁵³ loves to play."

She offered Celeste a piece of cake, but Celeste refused it.

金邊椅子上，那樣大一塊，對於茶桌如此不稱，看去多麼滑稽可笑呀：因為他看去很是無聊，她倒私心算是得了一點快慰。

『已經，』他說，當他取了一片糕的時候；手上的盃碟幾乎傾斜得要落下來。『那園林中的鳥在美沙地唱着歌了，這使我想起來在黑森林裏它們的叫法。』

『是呀，』塞萊說，『甚至於在今日鳥也叫。它們是無心肝的。』

他笨重地轉向着她，把整個的身體都轉動了。

『我看你不像我那樣懂得鳥類。我嘗爲我母親去到黑森林中捕捉些唱歌的鳥來，關在籠子裏。它們成爲她的寵物，後來那些鳥也就喜歡我母親了。』

『真的嗎？』塞萊問，『你是不是一來就剷了它們的眼睛呢？據我所知，那樣可以使它們唱得更好。』

『羅西夫人當然是說笑話的，』巴齊趕快地說，同時給了塞萊一個眼色。『誰也不會把它們的眼睛剷掉的。這只是一種神話罷了。上尉，我猜想你現在對於巴黎的路都很認識了吧？』

『自然，我以前常常到巴黎來的，現在我還可以看地圖。我一聲也用不着問。問路並不很方便，有時人們故意指點錯路，等你走回來，你已經找不到那亂說的人來處罰他了。』

『那是時常發生的，』侯爵夫人說。『這是巴黎的頑童常愛開的玩笑。』

她送一片糕給塞萊吃，可是塞萊沒有受。

49. 不相稱。 50. 邪惡的，離正道的。 51. 德文作 Schwarywald 在西南德意志與萊茵河平行的樹林繁茂的山地，三分之二在 Baden，三分之一在 Württemberg，長重百哩，占地1800方哩，其最高處達4,897呎。所謂黑森林，是因爲樅樹濃暗的顏色而來，並非暗無天日的原始林，且其中多礦泉流水，風景極佳，遊人不絕。
52. 喜歡。 53. 頑童。

"My dear," she said, "you are eating nothing. The cake is not particularly good, I'm afraid, but it's the best Louise could do with the materials at her disposal. We must learn," she added with a smile for the newcomer,⁵⁴ "to do without the little luxuries we used to think important."

"It is very good cake," said the Ober-Leutnant, taking another slice. It is better cake than we have today in Germany."

"Then I will have a piece," said Celeste.

The Marquise was irritated. It was so like Celeste, she thought, to permit herself these little gibes.⁵⁵

"Where is your daughter?" the Ober-Leutnant asked. "Still at her hospital?"

"I'm afraid so," the Marquise answered. "Sometimes they keep her there very late." Inwardly she prayed that this might be one of those occasions. It was a relief when Celeste went, as she did very soon, but the Ober-Leutnant, with frequent glances towards the door, sat there till after six, when he excused himself and went to his room, saying that he had work to do.

"Not at all a bad fellow," said Des Pages. "One must get on with them as best one can. You were quite right to invite him to tea."

"But I didn't," said the Marquise. "He came uninvited. It's the first time he has done such a thing." She looked puzzled, and Des Pages asked:

"Did he know I was coming?"

"How could he? We scarcely see him, and he knows nothing of our private affairs. As for Julie, she refuses to speak to him."

『親愛的，』她說，『你一點什麼也沒有吃。這個雖不特別好，不過是魯易儘現在所能得到的材料盡力做出來的。我們必得學習，』她對上尉微笑着加上一句，『來做點心，不用那些以前我們認為非要不可的材料。』

『這糕很好，』上尉說，又拿了一片。『這比我們現在德國所有的點心好多了。』

『那麼，我也來吃一片。』塞萊說。

侯爵夫人有點惱了。她想那正是塞萊慣常愛說的那一套嘲弄的口吻。

『你小姐呢？』上尉問：『還在醫院裏沒有回來嗎？』

『大概是的，』侯爵夫人回答。『有時他們使她回得很遲。』她心中却真希望今天是如此。不久，塞萊便告辭了，侯爵夫人私心竊慰，可是那位上尉，頻頻地望着門口，一直坐到六點鐘以後，說他還有事，才告辭回到他自己房間裏去了。

『他決不是一個壞人，』巴齊說。『我們得盡力地和他們好好的相處。你請他來吃茶是很對的。』

『但是我並沒有請他，』侯爵夫人說。『他原是一個不速之客。他這樣做還是第一次。』她好像有一點兒迷惑的樣子，巴齊接着問道：

『他知道我要來嗎？』

『他怎樣會知道？我們很少和他見面，他對於我們的私事，一點也不知道。至於柔麗呢，她是不和他說話的。』

"She is very foolish," Des Pages said. "Such behaviour only makes it harder for all of us. We have the Germans to thank for the fact that France is not plunged in civil war."

"You really think so, Philippe?"

"Certainly. France badly needed the discipline and organizing genius of the German race. Women like Celeste de Roussy should be *made to⁵⁶ see it, or else told that they are not wanted."

"She has neither good sense nor good taste," the Marquise said, *giving way to⁵⁷ her irritation. "For some time I have wondered if she were not a De Gaulleist."

Des Pages took his chin in his hand.

"It is just that sort of thing that we must find out," he said. He looked thoughtful. "How many of our friends are in Paris? You should know."

"I have seen a good many," the Marquise told him, "but of course it is difficult to keep in touch when one cannot get about."

"It might be a good plan," he said, "to send out cards for a soirée.⁵⁸ Ask everyone you know. It would be an event. They will all want to come, and unless the war has changed them more than I think, they will never stop chattering."

"The Marquise looked at him with sudden understanding.

"You would be doing us a service," he went on. "We must know who our friends are, and where we stand. Without unity the situation is hopeless."

"But," she said, "I would have to get the permission of the—authorities. Entertainments are not encouraged.

『她真是太蠢了，』巴齊說。『她這種行爲自然使我們所有的人更難應付。法國之所以沒有發生內戰，我們還得謝謝德國人呢。』

『你真是那樣嗎，菲力？』

『真的。法國真需要德國民族那種訓練和組織的天才。像塞萊·羅西那樣的女人，真應該受點訓練。否則就應直告以這兒用不着她們。』

『她感覺既不靈敏，趣味又不佳，』侯爵夫人任性地發洩。『有個時候，我真亟想知道她到底是不是一個戴高樂派。』巴齊用手支着下巴。

『這正是我們所應該追究的事，』他說。他好像在想事似的。『我們的朋友有多少人在巴黎？我們應該知道。』

『我會見過不少，』侯爵夫人告訴他，『不過自然很難接觸，因為我們不能到處去跑。』

『發請帖請大家來夜會一次，也許是個很好的辦法。』他說，『把你所知道的人都請來。那一定會成爲一個盛會。他們一定大家都要來的，而且他們決不會停止饒舌的，除非是戰爭把他們改變得出乎我意料之外。』

侯爵夫人突然了解了似的望着他。

『你將給我們一種幫助，』他繼續說。『我們一定要曉得誰是我們的朋友，我們的立場如何。如果不聯合起來，情勢是毫無希望的。』

『但是，』她說：『我必須得到當局的許可。遊宴也在限制之列。』

"I have no doubt I could arrange that for you. Leave it to me."

She touched his hand gratefully.

"You are so clever, Philippe. Tell me, is there anything that could be done about releasing Gilles? If only he could come home.....!"

They sat *side by side⁵⁹ on the sofa, talking. When she spoke of her son, something real came into the Marquise's face and voice. That splendid son of hers, her youngest, born when she had despaired of having a son.....What wouldn't she do to get him back?

Julie returned late. She and her mother sat down to a dinner of onion soup, herrings and compote⁶⁰ of apples. When Julie was about to go up to *read to⁶¹ her father, the Marquise remembered that she would be certain to hear of the Ober-Leutnant's visit from Celeste. She preferred that she should hear of it first from herself and know that he had come uninvited.

As she listened, Julie looked down at her hands. "One would hardly expect him to do such a thing without being asked," she said at last.

"Oh, well," said the Marquise, "I don't think we have much to complain of. He might be worse. Couldn't you try to treat him with more civility⁶² It would be better for all of us."

"Very well, mother," Julie said. "I'll do my best." And she ran upstairs, miserable because of the deceptions and cross-currents of which that house was now full, and to which she was forced to contribute. "But it won't be for long," she said to herself. "Thank heaven, it won't be for long!"

『那個我可以替你弄到無疑。我包你辦好。』

她很感謝地執着他的手。

『你真聰明，菲力。告訴我有什麼方法可以把吉葉士放出來嗎？如果他能夠回家的話……』

他們在沙發上靠攏坐着在談話。當侯爵夫人提到她的兒子時，她的聲色俱厲了。她那個了不起的兒子，是她最後的一胎生的，那時她已經以為不能再生育了……她要怎樣才可以把他弄得回來呀？

柔麗那天很遲才回家。她和母親坐下來吃晚飯，有洋葱湯，魚，和蜜餞蘋果。當柔麗正預備要上樓去，讀報給他父親聽的時候，侯爵夫人想到塞萊一定會告訴她女兒關於那位上尉來到茶會的事。所以她覺得不如自己來先告訴她，並使她曉得那位上尉是不請自來的。

柔麗聽她母親說話的時候，只管低着頭看她自己的手。等她母親說完，最後她才說：『既沒有請他，而她居然這樣跑來，真出人意外。』

『啊，好吧，』侯爵夫人說，『我想我們也用不着多抱怨。他也許可以比現在的情形更壞些。你還是對他客氣一點吧。那末，對於我們大家都有好處。』

『好呀，媽媽，』柔麗說。『我盡我的力量就是。』於是她跑上樓去了，覺得很是悲傷，因為現在滿屋都是欺騙和暗爭，而她也不能不跟着來這一套。『但是這不會長久的，』她寬慰自己說。『謝天謝地，這不會長久的！』

A few days later her mother called her into her bedroom.

"Julie," she said, "I have decided to give a soirée next Thursday. Your father is coming downstairs, and it will be a little celebration for him. Also it will enable us to see all our friends."

Julie looked at her with startled eyes. "But you would have to get permission. Do you want to *ask favours of⁶³ them?"

"Oh, Philippe will *attend to⁶⁴ all that for me."

"I see," said Julie. Then she asked, "Was it your idea, mother, or his?"

The Marquise frowned.

"I really don't remember. And what does it matter? We both agreed it would be a pleasant change. Anyway, it is no good raising objections. The cards⁶⁵ have gone out, and nearly everyone has accepted."

Julie turned away and said no more. She hated the idea and couldn't put it out of her mind. When she heard that Celeste was coming and others of her best friends, her *heart sank.⁶⁶ Pride, family loyalty, forbade that she take the obvious course and warn them. It was possible that her mother was not even aware that Des Pages was *making use of⁶⁷ her. So she tried, at least, to persuade⁶⁸ herself. When her mother told her that she wanted her help and that she must *on no account⁶⁹ make her work at the hospital an excuse for staying away, she promised she would be there.

"I knew you disapprove," said the Marquise. "You have always disapproved of me. But you are my daughter, and people will expect to see you."

兩三天之後，她母親把她叫到臥房裏去。

『柔麗，』她說，『我決定要午下個禮拜四，開一個夜會。你父親的病已經完全好了，可以下樓來，這是一個小小的慶祝。這可以使我們見到所有的朋友。』

柔麗帶着驚訝的目光望着她母親。『但是你得請求當局的允許。你要想去求他們關顧嗎？』

『啊，那一切菲力會替我去辦的。』

『我曉得了。』柔麗說。隨即她問：『媽媽，這是你的意思呢，還是菲力的意思。』

侯爵夫人把眉頭皺起了。

『我真是記不清楚了。而這有什麼關係呢？我們兩個都同意如果這樣一定是一種愉快的轉換。總而言之，這用不着反對。請帖都發出去了，而差不多每個人都答應來。』

柔麗掉轉頭來，再沒有說什麼。她厭惡那種念頭，而老是不能使之釋諸懷抱。當她聽說塞萊和她其餘的好朋友都要來，她更覺氣餒了。驕傲和對家庭的忠誠，使她未能採取明顯的舉動，去警告他們。很可能地她母親甚至還沒有注意到她自己被巴齊利用了。至少她要使自己這樣相信的。她母親對她說要她來幫忙，決不可以醫院裏的工作為口實而不到，她也就答應下來。

『我知道你是不贊成的，』侯爵夫人說。『你總是不贊成我的辦法的。不過你是我的女兒，客人總想見見你。』

63. 求惠於人。 64. 注意，留心。 65. 請帖。 66. 氣餒，喪氣。 67. 利用。
68. 說服。 69. 無論如何不要。

The guests began arriving at nine, some on foot, some in horse-drawn vehicles, some in gas-driven cars. As they came into the house and took off their wraps,⁷⁰ their talk and laughter seemed to bring back another epoch. The house, Julie thought, and the people in it, seemed to have taken a step backwards in time,

She had put on a simple black dress and saw, with something of a shock, that her mother was wearing a gay flowered dress, full-skirted and backless. Most of the guests wore street clothes, with the exception of a few who had had cars to come in. They flooded the great drawing-room and were heartened⁷¹ by the sight of tapestries and pictures which for so long had been under dust-covers. They gathered about the chair where the old Marquis sat, his crutches beside him, and offered him congratulations. He was a symbol, many felt, of the old France that survived disasters before and would survive them again. One woman laughingly touched him for luck.

"Three wars with Germany in your lifetime," she said, "and here you still are. You are a good omen."

But Julie could feel only pity. "The will to live," she said to herself. "It is good but is not enough."

Des Pages came early and *played the part⁷² of host as the Old Marquis could not leave his chair. Louise had provided, out of commonplace materials, an appetizing supper. Julie was surprised at the number of old friends her mother had been able to bring together. She saw people she had not seen since before the war, and she was touched by the changes in them.

在敲九點鐘的時候，客人們慢慢地都到了，有的走路，有的乘馬車，有的坐用瓦斯開的汽車。當他們走進房來，脫下了他們的外衣，坐下來說笑的時候，好像又恢復了那歌舞昇平的日子，那房子以及那房子裏面的人，柔麗暗忖，好像是在時間上退轉去了一步。

她穿的一身很簡單的黑色衣服，看見她母親穿着一身花衣，背露在外面，長裙曳地，她不禁爲之吃了一驚。大多數的客人，都穿着普通上街的衣服，只有幾個坐汽車來的人，穿得漂亮一點。他們把那大客廳都坐滿了，看到那些久被塵封的繡畫和圖畫，頗爲高興。他們都圍到侯爵的椅下四周來，向他道喜。許多人都覺得，他是既往飽經患難，今後仍將巍然自存的古老法國的象徵，有一個女人，笑着去摸了他一下，以冀得福。

『在您一生之中，我們已和德國發生過三次戰爭了。』她說，『而現今您仍然健在！您是一個極好的徵兆。』

但柔麗是只覺得可憐。『求生的意志，』她對自己說。『這當然是好的，但是不夠呀。』

巴齊到得很早，因爲侯爵不能離開他的椅子，所以巴齊就代他來執行主人的職務。廚娘魯易用極普通的材料，做出了一桌很可口的菜。柔麗看見她母親居然能夠召集這麼多的老朋友到一塊兒來，不禁爲之驚異。她會到了許多從開戰以來就沒有見過的人，他們都變了，使她不免爲之感慨。

"My dear Julie," one elderly woman said to her, "you are prettier than ever, *in spite of⁷³ your hard work. What it is to be young! For us, everything is finished." "I hear you have become a nurse," said another. "How splendid! And once upon a time we *used to⁷⁴ think you cared only for tennis! France should have trusted the young more and the old less."

Julie hoped that the chatter round about made this remark inaudible to other ears. She winced, too, when an old friend of her father's said, looking at the buffet table with greedy eyes, "How did your mother manage it? I have had nothing without a coupon⁷⁵ for months, and very little then. They will not be satisfied, I suppose, till they have starved us all.

People were already beginning to say what they felt and thought, throwing aside restraint in this familiar atmosphere of friendliness and hospitality. Julie kept looking towards the door with a growing anxiety. Why was he so late? Luckily Celeste and some of her other friends were also late. She prayed that he might come soon, and when there was a sudden lull in the talk, her heart gave a glad leap.

In full uniform, he stood hesitating in the doorway, his eyes searching the room. Her mother had not seen him yet, so Julie went to him with a smile of welcome.

"Come in, Herr Leutnant, I have been expecting you."

The effect of his presence, she noticed, was extraordinary. The whole lively company was suddenly hushed. Many looked at her in surprise, as she greeted him, some with disapproval. She disregarded them utterly.

『我親愛的柔麗，』一個年老的婦人對她說，『你的工作雖苦，可是你比以前長得更漂亮了。年輕真是福！我們現在一切都完了。』

『我聽說你現在在做看護，』另外一個對她說。『那多麼好呀！從前我們以為你只曉得打網球！法國從此真應該多多信任年輕人，少信任那些老年人。』

柔麗真希望在周圍嘈雜的人聲中，這句話沒有被別人聽到。她父親的身邊一個老朋友，以饕餮的餓眼望着滿桌的菜，對她說，『你母親怎樣能夠弄得出這樣多菜來的？我有好幾個月沒有券買不到一點東西吃了，就是有券也只買得到一點點。我想，他們不把我們餓死，他們是不會滿足的。』柔麗聽了這話，也頗為之畏縮。

客人們已經開始在說着他們的感覺和思想，在這種慣常的友誼和款待的空氣中，早把拘束拋到一邊去了。柔麗帶着逐時增長的焦慮，不斷地在望着門邊。他為甚麼這樣遲還不來？幸而塞萊和她另外的幾個朋友都遲了。她真希望他快點來，當客人的談話突然地停止了一下，她的心高興地跳了。

穿着全副武裝，他立在門口躊躇不進，眼睛只管向室內到處搜尋。她母親還沒有看見他，於是柔麗走過去含笑相迎『請進，上尉，我正在等候你。』

她注意到，他到來的影響，很不平常。那生氣勃勃的滿座的佳賓，突然靜默了。當柔麗去招待他的時候，許多人都帶着驚異的眼光望着她，有些人頗為不滿。她完全不睬他們。

"Follow me, Herr Leutnant, and I will introduce you to our friends. Can you remember names when you are first introduced? I always find it difficult, but I promise to pronounce them clearly. Madame Blanc, permit me to introduce our house guest, Herr Ober-Leutnant Gerhardt Seldte. He has been with us for many months now... ..and this, Herr Leutnant, is an old friend of my father's, Monsieur Colbert....."

She *went the rounds⁷⁶ of the great drawing room, introducing him everywhere. At last the Marquise, who had been cooling her indignation in the library with Des Pages and a few others, came and joined them.

"We are flattered, Herr Leutnant," she said, "that you have come to our simple little soirée. It is so difficult nowadays for friend to meet friend that I decided to ask them all here together. I apologize for not having sent you a formal invitation, but I hardly thought it would amuse you. I see my daughter has you in her care. That is excellent."

But once, while the Ober-Leutnant was ta'king to someone else, she drew Julie aside and said in an angry whisper:

"Why have you suddenly become so friendly? What does it mean?"

"I promised you I would do my best, mother."

"You are overdoing it. I never dreamt he would obtrude himself in this way. Philippe is furious. It has spoilt everything."

"But why? I thought he wished us to be *on good terms with⁷⁷ them!"

『跟我來吧，上尉，我給你介紹我們這些朋友。第一次介紹，你可以記得到許多姓名嗎？我常常記不到的，不過我可以盡量把他們的姓名，唸得清清楚楚給你聽。白蘭夫人，我替你介紹，這位是我們家裏住的客人，塞爾特上尉。他已經在我們這裏住了好幾個月了……而這位，上尉，是我父親的一個老朋友，柯爾伯先生……』。

她帶着他在那大客廳裏兜着圈子，一個一個地給他介紹。

最後，侯爵夫人，在圖書室中和巴齊以及另外兩三個人，把憤怒平息了一點之後，才走出到客廳裏來。

『上尉，』她說，『你來參加我們這個簡陋的小夜會，我們真覺得榮幸。在現在這樣的時候，朋友們想見見面，真不容易，所以我才決定請他們同到這裏來聚會聚會。真對不起，我沒有送你一個正式的請帖，我以為你不會高興來的。我看見我的女兒在招待你，那非常好。』

但是一等到那上尉去和別人說話了，她馬上把柔麗拉到一邊，忿怒地向她耳語：

『你為什麼突然變得這樣親善起來？這到底是什麼意思？』

『我不是對您說過嗎，媽媽？我將盡我的力量。』

『你做得太過分了。我做夢都沒想到，他會這樣妄自闖進來的。菲力簡直氣得說不出話來了。這把一切都弄糟了。』

『那為什麼會這樣。我以為巴齊希望我們和他們和和睦睦。』

The Marquise turned impatiently away. Really, Julie was infuriating. She presently saw the girl take the Ober-Leutnant to her father.

"Father, our guest says he has seen you once, and begs for a proper introduction. Here he is. Herr Ober-Leutnant Gerhardt Deldte, my father."

"You see, I am much better now," the old man said, nodding. "I have surprised everyone, including myself. Myself perhaps most of all," he added, and his face wrinkled into a smile.

"It must be a great satisfaction to your friends to see you here tonight," the Ober-Leutnant said. "I congratulate you."

Julie saw to⁷⁸ it that she was never alone with the Ober-Leutnant. His manner had changed. He was now triumphant, almost possessive. His light, prominent eyes looked at her with a new expression. Once he took her arm, and she stiffened at his touch but bore it until she could draw away from him to go to speak to someone.

A moment later she turned and saw Celeste watching her. The look in her friend's face was one that she had already seen in a good many faces. It said "Why is this man here? Why are you treating him like a friend and an honoured guest? Why have we been asked?"

As their eyes met, Celeste turned quickly away, as if she could not then trust herself to speak. "Very well," thought Julie, "believe what you please now. It can wait." She turned to a tall, thin man who had been a friend of Gilles', and who had lost an arm in a flying accident. He was talking to Des Pages, and, beckoning

侯爵夫人很不耐煩地掉頭走了。柔麗真使人生氣。侯爵夫人看見她女兒馬上又把那上尉帶去見她父親了。

『爸爸，我們的客人說，他只遇見您一次，所以要求再正式介紹一下。現在他來了。這是塞爾特上尉，這是我父親。』

『你看，我現在是好多了』，那老人點着頭說。『我使得大家都嚇倒了，連我自己也嚇倒了，我自己也許最爲驚異。』他又這樣接着說了，他的臉上的皺紋堆成一個微笑。

『你的朋友今天晚上在這兒見到你，他們一定非常高興，』上尉說，『我祝賀你。』

柔麗時時刻刻留心，務必不要和那上尉單獨在一塊兒。他的態度變了。他現在很勝利了，幾乎是在主動的地位。他那光瑩顯著的眼睛，帶着一種新的表情來望着她。一度他曾挽住她的手膀，她頗爲侷促，但也就忍耐了，直到她得到機會向別人說話時，才擺脫了他。

過了一會她回過頭來，便看見塞萊正注視着她。在她的朋友的面孔上，見到那樣的注視，今夜她已經遇見不少了。那彷彿是說：『這個人爲什麼會來的？你爲什麼像對待朋友一樣地，像對待上賓一樣地招待他？爲什麼要我們來參加？』

當他們的目光相遇的時候，塞萊馬上轉過頭去，儼然那時她不能自信不亂說話似的。『好吧，』柔麗心上自忖，『你們現在要怎樣想就怎樣想好了，終將水落石出的。』她轉過頭去，望着一個又瘦又高的男子，他原是吉葉士的朋友，在一次飛機出事之中，跌斷了一隻手臂。他現在正和巴齊在

to the Ober-Leutnant to follow her, she went and joined them.

"I am so glad to see you, Louis. Herr Leutnant, you and Monsieur Des Pages have already met, I know, but I don't think you have met a former tennis-partner of mine; Monsieur Vauciere, Herr Ober-Leutnant Gerhardt Seldte, our house guest. We once had hopes of playing at Wimbledon,⁷⁹ didn't we, Louis? What a long time ago that seems! Did you ever play tennis, Herr Leutnant? No? But of course, I understand. You had no time for such frivolities. Louis, it is time the Ober-Leutnant had some supper. Will you join us?"

But Vauciere, with a quick, puzzled look at her, excused himself, saying that he had promised his mother to take her home. He said good night, and a moment later he and his mother were making farewells to the Marquise. Julie turned back to her charge.

"I find soirées thirsty work, Herr Leutnant. Will you give me some beer? And please have some yourself. I hope you have not been bored."

"That is not the word I would choose," he said, standing very close to her. "You are beautiful, I admire you. I see you wish to be kind. I understand and I am pleased." There was a look in his eyes that was unendurable, and she lowered her own. Oh, how fortunate, there was little Madame Duval, whom she had not seen before.

"Madame Duval, I have not yet introduced our house guest to you. May I do so now? Herr Ober-Leutnant Gerhardt Seldte, Madame Duval. Before the war, Herr Leutnant, Madame Duval was one of the great equestriennes.⁸⁰ The best rider, it is said, in all France....."

談話，柔麗把上尉叫過來，一道走到巴齊那邊去了。

『好久不見了，路逸。上尉 我知道你和巴齊先生是已經見過面的，但是我跟你一定沒有會過我以前一個打網球的伴侶；他就是惟克萊先生，這位是我們家裏住的客人塞爾特上尉。路逸，你還記得我們有一次不是希望到倫敦去競賽嗎？這似乎是多少年前的事了！上尉，你打網球嗎？不打？啊，當然，我明白。你沒有時間，來幹這些玩意。路逸，現在上尉真該吃晚飯了，你和我們一同去吃好嗎？』

但是惟克萊迅速而迷惘地對她使了一個眼色，說他已經答應送他母親回家，藉此向柔麗謝絕了，他說了一聲再見就走了，隨即就同了他母親到侯爵夫人那邊去告辭。柔麗仍然回頭照顧他自己的客人。

我覺得夜會是令人口渴的工作，上尉。請你再給我一點酒吧。你自己請加一點，我希望你今晚上不至於感覺到無聊賴。』

『那不是我要說的話，』他回答說，靠緊她站着。『你真美麗，我傾慕你。我看得明白你很想要和愛詩人。我懂得而我真非常高興。』他以那種不堪的媚眼望着她，她只好低垂雙目。啊，多麼依倖，她看到今天晚上還沒有見到的杜瓦爾夫人在那兒。

『杜瓦爾夫人，我還沒有把我們家裏這位客人介紹給你。我現在可以介紹給你嗎？這位是塞爾特上尉，這位是杜瓦爾夫人。上尉，在戰前杜瓦爾夫人是我們的一個偉大的乘馬者。據說是全法國最好的騎馬的人……。』

79. 英國的網球競賽地。 80. 馬術家，乘馬者（指女的）。參考：eques rian 男馬術家。

By midnight, they had all gone, many lingering on from a sense of loyalty to their hostess, but uncomfortable and distrait. On the way home, their tongues were busy with it. What had come over Julie? It was plain that her mother was far from pleased. One would hardly have expected such behaviour from a member of that family. And Gilles, the only son, still a prisoner of war! Really, it was disgraceful. It had spoilt the evening and put a constraint upon them all. They agreed that they would rather not have gone.

When the last of them, Des Pages included, had departed, and the tired old Marquis had been helped up to bed by Albert, the Marquise turned on Julie her long-suppressed anger.

"Philippe and I can only suppose that you behaved as you did because you disapproved of the soirée and wanted to make it a failure. Well, you succeeded perfectly. It was an absolute failure. - And until our house guest forced himself in, nothing could have been gayer or pleasanter. If you had not shown him so much attention and introduced him to everyone he would soon have gone away again. What people must have thought, I simply cannot imagine."

"I can," said Julie, "only too well." She felt strangely light and happy, as though she had rid herself of a burden too great for her to bear. "This is the end," she was thinking. "Now I am free to go."

"Well," the Marquise went on, her brilliant eyes icy with contempt, "I am not sorry for you. It seems that you have no idea how to behave. The man clearly believes you are in love with him. What were you thinking of, Julie?"

直到半夜，大多數的客人都走了，許多沒有走的人，都是懷着一種對女主人的忠實之感，所以沒有馬上離開，但是勉強留在那裏，也就非常不舒服，而且是心不在焉地敷衍一時罷了。當他們回家的時候，一路忙於談論夜會的事。柔麗不曉得是被什麼迷住了。顯明地看得出來，她母親非常的不高興，那樣一個高貴家庭裏的人，竟有這樣的行爲，真是意想不到。而且他們那獨子吉葉士，還在被俘虜着，沒有放回來！這真是一種恥辱。由這樣一來把那夜會全弄糟了，使得大家都感到拘束。客人們都一致地後悔不該來。

當那最後一批客人，巴齊也在內，辭去之後，那疲倦了的老侯爵，由僕人亞爾伯扶着上樓安息去了，侯爵夫人便把她積鬱已久的忿怒，來向柔麗發洩。

菲力和我都只覺得你今晚上的這種行爲，是故意要破壞這個夜會，因為你不贊成開的。不錯，你算做得很成功了，使這夜會完全失敗，在我們的房客沒有闖入以前，大家快樂得無以復加。如果你不是那樣特別招待他，而把他一一介紹到其他客人的話，他也許馬上就會離去的，你這樣做，別人不曉得要怎樣想呀，我真不能想像。」

『我能夠想像，』柔麗說，『無非是說我對他太好了。』她奇異地感覺到輕鬆愉快，儼然是卸下一個她負擔不起的重大擔子。『這樣好完結了，』她心下想。『現在我可以自由走開了。』

『好吧，』那侯爵夫人繼續說，她的晶亮的眼睛，輕蔑的凝視着，『我倒並不為你難過。你好像根本就不曉得要怎樣舉止。那人很明顯地相信你是愛上了他。柔麗，你自己怎樣想法的？』

Julie looked calmly back at her mother, but there was something in her expression that made the Marquise uneasy.

"I was thinking," Julie said slowly, "that our worst enemies do not always wear uniform. I was thinking that our worst enemy to-night was not that stupid German, Seldte, but that too-clever Frenchman, Philippe des Pages."

"Julie!" warned her mother sharply. "Be careful what you say."

"Yes," said Julie. "I have thought over what I am saying very carefully. Philippe des Pages is a traitor. To have him here in this house is to betray our country and our friends. To betray our soldiers. To betray Gilles."

"That is absurd" cried the Marquise, and began moving about the room as if she could not keep still. "How can I be sure of getting Gilles back except through Philippe? How am I to be sure of anything? Of enough food, of safety, even? I have your father to think of. And you know what might happen to any of us, any day, if we had not the protection of a man like Philippe."

She saw Julie's sad little smile, saw the pity in her eyes, but met them with defiance.

"Would you sell our friends for these things?" Julie asked. Her mother flushed.

"People who try to bring more and worse troubles on us all are no friends of mine. The rest are in no danger."

"Then," said Julie, her eyes looking larger and darker in her white face, "this is no longer my home. You are no longer my mother. It is good-bye."

柔麗很安定地望着她的母親，但是在她的表情之中，有黏什麼使侯爵夫人頗爲不安。

『我會想到，』柔麗慢吞吞地說，『我們最壞的敵人，常常不是穿軍服的。我曾想到我們今晚上最壞的敵人，却並不是那個愚笨的德國人塞爾特，而是那個太聰明的法國人巴齊。』

『柔麗！』她母親嚴厲地警告着：『你說話要當心些。』

『是的，』柔麗說，『我說的話我都想得很仔細的。菲力·巴齊就是一個賣國賊，讓他進到我們這屋子裏來，就是背棄我們的祖國和我們的朋友，也是背棄我們的兵士，背棄吉葉士。』

『荒謬！』侯爵夫人叫出來，氣得在屋子裏亂跑。『除了經菲力的手，我真沒有把握可以把吉葉士弄得回來。對其他的東西，我也沒把握可以得到。充分的食物既得不到，甚至安全都無保障。我還要爲你父親着想。如果我們沒有像菲力這樣的一個人來保護，無論那一天，我們任何人身上，都可以發生事情的。』

她看見柔麗面上憂愁的微笑，以及眼睛中憐惜之情，但是她却以蔑視的眼光對望着她。

『你願意爲得這些事情，就把我們的朋友出賣嗎？』柔麗問。她母親的臉紅了。

『只有那些想要給我們大家麻煩的人，才不是我的朋友。其餘的都沒有危險。』

『那末，』柔麗說，她的眼睛在她的白皙的面孔上，現得又大又黑，這已經不是我的家了。你已經不是我的媽了。我們再會罷。』

"That is a step you are taking of your own free will," her mother answered, "I am not asking you to go."

"Philippe des Pages is an enemy of France and so he is my enemy," said Julie. "If you put the help he can give you before your country, before loyalty, before Gilles....."

"I tell you it is only through him that I can hope to get Gilles back!" cried the Marquise, pausing to face her daughter.

"You had better leave Gilles where he is, then," Julie replied. "Don't bring him back on terms⁸¹ he would reject. Gilles is a good soldier and a good Frenchman. He would never forgive you."

"I'll risk that," her mother retorted. "I want him back. I must have him back."

"Oh!" cried Julie, despair in her voice. "Will you never, never learn? Do you and your kind⁸² want future generations to hate you? Have the courage, mother, to suffer, to accept sorrow, as all of us who love France must do now. People who evade suffering deteriorate. The Germans, who never understand anything, believe they can bring about the deterioration of France by oppression, by cruelty. That is what they hope for. But they can't. Deterioration comes from within, or it never comes. Believe me, I know."

"You talk like a fool," the Marquise flung at her, with an angry gesture.

"Very well," answered Julie. "Then I am a fool, and I will go to people who are fools in the same way. The fools who will not *give in,⁸³ the fools who will make a new France."

『那就是你採取自由意志的一種步驟，』她母親回答。
『我並沒有要你離開家裏。』

『巴齊是法國的一個敵人，所以他也是我的敵人。』柔麗說。『如果你只要他的幫助，而不要你的祖國，不要精忠，不要吉葉士……的話。』

『我已經對你說過，只有經由他我才可以希望把吉葉士弄回來！』侯爵夫人叫出來，不再望着她女兒。

『那末，你頂好讓吉葉士不回來的好，』柔麗回答。『不要用他所拒絕的條件去把他弄回來。吉葉士是一個很好的軍人，一個很好的法國人。那樣，他永遠也不會饒恕你的。』

『我還是要試試，』她母親反駁着。『我要他回來。我一定要把他弄回來。』

『啊！』柔麗喊出來，聲音中感着失望，『你硬不肯學學好嗎？你要將來子孫世世代代都恨你嗎？媽，你拿一點勇氣出來，好忍受一點痛苦。接受一點憂愁，我們愛法國的人，現在都得如此。要逃避受苦，就只有墮落。那些從來什麼也不懂的德國人，相信用壓迫殘酷的手段，就可以使法國墮落。墮落只能從內部發生。否則就永遠不會有的。相信我吧，我知道得很清楚。』

『你說話就像一個蠢人，』侯爵夫人用一種忿怒的姿勢，對她吼着。

『好罷，』柔麗回答。『那末，我就是一個蠢人，但是我要到我們蠢人羣中去。到那些不讓步的蠢人羣中去，到那些要建立新法國的蠢人羣中去。』

"Where are you going?" the Marquise demanded.

"I am going away to live my own life. To marry the man I love. To live in one little room, perhaps, and work and be happy--as happy as one can be in the midst of a nightmare."

"You mean--you are not coming back?"

Slowly Julie shook her head. "There's a gulf between us that can't be crossed."

"You were never one of us," said the Marquise bitterly.

"Perhaps I never was."

"No daughter who loved her mother would want her to suffer."

"I knew," said Julie, "that you would say that. You have made your choice, now I must make mine."

She put her hand on the door-handle and then paused and looked at her mother again.

"Do you know," she asked, "what it is that I shall always remember? That time I had scarlet fever and you weren't afraid but sat by me and read to me....." Her voice broke, then she controlled herself, and when she spoke again there was no sign of emotion. "There's one thing I must explain before I go. It was I who asked the Ober-Leutnant to come here to-night. And once before I asked him to come. It was to protect our friends. I could not tell them that in this house they must be careful of what they said, so I asked him, knowing that in his presence they would be discreet."

"So that was it," said the Marquise. "And yet for months you refused to speak to him."

『你到底到那裏去？』侯爵夫人問。

『我要離開去過我自己的生活。去和我心愛的人結婚。也許去住到一間小房子裏，工作，幸福——像一個在惡夢中的人儘其力所能尋到的幸福一樣。』

『你的意思是——你再不回來的嗎？』

慢慢地柔麗搖着她的頭。『我們之間有一道不能渡過的鴻溝。』

『你從來就不算我們中間的一個人，』侯爵夫人狠狠地說。

『也許我從來就不是的。』

『世界上沒有一個愛母親的女兒，願意她受苦的。』

『我知道，』柔麗說，『你會要這樣說的。你已經照你的辦法做了，現在我也得照我的辦法去做。』

她把手伸向門的把手上去，可是並沒有馬上開門，又停下來再望着她母親。

『你知道，』她問，『什麼是我永遠不忘的事呢？就是那回我得了猩紅熱，你却不怕傳染，而仍然坐到我的旁邊，讀東西給我聽……』她的聲音斷了，隨即又抑住了自己的感情，再說話的時候，就沒有一點感情表現了。『這是一件我出走以前必得說明的事。還有要那上尉來參加今晚的夜會的是我。從前我還請他來到過一次你們的茶會。這無非是想保護我們的朋友。我不能告訴他們，要他們在這屋子裏說話要當心些，所以我只好請了他來，知道在他前面，他們就不會亂說話的。』

『原來如此，』侯爵夫人說，『然而你却幾個月來都拒絕和他說話。』

"The Germans," Julie said, "are a catastrophe, like earthquakes, like pestilence. But men like Philippe are more evil still. They are the rot at the core of things. Creatures that would sacrifice others to *save their own skins."⁸⁴

"I suppose you think I am like that?" the Marquise asked.

Mother and daughter looked at each other. For an instant Julie closed her eyes as if in pain, then she met her mother's eyes again and said softly, "Good-bye" before she went into the hall and up the stairs to her own room. The Marquise stood still in the great salon under the crystal chandeliers which had been taken out of their coverings for so strange a purpose, and suddenly felt old and cold. She shivered a little and drew a fur about her bare shoulders.

"Philippe has promised," she said to herself as she switched off the lights, "to see that we have coal enough. I must remind him to-morrow." And she went up to her bedroom where old Louise sat waiting to help her out of her dress.

Very early the next morning Julie was on her bicycle pedalling out through the tall iron gates. She had with her a small bundle containing underclothes, a few trinkets⁸⁵ and her toilet things.

As she reached the corner she glanced back. She could see only the roof and upper floors of the great house which had been the home of her childhood and youth, but her glance had also shown her the shuttered windows of the Ober-Leutnant's bedroom, the room that had once been her brother's.

『那些德國人，』柔麗說，『是一種禍患，像地震，像疫病一樣。但是像巴齊那樣的人更要壞。他們是在內部發生的腐爛。不惜犧牲別個來救自己性命的動物。』

『我猜想你以為我也是那樣吧？』侯爵夫人問。

母女兩人互相說着。一時柔麗閉上了眼睛，好像很痛苦似的，於是她再睜開眼睛，溫柔地對她母親說了一聲『再會。』便走出廳堂，上樓到自己房裏去了。侯爵夫人一動也不動地立在那大客廳中的水晶燈下。那大吊燈是爲着這個奇怪的夜會而把罩子除去，現在突然地感覺到它古老而冰冷了。她微微地顫抖了一下，扯了一塊皮領來圍住了她赤露的雙肩。

『菲力曾答應我，』當她把電燈扭熄的時候，自己在想，『他當心不會使我們沒有煤燒，我明天一定要提醒他。』於是她走上樓到自己臥房裏去，女僕魯易正等在那裏替她卸裝。

第二天早上，柔麗很早就踏着她的腳踏車，走出了高大的侯門。她隨身帶着一包洗換的衣裳，兩三件零碎東西，和她的化妝品。

當她走到轉角的地方，她回頭望了一下。她只見那大邸宅的樓房和屋頂。在那邸宅中她曾度過了她的童年和青春。她的目光所至，還見到那間從前是她多年的居處，現在却成了那上尉的臥房的百葉窗。

Thoughts too tragic and bitter for expression rose up in her. Twice in the night as she had lain tensely awake she had heard the handle of her locked door discreetly turned. Not until she reached the hospital was she able to throw off the blackness that oppressed her, and then, as if by magic, she felt the warmth of the morning sun, saw the calm beauty of the day and knew that a beloved friend and companion and lover was waiting for her there.

She whispered to herself. "I have love, work, even hope. The story of Julie begins here."

那種不堪表白的，太悲慘而痛苦的思想，油然而生。夜來她在不住的枕上，曾兩度聽見有人扭動她鎖了的門上把手的聲音。直到她達到醫院為止，她簡直不能把壓迫她的暗影，從心上推開，然而，一到醫院，就如魔法一樣，她感到朝陽的溫暖，白日的恬美，而知道那兒有一個她所愛的朋友，伴侶，也是愛人在等待着她。

她細聲地自言自語：『我有了愛，有了工作，甚至有了希望。柔麗的故事，方從此開始。』



(1