

WORLD FAMOUS FICTIONS

大 街

MAIN STREET

SINCLAIR LEWIS 著

伍 光 建 選 譯

商 務 印 書 館 發 行

WORLD FAMOUS FICTIONS

# MAIN STREET

By

SINCLAIR LEWIS

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# 大 街

## 作者傳略

留伊斯是美國最有名的一個並世大作家，他此時還在盛年，將來還有許多發展。他生長於一個小鄉村。那時候鄉村的第三四等人物開闢美國西部的中區，因此致富，就驕蹇自滿，自以為文明達極點，凡是他們所不懂的與所不贊成的，都是不值得懂的，不該考慮的，考慮就是罪過；且以為不能再發展，亦不求再發展；其實他們是自滿於毫無生機的安逸，以有生機的活動為多事，崇拜消極為積極美德，崇拜無生趣的頑固為上帝；作者造一個名詞，稱這種行為與思想為中了鄉下毒。他所著的最出名的小說「大街」，就是帶着憤怒，諷刺這許多人。他描寫大街的各式各樣人物，有特寫個人的，有總寫若干人的，互相反應，所寫的都是極平常的瑣事，平平淡淡，並不過火的，却寫得極其細密準確，很能令讀者相信，尤妙在能令許多讀者很享受其中的諷刺，方且以為是諷刺他人，諷刺隔壁的某甲某乙，並非諷刺讀者自己，其實他所說的雖然是美國西部中區的一個村子，即是說幾千個村子，不獨說這裏的大街是這樣，別處的大街也是這樣，不獨這一州是這樣，別一州也是這樣。從前英國的小說大家司各脫(Sir Walter Scott)曾說過，大叫大喊與大吹大擂，他自己優為之，至於實寫日常瑣事，使其饒有興趣，則敬謝不敏；可見這樣的筆墨

是很不容易的，只要寫得來逼真，寫得來有趣，就可以名世。這部小說以卡祿爾（Carol）及她的丈夫為樞紐。她是個很受過教育的女子，嫁與一個醫生，來住在大街。作者就從她眼中所見的大街的人們，與他們眼中所見的她，為這些人們寫照，成為一部絕妙小說，為美國文學史開一新紀元，且介紹新趨勢與新指示，不愧稱為名作。

民國二十三年清明日伍光建記

# MAIN STREET

## CHAPTER IV

### IV

The recently built house of Sam Clark, in which was given the party to welcome Carol, was one of the largest in Gopher Prairie. It had a clean sweep of clapboards, a solid squareness, a small tower, and a large screened porch. Inside, it was as shiny, as hard, and as cheerful as a new oak upright piano.

Carol looked imploringly at Sam Clark as he rolled to the door and shouted, "Welcome, little lady! The keys of the city are yours!"

Beyond him, in the hallway and the living-room, sitting in a vast prim circle as though they were attending a funeral, she saw the guests. They were *waiting* so! They were waiting for her! The determination to be all one pretty flowerlet of appreciation leaked away. She begged of Sam, "I don't dare face them! They expect so much. They'll swallow me in one mouthful—glump!—like that!"

"Why, sister, they're going to love you—same as I would if I didn't think the doc here would beat me up!"

"B-but — I don't dare! Faces to the right of me, faces in front of me, volley and wonder!"

She sounded hysterical to herself; she fancied that to Sam Clark she sounded insane. But he chuckled, "Now you just cuddle under Sam's wing, and if anybody rubbers<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>rubber, 審視, 諦視。

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## 第四回 第四章

〔卡祿爾(Carol)是一個最容易受印像的摩登女子，在臨市受過很多的教育，嫁與一個姓甘尼喀(Kennicott)名維爾(Will)的醫師，夫婦往美國西方中部，住在一個鄉下的大街，她見這裏的人無知識無進步，語言無味，無事不感於故步，她就大不滿意，毅意以改進自任，鄉下人不愛，反對她。這一回先說鄉下人開會，歡迎她這個新嫁娘。——譯者註。〕

他們在沙木卡拉克(Sam Clark)新近蓋的房子歡迎卡祿爾，這是哥甫巴利利(Gopher Prairie)鄉最大的房子。四圍都有護牆板，是一所結實的四方房子，有一座小塔，有一座有遮欄的大廊子。屋裏頭是發光的，堅硬的，見了令人起興的，如同一架新的，橡木的，挺得直直的鋼琴。

當沙木卡拉克滾到大門口大喊道，『新夫人，我們歡迎你！本市的鑰匙都給了你！』卡祿爾兩眼帶着哀求的神色看着他。

她看見在他後面；在堂屋過這裏及住房裏，坐了一大圓圈的很嚴肅的客人們，好像是坐在那裏送殯的。他們在那裏等。他們等的是她！他們打定主意在那裏要賞鑒一朵好看的小花，神氣全露出來。她哀求沙木，說道，『我不敢見他們！他們的期望太過啦。他們一口就把我吞下去——咯一聲！——就吞我下去啦！』

『妹妹，爲什麼說這樣的話，他們要親愛你——如同我想親愛你一樣，不過醫師會打我！』

『但是——我不敢！我的右邊是他們的臉，我的前面，又是他們的臉，齊齊看我，當我是一件新奇東西！』

她自己覺得好像是犯了神經擾亂的病，她猜沙木聽她的說話，會以爲她是個瘋子。他只是哭，說道，『你躲在沙木的翼下，倘若有人諷笑你太久，我會闕他們走。我們

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at you too long, I'll shoo 'em off. Here we go! Watch my smoke—Sam'l, the ladies' delight and the bridegrooms' terror!"

His arm about her, he led her in and bawled. "Ladies and worser halves, the bride! We won't introduce her round yet, because she'll never get your bum<sup>1</sup> names straight anyway. Now bust up this star-chamber!"

They tittered politely, but they did not move from the social security of their circle, and they did not cease staring.

She was led about the circle. Her voice mechanically produced safe remarks:

"Oh, I'm sure I'm going to like it here ever so much," and "Yes, we did have the best time in Colorado—mountains," and "Yes, I lived in St. Paul several years. Euclid P. Tinker? No, I don't *remember* meeting him, but I'm pretty sure I've heard of him."

Kennicott took her aside and whispered, "Now I'll introduce you to them, one at a time."

"Tell me about them first."

"Well, the nice-looking couple over there are Harry Haydock and his wife, Juanita. Harry's dad owns most of the Bon Ton, but it's Harry who runs it and gives it the pep. He's a hustler. Next to him is Dave Dyer the druggist—you met him this afternoon—mighty good duck-shot. The tall husk<sup>2</sup> beyond him is Jack Elder—Jackson Elder—owns the planing-mill, and the Minniemashie House, and quite a share in the Farmers' National Bank. Him and his wife are good sports—him and Sam and I go hunting together a lot. The

<sup>1</sup>bum, 流浪的, 昏沈的. <sup>2</sup>husk, 人(鄙視語).



進去吧！看我的烟——沙木是太太們所喜歡的，是新郎們所最怕的！』

他用膀護住她，領她進去，大喊道，『太太們，爺們，這是新娘子！我們現在尙不走一圈介紹他，因為她不會立刻記得你們的說不清楚的名姓。現在你們可以散了這個高等法庭啦！』

他們很客氣的笑，他們都坐得穩穩的不動，他們不停的瞪眼看新娘。

沙木領她走一圈。她的聲音很呆板的說妥當話。

她答道，『我很曉得我會很喜歡的。』她又答道，『是呀，我們在柯洛拉杜 (Colorado) 山上過很歡樂的日子，』又答道，『丁克爾 (Tinker) 麼？我不記得曾會過他，我相信我曾聽見這個名字』。

甘尼喀拉她到一邊低聲說道，『我今逐個介紹你見他們。』

『你得先把他們的名姓及行業告訴我。』

『好吧，那一邊有一對好看的夫婦就是哈里海多 (Harry Haydock) 同他的太太朱安尼塔。邦湯 (Bon Ton 店名) 的大部分是哈里的父親該的，但是辦事是他，他是這個店的主腦。他是一個善於向前擠的人。坐在他旁邊的就是開藥店的第甫泰爾 (Dave Dyer) —— 你今天下午會過他——他是一個打鴨的好手。在他那一邊的高子就是查克愛爾特 (Jack Elder)，即是查克生愛爾特——他開創板廠，與米尼詩西 (Minniemashie) 字號，他在農業國立銀行有很大的股子。他夫婦兩個都是好獵手——他與沙木與我常同去打獵。那個老年的頭等人物就是路加多生 (Luke

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old cheese<sup>1</sup> there is Luke Dawson, the richest man in town. Next to him is Nat Hicks, the tailor.”

“Really? A tailor?”

“Sure. Why not? Maybe we’re slow, but we are democratic. I go hunting with Nat same as I do with Jack Elder.”

“I’m glad. I’ve never met a tailor socially. It must be charming to meet one and not have to think about what you owe him. And do you——Would you go hunting with your barber, too?”

“No but——No use running this democracy thing into the ground. Besides, I’ve known Nat for years, and besides, he’s a mighty good shot and——That’s the way it is, see? Next to Nat is Chet Dashaway. Great fellow for chinning.<sup>2</sup> He’ll talk your arm off, about religion or politics or books or anything.”

Carol gazed with a polite approximation to interest at Mr. Dashaway, a tan person with a wide mouth. “Oh, I know! He’s the furniture-store man!” She was much pleased with herself.

“Yump, and he’s the undertaker. You’ll like him. Come shake hands with him.”

“Oh no, no! He doesn’t—he doesn’t do the embalming and all that—himself? I couldn’t shake hands with an undertaker!”

“Why not? You’d be proud to shake hands with a great surgeon, just after he’d been carving up people’s bellies.”

She sought to regain her afternoon’s calm of maturity. “Yes. You’re right. I want—oh, my dear, do you know

<sup>1</sup> cheese, 頭等人物. <sup>2</sup> chinning, 好說話, 多言.

Dawson), 是當地的首富。在他旁邊的就是那特希克士 (Nat Hicks), 是個裁縫。

『當真的麼? 是一個裁縫麼?』

『當真的。爲什麼不當真? 我們雖然是遲緩無進步, 我們却是一視同仁不分貴賤的。我同那特去打獵, 如同我同查克愛爾特去打獵一樣。』

『我聽了很高興。我向來未在應酬場中會過一個裁縫, 同一個裁縫應酬, 又用不着想到你欠他的裁縫帳, 必定是很有趣味的。你也肯與你的剃頭司務一同去打獵麼?』

『我是不肯的, 不過——我們不必把不分貴賤的民主制掃地。況且我認得那特多年, 況且他又是一個善放槍的好手——我們這裏就是這樣, 你明白麼? 在那特那邊的就是齊特特沙維 (Chet Dashaway)。他是一個最好說話的人。他說起宗教, 或政治, 或書本, 或無論什麼, 可以說到你的手臂斷了。』

卡祿爾頗客氣, 近乎注意的, 看看特沙維, 原來是一個有一個大口, 有一片褐黃色臉的人。說道, 『我認得他! 他是家具店的人!』她很高興。

『哼, 他是一個司殮殮的人。你將喜歡他。來, 來, 同他拉手。』

『不! 不! 他並不親自動手用油保存屍體呀? 我不能同一個司殮殮的人拉手!』

『爲什麼不? 你肯同一個大外科醫生拉手, 在他開過病人肚子之後同他拉手。』

她現在是個成年的人啦, 她要恢復本日下午的鎮靜。她說這, 『是呀。你說得不錯。我的寶貝, 我要——你曉得

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how much I want to like the people you like? I want to see people as they are.”

“Well, don’t forget to see people as other folks see them as they are! They have the stuff. Did you know that Percy Bresnahan came from here? Born and brought up here!”

“Bresnahan?”

“Yes—you know—president of the Velvet Motor Company of Boston, Mass.—make the Velvet Twelve—biggest automobile factory in New England.”

“I think I’ve heard of him.”

“Sure you have. Why, he’s a millionaire several times over! Well, Perce comes back here for the black-bass fishing almost every summer, and he says if he could get away from business, he’d rather live here than in Boston or New York or any of those places. *He* doesn’t mind Chet’s undertaking.”

“Please! I’ll—I’ll like everybody! I’ll be the community sunbeam!”

He led her to the Dawsons.

Luke Dawson, lender of money on mortgages, owner of Northern cut-over<sup>1</sup> land, was a hesitant man in unpressed soft gray clothes, with bulging eyes in a milky face. His wife had bleached cheeks, bleached hair, bleached voice, and a bleached manner. She wore her expensive green frock, with its passementeried<sup>2</sup> bosom, bead tassels, and gaps between the buttons down the back, as though she had bought it secondhand and was afraid of meeting the former owner. They were shy. It was “Professor” George Edwin Mott, superintendent of schools, a Chinese

<sup>1</sup>cut-over, 斫了樹木的。 <sup>2</sup>passementeried, 絲帶穿珠的。

麼，我要喜歡你新喜歡的人。我要看人的本色。』

『好呀，你不要忘記，看人如同他人之看人看本色！他們有本領。你曉得麼卜列尼汗(Bresnahan)就是這裏人？生長在這裏的！』

『卜列尼汗麼？』

『是呀——你曉得的——他是波士頓的維爾維汽車公司的東家——新英吉利的最大汽車廠。』

『我想我曾聽見過他。』

『你必定聽見過。他有幾百萬家當！他每年夏天幾乎必回來釣里鱸魚，他說只要他能夠走開，他寧願住在這裏，不願住在波士頓或紐約或任何其他地方。他不理會齊特是個殭屍死屍的。』

『請你不要說啦！我將喜歡無論什麼人！我要變作這裏社會的太陽光線！』

他領她去見多生們！

路加多生是一個執抵押品的借貸家。北方斫了樹木的地主，是一個說話遲疑的人，穿了軟的灰色衣服，一副乳白面孔，兩隻突眼。他的太太有漂白臉，漂白頭髮，漂白聲音，漂白態度。她穿很值錢的綠褂子，胸前用絲帶穿珠，有珠縫，後頭的扣子之間有空處，好像是買的故衣，惟恐原主看見。他們夫婦都畏羞。抓住卡祿爾的手，歡迎她的原是『教授』毛特(Mott)，是幾個學校的監督，是一個變了

mandarin turned brown, who held Carol's hand and made her welcome.

When the Dawsons and Mr. Mott had stated that they were "pleased to meet her," there seemed to be nothing else to say, but the conversation went on automatically.

"Do you like Gopher Prairie?" whimpered Mrs. Dawson.

"Oh, I'm sure I'm going to be ever so happy."

"There's so many nice people." Mrs. Dawson looked to Mr. Mott for social and intellectual aid. He lectured:

"There's a fine class of people. I don't like some of these retired farmers who come here to spend their last days—especially the Germans. They hate to pay school-taxes. They hate to spend a cent. But the rest are a fine class of people. Did you know that Percy Bresnahan came from here? Used to go to school right at the old building!"

"I heard he did."

"Yes. He's a prince. He and I went fishing together, last time he was here."

The Dawsons and Mr. Mott teetered upon weary feet, and smiled at Carol with crystallized expressions. She went on:

"Tell me, Mr. Mott: Have you ever tried any experiments with any of the new educational systems? The modern kindergarten methods or the Gary system?"

"Oh. Those. Most of these would-be reformers are simply notoriety-seekers. I believe in manual training, but Latin and mathematics always will be the backbone of sound Americanism, no matter what these faddists<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>faddist 奇僻的理想家, 偏執已見的。

棕色的中國官員。

多生們及毛特說道，『他們喜歡會她』之後就沒得話說了，但是談話依然進行，如同一架自動機一般。

多生太太低聲說好像害怕的話，『你喜歡哥甫巴利利麼？』

『呀，我很相信我將來必定是很歡樂的。』

多生太太說道，『這裏有許多好人。』她說完這一句，就看看毛特，要他給她應酬上與知識上的取力。他就演講道：

『這裏有一等很好的人。我不喜歡有幾個歸隱的田舍翁，他們到這裏來過他們的餘年，——尤其是德國人。他們不喜歡納學校稅。他們不喜歡花一文銅錢。其餘的都是一等很好的人。你曉得卜列尼汗是這裏人麼？他常到在舊房子的學校！』

『我聽說他曾到過。』

『是呀。他是一個王爵。當他最後一次在這裏的時候，他與我同去釣魚。』

多生們與毛特的疲倦脚，上下的動，帶着結晶的神色對着卡祿爾微笑，她往下說道：

『毛特先生，我請你告訴我。你會試過無論那個新系統的教育麼？你會識過摩登幼稚園，或格雷法麼？』

『呀，那兩種新法。大多數這樣自命為改革家，不過是要揚名的。我相信操練手工，但是無論這許多奇怪的理想家們主持什麼——惟有天曉得他們要什麼——我猜他們

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advocate—heaven knows what they do want—knitting, I suppose, and classes in wigging the ears!”

The Dawsons smiled their appreciation of listening to a savant.<sup>1</sup> Carol waited till Kennicott should rescue her. The rest of the party waited for the miracle of being amused.

Harry and Juanita Haydock, Rita Simons and Dr. Terry Gould—the young smart set of Gopher Prairie. She was led to them. Juanita Haydock flung at her in a high, cackling, friendly voice:

“Well, this is so nice to have you here. We’ll have some good parties—dances and everything. You’ll have to join the Jolly Seventeen. We play bridge and we have a supper once a month. You play, of course?”

“N-no, I don’t.”

“Really? In St. Paul?”

“I’ve always been such a book-worm.”

“We’ll have to teach you. Bridge is half the fun of life.” Juanita had become patronizing, and she glanced disrespectfully at Carol’s golden sash, which she had previously admired.

Harry Haydock said politely, “How do you think you’re going to like the old burg?”

“I’m sure I shall like it tremendously.”

“Best people on earth here. Great hustlers, too. Course I’ve had lots of chances to go live in Minneapolis, but we like it here. Real he-town. Did you know that Percy Bresnahan came from here?”

Carol perceived that she had been weakened in the biological struggle by disclosing her lack of bridge. Roused

<sup>1</sup>savant, 行家, 科學專家.



要學生們練習針織，與練習搖動兩耳！學拉丁文與算學歸根常是結實的美國主義學制的脊骨！』

多生們細聽一個行家演講，微笑以示他們領略。卡祿爾在那裏等甘尼喀來救她。其餘的人們在那裏等候消遣的奇蹟。

哥甫巴利利的最時髦的少年就是哈里海多，與朱安尼塔海多，利塔西曼士 (Rita Simons) 與特爾利孤爾特醫生 (Dr. Terry Gould)。有人領她去見他們。朱安尼塔海多用一種高的聲音，好像放炮仗一般，又是表示友誼的聲音，對她說話。

『你到我們這裏來是很好的。我們將來就有好聚會——跳舞會等等。你要入快活十七歲會，我們打紙牌，每月晚餐一次。你自然是會打紙牌的？』

『不！我不打紙牌。』

『當真的麼？在聖保羅地方不打麼？』

『我常是一個書獃子。』

『我們將來教你打。打紙牌是人生樂趣的一事。』朱安尼塔已經變作要保護他，很有德色，她剛才稱讚卡祿爾的金色帶子，現在斜眼看看，有點不禮的神色。

哈里海多很客氣的說道，『你看你將來會喜歡這個老地方麼？』

『我很相信我將來會很喜歡這個地方的。』

『世上最好的人住在這裏。我們這裏的人又是麻利敏捷的。我自然很有過機會去住米尼亞普里 (Minneapolis)，但是我們喜歡住在這裏。這是個男子漢的市鎮。你曉得麼，卜列尼汗是我們此地人？』

『卡祿爾揭露也不會打紙牌 (Bbridge 有數解，一解作一解作鼻子上部的骨，這裏有雙關意義。——譯者註。) 就覺得致弱了生物奮鬥的力量。他被激動，要恢復她紙牌，

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to nervous desire to regain her position she turned on Dr. Terry Gould, the young and pool-playing competitor of her husband. Her eyes coquetted with him while she gushed:

"I'll learn bridge. But what I really love most is the outdoors. Can't we all get up a boating party, and fish, or whatever you do, and have a picnic supper afterwards?"

"Now you're talking!" Dr. Gould affirmed. He looked rather too obviously at the cream-smooth slope of her shoulder. "Like fishing? Fishing is my middle name. I'll teach you bridge. Like cards at all?"

"I used to be rather good at bezique."

She knew that bezique was a game of cards—or a game of something else. Roulette, possibly. But her lie was a triumph. Juanita's handsome, high-colored, horsey face showed doubt. Harry stroked his nose and said humbly, "Bezique? Used to be great gambling game, wasn't it?"

While others drifted to her group, Carol snatched up the conversation. She laughed and was frivolous and rather brittle. She could not distinguish their eyes. They were a blurry theater-audience before which she self-consciously enacted the comedy of being the Clever Little Bride of Doc Kennicott:

"These-here celebrated Open Spaces, that's what I'm going out for. I'll never read anything but the sporting-page again. Will converted me on our Colorado trip. There were so many mousey tourists who were afraid to get out of the motor 'bus that I decided to be Annie Oakley, the Wild Western Wampire, and I bought oh! a vociferous skirt which revealed my perfectly nice ankles to the Pres-

的地位，掉過身子，同特爾利孤爾特醫生說話，他是同她的丈夫合夥賭錢的。她一面說，一面用兩眼媚他。

『我將學打紙牌。但是我所最喜歡的是郊外嬉戲。我們不能組織一個小艇會釣魚，或其他遊戲，事後吃野餐麼？』

孤爾特醫生說道，『你現在說話啦！』他很顯露他兩眼釘住她的兩肩的酥白光滑的斜度處。『你喜歡釣魚麼？釣魚是我的中間的名字(?)。我將教你打紙牌。你喜歡打紙牌麼？』

『我從前是打一種骨牌的好手。』

她曉得這是一種打牌遊戲——也許是別的遊戲——很許是球盤。但是他的說謊却是她的勝利。朱安尼塔的好看的，顏色很濃的馬臉，表示懷疑。哈里摩摩鼻子，很謙抑的說道，『骨牌麼！這向來是大賭博，是不是的？』

當他人溜到她這一堆人裏頭的時候，卡祿爾乘機大發議論。她大笑，她說許多不相干的話，說得很乾脆。他不能辨別他們的眼色。他們是一堆面目辨不清楚的看戲人，她在他們面前演戲，她自己很曉得她演她自己是甘尼喀醫生的一個聰明小新娘子的諧劇：

她說道，『這裏有許多著名的開豁的空地，我出來所爲的就是這些地方。我以後看報不看別的，只看講運動的那幾頁。我們在柯路拉杜遊覽，維爾使我深信運動。有許多胆小的遊客，不敢下汽車，我就立意做安尼奧格里(Annie Oakley)，野的西方 Wampire，買了一條索索响的裙子，露出我的頂好看的踝節，給全數愛奧維(Ioway) 的

byterian glare of all the Ioway schoolma'ams, and I leaped from peak to peak like the nimble chamoys, and — You may think that Herr Doctor Kennicott is a Nimrod, but you ought to have seen me daring him to strip to his B. V. D.'s<sup>1</sup> and go swimming in an icy mountain brook."

She knew that they were thinking of becoming shocked, but Juanita Haydock was admiring, at least. She swaggered<sup>2</sup> on:

"I'm sure I'm going to ruin Will as a respectable practitioner — Is he a good doctor, Dr. Gould?"

Kennicott's rival gasped at this insult to professional ethics, and he took an appreciable second before he recovered his social manner. "I'll tell you, Mrs. Kennicott." He smiled at Kennicott, to imply<sup>3</sup> that whatever he might say in the stress of being witty was not to count against him in the commercio-medical warfare. "There's some people in town that say the doc is a fair to middlin' diagnostician and prescription-writer, but let me whisper this to you—but for heaven's sake don't tell him I said so—don't you ever go to him for anything more serious than a pendentomy of the left ear or a strabismus of the cardiograph."

No one save Kennicott knew exactly what this meant, but they laughed, and Sam Clark's party assumed a glittering lemon-yellow color of brocade panels and champagne and tulle and crystal chandeliers and sporting duchesses. Carol saw that George Edwin Mott and the blanched Mr. and Mrs. Dawson were not yet hypnotized. They looked as though they wondered whether they ought

<sup>1</sup>B. V. D. 男人的內衣. <sup>2</sup>Swagger, 大言. <sup>3</sup>imply, 示意.

長老會的女教員們看，我從這個山頭跳到那個山頭，如同一條敏捷羚羊一般，何以爲甘尼喀醫師是一個尼木洛特（Nimrod 大獵家——譯者注。）但是你該看我激他脫衣服，只脫剩內衣，在山裏的冰冷的溪流盪水。』

她曉得他們在那裏想，這是變作極不難觀的事，但是至少有朱安尼塔海多稱讚她。她又大放厥詞的往下說道：

『我很曉得我將毀了維爾使他變作不是一個令人敬重的醫生——孤爾特醫生，他是一個好醫生麼？』

甘尼喀的勁敵，聽見這句侮辱醫界道德的話，張着大口，他要等一秒鐘才恢復他的善於肆應的態度。他說道，『甘尼喀太太，我將告訴你。』他對着甘尼喀微笑，示意他無論因爲要說兩句俏皮話，可以說出無論什麼話來，却是不會在同行的競爭生意裏頭反對他的。『本處有幾個人說，以辨症與處方言，甘尼喀是還好的，很過得去的，但是你讓我附耳低聲對你說——你可千萬不要告訴他是我說的——你若要他（Pendectomy of）左耳，或是因心動寫器的歪斜，你可以找他，若是更重要的，你切勿請教他。』

在座的人只有甘尼喀懂得這句話的意思，他們兩人都大笑，沙木卡拉克的一羣人自以爲住在檸檬黃顏色所繖糊護牆板的大宅，飲的是香賓酒，穿的是細軟衣服，掛的是水晶燈座，充好打獵的公爵夫人們。卡祿爾看見毛特與漂白的多生夫婦們還未受着她的催眠術。他們的神氣，好像在那遊疑不決，是否應該露出他們好像不以爲然的

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to look as though they disapproved. She concentrated on them:

“But I know whom I wouldn’t have dared to go to Colorado with! Mr. Dawson there! I’m sure he’s a regular heartbreaker. When we were introduced he held my hand and squeezed it frightfully.”

“Haw! Haw! Haw!” The entire company applauded. Mr. Dawson was beatified. He had been called many things—loan-shark, skinflint, tightwad, pussyfoot—but he had never before been called a flirt.

“He is wicked, isn’t he, Mrs. Dawson? Don’t you have to lock him up?”

“Oh no, but maybe I better,” attempted Mrs. Dawson, a tint on her pallid face.

For fifteen minutes Carol kept it up. She asserted that she was going to stage a musical comedy, that she preferred café parfait to beefsteak, that she hoped Dr. Kennicott would never lose his ability to make love to charming women, and that she had a pair of gold stockings. They gaped for more. But she could not keep it up. She retired to a chair behind Sam Clark’s bulk. The smile-wrinkles solemnly flattened out in the faces of all the other collaborators in having a party, and again they stood about hoping but not expecting to be amused.

Carol listened. She discovered that conversation did not exist in Gopher Prairie. Even at this affair, which brought out the young smart set, the hunting squire set, the respectable intellectual set, and the solid financial set, they sat up with gaiety as with a corpse.

Juanita Haydock talked a good deal in her rattling voice but it was invariably of personalities:<sup>1</sup> the rumor that

<sup>1</sup> personalities, 個人的瑣事.

神色來。她於是用全力攻他們：

「但是我曉得我不敢同誰去柯路拉杜！我說的就是站在那裏的多生！我很曉得他是一個習慣打破人心的好手。當有人介紹我們的時候，他拉住我的手，很可怕的捏我的手。」

在座的人們全拍手喝采，『呵呵呵』的大笑。多生歡樂到了不得。人們有說他是一個借款鯊魚的，有說他是一個吝嗇鬼的，有說他是一個塞漏卮的東西，塞緊到一滴也不流出來的，有人說他是一個偷偷做事與很祕密做事的好手，却向來無人說他是善於獻媚於女子的好手。

卡祿爾說道，『多生太太，他是一個心邪的人，是不是？你不要把他關鎖起來麼？』

多生太太嘗識說道，『不是的，但是也許我還是把他關鎖起來的好。』她說話的時候，她的灰白色的臉微微發紅。

卡祿爾說了有十五分鐘的話。她說她要布置一本音樂的諧劇，她更喜歡淨咖啡，不甚喜歡牛肉扒，也希望甘尼喀醫生永遠不會失丟他獻媚於美貌女人的本領，又說她有一雙金襪子。他們張大口要聽她再往下說。她却不能再說了。她躲在沙木卡拉克的碩大身子背後的一張椅子上。全數其他幫助一個歡迎會的人們，臉上的笑紋都很鄭重的全平了，他們又站在那裏希望有人同他們消遣，却預知無人同他們消遣。

卡祿爾在那裏留心聽。她才曉得哥甫巴利利無會談。（這一句寫盡這個地方的人。譯者注。）這次原是歡迎會，最時髦的少年們，好打獵的鄉紳們，令人可敬的知識階級，與結實的理財階級，全到齊了，他們坐在這裏求快樂，却如同與死屍坐在一起一般。

朱安尼塔海多滾滾的說了許多話，所說的却全是個

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Raymie Wutherspoon was going to send for a pair of patent leather shoes with gray buttoned tops; the rheumatism of Champ Perry; the state of Guy Pollock's grippe; and the dementia of Jim Howland in painting his fence salmon-pink.

Sam Clark had been talking to Carol about motor cars, but he felt his duties as host. While he droned, his brows popped up and down. He interrupted himself, "Must stir 'em up." He worried at his wife, "Don't you think I better stir 'em up?" He shouldered into the center of the room, and cried:

"Let's have some stunts,<sup>1</sup> folks."

"Yes, let's!" shrieked Juanita Haydock.

"Say, Dave, give us that stunt about the Norwegian catching a hen."

"You bet; that's a slick stunt; do that, Dave!" cheered Chet Dashaway.

Mr. Dave Dyer obliged.

All the guests moved their lips in anticipation of being called on for their own stunts.

"Ella, come on and recite 'Old Sweetheart of Mine,' for us," demanded Sam.

Miss Ella Stowbody, the spinster daughter of the Ionic bank, scratched her dry palms and blushed. "Oh, you don't want to hear that old thing again."

"Sure we do! You bet!" asserted Sam.

"My voice is in terrible shape tonight."

"Tut! Come on!"

Sam loudly explained to Carol, "Ella is our shark<sup>2</sup> at elocuting. She's had professional training. She studied singing and oratory and dramatic art and shorthand for a year, in Milwaukee."

<sup>1</sup>stunt, 賣弄特別本事, 演各人的記性. <sup>2</sup>shark, 專門名家.



人們的瑣事；她說謠傳拉米烏突斯判 (Raymie Wutherspoon) 正在要店裏送一雙面上灰色的有扣子的漆皮鞋；他說查木普普爾里 (Champ Perry) 的風濕病；說格愛普洛克 (Guy Pollock) 的寒瘟病的情形；說吉木浩蘭 (Jim Howland) 把他的圍牆油成鮭魚肉的淡紅色，想是瘋了。

沙木卡拉克同卡祿爾談汽車，他却曉得他是主人，有應盡的本務。當他不作事的時候，他的眉頭跳上跳下。他攔住自己說道，『我必得鼓舞他們。』他麻煩他的太太說道，『你想看，我是不是不如走去激動他們的興致？』他走到屋子中間，大聲喊道：

『諸位，我們不如試演各人的記憶。』

朱安尼塔海多喊道，『好呀，我們唱歌！』

『第甫，你唱挪威人捉母雞歌。』

齊特特沙維鼓勵著，說道，『這是很流麗的歌；第甫，你唱呀！』

第甫泰爾果然唱。

全數的客人都在那裏動唇，預料有人請他唱。

沙木請求道，『愛拉，你來呀，你誦，我的舊情人給我們聽』。

愛拉斯圖波狄 (Ella Stowbody) 小姐是愛奧尼 (Ionic) 銀行的閨女，抓她的乾手掌，臉上發紅，說道，『你們不要再聽那個古老東西。』

沙木說道，『我們實在要聽。』

『今晚我的喉嚨很不好。』

『你不要說啦！你唱呀！』

沙木大聲解說給卡祿爾聽，說道，『愛拉是我們的唱歌說書的專門名家。她受過專門教育。她在米和記 (Milwaukee) 學過一年的唱歌與演說劇術與速寫。』

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Miss Stowbody was reciting. As encore to "An Old Sweetheart of Mine," she gave a peculiarly optimistic poem regarding the value of smiles.

There were four other stunts: one Jewish, one Irish, one juvenile, and Nat Hicks's parody of Mark Antony's funeral oration.

During the winter Carol was to hear Dave Dyer's hen-catching impersonation seven times, "An Old Sweetheart of Mine" nine times, the Jewish story and the funeral oration twice; but now she was ardent and, because she did so want to be happy and simple-hearted, she was as disappointed as the others when the stunts were finished, and the party instantly sank back into coma.

They gave up trying to be festive; they began to talk naturally, as they did at their shops and homes.

The men and women divided, as they had been tending to do all evening. Carol was deserted by the men, left to a group of matrons who steadily pattered of children, sickness, and cooks—their own shop-talk. She was piqued. She remembered visions of herself as a smart married woman in a drawing-room, fencing with clever men. Her dejection was relieved by speculation as to what the men were discussing, in the corner between the piano and the phonograph. Did they rise from these housewifely personalities to a larger world of abstractions and affairs?

She made her best curtsy to Mrs. Dawson; she twittered, "I won't have my husband leaving me so soon! I'm going over and pull the wretch's ears." She rose with a *jeune fille* bow. She was self-absorbed and self-approving because she had attained that quality of sentimentality. She proudly dipped across the room and, to the interest and

斯圖波狄小姐果然背，我的一個舊情人。背完了衆人請她再來，她給衆人背了一首特別樂觀的詩，說的是微笑的價值。

此外還有四個人歌誦：有一個唱猶太歌，有一個唱愛爾蘭歌，有一個唱孩子們的歌，有一個誦那特希克士民製的演說，這是套安東尼（Antony）祭愷撒文的調的（見莎士比亞的愷撒劇本。——譯者注。）

後來當這個冬天，卡祿爾還要聽捉母雞的歌七次，我的一個舊情人九次，猶太故事與祭文各兩次；但是現在她却是很熱心的，因為她要歡樂，又要天真爛漫的，當歌誦完了，衆人立刻又變作昏睡的時候，她與其他的人們一樣的失望。

他們不嘗試歡慶啦；他們起首自然的談話，如同他們在店裏及家裏的時候一樣。

在全個晚上，他們都趨向於分開男女，現在果然分開了。男人們都離開卡祿爾，走開了，只剩了她同一堆年紀較大的女人們在一起，這些女人們接連不斷的談孩子們，談疾病，談廚子——談她們自己本店的話。她覺得難過。她記得她從未曾想像過自己是一個時髦的出嫁過的女人，坐在客廳裏與聰明的男人們辨駁。她這時候原是心灰意冷的，却一想到男人們在鋼琴與話匣之間的角落討論什麼，她又高興起來。難道他們能夠超出這些管家女人們所談的個人瑣事圍之外，談規模較大的道理與事體麼？

她對多生太太盡禮的屈膝；她啾啾唧唧的說道，『我不願我的丈夫這樣早就離開我！我要到那邊去，扯他的耳朵。』她對她行少年女子的鞠躬禮就站起來。因為她已經得着這種感情，所以她只想着自己，又贊成自己的行爲。她很嬌傲的走過去，全數看她的人仍都注意她，稱讚她，她

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commendation of all beholders, sat on the arm of Kennicott's chair.

He was gossiping with Sam Clark, Luke Dawson, Jackson Elder of the planing-mill, Chet Dashaway, Dave Dyer, Harry Haydock, and Ezra Stowbody, president of the Ionic bank.

Ezra Stowbody was a troglodyte. He had come to Gopher Prairie in 1865. He was a distinguished bird of prey—swooping thin nose, turtle mouth, thick brows, port-wine cheeks, floss of white hair, contemptuous eyes. He was not happy in the social changes of thirty years. Three decades ago, Dr. Westlake, Julius Flickerbaugh the lawyer, Merriman Peedy the Congregational pastor and himself had been the arbiters. That was as it should be; the fine arts—medicine, law, religion, and finance—recognized as aristocratic; four Yankees democratically chatting with but ruling the Ohioans and Illini and Swedes and Germans who had ventured to follow them. But Westlake was old, almost retired; Julius Flickerbaugh had lost much of his practice to livelier attorneys; Reverend (not The Reverend) Peedy was dead; and nobody was impressed in this rotten age of automobiles by the “spanking grays” which Ezra still drove. The town was as heterogeneous as Chicago. Norwegians and Germans owned stores. The social leaders were common merchants. Selling nails was considered as sacred as banking. These upstarts<sup>1</sup>—the Clarks, the Haydocks—had no dignity. They were sound and conservative in politics, but they talked about motor cars and pump-guns and heaven only knew what new-fangled fads. Mr. Stowbody felt out of

<sup>1</sup>upstarts, 暴發戶.

走過去坐在甘尼喀的椅手上。

他正在與沙木卡拉克，路加多生，刨板廠的查克生愛爾特，齊特，特沙維，第甫泰爾，哈里海多，伊茲拉司圖波狄（愛奧尼銀行的主席）談話。

伊茲拉司圖波狄是一個住居山洞的人。他是在一八六五年到哥甫巴利利來的他是一隻與眾不同的鷺鳥——也有一個勢欲攫物的簿鼻子，一個腳魚嘴，兩道濃眉，波打酒顏色的兩顴，如絲的白頭髮，看人不起的兩眼。社會的變遷有了三十年，他在其中並不歡樂。在三十年前，維士利克醫生(Dr. Westlake)，朱里亞法力克波(Julius Flickerbaugh)律師，瑪理曼·披第(Merriman Peedy)牧師，與他自己，就是本地的領袖。這原是應該的；美術——醫學，法律宗教，理財——是人所承認為貴族化的行業；四個美國人，不分貴賤，略分言交的，同胆敢跟隨他們的奧海奧人，伊里尼人，瑞典人及德國人說話，却一面節制他們。維士利克老了，幾乎要歸陰啦；朱里亞法力克波失丟許多生意，被更活動的律師搶了；披第是已經死了；伊茲拉仍然坐他的頂快的灰色馬的馬車，現在雖然是汽車時代，却無人理會他。本鎮是很難的如同芝加哥一樣。開店舖的是挪威國人及德國人。社會的領袖是平常商人。賣釘子的，與開銀行的，同看作一樣的神聖不可侵犯。這幾個暴發戶——如卡拉克與海多等——沒得威嚴。他們的政見是穩當的，是保守派的，但是他們談的是汽車與pump-guns，只有天曉得他們所談的其他新鮮古怪東西。司圖波

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place with them. But his brick house with the mansard roof was still the largest residence in town, and he held his position as squire by occasionally appearing among the younger men and reminding them by a wintry eye that without the banker none of them could carry on their vulgar businesses.

As Carol defied decency by sitting down with the men, Mr. Stowbody was piping to Mr. Dawson, "Say, Luke, when was't Biggins first settled in Winnebago Township? Wa'n't it in 1879?"

"Why no 'twa'n't!" Mr. Dawson was indignant. "He come out from Vermont in 1867—no, wait, in 1868, it must have been—and took a claim on the Rum River, quite a ways above Anoka."

"He did not!" roared Mr. Stowbody. "He settled first in Blue Earth County, him and his father!"

("What's the point at issue?" Carol whispered to Kennicott.

("Whether this old duck Biggins had an English setter or a Llewellyn. They've been arguing it all evening!")

Dave Dyer interrupted to give tidings, "D' tell you that Clara Biggins was in town couple days ago? She bought a hot-water bottle—expensive one, too—two dollars and thirty cents!"

"Yaaaaaaah!" snarled Mr. Stowbody. "Course. She's just like her grandad was. Never save a cent. Two dollars and twenty—thirty, was it?—two dollars and thirty cents for a hot-water bottle! Brick wrapped up in a flannel petticoat just as good, anyway!"

"How's Ella's tonsils, Mr. Stowbody?" yawned Chet Dashaway.

While Mr. Stowbody gave a somatic and psychic study

狄同他們在一起覺得不對路數。但是他的有兩層斜坡的房頂的紅磚房子，還是本鎮的最大住宅，他保守着他的鄉紳地位，有時在少年叢中出現，冷眼看着他們，要他們記得，若無開銀行的人，他們就不能做他們的粗俗生意。

因為卡祿爾反對俗尚，跑來同男人們坐下，司圖波狄就對多生說道，『路加，貝金士(Biggins)是幾時起首住在文尼巴高(Winnebago)鎮的？是不是在一八七九年？』

多生生氣。說道，『不是的！他是在一八六七年從維爾蒙來的——不是的，且等等，必定是在一八六八年——還要求林謨河(Rum)說是他的，在安諾伽(Anoka)上頭，相離很遠。』

司圖波狄吼道，『他不曾！他最先住在藍泥府，他與他的父親都住在那裏！』

(卡祿爾附耳問甘尼喀道，『他們所爭辯的是什麼？』)

(他答道，『他們所爭的是這個老東西貝金士是否有一隻這種獵狗抑或那種獵狗。他們爭論了一個晚上啦？』)

第甫泰爾打叉，報告道，『我不曾告訴你們麼，卡拉拉貝金士兩天前在本鎮？說她買了一個熱水瓶——還是很貴的——花兩元三角買的！』

司圖波狄如狗叫的喊道，『是呀！她自然要買貴東西。她很像她的祖父。向來不肯節省一文的，兩元二角——三角麼。花兩元三角買一個熱水瓶呀！用一條法蘭絨裙子包一塊磚，也有熱水瓶那樣好！』

齊特特沙維打呵問道，『司圖波狄，愛拉的喉核怎樣啦？』

司圖波狄發表他的喉核的形體的與靈性的研究，這

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of them, Carol reflected, "Are they really so terribly interested in Ella's tonsils, or even in Ella's esophagus? I wonder if I could get them away from personalities? Let's risk damnation and try."

"There hasn't been much labor trouble around here, has there, Mr. Stowbody?" she asked innocently.

"No, ma'am, thank God, we've been free from that, except maybe with hired girls and farm-hands. Trouble enough with these foreign farmers; if you don't watch these Swedes they turn socialist or populist or some fool thing on you in a minute. Of course, if they have loans you can make 'em listen to reason. I just have 'em come into the bank for a talk, and tell 'em a few things. I don't mind their being democrats, so much, but I won't stand having socialists around. But thank God, we ain't got the labor trouble they have in these cities. Even Jack Elder here gets along pretty well, in the planing-mill, don't you, Jack?"

"Yep. Sure. Don't need so many skilled workmen in my place, and it's a lot of these cranky, wage-hogging, half-baked skilled mechanics that start trouble—reading a lot of this anarchist literature and union papers and all,"

"Do you approve of union labor?" Carol inquired of Mr. Elder.

"Me? I should say not! It's like this: I don't mind dealing with my men if they think they've got any grievances—though Lord knows what's come over workmen, nowadays—don't appreciate a good job. But still, if they come to me honestly, as man to man, I'll talk things over with them. But I'm not going to have any outsider, any of these walking delegates, or whatever fancy names they call themselves now—bunch of rich grafters,<sup>1</sup> living on the

<sup>1</sup>grafters, 受賂人, 得不規則錢財的人.



時候卡祿爾想道，『他們當真是這樣令人可怕的同愛拉的喉核或愛拉的食管這樣休戚相關麼？我心裏自問我能不能使他們說別的事，不說個人的瑣事麼？讓我來冒受詛罵的險，試試看。』

他於是老老實實的問道，『司圖波狄先生，我們這裏未曾有過許多工人的刁難麼？』

他答道，『謝謝上帝，太太，我們沒得工人刁難，除了受雇的女子與田工不計。我們有過許多外國田工的爲難，你若不留心察看這些瑞典人，他們在一會兒工夫就變作社會黨，或羣衆黨，或別的傻黨。他們若有借款，你自然能够使他們講理。我只是叫他們到銀行來談一會，把不多的幾件事體告訴他們。我却不甚管他們是不分階級的民主黨，我都不肯忍受四圍有社會黨。但是我要謝謝上帝我們這裏並無其他市城的勞工風潮。查克愛爾特在刨木廠裏頭同工人們還處得來，查克，是不是？』

『當真。我的地方用不着許多有技藝的工人，都是這些乖僻爭工資，半生半熟的有技藝的工匠們首先發難的——他們讀許多無政府黨的著作與工會的報章等等。』

卡祿爾問愛爾特道，『你贊成工會麼？』

『我麼？我不贊成！我的理由如下：倘若他們以爲受了什麼不良的待遇，我却不怕對付他們——現在惟有主曉得工人們想些什麼——他們不曉得一件好差事的價值。雖是這樣說，只要他們老老實實的來找我，如人與人以理相見，我就肯同他們談論事體。我却不願見任何一個外人，無論什麼在街上奔走的代表，或現在他們所用的怪異名詞——他們是一羣得了不規則利益的發了財的人們，

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ignorant workmen! Not going to have any of those fellows butting in and telling *me* how to run *my* business!"

Mr. Elder was growing more excited, more belligerent and patriotic. "I stand for freedom and constitutional rights. If any man don't like my shop, he can get up and git. Same way, if I don't like him, he gits. And that's all there is to it. I simply can't understand all these complications and hoop-te-doodles and government reports and wage-scales and God knows what all that these fellows are balling up the labor situation with, when it's all perfectly simple. They like what I pay 'em, or they get out. That's all there is to it!"

"What do you think of profit-sharing?" Carol ventured.

Mr. Elder thundered his answer, while the others nodded, solemnly and in tune, like a shop-window of flexible toys, comic mandarins and judges and ducks and clowns, set quivering by a breeze from the open door:

"All this profit-sharing and welfare work and insurance and old-age pension is simply poppycock.<sup>1</sup> Enfeebles a workman's independence—and wastes a lot of honest profit. The half-baked thinker that isn't dry behind the ears yet, and these suffragettes and God knows what all buttinskis there are that are trying to tell a business man how to run his business, and some of these college professors are just about as bad, the whole kit and bilin' of 'em are nothing in God's world but socialism in disguise! And it's my bounden duty as a producer to resist every attack on the integrity of American industry to the last ditch. Yes—SIR!"

Mr. Elder wiped his brow.

<sup>1</sup> poppycock, 講得好聽的胡說。

他們都是靠無知識的工匠們過活的！我却不許無論那一個這種樣的人闖進來告訴我怎樣辦我的事業！』

愛爾特變作很受了激動，變作更好奮鬥，與更愛國。『我是主持自由與憲法權利的。無論什麼人，若是不喜歡我的工廠，你能够站起來就走出去。我若不喜歡他，我也是一樣請他走。雇主與工人的關係，不過是這樣。工人的問題原是很簡單的，我簡直不能明白全數這些糾葛不清，與 hoop-te-doodles 及政府報告與勞資表，及惟有上帝知道的全數這些人所提倡的勞工地位。他們若是喜歡我所給的工資就做，不喜歡就走。只有這個問題！』

卡祿爾放胆問道，『你對於分利問題有什麼意見？』

愛爾特如雷響一樣的答復，當下其餘的人們都點頭贊成，腔調是整齊的，態度是嚴肅的，如同店面的玻璃窗裏頭所陳列的活動玩具，有引人笑的中國官員與裁判官及鴨子，小丑等等，大門一開，一陣風吹過來，這些玩具就抖動。

『全數這樣的分利與爲他們謀幸福的工作保險，老年恤俸等等，都不過是講得好聽的胡說。這些方法不過弱了工人的獨立——糟塌了許多正當得來的餘利。一個半生半熟的思想家，他的兩隻耳朵後頭還不曾乾，與女權黨，及惟有上帝曉得的全數 buttinskis 與幾個大學的教授們，也一樣的不明白這些人們不是特別，不過是改裝的社會主義黨！他們嘗試教一個辦工廠的人怎樣辦工廠的事！我是一個產生家，我負了不能推委的責任，我要盡力抗拒他們攻擊美國實業的全局。先生！我是要抵抗到底的。』

愛爾特擦他額上的汗。

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Dave Dyer added, "Sure! You bet! What they ought to do is simply to hang every one of these agitators, and that would settle the whole thing right off. Don't you think so, doc?"

"You bet," agreed Kennicott.

The conversation was at last relieved of the plague of Carol's intrusions and they settled down to the question of whether the justice of the peace had sent that hobo drunk to jail for ten days or twelve. It was a matter not readily determined. Then Dave Dyer communicated his carefree adventures on the gipsy trail:

"Yep. I get good time out of the flivver.<sup>1</sup> 'Bout a week ago I motored down to New Wurttemberg. That's forty-three — No, let's see: It's seventeen miles to Belldale, and 'bout six and three-quarters, call it seven, to Torgquist, and it's a good nineteen miles from there to New Wurttemberg—seventeen and seven and nineteen, that makes, uh, let me see: seventeen and seven 's twenty-four, plus nineteen, well say plus twenty, that makes forty-four, well anyway, say about forty-three or -four miles from here to New Wurttemberg. We got started about seven-fifteen, prob'ly seven-twenty, because I had to stop and fill the radiator, and we ran along, just keeping up a good steady gait — "

Mr. Dyer did finally, for reasons and purposes admitted and justified, attain to New Wurttemberg.

Once—only once—the presence of the alien Carol was recognized. Chet Dashaway leaned over and said asthmatically, "Say, uh, have you been reading this serial 'Two Out' in *Tingling Tales*? Corking<sup>2</sup> yarn! Gosh,

<sup>1</sup> flivver, 便宜不結實的汽車, 福特汽車. <sup>2</sup> corking, 非常的大說謊.

第甫泰爾湊着說道，『當真！他們應該把所有的擾亂人都絞死，這就可以立刻解決這件事。醫生，你說是不是？』

甘尼略表示同意，說道，『可不是。』

後來他們的談話沒得卡祿爾打叉，就歸結到一個問題，裁判官把那個吃醉酒的無正業的工人入監，是監禁十天或十二天。這件問題却不是立刻能解決的。隨後第甫泰爾把他所作的無顧慮的追蹤流民的事告訴衆人。

他說道，『是呀。我用福爾特(Ford)汽車很得着些快活日子。大約一星期前，我坐汽車到新烏吞堡。這有四十三——不是的，我看看。到貝爾底是十七哩，大約是六哩又四分之三，就說是七哩，到托爾昆，從那裏到新烏吞堡有十九哩——十七加七又加十九，這就是，讓我算算：十七加七是二十四，加十九，就說是加二十，這就是四十四，我們就說是從這裏到新烏吞堡大約是四十三或四十四哩。我們動身的時候是七點十五分，很許是七點二十分，因為我得停下來，裝滿放熱機，我們就向前跑，穩穩的跑——』  
(這幾段描寫這羣人面目可憎，語言無味。——譯者注。)

泰爾因為種種承認的理由與證明是應該的用意，最後果然到了新烏吞堡。

他們有一次——只有這一次——承認那個非我族類的卡祿爾在他們那裏。齊特特沙維斜倚過來，用哮喘的聲音說道，『你會讀在「震耳故事」裏的按期接登的『兩個人出去』的故事麼？很是一篇非常的大謊話。寫這篇故事的

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the fellow that wrote it certainly can sling baseball slang!"

The others tried to look literary. Harry Haydock offered, "Juanita is a great hand for reading high-class stuff, like 'Mid the Magnolias' by this Sara Hetwiggin Butts, and 'Riders of Ranch Reckless.' Books. But me," he glanced about importantly, as one convinced that no other hero had ever been in so strange a plight, "I'm so darn busy I don't have much time to read."

"I never read anything I can't check against," said Sam Clark.

Thus ended the literary portion of the conversation, and for seven minutes Jackson Elder outlined reasons for believing that the pike-fishing was better on the west shore of Lake Minniemashie than on the east—though it was indeed quite true that on the east shore Nat Hicks had caught a pike altogether admirable.

The talk went on. It did go on! Their voices were monotonous, thick, emphatic. They were harshly pompous, like men in the smoking-compartments of Pullman cars. They did not bore Carol. They frightened her. She panted, "They will be cordial to me, because my man belongs to their tribe God help me if I were an outsider!"

Smiling as changelessly as an ivory figurine she sat quiescent, avoiding thought, glancing about the living-room and hall, noting their betrayal of unimaginative commercial prosperity. Kennicott said, "Dandy interior, eh? My idea of how a place ought to be furnished. Modern." She looked polite, and observed the oiled floors, hard-wood staircase, unused fireplace with tiles which resembled brown linoleum, cut-glass vases standing upon doilies, and the barred, shut, forbidding unit bookcases

人很能用棍球的俚語！』(可見作者們頗以多用俚語爲能，却苦了讀者。——譯者注。)

其餘的人們都嘗試故作很懂得文學的神色。哈里海多說道，『朱安尼塔是一個善讀高等文學的好手，如某人所撰的某某兩種著作。這都是書呀。我却，』他四圍看看，露出他是一個重要人物的神色，表示他深信世上再無別個英雄所處的地位能如他所處的那樣奇怪的爲難，『我是太過忙啦，沒得多少閒工夫讀書。』

沙本卡拉克說道，『凡是我所不能考察是否真實的著作，我是絕不讀的。』

他們談話裏頭的文學部分，就是這樣告終了，查克愛爾特費了七分鐘時光，說明他的理由，他爲什麼相信在朱尼瑪施湖西岸釣梭魚，比在東岸好——雖然說那特希克士在東岸當真捉了一條很可讚美的梭魚。

他們就是這樣談下去。談得很熱鬧！他們的聲音是單調的，濁的，重的。他們很擺嚴厲架子，如同在睡車上的吃烟室的人們一般。他們並不令卡祿爾討厭。他們驚嚇她。她喘氣說道，『因爲我的男人屬於他們的族類，他們將以和藹待我。假使他們當我是非其族類，我只好求上帝助我！』

她坐在那裏動也不動，如同一座象牙小人，始終不改的微笑，她也不思想，看看住房與堂屋，注意所揭露的無想像的市僧的繁榮。甘尼略說道，『屋裏很華麗麼？我以爲一所宅子都應該這樣鋪陳，這才算是摩登。』她露出客氣神色，觀察加油的地板，硬木樓梯，未用過的牆爐，砌的磚好像棕色的過油帆布，雕刻的玻璃瓶放在墊布上，還有許多有欄杆的，關得緊緊的見了令人可怕的小書箱，米裝了

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that were half filled with swashbuckler novels and unread-looking sets of Dickens, Kipling, O. Henry, and Elbert Hubbard.

She perceived that even personalities were failing to hold the party. The room filled with hesitancy as with a fog. People cleared their throats, tried to choke down yawns. The men shot their cuffs and the women stuck their combs more firmly into their back hair.

Then a rattle, a daring hope in every eye, the swinging of a door, the smell of strong coffee, Dave Dyer's mewling voice in a triumphant, "The eats!" They began to chatter. They had something to do. They could escape from themselves. They fell upon the food—chicken sandwiches, maple cake, drug-store ice cream. Even when the food was gone they remained cheerful. They could go home, any time now, and go to bed!

They went, with a flutter of coats, chiffon scarfs, and good-bys.

Carol and Kennicott walked home.

"Did you like them?" he asked.

"They were terribly sweet to me."

"Uh, Carrie — You ought to be more careful about shocking folks. Talking about gold stockings, and about showing your ankles to schoolteachers and all!" More mildly: "You gave 'em a good time, but I'd watch out for that, 'f I were you. Juanita Haydock is such a damn cat.<sup>1</sup> I wouldn't give her a chance to criticize me."

"My poor effort to lift up the party! Was I wrong to try to amuse them?"

"No! No! Honey, I didn't mean — You were the only up-and-coming person in the bunch. I just mean —

<sup>1</sup> cat, 可厭的女人。



浮誇的小說，與好像並未讀過的整部的迭更斯(Dickens)，祁貝林(Kipling)，奧理(Henry)與哈巴特(Hubbard)的著作。

她覺得他們各人說各人的瑣事也不够再能談下去。滿屋裏都是遲疑神色，好像有濃霧籠罩住。他們在那裏清喉嚨，嘗試把呵欠壓下去。男人們揸袖子，女人們把梳子插入她們後面的頭髮，插得更牢。

隨後就是一陣戛戛聲，各人的眼內都有一種放胆的希望，有人推開門，送進一陣很濃的咖啡味，第甫泰爾的貓叫聲音很得意的說道，『吃的來了！』他們又起首說話。他們這時候有點事做啦。他們能够逃出他們自己啦。他們就大吃起來——吃的是雞肉夾麵包，楓糖餅，藥店買來的冰吉林。等到全吃完了的時候，他們居然還能夠高興。到了現在，無論什麼時候，他們都能回家上床睡覺啦！

客人們於是紛紛穿外褂，圍薄紗領巾，握手言別就散了。

卡祿爾同甘尼咯步行回家。

他問道，『你喜歡他們麼？』

她答道，『他們對待我是很和氣的。』

『卡利(Carrie 卽卡祿爾——譯者注。)你得更要留神，不要令人驚駭。你不要說金襪子，不要說你把你的踝節給學校的先生們看！』醫生較爲和平的說道，『你會令他們娛樂一會子，假使我是你的話，我却要留神。朱安尼塔是一個該受詛罵的可厭的女人。我是不肯給她機會批評我的。』

『可憐我費了許多力，提起他們的精神！我嘗試使他們覺得有趣，難道我是做錯了麼？』

『不是錯！不是的！蜜呀，我並不是說——在這一堆人裏頭只有你一個是有精神的。我不過說——你不要說脚

## MAIN STREET

Don't get onto legs and all that immoral stuff. Pretty conservative crowd."

She was silent, raw<sup>1</sup> with the shameful thought that the attentive circle might have been criticizing her, laughing at her.

"Don't, please don't worry!" he pleaded.

Silence.

"Gosh, I'm sorry I spoke about it. I just meant —— But they were crazy about you. Sam said to me, 'That little lady of yours is the slickest thing that ever came to this town,' he said; and Ma Dawson—I didn't hardly know whether she'd like you or not, she's such a dried-up old bird, but she said, 'Your bride is so quick and bright, I declare, she just wakes me up.'"

Carol liked praise, the flavor and fatness of it, but she was so energetically being sorry for herself that she could not taste this commendation.

"Please! Come on! Cheer up!" His lips said it, his anxious shoulder said it, his arm about her said it, as they halted on the obscure porch of their house.

"Do you care if they think I'm flighty, Will?"

"Me? Why, I wouldn't care if the whole world thought you were this or that or anything else. You're my—well, you're my soul!"

He was an undefined mass, as solid-seeming as rock. She found his sleeve, pinched it, cried, "I'm glad! It's sweet to be wanted! You must tolerate my frivolousness. You're all I have!"

He lifted her, carried her into the house, and with her arms about his neck she forgot Main Street.

<sup>1</sup> raw, 不高興.

及全數那樣不知羞的事。他們都是很守舊的。』

她不響，她一想到這一羣留意於她的人們，很許批評她，笑她，她就有點不高興。

他哀求道，『你不要煩心，請你不必煩心！』

她還是不響。

『我說了這件事，我覺得很難過。我不過說——但是他們却喜歡你到要瘋啦。沙木對我說道，『所有到這個市鎮來的，以你的這位小寶貝夫人爲最和氣的；多生太太——她是一隻晒得很乾的老鳥——我不甚曉得她是否喜歡你，她却說道，『你的新娘子既靈敏又聰明，她簡直驚醒我。』』

卡祿爾好恭維，好恭維話的滋味與其濃厚，但是她很懊悔她自己作錯了，所以不能嘗這幾句恭維話的滋味。

『我求你提起精神！我求你提起興致！』他的兩唇說這句話，他的着急的肩膀表示說這句話，他的手摟住她，也表示說這句話，這時候他們站在他們的房子的黑暗廓子上。

『維爾，倘若他們以我爲無定性，你煩心麼？』

『我麼？假使全個世界以爲你是這樣不好或是那樣不好，我全不管。你是我的——好嗎，你是我的靈魂！』

他這時候變作說不清楚的一塊東西，如同山石那樣結實。她找着他的袖子，捏袖子，說道，『我很高興！有人要是快活的。你得容忍我的輕率。我只有你，此外什麼都沒有！』

他舉起她，捉她入宅子，她的兩手捉住他的頸頸子，把大街忘記了。（這一篇絕妙諷刺文章略寫卡祿爾眼中的本鎮人物。——譯者注。）

## CHAPTER V

## V

On a low afternoon when she fidgeted over sewing and wished that the telephone would ring, Bea announced Miss Vida Sherwin.

Despite Vida Sherwin's lively blue eyes, if you had looked at her in detail you would have found her face slightly lined, and not so much sallow as with the bloom rubbed off; you would have found her chest flat, and her fingers rough from needle and chalk and penholder; her blouses and plain cloth skirts undistinguished; and her hat worn too far back, betraying a dry forehead. But you never did look at Vida Sherwin in detail. You couldn't. Her electric activity veiled her. She was as energetic as a chipmunk. Her fingers fluttered; her sympathy came out in spurts; she sat on the edge of a chair in eagerness to be near her auditor, to send her enthusiasms and optimism across.

She rushed into the room pouring out: "I'm afraid you'll think the teachers have been shabby in not coming near you, but we wanted to give you a chance to get settled. I am Vida Sherwin, and I try to teach French and English and a few other things in the high school."

"I've been hoping to know the teachers. You see, I was a librarian ——"

"Oh, you needn't tell me. I know all about you! Awful how much I know—this gossipy village. We need you so much here. It's a dear loyal town (and isn't loyalty the finest thing in the world!) but it's a rough diamond, and we need you for the polishing, and we're ever so humble

第五回 第五章

有一天下午卡祿爾無事可做，悶到了不得，正在不耐煩在家理縫東西，很想有人打電話來，她的女僕比亞(Bea)報維大賽爾文小姐來訪。

維大賽爾文(Vida Sherwin)小姐的兩隻眼睛雖然是藍色的，很活動的，假使你詳細看她，你就會看見她的臉稍微有了縐紋，她臉上的光彩褪了許多，並不是太過臉黃，你會看見她的胸脯是平的，她的手指因為拿針，拿筆，拿筆，變粗了；她的寬大外衣與無花紋的呢裙並不出色；他的帽子太過向後戴，露出一個乾枯的額。但是你却絕不能詳細觀察她。你是不能的。她的如電光那樣快的活動，遮住她。她如同一條松鼠那樣好動。她的手指常時動搖；她說與人表同情的話，是一陣一陣噴出來的；她坐在椅子邊上，急於要同聽她說話的人相近，要送她的熱心與樂觀過去(寫得確有力。——譯者注。)

她銜進屋裏來，如倒水一般說道，『教書先生們不曾來親近你，我恐怕你以為她們太小氣，但是我們要給你機會安頓下來。我就是維大賽爾文，我在高中學校試教法文英文與其他不多幾種東西。』

『我正在盼望結識教員們。你須曉得，我管過圖書館——』

『呀，你不必告訴我。我曉得你的履歷！我曉得許多事體——這裏是一個最好談論瑣事的村子。我們這裏很要你。我們這裏是一個可愛的忠於本土的鄉鎮(忠於本土不是世界上最好的事嗎！)可惜不過是未雕琢的一顆金剛鑽，我們要你來磨光，我們是極謙抑的——』她說得太快，

MAIN STREET

——” She stopped for breath and finished her compliment with a smile.

“If I *could* help you in any way —— Would I be committing the unpardonable sin if whispered that I think Gopher Prairie is a tiny bit ugly?”

“Of course it’s ugly. Dreadfully! Though I’m probably the only person in town to whom you could safely say that. (Except perhaps Guy Pollock the lawyer — have you met him? — oh, you *must!* — he’s simply a darling — intelligence and culture and so gentle.) But I don’t care so much about the ugliness. That will change. It’s the spirit that gives me hope. It’s sound. Wholesome. But afraid. It needs live creatures like you to awaken it. I shall slave-drive you!”

“Splendid. What shall I do? I’ve been wondering if it would be possible to have a good architect come here to lecture.”

“Ye-es, but don’t you think it would be better to work with existing agencies? Perhaps it will sound slow to you, but I was thinking—— It would be lovely if we could get you to teach Sunday School.”

Carol had the empty expression of one who finds that she has been affectionately bowing to a complete stranger. “Oh yes. But I’m afraid I wouldn’t be much good at that. My religion is so foggy.”

“I know. So is mine. I don’t care a bit for dogma. Though I do stick firmly to the belief in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man and the leadership of Jesus. As you do, of course.”

Carol looked respectable and thought about having tea.

“And that’s all you need teach in Sunday School. It’s the personal influence. Then there’s the library-board.

呼吸接不上來，只好歇歇，用微笑結束她的恭維話。

『假使我能夠幫助你——倘若我附耳低聲對你說，我以爲哥甫巴利利稍微有一點醜怪難看。我會犯了不能赦宥的罪過麼？』（卡祿爾初露她的勇於改革的脾氣。——譯者注。』

『自然是醜怪難看。難看到可怕。很許本村裏只有我一個人，是你可以放心對我說這種話的。（也許要除外律師格愛普洛克——你會過他麼？——你必得會會他！——他簡直是一個小寶貝——有知識，有學問，人又很溫和。）但是我却不甚注意於難看。這是將來會改變的。原是精神給我以希望。本村是穩實的。是康健的。可惜胆怯。要如你這樣有生機的人來驚醒這個地方。我將逼你做事，如強逼奴隸一般！』

『好極了。我將做什麼？我在這裏納悶，我們能否請一個好的建築師來這裏演講。』

『是呀，但是我以爲不如從就地取材做起，你看好不好？也許你聽了以爲太過遲緩，但是我正在想——我們若是能夠得你去教星期學校，就好極了。』（冷水澆背。——譯者注。）

卡祿爾的臉上毫無神氣，好像她是在那很親愛的同一個完全素不相識的人點頭。『是呀。但是我恐怕我辦不好。我的宗教是很不清楚，如同一層濃霧。』

『我曉得。我也是這樣。我是不管宗教的武斷道理的。我却堅持相信上帝是天父，人們都是兄弟。耶穌是領袖。你自然也是相信的。』

卡祿爾露出可敬神色，心裏却想着用茶點。

『你在星期學校裏只要教這幾樣。要緊的還是個人的潛力。我們這裏還有圖書館的董事會。你在會裏是很有用

## MAIN STREET

You'd be so useful on that. And of course there's our women's study club—the Thanatopsis Club.”

“Are they doing anything? Or do they read papers made out of the Encyclopedia?”

Miss Sherwin shrugged. “Perhaps. But still, they are so earnest. They will respond<sup>1</sup> to your fresher interest. And the Thanatopsis does do a good social work — they've made the city plant ever so many trees, and they run the rest-room for farmers' wives. And they do take such an interest in refinement and culture. So — in fact, so very unique.”

Carol was disappointed —by nothing very tangible. She said politely, “I'll think them all over. I must have a while to look around first.”

Miss Sherwin darted to her, smoothed her hair, peered at her. “Oh, my dear, don't you suppose I know? These first tender days of marriage—they're sacred to me. Home, and children that need you, and depend on you to keep them alive, and turn to you with their wrinkly little smiles. And the hearth and —— ” She hid her face from Carol as she made an activity of patting the cushion of her chair, but she went on with her former briskness:

“I mean, you must help us when you're ready. . . . I'm afraid you'll think I'm conservative. I am! So much to conserve. All this treasure of American ideals. Sturdiness and democracy and opportunity. Maybe not at Palm Beach. But, thank heaven, we're free from such social distinctions in Gopher Prairie. I have only one good quality — overwhelming belief in the brains and hearts of our nation, our state, our town. It's so strong that sometimes I do have a tiny effect on the haughty ten-thousandaires.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> respond, 响應. <sup>2</sup> ten-thousandaire, 似指每年有一万塊錢收入的人.



的。我們自然還有我們女人的求學會——就是塔那徒西士(Thanatopsis)學社。』

『她們在那裏辦事麼？或者她們在那裏宣讀從百科全書做出來的文章？』

賽爾文小姐聳聳肩。『也許讀。但是她們是很認真的。她們會嚮應你的更新鮮的注意。塔那徒西士學社做許多與社會有關係的事——她們曾令本市種了許多樹，他們還管理一間休息所，是給農夫們的奶奶們休息的。她們還很注意於雅尚與學殖。其實是很特別唯一的。』

卡祿爾聽見都是不實在的事，大失所望。她卻客氣的說道，『我把這些事想了。我必得有時候先四圍看看。』

賽爾文小姐的一技箭那樣快的跑上前，順她的頭髮，詳細看她。『呀，我的寶貝，你不曾猜我會曉得麼？新嫁娘的新婚的親愛日子——我是看作神聖不可侵犯的。家庭，兒女，都要你照應，靠你過活，微笑對着你。家庭與——』她一面很活動的拍了她的椅墊子，臉背着卡祿爾，她卻還是同從前一樣的說話說得很快：

『我的意思是說等到你可以幫忙的時候，你必得幫我們……我恐怕你以為我太守舊。我是守舊。因為要保守的很多。全數美國人的意想都是寶貝，都要保守的。結實，民主制與機會。在巴木比治(Palm Beach)也許不是這樣。但是我們在哥甫巴利利是不講社會階級的，我卻要謝謝上帝。我只有一樣好處——極相信我們美國人的頭腦，心腸，我們的州，我們的市鎮。我的相信是很有力的，有時很稍微有點潛力及於那些蹣跚的每年有一萬塊錢收入的人

## MAIN STREET

I shake 'em up and make 'em believe in ideals—yes, in themselves. But I get into a rut of teaching. I need young critical things like you to punch me up. Tell me, what are you reading?"

"I've been re-reading 'The Damnation of Theron Ware,' Do you know it?"

"Yes. It was clever. But hard. Man wanted to tear down, not build up. Cynical. Oh, I do hope I'm not a sentimentalist. But I can't see any use in this high-art stuff that doesn't encourage us day-laborers to plod on."

Ensued a fifteen-minute argument about the oldest topic in the world: It's art but is it pretty? Carol tried to be eloquent regarding honesty of observation. Miss Sherwin stood out for sweetness and a cautious use of the uncomfortable properties of light. At the end Carol cried:

"I don't care how much we disagree. It's a relief to have somebody talk something besides crops. Let's make Gopher Prairie rock to its foundations: let's have afternoon tea instead of afternoon coffee."

When Kennicott came home at five he tried to be courtly, as befits the husband of one who has afternoon tea. Carol suggested that Miss Sherwin stay for supper, and that Kennicott invite Guy Pollock, the much-praised lawyer, the poetic bachelor.

Yes, Pollock could come. Yes, he was over the grippe which had prevented his going to Sam Clark's party.

Carol regretted her impulse. The man would be an opinionated<sup>1</sup> politician, heavily jocular about The Birde. But at the entrance of Guy Pollock she discovered a personality. Pollock was a man of perhaps thirty-eight,

<sup>1</sup> opinionated, 自以爲是.

們(?)，我激動他們，要他們相信意想——是呀，要他們相信他們自己。但是我已經入了教書的軌道。我要如你這樣的好批評的少年人衝動我。你告訴我，你正在讀什麼？』

『我正在讀「威爾的被譴」(The Damnation of Theron Ware)。你讀過麼？』

『我讀過。是很聰明的一部書。可惜嚴厲。人要破壞，不要建設。寫世主義。我希望我不是一個偏重感情的人。所謂高等美術既不鼓勵我們按天計費的勞工們耐勞做工，我就不能看出有什麼用處。』

她們隨後對於世界的最古老的問題只管是美術，究竟是美不美？辨論了十五分鐘。卡祿爾關於忠實觀察，嘗試發一番議論。賽爾文小姐卻堅持甜美與小心利用光綫的幾種不舒服的屬性。後來卡祿爾喊道：

『我不管我們多麼意見不合。我只要有人同我不談收獲，談點別的，我就覺得得了解放。我們莫如搖動哥甫巴利利的基礎：我們改作下午吃茶，不吃咖啡。』（讀者試想這是什麼了不得的大事。——譯者注。）

甘尼喀五點鐘回家，嘗試做出很有禮貌的樣子，這才稱一個下午設茶點的太太的丈夫。卡祿爾提議留賽爾文小姐吃晚飯，還要甘尼喀請格愛普洛克，這就是那個很有人恭維的律師，又是一個夫曾娶妻的詩人。

是的，普洛克能來。他前幾日犯寒瘟病，不能到沙木卡拉克的歡迎會，現在是病好了。

卡祿爾追悔她自己太着急。這個人必然是一個自以為是的政客，最好取笑新娘子的。不料格愛普洛克一進門，她就曉得他是一個另外有一種性格的人。普洛克年約三十八歲，文弱不好動，多禮，他說話慢。他說道，『你請我

## MAIN STREET

slender, still, deferential. His voice was low. "It was very good of you to want me," he said, and he offered no humorous remarks, and did not ask her if she didn't think Gopher Prairie was "the livest little burg in the state."

She fancied that his even grayness might reveal a thousand tints of lavender and blue and silver.

At supper he hinted his love for Sir Thomas Browne, Thoreau, Agnes Repplier, Arthur Symons, Claude Washburn, Charles Flandrau. He presented his idols diffidently, but he expanded in Carol's bookishness, in Miss Sherwin's voluminous praise, in Kennicott's tolerance of any one who amused his wife.

Carol wondered why Guy Pollock went on digging at routine law-cases; why he remained in Gopher Prairie. She had no one whom she could ask. Neither Kennicott nor Vida Sherwin would understand that there might be reasons why a Pollock should not remain in Gopher Prairie. She enjoyed the faint mystery. She felt triumphant and rather literary. She already had a Group. It would be only a while now before she provided the town with fanlights and a knowledge of Galsworthy. She was doing things! As she served the emergency dessert of cocoanut and sliced oranges, she cried to Pollock, "Don't you think we ought to get up a dramatic club?"

## CHAPTER VI

### II

Carol was extravagant, but at least she did not try to clear herself of blame by going about whimpering, "I know I'm terribly extravagant but I don't seem to be able to help it."

來，我謝謝你，』並不會說有諧趣的話，亦不會問她是否以哥甫巴利利爲『本州最活潑的小市鎮。』

她心裏猜他的一律過的一片灰色也許會現出一千種的淡紫的，藍的，與銀白的深淺不同的顏色。

當吃晚餐的時候，他示意他喜歡讀妥木卜勞安爵士 (Sir Thomas Browne, etc.) 等等的著作。他帶着遲疑不能果於自信的神色，舉出他所崇拜的作者，但是因爲卡祿爾好讀書，賽爾文小姐說了許多恭維他的話，甘尼喀能容忍凡是能博得他的夫人開心的人，所以他肯說許多話。

卡祿爾納悶，如格愛普洛克這樣的人，爲什麼不厭煩的，只管辦例行的法律事務；爲什麼老住在哥甫巴利利不走。她沒得熟人，能夠打聽。甘尼喀與維大賽爾文都不能明白如普洛克這樣的人許有理由爲什麼不應仍住在哥甫巴利利。她享受這樣暗淡的神祕。她覺得很得意，又覺得她自己很是個愛文學的人。她已經有了一個黨啦。再過不多的幾時，她就可以拿帶扇的電燈與哥爾維狄 (Galsworthy) 的知識供給本鎮啦。她人在那裏辦事啦！當她用臨時取辦的椰子與橙子片餉客的時候，她對普洛克說道，『我們應該發起一個戲劇會，你看好不好？』

## 第六回 第二章

卡祿爾浪費，她至少卻不嘗試剖白自己，到處去對人說道，『我曉得我是很可怕的浪費，但是我也是沒法。』