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THE LAST OF THE TIGERS

AND THE OTHER TIGERS

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美人呢，猛虎？（全一册）

The Lady, or the Tiger & Two Other Stories

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THE LADY, OR THE TIGER?

FRANK RICHARD STOCKTON (1834-1902)

In the very olden time, there lived a semi-barbaric king, whose ideas, though somewhat polished and sharpened by the progressiveness of distant Latin neighbors, were still large, florid,¹ and untrammelled, as became the half of him which was barbaric. He was a man of exuberant² fancy, and, withal, of an authority so irresistible that, at his will, he turned his varied fancies into facts. He was greatly given to self-communing;³ and, when *he and himself agreed upon⁴ anything, the thing was done. When every member of his domestic and political systems moved smoothly in its appointed course, his nature was bland and genial; but whenever there was a little hitch, and some of his *orbs got out of their orbits,⁵ he was blander and more genial still, for nothing pleased him so much as to make the crooked straight, and crush down uneven places.

Among the *borrowed notions⁶ by which his barbarism had become semified was that of the

1. 浮誇的, 裝飾外觀的, 2. 豐富的, 3. 獨自沈思, 4. 心口一致, 5. 行出了軌道(也不服守命令) 6. 外來的文明.

美人呢，猛虎？

在很古的時候，有個半開化的國王；他雖然受了遠方拉丁鄰國的文明而文雅了些高尚了些，然而他的思想却仍是那麼粗豪，那麼誇張，而極端地無拘無束的；他的蠻性只不過改去了一半。他是個富於幻想的人，也是個絕不可抗的權威者，要隨心所欲，將他的種種幻想見之於事實。他最歡喜獨自沉思，只要他「心問口，口問心」的意見一經一致，事情就一定成功了。當他的家屬和朝臣們一個個都馴伏地奉命唯謹時，他固然是很滿意很溫和的；若是偶然發生一點小小的障礙，他們有些越出常軌時，他却更其溫和更為滿意些，為什麼呢，因為他得到機會可以將彎曲的拉直，將崎嶇的刻平：他覺得沒有比這個更能使他痛快的了！

在那些使他改去一半蠻性的外來文明當中，有一貫就是

public arena,⁷ in which, by exhibitions of manly and beastly valor, the minds of his subjects were refined and cultured.

But even here the exuberant and barbaric fancy asserted itself. The arena of the king was built, not to give the people an opportunity of hearing the rhapsodies⁸ of dying gladiators,⁹ nor to enable them to view the inevitable conclusion of a conflict between religious opinions and hungry jaws, but for purposes¹⁰ far better adapted to widen and develop the mental energies of the people. This vast amphitheater,¹¹ with its encircling galleries, its mysterious vaults,¹² and its unseen passages, was an agent of poetic justice, in which crime was punished, or virtue rewarded, by the decrees of an impartial and incorruptible chance.

When a subject was accused of a crime of sufficient importance to interest the king, public notice was given that on an appointed day the fate of the accused person would be decided in the king's arena,—a structure which well deserved its name; for, although its form and plan were borrowed from afar, its purpose emanated¹³ solely from the

7. (古羅馬)圓形劇場內之比武場。 8. 史詩。 9. 古羅馬賽會中的鬥士。
10. 效用。 11. 有圓形看台的劇場，中心即為 arena。 12. 穹窿。 13. 發源於。

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公共比武場。在這裏面，人性的和獸性的武勇一齊表現出來，使他的臣民心性都提高而開化了。

然而即是在這地方，那種豐富而靈性的幻想，仍舊是屹然存在的。這一座國王的公共比武場，並非建築起來讓人民有機會欣賞從前鬥士們的史詩，也不是要叫人民來觀察宗教意見和猛獸獵物之間的不可避免的衝突；而是遠過於此，要用來發展擴大人民的智力的。這個廣大的圓場——有環繞的看台，神祕的穹窿，以及看不見的通路——代表了一座富有詩意的公正法庭，罪人在這裏受刑，善人也在這裏受賞，純利用一種公正無私而不可干犯的機會來判決的。

如果有人被告發是一個極重要的罪犯，使得國王發生興味時，就會有布告頒發出來，說是某一天要在國王比武場決定被告的命運——國王比武場是名符其實的，因為它的式樣和設計雖來自爐方，而它的用途却純出於國王個人的腦海；

THE LADY, OR THE TIGER?

brain of this man, who, *every barleycorn a king,¹⁴ knew no tradition to which he *owed more allegiance¹⁵ than pleased his fancy, and who ingrafted¹⁶ on every adopted form of human thought and action the rich growth of his barbaric idealism.

When all the people had assembled in the galleries, and the king, surrounded by his court, sat high up on his throne of royal state on one side of the arena, he gave a signal, a door beneath him opened, and the *accused subject¹⁷ stepped out into the amphitheater. Directly opposite him, on the other side of the enclosed space, were two doors, exactly alike and side by side. It was the duty and the privilege of the person on trial, to walk directly to these doors and open one of them. He could open either door he pleased: he was subject to no guidance or influence but that of the aforementioned impartial and incorruptible chance. If he opened the one, there came out of it a hungry tiger, the fiercest and most cruel that could be procured, which immediately sprang upon him, and tore him to pieces, as a punishment for his

14. 十足过路的霸王, 15. 遵守, 16. 移植, 17. 被告。

這位「週身毛孔無處不是國王」的人，他不知道要遵守什麼傳統，他只知道要實現他的幻想以取快一時，他將極度發育的蠻性理想，移植到他所採用的人類思想與行動的每一方式上來。

當人民全都聚集在看台上時，國王由朝臣擁護着，高高坐在比武場一端的寶座上，他發出一個信號，座位底下的門便開開來，被告就從這裏走進圓場上。國王的正對面有兩扇門一般無二地相並列着。被審判的人一進圓場，須得對直走去，將這兩扇門拉開一扇，這是被告的義務也是他的特權。他可以隨心所欲拉開任何一扇門，沒有人指點也沒有人暗示，只有上面說過的公正無私不可干犯的機會。假如他拉開的門，衝出一隻特地挑選的最兇猛最殘酷的鐵虎來，他便立刻被撲倒在地而裂成碎片，這就是罪人應得的刑罰。即時

guilt. The moment that the case of the criminal was thus decided, doleful iron bells were clanged, great wails went up from the *hired mourners¹⁸ posted on the outer rim of the arena, and the vast audience, with bowed heads and *downcast hearts,¹⁹ wended slowly their homeward way, mourning greatly that one so young and fair, or so old and respected, should have *merited so dire a fate.²⁰

But, if the accused person opened the other door, there came forth from it a lady, the most suitable to his years and station that *his majesty²¹ could select among his *fair subjects;²² and to this lady he was immediately married, as a reward of his innocence. It mattered not that he might already possess a wife and family, or that his affections might be engaged upon an object of his own selection: the king allowed no such subordinate arrangements to interfere with his *great scheme of retribution and reward.²³ The exercises,²⁴ as in the other instance, took place immediately, and in the arena. Another door opened beneath the king, and a priest, followed by a band of choristers, and dancing maidens blowing joyous

18. 受薪的哀悼人。19. 心情很憂。20. 該當如此的慘劇。21. 陛下。22. 女
子。23. 官制大典。24. 儀式。

就判決了。一種啞啞的鉄鐘低響着，一陣號吶的痛哭聲，從比武場外面那些請來送喪的人們中發出來，大羣觀衆都垂頭喪氣走上歸途，不住地歎惜那死者是怎樣地年輕而漂亮，或者是那麼年高而尊貴，竟得到這般悲慘的命運。

但是，如果被告拉開的是另一扇門，就只見頹喪地一位絕世佳人緩步出來，她是國王陛下從所有的淑女班中挑選出來的，又最合宜於被告的年齡和地位；而且被告立刻要和這位美人結婚，這是他清白無辜所應得的恩賜。不管他有沒有妻室兒女，也不管他是否已和愛人訂有婚約，國王是不容許下屬們有這種調和來干犯他的「賞罰大典」的。婚禮隨即在比武場內舉行。寶座下面另一扇門一開，證婚牧師立時出現，跟隨着一隊唱歌家，跳舞女郎們吹起金號角，跳着新

airs²⁵ on golden horns and treading an *epithalamic measure,²⁶ advanced to where the pair stood, side by side; and the wedding was promptly and cheerily solemnized.²⁷ Then the gay brass bells rang forth their merry peals, the people shouted glad hurrahs, and the innocent man, preceded by children strawing flowers on his path, led his bride to his home.

This was the king's semi-barbaric method of administering justice. Its perfect fairness is obvious. The criminal could not know out of which door would come the lady: he opened either he pleased, without having the slightest idea whether, in the next instant, he was to be devoured or married. On some occasions the tiger came out of one door, and on some out of the other. The decisions of this tribunal were not only fair, they were positively determinate: the accused person was instantly punished, if he found himself guilty; and, if innocent, he was rewarded on the spot, whether he liked it or not. There was no escape from the judgments of the king's arena.

The institution was a very popular one. When the people gathered together on one of the great

25. 曲笛. 26. 婚禮曲的舞踏. 27. 歡慶舉行.

婚曲的舞蹈，新娘新郎比肩並立，婚禮就迅速而歡欣地舉行了。於是黃銅的鐘聲亂鳴，大眾發出歡樂的狂呼，而這清白無辜的人，由散花的小天使們前導，攙扶着新娘奏凱而歸了。

這是國王執行法律的半蠻性的方法，這顯然是完全公正的。犯人不能知道那一扇門內會走出美人，那一扇會衝出頭做虎；由他樂意拉開那一扇，絕不知道在下一轉瞬間他是立被吞噬呢，還是立即結婚。有幾次老虎由這一扇門出來，有幾次又是由那一扇門的，這個法庭的判決不但是公平，而且是絕對決定的，被告如果自覺有罪，立即受到重罰，若是無罪呢，也立時受賞，不問他願意不願意。在國王比武場的判決是無可逃避的。

這種制度也是極平民化的，人民在這個偉大的判決日期

trial days, they never knew whether they were to witness a bloody slaughter or a hilarious wedding. This element of uncertainty lent an interest to the occasion which it could not otherwise have attained. Thus, the masses were entertained and pleased, and the *thinking part of the community²⁸ could *bring no charge of unfairness against²⁹ this plan; for did not the accused person have the whole matter in his own hands?

This semi-barbaric king had a daughter as blooming as his most florid fancies, and with a soul as *fervent and imperious³⁰ as his own. As is usual in such cases, she was the *apple of his eye,³¹ and was loved by him above all humanity. Among his courtiers was a young man of that fineness of blood and lowness of station *common *to³² the conventional heroes of romance who love royal maidens. This royal maiden was well satisfied with her lover, for he was handsome and brave to a degree unsurpassed in all this kingdom; and she loved him with an ardor that had enough of barbarism in it to made it exceedingly warm and strong. This love affair moved on happily for

28. 社會上有識之士。29. 無往不認其不公平。30. 熱烈而強硬。31. 寵愛之人物。32. 同於。

聚集，他們絕不知道會要做一場血案的監刑人呢，還是做一次快樂婚禮的證婚人，這種無法確定的因素，使這機會不添了一種興趣，是其他辦法所不能有的。大眾都被招待而感到娛樂，其中的有識之士也不能指摘這種制度還欠公平，試想被告不是完全由自己親手來處置自己嗎！

這位半蠻性的國王有個女兒，也像他本人一樣具有最誇大的幻想，一樣有火熱而暴戾的心靈。他自然沒有例外，願為掌上明珠，愛他勝過愛一切的人類。在他的朝臣中有一位青年，雖是出身華族，但地位低微，正和自古以來那些喜歡和公主相愛的人物一樣也愛上了這個公主。公主也極滿意他是那麼漂亮勇武，可說全國人無出其右；而她那帶有十足變性的愛情，更是強烈到了極點。這樣的戀愛，愉快地進行着經過好幾個月，終於有一天被國王偶然發覺了。他對這案件

many months, until one day the king happened to discover its existence. He did not hesitate nor waver in regard to his duty in the premises. The youth was immediately cast into prison, and a day was appointed for his trial in the king's arena. This, of course, was an especially important occasion; and his majesty, as well as all the people, was greatly interested in the workings and development of this trial. Never before had such a case occurred; never before had a subject dared to love the daughter of a king. In after years such things became commonplace enough; but then they were, in no slight degree, novel and startling.

The tiger-cages of the kingdom were searched for the most savage and relentless beasts, from which the fiercest monster might be selected for the arena; and the ranks of maiden youth and beauty throughout the land were carefully surveyed by competent judges, in order that the young man might have a fitting bride in case fate did not determine for him a different destiny. Of course, everybody knew that the deed with which the accused was charged had been done. He had loved the princess, and neither he, she, nor any one else thought of denying the fact; but the king

毫不遲疑，絕無搖動；執行他的責任。青年立被下獄，指定了日期在國王比武場審判。這當然是一件特殊的要案，國王陛下也同一般人民一樣，對這場審判的進行和發展，感到極濃厚的興味。在以前從未發生過同樣的案情，絕沒有人敢於和國王的女兒戀愛的。在後代，雖然這種事情已司空見慣；但在當時簡直是奇聞怪事。

國王的虎園裏本來豢養着最猛的老虎，再要從那裏頭挑選最最兇狠巨大的怪東西送到比武場去；一方面呢，又要由極其精審的挑選人員從淑女羣中挑選出絕世無雙的美女，準備充任這位青年命不該絕時的新娘。自然人人都知道犯人所犯的是甚麼案情。他是和公主戀愛，無論他和她，以及任何人，誰都不曾想到要否認這件事，然而國王却不會准許有這

would not think of allowing any fact of this kind to interfere with the workings of the tribunal, in which he took such great delight and satisfaction. No matter how the affair *turned out³³, the youth would be *disposed of,³⁴ and the king would take an aesthetic pleasure in watching the course of events, which would determine whether or not the young man had done wrong in allowing himself to love the princess.

The appointed day arrived. From far and near the people gathered, and thronged the great galleries of the arena; and crowds, unable to gain admittance, massed themselves against its outside walls. The king and his court were in their places, opposite the twin doors,—those fateful portals, so terrible in their similarity.

All was ready. The signal was given. A door beneath the royal party opened, and the lover of the princess walked into the arena. Tall, beautiful, fair, his appearance was greeted with a low hum of admiration and anxiety. Half the audience had not known so grand a youth had lived among them. No wonder the princess loved him! What a terrible thing for him to be there!

83. 發生. 84. 判罪.

樣的事情妨礙到他的審判法庭的，這種審判是他最歡喜最滿意的。不問事實如何發生，這青年總得審判，而國王看着事情依照常例進行，會發生一種審美性的快樂。這審判自然會斷定犯人的戀愛公主是對的呢還是不對。

指定的日期到了，遠遠近近的人民聚集攏來，擠滿了圓場的看台，還有擠不進去的大眾都圍擁在牆外。國王和朝臣正對着那兩扇門就座了，這兩扇運命之門，是那麼可怖地一般無二。

準備齊全了，信號發出了，國王寶座下面的門開來了，公主的愛人在比武場中出現了。身材魁梧，漂亮而俊秀，他的一表人材竟引起全場發出一種低聲贊賞而又焦急的歎聲。觀眾們多半不曾曉得有這樣一個品貌不凡的青年生活在他們當中，無怪乎公主要愛他，走進比武場來，對他是一件怎樣可怖的事情呢！

As the youth advanced into the arena, he turned, as the custom was, to bow to the king; but he did not think at all of that royal personage; his eyes were fixed upon the princess, who sat to the right of her father. Had it not been for the morbid³⁵ of barbarism in her nature, it is probable that lady would not have been there; but her intense and fervid soul would not allow her to be absent on an occasion in which she was so terribly interested. From the moment that the decree^{*} had gone forth,³⁶ that her lover should decide his fate in the king's arena, she had thought of nothing, night or day, but this great event and the various subjects connected with it. Possessed of more power, influence, and force of character than any one who had ever before been interested in such a case, she had done what no other person had done,—she had *possessed herself of³⁷ the secret of the doors. She knew in which of the two rooms, that lay behind those doors, stood the cage of the tiger, with its open front; and in which waited the lady. Through these thick doors, heavily curtained with skins on the inside, it was impossible that any noise or suggestion should come from within to the

35. 一平。 36. 公明。 37. 賊興。

青年向前走去，照例回轉身來向國王鞠躬；但是他全不注意到國王本人，他的眼睛只注視到公主，她是坐在她父親右邊。如果不是由於她那半野蠻的生性，也許她就不會在那兒了；不過這一個機會是她極感興趣的，她那烈火般的心靈不容許她不來參加。從這時起，判決就要公開，她的愛人要在這國王比武場上決定命運，她成日成夜不想到別的事情，只念着這一件大事以及有關的人們。憑她的身分和性格，自然具有極大的權威和勢力，對這種案件的感到興趣，超過從前的任何人，她也就做出別人所未做過的事情來了——她已經得到這兩扇門的祕密了。她已經明白兩門之內那一邊放着老虎籠，籠門已大開着；那一邊是那靜候着的美人。兩扇門的內層掛着革製的厚門帘，是沒有半點聲息和影響可以使

person who should approach to raise the latch of one of them; but gold and the power of a woman's will, had brought the secret to the princess.

And not only did she know in which room stood the lady ready to emerge³⁸, all blushing and radiant, should her door be opened, but she knew who the lady was. It was one of the fairest and loveliest of the damsels³⁹ of the court who had been selected as the reward of the accused youth, should he be proved innocent of the crime of *aspiring to one so far above him⁴⁰; and the princess hated her. Often had she seen, or imagined that she had seen, this fair creature throwing glances of admiration upon the person of her lover, and sometimes she thought these glances were perceived and even returned. Now and then she had seen them talking together; it was but for a moment or two, but much can be said in a brief space; it may have been on most unimportant topics, but how could she know that? The girl was lovely; but she had dared to raise her eyes to the loved one of the princess; and, with all the intensity of the savage blood transmitted to her through long lines of wholly barbaric ancestors, she hated the woman

38. 出現. 39. 處女. 40. 妄圖視上.

去開門的人感覺得到的；然而只因為有黃金和女性意志的勢力，這個祕密，已送到公主手中了。

她不僅知道那一個門里是即將出現的美人，嬌羞滿面，容光煥發地等在那裏；她而且知道這美人是誰。這人確是朝廷的少女羣中最美麗最嬌愛的一位千金小姐，特地挑選出來作為這位犯上的青年如果證明無罪時的恩賜的；公主本來早已嫉恨着她，因為這位絕世佳人也曾向公主的愛人復射過愛慕的眼光。常被公主撞見，有時公主暗想她復射過去的眼光已被他懂得而甚至得到了回答。時常公主看見她和他在一起談話，這也不過是片刻的時光；然而匆促之間是能夠解很多言語的；所講的也許是極不要緊的話題，然而公主又如何聽得呢？這位小姐是可愛的，但是她竟敢向公主的愛人瞥一瞥眼睛；而且，這位公主呵，從她那蠻性十足的遠代祖宗一脈遺傳，從那野蠻血統中所有的烈性，她對着靜悄悄的門骨能

who blushed and trembled behind that silent door.

When her lover turned and looked at her, and his eye met hers as she sat there paler and whiter than any one in the vast ocean of anxious faces about her, he saw, by that power of quick perception which is given to those whose souls are one, that she knew behind which door crouched the tiger, and behind which stood the lady. He had expected her to know it. He understood her nature, and his soul was assured that she would never rest until she had made plain to herself this thing, hidden to all other lookers-on⁴¹, even to the king. The only hope for the youth in which there was any element of certainty was based upon the success of the princess in discovering this mystery; and the moment he looked upon her, he saw she had succeeded, as in his soul he knew she would succeed.

Then it was that his quick and anxious glance asked the question: "Which?" It was as plain to her as if he shouted it from where he stood. There was not an instant to be lost. The question was asked in a flash; it must be answered in another.⁴²

Her right arm lay on the cushioned parapet

41. 隠れ. 42. —another flash.

正在熾羞得微微發抖的女郎，恨入骨髓。

她的愛人回頭看她時，當她正坐在人山人海之中，大家都滿臉焦急地四面圍繞着她，而她的面容比任何人都更蒼白失神時，兩人的目光相遇了；而他呢，憑着兩人之間心心相印的神速感應的力量，看得出來她是已經明白兩門中的秘密了。他曾經料想她明白這個秘密。他了解她的性情，他的心靈斷定她除非將這全場觀眾——即使是國王——都未曾知道的秘密弄明白，她是決不放手的。這青年所僅有的希望，稍微有一點點真實性的希望，即在於公主能夠真正獲得兩門中的秘密；在他向公主望那一眼的瞬息間，他已看出來她果然成功了，因為在他心靈上知道公主一定會成功的。

『那一邊呢？』這就是他那神速而焦躁的一瞥眼中所發出的問題。這在公主簡直像是他立在那兒高聲呼喊一樣的明白，這真是千鈞一髮瞬息不容延緩的。問題在一瞬間發出，也必得在緊接着的一瞬間回答出來。

公主的右手靠在座位前扶手的邊子上。她舉起手來輕微

before her. She raised her hand, and made a slight, quick movement toward the right. No one but her lover saw her. Every eye but his was fixed on the man in the arena.

He turned, and with a firm and rapid step he walked across the empty space. Every heart stopped beating, every breath was held, every eye was fixed immovably upon that man. Without the slightest hesitation, he went to the door on the right, and opened it.

Now, the point of the story is this: Did the tiger come out of that door, or did the lady?

The more we reflect upon this question, the harder it is to answer. It involves a study of the human heart which leads us through *devious mazes⁴³ of passion, out of which it is difficult to find our way. Think of it, fair reader, not as if the decision of the question depended upon yourself, but upon that hot-blooded, semi-barbaric princess, her soul at a white heat beneath the combined fires of despair and jealousy. She had lost him, but who should have him?

How often, in her waking hours and in her dreams, had she started in wild horror, and covered

43. 迷陣.

地神速地向右邊一指。除了她的愛人之外再沒有旁人覺察到，因為這時萬目睜睜都釘在比武場中的青年身上。

他掉轉身來用堅定而敏捷的步伐走過空場，每一個人的心臟都停止了跳動，每一個人的呼吸都抑制住；每一雙眼睛都注視着這位青年。他絕不遲疑走向右邊的門口將門拉開來！

好了，故事的問題就在這裏：『從門裏走出來的是猛虎呢？還是美人？』

我們將這問題考慮的愈多，就愈難回答。這裏面包含有一種人類心理的研究，將我們引入激烈情感的迂迴曲折的迷陣之中。賢明的讀者：試想一想，這不像別的問題可以由你們自己來決定，而是要由那烈火般半蠻性的熱血公主，她的心靈是在絕望與嫉妬交併之中白熱化了。她已是失去他了，但是誰來得着他呢？

在她清醒時，在她夢寐時，曾經幾千萬遍墮入恐怖，她

her face with her hands as she thought of her lover opening the door on the other side of which waited the cruel fangs of the tiger!

But how much oftener had she seen him at the other door! How in her grievous reveries had she gnashed her teeth, and torn her hair, when she saw his start of "rapturous delight" as he opened the door of the lady! How her soul had burned in agony when she had seen him rush to meet that woman, with her flushing cheek and sparkling eye of triumph; when she had seen him lead her forth, his whole frame kindled with the joy of recovered life; when she had heard the glad shouts from the multitude, and the wild ringing of the happy bells; when she had seen the priest, with his joyous followers, advance to the couple, and make them man and wife before her very eyes; and when she had seen them walk away together upon their path of flowers, followed by the tremendous shouts of the "hilarious multitude"⁴⁵, in which her one despairing shriek was lost and drowned!

Would it not be better for him to die at once, and go to wait for her in the blessed regions of semi-barbaric futurity?

44. 狂喜。 45. 歡樂的羣衆。

想到愛人開開那一扇門而門裏正蹲着那張牙舞爪的猛虎時，只能以手掩面。

然而有更多的回數她想到她眼見愛人開開另一扇門的時候！在她慘痛難堪的幻想中看見自己的愛人開開美女那邊的門而驚喜時，是怎樣地咬牙切齒無可奈何地揪扭着自己的頭髮！當她想見他衝上前去迎接這位面頰緋紅眼中射出勝利閃光的美人時，當她想見他引導這位美人舉步向前，週身都被死裏逃生的愉快所激動時，當她想見那大衆的狂歡高呼，快樂的鐘聲亂響時，當她想見證婚牧師被歡樂的侍從隨護着走在他倆前面，真真實實地在她眼前結成夫婦時，當她想見這一對新人在鮮花鋪滿的路上攜手偕行，後面追隨着歡樂的羣衆高聲叫喊時，臍下來的只有她一個，帶着失望而慘痛的呻吟在這些嘈雜的聲浪中消失而淹沒了！

與其這樣，讓他立刻死去，在那永劫不傷的半野蠻的泥土中等待自己，豈不是要好得多嗎？

And yet, that awful tiger, those shrieks, that blood!

* * * * *

Her decision had been indicated in an instant, but it had been made after days and nights of anguished deliberation. She had known she would be asked, she had decided what she would answer, and, without the slightest hesitation, she had moved her hand to the right.

The question of her decision is one not to be lightly considered, and it is not for me to presume to set myself up as the one person able to answer it. And so I leave it with all of you: Which came out of the opened door,—the lady, or the tiger?

然而，那可怖的猛虎！那尖銳慘苦的叫聲！那流血的慘劇！

* * * * *

她的決定在這一剎那間就表現出來了，不過這是費了她無日無夜千迴百折的苦痛思慮的結果。她已料想到他一定會要問她，她早決定要怎樣回答；而且，她竟沒有絲毫猶豫將右手勛了一下。

她這決定不是一個能「掉以輕心」的問題，作者也不是一個能推定這問題的人。所以將它留給讀者大家：門開出來的究竟是那一個——美人呢？猛虎？

THE SNOW-BOUND ORPHANS

THOMAS DE QUINCEY (1785-1859)

Introduction to the story: Mr and Mrs. Green, who lived in Easedale, went to attend a sale of furniture at a house in Langdale, leaving six young children at home. They went by a short cut of not more than five or six miles over the hills, and as they walked by daylight, they met with no difficulty. The sale over, they start to return home late in the evening, by the same path by which they had gone.

The final recollections of the crowd with respect to George and Sarah Green were, that, upon their intention being understood to retrace their morning path, and to attempt the perilous task of dropping down into Easedale¹ from the mountains above Langdale-head,² a sound of remonstrance arose from many quarters. However, at such a moment, when everybody was in the hurry of departure, and to such persons (persons, I mean, so mature in years and in local knowledge), the opposition could not be very obstinate; party after party rode off; the meeting *melted away,³ or, as the northern phrase is, *scated*; and at length nobody was left of any weight⁴ that *could proterd to⁵ influence the decision of elderly people.

1. 村名。 2. 蘭得爾各頂之依司得爾。 3. 潰散。 4. 有勢力。 5. 能得上。

雪裏孤兒

(住在伊司得村的格林夫婦，到蘭得爾去參加一處傢具的買賣，將六個小孩丟在家中，他們走的一條捷徑，翻過山去不過五六里，他們去時是在白天，所以沒有遇到什麼困難，買賣收場了他們才翻身回家，已經是復曉了，走的仍舊是來時那條小路。)

大家對於格林佐治和他夫人莎娜的飛快的回億，是只曉得他們想仍由他們早上走的那條路走回，而且還想冒險從蘭得爾村的山頭上降到伊司得山谷裏去；那時從多方面發出一種抗議聲。然而在那個時候，當人人都急於要走，而且對那些人（我是說上了年紀，對本地見多識廣的人）是不能十分堅決反對的，一起一起的人都上車出發，集會也就解體，或者照北方俗話來說，是潰散了；到後來留下的都是沒有勞力的人，誰也夠不上改變老年人的決議。

They quitted the scene, professing to obey some advice or other upon the choice of roads; but, at as early a point as they could do so unobserved, began to ascend the hills, everywhere open from the rude carriage-way. After this they were seen no more. They had disappeared into the cloud of death. Voices were heard, some hours afterwards, from the mountains—voices, as some thought, of alarm; other said, No, that it was only the voices of jovial people, carried by the wind into uncertain regions. The result was that no attention was paid to the sounds.

That night, in little peaceful Easedale, six children sat by a peat-fire, expecting the return of their parents, upon whom they depended for their daily bread. Let a day pass, and they were starving. Every sound, every echo amongst the hills, was listened to for five hours, from seven to twelve. At length the eldest girl of the family—about nine years old—told her little brothers and sisters to go to bed. They had been trained to obedience; and all of them, at the voice of their eldest sister, went off fearfully to their beds.

What could be *their* fears it is difficult to say; they had no knowledge to instruct them in the

關於擇路的忠告，他們口頭答應聽從之後，便離開了；不過一走到別人看不見的地方，他們便開始爬上山去，離開荒僻的馬車路，只要有路便向上爬。從此以後就完全看不見他們，早被可怕的雲霧遮沒了。幾點鐘之後，聲音是有得聽見，是從那些山嶽上傳下來的，有些人以為是呼救的聲音，另有人說不對，是快樂的人們的歡笑聲隨風吹送到這裏那裏的。結果也就沒有人注意這些聲音了。

那天晚上，在靜靜的伊司得小村裏，六個小孩圍坐在泥炭火爐旁盼望父母回家，要靠了他們才有得吃。一天過去，小孩們捱了一天就餓了。從七點到十二點五個鐘頭裏面，山上的每一響動，每一個回聲，都被仔細傾聽着。到後來，家中最大的女孩（大約九歲），要她的小弟妹們去睡覺。小弟妹都是訓練得極其聽話的；大姐姐一開口，他們就帶着恐怖的心情各自睡去了。

小弟妹們害怕的什麼，是很難說明的。他們的知識還不

dangers of the hills; but the eldest sister always averred⁶ that they had as deep a solicitude⁷ as she herself had about their parents. Doubtless she had communicated her fears to *them*. Some time in the course of the evening—but it was late, and after midnight—the moon arose, and shed a torrent of light upon the Langdale fells,⁸ which had already, long hours before, witnessed in darkness the death of their parents.

That night, and the following morning, came a further and a heavier fall of snow, in consequence of which the poor children were completely imprisoned, and cut off from all possibility of communicating with their next neighbours. The brook was *too much for*⁹ them to leap, and the little, crazy wooden bridge could not be crossed, or even approached with safety, from the drifting of the snow having made it impossible to ascertain the exact situation of some treacherous¹⁰ hole in its timbers, which, if trod upon, would have let a small child drop through into the rapid waters.

Their parents did not return. *For* some hours of the morning the children *clung to*¹¹ the hope that

6. 斷言. 7. 掛念. 8. 萊山, 石山. 9. 太難. 10. 外表似穩固的. 11. 懷抱希望.

能明白山裏的危險情形，不過大姐姐常常斷定說他們也像她自己一樣深深地掛念着父母。這無疑是大姐姐的恐怖傳給他們的。有時在那天晚上——不過那時已很遲，而且半夜已過——月亮升上來傾瀉了一片銀光照在蘭得爾的荒山上，這些地方，在好幾點鐘以前，早就在黑暗裏對於他們父母的死亡做過見證了。

從那晚到第二天早晨，來了一場更大的雪，結果將六個小孩完全圍困住，就是和貼鄰的來往也被隔斷。一條小溪他們也跳不過去，那座吱吱格格搖動着的小木橋他們也走不過去，即使要安然走到橋上都很難，因為橋板上有些看不出的窟窿，被雪遮住，更無法認清它們的地位，假使踏着了，小小的孩子們簡直會從窟窿裏掉到橋下急流中去的。

父母沒有回來，在早晨小孩們還抱定一個希望，以為父

the extreme severity of the night had tempted them to sleep in Langdale; but this hope forsook¹² them as the day wore away. Their father, George Green, had served as a soldier, and was an active man,¹³ of ready resources,¹³ who would not, under any circumstances, have failed to force a road back to his family had he been still living; and this reflection, or rather semi-conscious feeling, which the awfulness of their situation *forced upon¹⁴ the minds of all but the mere infants, awakened them to the whole extent of their calamity.

The poor desolate children, hourly becoming more pathetically¹⁵ convinced that they were orphans, gave many evidences of this awaking power, as lodged, by a *providential arrangement,¹⁶ in *situations of trial¹⁷ that most require it. They huddled together in the evening round their hearth-fire of peats, and held their little family councils upon what was to be done towards any chance—if chance remained—of yet giving aid to their parents; for a slender hope had sprung up that some hovel or sheep-fold might have furnished them a screen (or in Westmoreland phrase, a *biold*) against the

12. forsook 的過去。 13. 有急智。 14. 強力進入。 15. 悲慘。 16. 天意
的安排。 17. 災難。

母是因黑夜太危險，所以迫不得已，就住宿在爾得爾了；然而隨着時光的滑過，這點點希望也拋棄了他們。父親——格林佐治服過兵役，而且是一個很活動的人向來有急智的，無論在甚麼環境之下，只要他還活着的話，總不會不找路回家的；這樣的想法，或者寧可說是半意識地感覺，使得他們那境遇的可怖，壓迫着每個人都覺悟到他們的災難是到了極點，除非真正是嬰孩才不會明白。

隨着時間的流駛這些孤苦小孩，更悲慘地確信已經成了孤兒。他們有許多跡象表現出這種覺悟的力量來，好像是由於天定，將他們安排在一個最最需要這種力量的苦難之中。傍晚，他們在火爐邊擠成一團，舉行小小的家庭會議，要如何利用機會——假使機會仍在的話——還可以幫助父母們，因為這時有個微弱的希望忽然想到，就是在山上有些牧羊的小屋，也許可以供他們一時的遮蓋（或者照西摩爾的俗話說

weather quarter of the storm, in which hovel they might even now be lying snowed up; and, secondly, as regarded themselves, in what way they were to make known their situation, in case the snow should continue, or should increase; for starvation *stared them in the face,¹⁸ if they should be confined for many days to their house.

Meantime the eldest sister, little Agnes, though sadly alarmed, and feeling the sensation of *eeriness*¹⁹ as twilight came on, and she looked out from the cottage-door to the dreadful fells on which, too probably, her parents were lying corpses (and possibly not many hundred years from her own threshold), yet exerted herself *to take all the measures²⁰ which their own prospects made prudent.

In the midst of the oppression on her little spirit,²¹ from vague ghostly terrors, she did not fail, however to draw some comfort from the consideration²² that the very same causes which produced their danger in one direction, sheltered them from danger of another kind—such dangers as she knew, from books that she had read, would have threatened a little desolate flock of children in other parts of England; for she considered thankfully that, if *they* could not

18. 威脅到他們。 19. 怕鬼。 20. 採取一切處置。 21. 心靈。 22. 推測。

是避難所，躲一躲天氣驟變的風暴，或許他們至今還睡在那些小屋裏被風雪封鎖着呢；其次，講到他們自己，若是雪下個不停，或更大起來，要用甚麼方法使得人家知道他們的處境；因為他們被困在屋裏，若還有多少日子，那飢餓的威脅就要臨頭了。

這時，大姐姐阿格列，雖是愁苦地驚惶失措；而且當夜的黑暗來臨時，尤其感到鬼影的恐怖；她從小屋的門口望到那些可怕的荒山，父母們極其可能已經在那邊僵臥不醒了，（在她的弱小的意識中並不會等到幾百年之後，終久會有長眠在那些山上的一天，）不過她仍竭力作了種種的處置，因為帶着希望所以使她做得特別謹慎。

她小小的心靈雖正在苦難中途，在朦朧鬼影的恐怖裏，她仍能從思索中找出一些安慰；即是在一方面雖是產生危險的那些原因，却防止了他們別一種危險——她在書上讀過的，在英國別的地方，危險威脅到一羣孤苦兒童，因此她以為值

get out into Grasmere,²² on the other hand, bad men, and wild *seafaring foreigners,²⁴ who sometimes passed along the high road even in that vale, could not get to *them*; and that, as to their neighbours, so far from having anything to fear in that quarter, their greatest apprehension was lest they might not be able to acquaint them with their situation; but that, if this could be accomplished, the *very sternest²⁵ amongst them were kind-hearted people that would contend with each other for the privilege of assisting them.

Somewhat cheered with these thoughts, and having caused all her brothers and sisters—except the two little things, not yet of a fit age—to kneel down and say the prayers which they had been taught, this admirable little maiden turned herself to every household task that could have proved useful to them in a long captivity. First of all, upon some recollection that the clock was nearly going down, she wound it up. Next, she took all the milk which remained from what her mother had provided for the children's consumption during her absence, and for the breakfast of the following morning—th's luckily was still in sufficient plenty

22. 英國西康區一村名。 24. 外國的強盜。 25. 極其嚴正的人。

得或謝：他們若是無法走到格拉司米去，然在另一方面，壞人們，外國來的海鬼們，時常出沒在公路上甚至山谷中的，也就不會捉着他們了。至於左右鄰居，不但沒有甚麼可怕的，最大的焦急是只愁隣居們無從知道他們的處境，只要這消息一到，鄰居中最最公正的人們，都是慈善為懷的，會互相爭搶着去營救他們了。

這些念頭使得他們稍微開心一點，小弟兄們，除開太小的兩個之外，都跪下去做他們學會了的禱告，這位可敬的小姑娘，又轉過頭來料理一切的家事，一些在長期圍困中極其需要的事。頭一件，還有點記得家裏的鐘快要停了，先把它開開緊。第二件，將母親出去時留給小孫們當天和第二天早

for two days' consumption (skimmed or "blue" milk being only one halfpenny a quart, and the quart a most redundant²⁶ one, in Grasmere)—this she took and scalded,²⁷ so as to save it from turning sour.

That done, she next examined the meal chest; made the common oatmeal porridge of the country, but put all of the children, except the two youngest, on "short allowance;"²⁸ and, by way of "reconciling" them in some measure to this stinted meal,²⁹ she found out a little hoard of flour, part of which she baked for them upon the hearth into little cakes; and this unusual delicacy persuaded them to think that they had been celebrating a feast.

Next, before night coming on should make it "too trying"³⁰ to her own feelings, or before fresh snow coming on might make it impossible, she issued³¹ out of doors. There her first task was, with the assistance of two younger brothers, to carry in from the peat-stack as many peats as might serve them for a week's consumption. That done, in the second place she examined the potatoes, buried in "brackens" (that is, withered fern); these were not many, and she thought it better to leave them

26. 過多。 27. 煮沸消毒。 28. (食物)減量。 29. 使他們對太壞的食物得一點興趣。 30. 相當難堪。 31. 出發。

上吃的牛奶拿出來，幸好還多得很，足足可吃兩天（脫脂奶或清牛奶只消半磅士一瓜脫，而在格拉司米的一瓜脫又特別多），她拿出來燒一燒開，免得變酸。

做好之後，她再看看糧食桶；燒一鍋鄉下人吃的麥粥，分給弟妹們，每人少吃一點點，只有兩個最小的可以多吃些。又爲了吃得太壞，多少要給他們調劑一下，她尋出一點藏好的麵粉來，分一部分做些小餅在火爐上烤酥，這種非常的美食，使他們還以為是在吃慶賀的筵席呢。

其次，她走到門外去；因爲怕黑夜一來她自己會更感苦痛，或者新下的雪再堆得多起來，那就簡直不能出門了。頭一件，她叫兩個弟弟幫助，從泥炭堆上搬些炭進來，足足夠一星期燒的。做好後，她再看乾草堆裏藏着的山芋，已不多

where they were, excepting as many as would make a single meal, under a fear that the heat of their cottage would spoil them if removed.

Having thus made all the provision in her power for supporting their own lives, she turned her attention to the cow. Her she milked; but unfortunately the milk she gave, either from being badly fed, or from some other cause, was too trifling to be *of much consideration³² towards the wants of a large family. Here, however, her chief anxiety was to get down the hay for the cow's food from a loft above the out-house;³³ and in this she succeeded but imperfectly, from want of strength and size *to cope with³⁴ the difficulties of the case; besides, that the increasing darkness by this time, together with the gloom of the place, made it a matter of great self-conquest for her to work at all; but, as respected one night at any rate, she placed the cow in a situation of luxurious warmth and comfort.

Then retreating into the warm house, and "barring" the door, she sat down to undress the two youngest of the children; then she laid carefully and cosily in their little nests upstairs, and

32. 極重要。 33. 附屬的小屋。 34. 奮鬥, 掙扎。

了，她想只拿夠一頓吃的好了，其餘的不如仍留在門外，因為怕房子裏太熱，移進來怕要霉爛。

她盡力將他們自己的生活必需品準備好之後，又轉念到母牛身上去。她去擠擠牛奶，不幸擠出的奶，不知是因餵得不好呢，還是別的原因，比這樣一個大家庭所需要的分量要少得多。然而她第一件焦急的事是要從門外小屋上面的乾草堆上去拿些牛吃的草下來，他雖是拿到手了，但沒有滿意，因為氣力小，身體矮，夠不上做這項困難工作；此外天色漸漸黑下來，再加上地點又暗，使得這件事全然成爲要她努力掙扎的事情；不過只講這一晚上，無論如何她已將母牛安置在極度溫暖而又安舒的情形下了。

然後回到溫暖的屋裏。門好大門，坐下來替最小的兩個脫衣服，小心而舒適地放他們到樓上小床裏。唱着催眠歌備

sang them to sleep. The rest she *kept up to hear her company³⁵ until the clock should tell them it was midnight; up to which time she had still a lingering hope that some welcome shout from the hills above, which they were all *to strain their ears³⁶ to catch, might yet assure them that they were not wholly orphans, even though one parent should have perished. No shout, it may be supposed, was ever heard; nor could a shout, in any case, have been heard, for the night was one of tumultuous³⁷ wind. And though, amidst its ravings, sometimes they fancied a sound of voices, still, in the dead lulls³⁸ that now and then succeeded, they heard nothing to confirm their hopes.

As last services to what she might now have called her own little family, Agnes took precaution against the drifting of the snow *within* the door and *within* the imperfect window, which had caused them some discomfort on the preceding day; and finally, she adopted the most systematic and elaborate plans for preventing the possibility of their fire being extinguished, which, *in the event of³⁹ their *being thrown upon the ultimate resource⁴⁰

35. 留下作伴。 36. 側耳傾聽。 37. 喧鬧的。 38. 暴風的間歇停止。 39. =if
40. 來源枯竭。

他們安睡，她留着她大的弟妹作伴，一直到時鐘敲十二點為止；在這些時間她仍抱一線希望，大家全都豎起耳朵傾聽，山頭上或許會發生一陣歡呼的大喊聲，這就可以保證他們還不全然是孤兒，即使父或母有一個遇了險。想像中的呼喊聲並未聽到，總之，也並不可能聽見呼喊聲，因為那是狂風怒吼的一晚。雖然如此，在狂風若斷若續的間歇中，他們還幻覺到一些聲音，但是總無法證實他們的希望。

阿格列對於現在把它喚作自己的小家庭的最後一些事情是預防雪花從門縫中和破窗口飄進來，在頭一天這樣飄進來的雪花，使得他們極其難受；後來她用一個極有組織的周密地計劃的方法來防止火爐的熄滅；若是他們的洋山芋已快吃

of their potatoes, would be absolutely indispensable to their existence, and in any case a main element of their comfort.

The night slipped away, and morning came, bringing with it no better hopes of any kind. Change there had been none, but for the worse. The snow had greatly increased in quantity, and the drifts seemed far more formidable. A second day passed like the first; little Agnes still keeping her young flock quiet, and tolerably comfortable; and still calling on all the elders in succession to say their prayers, morning and night.

A third day came; and whether on that or on the fourth, I do not now recollect, but on one or other there came a welcome gleam of hope. The arrangement of the snow-drifts had shifted during the night; and, though the wooden bridge was still impracticable,⁴¹ a low wall had been exposed, over which, by a circuit which evaded the brook, it seemed possible that a road might be found into Grasmere. In some walls it was necessary to force gaps; but this was effected without much difficulty, even by children; for the Westmoreland field walls are "open," that is, uncemented with mortar; and

41. 不能過去。

完，那末這點火，在他們的生存上是必不可少的，而且在舒適方面也是一個主要的因素。

黑夜溜過去了，早晨並未帶來什麼好希望，一切沒有變化，只有變得更壞些。雪越下越大，堆積得更可怕，像昨天一樣又過了一天，阿格列仍舊照管這一羣小孩，極其安靜也還頗安舒地過着，叫大的幾個早夜跟隨着說他們的禱詞。

第三天了，是在第三天或是第四天我已不大記得，不過有一天，一線光明的希望來臨。那是在那夜晚雪的堆積忽然轉了方向，木橋雖是還無法走過，但却有一帶短牆露了出來，跨過去可以繞路走過小溪，好像能找出一條路往格拉司那去，有幾處短牆，必得從缺口處爬過，不過這並不用難，即使小孩也容易走，因為在西摩蘭地方，田畝裏的短牆是下兩

the push of a stick will generally detach so much from the upper part of any old crazy fence as to lower it sufficiently for female or even for childish steps to pass.

The little boys accompanied their sister until she came to the other side of the hill, which, lying more sheltered from the weather, offered a path onwards comparatively easy. Here they parted; and little Agnes *pursued her solitary mission⁴² to the nearest house she could find accessible in Grasmere.

No house could have proved a wrong one in such a case. No tongue can express the fervid sympathy which travelled through the vale, like fire in an American forest, when it was learned that neither George nor Sarah Green had been seen by their children since the *day of the Langdale sale.⁴³ Within half an hour, or little more, from the remotest parts of the valley—some of them distant nearly two miles from the *point of rendezvous⁴⁴—all the men of Grasmere had assembled at the little cluster of cottages called "Kirktown," from its adjacency⁴⁵ to the venerable parish church of St. Oswald.....

42. 她對她的唯一使命。 43. 蘭得爾處決那天。 44. 聚會地點。 45. 鄰近

放式」的，即沒有石灰膠着的，只要用棍子推一下，就可將上面有裂縫的磚推得低些，婦女小孩，都可走過。

小弟弟們跟在大姐姐後面走，直到她走過山那邊，這山上有些遮蔽處沒有雪，一條路走上去很容易，小弟弟送到這裏才回家，阿格列負起了唯一的使命，到格拉司米她所能找到的最近的一家去。

在這樣的情形之下，無論走進那家人家去都不會認爲是找錯了的。沒有言語形容得出這種貫徹全村的熱烈同情，簡直像美國森林中的熊熊大火一樣，村裏人聽見說，自從蘭得爾的市集那天起，這些小孩就沒有看見過佐治先生和莎娜夫人的時候。不到半小時光景，從這山谷裏的最遠處——有些離開那平常聚會的地點有兩英里遠——凡是格拉司米的男人都聚集到印克市來，這是一些田舍聚成的小村，從這附近可以走到莊嚴的鄉村教堂聖瑪司泰去。

Sixty, at least, after a short consultation as to the plan of operations, and for arranging the kind of signals by which they were to communicate from great distances, and in the perilous events of mists or snow-storms, set off with the speed of Alpine hunters to the hills. The dangers of the undertaking were considerable, under the uneasy and agitated state of the weather; and all the women of the vale were in the greatest anxiety, until night brought them back, *"in a body"*⁴⁶, unsuccessful, Three days at the least, and I rather think five, the search was ineffectual.....

At length, sagacious⁴⁷ dogs were taken up; and, about noonday, a shout from an aerial height, amongst thick volumes of cloudy vapour, propagated⁴⁸ through repeating bands of men from a distance of many miles, conveyed as by telegraph into Grasmere the news that the bodies were found. George Green was lying at the bottom of a precipice,⁴⁹ from which he had fallen. Sarah Green was found on the summit⁵⁰ of the precipice.

46. 結成一體。 47. 嗅覺靈敏的。 48. 傳遞。 49. 懸崖。 50. 絕頂。

至少有六十個人，匆匆地商議過進行的方法，並規定了在隔得遠或被風雪雲霧圍困時互相通信用的信號之後，就用亞爾卑斯人爬山的速度跑上山去。在這樣困難情形，和劇變的天氣之下，任務的危險是很顯然的；村裏婦女們焦急得最利害；直到黑夜將他們帶了回來，結成了一件，但沒有成功。至少有三五天的搜尋毫無所得。

最後，帶了最靈敏會嗅的狗一同出發，大約快到正午時候，一陣喧鬧在半空中密密的雲層裏發出，從幾英里路長接連不斷的人們，一路傳遞着，好像打電報一樣到了格拉司米來，消息是屍體尋着了。格林佐治先生倒在懸崖底下，是從那崖頂上跌下去的，格林莎娜夫人也在懸崖的絕頂上尋着了。

TWO RUNAWAYS

CHARLES KINGSLEY (1819-1875)

As Hereward rode on, slowly though cheerfully, as a man who will not tire his horse at the beginning of a long day's journey, and knows not where he shall pass the night, he was aware of a man on foot coming up behind him at a slow, steady, *loping, wolf-like trot,¹ which in spite of its slowness *gained ground² on him so fast, that he saw at once that the man could be no common runner.

The man came up; and behold, he was *none other than³ Martin Ligtfoot.

"What! art thou here?" asked Hereward, suspiciously, *half cross⁴ at seeing any visitor from the *old world⁵ which he had just cast off. "How gatest thou out of *St. Peter's⁶ last night?"

Martin's tongue was hanging out of his mouth like a running hound's; but he seemed, like a hound, to perspire through his mouth; for he answered without the least sign of distress, without even pulling in his tongue.—

1. 大步蹣跚如狼。 2. 逐漸地。 3. 不是別個，正是。 4. 發怒。 5. 久居地。 6. 廟或得教堂。

兩個亡命者

希爾瓦騎着馬向前，雖是很愉快的，却很從容，好像一個要整天趕路的人，還沒知道在何處歇宿，那末在開始起程時決不肯就讓他的馬跑疲倦的。他這時發覺有個人跟在馬後，跨着長長的大步，從容而堅定地，像一隻狼的縱跳一擱跨得那麼遠；那步伐雖然並不急促，却是緊緊地跟蹤趕上。他立即看出那人不會是一個平常趕路的人。

這時那人已追上來，朝他看看，這不是快脚馬丁是誰呢！

「是你嗎？」希爾瓦懷疑地問，看見有人從他剛剛脫離的那地方走來，他微帶怒意。「昨晚你怎樣走得出聖彼得教堂的？」

快脚馬丁，舌頭垂到嘴唇外，像隻正在跑着的獵狗，他似乎和狗一樣要張開嘴喘氣，只見他毫無一點煩惱的樣子，連舌頭也不縮一縮就在答應。

“Over the wall, the moment the Prior’s⁷ back was turned. I was not going to wait till I was chained up in some rat’s-hole⁸ with *a half-hundred of iron⁹ on my leg, and flogged till I confessed that I was what I am not—a runaway monk.”

“And why art thou here?”

“Because I am going with you.”

“Going with me?” said Hereward. “What can I do for thee?”

“I can do for you,” said Martin.

“What?”

“Groom your horse, wash your shirt, clean your weapons, find your inn, fight your enemies, cheat your friends—anything and everything. You are going to see the world. I am going with you.”

“Thou canst be my servant? A *right slippery¹⁰ one, I expect,” said Hereward, looking down on him with some suspicion.

“Some are not the rogues *they seem.¹¹ I can keep my secrets and yours too.”

“Before I can trust thee with my secrets, I shall expect to know some of thine,” said Hereward.

7. 修道院的副院長。 8. 監牢。 9. 鐵鍊。 10. 不可靠的。 11. = as they seem to be

「我跳牆出來的，當那寺院的副院長，轉過背去的一刹那，我就不再恭候那銅鑼的鐵鍊來。將我鎖進監牢去橫加鞭打，直到我自承是一個逃僧才罷休，而其實我何嘗逃脫呢！」

「那末，你怎樣來到這裏呢？」

「因為我跟你去。」

「跟我走嗎？」希爾瓦說，「我有甚麼能幫助你呢？」

快脚馬丁說：「我能幫助你呀！」

「幫我，做些甚麼呢？」

「照料你的馬，替你洗衣服，收拾武器，找旅店，替你卸鞍，替你娛賓——無論甚麼樣樣都能做；你不是要看看世界去嗎，我要跟着你走。」

「你能做我的僕人嗎？一個很不可靠的僕人，我想。」

希爾瓦說，疑惑地朝下面望着他。

「有些人並不像他們的外表一樣真是個壞蛋。我能保守自己的祕密，也能替你保守的。」

希爾瓦說：「在我將祕密交付你之前，我要想曉得一瞥見你的祕密呢。」

Martin Lightfoot looked up with a cunning smile. "A man can always know his master's secrets if he likes. But that is no reason a master should know *his man's.*"

"Thou shalt tell me thine, man, or I shall ride off and leave thee."

"Not so easy, my lord. Where that heavy horse can go, Martin Lightfoot can follow. But I will tell you one secret, which I never told to living man. I can read and write like any clerk."

"Thou read and write?"

"Ay, good Latin enough, and French, and Irish too, *what is more.*¹³ And now because I love you, and because you I will serve, wilynilly,¹⁴ I will tell you all the secrets I have, as long as my breath lasts, for my tongue is rather stiff after that long story about the belt-wether.¹⁵ I was born in Ireland, in Waterford town. My mother was an English slave, one of those that Earl Godwin's wife—not this one that is now, Gyda, but the old one—used to sell out of England by the score, tied together with ropes, boys and girls, from Bristol town. Her master, my father that was (I shall know him

12. 他的僕人的秘密. 13. = moreover 還有. 14. = willing or unwilling 不管你願不願. 15. 領隊的羊, 頭上有鈴, 喻為為僕僕不休的人.

馬丁帶着狡狴的傲笑，昂頭看着他，說：「一個僕人，只要他願意，常常是能知道主人的秘密的，但是一個主人家就沒有理由要知道僕人的秘密呢。」

「你非得將你的說給我聽不可，否則我加上一鞭丟下你跑了。」

「呵，主人！不見得有這樣容易呢；快馬能跑到的地方，馬丁都能趕了去的。不過？我要告訴你一件秘密，是我從未向世人說過的：我能和任何僧侶一樣能讀能寫呢。」

「你能讀能寫？」

「對啦，我寫得夠好的拉丁文，還有法文愛爾蘭文也一樣好。現在因為我喜歡做，又因為我要服侍你，不問你願不願意；只要我一息尚存，定然要將我的一切秘密告訴你。在那『多言者』的長故事講完之後，我的舌頭也有點僵硬了。」

「我生在愛爾蘭俄脫華市，母親是個英國的奴隸，是由哥德文伯爵的前妻，將許多男孩女孩用繩捆綁着，從布累司陀運出英倫去的當中一個。她的主人——就是我父親我將要

again), got tired of her, and wanted to give her away to one of his kernes. *She would not¹⁶ have that; so he hung her up hand and foot, and beat her that she died. There was an abbey hard by, and the Church laid on him a penance—all that they dared get out of him—that he should give me to the monks, being then a seven-years' boy. Well, I grew up in that abbey; they taught me my fa fa mi fa; but I liked better conning¹⁷ of ballads and hearing stories of ghosts and enchanters, such as I used to tell you. I'll tell you plenty more whenever you're tired. Then they made me work; and that I never could abide at all. Then they beat me every day; and that I could abide still less; but always I stuck to my book, for one thing I saw,—that learning is power, my lord; and that the reason why the monks are masters of the land is, they are scholars, and you fighting men are none. Then I fell in love (as *young blood¹⁸ will) with an Irish lass, when I was full seventeen years old; and when they found out that, they held me down on the floor and beat me till I was well-nigh¹⁹ dead. They put me in prison for a month; and *between bread-

16. 她拒絕。 17. 誦讀，學答。 18. 青年。 19. 幾乎。

再去認罪他的——對她厭倦了，想送她給一個愛爾蘭的步兵而他不肯去，就把她的手和腳吊起來打，於是一命嗚呼了。

「附近有一座寺院，教會要處罰他，——他們對他僅僅敢罰而已——要他將我（那時七歲了）施捨給寺僧們。所以我就在那裏長大，他們教我唱「花花米花」，我却歡喜學些小調兒。聽些鬼怪妖魔的故事，像我常常講給你聽的就是。以後你若疲倦時，我還有許多故事好講給你聽呢。後來他們要我工作，我却無論如何忍受不了，於是他們天天打我，那我更忍受不了，但我却時常手不釋卷。因為有一件事我很明白——學識即是權力；主人呵，這就是和尚們為什麼都是地主的理由，他們都是學者呀，像你們鬥士是無份的。

「後來我也和一般青年人一樣，墮入戀愛了，和一個愛爾蘭女孩，那時我剛滿十七歲，他們一發現了這件事，就將我擱在地板上毒打，幾乎打死；又將我監禁了一個月。在那黑暗飢餓的牢獄生活中，我幾乎成了一個獸子。後來他們尋

and-water and darkness²⁰ I *went nigh foolish.²¹ They let me out, thinking I could do no more harm to man or lass; and when I found out how profitable folly was, foolish I remained, at least as foolish as seemed good to me. But one night I got into the abbey church, stole therefrom that which I have with me now, and which shall *serve you and me in good stead²² yet,—out and away aboard a ship among the buscarles,²³ and off into the Norway sea. But after a voyage or two, so it befell,²⁴ I was wrecked in the Wash by Botulfston Deeps, and, begging my way inland, met with your father, and *took service with him,²⁵ as I have taken service now with you."

"Now, what has made thee take service with me?"

"Because you are you."

"Give me name of your parables and *dark sayings,²⁶ but speak out like a man. What canst thou see in me that thou shouldst share an outlaw's fortune with me?"

"I had run away from a monastery; so had you. I hated the monks; so did you. I liked to

20. 水中或黑暗中。21. 幾乎變成瘋子。22. 對你我都有好用途。23. 賊船。24. 機會。25. 當他的奴隸。26. 隱晦的說話。

放我出來，以爲我對於男人或女孩不會再有妨害了。等我察覺到做奴是怎樣的有利益時我就一直要做奴子，至少也做到了於我有利益的程度。

「然而有一天夜裏，我走進寺院的教堂去，從那裏偷到了我此刻帶着在身上的東西，這是你我大可利用而且大有利益的——遠遠地去找一隻船跟了那些航海的人航到挪威海中去。但是在航行過幾次以後，也許我乘的船，會被風浪送進瓦許河口而打碎了，我一路乞食走到內地去，遇到你的父親，我就做他的奴僕，正像這時爲你服役一樣。」

「現在告訴我，你爲我服役，所爲何來呢？」

「因爲你是你呀！」

「不要對我打啞謎兒，講平常的說話吧，你如何能看得準我，一定要來分享一個亡命之徒的幸運呢？」

「我已從寺院裏逃出來，你也是這樣；我恨那些僧徒，

tell stories,—since I found good to shut my mouth I tell them to myself all day long, sometimes all night too. When I found out you liked to hear them, I loved you *²⁷ if the more.²⁷ Then they told me not to speak to you; I held my tongue. I *bided my time.²⁸ I knew you would be outlawed some day. I knew you would *turn Viking,²⁹ and kill traitors and enchanters, and win yourself honor and glory; and I knew I should have my share in it. I knew you would need me some day; and you need me now, and here I am; and if you try to cut me down with your sword, I will dodge³⁰ you, and follow you, and desire you again, till I force you to let me be your man. I never loved you as I do now. You let me take that letter safe, like a true hero. You let yourself be outlawed like a true hero. You made up your mind to see the world like a true hero. You are the master for me, and *with you I will live and die.³¹ And now I can talk no more.”

“And with me thou shalt live and die,” said Hereward, pulling up his horse, and frankly holding out his hand to his new friend.

Martin Lightfoot took his hand, kissed it, licked it almost as a dog would have done. “I am your

27. 相愛更甚。 28. 靜候其變。 29. 成爲海盜之意。 Viking 古時北海盜名。 30. 閃避。 31. 和你同生共死。

你也恨的；我歡喜講故事——自從我發覺了最好是不開口時，我就一天到晚不停地講故事給自己聽，有時還通晚講呢。後來我曉得你愛聽故事，我却更歡喜你了。於是他們叫我不要和你說話，我只好不開口。我是在等機會，我已知道你有一天定會要亡命的，我知道你會變成一個海上英雄，降魔伏怪，博得無上的光榮。我又知道我要分享一份好處；我知道你有一天會需要我，現在就是了，而我正在這裏。假若你拔出刀來砍我，我會閃開你的刀鋒，仍舊跟着你跑；你再拔刀時我又閃開，直到我逼得你收我做僕從為止。我從沒有像如今這樣歡喜你的。你像個真英雄一樣，讓我安全地帶着那封信，你像個真英雄一樣讓你自己亡命；你像個真英雄一樣立志要去看看世界，你是我的主宰，我要和你共生死，好了，我不再說甚麼了。」

希爾瓦說：「你要和我共生死嗎？」他一面勒住馬，親切地伸出手來給他的新朋友。

快開馬了捧起他的手來，吻着，祇着，好像一隻狗一樣，

man," he said. "Armen; and true man I will prove to you, if you will prove true to me." And he dropped quietly behind Hereward's horse, as if the business of his life was settled, and his mind utterly at rest.

"There is one more likeness between us," said Hereward, after a few minutes' thought. "If I have robbed a church, thou hast robbed one too. What is this precious spoil which is to serve me and thee in such 'mighty stead?'"³²

Martin drew from inside his shirt and under his waistband a small battle-axe and handed it up to Hereward. It was a tool the like of which in shape Hereward had seldom seen, and never its equal in beauty. The handle was some fifteen inches long, made of thick strips of black whalebone, curiously bound with silver, and butted with "narwhal ivory."³³ This handle was evidently the work of some cunning Norseman of old. But who had been the maker of the blade? It was some eight inches long, with a sharp edge on one side, a sharp crooked pick on the other, of the finest steel, inlaid with strange characters in gold, the work probably of some Circassian, Tartar, or Persian, such a

32. 有六的說用。33. 一角鯨的角，向前伸出如象牙，可製器。

一面說：「我是你的人了，這是我的心願，只要你真是誠意待我，我也保證做你的心腹人。」他這才安靜下來，跟在希爾瓦的馬後，好像一生一世的事業已經安排妥當，他的心情全然平靜下去了。

希爾瓦想了一想，說：「你我之間還有一件事相像的；若說我搶劫過教堂，你也曾做過的；這能使得你我有如此偉大效用的珍貴戰利品是甚麼呢？」

快腿馬丁從襯衫裏面腰帶底下抽出一把戰斧來，遞給希爾瓦，他很少見過像這種式樣的東西，而且從沒看見像這樣好看的。斧頭的柄大約十五吋長，是一根黑鯨骨做的，巧妙地包著銀，還鑲有一角魚的牙骨，這個柄一定是聰明的古代北歐人的手藝。但是那斧身又是誰做的呢？斧身長約八吋，一邊是銳利的刀口，一邊是個彎曲的鋸嘴。用最精純的鋼鑄成，奇巧的花紋用黃金鑲嵌。這種手工也許是高加索山裏的塞加西人，薩祖人，或者波蘭人做的。這樣一把斧頭，也許

battle-axe as *Rustum* or *Zonrab*³⁴ may have wielded in fight on the banks of *Oxus*; one of those magic weapons, brought, men knew not how, out of the magic East, which were hereditary in many a *Norse*³⁵ family, and sung of in *Many a Norse saga*.

“Look at it,” said *Martin Lightfoot*. “There is magic on it. It must bring us luck. Whoever holds that must kill his man. It will pick a lock of steel. It will crack a mail corselet as a nut-hatch³⁶ cracks a nut. It will hew a lance in two at a single blow. Devils and spirits forged it,—I know that. *Virgilius the Enchanter*, perhaps, or *Solomon the Great*, or whosoever’s name is on it, graven there in letters of gold. Handle it, feel its balance; but no,—do not handle it too much. There is a devil in it, who would make you kill me. Whenever I play with it I *long to*³⁷ kill a man. It would be so easy, —so easy. Give it me back, my lord, give it me back, lest the devil come through the handle into your palm, and possess you.”

Hereward laughed, and gave him back his battle-axe. But he had hardly less doubt of the *magic virtues*³⁸ of such a blade than had *Martin* himself.

34. 傳說中的波斯英雄拉斯登，不知佐拉伯是他的兒子，竟殺了他。35. 古代北歐斯坎的那種遊人。36. 專吃胡桃的小鳥。37. =anxious to. 38. =magic power.

是波斯英雄拉斯曼或是佐拉伯，在奧格塞河岸酣戰時，曾經揮舞過的，是那些魔術軍器當中的一件，人們不明白是怎樣從那魔術的東方帶了出來，曾經在許多個諾爾斯家族中世代相傳，在許多諾爾斯的傳說中歌頌着。

馬丁說：「看吧，這斧頭是有魔術的呢，一定會有好運帶給你我的；無論是誰拿了它，必定會殺掉他自己的人。它能搥開鋼鐵的鎗輪，能擊破鐵的盔甲，像胡桃鳥擊破胡桃一樣；它只消輕輕地一擊，就能將丈八長矛折成兩段。魔怪與精靈鍛鍊它出來的——我知道：有垂貞的妖女或是所羅門大王或者任何人的名字在它上面，文字用黃金刻雙的。拿着吧，掂掂它的斤兩看，——但是，不要，不要拿得太久了，惡魔附在上頭，會支使你來殺我；無論何時，我玩弄着它，我就只想殺人，那裏是太容易——太容易了。主人呵，還給我吧！不然，惡魔會從柄上溜到你的掌心占住了你。」

“Magical or not, thou wilt not have to hit a man twice with that, Martin, my lad. So we two outlaws are both well armed; and, having neither wife nor child, land nor beeves³⁹ to lose, ought to be a match for any six *honest men⁴⁰ who may *have a grudge against us,⁴¹ and yet have sound reasons *at home⁴² for running away.”

And so these two went northward through the green Brunswald, and northward again through merry Sherwood, and were not seen in that land again for many a year.

39. 牛；此處意指動產。 40. 強盜，指硬漢。 41. 對我們有舊怨。 42. 安
家，自衛。

希爾瓦笑起來，把斧頭還給他，他對這斧頭的魔力有點懷疑，也不在馬丁之下。「不管它有沒有魔力，你只要一下就可把人打死，馬丁，我的孩子，你我兩個亡命之徒都武裝了。而且都沒有妻室兒女，都沒有田地和牛羊產業要擔心損失。所以應該去抵當着五六條好漢，這些人或許早懷恨我們，而且還有極充足的理由自由自在地逃開去。」

於是這一對亡命者向北方走，經過蒼翠的布倫司窩，再向北去，穿過快樂的謝林，從此幾多年不再看見他倆了。

