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歌女

張友松譯註

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Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860-1904)

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該 計小說; 所以他的前期作品只足博人一笑, 而後期的作品 —— 成熟的, 真正有藝術價值的作品 —— 大都是些比較深刻的淚與笑融合在一起的東西。

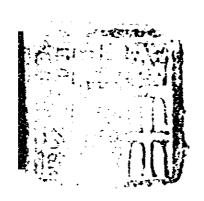
差不多每一篇契訶夫的後期作品當中,都可以看出一種共同的要旨,即人與人之間的膈膜與不能互相了解。譬如讀了"歌女",誰能不此這種感覺呢?

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THE CHORUS GIRL

(歌 女)



THE CHORUS GIRL

One day when she was younger and better-looking, and when her voice was stronger, Nikolay Petrovitch Kolpakov, her adorer, was sitting in the outer room in her summer villa. It was intolerably hot and stifling. Kolpakov, who had just dined and drunk a whole bottle of inferior port, felt ill-humoured and out of sorts. Both were bored

^{1.} out of sorts — out of temper, spirits, or health, 心緒不好, 與致不好, 或身

歌女

當她年輕貌美歌喉婉轉的時候, 有一天,她的愛慕者尼古萊·伯特 羅維支·科爾巴可夫在她的消夏別 聖外面的房間裹坐着。天氣熱悶得 要命。科爾巴可夫剛才吃過飯,喝 了整整的一瓶劣等葡萄酒,頗覺得 與致不住,心緒很壞,他們儞都在

體有病。(此處作第一二兩解。)

and waiting for the heat of the day to be over in order to go for a walk.

All at once there was a sudden ring at the door. Kolpakov, who was sitting with his coat off, in his slippers, jumped up and looked inquiringly at Pasha.

"It must be the postman or one of the girls," said the singer.

Kolpakov did not mind being found by the postman or Pasha's lady friends, but by way of precaution's gathered up his clothes and went into the next room, while Pasha ran to open the door. To her great surprise in the doorway stood, not the postman and not a girl friend, but an unknown woman, young and beautiful, who was dressed like a

^{1.} all at once—all of a sudden; suddenly, 忽然間。

^{2.} the girls 指 Pasha 那個歌舞團裏的-chorus girls.

等着炎熱消去,好出外散步。

突然間門口忽聞鈴聲。這時候 科爾巴可夫是脫了衣服坐着的,脚 上穿着拖鞋,他便一跳起來,眼睛 裏含着疑問的神色望着寶莎。

"無非是送信的人或是那一個姑娘罷," 這歌女說。

^{3.} by way of....with the intention of...., as a substitute for...., or as a form of...., 為……避見, 作為……。(此 處作第一義解。)

lady, and from all outward signs was one.2

The stranger was pale and was breathing heavily as though she had been running up a steep flight of stairs.

"What is it?" asked Pasha.

The lady did not at once answer. She took a step forward, slowly looked about the room, and sat down in a way that suggested that from fatigue, or perhaps illness, she could not stand; then for a long time her pale lips quivered as she tried in vain to speak.

"Is my husband here?" she asked at last, raising to Pasha her big eyes with their red tear-stained lids.

"Husband?" whispered Pasha,

^{1.} a lady——a woman of the upper classes, 上流婦女。

^{2.} one——此處意即 "a lady."

女子,而且從她一切外表看起來, 確是如此。

這位來客面色灰白 , 呼吸急促,好像剛才跑上了一道很陡的樓梯一般。

"怎麼會事?"實莎問道。

這位女士沒有立即囘答。她向 前走了一步,慢慢地向屋子裹破望 了一會,然後坐下來,她坐下的解 不力。 然故是為了被之或是有病的 然故不能站住;於是過了很久,她 那灰白的嘴唇只是顫動,想說話却 說不出來。

"我的丈夫在這裏嗎?"她終於問道,同時把她那雙眼淚未乾眼皮發紅的大眼睛抬起來望着寶莎。

"丈夫?" 實莎低聲說,她忽然

^{3.} take a step forward——stepped forth a little, 前進一步。

and was suddenly so frightened that her hands and feet turned cold. "What husband?" she repeated, beginning to tremble.

- "My husband,,....Nikolay Petrovitch Kolpakov."
- "N...no, madam.... I...I don't know any husband."

A minute passed in silence. The stranger several times passed her handkerchief over her pale lips and held her breath to stop her inward trembling, while Pasha stood before her motionless, like a post, and looked at her with astonishment and terror.

- "So you say he is not here?" the lady asked, this time speaking with a firm voice and smiling oddly.
- "I....I don't know who it is you are asking about."

^{1.} hold one's breath——suppress one's breath in fear or absorbing emotion, 因恐懼

大為驚恐,手脚都發冷了。"什麼 丈夫?"她又問了一聲,同時便抖 戰起來。

"我的丈夫, ……<u>尼古來 · 伯特</u> 羅維支 · 科爾巴可夫 · "

"沒 …… 沒有, 太太 …… 我 …… 不認得什麼丈夫。"

靜默地過了一分鐘。 這位來客幾次用她的手帕措她那灰白的嘴唇, 平靜呼吸以止住她的內心的抖顫, 同時實遊在她面前站着不動, 像一根木柱一般, 含着驚異和恐懼的神色望着她。

"那麽你說他不在這裏?"這位 女士問道,這次她却是用一種鎮定 的聲調說話,並且還不可捉摸地做 笑着。

"我……我不知道你所問的是什 麽人。"

或感情過於與奮而屏住呼吸。

"You are horrid, mean, vilè...."
the stranger muttered, scanning Pasha with hatred and repulsion. "Yes,
yes...you are horrid. I am very,
very glad that at last I can tell you
so!"

Pasha felt that on this lady in black with angry eyes and white slender fingers she produced the impression of something horrid and unseemly, and she felt ashamed of her chubby red cheeks, the pockmark on her nose, and the fringe on her forehead, which never could be combed back. And it seemed to her that if she had been thin, and had no powder on her face and no fringe on her forehead, then she could have disguised the fact that she was not "respectable," and she would not have felt so frightened and ashamed to stand facing this unknown, mysterious lady.

"Where is my husband?" the

"你填是可怕,下流,惡毒……" 來客含着憤恨與偕惡的神情仔細打 量着寶莎,一面這麽說。"是呀, 是呀,你真可怕。我畢竟可以向你 說出這句話,真是非常非常的痛快啊。"

"我的丈夫在那裏?" 這位女士

lady went on. "Though I don't care whether he is here or not, but I ought to tell you that an embezzlement has been discovered and that they are looking for Nikolay Petrovitch..... They are going to arrest him. That's your work!"

The lady got up² and walked about the room in great excitement. Pasha looked at her in astonishment. She could not grasp what all this meant.

"He'll be found and arrested today," said the lady, and she gave a sob, and in that sound could be heard her resentment and vexation. I know who has brought him to this awful position! Low, horrid creature! Loathsome, mercenary hussy'" The lady's lips worked'

^{1.} That is your work——that is your doing, 這是你弄出來的事情。

^{2.} get up-stand up, 站起來。

又問道。"我雖則不管他是不是在還裏,但是我應該告訴你,現在已經發覺了一件私用公款的案子,他們正在找尼古來。伯特羅維支 …… 他們要逮捕他。這都是你的成績呀!"

這位太太又站起來,很興奮地在屋子裏來囘地走。實莎詫異地望着她。她不解這是怎麼一會事。

"他今天就會被他們找着並且捉 去,"這位太太說着,便鳴咽地哭 起來,她的聲事裏可以聽得出她的 根惡與惱怒。"我知道是誰把他引 到這般糟糕的地步!下流的可惡的 東面!討厭的要錢不要臉的賤貨!" 這位太太的嘴唇搐動着,她的鼻子 也縐起來,表示厭惡。"我簡直沒

^{3.} give a sob——sobbed, 嗚咽。

^{4.} The lady's lips worked —— here "work" means "twist," 搖動。

and her nose wrinkled up with disgust. "I am helpless, do you hear, you low woman?....I am helpless; you are stronger than I am, but there is One to defend me and my children! God sees all! He is just! He will punish you for every tear I have shed, for all my sleepless nights! The time will come; you will think of me!...."

Silence followed again. The lady walked about the room and wrung her hands, while Pasha still gazed blankly at her in amazement, not understanding and expecting something terrible.

"I know nothing about it, madam," she said, and suddenly burst into tears.

"You are lying!" cried the

^{1.} wring one's hands—squeeze one's hands together in sign of great distress, 心中一个方言指時兩手互扭。

有辦法, 聽見嗎, 你這下流女人? …… 我简直沒有辦法 ; 你比我随 这有辦法 ; 你比我 这 些, 但是 他, 在我 和 的 是, 在我 的 是, 在我 的 是, 在我 的 是, 不 的 是, 不 的 是, 不 的 的 我 那 些, 失 既 的 夜 晚 的 我 那 些, 失 既 的 夜 晚 的 , 你 愈 要 虑 罰 你 ! ……"

又是一陣靜默。這位太太在屋子裏來回地走,搓着手,同時實莎 仍然是詫異地茫然注視着她,莫明 其妙,並且預料着會有什麼可怕的 事情發生。

"這事情我一點也不知道 , 太 太,"她說道 , 忽然哭起來。

"你 撒 誑!"這位太太大 聲 說, 她

^{2.} burst into tears—break into tears
哭泣起來。

lady, and her eyes flashed angrily at her. "I know all about it! I've known you a long time. I know that for the last month he has been spending every day with you!"

"Yes. What then? What of it? I have a great many visitors, but I don't force anyone to come. He is free to do as he likes."

"I tell you that they have discovered an embezzlement! He has stolen money from his office! For the sake of such a....creature as you, for your sake he has actually committed a crime. Listen," said the lady in a resolute voice, stopping short, facing Pasha. "You can have no principles; you live simply to do harm—that's your object; but

^{1.} what of it?——a formula not admitting another's inference from the fact which one admits, 那又怎樣?(凡承認別人所, 說的事實不錯而不承認他所要說出的下文時, 常說這一句話。)

的眼睛含怒地射着她。"我一切都明白!我早就知道你了。我知道上一個月裏他天天都和你在一起混!"

"是的。那又怎樣?那有什麼相 干?我有許許多多的人來找我,不 過我并不勉强要誰來。他儘可以隨 他的心願呀。"

^{2.} for the sake of—out of consideration for, in the interest of, in order to please or honor or get or keep, etc., because of,為了…o

^{3.} stop short——stop suddenly, 猝然停住。

one can't imagine you have fallen so low that you have no trace of human feeling left! He has a wife children.... If he is condemned and sent into excile we shall starve, the children and I.... Understand that! And yet there is a chance of saving him and us from destitution and disgrace. If I take them nine hundred roubles today they will let him alone. Only nine hundred roubles!"

"What nine hundred roubles?" Pasha asked softly. "I....I don't know..... I haven't taken it."

"I am not asking you for nine hundred roubles.... You have no money, and I don't want your money. I ask you for something else..... Men usually give expensive things to women like you. Only give me back the things my husband has given

^{1.} let....alone — leave....alone;

"什麼九百盧布呀?" <u>寶莎</u>輕聲問道。"我……我不知道……我遊 沒有拿。"

"我不是問你要九百盧布……你是沒有錢的,我也不要你的錢。我 向你要的是別的東西……男人家常 是送貴重東西給你這樣的女人。只 要你把我丈夫給你的東西交囘給我

not to interfere with...., 不管……。

you!"

"Madam, he has never made me a present of anything!" Pasha wailed, beginning to understand.

"Where is the money? He has squandered his own and mine and other people's.... What has become of it all? Listen, I beg you! I was carried away by indignation and have said a lot of nasty things to you, but I apologize. You must hate me, I know, but if you are capable of sympathy, put yourself in my position! I implore you to give me back the things!"

"H'm!" said Pasha, and she shrugged her shoulders. "I would with pleasure," but, God is my witness, he never made me a present of

^{1.} to be carried away by indignation—to be rendered mad by indignation, 因償 您而成了狂態。

^{2.} put oneself in another's position, 設身處地。

"太太,他從來沒有送過我什麼 東西!"實莎哭道,這時候她漸漸 明白了。

"哼!"<u>寶莎</u>說,聳一聳肩。"找 是很樂於照辦的,不過老天在上,

^{3.} would 後面省去了 "give you back the things" 數字。

^{4.} God is my witness——I call Heaven to witness (昔作 witness Heaven!), 有老天爺作證; 請老天爺作證; 當天發誓。

anything. Believe me, on my conscience. However, you are right, though," said the singer in confusion, "he did bring me two little things. Certainly I will give them back, if you wish it."

Pasha pulled out one of the drawers in the toilet-table and took out of it a hollow gold bracelet and a thin ring with a ruby in it.

"Here, madam!" she said, handing the visitor these articles.

The lady flushed and her face quivered. She was offened.

"What are you giving me?" she said. "I am not asking charity, but for what does not belong to you....what you have taken advantage of your position to squeeze out of my husband....that weak,

^{1.} on my conscience——there is no lying, 憑良心; 沒有說辭。

他從來沒有送過我什麼東西。相信 我能,我是憑良心說話。不過你還 是不錯,畢竟,"這歌女慌飢地說, "他確實送過我兩件小東西。當然我 會把牠們給還你,只要你願意要。"

實沙便把梳粧台的抽屜抽出一 隻,從那裏面拿出一個空心的金手 鳛和一隻嵌着紅寶石的小戒指來。

"這裏,太太!"她把這兩件東 西拿給這位來客,說道。

這位太太臉紅了, 她的臉上顫 動起來。她生氣了。

"你拿什麼給我?"她說。"我不是 向你求助,是來要那不屬你所有的 東西……你利用你的地位從我的丈 夫手裏奪取得來的東西……他那不

^{2.} take advantage of—avail oneself of (a circumstance) 利用(某種環境)。

unhappy man..... On Thursday, when I saw you with my husband at the harbour you were wearing expensive brooches and bracelets. So it's no use your playing the innocent lamb to me! I ask you for the last time: will you give me the things or not?"

"You are a queer one, upon my word," said Pasha, beginning to feel offended. "I assure you that, except the bracelet and this little ring, I've never seen a thing from your Nikolay Petrovitch. He brings me nothing but sweet cakes."

"Sweet cakes!" laughed the stranger. "At home the children have nothing to eat, and here you have sweet cakes. You absolutely refuse to restore the presents?"

Receiving no answer, the lady

^{1.} play the innocent lamb——pretend to be innocent, 裝作無罪。

"你真是個古怪的人,老實說," 實遊說,她也生氣起來了。"我决不騙你,除了這只手鐲和這只小戒 指而外,我從來沒有見過你的尼古 來,伯特羅維支什麼東西。他只送 我一些甜糕餅,別的什麼也沒有。"

"甜糕餅呀!"這位來客笑道。 "孩子們在家裏沒有東西吃,你們却 在這裏吃糕餅哩。你一定不肯歸還 那些東西嗎?"

這位太太沒有得到囘答,又坐

^{2.} upon my word——on my honour, 的。

sat down and stared into space, pondering.

"What's to be done now?" she said. "If I don't get nine hundred roubles, he is ruined, and the children and I are ruined, too. Shall I kill this low woman or go down on my knees to her?"

The lady pressed her handkerchief to her face and broke into sobs.2

"I beg you!" Pasha heard through the stranger's sobs, "You see you have plundered and ruined my husband. Save him.... You have no feeling for him, but the children...the children.... What have the children done?"

Pasha imagined little children standing in the street, crying with

^{1.} go down on one's knees—kneel down, 能下。

^{2.} break into sobs—suddenly begin

下來, 睜腿望着空中, 沉思着。

"現在怎麽辦?"她說。"我若不找出九百盧布來,他就完了,孩子們和我也都完了。我還是打死這個下流女人呢,還是在她面前跪下呢?"

這位太太把她的手帕按在臉上, 不由得鳴咽起來了。

"我求你!" <u>智</u>莎從這位來客的 哭聲裏聽見這麼的聲音。"你看你 把我的丈夫搶光了,把他毀了。救 救他罷…… 你對他沒有同情,但是 那幾個孩子呢……那幾個孩子呢…… 孩子們有什麼罪過?"

<u>暂</u>步便想像着幾個小孩站在街上, 餓得啼哭, 於是她也就嗚咽起

to sob, 忽然嗚咽起來。

^{3.} have no feeling for——have no sympathy for, 對……沒有同情心。

hunger, and she, too, sobbed.

"What can I do, madam?" she "You say that I am a low said. woman and that I have ruined Nikolay Petrovitch, and I assure you..... before God Almighty, I have had nothing from him whatever..... There is only one girl in our chorus who has a rich admirer; all the rest of us live from hand to mouth on bread and kvass. Nikolay Petrovitch is a highly educated, refined gentleman, so I've made him welcome.2 We are bound to make gentlemen welcome."

"I ask you for the things! Give me the things! I am crying..... I am humiliating myself..... If you like I will go down on my knees! If you wish it!"

^{1.} live from hand to mouth——live poorly, 過窮苦生活; 過無隔宿之糧的生活。 (亦作 live improvidently 解, 意即"過不事榜

來了。

"我要你把那些東西給我呀!把那些東西給我!我在哭哩……我不顧自己的身分……你若高與我情願跪下來!只要你願意!"

^{2.} make one welcome——welcome one, 對某人表示歡迎; 歡迎某人。

Pasha shrieked with horror and waved her hands. She felt that this pale, beautiful lady who expressed herself so grandly, as though she were on the stage, really might go down on her knees to her, simply from pride, from grandeur, to exalt herself and humiliate the chorus girl.

"Very well, I will give you things!" said Pasha, wiping her eyes and bustling about. "By all means. Only they are not from Nikolay Petrovitch.... I got these from other gentlemen. As you please...."

Pasha pulled out the upper drawer of the chest, took out a diamond brooch, a coral necklace, some rings and bracelets, and gave them all to the lady.

"Take them if you like, only I've never had anything from your

^{1.} by all means——at any cost, 無論如

實沙恐怖得叫起來,搖着手。 她覺得這個蒼白的美麗女子說話說 得這麼高貴,好像是在戲台上演劇 似的,也許當真會向她跪下來一 只是為了自傲,為了高貴,故意跪 下來觀出她的身分,使這歌女過意 不去。

"好罷,無論如何,我把東西給你好了!" 望莎說着,一面揩一揩眼睛,匆忙地倒走。"不過這些東西都不是尼古來。伯特羅維支給我的…… 這都是我從別的先生們那裏得來的。你既是高與……"

"你者願意,就請拿着這些東西

何。

husband. Take them and grow rich," Pasha went on, offended at the threat to go down on her knees. "And if you are a lady....his lawful wife, you should keep him to yourself. I should think so! I did not ask him to come; he came of himself."

Through her tears the lady srutinized the articles given her and said:

"This isn't everything..... There won't be five hundred roubles' worth here."

Pasha impulsively flung out of the chest a gold watch, a cigar-case and studs, and said, flinging up her hands:

"I've nothing else left.... You can search!"

The visitor gave a sigh,2 with

^{1.} come of oneself——come of one's own will, 出於自願而來; 自動地來。

罷,不過我從來沒可從你的丈夫那 裏得到過什麼東西。 拿去發財去 罷," 實涉繼續着說,她為了那跪 下的威嚇有些生氣了。"你既是一個 上流女子…… 是他的正式妻子,你 就應該把他管住。我以為是這樣!我 並沒有要他來;他是自動地來的。"

"這還不是所有的東西 ····· 這裏還不值五百盧布哩。"

"我再沒有留下別的東西了 ······ 你可以搜!"

這位來客歎了一口氣,用她那

^{2.} give a sigh---sigh, 歎氣。

trembling hands twisted the things up in her handkerchief, and went out without uttering a word, without even nodding her head.

The door from the next room opened and Kolpakov walked in. He was pale and kept shaking his head nervously, as though he had swallowed something very bitter; tears were glistening in his eyes.

"What presents did you make me?" Pasha asked, pouncing upon¹ him. "When did you, allow me to ask you?"

"Presents...that's no matter!" said Kolpakov, and he tossed his head. "My God! She cried before you, she humbled herself...."

"I am asking you, what presents did you make me?" Pasha cried.

"My God! She, a lady, so proud, so pure.... She was ready

^{1.} pounce upon—make sudden attack

隔壁房間裏的門開了,科爾巴 可夫走進來。他臉色發白,不斷地 搖着頭,顯得大受刺激的神氣,好 像吞下了什麼很苦的東西一般;眼 睛裏閃着淚光。

"你送過我什麼東西呀?"<u>寶莎</u>向他撲過去,問道。"你在什麼時候送過的,請問?"

"禮物嗎 …… 那是不相干的事情!"科爾巴可夫說道,一面搖着頭。"老天爺!她在你面前哭了,她降低了身分……"

"我問的是 , 你送過我什麼東西?"實莎喊道。

"老天爺!她是個上流女子,多

upon, 忽然猛撲。

to go down on her knees to....to this wretch! And I've brought her to this! I've allowed it!"

He clutched his head in his hands and mouned.

"No, I shall never forgive my-self for this! I shall never forgive myself! Get away' from me.... you low creature!" he cried with repulsion, backing away from Pasha, and thrusting her off with trembling hands. "She would have gone on her knees, and....and to you! Oh, my God!"

He rapidly dressed, and pushing Pasha aside contemptuously, made for the door and went out.

Pasha lay down and began wailing aloud. She was already regretting her things which she had given away so impulsively, and her feelings

^{1.} get away — go away, 滾開。

^{2.} make for-go in the direction of;

慰高傲,多麽純潔……她竟至預備在……在這個賤東西面前跪下!歸根還是我使她到的這個地步!我讓她這樣的!"

他雙手抱着頭哭起來。

"哦,我永遠也不能原諒我自己這種罪過!我永遠不能原諒我自己的!滾開……你這下流東西!"他合着悅惡地喊道,一面離開實沙的後退,一面用他那雙抖顫的手將她猛力推開。"她幾乎要跪下來,而且……而且是向你!哦,老天爺!"

他急忙地穿上衣服,鄙视地將 寶莎推到一邊,向門口走,隨即便 出去了。

<u>寶莎</u>便躺下來 , 開始大聲地 哭。她想起她剛才那 麼憤激地給了

proceed toward, 向……走。

were hurt. She remembered how three years ago a merchant had beaten her for no sort of reason, and she wailed more loudly than ever.

THE CHEMIST'S WIFE

The little town of B—, consisting of two or three crooked streets, was sound asleep. There was a complete stillness in the motionless air. Nothing could be heard but far away, outside the town no doubt, the barking of a dog in a thin, hoarse tenor. It was close upon daybreak.

Everything had long been asleep. The only person not asleep was the young wife of Tchernomordik, as

^{1.} close upon——quite near, 很近於。

樂劑師的妻

只有兩三條戀曲的街道的B一 鍵正在熟睡中。 平静的空氣中非常 之沉寂。什麼聲音也聽不見,只有 遠遠地一隻狗發出那徵弱而嘶啞的 吠聲,那不消說是在鎖外的。 這時 候離天明時分已經很近了。

一切都早已入睡。惟一沒有麼 着的是在 B - - 鎮上開樂房的一個 qualified dispenser who kept a chemist's shop at B—. She had gone to bed and got up again three times, but could not sleep, she did not know why. She sat at the open window in her nightdress and looked into the street. She felt bored, depressed, vexed....so vexed that she felt quite inclined to cry-again she did not know why. There seemed to be a lump in her chest that kept rising' into her throat.... A few paces behind her Tchernomordik lay curled up close to the wall, snoring sweetly. A greedy flea was stabbing the bridge of his nose, but he did not feel it. and was positively smiling, for he was dreaming that everyone in the town had a cough, and was buying from him the King of Denmark's cough-drops.2 He could not have

^{1.} keep......gradually and continually, 漸漸地, 不斷地……。

夸难的樂劑師翟諾莫第克那年輕的 妻。她上床睡了又爬起來已經三次 了,但是終於腰不成,她也不知道 是為了什麼。她穿着睡衣坐在開着 的窗前,望着街頭。她心裏覺得厭 , 沮襲 , 懊惱 …… 她懊惱得要 命, 简直想哭起來 —— 這又是她莫 明其妙的。她好像覺得胸中有一塊 什麼東西老是向她喉嚨裏衝上來似 的 …… 在 她 背後 幾步 的 地 方 , 霍 諾 莫第克緊靠着腦捲着身子睡着,甜 **蜜地打着鼾。一隻貪饞的虱子正在** 咬他的鼻梁,但是他并不覺得,而 且還微笑着,因為他夢見全鎭的人 個個都思咳嗽,都到他這裏來買丹 麥王止咳片。這時候無論是針刺他

^{2.} King of Denmark's cough-drops—— 一種咳嗽樂片的名字。

been wakened now by pinpricks or by cannon or by caresses.

The chemist's shop was almost at the extreme end of the town, so that the chemist's wife could see far into the fields. She could see the eastern horizon growing pale by degrees, then turning crimson as though from a great fire. A big broad-faced moon peeped out unexpectedly from behind bushes in the distance. It was red (as a rule when the moon emerges from behind bushes it appears to be blushing).

Suddenly in the stillness of the night there came the sound of footsteps and a jingle of spurs. She could hear voices.

"That must be the officers going home to the camp from the Police

^{1.} grow pale by degrees — become gradually paler and paler, 漸漸變白。

或是大砲響或是擁抱他都是不能使 他醒來的。

忽然間,夜的沉寂裏傳來脚步 的聲音和馬靴的響聲。她還聽見有 人說話。

"那一定是那些軍官從警察局長

^{2.} as a rule—usually; generally,通常; 每每。

Captain's," thought the chemist's wife.

Soon afterwards two figures wearing officers' white tunics came into sight: one big and tall, the other thinner and shorter.... They slouched along by the fence, dragging one leg after the other and talking loudly together. As they passed the chemist's shop, they walked more slowly than ever, and glanced up at the windows.

"It smells like a chemist's," said the thin one. "And so it is! Ah, I remember.... I came here last week to buy some castor-oil. There's a chemist here with a sour face and the jawbone of an ass! Such a jawbone, my dear fellow! It must have been a jawbone like that

^{1.} the Police Captain's—the Police Qaptain's house, 凡說某人家裏或某個店舖每每省去"house"或"shop,"如 Thomson's, the

家裏囘營去的,"藥劑師的妻想道。

一會兒,兩個穿軍官制服的人 影走入眼簾了:一個大而高,一 個比較瘦一點矮一點……他們沿着 短牆無精打采地走着,一步一步地 短牆無精打聚地走着,一步一步地 拖,彼此高聲地談着話。他們走過 這藥房的時候,更加走得慢起來, 幷且抬頭瞥一瞥窗戶上。

baker's.

^{2.} come into sight——to be seen, 入眼 籐; 入视線; 被看見。

^cSamson¹ killed the Philistines with."

"M'yes," said the big one in a bass voice. "The pharmacist is asleep. And his wife is asleep too. She is a pretty woman, Obtyosov."

"I saw her. I liked her very much.... Tell me, doctor, can she possibly love that jawbone of an ass? Can she?"

"No, most likely she does not love him," sighed the doctor, speaking as though he were sorry for the chemist. "The little woman is asleep behind the window, Obtyosov, what? Tossing with the heat, her little mouth half open.... and one little foot hanging out of bed. I bet that fool the chemist doesn't realize what a lucky fellow he is.... No doubt he sees no difference between a

^{1.} Samson——見 Bible 舊約,以色列之怪力士, 曾以下巴骨撞殺菲力斯丁人。

"哼哼,"大個頭低聲地說。"這樂劑師睡着哩。 他的老婆也是睡着的。她到是個漂亮女人哩,阿布狄 歐索夫。"

"我看見了她。 我很喜歡她哩…… 你說呢,大夫,她難道會愛那個笨驢下巴骨嗎?她會不會?"

^{2.} possibly 一字常用以加重"can...."的句子。

woman and a bottle of carbolic!"

"I say, doctor," said the officer, stopping. "Let us go into the shop and buy something. Perhaps we shall see her."

"What an idea —in the night!"
"What of it? They are obliged
to serve one even at night. My dear
fellow, let us go in!"

"If you like...."

The chemist's wife, hiding behind the curtain, heard a muffled ring. Looking round at her husband, who was smiling and snoring sweetly as before, she threw on her dress, slid her bare feet into her slippers, and ran to the shop.

On the other side of the glass door she could see two shadows.

^{1.} what an idea!——對別人的建議表示 驚訝與不贊成的話語。

女人和一瓶石炭酸是沒有什麽分別的!"

"我說,大夫,"那軍官停住脚步 說道。"我們到這舖子裏去買點什麼 東西罷。也許我們看得着她哩。"

"真是妙想天開—— 這樣夜深時候!"

"那有什麼要緊?他們即令在夜裏也有接待主顧的義務哩。老哥,我們進去罷!"

"只要你願意……"

藥劑師的妻縣在窗韓背後,聽見一陣悶住的鈴聲。她掉轉頭看了看她的丈夫,看見他還是在那裏甜甜地微笑着和打着鼾,她便披上衣服,將她那雙亦脚穿上拖鞋,跑到舖面裏去了。

玻璃門的外面,她可以看得見

^{2.} what of it?——why is it not right? 那又怎樣? 有什麼不好?

The chemist's wife turned up the lamp and hurried to the door to open it, and now she felt neither vexed nor bored nor inclined to cry, though her heart was thumping. The big doctor and the slender Obtyosov walked in. Now she could get a view of them. The doctor was corpulent and swarthy; he wore a beard and was slow in his movements. At the slightest motion his tunic seemed as though it would crack, and perspiration came on to his face. The officer was rosy, clean-shaven, feminine-looking, and as supple as an English whip.

"What may I give you?" asked the chemist's wife, holding her dress across her bosom.

"Give us er-er four pennyworth of peppermint lozenges!"
Without haste the chemist's wife

^{1.} holding her dress across her bosom ——因夜間匆促披衣,不曾扣好, 所以要用手

"請問你們要什麼呢?'樂劑師的 妻提起衣服按在胸前,問道。

"給我們拿……呃——呃……四 辨士的薄荷藥糖罷!"

樂劑師的妻便不慌不忙地從一

抓住衣服的前面按在胸上。

took down a jar from a shelf and began weighing out lozenges. The customers stared fixedly at her back; the doctor screwed up his eyes like a well-fed cat, while the lieutenant was very grave.

"It's the first time I've seen a lady serving in a chemist's shop," observed the doctor.

"There's nothing out of the way in it," replied the chemist's wife, looking out of the corner of her eye at the rosy-cheeked officer. "My husband has no assistant, and I always help him."

"To be sure.... You have a charming little shop! What a number of different.... jars! And you are not afraid of moving about among the poisons? Brrr!"

The chemist's wife sealed up the parcel and handed it to the doctor.

^{1.} There is nothing out of the way in it

個架子上拿下一只罐子倒出藥糖來 稱 。 這兩位顧客定睛注視着她的 背;那醫生歪起他的眼睛,好像一 隻吃得胖的貓似的,同時那副官 却作出莊重的樣子。

"我這還是第一次看見一位女士 在藥房裏作事哩,"醫生說。

"這是沒有辦法的事情,"藥劑師的妻一面回答,一面從她的服角裏望着那玫瑰色面龐的軍官。"我的丈夫沒有助手,我就常幫他的忙。"

"自然是····· 你這小店舖很可愛 哩! 這裏面各種的 ····· 罐子填多 啊!你在那些毒薬當中動手的時候 不害怕嗎?噗 ·····!"

樂劑師的妻把一包樂糖封好, 交給那醫生。<u>阿布狄歐索夫</u>拿錢給

⁻⁻⁻there's no help for it, 沒有別的辦法。

Obtyosov gave her the money. Half a minute of silence followed..... The men exchanged glances, took a step towards the door, then looked at one another again.

"Will you give me two pennyworth of soda?" said the doctor.

Again the chemist's wife slowly and languidly raised her hand to the shelf.

"Haven't you in the shop anything..... such as....." muttered Obtyosov, moving his fingers, "something, so to say, allegorical..... revivifying..... seltzer-water, for instance. Have you any seltzer-water?"

"Yes," answered the chemist's wife.

"Bravo! You're a fairy, not a woman! Give us three bottles!"

^{1.} seltzer·water—德國 Wiesbiden 的 Seltzer 村所產之礦泉水,又指仿此種礦泉製

了她。隨後靜默地過了半分鐘 ····· 這兩位先生互相望了一眼,向門邊 走了一步,然後又彼此互相望着。

"請你給我兩辨士的蘇打好嗎?" 图生說。

於是藥劑師的妻又慢慢地懶洋 洋地仰手到架子上去。

"你這店裏有沒有……那一類的東西……"阿布狄歐索夫擺動着他的東西,「阿布狄歐索夫擺動着他的手指,「「爾地說,」「一種,譬如說,有刺激性的 …… 館使人振作精神的 …… 譬如,色爾澤張東水呢?你有色爾澤水嗎?"

"有的,"藥劑師的妻答道。

"好極了!你真是個仙女,不是 一個凡間女子啊!給我們拿三瓶來 罷!"

成之炭.梭水。簡稱 Seltzer.

The chemist's wife hurriedly sealed up the soda and vanished through the door into the darkness.

"A peach!" said the doctor, with a wink. "You wouldn't find a pineapple like that in the island of Madeira! Eh? What do you say? Do you hear the snoring, though? That's his worship the chemist enjoying sweet repose."

A minute later the chemist's wife came back and set five bottles on the counter. She had just been in the cellar, and so was flushed and rather excited.

"Sh-sh!.... quietly!" said Obtyosov when, after uncorking the bottles, she dropped the corkscrev-"Don't make such a noise; you'll wake your husband."

"Well, what if I do wake him?"

^{1.} A peach——形容面貌如桃的美女子也。

樂劑師的妻又急忙把蘇打包封 好,從門裏走進暗處不見了。

"桃兒似的!"那醫生瞬一瞬眼, 說道。"你到麥地拉島也找不出這樣 一個沒難哩! 咦? 你以為怎樣? 喂,你聽見那打鼾的聲音嗎?那就 是這位樂劑師先生睡得正甜哩。"

一會兒,藥劑師的妻囘來了, 放了五瓶在櫃台上。她剛才是到地 答裏去了,所以臉上發紅,並且有 點與奮。

"嘘—嘘!……輕輕地!'她把瓶塞啓了之後,放下故塞饋的時候, 阿布狄歐索夫說。"不要弄出這麼大 的響聲罷 ; 當心把你的丈夫弄醒 了。"

"咦,我把他弄醒了又怎樣呢?"

^{2.} his worship——與 his Lordship, his excellency 等用法相似,但此處意存詼諧。

"He is sleeping so sweetly.....
he must be dreaming of you..... To
your health!" 1

"Besides," boomed the doctor, hiccupping after the seltzer-water, "husbands are such a dull business that it would be very nice of them to be always asleep. How good a drop of red wine would be in this water!"

"What an idea!" laughed the chemist's wife.

"That would be splendid. What a pity they don't sell spirits in chemist's shops! Though you ought to sell wine as a medicine. Have you any vinum gallicum rubrum?"

"Yes."

"Well, then, give us some! Bring it here!"

"How much do you want?"

^{1.} To your health——I drink this to wish you health, 舉杯祝福時說的一句話。

"他睡得正甜哩……他一定在那 裹夢見你……給你祝福!"

"並且呢,"那醫生喝了色爾澤水一面打呃,一面粗聲說道,"丈夫都是無味的東西,他們時常睡着是再好不過的。這水裏加一點紅酒多麼好啊!"

"真是異想天閒!"樂劑師的妻笑道。

"那一定是非常之好。樂房裏不 賣酒具是恨事啊?不過酒也可以作 樂,你們總該賣罷。你有 Vinum gal· licum rubrum 嗎?"

"有的。"

"好罷,那末,給我們一點罷。 拿到這裏來!"

"你們要多少呢?"

^{2.} vinum gallicum rubrum——(拉丁文) 一種樂酒,紅苦酸酒。(vinum 即拉丁文之wine)

"Quantum satis".... Give us an ounce each in the water, and afterwards we'll see.... Obtyosov, what do you say? First with water and afterwards per se²...."

The doctor and Obtyosov sat down to the counter, took off their caps, and began drinking the wine.

"The wine, one must admit, is wretched stuff! Vinum nastissimum! Though in the presence of er.... it tastes like nectar. You are enchanting, madam! In imagination I kiss your hand."

"I would give a great deal to do so⁵ not in imagination," said

^{1.} Quantum s tis——(拉丁文)as much as suffices, 適宜量。

^{2.} per so—(拉丁文) by itself, 單獨的 (此處意即不携水也)。

^{3.} vinum nastirsinum——(拉丁文) bad wine, 壞酒。

"Quantum satis ……我們水裏每人 先放一溫司,過後再看……阿布狄 歐索夫,你認怎樣?先優水喝,後 來再 por se"

那图生和阿布狄歐索夫在腦台前面坐下來,脫下帽子,開始喝酒。

"這個酒 , 老實說 , 是很糟糕的! Vinum ne stissimum! 不過面前有了…… 呃…… 也就像美酒的味道了。你真是令人銷魂啊,太太!我想像中吻着你的手哩。

"我若是能够不在想像襄作這件事情,那我寧肯出很高的代價,"阿

^{4.} in the presence of——before, 在…… 面前。

^{5.} give a great deal to do so——出很大的代價來作此事。(又如"the whole world for a drinkl",但得一飲,寧以舉世一切作代價1)

Obtyosov. "On my honor, I'd give my life."

"That's enough," said Madame Tchernomordik, flushing and assuming a serious expression.

"What a flirt you are, though!" the doctor laughed softly, looking slyly at her from under his brows. "Your eyes seem to be firing shot: piff-paff! I congratulate you: you've conquered! We are vanquished!"²

The chemist's wife looked at their ruddy faces, listened to their chatter, and soon she, too, grew quite lively. Oh, she felt so gay! She entered into the conversation, she laughed, flirted, and even, after repeated requests from the customers, drank two ounces of wine.

^{1.} on my honour—upon my word(見 前"歌女"寫內), 的的確確; 說實話。

^{2.} you have conquered! We are van-

布狄歐索夫說。"决不說假話,我情 願犧牲性命。"

"說到這樣很够了,"<u>翟諧莫第克</u>夫人漲紅着臉,作出莊重的神色說道。

"你多麼風騷啊,哈!"那醫生輕 聲地笑一笑,狡猾地偷偷望着她。 "你的眼睛好像是在放鎗似的: 霹 啪!恭賀你:你勝利了!我們降服了!"

quished!——你迷住我們了! 我們拜倒"石榴 裙下"了! "You officers ought to come in oftener from the camp," she said; "it's awful how dreary it is here. I'm simply dying of it." 1

"I should think so!" said the doctor indignantly. "Such a peach, a miracle of nature, thrown away in the wilds! How well Griboyedov said, 'Into the wilds, to Saratov'!' It's time for us to be off, though. Delighted to have made your acquaintance.... very. How much do we owe you?"

The chemist's wife raised her eyes to the ceiling and her lips moved for some time.

^{1.} to be dying of.....to be suffering a great deal from....,因……苦得不堪。

^{3.} Griboyedov——俄國戲劇作家 (1793—1893)

"你們作軍官的應當多出營到這 裏來走走呀,"她說;"這裏眞是問煞 人啊。我簡直無聊得要命。"

"我也是這樣想哩!"那醫生氣憤 地說。"這麽一個桃兒 , 天生的寶 貝, 丟在荒野地方! 格里泡那树夫 說得多麼好啊, "拋在荒野中, 拋在 醛拉都夫'! 不過呢, 我們該走了。和 你相識了真是不勝榮幸…… 之至。 我們應該給你多少錢?"

藥劑師的妻把眼睛望看天花板, 她的嘴唇動了一會兒。

^{4.} Saratov——俄國東部地名, 在 Volga 河上。

^{5.} make one's acquaintance —— get acquaintance with one; become friends with one, 結交(某人)。

^{6.} her lips moved for some time——因 默計發數,故嘴唇動了一會。

"Twelve roubles forty-eight kopecks," she said.

Obtyosov took out of his pocket a fat pocketbook, and after fumbling for some time among the notes, paid.

"Your husband's sleeping sweetly, he must be dreaming," he muttered, pressing her hand at parting.

"I don't like to hear silly remarks."

"What silly remarks? On the contrary," it's not silly at all..... even Shakespeare said: Happy is he who in his youth is young."

"Let go my hand."

At last after much talk and after kissing the lady's hand at parting,

^{1.} a fat pocket·book——裝着許多錢的 餐夾子。

^{2.} silly remarks——特指兒女柔情之類的話。(Silly 在許多地方都不作愚蠢解, 多半都是指傻得可爱的傻。)

"十二 盧布四十八戈貝,"她說。 阿布第歐索夫從他衣袋裏拿出 一個很肥的錢包來,在那些鈔票當 中胡亂找了一陣之後,便把錢付 了。

"你的丈夫睡得很甜哩……他一 定在作着夢,"他臨別時握住她的手, 喃喃地說。

"我不喜歌聽這些傻話……"

"什麼傻話?其實呢,這是一點 也不傻的 …… 您<u>莎士比亞也說過</u>: 人生貴行樂, 莫負少年時呀。"

"放了我的手器。"

末了, 說了許多話又在臨別時 吻了吻這少婦的手之後 , 這兩位

^{3.} On the contrary——不但不如你所說。

^{4.} Happy is he who in his youth is young——有些人未老先衰,校在青春時期能够過着青年生活的人便可說是快樂的人,幸福的人。

the customers went out of the shop irresolutely, as though they were wondering whether they had not forgotten something.

She ran quickly into the bedroom and sat down in the same place. She saw the doctor and the officer, on coming out of the shop, walk lazily away a distance of twenty paces; then they stopped and began whispering together. What about? Her heart throbbed, there was a pulsing in her temples, and why she did not know. Her heart beat violently as though those two whispering outside were deciding her fate.

Five minutes later the doctor parted from Obtyosov and walked on, while Obtyosov came back. He walked past the shop once and a second time. . . . He would stop near the door and then take a few steps again. At last the bell tinkled discreetly.

顧客終於躊躇不决地走出了這個店 館,好像還在想着他們是否遺忘了 什麼一般。

她便趕快跑到寢室裏,仍舊坐在原來的地方。她看見那醫生和軍官出了店門便懶洋洋地走出二十步之外,然後站住,開始互相低語。說些什麼?她的心撲撲地跳,太陽角上也有些搏動心。跳得非常剧烈,好麼那兩個在外面低語的人是在决定她的命運一般。

五分鐘之後,那醫生別了阿布 您歐索夫繼續往前走,而阿布第歐 空夫却走回來。他由店舖門前走過 一次又一次…… 他總是在門邊停步 一下,然後又走幾步。末了門鈴終於 膽小地響了。 "What? Who is there?" the chemist's wife heard her husband's voice suddenly. "There's a ring at the bell, and you don't hear it," he said, severely. "Is that the way to do things?"

He got up, put on his dressinggown, and staggering, half asleep, flopped in his slippers to the shop.

"What.... is it?" he asked Obtyosov

"Give me.... give me four pennyworth of peppermint lozenges."

Sniffing continually, yawning, dropping asleep as he moved, and knocking his knees against the counter, the chemist went to the shelf and reached down the jar.

Two minutes later the chemist's wife saw Obtyosov go out of the shop, and, after he had gone some steps, she saw him throw the packet of peppermints on the dusty road. The doctor came from behind a

"怎麽?那是誰?"樂劑師的妻忽然聽見她的丈夫的聲音。"門口鈴子響,你却沒有聽見,"他嚴厲地說。這樣作事情還行嗎?"

他便爬起來,披上他的便袍, 华醒宇陲一歪一倒地穿着拖鞋噗咚 噗咚地走到店舖裏去了。

"什麽……事情呀?"他問阿布第

"給我拿…… 給我拿四辨士的薄荷樂糖能。"

樂劑師不住的打着噴嚏,打着 呵欠,一面走動一面打瞌,膝頭碰 着櫃台,他這樣子走到架子前面, 把那罐子拿了下來。

雨分鐘之後,藥劑師的妻看見 阿布第歐索夫走出店舖去,他走了 幾步之後,她便看見他把那包滿 荷樂糖拋在那灰塵滿地的路上了。 corner to meet him.... They met and, gesticulating, vanished in the morning mist.

"How unhappy I am!" said the chemist's wife, looking angrily at her husband, who was undressing quickly to get into bed again. "Oh, how unhappy I am!" she repeated, suddenly melting into bitter tears." "And nobody knows, nobody knows."

"I forgot fourpence on the counter," muttered the chemist, pulling the quilt over him. "Put it away in the till, please...."

And at once he fell asleep again.

^{1.} melt into bitter tears—be softened

那 图 生 從 一 個 角 落 裏 出 來 和 他 相 會 … … 他 們 兩 個 相 見 了 , 一 面 作 着 手 勢 , 便 在 那 早 晨 的 烟 霧 當 中 不 見 了 。

"我多麼不幸啊!"樂劑師的妻看 見她的丈夫趕快地脫着衣服又上床 去睡,便含怒地地望着他說。"哦, 我多麼不幸啊!"她一連這麼說着, 忽然傷心地掉起眼淚來了。"誰也不 知道,誰也不知道……"

"我忘記了四個辨士在櫃台上 哩,"樂劑師拉着被窩蓋起來,一面 喃喃地說着。"放到錢櫃裏去罷,讀 你……"

於是他立刻又入睡了。

by emotion into tears, 因威情激發而哭泣。

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