

CHUNG HWA BILINGUAL SERIES

THE PEARL OF LOVE
AND OTHERS

BY

H. G. WELLS, etc.



CHUNG HWA BOOK CO., SHANGHAI

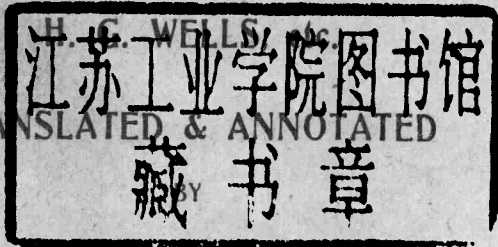


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BY



CHIEN GOCHUEN



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小 引

這裏選譯的十篇小說，除了 Charels Lever 以外，其餘都是美英現在的作家。H. G. Wells 當然是老大家了，其餘差不多都是新進。選譯的時候並沒有打算要出這個集子，僅是隨時讀到，覺得還有點意思，便把它譯出來了。

現在用英漢對照的辦法，刊印成冊，不僅可作學習英文的課本，同時也可作為一本短篇小說選集來讀。

至於為什麼要拿「愛珠」一篇來作書名，那是毫無理由的。

民國三十四年六月

錢歌川於重慶。

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愛 珠

THE PEARL OF LOVE

CON CREGAN'S LEGACY

BY CHARLES LEVER

I was born in a little cabin on the borders of Meath and King's County: it stood on a small triangular bit of ground, beside a crossroad; and although the place was surveyed every ten years or so, they were never able to say to which county we belonged, there being just the same number of arguments for one side as for the other—a circumstance, many believed, that decided my father in his original choice of the residence; for while, under the “disputed boundary question,” he paid no rates or county cess,¹ he always made a point of voting at both country elections! This may seem to indicate that my parent² was of a naturally acute habit; and indeed the way he became *possessed of³ the bit of ground will confirm that impression.

There was nobody of the rank of gentry⁴ in the parish, nor even squireen;⁵ the richest being a farmer, a snug old fellow, one⁶ Henry M'Cabe, that had two sons; who were always fighting between themselves which was to have the old man's money. Peter, the elder, doing everything

1. 稅. 2. 指父親. 3. 所有. 4. 紳士, 鄉紳. 5. 半農半紳的人.

康克雷剛的遺產

我生在米斯和玉郡邊界上的一個小屋子裏：那屋子建在一塊小三角形的土地上，在一條交叉路的旁邊，雖則那地方每隔十年光景要來勘察一次，他們却從來說不出那是屬於那一郡的，雙方的議論都一樣言之成理——許多人都相信，就是那種情形使得我父親選定這地方來居家的；因為在那種爭訟不決的疆界問題之下，他可以付郡稅，不納捐款，而在兩郡的選舉中，他都能得到投票的權利！這好像是表示我父親有一種天生銳敏的習慣；而以他佔住那塊地方的情形看來，確要證實人們對他的那種印象。

在那教區裏面，沒有一個縉紳，甚至連一個半農半紳的人都沒有；最關的是一個農夫，一個生活舒服的老頭兒，名叫亨利·馬凱甫，他有兩個兒子，他們爲着想爭這老頭兒的財產，兩兄弟時常要打架。大哥彼得想盡種種方

6- 一個姓……的人。

to injure Mat, and Mat never backward in *paying off⁷ the obligation. At last Mat, tired out in the struggle, resolved he would bear⁸ no more. He *took leave of⁹ his father one night, and next day *set off¹⁰ for Dublin, and 'listed¹¹ in *the "Bufs."¹² Three weeks after, he sailed for India; and the old man, overwhelmed by grief, *took to¹³ his bed, and never arose from it after.

Not that his death was any way sudden, for he lingered on for months longer; Peter alway: teasing him to make his will, and he revenged on "the dirty spalpeen"¹⁴ that disgraced the family but old Harry¹⁵ as stoutly resisting and declaring that whatever he owned should be fairly¹⁶ divided between them.

These disputes between them were well known in the neighbourhood. *Few of the country people passing the house at night but¹⁷ had overheard the old man's weak reedy¹⁸ voice, and Peter's deep hoarse one,¹⁹ in altercation.²⁰ When, at last—it was on a Sunday night—all was still and quiet in the house; not a word, not a footstep, could be heard, no more than if it were uninhabited, the neighbours looked knowingly at each other, and wondered if the old man were worse—if he were dead!

7. 報復. 8. 忍受. 9. 向……告辭. 10. 出發. 11. —enlisted

法，來傷害他的弟弟馬特，而馬特也從來不肯示弱，隨時予以報復。最後馬特對於那種鬪牆的事感到厭倦了，決定不能再忍受。他有天晚上，和他父親告了辭，第二天便出發到都伯林去了，在那裏他投入了老第三軍去吃糧。三個月之後，便開拔到印度去了；而那老頭兒，傷心幼子離家，竟病倒在床上，從此不起。

不過他並沒有突然死去，他纏綿牀褥，也過了好幾個月的時候；大兒子彼得常常要固請他立下一份遺囑，以便對那玷辱家聲的「髒小子」復仇；可是老頭兒却堅持不肯，而聲言他所有的財產，要給兩個兒子平均分配。

父子間的這種爭持，鄰舍大家都知道。有幾個鄉下人晚上在他們家門口走過，總要聽到那老頭兒柔弱的聲音，和彼得粗暴的言語，你一句我一句地在爭論着。終至，在一個禮拜天的晚上，那屋子裏一切都寂靜了；沒有一句說話的聲音，沒有一聲脚步，可以聽見了，就好像那屋子裏，不曾住得有人似的，鄰人面面相覷，彼此心照，亟想知道那老頭兒是不是病危，是不是已經死去！

應募入伍。 12. 英國老第三團，即今之 The East Kent Regiment. 13. 竟至病倒。 14. 少年，無用的傢伙。 15. 即 Henry 的俗稱。 16. 公平地。 17. 差不多沒有在夜裏經過他家不…… 18. 很弱的像蘆笛聲一般的。 19. voice. 20. 爭論，口角。

It was a little after midnight that a knock came to the door of our cabin.²¹ I heard it first, for I used to sleep in a little snug basket near the fire; but I didn't speak, for I was frightened. It was repeated still louder, and then came a cry: "Con Cregan; Con, *I say,²² open the door! I want you." I knew the voice well; it was Peter M'Cabe's; but I pretended to be *fast asleep,²³ and snored loudly. As last my father unbolted the door, and I heard him say, "Oh, Mr. Peter, what's the matter? is the ould²⁴ man worse?"

"Faix²⁵ that's what he is! for he's dead!"

"Glory be his bed! When did it happen?"

"About an hour ago," said Peter, in a voice that even I from my corner could perceive was greatly agitated. "He died like an ould haythen,²⁶ Con, and never made a will!"

"That's bad," says my father, for he was always a polite man, and said whatever was pleasing to the company.

"It is bad," said Peter; "but it would be worse if we couldn't help it. Listen to me now, Corny, I want ye²⁷ to help me in this business; and here's five guineas in goold,²⁸ if ye do what I bid ye. You know that ye were always reckoned

21. 小屋. 22. 喂. 23. 睡熟. 24. =old. 25. =fixedly, 確然.

在夜半甫過，我們小屋子的門上，便有人來敲門了。我最初聽見，因為我老是睡在火爐旁邊舒服的筐子裏的；但是我沒有答應，夜半敲門，把我嚇倒了。敲門的聲音愈來愈大，隨着有一個聲音叫出：『康克雷剛；老康，開門呀！我要找你有事。』那聲音我很熟習；那是彼得·馬凱甫；但是我仍然裝做睡熟了，故意大聲地打着鼾。終於我父親起來把門打開了，我聽見他說，『哦，彼得先生，有什麼事？老頭兒很糟嗎？』

『他確是很糟呀！因為他已經死了！』

『願他安息！那是什麼時候的事？』

『大約在一小時以前，』彼得說，他的聲音很激昂，我甚至睡在那角落上，也可以聽得出來。『老康，他像一個異教徒一樣地死去了，竟至沒有立下一份遺囑來！』

『那很不好，』我父親說，因為他時常是一個很客氣的人，說的話都是使對手聽得高興的。

『這很不好，』彼得說；『但是如果我們沒有辦法，那豈不很壞。現在，老康，請你聽我說吧。我要你在這件事情上幫助我一下；這兒是五基尼的金幣，如果你肯照我

the image²⁹ of my father, and before he took ill ye were mistaken for each other every day of the week."

"Anan!" said my father; for he was getting frightened at the notion, without well knowing why.

"Well, what I want is, for ye to come over to the house, and get into the bed."

"Not beside the corpse?" said my father, trembling.

*"By no means,³⁰ but by yourself; and you're to pretend to be my father, and that ye want to make yer³¹ will before ye die; and then I'll send for the neighbours, and Billy Scanlan the school-master, and ye'll tell him what to write, laving³² all the farm and everything to me—ye understand. And as the neighbours will see ye, and hear yer voice, it will never be believed but that it was himself that did it."

"The room must be very dark," says my father.

"To be sure it will, but have no fear! Nobody will dare to come nigh³³ the bed; and ye'll only have to *make a cross³⁴ with yer pen under the name."

29. 影像 (因爲他們兩人很相像).

30. 決不.

31. —your.

的辦。你知道人們常認為你很像我父親，在他生病以前，每天別人都要把你們兩個弄錯人的。』

『哎呀！』我父親說；因為他不曉得彼得什麼意思，聽見他那樣一說有點嚇倒了。

『好吧，我所要的是請你到我家裏去一次，睡到那床上。』

『該不是要我睡在死屍旁邊吧？』我父親戰慄地問了。

『決不是，床上只有你一個人；你去假裝做我的父親，而在死之前要立下你的遺囑；你去了之後，我便要把那些鄰舍找來，和那學堂裏的老師，你告訴他怎樣寫，把所有的農場和一切都遺傳給我——你懂得的。當鄰舍看見你，聽到你說話，他們一定相信是我父親本人幹的。』

『那房間裏一定要很暗才行，』我父親說。

那一定，但是你不要怕！誰也不敢走近來；寫好你只消在名字下面用筆劃個十字就成了。』

“And the priest?” said my father.

“My father quarrelled with him last week about the Easter dues: and Father Tom said he'd not give him the 'rites': and that's lucky now! Come along now, quick, for we've no time to lose: it must be all finished before the day breaks.”

My father did not lose much time at his toilet, for he just wrapped his big coat 'round³⁵ him, and slipping on his brogues,³⁶ left the house. I sat up in the basket and listened till they were gone some minutes; and then, in a costume as light as my parent's, set out after them, to watch the course of the adventure. I thought to take a *short cut,³⁷ and be before them; but by bad luck I fell into a bog³⁸ hole, and only escaped being drowned by chance. As it was, when I reached the house, the performance had already begun.

I think I see the whole scene *this instant³⁹ before my eyes, as I sat on a little window with one pane,⁴⁰ and that a broken one, and surveyed the proceeding. It was a large room, at one end of which was a bed, and beside it a table, with *physic bottles,⁴¹ and spoons, and teacups; a little farther off was another table, at which sat Billy Scanlan, with all manners of writing materials

35. —around. 36. 粗鞋. 37. 捷徑. 38. 池沼. 39. 現在.

『那牧師呢；』我父親問。

『我父親爲着復活節納付會費的事，上禮拜和他鬧翻了；托姆神父說，將來不替他行任何儀式；而現在這倒反而好些！快點吧，現在我們就去，因爲再遲時間來不及了；在天亮以前，一切都得辦好。』

我父親很快就打扮好了，因爲他只披了一件大衣在身上，再穿上一雙粗鞋，便離家去了。我在爐框中早坐了起來，豎耳聽着，等他們走了好幾分鐘，才起來穿上我父親一樣的輕裝，也追蹤而去，去看他們扮演那一幕戲。我想要插近路去，好在他們之先達到那裏；但是不幸跌到池沼裏，險些兒淹死了。因爲這樣一來，等我走到他們那屋子的時候，那表演已經開始了。

我想，那整個的情形，現在還歷歷在我目前，當時我坐在那一塊玻璃的，而且是一塊破玻璃的小窗子前面，觀察那種進行。那是一間大房間，一頭是一張床，床邊有一張桌子，桌上有藥瓶，調匙和茶杯之類；離開一點，還有一張桌子，桌前坐着那位學堂裏的老師，他前面擺着筆

before him. The country people sat *two, sometimes three, deep⁴² round the walls, all intently eager and anxious for the coming event. Peter himself went from place to place, trying to smother his grief, and occasionally helping⁴³ the company to whisky—which was supplied with more than accustomed liberality.

All my consciousness of the deceit and trickery could not deprive the scene of a certain solemnity. The misty distance of the half-lighted room; the highly wrought⁴⁴ expression of the country people's faces, never more intensely excited than at some moment of this kind; the low, deep-drawn breathings, unbroken save⁴⁵ by a sigh or a sob—the tribute of affectionate sorrow to some lost friend, whose memory was thus forcibly brought back: these, I repeat it, were all so real, that, as I looked, a thrilling sense of awe stole over me, and I actually shook with fear.

A low faint cough, from the dark corner where the bed stood, seemed to cause even a deeper stillness; and then in a silence where the buzzing of a fly would have been heard, my father said: "Where's Billy Scanlan? I want to make my will!"

42. 二重或三重厚. 43. 敬. 44. 做作的. 45. =except.

墨紙張。鄉下人圍着四壁，兩個有時三個一重重地坐着，都對於馬上要來的事很熱烈而切望着。彼得本人便這裏那裏走來走去，試想抑制他的悲慟，有時也給來賓敬酒，那時酒的供給是比向例要慷慨得多。

我雖明知這一切都不外是欺騙和詭計，但那場面看去仍不失其相當的莊嚴。那半明的房間裏的迷濛的距離，那些鄉下人面孔上勉強做出的表情，在同樣情形中從來沒有這樣興奮的；只聽見低微而深深的呼吸，大家都靜默着一言不發，除非是一聲歎息或是歔歔——對於一個死去的朋友哀悼的表示，這時特別地回憶到他：這些，我再說一遍，都做得那般真實，當我望着的時候，竟使我發生了一種戰慄之感，我真個地恐怖得發抖了。

從那佈着床鋪的黑暗角落上，發出一聲低微的咳嗽，好像惹起了一種更深的靜穆；於是在那一個蒼蠅的嗡嗡聲都可以聽見的寂靜之中，我的父親說話了：『老師在那裏？我要立遺囑！』

“He’s here, father!” said Peter, taking Billy by the hand and leading him to the bedside.

“Write what I bid ye, Billy, and be quick; for I haven’t a long time afore me here. I die a good Catholic, though Father O’Rafferty won’t give me the ‘rites’!”

A general chorus of muttered “Oh! musha,⁴⁶ musha,” was now heard through the room; but whether in grief over the sad fate of the dying man, or the unflinching severity of the priest, is hard to say.

“I die in peace with all my neighbours and all mankind!”

Another chorus of the company seemed to approve these charitable expressions.

“I bequeath unto my son, Peter—and never was there a better son, or a decenter boy!—have you that down? I bequeath unto my son, Peter, the whole of my two farms of Killimundoonery and Knocksheboora, with the fallow meadows behind Lynch’s house, the forge, and the right of turf on the Dooran bog, I give him, and much good may it do him, Lanty Cassarn’s acre, and the Luary field, with the limekiln; and that reminds me that my mouth is just as dry; let me taste what ye have in the jug.” Here the dying man took a very hearty pull, and seemed considerably

46. =master.

『老師在這裏，父親！』彼得說，牽着那位老師的手，把他帶到床邊。

『照我說的寫下來，畢利，快一點；因為我已經不能久在人世了。我至死是一個好天主教徒，雖則奧神甫不肯給我舉行儀式！』

人們都異口同聲地喃喃說道：『哦！天呀，天呀，』聲震全室；但那是爲着悲傷臨死者的厄運呢，還是爲着那牧師的毫無畏縮的嚴厲，却很難說。

『我與所有的鄰人和所有的人類都很和好，現在死去也無遺憾！』

大家又異口同聲地回應了，好像認可他這仁慈的話語。

『我傳給我的兒子彼得——他是一個最好的兒子，一個高尚的孩子——你寫下來了沒有？我遺傳給我的兒子彼得，我在吉利蒙多內里和納克雪布拉兩個整個的農場，外加林氏屋場後面的那些空着的牧場，那個鐵工廠，以及多蘭沼澤上的草土權。使他更好一點，我還給他蘭蒂卡桑的地土，羅利的田地，和那石灰窖；那使我想起我的口也和那窖一樣乾了；讓我吃一點那瓶子裏的東西吧。』於是那要死的人，暢飲了一回，好像使他提起了不少的精神。『畢

refreshed by it. "Where was I, Billy Scanlan?" says he; "oh, I remember, at the limekiln; I leave him—that's Peter, I mean—the two potato gardens at Noonan's Well; and it is the elegant fine crops grows there."

"Ain't⁴⁷ you gettin' wake, father, darlin'?" says Peter, who began to be afraid of my father's loquaciousness;⁴⁸ for, to say the truth, the punch⁴⁹ got into his head, and he was greatly disposed⁵⁰ to talk.

"I am, Peter, my son," says he; "I am getting wake; just touch my lips again with the jug. Ah, Peter, Peter, you watered⁵¹ the drink!"

"No, indeed, father; but it's the taste is lavin' you," says Peter; and again a low chorus of compassionate pity murmured through the cabin.

"Well, I'm nearly done now," says my father: "there's only one little plot of ground remaining; and I put it on you, Peter—as ye wish to live a good man, and die with the same easy heart I do now—that ye mind my last words to ye here. Are ye listening? Are the neighbours listening? Is Billy Scanlan listening?"

"Yes, sir. Yes, father. We're all minding!"⁵² chorused the audience.

47. = Aren't. 48. 多言. 49. (酒)力. 50. 想要. 51. 渗水.

利，我說到那裏了呀？』他問；『哦，我記得了，剛說到那石灰窖；我遺傳給他——那是指彼得——在諾南井的兩塊洋芋田；那裏的收成是非常好的。』

『親愛的父親，你難道還沒有蘇醒嗎？』彼得說，他開始有點怕我父親要多說話露出馬脚，因為，老實說，他高興起來，他就很想要喋喋不休的。

『我蘇醒了，彼得，我的兒子，』他說；『我蘇醒了；再把那瓶子拿來讓我喝兩口吧。呀，彼得，彼得，你把酒裏面滲了水吧！』

『決沒有，父親；只是因為你沒有口味的原故，』彼得說；屋子內又異口同聲地發出喃喃的同情的憐恤。

『好吧，我差不多已經要說完了，』我的父親說：『所餘只有一小塊土地，彼得，我現在對你說——因為你想活着做一個好人，將來死時也和我現在一樣地心安理得——你注意我現在要對你說的話。你在聽着嗎？諸位鄰舍都在聽着嗎？畢利老師在聽着嗎？』

『是，先生。是，父親。我們大家都注意在聽！』聽衆同聲地說。

“Well, then, it’s my *last will and testament,⁵³ and may—give me over the jug,”—here he took a long drink—“and may that blessed liquor be poison to me if I’m not eager about this as every other part of my will; I say, then, I bequeath the little plot at the crossroads to poor Con Cregan; for he has a very heavy charge,⁵⁴ and is as honest and as hard working a man as ever I knew. Be a friend to him, Peter, dear; never let him want⁵⁶ while ye have it yourself; think of me on my deathbed whenever he asks ye for any trifle. Is it down, Billy Scanlan? the two acres at the cross to Con Cregan, and his heirs **in secla seclorum*.⁵⁶ Ah, blessed be the saints!⁵⁷ but I feel my heart lighter after that,” says he; “a good work makes an easy conscience; and now I’ll drink all the company’s good health, and many happy returns—”

What he was going to add, there’s no saying; but Peter, who was now terribly frightened at the lively tone the sick man was assuming, hurried all the people away into another room, to let his father die in peace.

When they were all gone, Peter slipped back to my father, who was putting on his brogues in a

53. 遺囑. 54. 負擔. 55. 缺乏. 56. 或作 *in secla seclorum*—

『好吧，那末，這是最後的遺囑，也許——給我那酒瓶吧，』——於是他又大喝了一陣——『也許那好酒對我有毒，我急於要把它弄好也和我急於要把我這遺囑的其他部分弄好一樣；所以聽我說，我現在把交叉路上的那一小塊土地遺傳給康克雷剛，因為他的負擔很重，爲人誠實，是我認識的一個最苦幹的人。親愛的彼得，你要對他做一個好朋友；你有的時候，絕對不要讓他有所缺乏；如果他來問你要點什麼小東西，你就得想到我臨死時的話。畢利老師，你寫下來了沒有？把那交叉路旁邊的兩畝地給康克雷剛，永久成爲他家的產業。哎，謝天謝地！把這個弄好了，我的心裏覺得輕快了不少，』他說；『事情做好，心裏也安了；現在我要祝諸位健康，永年長壽——』。

他還加說了一些什麼，都無關重要，用不着說；不過彼得現在看見病人說話時那種生氣勃勃的語調，衷心爲之恐懼不堪，急急地把所有的人都請到另外一間房間裏去，說是要讓他父親安靜地死去。

當客人大家都走了以後，彼得便溜回到我父親的身邊——他那雙粗鞋藏在角落上，所以不能下床——說：『老

corner: "Con," says he, "ye did it all well; but sure that was a joke about the two acres at the cross."

"Of course it was, Peter," says he; "sure it was all a joke for the matter of that: won't I make the neighbours laugh hearty to-morrow when I tell them all about it!"

"You wouldn't be mean⁵⁸ enough to betray me?" says Peter, trembling with fright.

"Sure ye wouldn't be mean enough to go against yer father's dying words?" says my father; "the last sentence ever he spoke;" and here he gave a low wicked laugh, that made himself shake with fear.

"Very well, Con!" says Peter, holding out his hand; "a bargain's a bargain; ye're a deep fellow, that's all!" and so it ended; and my father slipped quietly home over the bog, mighty well satisfied with the legacy he left himself.

And thus we became the owners of the little spot known to this day as Con's Acre.

58. 下流.

康，你裝扮得都很好；但是關於交叉路近旁那兩畝地的事，那一定是開玩笑的吧。』

『彼得，那當然是開玩笑的，』我父親回答說；『那整個的事情，就是一個大的玩笑；我明天把這一切告訴那些鄰舍，你看他們不會笑痛肚皮！』

『你不會那樣下流來背棄我的吧？』彼得說，嚇得發起抖來。

『你一定不會那樣下流來反抗你父親臨死的話吧？』我父親說；『他所說的那最後的一句話』；在這當兒，他發出一聲陰險的低笑，那使得他自己也恐怖得戰慄了。

『好吧，老康！』彼得說，伸出他的手來和我父親握手；『就算這樣決定了吧；一句話，你真是一個深刻的人！』問題就是這樣解決了；我父親從池沼上悄悄地溜回家來，對於他自己遺傳給他的那一筆遺產，感到十分滿意。

於是那塊小小的土地便成爲我們的產業了，直到今日大家通稱爲康莊。

THE PEARL OF LOVE

BY H. G. WELLS

THE pearl is lovelier than the most brilliant of crystalline stones, the moralist declares, because it is made through the suffering of a living creature. About that I can say nothing because *I feel none of the fascination of pearls.¹ Their cloudy lustre moves me not at all. Nor can I decide for myself upon that age-long dispute whether The Pearl of Love is the cruellest of stories or only a gracious fable of the immortality of beauty.

Both the story and the controversy will be familiar to students of mediaeval Persian prose. The story is a short one, though the commentary upon it is a respectable part of the literature of that period. They have treated it as a poetic invention and they have treated it as an allegory meaning *this, that, or the other thing.² Theologians have had their copious way with it, dealing with it particularly as concerning the restoration of the body after death, and it has been greatly used as a parable by those who write about aesthetics. And many have held it to be the statement of a fact, simply and baldly true.

1. 珍珠的可愛，我一點也不覺得。 2. 這樣那樣。

楊 愛 珠

德育家說，珍珠比那最光燦的晶石還要可愛，因為這是由於一個生物的受難而產生的。關於這一點，我什麼也不能說，因為珍珠對於我一點也無誘惑。它那種幽暗的光彩，完全不能使我感動。所以「愛珠」到底是一個最殘酷的故事，還只是一個不滅之美的優雅的寓言，雖長年爭訟不決，我也不能自斷。

那故事以及那種爭論，對於研究波斯中古散文的學生，都是很熟習的。那故事很短，雖則它的註釋成為那個時期中文學的頗重要的一部分。他們把它作為一種詩的發明看待，他們又曾把它視作一種寓言，而詮釋出種種的意義來。神學家也以各種各樣的方法來研究它，尤其是認為它與死後恢復肉體有關，而那些攻美學的人，視為一種寓言，而大加利用。很多人把它認為是一種真實得單純無飾的事實的記述。

The story is laid in North India, which is the most fruitful soil for sublime love stories of all the lands in the world. It was in a country of sunshine and lakes and rich forests and hills and fertile valleys; and far away the great mountains hung in the sky, peaks, crests, and ridges of *inaccessible and eternal snow.³ There was a young prince, lord of all the land; and he found a maiden of indescribable beauty and delightfulness and he made her his queen and laid his heart at her feet. Love was theirs, full of joys and sweetness, full of hope, exquisite, brave and marvellous love, beyond anything you have ever dreamt of love. It was theirs for a year and a part of a year; and then suddenly, because of some venomous sting that came to her in a thicket, she died.

She died and for a while the prince was utterly prostrated. He was silent and motionless with grief. They feared he might kill himself, and he had neither sons nor brothers to succeed him. For two days and nights he *lay upon his face,⁴ fasting,⁵ across the foot of the couch which bore her calm and lovely body. Then he arose and ate, and went about very quietly like one who has taken a great resolution. He caused her body

3. 終年不消之雪。 4. 伏臥。 5. 絕食。

那故事的背景，是在北印度，那地方是在世界各國中，崇高的愛情故事最豐富的產地。那是一個陽光普照，幽谷森林，湖山競豔的國家。遠望高山，直入雲際，峯際千秋白雪，終年不消。那國中有一個年輕的王公，率士之濱，莫非王土。他找到了一個快樂的絕代佳人，立爲王后，而傾心拜倒在她的羅裙。他們相愛至篤，充滿着溫柔愉快，充滿着希望，他們的愛既熱烈而又勇敢，實爲人間所稀有，遠非我們夢想所及。他們有一年多陶醉在這種愛情之中，後來因爲在叢林中被一根毒刺所傷，而突然奪去了她的生命。

她死了，那位王公一時痛切失偶，無以節哀。他悲傷得默然無語，呆若木雞。羣臣都擔心怕他殉情自殺，因爲他既無兒女，又無兄弟，可以繼位。一連兩晝夜，他伏臥在安放着她那平靜而可愛的屍體的榻下，不飲不食。後來他起來了，進食了，好像一個下了大決心的人一樣，很鎮

to be put in a coffin of lead mixed with silver, and for that he had an outer coffin made of the most precious and scented woods wrought with gold, and about that there was to be a sarcophagus of alabaster, inlaid with precious stones. And while these things were being done he spent his time for the most part by the pools and in the garden houses and pavilions and groves and in those chambers in the palace where they two had been most together, *brooding upon⁶ her loveliness. He did not rend his garments nor defile himself with ashes and sackcloth as the custom was, for his love was too great for such extravagances. At last he came forth again among his councillors and before the people, and told them what he had a mind to do.

He said he could never more touch woman, he could never more think of them, and so he would find a seemly⁷ youth to adopt for his heir and train him to his task, and that he would do his princely duties as became him;⁸ but that for the rest of it, he would give himself with all his power and all his strength and all his wealth, all that he could command, to make a monument *worthy of⁹ his incomparable, dear, lost mistress. A building it

6. 沈思默念. 7. 適當的. 8. 相當的, 適宜於他的. 9. 值得, 配得上.

靜地來回走着。他叫人把王后的屍體，殮在一個銀鉛合金的槨裏，再放在一個黃金鑲着最珍貴的香木所做的棺中，外面還有一個嵌着寶石的方解石的石棺。當這些都辦好了的時候，他便把大部分的時間，消磨在水池旁邊，花園裏的涼亭裏，和樹林中，以及宮中他們夫婦常在一塊的那些房間里，獨自回想着她的柔情蜜意。他並沒有依照習慣扯破他的衣裳，也沒有用灰和喪服沾污他自己，因為他的愛情太偉大了，用不着這些過分的形式。最後，他又走出來接見朝臣和他的人民，告訴他們他的一種決意。

他說他再也不能去接觸婦人了，他再也不能去想她們，所以他要找一個適當的青年，來承繼做他的太子，訓練好來做他的事情，而他自己仍將盡其王公職責，理其相當的政務；但要把其餘的時間，和其所有的力量，財富，以及他所能指揮的一切，來建築一座紀念陵寢，足夠配得上他那死去的，天下無匹的親愛的王后。那應該成爲一座

should be of perfect grace and beauty, more marvellous than any other building had ever been or could ever be, so that to the end of time it should be a wonder, and men would treasure it and speak of it and desire to see it and come from all the lands of the earth to visit and recall the name and the memory of his queen. And this building he said was to be called the Pearl of Love.

And this his councillors and people permitted him to do, and so he did.

Year followed year and all the years he devoted himself to building and adorning the Pearl of Love. A great foundation was hewn out of the living rock in a place whence one seemed to be looking at the snowy wilderness of the great mountain across the valley of the world. Villages and hills there were, a winding river, and very far away three great cities. Here they put the sarcophagus of alabaster beneath a pavilion cunning¹⁰ workmanship; and about it there were set¹¹ pillars of strange and lovely stone and wrought and fretted walls, and a great casket of masonry bearing a dome and pinnacles and cupolas, as exquisite as a jewel. At first the design of the Pearl of Love was less bold and subtle than it became later. At first

10. 精巧的. 11. 組合的.

優美瑰奇的建築物，空前絕後，驚異無比，到後來當可成爲世界一奇，人們會寶愛它，稱讚它，而都希望一見，以飽眼福，所以從天南地北，世界各國的人都將來游覽，而想到他的王后的名字，緬懷其生平。而這個建築物，他說是決定名叫「愛珠」。

這個，他的臣民允許了他做，而他也就實際去做了。

年復一年，他在那些年中都獻身於「愛珠」的建築和裝飾。他在一個可以遠眺空谷那邊的高山雪野的地方就天生的石岩上鑿出一塊大的基地來。那兒有村莊，有起伏的山崗，有蜿蜒的河流，隔得遠遠的還有三大城市。就把那基地，作爲窀穸，安葬着那方解石的石棺，上面再覆以一個匠人巧建的亭子；在其周圍排列着一些奇矯可愛的石柱，和細工雕琢的牆，還有一個大的圓頂石屋，和小尖塔，圓頂閣，精美一如珠寶。當初，那「愛珠」的圖案，是沒有後來修改的那般雄壯精巧。當初是比較小，而且雕

it was smaller and more wrought and encrusted; there were many pierced screens and delicate clustres of rosy-hued pillars, and the sarcophagus lay like a child that sleeps among flowers. The first dome was covered with green tiles, framed and held together by silver, but this was taken away again because it seemed close, because it did not soar grandly enough for the broadening imagination of the prince.

For by this time he was no longer the graceful youth who had loved the girl queen. He was now a man, grave and intent, *wholly set upon¹² the building of the Pearl of Love. With every year of effort he had learnt new possibilities in arch and wall and buttress; he had acquired greater power over the material he had to use and he had learnt of a hundred stones and hues and effects that he could never have thought of in the beginning. His sense of colour had grown finer and colder; he cared no more for the enamelled gold-lined brightness that had pleased him first, the brightness of an *illuminated missal;¹³ he sought now for blue colourings like the sky and for the subtle hues of great distances, for recondite shadows and sudden broad floods of purple opalescence and for grandeur

12. 專心注在。 13. 手繪彩圖彌撒書。

琢多；那兒有許多露空的雕牆，精細的薔薇色的叢柱，把那石棺放在其中，就像一個小孩睡在花間。第一個圓屋頂，是用綠瓦蓋的，用白銀做架子把它結合攏來，但這個後來又摧毀了，因為它看去好像太沉悶，而且它高聳得不夠莊嚴，不合那王公的開豁的想像。

因為到這時他早已不是鍾愛那少女王后的嫺雅的青年了。他現在是一個嚴肅而專注的人，以全部的心力付在那「愛珠」的建築上。隨着連年的努力，他學會了建築拱門，牆壁，拱柱的時新的可能性；他在那些非用不可的材料上，獲得了更大的力量，他認識了百種不同的石頭和色彩及其效果，那是他當初決未想到的。他對於顏色的感覺，日益銳敏，日益冷靜；他早已不愛好他當初很喜歡的那些瑣瑣鑲金的光耀，那種手描的金碧輝煌的彌撒書一般的光耀；他現在追求的是像蒼穹一般蔚藍的顏色，是遠距離的精巧的合色，是紫色乳光的曖昧不明的陰影和突然開

and space. He wearied altogether of carvings and pictures and inlaid ornamentation and all the little careful work of men. "Those were pretty things," he said of his earlier decorations; and had them put aside into subordinate buildings where they would not hamper his main design. Greater and greater grew his artistry. With awe and amazement people saw the Pearl of Love *sweeping up¹⁴ from its first beginnings to a superhuman breadth and height and magnificence. They did not know clearly what they had expected, but never had they expected so sublime a thing as this. "Wonderful are the miracles," they whispered, "that love can do," and all the women in the world, whatever other loves they had, loved the prince for the splendour of his devotion.

Through the middle of the building ran a great aisle, a vista, that the prince come to care for more and more. From the inner entrance of the building he looked along the length of an immense pillarrd gallery and across the central area from which the rosy-hued columns had long since vanished, over the top of the pavilion under which lay the sarcophagus, through a marvellously designed opening, to the snowy wildernesses of the great mountain, the lord of all mountains, two

14. 平地而起。

朗的洪流，是偉大，是空曠。他對於那些雕刻，圖畫，鑲飾，以及一切細巧的人工，都完全厭倦了。『那些都算漂亮，』他提到他初期的那些裝飾時說；而現在已把它們拆到一邊，放在那些不足以妨礙他主要意匠的附屬的建築物中去。他的技藝的才能日益高明。人們帶着敬畏和驚異，看着『愛珠』昂然展開，從最初的荒野而達到超人間的廣大，崔巍壯麗。他們雖不十分知道，他們所預料的到底是什麼，不過他們從來沒有預料到有這樣崇高的一個東西產生出來。『愛情真是可以造出奇蹟來，』他們互相私語，於是全世界的女人們，不問她們是不是曾經已有愛人，現在都為那位王公顯赫的鍾情而愛上他了。

經過那建築之中，有一條通路，一條列樹間的通景，那兒王公日益注意了。從那建築物的裏面的入口，他向那無數石柱的長廊望過去，目經原有薔薇色的雕柱，而現已拆毀的中央地帶，再越過那下覆有石棺的亭頂，經過一個天工佈置的空地，而直達二百哩外那萬山之王的高山的雪

hundred miles away. The pillars and arches and buttresses and galleries soared and floated on either side, perfect yet unobtrusive, like great archangels waiting in the shadows about the presence of God. When men saw that austere beauty for the first time they were exalted, and then they shivered and their hearts bowed down. Very often would the prince come to stand there and look at that vista, deeply moved and not yet fully satisfied. The Pearl of Love had still something for him to do, he felt, before his task was done. Always he would order some little alteration to be made or some recent alteration to be put back again. And one day he said that the sarcophagus would be clearer and simpler without the pavilion; and after regarding it very steadfastly for a long time, he had the pavilion dismantled and removed.

The next day he came and said nothing, and the next day and the next. Then for two days he *stayed away¹⁵ altogether. Then he returned, bringing with him an architect and two master craftsmen and a small retinue.

All looked, standing together silently in a little group, amidst the serene vastness of their

15. 不到這裏來。

野。那些高柱，拱門，拱柱，通廊，高聳或平鋪在兩邊，完美而謙遜，像在陰影裏等待上帝到臨的大天使一般。當人們第一次看到那種嚴肅之美，他們都很高興，隨後却戰慄起來，他們的心佩服得五體投地。那王公常要來站在那兒，望着那通景，深為感動，但還不完全滿意，他覺得『愛珠』在他的工作告竣以前仍有待他來修正的地方。他時常要令工人改造一些小處，或是把剛去掉的東西又恢復過來。有一天他說如果不要蓋亭子，那石棺可以更清楚而更單純；他把這一點認真考慮許久之後，決計把亭子拆毀了。

第二天他來看，一句話也沒有說，一連幾天都是如此。於是有兩天他完全沒有出來看。再來的時候，他便帶着一個建築師，兩個匠頭，和一個隨員。

大家在他們那種偉大的成就之中站在一起默默地看

achievement. No trace of toil¹⁶ remained in its perfection. It was as if the God of nature's beauty had *taken over¹⁷ their offspring¹⁸ to himself.

Only one thing there was to mar the absolute harmony. There was a certain disproportion about the sarcophagus. It had never been enlarged, and indeed how could it have been enlarged since the early days? It challenged the eye; it nicked the streaming lines. In that sarcophagus was the casket of lead and silver, and in the casket of lead and silver was the queen, the dear immortal cause¹⁹ of all this beauty. But now that sarcophagus seemed no more than a little dark oblong²⁰ that lay incongruously in the great vista of the Pearl of Love. It was as if some one had dropped a small valise upon the crystal sea of heaven.

Long the prince mused, but no one knew the thoughts that passed through his mind.

At last he spoke. He pointed.

"Take that thing away," he said.

16. 人工的勞力. 17. 承受. 18. 產出物. 19. 原因.

了。在這天衣無縫的工程之中，無一點人工的痕跡可尋，這好像是自然美的主宰，把這些人造的東西化爲天工的一部分了。

那兒只有一件東西，妨礙那種絕對的和諧。就是那石棺有點不稱。那從來沒有放大過，從古以來就是如此，怎樣可以把它放大呢？那有點障眼，那在流線之上，刻缺了一點。在那石棺裏，是一個銀鉛合金的槨，在那銀鉛合金的槨裏是那死去的王后，這一切千古不朽之美，就是因爲她而產生出來的。但是現在那石棺好像不過是一個小小的黑長方的東西，不調和地放在「愛珠」的偉大通景之中。儼然是有人在那蒼天的晶瑩海上，遺下來的一個小手提包。

那王公沉思了很久，但誰也不曉得他心上在想些什麼。

最後他說話了。他指着那棺說：

『把那東西移去吧。』

SOMETHING SPECIAL

BY FAY KANIN

THE moment she saw it in the window, she knew she was doomed.¹ Other women couldn't resist fine linens,² antiques,³ jewels, curios.⁴ With her, it was hats. She had them in all styles... high crowns, sailors, turbans.⁵ It was her one extravagance.

Henry was very broad-minded about it. "Why couldn't you collect something like handkerchiefs?" he would say. And then, laughing, "Yet I suppose I should be grateful it isn't fur coats!"

But in all her years as a connoisseur of hats, she had never seen one she liked as much as this.

It was black and very tiny, with a ribbon bow at the back and a blue feather ornament *perched on⁶ the top. It was special and expensive. You could tell just by the way it perched jauntily⁷ on its standard⁸ all alone in the window discreetly labelled "Minette Hats." Just by the absence of any sort of price label. And because she loved her husband and he worked hard for his money, Leila walked rapidly down the street.

1. 命中注定. 2. 亞麻布. 3. 古物. 4. 珍奇. 5. 無邊帽, 捲邊

特 製 品

當她一眼看到了櫥窗裏的那頂帽子，她就知道糟了。別的女人對於漂亮衣料，珠寶手飾的誘惑，是無法抵抗的。而她却只癖好帽子。她已經有了各種樣式的帽子——皇冠式的，水手式的，闊緣的，無邊的，應有盡有。在這方面，她不知道浪費了多少錢。

她的丈夫亨利對於她這種癖好，也算是寬大為懷。可是他有時仍不免要問：『你為什麼不可以蒐集手絹呢？』當然，手絹比帽子便宜得多了。隨即他又自寬自慰，帶笑地說：『幸虧你沒有蒐集皮大衣，這倒是很可感激的。』

但是這位帽子賞鑒家，多少年來，却沒有遇到過這樣一頂帽子，使他如此喜愛的。

這是一頂很小的黑色帽子，後面有一個蝶形的絲帶，頂上飾着一根藍色的羽毛。這是很獨特的——價錢當然不便宜。只消看它逍遙自在地單獨掛在櫥窗里的架子上，審慎地標着「特製品」的那種樣子，你便可知道它不是尋常的東西了。別的帽子都標得有價目，而這頂獨無，由此也可知道它與眾不同。因為芮拉很愛她的丈夫，而又知道他賺來的都是幾個血汗錢，所以她看了一眼，很快地就走過去了。

帽. 6. 位於. 7. 逍遙自在地, 活潑地. 8. 架, 臺.

But at the corner she stopped. It wouldn't hurt to look at the hat again. She walked back, and suddenly, looking at it wasn't enough. She wanted to feel it.

The saleswoman inside had a low, pleasant voice. Of course she would take it out of the window... immediately! With soft fingers she placed it on Leila's head. It looked charming on madame!⁹ And only six guineas.¹⁰ And it was a model, the only one of its kind.

That settled it. The collector in Leila triumphed. She had had copies... many, many copies, but a model—never. She reached in her purse and handed the money steadily to the saleswoman. You would have thought she bought six-guinea hats every day.

Outside, with the box clutched in her moistened palm, the starchiness of her manner began to crumple.¹¹ Six guineas for one hat! What would Henry say? Her passion for hats was something funny to him... an idiosyncrasy¹² he joked about with a pleasant feeling of male superiority.

At six guineas it wouldn't be funny any more. He wouldn't understand the thrill of possessing a

9. 夫人。 10. 一基尼等於二十一個先令，基尼現已廢止，但仍常用來

但是走到街角，她停下來了。再去看一看那頂帽子，是沒有妨害的。她突然地走轉去，可是單只看看，却嫌不足。她想要去摸摸那頂帽子。

店子裏的女店員，說話的聲音溫柔而又悅耳。當然，她願意從櫥窗裏把那頂帽子取出來……而且是馬上！用很熟練的手法，她把它戴在芮拉的頭上了，『戴在您頭上，看去真可愛呀。而且只要六個基尼。這是一個模型，還沒有同樣的第二頂呢。』

這樣一來，問題便解決了。芮拉這位帽子蒐集家當然勝利了。她雖有了許多各種樣式的帽子，但都不是獨特的。惟有這一頂，才是獨一無二的一個模型。她把手伸進錢包去，將貨價泰然地遞給那女店員了。你會覺得她每天都在買着六個基尼的帽子似的。

走出店門，那帽子在她發汗的手中，她那固執的態度開始改變了。六個基尼買一頂帽子！亨利曉得了，會怎樣說呀？她對帽子的這種熱愛，亨利常覺得可笑，……他帶着男性優越的快感，而笑她這是一種怪癖。

花上六個基尼，買一頂帽子，這可不是玩笑啦。獨自占有一個模型的那種快感，他是不能了解的。對於他，所

model. To him, one hat was *as good as¹³ another. In fact Henry wouldn't believe that such a silly thing as a hat could cost six guineas.

Then the solution hit her. It was such a simple, natural solution that she wondered at not having thought of it before. There was no reason at all to tell Henry what the hat had cost. There was some money she had been putting aside to recover a chair in the sitting-room. They could do with the old cover a little longer.

Henry need never know about the hat. She would just wear it one evening, nonchalantly,¹⁴ like any other new hat, and he would never know the difference. He would say, "Another new hat?" Then he would make his funny remark about the handkerchiefs and the fur coats and she would laugh appreciatively and that would be all.

When she got home she placed the box carefully on the floor¹⁵ in a remote corner of her cupboard. Every day, after Henry had gone, she would brush her hair until it shone, then set the little black hat carefully at an angle. Soon she would wear it.

Several evenings she started to, got as far as the bedroom door, then suddenly took it off and donned¹⁶ another. She would wait. As a matter

13. 同様。

14. ['nonʃələntli] 冷靜地，若無其事地。

15. 櫃板。

有的帽子都是一樣，沒有多大分別。事實上，像帽子這樣一個無謂的東西，要花六個基尼去買，亨利怎也不會相信的。

後來她想到一個解決的辦法了。那辦法如此簡單而又自然，她倒奇怪爲什麼早沒有想到。她買這頂帽子花了多少錢，決用不着告訴亨利。爲着做客廳里一把椅子的罩子，她不是另外提出了一點錢來了嗎？舊的罩子還可以用一些時候呀。

關於這頂帽子的事，永遠不必告訴亨利。她可以在一天晚上若無其事地，來戴上這頂獨特的帽子，就和戴別的新帽子一樣，那麼，他也決不會發見什麼異樣。他至多要照常說，『又買了一頂新帽子嗎？』跟着說幾句關於手絹和皮大衣那一類的話，而她也不過笑笑，就這麼過去了。

當她回到家裏，她當心地把那頂帽子放在她櫃子裏頂裏面的一個角落上。每天，等亨利出去了，她便要把她的頭髮刷得光亮亮的，然後取出那一頂黑帽子試爲戴上，看戴成怎樣一個角度最好看。她不久就要正式拿它出來戴了。

有好幾晚她都開始來戴上那頂新帽子，可是至多走到臥房門口，她又突然把它取下來，戴上另外一頂舊的。她想她還得等待一下。事實上，下禮拜四就是她的生日了，

of fact, next Thursday was her birthday, an event they celebrated with dinner at a good restaurant and a musical show¹⁷ afterwards. They would both be excited. It would be a good night.

When Thursday came she was already dressed at five o'clock, dressed in the sheer black dress that Henry liked best. He would be home at six, would bathe and dress hurriedly, and they would be off.¹⁸ By seven o'clock it would all be over. He would have seen the hat, made his remark, and forgotten all about it.

She tried it on again, and was practising a careless turn of her head when she heard the door slam. It was Henry's voice. . . .

"Got off an hour early," he said.

In the doorway of her room he stopped abruptly. He caught his breath sharply and stared at her. Instinctively her hand went to her head.

"The hat—" Henry said, and his face looked strange.

"The hat?" she echoed, and her voice trembled a little. She couldn't believe it. He wasn't saying, "What! Another new hat?" and making his little joke about the handkerchiefs and the fur coats. Instead he was staring at her. She had known it would be different with this hat.

17. 戲劇. 18. 出外.

那時他們要慶祝一番，在一個上等的餐廳去吃飯，飯後再去看歌劇。那天他們夫婦都很會興奮的。那一定是一個快樂的晚上呢。

當禮拜四到來，她在下午五點鐘已經把衣服穿好了。穿的那件亨利最喜歡的全黑的衣服。他在六點鐘就會回來的，回來之後，就要匆匆入浴，換好衣服，他們就一同出去。到了七點鐘的時候，一切都弄好了。他已經看到那頂帽子了，說過他那一套老調了，而忘記了這一切。

她又把那頂帽子試了一回，當她正在練習着一個把頭隨意轉動的姿勢時，便聽見大門閉的一響帶關了。接着是亨利的聲音，……

『我早一個鐘頭就離開了，』他說。

在她的房門口，他突然站住了，他驚視着她，一時說不出話來，本能地她的手放到她的頭上了。

『那頂帽子——』亨利說，而他的臉色看去很奇怪。

『那頂帽子？』她回應了一聲，聲音中有一點兒發抖。她不相信。他並沒有說，『怎麼！又是一頂新帽子？』而提到手絹和皮大衣的老調。他只凝視着她。她知道這頂帽子，確是與眾不同，有些特別。

"It was in the cupboard," he said. Then she saw it all in a flash. He must have found it. Something in her grew hot and angry. She resented his snooping¹⁹ among her things. He had no business there.

"I don't care," she exclaimed defiantly. "I love it."

His face broke into a funny smile. "You should," he said. "The darn²⁰ thing was expensive enough."

Then he had even searched out the sales bill in the box and looked at it! She hated him...hated him for spoiling it all, for trapping her even before she had worn it. And on her birthday, too!

She turned her back, and because she couldn't help it, big tears rolled down her cheeks.

In a moment, Henry was beside her, his arm about her hunched shoulders awkwardly.

"Don't cry, darling," he said. "I don't really care if you found it. Only I wanted it to be a surprise. I knew there was nothing you'd like better for your birthday than a hat. So when I saw it last week in a little shop near the office, I bought it and hid it in the hall cupboard. I wanted to give it to you myself, that's all. But it doesn't really matter."

¹⁹. 行動詭秘, 窺探他人的事. ²⁰. =damn, 可惡的.

『這是放在那櫃子裏的，』他說。於是她忽然一下明白了。他一定早就發覺了。她心中發生了一種無名的怒火。她恨他這種詭祕的行動，去窺探她私藏的東西。他怎樣可以干涉她這種私事呀。

『我不管，』她反抗地叫出來。『我愛這頂帽子。』他癡癡地破顏一笑，『你應當的，』他說。『這傢伙價錢可夠貴了。』

如此看來，放在帽盒裏面的發票他都搜出來看過了！她真恨他……恨他把這一切都弄糟了，恨他設下圈套，把她捉住了，甚至在她還沒有正式戴它以前。而且還是在她生日的這一天！

她轉過身去，因為她實在忍受不住了，大粒的眼淚掉下到她的面頰上來。

隨即，亨利走到她的身邊了，他的手臂很不自然地抱着她隆起的肩膀。

『不要哭，我的寶貝，』他說，『你就發見了，我也並不在乎的。我只是想留着今天拿出來，使你出乎意外而已。我知道送你生日，沒有什麼東西，比帽子再好的了。所以上個禮拜在我辦公的地方附近一家小店裏，看到了這頂帽子，我馬上就把它買回來，藏在大廳的櫃子裏。我想要親自拿來送給你，再沒有別的什麼意思。但是你自己先拿了，也並沒多大的關係。』

She lifted her head and the perky little veil was wet with tears. "This hat," she whispered. "For my birthday?"

He nodded, and dabbed at her face with his handkerchief. "I don't care really," he said, smiling like a little boy. "I'll go and get dressed, and I want every tear to be gone when I come back."

After a few moments she heard the water running in the bath. She tiptoed into the hall and set a chair cautiously in the hall.

Climbing on it, she felt round the top shelf. In the corner was a big paper bag. She lifted it down into the light. On it was written, "The Chic²¹ Shoppe,²² Modern Hats for the Modern Miss."

Opening it, she lifted out the hat. It was a copy of her hat, black and very tiny, with a ribbon bow at the back and a blue feather ornament perched on top.

The price label dangling from it triumphantly stated: "25s. 11d."

Back in her bedroom, she lifted the tear-stained model from her head and carefully set the copy at an angle. When Henry, shining and smelling faintly of lavender, came from the bathroom, he nodded approvingly at the hat.

"It looks fine," he remarked with satisfaction. "You can always tell a good hat."

21. [ʃi:k 或 ʃik] (法文) 精美的, 時式的. 22. = shop.

她抬起她的頭來，那聳起的面紗，也就爲淚水所潤濕了。『這頂帽子是買給我做生日的嗎？』她低聲問。

他點頭，隨即拿出手絹來，替她揩乾面上的淚水。『我並沒有什麼，』他說，像一個小孩子似的笑了。『我要去換衣了，等我轉來的時候，我不要你面上再有一點淚痕。』

一兩分鐘之後，她就聽見浴室裏放水的聲音。她躡着腳趕到廳子裏去，又輕輕地搬過一把椅子來。

站到椅子上，她向櫃子的最高一格去摸索了。在那角落上，果然有一個大紙盒。她拿了下來，到亮的地方看一看，上面寫着，『時新商店，現代小姐的現代帽。』

打開來，拿出那頂帽子，和她自己買的完全一樣，也是一頂很小的黑色帽子，後面有一個蝶形的絲帶，頂上飾着一根藍色的羽毛。

那價目還吊在上面，勝利地寫着：『二十五先令，十一便士。』

回到她的臥室，把她頭上那頂淚污的獨特的模型取了下來，又細心地合着角度戴上了他丈夫買給她的那個複製品。當亨利從浴室裏轉來的時候，面放紅光，微帶香粉氣味，他看見芮拉頭上的帽子，贊可地點着頭。

『這看上去很不錯，』他很滿意地說。『一頂好帽子，到底不同呀。』

THE EMERALD RING

BY MARTIN ARMSTRONG

OLD Miss Seddon, tall, gaunt, and spectacled, wearing a girlish garden hat, came in at the garden door of the *Manor House¹ with a basket of flowers which she took to the cloakroom. Here there was a rough deal table on which stood empty bowls and vases.

She set down the basket, carefully lifted the flowers out of it and began to arrange them, drunkenly watched by the miscellaneous coats and hats that dangled from the pegs like disused scarecrows. Now and then she paused and stepped back to inspect her work and, if she disapproved, her lips narrowed and her eyes grew hard as pebbles behind her spectacles; but if she was pleased, a benevolent blue suffused the spectacles and her lips curled into an unexpectedly sweet smile.

Under the small window there was a wash-basin,² and when she had finished her flowers she went over to it and washed her hands, first taking off her rings and laying them on the ledge³ between the taps.

1. 地主的邸宅. 2. 裝在窗下的洗面盆. 3. 洗面盆上兩個水管龍頭之

翠玉戒指

年老的塞頓小姐，身材很高，骨瘦如柴，鼻上架着一副老光眼鏡，戴着一頂女孩子用的庭園帽子，手上提着一籃花，走進地主邸宅的園門來。她把花提到衣帽室裏。那兒有一張粗糙的松木桌子，上面擺着一些空的花瓶和鉢子。

她把籃子放下，很當心地從那裏面把花取出來，開始配着插進瓶子裏去，掛在周圍的那些各種各樣的衣帽，像不用的稻草人一般，如醉如癡地在旁望着。她時常停下手來，站退一兩步，去看插得好不好，如果她覺得不好的話，她便要把嘴唇咬緊，眼鏡後面的眼珠子，也變得和小石子一般的堅硬無情了；如果她覺得滿意的話，她的眼鏡上便浮滿了仁慈的青光，嘴唇收縮攏來，結成一個意外溫柔的微笑。

在那小窗下，裝有一個洗面盆，當她把花插完了，便走過那兒去洗手，先把她手上的戒指取下，放在兩個龍頭之間的面盆邊上。

間的隆起部分。

How unlike Emily to wire⁴ this morning and *put off⁵ her visit until to-morrow. Impossible to imagine what could have made her change her plans like that at the last minutē.

As she reflected on her sister's unaccountable behaviour, she automatically washed and dried her hands and reached out for her rings, and it wasn't until she had put two of them back on her fingers that she *came to herself.⁶

Where was the third, the emerald ring?

She gazed in astonishment at her hands, then at the edge. Then she remembered. This morning, as she was putting on her rings, before going down to breakfast, Mary, the new housemaid, interrupting the *routine of years,⁷ had knocked at her door and given her Emily's telegram, and when she had read it she had gone straight down-stairs, forgetting to put on her third ring.

It was unlike her to be so forgetful, but it was equally unlike Emily to send wires before breakfast.

As soon as she had taken her vases to their places in the dining-room, the hall, and the long, white-panelled drawing-room, Miss Seddon went up to her bedroom. She went without the slightest misgiving, and so it was a shock to her to find that the ring wasn't there.

4. 打電報. 5. 展期. 6. 清醒. 7. 多年來的日常慣例.

真不像愛密麗，今早上打電報來說，今天不能來了，改在明天再來。那簡直不能想像，是什麼使得她臨時要那樣地改變計畫。

當她在想着她妹妹那種出乎意外的行爲的時候，她機械地洗過了手，揩乾了，又伸手去取了那些戒指來帶上，直到她帶好了兩隻戒指，她才神志清醒，恢復常態。

那第三隻翠玉戒指那裏去了呀？

她詫意地凝視着自己的手，隨又再凝視着那洗面盆的邊上。於是她記起來了。今天早晨，在她下樓去吃早餐之前，當她正在帶戒指的時候，那新來的使女瑪麗，妨害了她多年來的例行常規，竟跑來敲門，遞給她愛密麗來的電報，她接來看過，便即時走下樓去，忘記帶上那第三隻戒指。

她平常決不是這樣健忘的，也正和愛密麗平常決不會在吃早餐以前打電報來一樣。

塞頓小姐把她那些花瓶，都放到餐廳，門廳，和長長的白木壁板的客廳裏原來的地位上，隨即便走上樓到臥室裏去了。她一點不疑惑地，以爲那戒指一定是忘記在臥室裏，不意走上去一看，竟不在那裏，這可使她吃了一驚。

For a while she stood staring cold-eyed and incredulous at the ring-stand,⁸ then she turned away and went down to the drawing-room.

She was deeply disturbed. It was not only the loss of the ring that disturbed her; there was something more. She was aware that, the moment after she had noticed that the ring was not on the ring-stand, an inner voice had whispered "Mary!"

She was accustomed to live *on friendly terms with⁹ her maids, to look upon them almost as members of the family. Mary was an efficient, good-looking young woman; she had *taken to¹⁰ her from the moment of her arrival two months ago, and she had instantly refused to accept the horrible suggestion which had flashed so unaccountably across her mind.

Miss Seddon had made it a practice never to leave money or jewellery lying about, because she thought it unfair to *put temptation in anyone's way.¹¹ Who knows, even an honest person might, in certain circumstances, *yield to¹² a sudden temptation. And there was such a thing as kleptomaniā:¹³ she recalled that extraordinary case of old Mrs. Stockton which had made such a stir in the neighbourhood a few years ago.

8. 放戒指的架子. 9. 與之友善. 10. 喜歡. 11. 把誘惑放在別人

她站在那裏滿懷疑惑地以冷眼凝視着那放戒指的地方，半晌沒有動，然後才轉身走下到客廳裏去了。

她方寸中很覺擾亂。使她擾亂的，不僅是失掉了戒指，還有點別的什麼。在她注意到戒指不在那戒指架上的時候立刻她便覺得有一個內在的聲音，細聲說道：『瑪麗！』

她素來對於用人都是處得很好的，把她們視爲家人一樣。瑪麗是一個能力很好的、年輕漂亮的婦人；兩個月前來接工的時候，塞頓小姐一見就很喜歡她，剛纔雖然一時會疑心到是她偷了那戒指，可是馬上又自己否認了。

塞頓小姐一向的辦法，是不把錢和珠寶到處亂放的，因爲她覺得把那些誘惑物，放在別人的當道，是不對的。甚至一個誠實的人，在某種情形之下，也免不了要被一種突然的誘惑所動，而不能不屈服。而且還有所謂盜竊狂那樣一回事：她回想到兩三年前使得四隣轟動的，史塔克頓老太太偷了東西的那回異常的事情了。

For a long time she sat brooding,¹⁴ till at last she allowed herself to admit the accusing whisper and consider it. A sudden temptation, an unguarded moment, and the thing was done; and once done, how could it be undone? And yet though the doer might not be able to undo it *of her own accord,¹⁵ it might be possible to help her to undo it. Yes; perhaps if she were to send for Mary and mention casually.....ask her, perhaps.....

Slowly and carefully she thought out her plan, and then, grim-faced, eyes as hard as pebbles behind the spectacles, the learned judge considered the plan and found it good.

She rose from her chair and rang the bell. "Agnes, will you tell Mary I want to speak to her?"

A minute later Mary came. "Oh, Mary, I left a ring.....a ring with green stones in it.....an emerald ring.....on the ring-stand on my dressing-table this morning. When I went up to get it just now, it wasn't there. Do you happen to have seen it?"

"A ring, mum? ¹⁶ No, I saw no ring."

The spectacles, watching Mary's face, noted that her colour rose. "Then it must have fallen

14. 沈思默想.

15. 自動的; 自己進而.....

16. madam 的俗說.

她坐在那裏，沈思默想了很久，直到最後她還是讓她自己承認了那內心的告發，而向這一方面去想了。一種突然而來的誘惑，一個不及預防的時會，竟把那事情做了；既做之後，又有什麼辦法去取消呢？不過，雖則那犯者也許不能把她自己許可的事取消，別人也許可以幫助她來解除的。是呀，或許她把瑪麗叫來，透露一點這個意見……問問她，或許……。

從容而細心地，她想出了一個辦法，板起面孔，眼鏡後面的眼珠子，變得和小石子一般的堅硬無情，那博學的審判官想出了一個辦法，而認為頗好。

她從椅子上站起來，按了一下鈴子。『亞格尼斯，你去告訴瑪麗說我要和她說話。』

一分鐘之後，瑪麗就來了。『哦，瑪麗，我今早上忘記了一個戒指……一個綠寶石的戒指……一個翠玉戒指，在我的化粧臺上那放戒指的地方。我剛纔上去拿，却不見了。你看見沒有？』

『一個戒指嗎，太太？沒有，我沒有看見什麼戒指。』

那副眼鏡望着瑪麗的臉，注意到她的臉色變紅了。『那末，一定是掉在地板上去。你可以到那化粧臺和五

on to the floor. You might search carefully under the dressing-table and the *chest of drawers.¹⁷ It will almost certainly be there."

Ah, how easy she had made it for Mary to *think better of¹⁸ what she had done and simply to hand back the ring, saying that she had found it under the chest of drawers. And when this had happened, she wouldn't hold it against Mary. No, she would dismiss the wretched business for ever from her mind. After all, she herself was partly to blame for leaving the ring about.

But unhappily the plan didn't work.¹⁹ Before long, Mary returned, saying she hadn't found the ring.

"You're quite sure, Mary?"

"Quite sure, mum."

Again the spectacles, hard and steady, scanned the young woman's face and noted that it had hardened and that a look of stubbornness had come into the eyes. How dreadfully sad. And such an unusually likeable²⁰ girl.

Miss Seddon felt depressed and bewildered. What could she do now? There would always be the fear that other things would be taken, and even if they were not, it would be impossible, whenever anything was lost, not to suspect Mary. One couldn't live happily on such terms.

17. 五斗櫥. 18. 改過. 19. 生效. 20. 可愛的.

斗櫥的下面去仔細尋找一下。那恐怕一定是掉在那下面了。』

哦，她多麼容易地給了瑪麗一個悔過的機會，她只消把那戒指交還就得了，說她是在那五斗櫥下面找到的。只要她交出來，她也就不會再對瑪麗怎樣的。她將把這件壞事情永遠忘懷。因為她把戒指亂放，畢竟她自己也有些不對。

但是不幸她的辦法沒有發生效果。不一會瑪麗就轉來了，說她沒有找到。

『你確實看了不在那裏嗎，瑪麗？』

『確實沒有，太太。』

那副眼鏡又再堅硬而固定地，細察了那年輕婦人的面孔，而注意到那面色變得堅硬無情，她的眼睛中也現出頑固的神氣來。這多麼令人傷心呀。這樣一個異常可愛的女孩子。

塞頓小姐感到沮喪而不知所措了。她現在要怎樣辦呢？從此以後，別的東西也有被偷的危險，即令她不偷別的東西，不過下回有什麼東西失掉了，要不疑心瑪麗是不可能的。在這種情形之下，若再留她在這裏，日子一定過得不快活的。

That night, as she lay sleepless in bed, turning the painful business over and over in her mind, she decided at last that she must send Mary away and next morning, as soon as breakfast was over,, she *sent for²¹ her.

“Mary, I’ve decided very reluctantly that I must *give you notice.”²²

She saw the girl turn suddenly pale.

“You’re not satisfied, mum?”

“Very satisfied in many ways, Mary, but not *entirely* satisfied.”

“If you were to tell me what was the matter, mum.....”

“I would rather not discuss it, Mary. I can only say that I am very sorry to part with you.”

Mary’s face turned still paler and its expression hardened. “Perhaps you’d rather I went at once, mum.”

Miss Seddon considered it. “Is that *your* wish?”

“Yes, mum.”

The old lady nodded her head. “Very well, Mary.”

21. 叫來。 22. 辭退。

那天夜裏，她躺在牀上沒有睡着，心上一一直在想着這件苦痛的事，最後她決定把瑪麗打發走。第二天早晨，剛吃過早餐，她便把瑪麗叫來了。

『瑪麗，我非常不願意地，不過我已決定，請你去另外找事。』

她望着那女子面孔突然變白了。

『太太，你不滿意我的工作嗎？』

『瑪麗，在許多方面，我都非常滿意，不過還不是全都滿意。』

『太太，如果你肯告訴我是爲什麼事的話……。』

『瑪麗，我想還是不談的好。我只能說，我和你分別，我很難過。』

瑪麗的臉變得更加蒼白了，而其表情也就堅硬無情。

『也許，你願意我馬上就走吧，太太。』

塞頓小姐想了一下。『你希望馬上就走嗎？』

『是，太太。』

那小姐點了一下頭。『好的，瑪麗。』

She sat, austere and straight, until Mary had closed the door behind her; then, with a sudden despairing movement, she snatched off her spectacles, fumbled for her handkerchief and burst into tears.

The incident had hurt her so deeply that she found herself unable to mention it to her sister. Before long another housemaid replaced Mary and life at the Manor House continued its comfortable, monotonous course.

Two years later she heard that Mary had married George Barrow, a plumber in the neighbouring town. Miss Seddon knew him well and liked him. For years she had employed him and his father before him at the Manor and she was glad to know that Mary was well and happily married. Ah, if only she could know exactly why she had taken that ring. She felt that if only she could know that, know all the circumstances of it, she would somehow understand and cease to be hurt by it.

For the wound was unhealed. It wasn't the loss of the ring that hurt her. What did the wretched ring matter? It was the horrible cleft that had so suddenly opened between her and this young woman she had so much liked. Perhaps Mary had almost forgotten it by now; but *she* hadn't. She *couldn't* year after year, when she

她嚴肅地正襟危坐着，直到瑪麗走了出去把門帶關之後，她才帶着一種突然絕望的動作，一下把眼鏡取了，用手去摸她的手絹，眼淚流出來了。

那事情使她那般傷心，竟沒有能夠告訴她的妹妹。不久就有一個新的使女來，做瑪麗的工作，使得在那地主邸宅中的生活，照常舒適而單調地繼續下去了。

兩年之後，她聽說瑪麗和喬治巴羅結了婚，巴羅是附近城裏一個裝置鉛管的人。塞頓小姐和他很熟，而且很喜歡他。因為他是地主邸中的老用人，他的父親在他以前就在塞頓家做過多年了。現在瑪麗嫁給了他，生活很好，而又幸福，她聽了很是高興。哦，只要她能夠正確地明白瑪麗為什麼要偷那戒指就好了。塞頓小姐覺得只要她能夠明白那回事，明白那一切的境遇，她就可以了解而不再為此難過了。

因為那傷痕一直沒有好。使她傷心的，倒並不是一個戒指損失。那個可恨的戒指，有什麼關係呢？只是在她和她那麼喜歡的這個姑娘之間，突然發生的那種可怕的裂痕，使她覺得傷心。也許瑪麗現在早已忘記了，但是她却忘不了；她不能忘記。年復一年，每當她在那衣帽室去插

arranged her flowers in the cloakroom, washed her hands and then put on her ring, the old memory stirred again, bringing with it the old pain.

On an August morning, almost ten years after she had sent Mary away, she found, after arranging her flowers, that there were still a good many left over, and she fetched a heavy Oriental vase from the hall.

It was dusty inside and she went to rinse²³ it at the wash-basin; but her old hands were rather shaky nowadays and the vase slipped from her grasp and crashed into the basin, splitting it in two. She sent for Barrow to remove it and take measurements for a new one, and next morning she came upon him in the cloakroom.

He had removed the broked basin and was kneeling on the floor holding in his hand a piece of S-shaped piping. He probed²⁴ it with a screw-driver, looked into it, then knocked it smartly against one of the iron brackets that supported the basin. Then he tipped²⁵ something out of it into his hand and examined it closely.

She wished him good morning and at the sound of her voice he turned and held out his open hand. "Good morning, madam. Does this belong to you?"

23. 洗濯。 24. 探索。 25. 傾倒。

花，插好洗手，再把戒指帶上的時候，那往事重又縈懷，隨着帶來了舊日的苦痛。

在八月的一個早上，那已經是她開除瑪麗十年後的事了，她把所有的花瓶，都插好了花之後，看見那兒還剩下不少的花，她便到門廳裏去拿了一個笨重的東方的花瓶來。

那裏面滿是灰塵，她便拿到洗面盆上去洗乾淨一下，但是她那老年的手，近來有些發抖，一個不當心，就把那花瓶掉在洗面盆裏了，把那面盆打成兩塊。她只好派人去叫巴羅來，把舊的撤去換上一個新的。第二天早上，她在衣帽室裏遇見了他。

他已經把那破面盆撤掉了，正跪在地板上，用手拿着一根 S 形的水管。他用一隻螺旋啓子在細心查看着裏面，然後把它好好地裝在支撐面盆的一個鐵托架上。忽然他從那裏面拾出一點東西來，放在手上，細細地在看。

塞頓小姐和他說了一聲『早』，巴羅一聽見她的聲音，便回過頭來，伸出他那打開着的手。『您早，太太。這東西是您的嗎？』

Miss Seddon caught her breath and stood staring at his out-stretched hand. "Yes," she said at last in a voice that was no more than a whisper. "Yes, I lost it years ago."

He raised his eyes to hers, "It's funny where things get, sometimes," he said, and there was no mistaking in his glance or the tone of his voice.

She stood there with sightless eyes, tongue-tied.²⁶ At last she spoke. "You know, then, about the ring?"

"Yes, madam," he said. "Mary told me all about it."

She breathed not a long sigh. "I don't want it," she said. "I could never wear it again." She paused and then added: "And I don't suppose you want it either."

"No," he said, "I don't want it."

He was still holding out his hand, and with a sudden movement she took the emerald ring and tottered away to the drawing-room. She was stunned. It was as if an explosion had shattered the last ten years of her life and she sat there in a vacuum with the ring in her lap.

At last she stirred and raised herself stiffly from her chair; the ring rolled unnoticed to the floor and she went back to the cloakroom. He was still there.

26. 說話不出。

塞頓小姐屏着氣息，站在那兒凝視着他伸出來的手。『是的，』她終於回答了，聲音小得幾乎等於耳語。『是的，那是我好幾年前所失掉的。』

他抬起頭來望着她。真奇怪，有時候東西會弄到那樣一些地方去，』他說，他的眼色和聲調中，全沒有一點什麼不對的神氣。

她呆立在那裏，兩目無光，說不出話來。最後她才向他說：『那末，你知道關於這戒指的事？』

『是的，太太，』他答。『瑪麗把一切都告訴過我了。』

她長長地歎了一口氣。『我不要這個了，』她說。『我再也不能來帶它了。』她停止了一下，又加上一句：『我想你也不會要它吧。』

『是，』他說，『我不要。』

他還是伸着他的手沒有動，於是，帶着一種突然的動作，她攫取了那隻翠玉戒指，踉蹌地走到客廳裏去了。她驚呆得人事不省了。儼然是一個大的爆炸，把她過去十年的生活都炸毀了，她茫然地坐在那兒，戒指放在她的膝上。

最後，她動了，僵硬地從椅子上站起身來；那戒指滾到地板上去，她也沒有注意，她再走回到衣帽室去。巴羅還在那裏。

“Barrow,” she said, “when you get back, will you ask Mary for me if she would allow me to go and see her? You can tell me when you bring the new basin.”

In a fever of anxiety and hope she waited for his return, and two days later, when Agnes came to tell her that he was fixing the new basin, she at once went along to the cloakroom.

“Oh, good morning, Barrow. Have you brought me Mary’s message?”

He looked round from his work.

“Yes, madam. She told me to say that she *bears no malice,²⁷ that all’s over and done with, but, if you don’t mind, she’d rather you didn’t come.”

27. 不記恨.

『巴羅，』她說，『你回去的時候，請你替我問一聲瑪麗，看她允許我去看她麼？你來裝新盆子的時候，可以給我一個回信。』

在憂慮和希望的狂熱之中，她等待着他轉來。兩天之後，當亞格尼斯來告訴她，說巴羅來裝新面盆了，她便馬上跑到衣帽室去。

『哦，巴羅，你早。你給我帶來了瑪麗的回信嗎？』

他回過頭來。

『帶來了，太太。她要我對您說，她並不記恨，一切都過去了，既往不咎，不過，如果你不見氣的話，她請您不要去看她。』

POST HASTE

BY COLIN HOWARD

“I say, I *am* pleased to see you!” declared the little man standing dejectedly¹ by the pillar-box.²

“Oh, hullo!” I said, stopping. “Simpson, isn’t it?”

The Simpsons were newcomers to the neighbourhood, and my wife and I had only met them once or twice.

“Yes, that’s right!” returned Simpson. He seemed quite gratified³ by my ready⁴ recognition. “*I wonder if you could⁵ lend me threeha’pence?”⁶ I plunged an investigatory⁷ hand into my pocket. “You see, my wife gave me a letter to post, and I’ve just noticed it isn’t stamped.”

*“They never are,”⁸ I said, sympathetically.

“It must go to-night—it really must! And I don’t suppose I should find a postoffice open at this time of night, do you?”

The hour being *close upon⁹ eleven, I agreed that it seemed improbable.

1. 沮喪地。 2. 郵筒, 信箱 (美國人叫作 post-box)。 3. 滿意。 4. 迅速的。 5. 我極想知道你是不是能够。 6. 即一個半便士 (英國國內平信郵

大 至 急

『喂，你好嗎？』那個沮喪地站在郵筒旁邊的，矮小的人說。

『啊，』我說，停了一下，『你是辛樸生吧？』

辛樸生夫婦是這兒新近搬來的隣居，我的太太和我只見過他們一兩次。

『正是，一點不錯！』辛樸生回答說。因為我這樣快就認明了他，他好像很滿意的樣子。『我現在想請求你一件事，你可不可以借一個半便士給我？』我馬上伸了一隻手到口袋裏去搜索。『你看，我太太拿一封信要我來發，我現在才注意到上面沒有貼郵票。』

『常有的事，』我很同情地說。

『這封信今晚上一定要發出去——真是非發出不可的！而現在這樣夜深了，我想所有的郵政局都關門了，你覺得是不是？』

時間快要到十一點了。我也承認郵局好像不會有邊開着的了。

資)。 7. 搜查的。 8. 要發的信總是沒有貼好郵票的。 9. 接近，快要到。

“So I thought, you see, I’d get a stamp out of the machine,”¹⁰ explained Simpson, *not without pride in his ingenuity,¹¹ “only I find I haven’t any coppers¹² on me.”

“I’m awfully sorry, but I’m afraid *I* haven’t, either,”¹³ I told him, concluding my explorations.¹⁴

*“Oh, dear, dear!”¹⁵ he said. Just like that. He was that sort of little man.

“Perhaps somebody else—” I put forward.

“There *isn’t* anyone else.”

He looked up the street, and I looked down. Then he looked down the street, and I looked up. We both *drew blank.¹⁶

“Yes, well!” I said, and *made to move off.¹⁷ But he looked so forlorn,¹⁸ standing there clutching a blue, unstamped envelope, that I really *hadn’t the heart to¹⁹ desert him.

“Tell you what,” I said. “You’d better walk along with me to my place—it’s only a couple of streets off—and I’ll try to hunt up some change²⁰ for you there.”

“It’s really awfully good of you!” said Simpson, blinking earnestly.

10. 自動出售郵票的機器。 11. 有點誇耀他的機敏。 12. 銅板。

13. 也，亦。 14. 探查。 15. 啊呀，啊呀！ 16. 不成功，即未看到一個人。

『所以我覺得我只好從自動販賣機上去買郵票來貼。』辛樸生說明給我聽，頗有點誇耀他的機敏。『只是我發覺我身邊一個銅板也沒有帶。』

『真是對不起，我也沒有帶得有銅板，』我把我搜索的結果告訴他。

『哎呀，天啦！』他說。正是那一股神氣。他就是那樣的一個矮小的人。

『也許別的人——』我提議說。

『這兒再沒有一個別的人了呀。』

他望着街的那一頭，我望着這一頭。隨即他又望着街的這一頭，我便望着那一頭。我們兩個都沒有看到一個人。

『是呀，好吧！』我說完就預備走了。可是他看去是那般孤立無援，捏着那個沒有貼郵票的藍信封站着不動，使我真個不忍丟下他就走。

『我告訴你怎樣辦吧，』我說。『你頂好同我到家裏去——那離這裏不過兩條街的樣子——我可以給你找一點零錢出來。』

『那你真是太好了！』辛樸生說，熱心地霎着他的眼睛。

At home, we managed to run the coveted²¹ three-ha' pence to earth.²² I handed the sum to Simpson, who, in the most businesslike way, made a note of the loan in his pocket-book, and departed. I watched him take a dozen steps up the road, hesitate, and then return to me.

"I say, I *am* sorry to trouble you again," he said. "The fact is, we're still quite strangers round here, and—well, *I'm rather lost,²³ to tell you the truth. Perhaps you'd direct me to the post-office?"

I did my best. I spent three solid minutes in explaining to him exactly where the post-office was. At the end of that time I felt as lost²⁴ as Simpson.

"I'm—I'm afraid I don't quite—" he blinked.

"Here, I'd better *come along with you,"²⁵ I said.

"Oh, I say, that's awfully kind of you!" he assured me.

I felt inclined to agree with him. I led the way to the post-office. Simpson inserted a penny in the automatic stamp-machine. The coin passed through the machine with a hollow rattle. Its transit²⁶ failed to produce the desired stamp. Simpson looked at me with a what-do-I-do-now sort of expression.

21. 切望的。 22. run to earth 找了許久之後找到了 (原意爲將野獸追

到家我們居然找到了一個半便士。我把那錢遞給辛樸生，他便鄭重其事地在他的記事本子上，把那筆借款記錄下來，然後告辭了。我望着他在路上走去了十來步，便踟躕了一下，又回到我這兒來了。

『對不起我又來麻煩你，』他說。『實在是這一帶我們一點也不熟習，老實說，我認不得路轉去了。請你告訴我到郵政局怎樣走法吧。』

我盡力照辦了。足足花了三分鐘來把郵政局的所在地仔細說明給他聽了。說到最後，我覺得我也和辛樸生一樣地糊塗起來。

『我還是——我還是不十分——』他霎着眼睛說。

『那末，還是我陪你走一趟吧，』我說。

『啊，你真是太好了！』他對我確實地說。

我也覺得有點同意他所說的。我便帶他到了郵政局。辛樸生投了一個便士到那自動郵票販賣機裏面去。那個銅板通過了那機器，發出一聲空洞的響聲。錢雖投進去了，可是並沒有把要買的郵票送出來。辛樸生帶着一種我怎樣辦呢的表情望着我。

總到它的土穴中去) 23. 我認不得路了。 24. 迷亂。 25. 同你一塊兒去，
26. 通過(機器)。

“It’s empty,” I explained.

“Oh!” said Simpson.

Experiment revealed that the stock of ha’ penny stamps was also exhausted. Simpson, in his agitation²⁷ at this discovery, dropped his letter face downwards on the pavement,²⁸ whence he retrieved²⁹ it with the addition of a large blot of mud.

“There!” ejaculated Simpson, quite petulantly.³⁰ “Now it’s *mud* on it!” He rattled the empty machine spitefully.³¹ “Well, what can we do now?”

*I gathered³² that I was definitely a member of the posting party.

“I suppose it *must* go tonight?” I said.

*“Dear me,³³ yes! My wife was most insistent about that. She said I wasn’t to—It’s, well, I don’t know that it’s extraordinarily important, but—but I’d *better* post it, if you know what I mean.”

I did know. Or, at least, I knew Mrs. Simpson.

“I knew—I’ve got a *book of stamps³⁴ at home!” I suddenly remembered.

“We ought to have thought of that before!” said Simpson, almost severely.

27. 擾亂. 激昂. 28. 人行道 (美國人叫作 sidewalk). 29. 拾起來.

『郵票賣光了，』我說明給他聽。

『啊呀！』辛樸生說。

實驗告訴我們機器裏面半便士的郵票也賣光了。辛樸生在失望之餘，竟連他手上的信都掉到地下了，剛剛把面子掉在下面，等他拾起來一看，已經弄了很大一塊泥在信上。

『糟了！』辛樸生叫出來，很是忿怒。『郵票沒有買到，反弄了一塊泥上去了！』他憎惡地搖了幾下那架空的機器。『現在我們怎樣辦泥？』

今晚上來發信，我覺得好像是自己的事一樣。

『我想這封信今晚上非發出不可吧？』我說。

『天啦，正是呀！我太太堅持着要發出。她叫我不要——這是，呃，我不曉得，這是非常要緊的，不過——不過我還是發出去的好，如果你懂得我的意思的話。』

我確是懂得他的意思。或是至少我是認得辛樸生太太的。

『我懂得——我家裏有一本郵票冊！』我忽然記起來了。

『我們應該早想到那個的呀！』辛樸生差不多是很嚴厲地說。

30. 忿怒地。 31. 怨恨地，憎惡地。 32. 我推想。 33. 哎呀；天啦。 34. 郵局發售之郵票冊。

“We’d better hurry, or we shall *miss the post,”³⁵ I told him.

* * *

We hurried. It was as well we did hurry, because it took rather a long while to find the book of stamps. And it wasn’t really worth finding, after all. It was empty.

“How very provoking!”³⁶ was Simpson’s summing-up of the matter.

“Funny!” I said. “I could have sworn³⁷ it was nearly full!”

“But what about my letter?” asked Simpson, dolefully.³⁸

“You’ll have to post it unstamped, that’s all,” I said. I was beginning to lose interest in Simpson’s letter.

“Oh, could I do that?” he asked, brightening.³⁹

“What else can you do? The other chap⁴⁰ will have to pay double postage on it in the morning, but *that can’t be helped.”⁴¹

“I shouldn’t like to do that.”

“Neither should I. Still, that’s *his* trouble. Now, hurry, or you’ll miss the last collection.”

Much flustered⁴² by this reminder, Simpson went off up the street at a trot.⁴³

35. 趕脫最後一班收信。 36. 討厭, 惱人。 37. 誓證。 38. 悽慘地, 悲

『我們頂好趕快去，不然的話，就要趕不上最後一班收信了，』我告訴他。

* * *

我們匆忙又趕回家去了。幸虧我們趕快，因為費了很久的時間才找到了那本郵票冊。不過到頭來，那真值不得這樣去找。裏面的郵票完全用光了。

『真是惱人呀！』辛樸生歸納地說。

『這真奇怪！』我說。『我確實記得差不多全沒有用什麼，怎樣就光了呢！』

『但是我的信又怎樣辦呀？』辛樸生很悽慘地問。

『你只好不貼郵票發出去，沒有別的辦法，』我說。我對於辛樸生的信，這時已經不感着什麼興趣。

『啊，我可以那樣做嗎？』他問，面帶喜色地。

『你還有什麼別的辦法？無非是明天早上害收信人多出一倍的郵資罷了。但那也是不得已的事。』

『我真不喜歡做那樣的事』。

『我也並不喜歡。雖然如此，那是讓別人去麻煩了。現在趕快吧，不要誤了最後一班的收信。』

因我這樣提醒他，辛樸生慌忙地快步跑上街去了。

哀地. 39. 有喜色. 40. 人(俗語). 41. 那也沒有辦法. 42. 慌忙, 狼狽. 43. 疾馳, 快步.

“Hi! The other way!” I roared after him.

“Sorry!” he panted,⁴⁴ returning. “I—I rather think I’ve forgotten the way again.”

* * *

I didn’t even start to explain. I just took him firmly by the arm and escorted him to the post-office, in time for the midnight collection. I knew it would save me time in the end. He dropped in his letter and then, to finish off my job properly, I took him home.

“I’m most awfully grateful to you, really,” he assured me, earnestly, from his doorstep. “I—I can’t think what I should have done without you. That letter—it’s only an invitation to dinner, to—*good gracious!”⁴⁵

“Why, what’s the matter?”

“Nothing. Just something I’ve remembered.”

“What?”

But he didn’t tell me. He just goggled⁴⁶ at me like a stricken⁴⁷ goldfish, jerked but a “good-night,” and popped⁴⁸ indoors.

All the way home I was wondering what it was he’d remembered.

But I stopped wondering next morning, when I had to pay the postman threepence for a blue envelope with a great muddy mark on its face.

44. 喘氣.

45. 天啦, 啊, 吶.

46. 睜視.

47. 受傷的, 生病的.

『喂，朝那一頭走！』我追着他吼着。

『對不起！』他喘着氣跑回頭來。『我覺得我又把路忘記了。』

* * *

這次我甚至沒有開始來說明，只緊緊地捏着他的膀子，便帶他到郵政局去，好趕上半夜那班收信。我知道不如再陪他走一趟，結局還要省事些。他把信投入郵箱了，於是，好人做到底，我又把他送回家去。

『我真是非常感謝你，』他站在他的大門口認真地對我說。『我真不能想今晚上要沒有遇到你，我不曉會怎樣辦。那封信——只是一封請人吃飯的信——是寫給——我的天啦！』

『怎麼一回事呀？』

『沒有什麼。只是我記起一件事來了。』

『什麼事？』

但是他却沒有告訴我。他只是像一個受傷的金魚一般，睜大眼睛望着我。隨即道了一聲晚安，便急速地走進屋子去了。

我在回家的一路上，都在奇怪着他記起來的是什麼事。

可是第二天早上，我的疑團便渙然冰釋，當那郵差走來，要我付出三個便士，給了我一封信面上有一大塊泥的藍色信封的時候。

“DON'T SAY IT AGAIN!”

BY JACK SHER

WHEN I came in, the party was going strong.¹ I went from room to room, shaking hands, letting people slap me on the back, and answering innumerable questions. Finally I located² the girl I was looking for.

She was standing by a window, her back to the room. I'd have recognised that back anywhere. I pushed my way over to where she was standing.

She did not turn round; I looked at the way her hair curled at the nape of her neck, and found the two tiny freckles on one white shoulder. Just before I touched her arm, she turned.

Her grey eyes were very steady; then they *grew warm;³ she flushed and smiled.

“Larry!” she said. “Larry Jorden!” She put out her hand and I shook it, feeling rather foolish.

“Hello, Freda,” I said. “Remember me?”

She cocked⁴ her head to one side. “Well, you rather remind me of a person I knew a year ago.”

1. 熱烈, 盛. 2. 找出其所在. 3. 興奮起來. 4. 傾斜.

說 不 得 ！

當我進去的時候，那夜會正鬧得熱烈得很。我從這間房走到那間房，和別人握着手，讓別人拍着我的背，回答着許許多多的問題。最後我才把我所找尋的那個女人尋到了。

她正站在一個窗前；把背向着房裏。她的背影，無論到那裏我都認得的。我便從人叢中擠過，走到她站着的地方去了。

她並沒有轉過身來；我望着她鬆在頸背上的那頭髮的樣式發現她雪白的肩膀的一邊上，有兩粒極小的雀斑。剛在我去握住她的玉臂之前，她回過頭來了。

她的銀灰色的眼睛釘着我望了一下，於是變得親密起來。她紅着面微笑了。

『拉理！』她叫出來。『爵頌拉理！』她伸出手來，我握了一下，感到有點愚笨。

『喂，斐德，』我說。『你還記得我？』

她把頭偏在一邊。『啊，你有點使我想起一年前認識的一個人來了。』

I grinned. "Same old Killer," I said.

"Not quite," she smiled. "I don't like your nicknames any more. But tell me, how's the Army treating you? Do you like it? The uniform fits you. You've *gained weight,⁵ darling."

I could feel my face getting red. The "darling" had thrown me off step, and I avoided her eyes. A year seemed ages ago. Dancing at Nick's, arguments and coffee in her flat, motor runs on Sundays, tears, laughter, plans—all of it was brought back by *that one word⁶ and the way she said it.

I wanted to say, "You were awfully nice, darling," but I couldn't.

She said it. "We had something there." There was no rancour⁷ or reproach⁸ in the way she said it. "You came to see me?"

I nodded. "Perhaps you can help me. It's about a girl. We were going to be married." I stopped. Her eyes were very steady, and there was sympathy in them. "We met about six months after you and I—"

"Go on," she said. "If I can help, I will. Did you break it up?"

"Yes," I said, "and I can't understand it, Freda. We were talking about you and all I said was—"

5. 胖了。 6. 指 darling。 7. 怨恨。 8. 譴責。

我笑了。『同樣的一個殺人鬼，』我說。

『並不完全是，』她微笑着說。『我不喜歡你取的那些渾名。告訴我，你在軍隊裏過得怎樣？你喜歡軍隊的生活嗎？這制服你穿得很適合。你長胖了，親愛的。』

我可以感覺到我的臉變紅了。那『親愛的』一聲，把我嚇退了一步，我避免了她的視線。在一年以前，那好像是多少年前的事了。在妮克家裏跳舞，在她那房間喝着咖啡，談天說地，禮拜天乘汽車出去玩，有啼有笑，有計畫——這一切都由那「親愛的」一聲，和她說這個時的那種樣子，而勾上心來。

我想要說，『你那時對我真是太好了，親愛的，』但我却沒有能够說得出口。

她却自己提起了。『我們那時曾有過一番交好。』在她說這話的神氣中，並沒有一點怨恨或譴責。『你今天是來看我的嗎？』

我點頭了。『也許你可以幫助我。那就是關於一個女子。我們快要結婚了。』說到這裏我停住了。她的眼睛釘着我望了，其中表現着同情之心。『我們認識是差不多在六個月之後自從你和我——』

『繼續說下去，』她說。『如果我能幫得到忙的話，我一定幫忙。你們是鬧翻了嗎？』

『是的，』我說，『而我却不懂得那原因，斐德。我們當時正談到你，我只說了——』

Her eyes widened; she walked over to a table and put down her glass.⁹ When she came back she said, "Does the girl know me?"

"No," I said "she doesn't know **you**. That's what I can't understand."

I began to reconstruct for Freda what had happened that night. Every thing had been going beautifully. I had just come *on leave¹⁰ and she had given me more than a welcome. I was sure she loved me. We sat for hours planning what we'd do with every minute of my leave—the places we'd go to, the wonderful things we'd do together.

I stopped. Freda had turned her head and was half looking out of the window. "Do you want me to go on?" I asked.

Good word "Yes," she said, facing me again.

"Well, I took her to supper and then down to Nick's, and we sat listening to music and looking at each other. I asked her to marry me, and she said yes. Then one of the musicians came over—Joe Taylor, plays trombone,¹¹ remember him?"

"Yes," Freda smiled.

"It was dark where we were sitting," I continued, "and Joe was a little stewed.¹² He mistook the girl for you. Before I could introduce them,

9. 酒盃. 10. 休假. 11. 一種喇叭. 12. 煩惱.

她的眼睛睜大了；她走到一個桌子前去，把手裏的酒盃放下了。當她轉來的時候，她問，『那個女人認識我嗎？』

『不，』我說，『她不認識你。那就是我所不能了解的。』

我便開始把那天晚上所發生的事，爲斐德來重述一遍。那一切原來都是很順利的。那時我正休假回家，而 she 曾異常熱烈地歡迎了我。我確是知道她是愛我的。我們曾坐着好幾個鐘頭來計畫如何充分利用我的假期，一分一刻都不讓它浪費——計畫我們要到一些什麼地方去，以及我們在一塊兒要合作的一些了不起的事情。

我停住了。斐德已經把她的頭轉過去，一半望着窗外。『你要我繼續說下去嗎？』我問。

『說下去，』她說，再轉過臉來對着我。

『於是，我便同她出去吃晚飯，飯後就同到妮克家裏，我們坐下來聽音樂，彼此相對望着。我要求她和我結婚，她答應了。於是有一個音樂家走來了——戴勒爵，那吹喇叭的，你記得他嗎？』

『記得的，』斐德微笑了。

『我們坐着的地方很黑暗，』我繼續說，『而爵却有一點兒憤激。他把那女子錯認是你了。在我還沒有來得

Joe said, 'Hi, Freda, how's the Killer?' That was an embarrassing moment, but after Joe left, I didn't think much about it. She sat very quiet for a few minutes, and then she asked who you were."

"Naturally," Freda said, and smiled, but there was something about that smile that made me uncomfortable. "You don't have to tell what you said about me."

"Yes, I do," I said. "That's the only way you can help me. She asked me if I had been in love with you. I told her I had. She asked me how we met, and I told her about the office.

"She asked me," I went on, "if you were pretty. I said you were very pretty. Then she asked me to describe you. I said you had almost red hair and your eyes were grey, like hers. I said you had two freckles on your shoulder and an *unreasonable temper."¹³

"True." Freda smiled and looked at me very carefully.

"Then," I smiled back, "I said that men were always *after you,¹⁴ and that I sometimes got very jealous. But, I explained to her, I had *got over¹⁵ the jealousy, because it was ridiculous and I'd never be jealous of anyone again."

13. 不合理的脾氣. 14. 追求你. 15. 克服了.

及和他們介紹的時後，爵便說，「喂，斐德，那殺人鬼怎樣了？」那時候使我很窘，但是等爵走了以後，我也就沒有再去多想它了。她一聲不響地坐了幾分鐘，便問你是誰。」

『當然，』斐德微笑地說，不過在她那種微笑中，有點東西使我頗不舒服。『你用不着要把告訴她的關於我的話再對我說。』

『我要的，』我說。『只有把那個告訴你，你才可以幫助我。她問我是不是曾和你發生過戀愛。我告訴她確有其事。她問我們怎樣相逢的，我便把辦事處的情形告訴了她。』

『她問我，』我繼續說，『你是不是漂亮。我說你很漂亮。於是她又要我把你描寫一下。我就告訴她你的頭髮差不多是紅的，你的眼睛是銀灰色的，和她的一樣。我又說你的肩膀上有兩粒雀斑，你還有一種無理性的脾氣。』

『不錯。』斐德微笑了，很仔細地望着我。

『於是，』我也報之以微笑，『我又說有很多男子都時常追着你，因此我有時很感嫉妬。不過，我解釋給她聽，我克服了我的嫉妬心，因為我覺得這是有點可笑的，我將永遠不再嫉妬別人了。』

Freda was laughing at me now, and the laughter *sort of¹⁶ choked her up. "I hope you meant that."

"I did," I said. "I told her we had not been able to *hit it off¹⁷ because you had a temper and I was jealous and we were miserable together. She asked me if I thought you were still in love with me, and I said of course you weren't. She asked me if you were intelligent, and I said you were, but you did silly things."

"Is that all?" Freda asked me.

"No," I said, remembering. "She asked me if I thought *she* ever did silly or annoying things. I said no. She asked me if you and she were alike in any way. I said yes, you were alike in many ways, but—" I stopped.

*"Don't pull the punches,"¹⁸ Freda smiled.

"Well, I said she was much sweeter and more understanding, and that we'd have a wonderful life together." I paused. "That was the last thing I said. I looked up suddenly and saw that there were tears in her eyes. She got up and left before I could stop her. That was a week ago. I've tried to see her. I've 'phoned.¹⁹ I've written letters. Nothing works.²⁰ I've only got three more days, Freda, and I've got to get to her and explain."

16. 有點. 17. 一致, 和合. 18. 繼續說下去. punches 拔釘鉗. 19. 打

斐德現在對我笑起來了，那笑聲有點要使她哽塞了。

『我希望你確實能夠辦到那一點。』

『我確實辦到了，』我說。『我告訴她我們兩人意見不能投合，因為你有點脾氣，而我又嫉妒，所以在一塊兒是很痛苦的。她問我是不是覺得你現在還愛我，我說當然你不再愛我了。她問你是不是很聰慧，我說是的，不過你却做了些傻事。』

『再沒有說別的了嗎？』斐德問我。

『沒有了，』我說，回憶着過去。『她問我是不是覺得她本人也曾做過些傻事或是討厭的事。我說沒有。她問我你和她是不是有些地方相像，我說有的，你們有很多地方相像，不過——』我停頓了。

『說下去吧，』斐德微笑了。

『好吧，我說她比你更要溫存，更要理解，而我們在一塊兒，一定會過活得很快活的。』我停頓了一下。『那便是我最後說的一句話。我突然擡起頭來，看見她眼睛中含着眼淚了。在我還沒有來得及阻止她的時候，她已經站起身來走了。那是一個禮拜以前的事。後來我嘗試過幾次想見到她。我打了電話。我又寫了信。但都無效。斐德，我的假期只有三天了，我非得找到她解釋一下不可。』

Freda put her hand on the sleeve of my tunic.²¹ "Explain what, Larry?"

I felt confused and lost. "Don't you know?" I asked. "I thought you'd know what I said that hurt her. It was about you. You're a woman. You understand these things."

Freda tried to be flippant,²² but it didn't *come off.²³ "Yes, I'm a woman, Larry," she said. "But I can't tell you."

"Don't you know?" I asked.

Freda turned her back on me and looked out of the window.

"I know," she said softly, "but I think this is one you'll have to *work out²⁴ for yourself."

"I hope I haven't hurt you," I said, feeling totally miserable.

She shook her head. I said good-bye, tried to thank her, and pushed my way out of the room. I went to a dance club, then another. I kept going because there was nowhere to go.

It was almost 3 a. m. when I got to Nick's. My head was a little clearer; I sat listening to the music; and felt sorry for myself and went over everything I had said that other night. Then I began *going over²⁵ my conversation with Freda.

21. 短上衣. 22. 信口雌黃. 23. 成功. 24. 研究出來. 25. 回想一遍.

斐德把她的手放在我的衣袖上。『拉理，你要解釋什麼呢？』

我覺得迷惑而有所失了。『你懂得嗎？』我問。『我以為你是懂得我說錯了什麼的。那就是關於你的話。你是一個女人。你懂得這些事情的。』

斐德試想要信口雌黃一番，但是失敗了。『是呀，我是一個女人，拉理，』她說。『但是我不能夠告訴你。』

『你難道不懂得嗎？』我問。

斐德轉過身去，把背對着我，而望着窗外。

『我懂得的，』她細聲地說，『不過我想這是一件要你自己去體會出來的事。』

『我希望我沒有使你傷心，』我說，覺得十分難過。

她搖搖她的頭。我向她告辭，又試向她道謝了一番，便從人叢中擠出那房間來。我走到一個跳舞俱樂部，隨即又到另外一個地方去了。我繼續不斷地亂跑，因為我實在沒有地方好去。

當我達到妮克家裏的時候，那差不多是早晨三點鐘了。我的頭腦清醒了一點；我坐下來聽音樂；我想起自己很難受，便把日前那天晚上我所說的話，從頭回想了一遍。隨後我又開始把我和斐德的談話，也回憶了一遍。

Suddenly it hit me. It was like a low punch²⁶ and I sat up and said, "no!" aloud. And then I said "Yes!" Early next morning I went to Freda's flat.

We sipped coffee and watched the sun come up over the tops of the buildings. I kissed her again, and she said, "She must have been a very wonderful girl."

"She was," I said. "She was a lot like you in many ways."

Freda got up and her grey eyes beautifully dangerous.

"Don't ever say that again, darling," she said sharply. "I don't like it any better than the other girl did."

突然間我想到了。那正像一種不意的襲擊，我坐起來高聲地說了一聲，『不對！』隨即我又說，『對的！』第二天清早，我到了斐德家裏去看她。

我們坐着喝咖啡，望着太陽昇上屋梁。我再吻了她一下，她說，『她一定是一個很了不得的女孩子。』

『她是的，』我說，『她有許多地方都很像你。』

斐德站起身來，她的銀灰色的眼睛，含着一種美麗的險惡。

『請你不要再說那個了，親愛的，』她厲聲地說。

『我並不比你另外那個女人更愛聽這樣的話呀。』

THE SHARED DOG

BY Z. V. WEBB

IT was nearing sunset when I decided that I was still too far from the nearest township¹ to be able to make it in time for the evening meal. Besides, I had walked far that day, and I was beginning to realise that *city-bred feet² did not find these cocky³ miles easy.

The last man I had met on the road had assured me that I was only three miles from Bundoon. I was convinced that I had tramped four miles since speaking to the farmer, yet the township appeared to be no nearer. Only a long winding road spread itself ahead, making *a grey ribbon⁴ between trees that stretched above until they seemed to meet in the distance.

Just as I was beginning to feel that I had had enough of hiking,⁵ I saw along the roadside the welcome sight of curling smoke. Where there's smoke there's fire, I told myself; and where there's fire, there will be warmth and food and company. I had not gone much further when I realised that there were two fires. Soon, I could see them, giving out their cheerful glow in the gathering darkness of the evening.

1. 市區; 鎮區. 2. 城市生長的脚. 3. 不講禮貌的; 傲慢的. 4. —

一 犬 之 繫

當我確定我離最近的一個城還很遠不能夠在飯前趕到時，已經是夕陽西下近黃昏了。而且我那天已經走了很多的路，早已開始感覺到我這雙城市生長腳，對於這些傲慢的路程，很感難行。

我在路上遇見的最後一個人告訴我說，前往彭騰只有三哩路程。我深信我和那農夫談過以後，已經又走了四哩路了，不過我所要去的城市，好像並未走近多少。只有一條漫長彎曲的路，展開在前面，看去就像一條灰色的帶子，兩旁的樹木枝葉繁茂，向上伸去，直到達遠處才似乎互相連接起來。

正在我開始感覺到我已走了夠多的路時，我欣然看見了路邊有裊裊的青烟。我自忖有烟的地方必定有火；而有火的地方必定有溫暖，有食物，有人家。我並沒有向前走得很遠，便發見那兒原有兩起火。隨即，我就看見明火，在黑暗的晚上發出愉快的紅光來。

條灰色的帶子。 5. 徒步旅行。

Why two fires? I wondered, as I drew near. I hoped that I was not coming to some roadside burning off of rubbish,⁶ instead of the camp I had expected. My fears were dispelled when a dog barked at **my** approach. I deemed it courteous to speak.

“Hullo there!” I said. From a figure squatted at the first fire came the answer “Hullo mate!”⁷ Then, like an echo came a voice from the vicinity⁷ of the fire a *chain distant⁸, “Hullo mate!”

Puzzled, I stood at the edge of the *metalled road.⁹ I could smell the fragrance of *grilling chops¹⁰ that seemed good to my hungry senses. A black billy¹¹ from which steam issued in a faint cloud¹² *spoke of brewing tea.¹³ As my eyes became accustomed to the gloom, I saw that the squatting figure was that of an old weather-beaten¹⁴ man with a complexion¹⁵ like mahogany,¹⁶ and with a *battered felt hat¹⁷ pulled over a thatch¹⁸ of thick greying hair.

“Is it far to the next township?” I asked, The man sat back on his heels and quietly surveyed me. “Bundoon? Aw, I reckon it’s a matter of three miles from here, mate.” “Three miles?” I said, “why, a farmer away back along the road told me it was three miles from there. I must have walked more than three miles since then, and say the township’s still three miles away.”

6. 垃圾. 7. 附近. 8. 六呎遠的距離. 9. 碎石路. 10. 炸肉排.

爲什麼有兩起火呢？當我走近時，我爲之詫異了。我一走近便有一條狗子向我吠着，不用再擔心是燒垃圾了。我認爲狗叫是對客人慇懃的表示。

『喂！』我說。蹲在第一起烟火處的人，給我回答了，『喂，朋友！』隨即像反響似的，從附近隔六呎遠的地方，有個聲音傳來，『喂，朋友！』

我站在那碎石路的邊上，爲之惶惑了。我可以嗅到炸肉排的香味，那對於我的飢腸似乎是很好的。一隻黑的鐵罐，微微地冒出熱氣，表示有茶在煮着。當我的眼睛已慣於那種幽暗時，我便看見那蹲坐在地上的人，原是一個飽經風霜的老者，膚色如古銅，一頂破呢帽罩在他那一叢灰色的頭髮上。

『從這裏到前面的城市還很遠嗎？』我問。那個坐在他腳跟上的人慢慢地在我周身打量了一番。『彭敦嗎？哎，我想從這里去還有三哩路，朋友。』『三哩嗎？』我說，『那才怪啦，我在那一頭遇見一個農夫，他告訴我從那里去也只有三哩路。從那時起我已經走了不止三哩路了，而你說那城還在三哩的前面。』

11. 露營者的洋鐵罐. 12. 熱氣. 13. 表示裏面煮得有茶. 14. 飽經風霜的. 15. 面色. 16. 紅木. 17. 破呢帽. 18. 一叢.

The old man *rocked to and fro¹⁹ on his heels. The chops sizzled²⁰ an accompaniment as he spoke, "Aw, y'²¹ don't want to take any notice of *them cockies,²² mate, they'd tell y' anything. It's all of three miles from here to the township."

"If you want to get to Bundoon, mate, it's a matter of two and a half miles by the road." The voice, deep and husky, came from the further camp fire. I stared in perplexity from one squatting figure to the other.

"Don't listen to him, mate," said the man at the nearest fire, *in a hissing aside,²³ "he don't know what he's talking about." He raised his voice, "three miles, mate; that's what it is." Like the whisper of a wraith²⁴ came the call from the further fire, "two and a half."

"Anyhow," I said, looking from one to the other and speaking so that both could hear, "I've had enough. I don't reckon my feet could drag me another mile, let alone more; and I don't suppose there's a conveyance²⁵ of any kind hereabouts."

The old chap at the fire below me turned over the chops *with the wire in his hand.²⁶ The dog squatting beside him licked its mouth from side to side and wriggled²⁷ a little nearer the fire. "You'd better camp here for the night, mate. Come and have a taste of these chops."

19. 一來一去地搖擺。

20. 作噝噝聲。

21. = you.

22. 那些傲慢

那老者坐在他腳跟上前後地搖着。鍋里炸的肉排，發出噁噁的聲音來，與老者的話語相應和。『哎，你用不着去管那些鄉下人說的話，朋友，他們亂說的。從這裏到城市去是還有三哩路。』

『如果你要到彭敦去，朋友，沿這條路走去還有兩哩半。』那聲音又深沈又沙啞，從較遠的帳篷火邊傳來。我困惑地從這個蹲坐的人望到那個蹲坐的人。

『不要聽他的，朋友，』在附近火旁的那人說，又降低聲音悄悄地旁白，『他自己說的話，他又莫名其妙。』他又把聲音提高着說，『是三哩，朋友；那是不錯的。』好像鬼話似的，較遠的火旁又有聲音傳來：『兩哩半。』

『總而言之，』我說，從這個望到那個，用他們兩人都能聽見的聲音說，『我已經走得够了。我覺得我的腳一哩也再不能拖動了，讓它去吧；我想附近也沒有什麼車子可以代步的。』

我底下火邊的那個老頭兒，用他那瘦筋的手把炸肉排翻動了。坐在地旁的狗，用舌頭舐着它的嘴，慢慢移向火邊更近的地方走。『你最好今晚就在此搭篷歇下罷了，朋友。來嘗一嘗我煮的這些肉排。』

的人，them = those (俚語)。 23. 作噁聲旁白。 24. 幽靈；鬼怪。 25. 交通工具。 26. 用他那瘦而強壯的手。 27. 蠕動。

Before I could answer the welcome invitation, the man from the other fire spoke. "There's some stoo²³ here, mate, if you'd like it—just ready to *dish up."²⁰

I looked from one to the other. Apparently the two old chaps were not in the habit of pooling³⁰ their resources. I had heard of old mates *in the bush³¹ *getting on each other's nerves.³² I did not want to offend either. I turned towards the further camp. 'This chap'—I nodded at the man near me—'asked me to share his chops. Perhaps you'll let me have a mug of your tea later.' 'Just as you like.' Apparently there was no harm in sharing a little hospitality from each.

I walked down the slope³³ to the hollow³⁴ to where the nearer man had his fire. The chops balancing on their *improvised griller³⁵ were just *done to a turn.³⁶ I squatted on one side of the old man while the dog wriggled expectantly on the other side of him.

The chops were good. My host gave me a tin plate and dished up two succulent³⁷ chops *with the taste of the fire³⁸ on them. We ate with our fingers, while the dog waited for the bones. And, as we ate, we chatted as if the other man were not there.

28. =stew 蒸煮的食物。 29. 用盆子裝起來。 30. 儲存。 31. 叢林

在我還沒有來得及回答他的邀請時，遠處火邊的那人也說話了。『我這裡也有一點煮好的菜，就預備起鍋了，朋友，你如果喜歡的話。』

我從這人望到那人，顯然地那兩個老頭兒，並不習於在一起合吃的。我曾聽說過在未開墾地的老頭兒常要互相感到頭痛的。我雙方都不想得罪。我便轉向遠處的一個帳篷說。『這個人』——我向附近的人點着頭——『請我吃他炸的肉排。也許等下你請我喝一盃你煮的茶吧。』『隨你的意好了。』顯然地從他們每個人那里分享一點禮遇是無害的。

我走下斜坡到附近一個人搭篷升火的窪地了。那在臨時設備的鍋上炙的肉排炸得正好。我也就坐下在那老頭的一邊，那狗便在他另一邊蠕動地等待着。

那些肉排很好。我的主人給了我一個錫盤子，爲我裝了兩塊熱烘烘的多汁的肉排。我們用手拿着來吃，狗就在旁邊等着骨頭。我們一面吃一面談，好像另外那個人不存在似的。

中。 32. 互相討厭；互相感覺不快。 33. 坡。 34. 窪地。 35. 臨時的炸肉鍋。 36. 煮得恰好。 37. 多汁的。 38. 熱得滾燙。

The dog—a mongre³⁹ of fox terrier⁴⁰ stamp whom the old man called 'Spot'—trotted from one camp to the other, getting a scrap here, a bone there. When I had eaten to my satisfaction, I went over to the other fire.

"Y' won't beat⁴¹ my billy tea," the chap greeted me, as he swept aside some scattered twigs that I might sit beside him. He was a long, lean sandy-haired⁴² man, with bony cheeks that reminded me of the sides of an ancient cow whose ribs threaten to break through the hide.

He poured the tea from his battered black billy into an equally shapeless mug, and handed it to me. For himself, he used the lid of the billy, sucking the tea through his gingery⁴³ moustache with a *gurgling noise⁴⁴ that betokened great satisfaction. As we drank, he talked of many things—from international politics to local food prices. And the man at the other fire might not have existed.

When last I settled down for the night, I took care to make my sleeping quarters⁴⁵ half way between the two camps. Each at the old chaps lent me a blanket, but neither came within half a chain of the other. I wondered what the dog would do. As I watched from under my blankets, it looked

39. 蒙古種的犬. 40. 獵犬. 41. 打敗; 認爲不如. 42. 頭髮黃赤.

那狗——一個白狐種獵犬花紋的蒙古狗，那老頭兒把它喚作「斑兒」——從這個帳篷跑到那個帳篷，在這裏得到一塊碎肉，在那裏得到一塊骨頭。當我吃得飽飽的時候，我便走到另外那個帳篷裏去。

『你不會嫌棄我的茶吧，』那老頭兒招呼着我，一面掃開一些樹枝好讓我坐下在他旁邊。他是一個瘦長子，頭髮黃赤，面上顴骨突出，使我想起老牛的兩脅的那些肋骨就像要突破皮膚冒出來似的。

他從那破黑罐把茶倒出到一個同樣不成形的茶盃裏，遞給了我。他自己便用那黑罐的蓋子，來代替茶盃，經過他那氣概不凡的上髭中間喝下茶去，發出一種鯨吞的聲音，表示很為滿意。當我們喝茶的時候，他談論了許多事情——從國際政治談到本地食物的價格。儼然坐在另外那個火邊的人不存在似的。

最後我便安排來過夜了，我當心着把我睡的地方佈在他們兩個帳篷的中間。他們兩個老頭兒，每人借我一牀毛毯，但他們兩人都不肯走過他們相隔的一半的距離。我極想知道那狗要怎樣辦。我在毛毯下面望着它從這起火看到

from one fire to the other, then settled at the warmer, which happened to be that of the sandy-haired man. But, when I wakened at dawn, I saw that Spot was curled up at the dying embers⁴⁶ of the other man's fire. Like myself, the dog evidently desired to show no favouritism.⁴⁷

The grey-haired old man was first astir.⁴⁸ As I rolled out of my blankets he was building up his fire and fanning the embers with his battered felt hat. "Sleep all right?" he asked. "Fine," I answered. "I hope you didn't miss your blanket." "Aw no," he said, "I can always keep meself warm." "I'll just have a swill⁴⁹ at the creek," I said. "Righto. The billy won't be long in boiling."

He was right. By the time I returned from the roadside stream, the tea was being shaken into the billy. A swift swing round in the air and the billy was stirred. 'You can have y' tea as soon as you like,' the old man said.

I glanced at the man, who was squatting at his fire. "Do yer⁵⁰ like your eggs, hard or soft?" he asked, as he dropp's eggs, one after another, into his billy. 'Er—medium, thanks.'

As I drank my mug of tea I suddenly felt sorry for the two obstinate old-timers,⁵¹ ignoring each other so completely, when they might have enjoyed companionship.

46. 餘燼. 47. 徧愛. 48. 活動的; 騷動的. 49. 洗. 50. =you.

那起火，最後決定在那較暖的地下睡下來了。那較暖的地方原是屬於那位頭髮黃赤的老頭兒的。不過，當我黎明時一醒來，我又看見那「斑兒」蜷臥在另外一個老頭兒的餘燼旁邊了。顯明地那狗子，也和我一樣，不想表示有何偏愛。

第一個起來活動的，是那灰色頭髮的老者。等我從毛毯裏爬起來時，他正用他那頂破呢帽子在扇着餘燼升火了。『睡得好嗎？』他問。『很好，』我回答說。『我希望你夜裏沒有想到你的毛毯。』『哎，沒有，』他說，『我總是可以使我自己保暖的。』『我要到溪邊去盥洗下來，』我說，『好呀。我的水也很快就可以煮開了。』

他說得不錯。等我從路旁的溪邊轉來的時候，他的水已快燒開正在放茶葉到罐裏去。一陣扇過之後那罐子就沸騰了。『你馬上要喝茶馬上就有，』那老頭兒說。

我望了那坐在火邊的人一下『你喜歡你的蛋煮得老一點還是嫩一點？』他問，一面一個個地把蛋打向他的罐內。『呃——中樣子，謝謝。』

當我在喝着我那一盃茶的時候，我突然地爲這兩個頑固的老頭兒感到難過，他們完全互相不理，實則他們應該是很可以和好地相處的。

“Why can't you two be friends?” I said to the man beside me.

The little old man emptied his bill-lid and wiped the back of his hand across his mouth. “Sick of each other,” he said. “Suppose we was together too long.”

“Then, wouldn't it be better to separate—to get right away from each other?”

The old chap shook his head, then poked another stick on the fire. “We can't,” he said, “there's the dog.”

“Oh! Who owns him?”

“We both do. Found him on the road when he was a pup,⁵² we did. Once, we decided to go our own ways, and the one that Spot followed could keep him. But it didn't work.”

“How was that?” I said.

“Well,” said the old man, “we set off on a long road. Back of June it was; I went north and Bill went south.”

“And whom did Spot follow?”

“He follered⁵³ me. I was almost sorry for Bill. But, when I got to the top of the hill and turned around, Spot was goin' hell-for-leather⁵⁴ down the hill after Bill. I went on, and, that night, I was just turning into me blankets, when who should,

52. 釋狗。 53. =followed. 54. 拚命地；以全速力地。

『你們兩個爲什麼不能好好地做朋友呢？』我問我旁邊的那人。

那瘦小的老人喝完了他的茶，用他的手背在嘴上揩過了，『已經互相厭倦了，』他說。『我們也許是因爲在一起太久了。』

『那末，分開一下不好嗎？——走得遠遠地互相不碰頭。』

那老人搖着他的頭，於是用棒去鬆了一下火。『我們不能夠，』他說，『這兒有一條狗。』

『啊！狗是誰家養的？』

『我們兩家共養的。我們在路上看見一條小狗，便把它抱回來養大的。曾經有一次，我們決定各人走各人的路，看「斑兒」跟誰走，就讓它屬於誰。可是那辦法沒有成功。』

『那怎麼樣的呢？』我說。

『那時，』那老人說，『我們分道揚鑣，向着遠遠的地方去。那還是六月間的事；我向北而畢爾向南。』

『而「斑兒」果是跟了誰呢？』

『它跟了我。我幾乎要爲畢爾難過。不過，當我走上山頂轉彎的時候，「斑兒」却拚命地跑下山來追畢爾。我仍繼續前進，那天晚上，當我剛鑽到被窩裏去時，「斑

smell me out but Spot. Fair done up he was. I give him a drink and some tucker⁵⁵ and then he lay down and slept like a log. But when I woke in the morning, he was gone.

“Back to Bill I suppose?”

The old man nodded, “I could see the going was too hot for Spot. So I packed up *me swag⁵⁶ and set off back the way I’d come. Close up to where we’d parted. I meets Bill, coming towards me. And, at his heels was Spot, *not half glad⁵⁷ to have us two together again. Bill and me had ter⁵⁸ camp *fer a couple er days⁵⁹ just where we was, until Spot got rested. When we *pulled out,⁶⁰ we went in the same direction. *Tossed a penny to see⁶¹ which way we’d go. We couldn’t do nothing else.”

“I suppose not,” I said.

I breakfasted with Bill, while Spot patronised both camps. As soon as the meal was over, the old men packed. They were making along the way I had come. As I moved off, along the road to Bundoon, I looked backward. Bill, his swag on his shoulder, his billy in his hand, was swinging on his journey. A chain behind, his mate kept the same steady pace. And, running first at one man’s heels, then the other’s, was the dog that kept the partnership⁶² together!

55. 食物. 56. =my belongings. 在叢林中旅行用的毛毯等, 澳洲方言

兒」却嗅到我的所在，又突然出現了。真苦了它跑上跑下。我給了它一點吃的喝的，於是它躺下來，睡得像一根木頭。但是當我早上醒來的時候，它又不在那裏了。』

『我想又是回到畢爾那兒去了？』

那老人點頭。『我可以看見「斑兒」轉去跑得滿身大汗。所以我包紮起我的行頭，往原路回轉去。在我們分別的那地方附近，我遇見了畢爾，也正向我走來。在他腳下的是「斑兒」，看見我們重新團聚，欣喜欲狂。畢爾和我只得就在那裏又紮下帳篷來休息兩天，等「斑兒」休息一下。當我們再出發的時候，我們便向着同一方向進行了。我們拈鬮來決定方向。此外沒有別的方法。』

『我想是沒有，』我說。

我和畢爾一同吃了早餐，「斑兒」却周旋於兩個帳篷之間。我們吃完，那兩位老者，便又束裝待發，他們向我來的路上走去。當我沿路向着彭敦前進的時候，我回頭看了。畢爾把包袱揹在肩上，茶罐拿在手裏，搖搖擺擺而去。約莫隔得六呎遠，他的朋友保持着那同樣穩健的步伐。而在這人的腳跟跑到那人的腳跟的，便是那條使他們保持聯絡的狗。

作 swag. 57. =very glad. 58. =to. 59. =for a couple of days.
60. 出發. 61. 擲錢決定方向，譬如說 head 向南，tail 向北等. 62. 同伴關係.

THE BRASS CANDLESTICK

BY MAURICE FRIDBERG

DO not ask me how Papa Gilblatt lived, for I do not know. I have never imagined him eating or sleeping. I cannot remember him as a man, except that he wore a watersilk jacket frayed at the cuffs and that he had a snow-white beard trimmed square. But as a spirit I can never forget him, nor can he ever be forgotten by anyone who sought the justice and advice of his *unusual court.¹

He was the doyen² of the district, a modern Solomon,³ and he sat in the front parlour of his small house all through the hours when people quarrel and when problems of life become knotted. He sat among his books, giving advice, talking quietly, and settling his peaceful influence all around. He never became excited or urgent in his manner. When he was puzzled he would close his eyes and lie back on the high velvet-covered chair, and after a few moments, during which time one had the impression of him communing with an invisible Master, he would look back and in the same quiet voice he would provide the solution.

1. 非平常的法庭。 2. 首席，老資格。 3. 所羅門王（伊色勒王大衛之

銅 燭 臺

不要問我吉爾布拉特老爹的生活，因為我不知道。我從來沒有想像他是和一個常人一樣地眠食的。除了他穿的一件袖口已磨損了的水綢短衣，和一嘴修得方正的雪白的鬍鬚而外，把他作為一個普通人看待，我不能記憶到他。但是把他作為一個精靈的人傑，我却永遠不能把他忘記，凡找過他公平判斷，解疑排難的人，誰也不能忘記他。

他是那地方上的第一人，一個現代的所羅門，而他坐在他小屋子的前房裏，終日為人們排難解紛，消除他們人生問題上的癥結。他坐在他的書本當中，循循勸誘，侃侃而談，四面八方地給予和平的影響。他的態度總是從容不迫的，從無興奮和緊急的時候。當他感到困惑的時候，他常要把眼睛閉上，仰着躺在那高高的天鵝絨的椅子上，我們看去就覺得他那時是和一個冥冥中的主宰在密談，過了幾分鐘之後，他才醒過來，仍然用那種溫和的聲調，而說出一個解決的辦法。

子，生於紀元前一〇三三年，死於九七五年），賢哲的人，智者。

Most of the problems he was *called upon⁴ to solve were of a domestic nature; family quarrel, a faithless wife, a gambling husband, a wayward child. But it was said, too, that many legal giants came to his front parlour to discuss an unusual case or a troublesome point.

The first time I came to Papa Gilblatt was when my grandfather died and left a will, the conditions⁵ of which were of a most complicated nature. My grandfather was half mad; but that's another story. Enough to say that Papa Gilblatt interpreted the will to⁶ the complete satisfaction of all the members of my family, and for my part I am everlastingly grateful for the opportunity of meeting this man above men.

After the settlement of the will I begged him to allow me to come and listen to him during his court, and he readily⁷ consented. I came often; sometimes once a month, or even a fortnight. Now and again the troubled people who came to seek advice were disturbed by my presence and I withdrew, but on most occasions they were too absorbed and heated⁸ with their own difficulties, and they took little notice of me as I sat in the corner of the room.

4. 被要求. 5. 條款. 6. 到那種程度. 7. 很快地. 8. 激烈.

別人要求他來解決的大多數的問題，都是屬於家庭間的；或是家族的爭執，或是妻室的不貞，或是丈夫的好賭，或是小孩的頑皮。但是又聽說，還有許多法律界的巨子，也來到他的前房，和他討論一些奇異的案件，或是麻煩的細節。

我第一次去到吉爾布拉特老爹那裏，是在我祖父死的時候，因為他留下的一個遺囑，是非常複雜不明的。我祖父已經半狂；但是那不相干。單說吉爾布拉特老爹，把我祖父的遺囑解釋得使我家裏的每一個人完全滿意，這已經夠了。至於說到我呢，得了這樣一個機會，見到這位人上人，真使我永遠感激。

在把那遺囑的問題解決之後，我懇求他允許我以後來聽他解疑折難，而他滿口答應了。所以我常常來，有時一個月一次，有時甚至兩禮拜一次。時常那些苦惱着而來請他指教的人，看見我在那裏，而感到不安，我就只好站開去，但是大多數的場合，他們都太熱中而專注在自己的困苦，並不注意坐在那房間角落上的我。

Papa Gilblatt always calmed the storms by his wisdom, and his visitors often left him as if to start a new life. This was conspicuously so in the case of the middle-aged lady, Madame Prideaux. It was rather a coincidence that her trouble was similar to my own, for she, too, came to Papa Gilblatt with the problem of an unusual will.

She told her story with a certain amount of emotion. Twenty-five years before, she had married the poor but honest Henri Prideaux. He had been poor *only in his own right,⁹ his father being a banker. Henri had not been *in agreement with¹⁰ his family *on the subject of¹¹ respectable¹² usury, and had broken himself away from them to seek a living with his own hands.

At the beginning of their married life he had not been successful, but they had been extremely happy nevertheless. Later, twelve or fourteen years later, Henri had changed his work, and by careful living (in which they had *denied themselves¹³ even the smallest luxury), he had been able to buy an old-established leather-worker's business in the centre of the town.

From the time Henri had first put on his apron the business had prospered. Soon they moved from their small cottage to a good brick

9. 只在他自己的權利上。 10. 一致。 11. 那問題上。 12. 可尊敬的

吉爾布拉特老爹常常用他的智慧，鎮定了一些激發的感情，總是使來者儼然是開始一個新生活似的滿意而去。在那位中年婦人，蒲利朵夫人的情形，尤其顯得如此。她的困難與我自己的頗為相像，因為她也是帶着一個不平常的遺囑來找吉爾布拉特老爹的。

她敘述她的往事時，有點不勝感慨。在二十五年前，她和那貧苦而正直的亨利蒲利朵結了婚。他的貧苦只是他自己為然，他的父親却是一個銀行家。亨利對於盤剝重利的那回事，和他的家庭頗不一致，遂毅然和他們脫離了關係，而用他自己的兩手自尋活路。

在他們結婚生活的初頭，他並沒有如何成就，可是他們却極其快樂。以後，十三四年以後，亨利換過了他的工作，量入為出（雖極小的奢侈也都放棄了），他便留了幾個錢，竟能在市中心買了一個設立已久的製革廠。

從那時候起，亨利第一次擊上圍裙，親自操作，業務便很發達了。隨即他們便從那小屋，遷到近郊的一個很好

house on the outskirts of the town, and for several years life went smoothly. Then suddenly Henri had died.

It had been over a year since the death of her beloved husband, but Madame had not done anything about the will he had left, so overcome with grief and humiliation had she been.

And when Papa Gilblatt pressed her gently to tell him more about the contents of the will, she sobbed, and between her tears she told him of the single item¹⁴ that had been left to her, the brass candlestick.

For a few moments there had been complete silence in the room. Madame Prideaux had *composed herself,¹⁵ and she was sitting sad, but obviously relieved. Papa Gilblatt was leaning back, thinking, or communing with his Master, and then he spoke, quietly, asking questions, and penetrating into the unusual circumstances of the case.

He learned that although Henri *was by no means¹⁶ a wealthy man at the time of his death, he had left all his possessions to his own family who were already fabulously rich. And he learned more of the private life of Madame and her late husband. How, when they had been poor and humble,

14. 項目. 15. 鎮靜. 16. 決不是.

的磚建房子裏了，好幾年生活都過得很舒服。於是突然間亨利死了。

在她篤愛的丈夫死了一年之後，夫人才拿出他所留下的遺囑來看。因為在過去的一年中，她是這般的悲哀失意，竟沒有想到那遺囑的事。

當吉爾布拉特老爹諛婉地勉強她多多說出一點遺囑的內容來的時候，她便啜泣不止，帶淚地告訴他，她丈夫在遺囑上只遺傳給她一件簡單的東西——一個銅燭臺。

一時那室內寂靜無聲。蒲利朵夫人頗為鎮靜，她憂愁地坐在那裏，但顯然是很感慰藉了。吉爾布拉特老爹却靠在椅背上想着，或是在和冥冥的主宰密談，過了一會，他才溫和地說話，發問，而深入地追求那事態的異常情形。

他聆悉雖則亨利臨死時決不是一個很闊的人，他却把他所有的財產，遺傳給他那些已經非常闊了的家族。他又聆悉了更多的蒲利朵夫人的私生活，和她死去了的丈夫的事。當他們還在貧賤的時候，他病了，甚至沒有錢請醫

she had *sat up all night¹⁷ nursing him through an illness when there had not been enough money even to pay for a physician. And when, in later years, after they had become moderately comfortable, they had tended to separate the spirit that had made them as one. But never had they quarrelled or had they been unhappy.

All this, Papa Gilblatt considered carefully, often closing his eyes for several minutes. Then he continued his probing until apparently he had found the reason for the humiliating bequest.¹⁸ It was after Madame had told him, in answer to his question, that during the time she had personally nursed her late husband, it was by the light of a candle.

"To be the subject of such a tribute," he told her, "is to be *a part of¹⁹ heaven. Your husband placed you beyond the world of material wealth. He left to you a symbol of his gratitude and love."

At the words of Papa Gilblatt a new vision came into the woman's eyes, and she thanked him many times and blessed him and kissed his hand before she left.

One could feel the rebirth of life in that room after Papa Gilblatt had given his solution. It was always like that with his troubled visitors.

17. 終夜不睡. 18. 遺贈. 19. ...的一部分.

生，她便終夜不眠地來看護他。後來，等到他們的生活過得相當舒服的時候，他們那種愛結同心的精神，便有要分開的傾向了。但是他們從來沒有過勃谿，也從來沒有過不快樂的時候。

這一切，吉爾布拉特老爹都仔細地思考過了，常要閉上眼睛默想幾分鐘。於是他再繼續地細察，直到他對那屈辱的遺贈明白地找出一個理由來。那是在夫人回答他的問話時，告訴他說，在病中她親自看護他，就是在那燭光之下，聽了這個以後，他才明白了。

『這樣一種貢獻的主旨，』他告訴她，『是屬於天上的。你的丈夫把你看得很高，超越一切物質上的財富。他所遺給你的，是一個他的感謝和愛的象徵。』

聽了吉爾布拉特老爹這樣一說，那婦人的眼中發出一種新的幻想來。她再三地謝了，爲他祝福，又在他手上吻了一下，然後告辭而去。

在吉爾布拉特老爹給以解答以後，人們都在那房間裏感到再生之德。來找他的那些苦惱的人，常常都是那樣。

“Tell me, Papa Gilblatt,” I said to him as I was leaving, “are you sure you always reach the true solutions of the problems that are put before you?”

It was not that I doubted *in the slightest²⁰ his sincerity or the truth of his wisdom, but as I had been sitting listening to the tale of Madame Prideaux and all puzzling complications of the secret mind of Henri, I wondered if man could do more than *guess* the logical solution to a problem such as this. Even placing Papa Gilblatt above ordinary men, I wondered...

He was looking at me gravely as²¹ he said, “There are times when I am *not at all²² sure.”

20. 些微. 21. 當. 22. 一點也不.

『吉爾布拉特老爹，』當我走的時候我對他說，『請你告訴我，你對於別人找你來解決的那些問題，你確實是常常能得到真正的答案嗎？』

我絕對不是懷疑他的智慧的虔誠或真實，不過當我坐在那裏聽着蒲利朵夫人的故事，和亨利內心的祕奧中那種令人不解的複雜情形，我亟想知道對這樣一個問題的合理的解答，我們除猜度之外，是不是還有別的辦法。甚至把吉爾布拉特老爹置諸常人之上，我都要懷疑……

他很嚴肅地望着我，回答說，『有時候我也完全不能確定。』

“THE ENCHANTED BUCKET”

BY L. A. G. STRONG

I had not seen my friend Mr. Mangan for nearly a fortnight,¹ and fell to wondering if he were ill, when a knock came to the door. My visitor was a red-haired boy with a disarming² smile and a mouthful of *buck teeth.³ I recognised him as Mr Mangan's favourite nephew. He rummaged⁴ in an inside pocket and fished out a dishevelled bit of cigarette, which he lit and deeply inhaled. Finally he said that if I could spare the time Mr. Mangan would be glad to see me. I told the youth *I would be around⁵ in half an hour or so.

The back kitchen door was on the latch. Mr. Mangan's deep voice bade me enter. The table, the dresser,⁶ and the chairs were white as snow and showed the grain⁷ of the wood. Mrs. Mangan is a great housewife, and cannot tolerate a speck of dust in her kitchen.

*Before a roaring turf fire⁸ sat my friend. He was more than usually serious, and he had some sticking plaster on his nose. He held his *walking stick⁹ in his left hand, and stretched at his feet lay

1. 兩星期. 2. 鎮靜的. 3. 反齒. 4. 搜索. 5. 我就過去看他.

魔 桶

我差不多有兩個禮拜沒有看見我的朋友孟剛先生了，不禁正在想念他莫不是生病了，便突然聽見有人敲門。來者是一個紅髮少年，帶着一種鎮靜的微笑，和一口的反牙齒。我認出他是孟剛先生的愛姪。他在他裏面口袋裏搜索了一陣，拿出了一枝捏壞了的香煙來，把它點燃，深深地吸了。最後他說，如果我有空的話，孟剛先生很想見見我。我告訴那青年，說我過半個鐘頭的光景就去。

他廚房的後門是門着的。孟剛先生深沉的聲音，叫我進去。那裏面的桌子，案板，和椅子，都是雪一樣白的，木上的紋路全看得出來。孟太太是一個治家的能手，不讓她廚房裏有一點灰塵。

在那爆炸的泥炭的火前面，坐着我的朋友。他比平常更要嚴肅，而他的鼻子上黏着有一點橡皮膏藥。他左手拿着他的手杖，而他的狗可力便伸長躺在他的腳邊，帶着警覺

6. 做菜的案板. 7. 紋. 8. 在泥炭爆炸的爐前. 9. 手杖.

the Collie, with a watchful eye. But I noted these things subconsciously for my eye had been taken from the first by a portent,¹⁰ the startling spectacle of an aggressively new galvanized¹¹ bucket set right in the centre of the nice clean kitchen table at Mr. Mangan's back. Mr. Mangan cleared his throat "G'wan..." he said, "You're dying to know what the devil that bucket is doing on the table...Don't tell me; I know you."

"I did notice it."

"Oh, ye¹² did, did ye?"

"A fine bucket it is. I expect it would be a three gallon bucket."

"Yerrah," said Mr. Mangan. "No matter what it is, I'm keeping my eye on it, I'm keeping me two eyes on it, for that matter, until it is safely out of the house."

I noticed then that Mr. Mangan's right hand was much bandaged,¹³ and stained with iodine.¹⁴

"Be damn to it, I bought it a week ago, from *them tinkers¹⁵ up the road. I gev¹⁶ them *two and six,¹⁷ two ould¹⁸ hats, and a well-worn rain-coat. *I'd no soonav bought it, and¹⁹ the tinkers disappeared, then I thought this was an apt moment to mix some swill²⁰ for the two pigs we

10. 預兆. 11. 電鍍的. 12. =You. 13. 綑帶纏着. 14. 碘酒
15. =those tinkers (俚語). 16. =gave. 17. 兩先令六便士. 18. =old.

的眼光。但是這些事物，我都不知不覺地注意到了，因為從一開頭我的眼睛就被一種預兆所吸引了；一個嶄新電鍍的，令人奪目的桶子，放在孟剛先生背後那張精緻乾淨的廚房桌子的中央。孟剛先生咳清了一下嗓子。『哼……』他說：『你一定極想知道把這桶子放在這桌上做什麼吧……用不着你說；我已早知道你心上的意思了。』

『我確是注意到了它。』

『啊，你注意到了，是不是？』

『那是一個很好的桶子。我想那是一個三加侖的桶子吧。』

『哎呀，』孟剛先生說：『不管它裝幾加侖，我却不斷地在注意着它，用我的一雙眼睛在注意着他，爲着那件事，我不敢忽略一下，一直要望着它安全地拿出我家裏我才放心。』

我那時又注意到孟剛先生的右手是用紉帶網着，滿塗着碘酒。

『真是糟透了，我在一星期以前，在前面路上一個鐵匠那裏買來的。我給了他們兩先令六便士，兩頂舊帽子，和一件穿破了的雨衣。我剛把它買來，那鐵匠就不見了。於是我想那正是時候，滲一點豬食給我們所養的兩頭豬

have. Not having very far to go for the ingredients,²¹ I soon had about a gallon and a half ready for action. I went around to the back garden when I caught sight of a rose bush all in tatters and in want of fixing. I was stooping down, when *the wife²² knocked on the window glass—a signal for my dinner. I straightened myself, rubbed my hands together and stepped back quickly. My right foot went into the bucket of swill, and was submerged at once. I tried to extricate my leg, but devil a stir could I get out of my foot. The only thing to be done was to plunge both hands into the stuff and cut the bootlace. As a preliminary, I cut my instep²³ with my penknife. After the devil's own struggle, I freed my foot, and shoved the bucket impatiently to one side. I cleaned the boot as well as I could, and turned about to go on to the pigs; I grazed my other leg on the handle of the bucket going out of the garden gate. I fed the pigs without further mishap. No one was *aware of²⁴ my purchase, and I decided to bring the bucket around to the front of the house, where I left it beside the porch door.

“The wife,” went on Mr Mangan, “never said anything at dinner, the conclusion of which, there was a knock at the door.”

21. 原料. 22. =my wife. 23. 脚趾部分. 24. 注意到.

吃。去找那些原料用不着要走多遠，我馬上就尋到一加侖半的東西預備來混和了。我走到後園裏去，我便看見了一堆薔薇花弄得破落不堪，急需整理。我便彎下身去，就聽到我老婆在窗玻璃上敲着——那是一種叫我去吃飯的信號。我伸直起腰來，摩擦了一下我的手，便匆匆地走轉去。我的右脚一下踏進了那豬食的桶內，登時浸滿了一腳。我試想把我的腳拔出來，但怎樣也拔不出。唯一的辦法就是把我的兩隻手都浸到那豬食裏面去，把皮鞋帶子弄斷。作為第一步工作，我用小刀把皮鞋的腳趾部分切破了。拚命掙扎了一番，我好不容易把我的腳拔出來了，我很有耐性地把那桶子推到一邊。我盡力地把我的皮鞋洗清潔，回頭想去繼續餵豬；走出園子的時候，又把我的左腳在那桶子的提手上擦了一下。再沒有發生別的什麼亂子地我把豬餵了食。誰也沒有注意到我買了這個桶子，而我決定把這桶子提到前門口去，到那裏我便把它放在走廊的門邊。

『我那老婆，』孟剛先生繼續說，『在吃飯的時候從不說話，在剛吃完飯的時候，便聽見有人敲門。』

“That’ll be the *Insurance man,²⁵” says she. I was resting after the meal, and she, hurrying to the porch door with two and eleven pence in her hand for the Agent, contrived to fall over the bucket, right into the arms of the Insurance man. Only, *for him,²⁶ she’d have broken her neck. As it was, they both subsided in a sea of swill, and I decided to retire to the garden. When all was silent, I retrieved the bucket, intending to wash it under the tap²⁷ at the top of the garden. I took the rake out of the tool house, the spade and the hoe. These I rested against the tool house door, while I washed the bucket.

Some of the stuff had stuck; I had to get a bit of stick and scrape it out. Then, raising myself and wiping my forehead, I stepped back, partly fell over the blasted bucket, recovered myself, and trod smartly on the business end of the rake.”

Mr. Mangan pointed to his nose. It was contused and swollen.

“I was half unconscious spouting blood, with my head in the wife’s lap, and she *shoving four keys down my back.²⁸ The wife gently led me from the garden. I never saw her until teatime.

25. 保險公司的人。

26. 如果沒有他在那裏的話。

27. 自來水龍頭。

『那一定是保險公司的人來了，』她說。我正在飯後休息着，她手裏拿了兩先令十一便士的保險金，匆匆跑到走廊的門口去，湊巧一下跌倒在那桶上，幸虧那保險公司的職員用手把她攔住了。如果不是他，她一定會把頸子跌斷的。因為這一來，他們兩個都落到傾滿一地的豬食裏面了。我決定再回到園子裏去。當一切都平靜了的時候，我把那桶子取過來，想到園子那頭的自來水龍頭下頭去把它洗過乾淨。我從工具房裏取出耙，鏟，和鋤頭來。我把它們暫時放在工具房的門邊，先去洗那桶子。

有些豬食黏在那桶上；我得去弄一塊小板子來把它括掉。於是，伸起腰來，揩了一下我的額頭，再走回去，又部分地跌倒在那可呪詛的桶子上，站起來我便更快地走過去耙草。』

孟剛先生指着他的鼻子。那是被打傷了，腫起來了。

『我差不多失了知覺，血直朝外面噴，我的頭伏在我老婆的膝頭上，她把四把鑰匙從我頸上推到背上去，來止住我鼻子流血。她溫存地把我從園子裏扶回來。以後我直到吃茶的時候才看見她。

28. 外國人迷信以鑰匙在頸項後面往下推，可以止鼻血。

“My nose was now stopped bleeding, and I made a good tea. I put on another pair of old boots, and went to the back garden again with the intention of locking up the tools and the bucket. I locked them up, and was going back to the house, when Mr. McTay’s eldest daughter called me, and asked could I lend her Daddy a bucket.”

“What sized bucket does he want?”

“Ah, two or three gallon.”

“So I lent her the bucket, there and then. That was at eight p.m. At nine p.m. the youngest McTay called, and asked me for the loan of my bicycle. It seemed he had to cycle down for Dr. Fogerty, as Mr. McTay had either broken or badly strained his left leg.

“The following morning another of the McTay clan²⁹ trundled back the bicycle with the bucket. Mr. McTay, it transpired, had brought it into his kitchen and was mixing some phosphates in a basin, preparatory to putting the stuff in the bucket, which was on the floor, and near the table, when the light went out. Mr. McTay makes his own electric fuses.³⁰ He uses old ones, and makes the necessary connections with silver paper from cigarette boxes. When the light went out, Mr. McTay stepped back, and before he knew where

29. 一家. 30. 電燈的保險絲.

『我的鼻子現在已經不出血了，我好好的吃了一頓茶。我另外穿上一雙舊皮鞋，再走到園子裏去，想要把那些工具和桶子鎖起來。我把它們鎖好，再走回屋子裏來的時候，就遇到馬克泰先生的大小姐來找我了，問我可不可以把桶子借給他的爸爸。』

『他要怎樣大小的桶子？』

『啊，兩三加侖的。』

『所以我當時便把我那新桶子借給她拿去了。那是在晚上八點鐘。一點鐘之後，馬克泰的小兒子又來了，要借我的腳踏車。那好像是他要乘腳踏車到街上請福格蒂醫生，因為馬克泰先生把左脚跌破或是扭傷了。』

『第三天早上馬家另外一個人用小貨車把我的腳踏車和桶子載回來還我了。這把那祕密顯露了，就是說馬克泰先生把桶子拿到他廚房裏去，正在一個盆子裏混和着磷酸肥料，回頭想要把它放到桶子裏面去，那時桶子就放在地板上，靠近桌邊，突然電燈熄了。馬克泰先生自己做他的電燈保險絲。他利用破了的絲，並用包香煙的錫紙來保持必要聯接的。當電燈熄了的時候，馬克泰先生退回了幾步，在他自己還沒有知道他走到了什麼地方以前，他便碰

he was, he had crashed over the bucket, brought the phosphates down on his head, and dived in the most approved Stuka³¹ fashion into the fireplace. He was promptly rescued but was now *laid up,³² and in a damn bad humour.³³

Mr. Mangan relit³⁴ his pipe.

“I had for some time been *making up my mind³⁵ to whitewash³⁶ the back wall here, so I got some lime and mixed about two gallons of wash. I placed the bucket of whitewash beside an oleander³⁷ near the gate, *out of harm’s way,³⁸ and was getting out a ladder from the tool house, when the air was rent by a terrible yell, followed by some highly original profanity. I ran out of the garden... the postman lay flat on his back, with the bucket at his side, and most of the contents trickling down his tunic and trousers. I got him on to his feet, when he asked me what *in the name of the Seven Churches³⁹ I meant by leaving the bucket where it was. I explained to him that I had put it where I did for safety’s sake.”

“Well,” says he, “all I can say is that you’ll be hearing from the Post Office soon, and here is a pink letter or you with ne’re⁴⁰ a stamp on it, and I hope to God it’s a summons.⁴¹”

31. 德國俯衝轟炸機名。 32. 躺在牀上。 33. 脾氣。 34. 重新點燃了。 35. 下決心。 36. 粉刷。 37. 夾竹桃。 38. 遠遠地放在不礙事的地

在那桶子上面了，把那磷酸肥料打翻到他頭上，就像德國的俯衝轟炸機最好的姿勢衝到火爐裏去了。他馬上就被救助了，而現在躺在牀上，脾氣很壞。』

孟剛先生重把其煙斗點燃了。

『我好一向就決心要把我這後面的牆粉刷一下，所以我弄了點石灰，而混和了兩加侖光景的石灰水。我把那一桶石灰水放在門口遠遠的那株夾竹桃旁邊，使它不至再出什麼亂子，然後再從工具房去取出一架梯子來，突然聽見有人大叫，跟着就是一些最原始的咀罵。我跑出花園去……那郵差仰臥在地上，桶子就在他的旁邊，裏面盛的東西大半流到他一身。我把他扶起來，他問我碰了什麼鬼要把那桶子放在那個地方。我解釋給他聽，說我就是爲的安全起見才把它放到那裏的。』

『好吧，』他說，『我所要說的就是你馬上會要收到郵政局的信，這裏是你的一封淡紅色封套的信，上面沒有貼郵票，我希望這是一封召書。』

方。 39. 在上帝的名義下；到底。 40. =never. 41. 召去入伍。

“I remove the bucket, and left it in the middle of the far field. That evening about half past four, when the dairyman arrived to milk the six cows—there was *the devil to pay.⁴²

“One of the cows had the bucket on its horns, well down over its eyes, and was in a frantic state, buck-jumping through hedges, and trying to get through a wall near the golf-links.⁴³ The dairyman and I got a chisel, a hammer, and a hacksaw, and a bar, having to cut off a few inches of one of the horns, we soon released the cow. The bucket was as good as ever. *Divil a dinge in it,⁴⁴ but during her efforts to escape, the cow had hopelessly damaged the dairyman’s bucket. So I volunteered to wash out my bucket, and lend it for milking. I cleaned it out and brought it to the field. The dairyman, now considerably delayed, thanked me without emotion and proceeded to milk the cows. I retired to a safe distance. I hadn’t long to wait. I heard a frenzied yell, and next thing, there was the dairyman, sitting in the bucket, with milk gently lapping at the sides of his breeches pocket, and the cow gazing round at him. He said he had lost over a gallon of milk, and went to another cow. I drew further off, and put my hands before my face. I heard a crash,

42. 又出亂子。 43. 高爾夫球場。 44. 打凹了一個洞。

我把那桶子拿開，遠遠地放在田地的中央。那天下午在四點半鐘的光景，那牛奶場的人來給我這六頭乳牛擠奶——誰知又惹起了一場後患。

『有一頭乳牛是把桶子掛在它的角上的，吊下來把它的眼睛遮住了，使它狂暴起來，直跳過籬笆去，而想要衝過高爾夫球場旁邊的一道牆。那擠牛奶的人和我，拿了一把鑿子，一把錘子，和一把鋸子，又拿了一根棒，把那頭牛衝在牆裏的角鋸斷了幾吋時，我們才把它解放了。那桶子還是和從前一樣的好，只是打凹了一點吧了。但是在那牛拚命逃跑的時候，它却把牛奶場的人的那桶子弄得破爛不堪了。於是我自動地把我的桶子洗乾淨，借給他來擠牛奶。我把它洗乾淨之後，便拿到田間。那很遲誤了的擠牛奶的人，毫無感動地謝過了我，便進行去擠奶。我退到一個安全的距離。我不想守在跟前等着。不久，我忽然聽見一聲狂叫，隨即我便看見那擠牛奶的人坐在那桶子裏面，牛奶從他的褲袋兩邊慢慢地流出來，而那牛在旁邊望着他。他說他損失了一加侖以上的牛奶，然後走到另外一頭牛那裏去了。我遠遠地退開來，用手蒙着我的面孔。我又

and there was a Friesian cow *on its knees,⁴⁵ with its head well down in the bucket, and the dairyman waving his arms to heaven. I could not understand what the man was trying to explain to me, but it was now nearly five o'clock and he hadn't a teacup of milk extracted.

"He ran after two Kerry cows, but the sinking sun reflecting a blood red glare from the bucket, scared these, and it was nearly seven of clock when myself and the man, with the youngest McTay, recovered the pair of them a mile and a quarter off on the race course, where they had taken up night quarters in the Grand Stand. The dairyman drove them home, where it is to be supposed he relieved them by lamp light.

"I brought the bucket back, cleaned it out, and left it in a safe place in the porch. Mrs. Mangan discovered it there in the dark through the medium of her shins. My overcoat had slithered off the rack⁴⁶ into the bucket, and Mrs. Mangan, getting a light pulled it out, but tore one of the pockets on the hinge of the handle. She mended that, but her stockings were *past repair.⁴⁷ So you see I have brought the bucket in here, in spite of protests, and it's going to stay on that table until I can see it off the premises.⁴⁸ It has only fallen three times in the

45. 跪在那裏。 46. 從衣架上滑下來。 47. 無法修理。 48. 屋子。

聽到一種碰撞的聲音而另外那頭牛却跪到地上去了，它的頭直插在那桶子裏，那擠牛奶的人狂怒得向天揮舞着他的手臂。他試想對我說明一切，我却不能了解，但現在已快五點鐘了，他連一茶杯的牛奶也沒有擠到手。

『他又去追着另外的兩頭牛來擠奶，但是落日的光把那桶子照得血一般紅，竟把那兩頭牛嚇壞了。直到快七點鐘的時候，我和那擠牛奶的人，以及馬克泰的小兒子，才好容易在一哩多路以外的跑馬廳上把那兩頭牛找到了，它們正預備把那觀覽台來作宿泊之所。等那擠牛奶的人把它們趕回家來，已經是萬家燈火了。

『我把那桶子取回，洗滌乾淨，再把它放到走廊上一個安全的地方。孟剛太太用她的脛骨在黑暗中又把它發見了。我的大衣從衣架上滑下來落到那桶子裏了，孟剛太太拿了燈來，把大衣拾起，但在那桶的提手上把一個口袋扯破了。她替我修好了，但是她的襪子，都扯破得無法修理了。所以，如你現在看見的，我把桶子拿到這裏面來，不願抗議地，我要讓它一直放在那桌子上，直到我看見它離開了這屋子。它在過去幾點鐘之內，只落下過三次，但

last few hours, and but for nearly braining the Collie once, and bringing down a plate off the dresser, it's been quiet enough."

"What will you do with it?"

Mr. Mangan grinned sardonically.

"There's a sort of bazaar or Sale of Work¹⁹ down in the orphanage, the day after tomorrow, and I've been asked to send something."

I called next morning at Mr. Mangan's to hear the latest news, but he was in bed and asleep. Mrs. Mangan explained that shortly after I left the previous evening, she heard a terrible noise, and, running into the kitchen, found her *lord and master⁵⁰ on his back, with his watch chain firmly wound round the handle of the bucket and his waistcoat on fire. She didn't think a doctor was necessary though his flow of expletives would appear to warrant some sort of professional attendance, preferably clerical. Mr. Mangan's nephew and I took away the bucket, and made cautiously down the hill towards the Orphanage, somehow or other, though I was keeping a keen *watch out,⁵¹ we dismounted a butcher's boy and some mutton chops had to be well dusted. I parted with sixpence as a solution, and reached the orphanage without further mishap. I presented

有一次幾乎把我的愛犬的腦袋打破了，又使得一個碟子從案板上落了下來，這已經够受了。』

『你預備把它怎樣辦呢？』

孟剛先生勉強地笑着。

『在那孤兒院裏後天會有一個義賣要舉行，他們正要我捐點東西去賣。』

第二天早晨我又到孟剛先生家裏，去聽取那最後的消息，但他正躺在牀上睡着了。孟剛太太告訴我就在前天晚上我走後不久，她便聽見一個可怕的聲音，馬上跑到廚房裏去，發現她的丈夫仰臥在地上，他的錶鍊子緊緊地繞在那桶子的提手上，而他的背心着了火。她覺得沒有請醫生的必要，雖則他那大串的誓言好像可以保證一種職業上的注意，却仍以找牧師爲佳。孟剛先生的侄兒和我便把那桶子拿開，特別小心地送到山下那孤兒院去。雖則我對之十分當心警戒，却莫名其妙地，把一個肉店的徒弟從車子上面掀下來，把他的羊排弄得全是灰塵。結局我賠了他六個便士才算解決，才算是再沒有發生別的什麼事故，達到了

the bucket to the Headmistress, and was thanked profusely. I gathered that the Headmistress proposed to retain the bucket for use in the house rather than sell it at the forthcoming bazaar.

I had to go away after that, and it was ten days before I saw Mr. Mangan again. He leaned over his back gate and looked up at the darkening sky. "Remember that infernal bucket?" he said.

"Indeed I do," I said. "It must have been bewitched."

"It was an enchanted bucket," said Mr. Mangan.

"Did the tinkers put a curse⁵² on it?"

He didn't answer. "It has cost me nearly three pounds ten,⁵³ and I'm glad to be rid of it. Do you know what the coalman said?"

"No."

"He was telling *the missus⁵⁴ that the servant girl below at the orphanage told him, that three little girls were in bed with sprained ankles, and the Headmistress as well as the cook were going about covered with thicking plaster."

"It seems," concluded Mr. Mangan, "that his Reverence⁵⁵ below in the Manse⁵⁶ has the bucket now, but he will likely be able to remove any evil influence from it. He should, if anyone can."

52. 呪咀. 53. 十先令. 54. 我太太. 55. 牧師. 56. 牧師邸.

那孤兒院。我把那桶送給那位女院長，她對我深深致謝。我猜想她預備留着自己用，不要在後天那義賣上去售出。

在那以後我便得離開了，十天之後，我才再見到孟剛先生。他靠在他的後門上，仰望着那漸漸黑的天。『你還記得那個窮凶極惡的桶子嗎？』他問。

『我記得的，』我說。『那一定是受了蠱惑呀。』

『那是一個魔桶，』孟剛先生說。

『是不是那鐵匠施了什麼符咒在上面？』

他沒有回答。『那差不多花了我三磅十先令，而我現在能把它送掉真是高興。你知道那賣煤炭的人怎樣說的嗎？』他問。

『不知道。』

『他告訴我的老婆說，孤兒院的女僕告訴他，說那兒有三個孤兒跌斷了腳踝睡在牀上，就是那女院長和廚子兩個，也都敷着很厚的石膏在工作着。』

『這好像，』孟剛先生最後說，『那桶子現在送到下面牧師邸裏去了，那牧師似乎可以把桶上的邪氣除去。如果人們可以辦得到的事，他當然應該是可能的。』

“Why, particularly?”

“Seeing what was wrong with it?”

“What *was* wrong with it?”

“The tinkers were caught doing the same thing again.”

“What thing?”

“Do you know what it was made of? They made it of *corrugated iron⁵⁷ which they stole from a church. Maybe now that it's back again where it belongs it'll rest. I hope so. I like his Reverence.”

57. 波形鐵板。

『怎樣，要怎樣特別地治一下嗎？』

『看出那上面有什麼毛病嗎？』

『到底有什麼毛病呀？』

『那鐵匠正又在幹着同樣的勾當時被逮捕了。』

『什麼事？』

『你知道那桶子是用什麼原料做的嗎？原是用從教堂裏偷來的波形鐵板做的。也許它現在重回到教堂裏去，所以它安靜了。我希望是如此。我喜歡那牧師。』

MONEY TO BURN¹

BY OSCAR SCHISGALI

IT'S no use. I can't *keep anything from² my wife. Amy spots³ a secret like a dog smells meat, and once she starts after⁴ it, I *might as well⁵ *give up.⁶

"What's the matter, Mike?" she asks while I'm drinking my tea. *"You ill?"⁷

"No," *I says.⁸ "I'm all right," I start unfolding the evening paper.

"You don't look all right, Mike."

I says, "I'm *O. K.,⁹ I tell you. Forget it."

She sits down, pushes back some yellow hair, and leans across the table, worried. "Your stomach all right?"

"Fine," I says. But I begin to squirm.¹⁰ "It's nothing, Amy. Just a—a little trouble I had with the cab last night."

"Mike!" *All of a sudden¹¹ she's scared. "You didn't *hit* anybody!"

"Hell, no," I says. "Nothing like that." And then, first thing, I know, I'm shoving the newspaper away and I'm talking. Don't ask me

1. 直譯爲「待焚燬的紙幣」，這篇小說寫一汽車夫的故事，所以文字多採用俚俗的話，常有不合文法者，今選來譯註，並不是要讀者取法，而是用作一例，以供讀者以後讀到此類文字時得以了解而已。 2. 躲避。 3. 指認（用現在

誘 惑

那是沒有用的。我無論什麼事都瞞不過我的老婆。愛蜜之能發覺祕密，就和狗之能嗅到肉一樣，而且一度她開始來追尋了，我最好就作罷。

『你怎麼啦，買克？』我在喝茶的時候，她這樣問我。『你不舒服嗎？』

『沒有什麼，』我說。『我很好。』我把晚報打開來。

『你看去不好過的樣子，買克。』

我說，『我很好過，你不要疑心。』

她坐下來，把她的黃頭髮向後面掃了兩下，靠在桌子上，很擔心地問：『你肚子好嗎？』

『很好，』我說。可是我開始杌隉不安了。『沒有什麼，愛蜜。就只是——那車子昨天晚上鬧了一點兒麻煩。』

『買克！』突然間她嚇得叫出來。『你沒有碰壞什麼人吧！』

『沒有，沒有，』我說。『全不是那樣的事。』於是，我把報紙拋到一邊，來和她談話了。你不要問我爲什

動詞，不用過去，非上品文字)。 4. 追求。 5. 不如……的好。 6. 放棄。
7. 應作 Are you ill? 8. =I said. (俚語)。 9. =All right. 10. 杌隉，
苦悶。 11. 突然。

why. Perhaps it's because Amy is so worried. Maybe it's because I'm feeling so low.¹² Anyhow, I'm telling her, and I sound as bad as I feel. "Amy," I'm saying, "I reckon I was a fool last night..."

"Why, Mike? Come on! What happened?"

"Well—I'm cruising along, about half past one in the morning, and I'm thinking how we could use a few pounds, you and me.¹³ I'm thinking we got no right having a baby, being broke¹⁴ the way¹⁵ we are. Where's the sense in bringing up a baby in a couple of top-floor rooms? A bloke¹⁶ like me, who can't even afford a little flat—"

"But, Mike," she says, "it'll be all right! I'm not complaining, am I? Four or five months from now, when you get the cab paid off, we'll have into one of them self-contained flats—"

"Yes," I says. "Sure. Four or five months from now. Meanwhile, with the baby due... Well, never mind. I'm cruising along and still, grousing when this drunk¹⁷ yells for a cab. He's so cock-eyed¹⁸ he can't let go of a lamp-post. I have to step out and put an arm round him and steer¹⁹ him into the cab. He crawls in on his knees and I help him into the seat and he stretches out, ready

12. 沮喪。 13. 應說 I。 14. 窮無一文, cf. stony broke 金錢信用俱

麼要這樣。也許是看了愛蜜那麼擔心的樣子，也許是因為我自己覺得很沮喪。總之，我要把一切都對她和盤托出，而我說話的聲音，也和我所感覺的一般糟。『愛蜜，』我對她說，『我覺得我昨晚上真做了一個傻子。』

『爲什麼，買克？快說吧！到底是什麼事？』

『就是我在早上一點半鐘的時候，開着車子到處在兜攬生意，而我心下就在想你我怎樣來利用這幾鎊錢。我們的生活一直就這樣不舒服，實在沒有權利養一個小孩子。在屋頂上的兩間小房子裏，來撫養一個孩子，又有什麼意思呢？像我這樣一個笨人，連小小的一層樓房，都無力租來住——』

『但是，買克，』她說，『這總會弄好的！我並不埋怨，你聽見我埋怨過一聲嗎？在四五個月以後，你把車子的本錢付清了，我們就可以餘錢了。我們就可以搬進一個廚房，廁所，什麼都有的一層樓房去住——』

『對呀，』我說。『一點不錯。就在四五個月以後。同時，你的小孩子也正要生了……就讓他去吧，不要緊的。且說我正開車子到處在兜攬生意，仍然在抱怨的時候，竟遇到那個酒醉鬼來叫車子。他醉得站立不穩，抱着街燈的柱子放不得手。我只好走出車子，去把他扶過來，招呼他上車。他跪在車子上，慢慢地爬將進去，我再把他

無，破產。 15. 狀態。 16. (俚語) 人，徒。 17. =drunken man. 18. 斜視的。 19. 引導。

to go to sleep. I get to shake him before he tells me where he wants to go. It's an address out²⁰ Hampstead way. Then, he curls up and starts snoring. Me,²¹ I'm feeling better when I get behind the wheel.²² I'd just been thinking I wasn't going to get a fare at all."

I stop talking then and drink a little more tea. There's no use telling Amy about the things that kept stringing through my mind while I was driving. The baby's due in less than a month, and I got plenty to be jittery²³ about, with hardly enough cash to pay the doctor.

A year ago, when we'd been married, things looked fine. I was drawing six pounds a week in a factory, and Amy was pulling down about three²⁴ selling dresses in a big stores. We planend to have a neat little flat.

So then? You guessed it. The factory closed down, and there I was. I wasted about six weeks hunting for another job. Finally Joe Balch made me this taxi proposition. He said how about us going partners in a cab. Working shifts,²⁵ he said, we could keep it rolling twenty-four hours a day. A man could make eight or ten quid²⁶ a week. It sounded fine, and I threw my savings in with Joe's.

20. 遠在。 21. = As for me. 22. 車夫座前運轉的輪盤。 23. 精神

抱上座位，他便把兩脚一伸，預備睡覺。我不得不把他搖醒，問明他住在那裏，我好送他回去。他住的地方是在哈密斯特原野的那邊。隨即他就臥起來，鼾聲大作。我呢，直待回到駕駛座位上，才覺得舒服一點。我當時在想遇到這樣一個主顧，也許連一個錢車費都拿不到手。』

說到這裏我停止了，端起杯子來，再喝了一點茶。當我在開着車子送他回家的路上，心下不斷地所想的那些事用不着告訴愛蜜。小孩子不到一個月就要生下來了，我沒有那麼多的現款來付醫生的錢，想來使我非常不安。

一年以前，當我們剛結婚的時候，一切事情看去都很好。我在一家工廠裏作事，每禮拜可以拿到六鎊錢，而愛蜜在一家大百貨公司裏賣服裝，一禮拜也可以拿到三鎊錢。我們曾計劃租一層清潔的樓面來住。

以後呢？你猜吧。那工廠關閉了，而我便失了業。我花了六個禮拜工夫去找事。結果巴齊主張我來幹這個開汽車的工作。他建議我們合作來經營這汽車的生意。他說兩個人輪班來開，晝夜不停，二十四小時都有生意好做。每個人一禮拜可以收入八鎊到十鎊。這說來很動聽，所以我就拿出所有的積蓄，和巴齊來合作經營這個了。

Only I don't make any eight quid a week. Nor anywhere near it, the cab to pay for. Amy and I live mostly on her salary, as long as she's able to go on working. You think I like it? Every time I look at her I feel like a louse.²⁷ Some husband, I tell myself. Some husband, all right. Can't even give his wife a home.

"So what happened with the drunk, Mike?" she says.

"So we got to his house," I says, "and the meter reads²⁸ 8s. 3d. The bloke doesn't get out. He's asleep. I go round and shake him. *Nothing doing.²⁹ He's out for the night. I switch on the light—and then, Amy, I see his wallet³⁰ on the floor. It's a fat wallet, open, and full of notes."³¹

By this time I'm looking straight at the teacup. I don't want to talk to Amy's eyes. My voice is low.

"You know what I see in that wallet?" I says. "A three room flat, Amy, all furnished. Rent paid for six months. Plenty of stuff for you and the baby, too..... While I'm picking it up, something inside me tightens hard. I feel a lump in my stomach. I look back at the house. The windows are dark. I look along the street, and

27. 虱, 寄生蟲。 28. 記, 示。 29. 沒有辦法 (表示失敗或拒絕要求的

只是我現在每禮拜並沒有賺到八鎊錢。而且和那個數目差得很遠，爲的是要分期付出車價，愛蜜和我大半靠她的薪水來維持，只要她沒有到臨產，還可以去工作的話。這情形你看我會喜歡嗎？每次我看到她，我就覺得好像是一個虱子似的。也算是一個丈夫，我自言自語。一個丈夫，不錯。甚至連一個家都不能給她的妻子。

『買克，後來那酒醉老怎樣了呢？』她問。

『於是我們就到達他屋門口了，』我說，『而車費表指着八先令三便士。那傢伙却沒有走出車子來，他睡着了。我於是走過去把他搖醒。可是搖不醒。他是預備出來過夜的。我把車裏的電燈開燃了——於是，愛蜜，我看見他的皮包落在地下了。那是一個很臃腫的皮夾，打開來一看，裏面滿塞着鈔票。』

到這時候，我一直望着茶杯未動。我不想對着愛蜜的眼睛交談。我的聲音很低。

『你知道我在那皮夾裏看見了什麼呀？』我說。『一層三間房的樓房木器都佈置好的，愛蜜。預付了半年的房租，還有儘你和小孩吃的東西……當我把那皮包拾起來的時候，我身子裏面有點東西絞得很緊。我覺得肚子裏有一塊大的石頭。我回頭望了一下那屋子。窗戶都是漆黑的。我再看街上，也闕無一人。我的手有些發抖，當

there's nobody about.³² My hands *kind of³³ shake when I count the notes. A hundred and twenty pounds, Amy. A hundred and twenty!"

"Mike," she says, and her voice is a high, scared whisper. "Mike, you didn't—"

"I dragged the bloke to the door and left him snoring on the step.³⁴ Then I got into the cab and drove away. Fast. With the wallet in my pocket."

"Mike!"

"Yes. My hands sweat on the wheel. I keep telling myself there's nothing to worry about. Who saw that drunk get into the cab? Nobody. Who saw him get out? Nobody. And he wasn't awake long enough to read my number.³⁵ I'm all right, then. I'm safe—with a hundred and twenty quid in my pocket. So I feel fine. I feel wonderful."

Amy stands up, and I know she's looking at me as if I'd worked the Jekyll Hyde³⁶ trick in front of her eyes. I can *sort of³⁷ hear her holding her breath. Whatever she's going to say, it'll come like an explosion. So I get in first.

"Only," I says, "by the time I'm back near Oxford Circus I don't feel so good any more. Don't ask me what happened. Nothing

32. 周圍. 33. =somewhat 有一點兒 (俚語). 34. 大門前的石級.

我拿出那些鈔票來數的時候，有一百二十鎊，愛蜜，一百二十鎊！』

『買克，』她說，她的聲音是一種受驚的尖銳的低語。『買克，你沒有——』

『我把那傢伙抱下到他的屋門口，讓他在階級上打着瞌睡去了。於是我再回到車子上，把車子開走了，開得很快。那傢伙的皮夾，已經在我口袋裏了。』

『買克！』

『是呀。我的手在輪盤上發着汗。我老是安慰自己，用不着憂慮。誰見到那酒醉老坐進了我的車子？沒有誰。誰見到他出來的？沒有誰。而且他一直都是睡沈沈的，沒有時間來看清我車上的號頭。這樣，我是沒有事的。我是安全的——偷了他那一百二十鎊放在口袋裏，因此，我覺得很妙。我覺得很了不起。』

愛蜜站起來了，我知道她是在望着我，儼然我是在她眼前玩着那二重人格的把戲似的。我能够聽見她屏着氣息的聲音。她想要說什麼話，却都像爆炸一般。所以我便先說了。

『只是。』我說，『等到我回到牛津圓場附近的時
候，我已經不那末舒服了。你不要問我後事如何。什麼也

35. 汽車照會號數. 36. 二重人格的 (出自史蒂文生作小說「化身奇談」).

37. more or less 大概 (俚語).

happened. Maybe I just *lost my nerve.³⁸ Maybe I'm yellow.³⁹ Maybe I'm thinking too much about you and the kid."

Amy whispers, "What—what did you do, Mike?"

"I drive round for a while, all mixed up. Everything seems wrong. I feel like shrivelling up and crawling under something. Finally I can't stand⁴⁰ it any more. I turn round and *head for⁴¹ the police station. Maybe I should've gone back to the drunk, but I didn't want to leave the money on him, laying there, or wake up his family and make explanations. I'm so *fed up⁴² with the whole mess I never want to see him again. So I go to the police station and hand over the wallet. I tell, 'em⁴³ the bloke lost it in my cab."

I look up, and Amy's get her hands to her cheeks. Her eyes are wide and shiny, like the time I got her the engagement ring. She comes round the table and takes my face in her hands and kisses me right⁴⁴ on the mouth.

"Mike," she says, "you did right. You were right, Mike."

38. 膽怯, 氣餒. 39. 膽怯 (美國俗語). 40. 忍受. 41. 向着而去.

沒有發生。也許只是我的神經過敏。也許是因爲我膽怯。也許是因爲我過於想到你和未來的孩子了。』

愛蜜低聲說，『買克，你怎麼辦了呢？』

『我開着車子再兜了一會，心下混亂不堪。一切好像都不對了。我感覺到似乎萎縮起來，而做賊心虛，不敢露面。這種心情終至我忍受不住了。我掉過頭來，朝警察局開去。也許我應該回到那酒醉鬼那兒去的，不過我不想把錢去還他，放到他那裏去，或是把他的家人叫醒，來解釋一陣。我對於他來乘車那回整個的事，感到厭恨，我也不想再見他。所以我便到警察局去，把錢包交給他們了。我告訴他們說是那傢伙掉在我車上的。』

我擡頭望了，愛蜜已將她的手舉起來，捫着她的面頰。她的眼睛睜得圓圓的，同時放着光，正像我把訂婚戒指送給她的時候一樣。她走到桌邊來，用手捧着我的臉，在我嘴唇上吻了。

『買克，』她說，『你做得對。買克，你這樣是對的。』

“Hundred and twenty quid,” I says with a sigh.

“I love you, Mike.”

“And you know what?” I says. “In all the excitement I clean forgot about the eight and three pence fare he owed me. So I says to the sergeant—how about taking eight and threepence out of the wallet? But he says no, he cant’t do that. He puts down my name and address and says they’ll ask the bloke to send it to me. So now I even got to wait for that.”

I shake my head and pick up the teacup. The newspaper is there, next to my hand, and I look over it while I’m drinking. Amy’s eyes are still shiny, and she’s running her fingers through my hair. All of a sudden I see something that makes me choke on the tea and let out a yelp.

“Amy!” I says. “Amy, look!”

It’s all there in the newspaper. It says how a bloke in Hampstead was arrested by *C. I. D.⁴⁵ men who’d been hunting him for seven months. What led to his arrest, it says, is a lost wallet turned in by a cab driver. The bloke is wanted for passing *faked notes,⁴⁶ and this wallet is filled with a hundred and twenty pounds in counterfeit.

45. 卽 Criminal Investigation Department 之略寫。 46. 贗幣，
偽鈔。

『一百二十鎊，』我說，歎了一口氣。

『我愛你，買克。』

『你知道弄糟了的是什麼？』我說。『在那種興奮之中，我把他應該付我的八先令三便士的車錢，完全忘記了。所以我對那警官說——我可不可從那錢包裏取出八先令三便士來？但是他說不行，那個他不能做。他把我的姓名住址記下來，說他們去要那客人將車錢寄給我。所以我現在甚至連車錢都還沒有到手呢。』

我搖着頭，又把茶杯端起來。報紙就在我手邊，我一面喝茶，一面看着報。愛蜜的眼睛仍在發光，她正用手指在撫我的頭髮。突然之間，我看見一點東西，使我茶也喝不下去了，我叫出來：

『愛蜜！』我說，『愛蜜，看！』

那一切報上都有了。報上詳細地記載着一個壞人怎樣在哈孟斯特被偵緝隊捕獲，他們七個月來都在搜索他。他怎樣會被捕到的，那新聞上說，是因為一個汽車夫送還他掉了的一個錢包，那傢伙是一個偽造鈔票的犯人，而他那錢包裏所放的一百二十鎊，就全是假票子。

Amy and I read the whole story. We hardly breathe. When we finish she looks at me and says, "Mike, if you'd kept the money—" And then, after a long time, she whispered, "Mike, do you think the Government pays rewards for a thing like this?"

"I don't know about rewards," I says with a groan. "All I know is, there goes my eight and threepence."

THE END

愛蜜和我兩人，把那整個的故事讀了一遍。我們幾乎轉不過氣來了。當我們讀完了的時候，她望着我說，『買克——』她有點戰慄了。『買克，如果你拿了他那筆錢的話——』在經過一個相當長的時間之後，她於是又低聲說，『買克，你覺得政府對這樣的事，會給點獎金嗎？』

『我不曉得有沒有獎金，』我呻吟地說。『我只曉得我丟了八先令三便士呢。』

(終)