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WORLD FAMOUS FICTIONS

置 產 人

THE MAN OF PROPERTY

JOHN GALSWORTHY 著

伍 光 建 選 譯

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ИЗДАНИЕ ПЕРВОЕ

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PART I

CHAPTER I

“AT HOME”¹ AT OLD JOLYON'S

Those privileged to be present at a family festival of the Forsytes have seen that charming and instructive sight—an upper middle-class family in full plumage. But whosoever of these favoured persons has possessed the gift of psychological analysis (a talent without monetary value and properly ignored by the Forsytes), has witnessed a spectacle, not only delightful in itself, but illustrative² of an obscure human problem. In plainer words, he has gleaned from a gathering of this family—no branch of which had a liking for the other, between no three members of whom existed anything worthy of the name of sympathy—evidence of that mysterious concrete tenacity which renders a family so formidable a unit of society, so clear a reproduction of society in miniature.³ He has been admitted to a vision of the dim roads of social progress, has understood something of patriarchal life, of the swarmings of savage hordes, of the rise and fall of nations. He is like one who, having watched a tree grow from its planting—a paragon⁴ of tenacity, insulation, and success, amidst the deaths of a hundred other plants less fibrous, sappy, and persistent—one day will see it flourishing with bland,

“at home,” 擇定時日在家見客，這裏是受賀。² illustrative, 發明。³ in miniature, 小規模。⁴ paragon, 至美盡善的人或物。

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第一回 老佐利安受賀

符爾賽特 [Forsyte 以下或簡稱符氏，譯者注。] 氏家裏有喜慶，凡是享受特別權利，可以來賀的人們，都曾看見好看的與能得教訓的景象——就是說看見一個羽毛豐滿的上中人家。但是無論那個享受這種特別利益而又有心理解剖的天才的人（這樣的天才，卻無銀錢價值，符氏們是應該忽略的，）曾眼見這一種景象，不獨景象自身是悅目的，而且可以發明一個暗晦的問題。我用淺白話說，他從這一族人的聚集（在這一族人裏頭，無論那一房都是互相反對的，在無論那三個裏頭，都無值得可以稱爲表同情的）就得着一種神祕的實在團結力，這種力量使一個家族成爲社會的一個堅固單位，顯然就是一個小規模的社會的變相，這就是讓他進去看社會進步所走的暗晦的路，使他多少明白族長制的生活，野蠻部落的聚會，民族的盛衰。他就好像一個觀察過一棵樹從初種起以至長大——一棵頂好的樹，有堅忍力，能孤立，能長成，在一百棵別的不如他那樣堅實，那樣滋潤，那樣能持久的樹裏頭，獨能發育——將來有一天他就會看見這棵樹枝葉茂盛，幾乎

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full foliage, in an almost repugnant prosperity, at the summit of its efflorescence.

On June 15, late in the eighties, about four of the afternoon, the observer who chanced to be present at the house of old Jolyon Forsyte in Stanhope Gate, might have seen the highest efflorescence of the Forsytes.

This was the occasion of an "at home" to celebrate the engagement of Miss June Forsyte, old Jolyon's granddaughter, to Mr. Philip Bosinney. In the bravery¹ of light gloves, buff waistcoats, feathers and frocks, the family were present—even Aunt Ann, who now but seldom left the corner of her brother Timothy's green drawing-room, where, under the ægis of a plume of dyed pampas grass in a light blue vase, she sat all day reading and knitting, surrounded by the effigies of three generations of Forsytes. Even Aunt Ann was there; her inflexible back, and the dignity of her calm old face personifying the rigid possessiveness² of the family idea.

When a Forsyte was engaged, married, or born, the Forsytes were present; when a Forsyte died—but no Forsyte had as yet died; they did not die; death being contrary to their principles, they took precautions against it, the instinctive precautions of highly vitalized persons who resent encroachments on their property.

About the Forsytes mingling that day with the crowd of other guests, there was a more than ordinarily groomed look, an alert, inquisitive assurance, a brilliant respectability, as though they were attired in defiance of something. The habitual sniff³ on the face of Soames Forsyte had spread through their ranks; they were on their guard.

¹bravery, 鮮豔衣服. ²possessiveness, 貪得性. ³sniff, 嗅鼻子(看不起人的神氣).

令人討厭那樣發達，開花開到極燦爛

在一千八百八十六七年間六月十五日，約在下午四點鐘，一個碰巧在住在司但賀門(Stanhope Gate)大街老佐利安(Jolyon)符爾賽特家裏的人，就可以看見符氏發展到了極點。

今天是在家款待來賓慶賀符氏的吉唔安(June)小姐與腓烈葆辛尼(Bosinney)定婚，她是老佐利安的孫女。族中人都在這裏，戴的是黃色手套，穿的是淺黃色的背心，頭上有鳥羽，穿寬大外衣，顏色都是很鮮豔的——連安(Ann)姑母也到了，她現在很少離開她兄弟提摩太(Timothy)的綠色客廳，她在一個淡藍色花瓶插了一枝染色的南美洲草的保護之下，終日坐在那裏看書與編織，有符氏三代的肖像圍繞她。連安姑母也來了；她的挺得直直的背，與她的冷靜老臉的莊嚴，代表家族主義的牢不可破的貪得性格。〔全書以貪得無厭作柱子譯者注。〕

無論什麼時候只要符氏有一個人定婚，結婚，或生兒女，符氏一族的人都到齊；當符氏有一個人死的時候——但是符氏還未曾有人死；他們不曾死；死是同他們的宗旨相反的，他們很小心防死，這是極有精力的人們的本能的防範，他們反對侵犯他們的財產。〔這是說他視性命如財產。譯者注。〕

今天符氏的族人同成羣的他姓客人混在一起，其中有一種異常的打扮齊整的神色，一種伶俐，專好打聽的，果於自信，一種光鮮的要人致敬的態度，他們打扮起來，好像是預備要同什麼人挑戰的。素木士〔Soames 本書以這個人作樞紐譯者注。〕臉上所常帶着的看不起人的神氣蔓延到人人臉上；他們都在那裏預防。

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The subconscious offensiveness of their attitude has constituted old Jolyon's "at home" the psychological moment¹ of the family history, made it the prelude of their drama.

The Forsytes were resentful of something, not individually, but as a family; this resentment expressed itself in an added perfection of raiment, an exuberance of family cordiality, an exaggeration of family importance, and—the sniff. Danger—so indispensable² in bringing out the fundamental quality of any society, group, or individual—was what the Forsytes scented; the premonition of danger put a burnish on their armour. For the first time, as a family, they appeared to have an instinct of being in contact with some strange and unsafe thing.

Over against the piano a man of bulk and stature was wearing two waistcoats on his wide chest, two waistcoats and a ruby pin, instead of the single satin waistcoat and diamond pin of more usual occasions, and his shaven, square, old face, the colour of pale leather, with pale eyes, had its most dignified look, above his satin stock. This was Swithin Forsyte. Close to the window, where he could get more than his fair share of fresh air, the other twin, James—the fat and the lean of it, old Jolyon called these brothers—like the bulky Swithin, over six feet in height, but very lean, as though destined from his birth to strike a balance and maintain an average, brooded over the scene with his permanent stoop; his gray eyes had an air of fixed absorption in some secret worry, broken at intervals by a rapid, shifting scrutiny of surrounding facts; his cheeks, thinned by two parallel folds, and a long, clean-shaven upper lip, were

¹ psychological moment, 最要緊的時刻。 ² indispensable, 必不可少的; 非此不定的。

他們的態度的下知覺的挑戰神氣，把今天老佐利安的見客受賀。造成他們家族歷史的最要緊的時刻，使今天造成他們的戲劇的介紹。

符氏的族人們不是個人反對是一族反對一件事；他們用加倍穿得整齊，很熱鬧的和氣，太過看重家族，及一一看不起人的神氣——發表他們的反對。符氏覺得有危險——要發表無論任何社會人羣，或個人的基本屬性，必得遇着危險，這是必不可少的；因為預防危險，就要磨礪以須。以全族計，他們這是第一次外現其爲有一種本能，曉得是與一件外路的，及不妥的事物相接觸。

有一個高大的人靠住鋼琴，穿了兩件背心，兩件背心一枝紅寶石的針，並不是如尋常打扮穿一件緞背心一枝金剛鑽的針，他的老臉是四方的，剃得光光的，顏色像淡色的牛皮，兩隻淡白色的眼，緞子的領帶，神色是最莊嚴的。這個就是符斯維丁(Swithin)詹木士(James)，這是雙生兄弟的那一個，站近窗口，要比人多吸空氣——老佐利安稱這兩個雙生兄弟做肥的及瘦的——他與碩大的斯維丁同是六尺多高，不過他很瘦，好像注定他生下來是個瘦子要與胖子扯平以維持折中的重量，他永遠駝着背，現時站在那裏看熱鬧；他的灰色眼有一種堅定深念的神色，深念着祕密的麻煩事，有時他匆匆的改變眼色細看四圍的事實，才暫時不深念；他的兩顴，瘦到成了兩條平行的摺紋，他的上唇是長而剃光的，圍着上唇有許多長鬚。他

framed within Dundreary whiskers. In his hands he turned and turned a piece of china. Not far off, listening to a lady in brown, his only son Soames, pale and well-shaved, dark-haired, rather bald, had poked his chin up sideways, carrying his nose with that aforesaid appearance of "sniff," as though despising an egg which he knew he could not digest. Behind him his cousin, the tall George, son of the fifth Forsyte, Roger, had a Quilpish¹ look on his fleshy face, pondering one of his sardonic jests.

Something inherent to the occasion had affected them all.

Seated in a row close to one another were three ladies—Aunts Ann, Hester (the two Forsyte maids), and Juley (short of Julia), who not in first youth had so far forgotten herself as to marry Septimus Small, a man of poor constitution. She had survived him for many years. With her elder and younger sister she lived now in the house or Timothy, her sixth and youngest brother, on the Bayswater Road. Each of these ladies held fans in their hands, and each with some touch of colour, some emphatic² feather or brooch, testified to the solemnity of the opportunity.

In the centre of the room, under the chandelier, as became a host, stood the head of the family, old Jolyon himself. Eighty years of age, with his fine, white hair, his dome-like forehead, his little, dark gray eyes, and an immense white moustache, which drooped and spread below the level of his strong jaw, he had a patriarchal look, and in spite of lean cheeks and hollows at his temples, seemed master of perennial youth. He held himself extremely upright, and his shrewd, steady eyes had lost none of their clear shining. Thus he gave an impression of superiority to the doubts and dislikes

¹ Quilpish, 兇險奸詐. ² emphatic, 露目.

的兩手轉動一件瓷器，轉了又轉。他的獨一兒子素木士與他相離不遠，聽一個穿棕色衣服的女人說話；素木士臉色淡白，剃得很光，頭髮是黑的，頭略禿了，舉起他的下頷在一邊，他的鼻子帶着上文所說的看不起人的神氣，好像他看不起一隻他明曉得他不能消化的雞蛋。站在他背後的是他的堂兄弟佐治(George)，這是符氏第五房羅哲爾(Roger)的兒子，他的多肉的臉，帶着一種兇險奸詐神氣，在那裏想他的一句傷害人的開頑笑的話。

這次事體所本有的某種情形，曾潛移這幾個人的心境。

有三個女人靠近坐在一排——就是安姑母，亥斯特(Hester)姑母(這是兩個不嫁的符氏姊妹，)與佐利(Juley)姑母，她當並非是盛年的時候，忘記了自己，嫁了西普提木司摩爾，這個人身體是很孱弱的。她的丈夫死了許多年了。她同她姊姊和妹妹現時住在她們的第六的即是最小的兄弟提摩太的貝士滑突街的宅子裏。每個女人都手執一扇，臉上都略抹胭脂，或戴很露目的烏羽或胸針，表示這次是莊嚴的大典。

在房的中間，站在大燈底下的，這是主人所應站的地方，就是族長，就是老佐利安本人。他今年八十歲啦，滿頭細白髮，額如圓頂，兩隻小的黑灰色眼，一部大白鬚，從堅實的頷骨垂下分布，他有一個族長的神氣，他的臉，雖然瘦，他的太陽雖然空了，好像是長春不老的。他站得極其挺直的，他的精明鎮靜，眼還是有清光的。他就是這樣令人得了一種印像，以為他高出於渺小人物的懷疑與喜怒

of smaller men. Having had his own way for innumerable years, he had earned a prescriptive right to it. It would never have occurred to old Jolyon that it was necessary to wear a look of doubt or of defiance.

Between him and the four other brothers who were present, James, Swithin, Nicholas, and Roger, there was much difference, much similarity. In turn, each of these four brothers was very different from the other, yet they, too, were alike.

Through the varying features and expression of those five faces could be marked a certain steadfastness of chin, underlying surface distinctions, marking a racial stamp, too prehistoric¹ to trace, too remote and permanent to discuss—the very hall-mark and guarantee of the family fortunes.

Among the younger generation, in the tall, bull-like George, in pallid strenuous Archibald, in young Nicholas with his sweet and tentative obstinacy, in the grave and foppishly determined Eustace, there was this same stamp—less meaningful perhaps, but unmistakable—a sign of something ineradicable in the family soul.

At one time or another during the afternoon, all these faces, so dissimilar and so alike, had worn an expression of distrust, the object of which was undoubtedly the man whose acquaintance they were thus assembled to make.

Philip Bosinney was known to be a young man without fortune, but Forsyte girls had become engaged to such before, and had actually married them. It was not altogether for this reason, therefore, that the minds of the Forsytes misgave them. They could not have explained the origin of a misgiving obscured by the mist of family gossip.

¹ prehistoric, 時代荒遠.

之上。他這幾十年來都是獨斷獨行的，他就贏得這樣獨斷獨行的優先權利。他絕不會想到他要帶着一種懷疑或挑戰的神色。

他是居長，以次就是詹木士，斯維丁，尼古刺，羅哲爾四個兄弟，他與他們很不同，卻有相同的地方。這四個兄弟也是各與各不同，卻也有很相同的地方。

這五個人的面目與神氣是各有不同的，我們卻能夠看出他們的下頷都有一定的堅決，在表面的不同之下有這樣相同的地方，標示一個種族的特色，是從荒古時代傳下來的，年代太遠，太過永久不變，我們難以討論了——這是家族盛衰的自身的記號與保證。

在小一輩裏頭有身高而似牡牛的佐治，有臉色灰白而勤勞的亞開坡 (Archibald)，有和藹而帶着執拗趨勢的小尼古刺，有外嚴肅而內輕佻的攸斯提 (Eustace)，他們全有同樣的印記——也許不甚表示什麼意義，卻是不能錯認的——這是這個家族的靈魂的一種不能磨滅的東西的記號。

當天的下午有過一會子，全數這樣很不相同卻很有相同地方的面孔，都曾發表懷疑不信的神色，他們所不相信的人誠然無疑就是今日他們聚集在一堂要認識的人。

人們都曉得腓烈葆辛尼是一個無錢的少年，但符氏的小姐們從前曾同這樣窮人訂婚，還有居然同窮人結婚的。所以符氏們並不完全因為這個理由，心裏不相信他。這一族人的談短論長，變成一層濃霧，他們不相信的原由，被其所遮蔽，所以他們解不能說。有人說，他曾專誠盡禮

A story was undoubtedly told that he had paid his duty call to Aunts Ann, Juley, and Hester, in a soft gray hat—a soft gray hat, not even a new one—a dusty thing with a shapeless crown. “So extraordinary, my dear—so odd!” Aunt Hester, passing through the little, dark hall (she was rather short-sighted), had tried to “shoo” it off a chair, taking it for a strange, disreputable cat—Tommy had such disgraceful friends! She was disturbed when it did not move.

Like an artist for ever seeking to discover the significant trifle which embodies the whole character of a scene, or place, or person, so those unconscious artists—the Forsytes—had fastened by intuition on this hat; it was their significant trifle, the detail in which was embedded the meaning of the whole matter; for each had asked himself: “Come, now, should *I* have paid that visit in that hat?” and each had answered “No!” and some, with more imagination than others, had added: “It would never have come into my head!”

George, on hearing the story, grinned. The hat had obviously been worn as a practical joke! He himself was a connoisseur of such.

“Very haughty!” he said, “the wild Buccaneer!”

And this *mot*, “the Buccaneer,” was bandied from mouth to mouth, till it became the favourite mode of alluding to Bosinney.

Her aunts reproached June afterwards about the hat.

“We don’t think you ought to let him, dear!” they had said.

June had answered in her imperious brisk way, like the little embodiment of will she was:

“Oh! what does it matter? Phil never knows what he’s got on!”

，去恭謁那三位姑母，他戴的是一頂軟帽——是一頂灰色軟帽，還不是一頂新的——滿鋪塵土，帽頂是不成形的，有人說過這番話，這是無疑的了〔作者善用這種輕描淡寫筆墨寫符氏們的心理。譯者注。〕亥斯特姑母（她是很近視的）在那間小而黑暗的堂屋走過，誤以這頂放在椅子上的舊軟帽爲一隻外來的，令人討厭的貓，曾試推開他，她還說，我的寶貝，這未免太奇怪啦！——安木結識這樣不體面的朋友！那件東西不動，她心裏有點不安

符氏們如同一個美術家，常要找出其使一幅畫景或一個地方或一個人的全個性格，變作具體化的有表示的細微事物，所以他們這些不自知其爲美術家的符氏們，用他們的本能，注意在這頂帽子上；這頂帽子就是他們的有表示的細微事物，全個事體的意義都埋藏在這件小事物裏頭；因爲每人都自問，說道：『我肯戴這頂帽子去見新親麼？』各人都答道：『不肯；』還有幾個比別人更有想像的，還加上一句，說道：『我絕不會想到戴這樣一頂的帽子！』

佐治聽說這件事，就露齒笑。他的意思是說，那個人戴這樣的帽子顯然是要開頑笑！他自己原是這樣事體的老行家。

他說道：『這個野海盜太驕蹇啦。』

於是他們人人嘴裏都說這個『海盜』俏皮字眼，不久他們每逢說到葆辛尼都稱他做海盜。

吉唔安的姑母們後來因爲這頂帽子怪責她。

她們說道：『寶貝，我們以爲你不該讓他戴這樣的帽子！』

吉唔安是個軀強小東西，她就用嚴厲單簡話答復。

她說道：『噯，這算什麼？腓烈向來不曉得他頭上戴的是什麼！』

No one had credited an answer so outrageous.¹ A man not know what he had on? No, no!

What indeed was this young man, who, in becoming engaged to June, old Jolyon's acknowledged heiress, had done so well for himself? He was an architect, not in itself a sufficient reason for wearing such a hat. None of the Forsytes happened to be architects, but one of them knew two architects who would never have worn such a hat upon a call of ceremony in the London season. Dangerous—ah, dangerous!

June, of course, had not seen this, but, though not yet nineteen, she was notorious. Had she not said to Mrs. Soames—who was always so beautifully dressed—that feathers were vulgar? Mrs. Soames had actually given up wearing feathers, so dreadfully downright was dear June!

These misgivings, this disapproval and perfectly genuine distrust, did not prevent the Forsytes from gathering to old Jolyon's invitation. An "At Home" at Stanhope Gate was a great rarity; none had been held for eight years, not indeed, since old Mrs. Jolyon died.

Never had there been so full an assembly, for, mysteriously united in spite of all their differences, they had taken arms against a common peril. Like cattle when a dog comes into the field, they stood head to head and shoulder to shoulder, prepared to run upon and trample the invader to death. They had come, too, no doubt, to get some notion of what sort of presents they would ultimately be expected to give; for though the question of wedding gifts was usually graduated in this way—"What are *you* givin'? Nicholas is givin' spoons!"—so very much depended on the

¹ outrageous, 無理.

無人肯相信這樣無理的一句答復。一個男人不曉得他頭上所戴的是什麼？不相信，不相信！

吉唔安是老佐利安的正式承認的繼承產業人。這個少年與她定婚，他是很得便宜的，他究竟是個什麼人？他是一個建築師，這並無充足理由戴這樣一頂的帽子，符氏們碰巧並無一個是建築師，但是其中有一個卻認得兩個建築師，這兩個人當倫敦正在講彼此拜訪的時候，是絕不肯戴這樣的帽子去專誠拜客的。這個人危險——哈，危險！

吉唔安自然不會看見這頂帽子，她雖然還不到十九歲，卻是很有點名的。素木士的夫人常是穿得很華美的，吉唔安有一次不是曾對她說，帽子上插鳥羽是很俗的麼？她居然就不戴鳥羽，寶貝吉唔安是率直到可怕的！

符氏的人們雖然有這許多不放心，有這樣的不以為然及不相信，卻並不曾阻止他們聚集在老佐利安家裏，司但賀門大街招待來賓原是一件極罕見的事；自從老佐利安的夫人死過之後有八年未曾舉行。

他的宅子裏向來未聚集過這許多人。因為他們雖然有許多意見不合的地方，卻很神祕的聯絡起來，他們都要執械以待，反對一個共同的危險。如同一條狗走入牲畜的牧場裏一般，他們站在那裏頭靠頭肩靠肩，預備衝擊入犯的人，把他踐踏死了。他們誠然也許是走來看看他們該送些什麼禮物；『尼古刺送湯匙！你送什麼呀？』送禮的問題，居多都是這樣分等級的——其實要看新郎是個什麼人。

bridegroom. If he were sleek, well-brushed, prosperous-looking, it was more necessary to give him nice things; he would expect them. In the end each gave exactly what was right and proper, by a species of family adjustment arrived at as prices are arrived at on the Stock Exchange—the exact niceties being regulated at Timothy's commodious, red-brick residence in Bayswater, overlooking the Park, where dwelt Aunts Ann, Juley, and Hester.

The uneasiness of the Forsyte family has been justified by the simple mention of the hat. How impossible and wrong would it have been for any family, with the regard for appearances¹ which should ever characterize the great upper middle-class, to feel otherwise than uneasy!

The author of the uneasiness stood talking to June by the further door; his curly hair had a rumpled appearance, as though he found what was going on around him unusual. He had an air, too, of having a joke all to himself.

George, speaking aside to his brother Eustace, said:

“Looks as if he might make a bolt of it—the dashing buccaneer!”

This “very singular-looking man,” as Mrs. Small afterwards called him, was of medium height and strong build, with a pale, brown face, a dust-coloured moustache, very prominent cheekbones, and hollow cheeks. His forehead sloped back towards the crown of his head, and bulged out in bumps over the eyes, like foreheads seen in the lion-house at the Zoo. He had sherry-coloured eyes, disconcertingly inattentive at times. Old Jolyon's coachman, after driving June and Bosinney to the theatre, had remarked to the butler:

¹ regard for appearances, 顧觀瞻.

假使他是吃得肥胖，所穿的衣服是刷得很乾淨的，神氣是發達興旺的，就必得給他好東西；他也盼望得着好東西。到底各人給合宜與正當東西，稱量得很準確的，如按家族的遠近親疎，如同交易所定價錢一般——是在提摩太的貝士滑突街看見公園的紅磚大宅子裏頭把分量稱得準準的，那三位姑母同住在這裏。

單獨提出那頂帽子，就證實符氏族人的不放心是應該的。偉大的上中人家的特色就是要顧觀瞻，無論什麼這樣人家是絕不能放心的，是絕不該放心的！

使人不相信不放心的葆辛尼站在那邊的門邊，同吉唔安說話；他的彎曲頭髮有點摺皺，他好像見得四圍有點異常。他的神氣也好像獨自一人在那裏享受一場的頑笑。

佐治他把的兄弟攸斯提拖開一邊說道：

『這個勇狂的海盜，好像是會忽然逃走的！』

司摩爾太太後來稱他是一個『相貌極古怪的人。』他是適中的身材，體格強健，淡棕色臉，塵土顏色的鬚，兩額高露，兩頰是空的。他的額向頭頂往後斜，在眼上突出兩塊肉來，好像動物院裏的獅子的額。他有一雙舍利酒顏色的眼，有時會令人難受的不理人。老佐利安的馬車夫，送吉唔安與葆辛尼往戲院之後，曾對管事的說道：

"I dunno what to make of 'im. Looks to me for all the world like an 'alf-tame leopard."

And every now and then a Forsyte would come up, sidle round, and take a look at him.

June stood in front, fending off this idle curiosity—a little bit of a thing, as somebody once said, "all hair and spirit," with fearless blue eyes, a firm jaw, and a bright colour, whose face and body seemed too slender for her crown of red-gold hair.

A tall woman, with a beautiful figure, which some member of the family had once compared to a heathen goddess, stood looking at these two with a shadowy smile.

Her hands, gloved in French gray, were crossed one over the other, her grave, charming face held to one side, and the eyes of all men near were fastened on it. Her figure swayed, so balanced that the very air seemed to set it moving. There was warmth, but little colour, in her cheeks; her large, dark eyes were soft. But it was at her lips—asking a question, giving an answer, with that shadowy smile—that men looked; they were sensitive lips, sensuous and sweet, and through them seemed to come warmth and perfume like the warmth and perfume of a flower.

The engaged couple thus scrutinized were unconscious of this passive goddess. It was Bosinney who first noticed her, and asked her name.

June took her lover up to the woman with the beautiful figure.

"Irene is my greatest chum," she said: "Please be good friends, you two!"

At the little lady's command they all three smiled; and while they were smiling, Soames Forsyte, silently appearing

『我看不出他是個什麼路數人。我看他好像一隻半跛的豹。』

見不久就會有一個符氏的人斜斜走上來，看他一眼。

吉唔安站在他面前，保護他，拒絕這樣的無意識的好奇——有人有一次說她是一個小東西，滿頭頭髮，滿腹精神，兩隻無畏的藍眼，一塊堅實的頷骨，一團光鮮的顏色，她的臉與她的頭好像太薄弱，支不住她滿頭的紅金色頭髮。

有一個身高女人，身材是很好看的。符氏有一個人曾有一次比她作一位非基督教的女神，這時候她站在那裏微微的笑，看這兩個人。

她的兩手戴法國灰色手套，兩手交加着，她的莊嚴的迷人的臉斜在一邊，全數站得近的男人眼都釘住她的臉。她的身子搖擺，擺得勻稱，好像是空氣搖擺她的。她的兩頰殊無多少顏色，卻有溫暖氣；她的兩隻大黑眼是溫柔的。但是男人們所看的原是她兩唇——看她問人一句話。答人一句話，都帶着微微的一笑；她的兩唇是易於感覺的，是善於表情的，又是極可愛的，好像有溫暖與芬芳，從這兩唇間出來，如同一朵花的溫暖與芬芳一般。

被她這樣細看的新訂婚的兩個人並不看見這位不動的女神。原來還是葆辛尼首先看見她，就問她的名姓。

吉唔安帶她的愛人走上去見這個身材美麗女人。

她說道：『愛里妮(Irene)是我的頂好的最熟朋友；我請你們兩個人做好朋友！』〔素木士與愛里妮是這部小說的主要人物。譯者注。〕

這個小個子女一吩咐下來這一句話，他們三個人都微笑啦；他們正在微笑的時候素木士不響的從這個好看

from behind the woman with the beautiful figure, who was his wife, said:

“Ah! introduce me too!”

He was seldom, indeed, far from Irene's side at public functions, and even when separated by the exigencies¹ of social intercourse, could be seen following her about with his eyes, in which were strange expressions of watchfulness and longing.²

At the window his father, James, was still scrutinizing the marks on the piece of china.

“I wonder at Jolyon's allowing this engagement,” he said to Aunt Ann. “They tell me there's no chance of their getting married for years. This young Bosinney” (he made the word a dactyl in opposition to general usage of a short o) “has got nothing. When Winifred married Dartie, I made him bring every penny into settlement—lucky thing, too—they'd ha' had nothing by this time!”

Aunt Ann looked up from her velvet chair. Gray curls banded her forehead, curls that, unchanged for decades, had extinguished in the family all sense of time. She made no reply, for she rarely spoke, husbanding³ her aged voice; but to James, uneasy of conscience, her look was as good as an answer.

“Well,” he said; “I couldn't help Irene's having no money. Soames was in such a hurry; he got quite thin dancing attendance on her.”

Putting the bowl pettishly down on the piano, he let his eyes wander to the group by the door.

“It's my opinion,” he said unexpectedly, “that it's just as well as it is.”

¹ exigencies, 必需. ² longing, 依戀不捨. ³ husbanding, 節省.

身材女人的背後走來，這個女人就是他的夫人他說道：

『呀，你也介紹我！』

當公共聚會的時候，他是很少得遠離他夫人的，即使當社會交際；有時必需與他的夫人分離的時候，人們都能看見他的兩眼還是跟着她的，他的兩眼表示奇異的留心觀察與依戀不捨的神色。

他的父親詹木士還在窗口細看那件瓷器的記號。

他對安姑母說道：『我有點詫異老佐利安肯答應他們定婚。人們告訴我，還要等許多年他們才能够結婚。這個少年葆辛尼（向來讀這個字重首音，他卻要讀重次音）什麼都沒有。當維尼費列〔Wnifred 這是他的女兒，是素木士的胞妹〕嫁搭爾提（Dartie）的時候，我要他把所有的錢都要撥歸她的名下——幸虧是這樣——不然到了這個時候他們是會莫名一錢的。』

安姑母坐在海虎絨椅子上舉目看他。斑白鬚髮蓋住她的額，有幾十年這頭髮未曾變色，族人們都忘記了她活到多麼老啦。她並不答話，因為她不肯多用她的老年人的聲音，所以很少說話；但是從良心不安的詹木斯看來，她的神色就如同答話一樣。

他說道：『愛里妮無錢，我不能設法。素木士急於要結婚；他追逐她，辛苦到變瘦了。』

他有點不高興，把瓷碗放在鋼琴上，兩眼看站在門邊的那幾個人。

他忽然說道：『據我看來，他們還是結了婚的好。』

Aunt Ann did not ask him to explain this strange utterance. She knew what he was thinking. If Irene had no money she would not be so foolish as to do anything wrong; for they said—they said—she had been asking for a separate room; but, of course, Soames had not——

James interrupted her reverie:

“But where,” he asked, “was Timothy? Hadn’t he come with them?”

Through Aunt Ann’s compressed lips a tender smile forced its way:

“No, he had not thought it wise, with so much of this diphtheria about; and he so liable to take things.”

James answered:

“Well, *he* takes good care of himself. I can’t afford to take the care of myself that he does.”

Nor was it easy to say which, of admiration, envy, or contempt, was dominant in that remark.

Timothy, indeed, was seldom seen. The baby of the family, a publisher by profession, he had some years before, when business was at full tide, scented out the stagnation which, indeed, had not yet come, but which ultimately, as all agreed, was bound to set in, and, selling his share in a firm engaged mainly in the production of religious books, had invested the quite conspicuous proceeds in gilt-edged¹ securities. By this act he had at once assumed an isolated position, no other Forsyte being content with less than four per cent. for his money; and this isolation had slowly and surely undermined a spirit perhaps better than commonly endowed with caution. He had become almost a myth—~~e~~ kind of incarnation of security haunting the

¹ gilt-edged, 利息很穩的。

安姑母不會請他解說這句奇怪說話。她曉得他心裏想什麼。假使愛里妮無錢，她就不會那樣傻，走去作壞事；因為他們說——他們說——她會問過她的丈夫要另一間臥室；素木士自然是不會——

詹木士打叉，要打斷她在那裏白日作夢：

他問道：『提摩太在那裏？他不曾同他們來麼？』

有一點兒柔和的微笑從安姑母的緊閉的兩唇衝出來。

她說道：『他不曾來，他以爲不宜來，現在蛾喉病流行；他是很容易得傳染病的。』

詹木士答道：

『他很小心照應他自己。我不能學他那樣小心照應自己。』

他這一句說話究竟是志在稱讚他，或是妒忌他，抑或是看不起他，我們卻難以說出。

提摩太誠然是很少露面的。他是符氏的最小的兒子，以出版爲業，數年前，當生意最興旺的時候，他先看出這個時候並未發作但是人人都以爲終久必要發生的市面停滯，他就先賣了以刊行宗教書籍爲業的字號的股份，把所得的很大一筆款買利息最穩的股票〔一作三厘息的公債譯者注。〕他這樣一來就立刻取得一種孤立地位，因爲其他的符氏們至少要有四厘息的股票才肯買的；他這個人的脾氣也許是比平常人加倍的小心，這樣的孤立慢慢的與必然的陰陷他的脾氣。他變作一種神祕——一種肉體

background of the Forsyte universe. He had never committed the imprudence of marrying, or encumbering himself in any way with children.

James resumed, tapping the piece of china:

"This isn't real old Worcester. I s'pose Jolyon's told you something about the young man. From all I can learn, he's got no business, no income, and no connection worth speaking of; but then, I know nothing—nobody tells me anything."

Aunt Ann shook her head. Over her square-chinned, aquiline old face a trembling passed; the spidery fingers of her hands pressed against each other and interlaced, as though she were subtly recharging her will.

The eldest by some years of all the Forsytes, she held a peculiar position amongst them. Opportunists and egotists one and all—though not, indeed, more so than their neighbours—they quailed before her incorruptible figure, and, when opportunities were too strong, what could they do but avoid her!

Twisting his long, thin legs, James went on:

"Jolyon, he will have his own way. He's got no children——" and stopped, recollecting the continued existence of old Jolyon's son, young Jolyon, June's father, who had made such a mess of it, and done for himself by deserting his wife and child and running away with that foreign governess. "Well," he resumed hastily, "if he likes to do these things, I s'pose he can afford to. Now, what's he going to give her. I s'pose he'll give her a thousand a year; he's got nobody else to leave his money to."

He stretched out his hand to meet that of a dapper, clean-shaven man, with hardly a hair on his head, a long, broken nose, full lips, and cold gray eyes under rectangular brows.

的擔保品在符氏世界的背影憧憧往來。他最會打算，始終不肯娶親，不肯以兒女拖累自己。

詹木士敲敲那件瓷器又說道：『這並不是真的舊烏斯特窰。我猜佐利安曾把這個少年的光景多少告訴你。據我所能打聽得來的，我聽說他無事做，無進項，又無值得說出來的聯絡；但是無人肯告訴我什麼，我什麼都不曉得。』

安姑母搖頭。一陣抖動在她的鷹鉤鼻子四方老臉走過；她的兩隻手的像蜘蛛的手指交加的，緊緊的，互相壓着，好像她很輕巧的再拿定主意。

全數的符氏兄弟姊妹們以她爲最長，長好幾歲，她所處的是一種特別地位，他們無一個不是投機牟利的，無一個不是自私的——卻不見得比他人更甚——她卻是一個不爲利所動的，他們見了她都害怕，所以當機會的力量太過大的時候，他們只能躲避她！

詹木士扭他的兩條瘦長脚，往下說道：

『佐利安，他是要獨行己意的。他沒得兒女——』

他說到這裏就停住不說，想起老佐利安有個兒子，小佐利安，吉唔安的父親，這個人鬧得很糟，拋棄妻子不顧，同那個當保姆的外國女人逃走了。他又匆匆的說道：『好呀，他若喜歡做這樣的事，我猜他的地位能夠使他這樣做。他肯給她多少錢，我猜他肯給她每年一千鎊；他無人承受遺產。』

他伸手同一個人拉，這是一個伶俐，臉上剃得光光的人，頭上幾乎無一根頭髮，臉上一個長而折的鼻子，豐厚的嘴唇，一雙冷而灰的眼，長方眼眉。

"Well, Nick," he muttered, "how are you?"

Nicholas Forsyte, with his bird-like rapidity and the look of a preternaturally sage schoolboy (he had made a large fortune, quite legitimately, out of the companies of which he was a director), placed within that cold palm the tips of his still colder fingers and hastily withdrew them.

"I'm bad," he said, pouting—"been had all the week; don't sleep at night. The doctor can't tell why. He's a clever fellow, or I shouldn't have him, but I get nothing out of him but bills."

"Doctors!" said James, coming down sharp on his words; "I've had all the doctors in London for one or another of us. There's no satisfaction to be got out of *them*; they'll tell you anything. There's Swithin, now. What good have they done him? There he is; he's bigger than ever; he's enormous; they can't get his weight down. Look at him!"

Swithin Forsyte, tall, square, and broad, with a chest like a pouter pigeon's in its plumage of bright waistcoats, came strutting towards them.

Each brother wore an air of aggravation as he looked at the other two, knowing by experience that they would try to eclipse his ailments.

"We were just saying," said James, "that *you* don't get any thinner."

Swithin protruded his pale round eyes with the effort of hearing.

"Thinner? I'm in good case," he said, leaning a little forward, "not one of your thread-papers like you!"

But, afraid of losing the expansion of his chest, he leaned back again into a state of immobility, for he prized nothing so highly as a distinguished appearance.

Aunt Ann turned her old eyes from one to the other.

他喃喃的說道：『尼古(Nick),你好麼?』

尼古刺符爾賽特帶着他的如鳥的迅速與一個超越自然那樣明智的小學生的神氣(他是幾個公司的董事,由此發了大財,卻是發得很合法律的,)把他的仍然很冷的手指尖放在那隻更冷的手掌裏,快快又縮回。

他骨篤着嘴說道：『我不好過——我有整個禮拜不好過;晚上睡不着。醫師不能說出是爲什麼。他是一個聰明醫師,不然我不會請他看病的,但是我得不着他的好處,只得着許多賬單。』

詹木士聽了這幾句話,立刻很嚴厲的說道：『醫師們呀!我們家裏這個或那個,把倫敦全數的醫師都請教遍了。我們從他們手裏得不着什麼滿意;他們隨便告訴你。你看斯維丁。醫師們替他作了什麼?他還是他;他一天比一天胖;他是非常的胖;醫師們不能使他減低他的重量。你看看他?』

符氏的斯維丁是一個身材又高又闊的四方人,他穿了幾件顏色鮮豔的背心,他的胸脯好像一隻羽毛鮮豔的挺胸鴿子的胸脯,高視闊步的走向他們。

他用一個豪華公子的態度說道：『你們好呀?你們好呀?』

他們這時候是三兄弟站在一起,這一個都帶着不高興的神氣看那兩個,因爲他們從閱歷曉得那兩個會把病情說得比他的重。

詹木士說道：『我們正在說你並不見怎樣瘦。』

斯維丁突出他的兩隻淡圓眼,努力聽他們說話。

他身子向前略斜說道：『瘦點麼?我是正好,不像你們瘦子!』

他惟恐失了他的胸脯的脹滿,又斜向回去,站着不動,因爲他所最寶貴的無過於一副高貴的儀表。

安姑母轉她的老眼,從這個看到那個。她的神氣是寬

Indulgent and severe was her look. In turn the three brothers looked at Ann. She was getting shaky. Wonderful woman! Eighty-six if a day; might live another ten years, and had never been strong. Swithin and James, the twins, were only seventy-five, Nicholas a mere baby of seventy or so. All were strong, and the inference was comforting. Of all forms of property their respective healths naturally concerned them most.

"I'm very well in myself," proceeded James, "but my nerves are out of order. The least thing worries me to death. I shall have to go to Bath."

"Bath!" said Nicholas. "I've tried Harrogate. *That's* no good. What I want is sea air. There's nothing like Yarmouth. Now, when I go there I sleep——"

"My liver's very bad," interrupted Swithin slowly. "Dreadful pain here"; and he placed his hand on his right side.

"Want of exercise," muttered James, his eyes on the china. He quickly added: "I get a pain there, too."

Swithin reddened, a resemblance to a turkey-cock coming upon his old face.

"Exercise!" he said. "I take plenty: I never use the lift at the Club."

"I didn't know," James hurried out. "I know nothing about anybody; nobody tells me anything."

Swithin fixed him with a stare, and asked:

"What do you do for a pain there?"

James brightened.

"I," he began, "take a compound——"

"How are you, uncle?"

And June stood before him, her resolute small face raised from her little height to his great height, and her hand outheld.

容的，又是嚴厲的。他們三兄弟也看看她。她老到身子抖動啦。她是奇異女人！她今年八十六歲啦；還許可以再活十年，她身子向來是不強健的。斯維丁與詹木士原是孿生兄弟，現在不過七十五歲，尼古刺最少，止得七十歲，七十上下。他們個個都是強健的，這是很可以自慰的。他們擁有各式各樣的產業，他們所最關心的自然是健康〔產業二字包括妻財田地及健康等等在內。譯者注。〕

詹木士說道：『我自己原是很好的，可惜我的神經不好。只要一點小事就麻煩我到要死。我得去巴特(Bath)調養。』

尼古刺說道：『巴特呀！我曾試過哈洛蓋特(Harrogate)。那裏不好。我所要的是海上空氣。最好無過於雅爾木特(Yarmouth)。當我到那裏的時候我睡——』

斯維丁慢慢打叉，說道：『我的肝不好，這裏痛到可怕；』他把手放在右身邊。

詹木士兩眼看盜器，喃喃的說道：『這是缺少運動。』他又快快的說道：『我這裏也痛。』

斯維丁臉紅，他的老臉好像火雞臉。

他說道：『運動呀。我很運動；我在聯歡社向來都是走，不坐升梯。』

詹木士匆匆說道：『我不曾曉得。我對於無論什麼人的事我全不曉得；無論什麼事都無人告訴我。』

斯維丁瞪眼看他問道：

『這裏痛你用什麼法子治？』

詹木士臉上高興起來。

他起首說道，我吃一種配好——

『叔父，你好麼？』

原來是吉晤安站在他面前，她的堅決小臉抬起來，她是個短小的，抬頭看高大的叔父，伸出一手。

The brightness faded from James's visage.

"How are *you?*" he said, brooding over her. "So you're going to Wales to-morrow to visit your young man's aunts? You'll have a lot of rain there. This isn't real old Worcester." He tapped the bowl. "Now, that set I gave your mother when she married was the genuine thing."

June shook hands one by one with her three great-uncles, and turned to Aunt Ann. A very sweet look had come into the old lady's face; she kissed the girl's cheek with trembling fervour.

"Well, my dear," she said, "and so you're going for a whole month!"

The girl passed on, and Aunt Ann looked after her slim little figure. The old lady's round, steel-gray eyes, over which a film like a bird's was beginning to come, followed her wistfully amongst the bustling crowd, for people were beginning to say good-bye; and her finger-tips, pressing and pressing against each other, were busy again with the recharging of her will against that inevitable ultimate departure of her own.

"Yes," she thought, "everybody's been most kind; quite a lot of people come to congratulate her. She ought to be very happy."

Amongst the throng of people by the door—the well-dressed throng drawn from the families of lawyers and doctors, from the Stock Exchange, and all the innumerable avocations of the upper middle class—there were only some twenty per cent. of Forsytes; but to Aunt Ann they seemed all Forsytes—and certainly there was not much difference—she saw only her own flesh and blood. It was her world, this family, and she knew no other, had never perhaps known any other. All their little secrets, illnesses, engagements,

詹木士臉上的高興消滅了。他低頭看她，說道：『你好麼？你明天就往威爾斯（Wales）探望你的少年男人的姑母們麼？你到了那裏會遇着許多雨的。』

他敲敲瓷碗。他說道：『這不是真的舊烏斯特窰。當你母親結婚時我所送給她的那一套卻是真的。』

吉唔安逐個同她的叔祖們拉手，掉過來看安姑母。這個老女人的臉露出很親愛的神色；她很熱烈的抖抖的吻這個女孩子的臉。

她說道：『我的寶貝，你要走開一個月呀！』

這個女孩子往前走，安姑母看她的瘦小身子。這個女人的圓的鋼灰色的眼（其上起首來了一層薄膜如同鳥的一樣）專跟着她在忙碌的人堆裏看，因為現時人們起首要告辭了；她的手指尖互相擠壓，壓了又壓，在那裏忙着再提高她的意志，以備她自己的在所不能免的最後的告辭。

她想到：『是呀，人人都是極親愛的；很有許多人來同她賀喜。她應該很歡樂的。』

在門旁邊的一堆人裏頭只有五分之一是姓符的（這一羣衣服穿得很好的人們有從律師人家醫師人家來的，有從交易所來的，還有來自全數無數的有正業的上中人家的；）但是從安姑母的眼中看來，他們好像全是姓符的人——其實是無甚分別——她只看見她自己的骨肉。這一族人就是她的世界，她向來不曉得其他世界，很許絕不曉得任何其他世界。全數他們的小祕密，疾病，定婚，結

and marriages, how they were getting on, and whether they were making money—all this was her property, her delight, her life; beyond this only a vague, shadowy mist of facts and persons of no real significance. This it was that she would have to lay down when it came to her turn to die; this which gave to her that importance, that secret self-importance, without which none of us can bear to live; and to this she clung wistfully, with a greed that grew each day. If life were slipping away from her, *this* she would retain to the end.

She thought of June's father, young Jolyon, who had run away with that foreign girl. Ah! what a sad blow to his father and to them all. Such a promising young fellow! A sad blow, though there had been no public scandal, most fortunately, Jo's wife seeking for no divorce! A long time ago! And when June's mother died, eight years ago, Jo had married that woman, and they had two children now, so she had heard. Still, he had forfeited his right to be there, had cheated her of the complete fulfilment of her family pride, deprived her of the rightful pleasure of seeing and kissing him of whom she had been so proud, such a promising young fellow! The thought rankled with the bitterness of a long-inflicted injury in her tenacious old heart. A little water stood in her eyes. With a handkerchief of the finest lawn she wiped them stealthily.

"Well, Aunt Ann?" said a voice behind.

Soames Forsyte, flat-shouldered, clean-shaven, flat-cheeked, flat-waisted, yet with something round and secret about his whole appearance, looked downwards and aslant at Aunt Ann, as though trying to see through the side of his own nose.

"And what do *you* think of the engagement?" he asked. Aunt Ann's eyes rested on him proudly; the eldest of

婚，他們的進步怎麼樣，他們是否發財——這些事體都是她的產業，她的快樂，她的生命；在全數這些事體之外的，都不過是一堆空泛的，只有影子如烟霧的事實，都不過是無實在意義的人物。當輪到她死的時候，她所要撒手放下來的就是這許多事體；使他成爲一個重要人物，使她自以爲是個重要人物，若無這樣重要地位，我們無論什麼人都不能忍受活在世上的，也是這許多事體；她所以牢牢抱着不肯放手，而且日見其捨不得這許多事體。假使生命從她慢慢的溜走了，她所保持到底的，也是這許多事體。

她想起吉唔安的父親，小佐利安，他同一個外國女子逃走了。呀！他的父親與全數他們符氏受了多麼憂愁的打擊呀。他還是一個很有希望的少年！這一打擊是很慘的，幸而並未鬧出當衆出醜的事，佐的太太並不曾要求離婚！這是許久以前的事體了！等到八年前吉唔安的母親死了，佐就同那個女人結婚，她聽說那兩夫婦有了兩個孩子啦。他卻失了權利，今天不能到這裏來，他騙了她，不使她享家庭的美滿的得意幸福，奪了她所應享的歡樂，不能見他的面，吻他，他原是一個很有希望的少年，她是很以他爲榮的！她一想到這兩層，她的一副堅韌的老心腸因爲受了損害日久，就在那裏痛恨。她的兩眼各有一滴小淚。她用很細的手帕偷拭眼淚。

有人在她背後說道：『好呀，安姑母』

素木士是兩肩平平的，剃光了臉，平頰，平腰，他的全個外貌卻帶着多少圓的與祕密的，低頭斜看安姑母，好像嘗試透過他的鼻子邊看她。

他問道：『你看這件定婚的事怎麼樣呀？』

安姑母很得意的兩眼看他；自從小佐利安離開符氏

the nephews since young Jolyon's departure from the family nest, he was now her favourite, for she recognised in him a sure trustee of the family soul that must so soon slip beyond her keeping.

"Very nice for the young man," she said; "and he's a good-looking young fellow; but I doubt if he's quite the right lover for dear June."

Soames touched the edge of a gold-lacquered lustre.

"She'll tame him," he said, stealthily wetting his finger and rubbing it on the knobby bulbs. "That's genuine old lacquer; you can't get it nowadays. It'd do well in a sale at Jobson's." He spoke with relish,¹ as though he felt that he was cheering up his old aunt. It was seldom he was so confidential. "I wouldn't mind having it myself," he added; "you can always get your price for old lacquer."

"You're so clever with all those things," said Aunt Ann. "And how is dear Irene?"

Soames's smile died.

"Pretty well," he said. "Complains she can't sleep; she sleeps a great deal better than I do," and he looked at his wife, who was talking to Bosinney by the door.

Aunt Ann sighed.

"Perhaps," she said, "it will be just as well for her not to see so much of June. She's such a decided character, dear June!"

Soames flushed; his flushes passed rapidly over his flat cheeks and centred between his eyes, where they remained, the stamp of disturbing thoughts.

"I don't know what she sees in that little flibbertigibbet,"² he burst out, but noticing that they were no longer alone, he turned and again began examining the lustre.

¹ spoke with relish, 講得津津有味。 ² flibbertigibbet, 好閒談的人; 無定性的人。

家族之後，素木士就是年長的姪子，現在她所最歡喜的就是他，因為她承認他是家族的靈魂的一個最靠得住的保證，這不久必定溜走了，出乎她的保管之外的了。

她說道：『爲那個少年人計，是很好的；他是一個面貌好看的少年；但是我恐怕他不甚是寶貝吉唔安的合宜愛人。』

素木士摩摩一個金漆玻璃燈的邊。

他偷偷沾濕他的手指，擦多節的燈泡，說道：『她將降伏他。這是真舊漆；現在你買不着這樣東西啦。在約伯生那裏拍賣，是會得好價的。』他說得津津有味，好像覺得他是提起他的老姑母的興致。他很少說這樣祕密話的。他又說道：『我肯買這件東西；舊漆器是常能賣好價錢的。』

安姑母說道：『你是很聰明的識古董。寶貝的愛里妮好麼？』

素木士的微笑消滅了。

他說道：『還好。她說她不能睡；她睡覺比我多得多，』他一面看他的夫人，她正在門邊同葆辛尼說話。

安姑母歎氣。

她說道：『她不如少見吉唔安爲妙。寶貝吉唔安是一個很果決的人。』

素木士滿面通紅；這一陣臉紅很快走過他的平臉，聚在兩眼之間，就停留在那裏，這是表示思想擾亂。

他喊道：『我不曉得她看見那個無定性的小東西有什麼好處，他一看有人來了，他就掉過身子又起首細看那座燈。』

"They tell me Jolyon's bought another house," said his father's voice close by; "he must have a lot of money—he must have more money than he knows what to do with! Montpellier Square, they say; close to Soames! They never told me—Irene never tells me anything!"

"Capital position, not two minutes from me," said the voice of Swithin, "and from my rooms I can drive to the Club in eight."

The position of their houses was of vital importance to the Forsytes, nor was this remarkable, since the whole spirit of their success was embodied therein.

Their father, of farming stock, had come from Dorsetshire near the beginning of the century.

"Superior Dosset Forsyte," as he was called by his intimates, had been a stonemason by trade, and risen to the position of a master-builder. Towards the end of his life he moved to London, where, building on until he died, he was buried at Highgate. He left over thirty thousand pounds between his ten children. Old Jolyon alluded to him, if at all, as "A hard, thick sort of man; not much refinement about him." The second generation of Forsytes felt indeed that he was not greatly to their credit. The only aristocratic trait they could find in his character was a habit of drinking Madeira.

Aunt Hester, an authority on family history, described him thus:

"I don't recollect that he ever did anything; at least, not in *my* time. He was er—an owner of houses, my dear. His hair about your Uncle Swithin's colour; rather a square build. Tall? No-ot very tall" (he had been five feet five, with a mottled face); "a fresh-coloured man. I remember he used to drink Madeira; but ask your Aunt Ann. What

他的父在很近地方說道：『他們告訴我佐利安又買一所房子；他必定有許多錢——他必定有許多錢，不曉得怎樣花才好！他們說是在孟披利廣場；同素木士的相近！他們向來不告訴我——愛里妮無論什麼事，向來都不告訴我！』

斯維丁的聲音說道：『地段是頂好的，離我那裏不過兩分鐘，從我的屋子走，八分鐘我就能夠坐馬車到聯歡社。』

房子所在的地段，從符氏兄弟們看來，是極要緊的，這也不足為奇，因為他們的辦事得手的全個精神都在地段上。

他們的父親是農家子，在本世紀的初年從多爾賽州 (Dorset Shire) 來的。

他的熟朋友們稱他為多賽符爾賽特，本來是個石匠，高升到建築工頭。他到了晚年就遷來倫敦，他建造房子到老死，葬在海蓋特。他剩下三萬鎊分給他的十個兒女。老佐利安很少說起他的父親，若是提及，說他『是一個身體結實重厚的人；是不甚斯文的。』

第二代的符氏們實在覺得他不甚替他們增光。他除了習慣飲一種紅葡萄酒之外，並無貴族特性。

亥斯特姑母是家族歷史的泰斗，她描寫她的父親如下：

『我不記得他做過什麼，至少當我的時候他並不做事。他是一個置房產的人。他的頭髮顏色大約像你們斯維丁叔父的頭髮；身材是方的。高麼？不甚高。（他五尺五寸高，臉上有斑點；）是一個臉色光鮮的人。我記得他好飲紅葡萄酒；你們不如問安姑母。他的父親是什麼人麼？他在

was *his* father? He—er—had to do with the land down in Dorsetshire, by the sea.”

“There’s very little to be had out of that,” he said; “regular country little place, old as the hills.”

Its age was felt to be a comfort. Old Jolyon, in whom a desperate honesty welled up at times, would allude to his ancestors as: “Yeomen—I suppose very small beer.”¹ Yet he would repeat the word “yeomen” as if it afforded him consolation.

They had all done so well for themselves, these Forsytes, that they were all what is called “of a certain position.” They had shares in all sorts of things, not as yet—with the exception of Timothy—in consols, for they had no dread in life like that of 3 per cent. for their money. They collected pictures, too, and were supporters of such charitable institutions as might be beneficial to their sick domestics. From their father, the stonemason, they inherited a talent for bricks and mortar. Originally, perhaps, members of some primitive sect, they were now in the natural course of things members of the Church of England, and caused their wives and children to attend with some regularity the more fashionable churches of the Metropolis. To have doubted their Christianity would have caused them both pain and surprise. Some of them paid for pews, thus expressing in the most practical form their sympathy with the teachings of Christ.

Their residences, placed at stated intervals round the park, watched like sentinels, lest the fair heart of this London, where their desires were fixed, should slip from their clutches, and leave them lower in their own estimations.

¹ small beer, 小戸人家.

多爾賽州海邊辦田地。』

〔詹木士有一次回鄉下看過，回來說道。譯者注。〕『那裏弄不出什麼道裏來，鄉下的小地方，同山那樣舊。』

只要是舊家就聊可自慰。老佐利安有時是拚命的老實。提及他的祖先，就說：『他們是中等農家——我猜是很小的人家。』但是他屢說：『中等農家，』好像這個名稱給他安慰。

符氏兄弟個個都得法，人家稱他們是『有地位的人。』無論什麼事業他們都有股份，除了提摩太外，他們卻還不會買公債票，因為他們所最怕的是只得三厘利息。他們還收買繪畫，他們還捐助其可以有利於他們的僕人們的慈善事業。他們從他們的父親，就是那個石匠，得了一種遺傳性，好磚，好灰。他們最初也許是單簡的異派的教友，到了現在，自然是國教的教友，叫他們的妻子不甚間斷的進京城的較爲時髦的教堂。若是有人疑心他們奉基督教不誠，會使他們難過的。詫異的。他們內中有幾個給教堂坐位的租錢，這就是用最實在的形式，表示他們與基督的教訓表同情的〔譏諷得微而婉。譯者注。〕

他們的住宅都是相離若干遠，在大公園的四周圍。如同守兵一樣，守住倫敦的中心，他們的欲望都釘牢在這裏，惟恐這個地方從他們的緊握的掌中溜走了，據他們自己的估計，這就會降低他們的地位。

There was old Jolyon in Stanhope Place; the Jameses in Park Lane; Swithin in the lonely glory of orange and blue chambers in Hyde Park Mansions—he had never married, not he!—the Soameses in their nest off Knightsbridge; the Rogers in Prince's Gardens (Roger was that remarkable Forsyte who had conceived and carried out the notion of bringing up his four sons to a new profession. "Collect house property—nothing like it!" he would say; "I never did anything else!").

The Haymans again—Mrs. Hayman was the one married Forsyte sister—in a house high up on Campden Hill, shaped like a giraffe, and so tall that it gave the observer a crick in the neck; the Nicholases in Ladbroke Grove, a spacious abode and a great bargain;¹ and last, but not least, Timothy's on the Bayswater Road, where Ann, and Juley, and Hester, lived under his protection.

But all this time James was musing, and now he inquired of his host and brother what he had given for that house in Montpellier Square. He himself had had his eye on a house there for the last two years, but they wanted such a price.

Old Jolyon recounted the details of his purchase.

"Twenty-two years to run?" repeated James; "the very house I was after—you've given too much for it!"

Old Jolyon frowned.

"It's not that I want it," said James hastily; "wouldn't suit my purpose at that price. Soames knows the house, well—he'll tell you it's too dear—his opinion's worth having."

"I don't," said old Jolyon, "care a fig for his opinion."

¹ great bargain, 價錢很賤.

老佐利安住在司但賀門大街；詹木士們住在公園巷；斯維丁住在亥德公園大宅，孤獨一人住在一所橘色與青色的宅子——他始終不娶親——他是不來的！——素木士們住在奈特斯橋；羅哲爾們住在王子花園（羅哲爾在符氏兄弟中獨具特色，他想出與實行一個意思，教他的四個兒子執新行業。他常說道：『收房租，再沒有比這個好的了！我絕不作別的了！』）

海曼(Hayman)們住在伽普敦山(Campden Hill)——海曼太太就是符氏兄弟們的一個出嫁的姊妹。他們的宅子好像一隻長頸鹿，抬頭看房子的人會扭了頸頸子作聲響的；尼古刺們住在拉卜魯格魯(Ladbroke Grove)，是一所很寬大的宅子，買得很便宜；最後就數到提摩太，他的住宅在貝士滑突街，那三個姑母都住在這裏，在他的保護之下。

但是這個時候詹木士還是在那裏想心事，他問他的主人又是他的哥哥，他花了多少錢買孟披利廣場的房子。他自己曾注意這所房有兩年了，但是他們要的價錢很貴。

老佐利安詳說他買那所房子的情節。

詹木士說道：『還有二十年可住麼？我正想要這樣的房子——你買得太貴了！』

老佐利安縐眉。

詹木士很快說道：『我並非要那所房子，這樣大價錢不合我的意思。素木士曉得那所房子，他會告訴你買得太貴——你值得問問他。』

老佐利安說道：『他的見解毫無價值，我不問他。』

"Well," murmured James, "you *will* have your own way—it's a good opinion. Good-bye! We're going to drive down to Hurlingham. They tell me June's going to Wales. You'll be lonely to-morrow. What'll you do with yourself? You'd better come and dine with us!"

Old Jolyon refused. He went down to the front door and saw them into their barouche, and twinkled at them, having already forgotten his spleen—Mrs. James facing the horses, tall and majestic with auburn hair; on her left, Irene—the two husbands, father and son, sitting forward, as though they expected something, opposite their wives. Bobbing and bounding upon the spring cushions, silent, swaying to each motion of their chariot, old Jolyon watched them drive away under the sunlight.

During the drive the silence was broken by Mrs. James.

"Did you ever see such a collection of rumty-too people?"

Soames, glancing at her beneath his eyelids, nodded, and he saw Irene steal at him one of her unfathomable looks. It is likely enough that each branch of the Forsythe family made that remark as they drove away from old Jolyon's "At Home."

Amongst the last of the departing guests the fourth and fifth brothers, Nicholas and Roger, walked away together, directing their steps alongside Hyde Park towards the Praed Street Station of the Underground. Like all other Forsytes of a certain age they kept carriages of their own, and never took cabs if by any means they could avoid it.

The day was bright, the trees of the Park in the full beauty of mid-June foliage; the brothers did not seem to notice phenomena, which contributed, nevertheless, to the jauntiness of promenade and conversation.

詹木士喃喃的說道：『也好，你是必要實行你自己的見解的——你的見解是好的。我同你告辭啦！我們乘馬車往亥爾林汗（Hurlingham）。他們告訴我吉唔安就要往威爾斯啦。你明天就寂寞啦。你怎樣消遣？你莫如到我家裏同我們吃大餐！』

老佐利安不肯去。他走到大門口，看他們上馬車，兩眼對他們微笑，他已經忘了他的不高興啦——詹木士夫人對着馬坐，她身材高，很威嚴，滿頭亞麻色頭髮：愛里妮坐在她的左邊，父子兩個臉朝着她們坐，好像有所盼望。老佐利安看着他們在陽光之下走了，他們在馬車的有彈簧的墊子上顛，馬車顛一顛，他們也顛一顛。

當他們坐在馬車上的時候，還是詹木士夫人首先說話。

『你們見過這樣一堆的（Rumty-too）人麼？』

素木士從眼皮底下看看她，點點頭，他看見愛里妮偷偷看他一眼，他摸不着她是什麼意思。當符氏每一房的人們從老佐利安的受賀，坐馬車走開的時候，大約都說過這樣的一句話。

最後走的就是第四第五兩兄弟，尼古刺與羅哲爾，他們是同在一起步行走的，沿着亥德公園，向巴利街的地道火車站走。他們與全數到了某年紀的其他符氏們一樣，都是自己養馬車，他們若是能免得了，必定不雇小馬車的。

今天晴朗，公園的樹木正在六月中時候，是最茂盛好看的；兩兄弟好像全不理會這樣的景緻，卻有助於他們散步與談話都很高興。

“Yes,” said Roger, “she’s a good-lookin’ woman, that wife of Soames’. I’m told they don’t get on.”

This brother had a high forehead, and the freshest colour of any of the Forsytes; his light gray eyes measured the street frontage of the houses by the way, and now and then he would level his umbrella and take a “lunar,”¹ as he expressed it, of the varying heights.

“She’d no money,” replied Nicholas.

He himself had married a good deal of money, of which, it being then the golden age before the Married Women’s Property Act, he had mercifully been enabled to make a successful use.

“What was her father?”

“Heron was his name, a Professor, so they tell me.”

Roger shook his head.

“There’s no money in that,” he said.

“They say her mother’s father was cement.”

Roger’s face brightened.

“But he went bankrupt,” went on Nicholas.

“Ah!” exclaimed Roger, “Soames will have trouble with her; you mark my words, he’ll have trouble—she’s got a foreign look.”

Nicholas licked his lips.

“She’s a pretty woman,” and he waved aside a crossing-sweeper.

“How did he get hold of her?” asked Roger presently.

“She must cost him a pretty penny in dress!”

“Ann tells me,” replied Nicholas, “he was half-cracked about her. She refused him five times. James, he’s nervous about it, I can see.”

¹ lunar, 天文名詞, 量度月與他曜相離的角度。

羅哲爾說道：『是呀，素木士的夫人長得好看。有人告訴我他們不和。』

這一個兄弟比其餘的額較高，面色最光鮮；他的淡灰色眼量度路旁房舍的臨街處有多少寬，有時他把傘放平，他說他是量度各房舍有多少高。

尼古刺答道：『她無錢呀。』

他自己所娶的夫人是很有錢的，那時候還未頒行已結婚女人的財產律，正是黃金時代，天可憐他，使他很得法的運用這樣的財產。

『她的父親是個什麼人？』

『他們告訴我，他姓希倫(Heron)是一個教授。』

羅哲爾搖頭。

他說道：『當教授是不會有錢的呀。』

『他們說她母親的父親是洋灰。』

羅哲爾的臉立刻高興起來。

尼古刺往下說道：『可惜他破產了。』

羅哲爾說道：『哈！素木士將來同她會有麻煩的；你記得我的話他將來會有許多麻煩——她有一個外國人的面貌。』

尼古刺吮嘴唇。

他推開一個掃街夫，說道：『她是一個美貌女人。』

過了一會，羅哲爾問道：『他是怎樣娶她到手的？她所穿的衣服必定花了他許多錢！』

尼古刺答道：『安告訴我，他爲她幾乎變作半瘋。她會拒絕他五次。我能看得出來，詹木士是很不放心的。』

“Ah!” said Roger again; “I’m sorry for James; he had trouble with Dartie.” His pleasant colour was heightened by exercise, he swung his umbrella to the level of his eye more frequently than ever. Nicholas’s face also wore a pleasant look.

“Too pale for me,” he said, “but her figure’s capital!”

Roger made no reply.

“I call her distinguished-looking,” he said at last—it was the highest praise in the Forsyte vocabulary. “That young Bosinney will never do any good for himself. They say at Burkitt’s he’s one of these artistic chaps—got an idea of improving English architecture; there’s no money in that! I should like to hear what Timothy would say to it.”

They entered the station.

“What class are you going? I go second.”

“No second for me,” said Nicholas; “you never know what you may catch.”

He took a first-class ticket to Notting Hill Gate; Roger a second to South Kensington. The train coming in a minute later, the two brothers parted and entered their respective compartments. Each felt aggrieved that the other had not modified his habits to secure his society a little longer; but as Roger voiced it in his thoughts:

“Always a stubborn beggar, Nick!”

And as Nicholas expressed it to himself:

“Cantankerous¹ chap Roger always was!”

There was little sentimentality about the Forsytes. In that great London, which they had conquered and become merged in, what time had they to be sentimental?

¹ cantankerous, 不隨和; 好爭; 乖僻.

羅哲爾又說道：『哈！我替詹木士難過，他同他同搭爾提有過麻煩』他因為運動，臉色很有光彩，他屢次搖他的傘，搖到同他的眼一樣高，搖的次數比往日多。尼古刺的臉也很高興。

他說道：『我嫌她的面色太過淡白，但是她的身材是好極了。』

羅哲爾不答。

後來他說道：『我說她的面貌名貴』——這是符氏們恭維到極點的名詞。那個少年葆辛尼無論怎樣總是鬧不好的。坡爾吉(Burkitt)的人們說他是一個美術家——他要改良英國的建築；這是不會有錢的呀！我卻要曉得提摩太對於這件事說什麼。』

他們進車站。

『你坐那一等？我坐二等。』

尼古刺說道：『我不坐二等；你不曉得坐二等會得什麼傳染病，』

他買頭等票往某處；羅哲爾買二等票往別一處。一分鐘候火車入站，兩兄弟分手，各上各人的車。彼此都在那裏不高興，為什麼不略改他的習慣，以相遷就，以便兩人再聚談一會子；羅哲爾心裏發表他的意思道：

『尼古永遠是個堅持到底的鄙客人！』

尼古刺對自己說道：

『羅哲爾永遠是一個不肯遷就的人。』

符氏兄弟們彼此相待是很少有好感情的。他們降伏了這個偉大的倫敦，與其化而為一，那裏還有什麼時候顧到感情呀！

CHAPTER V

A FORSYTE MÉNAGE

On the evening of August 8, a week after the expedition to Robin Hill, in the dining-room of this house—"quite individual, my dear—really elegant!"—Soames and Irene were seated at dinner. A hot dinner on Sundays was a little distinguishing elegance common to this house and many others. Early in married life Soames had laid down the rule: "The servants must give us hot dinner on Sundays—they've nothing to do but play the concertina."

The custom had produced no revolution. For—to Soames a rather deplorable sign—servants were devoted to Irene, who, in defiance¹ of all safe tradition appeared to recognise their right to a share in the weaknesses of human nature.

The happy pair were seated, not opposite each other, but rectangularly, at the handsome rosewood table; they dined without a cloth—a distinguishing elegance—and so far had not spoken a word.

Soames liked to talk during dinner about business, or what he had been buying, and so long as he talked Irene's silence did not distress him. This evening he had found it impossible to talk. The decision to build had been weighing on his mind² all the week, and he had made up his mind to tell her.

His nervousness about this disclosure irritated him profoundly; she had no business to make him feel like that—a wife and a husband being one person. She had not looked

¹ in defiance, 反對; 抗拒. ² weighing on his mind, 煩心; 不放心.

第五回 一個符氏的家庭

素木士去看過洛丙山〔Robin Hill 素木士蓋新房子的地方譯者注。〕之後一個星期，八月八日晚上，他同愛里妮坐在他的飯所裏，在那所，很特別的，實在是很華麗的宅子裏。他這一家與其他許多人家，每逢星期日必吃熱大餐，這是一點與衆不同的闊處。素木士初娶親的時候就定下一條家規：『每逢星期日僕人們必得替我們預備熱大餐——反正他們終日無所事事只是弄手琴。』

這樣的家規並不曾發生什麼革命。因為僕人們都是竭力伺候愛里妮的（素木士以為這是很不好的徵象，）她反對全數的傳說，承認僕人們有權利分得人性的弱點。

這一對歡樂的夫婦並不是對坐，打撲坐在好看玫瑰木的桌邊；他們吃大餐不鋪桌布——這又是一種與人不同的闊排場——計到這個時候，兩夫婦都不曾開口。

素木士喜歡當吃飯的時候談生意，或談他買些什麼東西，只要他在那裏說話的時候。愛里妮閉口無言並不使他難受。今天晚上他却見得他不能開口。他決定要蓋新房子，這個思想使他煩心整個星期，他打定主意告訴她。

他要告訴她又怕她的反對，這就使心裏極其不安寧；她不該使他有這樣的感覺——一夫一婦本來是一個人。

at him once since they sat down; and he wondered what on earth she had been thinking about all the time. It was hard, when a man worked as he did, making money for her—yes, and with an ache in his heart—that she should sit there, looking—looking as if she saw the walls of the room closing in. It was enough to make a man get up and leave the table.

The light from the rose-shaded lamp fell on her neck and arms—Soames liked her to dine in a low dress, it gave him an inexpressible feeling of superiority to the majority of his acquaintance, whose wives were contented with their best high frocks or with tea-gowns, when they dined at home. Under that rosy light her amber-coloured hair and fair skin made strange contrast with her dark brown eyes.

Could a man own anything prettier than this dining-table with its deep tints, the starry, soft-petalled roses, the ruby-coloured glass, and quaint silver furnishing; could a man own anything prettier than the woman who sat at it? Gratitude was no virtue among Forsytes, who, competitive, and full of common-sense, had no occasion for it; and Soames only experienced a sense of exasperation amounting to pain, that he did not own her as it was his right to own her, that he could not, as by stretching out his hand to that rose, pluck her and sniff the very secrets of her heart.

Out of his other property, out of all the things he had collected, his silver, his pictures, his houses, his investments, he got a secret and intimate feeling; out of her he got none.

In this house of his there was writing on every wall.¹ His business-like temperament protested against a mysterious

¹ writing on every wall, 處處警告有禍臨頭(見舊約但以理).

自從他們坐下之後，她不會看他一眼；他心裏在那裏亂想，這些時候她在那裏想些什麼。一個人如他這樣努力爲她弄錢——是呀，他心裏是很痛的呀——她却呆呆的坐在那裏看，看飯廳的牆，好像看牆走過來包圍他們，實在是令人難堪。這就很够令人站起來走開了。

燈罩的玫瑰色的光照在她的頸子與手臂上——素木士喜歡她穿露胸衣服吃大餐，這就給他一種說不出來的得意，覺得他比他的許多朋友都闊，這些朋友的太太們在家吃大餐只穿頂好的不露胸褂子或寬鬆褂子就滿意啦。她的琥珀色頭髮與白皮膚在玫瑰光之下，同她的一雙黑棕色眼睛，作奇異的反襯。

這張深色飯桌，桌上如星羅棋布的擺着軟瓣玫瑰花，紅寶石顏色的玻璃盃，奇形怪狀的銀器，都是他花錢置備的，一個人能够擁有比這些更好看的東西麼；一個人能够擁有比坐在桌旁更美的女人麼？這裏說素木士視妻妻如置產，當他的夫人是他的物產，下文說他父子相視如股票，作者所以稱素木士爲『置產人』這個時候，與在其前及在其後的中上人家，所謂倫紀，就是這樣。譯者注。符氏們不曉得什麼是感恩，因爲他們都是力持競爭主義的，又是滿肚子都是常識的，用不着感恩；素木士以爲她是他所置的物產，該有享受這樣物產的權利，却並不曾享受過，他一伸手就能抓取那朵玫瑰花，他却不能摘她，如同摘一朵玫瑰花一樣，摘過來聞聞她心裏的祕密，他是忿怒極了，怒到心痛。

他從他的其他產業，從他花錢買來收藏的東西，如他的銀器，他的繪畫，他的房屋，他的股票，他都得着一種祕密的與親密的好感；惟有從她的夫人得不着好感。

在他這所房子裏頭，處處都警告他有禍害臨頭。他的脾氣是做買賣人的脾氣，反對這樣神祕警告說天生她不

warning that she was not made for him. He had married this woman, conquered her, made her his own, and it seemed to him contrary to the most fundamental of all laws, the law of possession, that he could do no more than own her body—if indeed he could do that, which he was beginning to doubt. If any one had asked him if he wanted to own her soul, the question would have seemed to him both ridiculous and sentimental. But he did so want, and the writing said he never would.

She was ever silent, passive, gracefully averse; as though terrified lest by word, motion, or sign she might lead him to believe that she was fond of him; and he asked himself: Must I always go on like this?

CHAPTER VI

JAMES AT LARGE

It was a fine afternoon, and he walked across the Park towards Soames's, where he intended to dine, for Emily's toe kept her in bed, and Rachel and Cicely were on a visit in the country. He took the slanting path from the Bayswater side of the Row to the Knightsbridge Gate, across a pasture of short, burnt grass, dotted with blackened sheep, strewn with seated couples and strange waifs lying prone on their faces, like corpses on a field over which the wave of battle has rolled.

He walked rapidly, his head bent, looking neither to the right nor left. The appearance of this park, the centre of his own battle-field, where he had all his life been fighting, excited no thought or speculation in his mind. These corpses flung down there from out the press and turmoil of

能與他和諧的。他已經娶了這個女人，降伏了她，使她變作他的物產了，他只能享受她的身體，此外他就一無所能，他還起首疑心也許他並她的身體都不能享受，這就與全數法律的最基本的置產律相反。假使有人問他是不是既擁有她的身，還要擁有她的心如擁有產業一樣，他必定以為這句話問得不合情理。但是他很想要她的心，警告却說他永遠得不着。

她永遠是不响的，不自動的，反對得很大方的；她是時時刻刻害怕，惟恐一言一動，或一種表示或許可以令他相信她喜歡他；他就問他自己道：我得永遠過這樣日子麼？

第六回 詹木士

〔素木士雇葆辛尼蓋造大住宅，不願人知。不料由吉唔安先曉得，隨後展轉傳到詹木士耳朵。譯者注。〕

有一天很好的下午，詹木士就走過公園，向素木士家裏來，他想在那裏吃飯，因為伊米理〔Emily 詹木士的夫人譯者注。〕的脚指有病，臥床，兩個女兒往鄉下探親友。他走斜路，從貝士滑突那邊走向奈特斯橋門，穿過一塊燒過的短草牧場，場上有黑的草綿羊星羅棋布，還有一對一對坐在那裏的男女，與外路的無家可歸的人們躺在那裏，背向着天，如同打過仗的戰場的死屍。

他快快走，低着頭，不看左，不看右。這所公園就是他的戰場的中心，他在這個戰場打了一生的仗，這所公園的景象並不在他的心裏激發，什麼思想式思辨。摔在那裏的許多屍首，都是從戰鬥中被逼出來的，坐在那裏相靠得很

the struggle, these pairs of lovers sitting cheek by jowl¹ for an hour of idle Elysium snatched from the monotony of their treadmill,² awakened no fancies in his mind; he had outlived that kind of imagination; his nose, like the nose of a sheep, was fastened to the pastures on which he browsed.

One of his tenants had lately shown a disposition to be behind-hand in his rent, and it had become a grave question whether he had not better turn him out at once, and so run the risk of not re-letting before Christmas. Swithin had just been let in very badly, but it had served him right—he had held on too long.

He pondered this as he walked steadily, holding his umbrella carefully by the wood, just below the crook of the handle, so as to keep the ferule off the ground, and not fray the silk in the middle. And, with his thin, high shoulders stooped, his long legs moving with swift mechanical precision, this passage through the Park, where the sun shone with a clear flame on so much idleness—on so many human evidences of the remorseless battle of Property raging beyond its ring—was like the flight of some land bird across the sea.

He felt a touch on the arm as he came out at Albert Gate.

It was Soames, who, crossing from the shady side of Piccadilly, where he had been walking home from the office, had suddenly appeared alongside.

“Your mother’s in bed,” said James; “I was just coming to you, but I suppose I shall be in the way.”

¹ cheek by jowl, 相靠得很近. ² treadmill, 單調無味的苦工.

近的一對一對的愛人，從單調無趣的苦工逃出來，偷享一點鐘的幸福，都不曾在他的心裏驚醒無論什麼想像；他已經出了這種想像的境界啦；她的鼻子如同綿羊的鼻子。釘在他所吃草的草地上啦。

他有一個住戶新近表示拖欠房租的意向，他就拿這件事當一個重大問題，是否立刻趕他出屋，寧願冒不能在聖誕節前再租出去的危險。斯維丁才吃過大虧，這却是應該的——因為他居奇太久了。

當他一面按步就班的向前走的時候，他一面盤算這件事，小心用手抓住傘的木柄，抓住剛在傘把轉灣之下，不令柄尖磨地，又不要擦損了中間的綢面〔可謂善於形容了。譯者注。〕他駝着兩隻瘦而高的肩膀，兩條長腿同機器一般準確在那裏快走，他在公園走過，如同大陸的鳥在大海上飛過——太陽光很明亮的照着園裏許多懶惰人——照着許多人事的憑據，證明園外因為爭財產，打仗打得很兇。

當他從這園門走出來的時候，他覺得有人摩他的膀子。

原來是素木士，他從有樹陰的那邊街走過，他本來是從辦公處走回家，忽然出現在他的身邊。

詹木士說道：『你的母親患病在床，我正在要到你家裏來，我猜我會阻礙你。』

The outward relations between James and his son were marked by a lack of sentiment peculiarly Forsytean, but for all that the two were by no means unattached. Perhaps they regarded one another as an investment; certainly they were solicitous of each other's welfare, glad of each other's company. They had never exchanged two words upon the more intimate problems of life, or revealed in each other's presence the existence of any deep feeling.

Something beyond the power of word-analysis bound them together, something hidden deep in the fibre of nations and families—for blood, they say, is thicker than water—and neither of them was a cold-blooded man. Indeed, in James love of his children was now the prime motive of his existence. To have creatures who were parts of himself, to whom he might transmit the money he saved, was at the root of his saving; and, at seventy-five, what was left that could give him pleasure, but—saving? The kernel of life was in this saving for his children.

Than James Forsyte, notwithstanding all his "Jonahisms," there was no saner man (if the leading symptom of sanity, as we are told, is self-preservation, though without doubt Timothy went too far) in all this London, of which he owned so much, and loved with such a dumb love, as the centre of his opportunities. He had the marvellous instinctive sanity of the middle class. In him—more than in Jolyon, with his masterful will and his moments of tenderness and philosophy—more than in Swithin, the martyr to crankiness—Nicholas, the sufferer from ability—and Roger, the victim of enterprise—beat the true pulse of compromise; of all the brothers he was least remarkable in mind and person, and for that reason more likely to live for ever.

在詹木士父子之間，外表並無他們符氏們的特別感情，雖是這樣說，這兩個人却並非不相親附的。也許他們父子兩人相待，如同待股票一般，誠然彼此都很期望彼此好，都願意互相作伴。對於人生的更親切問題，父子兩人絕不交換一言，見面的時候，並不表現彼此有任何深的感情。〔真是難父難子，作者真敢說出。譯者注。〕

有一種不能解說的東西的力量，聯合這兩個人，這是深藏於民族與家族的纖維裏頭的東西——因為人們說血比水來得濃厚——他們父子兩人都不是冷血的。其實詹木士之親愛兒女，現在是他活在世上的最要緊的動機。他所以積蓄錢財，原為的是要有他所生的兒女，這是他自己的幾部分，要把他所省下來的錢財遺留給他們；他活到七十五歲，除了積蓄錢財遺給兒女，還有什麼事能夠使他快樂呀？他活在世上的惟一要緊宗旨，就是為他的兒女積蓄。

在全個倫敦世界裏頭，詹木士雖然主張他的約拿主義 (Jonahism)，再沒有人比他的頭腦更冷靜的了（人們說冷靜的要緊徵象，就是自保。他是最會自保的，提摩太却太過火些；）他有許多倫敦產業，傻愛倫敦，這是他的許多機會的中心點。他有中等人家的異常的冷靜。在他的幾兄弟裏頭，佐利安太過獨斷獨行，有時又太慈愛，太講哲學——斯維丁太過殉於乖僻——尼古刺因有才能反被才能所害——羅哲爾是冒險的犧牲——惟有他詹木士善於通融，適得其中；在衆兄弟裏頭以他的知識與容貌為最不足令人注意，因此他許永遠活在世上。

To James, more than to any of the others, was "the family" significant and dear. There had always been something primitive and cosy in his attitude towards life; he loved the family hearth, he loved gossip, and he loved grumbling. All his decisions were formed of a cream which he skimmed off the family mind; and, through that family, off the minds of thousands of other families of similar fibre. Year after year, week after week, he went to Timothy's, and in his brother's front drawing-room—his legs twisted, his long white whiskers framing his clean-shaven mouth—would sit watching the family pot simmer, the cream rising to the top; and he would go away sheltered, refreshed, comforted, with an indefinable sense of comfort.

Beneath the adamant of his self-preserving instinct there was much real softness in James; a visit to Timothy's was like an hour spent in the lap of a mother; and the deep craving he himself had for the protection of the family wing reacted in turn on his feelings towards his own children; it was a nightmare to him to think of them exposed to the treatment of the world, in money, health, or reputation. When his old friend John Street's son volunteered for special service, he shook his head querulously, and wondered what John Street was about to allow it; and when young Street was assagaied, he took it so much to heart that he made a point of calling everywhere with the special object of saying, "He knew how it would be—he'd no patience with them!"

When his son-in-law Dartie had that financial crisis, due to speculation in Oil Shares, James made himself ill worrying over it; the knell¹ of all prosperity seemed to have sounded. It took him three months and a visit to Baden-

¹ knell, 鳴鐘報告有人死了。

在衆兄弟姊妹裏頭，以他爲最看重家族，以爲最可寶貴。他對於人生要單簡要舒服；他喜歡在家尋樂，喜歡閒談，喜歡挑剔。家族的知識如同牛乳，他刮其脂膏，以成造他的全數決斷；這個家族的決斷，却是刮其他千百同類的家族的精華。他到提摩太家裏，坐在他兄弟的前面的客廳——兩腳交加，他的長白鬚圍住他的剃得乾淨的嘴——坐在那裏看家族的鍋在那裏煮，看牛乳的脂膏浮到面上；他帶着說不出來的那種舒服就走了，他是得了遮蔭，恢復精神，渾身舒服了——他半年都是這樣，個個星期都是這樣。

他的自保的本能，是極其堅硬的，內裏却有不少的真實的柔軟，他去探望提摩太一次，就如同在母親懷裏一點鐘；他對於保護家族的一翼，是很有深遠的熱心的，他推這種熱心，以及於他的子女；他一想到他們的錢財，他們的健康，或他們的名譽，都要受世界的待遇，他就睡不着，如同作一場惡夢。當他聽見他的朋友的約翰司特裏（Street）的兒子投入義勇隊執特別義務的時候，他就很高興的搖頭，他怪司特裏爲什麼肯讓他去；等到小司特裏中矛陣亡的時候，他心裏很爲所感動，他於是特爲到各處走一遍，特爲對人說：『他早就曉得怎樣結果——他簡直是受不了他們的執拗！』

當詹木士的女婿搭爾提因爲做煤油股份的投機事業失敗的時候，他爲這件事愁苦到得病；好像是全數的興旺都死了。他費了三個月工夫，還要往巴登巴登（Baden-

Baden to get better; there was something terrible in the idea that but for his, James's, money, Dartie's name might have appeared in the Bankruptcy List.

Composed of a physiological mixture so sound that if had an earache he thought he was dying, he regarded the occasional ailments of his wife and children as in the nature of personal grievances, special interventions of Providence for the purpose of destroying his peace of mind; but he did not believe at all in the ailments of people outside his own immediate family, affirming them in every case to be due to neglected liver.

His universal comment was: "What can they expect? I have it myself, if I'm not careful!"

When he went to Soames's that evening he felt that life was hard on him: There was Emily with a bad toe, and Rachel gadding about in the country; he got no sympathy from anybody; and Ann, she was ill—he did not believe she would last through the summer; he had called there three times now without her being able to see him! And this idea of Soames's, building a house, *that* would have to be looked into. As to the trouble with Irene, he didn't know what was to come of that—anything might come of it!

He entered 62, Montpellier Square with the fullest intentions of being miserable.

It was already half-past seven, and Irene, dressed for dinner, was seated in the drawing-room. She was wearing her gold-coloured frock—for, having been displayed at a dinner-party, a soirée, and a dance, it was now to be worn at home—and she had adorned the bosom with a cascade of lace, on which James's eyes riveted themselves at once.

"Where do you get your things?" he said in an aggravated

Baden) 走一次，病才好了；幸虧了他的，詹木士的錢，不然，搭爾提的名字就許到在破產單內，一想到這一層是令人可怕的。

他的身體原是很壯健的，他假使覺得耳痛，他就以為他快要死啦，他的妻子有時得病，他當作是自己的愁苦，以為是上天的特別干預，要破壞他的心境的安寧；他却不相信他自己的直接的家族以外的人們的全數病痛，無論他們得了什麼病，他必定要說是由於忽略肝部得來的。

他對於這種疾病，總是說：『倘若我不小心，我自己也會得這樣的病，他們那樣不小心，能不得病嗎？』

當他那天晚上到素木士家裏的時候，他覺得生活太難過啦：他的夫人伊米利因為腳指痛睡床，他的女兒拉舍爾在鄉下閒逛；無人憐恤他；安是病了——他不相信她能活過這個夏天；他曾去探望三次，她都不能見他！素木士要蓋房子，這件事體是要他照料的。至於素木士與他的夫人愛里妮反目，他不曉得發生什麼事體——無論什麼事體都可以發生的！

他走入孟披利廣場第六十二號的時候，滿擬受愁苦。

那時候已經是七點半鐘了，愛里妮穿好衣服預備吃大餐，坐在客廳裏。她穿一件金色褂子——因為她曾在一次大餐會，一次夜談會，又一次跳舞會，穿過這件衣服，現在只好在家裏穿——她的胸前用一片作波浪形織通花的東西作裝飾，詹木士的兩眼立刻注視在這件東西上。

他帶着不高興的聲音問道：『你是在那裏買你的東西

voice. "I never see Rachel and Cicely looking half so well. That rose-point, now—that's not real!"

Irene came close, to prove to him that he was in error.

And, in spite of himself,¹ James felt the influence of her deference, of the faint seductive perfume exhaling from her. No self-respecting Forsyte surrendered at a blow; so he merely said: He didn't know—he expected she was spending a pretty penny on dress.

The gong sounded, and, putting her white arm within his, Irene took him into the dining-room. She seated him in Soames's usual place, round the corner on her left. The light fell softly there, so that he would not be worried by the gradual dying of the day; and she began to talk to him about himself.

Presently, over James came a change, like the mellowing that steals upon a fruit in the sun; a sense of being caressed, and praised, and petted, and all without the bestowal of a single caress or word of praise. He felt that what he was eating was agreeing with him; he could not get that feeling at home; he did not know when he had enjoyed a glass of champagne so much, and, on inquiring the brand and price, was surprised to find that it was one of which he had a large stock himself, but could never drink; he instantly formed the resolution to let his wine merchant know that he had been swindled.

Looking up from his food, he remarked:

"You're a lot of nice things about the place. Now, what did you give for that sugar-sifter? Shouldn't wonder if it was worth money!"

He was particularly pleased with the appearance of a picture on the wall opposite, which he himself had given them:

¹ in spite of himself, 不由他自主.

的？我從未看見拉舍爾與西西理（Cicely）有你一半這樣好看。那朵玫瑰花尖不是真的！』

愛里妮走近他，證實他是看錯了。

詹木士不由自主的覺得她的令人敬愛們潛力，覺得她發出淡淡的迷人的香氣的潛力。凡是自愛的符氏人們，都不肯一受打擊就投降；所以他不過說道：他不曉得——他預料她花許多錢置衣服。

她聽見吃飯的鐘响，就把她的白膀子放在他的膀子裏，領他入飯廳。她請他坐素木士向來所坐的地方，在她的左邊角上。燈光淡淡的照在那裏，以便他不會因為天色逐漸變黑煩心；她起首同他談他自己。

過了一會子，詹木士的面色漸變，如同一個果子在陽光裏頭不知不覺的變熟了；他覺得受了撫摩，受了恭維，受了親愛當他是寶貝一樣，她却並未作過一件什麼撫摩的事，並未說過一句恭維的話。他覺得他所吃的東西與他的口腹相宜；他在自己家裏，却不能得着這樣安適的感覺；他現時實在享受一鐘香賓酒，他覺得從未這樣享受過，他就問是什麼牌子，是什麼價錢，一問才曉得他自己家裏有許多這樣的酒，却向來不能飲，覺得很詫異；他立刻打定主意要他的酒商曉得，他受了騙啦〔這是描寫愛里妮能迷人，與詹木士受迷，雙管齊下，譯者注。〕

他抬頭說道：

『你這裏有許多好東西。那個糖篩子你是用多少錢買的？我毫不詫異是很值錢的！』

他看見對面牆上掛了他所給他們夫婦的一幅畫，尤為高興：

"I'd no idea it was so good!" he said.

They rose to go into the drawing-room, and James followed Irene closely.

"That's what I call a capital little dinner," he murmured, breathing pleasantly down on her shoulder; "nothing heavy—and not too Frenchified. But *I* can't get it at home. I pay my cook sixty pounds a year, but *she* can't give me a dinner like that!"

He had as yet made no allusion to the building of the house, nor did he when Soames, pleading the excuse of business, betook himself to the room at the top, where he kept his pictures.

James was left alone with his daughter-in-law. The glow of the wine, and of an excellent liqueur, was still within him. He felt quite warm towards her. She was really a taking little thing; she listened to you, and seemed to understand what you were saying; and, while talking, he kept examining her figure, from her bronze-coloured shoes to the waved gold of her hair. She was leaning back in an Empire chair, her shoulders poised against the top—her body, flexibly straight and unsupported from the hips, swaying when she moved, as though giving to the arms of a lover. Her lips were smiling, her eyes half-closed.

It may have been a recognition of danger in the very charm of her attitude, or a twang of digestion, that caused a sudden dumbness to fall on James. He did not remember ever having been quite alone with Irene before. And, as he looked at her, an odd feeling crept over him, as though he had come across something strange and foreign.

Now what was she thinking about—sitting back like that?

他說道：『我一向不曉得這幅畫這樣好！』

他們站起來要進客廳，詹木士緊緊跟隨愛里妮。

他很快樂的頭向下，對她的肩膀呼吸，喃喃的說道：『這樣的大餐，我說是頂好的小規模大餐；無濃厚的食品，又不太過是法國式。但是我在家裏却不能得着這樣的大餐。我給我的廚子每年六十鎊，他却不能給我一頓如同這樣的大餐！』

他還未提及蓋房子的話，等到素木士回來，藉口有事，走上樓上他藏畫的房子，他也不提及。

只有詹木士同他的媳婦兩人在一起。他飲了葡萄酒，又飲了些蜜酒，還有酒意。他覺得他對待她很有熱心。她其實是一個令人喜歡的小東西；她留心聽你說話，好像懂得你所說的話；當他一面說話的時候，一面細看她的身材，從她的紅銅色鞋子看到她的波浪紋的金色頭髮。她靠在大椅背上，她的兩肩靠住椅頂——她的身子，柔軟而直，從腿以上並無扶持，當她動的時候要搖擺，好像要一個愛人抱持一般。她的兩唇微笑，她的兩眼半開。

他也許是因為曉得她這樣的迷人態度有危險，也許是因為肚裏消化食物作響，使他忽然啞口不言。他不記得向來曾與愛里妮兩人獨在一起。當他看她的時候，他覺得渾身發生一種怪感覺，好像他遇着奇異的與外路的東西一般。

如她這樣背靠後坐在那裏，她想些什麼？

Thus when he spoke it was in a sharper voice, as if he had been awakened from a pleasant dream.

"What d'you do with yourself all day?" he said. "You never come round to Park Lane?"

She seemed to be making very lame excuses,¹ and James did not look at her. He did not want to believe that she was really avoiding them—it would mean too much.

"I expect the fact is, you haven't time," he said; "you're always about with June. I expect you're useful to her with her young man, chaperoning, and one thing and another. They tell me she's never at home now; your Uncle Jolyon he doesn't like it, I fancy, being left so much alone as he is. They tell me she's always hanging about for this young Bosinney; I suppose he comes here every day. Now, what do *you* think of him? D'you think he knows his own mind? He seems to me a poor thing. I should say the gray mare was the better horse!"

The colour deepened in Irene's face; and James watched her suspiciously.

"Perhaps you don't quite understand Mr. Bosinney," she said.

"Don't understand him!" James hurried out: "Why not?—you can see he's one of these artistic chaps. They say he's clever—they all think they're clever. You know more about him than I do," he added; and again his suspicious glance rested on her.

"He is designing a house for Soames," she said softly, evidently trying to smooth things over.

"That brings me to what I was going to say," continued James; "I don't know what Soames wants with a young man like that; why doesn't he go to a first-rate man?"

¹ lame excuses, 理由不足的藉口話。

所以當他說話的時候，是用尖利聲音說的，好像是從一場好夢驚醒的。

他說道：『你終天做些什麼？你向來不到公園巷來！』

他好像說了好些理由很不足的藉口話，詹木士並不看她。他不要相信她實在要躲避他們——相信就包含太多的意思啦。

他說道：『我看其實你是沒得時候，你常同吉唔安在一起。我預料她要同她少年男子常相親近，你是很有用於她的，你保護她，替她做這樣，替她做那樣。他們告訴我現在她終日不在家裏；我猜你的伯父佐利安不喜歡她終日不在家，剩下他一個人在家過寂寞日子。他們告訴我她常在這個少年葆辛尼左右；我猜他每天到你這裏來。你看他這個人怎麼樣？你以為他曉得他自己的心麼？我看他好樣是一個可憐東西。我要說母馬比公馬好！』

愛里妮的臉更紅啦；詹木士很疑心，留心看她。

她說道：『也許你不甚深知葆辛尼先生。』

詹木士匆匆說道：『我不深知他麼！為什麼不知？——你能看出他是一個講美術的人。他們說他是聰明的——他們都以爲他聰明。』他又說道，『你比我曉得他更清楚；』他的兩隻疑心眼又注視她。

她用柔和聲音說道：『他替素木士畫一個房子的圖樣，』她顯然要嘗試掃除許多芥蒂。

詹木士接連說道：『這就引我到我正想說的話；我不曉得素木士爲什麼要找他這樣的一個少年人；他爲什麼不找第一等人？』

"Perhaps Mr. Bosinney is first-rate!"

James rose, and took a turn with bent head.

"That's it," he said, "you young people, you all stick together; you all think you know best!"

Halting his tall, lank figure before her, he raised a finger, and levelled it at her bosom, as though bringing an indictment against her beauty:

"All I can say is, these artistic people, or whatever they call themselves, they're as unreliable as they can be; and my advice to *you* is, don't you have too much to do with him!"

Irene smiled; and in the curve of her lips was a strange provocation. She seemed to have lost her deference. Her breast rose and fell as though with secret anger; she drew her hands inwards from their rest on the arms of her chair until the tips of her fingers met, and her dark eyes looked unfathomably at James.

The latter gloomily scrutinized the floor.

"I tell you my opinion," he said, "it's a pity you haven't got a child to think about, and occupy you!"

A brooding look came instantly on Irene's face, and even James became conscious of the rigidity that took possession of her whole figure beneath the softness of its silk and lace clothing.

He was frightened by the effect he had produced, and, like most men with but little courage, he sought at once to justify himself by bullying.

"You don't seem to care about going about. Why don't you drive down to Hurlingham with us? And go to the theatre now and then. At your time of life you ought to take an interest in things. You're a young woman!"

The brooding look darkened on her face; he grew nervous.

『也許葆辛尼先生是第一等人!』

詹木士站起來，低着頭走一轉。

他說道：『我曉得啦，你們少年人護少年人；你們都以爲你們曉得最清楚!』

他的高長身子停在她面前，他舉起一隻手指，手指着她的胸口，好像要控告她的美麗：

他說道：『我只能說，這種美術家，我無論他們自稱爲什麼方家，都是極不能靠的；我要奉勸你，你不要多惹他!』

愛里妮微笑；在她的兩唇的曲綫裏頭，有一種奇怪的激惱人的神氣。她好像失了她的尊敬長輩的態度。她的胸脯一起一落，好像帶着隱藏不露的憤怒；她從她的椅子的兩邊扶手把她的兩手收回來，收到兩手的指尖相碰，她的一雙黑眼看着詹木士令人窺不見她是什麼意思。

詹木士帶着愁悶神色察看地板。

他說道：『我把我的意思告訴你，可惜你沒得一個孩子，使你常記念他，你就有事做啦!』

愛里妮的臉上立刻發生深念神氣，連詹木士也覺得在她的柔軟綢緞及通花衣服之下，她的全個身子都變硬了。他看見他這句話所發生的效果，害怕起來，他與許多無胆的人一樣，他立刻窘逐他，以證明他該說那種話的。

『你好像不願出外走走。你爲什麼不同我們坐馬車往亥爾林汗？爲什麼不久不久去看戲？如你這樣年紀的人正應該遇事鼓舞興致。你是一個少年女人呀!』

她臉上變作更不高興；他變作局促不安。

"Well, I know nothing about it," he said; "nobody tells me anything. Soames ought to be able to take care of himself. If he can't take care of himself he mustn't look to me—that's all——"

Biting the corner of his forefinger he stole a cold, sharp look at his daughter-in-law.

He encountered her eyes fixed on his own, so dark and deep, that he stopped, and broke into a gentle perspiration.

"Well, I must be going," he said after a short pause, and a minute later rose, with a slight appearance of surprise, as though he had expected to be asked to stop. Giving his hand to Irene, he allowed himself to be conducted to the door, and let out into the street. He would not have a cab, he would walk, Irene was to say good-night to Soames for him, and if she wanted a little gaiety, well, he would drive her down to Richmond any day.

He walked home, and going upstairs, woke Emily out of the first sleep she had had for four and twenty hours, to tell her that it was his impression things were in a bad way at Soames'; on this theme he descanted for half an hour, until at last, saying that he would not sleep a wink, he turned on his side and instantly began to snore.

In Montpellier Square Soames, who had come from the picture room, stood invisible at the top of the stairs, watching Irene sort the letters brought by the last post. She turned back into the drawing-room; but in a minute came out, and stood as if listening. Then she came stealing up the stairs, with a kitten in her arms. He could see her face bent over the little beast, which was purring against her neck. Why couldn't she look at him like that?

Suddenly she saw him, and her face changed.

"Any letters for me?" he said.

他說道：『我全不曉得，無論什麼事都無人告訴我。素木士應該能夠照應他自己。他若不能照應自己，他必不可以找我——這就完啦。』

他咬他的食指的一角，冷靜鋒利的偷偷看他的媳婦一眼。

他的眼碰見她注視他的眼，她的眼色是黑而深的，他就停止，微微出汗。

過了一會子，他就說道：『我必得走啦，』一分鐘後他站起來，微露詫異神氣，好像他望她請他不要走。他伸手給愛里妮，他讓她領他到大門，領他到街上。他不願坐馬車，願步行，要愛里妮替他對素木士說望他安睡，他還說，她若要點熱鬧，他肯無論那一天同她坐馬車往利支滿(Richmond)。

他走回家，登樓；伊米理有二十四點鐘不曾睡，這時候才是第一次睡着了，他把她喊醒，告訴她素木士的事體有點不安；他討論這事有半點鐘，等到後來他說他連一會子也不會睡着的，他轉過身子，却立刻起首打呼。

素木士在孟披利廣場的宅子裏（他是從藏畫室出來的）站在樓梯頂，人看不見他，他却在那裏留心觀察愛里妮翻最後的郵差送來的信。她走回去客廳；一分鐘後又出來，站在那裏，好像留心聽。隨後她偷偷上樓，兩手抱住一隻小貓。他能看見她低頭疼那隻小貓，小貓靠住她的臉低聲叫。她爲什麼不能這樣看他！

她忽然看見他，她的臉色立刻改變。

他說道：『有我的信麼？』

"Three."

He stood aside, and without another word she passed on into the bedroom.

PART II

CHAPTER I

PROGRESS OF THE HOUSE

On just such a day as this Soames had got from Irene the promise he had asked her for so often. Seated on the fallen trunk of a tree, he had promised for the twentieth time that if their marriage were not a success, she should be as free as if she had never married him!

"Do you swear it?" she had said. A few days back she had reminded him of that oath. He had answered: "Nonsense! I couldn't have sworn any such thing!" By some awkward fatality he remembered it now. What queer things men would swear for the sake of women! He would have sworn it at any time to gain her! He would swear it now, if thereby he could touch her—but nobody could touch her, she was cold-hearted!

And memories crowded on him with the fresh, sweet savour of the spring wind—memories of his courtship.

"Who is that girl with yellow hair and dark eyes?" he asked.

"That—oh! Irene Heron. Her father, Professor Heron, died this year. She lives with her stepmother. She's a nice girl, a pretty girl, but no money!"

"Introduce me, please," said Soames.

『三封。』

他站在一旁。她一言不發，在他身邊走過，就走入臥室。

第二部 第一回 新房子的進步

原來就是在如今天這樣的一天，素木士得着愛里妮的答應，這是他屢次要她答應的。他坐在一株倒地的樹身上，第二十次答應她，倘若她以他們的結婚是一件失敗的事，她可以自由，如同她未曾嫁過他一樣！

她曾說過：『你肯爲這句話宣誓麼？』過了幾天，他提醒他宣誓的話。他曾答道：『胡說！我不能宣過這樣的誓！』這還是從前的話。到了今天，不曉得因爲什麼不湊巧的事，他追憶起來。男人爲女人起見，什麼古怪事不肯宣誓呀！他只要贏得她。無論什麼時候都肯宣誓！只要現在他能夠摩她，他還是肯宣誓的——但是無人能摩她，她是個心腸冰冷的！

春天的香風扇他，使他記起從前的事。記起他從前向她求婚的情景，如在目前。

〔在一八八一年春天他往坡安木特 (Bournemouth) 訪他的舊同學，座中看見一個美貌女子，譯者注，〕

他就問道：『那個黃頭髮黑眼睛的女子是誰？』

女主人答道：『那個呀！她是愛里妮·希倫。她的父親就是希倫教授，是今年死的。她同她的後母同居。她是一個好女子，是一個美貌女子，可惜無錢！』

素木士說道：『請你介紹我。』

It was very little that he found to say, nor did he find her responsive to that little. But he went away with the resolution to see her again. He effected his object by chance, meeting her on the pier with her stepmother, who had the habit of walking there from twelve to one of a forenoon. Soames made this lady's acquaintance with alacrity, nor was it long before he perceived in her the ally he was looking for. His keen scent for the commercial side of family life soon told him that Irene cost her stepmother more than the fifty pounds a year she brought her; it also told him that Mrs. Heron, a woman yet in the prime of life, desired to be married again. The strange ripening beauty of her stepdaughter stood in the way of this desirable consummation. And Soames, in his stealthy tenacity, laid his plans.

He left Bournemouth without having given himself away,¹ but in a month's time came back, and this time he spoke, not to the girl, but to her stepmother. He had made up his mind, he said; he would wait any time. And he had long to wait, watching Irene bloom, the lines of her young figure softening, the stronger blood deepening the gleam of her eyes, and warming her face to a creamy glow; and at each visit he proposed to her, and when that visit was at an end, took her refusal away with him, back to London, sore at heart, but steadfast and silent as the grave. He tried to come at the secret springs² of her resistance; only once had he a gleam of light. It was at one of those assembly dances, which afford the only outlet to the passions of the population of seaside watering-places. He was sitting with her in an embrasure, his senses tingling with

¹ given himself away, 不說出他的意思. ² springs, 動機.

他見着這個女子，沒得多少話說，她也不甚答他所說的不多幾句話。但是他離開那裏的時候，打定主意要再見她。他碰巧達到目的，在海邊的碼頭上遇見她與她的後母，這個後母習慣從十二點至一點在那裏散步。素木士很快的很高興的，同這個女人認得，不久他就看出她就是他所找的帮手。他對於家庭生活的錢財方面，有很靈敏的知識，不久他就曉得愛里妮每年給她的後母五十鎊，用她後母的却不祇這個數目；他又曉得希倫太太正在盛年，還想再嫁。她的繼女的奇異的成熟美貌是一件阻礙，阻她如願以償，素木士偷偷的努力不捨的進行，就定好他們計劃。

他離坡安木特的時候，並不說出他的意思，但是過了一個月他回來，這次不對女子說，只對她的後母說。他說他已經打定主意；他肯等到無論什麼時候。他等了許久，留心看愛里妮長到豐盛，她的少年身材的曲綫長成柔軟，更強壯的血，使他的眼光變深，她的臉色變作更溫暖，露出一種如乳酪的光；他每次來訪，都向她求親，等到他探訪的時候告終，他帶着她不答應的話回去倫敦，心裏是很難過的，他却還是努力進行，一句不响，如同一座墳墓一樣。他嘗試想出她爲什麼要抵抗的動機；他只有一次得了一綫的光。這是在一次跳舞大會，在海邊避暑的人們的色慾，只有在會中發洩。他同她坐在門窗裏，他同跳舞的人

the contact of the waltz. She had looked at him over her slowly waving fan; and he had lost his head. Seizing that moving wrist, he pressed his lips to the flesh of her arm. And she had shuddered—to this day he had not forgotten that shudder—nor the book so passionately averse¹ she had given him.

A year after that she had yielded. What had made her yield he could never make out; and from Mrs. Heron, a woman of some diplomatic talent, he learnt nothing. Once after they were married he asked her, "What made you refuse me so often?" She had answered by a strange silence. An enigma to him from the day that he first saw her, she was an enigma to him still. . . .

Bosinney was waiting for him at the door; and on his rugged, good-looking face was a queer, yearning, yet happy look, as though he too saw a promise of bliss in the spring sky, sniffed a coming happiness in the spring air. Soames looked at him waiting there. What was the matter with the fellow that he looked so happy? What was he waiting for with that smile on his lips and in his eyes? Soames could not see that for which Bosinney was waiting as he stood there drinking-in the flower-scented wind. And once more he felt baffled in the presence of this man whom by habit he despised. He hastened on to the house.

"The only colour for these tiles," he heard Bosinney say, "is ruby with a gray tint in the stuff, to give a transparent effect. I should like Irene's opinion. I'm ordering the purple leather curtains for the doorway of this court; and if you distemper the drawing-room ivory cream over paper, you'll get an illusive look. You want to aim all through the decorations at what I call—charm."

¹averse, 反對.

們相接觸，他渾身覺得好像受針刺。她慢慢的搖扇，在扇上看他；他就變糊塗了。他抓住那隻搖扇的手的手腕，兩脣吻她的臂肉。她發抖——到今日他還忘不了她這次的發抖——也忘不了她給他的那樣極端反對的神色。

一年之後她讓步。他始終不明白她爲什麼肯讓步；希倫太太是一個有點外交本事的女人，他從她嘴裏得不着什麼消息，他們結婚之後，有一次他問她道：『什麼事使你屢次拒絕我！』她只用奇異的不答作答。自從他初次見她以至如今，她是一個悶葫蘆，現在還是一個悶葫蘆。

葆辛尼在門口等他；在他粗而好看的臉上有一種奇怪的，渴想的，却是歡樂的神色，好像他也看見在春季的天上有可以得幸福的希望，在春天的空氣中聞着快要來到的歡樂。素木士看他在那裏等。有什麼事使這個人現出這樣快樂的神氣？他的兩眼與兩脣都帶着微笑，在那裏等候什麼？素木士站在那裏聞有花香的風，不能看出來葆辛尼等什麼。他習慣看不起這個人，他看見這個人又覺得不能奈他何。他趕快向房子走。

他聽見葆辛尼說道：這樣的瓦只能用紅寶石色略帶些灰色，就能發生透光的效果。我要曉得愛里妮的意思。我正在定紫色的熟皮帷幔配這個院子的門；你若在客廳糊紙的牆上刷象牙色，你就可以得着一種感人的神色。你在全數的裝飾裏頭，要得着我所謂能迷人的神氣。』

Soames said: "You mean that my wife has charm!"

Bosinney evaded the question.

"You should have a clump of iris plants in the centre of that court."

Soames smiled superciliously.

"I'll look into Beech's some time," he said, "and see what's appropriate!"

They found little else to say to each other, but on the way to the Station Soames asked:

"I suppose you find Irene very artistic?"

"Yes." The abrupt answer was as distinct a snub as saying: "If you want to discuss her you can do it with some one else!"

And the slow, sulky anger Soames had felt all the afternoon burned the brighter within him.

Neither spoke again till they were close to the Station, then Soames asked:

"When do you expect to have finished?"

"By the end of June, if you really wish me to decorate as well."

Soames nodded. "But you quite understand," he said, "that the house is costing me a lot beyond what I contemplated. I may as well tell you that I should have thrown it up, only I'm not in the habit of giving up what I've set my mind on!"

Bosinney made no reply. And Soames gave him askance a look of dogged dislike—for in spite of his fastidious air and that supercilious, dandified taciturnity, Soames, with his set lips and his squared chin, was not unlike a bulldog. . . .

When, at seven o'clock that evening, June arrived at 62, Montpellier Square, the maid Bilson told her that Mr.

素木士說道：『你的意思是說，我的夫人有迷人的顏色！』

葆辛尼還他一個所答非所問。

『你該種一堆澤蘭類在院子中間。』

素木士帶着藐視神氣微笑。

他說道：『我將有一天走去比治(Beech)的店裏，看看有什麼適用的！』

他們兩個人並無多少話可說，但是當走往車站的時候，素木士問道：

『我猜你見得愛里妮很有美術思想，是不是？』

『是的。』這樣的突如其來的答復，就是給他沒趣，言外就是說：『你若要討論她，你可以同別人討論！』

當天下午，素木士所覺得的慢慢的，悶着不發的怒火，在心裏燒得更烈。

兩個人還是不說話，等到走近車站，素木士才問道：『你盼望幾時完工？』

『你若真是要我兼辦裝飾，六月底可以完工。』

素木士點頭。他說道：『但是你若明白，這所新房花了我許多錢，遠出我所打算花的之外。我不如告訴你，我本來想不再辦下去的，不過我的脾氣不肯拋棄我心裏已經決定要辦的事！』

葆辛尼不答。素木士斜看他一眼，帶着始終不願意的神氣——因為素木士雖然有他的好事苛求的神氣，與那種傲慢，擺闊架子的緘默，他的兩脣緊閉着，帶着他的四方下頷，却像一隻惡狗。

到了那天晚上七點鐘吉唔安就到了孟利披廣場六十二號，女僕比爾生(Bilson)對她說，葆辛尼先生在客廳裏：

Bosinney was in the drawing-room; the mistress—she said—was dressing, and would be down in a minute. She would tell her that Miss June was here.

June stopped her at once.

“All right, Bilson,” she said, “I’ll just go in. You needn’t hurry Mrs. Soames.”

She took off her cloak, and Bilson, with an understanding look, did not even open the drawing-room door for her, but ran downstairs.

June paused for a moment to look at herself in the little old-fashioned silver mirror above the oaken rug chest—a slim, imperious young figure, with a small resolute face, in a white frock, cut moon-shaped at the base of a neck too slender for her crown of twisted red-gold hair.

She opened the drawing-room door softly, meaning to take him by surprise. The room was filled with a sweet hot scent of flowering azaleas.

She took a long breath of the perfume, and heard Bosinney’s voice, not in the room, but quite close, saying:

“Ah! there were such heaps of things I wanted to talk about, and now we shan’t have time!”

Irene’s voice answered: “Why not at dinner?”

“How can one talk——”

June’s first thought was to go away, but instead she crossed to the long window opening on the little court. It was from there that the scent of the azaleas came, and, standing with their backs to her, their faces buried in the golden-pink blossoms, stood her lover and Irene.

Silent but unashamed, with flaming cheeks and angry eyes, the girl watched.

“Come on Sunday by yourself—we can go over the house together——”

她說——女主人正在打扮，一會就下來。她去告說她吉唔安小姐到了。

吉唔安立刻阻止她。

她說道：『比爾生，不必，我就進去。你不必催素木士夫人。』

她卸下外罩，比爾生帶着一種會意神氣，連客廳門都不替小姐打開，就跑下樓。

吉唔安站住一會子，對着橡木製的毯子箱上的古老銀製的鏡子照照自己——照見一個瘦小的霸道的少年人，帶着一個小而果決的臉，穿着一件白褂子，領子作月輪式，她的頸頸子太過小弱，支持不住她滿頭的卷曲的紅金色頭髮。

她輕輕的推開客廳門，意在出他的不意走進去。屋裏裝滿正在開放的杜鵑花的熱香。

她深吸花香，聽見葆辛尼的聲音，不是在屋裏，却是在很近的地方說道：

『呀我有許多事要同你說，現在恐怕沒得時候啦！』

愛里妮的聲音答道：『爲什麼不當吃大餐的時候說？』

『我怎樣能夠談——』

吉唔安初時的意思原要走開的，她却不走開，走過去對着小院子打開的長窗子。原來花香是從這裏來的，他們兩個人站着，背向着她，他們的臉沉埋在黃金淡紅色的花堆裏頭，一個就是她的愛人，一個就是愛里妮。

這個女子一聲不响，却覺得很難爲情，滿臉發火，兩眼冒出怒氣，在那裏觀察。

『星期日你獨自一人來——我們可以同在一起看房子——』

June saw Irene look up at him through her screen of blossoms. It was not the look of a coquette, but—far worse to the watching girl—of a woman fearful lest that look should say too much.

“I’ve promised to go for a drive with Uncle——”

“The big one! Make him bring you; it’s only ten miles—the very thing for his horses.”

“Poor old Uncle Swithin!”

A wave of the azalea scent drifted into June’s face; she felt sick and dizzy.

“Do! ah! do!”

“But why?”

“I must see you there—I thought you’d like to help me——”

The answer seemed to the girl to come softly, with a tremble from amongst the blossoms: “So I do!”

And she stepped into the open space of the window.

“How stuffy it is here!” she said; “I can’t bear this scent!”

Her eyes, so angry and direct, swept both their faces.

“Were you talking about the house? I haven’t seen it yet, you know—shall we all go on Sunday?”

From Irene’s face the colour had flown.

“I am going for a drive that day with Uncle Swithin,” she answered.

“Uncle Swithin! What does he matter? You can throw him over!”

“I am not in the habit of throwing people over!”

There was a sound of footsteps and June saw Soames standing just behind her.

“Well! if you are all ready,” said Irene, looking from one to the other with a strange smile, “dinner is too!”

吉唔安從遮住她的花堆中，看見愛里妮舉目看他。這一看並不是一個用媚術誘惑男子的女人的看法——據在那裏觀察的女子看來，其害人有過於用媚術——這種看法是帶着恐怕會揭露太多秘密的神色。

『我已經答應同叔父坐馬車——』

『同那位大個子！你叫他送你來；不過十哩路——正好操練他的馬。』

『可憐斯維丁老叔父！』

一陣杜鵑花香送到吉唔安的臉上來；她覺得惡心頭暈，

『來呀！哈！來呀！』

『但是爲什麼？』

『我必得在那裏見你——我以爲你願意幫我——』

吉唔安好像聽見答話是來得很溫柔的，聲音在花堆裏發抖，『我本願意幫你！』

她走入窗子的開通處地方。

她說道：『這裏多麼悶氣呀！我受不了這樣的花香！』

她的兩眼發怒，直直的瞪着他們兩個人的臉。

『你們談論那所新房子麼？你們都曉得，我還未看過——我們星期日去看，好不好？』

愛里妮臉上的顏色消滅了。

她答道：『星期日我與斯維丁叔父同坐馬車°』

『斯維丁叔父麼！這算得了什麼？你能够拋棄他，不要管他！』

『我不常拋棄人！』

有一陣脚步聲，吉唔安看見素木士正站在她背後。

愛里妮帶着奇異的微笑，從這個人的臉看到那個人的臉，說道：『好呀！你們若是預備好了，大餐也預備好啦。』

CHAPTER XIV

SOAMES SITS ON THE STAIRS

Soames went upstairs that night with the feeling that he had gone too far. He was prepared to offer excuses for his words.

He turned out the gas still burning in the passage outside their room. Pausing, with his hand on the knob of the door, he tried to shape his apology, for he had no intention of letting her see that he was nervous.

But the door did not open, nor when he pulled it and turned the handle firmly. She must have locked it for some reason, and forgotten.

Entering his dressing-room, where the gas was also light and burning low, he went quickly to the other door. That too was locked. Then he noticed that the camp bed which he occasionally used was prepared, and his sleeping-suit laid out upon it. He put his hand up to his forehead, and brought it away wet. It dawned on him that he was barred out.

He went back to the door, and rattling the handle stealthily, called: "Unlock the door, do you hear. Unlock the door!"

There was a faint rustling, but no answer.

"Do you hear? Let me in at once—I insist on being let in!"

He could catch the sound of her breathing close to the door, like the breathing of a creature threatened by danger.

Flinging himself down in the dressing-room, he took up a book.

第十四回 素木士坐在梯上

那天晚上素木士上樓帶着一種感覺，覺得他說得太過火了。〔這是指有一天他因怒葆辛尼，問他的夫人是否同他調情，她答不是的；他捉住她的膀子，說要打她一頓，使她明白過來；却不會動手，就走開了。譯者注。〕他預備用幾句藉口話，解說他所說的話。

他們臥室外過道上的煤氣燈還點着，他把燈滅了。他一手放在門把上，在那裏停頓，嘗試把他的道歉話想好了，因為他無意要她看見他是神經不寧。

但是房門並不會開，當他往外拉與用力轉門把的時候，也開不開。她必定是有理由把門鎖上，却忘記了。

他於是走入他的梳洗房，房裏的煤氣燈也是點着的，燈光很低，他趕快走向那道門。原來那道門也是鎖了的。這時候他看見他有時所用的行軍床已經架好了，他的睡衣攤開擺在牀上。他摩摩他的額，縮手回來却是濕的。他這才明白是拒絕他，不許他進臥室。

他走回去他們臥室門，偷偷的搖動門把，喊道：『開門來，你聽見嗎。開門呀！』

房裏有微微的衣服索索响聲，却無答話。

『你聽見麼？立刻讓我進來——我必定要進來！』

他能夠聽見她的呼吸聲靠近房門，好像一個動物被危險所嚇的呼吸聲。

〔他發怒用全力推門，還是推不開。譯者注。〕他只好倒在梳洗室裏，拿起一本書來。但是他的眼看不見字，好

But instead of the print he seemed to see his wife—with her yellow hair flowing over her bare shoulders, and her great dark eyes—standing like an animal at bay. And the whole meaning of her act of revolt came to him. She meant it to be for good.

He could not sit still, and went to the door again. He could still hear her, and he called: "Irene! Irene!"

He did not mean to make his voice pathetic.¹ In ominous² answer, the faint sounds ceased. He stood with clenched hands, thinking.

Presently he stole round on tiptoe, and running suddenly at the other door, made a supreme effort to break it open. It creaked, but did not yield. He sat down on the stairs and buried his face in his hands.

For a long time he sat there in the dark, the moon through the skylight above laying a pale smear that lengthened slowly towards him down the stairway. He tried to be philosophical.

Since she had locked her doors she had no further claim as a wife, and he would console himself with other women!

It was but a spectral³ journey he made among such delights—he had no appetite for these exploits. He had never had much, and he had lost the habit. He felt that he could never recover it. His hunger could only be appeased by his wife, inexorable and frightened, behind these shut doors. No other woman could help him.

This conviction came to him with terrible force out there in the dark.

His philosophy left him; and surly anger took its place. Her conduct was immoral, inexcusable, worthy of any

¹ pathetic, 哀感動人. ² ominous, 不祥. ³ spectral, 空的.

像只看見他的夫人——看見她的黃頭髮飄在她的光肩膀上，她的兩隻大黑眼——站在那裏如同掉過頭來自衛的野獸一般。這時候他才明白她的反叛行的全個意思。她的意思是永遠不理他的了。

他坐不住，又走到房門。他還能夠聽見她，他喊道：『愛里妮！愛里妮！』

他並無意使他的聲音有哀感動人的意思。房裏的低微聲音停止了，這是不妙的答復。他握着拳頭，站在那裏想。

不久他就偷偷的用脚尖踏步，繞到那邊去，他忽然快走幾步衝門，用盡全力要撞開門。門作響聲，却並不曾撞倒。他坐在梯上，兩手握住他的臉。

他在黑暗裏頭坐了很久，天窗透進來的月光放一層淡光下來，向他慢慢展長，向樓下照。他嘗試用哲學自解。

她既然關了臥室門，她就失了一個妻室的權利，他就可以同別的女人往來以自慰！

他只管在這樣的娛樂場中走，却全是空的——他無胃口做這樣的事。他一向都不甚有這樣的胃口，況且他已經失了他的習慣。他覺得他再也不能恢復這樣的胃口了。他的色慾只能由他的勸不回頭與受了驚嚇的夫人，在緊閉的房門後頭，給他滿意。別的女人不能幫助他。

他坐在黑暗裏頭，他加倍有力的深信自己是這樣。

他那裏能夠用哲學自解；他只曉得發脾氣。她的行爲是失德的，不能原諒的，她該受他的權限裏頭的任何懲

punishment within his power. He desired no one but her, and she refused him!

She must really hate him, then! He had never believed it yet. He did not believe it now. It seemed to him incredible. He felt as though he had lost for ever his power of judgment. If she, so soft and yielding as he had always judged her, could take this decided step—what could not happen?

Then he asked himself again if she were carrying on an intrigue with Bosinney. He did not believe that she was; he could not afford to believe such a reason for her conduct—the thought was not to be faced.

It would be unbearable to contemplate the necessity of making his marital relations public property. Short of the most convincing proofs he must still refuse to believe, for he did not wish to punish himself. And all the time at heart—he *did* believe.

The moonlight cast a grayish tinge over his figure, hunched against the staircase wall.

Bosinney was in love with her! He hated the fellow, and would not spare him now. He could and would refuse to pay a penny piece over twelve thousand and fifty pounds—the extreme limit fixed in the correspondence; or rather he would pay, he would pay and sue him for damages. He would go to Jobling and Boulter and put the matter in their hands. He would ruin the impecunious beggar! And suddenly—though what connection between the thoughts?—he reflected that Irene had no money either. They were both beggars. This gave him a strange satisfaction.

The silence was broken by a faint creaking through the wall. She was going to bed at last. Ah! Joy and pleasant

罰。他是無論什麼女人都不要，只要她，她却拒絕他！

既是這樣，她必定是實在厭惡他！他一向並不相信。他現在還是不相信。他看來好想是不能相信的。他覺得他好像永遠失了判斷能力。他常判定她是溫柔的，婉順的，她倘能毅然走這一步——什麼事不能發生呀？

他隨即又問他自己，她究竟是不是同葆辛尼進行一件陰謀——他不曾相信她是；他的心境不容他相信這樣的理由以解說她的行爲——他不肯存這樣的思想。

他一想到必要把他們夫妻之間的關係公布出來就受不了。若是有了最能使他深信的憑據，那就不必說了，不然的話，他必得拒絕相信，因為他不願意懲罰自己。其實這些時候他心裏是相信的〔虧作者有實在本領，把他的心境描寫出來。譯者注。〕

他彎着身子靠住梯邊的牆，月光一射片灰色淡光在他身上。

葆辛尼戀愛她！他恨這個人，現在不肯饒他啦。他不能又不肯在一萬二千五百鎊之外多給他一文——這是在他們的往來函件上規定的極端界限；不然他只管給他，給他之後，控告他取賠償。他要見他的律師們，把這件官司交給與他們手上。他要毀了這個窮乞丐！他忽然反省到愛里妮也是無錢的——這兩個思想有什麼牽連呀？他們兩個都是乞丐。這就給他奇怪的滿意。

有一陣微微的展轉聲音透過牆來，打破這一片的沉寂。她上牀睡啦。呀！歡樂與好夢！假使她現在大開房門，

THE MAN OF PROPERTY

dreams! If she threw the door open wide he would not go in now!

But his lips, that were twisted in a bitter smile, twitched; he covered his eyes with his hands. . . .

It was late the following afternoon when Soames stood in the dining-room window gazing gloomily into the Square.

The sunlight still showered on the plane-trees, and in the breeze their gay broad leaves shone and swung in rhyme to a barrel organ at the corner. It was playing a waltz, an old waltz that was out of fashion, with a fateful rhythm in the notes; and it went on and on, though nothing indeed but leaves danced to the tune.

The woman did not look too gay, for she was tired; and from the tall houses no one threw her down coppers. She moved the organ on, and three doors off began again.

It was the waltz they had played at Roger's when Irene had danced with Bosinney; and the perfume of the gardenias she had worn came back to Soames, drifted by the malicious music, as it had been drifted to him then, when she passed, her hair glistening, her eyes so soft, drawing Bosinney on and on down an endless ballroom.

The organ woman plied her handle slowly; she had been grinding her tune all day—grinding it in Sloane Street hard by, grinding it perhaps to Bosinney himself.

Soames turned, took a cigarette from the carved box, and walked back to the window. The tune had mesmerized him, and there came into his view Irene, her sunshade furled, hastening homewards down the Square, in a soft, rose-coloured blouse with drooping sleeves, that he did not know. She stopped before the organ, took out her purse, and gave the woman money.

他也不要進去啦！

但是他的兩唇本來是扭作一種痛恨的微笑的，現在却發抖；他用兩手蓋他的兩眼。

在第二天下午很遲的時候素木士站在飯廳的窗子，悶悶的看廣場。

陽光還照在楓楊上，光鮮的闊樹葉在風裏搖擺，同街角裏的一架手搖琴的節奏相諧。這架琴在那裏奏一種跳舞音樂，是一種不快興的舊音樂，帶着不詳的節奏；雖然只有樹葉跳動與音樂的節奏相諧，那個人還是只管在那裏搖了又搖。

搖琴的女人臉上並無高興的神色，因為她是疲倦了；幾所高房子裏並無人捧銅錢給她。她把搖琴報過三家人家，又起首搖啦。

原來她所奏的音樂就是當在羅哲爾家裏時愛里妮同葆辛尼跳舞時所奏的；他好像又聞見她所戴的梔子花香被現在的不祥音樂送過來，如同那天她在他身邊走過送來的花香一般，那時候她的兩眼很溫柔，她的頭髮閃光，她引葆辛尼繞着好像無盡頭的跳舞廳走。

搖琴的女人慢慢的搖；她搖這個調搖了一天——在很近的斯路安街搖，也許是對着葆辛尼搖。

素木士掉轉身子，從一個雕刻盒子取一根紙烟，又走回去窗口。搖琴的腔調迷住他，他看見愛里妮，她收了遮陽，匆匆的經過廣場向家裏走，身穿一件淡玫瑰色的垂袖的寬外衣，這是他未曾見過的。她走到搖琴前邊就立住脚，取出錢袋來給女人錢。

Soames shrank back and stood where he could see into the hall.

She came in with her latch-key, put down her sunshade, and stood looking at herself in the glass. Her cheeks were flushed as if the sun had burned them; her lips were parted in a smile. She stretched her arms out as though to embrace herself, with a laugh that for all the world was like a sob.

Soames stepped forward.

"Very—pretty!" he said.

But as though shot she spun round, and would have passed him up the stairs. He barred the way.

"Why such a hurry?" he said, and his eyes fastened on a curl of hair fallen loose across her ear.

He hardly recognised her. She seemed on fire, so deep and rich the colour of her cheeks, her eyes, her lips, and of the unusual blouse she wore.

She put up her hand and smoothed back the curl. She was breathing fast and deep, as though she had been running, and with every breath perfume seemed to come from her hair, and from her body, like perfume from an opening flower.

"I don't like that blouse," he said slowly, "it's a soft, shapeless thing!"

He lifted his finger towards her breast, but she dashed his hand aside.

"Don't touch me!" she cried.

He caught her wrist; she wrenched it away.

"And where may you have been?" he asked.

"In heaven—out of this house!" With those words she fled upstairs.

素木士縮回來，站在他能夠看見堂屋的地方。

她用大門的鎖匙開門走進來，放下遮陽，在鏡子前照照自己。她的兩顴通紅好像被太陽燒過的；她的兩唇分開，帶着微笑。她伸出兩膀，好像是要摟抱她自己，還大笑一聲，其實是像大哭。

素木士踏步向前。

他說道：『很——好看！』

她掉轉身子，好像受了一槍一般，正要在他的身邊走過，要上樓。他攔住路。

他說道：『你忙什麼？』他的兩眼釘住她耳朵上的一簇鬆頭髮。

他幾乎不認得她啦。她好像是被火燒着的一般，她的兩顴，她的兩眼，她的兩唇，還有她所穿的不常穿的寬大外衣的顏色，都是很深很濃的。

她伸手把頭髮理好。她呼吸得快而深，好像是跑回家的，她一呼吸，香氣撲鼻，好像是從她的頭髮，從她的身上出來的，如同開放的花香一般。

他慢慢說道：『我不喜歡這件寬大外衣，這是一件柔輕的無形像的東西。』

他舉起手指向她的胸脯，她把他的手摔開。

她喊道：『你不許摩我！』

他捉住她們手腕；她用力奪回來，

他問道，『你曾往那裏去？』

『我在天上——走出這所房子！』她說完趕快上樓。

THE MAN OF PROPERTY

Outside—in thanksgiving—at the very door, the organ-grinder was playing the waltz.

And Soames stood motionless. What prevented him from following her?

Was it that, with the eyes of faith, he saw Bosinney looking down from that high window in Sloane Street, straining his eyes for yet another glimpse of Irene's vanished figure, cooling his flushed face, dreaming of the moment when she flung herself on his breast—the scent of her still in the air around, and the sound of her laugh that was like a sob.

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門外，就在門口，那個女人正在搖跳舞音樂，謝謝給她錢。

素木士站着不動，什麼事攔阻他不跟隨她。

雖這是他帶着相信的眼看見葆辛尼在斯路安街房子的高窗子往下看，用盡他的目力再看一看愛里妮的走到快看不見的身子麼？葆辛尼在那裏吹涼他的通紅的臉，在那裏夢她倒在他懷裏的時候——她的香氣仍留在四圍的空氣中不曾散去，她們好像哭的大笑聲也還不曾散。

對

查

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置產人

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備註

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注意

- 1 借閱圖書以二星期為限
- 2 請勿圈點、評註、污損、折角
- 3 設有缺頁情事時請即通知出納員

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