

(2) Cupid A La Carte

[二]愛神小館

‘THE DISPOSITIONS OF WOMAN’, said Jeff Peters, after various opinions on the subject had been advanced, ‘run, regular, to diversions. What a woman wants is what you’re out of. She wants more of a thing when it’s scarce. She likes to have souvenirs of things she never heard of. A one-sided view of objects is disjuncting to the female composition.

[女人的脾氣]，畢傑夫在這話題已經談了一會之後說，[一般來講傾向變化無常。一個女人所要的是你所沒有的。在某件東西少的時候，她想要得多。她要一些連自己都沒聽說過的紀念品。對事物偏促於一面的看法把女性的合成弄得有點格格不入。]

‘Tis a misfortune of mine, begotten by nature and travel,’ continued Jeff, looking thoughtfully between his elevated feet at the grocery stove, ‘to look deeper into some subjects than most people do. I’ve breathed gasoline smoke talking to street crowds in nearly every town in the United States. I’ve held ‘em spellbound with music, oratory, sleight of hand, and prevarications, while I’ve sold ‘em jewelry, medicine, soap, hair tonic, and junk of other nominations. And during my travels, as a master of recreation and expiation, I’ve taken cognizance some of women. It takes a man a lifetime to find out about one particular woman; but if he puts in, say ten years, industrious and curious, he can acquire the general rudiments of the sex. One lesson I picked up was when I was working the West with a line of Brazilian diamonds and a patent fire kindler just after my trip from Savannah down through the cotton belt with Dalby’s Anti-explosive Lamp Oil Powder. ‘Twas when the Oklahoma country was in first bloom. Guthrie was rising in the middle of it like a lump of self-raising dough. It was a boom town of the regular kind -- you stood in line to get a chance to wash your face; if you ate over ten minutes you had a lodging bill added on; if you slept on a plank at night they charged it to you as board the next morning.

[由於天性和旅行的關係，我有這種霉運，]傑夫繼續說，一面若有所思地望著他翹在雜貨店暖爐上的雙腳，[能在某些題目上比一般人看得深入些。我几乎到過美國每一個市鎮，在街上呼吸汽油煙和街眾講話。我一面賣他們首飾，藥，肥皂，養髮水，和其他名目的廢物，一面以音樂，演說，手勢，和胡說八道，說得他們目瞪口呆。在我旅行中，因為娛樂和消遣的關係，我曾認識一些女人。一個男人必須花一輩子的時間去了解某一個女人；但是，假如他認真而好奇地花上十年時間，他能對女性有些粗淺的認識。我從沙凡那走過棉花帶賣了德比防炸燈油粉一圈回來，隨後到西部去賣巴西鑽石和專利火種的時候學了一課。那時候奧克拉荷馬才含苞初放。葛屠像自發粉團一樣在其中發達起來。就像一般暴發的市鎮一樣--洗臉要排隊；假如吃飯超過十分鐘，他們連房錢都要你付；晚上睡在一張木板上，隔天早上他們向你算吃飯錢。

‘By nature and doctrines I am addicted to the habit of discovering choice places wherein to feed. So I looked around and found a proposition that exactly cut the mustard. I found a restaurant tent just opened up by an outfit that had drifted in on the tail of the boom. They had knocked together a box house, where they lived and did the cooking, and served the meals in a tent pitched against the side. That tent was joyful with placards on it calculated to redeem the world-worn pilgrim

from the sinfulness of boarding houses and pick-me-up hotels. "Try Mother's Home-Made Biscuits," "What's the Matter with Our Apple Dumplings and Hard Sauce?" "Hot Cakes and Maple Syrup Like You Ate When a Boy," "Our Fried Chicken Never Was Heard to Crow" -- there was literature doomed to please the digestions of man! I said to myself that mother's wandering boy should munch there that night. And so it came to pass. And there is where I contracted my case of Mame Dugan.

[因為天性和我給自己訂的教條，我有個選擇好地方吃飯的癖好。於是乎，我四處看了一看，找到了一個愜意的所在。我找到的是一處跟著景氣的尾巴剛剛來到的人家開起來的帳篷小館子。他們拼成了一個簡單的房子，住在裏面，也在裏面煮飯，給客人吃飯則在貼著房子搭起來的帳篷裏。裏面的標語給帳篷帶來歡樂的氣氛，這是為拯救那些在塵世過得膩煩尚嚮往神聖者免得他們身陷出租房子和養精神旅館的罪惡裏。<試試媽媽的家製烤餅，><我們的蘋果餡餅和甜餅醬有甚麼問題嗎？><熱糕和楓糖漿，就像你小時候吃的一樣，><我們的炸雞從來就沒聽啼過>--這裏的文學終歸要暢快一個人的消化！我跟自己說媽媽的流浪兒今晚要在這裏嚼吃一番。也就這麼。在那裏，我和杜美味扯上了關係。

'Old Man Dugan was six feet by one of Indiana loafer, and he spent his time sitting on his shoulder blades in a rocking-chair in the shanty memorializing the great corn-crop failure of '86. Ma Dugan did the cooking, and Mame waited on table.

[杜老頭是個六呎一吋的印地安那州懶虫，他大部份時間是在一個棚子裏靠著肩膀子半躺半坐在一張搖椅上，回想86年玉米歉收。杜媽掌廚，美味跑堂。

'As soon as I saw Mame I knew there was a mistake in the census reports. There wasn't but one girl in the United States. When you come to specifications it isn't easy. She was about the size of an angel, and she had eyes, and ways about her. When you come to the kind of a girl she was, you'll find a belt of 'em reaching from the Brooklyn Bridge west as far as the courthouse in Council Bluffs, Ia. They earn their own living in stores, restaurants, factories, and offices. They're descended straight from Eve, and they're the crowd that's got woman's rights, and if a man wants to dispute it he's in line to get one of them against his jaw. They're chummy and honest and free and tender and sassy, and they look life straight in the eye. They've met man face to face, and discovered that he's a poor creature. They've dropped to it that reports in the Seaside Library about his being a fairly prince lack confirmation.

[我一看到美味，就知道戶口普查報告有錯。全美就只有這麼一個女孩子。要說出她的條件嘛，又不是那麼簡單。她身量像天使一樣，眼神和舉止都有獨特的風格。提到像她這樣的女孩，你可以發現她們連成一帶，由布魯克林橋一直向西延伸到路易士安那的鎮會岩。她們在商店，飯館，工廠，辦公室工作，自立為生。她們是夏娃的直接後裔，她們是贏取女權的一群，假如一個男人表示不同意的話，他不久就會在下巴上吃上一記。她們友善，誠實，自由，溫柔，而俊俏，她們對生命毫不畏懼。她們曾面對男人，已經發現他是個可憐虫。她們已經蓋棺論定，知道海濱圖書館所說男人是神仙王子的報導缺乏證據。

‘Mame was that sort. She was full of life and fun, and breeze; she passed the repartee with the boarders quick as a wink; you’d have smothered laughing. I am disinclined to make excavations into the insides of a personal affection. I am glued to the theory that the diversions and discrepancies of the indisposition known as love should be as private a sentiment as a toothbrush. ‘Tis my opinion that the biographies of the heart should be confined with the historical romances of the liver to the advertising pages of the magazines. So, you’ll excuse the lack of an itemized bill of my feelings toward Mame.

[美味是那型的人。她有的是生命，趣味，和自信；她和顧客們對答十分機智，你聽了都要忍住笑。我素來反對發掘個人感情的事。我一向堅持愛這件性情的偏向與缺失，和一個人的牙刷一樣，是屬於私人的事。我認為心的傳記和肝的羅漫史，都不宜刊登在雜誌的廣告頁上。所以嘛，請原諒我並沒逐項列出我對美味的感情。

‘Pretty soon I got a regular habit of dropping into the tent to eat at irregular times when there wasn’t so many around. Mame would sail in with a smile, in a black dress and white apron, and say: “Hello, Jeff -- why don’t you come at mealtime. Want to see how much trouble you can be, of course. Friedchickenbeffsteakporkchopshamandegspotpie” -- and so on. She called me Jeff, but there was no significations attached. Designations was all she meant. The front names of any of us she used as they came to hand. I’d eat about two meals before I left, and string ‘em out like a society spread where they changed plates and wives, and josh one another festively between bites. Mame stood for it, pleasant, for it wasn’t up to her to take any canvas off the tent by declining dollars just because they were chipped in after meal times.

[很快地，我養成了一個習慣，也就是在非正常用餐時間人少的時候到她們的帳篷吃飯。美味會輕飄飄地走進來，面帶微笑，身穿黑衣著白圍裙，說道：<哈囉，傑夫，為甚麼不在吃飯時間來呢？當然是要看看你能有多麻煩對不對。炸雞牛排豬肉塊火腿蛋烤餡餅>...如此這般。她叫我傑夫，並不代表甚麼。只是一個稱呼而已。她對我們任何一個都隨手直呼名子。我每次都要几乎吃兩頓飯才離開，把菜一字兒擺開來，好像他們社團開餐會一樣，互相交換碟子和太太，一邊吃，一邊開玩笑。美味也只好和氣地忍著。因為她也不可能只爲了不是正常用餐時間就拒絕買賣，減少了帳篷的生意。

‘It wasn’t long until there was another fellow named Ed Collier got the between-meal affliction, and him and me put in bridges between breakfast and dinner, and dinner and supper, that made a three-ringed circus of that tent, and Mame’s turn as a waiter a continuous performance. That Collier man was saturated with designs and contrivings. He was in well-boring or insurance or claim-jumping or something -- I’ve forgotten which. He was a man well lubricated with gentility and his words were such as recommended you to his point of view. So Collier and me infested the grub tent with care and activity. Mame was level full of impartiality. ‘Twas like a casino hand the way she dealt out her favors -- one to Collier and one to me and one to the board and not a card up her sleeve.

[不久嘛，有個名叫辜艾迪的老兄，他也染上了不照正常用餐時間吃飯的毛病。他老兄和我兩個，把早餐和午餐之間，和午餐和晚餐之間，都像架了橋似的連了起來。這麼一來，

杜家小館的帳篷變成了演三齣戲的馬戲班，美味跑堂的角色，成了馬不停蹄的表演。那個姓辜老兄是滿肚子的狡滑和奸詐。他幹的是油井或保險或炒地皮甚麼的——我也不記得。他圓滑得很，文質彬彬的，講起話來頭頭是道，非得你同意他才行。就這樣，辜老兄和我兩個小心而活躍地搗這個帳篷小館子。美味真是鐵面無私。對誰都一樣好，就像賭館發牌的，一張給姓辜的，一張給我，一張給莊家，沒半張隱藏。

‘Me and Collier naturally got acquainted, and gravitated together some on the outside. Divested of his stratagems, he seemed to be a pleasant chap, full of an amiable sort of hostility.

[我和那個姓辜的自然而地熟識起來，也免不了在外表上臭氣相投。撇開詐謀不談，他似乎還算是個和悅的人，充滿了可愛的敵意。

“I notice you have an affinity for grubbing in the banquet hall after the guests have fled,” says I to him one day, to draw his conclusions.

[<我注意到你喜歡在客人走光了才到宴會廳吃飯，>我跟他這麼攤牌。

“Well, yes,” says Collier, reflecting: “the tumult of a crowded board seems to harass my sensitive nerves.”

[<這個，是的，>姓辜的說，一面尋思道，<一個擁擠的餐廳似乎會把我鬧得慌。>

“It exasperates mine some, too,” says I. “Nice little girl, don’t you think?”

[<我也有點這麼樣，>我說。<很不錯的小女孩，你不這麼想嗎？>

“I see,” says Collier, laughing. “Well, now that you mention it, I have noticed that she doesn’t seem to displease the optic nerve.”

[<我懂了，>姓辜的笑著說。<既然你這麼說了，我是注意到她似乎不會令視覺神經起反感。>

“She’s a joy to mine,” says I, “and I’m going after her. Notice is hereby served.”

[<她使我的視覺感到快樂，>我這麼說，<我要追求她。就此宣布了。>

“I’ll be as candid as you,” admits Collier, “and if the drug stores don’t run out of pepsin I’ll give you a run for your money that’ll leave you a dyspeptic at the wind-up.”

[<我會和你一樣坦誠，>姓辜的同意，<假如藥房消化藥還有貨的話，我跟你賭在最後的時候你會弄得消化不良。>

‘So Collier and me begins the race; the grub department lays in new supplies; Mame waits on us,

jolly and kind and agreeable and it looks like an even break, with Cupid and the cook working overtime in Dugan's restaurant.

[就這麼，姓辜的和我開始這場比賽；餐廳添置了補給品；美味快樂，和藹而悅人地服侍我們，看起來是棋逢對手，不相上下，饒了愛神和廚子兩個在杜家小館加班。

"Twas one night in September when I got Mame to take a walk after supper when the things were all cleared away. We strolled out a distance and sat on a pile of lumber at the edge of town. Such opportunities was seldom, so I spoke my piece, explaining how the Brazilian diamonds and the fire kindler were laying up sufficient treasure to guarantee the happiness of two, and that both of 'm together couldn't equal the light from somebody's eyes, and that the name of Dugan should be changed to Peters, or reasons why not would be in order.

[有一個九月的晚上，我找了美味在晚飯過後東西都收拾停當以後散個步。我們閒逛了一程，然後坐在小鎮邊緣的一堆木材上。這個機會可是難得，所以我就把想說的話跟她說了，我解釋說巴西鑽石和火種已經積聚了足夠的財富，可以保證兩口子的快樂，甚麼這兩件東西加起來還比不上某人的眼睛亮，甚麼杜這個姓應該改成畢，否則就該解釋為甚麼了。

'Mame didn't say anything right away. Directly she gave a kind of shudder, and I began to learn something.

[美味沒有馬上說甚麼。她渾身顫抖了一下，我那時候就心有所悟。

"Jeff," she says, "I'm sorry you spoke. I like you as well as any of them, but there isn't the man in the world I'd ever marry, and there never will be. Do you know what a man is in my eyes? He's a tomb. He's a sarcophagus for the interment of Beefsteakporkchops liver'nbacon-hamandeggs. He's that and nothing more. For two years I've watched men eat, eat, eat, until they represent nothing on earth to me but ruminant bipeds. They're absolutely nothing but something that goes in front of a knife and fork and plate at the table. They're fixed that way in my mind and memory. I've tried to overcome it, but I can't. I've heard girls rave about their sweethearts, but I never could understand it. A man and a sausage grinder and a pantry awake im me exactly the same sentiments. I went to a matinee's once to see an actor the girls were crazy about. I got interested enough to wonder whether he liked his steak rare or medium, or well done, and his eggs over or straight up. That was all. No, Jeff; I'll marry no man and see him sit at the breakfast table and eat and come back to dinner and eat, and happen again at supper to eat, eat, eat."

[<傑夫，>她說，<我很抱歉你開了口。我喜歡你和他們其中任何一個一樣，但是世界上沒有一個我想結婚的男人，而且永遠不會有。你知不知道男人在我眼中是甚麼？他是個墳墓。他是個石棺，用來裝牛排豬肉塊肝燴煙肉和火腿炒蛋的。他就是這樣，一點不多。這兩年我看他們吃，吃，吃，直到他們對我來講只是兩腿的反芻動物。他們除了是走向餐桌面對刀，叉，和碟子的東西之外，甚麼都不是。他們在我心中，和我的記憶中已經這麼定型。我曾經嚐試改變，但是沒有辦法。我聽過女孩們瘋言瘋語的談她們的情人，但是我一直

無法理解。一個男人和一架香腸絞肉機和食品櫥引起我同樣的感受。我有一次去看下午戲，去瞧瞧女孩們所瘋狂的一位演員。我的興趣提高到我不知道他喜歡吃生牛排，半熟的，還是全熟的，喜歡荷包蛋還是蛋黃朝上的。就是這樣。不會的，傑夫，我不可能和一個男人結婚，來看他坐在早餐桌上吃，回來又在午餐桌上吃，晚上又回來在晚餐桌上吃，吃，吃。>

“But, Mame,” says I, “it’ll wear off. You’ve had too much of it. You’ll marry some time, of course. Men don’t eat always.”

[<但是，美味，>我說，<這感覺會逐漸消失的。你受得夠多了。你總有一天要結婚，當然。男人並不一直在吃。>

“As far as my observation goes, they do. No, I’ll tell you what I’m going to do,” Mame turns, suddenly to animation and bright eyes. “There’s a girl named Susie Foster in Terre Haute, a chum of mine. She waits in the railroad eating house there. I worked two years in a restaurant in that town. Susie has it worse than I do, because the men who eat at railroad stations gobble. They try to flirt and gobble at the same time. Whew! Susie and I have it all planned out. We’re saving our money, and when we get enough we’re going to buy a little cottage and five acres we know of, and live together, and grow violets for the Eastern market. A man better not bring his appetite within a mile of that ranch.”

[<以我的觀察，他們是一直在吃。不，我告訴你我將怎麼做。>美味突然變得興高彩烈，目光炯炯有神。<在德瑞毫我有個好朋友叫弗蘇絲。她在那兒的鐵路餐廳跑堂。我在那個鎮的一家餐廳工作了兩年。蘇絲比我遭遇得更慘，因為在鐵路餐廳吃飯的人狼吞虎嚥。他們一面調戲，一面狼吞虎嚥。咻！蘇絲和我都計劃好了。我們在存錢，等我們存夠了的時候，要去買一棟我們知道小屋和五英畝地，住在一起，然後種紫蘿蘭賣到東部的市場。一個男人最好不要帶著他的胃口來到方圓一哩之內。>

“Don’t girls ever -- “I commenced, but Mame heads me off sharp.

[<女孩子不-->我才開口，美味馬上打斷了我的話。

“No, they don’t. They nibble a little bit sometimes; that’s all.”

[<不，她們不。她們只偶爾小口地咬點東西，只這麼樣。>

“I thought the confec--”

[<我以為點心...>

“For goodness’ sake, change the subject.” Says Mame.

[<拜託，換個話題好不好。>美味說。

‘As I said before, that experience put me wise that the feminine arrangement ever struggles after deceptions and illusions. Take England -- beef made her; wieners elevated Germany; Uncle Sam owes his greatness to fried chicken and pie, but the young ladies of the Shetalkyou schools, they’ll never believe it. Shakespeare, they allow, and Rubinstein, and the Rough Riders is what did the trick.

[就像我剛才說的，那次經驗讓我明白女性是一直在追求虛偽和幻想。英國--是牛肉造成的，香腸提昇了德國，美國因為炸雞和餅才見偉大，但是那些風雅學派的女士們，她們永遠不相信。她們以為是沙士比亞，魯賓斯坦，和粗曠騎士的功勞。

“Twas a situation calculated to disturb. I couldn’t bear to give up Mame; and yet it pained me to think of abandoning the practice of eating. I had acquired the habit too early. For twenty-seven years I had been blindly rushing upon my fate, yielding to the insidious lures of that deadly monster, food. It was too late. I was a ruminant biped for keeps. It was lobster salad to a doughnut that my life was going to be blighted by it.

[那是個算準了進退兩難的處境。我不能忍受放棄美味；然而，想到要放棄吃東西，又令我十分難受。我養成這習慣太早了。二十七年以來，我匆忙地奔向命運，向食物這個致命怪獸的圈套投降。現在太遲了。我已經永遠是個兩腿的反芻動物。我可以料定我的生命將變枯萎，就像龍蝦沙拉和甜甜圈的差異一樣明顯。

‘I continue to board at the Dugan tent, hoping that Mame would relent. I had sufficient faith in true love to believe that since it has often outlived the absence of a square meal it might, in time, overcome the presence of one. I went on ministering to my fatal vice, although I felt that each time I shoved a potato into my mouth in Mame’s presence I might be burying my fondest hopes.

[我繼續在杜家飯館吃飯，希望美味會反悔。我對真誠的愛有信心，相信既然它能渡過一頓飯不吃，不久，它便能克服一頓飯的存在。我繼續進行我致命的罪惡，儘管每次我覺得在美味面前吞下一個馬鈴薯，就可能葬送掉我最美好的希望。

‘I think Collier must have spoken to Mame and got the same answer, for one day he orders a cup of coffee and a cracker, and sits nibbling the corner of it like a girl in the parlor, that’s filled up in the kitchen, previous, on cold roast and fried cabbage. I caught on and did the same, and maybe we thought we’d made a hit! The next day we tried it again, and out comes Old Man Dugan fetching in his hands the fairly viands.

[我想姓辜的一定跟美味說過，也得到同樣的答案，因為有一天他點了一杯咖啡和一塊方餅乾，然後和餐廳裏一個女孩子一樣坐著小口地咬餅乾的一角，那兒的廚房裏剛才還擺滿了冷紅燒肉和炒包心菜。我跟他依樣畫葫蘆，以為這下子能得到賞識！那想到，隔一天我們如法泡製的時候，杜老頭拿了我們點的菜出來。

“Kinder off yer feed, ain’t ye, gents?” he asks, fatherly and some sardonic. “Thought I’d spell Mame a bit, seein’ the work was light, and my rhumatiz can stand the strain.

[<胃口不太好，是嗎，伸士們？>他問，有點像父親似的，也有點諷刺。<我想我可以讓美味輕鬆一下子，看起來這差事輕鬆，我的風濕病可以忍受得住。>

‘So back me and Collier had to drop to the heavy grub again. I noticed about that time I was sized by a most uncommon and devastating appetite. I ate until Mame must have hated to see me darken the door. Afterward I found out that I had been made the victim of the first dark and irreligious trick played on me by Ed Collier. Him and me had been taking drinks together uptown regular trying to drown our thirst for food. That man had bribed about ten bartenders to always put a big slug of Appletree’s Anaconda Appetite Bitters in every one of my drinks. But the last trick he played me was hardest to forget.

[所以嘛，我和那個姓辜的又回到大量的吃食。我注意到大約在那時候，我的食慾大得驚人。我吃得美味一定恨我到她們的飯館。後來，我發現我被那個姓辜的擺了一道，那是姓辜的給我搞第一個沒道德的飛機。那時候，他和我兩個爲了湮沒我們的食慾，一起在市中心喝酒。那個姓辜的一定是買通了十個左右的酒保，每次在我的酒裏加上一大塊蘋果樹牌蟒蛇開胃藥。他給我的最後一次把戲，才真正是最難忘記的。

‘One day Collie failed to show up at the tent. A man told me he left town that morning. My only rival now was the bill of fare. A few days before he left Collier had presented me with a two-gallon jug of fine whisky which he said a cousin had sent him from Kentucky. I now have reason to believe that it contained Appletree’s Anaconda Appetite Bitters almost exclusively. I continued to devour tons of provisions. In Mame’s eyes I remained a mere biped, more ruminant than ever.

[有一天，姓辜的沒有來帳篷飯館。有個人告訴我他那天早晨離城去了。我唯一的對手現在是點菜的菜單。在他離開前幾天，姓辜的送給我一瓶兩加侖的好威士忌酒，他說是肯達基一位堂兄弟給他的。我現在有理由相信，那瓶威士忌酒是幾乎百分之百的蘋果樹牌蟒蛇開胃藥。我繼續消耗成噸的食物。在美味眼中，我只是一個雙足動物，比以前更反芻。

‘About a week after Collier pulled his freight there came a kind of sideshow to town, and hoisted a tent near the railroad. I judged it was a sort of fake museum and curiosity business. I called to see Mame one night, and Ma Dugan said she and Thomas, her younger brother, had gone to the show. That same thing happened for three nights that week. Saturday night I caught her on the way coming back, and got to sit on the steps a while and talked to her. I noticed she looked different. Her eyes were softer, and shiny like. Instead of a Mame Dugan to fly from the voracity of man and raise violets, she seems to be a Mame more in line as God intended her, approachable, and suited to bask in the light of the Brazilians and the Kindler.

[姓辜的離開之後一星期左右，有個不正式的展覽來到鎮上，他們在鐵路旁搭起帳篷。我猜那是個假博物館和稀奇古怪展示的生意。有一天我去看美味，杜媽說她和弟弟湯姆去看表演去了。一連三天都是這樣。星期六晚上，我在她們回來的時候找到她，請她在梯階上坐談了一下。我發現她變了。她的眼神變溫和，而有點閃亮。已經不再要逃避男人貪婪的胃口去種紫蘿蘭，而是另一個美味，像上帝的主意一樣，比較和藹可親，適合沐浴在巴西鑽石和火種的溫馨亮光裏。

“You seem to be right smart inveigled,” says I, “with the Unparalleled Exhibition of the World’s Living Curiosities and Wonders.”

[<妳看起來中了邪了，>我說，<被那些舉世無雙的稀奇古怪的活的東西和怪物。>

“It’s a change,” says Mame.

[<那是些改變，>美味說。

“You’ll need another,” says I, “if you keep on going every night.”

[<妳須要另一個改變，>我說，<假如妳每天晚上都去的話。>

“Don’t be cross Jeff,” says she; “it takes my mind off business.”

[<不要發脾氣，傑夫，>她說；<它讓我忘掉生意。>

“Don’t the curiosities eat?” I ask.

[<那些稀奇的東西不吃嗎？>我問。

“Not all of them. Some of them are wax.”

[<它們不全吃。它們之中有些是臘做的。>

“Look out, then, that you don’t get stuck,” says I, kind of flip and foolish.

[<當心點，既然這麼，不要真中了邪了，>我說，有點顛倒和呆痴地。

‘Mame blushed. I didn’t know what to think about her. My hopes raised some that perhaps my attentions had palliated man’s awful crime of visibly introducing nourishment into his system. She talked some about the stars, referring to them with respect and politeness, and I drivelled a quantity about united hearts, homes made bright by true affection, and the Kindler. Mame listened without scorn and I says to myself, “Jeff, old man, you’re removing the hoodoo that has clung to the consumer of victuals; you’re setting your heel upon the serpent that lurks in the gravy bowl.”

[美味臉紅了一下。我不知道對她要怎麼想。我的希望提起了一回，可能是我的用心使得男人眼睜睜地把營養供給他的系統不再是那麼罪惡的事。她談了下星星，對它們尊敬而有禮貌，我以結合的心，因真情和火種充滿溫馨的家為題口沫橫飛地胡扯了一頓。美味不帶鄙意地聽著，我對自己說，<傑夫，好老小子，你正在為食物的消耗者除去霉運；你的腳正踩在暗藏在加味濃汁裏帶來霉運的蛇的身上。>

Monday night I drop around. Mame is at the Unparalleled Exhibition with Thomas.

星期一，我又到她家。美味和湯姆在舉世無雙的展覽會。

“Now, may the curse of the forty-one seven-sided sea cocks,” says I, “and the bad luck of the nine impenitent grasshoppers rest upon this selfsame sideshow at once and forever. Amen. I’ll go to see it myself tomorrow night and investigate its baleful charm. Shall man that was made to inherit the earth be bereft of his sweetheart first by a knife and fork and then by a ten-cent circus?”

[<既然這麼著，老天保佑，但願那四十一隻七面海雞的詛咒，>我說，<和那九隻從不懺悔的螞蚱的噩運一氣加到這個不成才的路邊展覽上。我明天晚上要親自去看看調查一下它來意不善的魅力到底是怎麼回事。一個得天獨厚的男人難道非先被一副刀叉，然後又被一場一毛錢的展覽會撥奪去他的愛人不成？>

‘The next night before starting out for the exhibition tent I inquire and find out that Mame is not at home. She is not at the circus with Thomas this time, for Thomas waylays me in the grass outside of the grub tent with a scheme of his own before I had time to eat supper.

[隔天晚上，去展覽會之前我打聽了一下，知道美味不在家，這次，她並沒有和湯姆一起，因為湯姆在飯館子帳篷外面，我還沒來得及吃飯之前就把我攔截住，而且自己心裏打了主意。

“What’ll you give me, Jeff,” says he, “if I tell you something?”

[<你要給我甚麼，傑夫，>他說，<假如我告訴你一件事情的話？>

“The value of it, son,” I says.

[<它的價值，小孩，>我說。

“Sis is stuck on a freak,” says Thomas, “one of the side-show freaks. I don’t like him. She does. I overheard ‘em talking. Thought maybe you’d like to know. Say, Jeff, does it put you wise two dollars’ worth? There’s a target rifle up town that --”

[<姊姊迷上了一個怪物，>湯姆說，<展覽會的一個怪物。我不喜歡他。她喜歡。我偷偷聽見他們說話。我猜你要想聽這個。怎麼樣，傑夫，這個值不值你兩塊錢？城裏有把射得很準的來福槍...>

‘I frisked my pockets and commenced to dribble a stream of halves and quarters into Thomas’s hat. The information was of the pile-driver system of news, and it telescoped my intellects for a while. While I was leaking internally, I was saying, idiotically and pleasantly:

[我一面搜括我的口袋，一面開始把半塊和兩毛半的銅板子往湯姆的帽子裏放。這消息真正有震撼力，把我的智慧給開竅了一陣子。我一面內在像落了底子一樣，一面又痴又笑地說。

“Thank you, Thomas -- thank you -- er -- a freak, you said, Thomas. Now, could you make out the monstrosity’s entitlements a little clearer if you please, Thomas?”

[<謝--啊--謝謝，湯姆，啊--一個怪物，你說。這麼樣，你能不能把這大怪物的名稱說得清楚一些，湯姆？>

“This is the fellow,” says Thomas, pulling out a yellow handbill from his pocket and shoving it under my nose. “He’s the Champion Faster of the Universe. I guess that’s why Sis got soft on him. He don’t eat nothing. He’s going to fast forty-nine days. This is the sixth. That’s him”

[<就是這傢伙，>湯姆說，一面從口袋拿出一張黃傳單放在我鼻子下面。<他是宇宙間冠軍節食者。我想就是這樣，姊姊對他心軟了。他甚麼都不吃。他要節食四十九天。今天是第六天。就是他。>

“I looked at the name Thomas pointed out -- “Professor Eduardo Collieri” “Ah!” says I, in admiration, “that’s not so bad, Ed Collieri. I give you credit for the trick. But I don’t give you the girl until she’s Mrs. Freak.”

[我看了一下湯姆指出的名子--<古理哀理哀得瓦得教授><啊！>我說，帶著羨慕地，<不錯，不錯，姓辜的，我欣賞你的把戲，但是我在她成爲怪物夫人之前，絕不放棄我的女孩。>

“I hit the sod in the direction of the show. I came up to the rear of the tent, and as I did so, a man wiggled out like a snake from under the bottom of the canvas, scrambled to his feet, and ran into me like a locoed bronco. I gathered him by the neck and investigated him by the light of the stars. It is Professor Eduardo Collieri, in human habiliments, with a desperate look in one eye and impatience in the other.

[我走向那個展覽會。走到帳篷後面，正當在帳篷後面的時候，有一個人像條蛇一樣從帆布下面鑽出來，然後站起來，像一匹瘋馬一樣衝著我撞過來。我把他從脖子抓住，趁著星光看他。他就是古理哀理哀得瓦得教授。穿著人的衣服，一隻眼睛發急，另一隻眼睛帶著不耐煩地。

“Hello, Curiosity,” says I. “Get still a minute and let’s have a look at your freakship. How do you like being the willopus-wallopus or the bimbam from Borneo, or whatever name you are denounced by in the sideshow business?”

[<哈囉，稀奇古怪，>我說。<還有一分鐘的時間嗎？讓我們看一看你的怪像。你想不想當個唯落破瓦落破，或者婆羅州的金剛，或者隨便一個路邊展覽會給你取的怪名子？>

“Jeff Peters,” says Collier, in a weak voice. “Turn me loose, or I’ll slug you one. I’m in the extremest kind of a large hurry. Hands off!”

[<畢傑夫，>姓辜的說，聲音微弱地。<快放手，否則我要給你一拳。我現在有千萬緊急的事。放手！>

“Tut, tut, Eddie,” I answers, holding him hard; “let an old friend gaze on the exhibition of your curiousness. It’s an eminent graft you fell onto, my son. But don’t speak of assaults and battery, because you’re not fit. The best you’ve got is a lot of nerve and mighty empty stomach.” And so it was. The man was as weak as a vegetarian cat.

[<住，住，辜兄，>我回答，一面牢牢抓著他，<讓個老朋友看看你稀奇古怪的展覽。你的把戲很高明，小孩。可是不要提攻擊和打拳的事，因為你不適合。你再好，也不過有很多勇氣和一個空空的肚子。>事實上也是。這個人弱得像一隻素食貓一樣。

“I’d argue case with you, Jeff,” says he, regretful in his style, “for an unlimited number of rounds if I had half an hour to train in and a slab of beefsteak two feet square to train with. Curse the man, I say, that invented the art of going foodless. May his soul in eternity be chained up within two feet of a bottomless pit of red-hot hash. I’m abandoning the conflict, Jeff; I’m deserting to the enemy. You’ll find Miss Dugan inside contemplating the only living mummy and the informed hog. She’s a fine girl, Jeff. I’d have beat you out if I could have kept up the grubless habit a little while longer. You’ll have to admit that the fasting dodge was acesup for a while. I figured it out that way. But, say, Jeff, it’s said that love makes the world go around. Let me tell you, the announcement lacks verification. It’s the wind from the dinner horn that does it. I love that Mame Dugan. I’ve six days without food in order to coincide with her sentiments. Only one bite did I have. That was when I knocked the tattooed man down with a war club and got a sandwich he was gobbling. The manager fined me all my salary; but salary wasn’t what I was after. ‘Twas that girl. I’d give my life for her, but I’d endanger my immortal soul for a beef stew. Hunger is a horrible thing, Jeff. Love and business and family and religion and art and patriotism are nothing but shadows of words when a man’s starving!”

[<我會跟你爭論，傑夫，>他說，自悔地很有個性，<几回合都沒關係，假如我有半小時可以進入狀況，而且有一塊兩呎平方的牛排來幫我訓練的話。詛咒那個，我說，發明節食藝術的人。希望他的靈魂在永恆地獄裏，被鏈條鏈在距離裝滿了熱騰騰煮肉丁的無底洞兩呎遠的地方。我在放棄我的競賽，傑夫，我正投奔我的敵人。你在帳篷裏可以看到杜小姐正在望著世上唯一的活木乃伊和知訊豬默想。她是個好女孩，傑夫。我再持續不吃久一點的話，就可以擊敗你。你必須承認，節食這招把戲畢竟走俏了一時。這是我自己想出來的。傑夫，有人說愛使得世界運轉。讓我告訴你，這公告缺乏證實。是晚餐的號角聲使它轉的。我愛那個杜美味。我六天沒吃東西，是爲了迎合她的感情。我只吃了一口。那是在我拿了一根戰棍打倒了紋身人，把他正在大口嚼的三名治搶過來的時候。經理罰了我全部薪水，但是薪水不是我所要的。那個女孩才是。我願爲她捐出生命，但是我寧可爲了牛肉湯而危及永恆不朽的靈魂。飢餓是恐怖的事，傑夫。一個人挨餓的時候，愛，事業，宗教，藝術，愛國心，等等，都是一派空言。

‘In such language Ed Collier discoursed to me, pathetic. I gathered the diagnosis that his affections and his digestions had been implicated in a scramble and the commissary had won out. I

never disliked Ed Collier. I searched my internal admonitions of suitable etiquette to see if I could find a remark of a consoling nature, but there was none convenient.

[姓辜的悽惻地以這樣的言語跟我說。我的診斷是，他的感情和消化起了衝突，而販賣食品的部門終於得勝。我從來沒不喜歡過辜艾迪兄。出於禮儀，我自己內在尋思了一下，想找一個有安慰性質的言語，卻找不到一個方便的。

“I’d be glad now,” says Ed, “if you’ll let me go. I’ve been hard hit, but I’ll hit the ration supply harder. I’m going to clean out every restaurant in town. I’m going to wade waist deep in sirloins and swim in ham and eggs. It’s an awful thing. Jeff Peters, for a man to come to this pass -- to give up his girl for something to eat -- but then, hunger’s a fierce thing. You’ll excuse me, now, Jeff, for I smell a pervasion of ham frying in the distance, and my legs are crying out to stampede in that direction.”

[<我將很樂意，>姓辜的說，<假如你放我走的話。我被整得很慘，可是我將把食品供應部整得更慘。我要吃盡城裏每一家餐廳。我將在有腰這麼高的裏肌肉裏行步，在火腿炒蛋裏游泳。畢傑夫，一個人這麼的遭遇是很糟糕的 -- 爲了吃東西放棄自己的女孩 -- 然而，挨餓是可怖的事。對不起了，傑夫，我遠遠地聞到煎火腿肉的香味，我的兩腿苦苦地要向那裏狂奔而去。>

“A hearty meal to you, Ed Collier,” I says to him, “and no hard feelings. For myself, I am projected to be an unseldom eater, and I have condolence for your predicaments.”

[<祝你飽餐一頓，辜艾迪，>我對他說，<我們彼此間沒有傷感情。我自己嘛，我一慣是當定了不怎麼稀奇的吃食者，我同情你的困境。>

‘There was a sudden big whiff of frying ham smell on the breeze; and the Champion Faster gives a snort and gallops off in the dark toward fodder.

[微風裏突然飄來一陣煎火腿的濃香；冠軍節食者一聲鼻響，在黑暗中朝草料奔馳而去。

‘I wish some of the cultured outfit that are always advertising the extenuating circumstances of love and romance had been there to see. There was Ed Collier, a fine man full of contrivances and flirtations, abandoning the girl of his heart and ripping out into the contiguous territory in the pursuit of sordid grub. ‘Twas a rebuke to the poets and a slap at the best-paying element of fiction. An empty stomach is a sure antidote to an overfull heart.

[我希望那些一直標榜可怕的愛和羅漫史的文明人能在那兒做個親眼見證。那個充滿狡計和調情能手的辜艾迪兄，爲了追求卑微的吃食而放棄他心愛的女孩子。對詩人而言無異是個駁斥，對造成小說暢銷的成份而言是計耳光。空空的肚子確實爲痴情的心解毒藥。

‘I was naturally anxious to know how far Mame was infatuated with Collier and his stratagems. I went inside the Unparalleled Exhibition, and there she was. She looked surprised to see me, but

unguilty.

[我自然急於想知道美味爲姓辜的所耍的計倆著迷到甚麼地步了。我走進舉世無雙展覽會，她在裏面。她看到我有點吃驚，但是並不覺得做錯了甚麼。

“It’s an elegant evening outside,” says I. “The coolness is quite nice and gratifying, and the stars are lined out, first class, up where they belong. Wouldn’t you shake these by-products of the animal kingdom long enough to take a walk with a common human who never was on a programme in his life?”

[<外邊夜色極幽雅，>我說。<涼意美而宜人，天上星光閃亮無比。妳能不能暫時擺脫這些動物世界的副產品，跟一位從來沒上過節目單的凡夫俗子散散步？>

‘Mame gave a sort of sly glance around, and I knew what that meant.

[<美味四下狡滑地望了一下，我明白那是甚麼意思。

“Oh,” says I, “I hate to tell you; but the curiosity that lives on wind has flew the coop. He just crawled out under the tent. By this time he has amalgamated himself with half the delicatessen trucks in town.”

[<喔，>我說，<我很不願跟妳這麼說；但是那位喝風的稀奇古怪已經飛離了籠子。他剛才從帳篷底下爬出去。這時候嘛，他已經和城裏半數以上的點心車子渾在一起了。]

“You mean Ed Collier?” says Mame.

[<你是指辜艾迪？>她說。

“I do,” I answers; “and a pity it is that he has gone back to crime again. I met him outside the tent, and he exposed his intentions of devastating the food crop of the world. ‘Tis enormously sad when one’s ideal descends from his pedestal to make a seventeen-year locust of himself..”

[<我是這麼說，>我回答；<很可惜他又回到往日的罪惡。我在帳篷外遇到他，他向我表明了蹂躪全世界糧食收成的意願。看到一個人的理想由崇高的壇位降格爲鬧十七年飢荒的蝗虫著實令人傷感。>

‘Mame looked at me straight in the eye until she had corkscrewed my reflections.

美味瞪著眼直視我，直到几乎把我的形影由眼球裏擠出來。

“Jeff,” says she, “it isn’t quite like you to talk that way. I don’t care to hear Ed Collier ridiculed. A man may do ridiculous things, but they don’t look ridiculous to the girl he does ‘em for. That was the man in a hundred. He stopped eating just to please me. I’d be hardhearted and ungrateful

if I didn't feel kindly toward him. Could you do what he did?"

[<傑夫，>她說，<你這麼說話很不上道。我不怎麼喜歡你諷刺辜艾迪。一個男人可能做荒唐的事，但是他做荒唐事是爲了某個女孩子，對這女孩子而言，卻不荒唐。這是百中挑一的。他爲了讓我高興而節食。假如我不對他感覺善意的話，我就狠心而不懂得感激了。你能照他那樣子做嗎？>

"I know," says I, seeing the point. "I'm condemned. I can't help it. The brand of the consumer is upon my brow. Mrs. Eve settled that business for me when she made the dicker with the snake. I fell from the fire into the frying-pan. I guess I'm the Champion Feaster of the Universe." I spoke humble, and Mame mollified herself a little.

[<我知道，>我說，察覺她的意思。<我的罪已經定了。我沒辦法。消耗者的印信已經烙在我眉間。夏娃和蛇交易的時候就替我把事情解決了。我由火裏掉到煎盤裏。我想我是宇宙間第一名的吃食者。>我低聲下氣地說，美味的氣稍微平了下來。

"Ed Collier and I are good friends," she said, "the same as me and you. I gave him the same answer I did you -- no marrying for me. I liked to be with Ed and talk to him. There was something mighty pleasant to me in the thought that here was a man who never used a knife and fork, and for my sake."

[<辜艾迪和我是好朋友，>她說，<就像我和你一樣。我給他的答案和給你的一樣--我不結婚。我喜歡和他一起聊聊。有個男人爲了我而不動刀叉讓我想起來蠻不錯的。>

"Wasn't you in love with him?" I asks, all injudicious. "Wasn't there a deal on for you to become Mrs. Curiosity?"

[<妳不是愛上了他嗎？>我很不明智地說。<妳不是有點想當怪物夫人嗎？>

'All of us do it sometimes. All of us get jostled out of the line of profitable talk now and then. Mame put on that little lemon glaze smile that runs between ice and sugar, and says, much too pleasant: "you're short on credentials for asking that question, Mr. Peters. Suppose you do a forty-nine day fast, just to give you ground to stand on, and then maybe I'll answer it."

[我們每一個都會這樣。我們每一個人都偶爾會逾越而失言。美味酸不酸，甜不甜地抿嘴微笑，冰不冰地。這下子得意地說，<你要問這問題還不夠格，畢先生。你回去節食四十九天，讓你有個立足之地，然後我可能回答你。>

'So, even after Collier was kidnaped out of the way by the revolt of his appetite, my own prospects with Mame didn't seem to be improved. And then business played out in Guthrie.

[於是乎，在姓辜的胃口造了反，讓他三振出局之後，我對美味的希望並沒啥改進。接著，我自己的生意清淡起來。

‘I had stayed too long there. The Brazilians I had sold show signs of wear, and the Kindler refused to light up right frequent on wet mornings. There is always a time, in my business, when the star of success says, “Move on to the next town.” I was traveling by wagon at that time so as not to miss any of the small town; so I hitched up a few days later and went down to tell Mame good-bye. I wasn’t abandoning the game; I intended running over to Oklahoma City and work it for a week or two. Then I was coming back to institute fresh proceedings against Mame.

[我在這兒呆了太久了。我賣的巴西鑽石開始顯示磨損的跡象，專利火種老是在潮濕的早晨點不著。在我的生意生涯裏，總有個時候，成功之星會跟我說，<往下個市鎮去吧。>我那時候爲了不錯過每個小鎮，是趕著篷車旅行的；這會子，几天過後，我便整車待發，去跟美味道別。我並沒有放棄我的愛情遊戲；我打算到奧克拉荷馬市去做個把星期生意再回來，重新對美味展開攻勢。

‘What do I find at the Dugan’s but Mame all conspicuous in a blue traveling dress, with her little trunk at the door. It seems that sister Lottie Bell, who is a typewriter in Terre Haute, is going to be married next Thursday, and Mame is off for a week’s visit to be an accomplice at the ceremony. Mame is waiting for a freight wagon that is going to take her to Oklahoma, but I condemn the freight wagon with promptness and scorn, and offers to deliver the goods myself. Ma Dugan sees no reason why not, as Mr. Freighter wants pay for the job; so, thirty minutes later Mame and I pull out in my light spring wagon with white canvas cover, and head due south.

[你猜我在杜家看到了甚麼！美味穿著鮮目的藍旅行裝，拿著她的小旅行箱站在門口。看起來是在德瑞豪當打字員的露蒂貝妹妹下星期四要結婚了，美味要去探訪一星期在婚禮上作伴。美味在等一輛貨車來載她到奧克拉荷馬市，可是我即刻鄙視地說貨車不好，毛遂自荐地送美味一程。杜媽看不出有甚麼不好，反正貨車是要錢的；於是，三十分鐘之後，美味就和我乘著我的白帆布輕篷車啓程，直往南而行。

‘That morning was of a praiseworthy sort. The breeze was lively, and smelled excellent of flowers and grass, and the little cottontail rabbits entertained themselves with skylarking across the road. My two Kentucky bays went for the horizon until it come sailing in so fast you wanted to dodge it like a clothesline. Mame was full of talk and rattled on like a kid about her old home and her school pranks and the things she liked and the hateful ways of those Johnson girls just across the street, ‘way up in Indiana. Not a word was said about Ed Collier or victuals or such solemn subjects. About noon Mame looks and finds that the lunch she had put up in a basket had been left behind. I could have managed quite a collation, but Mame didn’t seem to be grieving over nothing to eat, so I made no lamentations. It was a sore subject with me, and I ruled provender in all its branches out of my conversation.

[那天早上天氣真好。輕風徐徐，花香草秀襲人，白球尾兔子在車前方穿著馬路快跑耍玩。我的兩匹肯達基栗色馬直奔水平線，快得水平線好像晒衣繩一樣迎面飄來，我們都得閃避一樣。美味話多得很，小孩一般喋喋不休地講她印地安那老家和學校裏胡鬧的事，她所喜歡的事，和對過街強生家女孩們令人討厭的舉動。完全沒提到姓辜的，或者吃東西這類嚴肅的話題。晌午時刻，美味發現她準備好放在籃子裏的中飯被遺忘了。我本來可以把東

西安排得井井有條一些，但是美味並沒把沒東西吃放在心上，我也就沒表示憾意。可是這對我來說並不好受，我告訴自己不提任何關係到吃的話題。

‘I am minded to touch light on explanations how I came to lose the way. The road was dim and well grown with grass; and there was Mame by my side confiscating my intellects and attention. The excuses are good or they are not, as they may appear to you. But I lost it, and at dusk that afternoon, when we should have been in Oklahoma city, we were seesawing along the edge of nowhere in some undiscovered river bottom, and the rain was falling in large, wet bunches. Down there in the swamps we saw a little log house on a small knoll of high ground. The bottom grass and the chaparral and the lonesome timber crowded all around it. It seems to be a melancholy little house, and you felt sorry for it. ‘Twas that house for the night, the way I reasoned it. I explained to Mame, and she leaves it to me to decide. She doesn’t become galvanic and prosecuting as most women would, but she says it’s all right; she knows I didn’t mean to do it.

[我想大略地帶過我是怎麼迷了路的。路已經昏暗，而且長滿了草；再說，又有美味在我身邊，分散我的智慧和注意。不管這理由對你來講通或不通，反正我迷了路。在黃昏的時候，照理講應該到達奧克拉荷馬市的，我們卻還在不知道那裏的河堤上搖搖擺擺地走，天上下著傾盆大雨。在那些散佈的沼澤之間，我們看到一座小木屋，座落在一小丘高地上。牆底的草，矮莢芭樂樹叢，和孤寂的木頭擠滿了四周圍。它看起來是座憂鬱的房子，可憐兮兮的。我看晚上就得住這兒了。我向美味解釋，她讓我自己決定。她沒有像大部份的女士們一樣，在這種情況之下會大發雷霆地指責，相反地，她說她了解；她知道我不是故意的。

‘We found the house was deserted. It had two empty rooms. There was a little shed in the yard where beasts had once been kept. In a loft of it was a lot of old hay. I put my horses in there and gave them some of it, for which they looked at me sorrowful, expecting apologies. The rest of the hay I carried into the house by armfuls, with a view to accommodations. I also brought in the patent Kindler and the Brazilians, neither or which are guaranteed against the action of water.

[我們發現那屋子是空著的。有兩個空房間。院子裏有個棚子，是用來給牲畜用的。在裏頭上層的地方擺了許多舊料草。我把馬放進裏邊，給牠們一些料草吃。牠們目光悲戚地看我，希望我跟牠們道歉似的。其它的料草我一把一把地挪進小屋裏頭，準備搭窩鋪用。我也把專利火種和巴西鑽石帶了進來，它們沒有一個能保證遇水不壞的。

‘Mame and I sat on the wagon seats on the floor, and I lit a lot of the Kindler on the hearth, for the night was chilly. If I was any judge, that girl enjoyed it. It was a change for her. It gave her a different point of view. She laughed and talked, and the Kindler made a dim light compared to her eyes. I had a pocketful of cigars, and as far as I was concerned there had never been any fall of man. We were at the same old stand in the Garden of Eden. Out there somewhere in the rain and the dark was the river of Zion, and the angel with the flaming sword had not yet put up the keep-off-the-grass sign. I opened up a gross or two of the Brazilians and make Mame put them on -- rings, brooches, necklaces, eardrops, bracelets, girdles, and lockets. She flashed and sparkled like a million-dollar princess until she had pink spots in her cheeks and almost cried for a looking-

glass.

[美味和我坐在從車子拿下來放在地上的馬車椅上，因為晚上冷，我在爐台上點了很多專利火種。假如我有任何判斷力的話，那女孩很快樂。對她來說這是很不同的經驗。也給她一個不同的角度來看事情。她有說有笑，燃燒的火種比起她的眼睛只是暗淡地放光。我帶了滿口袋的雪茄，就我而言，我沒有幹越矩墜落的事。我們還是以伊甸園在墜落之前的姿態站著。在外頭的傾盆大雨裏是天國之河，拿著火焰刀劍的天使也沒有樹起閑人免進的標示。我把一兩匣巴西鑽石打開，讓美味試帶--戒指，胸針，項圈，耳環，手鐲，腰帶，和放小相片的項鍊盒。她光照滿面地像個千金公主一樣，臉頰泛紅，几乎要招呼拿鏡子來照看一下自己。

‘When it got late I made a fine bunk on the floor for Mame with the hay and my lap robes and blankets out of the wagon and persuaded her to lie down. I sat in the other room burning tobacco and listening to the pouring rain and meditating on the many vicissitudes that come to a man during the seventy years or so immediately preceding his funeral.

[夜深的時候，我用料草和車上取下來的腿蓋子和毯子，給美味築了個窩鋪，然後勸她睡下。我在另一個房間裏猛抽雪茄，一面聆聽豪雨聲，一面沉思一個人在埋葬之前，在七十年左右的生命裏所發生連串的事。

‘I must have dozed a little before morning, for my eyes were shut, and when I opened them it was daylight, and there stood Mame with her hair all done up neat and correct, and her eyes bright with admiration of existence.

[我一定是打了一下盹，因為我的眼睛閉上了，再開起來的時候，已經是白天，美味站在那兒，頭髮梳得整齊又好看，眼光裏充滿了對萬物崇拜的光芒。

“‘Gee whiz, Jeff!’ she exclaims, “but I’m hungry. I could eat a --”

[<哎唷，傑夫！>她大聲叫，<我餓死了。我吃得下一頭..>

‘I looked up and caught her eye. Her smile went back in and she gave me a cold look of suspicion. Then I laughed, and laid down on the floor to laugh easier. It seemed funny to me. By nature and geniality I am a hearty laugher and I went the limit. When I came to, Mame was sitting with her back to me, all contaminated with dignity.

[我抬頭看到她眼睛。她馬上收回微笑，滿臉狐疑地冷眼看我一下。我放聲大笑起來，躺到地上免得自己笑得太難過。看起來真是滑稽。我是天生自然的一個愛笑的人，這下子可真盡情地笑了個夠。等到我終於止住的時候，美味背朝我坐著，一板正經的樣子。

“‘Don’t be angry Mame,’ I says, “for I couldn’t help it. It’s the funny way you’ve done up your hair. If you could only see it!”

[<別生氣，美味，>我說，<我實在忍不住。你把頭髮梳得實在好玩。只要妳自己能看到！>

“You needn’t tell stories, sir,” said Mame, cool and advised. “My hair is all right. I know what you were laughing about. Why, Jeff, look outside,” she winds up, peeping through a chink between the logs. I opened the little wooden window and looked out. The entire river bottom was flooded, and the knob of land on which the house stood was an island in the middle of a rushing stream of yellow water a hundred yards wide. And it was still raining hard. All we could do was to stay there till the dove brought in the olive branch.

[<你用不著說故事，先生，>美味說，冷靜而經過大腦地。<我的頭髮不滑稽。我知道你笑甚麼。哇，傑夫，看外面，>她說，一面由木頭縫隙往外看。我把木製的窗子打開來。整個河床都湮滿了水，小屋所在的小丘已經變成一百碼寬黃濁河流中的一個孤島。雨還是下得很大。我們甚麼都不能做，唯有等著鴿子給我們啣一截橄欖枝帶來喜信。

‘I am bound to admit that conversations and amusements languished during the day. I was aware that Mame was getting a too prolonged one-sided view of things again, but I had no way to change it. Personally, I was wrapped up in the desire to eat. I had hallucinations of hash and visions of ham, and I kept saying to myself all the time, “What’ll you have to eat Jeff? -- what’ll you order, now, old man, when the waiter comes?” I picks out to myself all sorts of favorites from the bill of fare, and imagines them coming. I guess it’s that way with all very hungry men. They can’t get their cogitations trained on anything but something to eat. It shows that the little table with the broken-legged caster and the imitation Worcester sauce and the napkin covering up the coffee stains is the paramount issue, after all, instead of the question of immortality or peace between nations.

[我得承認那天我們的對話和娛樂不再是那麼熱烈。我發現美味又開始對事情遲遲不表意見，有的話也帶著偏見，我個人也無能為力。我自己嘛，是滿腦子只想吃東西。我看到煮肉丁的幻像和火腿的鬼影子，我一直問自己，<你要吃甚麼，傑夫？--跑堂的來的時候你要點甚麼，老頭？>我從想像的菜單中挑選自己喜歡的東西，幻想它們的出現。我猜想所有飢餓的人都是這樣。他們除了吃的東西以外沒有辦法集中想像力。這都顯示出折了腳輪的小桌，冒牌的烏斯特黑醋，用來遮蓋咖啡痕的餐巾等終究才是最重要的事情，並非永恆的生命，或者國際間和平的事。

‘I sat there, musing along, arguing with myself quite heated as to how I’d have my steak -- with mushrooms or a la Creole. Mame was on the other seat, pensive, her head leaning on her hand. “Let the potatoes come home-fried,” I states in my mind, “and brown the hash in the pan, with nine poached eggs on the side,” I felt, careful, in my own pockets to see if I could find a peanut or a grain or two of popcorn.

[我坐在那裏，跟自己熱烈爭辯說到底牛排要怎麼點--要配上磨蒜的還是要路易士安那法國式的。美味坐在另一張椅子上手撐著頭沉思默想。<我要家庭式炸馬鈴薯，>我自己腦子裏這麼想，<在煎盤裏煎黃肉丁，然後旁邊擺上九只煮蛋，>我仔細地在口袋裏搜尋，希望

可以找到一，兩顆花生或爆米花甚麼的。

‘Night came on again with the river still rising and the rain still falling. I looked at Mame and I noticed that desperate look on her face that a girl always wears when she passes an ice-cream lair. I knew that poor girl was hungry -- maybe for the first time in her life. There was that anxious look in her eye that a woman has only when she has missed a meal or feels her skirt unfastened in the back.

[又是天晚，河水繼續高漲，雨不停地下。我看著美咪，注意到她的眼神裏有那種渴望的表情，好像女孩子經過冰淇淋店的時候那種表情。我知道那個女孩餓了--可能是生平第一次。在她的眼睛裏有那種焦急的神氣，那是一個女人錯過了一頓沒吃，或者發現裙子後面的扣子沒有扣好的時候才有的那種表情。

‘It was about eleven o’clock or so on the second night when we sat, gloomy, in our ship-wrecked cabin. I kept jerking my mind away from the subject of food, but it kept flopping back again before I could fasten it. I thought of everything good to eat I had ever heard of. I went away back to my kidhood and remembered the hot biscuit sopped in sorghum and bacon gravy with partiality and respect. Then I trailed along up the years, pausing at green apples and salt, flapjacks and maple, lye hominy, fried chicken Old Virginia style, corn on the cob, spareribs and sweet potato pie, and wound up with Georgia Brunswick stew, which is the top notch of good things to eat, because it comprises ‘em all.

[是第二天晚上十一點左右，我們鬱悶地坐在船難一般的小木屋裏。我不斷地把我的思考從吃東西這件事挪移開來，但是在我能夠固定它之前，又同那翻筋斗的一樣翻轉回來。我把所聽過好吃的東西都想透了。我回到小時候，帶著敬意地回想起烤熱餅浸泡在高粱漿和碎醃肉加味鹹汁裏。然後我隨著年紀增長，想起青蘋果和鹽，煎餅和楓糖蜜，和那鹹浸浸的玉米粥，古維吉尼亞風味的烤雞，連心玉米，排骨肉和烤蕃薯餅，最後停留在那道喬治亞布郎斯維克燉肉湯，那是食品中的翹楚，因為它囊括了各式烹調的菁華。

‘They say a drowning man sees a panorama of his whole life pass before him. Well, when a man’s starving he sees the ghost of every meal he ever ate set out before him and he invents new dishes that would make the fortune of a chef. If somebody would collect the last words of men who starved to death they’d have to sift ‘em mighty fine to discover the sentiment, but they’d compile into a cook book that would sell into the millions.

[人們說，湮死者看見他整個生命重現。這麼說，一個人挨餓的時候，他看見所吃過的每一頓飯的幻影擺在眼前，不但如此，他還發明足夠讓一個廚子致富的菜餚。假如有一個人能夠把餓死者的遺言都收集起來的話，可能得一篩再篩才能從其中找出感情的成份，卻能編輯一本百萬暢銷食譜。

‘I guess I must have had my conscience pretty well inflicted with culinary mediations, for, without intending to do so, I says out, to the imaginary waiter, “cut it thick and have it rare, with the French fried, and six, soft-scrambled, on toast.”

[我的良心一定是被烹調的默想鞭策得差不多了，無意之間，我向想像中的跑堂發聲說，<切厚點，而且要煮得生生的，附上法式炸馬鈴薯，六個炒蛋不要太熟了放在烤麵包上。>

‘Mame turned her head quick as a wink. Her eyes were sparkling and she smiled sudden.

[美味一剎那間轉過頭。眼睛閃亮，面帶微笑。

“‘Medium for me,” she rattles on, “with the Juliennes, and three, straight up. Draw one, and brown the wheats, double order to come. Oh, Jeff, wouldn’t it be glorious! And then I’d like to have a half fry, and a little chicken curried with rice, and a cup custard with ice cream, and --”

[<給我半生熟的，>她滔滔地說，<配上切絲青菜，然後給我三個蛋黃朝上的煎蛋。稍稍打散一個，全麥麵包烤深一點；給我來兩份。哇，傑夫，這不是棒得緊嗎！我還要一份半炸，加上一點點加哩雞燴飯，再加上一小杯蛋塔加冰其淋，然後...>

“‘Go easy,” I interrupts: “where’s the chicken liver pie, and the kidney saute on toast, and the roast lamb, and --”

[<別急，>我插嘴說：<雞肝烤餅那裏去了，還有奶油炒腎土司麵包，還有燉得爛爛的羊肉，還有...>

“‘Oh,” cuts in Mame, all excited, “with mint sauce, and the turkey salad, and stuffed olives, and raspberry tarts, and --”

[<哇，>美味切斷了我的話說，<澆上帶薄荷風味的滷汁，還有火雞肉沙拉，填餡橄欖，和桑椹塔，還有...>

“‘Keep it going,” says I. “Hurry up with the fried squash, and the hot corn pone with sweet milk, and don’t forget the apple dumpling with hard sauce, and the cross-barred dewberry pie --”

[<繼續下去，>我說。<趕快拿那炸胡瓜來，和熱騰騰的甜奶玉米麵包，也別忘了蘋果餃加甜餅醬，表皮烤得脆脆的十字條紋露漿果餅...>

‘Yes, for ten minutes we kept up that kind of restaurant repartee. We ranges up and down and backward and forward over the main trunk lines and the branches of the victual subject, and Mame leads the game, for she is appraised in the ramifications of grub, and the dishes she nominates aggravates my yearnings. It seems that there is set up a feeling that Mame will line up friendly again with food. It seems that she looks upon the obnoxious science of eating with less contempt than before.

[是的，我們就這麼餐廳似地對答了十分鐘。我們以吃為題，縱橫其主幹之上，往來在枝枒之間，美味一直領先，因為她在餐點的造詣上一直為人稱道，她所薦舉的菜餚令我垂涎三尺。看起來美味和吃東西這件學問又修好了的樣子。好像她不再像以前那樣瞧不起進

食的科學了。

‘The next morning we find that the flood has subsided. I geared up the bays, and splashed out through the mud, some precarious, until we found the road again. We were only a few miles wrong, and in two hours we were in Oklahoma City. The first thing we saw was a big restaurant sign, and we piled into there in a hurry. Here I finds myself sitting with Mame at table, with knives and forks and plates between us, and she not scornful, but smiling with starvation and sweetness.

[隔天早晨水退了。我套上那兩匹栗色馬，些許驚險地濺著水踏泥而行，直到我們找到了正路。我們其實只走偏了幾哩，兩小時之內便抵達奧克拉荷馬市。我們頭一個看見的是一張大大的飯店招牌，便急急忙忙地進了去。我和美味隔著刀，叉，和盤子同桌而坐。美味並無鄙意，而是滿臉帶著餓容和甜蜜的微笑。

‘Twas a new restaurant and well stocked. I designated a list of quotations from the bill of fare that made the waiter look out toward the wagon to see how many more might be coming.

[那是個新餐廳，供應很充足。我從菜單上點了一系列的東西，跑堂的拼命往我的篷車看，到底還有多少人要來。

‘There we were, and there was the order being served. ‘Twas a banquet for a dozen, but we felt like a dozen. I looked across the table at Mame and smiled, for I had recollections. Mame was looking at the table like a boy looks at this first stem-winder. Then she looked at me, straight in the face, and two big tears came in her eyes. The waiter was gone after more grub.

[我們就在那裏，我們點的菜擺了上來。足夠十來個人吃的，我們也感覺是十幾個人。我隔著桌子望著美味微笑，心裏想著以前發生的事。美味望著餐桌，好比一個男孩望著他第一架彈簧玩具一樣。然後她抬起頭來，正面看著我，眼睛裏閃出兩顆眼淚。跑堂的又去端更多的菜。

“‘Jeff,” she says, soft like, “I’ve been a foolish girl. I’ve looked at things from the wrong side. I never felt this way before. Men get hungry every day like this, don’t they? They’re big and strong, and they do the hard work of the world, and they don’t eat just to spite silly waiter girls in restaurants, do they, Jeff? You said once -- that is, you asked me -- you wanted me to -- well, Jeff, if you still care -- I’d be glad and willing to have you always sitting across the table from me. Now give me something to eat, quick, please.”

[<傑夫，>她說，軟化了似地，<我是個傻女孩。我從錯誤的角度看了事情。我從來沒有感覺這樣過。男人每天都這麼餓，對嗎？他們高大，健壯，擔當世界上辛苦的事，他們吃並不只是要鄙視餐廳裏跑堂的女孩。是嗎，傑夫？你曾經說--那是，你要我--你要求我--那個，傑夫，假如你還喜歡的話--我將樂意有你永遠坐在餐桌對面。現在趕快給我東西吃，好不好。>

‘So, as I’ve said, a woman needs to change her point of view now and then. They get tired of the

same old sights -- the same old dinner table, washtub, and sewing machine. Give 'em a touch of the various -- a little travel and a little rest, a little tomfoolery along with the tragedies of keeping house, a little petting after the blowing-up, a little upsetting and jostling around -- and everybody in the game will have chips added to their stack by the play.

[所以嘛，就像我說的，一個女人須要偶爾改變改變觀點。她們看膩了同樣的光景--那同一張舊餐桌，洗衣盆，縫紉機。給她們那麼一點變化--旅行一下，休息一會，開她個傻玩笑，來點綴一下理家的苦差，發脾氣後輕輕拍拍她，逗她生氣一下，搗她個蛋--這麼一來在生命的賭局中，每個人的賭注都會平添更多的籌碼。