

(7) A CHAPARRAL PRINCE

[七]綠林王子

Nine o'clock at last, and the drudging toil of the day was ended. Lena climbed to her room in the third half-story of the Quarrymen's Hotel. Since daylight she had slaved, doing the work of a full-grown woman, scrubbing the floors, washing the heavy ironstone plates and cups, making the beds, and supplying the insatiate demands for wood and water in that turbulent and depressing hostelry.

九點鐘終於到了，一天的辛苦結束。麗娜爬上礦石人旅館矮小得只稱得上半樓的三樓，回到自己房間。打從天一亮，她就開始奴隸一般，做一個大人的工作，擦地，洗沉重的鐵礦石杯盤，整理床舖，為騷亂而令人沮喪的旅館供給要求不完的柴水。

The din of the day's quarrying was over -- the blasting and drilling, the creaking of the great cranes, the shouts of the foremen, the backing and shifting of the flat-cars hauling the heavy blocks of limestone. Down in the hotel office three or four of the laborers were growling and swearing over a belated game of checkers. Heavy odors of stewed meat, hot grease, and cheap coffee hung like a depressing fog about the house.

礦場一天的喧囂靜止下來--爆炸聲，鑽孔聲，大吊車轉動時喀啦喀啦作響，工頭的呼嘯，抬車載運笨重的灰石塊倒退和換檔聲。在樓下旅館辦公室裏，有三四個工人為了一局遲緩的西洋象棋像野狼般叫罵。肉湯，燒熱的炸油，和廉價咖啡令人喘不過氣的氣味，像愁雲慘霧一般瀰漫整棟房子。

Lena lit a stump of a candle and sat limply upon her wooden chair. She was eleven years old, thin and ill-nourished. Her back and limbs were sore and aching. But the ache in her heart made the biggest trouble. The last straw had been added to the burden upon her small shoulders. They had taken away Grimm. Always at night, however tired she might be, she had turned to Grimm for comfort and hope. Each time had Grimm whispered to her that the prince or the fairy would come and deliver her out of the wicked enchantment. Every night she had taken fresh courage and strength from Grimm.

麗娜點亮一短截蠟燭，像跛腳了一般坐在木頭椅子上。她十一歲，瘦而且營養不良。背和四肢都酸痛。但是她心裏的疼痛才是最麻煩的。她瘦小的肩膀上的負擔最近又給加上了一件，使得她再也忍受不了。他們把格林童話故事給拿走了。每天晚上，不論她怎麼累，她總是由格林童話得到安慰和希望。每次，格林童話都悄悄跟她說，王子或者神仙會來把她從這個罪惡的魔窟拯救出去。每天晚上，她由格林童話得到新的勇氣和力量。

To whatever tale she read she found an analogy in her own condition. The woodcutter's lost child, the unhappy goose girl, the persecuted stepdaughter, the little maiden imprisoned in the witch's hut -- all these were but transparent disguises for Lena, the overworked kitchenmaid in the Quarrymen's Hotel. And always when the extremity was direst came the good fairy or the gallant prince to the rescue.

不論她看那篇故事，她總是看到類似自己所處的環境。迷失了的樵夫女兒，不快樂的放鵝女孩，被殘害的養女，關在巫婆小屋裏的小姑娘--這些都只不過是麗娜的明白化身，這個在礦石人旅館操勞過度的幫廚。每一篇故事，在極度的恐怖的時候，總是有善心的神仙，或者勇敢的王子出現，來營救她們。

So, here in the ogre's castle, enslaved by wicked spell, Lena had leaned upon Grimm and waited, longing for the powers of goodness to prevail. But on the day before Mrs. Maloney had found the book in her room and had carried it away, declaring sharply that it would not do for servants to read at night; they lost sleep and did not work briskly the next day. Can one only eleven years old, living away from one's mama, and never having any time to play, live entirely deprived of Grimm? Just try it once and you will see what a difficult thing it is.

所以，在這個大怪物的城堡，為邪惡的力量所奴隸，麗娜一直靠這本格林童話故事來支撐她，一面等待，期望善良的力量終於能夠戰勝邪惡。但是，昨天，馬太太在她的房間看到這本書，把它給拿走了，尖刻地說佣人們不適合看書，說她們會失眠而隔天無法勤快地工作。一個人才十一歲，離開自己的媽媽，完全沒時間玩，能夠完完全全沒有格林童話故事而活得下去嗎？只要試一次，就會知道這有多困難。

Lena's home was in Texas, away up among the little mountains on the Pedernales River, in a little town called Fredericksburg. They are all German people who live in Fredericksburg. Of evenings they sit at little tables along the sidewalk and drink beer and play pinochle and scat. They are very thrifty people.

麗娜的家在德州，在沿裴德拿河的矮小山區，有一個叫斐德力堡的小鎮。在斐德力堡住的都是德國人。晚間，他們坐在走道旁的小桌子喝啤酒，玩紙牌。他們是非常節儉的老百姓。

Thriftiest among them was Peter Hildesmuller, Lena's father. And that is why Lena was sent to work in the hotel at the quarries, thirty miles away. She earned three dollars every week, and Peter added her wages to his well-guarded store. Peter had an ambition to become as rich as his neighbor, Hugo Heffelbauer, who smoked a meerschaum pipe three feet long and had wiener schnitzel and hasenpfeffer for dinner every day in the week. And now Lena was quite old enough to work and assist in the accumulation of riches. But conjecture, if you can, what it means to be sentenced at eleven years of age from a home in the pleasant little Rhine village to hard labor in the ogre's castle, where you must fly to serve the ogres, while they devour cattle and sheep, growling fiercely as they stamp white limestone dust from their great shoes for you to sweep and scour with your weak, aching fingers. And then -- to have Grimm taken away from you!

他們之中最節省的是席彼得，也就是麗娜的父親。也就是為了這個，麗娜被送到三十哩外那個石礦場的旅館去工作。她每星期賺三塊錢，她爸爸把她的工錢全部拿去自己存起來。她爸爸想要和他的鄰居郝雨果一樣有錢。這鄰居吸一管三呎長的海泡石煙斗，每天吃維也納香腸，炸肉排和燉兔肉。現在，麗娜大得差不多可以開始工作，來替他累積錢財。可是，想想，才十一歲就被迫離開快樂萊茵河村子裏的家，到魔怪的城堡去做苦工，在那裏，

魔怪生吞牛羊的時候，必須快快地去服侍它們，它們一面咆嘯一面大腳地踏地，把鞋子上
的石灰粉抖下來，又得妳拿自己又瘦又疼的手指頭去刷洗地板。接著--他們又把妳的格林
童話拿去了！

Lena raised the lid of an old empty case that had once contained canned corn and got out a sheet
of paper and a piece of pencil. She was going to write a letter to her mamma. Tommy Ryan was
going to post it for her at Ballinger's. Tommy was seventeen, worked in the quarries, went home
to Ballinger's every night, and was now waiting in the shadows under Lena's window for her to
throw her letter out to him. That was the only way she could send a letter to Fredericksburg. Mrs.
Maloney did not like for her to write letters.

麗娜打開一隻舊的空糖爆玉米花罐子，從裏面拿出紙和鉛筆來。她要寫一封信給她媽媽。
雷湯姆要替她在白林寨投寄這封信。湯姆十七歲，他在石礦場工作，每天晚上回到白林寨
的家。他現在等在麗娜窗下的陰影裏，等她把信丟出來給他。這是她唯一能寄信到斐德力
堡的法子。馬太太不喜歡她寫信。

The stump of candle was burning low, so Lena hastily bit the wood from around the lead of her
pencil and began. This is the letter she wrote:

那截蠟燭已經燒得短了，麗娜快快咬掉鉛筆心周圍的木頭，開始寫信。她這麼寫道：

Dearest Mamma: I want so much to see you. And Gretel and Claus and Heinrich and little
Adolf. I am so tired. I want to see you. To-day I was slapped by Mrs. Maloney and had no
supper. I could not bring in enough wood, for my hand hurt. She took my book yesterday.
I mean 'Grimms's Fairy Tales,' which Uncle Leo gave me. It did not hurt any one for me
to read the book. I try to work as well as I can, but there is so much to do. I read only a
little bit every night. Dear mamma, I shall tell you what I am going to do. Unless you send
for me to-morrow to bring me home I shall go to a deep place I know in the river and
drown. It is wicked to drown, I suppose, but I wanted to see you, and there is no one else.
I am very tired, and Tommy is waiting for the letter. You will excuse me, mamma, if I do
it.

Your respectful and loving daughter,
Lena

最親愛的媽媽：我好想見妳。還有格雷，還有克勞，還有亨利，還有小艾多。我好
累。我要見妳。今天我被馬太太摑了巴掌，而且沒有給吃晚飯。我不能拿進來夠多
的柴來給他們用，因為我手痛。她昨天把我的書拿走了。我是說利奧叔叔給我的
[格林童話故事]。我看書一點都不害到別人。我努力工作，可是有那麼多事情要做
。我每天晚上只看一點點。親愛的媽媽，我要告訴妳我要怎麼做。假如妳明天不找
人來帶我回去的話，我就要到河裏一個深的地方去溺死。我想，溺死是罪惡的，但
是，我要見妳，不要見其他人。我很累。湯姆在等我的信。妳要原諒我，媽媽，假
如我那麼做了的話。

最敬愛妳的女兒

Tommy was still waiting faithfully when the letter was concluded, and when Lena dropped it out she saw him pick it up and start up the steep hillside. Without undressing she blew out the candle and curled herself upon the mattress on the floor.

麗娜寫完信的時候，湯姆還在忠實地等著，麗娜把信丟出去的時候，她看到他把信檢起來，然後出發走上陡斜的坡。她穿著衣裳，吹熄蠟燭，就睡在放置地板上的床墊上。

At 10:30 o'clock old man Ballinger came out of the house in his stocking feet and leaned over the gate, smoking his pipe. He looked down the big road, white in the moonshine, and rubbed one ankle with the toe of his other foot. It was time for the Fredericksburg mail to come pattering up the road.

十點三刻，白林老走出房子，腳上穿著襪子，靠著籬笆，一邊抽著煙斗。他望著月光染白的大路，一隻腳揉著另一隻腳的腳踝子搓癢。時間是斐德力堡嗶嗶作響的郵車該來的時候了。

Old man Ballinger had waited only a few minutes when he heard the lively hoofbeats of Fritz's team of little black mules, and very soon afterward his covered spring wagon stood in front of the gate. Fritz's big spectacles flashed in the moonlight and his tremendous voice shouted a greeting to the postmaster of Ballinger's. The mail-carrier jumped out and took the bridles from the mules, for he always fed them oats at Ballinger's.

白林老才等了半晌，就聽到肥仔所趕的一對小黑騾子輕快的蹄響，緊接著，他的蓋了帆布的彈簧四輪輕型馬車停在籬笆門口。肥仔子大大的眼鏡映著月光，宏亮的嗓門望著白林寨的郵局局長打招呼。這郵差從馬車上跳下來，把轡環從騾嘴上拿掉，因為他一向在白林寨這地方喂牠們燕麥吃。

While the mules were eating from their feed bags old man Ballinger brought out the mail sack and threw it into the wagon.

騾兒們從喂袋裏吃燕麥的時候，白林老拿出郵袋，丟到車裏。

Fritz Bergmann was a man of three sentiments -- or to be more accurate -- four, the pair of mules deserving to be reckoned individually. Those mules were the chief interest and joy of his existence. Next came the Emperor of Germany and Lena Hildesmuller.

包肥仔有三件感情--假如要說得更確切的話--四件，因為這對騾子夠得上個別考慮進去。牠們是肥仔的興緻所在和歡樂的首要泉源。其次是德皇和席麗娜。

'Tell me,' said Fritz, when he was ready to start, 'contains the sacks a letter to Frau Hildesmuller from the little Lena at the quarries? One came in the last mail to say that she is a little sick,

already. Her mamma is very anxious to hear again.’

[告訴我，]肥仔說，在他準備出發的時候，[郵包裹有小麗娜在礦場寫給席太太的信嗎？上回郵車，她寄了一封信，說她不太舒服。她媽媽急得想再知道現在怎麼了。]

‘Yes,’ said old man Ballinger, ‘that’s a letter for Mrs. Helterskelter, or some sich name. Tommy Ryan brung it over when he come. Her little gal workin’ over thar, you say?’

[有，]白林老說，[是有一封信給慌慌張張太太，或者是甚麼名子。雷湯姆回來的時候拿過來。你是說她家小女孩在那兒幹活？]

‘In the hotel,’ shouted Fritz, as he gathered up the lines; ‘eleven years old and not bigger as a frankfurter. The close-fist of Peter Hildesmuller! -- some day shall I with a big club pound that man’s dummkopf -- all in and out the town. Perhaps in this letter Lena will say that she is yet feeling better. So, her mamma will be glad. Auf Wiedersehen, Herr Ballinger -- your feet will take cold out in the night air.’

[在那旅館裏，]肥仔子大聲說，一邊把韁繩撈在手裏，[十一歲，個子連條香腸都大不了多少。席彼得這個又酸又緊的手心--那天我要拿一根棒子把他的腦袋瓜子給好好敲它一頓--趕得他城上城下滿街跑。或者麗娜在這封信裏頭還要說她好了一點。所以她媽媽會高興。再見，白林老先生--你的腳在晚風裏會著涼。]

‘So long, Fritzy,’ said old man Ballinger. ‘You got a nice cool night for your drive.’

[再見，肥仔子，]白林老說。[今天晚上趕路挺涼快。]

Up the road went the little black mules at their steady trot, while Fritz thundered at them occasional words of endearment and cheer.

小黑騾子上了路，踏起平穩腳步子，肥仔一面偶爾親切地跟牠們吆喝几聲。

These fancies occupied the mind of the mailcarrier until he reached the big post-oak forest, eight miles from Ballinger’s. Here his ruminations were scattered by the sudden flash and report of pistols and a whooping as if from a whole tribe of Indians. A band of galloping centaurs closed in around the mail wagon. One of them leaned over the front wheel, covered the driver with his revolver, and ordered him to stop. Others caught at the bridles of Donder and Blitzen.

肥仔子郵差這樣子默默地想著這幾樁心事，走了八哩路，來到這大片老橡樹林子。突然，一陣手槍的閃光和爆響，把他正咀嚼的心思給嚇走了，好比整個部落的印地安人呼嘯地圍著他來到一樣。一群聘馳地人頭馬身影像把郵車給包圍起來。其中的一個傾身前輪上方，拿左輪槍盯住趕車的，叫他停車。其他幾個抓住咚弟和哩兄的轡環。

‘Donnerwetter!’ shouted Fritz, with all his tremendous voice -- ‘wass ist? Release your hands

from dose mules. Ve was der United States mail!

[鬼打架!]肥仔拿起大嗓門這麼叫，[這是甚麼？把手快放開那些騾子。我們是美利堅國的郵政局。]

‘Hurry up, Dutch!’ drawled a melancholy voice. ‘Don’t you know when you’re in a stick-up? Reverse your mules and climb out of the cart.’

[快！快！德國仔!]一陣拉長幽鬱的鼻音跟他這麼說。[你難道不知道被搶劫了？把騾子倒退，下車來。]

It is due to the breadth of Hondo Bill’s demerit and the largeness of his achievements to state that the holding up of the Fredericksburg mail was not perpetuated by way of an exploit. As the lion while in the pursuit of prey commensurate to his prowess might set a frivolous foot upon a casual rabbit in his path, so Hondo Bill and his gang had swooped sportively upon the pacific transport of Meinherr Fritz.

爲的是畢宏度的惡名和他的成就，才能說搶劫這斐德力堡郵車並非爲了剝奪的名義。好像一隻獅子，在牠追逐一頭勤與牠的雄健威力相匹敵的獵物的時候，不小心在途中踏到一隻兔子一樣。也就是如此，畢宏度和他的渾黨這樣子像老鷹一樣，爲了好玩地抓住這輛和平肥仔大老先生的郵車。

The real work of their sinister night ride was over. Fritz and his mail bag and his mules came as a gentle relaxation, grateful after the arduous duties of their profession. Twenty miles to the southeast stood a train with a killed engine, hysterical passengers, and a looted express and mail car. That represented the serious occupation of Hondo Bill and his gang. With a fairly rich prize of currency and silver the robbers were making a wide detour to the west through the less populous country, intending to seek safety in Mexico by means of some fordable spot on the Rio Grande. The booty from the train had melted the desperate bushrangers to jovial and happy skylarkers.

他們罪惡晚行的正經事已經完了。肥仔，他的郵車，和他的騾子，正好來給他們消遣消遣，在他們辛苦地盡了職之後來這麼一檔餘興節目也是值得慶幸的事。在東南方二十哩外，一列火車引擎被幹掉，一車子的旅客竭斯底里的，快車和郵車都被洗截。這個才是畢宏度和他的黨羽幹的正經事。洗截的成就還不賴，現金和銀子還夠瞧的，這群搶匪正往西人少的鄉下地方繞個大圈子，打算從一個渡得過去的地方，過大河到墨西哥去安生立命。他們從火車搶到的贓貨，把這群亡命搶匪化得雲雀兒似的，雀雀躍躍地。

Trembling with outraged dignity and no little personal apprehension, Fritz climbed out to the road after replacing his suddenly removed spectacles. The band had dismounted and were singing, capering, and whooping, thus expressing their satisfied delight in the life of a jolly outlaw. Rattlesnake Rogers, who stood at the heads of the mules, jerked a little too vigorously at the rein of the tender-mouthed Donder, who reared and emitted a loud, protesting snort of pain. Instantly

Fritz, with a scream of anger, flew at the bulky Rogers and began assiduously to pommel that surprised free-booter with his fists.

肥仔子因爲人格受到侵害，一方面也是爲了害怕，渾身顫抖著，他把突然間摘掉的眼鏡戴上，爬下車子，走到路上。那群匪黨下了馬，又唱，又跳，又叫，就這樣子喧洩非法之徒快樂生活的喜悅。響尾蛇羅杰站在騾頭的地方，給嫩嘴咚弟的韁繩拉得太用力了一點，咚弟仰身抬起前蹄，發出一聲痛苦的嗚嗚叫。剎那間，肥仔子生氣地吼了一聲，飛向大個子的羅杰，拿起拳頭就往這個受驚了的賊人拼命地捶打。

‘Villain!’ shouted Fritz, ‘dog, bigstiff! Dot mule he has a soreness by his mouth. I vill knock off your shoulders mit your head -- robber-mans!’

[惡人!]肥仔叫，[狗，死豬！那隻騾子嘴嫩。我要把你肩膀連腦袋敲掉--強盜人!]

‘Yi-yi!’ howled Rattlesnake, roaring with laughter and ducking his head, ‘somebody git this here sourkrout off’n me!’

[嚙-嚙!]響尾蛇一面嚎叫，一面大笑，一面躲，[來人啊！把這個德國包心泡菜從我身上拿掉!]

One of the band jerked Fritz back by the coat-tail, and the woods rang with Rattlesnake’s vociferous comments.

一個匪黨抓住肥仔的衣襟，一把把他扯住，林子裏一陣響尾蛇的叫罵之聲。

‘The dog-goned little weinerwurst,’ he yelled, amiably. ‘He’s not so much of a skunk, for a Dutchman. Took up for his animile plum quick, didn’t he? I like to see a man like his hoss, even if it is a mule. The dad-blamed little Limburger he went for me, didn’t he! Whoa, now, muley -- I ain’t a-goin’ to hurt your mouth agin any more.’

[這個狗屎維也納香腸，]他大聲叫，和著氣。[就德國仔子來說，他不怎麼是隻臭鼠。很快地爲了他的畜牲來打架，不是嗎？我喜歡看到一個人愛護他的馬，儘管是騾子也罷。這個老爹都責怪的小德國佬，來跟我打架，不是嗎！哇，好，好，騾兄弟--我再也不會弄疼你的嘴巴。]

Perhaps the mail would not have been tampered with had not Ben Moody, the lieutenant, possessed certain wisdom that seemed to promise more spoils.

那些郵件本來不會被碰到的，假如不是快脾氣奔，他們的中尉，不知到那來的聰明，認爲其中有財可斂的話。

‘Say, Cap,’ he said, addressing Hondo Bill, ‘there’s liable to be good pickings in these mail sacks. I’ve done some hoss tradin’ with these Dutchmen around Fredericksburg, and I know the style of

the varmints. There's big money goes through the mails to that town. Them Dutch risk a thousand dollars sent wrapped in a piece of paper before they'd pay the banks to handle the money.'

[上校，]他向畢宏度說，[這些郵包裹多半有些藏頭。我和斐德力堡這些德國佬販過馬，熟悉這窩子老鼠的勾當。大把大把的鈔票郵寄到鎮裏頭去。這些德國佬寧可把一千塊錢包在一張薄薄的紙頭裏郵寄，也不願意花錢到銀行辦理匯款。]

Hondo Bill, six feet two, gentle of voice and impulsive in action, was dragging the sacks from the rear of the wagon before Moody had finished his speech. A knife shone in his hand, and they heard the ripping sound as it bit through the tough canvas. The outlaws crowded around and began tearing open letters and packages, enlivening their labors by searing affably at the writers, who seemed to have conspired to confute the prediction of Ben Moody. Not a dollar was found in the Fredericksburg mail.

畢宏度，身長六呎二吋，說起話嗓音溫柔，動作敏捷，還沒等快脾氣奔說完，就把郵袋從郵車後面抓出來。手裏拿著閃亮的短刀，緊接著就聽到堅硬的帆布被割開劈啪作響。賊人蜂擁過來，開始扯開信件和包裹，一面罵那些寫信的人。說也奇怪，這些人好像串通好了一樣，連一塊錢寄到斐德力堡的都沒有，快脾氣奔是在黑白講。

'You ought to be ashamed of yourself,' said Hondo Bill to the mail-carrier in solemn tones, 'to be packing around such a lot of old, trashy paper as this. What d'you mean by it, anyhow? Where do you Dutchers keep your money at?'

[你真不害臊，]畢宏度跟郵差嚴肅地這麼說，[這樣子破舊的字紙也這麼打包裝袋。這到底是甚麼意思？你們德國佬把錢放在那裏？]

The Ballinger mail sack opened like a cocoon under Hondo's knife. It contained but a handful of mail. Fritz had been fuming with terror and excitement until this sack was reached. He now remembered Lena's letter. He addressed the leader of the band, asking him that particular missive be spared.

白林寨的郵包像只蠶繭一樣，被宏度一刀畫開。裏頭只有几封信。在此之前，肥仔因為害怕和緊張，一直沒吭聲。這時候，他想起麗娜的信，便開了口向賊頭請他手下留情，不要撕毀這封信。

'Much obliged, Dutch,' he said to the disturbed carrier. 'I guess that's the letter we want. Got spondulicks in it, ain't it? Here she is. Make a light, boys.'

[承謝了，德佬，]他跟這個終於開了口的郵差說。[我想這封就是我們要找的信了。裏頭藏的是個大宗，不是嗎？拿到了。孩兒們，點火來。]

Hondo found and tore open the letter to Mrs. Hildersmuller. The others stood about, lighting twisted-up letters one from another. Hondo gazed with mute disapproval at the single sheet of

paper covered with the angular German script.

宏度找到那封給席太太的信，一把扯開。其他人圍攏過來一封接一封地把信揉起來當火把點著。宏度看到信封裏只單單一片紙，滿是尖角文字，悶悶不樂。

‘Whatever is this you’ve humbugged us with, Duchy? You call this here a valuable letter? That’s a mighty low-down trick to play on your friends what come along to help you distribute your mail.’

[你是在跟我們搞甚麼鬼，德國佬？你說這是一封有藏頭的信？你玩這把戲也太不上道，給我們這群來替你送信的朋友。]

‘That’s Chiny writin’,’ said Sandy Grundy, peering over Hondo’s shoulder.

[那是中國文，]閒話沙袋子這麼說，從宏度的肩膀後頭看了一回。

‘You’re off your kazip,’ declared another of the gang, an effective youth, covered with silk handkerchiefs and nickel plating. ‘That’s shorthand. I seen ‘em do it once in court.’

[你有神經病，]另一個賊人說，這是個愛出風頭的小伙子，渾身掛滿了絲巾和鍍片子。[那是速記，我在法院看過他們寫的。]

‘Ach, no, no, no -- dot is German,’ said Fritz. ‘It is no more as a little girl writing a letter to her mamma. One poor little girl, sick and vorking hard away from home. Ach! It is a shame. Good Mr. Robber-man, you vill please let me have dot letter?’

[啊，不，不，不--那個是德文，]肥仔說。[只不過是一個小女孩寫信給她媽媽。一個可憐的小女孩，離開家辛苦工作。啊！真可憐。好大王強盜先生，能不能請把那封信給我？]

‘What the devil do you take us for, old Pretzels,’ said Hondo with sudden and surprising severity. ‘You ain’t presumin’ to insinuate that we gents ain’t possessed of sufficient politeness for to take an interest in the miss’s health are you? Now, you go on, and you read that scratchin’ out loud and in plain United States language to this here company of educated society.’

[你把我們當成甚麼鬼，老德國烤油條，]宏度突然出奇地認真起來。[你不會是在暗虧我們這群有風度的，連一點禮貌都沒有，不懂得問候一個女孩的健康？你給我大聲讀這片雞爪子抓出來的字，用通順的美利堅國國語，給我們這黨高水準的社會人士聽聽。]

Hondo twirled his six-shooter by its trigger guard and stood towering above the little German, who at once began to read the letter, translating the simple words into English. The gang of rovers stood in absolute silence, listening intently.

畢宏度手指頭插住槍機，轉動他的左輪槍，高大的個子站在矮小的肥仔旁邊，肥仔馬上開

始讀這封信，一面把所寫的簡單字句翻譯成英文。這黨匪徒鴉雀無聲地聆聽著。

‘How old is that kid?’ asked Hondo when the letter was done.

信唸完之後，宏度問道，[這小孩几歲？]

‘Eleven,’ said Fritz.

[十一歲，]肥仔說。

‘And where is she at?’

[她在那兒？]

‘At those rock quarries -- working. Ach, mein Gott -- little Lena, she speak of drowning. I do not know if she vill do it, but if she shall I swear I vill dot Petter Hildersmuller shoot mit a gun.’

[在石礦場--工作。阿，老天--小麗娜，她說要溺死。我不知道她會不會真的去，假如她真的這樣的話，我要拿一枝槍打死席彼得。]

‘You Dutchers,’ said Hondo Bill, his voice swelling with fine contempt, ‘make me plenty tired. Hirin’ out your kids to work when they ought to be playin’ dolls in the sand. You’re a hell of a sect of people. I reckon we’ll fix your clock for a while just to show what we think of your old chessy nation. Here, boys!’

[你們德國佬，]畢宏度聲音充滿微妙的輕視地說，[真是累人。小孩子應該在沙裏玩洋娃娃的時候，就叫她們去做工。你們這些人實在讓我搞不懂。我想我只好給你們顏色看看，好讓你知道我們對你們那個老朽的國家是怎麼想的。孩兒們！]

Hondo Bill parleyed aside briefly with his band, and then they seized Fritz and conveyed him off the road to one side. Here they bound him fast to a tree with a couple of lariats. His team they tied to another tree near by.

畢宏度站到一邊，和他的黨羽秘談了一會兒，然後他們抓住肥仔，把他押到路旁。他們拿了一兩條繩子把他綁在樹上。他的騾子，他們拴在鄰近的一棵樹。

‘We ain’t going to hurt you bad,’ said Hondo, reassuringly. ‘’Twon’t hurt you to be tied up for a while. We will now pass you the time of the day, as it is up to us to depart. Ausgespielt -- nixcomrous, Duchy. Don’t get any more impatience.’

[我們不會弄得你太疼的，]宏度保證說。[把你綁一回不會怎麼樣。我們要你自便自便，因為我們必須走了。再見，德佬。不要不耐煩。]

Fritz heard a great squeaking of saddles as the men mounted their horses. Then a loud yell and a great clatter of hoofs as they galloped pell-mell back along the Fredericksburg road.

這些人上馬的時候，肥仔子聽到一陣吱喳響。接著一陣吆喝和馬蹄啪嗒作響，這伙賊人零零落落地沿斐德力堡大路奔馳回去。

For more than two hours Fritz sat against his tree, tightly but not painfully bound. Then from the reaction after his exciting adventure he sank into slumber. How long he slept he knew not, but he was at last awakened by a rough shake. Hands were untying his ropes. He was lifted to his feet, dazed, confused in mind, and weary of body. Rubbing his eyes, he looked and saw that he was again in the midst of the same band of terrible bandits. They shoved him up to the seat of his wagon and placed the lines in his hands.

肥仔靠著那棵樹坐了足足兩個鐘頭，綁得很緊，可是並不痛。後來，因為緊張經驗的自然反應，他不知不覺地睡著了。睡了有多久他自己也不知道，一直到有人大力把他搖醒。他只覺得有人在鬆綁他。然後被提起來站住，迷迷糊糊地，心裏糊塗，全身乏力。他揉了揉眼睛，發現自己又回到那群可怕的匪黨中間。他們把他推到馬車座上，把韁繩放到他手裏。

‘Hit it out for home, Dutch,’ said Hondo Bill’s voice, commandingly. ‘You’ve given us lots of trouble and we’re pleased to see the back your neck. Spiel! Zwei bier! Vamoose!’

[回家去吧，德國佬，]宏度的聲音命令他說。[你給了我們很多麻煩，我們也樂意看你走路。走吧！]

Hondo reached out and gave Blitzen a smart cut with his quirt.

宏度伸手拿馬鞭給哩兄小巧地鞭了一鞭。

The little mules sprang ahead, glad to be moving again. Fritz urged them along, himself dizzy and muddled over his fearful adventure.

兩匹小騾子一躍向前，能繼續走路真好。肥仔一面催促牠們，自己還爲了可怕的經驗迷迷糊糊，慌慌張張的。

According to schedule time, he should have reached Fredericksburg at daylight. As it was, he drove down the long street of the town at eleven o’clock a.m. He had to pass Peter Hildesmuller’s house on his way to the post office. He stopped his team at the gate and called. But Frau Hildesmuller was watching for him. Out rushed the whole family of Hildesmullers.

按照時間，他應該在日出就到斐德力堡。可是，爲了昨天晚上發生的事，他一直到十一點才駛抵斐德力堡的長街。到郵局之前，他必須經過席彼得家。他把騾車停在席家門口叫門。但是席太太早探頭在那裏等。整個席家都衝了出來。

Frau Hildesmuller, fat and flushed, inquired if he had a letter from Lena, and then Fritz raised his voice and told the tale of his adventure. He told the contents of the letter that the robber had made him read, and then Frau Hildesmuller broke into wild weeping. Her little Lena drown herself! Why had they sent her from home? What could be done? Perhaps it would be too late by the time they could send for her now. Peter Hildesmuller dropped his meerschaum on the walk and it shivered into pieces.

席太太胖胖的，倉倉惶惶地像隻母雞一般，問郵差有沒有麗娜的信，肥仔這時候提起嗓子，開始講述他的不幸遭遇。他把強盜們強迫他唸的信講給她們聽，席太太一聽，大哭起來。她的小麗娜要自己溺死！他們為甚麼要把她送出去工作呢？這可怎麼辦呢？現在要去接她可能太晚了。席彼德的海泡石煙斗摔到走道上，跌了個粉碎。

‘Woman!’ he roared at his wife, ‘why did you let that child go away? It is your fault if she comes home to us no more.’

[女人！]他向他太太吼叫，[你為甚麼讓那個小孩離開家！假如她不再回來的話都是妳的錯。]

Every one knew that it was Peter Hildesmuller’s fault, so they paid no attention to his words.

每個人都知道是席彼得的錯，所以沒人理他。

A moment afterward a strange, faint voice was heard to call: ‘Mamma!’ Frau Hildesmuller at first thought it was Lena’s spirit calling, and then she rushed to the rear of Fritz’s wagon, and, with a loud shriek of joy, caught up Lena herself, covering her pale little face with kisses and smothering her with hugs. Lena’s eyes were heavy with the deep slumber of exhaustion but she smiled and lay close to the one she had longed to see. There among the mail sacks, covered in a nest of strange blankets and comforters, she had lain asleep until wakened by the voices around her.

過了一會兒，有個微弱的聲音在叫：[媽媽！]席太太原先以為是麗娜的鬼魂，接著，她很快跑到肥仔的馬車後面，緊接著，她高興地尖叫了一聲，把麗娜一把抱起來，不住地親吻她，擁抱她，撫摸她。麗娜因為極度疲乏而沉睡之後，眼皮重重的，可是她笑了笑，依偎著她一直想念的人身邊。在那些郵袋之中，蓋著几條毯子和腿蓋子，她一路熟睡著，一直到被周圍的聲音吵醒。

Fritz stared at her with eyes that bulged behind his spectacles.

肥仔戴著眼鏡的兩隻眼睛睜得凸凸地看她。

‘Gott in Himmel!’ he shouted. ‘How did you get in that wagon? Am I going crazy as well as to be murdered and hanged by robbers this day?’

[極樂園的上帝！]他大聲叫。[妳是怎麼進到我的車子裏的？我今天被強盜謀殺吊死還不

算，還要發瘋了不成？]

‘You brought her to us, Fritz,’ cried Frau Hildesmuller. ‘How can we ever thank you enough?’

[你把她帶回來給我們，胖子，]席太太大聲說。[我們要怎麼才能謝謝你呢？]

‘Tell mamma how you came in Fritz’s wagon,’ said Frau Hildesmuller.

[告訴媽媽妳是怎麼進到胖子的馬車，]席太太說。

‘I don’t know,’ said Lena. ‘But I know how I got away from the hotel. The Prince brought me.’

[我不知道，]麗娜說。[可是我知道我怎麼離開旅館的。王子帶我出來的。]

‘By the Emperor’s crown!’ shouted Fritz, ‘we are all going crazy.’

[我的皇帝大老爺！]肥仔叫著，[我們大家都瘋了。]

‘I always knew he would come,’ said Lena, sitting down on her bundle of bedclothes on the sidewalk. ‘Last night he came with his armed knights and captured the ogre’s castle. They broke the dishes and kicked down the doors. They pitched Mr. Maloney into a barrel of rain water and threw flour all over Mrs. Maloney. The workmen in the hotel jumped out of the windows and ran into the woods when the knights began firing their guns. They wakened me up and I peeped down the stair. And then the Prince came up and wrapped me in the bedclothes and carried me out. He was so tall and strong and fine. His face was as rough as a scrubbing brush, and he talked soft and kind and smelled of schnapps. He took me on his horse before him and we rode away among the knights. He held me close and I went to sleep that way, and didn’t wake up till I got home.’

[我一直知道他會來，]麗娜說，坐在走道旁邊一團床單上面。[昨天晚上他和他的鐵甲騎士來占領了魔怪的城堡。他們打破盤子，撞倒了門。他們把馬先生丟進一桶雨水裏面，把馬太太全身洒麵粉。騎士開始射擊的時候，旅館的工人跳窗子逃到樹林裏。他們把我吵醒，我從樓梯往下看。然後王子上來，拿床單把我包住，把我抱出來。他很高，很強壯，長得又好看。他的臉和地板刷一樣粗，講話聲音很和氣，聞起來像杜松子酒。他把我放在馬上坐在他前面，然後騎士們環繞著我們，我們騎馬出來。他把我抱近他，我就那樣睡著了，一直到家才醒來。]

‘Rubbish!’ cried Fritz Bergmann. ‘Fairy tales! How did you come from the quarries to my wagon?’

[胡說！]包肥仔大叫。[童話故事！妳怎麼從石礦場到我的馬車的？]

‘The Prince brought me,’ said Lena, confidently.

[王子把我帶來的，]麗娜自信地說。

And to this day the good people of Fredericksburg haven't been able to make her give any other explanation.

一直到今天，斐德力堡的好老百姓還是沒法子讓她提出其它的解釋。