

(15) THE MISSING CHORD

[十五]無弦琴

I stopped overnight at the sheep-ranch of Rush Kinney, on the Sandy Fork of the Nueces. Mr. Kinney and I had been strangers up to the time when I called 'Hallo!' at his hitching-rack; but from that moment on until my departure on the next morning we were, according to the Texas code, undeniable friends.

有天我在牛爺河平沙渡金儒士的養羊場過夜。直到我走進他牧場，到他的拴馬車欄跟他打招呼之前，我倆是完全陌生；可是我們打從一見面起，直到隔天早晨我離開為止，我們就成了德州典型的莫逆之交。

After supper the ranchman and I lugged our chairs outside the two-room house, to its floorless gallery roofed with chaparral and sacuista grass. With the rear legs of our chairs sinking deep into the hard-packed loam, each of us reposed against an elm pillar of the structure and smoked El Toro tobacco, while we wrangled amicably concerning the affairs of the rest of the world.

晚飯過後，牧人和我各自拖了一把椅子到那兩房的屋子外頭，四周圍是以莢芭樂和晒龜草覆蓋的走廊式的草棚。我倆把椅子後腿牢牢插在堅硬的泥地裏，舒舒服服地靠在棚子的榆樹幹柱子，抽起著名的艾橐羅菸草，一邊閒話別人家的長短。

As for conveying adequate conception of the engaging charm of that prairie evening, despair waits upon it. It is a bold chronicler who will undertake the description of a Texas night in the early spring. An inventory must suffice.

要把草原夜晚的景緻做適當的描述，總是要令人沮喪。敢嚐試敘述德州早春夜晚的人非得是一位大膽的記敘者不能。這是因為清單總得項目足夠才可以。

The ranch rested upon the summit of a lenient slope. The ambient prairie, diversified by arroyos and murky patches of brush and pear, lay around us like a darkened bowl at the bottom of which we reposed as dregs. Like a turquoises cover the sky pinned us there. The miraculous air, heady with ozone and made memorably sweet by leaguers of wild flowerets, gave tang and savor to the breath. In the sky was a great, round, mellow searchlight which we knew to be no moon, but the dark lantern of summer, who came to hunt northward the cowering spring. In the nearest corral a flock of sheep lay silent until a groundless panic would send a squad of them huddling together with a drumming rush. For other sounds a shrill family of coyotes yapped beyond the shearing-pen, and whippoorwills twittered in the long grass. But even these dissonances hardly rippled the clear torrent of the mocking-birds' notes that fell from a dozen neighboring shrubs and trees. It would not have been preposterous for one to tiptoe and essay to touch the stars, they hung so bright and imminent.

牧場座落一緩和山坡之最高點。緊接著四周圍的草原由經年雨水沖刷而成的深溝縱橫交錯著，上面滿佈青一塊，黑一塊的灌木叢和仙人掌叢，這一切圍繞我們有如一個暗色大碗缸

一樣，我們置身其中，又有如塵埃或渣子一般地渺小。覆蓋著這一切的，深海藍色的天空把我們整個籠罩著。帶著奇蹟氣氛的空氣，好像為臭氧壓重了一般，也為了一哩接著一哩的野花瀰漫出令人難以忘懷的濃冽香甜之氣，連一呼一吸都舔得到香味。掛在天上那盞大，圓，而溫合的探照燈，已經不再是我們所熟悉的月娘，而是夏之夜燈，在縮瑟的春季往北來打圍的。最靠近我們的羊棚，那群羊安靜無聲地，突然間，又不知怎得被驚得滿地亂竄，發出咚咚響聲。其餘的嗎，有窩野狗在剪毛棚外嗚嗚地叫，深草間夜鷹靜啼。儘管這些響聲並非和諧，卻擾不亂臨近几處草樹叢裏傳出的摹倣鳥清新地啼唱。在這幅美如仙境之中，假如一個人捏起腳尖，走到山坡邊緣去試圖摘下又亮又看來隨手可取的星星的話，並不是甚麼值得大驚小怪的事。

Mr. Kinney's wife, a young and capable woman, we had left in the house. She remained to busy herself with the domestic round of duties in which I had observed that she seemed to take a buoyant and contented pride. In one room we had supped. Presently, from the other, as Kinney and I sat without, there burst a volume of sudden and brilliant music. If I could justly estimate the art of piano-playing, the construer of that rollicking fantasia had creditably mastered the secrets of the keyboard. A piano, and one so well played, seemed to me to be an unusual thing to find in that small and unpromising ranchhouse. I must have looked my surprise at Rush Kinney, for he laughed in his soft Southern way, and nodded at me through the moonlit haze of our cigarettes.

金君的太太既年輕又賢慧，她自己留在屋裏。金太太自己在屋裏忙著家務事，看起來她快活，滿足而自得。我們在一個房裏吃過飯。從另一個房間，也就是金君和我坐在外頭的，突然間暴出一陣活潑的音樂。假如我對彈鋼琴的藝術能公平地評判的話，那陣珠滾玉盤一般的美妙旋率的創造者必定確實掌握了鍵盤的奧秘。在這麼個不起眼的牧場能有一架鋼琴，尤其能以這麼高的造詣彈奏出來，似乎很不尋常。我的驚訝形容必定給金君看到了，他以男方典型地溫和一笑，隔著月光照亮的菸霧跟我點了點頭。

'You don't often hear as agreeable a noise as that on a sheep-ranch,' he remarked; 'but I never see any reason for not playing up to the arts and graces just because we happen to live out in the brush. It's a lonesome life for a woman; and if a little music can make it any better, why not have it? That's the way I look at it.'

[你在牧羊場不常聽到如此悅耳的聲音，]他說，[可是我看不出任何理由只是因為我們住在草原，就不把琴彈得藝術而高雅。這地方對一個女人來說甚為寂寞；假如來點音樂能使情況好些，我看不出為甚麼不呢？]

'A wise and generous theory,' I assented. 'And Mrs. Kinney plays well. I am not learned in the science of music, but I should call her an uncommonly good performer. She has technic and more than ordinary power.'

[既智慧又大方的理論，]我贊同地說。[金太太彈得很好。我雖然在音樂方面外行，可是我必須說她是個傑出的彈奏者。她有技巧，而且功力不凡。]

The moon was very bright, you will understand, and I saw upon Kinney's face a sort of amused

and pregnant expression, as though there were things behind it that might be expounded.

月光極明亮，你將會了解，我也從金君臉上看出一種好笑而蘊味著甚麼的表情，好比在這件事情後面，有甚麼值得解釋的。

‘You came up the trail from the Double-Elm Fork,’ he said, promisingly. ‘As you crossed it you must have seen an old deserted jacal to your left under a comma mott.’

[你從雙橡樹交叉口沿這條小路上來的時候，]他說，要解答我的疑團。[當你通過交叉口的時候，你一定在左手邊一叢靠馬樹下看到一座為人丟棄了的老舊小木屋。]

‘I did,’ said I. ‘There was a drove of invalis rooting around it. I could see by the broken corrals that no one lived there.’

[我看到了，]我說。[一群野兔子在四周鑽洞築巢。由破敗的馬圈可以看出沒人在住。]

‘That’s where this music proposition started,’ said Kinney. ‘I don’t mind telling you about it while we smoke. That’s where old Cal Adams lived. He had about eight hundred graded merinos and a daughter that was solid silk and as handsome as a new stake-rope on a thirty-dollar pony. And I don’t mind telling you that I was guilty in the second degree of hanging around old Cal’s ranch all the time I could spare away from lambing and shearing. Miss Marilla was her name; and I had figured it out by the rule of two that she was destined to become the chatelaine and lady superior of Rancho Lomito, belonging to R. Kinney, Esq., where you are now a welcome and honored guest.’

[這樁音樂的故事就是從那裏起頭的。]金君說。[我們一邊抽菸，我不妨告訴你。老艾卡爾以前住在那地方。他擁有八百頭上等的美玲瓏羊，還有一個女兒，那可是札札實實錦帛一般的人物，俏麗得好比三十塊錢身價的小馬所戴的嶄新繫馬繩。我也不妨告訴你，我犯了二級逃亡罪，也就是只要趕綿羊剪羊毛一得空，我就在老卡爾住的地方窮泡。她名叫馬麗亞小姐，我也拿一加一等於二的簡單道理，推算出有朝一日她將成為羅米托牧場的女堡主和壓寨夫人，這地方由金某大人所擁有，也就是你現在大駕光臨的地方。]

‘I will say that old Cal wasn’t distinguished as a sheepman. He was a little, old stoop-shouldered hombre about as big as a gun scabbard, with scraggy white whiskers, and condemned to the continuous use of language. Old Cal was so obscure in his chosen profession that he wasn’t even hated by the cowmen. And when a sheepman don’t get eminent enough to acquire the hostility of the cattlemen, he is mighty apt to die unwept and considerably unsung.’

[我說嘛，老卡爾身為牧羊人並不很傑出。他個子小小的，肩膀下垂，身裁比一把槍托大不了多少，稀稀疏疏的白鬍鬚，總是嘮嘮叨叨個不停。老卡爾在選就的職業上默默無聞，連牧牛人都不恨他。假如一個牧羊人連一點名氣都沒有，不為牧牛人所敵視，大概死的時候也沒人會替他哭泣或讚頌。]

‘But that Marilla girl was a benefit to the eye. And she was the most elegant kind of a

housekeeper. I was the nearest neighbour, and I used to ride over to the Double-Elm anywhere from nine to sixteen times a week with fresh butter or a quarter of venison or a sample of new sheep-dip just as a frivolous excuse to see Marilla. Marilla and me got to be extensively inveigled with each other, and I was pretty sure I was going to get my rope around her neck and lead her over to the Lomito. Only she was so everlastingly permeated with filial sentiments toward old Cal that I never could get her to talk about serious matters.

[可是那馬麗亞女孩真是好看。她也是最巧於家事的。我是他們家最近的鄰居，我以前每星期到雙橡牧場十來次，每次總是拿些新鮮奶油，鹿肉，或拌羊肉吃的沾醬甚麼的，只是胡亂找個借口去看馬麗亞。馬麗亞和我變得極為投契，我也覺得我能把圈套套在她頸子上，領她到羅米托牧場。只是她始終是對老卡爾這麼地孝順，我一直沒有辦法和她談正經的事。

‘You never saw anybody in your life that was as full of knowledge and had less sense than old Cal. He was advised about all the branches of information contained in learning, and he was up to all the rudiments of doctrines and enlightenment. You couldn’t advance him any ideas on any of the parts of speech or lines of thought. You would have thought he was a professor of the weather and politics and chemistry and natural history and the origin of derivations. Any subject you brought up old Cal could give you an abundant synopsis of it from the Greek root up to the time it was sacked and on the market.

[不可能再找一個像老卡爾一般有知識的，也找不到一個像他那樣不通的。天下間所有學問的各項枝節他都老到，所有教誨啓示所包涵的教規，他也無所不聞。不論是甚麼樣的文法，任何型式的思維，都沒有辦法進攻他半點。你還以為他是氣象學教授，或者政治，化學，自然歷史，或者探索進化根源之學。你只要一談到一個話題，老卡爾馬上從希臘字根開始到它被包裝起來要拿到市場去賣為止，攏攏總總地給你做一個全盤地概述，蓋得人是醍醐灌頂，口沫橫飛。

‘One day just after the fall shearing I rides over to the Double-elm with a lady’s magazine about fashions for Marilla and a scientific paper for old Cal.

[一年秋天剪羊毛季節剛過，我來到雙橡牧場，帶了一本女性介紹時裝的雜誌要給馬麗亞，一篇科學文章要給老卡爾的。

‘While I was tying my pony to a mesquite, out run Marrilla, ‘tickled to death’ with some news that couldn’t wait.

[我還在拴我的馬還沒拴好，馬麗亞就跑了出來，爲了甚麼等不得要馬上告訴我的新聞，<雀躍得了不得。>

“‘Oh, Rush,” she says, all flushed up with esteem and gratification, “what do you think! Dad’s going to buy me a piano. Ain’t it grand? I never dreamed I’d eve have one.”

[<噢，儒士，>她說，為尊敬和感謝漲得滿臉通紅，<你猜甚麼事！爹要給我買一架鋼琴。不是很棒嗎？我從沒想到我會有一架鋼琴。>

“It’s sure joyful,” says I. “I always admired the agreeable uproar of a piano. It’ll be lots of company for you. That’s might good of Uncle Cal to do that.”

[<真是歡樂的事，>我說。<我一直欣賞鋼琴的悅人響聲。對妳來說可是很好的伴侶。卡爾叔叔這麼做真好。>

“I’m all undecided,” says Marilla, “between a piano and a organ. A parlor organ is nice.”

[<我不知道那一個比較好，>馬麗亞說，<風琴還是鋼琴。一架放在廊上的風琴很好。>

“Either of ‘em,” says I, “is first-class for mitigating the lack of noise around a sheep-ranch. For my part,” I says, “I shouldn’t like anything better than to ride home of an evening and listen to a few waltzes and jigs, with somebody about your size sitting on the piano-stool and rounding up the notes.”

[<它們之中任何一個，>我說，<要來抵消牧羊場的寂靜都是一流的。我嘛，>我說，<晚上回到家裏，能聽几曲華爾茲或吉格舞，有個像妳這般大小的人坐在琴椅上，趕著音符好像趕羊圈裏的羊一樣，最愜意不過。>

“Oh, hush about that,” says Marilla, “and go on in the house. Dad hasn’t rode out to-day. He’s not feeling well.”

[<你少囉那個唆，>馬麗亞說，<進屋裏去吧。爹今天沒出去。他有點不舒服。>

“Old Cal was inside, lying on a cot. He had a pretty bad cold and cough. I stayed to supper.

[<老卡爾在屋裏，躺在一張小床上。他感冒得厲害，而且咳嗽。我留下來吃晚飯。>

“Going to get Marilla a piano, I hear,” says I to him.

[<要給馬麗亞買架鋼琴，我聽說，>我跟他說。>

“Why, yes, something of the kind, Rush,” says he. “She’s been hankering for music for a long spell; and I allow to fix her up with something in that line right away. The sheep sheared six pounds all round this fall; and I’m going to get Marilla an instrument if it takes the price of the whole clip to do it.”

[<哦，是的，有這麼回事，儒士，>他說。<她渴望音樂很久了；我馬上可以在這方面供給她。今年秋每頭羊剪得六磅羊毛；即使要花掉今年這季的所有羊毛賣的錢來給她買個甚麼樂器的話，我也要買來給她。>

“Star wayno,” says I. “The little girl deserves it.”

[<妙極了，>我說。<這女孩值得你這麼做。>

“I’m going to San Antone on the last load of wool,” says Uncle Cal, “and select an instrument for her myself.”

[<我要跟著最後一趟載羊毛的貨車一起到聖安東尼，>卡爾叔叔說，<親自替她選一件樂器。>

“Wouldn’t it be better,” I suggest, “to take Marilla along and let her pick out one that she likes?”

[<帶馬麗亞一起去，>我建議，<讓她自己挑一件她喜歡的不是更好嗎？>

‘I might have known that would set Uncle Cal going. Of course, a man like him, that knew everything about everything, would look at that as a reflection on his attainments.

[我早該知道這一說會激得卡爾叔叔講個不停。當然，一個像他這樣的人，一個無論甚麼都博士博通的人，這個建議無異是在侮辱他。

“No, sir, it wouldn’t,” says he, pulling at his white whiskers. “There ain’t a better judge of musical instruments in the whole world than what I am. I had an uncle,” says he, “that was a partner in a piano-factory, and I’ve seen thousands of ‘em put together. I know all about musical instruments from a pipe-organ to a corn-stalk fiddle. There ain’t a man lives, sir, that can tell me any news about any instrument that has to be pounded, blowed, scraped, grinded, picked, or wound with a key.”

[<不，先生，不會的，>他說，一邊捻他的白鬍鬚。<全世界沒有一個比我還會研判樂器的。我有一個叔叔，>他說，<是一位鋼琴製造廠的合夥人，我看過成千的鋼琴被組裝起來。我對樂器是瞭若指掌，從風琴到玉米桿做成的小提琴。這世間還沒有一個活著的，能告訴我任何有關樂器的事，不論是敲的，吹的，刮的，磨的，彈的，或者拿彈簧鑰匙轉的。>

“You get me what you like, dad,” says Marilla, who couldn’t keep her feet on the floor from joy. “Of course you know what to select. I’d just as lief it was a piano or a organ or what.”

[<你要給我甚麼就給我甚麼，爹，>馬麗亞說，她高興得兩腳停不得地板上。<當然你知道怎麼選擇。不論是鋼琴，風琴，或者甚麼，對我都一樣好。>

“I see in St. Louis once what they call a orchestrion,” says Uncle Cal, “that I judged was about the finest thing in the way of music ever invented. But there ain’t room in this house for one. Anyway, I imagine they’d cost a thousand dollars. I reckon something in the piano line would suit Marilla the best. She took lessons in that respect for two years over at Birdstail. I wouldn’t trust the buying of an instrument to anybody else but myself. I reckon if I hadn’t took up sheep-raising

I'd have been one of the finest composers or piano-and-organ manufacturers in the world.”

[<我在聖路易士看到一種他們稱為交響演奏機的，>卡爾叔叔說，<我認為那是樂器的發明之中最好的。但是這屋子沒地方放。不論如何，那東西得一千塊錢。鋼琴或風琴之類的最適合馬麗亞。她在烏尾鎮學過兩年鋼琴。買樂器這件事我除了自己之外不會信任任何人。假如我不是幹養羊這行的話，我早成了一個世界上最好的音樂家或者鋼琴和風琴的製造者。>

‘That was Uncle Cal’s style. But I never lost any patience with him, on account of his thing so much of Marilla. And she thought just as much of him. He sent her to the academy over at Birdstail for two years when it took nearly every pound of wool to pay the expenses.

[這就是卡爾叔叔的做風。但是我從不對他失去耐性，為的是他這麼關心馬麗亞，馬麗亞也這麼關心他。他把她送到烏尾鎮去上兩年的專科學校，几乎花掉他每一磅羊毛所賣的錢。

‘Along about Tuesday Uncle Cal put out for San Antone on the last wagon-load of wool. Marilla’s Uncle Ben, who lived in Birdstail, come over and stayed at the ranch while Uncle Cal was gone.

[星期二的時候，卡爾叔叔跟著最後一趟送羊毛的馬車去聖安東尼。馬麗亞住在烏尾鎮的班叔叔到農場來，替卡爾叔叔照看。

‘It was ninety miles to San Antone, and forty to the nearest railroad-station, so Uncle Cal was gone about four days. I was over at the Double-elm when he came rolling back one evening about sundown. And up there in the wagon, sure enough, was a piano or a organ -- we couldn’t tell which -- all wrapped up in wool-sacks, with a wagon-sheet tied over it in case of rain. And out skips Marilla, hollering, “Oh, oh!” with her eyes shining and her hair a-flying. “Dad -- dad,” she sings out, “have you brought it -- have you brought it?” -- and it right there before her eyes, as women will do.

[聖安東尼有九十哩，到最近的火車站要四十哩，卡爾叔叔於是要離開四天。他乘馬車搖擺擺地回來的那個傍晚，我正好在雙榆樹牧場。在馬車上，果然沒錯，有一架鋼琴還是風琴--我們也看不出來--牢牢實實地拿羊毛袋包得好好的，為怕下雨，外面還綁了一張馬車用的防雨布。馬麗亞從屋裏蹦了出來，<哇，哇！>地叫，兩眼閃亮著，頭髮從沒機會降落下來。<爹--爹，>她好比唱歌一般跟他高聲說，<你帶回來了嗎--你帶回來了嗎？>--其實它一直就擺在那裏，難道真的沒長眼睛，女人就是這樣子。

“Finest piano in San Antone,” says Uncle Cal, waving his hand, proud. “Genuine rosewood, and the finest, loudest tone you ever listened to. I heard the storekeeper play it, and I took it on the spot and paid cash down.”

[<聖安東尼最好的一臺鋼琴，>卡爾叔叔說，一邊擺手，很得意的樣子。<道地的玫瑰紅木

，最好，最響亮的音調，再也找不到的。我聽店員彈了一彈，當場就付現款。>

‘Me and Ben and Uncle Cal and a Mexican lifted it out of the wagon and carried it in the house and set it in a corner. It was one of them upright instruments, and not very heavy or very big.

[我和班叔叔和卡爾叔叔，和一個墨西哥把它從馬車上抬到屋裏放在一個角落。那是一架那種直立式的琴，不怎麼重，也不怎麼大。]

‘And then all of a sudden Uncle Cal flops over and says he’s might sick. He’s got a high fever, and he complains of his lungs. He gets into bed, while me and Ben goes out to unhitch and put the horses in the pasture, and Marilla flies around to get Uncle Cal something hot to drink. But first she puts both arms on that piano and hugs it with a soft kind of smile, like you see kids doing with their Christmas toys.

[然後，突然卡爾叔叔栽倒下來，他說他病得很厲害，而且說他肺痛。他上了床，我和班叔叔到外面把馬匹解開，放出去吃草，馬麗亞飛快地拿點熱的給卡爾叔叔喝。可是呢，她先抱了鋼琴一下，微微笑了一下，就像小孩拿到耶誕節的玩具一樣。]

‘When I came in from the pasture, Marrilla was in the room where the piano was. I could see by the strings and wool-sacks on the floor that she had had it unwrapped. But now she was tying the wagon-sheet over it again, and there was a kind of solemn, whitish look on her face.

[我把馬匹放到草場吃草回到屋裏，馬麗亞在放鋼琴的那個房裏。繩索和羊毛袋散落地下，顯然馬麗亞已經把琴打開了。現在她把防雨布綁回去，表情嚴肅，而且臉色有點慘白。]

“Ain’t wrapping up the music again, are you, Marilla?” I asks. “What’s the matter with just a couple of tunes for to see how she goes under the saddle?”

[<不會是要把音樂又停擺一次了吧，馬麗亞？>我問。<給它彈上兩首曲子，看看它到底馴服不馴服，順手不順手，難道有甚麼不對嗎？>

“Not to-night, Rush,” says she. “I don’t want to play any to-night. Dad’s too sick. Just think, Rush, he paid three hundred dollars for it -- nearly a third of what the wool-clip brought!”

[今晚不行，儒士，]她說。[我今晚不要彈。爹病得太重了。你想，儒士，他花了三百塊錢買這架琴--几乎是整季剪下的羊毛的收入的三分之一！>

“Well, it ain’t anyways in the neighborhood of a third of what you are worth,” I told her. “And I don’t think Uncle Cal is too sick to hear a little agitation of the piano-keys just to christen the machine.”

[<比起妳的價值的三分之一還差得遠，>我跟她說。<而且依我看，卡爾叔叔雖然有病，並

不會在意你給那鍵盤敲兩下子，就當給那架琴開張洗禮。>

“Not to-night, Rush,” says Marilla, in a way that she had when she wanted to settle things.

[<今晚不，儒士，>馬麗亞說，她意志已定的時候就這樣子說話。

‘But it seems that Uncle Cal was plenty sick, after all. He got so bad that Ben saddled up and rode over to Bridstail for Doc Simpson. I stayed around to see if I’d be needed for anything.

[看起來卡爾叔叔的病確實很重。班叔叔於是整理馬鞍，上了馬騎到烏尾鎮去找辛大夫。我則留下來看有甚麼須要照料的。

‘When Uncle Cal’s pain let up on him a little he called Marilla and says to her: “Did you look at your instrument, honey? And do you like it?”

[卡爾叔叔不那麼疼的時候，他把馬麗亞叫來跟她說：<妳看了妳的琴了嗎，甜蜜？妳喜歡嗎？>

“It’s lovely, dad,” says she, leaning down by his pillow; “I never saw one so pretty. How dear and good it was of you to buy it for me!”

[<真可愛，爹，>她說，一邊把頭擺在他的枕上；<我從來沒看過這麼漂亮的琴。你買這架琴給我真是太好，太棒了！>

“I haven’t hear you play on it any yet,” says Uncle Cal; “and I’ve been listening. My side don’t hurt quite so bad now -- won’t you play a piece, Marilla?”

[<我還沒聽妳彈呢，>卡爾叔叔說；<我一直聽著。我的胸不再那麼痛了--彈一首好嗎，馬麗亞？>

‘But no; she puts Uncle Cal off and soothes him down like you’ve seen women to with a kid. It seems she’s made up her mind not to touch that piano at present.

[但是她不；她把卡爾叔輕輕放下，就像女人輕輕哄小孩睡覺一樣。看起來她暫時堅決不去碰那架鋼琴的樣子。

‘When Doc Simpson comes over he tells us that Uncle Cal has pneumonia the worst kind; and as the old man was past sixty and nearly on the lift anyhow, the odds was against his walking on grass any more.

[辛大夫來看過之後告訴我們卡爾叔叔得的是最惡性肺炎；因為年過六旬，反正快飛昇了，看起來是好不了了。

'On the fourth day of his sickness he calls for Marilla again and wants to talk piano. Doc Simpson was there, and so was Ben and Mrs. Ben, trying to do all they could.

[在他生病的第四天，他又叫馬麗亞彈鋼琴。辛大夫也在那裏，還有班叔叔，班嬸嬸，都在那裏幫忙。

"I'd have made a wonderful success in anything connected with music," says Uncle Cal. "I got the finest instrument for the money in San Antone. Ain't that piano all right in every respect, Marilla?"

[<假如我的事業是音樂的話，我會非常成功，>卡爾叔叔說。<我在聖安東尼買到這架那筆錢買得到的最好的琴。那架鋼琴在每一方面都不錯嗎，馬麗亞？>

"It's just perfect, dad," says Mamilla. "It's got the finest tone I ever heard. But don't you think you could sleep a little now, dad?"

[<真是十全十美，爹，>馬麗亞說。<聲音是我聽過最美妙的。您不是可以睡一下了嗎，爹？>

"No, I don't," says Uncle Cal. "I want to hear that piano. I don't believe you've even tried it yet. I went all the way to San Antone and picked it out for you myself. It took a third of the fall clip to buy it; but I don't mind that if it makes any good girl happier. Won't you play a ;little bit for dad, Marilla?"

[<不，我不能，>卡爾叔叔說。<我要聽你彈那鋼琴。我不相信你試過了。我親自到聖安東尼去給你選這架琴。花了秋季所剪的羊毛的三分之一的價錢；可是我不介意，只要讓一位好女孩快樂。給爹彈一點點好不好，馬麗亞？>

'Doc Simpson beckoned Marilla to one side and recommended her to do what Uncle Cal wanted, so it would get him quieted. And her Uncle Ben and his wife asked her, too.

[辛大夫擺手叫馬麗亞到一邊，建議她照卡爾叔叔的要求去做，好讓他靜下來。班叔叔和班嬸嬸也這麼要求她。

"Why not hit out a tune or two with the soft pedal on?" I asks Marilla. "Uncle Cal has begged you so often. It would please him a good deal to hear you touch up the piano he's bought for you. Don't you think you might?"

[<把緩音踏板踩住彈一首不是很好嗎？>我問馬麗亞。<卡爾叔求妳好多次了。聽妳彈他為妳買的琴會讓他大大地高興。妳難道不是可以這麼做嗎？>

'But Marilla stands there with big tears rolling down from her eyes and says nothing. And then she runs over and slips her arm under Uncle Cal's neck and hugs him tight.

[可是馬麗亞靜悄悄站在那裏，大大的眼淚從眼睛滾了下來。然後，她跑過去把手臂繞過卡爾叔叔的頸子下面緊緊抱住他。

“Why, last night, dad,” we heard her say, “I played ever so much. Honest -- I have been playing it. And it’s such a splendid instrument, you don’t know how I love it. Last night I played “Bonnie Dundee” and the “Anvil Polka” and the “Blue Danube” -- and lots of pieces. You must surely have heard me playing a little, didn’t you, dad? I didn’t like to play loud when you was so” sick.”

[<有哇，昨天晚上，爹，>我們聽見她說，<我彈了又彈。真的--我彈了。那架鋼琴真棒，你不知道我有多喜歡它。昨天夜裏我彈<美麗丹迪>還有<快樂的鐵匠>還有<藍色多瑙河>--還有很多其它的曲子。你一定聽到我彈了，不是嗎，爹？你病得這麼重，我不喜歡彈得太大聲。>

“Well, well,” says Uncle Cal, “maybe I did. Maybe I did and forgot about it. My head is a little cranky at times. I heard the man in the store play it fine. I’m mighty glad you like it, Marilla. Yes, I believe I could go to sleep a while if you’ll stay right beside me till I do.”

[<這個，這個，>卡爾叔叔說，<也許我聽到了。也許我聽到了忘了。我的頭有時候有點怪怪的。我在店裏聽那個人彈得蠻好。我很高興你喜歡，馬麗亞。是的，我想我可以睡一下子，假如你在這裏陪我一下，等我睡著。>

‘There was where Marilla had me guessing. Much as she thought of that old man, she wouldn’t strike a note on that piano that he’d bought her. I couldn’t imagine why she told him she’d been playing it, for the wagon-sheet hadn’t even been off of it since she put it back on the same day it come. I knew she could play a little anyhow, for I’d once heard her snatch some pretty fair dance-music out of an old piano at the Charco Largo Ranch.

[我就是那時候開始不知道馬麗亞在壺裏賣甚麼藥。不論她怎麼喜歡老爹，她就是連碰都不碰一下那架鋼琴。我不知道她爲甚麼告訴他她已經彈過，因爲那張防水布在琴買回來那天，被她重綁回去之後，就一直沒解開過。我知道她懂得怎麼彈，因爲在長木牧場，我就聽她彈一架老鋼琴，几首跳舞的曲子彈得還不錯。

‘Well, in about a week the pneumonia got the best of Uncle Cal. They had the funeral over at Birdstail, and all of us went over. I brought Marilla back home in my buckboard. Her Uncle Ben and his wife were going to stay there a few days with her.

[就這樣，大概一星期左右，肺炎把卡爾叔叔給結束掉了。葬禮在烏尾鎮舉行，我們都去了。我用我的平板馬車載馬麗亞回來。她的班叔叔和班嬋嬋要和她同住几天。

‘That night Marilla takes me in the room where the piano was, while the others were out on the gallery.

[那天晚上，馬麗亞帶我到放鋼琴的那個房裏，其他人都在外面走廊上。

“Come here, Rush,” says she; “I want you to see this now.”

[<來這裏，儒士，>她說；<我現在要你看這個。>

‘She unties the rope, and drags off the wagon-sheet.

[她解開繩索，把防水布拿掉。

‘If you ever rode a saddle without a horse, or fired off a gun that wasn’t loaded, or took a drink out of an empty bottle, why, then you might have been able to scare an opera or two out of the instrument Uncle Cal had bought.

[假如你能騎沒馬的馬鞍，能放沒放子彈的空槍，或者從空瓶子能喝得酒的話，也許你能從卡爾叔叔買的琴抖出一，兩齣歌劇來。

‘Instead of a piano, it was one of them machines they’ve invented to play the piano with. By itself it was about as musical as the holes of a flute without the flute.

[跟本不是架鋼琴，是一架人家發明來彈鋼琴的一種機器。單獨存在的時候，它是發不出音樂的，就好比笛子只有笛孔，沒有笛身一樣。

‘And that was the piano that Uncle Cal had selected; and standing by it was the good, fine, all-wool girl that never let him know it.

[那就是卡爾叔叔選中的鋼琴，站在琴旁是那個好心，美麗，貨真價實的女孩，沒有走露一點風聲給他。

‘And what you heard playing a while ago,’ concluded Mr. Kinney, ‘was that same deputy-piano machine; only just at present it’s shoved up against a six-hundred piano that I bought for Marilla as soon as we was married.’

[你剛才聽到的呢，]金先生繼續說，[就是那架副警長鋼琴；只是現在他被推到一架六百塊錢買來的鋼琴旁邊，那是我和馬麗亞一結婚就買給她的。]