

台港及海外中文报刊资料专辑

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1986

英 语 学 习

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本专辑的编印,旨在为研究工作提供参考,限于内部发行。请各订阅单位和个人妥善管理,慎勿丢失。

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世界短篇小說精選

Great Short Stories of the World

THE NECKLACE

項鍊 (上)

(Part 1)

法國名小說家莫泊桑生於西元一八五〇年，他不僅是位文藝家，也擅長於小說形式的創造。他還是一流的現代小說大師，不斷追求短篇小說的改進，而自創風格。

「項鍊」被視為莫泊桑極為膾炙人口的上乘之作，雖然充滿了技巧，還在末尾作了戲劇性的結局，實則，莫泊桑旨在描寫女主角的悲劇性格和命運，正足以說明莫泊桑對人性與人生的透徹了解。

莫泊桑

Guy De Maupassant



She was one of those pretty and charming girls who are sometimes, as if by a mistake of destiny, born in a family of clerks. She had no dowry, no expectations, no means of being known, understood, loved, wedded, by any rich and distinguished man; and she let herself be married to a little clerk at the Ministry of Public Instruction.

She dressed plainly because she could not dress well, but she was as unhappy as though she had really fallen from her proper station; since with women there is neither caste nor rank; and beauty, grace, and charm act instead of family and birth. Natural fineness, instinct for what is elegant, suppleness* of wit, are the sole hierarchy*, and make from women of the people the equals of the very greatest ladies.

She suffered ceaselessly, feeling herself born for all the delicacies* and all the luxuries. She suffered from the poverty of her dwelling, from the wretched* look of the walls, from the worn-out chairs, from the ugliness of the curtains. All those things, of which another woman of her rank would never even have been conscious, tortured her and made her angry. The

sight of the little Breton** peasant who did her humble housework aroused in her regrets which were despairing, and distracted* dreams. She thought of the silent ante-chambers hung with Oriental tapestry, lit by tall bronze candelabra, and of the two great footmen in knee-breeches who sleep in the big armchairs, made drowsy by the heavy warmth of the hot-air stove. She thought of the long salons fitted up with ancient silk, of the delicate furniture carrying priceless curiosities, and of the coquettish* perfumed boudoirs made for talks at five o'clock with intimate friends, with men famous and sought after, whom all women envy and whose attention they all desire.

When she sat down to dinner, before the round table covered with a table-cloth three days old, opposite her husband, who uncovered the soup tureen and declared, "Ah, the good pot-au-feu! I don't know anything better than that," she thought of dainty dinners, of shining silverware, of tapestry which peopled** the walls with ancient personages and with strange birds flying in the midst of a fairy forest; and

she thought of delicious dishes served on marvelous plates, and of the whispered gallantries* which you listen to with a sphinx**-like smile, while you are eating the pink flesh of a trout or the wings of a quail.

She had no dresses, no jewels, nothing. And she loved nothing but that; she felt made for that. She would so have liked to please, to be envied, to be charming, to be sought after.

She had a friend, a former schoolmate at the convent*, who was rich, and whom she did not like to go and see any more, because she suffered so much when she came back.

But, one evening, her husband returned home with a triumphant air, and holding a large envelope in his hand.

"There," said he, "here is something for you."

She tore the paper sharply, and drew out a printed card which bore these words:

"The Minister of Public Instruction and Mme. Georges Ramponneau request the honor of M. and Mme. Loisel's company at the palace of the Ministry on Monday evening, January 18th."

Instead of being delighted, as her husband hoped, she threw the invitation on the table with disdain*, murmuring:

"What do you want me to do with that?"

"But, my dear, I thought you would be glad. You never go out, and this is such a fine opportunity. I had awful trouble to get it. Every one wants to go; it is very select, and they are not giving many invitations to clerks. The whole official world will be there."

She looked at him with an irritated eye, and she said, impatiently:

"And what do you want me to put on my back?"

He had not thought of that; he stammered*:

"Why, the dress you go to the theater in. It looks very well, to me."

He stopped, distracted, seeing that his wife was crying. Two great tears descended slowly from the corners of her eyes towards the corners of her mouth. He stuttered*:

"What's the matter? What's the matter?"

But, by a violent effort, she

had conquered her grief, and she replied, with a calm voice, while she wiped her wet cheeks:

"Nothing. Only I have no dress, and therefore I can't go to this ball**. Give your card to some colleague whose wife is better equipped than I."

He was in despair. He resumed:

"Come, let us see, Mathilde. How much would it cost, a suitable dress, which you could use on other occasions, something very simple?"

She reflected several seconds, making her calculations and wondering also what sum she could ask without drawing on herself an immediate refusal and a frightened exclamation from the economical clerk.

Finally, she replied, hesitatingly:

"I don't know exactly, but I think I could manage it with four hundred francs."

He had grown a little pale, because he was laying aside** just that amount to buy a gun and treat himself to a little shooting next summer on the plain of Nanterre, with several friends who went to shoot larks down there, of a Sunday.

But he said:

"All right. I will give you four hundred francs. And try to have a pretty dress."

☞重要字彙*

1. convent (n) (特指女) 修道院
2. coquettish (a) 賣弄風情的
3. delicacy (n) 優美
4. disdain (n) & (v) 鄙視
5. distracted (a) 曲扭的
6. enchanted (a) 迷惑人的
7. gallantry (n) 獻殷勤
8. hierarchy (n) 階級組織
9. stammer (v) 口吃
10. stutter (v) 口吃
11. suppleness (n) 柔軟
12. triumphant (a) 得意洋洋的, 勝利的
13. wretched (a) 惡劣的

☞ANNOTATION**

A1. ball:

原本作“球類”解,這裡作事先安排好並常附有特別餘興節目之宴會。

A2. Breton:

源自 Brittany (不列塔尼, 法國西北部的一個地區), Breton 指的是 Brittany 人。

A3. to lay aside:

也作「擱置一旁」解釋,不過這裡當「儲蓄」之意。

A4. people (v):

當動詞,有生長、供以人民之意;這裡與 with 連用,作「充滿」講。

A5. sphinx:

埃及的人面獅身像;在希臘神話中,獅身人面,還有翅膀的一種怪物。

The Necklace (I)

項鍊(上)

她屬於那種漂亮迷人的女孩，彷彿命運乖桀，她生於一個普通職員的家庭。沒有嫁粧、沒有遺產、沒有辦法認識富有而優秀的男子，讓他來了解她、愛她，並且娶她為妻。於是她便嫁給內政部的一名小職員。

她穿著樸素，因為她無法穿著考究。這好像讓她從她自己該處的位置上掉下來般的難受，因為與她同儕的婦女們無所謂地位、階級之分；而是以美貌、優雅、迷人的美姿來取代家庭與出生背景。天生麗質、對美的直覺、蘭心蕙質就是唯一的階級層次，讓女人得以晉身為淑女。

她飽受煎熬，始終認為自己該是為榮華富貴而生。她得忍受自己家的寒儉、斑駁的牆壁、破爛的椅子、醜陋的窗簾；這種種，在她那個階層的女人們毫不以為意，却常折騰她、令她生氣，一名不列塔層農婦操勞低賤家事的景象，引起她失望與曲扭夢幻的懊悔。她幻想安靜的前廳裡掛著東方地毯，高聳的枝狀銅製大燭台燭光閃爍，還有兩個高大侍者，穿著長及膝蓋的短袴，睡在大張的安樂椅裡，爐火熊熊，使他們昏昏欲睡。她幻想裝飾著古絲綢的長形客廳，優美精緻的家具配飾著號價的古董。她更幻想著傍晚五點在她那花俏的香閣裡，同她的密友與男子們談天。這些男子均是名人，同時也是女子們尋求艷羨的對象。每個女子都希望引起這些男子的注意。

當她坐下來晚餐，在她面前的是張圓桌，上面蓋著張三天沒洗的桌巾。丈夫坐在她對面掀開湯碗的蓋子，用一種愉悅的態度嘆道：「哈！好湯，沒比這更好的了！」，她想的却是優美的晚餐：耀眼的銀器、牆上掛滿古代知名人物和珍禽飛翔於仙林裡的壁毯。她還想著盛在貴重盤子裡的可口食物，並且面帶人面獅身的微笑聆聽著一邊傳來獻殷勤的耳語，然後再一邊吃著鮮美的粉紅鱒魚或鵝鶩的翅膀。

她沒有衣服、沒有珠寶，什麼都沒有。然而除了這些，她什麼都不愛；她覺得上帝創造她，就是為了那些東西。有了那些，她將被眾人羨慕，變得迷人而被追求，如此一來，她會快樂些。

她有個住在修道裡的老同學，很有錢，她不想再去找對方了，因為每當她回來後，總感覺很痛苦。

但是，有天傍晚，她的丈夫回到家，手裡拿著一個大信封，得意洋洋地：「給妳的！」他說。

妳急急打開，拿出一張印刷卡片，上面寫著：「內政部長和喬治·倫波露夫人敬邀露易莎夫婦賢伉儷，於一月十八日（星期一）傍晚蒞臨內政部大廳晚宴。」

出乎她丈夫意料之外，她並不開心，她輕蔑地將邀請卡扔到桌上，喃喃地說道：「你要我怎麼辦？」

「但是……親愛的，我以為你會很開心。妳不會外出，這是難得的機會，我費了九牛二虎之力才拿到手。每個人都想去，這還是經過挑選的，他們並沒邀請很多職員。所有的官員都會出席的。」

她憤怒地盯著他，不耐煩地說道：「你要我穿什麼亮相？」

他沒想到這點，結結巴巴地回答：「為什麼？就穿那件妳穿去劇院的，它很合我的口味呀！」他頓住了，茫然不知所措的太太為何了。兩顆斗大的淚珠緩緩地從她的眼角掉落到唇角。

他口吃地直問：「怎麼啦？怎麼啦？」

一般強烈的力量讓她抑制住悲傷，當她抹乾濕濡的雙頰，以平靜的聲音答道：「沒什麼！只因沒有衣服穿，我無法參加。要嘛，你把邀請卡給那些行頭比我齊全的同事太太。」

他失望地繼續說：「我們想想辦法吧，

一件得體的衣服，在其他場合也可以穿，而且式樣簡單的要花多少錢？」

她想了幾秒鐘，盤算著怎樣的數目不會馬上遭到拒絕，而且不會激起她那節儉的丈夫的驚叫。

最後，她嚙嚙地說道：「我也不能確定，但我想四百法郎夠了。」

他變得有些蒼白，因為他剛存夠了這筆數目要買枝槍，以便參加明年夏天在蘭特瑞平原的小型射擊賽，同去的有幾個朋友，他們要在某個週日去那兒射殺電鰻。

但他回答：「好吧！我會給妳四百法郎，去買件漂亮的衣服吧！」

世界短篇小說精選

Great Short Stories of the World

THE NECKLACE

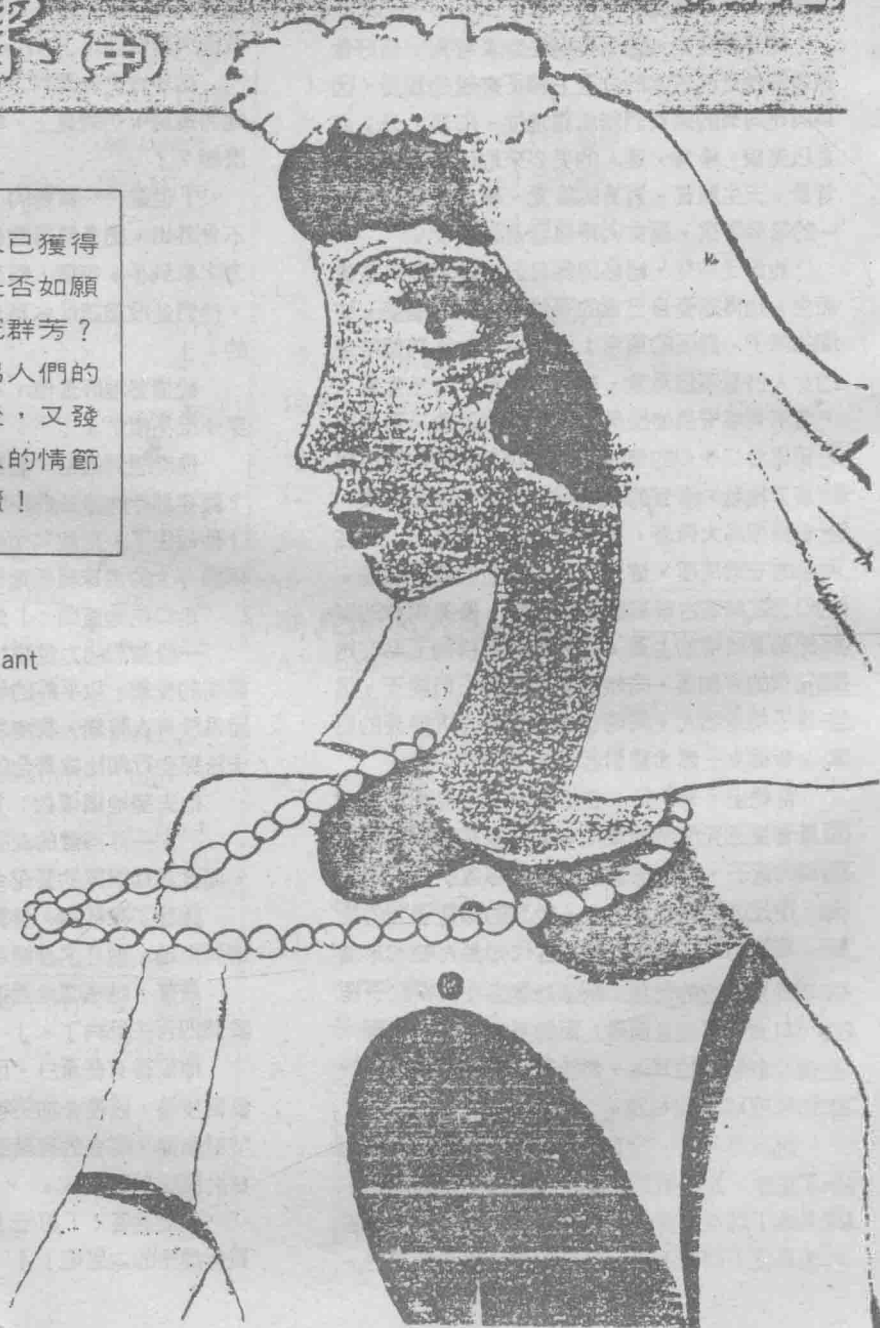
項鍊 (中)

(Part 2)

露易莎夫人已獲得
她的新衣，她是否如願
地在舞會中艷冠群芳？
是否受到所有男人們的
垂青？舞會過後，又發
生如何曲折動人的情節
？請您仔細閱讀！

莫泊桑

Guy De Maupassant



The day of the ball drew near, and Mme. Loisel seemed sad, uneasy, anxious. Her dress was ready, however. Her husband said to her one evening:

"What is the matter? Come, you've been so queer* these last three days."

And she answered:

"It annoys me not to have a single jewel, not a single stone, nothing to put on. I shall look poor. I should almost rather not go at all."

He resumed:

"You might wear natural flowers. It's very stylish at this time of the year. For ten francs you can get two or three magnificent* roses."

She was not convinced.

"No; there's nothing more humiliating* than to look poor among other women who are rich."

But her husband cried:

"How stupid you are! Go look up your friend Mme. Forestier,

and ask her to lend you some jewels. You know her well enough to do that."

She uttered a cry of joy:

"It's true. I never thought of that."

The next day she went to her friend and told of her problem.

Mme. Forestier went to a closet with a glass door, took out a large jewel-box, brought it back, opened it, and said to Mme. Loisel:

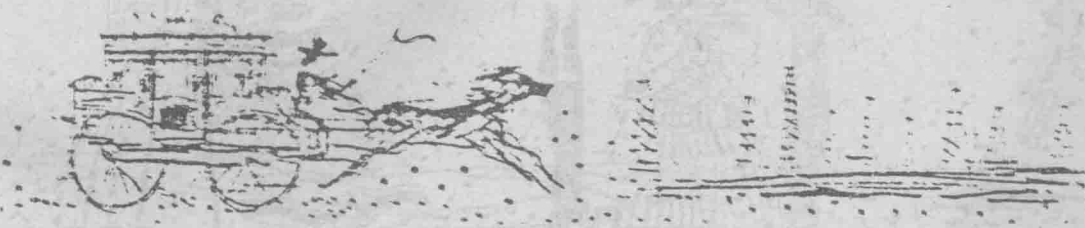
"Choose, my dear."

She saw first of all some bracelets, then a pearl necklace, then an Italian cross, gold, and precious stones of admirable workmanship. She tried on the ornaments before a mirror, hesitated*, could not make up her mind to part with them, to give them back. She kept asking:

"Haven't you any more?"

"Why, yes. Look. I don't know what you like."

All of a sudden she discovered, in a black satin box, a superb



necklace of diamonds; and her heart began to beat fast with desire. Her hands trembled* as she took it. She fastened it around her throat, outside her high-necked* dress, and remained lost in ecstasy* at the sight of herself.

Then she asked, hesitating:

"Can you lend me that, only that?"

"Why, yes, certainly."

She sprang upon the neck of her friend, kissed her passionately*, then fled with her treasure.

The day of the ball arrived. Mme. Loisel was a great success. She was prettier than them all, elegant, gracious, smiling, and crazy with joy. All the men looked at her, asked her name, and sought to be introduced. All the attaches of the Cabinet wanted to dance with her. She was mentioned by the minister himself.

She danced with excitement, with passion, made drunk by pleasure, forgetting all, in the triumph of her beauty, in the

glory of her success, in a sort of cloud of happiness composed of all this respect, of all this admiration, of all these awakened desires, and of that sense of complete victory which is so sweet to woman's heart.

She went away about four o'clock in the morning. Her husband had been sleeping since midnight, in a little deserted ante-room*, with three other gentlemen whose wives were having a very good time.

He threw over her shoulders the wraps* which he had brought, modest wraps of common life, whose poverty contrasted with** the elegance of the ball dress. She felt this and wanted to escape so as not to be remarked by the other women, who dressed in costly furs.

Loisel held her back.

"Wait a bit. You will catch cold outside. I will go and call a cab."

But she did not listen to him,



and rapidly descended the stairs. When they were in the street they did not find a carriage; and they began to look for one, shouting after the cabmen whom they saw passing by at a distance.

They went down towards the Seine, in despair, shivering* with cold. At last they found on the quay* one of those ancient night cabs, which, exactly as if they were ashamed to show their misery during the day, are never seen round Paris until after nightfall.

It took them to their door in the Rue des Martyrs, and once more, sadly, they climbed up homeward. All was ended for her. And as to him, he reflected that he must be at the Ministry at ten o'clock.

She removed the wraps, which covered her shoulders, before the glass, so as once more to see herself in all her glory. But suddenly she uttered a cry. She no longer had the necklace around her neck!

Her husband, already half-undressed, demanded:

"What is the matter with you?"

She turned madly towards him:

"I have--I have--I've lost Mme. Forestier's necklace."

He stood up, distracted.

"What!--how?--Impossible!"

And they looked in the folds of her dress, in the folds of her cloak*, in her pockets, everywhere. They did not find it.

He asked:

"You're sure you had it on when you left the ball?"

"Yes, I felt it in the entry of the palace."

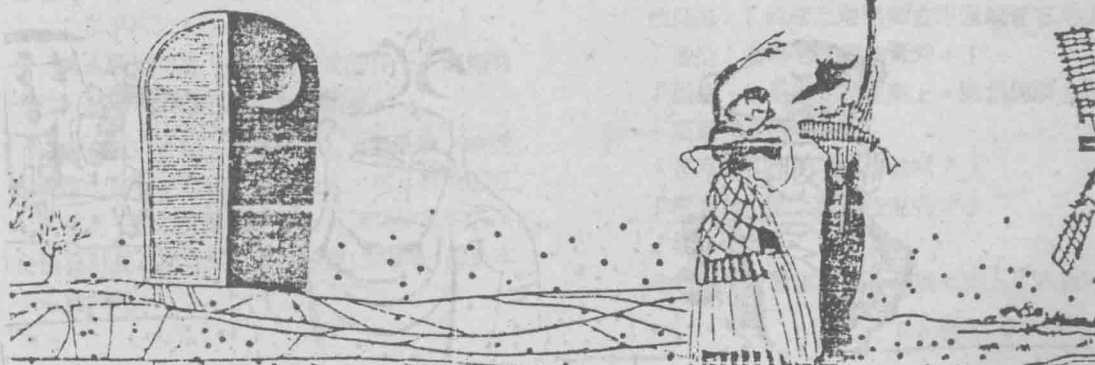
"But if you had lost it in the street we should have heard it fall. It must be in the cab."

"Yes. Probably. Did you take his number?"

"No. And you, didn't you notice it?"

"No."

They looked, thunderstruck*, at one another. At last Loisel put on his clothes.



"I shall go back on foot," said he, "over the whole route which we have taken, to see if I can't find it."

And he went out. She sat waiting on a chair in her ball dress, without strength to go to bed, overwhelmed, without a thought.

Her husband came back about seven o'clock. He had found nothing.

He went to Police Headquarters**, to the newspaper offices, to offer a reward; he went to the cab companies--everywhere, in fact, wherever he thought he might be able to find it.

She waited all day, in the same condition of mad fear before this terrible calamity*.

Loisel returned at night with a hollow, pale face; he had discovered nothing.

"You must write to your friend," said he, "that you have broken the clasp of her necklace and that you are having it mended.

That will give us time to turn round."

She wrote at his dictation*.

◎重要字彙*

1. ante-room (n) 接待室或較小的外室
2. calamity (n) 不幸、災難
3. cloak (n) 外衣、斗篷
4. dictation (n) 聽寫
5. ecstasy (n) 狂喜
6. hesitated (a) 猶豫的
7. high-necked (a) 高領的
8. humiliating (a) 屈辱的
9. magnificent (a) 華麗的
10. passionately (a) 熱情地
11. quay (n) 碼頭
12. queer (a) 奇怪的
13. shivering (a) 顫抖的
14. thunderstruck (a) 驚愕的
15. tremble (v) 顫慄、恐懼
16. wraps (n) 圍巾、披肩

◎ ANNOTATION**

- A1. contrast with: 比照
- A2. Police Headquarters: 當總部、大本營解
Police Headquarters 即警察總署



The Necklace (Part 2)

項鍊(中)

越近舞會的日子，露易莎夫人顯得悲傷，不安和煩惱。她的新衣已準備好了，某天晚上她丈夫對她說：「怎麼回事？三天來，妳一直很奇怪。」

她回答：「我擔心壓根兒一件首飾也沒有，讓我看起來好寒酸，真不想去了！」

他接口道：「妳可以戴真花呀！目前很流行的。十個法郎妳就可以買到兩三朵上好的玫瑰。」

她不為所動：「不！再也沒有比夾在富有的女人堆裡，自己却顯得寒酸更丟人的了！」

但她的丈夫嚷道：「妳好蠢！找妳的朋友佛瑞斯第爾夫人去，請她借給妳一些首飾。妳和她很夠交情！」

她發出喜悅的叫聲：「真的！我居然沒想到！」

隔天她就去找她的朋友，訴說她的難處。佛瑞斯第爾夫人從裝著鏡門的衣櫥裡拿出一個大珠寶盒，打開來，對露易莎夫人說：「親愛的，挑呀！」

她先打量幾個手鐲，接著一條珍珠項鍊，然後是個用寶石鑲嵌得很精緻的義大利金十字架。她在鏡前試戴這些首飾，遲遲不能下決定，她將它們放了回去。又問道：「妳沒有其他的嗎？」

「我不知道妳喜歡什麼？」

突然她發現到放在一個黑緞盒子裡的奪目鑽石項鍊，她的心被一股強烈的慾望衝擊著。當她顫抖著伸手去拿，將它圍在脖子上，露出她的高領衣服外。她情不自禁狂喜地顧影自憐。

然後她充滿焦慮而猶疑不決地請求道：「妳能借給我這條嗎？只有這件？」

「當然可以！」

她雀躍地跳起，抱住她朋友的脖子，深情的一吻，然後攜著她的首飾飛奔回家。

舞會那天來到，露易莎夫人大出風頭，她艷冠群芳：高貴、親切、笑靨迎人，而且歡欣若狂。所有男子的目光落在她身上，詢問她的芳名，企圖被引見。所有閨員都希望與她共舞，部長本人還提到她。

她興奮、熱情地舞著，如癡如醉，把一切都拋到腦後，為自身的美麗而得意，為她的成功感覺榮耀，置身於幸福的雲端，這種幸福包容了所有的仰慕、讚美、所有復甦的慾望，以及讓女人芳心竊喜的十足優越感。

她於清晨四點離開，從半夜起，她的丈夫一直睡在一間冷清的小接待室裡，還有三個男人，他們的妻子也都度過了美好的一晚。

他將帶來的披肩披到她肩上，那是平常戴的，不太起眼，和高雅的舞會禮服很不協調。她意識到了，掙脫著，不想引起那些身裹皮裘的貴婦們的注意。

他按住了她的背：「等會，妳到了外面會感冒的，我去叫輛車。」

但她沒有聽他的，飛快地步下台階，當他們站到街上，並沒有叫到車。跟著他們開始找，老遠看到馬車經過，就拉開嗓門喊馬車伕。

他們沮喪地走向塞納河，冷得直發抖。最後他們在碼頭發現了一輛古老的馬車，那種寒酸的馬車像是羞於見人，白天裡整個巴黎都看不見影子，直到入夜後才露面。

馬車將他們載到馬迪爾斯街的家門口，他們傷心地爬上樓。對她而言，一切已結束。他則表示十點就得上班了。

她站到鏡前，卸掉罩在肩膀的披肩，再次顧影自憐。但，突然間她驚叫了起來，脖子上的項鍊不見了！

她丈夫，衣服已脫了一半，問道：「怎麼回事？」

她發狂地朝著他：「我……我……我掉了佛瑞斯第爾夫人的項鍊。」

緊接著他們翻遍她衣服、外套的夾層，搜遍口袋，還是沒發現。

他問道：「妳確定離開舞會時還戴著它？」

「是呀！進場時我還感覺到。」

「但是，如果妳是掉在街上，我們應該會聽到，一定是掉在街上。」

「很可能，你記下了車號嗎？」

「沒有，妳呢？妳沒注意嗎？」

「沒有！」

他們驚愕地看著對方，最後他穿上了衣服。

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世界短篇小說精選

Great Short Stories of the World

THE NECKLACE

項鍊 (下)

(Part 3)

露易莎夫人弄丟了那串
鑽石項鍊，她該怎麼辦
呢？

她找得到那串項鍊嗎？
後來又發生什麼事呢？
她的生活有了什麼樣的
改變呢？

結果如何？
請細心閱讀！

莫泊桑

Guy De Maupassant



At the end of a week they had lost all hope.

And Loisel, who had aged five years, declared:

"We must consider how to replace that ornament."

The next day they took the box which had contained it, and they went to the jeweler whose name was found within. He consulted* his books.

"It was not I, madame, who sold that necklace; I must simply have furnished* the case."

Then they went from jeweler to jeweler, searching for a necklace like the other, consulting their memories, both of them sick with chagrin* and with anguish.

They found, in a shop at the Palais Royal, a string of diamonds which seemed to them exactly like the one they looked for. It was worth forty thousand francs. They could have it for thirty-six.

So they begged the jeweler not to sell it for three days yet. And they made a bargain that he should buy it back for thirty-four thousand francs, in case they found the other one before the end of February.

Loisel possessed eighteen thousand francs which his father

had left him. He would borrow the rest.

He did borrow, asking a thousand francs of one, five hundred of another, five louis* here, three louis there. He gave notes, took up ruinous obligations**, and dealt with all kinds of lenders. He compromised all the rest of his life, risked his signature without even knowing if he could meet it; and, frightened by the pains yet to come, by the black misery which was about to fall upon him, by the prospect of all the physical privations* and of all the moral tortures which he was to suffer, he went to get the



露易莎先生在晚上為商人們騰寫帳本