

漢英合璧

柴霍甫小說

The Tales of Chekhov

THE DARLING

And

Other Stories

By Anton Chekhov

王靖譯

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(1)

The Darling

可 愛 之 人

OLENKA, the daughter of the retired collegiate assessor, Plemlyanniakov, was sitting in her back porch, lost in thought. It was hot, the flies were persistent and teasing, and it was pleasant to reflect that it would soon be evening. Dark rain clouds were gathering from the east, and bringing from time to time a breath of moisture in the air.

Kukin, who was the manager of an open-air theatre called the Tivoli, and who lived in the lodge, was standing in the middle of the garden looking at the sky.

"Again!" he observed despairingly. "It's going to rain again! Rain every day, as

退休學務員波拉安尼克夫的女兒亞蘭加坐在後廊，兀自沉思。這時天很熱，蒼蠅嗡嗡的亂飛，令人難堪，但覺得天快晚了，便以為愉快。黑暗的雨雲由東邊愈集愈厚，空氣中時時吹來很重的濕氣。

露天演劇場鐵維尼的管理人克欽寄寓在家裏，這時他站在花園中間，仰着頭察看天色。

他很失意的說：「又下雨了！又要下雨了！天天這樣下雨好像有意與我為難的。我

though to spite me. I might as well hang myself! It's ruin! Fearful losses every day."

He flung up his hands, and went on, addressing Olenka:

"There! that's the life we lead, Olga Seryonovna. It's enough to make one cry. One works and does one's utmost; one wears oneself out, getting no sleep at night, and racks one's brain what to do for the best. And then what happens? To begin with, one's public is ignorant, boorish. I give them the very best operetta, a dainty masque, first rate music-hall artists. But do you suppose that's what they want! They don't understand anything of that sort. They want a clown; what they ask for is vulgarity. And then look at the weather! Almost every evening it rains. It started on the tenth of May, and it's kept it up all May and June. It's simply awful! The public doesn't come, but I've to pay the rent just the same,

不如自經好咧! 這是破產的徵象! 每天很可怕的損失。』

他兩手互搓着，走進亞蘭加面前說：

『唉!這是我們所度的生活，阿格，斯密洛夫娜。這樣天氣幾乎使人哭起來了。我盡力經營；連夜裏都沒有睡覺，絞盡腦力去打算，怎樣做才是無遺憾。但是怎樣結果呢？第一，看戲的人都是愚而且沒有知識。我給他們演最妙的小歌劇，雅緻的假面戲，第一等的伶人。但你設想，這是他們所要的嗎！他們簡直不懂這種東西。他們愛看小丑；他們所要求的是鄙俗的戲曲。再者看看這天氣！差不多每天晚上，都要下雨。這雨由五月十日起，一直綿延到六月。這真是可怕得很！看戲的人都不來，但我是一樣的應繳租錢與伶

and pay the artists.”

The next evening the clouds would gather again, and Kukin would say with an hysterical laugh:

‘ Well, rain away, then! Flood the garden, drown me! Damn my luck in this world and the next! Let the artists have me up! Send me to prison! — to Siberia! — the scaffold! Ha, ha, ha!’

And next day the same thing.

Olenka listened to Kukin with silent gravity, and sometimes tears came into her eyes. In the end his misfortunes touched her; she grew to love him. He was a small thin man, with a yellow face, and curls combed forward on his forehead. He spoke in a thin tenor; as he talked his mouth worked on one side, and there was always an expression of despair on his face; yet he aroused a deep and genuine affection in her. She was always

人的薪工。』

第二天晚上雲又聚集起來，克欽也又狂笑着說：

『好，趕快下雨罷！率性淹沒了花園，并把我也溺死罷！把我現在與未來都壞了罷！讓伶人把我擒去！送我到牢獄裏——到西伯利亞——或列場去！哈！哈！哈！』

再遇一天又是照樣的下雨。

亞蘭加靜聽他說話做很莊重的樣子，有時眼淚由眼裏流下來。末後，他的失意，感動着伊的心；伊漸漸的愛他了。他是一個小且瘦的人黃色的臉皮，卷髮梳向前額上。他說話很低聲；當他談論的時候，口角斜向一邊，并且他的臉上常帶着失意的顏色；雖然這樣，他却由伊心裏，引起了深而且真的愛情。伊平時總愛一兩個人，

fond of some one, and could not exist without loving. In earlier days she had loved her papa, who now sat in a darkened room, breathing with difficulty; she had loved her aunt who used to come every other year from Bryansk; and before that, when she was at school, she had loved her French master. She was a gentle, soft-hearted, compassionate girl, with mild, tender eyes and very good health. At the sight of her full rosy cheeks, her soft white neck with a little dark mole on it, and the kind, naive smile, which came into her face when she listened to anything pleasant, men thought, "Yes, not half bad," and smiled too, while lady visitors could not refrain from seizing her hand in the middle of a conversation, exclaiming in a gush of delight, "You darling!"

伊沒有愛是不能生存的。最初,伊愛伊的父親,他現在坐暗室裏很困難的喘氣;也愛伊的姑媽,伊(指姑媽)住在勃列司克,隔一年來這裏一次;從前,當伊在學校的時候,愛伊的法文教師。伊是一個溫良,且心腸柔軟,富於感情的女子,眼光很溫媚,身體也很康健。只看見伊很豐滿,紅如玫瑰花的兩頰,白嫩的額頸,有一個小黑點,和聽人談很愉快事時候,面上顯出那和善與真誠的笑容,男子便想道:『是的,這倒美麗』不覺面上也微笑起來,若是女人,在談話中間,也不禁握伊的手,很喜歡的說:『你是可愛的人!』

The house in which she had lived from her birth onwards,

伊從有生以來所居住的屋,伊父親已經寫在遺囑裏給他。

and which was left her in her father's will, was at the extreme end of the town, not far from the Tivoli. In the evenings and at night she could hear the band playing, and the crackling and banging of fireworks, and it seemed to her that it was Kukuin struggling with his destiny, storming the entrenchments of his chief foe, the indifferent public; there was a sweet thrill at her heart, she had no desire to sleep, and when he returned home at daybreak, she tapped softly at her bedroom window, and showing him only her face and one shoulder through the curtain, she gave him a friendly smile.

He proposed to her, and they were married. And when he had a closer view of her neck and her plump, fine shoulders, he threw up his hands, and said:

"You darling!"

He was happy, but as it

這屋是在城的盡頭，距離鐵維尼劇場不遠。在晚上或夜間，伊能聽得到音樂隊奏樂，和爆竹的聲音，伊好似覺得這是克欽與他的命運爭鬥，攻擊大敵人——冷落的觀劇人——的豪堡；伊這時心裏有一種甜密似的感動，沒有別的思想就睡了，當他早晨回家的時候，伊便輕輕敲着臥房的窗門，並從窗帷後露出伊臉孔和一個肩膀，給他一個很溫存的微笑……

他向伊求婚，他們就結婚了。當他貼近伊身旁看伊白頸和肥美的肩膀時，他便舉起兩手說：

『你真是可愛的人呢！』

他很快樂，但是他結婚這一

rained on the day and night of his wedding, his face still retained an expression of despair.

They got on very well together. She used to sit in his office, to look after things in the Tivoli, to put down the accounts and pay the wages. And her rosy cheeks, her sweet, naive, radiant smile, were to be seen now at the office window, now in the refreshment bar or behind the scenes of the theatre. And already she used to say to her acquaintances that the theatre was the chief and most important thing in life, and that it was only through the drama that one could derive true enjoyment and become cultivated and humane.

"But do you suppose the public understands that?" she used to say. "What they want is a clown. Yesterday we gave 'Faust Inside Out,' and almost all the boxes were empty; but

天日夜都不住的下雨,他的臉仍留着失意的顏色。

他們倆很安逸的過日。伊常坐在他的辦事室,照顧鐵維尼場的事情,并管理出入的眼目,與付工錢。伊玫瑰色的兩頰,愉快,真實的微笑,隨地出現,有時在辦事室的窗門,有時在客室裏,有時在劇場幕後。伊常對伊所認識的人說,劇場是人生第一件最重要的東西,只有從劇場裏做人才能夠得着真正的快樂,并且成為文明與有道的人。

伊又常說:『看戲的人明白這個嗎? 他們所要的是一個小丑。昨天我們演浮士德劇客座差不多都空了;但是若使

if Vanitchka and I had been producing some vulgar thing, I assure you the theatre would have been packed. To-morrow Vanitchka and I are doing 'Orpheus in Hell'. Do come."

And what Knkin said about the theatre and the actors she repeated. Like him she despised the public for their ignorance and their indifference to art; she took part in the rehearsals, she corrected the actors, she kept an eye on the behaviour of the musicians, and when there was an unfavourable notice in the local paper, she shed tears, and then went to the editor's office to set things right.

The actors were fond of her and used to call her "Vanitchka and I," and "the darling"; she was sorry for them and used to lend them small sums of money, and if they deceived her, she used to shed a few tears in private, but did not complain to her husband.

凡尼加和我演粗俗的戲，我的信劇場着定是擁擠的。明天凡尼加和我們要演亞爾弗司在地獄。務必來看。』

凡是克欽對於劇場和伶人怎樣說，伊也跟着說。伊又同他一樣的看輕觀劇的人，與戲子，因為他們無知識，並且對於藝術沒有興味；伊參加演劇的練習，指點伶人的錯誤，并監視樂隊，有時新聞紙上有不好的批評，伊便流下眼淚，跑到總編輯的辦事室，將這事更正。

伶人沒有一個不當歡伊，常呼伊『凡尼加和我』或者『可愛的人；』伊憐惜他們，常把小款借給他們，若使他們欺騙伊，伊便在暗地流淚，并不告訴伊的丈夫。

They got on well in the winter too. They took the theatre in the town for the whole winter, and let it for short terms to a Little Russian company, or to a conjurer, or to a local dramatic society. Olenka grew stouter, and was always beaming with satisfaction, while Kukin grew thinner and yellower, and continually complained of their terrible losses, although he had not done badly all the winter. He used to cough at night, and she used to give him hot raspberry tea or lime-flower water, to rub him with eau-de-Cologne and to wrap him in her warm shawls.

"You're such a sweet pet!" she used to say with perfect sincerity, stroking his hair. "You're such a pretty dear!"

Towards Lent he went to Moscow to collect a new troupe, and without him she could not sleep, but sat all night at her window, looking at the

在冬季裏，他們也很安逸的過日。他們把劇場移到城裏，短期租與小俄羅斯公司，或變戲法的人，與本地的劇社。亞蘭加越變壯健豐滿，常常發出很滿意的狀態，克欽却越變越黃瘦，還是怨訴他們可怕的損失，雖然這一冬生意並不壞。他夜裏常咳嗽，伊便把每茶或芥蒙水結他喝，用香水代他摩擦，又用伊溫暖的領巾，包裹他。

伊掠着頭髮很真摯說：『你真是好東西！你這樣的可愛！』

近四旬節時候，他往莫斯科招集新班去，伊沒有他便不能睡覺，夜裏坐近窗門，看天上的星，伊自己比像一個母雞，當公

stars, and she compared herself with the hens, who are awake all night and uneasy when the cock is not in the hen-house. Kulin was detained in Moscow, and wrote that he would back at Easter, adding some instructions about the Tivoli. But on the Sunday before Easter, late in the evening, came a sudden ominous knock at the gate; some one was hammering on the gate as though on a barrel—boom, boom, boom! The drowsy cook went flopping with her bare feet through the puddles, as she ran to open the gate.

"Please open," said some one outside in a thick bass. "There is a telegram for you."

Olenka had received telegrams from her husband before, but this time for some reason she felt numb with terror. With shaking hands she opened the telegram and read as follows:

鷄沒有在雞欄的時候,便不能合眼,而且不舒服。克欽逗留着莫斯科,他來信說復活節可以回家,加上幾句關鐵維尼劇場,指導的話。但在復活節前星期日,天已很晚了,忽來一個不祥的扣門聲;門外的人打門,好像槌木桶一樣的響——蓬,蓬,蓬! 那睡眠惺忪的女廚子赤着兩腳,走過許積水的窪地去開門。

門外的人,聲音很粗的說:『請開門。這裏有一封電報。』

亞蘭加以前曾接過他丈夫的電報,但這一次好像有一點緣由伊嚇得發昏了。伊顫着手,把電報折開,裏面的話是:

『伊凡,彼脫洛維(即克欽)今

"Ivan Petrovitch died sud-

dearly to-day. Awaiting im-
mate instructions fufuneral
Tuesday.”

That was how it was written
in the telegram — “fufuneral,”
and the utterly incomprehen-
sible word “immate.” It was
signed by the stage manager
of the operatic company.

“My darling!” sobbed Olenka.
“Vanitchka, my precious, my
darling! Why did I ever meet
you! Why did I know you
and love you! Your poor
heart-broken Olenka is all
alone without you!”

Kukin’s funeral took place
on Tuesday in Moscow, Olenka
returned home on Wednesday,
and as soon as she got indoors
she threw herself on her bed
and sobbed so loudly that it
could be heard next door, and
in the street.

“Poor darling!” the neigh-
bours said, as they crossed
themselves. “Olga Semyonov-
na, poor darling! How she
does take on!”

天忽然死了。待覆，星期二
葬。』

電報這樣寫——『葬葬，』又
一個不可解的字『耶。』電報
裏簽字的人是歌劇公司，前場
的經理人。

亞蘭加嘆道：『我可愛的人
啊！凡尼克我的寶貝我可愛
的人啊！我為什麼今生遇着
你！為什麼我知道你愛我！
你可憐，心碎的亞蘭加孤寂冷
落沒有你了！』

克欽的葬事星期二日在莫
斯科舉行，亞蘭加於星期三回
家，伊一進門，就投身床上，大聲
嘆氣起來，所以鄰舍與街上都
可以聽得見。

鄰舍的人他們畫十字說：『
可憐的那可愛的人！阿格，斯
密洛夫娜那可憐的可愛的人
！伊怎樣過日啊！』

Three months later Olenka was coming home from mass, melancholy and in deep mourning. It happened that one of her neighbours, Vassily Andreitch Pustovalov, returning home from church, walked back beside her. He was the manager at Babakayev's the timber merchant's. He wore a straw hat, a white waistcoat, and a gold watch-chain, and looked more like a country gentleman than a man in trade.

"Everything happens as it is ordained, Olga Semyonovna," he said gravely, with a sympathetic note in his voice; "and if any of our dear ones die, it must be because it is the will of God, so we ought to have fortitude and bear it submissively."

After seeing Olenka to her gate, he said good-bye and went on. All day afterwards she heard his sedately dignified voice, and whenever she shut her eyes she saw his dark

三個月以後亞蘭加由彌撒祭回來，面上帶著深憂，并極重的哭喪樣子。在路上遇着伊的鄰人波司脫弗洛夫剛由禮拜堂回家，傍伊後面走着。他是勃勃克耶夫木商棧的經理人。他戴一頂草帽，一個白色的背心，又掛着一條金的錶鍊，外面看好像一個鄉村的紳士，不似作買賣的人。

他很莊重的，聲音帶一種同情的音調說：『什麼事情，都有定數的阿格，斯密洛天娜，若使我們所心愛的死了，這是因為上帝的意思，所以我們應該忍耐，勉強受這苦。』

他看見亞蘭加走到門前，就對伊說聲再會，作別去了。這一天伊耳裏只聽着沈靜莊嚴的聲音，無論什麼時候，伊閉了

beard. She liked him very much. And apparently she had made an impression on him too, for not long afterwards an elderly lady, with whom she was only slightly acquainted, came to drink coffee with her, and as soon as she was seated at table began to talk about Pustovalov, saying that he was an excellent man whom one could thoroughly depend upon, and that any girl would be glad to marry him. Three days later Pustovalov came himself. He did not stay long, only about ten minutes, and he did not say much, but when he left, Olenka loved him — loved him so much that she lay awake all night in a perfect fever, and in the morning she sent for the elderly lady. The match was quickly arranged, and then came the wedding.

眼睛，便看見他的黑鬚。伊很喜歡他。很分明的伊對於他便有一種印象，沒有好久，有一個年紀稍大的婦，與伊不過略略認識，便來與伊在一處喝咖啡，這婦人剛坐定，就談到波司脫弗洛夫，說他是一個極好的人，那一個女子都悅意嫁他的。三日後波司脫弗洛夫自己來了。他不停留許久時候，只有十分鐘光景，他已沒有說許多話，但是他走了之後，亞蘭加便愛上他了——愛他很深，所以伊通宵發熱病似的不會合眼，第二天早上伊立刻去請那位婦人來。婚姻很快的說妥，以後就結婚了。

Pustovalov and Olenka got on very well together when they were married.

波司脫弗洛夫與亞蘭加結婚以後，很安逸的過日。

Usually he sat in the office

他往往坐在辦事室裏，直到

till dinner-time, then he went out on business, while Olenka took his place, and sat in the office till evening, making up accounts and booking orders.

"Timber gets dearer every year; the price rises twenty per cent," she would say to her customers and friends. "Only fancy we used to sell local timber, and now Vassitchka always has to go for wood to the Mogilev district. And the freight!" she would add, covering her cheeks with her hands in horror. "The freight!"

It seemed to her that she had been in the timber trade for ages and ages, and that the most important and necessary thing in life was timber; and there was something intimate and touching to her in the very sound of words such as "lark," "post," "beam," "pole," "scantling," "batten," "lath," "plank," etc.

At night when she was asleep she dreamed of perfect mount-

吃午飯時辰,以後她就外出辦事去了,那時亞蘭加便接他的位,在辦事室裏,直到了晚上結算賬目與謄寫貨單。

他常對着買客或認識的人說:『木價一年貴過一年了;價格升到二成。』你試想我往常都是販賣本地的木料,現在維司克常到莫吉禮夫地方販木去。還有運費呢!』伊又以兩手套着兩頰很驚詫說:『運費呢!』

伊好像對於木料的生意有多年的經驗一樣,並且以為人生最重要的,最必需的就是木料;伊好像對於樑棟,桁柱,細柱,厚板,薄板,意板等等的聲音,都覺得有一種極親密的感覺。

夜裏當伊睡的時候,便夢見薄松厚板的山,并一大隊運木

ains of planks and boards, and long strings of wagons, carting timber somewhere far away. She dreamed that a whole regiment of six-inch beams forty feet high, standing on end, was marching upon the timber-yard; that logs, beams, and boards knocked together with the resounding crash of dry wood, kept falling and getting up again, piling themselves on each other. Olenka cried out in her sleep, and Pustovalov said to her tenderly: "Olenka, what's the matter, darling? Cross yourself!"

Her husband's ideas were hers. If her thought the room was too hot, or that business was slack, she thought the same. Her husband did not care for entertainments, and on holidays he stayed at home. She did likewise.

"You are always at home or in the office," her friends said to her. "You should go

料的車遠遠的把不材運去。

伊又夢見六寸梁有四十尺高，直立着在木場走動；木頭，棟樑，和板互相衝突，做出枯木相撞的聲音，忽跌下，忽站起，又堆疊在別的木材上面。亞蘭加在夢中叫喊起來，波司脫弗洛夫很溫柔的說道：『亞蘭加什麼事，可愛的人？你自己畫十字罷！』

伊丈夫的思想，便是他的思想。若他想這屋子太熱或者生意不佳，伊也是這樣想。伊丈夫不喜歡應酬，休息日就住在家裏。伊也這樣做。

伊的朋友對伊說：『你是常常住在家裏或者在辦事室裏。

to the theatre, darling, or to the circus."

"Vassitchka and I have no time to go to theatres," she would answer sedately. "We have no time for nonsense. What's the use of these theatres?"

On Saturdays Pustovalov and she used to go to the evening service; on holidays to early mass, and they walked side by side with softened faces as they came home from church. There was a pleasant fragrance about them both, and her silk dress rustled agreeably. At home they drank tea, with fancy bread and jams of various kinds, and afterwards they ate pie. Every day at twelve o'clock there was a savoury smell of beet-root soup and of mutton or duck in their yard, and on fast-days of fish, and no one could pass the gate without feeling hungry. In the office the samovar was always boiling, and custo-

可愛的人,你應該到劇場或者馬戲場玩玩。』

伊便很莊重的答道:『凡司克(指伊丈夫)和我沒有工夫到戲場裏去。我們沒有工夫做無意味的事。劇場到底有什麼用呢?』

到了星期六,波司脫弗洛夫和伊常去做晚禱;到了星期日清早便去做彌撒,當由禮拜堂回家的時候,他們,并着肩走,面上的出和悅的顏色。他們身傍有一種愉快的香味,伊絲製的衣服繚繚響着很好聽。在家裏他們喝茶,佐着各種的菓醬,最後才吃有餡的麵包。每天十二點的時候,他們庭院都漫着一種蘿蔔湯,羊肉和鴨肉的香味,走過門口的人,聞着香味,沒有一個不覺肚子餓的

mers were regaled with tea and cracknels. Once a week the couple went to the baths and returned side by side, both red in the face.

"Yes, we have nothing to complain of, thank God." Clenka used to say to her acquaintances. "I wish every one were as well off as Vassitchka and I."

When Pustovalov went away to buy wood in the Mogilev district, she missed him dreadfully, lay awake and cried. A young veterinary surgeon in the army, called Smirnin, to whom they had let their lodge, used sometimes to come in in the evening. He used to talk to her and play cards with her, and this entertained her in her husband's absence. She was particularly interested in what he told her of his home life. He was married and had a little boy, but was separated from his wife because she had been

。在辦事室裏沸水是常常燒着，買客一來都有茶飲，餅干吃。每星期他們去洗澡一次，回來并肩走着，面上現出紅色。

亞蘭加常對他所認識的人說：『是的，感謝上帝，我們沒有什麼怨尤的事。我希望每個人都像凡司克和我這樣安逸。』

當波司脫弗洛夫去莫吉禮夫地方買木材的時候，伊覺得格外寂寞，夜裏睡不着，并且啼哭。在他家裏住的一個少年獸醫生，供陸軍供職，名叫斯米林晚上時到伊那裏。他和伊談天或者玩紙牌，當丈夫不在家，伊便這樣消遣。伊對於他所談的家事覺得極有趣味。

他已經娶妻了，并且還有一個小孩子，但他與妻離開，因他妻