

The Star Zoo

星际动物园

简介

人类是地球这颗行星上最成功的动物。所谓成功，是指在与其它动物的斗争中取得的成功。在争夺食物或土地的问题上，我们人类战无不胜。我们砍伐树木，修建房屋或工厂，自己种植粮食。其他动物不得不去另找其他的地方生活——如果它们能找着的话。

我们人类战无不胜是因为我们智力发达。我们会思想，会说话，会使用工具，会制造精妙的机器。我们是再聪明不过的动物……

也许聪明过头了。也许将来的人们会有不同的想法。蜂鸟（简称蜂儿）是一个生活在公元 22500 年的 16 岁姑娘，她住在离地球很远很远的一颗行星上。她喜欢漂亮的衣服，喜欢跳舞，还为自己将嫁给谁而忐忑不安。她从来没有见过树。什么动物啊、鸟啊她从来没有见过。当然，她知道什么是动物，因为在《往事追忆》这本书中有动物的故事。但谁会相信那种老掉牙的故事呢？

本书的作者，哈里·吉尔伯特，是住在伦敦的一位教师。这是他的第八本书，也是他为学习英语的学生写的第一本

1 You must marry me

Nothing ever happens on Just Like Home—that's the name of the planet I live on . I get so bored !

But tonight was Remembering Night and that's exciting . There's the big fire where everybody must put on something that they love and watch it burn . Then there's the dancing round the fire .

But what I like best about Remembering Night are the clothes . We usually wear what we like on Just Like Home—but the clothes must have the name of our name-animal on them . For example , I always have the word 'Hummingbird' on my clothes , which means my name is Hummingbird—Hummy for short .

Nobody knows what a hummingbird looks like , but we know what birds are . Birds are animals that fly . The Book of Remembering tells us that .

I don't always believe what the Book of Remembering says .

Nobody knows who you are on Remembering Night because you wear black clothes that cover you from head to foot , and there is no name of your name-animal . You can only see people's eyes looking out of the eye-holes in the clothes .

It was dark outside . The only light came from the big fire . I held my father's hand at first and we danced together . My mother danced away and I couldn't see her . Soon I lost my father . I didn't know where they were .

It didn't matter . I was dancing in the middle of the crowd . Our family would meet together in the robot plane afterwards .

There were about a thousand people round the fire . Too many people to count . Nearly everybody on Just Like Home was there .

Everybody , on planets all over the Galaxy , was dancing round fires at the same time . What a wonderful thing !

The last dance began . You hold hands in a big circle round the fire—everybody together . You dance round and round in a circle until...

Well , everybody knows what happens in the end .

I was holding hands with someone on my right and someone on my left . We were all shouting , 'BURN BURN BURN BURN BURN BURN BURN BURN...'

The last dance went on for a long time . In the end somebody fell down . He pulled down the people on both sides of him . Then people on both sides of them fell down . Everybody was too tired to stay on their feet .

People fell down all round the circle . Falling . Dying .

We wear black clothes to remember . We remember the Burning .

We remember that we have a Galaxy , but we are alone . We are empty in our hearts . We are the only living things in the Galaxy .

Sad . Lonely and sad .

I lay on the ground , very , very tired . I was happy and sad at the same time . Happy to be with everybody , sad that we were alone .

Then the worst thing in my life happened . Somebody came up to me and said , 'Hello . 'I didn't know who it was . I could only see his eyes shining in the light of the fire . But it was the voice of a man who was much older than me .

'Hello ? 'I answered . I didn't want to talk to him .

'I saw you in the dance , 'he said . 'I know you're a young girl because you were dancing like a young girl . I think you're seventeen years old . '

'No , I'm only sixteen , 'I said .

'Wonderful . Just what I want , 'said the man . 'I will marry you . You must marry me . '

I couldn't believe what he was saying . This was terrible . And very bad luck .

Yes , it was true a woman must marry any man who asks her on Remembering Night—by order of the Star Council . I'm sixteen so I'm a woman , not a child . I couldn't say no to this man . I was sick in my heart .

'My name's Buff , 'the man said . 'What's your name , sweetheart ? '

'Er , my name's , er...Caterpillar , 'I lied . 'I'm usually called Kate . '

'Well , Kate , 'Buff said , 'will you marry me ? '

'I'm sorry , Buff . I know I'm sixteen and old enough to get married but my parents don't want me to get married yet . I'm their only daughter . '

Buff laughed . It was a horrible laugh . He enjoyed knowing I didn't want him . What a monster !

Oh , thank Earth - and - animals I hadn't told him my real name !

I jumped up suddenly and ran into the crowds of people in the dark . I was safe . He couldn't find me . I went to our robot plane and sat inside until my parents came .

I didn't tell my parents anything . I was afraid . The Star Council said Buff was right and I was wrong , and I didn't know what my parents would do .

Next morning I forgot about it . How could Buff find me ? There were hundreds of

girls on our planet . He didn't know my name . He had only seen my eyes .

Suddenly my father came into my room . 'Hummingbird , 'he said sadly .

'What's the matter ? 'I asked . 'Why are you calling me Hummingbird , not Hummy ? '

'Hummingbird , ask your robot for a wedding dress . '

'Why ? Why ? 'But I knew the answer .

'You will marry a gentleman called Buffalo . '

'No , father , I can't . 'I started crying . 'I don't want to . I'm too young . I don't want to leave you . I hate him ! '

My father shook his head . 'Please , Hummy , it's only for one year . You can't be a child forever . Lots of girls don't want to get married at first . The Star Council says we must get married as often as possible and have children . You know why . '

'Why ? 'I spoke like a small child .

'Because we are lonely . Because there is nothing in the Galaxy except us . You know all that , Hummy . '

The dressing-robot made me a wedding dress—we have robots for everything like that . The dress was white and covered me all over except for my eyes .

My father took my arm .

Buff was waiting with my mother . I saw his eyes through the eye-holes of his wedding suit . They were small mean eyes .

'Hello , Kate , 'he said .

My father said , 'Her name is Hummingbird . '

'I know , I know , 'Buff said .

'How did you find me ? 'I asked Buff .

'I had a small camera , 'he answered . 'I took a photo of your eyes . Did you know that everybody's eyes are different ? Nobody has eyes like yours . '

I turned to my father . 'Listen to him ! Can't you see how horrible he is ? Please don't make me marry him . '

My father didn't say anything . He couldn't help me .

You can say no if a man asks you to marry him on Remembering Night . But you must have a very special reason . A reason that the Star Council will accept . If you are doing work that is important for the Galaxy , the Council will usually accept that as a good reason .

I couldn't think of anything like that . But it was something to hope for...if I could

escape .

I was afraid . I didn't want to run away and never see my family again .

Some neighbours arrived , and the wedding began immediately .

Buff stood next to me and held my hand . His hand was large and a little wet . How I hated him !

My father picked up the Book of Remembering . He read , 'In the beginning there were millions of planets in the Galaxy but there was only life on one . That was the planet Earth . People and animals lived together . But people polluted Earth . It became too hot for animals to live . They died . All the animals died . So people left Earth and never returned to that planet . Their hearts were empty when they left Earth , empty today , empty forever...'

Buff was still holding my hand .

My father spoke again . 'Buffalo , will you take my daughter Hummingbird to be your wife for one year , in the name of Earth and the animals ? '

Buff answered , 'I will . '

My father turned to me . 'Hummingbird , will you take this man Buffalo to be your husband for one year , in the name of Earth and the animals ? '

That's when I ran .

I let the wedding dress fall off me . I ran fast . They ran after me but I could run much faster without the wedding dress . I got to our robot spaceship , jumped into it and said , 'Take off . '

'Why are people running towards us ? 'the spaceship asked .

'Take off now ! 'I shouted . 'It's life or death ! '

The spaceship couldn't argue . It took off .

Just Like Home was green all over—fields of wheat everywhere . I was out in space looking back at my planet . All around me were stars .

The millions of stars in the Galaxy—that's where I could hide !

1 你必须嫁给我

“赛家”总是死气沉沉的——赛家是我住的行星的名字。我真是烦透了！

但今晚是怀旧夜，让人兴奋。点着一堆很大的篝火，每个人都要把一些他们心爱的东西放进火里，看着烧掉。然后，大家围着火起舞。

可怀旧夜最让我喜欢的地方是衣服。我们在赛家平常喜欢穿什么都行——但衣服得写上我们“名肖”动物的名字。比如，我的衣服上总有“蜂鸟”这个词，指的是我的名字叫蜂鸟——简称蜂儿。

没人知道蜂鸟长得什么样，可我们知道什么是鸟。鸟是会飞的动物。《往事追忆》上是这么告诉我们的。

我不是太相信《往事追忆》上说的东西。

在怀旧夜没有人会知道你是谁，因为你从头到脚罩着黑衣服，也没有你名肖动物的名字。你只能看见别人的眼睛从衣服的眼洞里往外看。

外面很黑。唯一的亮光是那堆大篝火发出的。开始时，我抓着爸爸的手，一起跳舞。我妈妈跳着跳着离我们远了，我看不见她。没多久，爸爸也不见了。我不知道他们去了哪儿。

没关系。我在人群当中跳舞。我们家人最后会在智能飞船上会面。

大概有上千人围着篝火，人多得数不过来。赛家上几乎所有人都在那儿。

银河系每个行星上的所有人都同时在围着篝火跳舞。多么不可思议啊！

最后一个舞蹈开始了。大家拉着手，在篝火外面围成一个大圈——每个人都拉着手。大家围着圈跳啊跳啊，直到……

唉，谁都知道最后怎么了。

我右边拉着一个人的手，左边拉着一个人的手。我们都喊着：“烧啊、烧啊、烧啊、烧……”

最后一个舞跳了好久。最后有人倒下了。他把他两边的人也拽倒了。然后他们两侧的人也都倒了。大家都累得站不住了。

一圈人都倒下了。崩溃了，沉寂了。

我们穿着黑衣服是为了怀念。我们纪念“大火灾”。

我们记得我们有一个银河系，但我们是孤独的。我们心里空荡荡的。我们是银河系里唯一的生物。

伤感。孤独而伤感。

我躺在地上，精疲力竭。一时间我又高兴又难过。我高兴和大家在一起，我难过因为我们孤独。

然后我一生最糟糕的事发生了。有个人走到我面前说道：“你好。”我不知道是谁。我只能看到他的眼睛在火光下闪光。但那是一个比我大好多的男人的声音。

“你好？”我答道。我不想和他说话。

“我看见你跳舞了，”他说，“我知道你是个年轻的姑娘，因为你的舞姿像个年轻姑娘。我猜你有十七岁了。”

“不，我才十六，”我说。

“太好了。正合我意，”这个男人说，“我要娶你。你必须嫁给我。”

我简直无法相信他在说什么。这太可怕了。真是倒霉透顶。

是的，在怀旧夜，女人必须嫁给向她求婚的男人，这是真的——是星际理事会定下的规矩。我已十六岁，是女人，不是孩子了。我不能拒绝这个男人。我心里一阵恶心。

“我叫牛子，”这男人说。“你叫什么，亲爱的？”

“呃，我叫，呃……毛虫，”我骗他道，“他们都叫我虫子。”

“好，虫子，”牛子说，“你肯嫁给我吗？”

“对不起，牛子。我知道我已十六，到了可以结婚的年龄，但我父母还不想让我结婚。他们只有我这一个女儿。”

牛子大笑起来。笑得好可怕。知道我不喜欢他，他很开心。真是个混蛋！

噢，感谢地球及其动物我没告诉他我的真名！

我突然跳起来，跑进黑暗中的人群。我安全了。他找不着我。我回到我们的智能飞船上，坐在里面直到我父母回来。

我什么也没对父母说。我害怕。星际理事会说牛子是对的，我是错的，我不知道我父母会怎么做。

第二天上午我就把这事儿忘了。牛子怎么能找得到我？我们的行星上有好几百个姑

娘。他不知道我的名字。他只看见了我的眼睛。

忽然，我爸爸进了我的房间。“蜂鸟，”他满面愁容地说道。

“怎么啦？”我问，“您为什么叫我蜂鸟，不叫蜂儿？”

“蜂鸟，让你的机器人给你一套婚纱。”

“为什么？为什么？”但我知道是怎么回事儿了。

“你要嫁给一个叫水牛的男人。”

“不，爸爸，我不能。”我哭了起来。“我不要嫁人。我太小了。我不想离开您。我讨厌他！”

爸爸摇了摇头。“好了，蜂儿，不过是一年的功夫。你不能总是个孩子。好多姑娘开始都不想嫁人。星际理事会说我们必须尽量频繁地结婚，然后生孩子。你知道原因。”

“为什么？”我孩子似地说道。

“因为我们孤独。因为除了我们，银河系就没有其他东西了。这些你都知道的，蜂儿。”

机器人裁缝给我做了一套婚纱——我们做什么都有机器人。婚纱是白的，除了眼睛，把我全罩住了。

爸爸挽着我的胳膊。

牛子和我妈妈在一起等着。我通过他结婚礼服的眼洞看见了他的眼睛。一双刻薄的小

眼睛。

“你好，虫子，”他说。

我爸爸说道：“她的名字叫蜂鸟。”

“我知道，我知道，”牛子说。

“你怎么找到我的？”我问牛子。

“我有个小照相机，”他回答，“我给你的眼睛照了张像。难道你不知道每个人的眼睛都不同吗？没有人长着和你一样的眼睛。”

我转向爸爸：“听他说的话！您难道看不出他有多坏吗？求您别让我嫁给他。”

我爸爸没说话。他帮不了我。

怀旧夜里，男人向你求婚你可以拒绝。但你要非同寻常的理由，一个星际理事会能接受的理由。如果你正在为银河系做重要的工作，理事会一般会认为这是可以接受的正当理由。

我想不出任何这种理由。可这只能是痴心妄想.....我要是能逃跑该多好。

我害怕。我不愿逃跑，不愿将来永远见不到我的家人。

几个邻居到了，于是婚礼马上开始。

牛子站在我身边，抓着我的手。他的手很大，有点湿。我恨死他了！

爸爸拿起《往事追忆》。他读道：“开始的时候，银河系有数以百万计的行星，但只有一颗行星上有生命，那就是地球。人类和动物生活在一起。但人类污染了地球。它变得太热了，动物无法生存。它们死了。所有的动物都死了。所以，人类离开了地球，再也没有回到那颗行星。他们离开地球的时候，心里空荡荡的，今天仍是空荡荡的，永远空荡荡的……”

牛子还抓着我的手。

爸爸又说话了：“水牛，以地球和动物的名义，你愿意娶我的女儿让她做你一年妻子吗？”

牛子答道：“我愿意。”

我爸爸转向我：“蜂鸟，以地球和动物的名义，你愿意嫁给水牛让他做你一年的丈夫吗？”

就在这时候我跑开了。

我把婚纱扯了下来。我跑得很快。他们追我，但我没穿婚纱，跑得比他们快得多。我跑上我们的智能飞船，跳了上去，说道：“起飞。”

“为什么人们朝我们跑？”飞船问道。

“马上起飞！”我喊道。“生死攸关！”

飞船不会争辩。起飞了。

赛家整个都是绿的——到处都是麦田。我在太空中回头看着我的行星。我的周围都是星星。

银河系的数百万颗星星——那正是我的藏身之地！

2 A spaceship made of plastic

I couldn't believe what I'd done . I'd run away—me !

I'm not very brave and I love my parents very much . I never thought I could ever disobey them .

I was afraid . And I felt sad for my parents . Poor mother and father !

But I had to live my own life . I couldn't get married to a horrible old man like Buffalo !

I knew they would follow me quickly so I told the spaceship to take me to a very quiet part of the Galaxy , a long way from any planets with people on .

The spaceship went .

How can a spaceship travel across the Galaxy in no time at all ?

Well , I learnt the answer to that in school . There are a lot of little black holes in space . They are about as big as a potato . A spaceship goes into one black hole and comes out of another black hole on the other side of the Galaxy .

Don't ask me how a big thing like a spaceship can go into a thing as small as a potato . I was probably asleep when the robot teacher told me the answer to that !

Nobody could find me now . I was in the middle of the Galaxy in empty space .

There were stars above my head , stars below my feet , stars on my left hand , stars on my right hand .

Strange . I knew all these stars were a long , long way away but they didn't look far away . They looked very close ; I wanted to reach out my hand and touch them .

And the silence . So very , very , very quiet .

The Book of Remembering says how I felt : 'Their hearts were empty . '

My heart was empty . I saw millions of stars but there was no life in the Galaxy except us humans . Well , there are potatoes and wheat and rice but you can't talk to vegetables .

We are alone .

The Book of Remembering says we did it . We polluted Earth and so killed all the

animals . We ran away from Earth and we're still running . That was twenty thousand years ago and we still can't forget .

The Book of Remembering gives names for thousands of animals . Fantastic !
Could there really be thousands of animals ? The idea of animals is so strange . What did they look like ? The Book of Remembering has no pictures , but says there are birds that fly , and fish that swim . There are animals with no legs , and animals with lots of legs—ugh ! What a horrible idea !

Can anybody believe stories like that ?

And now I was running away too . Perhaps I was wrong to run away .

Suddenly the spaceship went 'PING ! '

'Yes , what is it ? ' I asked .

'There is something near us . '

'Oh ! ' I said . ' I thought we were a long way from anything out here . Take me closer . '

We moved closer , but I couldn't see anything .

Then one star disappeared , then another star , and another . It was too dark to see what the thing was . It was just a big black shape between me and the stars .

It was probably just a big old rock , which had broken off a moon or a planet .

Well , perhaps it contained gold or something . Then I could show the Star Council I was doing important work . Perhaps that would be a good reason not to marry Buff .

I said , 'Find out what it is made of . '

The spaceship shot a laser at the thing and said , 'It is not natural . It may be a spaceship , although it is moving too slowly to arrive at a star . It is made of plastic . '

A spaceship made of plastic ? You can't make spaceships out of plastic ! And spaceships don't travel slowly .

I was a little afraid , but this was something really important ; nobody could make me get married after I had discovered something as strange as this . I was afraid but also excited . Most girls just get married once a year and have another baby . That's enough excitement for them . Not me !

I was going to visit this spaceship and meet...the people inside it .

'Show me this plastic spaceship , 'I said .

My spaceship shone out light . The thing was big , big , BIG . Who would build a spaceship so big ? The plastic was full of holes and the spaceship looked old and

dead . Would anybody be left alive inside ? I didn't think so .

The spaceship was round like a ball . It turned slowly , which made things inside just heavy enough to stay on the ground .

I saw a door on it and said , 'Land there . '

My spaceship landed . I put on a spacesuit , went outside and moved to the big round door . I pulled and pushed and hit it . At last something moved and the door opened .

Inside , there was a tunnel . A long black tunnel . I climbed in and the door closed behind me .

2 塑料做的飞船

我的所作所为真是难以置信。我跑掉了——天啊！

我的胆子不是很大，我也非常爱我的父母。我从没想过我会不听他们的。

我害怕。我为我的父母感到难过。可怜的妈妈、爸爸！

但我要过自己的生活。我不能嫁给水牛那样的糟老头子！

我清楚他们会很快跟上我的，所以我吩咐飞船把我带到银河系的一个特别宁静的角落，离任何一个有人类居住的星球都很远很远。

飞船进发了。

飞船怎么能在瞬间横穿银河系呢？

喔，我是在学校里知道这答案的。宇宙空间里有好多小黑洞。它们跟土豆差不多大小。飞船从一个黑洞进去，从另一个黑洞出来时就到了银河系的另一侧。

别问我为什么飞船这样的庞然大物能钻进土豆这样小的东西里。机器人老师给我讲这个答案时我可能睡着了！

现在没人能找到我了。我在茫茫太空中，在银河系的中间。

我的头上是星星，脚下是星星，左边是星星，右边是星星。

奇怪，我知道所有这些星星都很遥远很遥远，但看上去并不远。他们似乎非常近；我想伸出手去触摸它们。

还有寂静。静极了，静极了。

《往事追忆》道出了我的感受：“他们的心里空荡荡的。”

我的心里空荡荡的。我能看见好几百万颗星星，除了我们人类，银河系里就再也没有别的生命了。当然，有土豆、小麦和水稻，可你不能跟植物说话啊。

我们孤零零的。

《往事追忆》上说那是我们造成的。我们污染了地球，也就害死了所有的动物。我们从地球逃了出来，直到现在还在东奔西跑。那是两万年以前的事了，可我们至今难忘。

《往事追忆》上罗列了几千种动物的名字。难以置信！真的可能有几千种动物吗？有关动物的想法太离奇了。它们长得什么样？《往事追忆》上没有插图，但说有会飞的鸟，会游泳的鱼。有的动物没有腿，而有的动物有好多条腿——呜！多可怕的想法！

真有人会相信这种故事吗？

如今我也在逃亡。我逃跑可能错了。

突然飞船“砰！”地响了一声。

“哎，怎么了？”我问。

“我们旁边有个东西。”

“啊！”我说，“我以为我们离哪儿都很远呢。让我靠近点儿。”

我们靠近了些，可我什么也看不见。

接着，一颗星星不见了，又有一颗不见了，又是一颗。天太黑，看不见那是什么东西。只能看见我和星星之间黑乎乎的一大块。

它可能只是一块从卫星或行星上脱落的巨大的古岩石。

哎，那上面可能有金子什么的。那样我就可以让星际理事会看到我是在做重要的工作。也许这可以作为我不嫁给牛子的正当理由。

我说：“看看是什么材料制成的。”

飞船对着那个东西发出一束激光，然后说，“它不是天然的。它可能是个飞船，尽管它的运动速度太慢，无法抵达星球。它是塑料做的。”

一个塑料做的飞船？不可能用塑料做飞船！因为飞船的运行速度不能太低。

我有点害怕，可这是一件真正重要的事；我发现了这么一个希奇的东西，不会有人再逼我结婚了。我害怕，但又兴奋。多数姑娘每年结婚一次，再生一个孩子。这对她们就够刺激了。可我不！

我要上这只飞船，去见——里面的人。

“让我看看这塑料飞船，”我说。

我的飞船发射出灯光。这个东西真大，大极了。谁会制造这么大的飞船？塑料上到处是洞，飞船看上去很破旧，死一般的沉寂。里面会有活着的人吗？我想不会。

这个飞船象球一样圆。它慢慢地旋转着，仅能够使里面的东西有足够的重量呆在地面上。

我看到上面有扇门，就说道：“在那儿着陆。”

我的飞船着陆了。我穿上太空服，出了飞船，朝那个大圆门移动过去。我又拉又推又

打。最后不知动了什么机关，门打开了。

里面是一条隧道。又长又黑的隧道。我爬了进去，身后的门关上了。

3 Monsters

There was a door at the other end of the tunnel . I went through and...

I was dreaming ! I saw big things that grew out of the ground . They were much taller than me with long brown arms covered with green leaves .

I was very frightened as I remembered something in the Book of Remembering : 'In those days there were trees...'

Trees !

I never thought a living thing could be so big . I covered my eyes with my hands . I was afraid to look...but I was afraid not to look .

After a time I took my hands away from my eyes . The trees were still there . They weren't moving .

I suddenly understood that the trees couldn't move . They were plants , like

potatoes or rice . I was safe standing under them .

But I didn't feel safe .

The computer inside my spacesuit was checking the air for me . After a few seconds the red lights on my suit turned to green . The air here was safe for humans . So I took off my spacesuit .

Now I could touch and smell things . There was a soft wind . It was cool . I smelt...strange new smells . I smelt living things . Was I smelling the trees...or something else ?

I heard a sound of crying . Then I thought I heard something moving in the trees —just behind one big tree .

Was something hiding behind the tree ? I was frightened but I wanted to see , so I walked slowly towards the tree .

There was light in this place but there were shadows in the trees . I looked round the tree...

I was frightened almost out of my mind . I fell down and my body started shaking .

A grey thing came out from behind the tree and came towards me . It was big

but it wasn't tall because it walked on four feet . It had no hands .

But the thing had teeth . Yes , it had a mouth full of teeth , yellow , shiny teeth .
It had yellow eyes and grey hair all over its body . I could smell it...

Its mouth came towards my face . I closed my eyes and waited to die .

There was hot air on my face . I wanted to scream and scream but I was too
frightened . I couldn't scream .

My mind exploded . I went crazy . I suddenly hit the grey thing and it fell back
against the tree . I hit it again , as hard as I could .

I wanted to destroy the grey thing and I was screaming . Suddenly it was gone .

Then I saw another monster . This one was very small with grey fur all over its
body . It was holding on to the tree but I pulled it off . I could destroy this one !

I pulled its short legs hard . The small monster bit me . Its teeth went right into
my finger . The pain was terrible .

But my mind was exploding . I wanted to destroy it and I didn't care about the
pain . I just wanted to kill it .

Then the big grey monster ran back through the trees , jumped at me and
knocked me down . As I fell , I dropped the little monster and it escaped .

My head banged on a rock and everything went black .

3 怪物

隧道的尽头有一个门。我进去了.....

我在做梦吧！我看见地上长出的很大的东西。它们比我高许多，长着长长的棕色臂膀，上面有绿色的叶子盖着。

我怕极了，我想起《往事追忆》中说的：“那时候有树.....”

树！

我从没想过生物会长得这么大。我用手捂住眼睛。我不敢看.....可不看我也害怕。

过了一会儿，我把手从眼前拿开。树还在那儿，它们一动不动。

我马上明白了，树不会动。它们是植物，象土豆和水稻一样。我站在树下是安全的。

可我感到并不安全。

我太空服里的电脑正在替我检查空气状况。几秒钟后，我太空服里的红灯变成了绿灯。这儿的空气对人类是安全的。于是我脱下了太空服。

这样我就可以触摸和闻东西了。微风袭来，有些凉意。我闻到了什么气味，一种怪怪的、从没闻到过的气味。是生物的气味。我闻到的是树么，还是其他什么东西？

我听到一阵叫声。然后我想我听见树后有东西在动——就在一棵大树后面。

有东西藏在树后面么？我很害怕，可我又想看看，于是我慢慢地朝树走了过去。

这地方有光亮，但树丛里却有些黑影。我绕过树一看……

我几乎吓晕过去。我倒在地上，身体颤抖起来。

一个灰色的东西从树后闪出来，朝我而来。它很大，但不高，因为它是四条腿走路的。它没有手。

那东西长着牙齿。对，长着满口黄色、闪亮的牙齿。它还长着黄色的眼睛，浑身上下都是灰色的毛。我能闻到它的气味。

它的嘴巴凑到我脸上。我闭上眼睛，等死。

我感觉到脸上有热乎乎的气息。我想放声大叫，可我被吓呆了。我叫不出声来。

我脑子吓懵了，变得狂乱。我猛击那个灰不溜秋的东西，它退后撞到树上。我又打了一下，使出了全身的力气。

我想打死那个灰色家伙，我尖叫着。突然，它不见了。

然后我又看到另外一只怪物。这东西很小，全身都是灰色的皮毛。它伏在树上。我把

它拉了下来。这一个我能消灭！

我使劲儿拽着它的短腿。这小怪物咬了我一口。它的牙齿咬进了我的手指。疼死了。

但我疯狂了。我一心想除掉它，顾不上疼痛。我就是想弄死它。

接着，那只大怪物从树丛里跑出来，扑向我，把我打倒了。这一摔，我放走了那小怪物，让它逃开了。

我的头撞在了一块石头上，眼前的一切都变黑了。

4 More monsters

There was a long black nose in front of my face . It was smelling me .

At first I couldn't understand what was happening . Then I remembered . The monster with teeth !

I tried to hit the nose but my arm didn't move . Something was wrong with me . My body felt empty and I was hot inside , like a fire . My body ached and my skin was wet all over .

The big grey monster sat in front of me and it looked at me .

Then I saw the small monster too . It was lying on the ground . It was hurt . It was very small , just a little bigger than my hand . It had a beautiful soft tail and it made a sad sound : 'Eee-eee ! '

I felt two different things at the same time . I wanted to destroy it...but I also felt sorry for it . It was feeling pain , like me .

I didn't know what to do so I started to cry .

The big monster lay down next to me with its fur against my skin . I hated the feeling of its fur but my body couldn't move .

The fur made my skin dry and I began to feel better . I suddenly felt very tired and I was soon asleep .

I woke up feeling better . I wasn't hot inside and I could move again .

The big monster sat down with me . I hit it with my hand but I still wasn't strong . I didn't hurt it .

Then the monster opened its mouth and called : 'Hoo-woo ! '

Some time passed . Then more monsters came . More and more . Most of the monsters walked on four legs . A very big one licked me with its tongue . It was a hard tongue , not like my soft tongue . But I felt better afterwards . That monster

made a noise like this : 'Hee-haw ! '

There was a very small monster that could fly . It had wings and a long hard mouth . It made a noise like this : 'Cheepcheep ! '

It cleaned my finger where Eee-Eee had bitten me . CheepCheep's hard little mouth was good at that .

I must tell the truth . I wanted to take a laser gun and kill all those monsters . They weren't hurting me . They were helping me . They were nice .

But something in my mind hated them . I didn't want to have to think about them .

But I didn't have a laser gun so I couldn't destroy them .

One monster brought me water . Another monster gave me some fruit to eat . A few monsters lay against my body and made me warm . They helped me in many ways but there was something sick in my mind . I still hated them . I will try to explain . For twenty thousand years the Galaxy had belonged to humans . Everything in the Galaxy belonged to us .

When a new baby comes into a family , the first child hates the baby . The first child wants to be the most important , and to keep everything for itself . It is afraid the baby will take things away from it .

It was like that with me . I wanted to fight these monsters . I didn't want them living with me , in my Galaxy .

One day two humans came through the trees . I stood up . I was stronger now . 'Oh , thank Earth-and-animals ! 'I said and ran towards them .

The humans looked at me with big round eyes . One human was a man with long hair . He said , 'Gug-gug-gug ! '

Then he went down on the ground on his hands and knees , like a baby . He ran round me , smelling me .

The woman said , 'Yee-yee-yee ! 'she jumped up on a branch of a tree .

They were humans but they were just like the monsters . They couldn't talk to me .

I started to feel miserable . The monsters tried to give me food but I didn't care about eating .

The monster that said'Hee-haw ! 'carried me on its back and we went to a little river . Hee - Haw dropped me into the water . I didn't care if I was clean or dirty , but Hee - Haw kicked water over me and washed me .

The big grey monster that said'Hoo-woo ! 'was worried about me . I didn't eat

very much and I didn't wash myself . I just sat .

One day Hoo-Woo came with Hee-Haw . Hee-Haw carried me through the trees and the three of us travelled a long way . Finally we came to a high plastic wall .

Hoo-Woo pushed open a door in the wall and we went through . On the other side the air was hot and wet and the trees were bigger . There were monsters but they were different .

Hee-Haw carried me a long way through this forest . In the end we arrived at another plastic wall where there was another door .

Hoo - Woo opened the door and we entered a long tunnel . At the end of the tunnel was another door . At first Hoo-Woo waited outside this door , looking worried . I looked at the door . What was on the other side ? Why was Hoo-Woo so worried ? In the end he opened the door .

I saw a small round room just for a second . Then a terrible bright light came out . After that I couldn't see inside any more ; it was too bright . I was very frightened . I felt this fear deep inside me .

Hee-Haw's head touched the ground . Hoo - Woo's head touched the ground too . I understood . This was their God ! I understood because I felt the same fear as they did .

Hoo-Woo pushed me towards the light .

4 还有怪物

一只长长的黑鼻子探到我面前，正在嗅我。

起初，我不知道发生了什么。接着就想了起来。那个长着牙齿的怪物！

我想打它的鼻子，可我的胳膊动不了。我哪儿受伤了。我的身体什么也感觉不到，只觉得热，象火一样。我全身酸痛，身上的皮肤都湿了。

那只灰色的大怪物坐在我面前，看着我。

接着，我又看到那只小怪物。它躺在地上，受了伤。它非常小，比我的手大不了多少。它长着一条漂亮松软的尾巴，发出一声哀叫：“噫——噫！”

我同时有两种截然不同的感觉。我想除掉它，可又挺同情它。它觉得疼，象我一样。

我不知道该怎么办，于是哭了起来。

那只大怪物挨着我躺了下来，毛贴着我的皮肤。我讨厌它的皮毛的感觉，但我的身体动不了。

皮毛弄干了我的皮肤，我开始感觉好些了。我突然觉得筋疲力竭，很快就睡着了。

我醒来的时候感觉好多了。我身体里面不热了，而且又能动弹了。

那只大怪物和我坐在一起。我用手打了它一下，但我还是没劲儿。我伤不着它。

于是，那怪物张开嘴吼叫道：“呼呜！”

过了一段时间后，又来了些怪物，越来越多。多数怪物都是四条腿走路的。有一只非常大的还用舌头舔我。那舌头很硬，不象我的舌头软软的。但后来我觉得好一些。那只怪物发出一种“嘻——嗨！”的声音。

有一只很小的会飞的怪物，它长着翅膀和一只又长又硬的嘴巴。它发出一种“噉——噉”的声音。

它把“噉噉”咬我手指的地方弄干净了。“噉噉”的小硬嘴正好擅长干这个。

我得说实话。我想拿起一支激光枪把这些怪物都杀掉。它们并不伤害我。它们帮助我。它们挺好的。

但我头脑中的不知什么东西讨厌它们。我不愿被迫去想它们。

可我没有激光枪，所以不能消灭它们。

一只怪物给我弄来了水，另一只怪物给我些果子吃。有几个怪物靠着我的身体躺下，给我保暖。它们用各种办法帮助我，但我的头脑中总有恶心的念头。我还是恨它们。

我要解释一下。两万年了，银河系都是属于人类的，银河系里的所有东西都属于我们。

当一个家庭新降生了一个婴儿，第一个孩子就会恨这个婴儿。第一个孩子想成为最重要的，想把什么都留给自己。他害怕新婴儿会把什么东西拿走。

我就象这样。我想同这些怪物争抢。我不想让它们和我一起，生活在我的银河系里。

一天，有两个人从树林里出来。我站了起来。我现在强壮多了。“噢，感谢地球及其动物们！”我说着跑向他们。

那两个人睁圆了眼睛看着我。一个是头很长发的男人。他说道：“咕——咕——咕！”

然后他手脚伏在地上，象个孩子似的。他边围着我跑，边嗅我。

那个女人说着：“噢——噢——噢！”，跳到了一根树枝上。

他们虽然是人，却和动物一样。他们不能和我说话。

于是，我觉得十分难过。怪物们想办法给我吃的，可我不想吃。

“嘻——嗒！”叫的那个怪物把我驮在它背上，我们一起走到一条小河边。“嘻嗒”把我扔到水里。我并不在乎自己是干净还是脏，可“嘻嗒”向我身上踢水，为我冲洗。

“呼呜”叫的那只灰色大怪物为我担心。我吃的不多，也不洗漱。我只是傻坐着。

一天，“呼呜”和“嘻嗒”一起走来。“嘻嗒”驮着我穿过树林，我们三个走了很远。最后我们来到一堵高高的塑料墙面前。

“呼呜”推开墙上的一扇门，我们走了过去。墙的另一面空气很湿热，树也要大一些。

也有怪物，但长的不一样。

“嘻嗒”驮着我在这片森林里走了很远。最后我们来到另一堵塑料墙前，墙上也有一扇门。

“呼呜”打开门，我们进入了一条长长的隧道。隧道的尽头又有一扇门。开始“呼呜”等在门外，面露愁容。我看着那扇门。墙那边是什么？为什么“呼呜”这么忧心忡忡的？最后他还是打开了门。

我看见一个小圆房间，但只是一瞬间的事。接着，一束耀眼的灯光射出来。后来，里面亮得我都不敢看了。我非常害怕，从心底里感到恐惧。

“嘻嗒”的头伏到地上，“呼呜”的头也伏到了地上。我明白了。这是它们的上帝！我明白了，因为我同它们一样感到恐惧。

“呼呜”把我推向那盏灯。

5 Waiting for fifteen thousand years

'It's too bright in here , 'I said . 'I can't see . '

The light suddenly wasn't so bright and I could see again . I was in a round room , which was empty except for a large square computer .

The computer didn't look like the modern computers we have .

'You aren't God ! 'I said . 'You're just a computer ! Just a strange old computer ! '

A voice came from it . 'Yes , this is computer . Who are you ? '

Oh , the computer still worked ! I was surprised as it looked so very old . It didn't speak in a natural way as modern computers do .

'I'm Hummingbird , 'I answered .

'You are not a hummingbird . Hummingbirds fly in the forests here , in Star Zoo . You are human . You are not a child of Star Zoo . Computer is happy . '

I listened but I didn't understand . 'Hummingbird'was just my name—and the name of one of the animals in the Book of Remembering . Why was this place called the Star Zoo ? What was a 'zoo' ? I had so many questions to ask !

'Computer , 'I said , 'where do you come from ? I never heard of a spaceship as big as this ! You speak my language but it sounds different . Why do Hee-Haw and Hoo-Woo think you're God ? '

'Who is Hee-Haw ? Who is Hoo-Woo ? 'the computer asked .

'The two monsters that brought me here , 'I answered .

'Yes . Donkey . Wolf . All animals believe computer is God . Computer makes

ultrasonic sound . Ultrasonics make fear . '

'Animals ? 'I said slowly . Animals were only a story in the Book of Remembering . There were no animals alive today . What was the computer talking about ? 'Animals...like EeeEee and Cheep-Cheep ? '

'Eee - Eee is a squirrel , 'the computer said . 'Cheep-Cheep is a bird . Animals take care of you . '

I was very afraid . Donkey , wolf , squirrel , and bird were all animals named in the Book of Remembering .

'Where did these animals come from ? 'I asked .

'Star Zoo came from Earth , 'the computer answered . 'Star Zoo left Earth . Earth was hot . '

I suddenly couldn't stand . I fell down and my mind exploded again . This time I wasn't angry . I was sad , empty , afraid , and a little crazy . This was the Book of Remembering come to life !

Earth hot ? That was the Burning ! We made the Earth too hot and all life except humans died . And we humans did it !

'Not necessary to fall down , 'the computer said . 'Computer is not

God . Computer wants to talk to humans . Computer is sad that humans have not spoken for fifteen thousand years . '

I stood up slowly . The Book of Remembering was forremembering the animals but they had been dead for twenty thousand years .

But the animals were here ! Yes , here in the Star Zoo , after travelling between stars for twenty thousand years !

'Why did you leave Earth ? What happened ? 'I asked .

The computer answered , 'Humans polluted Earth . Earth was hot . Animals died . '

'Yes , 'I said . 'I know that . '

The computer continued , 'Humans made zoo in space . No money . Used plastic bottles . '

'What ? 'I said . I didn't understand .

'Collected old plastic bottles . Made zoo with plastic bottles . Cheap . Made big zoo with many rooms . '

'Why are there different rooms ? 'I asked .

'Animals and plants live in different ways , 'the computer

said . 'Hot , cold , wet , dry . Impossible to keep all animals and all plants in one room . Need different things . Difficult work to get everything right . Necessary to have big computer . No money . Got old computer from army . '

'So that's you ? 'I said . 'You're an old army computer from Earth ? '

'Computer works and never stops . '

'I understand ! 'I said . 'A group of people made this Star Zoo . They knew that Earth was dying . They wanted to save the animals . They sent the Star Zoo away from Earth . '

'Star Zoo went , 'the computer said . 'No money . Went slowly . '

'Very slowly , 'I agreed . 'But What happened to the humans inside the Star Zoo ? '

'Five thousand years humans gave orders . Computer worked . Computer mended walls . Computer kept Star Zoo alive and safe . Star Zoo worked well . No problems . Humans stopped giving orders . Not necessary to talk . Humans enjoyed eating , playing , sleeping . Computer can do work . For fifteen thousand years computer has worked , thought , learnt , grown . Now you have come . Computer is happy . '

I was happy too and I wasn't afraid . It was wonderful news . The Galaxy wasn't

empty ! Animals could live on all the worlds and all humans could be happy again .

Humans were lonely without animals . Humans needed animals .

'The animals must leave the Star Zoo , 'I said to the computer . 'We have planets where they can live . Do you agree ? '

'Star Zoo is not strong , 'the computer said . 'Holes in walls lose air and water . Animals need planets . Can have more animals on planets . '

'Then I must go home , 'I said . 'I will come back with spaceships . We will take the animals to different planets . Planets everywhere in the Galaxy . '

'Computer will choose planets for different animals , 'it said . 'First plants will grow . Animals will follow . '

'You can tell us what to do , 'I said . 'This is wonderful .

I want to leave now . Is Hee-Haw waiting ? '

'Donkey waits . 'the computer made a noise that was like crying . 'Donkey has waited for a few minutes . Computer has waited for fifteen thousand years . You come back . Computer is sad and afraid . '

5 一万五千年的等待

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“这儿太亮了，”我说，“我看不见。”

那盏灯马上暗了一些，我又看得见了。我站在一个圆圆的房间里，屋里除了一台四四方方的大电脑外什么也没有。

这台电脑看上去和我们用的现代电脑不一样。

“你不是上帝！”我说，“你不过是台电脑而已！一台怪模怪样的破电脑而已！”

里面传出一个声音：“对，我是电脑。你是谁？”

噢，这电脑还能运转！我很惊奇，因为看上去它太破旧了。它说话的腔调不像现代电脑那么自然。

“我是蜂鸟，”我回答。

“你不是蜂鸟。蜂鸟是在这森林里飞的，在星际动物园。你是人。你不是星际动物园的孩子。电脑很高兴。”

我听着，但无法理解。“蜂鸟”只是我的名字——《往事追忆》中一种动物的名字。这个地方为什么叫星际动物园？什么是“动物园”？我有好多问题要问！

“电脑，”我说，“你是哪儿来的？我从没听说过这么大的飞船！你讲的是我的语言，可听起来不大一样。为什么‘嘻嘻’和‘呜呜’把你当上帝？”

“‘嘻嘻’是谁？‘呜呜’又是谁？”电脑问道。

“带我到这儿来的那两个怪物，”我回答。

“哦。驴子、狼。所有的动物都把电脑当成上帝。电脑能发出超声波。超声波能引起恐惧。”

“动物？”我慢慢地问道。动物不过是《往事追忆》中的故事。今天没有活着的动物了。这电脑在胡说什么？“动物……‘噫噫’和‘噉噉’那样的？”

“‘噫噫’是只松鼠，”电脑说，“‘噉噉’是只鸟。照料你的都是动物。”

我很害怕。驴子、狼、松鼠和鸟都是《往事追忆》中动物的名字。

“这些动物是哪儿来的？”我问道。

“星际动物园来自地球，”电脑回答，“星际动物园离开了地球。地球热。”

我突然站不住了。我倒了下去，头脑又发懵了。这次我没有感到愤怒。我难过、空虚、恐惧，还有点狂乱。《往事追忆》变成了活生生的现实！

地球热？那是因为大火灾！我们把地球弄热了，除了人类以外，所有的生物都死了。那是我们人类干的！

“不必趴下，”电脑说，“电脑不是上帝。电脑想和人说话。电脑难过，人类已经一万五千年没说话了。”

我慢慢站起来。《往事追忆》是为了纪念动物的，但它们已经灭亡了两万年。

可动物就在这儿！是的，在星际动物园这儿，在星际间运行了两万年后到了这儿！

“你们为什么离开地球？发生了什么事？”我问。

电脑回答：“人类污染了地球。地球热。动物死了。”

“是的，”我说。“我知道这些。”

电脑接着说：“人类在太空建造动物园。没有钱，就用塑料瓶子。”

“什么？”我说。我不明白。

“回收旧塑料瓶子，用塑料瓶子建造动物园。便宜。建造了有很多房间的大动物园。”

“为什么要分不同的房间？”我问。

“动物和植物的生活方式各不相同，”电脑说，“热的、冷的、湿的、干的。不可能把所有动物和所有植物都放在同一个房间里。需要不同的东西。把一切都弄好是困难的工作。需要有大电脑。没有钱，从军队弄来旧电脑。”

“就是你吗？”我说，“你是从地球来的旧军用电脑？”

“电脑永远工作，从不停止。”

“我知道！”我说，“有一些人建造了这个星际动物园。他们知道地球就要灭亡。他们希望拯救动物。他们把星际动物园从地球上发射走了。”

“星际动物园走了，”电脑说，“没有钱。慢慢地走了。”

“非常慢，”我也这么认为。“但星际动物园里的人呢？”

“人类在 5000 年发布指令。电脑执行。电脑修补墙壁。电脑维持星际动物园的生存和安全。星际动物园运转良好。没有问题。人类不再给指令了。没有必要说话。人类喜欢吃、玩、睡。电脑可以工作。一万五千年了，电脑工作、思想、学习、成长。现在你来了。电脑高兴。”

我也高兴，我不害怕了。这是个好消息。银河系不再是空荡荡的了！动物们可以在任何世界上生活，所有的人类又可以快乐了。

没有动物，人类感觉孤独。人类需要动物。

“动物们得离开星际动物园，”我对电脑说，“我们有行星，它们可以在上面生活。你同意么？”

“星际动物园不结实，”电脑说，“墙上的破洞漏气、漏水。动物们需要行星。行星上可以有更多的动物生活。”

“那我必须回家，”我说，“我会带着些飞船来。我们把动物送到各个行星上去。银河系里的所有行星。”

“电脑将为不同的动物挑选行星，”它说，“先种植物。接着是动物。”

“你可以告诉我们怎么做，”我说，“这太好了。我现在要走了。'嘻嘻'还在等着吗？”

“驴子在等着。”电脑发出一种像哭一样的声音：“驴子等了几分钟。电脑等了一万五千年。你回来了。电脑又难过，又害怕。”

6 They don't believe me

Where was my spacesuit ?

Eee-Eee found it up in a tree where another squirrel was living in it . Eee-Eee told the squirrel to get out of my spacesuit .

I was happy to wear the spacesuit . Hoo-Woo took me to the door where I first came in .

Hoo-Woo made his noise : 'Hoo-woo ! 'as I opened the door . He was sad that I was going .

I said , 'I'm coming back , 'and I went out to my spaceship .

I got in and said , 'Take me home . '

The stars changed suddenly . I saw my world in space , all green and beautiful . A few minutes later the spaceship landed and I was home .

My father ran from the house shouting , 'Hummy ! '

I kissed my father .

My mother was angry with me . 'I didn't know if you were dead or alive ! 'she cried . 'It's been a week ! '

A week ! It felt like months to me .

'I've got some very exciting news for you , 'I said .

'OK , 'my mother said . 'Let's sit in the theat and talk there . Oh yes , 'she said to my father , 'why don't you go to the house and bring us something to drink ? '

Strange . Robots usually bring the drinks . But I just thought my mother wanted to be specially nice to me .

I told my mother what had happened . When my father came with drinks , I told my story anain .

Telling my story , I looked at the green fields of wheat moving in the wind . The wheat went on for thousands of miles , looking just the same everywhere .

How different it was in the Star Zoo ! Every time you turned your head , you saw something new . That had frightened me at first but now I thought the Star Zoo was wonderful .

I explained that feeling to my parents .

'Yes , yes , Hummy , 'my mother said , looking quickly at my father .

I saw a spaceship land near the house . 'Who's coming ? 'I asked .

My mother and father looked at each other . Then I knew .

'It's Buff , isn't it ? 'I said . 'You called him when you were getting the drinks ! 'I said to my father . I was really angry . 'How could you ? Wait ! You don't believe me , do you ? '

'Your head is full of dreams , Hummy , 'my father said . 'You must be married to Buff , but only for a year . Then you can get married to someone you like . '

I jumped up . 'I hate you ! Why did I come back ? Why didn't I go straight to the Star Council ? '

Buff walked up to us . 'Hello again , Kate , 'he said . 'I still remember the first name you told me . '

I had an idea . 'Listen to what happened to me , 'I said , and I told my story a third time .

Buff laughed . ' What a story ! You can tell me stories like that every night . '

'So you don't believe me ? 'I smiled .

He just laughed .

'OK , Buff , 'I said . 'Come with me . I'll show you the Star Zoo . If it's only a story , I'll marry you . I'll even get married for five years if you want . OK ? '

'Why not ? 'Buff said . 'I'll bring a robot to see what's really there . Robots never lie . '

Buff borrowed one of our family robots and we took off . My father watched us go with a worried face .

It was black in the empty space far between stars and we couldn't see anything . Buff was surprised when we landed on the Star Zoo .

We put on spacesuits and went out . Buff looked at the door , very surprised . We went in .

After we went through the second door , Buff stood without moving and he looked at the trees and didn't say anything . The robot closed the door behind us .

Hoo - Woo ran out of the trees to meet me . I was happy to see him and happy to be back in the Star Zoo again . I wasn't afraid at all .

I looked round at Buff and my heart stopped . Buff's face was full of hate and he was holding a laser gun . The gun was pointing at Hoo - Woo .

6 他们不相信我

我的太空服哪儿去啦？

“噫噫”在一棵树上找到了它，另一只松鼠住在里面。“噫噫”叫那只松鼠从我的太空服里出来。

穿上太空服我很高兴。“呼呜”把我带到起初我进来的门那儿。

我开门的时候，呼呜叫了一声：“呼——呜！”。我要走了，它有些难过。

我说：“我会回来的。”然后就出去回到了我的飞船上。

我进了飞船，说道：“带我回家。”

星星突然变了。我看见我的星球在太空中，全是绿色，很美。几分钟后飞船着陆，我回到了家。

爸爸从房子里跑出来，喊道：“蜂儿！”

我亲了爸爸。

妈妈在生我的气。“我不知道你是死是活！”她大声说，“整整一个星期！”

一个星期！我觉得象是好几个月了。

“我给你们带来一个非常令人激动的消息，”我说。

“好，”妈妈说，“我们到麦田里坐下谈谈。哦，对了，”她对爸爸说，“你能不能到房子里给我们拿点喝的？”

奇怪，一般是机器人拿饮料的。但我只以为妈妈是想对我特别地好些。

我把所发生的事情跟妈妈说了。爸爸把饮料拿来后，我又把事情说了一遍。

我一边讲着我的经历，一边看着绿油油的麦田在风中摇曳。麦田绵延数千英里，哪儿看上去都一个样。

星际动物园里就截然不同！每当你转过头，就能看到新的东西。一开始，还把我吓了一跳，可现在我觉得星际动物园真棒。

我把我的感觉向父母说了。

“好了，好了，蜂儿，”妈妈说，并很快地瞥了爸爸一眼。

我看到有一只飞船降落在房子旁边。“谁来了？”我问道。

妈妈和爸爸对视了一眼。我马上就明白了。

“是牛子，对不对？”我说，“你拿饮料的时候给他打电话了！”我对爸爸说。我真的生气了。“你怎么能这样？等一等！你们不相信我，是吗？”

“你的脑子里充满梦想，蜂儿。”爸爸说，“你得嫁给牛子，不过是一年的事。然后你可以嫁给一个你喜欢的人。”

我跳了起来。“我恨你们！我为什么要回来？我为什么不直接去星际理事会？”

牛子朝我们走来。“又见面了，虫子。”他说，“我还记得你第一次告诉我的名字。”

我想出了个主意。“你听听我都经历了些什么。”我说。接着，我又把事情讲了一遍。

牛子笑了。“好一个故事！你每天晚上都可以给我讲这样的故事。”

“这么说你不相信我？”我笑道。

他只是笑。

“好，牛子，”我说，“跟我来。我带你去看星际动物园。如果是假的，我就嫁给你。如果你愿意，我可以嫁给你五年。行吗？”

“有什么不好？”牛子说，“我要带一个机器人去看看到底是怎么回事儿。机器人从不撒谎。”

牛子带上我家的一个机器人，我们就起飞了。我爸爸面露愁容地看着我们走了。

星星之间的茫茫太空一片漆黑，我们什么也看不见。我们星际动物园着陆时牛子很吃惊。

我们穿上太空服到了外面。牛子看着那扇门，惊讶万分。我们走了进去。

我们穿过第二道门，牛子一动不动地站住了，他看着那些树，没有说话。机器人在后面把门关上。

“呼鸣”从树林里跑出来迎接我。我很高兴看到它，也很高兴又回到星际动物园。我一点都不怕。

我回头去看牛子，我的心差点儿停止了跳动。牛子满脸憎恶，他手里拿着一支激光枪。枪是对准“呼鸣”的。

7 The answer is robots

I pushed Buff as he tried to shoot Hoo-Woo . The laser gun burnt a hole in the plastic wall , but it didn't hit Hoo - Woo .

Buff was screaming and the whites of his eyes were showing . He fell on the ground and water ran out of his mouth . He was crazy . I remembered the way I had gone crazy when I first came into the Star Zoo . It was seeing the animals . It was the Book of Remembering coming to life . It made people go crazy .

I hid Buff's laser gun and used some long plants to tie him up . Hee-Haw sat on him while I did it . A bell was ringing and all the animals started looking for

something . What were they looking for ?

A bird found it . It was the hole where the laser had burnt through the wall . The Star Zoo was losing air . I could hear the air escaping .

It was the computer's job to check for damage like that . Then it rang the bell .
But how could the animals mend the hole ?

Eee - Eee went to a pipe on the wall and waited . Warm wet plastic came out of the end of the pipe . The squirrel held little bits of the plastic and ran quickly up the wall . She put the soft plastic over the hole and ran down to get more plastic from the pipe .

In one minute the hole was covered . Eee - Eee went on working until the bell stopped ringing .

The computer and the animals worked together to mend the Star Zoo . After fifteen thousand years they were very good at it !

Buff had crazy eyes . The animals didn't want to go near him so I took care of him . I hoped he would get better soon .

But he didn't get better . Three days later he still wanted to kill and destroy every animal that he saw . He thought I was an animal too .

He never spoke . Perhaps he had forgotten how to speak . Hewouldn't touch food or water .

I didn't know what to do . In the end I went to see the computer with Hee - Haw and the robot .

There was the same terrible light and the fear . But I knew it was ultrasonics that made me afraid . The robot didn't have any feelings , of course . The robot and I went into the computer room but Hee-Haw stayed outside .

The ultrasonics stopped and the light went soft .

'Hummingbird , 'the computer said . 'You have come back . Computer is happy . Who is the other human ? '

'This isn't a human , 'I explained . 'This is just a family robot . '

'Not human ? Looks very human . '

'I know , 'I said . 'But that's not important . Everything's gone crazy ! "What is the problem ? 'the computer asked .

I told the computer about visiting my parents and that they didn't believe me . I explained about Buff and said , 'But he's gone crazy . I know I went crazy at first but I got better . Buff isn't getting better . '

'Why ? 'the computer said . 'You are human . Buff is human . What is different ? '

'I don't know , 'I answered . 'I'm younger than Buff . Perhaps people's minds get hard like rock as they get older . They can't change how they think . '

'When will Buff get better ? 'the computer asked .

'Never...I think , 'I said . 'Buff's too old . '

There was silence . After a long time the computer said slowly , 'Computer is old . '

'Oh , that's different , 'I said . 'I think you are growing very , very slowly . I think you're still young , like me You're still growing and changing . Not like Buff . '

Another silence . Then , 'Hummingbird is friend . '

I felt wonderful . The computer was twenty thousand years old and it wanted to be friends with me !

'Yes , I'm your friend , computer , 'I said . 'I'll be your friend all my life , but my life isn't long like yours Perhaps my children and grandchildren can be your friends too . '

'Computer is happy . '

'Oh , computer , everything's finished ! 'I said . 'I thought Buff could learn to

accept the animals like me , but he can't . He can't change how he thinks . And I think most people in the Galaxy are like him . They can't change . If they find the Star Zoo , they'll destroy all the animals . So it's impossible ! We can't put the animals on different planets . The animals will have to stay in the Star Zoo . One day the Star Zoo will die . After that there will be no life in the Galaxy except humans . Forever .

The computer said , 'Computer will find answer to problem . Wait . '

I waited . And waited . I couldn't understand it . Computers think so fast ! Why wasn't the computer telling me the answer ?

At last it spoke . 'Computer has answer to problem . The answer is robots . Your robot looks very human . You will make a robot like an animal Humans will know it is a robot , not an animal . Humans will not go crazy . Humans will learn about animals . After some time humans will meet animals . Humans will not go crazy . '

'I think I understand , 'I said . 'People have to spend a long time with robot animals first . When they are not afraid , they can meet the real animals and accept them . Yes , it's a wonderful idea , computer ! I could kiss you ! '

'Nobody has kissed computer . Computer is interested . '

So I kissed the computer and I think it kissed me .

7 答案是机器人

当牛子要向“呼鸣”射击时，我把他推开了。激光枪在塑料墙上烧出一个洞，但没打着“呼鸣”。

牛子尖叫起来，翻着白眼。他倒在地上，嘴里流出口水。他发疯了。我还记得第一次来到星际动物园时我发疯的样子。都是看到动物的缘故。因为《往事追忆》突然变成真的了。这确实会让人发疯的。

我把牛子的激光枪藏了起来，然后用一些长长的植物把他绑上。我绑的时候“嘻嗬”坐在他身上。一声铃响，所有的动物都开始找什么东西。它们在找什么呢？

有一只鸟发现了。它们找的是激光枪在墙上烧出的洞。

星际动物园在漏气。我能听见漏气的声音。

检查这样的破损是电脑的事。然后它会响铃。但动物怎么补这个洞呢？

“噫噫”走到墙上的一根管子那儿等着。管子的出口流出热乎乎的液体塑料。松鼠拿着小块塑料快步跑到墙上。她把软塑料放在洞上，然后跑下去到管子那儿去取更多的塑料。

洞很快就被补上了。“噫噫”一直在干，直到铃声停止。

电脑和动物一起修补星际动物园。经过一万五千年，它们对此十分熟练了！

牛子的目光还是狂乱的。动物们不想靠近他，只有我照料他。我希望他早点儿好过来。

但他没有。三天后他还是见动物就想杀、就想摧毁。他把我也当动物了。

他一句话也不说。也许他已经忘记怎么说话了。他不肯吃饭，水也不肯沾。

我不知道该怎么办。最后，我与“嘻嗒”和机器人会见电脑。

还是那盏眩目的灯光，还是一样的恐惧。但我知道让我害怕的是超声波。当然，机器人什么感觉也没有。机器人和我进了电脑室，但“嘻嗒”留在外面。

超声波停了，灯光也弱了一些。

“蜂鸟，”电脑说，“你回来了。电脑高兴。另一个人是谁？”

“这不是人。”我解释道，“这只是个家用机器人。”

“不是人？看上去很象人。”

“我知道，”我说，“可这不重要。大家都疯了！”

“出什么问题了？”电脑问道。

我向电脑讲了回去看父母，而他们不相信我的事。我解释了牛子的事，然后说：“可他疯了。我知道开始我也疯过，但后来又好了。牛子却一直没有好转。”

“为什么？”电脑问道，“你是人。牛子是人。有什么不同？”

“我不知道。”我回答，“我比牛子小。也许人随着年龄的增加，头脑也僵化得象岩石了。他们改变不了自己的想法。”

“牛子什么时候能好转？”电脑问道。

“不会好了……我想。”我说，“牛子太老了。”

沉默。过了好久，电脑缓缓地说道：“电脑也老了。”

“噢，那不一样。”我说，“我觉得你长得特别慢。我觉得你还很年轻，象我一样。你还是在成长和变化。不象牛子。”

又是沉默。然后它说：“蜂鸟是朋友。”

我感觉好极了。这台电脑两万岁了，它还想和我做朋友！

“是的，我是你的朋友，电脑。”我说，“我永远都是你的朋友，可我的生命没有你那么长。也许我的孩子和孙子们也可以做你的朋友。”

“电脑高兴。”

“噢，电脑，一切都完了！”我说，“我还以为牛子会象我一样学着接受动物，可他不能。他不能改变他的想法。而且我想银河系的大多数人都会象他。他们无法改变。如果他们发现星际动物园，他们会消灭所有动物的。所以我们不能把动物送到不同的行星上。根本不可能！总有一天星际动物园会毁灭。以后，银河系除了人类就再也没有其他生物了。永远。”

电脑说：“电脑会找到这个问题的答案。等一等。”

我等着。等了又等。我弄不明白。电脑的思维很快！为什么电脑不告诉我答案？

它终于说话了：“电脑有这个问题的答案。答案是机器人。你们的机器人长得很象人。你们可以把机器人造成动物的样子。人类知道那是机器人，不是动物。这样人就不会发疯了。人类就可以了解动物。过一段时间再让人见动物。人就不会发疯了。”

“我想我明白了。”我说，“一开始，人得和机器动物相处很长一段时间。他们不害怕的时候就可以见真动物，接受它们。对，真是个好主意，电脑！我想亲亲你！”

“没有人亲过电脑。电脑有兴趣。”

于是我亲了电脑，我想它也亲了我。

8 An animal is made

Arobot can do many different things from taking care of a baby to building a spaceship . It can do anything except think . The Star Zoo computer was the only one that could think .

Well , our family robot could build a robot animal , easily . That was no problem .

First we had to choose what animal to make , so we went round the Star Zoo to look at all . the animals . Hee-Haw carried me and Hoo-Woo came with us . The robot followed .

I don't know how many rooms the Star Zoo had ; I couldn't count them all . Some rooms were filled with water where there were big fish and small fish . There were horrible monsters walking under the water and I felt a little afraid again .

Some rooms were covered in snow and all the animals there had white fur . There were dry rooms , hot wet rooms , forest rooms...And animals and birds and trees and flowers !

There were more living things than I had ever dreamt of !

I sat on Hee-Haw's back as the donkey walked on . We went through a door into a room full of strange life , then we went through another door and into another room , It was like a dream . In a dream , things change suddenly , without reason . It was like that .

We went back to the computer . I didn't know which animal to choose and neither did the robot . Hee-Haw and Hoo-Woo didn't understand the problem ; they weren't intelligent in the human way .

So I asked the computer .

'Watch humans , 'the computer said . 'Humans enjoy playing with animals . Find an animal which enjoys playing with humans . '

So we went to see the humans .

The humans in the Star Zoo couldn't speak . I sat down and watched them while the humans played up in the trees , swam in the pool and played games in the grass . They played all the time .

Most other animals didn't play with the humans . But finally I saw one animal come through the grass to play . It liked playing with humans !

The humans played with the animal for an hour . The animal and the humans enjoyed playing together .

'That's the animal you must make , 'I told the robot .

The robot watched the animal and touched it and measured everything . In the end it was ready to build a robot just like that animal .

'What do you need to build it ? 'I asked .

'Plastic , 'the robot answered . 'I will use real fur on the outside . But I need some metal . Where can I find metal ? '

There was only one thing in the Star Zoo made of metal - the computer !

The computer told the robot to take off two small pieces of metal from its back .

The robot worked fast . Sometimes it needed a special tool . Then it opened its stomach because the tools were kept inside the body there .

First , the robot made a plastic body which it covered with soft plastic , like a skin . Then it used fur to cover the skin .

I left before the robot finished because I was worried about Buff . I didn't want him to die .

Buff still wouldn't eat or drink But the worst thing was , he was still crazy . His mind wasn't getting better...

If Buff stays in the Star Zoo , I thought , he'll die .

I talked to him but he didn't answer . I knew he wanted to kill me . He wanted to kill all living things .

The robot finished its work and showed me a little animal . It looked , and sounded , and played like the real animal . I took it to the computer .

'Yes , it looks just like the animal , 'the computer said . 'It's very small-a baby animal . 'the computer told me its name . It checked the animal , then said to the

robot , 'Make it warm . '

The little animal was cold .

So the robot made the baby animal warm , like the real animal . We were ready .

The robot put Buff to sleep , then put the spacesuit on him and carried him to the spaceship .

I was leaving the Star Zoo for the second time . Would our plan succeed , I wondered ? Before I went through the door , I looked back at all the life that existed only here in the Star Zoo , and in no other place in all the Galaxy !

8 造出了一只动物

从照看婴儿到制造飞船，机器人能做许许多多不同的工作。除了思维，它无所不能。星际动物园的电脑是唯一能思维的。

没问题，我的家用机器人可以造一个机器动物，轻而易举。没有问题。

我们先得选择制造什么动物，于是我们在星际动物园走了一圈，把所有动物都看一看。“嘻哧”驮着我，“呼呜”陪着我们。机器人跟在后面。

我弄不清星际动物园有多少房间，我无法全数过来。有的房间装着水，里面养着大鱼和小鱼。水下面还有可怕的怪物在行走，让我又觉得有点害怕。

有的房间被雪覆盖，所有的动物长着白色的皮毛。有干燥的房间、湿热的房间、森林房间……以及动物、鸟、树，还有花！

这儿的动物比我所想象的多得多！

我坐在“嘻嘻”的背上，驴子继续往前走。我们穿过一扇门，进入一个满是千奇百怪的生命力的房间。然后，我们穿过另一扇门进入另一个房间。象在做梦一样。在梦中，事物变幻莫测，讲不清道理。就象是那样。

我们回到电脑那儿。我还是不知道该选择哪种动物，机器人也不知道。“嘻嘻”和“呜呜”不明白是怎么回事；它们没有人类这样的智慧。

于是我问电脑。

“看看人类。”电脑说，“人类喜欢和动物玩，找一只喜欢陪人类玩的动物。”

于是我们去看人类。

星际动物园的人不会说话。我坐在地上观察他们，他们在树上玩耍，在池子里游泳，在草地上玩游戏。他们总是在玩乐。

多数其他的动物都不和人玩。但最后我看见有只动物从草地跑出来玩。它喜欢和人玩！

那些人和这只动物玩了一个小时。这只动物喜欢和那些人在一起玩。

“你得制造一个那样的动物。”我吩咐机器人。

机器人观察这只动物，抚摸它，上下都做了测量。最后，它准备好了，可以制造一个跟这只动物一样的机器动物。

“你需要用什么制造它？”我问。

“塑料，”机器人回答，“外面我打算用真皮毛。可我需要些金属。我能在哪儿找点金属？”

星际动物园里只有一样东西是用金属做的——电脑！

电脑让机器人从它的后背上取下两小块金属。

机器人干活儿很快。有时它需要一些专门的工具。于是它就打开自己的肚皮，因为工具是放在身体里边的。

首先，机器人做了一个塑料躯干，外面包上类似皮肤的软塑料。然后它又用皮毛盖住皮肤。

机器人还没有完工我就离开了，因为我担心牛子。我不希望他死。

牛子还是不肯吃喝。但最糟糕的是他还在发狂。他的头脑还是没有好转……

我想，要是牛子呆在星际动物园，他会死的。

我跟他说话，可他不回答。我知道他想杀死我。他想把所有活的东西都杀死。

机器人完成了工作，把一只小动物给我看。它的样子、声音和玩相都很象真动物。我把它带到电脑那儿。

“好，它和真动物一模一样。”电脑说，“它非常小——是只小动物。”电脑告诉了我它的名字。它检查了这只动物，然后对机器人说：“给它体温。”

这只小动物是冷的。

所以机器人就让它身体象真动物一样温暖。我们准备好了。

机器人让牛子入睡，然后替他穿上太空服，并把他背到飞船上。

我又要离开星际动物园了。我在想，我们的计划能成功吗？出门之前，我回头看了一眼——只有星际动物园才存在生命，银河系其他地方都没有！

9 An animal is destroyed

Buff was asleep . I told the spaceship to take us to New Earth , the planet of the Star Council . I wasn't going back to my parents . I wanted to go to the top people .

A few minutes later the spaceship was falling towards a planet covered with tall

buildings . Many of the buildings touched the clouds . I'd never been to New Earth before . I was just a young girl from a small planet and I felt very unimportant here .

We landed . I could see a lot of people walking quickly . They didn't stand and talk . They were too busy . Who was going to stop and talk to a young girl like me ?

Everybody was wearing very expensive , fashionable clothes too ! I felt stupid with just my old clothes with my name 'Hummingbird'on . I said to the robot , 'Make a special dress for me . I want to look more important . '

A minute later I had the dress . It didn't look very good . It was grey and just like an old bag .

I put on the dress and it suddenly came to life . It moved over me , full of changing colours .When I looked in a mirror , I couldn't believe it . I looked fantastic !

When I got out of the spaceship , I wasn't afraid of anybody .

At first I thought the Star Council buildings were the high ones , up in the clouds . They weren't . I had to go below ground to an office where I spoke to a policeman . He didn't believe my story about the Star Zoo...until the robot told him it was all true . Robots can't lie .

The policeman looked at me for a long time . In the end he called a Star Council

official .

He and the policeman took me to a lift and we went down many floors . Then they put me in a room and asked me questions . They wanted to see the robot animal but I said no . I said only the Star Council could see the robot animal .

Three hours later they were still asking me questions and I couldn't keep my eyes open . I was so tired . My dress had lost its colours . It was just grey again . I didn't feel important . I felt like a child .

But I didn't show them the robot animal .

The official said , ' I don't believe you . There are no animals in the Galaxy now . Perhaps there never were any animals . They're only stories in the Book of Remembering . '

'Well , why are you asking me so many questions ? 'I said .

'Because your robot tells the same story . Because you have a crazy man in your spaceship-he's in hospital now . '

Suddenly the official got up and took me to the lift . We went down , down , down , very fast .

We came out into a room in the shape of a star . I felt frightened because I knew

this was the Star Room where the Star Council met .

The Council men and women came in and took their places at the Star Table .

The official told them my story , which my robot repeated .

Everybody looked at me , waiting for me to show them the robot animal .

The President of the Star Council said , 'Where is this animal ?'

'It's not an animal , 'I said . ' It's a robot . But it looks just the same as a real animal . "Where is it ?'

I touched the robot's stomach . 'In there , 'I answered .

'Bring it out . We want to see it , 'the President said .

'Yes , sir , 'I said . I looked round at all the Councillors . I was afraid to speak to these important people but I had to tell them about the danger . 'When Buff saw an animal , he went crazy . I went crazy at first , too . '

'We heard your story . '

'Please listen , 'I said . 'This is a robot . Please remember it's not a real animal . I don't want anybody here to go crazy . '

'Don't try to frighten us , girl . Bring out the animal . '

I told the robot to open its stomach , and it opened . The little robot animal jumped on to the Star Table .

It looked so alive ! It opened its mouth and made the special noise of that animal . It had small sharp white teeth .

The mouth of every Councillor fell open at the same moment .

There was a sudden bright light . The little animal exploded . It was gone . There was nothing left except a little wet plastic on the Star Table and a smell of burning hair .

The Star Council official had destroyed it with his laser gun .

The Councillors were getting up and shouting . Their faces were full of hate . They had the same crazy eyes as Buff . Perhaps not as bad as Buff , because the animal had only been there for a second or two and I had told them it was a robot . But , like Buff , they wanted to kill and destroy .

Things got worse and worse . They started breaking chairs . Some of them used broken chairs to hit people . They were going crazy , just like Buff .

The plan had failed . The Star Council had gone crazy . I was very frightened . What had I done ?

9 一只动物被杀害了

牛子在沉睡。我吩咐飞船带我们去“新地球”——星际理事会所在的行星。我不打算回我父母那儿。我要直接去见上层人物。

几分钟后，飞船朝一个高楼林立的行星降落。很多高楼耸入云端。我以前从来没见过新地球。我只是个小行星上来的小姑娘，在这儿我觉得很卑微。

我们着陆了。我看到有很多人匆忙地走着。没有人停下说句话。他们太忙碌了。谁会停下来跟我这样的小姑娘说话呢？

而且每个人都穿着非常昂贵、时髦的衣服！我穿着那件绣着我名字“蜂鸟”的旧衣服让人觉得傻乎乎的。我对机器人说：“给我做一套特别点儿的衣服。我想使自己看上去神气些。”

不一会儿，我就拿到了新衣服。看上去不是太好。是灰色的，就象个旧袋子。

可当我一穿上，它马上就有了神采。它在我身上移动着，满是变幻的色彩。往镜子里看，我简直无法相信。我看上去神气极了！

当我走出飞船时，我已经谁都不怕了。

开始，我以为星际理事会的大楼是那些高入云端的。其实不是。我走到了地下的一间

办公室才和一个警察说上话。他不相信我说的星际动物园的事，直到机器人告诉他那全是真的。机器人不会撒谎。

那个警察审视了我好久。最后他叫来一位星际理事会的官员。

他和那个警察把我带上电梯，往下走了很多层。然后他们把我领到一个房间，开始问我问题。他们想看看机器动物，可我没答应。我说只有星际理事会才能见机器动物。

过了三个小时，他们还在盘问我，我的眼睛都快睁不开了。我累极了。我的衣服已褪色，只剩下灰色。我不再觉得神气。我觉得象个小孩子。

但我没有给他们看机器动物。

那个官员说道：“我不相信你。银河系现在没有动物。也许从来就没有过动物。它们只是《往事追忆》里的故事。”

“那么，你为什么问我那么多问题？”我说。

“因为你的机器人说的和你一样。因为你的飞船里有个发疯的人——他现在住院了。”

那个官员突然站起来，把我带到电梯里。我们飞快地往下走，往下走。

我们出了电梯，来到一个星状的房间。我觉得有些害怕，因为我知道这是星际理事会开会的星际室。

理事会的男成员和女成员们进来围着星际会议桌坐下。那个官员跟他们讲了我的事，我的机器人又重复了一遍。

每个人都看着我，等着我给他们看机器动物。

星际理事会主席说话了：“动物在哪儿？”

“它不是动物，”我说，“它是个机器动物。不过它跟真动物一模一样。”

“它在哪儿？”

我摸着机器人的肚子。“在这儿。”我回答。

“拿出来。我们想看看。”主席说。

“是，先生。”我说。我环视了一下所有的理事。跟这些重要人物说话我有些胆怯，可我不得不告诉他们有危险。“牛子看见动物时，他发疯了。我一开始也疯了。”

“我们已经听了你说的事。”

“请听我说。”我说，“这是只机器动物。请记住它不是真动物。我不希望这儿有人发疯。”

“别想吓唬我们啦，姑娘。把动物拿出来。”

我叫机器人打开肚子，它照办了。那只小机器动物一下跳到星际会议桌上。

它看上去活蹦乱跳！它张开嘴，发出一声这种动物特有的叫声。它长着又小又尖的黑牙齿。

每位理事的嘴都同时张开了。

突然闪过一阵亮光。这只小动物爆炸了。它死了。什么也没留下，只剩下星际会议桌上一小块湿漉漉的塑料和毛发烧焦了的味道。

那个星际理事会官员用激光枪把它摧毁了。

理事们喊叫着站了起来。他们的脸上充满憎恨。他们的眼睛和牛子发疯时一摸一样。也许没有牛子那样糟，因为动物只出现了一两秒钟，而且我已经告诉他们它只是个机器动物。然而，像牛子一样，他们也想杀，想摧毁。

情况越来越糟。他们开始摔椅子。有的还用破椅子打人。他们像牛子一样，发疯了。

计划失败了。星际理事会发疯了。我非常害怕。我都做了些什么呀？

10 Two of everything

It was a strange prison with no doors and no police to watch me . Well , I didn't know the special number for making the lifts work , so I couldn't escape by the lifts . There were stairs but it was ten kilometres straight up to get to the surface .

I couldn't get out .

I found food and water . Nobody came to see me for three days .

Finally a soldier arrived and took me back to the Star Room .

An old man with a very straight back sat at the Star Table . He was alone and looked tired . 'Hummingbird , 'he said and then stopped .

'Who are you , please ? 'I asked . I hadn't seen him before .

'I'm the new President , 'he said , but he didn't sound happy about it .

'So the President and the Councillors are still...'

'Still crazy- yes , 'the old man said . 'I think many of them will get better . They saw the animal only for a very short time . '

'It wasn't a real animal , 'I said quickly .

'That didn't make any difference . You asked me who I am . I'm just one of the Star Councillors , but I wasn't in the Star Room when you showed them the animal . I was lucky . Now listen , Hummingbird . There is something I must tell you . Something difficult . '

'Is it about my family ? 'I asked , feeling afraid .

'No , Hummingbird . You are the only person in the Galaxy who knows where the Star Zoo is . If other people know about the Star Zoo , there will be killing . People will be killed . The Star Zoo will be destroyed . It is very important to keep the Star

Zoo alive and so it is necessary to keep it secret . I'm sorry , Hummingbird . You must stay here , ten kilometres down , all your life . I know you're a young girl and I'm sorry . '

'All my life ? 'I said . I couldn't believe it .

'Yes , 'the old man said . 'This is the planet of the Star Council so there is always work here you can do . I'm sorry . '

'What kind of work ? 'I asked .

'Well , everything is going crazy now . For example , we have some little children down here that nobody is taking care of . A robot is doing the job now—but little children need real humans . Would you like to try taking care of them ? '

'OK , 'I said . It was something to do .

I went to see the children , who were playing quietly with a robot . I laughed , because the robot was our family robot . I thought this robot and I would do something wonderful . But we could only take care of little children !

I sat on the floor and played with the children . They were all less than four years old .

They needed somebody . A few of the children were crying . They needed

loving . Robots can sing and play games , but they can't love .

Only the Star Zoo computer can love .

Soon one little boy was sitting on my stomach and another boy was running round and round me . A little girl was pulling my hair and another girl was biting my finger . There was a lot of noise .

These children were more trouble than any animal in the Star Zoo !

'These girls and boys aren't going to be afraid of animals , 'I said to the robot . 'I can show them a robot animal and they won't go crazy . I just wish I had one . '

'You have , 'the robot answered . 'Shall I take out the other one ? '

'What ! 'I shouted . The little boy fell off my stomach and began screaming . I picked him up and kissed him until the screaming changed to crying . I said , 'Another robot animal ? '

'Yes , 'the robot said , touching its stomach .

Of course the robot had another ! Robots always make two of everything . You don't have to tell them . They do it automatically .

The robot opened its stomach and the second robot animal jumped out . It was just like the first one .

The little boy stopped crying . He looked at the robot animal with big , round eyes . All the other children were looking , too .

The animal began to play . It tried to bite its tail and fell over its own feet . It was a funny , sweet animal . After one minute the children were round it in a circle , laughing and playing with it , just like the humans in the Star Zoo .

I watched them . This was very important . These children hadn't learnt to be afraid of animals because they had never heard of Earth , the Burning , or the Book of Remembering .

I watched and thought . I spoke softly to my robot : 'If these children go on playing with this robot animal , they will never become afraid of animals . They won't go crazy . 'I thought some more , and said , 'But if their parents see the animal , the parents will go crazy . '

I thought carefully . Yes , there must be a special room in every house . A room which parents couldn't go in . A room for children only . Then children could play with robot animals in that room .

'That's it ! 'I said . 'The children will still be happy to be with animals when they are parents . It might take twenty , thirty , forty years , but then—'

I heard the sound of somebody coming . I shouted to the robot , ' Hide that

animal , quick ! '

The robot opened its stomach and the animal went inside .

All the children began crying . They wanted to have their wonderful animal back again !

It was the President . He looked round at all the crying children . 'Did I do this ? 'he asked .

'No , 'I answered . 'Please stay . I have fantastic news for you . Listen to what just happened . '

The old man listened . First he was angry , then he was surprised but in the end he became very excited .

'Hummingbird , 'the President said , 'I must not see that robot animal . I don't want to go crazy . Your idea is...interesting . I think it will work . We must be very careful . We can begin with just one family and can learn from our mistakes . I think we can let you go free , Hummingbird . '

'You can see the animal again soon , 'I promised the children , and kissed the ones that were still crying . 'So the little children really liked this animal ! 'the President said . 'What kind of animal was it ? Does the Book of Remembering talk about it ? '

'The Book of Remembering talks about cats , 'I answered . 'This is a baby cat . I can't remember what the computer called it . Oh yes I do-it's called a kitten . '

10 做什么都是一对

这是个奇怪的牢房，没有门，也没有警察看管我。哎，我不知道能让电梯运行的密码，所以我不能从电梯逃跑。有楼梯，但要径直往上走十公里才能到地面。

我逃不出去。

我找到了食物和水。有三天没人来看我了。

最后，来了个士兵把我带回星际室。一位腰板挺直的老者坐在星际会议桌旁。只有他一个人，显出疲惫的样子。“蜂鸟。”他说，然后就停住了。

“请问您是谁？”我问。我以前没见过他。

“我是新主席，”他说。可听上去他并不为此感到高兴。

“这么说原来的主席和理事们还……”

“还在发疯——对，”老者说，“我想很多人会好起来的。他们看见那只动物只是一瞬间的事。”

“它不是真动物，”我连忙说。

“那没有什么不同。你问我是谁。我只是一个星际理事，但你给他们看那只动物时我不在星际室。我很幸运。现在听着，蜂鸟。我得跟你说些事。一些棘手的问题。”

“是我家的事吗？”我问，觉得有些害怕。

“不，蜂鸟。银河系中只有你知道星际动物园在哪儿。如果其他人知道了星际动物园的事，就会发生杀戮。人会被杀死，星际动物园会遭到毁灭。让星际动物园存活下去十分重要，所以需要保密。对不起，蜂鸟。你得呆在这儿，地下十公里，一辈子都呆在这儿。我知道你还是个小姑娘，对不起。”

“一辈子？”我说道。我简直无法相信这一切。

“是的。”那老者说，“这是星际理事会所在的行星，这儿总有你能做的事。对不起。”

“什么工作？”我问。

“呃，现在什么都乱了。比如，我们下面有些小孩子没人照看。现在是个机器人在照看他们——但小孩子需要真人。你愿意尽力照顾他们吗？”

“行！”我说。也算有事可做。

我去看望了孩子，他们正安静地和一个机器人玩。我笑了，因为那个机器人正是我们家的机器人。我想，这个机器人和我可以做一些奇异的事情。可我们只能照看小孩子！

我坐在地板上陪孩子们玩儿。他们都不到四岁。

他们需要人。有几个孩子在哭。他们需要爱。机器人会唱歌，会玩游戏，可它们不会去爱。

只有星际动物园的那台电脑会给予爱。

没过多久，一个小男孩就坐在了我的肚子上，另一个男孩围着我跑。一个小女孩在拽我的头发，另一个女孩咬我的手指。一片吵闹声。

这些孩子比星际动物园的任何动物都要麻烦！

“这些女孩、男孩不会怕动物的。”我对机器人说，“我可以给他们看机器动物，他们不会发疯的。我多希望我有一只机器动物啊。”

“你有。”机器人回答，“要我把另一只拿出来吗？”

“什么！”我叫道。那个小男孩从我肚子上掉了下来，开始尖叫起来。我把他抱起来，亲他，直到他的尖叫变成哭泣。我说：“还有一只机器动物？”

“是的。”机器人说着，摸了摸它的肚子。

当然啦，机器人会有另一只机器动物！机器人做任何东西都做一对。不用你告诉它们。它们会自动去做。

机器人打开肚子，另一只机器动物跳了出来。它跟第一只一模一样。

那个小男孩不哭了。他瞪大圆圆的眼睛盯着机器动物。所有其他孩子也都在看着。

动物开始玩耍。它想咬自己的尾巴，却摔倒了。它是只好玩、可爱的动物。很快，孩子们就把它围成了一圈，欢笑着和它玩耍，就像星际动物园的人一样。

我看着他们。这很有意义。这些孩子们还没有学会害怕动物，因为他们还没有听说过地球、大火灾和《往事追忆》。

我看着，想着，轻轻地对我的机器人说：“如果这些孩子就这么和这只机器动物玩下去，他们绝不会害怕动物。他们不会发疯。”我又想了一会儿，说道：“可要是他们的父母看见动物，父母们会发疯的。”

我认真地想了想，对了，每家都要有一间专门的房间，一个父母不能进去的房间。一个只给孩子用的房间。这样孩子们就可以和机器动物在房间里玩了。

“就这样！”我说，“当这些孩子做了父母，他们还会喜欢动物的。这可能要二十、三十、四十年，但以后——”

我听见有人进来的声音。我向机器人喊道：“把动物藏起来，快！”

机器人打开肚子，动物跑了进去。

所有的孩子开始哭闹。他们希望那只好玩的动物再回来！

来的是主席。他朝四周哭闹的孩子们看了看。“是我把他们弄哭了？”他问道。

“不是。”我回答，“请呆会儿。我要告诉您一件奇妙的事。您听听刚才都发生了什么。”

老人听着。开始他有些生气，后来有些惊奇，但最后他变得非常激动。

“蜂鸟，”主席说，“我决不看那只机器动物。我不想发疯。你的想法……有意思。我觉得能行。我们得特别小心。我们可以从一家开始，然后吸取教训。我想我们可以放你了，蜂鸟。”

“你们很快又能见到那只动物了。”我答应孩子们，亲了亲还在哭的几个。

“这么说小孩子们真喜欢这只动物喽！”主席说，“是种什么动物？《往事追忆》里提到了吗？”

“《往事追忆》里提到猫，”我回答，“这是只小猫。我记不住电脑是怎么叫它的了。噢，我想起来了——它叫猫咪。”