

國立澎湖科技大學應用外語系

實 務 專 題 計 劃

A Rewrite of Charles Dickens' Work —  
A Christmas Carol vs. Three Lessons for Christine

狄更斯之作品改編-

聖誕頌歌 vs. 克莉絲汀的三堂課

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## **Abstract**

This project attempts to examine and explore Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* through rewriting and reinterpreting the old Scrooge with a modern heroine named Christine. This study is divided into six sections, including the author, historical background, story plot, critical analysis, a new version of *A Christmas Carol*, and the motivation of our recreating the old story. We also provide hand-drawn illustrations in the new story that we have created. With our team spirit and efforts, we have gained a new understanding of the age-old Victorian story, which has come to a new life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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## **The Author: Charles Dickens**

Charles John Huffam Dickens was born in February 7, 1812 at Portsmouth England. He had been studied William Giles' school for one year and nearly three years at Wellington House Academy in London; he was largely self-educated. He married Catherine Dickens (1815-1879) in April 2, 1836 at St. Luke's Church but was divorced in 1858. They had ten children. Dickens died on June 9, 1870 and buried at Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey, London.

Dickens's father was a pilot. Because of the debt problem, his father was sent to jail. After that, Dickens started working at a leather shoes oil factory to be an apprentice. At that time, he felt that society was very unfair, so he wrote a semi-autobiography entitled in the book "*David Copperfield*". The book talked about a child whose life was full of misery. When he was 16 years old, a lawyer hired him to be his writer. He had a great opportunity to practice his writing skills. He also had been a journalist and a copy writer. At that time, he often went to England library to learn how to write by himself. That is why he did not complete his formal education, but he still created many great stories and became a world renowned writer.

Victorian London was the largest, most spectacular city in the world. Dickens spent most of his time to observe the city. His description allowed the reader to feel the smell, sound, and the sight of the city. During that period of time, London was in a very chaotic time. The Great Britain experienced the Industrial Revolution. The population of London was a million in 1800, and it grew to 4.5 million in 1880. Perhaps the most impact was the railroad was made by 1830. In his excellent biography, Dickens, Peter Ackroyd notes that "*If a late twentieth-century person were suddenly to find himself in a tavern or house of the period, he would be literally sick - sick with the smells, sick with the food, sick with the atmosphere around*

him". Imagine the early 19<sup>th</sup> century of London, the rich and the poor alike were thrown together in a crowded street. It's hard to keep the street's clean, because there were thousands horse-drawn vehicles. At night, streets become more colorful. Pick-pockets, prostitutes, drunks, beggars, and vagabonds of every description add to the colorful multitude. Dickens describes a London rain storm: *In the country, the rain would have developed a thousand fresh scents, and every drop would have had its bright association with some beautiful form of growth or life. In the city, it developed only foul stale smells, and was a sickly, lukewarm, dirt- stained, wretched addition to the gutters.* (Little Dorrit)

The first novel of Charles Dickens is *The Pickwick Papers*. In the spring of 1837, *The Pickwick Papers* had become the most popular novel in Britain. Charles Dickens published books that are popular until now, including *Oliver Twist*, *Nicholas Nickleby* and *The Old Curiosity Shop*. In January 3, 1842, it was Dickens's birthday; he was thirty years old then. He went to America by Steamship Britannia. When he went back to England, he described the slaves system strictly in "American Notes." In 1843, Charles Dickens Published his first Christmas novel *A Christmas Carol* which caused a sensation. In 1850, Charles Dickens established weekly publication "Household Words" that collected his and other writers' novels. Charles Dickens was not only a prolific writer but became famous on that public occasion. He gave speeches and read but his stories to the public. At that time, he became a figure known to everyone. Charles Dickens did not accomplish his novel *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* when he died and he died from cerebral hemorrhage. Dickens is buried in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey, London. In his tomb the inscription says: "He was a sympathizer to the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed; and by his death, one of England's greatest writers is lost to the world."

## **The Historical Background: Victorian Period and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

## **Background**

“The sun never sinks of the empire” (June 20, 1837 - January 22, 1901) was the most powerful period of Britain, its means the Victoria era was beginning at Queen Victoria throne until her death. In 1914, the First World War began. This was a desirable period; it didn't die away because of Queen Victoria's death. In fact, many historians believe that the end of Victorian era was until the end of World War I. In the Victoria era, people were advocated morality, modesty and courtesy, therefore created many good concepts, such as racial equality and gender equality.

Industrial revolution was also very important for Victorian period. The science, culture, and industry were progressing quite fast. And there were some historical remains including the sewers and the waterworks, which were considered the miracle of construction when those were being built. And the sewers and waterworks are still used at many countries in Britain.

In Britain and Ireland, almost all bridges, train systems, and train stations were built in Victorian period. When Victoria executed initially, Britain's economy was developing fast. In 1832, political power became capitalist of bourgeoisie from the downfallen noble after passing the bill of reform. And then, industrial revolution rose and developed. The various inventions of technology and new skills brought great energy for the economy of country, such as train, steam engine, spinner, and printing machine and so on. Besides, Britain was developing overseas markets continually, it was called ‘world factory’ for this reason. In the middle of nineteen century, Britain became the No.1 for economy entire the world, although there also were serious societal problem at the same time....

Actually, there were a lot of poor people and backbreakers under the wealth, and Britain even exploited many kinds of resources from the settlements, that were why

which amassed a large fortune. In order to survive, women and children must do the heavy manual labor in factory. The workers were exploited, and they were only paid by meager salary, which reflected that it was unfair between the rich and the poor in those days. Because of the diversity between the poor and the rich,

Charles Dickens' writing reflected the reality of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was a representative of nineteenth-century British realistic literature; his works put emphasis on fact, objective and history description, which signifies the dark side of society at that time and the evils. He also stressed the reality correlation between the characters and the environment; with a strong criticism and revealing.

He emphasized social analysis and psychological analysis, to explore the complex inner world of psychological description. When he was a young man, he worked as a newspaper intern reporter, dedicated to court news; he was naturally familiar with this circle, but also looks for opportunities to play his strength, "*Bleak House*" gave him a big opportunity to attack the British judicial system.

Although Victorian period was a dark and autarchic imperialism era, however, many creative inventions and various achievements in industry and literature, which makes people comment more and more positive for Victorian period.



## **The Summary for *A Christmas Carol***

### **Chapter 1**

A long, long time ago, there was a man called Ebenezer Scrooge. He was a rich businessman, and ran a counting-house with a friend, Marley. But Marley died on Christmas Eve seven years ago. Scrooge thought that he was a happy person to have a lot of money, but people around him didn't think so. Everyone regarded him as a stingy and cold-hearted man. In addition, the only one thing he could see was money. He was single—no wife, no children. But he lived in a big and gorgeous house.

One Christmas Eve, Scrooge's nephew, Fred ran into the office, and wished everyone a nice Christmas Day. But Scrooge refused his congratulations and let him go away. After a few minutes, two gentlemen walked into the office and asked Scrooge for a charitable donation to help poor people. Scrooge refused their proposal as usual. He also said something to embarrass the men.

Before Scrooge entered his gorgeous house, he found something different on the door. It was Marley's face there. He was shocked by the face in front of him. But when he looked at the door again, there was nothing but a normal door.

Scrooge sat on a comfortable sofa in the living room. Suddenly, some strange sounds came from the doorbell. He was so scared that he rushed into his bedroom. But it seemed no use. The ghost of Marley appeared before him. Covered by chains, Marley looked terrible. The ghost told Scrooge that he had spent many years tramping around the earth with those chains as a punishment. If Scrooge kept treating people in the same way, the punishment he got would be severer than Marley's.

As well, the ghost warned Scrooge that there would be three spirits coming to visit him. After the ghost left, Scrooge shuddered in his bed and fell asleep.

## **Chapter 2**

Scrooge awoke at midnight, and he remembered that there would be a spirit coming. At one o'clock, a little spirit with fire upon its head appeared beside Scrooge's bed. It was called the Ghost of Christmas Past. Scrooge was scared and didn't want to go with the spirit. Then, the spirit touched Scrooge's heart, and he then had the ability to fly. They flew out of his room from the window.

The spirit took Scrooge to the countryside where he grew up. He looked at the scene around them and a moved facial expression appeared on his face. He saw his old school, and his classmates were on a running carriage. After that, Scrooge started to sob. The spirit took him to the classroom where the little Scrooge stayed alone. The little Scrooge grew older gradually, and his younger sister, Fan ran into the classroom. She told him that their father had become kinder and permitted her to let him go home. They finally hugged each other with joy.

## **Chapter 3**

Scrooge awoke and waited for the second of the three spirits. After fifteen minutes, a bright light appeared in a door. He walked toward the door. He found the second spirit in the room. There was a figure in the room. The figure was noble, gigantic, dressed in green, and sitting on a throne made of delicious food.

The figure said he was the Ghost of Christmas Present. Scrooge said to the spirit: "Spirit, conduct me where you will. I went forth last night on compulsion, and I learnt a lesson which is working now. Tonight, if you have aught to teach me, let me profit by it" (Dickens 245).

Then the spirit said to Scrooge "Touch my robe." As he did, Scrooge found that the room had disappeared. Then they appeared in the streets of London on Christmas morning. Everyone looked very pleasant on the street.

The spirit took Scrooge to Bob Cratchit's home. They ate a goose to celebrate Christmas in their home. They didn't have enough money to buy a turkey. All Bob's family came back home and celebrated Christmas. They were very happy. Bob had a son, Tiny Tim, who was unable to walk. Scrooge asked the spirit whether Tiny Tim would live much longer. "The spirit replies that given the current conditions in the Cratchit house, there will inevitably be an empty chair at next year's Christmas dinner." (SparkNotes Editors).

The spirit also took Scrooge to look around at other people, who were celebrating Christmas, such as a group of miners, a group of sailors, and Fred. Scrooge slowly was immersed in the atmosphere of Christmas.

Finally, the spirit introduced two children to Scrooge. One, a boy, was named Ignorance. One, a girl, was named Want.

"'Have they no refuge or resource?' cried Scrooge. 'Are there no prisons?' said the Spirit, turning on him for the last with his own words. 'Are there no workhouses?'" (Dickens 286).

When the clock struck midnight, the spirit and two children disappeared. The last of the spirits walked toward Scrooge.

## **Chapter 4**

The last of the spirits wore a deep black shroud. The shroud almost covered its head, its face, its form, and only showed his black bony hands holding his shining sharp scythe. The spirit looked like a ghost. The spirit was the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come. The spirit took Scrooge to see things in the future. The spirit took Scrooge to the London Stock Exchange and stood next to a group of businessmen. The businessmen were talking about a dead man. They ridiculed the death of a rich man.

Next the spirit took Scrooge to a notorious area. There were three people. They

stole some goods from a dead man. They were selling the stolen goods. One woman of the three people said “‘If he wanted to keep ’em after he was dead, a wicked old screw,’ pursued the woman, ‘If he had been, he’s have had somebody to look after him when he was struck with Death, instead of lying gasping out his last there, alone by himself.’” (Dickens 299).

Scrooge understood that the dead man was him. The spirit took Scrooge to a room. The room had a bed, where a dead man lay with an old bed sheet. Nobody was taking care of this corpse. The spirit pointed at the corpse’s head. The spirit wanted Scrooge to open the old bed sheet. Scrooge told the spirit he was too afraid it. He also begs the spirit to show him someone who cares about this poor corpse who he suspects himself.

Then the spirit took Scrooge to a room in daylight. There were some people who were Scrooge’s tenants. Since Scrooge was dead, they could delay their rents. They were happy. His death only brought joy to others. That is what the spirit brought him to see.

The spirit took Scrooge to Bob Cratchit’s home; Tiny Tim was dead. They felt the pain. Scrooge told the spirit he wanted to know who the death man was. The next second they appeared in the cemetery. The spirit pointed at a grave. Scrooge found that the grave was his. He was very afraid.

Scrooge said “‘I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach.’” (Dickens 318). When Scrooge finished speaking, the spirit disappeared into a bedpost.

## Chapter 5

Scrooge returned to his room, and found he still had time to celebrate Christmas morning. He regretted what he had done before, and he wanted to make up for wrongdoings. Scrooge gave a big turkey to Bob Cratchit, raised Bob Cratchit's salaries, and donated a lot of money to the poor and the destitute. He also took part in his nephew's dinner.

As for Tiny Tim, he didn't die either. Scrooge became Tiny Tim's second father. Scrooge became a good man. He said to himself "I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future!" (Dickens 322).

## The Critical Analysis

With *A Christmas Carol*, Dickens hoped to explain “how self-serving, insensitive people can be converted into charitable, caring, and socially conscious members of society through the intercession of moralizing quasi-religious lessons” (SparkNotes). — A stone-hearted person can be transformed into a good Samaritan. Dickens used the general idea of Christmas with generosity, kindness, and universal love for the community of Victorian England in general.

The three ghosts in *A Christmas Carol* taught the main points. The first ghost was Christmas Past who showed that Scrooge wasn't so mean when he was young. Scrooge had warm Christmases with his friends before; however, money gradually changed him into a selfish person. The second ghost was Christmas Present who showed Scrooge that although the cratchit's were poor, they were still happy to celebrate Christmas and drink to Scrooge's health. The last ghost who showed death to Scrooge was Christmas Yet to Come. Christmas Yet to Come didn't say anything, but just presented the sight of death to Scrooge. The three spirits reminded that Scrooge should change his stinginess into sharing with others.

# *Three Lessons for Christine*





Land Specter

Tree Spirit

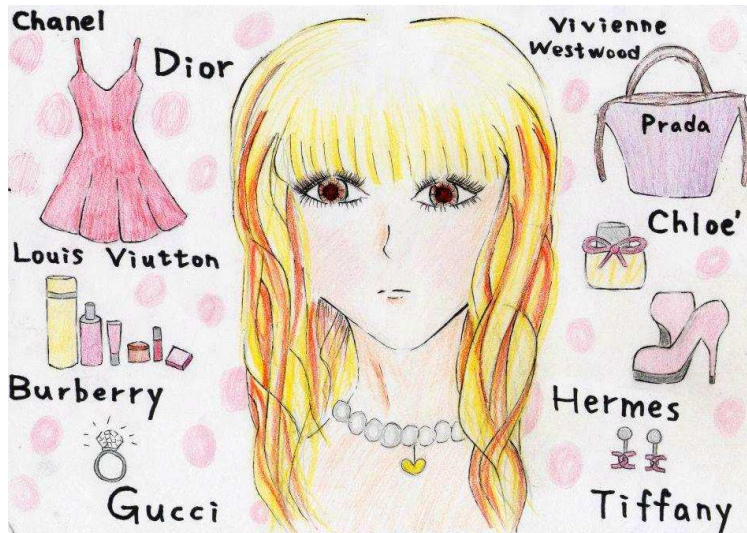
Water Nix

# Three Lessons for Christine



# Chapter 1

Basov Waldorf was a well-known entrepreneur. His only daughter, Christine did not lack anything at all, and her life was extremely luxurious. Her mother died when she gave birth to her. Basov concentrated on his work all day, so he couldn't keep Christine company. Her father had always maintained their relationship by giving her

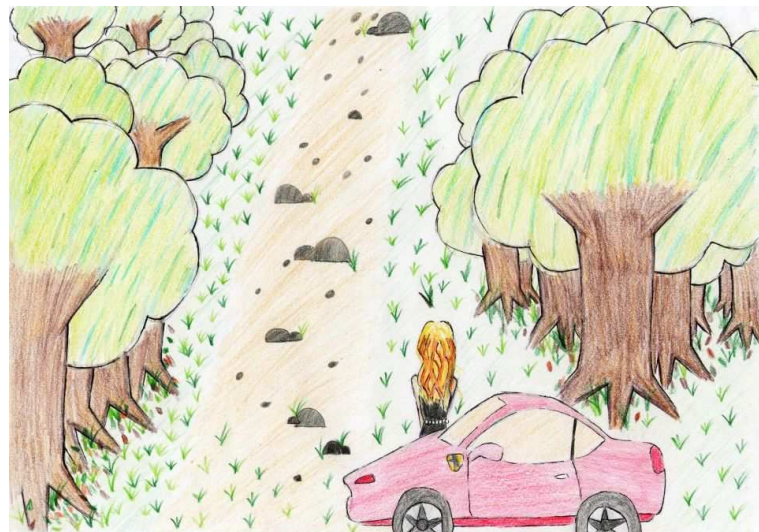


money since she was very young. The latest famous brands such as LV, Chanel, or Dior could always be found in her room. The father and the daughter lived an enviable life, but

Christine always lacked smiles on her face.

After her father died, she took over all of her father's business. Gradually, all she thought about was profit. Although she spent money on herself without thinking, she was quite stingy with others. If there were any welfare foundations or charities asking

for money, she would deny their requests. One year, her company obtained a development case which could bring a high profit easily. She racked her brains to buy thousands of hectares of



forests, intending to destroy the forest to carry out their case. One day, when Christine

was on her way to inspect the rate of progress, she suddenly tumbled and fell into a big hole. After fainting for a while, Christine opened her eyes, and she found that she was in another world. The sun shone brightly and warmly. She squinted as she looked around and she saw an old man with a familiar back standing nearby. The old man carried a lot of strange things such as flowers, saplings, grass, and manure. The other strange thing was that there was a long, thick water-pipe entwining his body. When he turned around, she found that he was her father who had passed away a long time ago. Her father then told her in a grave tone that he had destroyed a lot of forests for developing his business before, so, all day every day he had to cultivate the plants that he had destroyed until the forests recovered. Then, he warned Christine not to do the same thing as him; otherwise, she would have to pay for it. He also told her that she needed to follow the road in front of her and she would meet three spirits who would take her to see many amazing sights.



## Chapter 2

After she met her father, Christine felt confused inside. She still couldn't understand what Basov had told her. She looked at the road that her father had told her about. She was afraid something would happen there. She still kept along the road though she was filled with fright.

Christine kept walking and came over a hill. The scenery suddenly changed from farms to yellow dust. It was a desert stretching as far as the eye could see. There was nothing, only the dust below her. She

looked around carefully. The wind blew the dust over her feet and hit her on the face, "Crap!" she barked. She felt pain and tried to cover her face with her hands.

Finally, the wind stopped. She opened her eyes. To her surprise, she saw a shadow faraway. She was curious about the strange shadow so she ran towards it. As she slowly approached, it became bigger and bigger. She felt strange, and stopped. At that moment, there was roaring that



became an angry voice, "You!" the shadow immediately shot up to her face, and said, "I am the Land Specter." Christine opened her eyes slowly. She looked at the shadow. She assessed the Land Specter with her eyes. He looked like a tornado. The Land Specter said with anger, "Look at me. What am I?" Christine looked at the Land Specter carefully and she felt dismayed by its appearance. There were withered trees, scraps and garbage everywhere. Then the Land Specter said, "Sham on you! Due to continual development destroying the Earth, and people just wanting more money to



satisfy their desires, this trash which torments me has come from you.” Christine gave the Land Specter a glance and unconcerned about that said, “This is not my fault. Everyone has desires. I’m just one of millions of people.” The Land Specter said furiously, “How dare you



talk back to me? That’s right, everyone wants to satisfy their own desires, but, in your selfish behavior, you haven’t considered the consequences of destroying the Earth.”

The Land Specter grew bigger and bigger in his anger. Christine was almost swept away by the strong wind. In terror, she said, “Please calm down!” The Land Specter slowly returned to its original shape. But now, it had become barren and lifeless. Christine said without regret, “So what?” The Land Specter said, “Come with me.” And in a flash he completely engulfed Christine within his body. They came to a place which had a river and a lawn. Christine saw a woman and a little girl. She looked around. The place was familiar.

She saw her lovely grandmother taking a walk with little Christine. Her grandmother was taking her to catch fish in the river and pick her favorite strawberries. What a wonderful memory!

In those days, Christine got everything that she wanted. Her father gave her the best of everything ever since she was young. Her father was always busy with his business and took her to her grandmother, when she was a kid, though more fatherly affection was what she really needed. Christine was brought up by her grandmother. She received love and protection from her dear grandmother and her grandmother taught

her a lot. She had a deep relationship with her grandmother, and was particularly close to her.

As times passed by, her grandmother's health got worse and worse. After a few years, her grandmother died. After her grandmother died, Christine went back to the city to live with her father.



Then Christine began to change gradually. Because Christine missed her grandmother very much, and her father let her do what she wanted, Christine shut her heart away, and hid herself away from everyone.

With her eyes blurred by tears, she returned to the desert, which had become wooden and dull. She looked into the distance and felt regret about all the selfish things she had done. She hadn't realized she was trying to destroy those precious memories with her dear grandmother. Christine came to her senses, but found the Land Specter had already disappeared.



### Chapter 3

Christine felt lonely and fell into thinking. She wasn't sure whether her decision was right. At first she didn't realize that she was standing in a forest, and the desert had just disappeared, but still she just stood there thinking. After a little while, she heard a little sound which reminded her that she was standing in the forest. In fact, Christine found the sound was the wind swaying the branches of the trees. She looked around and walked slowly.

As she walked slowly into the deep forest, she felt that the air was better than she had breathed before. She breathed deeply again, and she was surprised the air was so fresh and clear! Then she



saw rays of light shining through the trees. There were spots of light all over. She felt just like a child as if she was protected by the trees. She enjoyed the cool and beautiful breeze. Suddenly, the forest shook the skies and land. After that, the grass

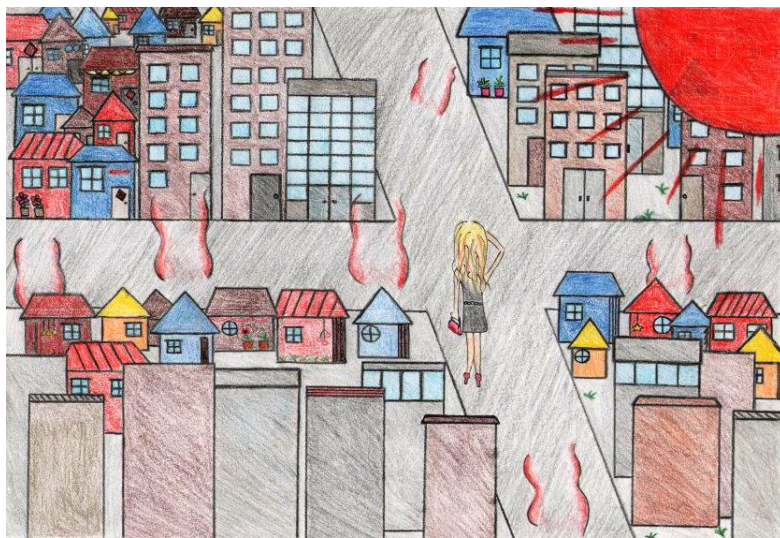


and trees disappeared just like magic. The forest became completely devastated. The sun shone cruelly, overwhelming her body. She was scorched by the

hot sun, and her mouth became intensely parched.

As she realized that she might not be able to run away from the situation, she became very nervous. She couldn't stop yelling: "Daddy, daddy.....!" She hoped that her father would come back to take her away. But nothing answered her, except the hot breeze. Her self-esteem didn't allow her to be content with the status quo. So she continued to walk strenuously....

She walked slowly, and then the view changed again. Suddenly, the desert became



a city that had many buildings. There were no trees on the street. The sun scorched the road. Waves of heat made Christine's feet uncomfortable. She could not stand on the

road. The sunshine was stronger than ever. The hot temperature and the thin air made Christine uncomfortable. She had difficulty breathing. Christine looked around everywhere. She wished someone could help her. She wished someone could take her away from the city, but nobody would like to walk in that hot city. The environment made it hard for people to survive.

Christine suddenly found the cement floor had become soft soil. The soil was spreading outside. When the soil touched buildings, the buildings would become the soil, and then trees were beginning to grow quickly on the soil. As the trees grew higher and higher, Christine felt the air was no longer as hot and the oxygen level improved. She no longer felt difficulty in breathing.



The growing branches and leaves seemed to be able to absorb the heat; so the temperature stopped rising and started coming down instead. The sun didn't shine straight on her body because of the branches and leaves that had appeared. Initially



heated by the sun, the cement floor slowly cooled like an iron hot plate that has been turned off. The soles of her feet became more and more comfortable.

After so much confusion, Christine was coming to comprehend the series of events that were occurring. Suddenly, she noticed that one tree was shuddering strangely. It was strange, she thought. She walked closer and to her surprise, she noticed that there was something like a face on the tree in front of her!

She was confused, and then the tree started to talk: "What have you learned from this trip?" Christine understood immediately, this was the tree spirit which was one of the three spirits that

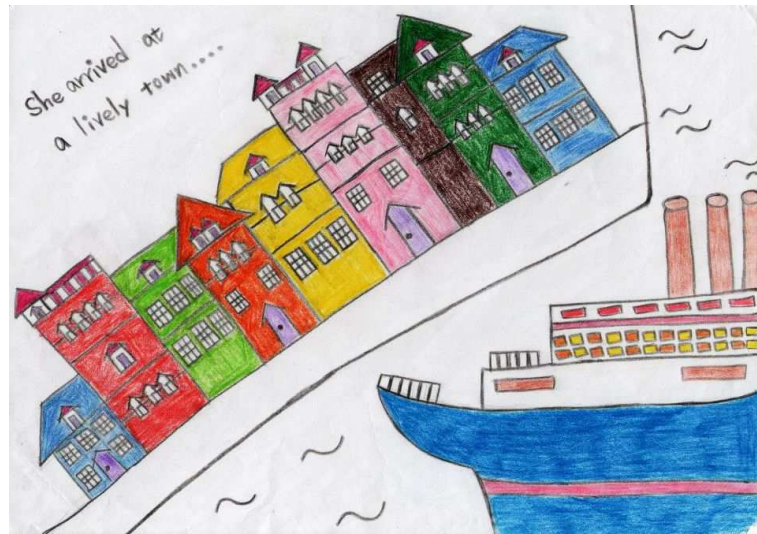


her dad mentioned before, that this mystical experience was for her edification. She looked at the tree spirit which didn't speak at all, so she turned around slowly. Then, she kept on her way down to the road.



## Chapter 4

After a traveling for a long time, she arrived at a lively town. She saw the same poster everywhere. The poster announced a grand ball. Christine was curious enough to ask a



passerby. "Where will the ball be held?" The passerby answered"; just go straight and you will see a huge ship; the ball will be held there. The participants are aristocrats from many different countries. If you want to join this ball, you will need a mask with you. She had come so far and finally was not bothered by any troubles; so she felt she needed to relax and meet new friends. Therefore Christine bought a mask and headed for the ball in excitement. The ball was coming, but she didn't know there will be an unprecedented catastrophe she needed to face.

When she walked on the front of the ship, she was impressed by its resplendent



gold furnishings. She had never seen such luxurious decoration. The ship was full of beautiful ladies and gentlemen. She couldn't wait to enjoy this ball. She entered the cabin, following the

crowd. As she went by a fountain, someone bumped into her. A burly arm caught around her slender waist and kept her from falling into the pool.

A deep voice said “Be careful! ” She was focused on getting a firm foothold, so with her head down, she gave a hurried thanks to the other. Then as she looked up at him, she was attracted by his deep eyes, as if time and space was had suddenly stopped. When she came to herself, her benefactor had already disappeared into the crowd. She was on the deck with the crowd, and the stars were in the sky and there were innumerable delicious dishes. Holding a glass of champagne, she went to the dance floor elegantly and reveled in the music. Christine’s looks caused the people to gossip. Gentlemen from every country invited her to dance, but she declined everyone, because at that moment her mind was only fascinated by the gentlemen who had saved her. She just wanted to find him, but she had not seen him again. As she became depressed, a familiar voice said, “Would you mind dancing with me?” Christine accepted his invitation without hesitation. In those brief five minutes, she felt an old familiar blush and palpitation again.

As the ball reached its highest climax, the host was going to announce the night's best actress, who would obtain a pearl crown, and be titled the beauty of the century. After the uproar, a spotlight shone on Christine.

The host announced, “You are this year’s beauty of the century.”

All the people moved forward to congratulate Christine, so she downed one drink after another not realizing the wine had been drugged.

She stumbled to the toilet; she wanted to sober herself up.

Bang! She collapsed at the end of the corridor; someone dragged her away to a chamber. In fact this grand ball was in order to select a virgin victim to thank the sea-god. Christine didn’t expect that she was the one in a million.

Christine came slowly with a headache. She found she was tied up and could not move. She was tied to a giant carved wooden flower.



A pirate captain approached her saying: “You are the one in a million; it’s your destiny to be the chosen sacrifice; you are the victim for the sea-god this year.”

Christine burst into tears saying, “Why me?! I don’t want to be the victim.”

The captain said, “Your family business caused irretrievable harm in order to make more profit. Therefore, you must bear all the responsibility.”

No matter how Christine struggled, she couldn’t get free. The pirates moved her to the front of the deck; they were going to push her into the sea. Suddenly a man with a mask holding an azure sword appeared and rescued her from the pirates with dexterous talent.

She returned to the shore badly shaken up. She excitedly thanked her hero saying, “Who are you? Why would you rescue me again and again? “

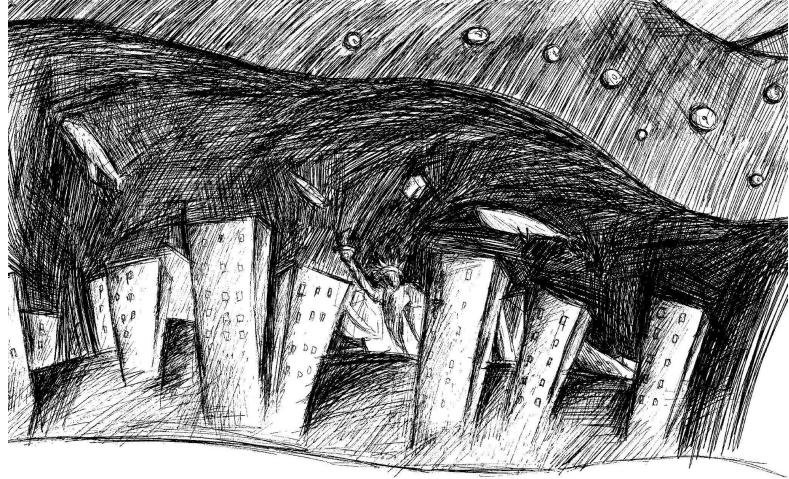
The man said: “My real identity is the Water Nix. Do you remember when you were ten years



old, when I was a dolphin stranded on the beach, and you were playing there. You saw

me dying on the beach, and brought a servant to rescue me. Thenceforth I was determined to follow a spiritual path and became a Water Nix out of my thankfulness to you. Our roles are now reversed. I rescued you, but I have to make you take a look at the ocean after a decade.”

A Gale approached the invisible shield dove them into the sea; the present situation scared her. The original land had already gone under the sea level. The land, the city, all was under the water.



She felt desperate, soulless, looking at the destruction of the world. She knew that in order to make more profit, she had caused irretrievable harm. Finding herself back on the beach, she cried hysterically, and fainted away....



## Chapter 5

Coming back to the real world, Christine felt like she was coming out of a dream



world. The sun was still shining in the sky, and birds were hopping in the trees. Everything was normal as usual. But there were her father's and the spirits' words in her mind.

Christine sat on the lawn unconsciously. This strange adventure seemed to be taking her one hundred years. However, the wind blew slowly, and squirrels and rabbits were chasing beside her. Suddenly, she realized that everything in the world is related to each other. Even a drip, a grass, or wind could cause a huge effect in other places. She thought for a while, and then, she stood up and ran back to her headquarters, convening every superior. Then, she commanded them to cancel all the contracts that would destroy the environment, and started to plan some green resource engineering that could protect natural resources.

Gradually, Christine gave up the life which made her look like a princess. Her expensive bags, beautiful high heels, and luxurious jewelry



were changed into simple and plain clothes. Everyone around her was surprised at her

changes, but also admired her behavior. Moreover, she always brought many necessities and toys to orphanages nearby on weekends. She played with the orphans, and told them tales, too.

People frequently saw Christine at activities such as cleaning the beaches or growing plants. Although the profit of her company wasn't always as good as before, she felt very warm in her heart because she knew that she had made friends with the whole world. Finally, she "earned" the happiness and contentment that she hadn't had before.

# *Three Lessons for Christine*

(Chinese Version)

克莉絲汀的三堂課





水精靈

樹精靈

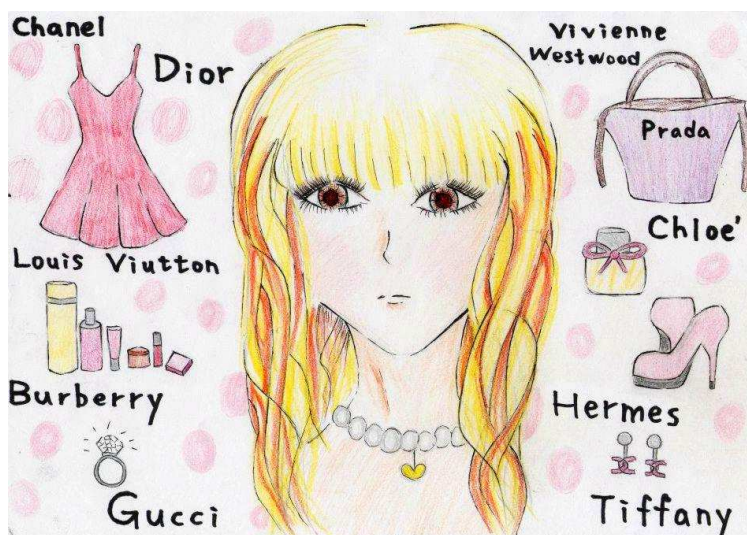
土精靈

# 克莉絲汀 的三堂課

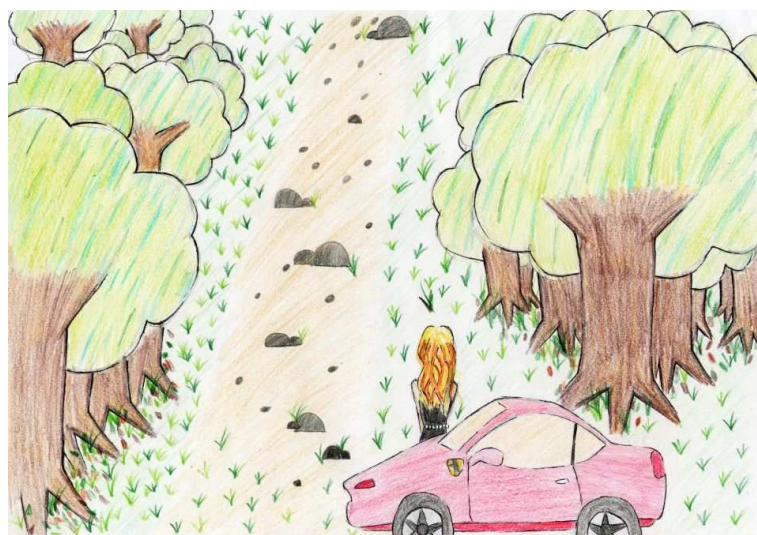


## 第一章 旅程的開始

克莉絲汀是一個家境富裕家裡的千金大小姐，媽媽因為生她時難產而過世，爸爸每天忙於事業，總是無法陪伴在她的身邊，所以從小到大，她的爸爸都是以付出金錢的方式，來彌補對她的親情，在物質上不虞匱乏；而爸爸巴瑟夫十分重視他的事業，對金錢也非常斤斤計較，對於克莉絲汀的教育也是如此，導致她的價值觀有偏差。



在爸爸死後，克莉絲汀一手接下家中的事業，掌管公司的所有事務；接手後幾年，為了公司的一個土地開發案，必須破壞森林土地，如此生態將會遭受嚴重



汙染。某天，克莉絲汀要去巡視工程的進度時，竟然在森林中失足，掉進了一個大黑洞裡，在昏迷過後，她張開眼睛，發現來到了另一個世界，她好奇地看了看四周，不遠處有一

個老人站在草地上，她感到驚訝，因為這個老人有著熟悉背影；但是在他身上卻背負著花草、樹苗、肥料等奇怪的東西。當克莉絲汀走上前準備開口詢問，老人

一轉身，竟然是過世已久的爸爸。接著，爸爸嚴肅地告訴克莉絲汀，生前的他，為了公司的開發，破壞了許多森林及土地；死後，就必須不眠不休將這些被砍伐的森林都種回去，、直到那些被破壞的森林復原為止，並且告誡克莉絲汀，希望她不要像父親一樣，重蹈覆轍，爸爸也告訴她接下來的路程中，她將會遇見三個精靈帶她去看看這個奇特的世界…。



## 第二章 遇見土精靈

遇見父親以後，克莉絲汀十分疑惑，她還無法了解巴瑟夫對她說的那些話，她感到有些害怕，望著爸爸指的那條路，心中滿滿的惶恐，不知道還會有什麼事情發生，但也只能向著那條路走下去。

走著走著，她發現周圍的景像瞬間從農地裡變成了黃澄澄的沙土。克莉絲汀來到了一片一望無際的沙漠，那裡什麼也沒有，有的只是她腳下踩的黃沙，她仔細的觀察環境，一陣風吹過，腳下的沙隨風飛起，打在她的臉上。

「好痛喔！」她臉痛喊了一聲，待風停了以後，才睜開了眼睛。

忽然間，她望見遠處有一個奇怪的影子，她好奇地，往那個方向跑了過去，她緩緩地接近那個影子，影子變得越來越大，她覺得不太對勁，便停下了腳步。

這時，有一個聲音對她低吼著：

「妳！」

克莉絲汀嚇得雙腿發軟，癱坐在地上，緊閉著雙眼，發抖地說：「你是誰？」

突然，影子到了她的面前，說：「我是土精靈。」

克莉絲汀慢慢的睜開眼，她看著影子，上下打量著土精靈，原來是一陣小型的龍捲風，正在對她說話，土精靈生氣的說著：「看看我，變成了什麼樣子？」

克莉絲汀仔細的端詳著土精靈才發現這陣龍捲風的外型殘破不堪，到處都是枯木、垃圾還有廢土，土精靈接著說：「你們這些人，為了開發不斷破壞土地，





只顧著賺更多的錢，滿足自己的慾望，我身上這些髒東西，都是你們製造出來的，讓我渾身不舒服。」

克莉絲汀看了土精靈一眼，毫不在乎地說：「這不完全是我的錯，每個人都有慾望，我只不過是那千百萬人中的一個。」

土精靈抓狂道：「妳是在跟我頂嘴嗎？沒錯，每個人都有權力滿足自己的慾望，但是，完全不考慮破壞土地後所造成的後果，這是多麼自私的行為。」

生氣了的土精靈變得越來越大，強勁的風差點把她給捲走了。

她害怕地求饒道說著：「有話好好說啊！」這時，土精靈才漸漸地變回原來的模樣。

土精靈覺得痛心，長嘆了一口氣說：「妳仔細看看四周，這原本是一片肥沃的土地，有森林、河流，還種植了許多農物的土地，現在卻變成了這個樣子，毫無生命力。」



克莉絲汀卻毫無愧色地回答：「那又怎樣？」

土精靈說：「走，跟我走。」

土精靈將克莉絲汀捲入自己當中，帶她來到了一處有河流、有草地的地方。克莉絲汀看到了前方有一個老奶奶帶著一個小女孩，她環顧四周，起初還覺得有些熟悉。克莉絲汀從小要什麼有什麼，父親給她最好的物質；但她真正需要的是關愛，小的時候，爸爸因為忙於工作把她安置在奶奶家。克莉絲汀是奶奶一手拉拔大的，在奶奶的呵護下，她得到了真心的疼愛，奶奶也教導了克莉絲汀許多為人處事的道理，所以對於奶奶總是特別親近，祖孫感情也格外深厚。隨著年歲增長，奶奶的身體變得越來越差，幾年後，奶奶便離開人世了。奶奶死後，克莉絲

汀回到都市與爸爸同住，因為對奶奶的思念，加上父親放任克莉絲汀的生活方式，克莉絲汀漸漸封閉了她的心，使得她與每個人都有了距離感。而眼前的景象就是最親愛的奶奶帶著她一起去散步的時候。還有奶奶帶著她到河邊抓魚，在農地裡採著她最喜歡的草莓，這些是多



麼美好的時光啊！看著這些回憶，讓克莉絲汀不禁濕了眼眶。接著，又回到了荒蕪的沙漠中，她呆滯地望著前方，這時的她感到有些後悔，想不到她正親手摧毀了與最親愛的奶奶一點一滴的珍貴回憶。當克莉絲汀回過神，才發現土精靈早已消失無蹤。



### 第三章 樹精靈的啟示

克莉絲汀落寞地陷入了自己的思緒中，懷疑自己所做的決定是否正確…。



渾然不覺自己已置身在一座森林裡，剛剛的沙漠已經消失不見。過了一會兒，一陣沙沙的聲響，把她的思緒拉回了現實，克莉絲汀这才發現，那沙沙的聲響，原來是樹上搖曳的枝

葉，她邊環顧著四周邊緩緩的走著。

走到森林深處後，克莉絲汀發現她所吸到的空氣跟平常不太一樣，她再吸一口氣，空氣怎麼可以如此清新？她為此感到有些訝異。接著克莉絲汀突然看到地上有點點的光線，抬頭一看，原來是因為陽光沿著枝葉的空隙落灑在土地上，而自己像個小孩被樹蔭保護著，不被陽光給曬傷，在樹蔭下感受到徐徐的涼風，突然一陣震動，待震動平復，周圍的草木像變魔術一般全部消失，森林在轉眼間變成了一片黃土，寸草不生，陽光猛烈地照在身上，她渾身被曬得刺熱痛難耐、口乾舌燥。

