2. Dark Shadows

Charlie's first appearance on the stage was also his mother's last, for after that evening she never regained her voice and her life as an actress was finished. That was the beginning of bad times for her, Sydney and Charlie.

Never rich, they soon ran out of money and she had to sell her belongings. She tried to find other jobs, but her health only got worse. Occasionally she found work as a nurse or a dressmaker, but it was not enough. Before long they moved from three rooms to two, then to one. Finally, unable to pay the rent of even one room, they had no choice but to go and live in the workhouse.

The day they went there Charlie and Sydney were quite excited. It was a new adventure for them. But arriving at the workhouse they soon got a shock, for the women lived in one ward and the children in another. Charlie was just six at the time. Over the next three years, they sometimes left the workhouse and were together again, but never for long. Then Sydney decided to join the navy, and Charlie lived with his mother again. For two years he was happy and went to school like the other boys.

Then one day, arriving home from his friend's house, he was stopped by some children outside the gate.

"Your mother's gone insane," said a little girl.

The words were like a slap in the face.

"It's true," said another girl. "She's been knocking at all our doors, giving away pieces of coal, saying they were birthday presents."

Charlie ran into the house and went straight to the room. His mother was sitting as usual by the window, her face pale and sad.

"Mother!" he shouted. "You're not well." Then he buried his face in her lap and began to weep.

"Of course I am," she said. "But I want to see Sydney, and they're keeping him away from me."

Then Charlie knew that what the children had said was true. Sydney, then sixteen, was on a voyage to Africa at that time, working on a passenger ship. Several weeks had gone by without news from him.

Charlie rushed downstairs to the landlady. "I've got to get a doctor at once, Mother's not well!"

The local doctor soon came. "She's insane," he said after examining her. "Send her to the infirmary." Then he wrote out a paper. Besides other things it said that she was not getting enough to eat.

The landlady helped Charlie. Together they dressed his mother and got her clothes together. She obeyed like a child. She was very weak and seemed to have no will left. As they left the house, the neighbours and children who were waiting at the front gate stood and stared at them.

When they arrived at the infirmary, a young doctor read the note, then said kindly, "All right, Mrs. Chaplin, come this way."

She obeyed him meekly. But as the nurses started to take her away, she turned suddenly and looked at Charlie. She realized she was leaving him behind, and it hurt her.

"See you tomorrow," said he, pretending to be cheerful.

Then she was gone, and Charlie went back home alone. A few days later he heard that his mother had been taken to an asylum.

EXERCISES (2)

Ａ　（　）に適切な日本語を入れ、本文のあらすじを完成させなさい．

チャーリーの（ア　 　 ）の後、母親は女優をやめ、毎日の生活にも事欠くようになった．そして一家３人は（イ　 　 ）へ行くことになり、以後そこを出たり入ったりの生活が３年間続いた．

　兄が（ウ　　　　　　）してから、ふたりはしばらく幸せに暮らしたが、極貧の生活の中で母親が精神に異常をきたした．（エ　　　　　　）の指示でチャーリーは（オ　　　　）に母親を連れて行った．そして数日後、母が（カ　 　 ）へ入ったことを知らされた．

Ｂ　本文の内容に合うものにはＴ、合わないものにはＦを書きなさい．

(1) Charlie's mother had to give up appearing on the stage because something was wrong with her voice. ( )

(2) Though she was healthy, his mother could find no job. ( )

(3) Sydney was not in England when his mother became insane. ( )

(4) No one helped Charlie take his mother to the infirmary.　( )

Ｃ　日本文の意味に合うように、（ ）に適語を入れなさい．

(1) 世界では石油がなくなりかけている．

The world is ( ) out of oil.

(2) そうするより他にしかたがなかった．

I had no choice ( ) to do it.

(3) 知っていることと、教えることは別だ．

To know is one thing and to teach is ( ).

(4) 私は行かなければならない．

I've ( ) to go.

(5) ヨーロッパ旅行まであと一週間ある．

I ( ) a week left until my trip to Europe.