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The doorbell rang and Mrs. Carson opened the front door. Her heart sank when she saw Mrs. Burbidge. Whenever Mrs. Burbidge called, she stayed for hours and hours. “ Good afternoon, Mrs. Carson, ” Mrs. Burbidge said, “ I was just passing, and I thought Id 0drop in to say hello. ” “ How very thoughtful of you, ” Mrs. Carson replied. “ Do come in. ” Just as Mrs. Carson had feared, Mrs. Burbidge stayed for several hours. It was nearly six oclock, and Mr. Carson would be home from work soon. He couldnt stand Mrs. Burbidge. So Mrs. Carson kept wondering how she could persuade Mrs. Burbidge to leave without offending her. “ Has your husband come home from work yet ? ” Mrs. Carson asked. “ Oh, yes, ” Mrs. Burbidge answered. “ He always gets home about five oclock. ” “ Its nearly six oclock. Wont he be getting worried about you ? ” Mrs. Carson said. “ I thought of that, ” Mrs. Burbidge said, “ but its so pleasant here. Weve had such a lovely afternoon. You know what Ill do ? Ill ring up my husband and tell him to come here, too. May I use your phone please ? ” 门铃响了，卡森夫人打开前门。当她看到波比吉太太时心里一沉。波比吉太太每次都在呆上十个八个小时的。“ 下午好，卡森夫人。”波比吉太太招呼道，“我路过这儿，想起进来问声好。”“多亏您有这份心思，”卡森夫人答道，“快请进。”正如卡森夫人所担心的，波比吉太太呆了整整一个下午。已经快六点了，

卡森先生要下班了。他可忍受不了波比吉太太，所以卡森夫人一直在琢磨如何体面而不伤和气地下逐客令。“您先生下班回家了吗？”卡森夫人问道。“噢，是的，”波比吉太太说，“他经常是五点钟左右回家。”“现在快六点了，他是不是正在为您担心呢？”卡森夫人暗示。“我也想到了，”波比吉太太道，“但呆在这儿真让人愉快。我们度过了一个美好的下午。您猜我想什么来着？我想打电话叫他也到这儿来。我可以用一下电话吗？”

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