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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



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Southern DAILY

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U.S. readies vaccine rollout with deaths rising by 3,000 per day



A family carries a coffin at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery, amid a new surge of deaths due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in El Paso, Texas, U.S. November 25, 2020. Picture taken November 25, 2020. REUTERS/Ivan Pierre Aguirre

NEW YORK/INDIANAPOLIS (Reuters) -U.S. officials prepared on Friday for the most ambitious vaccination campaign in decades as regulators rapidly advanced toward approving the first COVID-19 vaccine to slow a pandemic now killing 3,000 Americans per day.

Another 2,902 U.S. deaths were reported on Thursday, a day after a record 3,253 people died, a pace projected to continue for the next two to three months even with a rapid rollout of inoculations, which could start as soon as Monday.

Moving with unprecedented speed, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Friday was on the cusp of approving emergency use of the coronavirus vaccine developed by Pfizer Inc with its German partner BioNTech.

"The FDA informed Pfizer that they do intend to proceed towards an authorization for their vaccine," Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told ABC News on Friday.

"We will work with Pfizer to get that shipped out so we could be seeing people getting vaccinated Monday or Tuesday," Azar said.

Britain, Bahrain and Canada have already approved the Pfizer vaccine, and the U.S. advisory panel is due to review a second vaccine, from Moderna Inc, next week.

Other vaccine candidates are in the works as the United States gears up for a campaign evocative of the polio inoculations of the 1950s and 1960s.

New York City will open a "Vaccine Command Center" across the street from City Hall on Monday to coordinate distribution throughout the city. Particular attention will be paid to the 27 hardest-hit neighborhoods largely populated by ethnic minorities, Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

"This is unprecedented because it's not just about logistics, it's about making sure we win public trust, it's about ensuring equity," de Blasio told a news briefing on Friday, promising to offer daily updates on the rollout.

New York state expects to receive 346,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine the week of Dec. 21, on top of the 170,000 Pfizer doses coming this weekend, Governor Andrew Cuomo told a news conference.

But as hospitalizations rise in the state, Cuomo announced that indoor dining in New York City, which resumed just over two months ago, will cease beginning Monday.

VACCINE DRY-RUN

An Indiana hospital that is one of the first designated to administer the vaccine was to rehearse its vaccination procedures on Friday, with pharmacists, nurses and doctors taking part.

The Indiana University Health will practice storing, transport-

ing and giving the vaccine shot to patients.

"We want to make sure that we are perfectly ready and open with a bang," said Kristen Kelley, director of infection prevention at IU Health.

While most vaccines take years to develop, the Pfizer vaccine arrives less than a year after the illness was traced to a market in Wuhan, China, in December of last year.

Chinese officials shared the genetic sequence of the novel coronavirus with the World Health Organization on Jan. 12, triggering the international race toward a vaccine.

A U.S. rollout faces significant logistical challenges to meet President-elect Joe Biden's goal of inoculating 100 million people within 100 days of his inauguration on Jan. 20.

But any American who wants a vaccine should be able to get one by May or June, Assistant U.S. Health Secretary Brett Giroir told Fox News on Friday.

States will determine who gets the vaccine first and were likely to focus on healthcare workers and people in long-term care facilities, followed by the elderly, people with chronic conditions and first responders, Giroir said.

There is cause for concern about Americans' skepticism of vaccines, with only 61% saying they are open to getting vaccinated, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

12/11/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Wealee@scdaily.com

Texas Welcomes New Business

Tesla's Elon Musk decided to move his company to Texas and build a huge factory near Austin. His aerospace firm SpaceX's Starship development has also moved to south Texas. Apple Inc. also has built a modern factory in Austin, Texas, to start the assembly line to make Apple iPhones. Hewlett-Packard also has just moved their headquarters to Spring, Texas. Nearby Houston, the world's leading financial service company – Charles Schwab, has also set up their headquarters from San Francisco to Plano, Texas, where the Toyota Motor North America

headquarters is also located.

Why do so many Fortune 500 companies like to move to Texas? The reason is very simple: Texas is a very large state with very cheap real estate prices. People can buy a lakeside villa in Texas with one-third the price they would have to pay in California. Plus, Texas doesn't have state income taxes or strong labor unions.

This is very important for any business that is trying to expand into the future.

As one Texan said, "I wasn't born in Texas, but I got here as fast as I could."

While the pandemic is still attacking our

nation, Texas may be that huge opportunity that many are looking for.



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

Hackers Access Documents Related To Authorized COVID-19 Vaccines



Illustration/Sarah Tew/CNET

KEY POINTS

Attackers were able to target the European Medicines Agency, which regulates vaccines, including Pfizer and BioNTech's COVID-19 treatments

"Big game hunting" (BGH) has escalated, and ransom demands have soared into the millions, causing unparalleled disruption

Cybercriminals are weaponizing sensitive data to increase and maximize pressure on ransomware victims

The "eCrime ecosystem" is evolving, increasing in specialization, tailor-making their actions to the victim

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Hackers were able to get documents related to approved COVID-19 vaccines after they hit the European Medicines Agency with a cyber-attack. The attackers "unlawfully accessed" regulatory documents related to the coronavirus vaccine candidate put forward by biotech firm BioNTech and partner pharmaceutical company Pfizer, BioNTech said in a statement Wednesday. The European Medicines Agency, which is responsible for reviewing vaccine effectiveness, confirmed the hack in its own statement but declined to provide additional details during an ongoing investigation. The agency said the hack won't affect its timeline for release of the vaccine. BioNTech said that its own servers weren't af-

fected and that it's unaware of a theft of any personal data belonging to its 43,500 test subjects being. It's unclear who was behind the cyberattack, but hackers from countries including China, Russia and North Korea have targeted pharmaceutical firms that are developing COVID-19 vaccines. The United Kingdom began its mass vaccination program on Tuesday, becoming the first country to start delivering the vaccine on a wide scale. The program, expected to reach 4 million people by the end of December, is using BioNTech and Pfizer's vaccine, which showed a 95% effectiveness rate during its clinical trials.



BioNTech didn't respond to a request for comment on what details about the vaccine the hackers were able to access. Hackers have also targeted how the vaccine will be rolled out -- posing as cold storage supply chain companies and aiming at distributors who will be providing the vaccines to millions of people. The UK's National Cyber Security Centre said that it is supporting vaccine research and helping its defense against hackers. It's still investigating the breach, the agency said in a statement. "We are working with international partners to understand the impact of this incident affecting the EU's medicine regulator, but there is currently no evidence to suggest that the UK's medicine regulator has been affected," the agency said. (Courtesy /www.cnet.com)

Related

Hackers Are Going After

COVID-19 Vaccine's Rollout
The cyberattacks are targeting distributors who will be distributing and storing vaccines for the coronavirus pandemic

Hackers aren't just looking to steal information on the vaccines for COVID-19 -- they're also going after its distribution and suppliers, security researchers warned in a report released on Thursday. Researchers from IBM's X-Force team detailed a global hacking campaign targeting government agencies, tech companies and energy suppliers in countries like Germany, Italy, South Korea and Taiwan.

The companies and government agencies are all connected to the Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Platform (CCEOP), a partnership between UNICEF, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance and other organizations to help with vaccine

distributions.



One hacking campaign posed as a cold storage container company. Pfizer's vaccine needs to be stored at extremely low temperatures.

The attacks came as emails pretending to be from Haier Biomedical, a Chinese company that says it's the world's only complete cold chain provider. The cold chain is a crucial part of the Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine rollout as it needs to be stored at a temperature of -70 degrees Celsius (-94 degrees Fahrenheit). Haier Biomedical is working CCEOP, the World Health Organization and the United Nations to help with the COVID-19 vaccine's rollout, and the hackers sent emails to targets asking for price quotes, IBM's researchers said. The emails contained a malicious attachment that would ask people to enter their passwords to view the files, which the hackers would steal. It's unclear if any of the attacks were successful, but the purpose was likely to gather information for future attempts, IBM's researchers said. "Moving laterally through networks and remaining there in stealth would allow them to conduct cyber espionage and collect additional confidential information from the victim environments for future operations," Claire Zaboieva, a cyber threat analyst at IBM's X-Force and co-author of the report, said.



The hacking targets included the European Commission's Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union, who would be in direct contact with several countries and could open pathways for more targeted attacks. The hackers also sent malware-laced emails to companies making solar panels, which provide power for

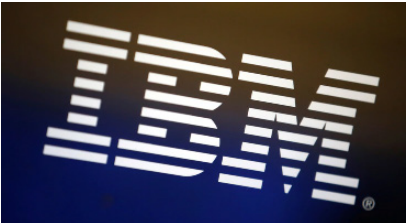
cold storage containers in countries without access to electricity, and IT companies in South Korea and Germany who support pharmaceutical manufacturers.

"A breach within any part of this global alliance could result in the exposure of numerous partner computing environments worldwide," IBM's researchers said.

The report didn't indicate who was behind this hacking campaign, but suggested that it's likely a nation-state behind it because of how sophisticated the targeting is. In recent months, countries like China, Russia and North Korea have launched cyberattacks against pharmaceutical companies developing COVID-19 vaccines.

IBM Warns Hackers Targeting COVID-19 Vaccine Operations

In a blog post released Thursday, IBM said it had uncovered a phishing plot targeting "organizations associated with a COVID-19 cold chain," referring to the chain of people and businesses responsible for storing the vaccine at the necessary cold temperatures. The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency shared the report Thursday along with a warning to anyone involved in operations related to the vaccine.



"The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) encourages Operation Warp Speed (OWS) organizations and organizations involved in vaccine storage and transport to review the IBM X-Force report," its post read. On Wednesday, the Wall Street Journal reported that North Korean hackers have targeted at least six pharmaceutical companies on the US, UK and South Korea that have been working on COVID-19 vaccines. The US's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency released a statement on the hacking campaign, urging companies involved with COVID-19 vaccines to review IBM's report. (Courtesy www.cnet.com/)

Editor’s Choice



Hondurans take part in a new caravan of migrants, set to head to the United States, in Quizimistan, Honduras. REUTERS/Jose Cabezas



Wesley Wheeler, President of Global Healthcare at United Parcel Service (UPS) holds up an example of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine vial during a Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee hearing on the logistics of transporting a coronavirus vaccine on Capitol Hill, in Washington, D.C. Samuel Corum/Pool via REUTERS



A child wears a protective face mask depicting U.S. President Donald Trump at the 2020 annual National Chanukah Menorah Lighting to mark the First Night of Chanukah near the White House in Washington. REUTERS/Erin Scott



Activists take part in a demonstration in favour of legalising abortion, outside the National Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina. REUTERS/Martin Villar



Racing pigeons are released from cages on the back of a truck for a 1000 km race in Langfang, Hebei province, China. REUTERS/Carlos Garcia Rawlins



Owner and founder of YogaSpark Lauren Porat practices hot yoga in her home inside the Spark-Dome, an inflatable home hot yoga studio, in Larchmont, New York. REUTERS/Rebecca Fudala



Presidents Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey and Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan attend a military parade to mark the victory on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, in Baku, Azerbaijan. Turkish Presidential Press Office/via REUTERS



Firefighters carry a body on a stretcher at the site of a blaze in an abandoned warehouse in a suburb of Barcelona, Spain. REUTERS/Albert Gea

FTC And States Sue Facebook For Illegally Stifling Competition



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg appearing before the U.S. Congress.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

State and federal antitrust enforcers accused Facebook of illegally hurting competition by buying smaller rivals and engaging in other harmful behavior in a pair of antitrust lawsuits Wednesday.

Why it matters: With Google already facing an antitrust lawsuit from the Justice Department and state attorneys general, the Facebook case is another major test of the government’s power to police internet giants.

Details: The Federal Trade Commission and 48 state and territorial attorneys general, in parallel lawsuits filed in federal court, both say Facebook has maintained an illegal monopoly shored up in particular by the 2012 purchase of Instagram and the 2014 acquisition of WhatsApp.

The FTC says Facebook has limited competitors’ access to code that would let them link their services to Facebook-run platforms.

- The agency is asking the court to make Facebook unwind the Instagram and WhatsApp acquisitions, among other, less drastic remedies.

- The vote at the five-member commission to proceed with the lawsuit was 3-2, with

Chairman Joe Simons, a Republican, siding with agency Democrats in favor and the other GOP commissioners opposing.

The state coalition says Facebook’s actions stifling competition have denied Americans access to alternative social networks that would better protect their privacy.



- “While consumers have been spending time keeping in touch on Facebook, Facebook has been spending time surveilling users personal information and profiting from it,” New York AG Letitia James told reporters on a video conference Wednesday.
- The AGs want the court to block Facebook from engaging in anti-competitive conduct and ask that it force the company to tell states in advance before em-

barking on any acquisitions worth \$10 million or more. They also suggest the court go so far as to demand Facebook divest past acquisitions or other lines of business.

Catch up quick: Past acquisitions that helped turn Facebook into the juggernaut it is today have come under intense scrutiny, and Congressional antitrust leaders grilled Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg on them this summer.

- The FTC has been studying past tech mergers to see if they need to be re-evaluated in light of how the industry has evolved, and Chairman Joe Simons has said he wouldn’t rule out unwinding past mergers.

What they’re saying: Facebook has argued consumers benefitted from those mergers, and that neither Instagram nor WhatsApp would be what it is today without Facebook at the helm.

- “The most important fact in this case, which the Commission does not mention in its 53-page complaint, is that it cleared these acquisitions years ago,” Facebook general counsel Jennifer Newstead said in a statement. “The government now wants a do-over, sending a chilling warning to American business that no sale is ever final.”



The big picture: The flurry of antitrust activity in the online sector that began in 2019 is coming to fruition, but the cases will take time to go through court.

- James announced the multi-state Facebook antitrust investigation that resulted in Wednesday’s suit last year, shortly after Facebook revealed it was facing a separate FTC antitrust investigation.

- Eleven Republican state AGs joined the DOJ’s lawsuit against Google in October, while a separate state investigation of the search giant is expected to wrap

up soon.

What’s next: Facebook will have to decide whether to ask that the suits be dismissed or to dig in for a lengthy court battle. With Joe Biden taking office next month, the FTC’s case will ultimately be seen through by an agency with a different lineup of commissioners and a new chairperson. (Courtesy axios.com)

Related

Facebook Accused of Breaking Antitrust Laws



When he spoke to the House judiciary subcommittee in July, the Facebook chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, said his company had not squashed competition. (Pool photo by Graeme Jennings)

WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission and more than 40 states accused Facebook on Wednesday of buying up its rivals to illegally squash competition, and they called for the deals to be unwound, escalating regulators’ battle against the biggest tech companies in a way that could remake the social media industry.

Federal and state regulators of both parties, who have investigated the company for over 18 months, said in separate lawsuits that Facebook’s purchases, especially Instagram for \$1 billion in 2012 and WhatsApp for \$19 billion two years later, eliminated competition that could have one day challenged the company’s dominance.

Since those deals, Instagram and WhatsApp have skyrocketed in popularity, giving Facebook control over three of the world’s most popular social media and messaging apps. The applications have helped catapult Facebook from a company started in a college dorm room 16 years ago to an internet powerhouse valued at more than \$800 billion.



Mark Zuckerberg

The lawsuits, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, underscore the growing bipartisan and international tsunami against Big Tech. Lawmakers and regulators have zeroed in on the grip that Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple maintain on commerce, electronics, social networking, search and online advertising, remaking the nation’s economy.

President Trump has argued repeatedly that the tech giants have too much power and influence, and allies of President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. make similar complaints. The federal case against Facebook is widely expected to continue under Mr. Biden’s administration. (Courtesy msn.com)



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《纵情夏日》：追寻人与自然的和谐共生



译者：张翊
作者：芭芭拉·金索沃
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面对自然，人要学会谦卑。人与自然的关系，是芭芭拉·金索沃小说的母题。这种关系，可能是《毒木圣经》里的紧张对峙，也可能是《纵情夏日》中的和谐共生。如果说《毒木圣经》是充满《圣经》意味的宏大史诗，那么《纵情夏日》就是一部欢快和谐的小品。

“山齿鸮究竟发生了什么？为何再也听不见它们隔空相呼了？加尼特曾从推广服务中心的刊物上了解到，羊茅草是罪魁祸首。人们栽种这种普普通通的羊茅草，是为了当饲草用。可羊茅草长得太密实了，山齿鸮尚未学飞的雏儿无法在其中飞行……想必对这里的动物而言，周围的世界破土

而生，渐渐长成另一副彻头彻尾的新面貌，完全不似它们世代生息的环境，也着实怪得离谱吧。那些迷失在何草密林里的山齿鸮幼鸟实在叫人悲伤。但人又怎么离得开饲草呢。”

金索沃认同著名环保作家奥尔多·利奥波德的环保理念，在《沙乡年鉴》中利奥波德提出“当一个事物有助于保护生物共同体的和谐、稳定和美丽时，它就是正确的；当它走向反面时，就是错误的”，金索沃不是极端的环保主义者，彻底禁绝人类的一切活动；而是提倡人类要通过顺应自然规律的行为，给予环境积极的影响，这些行为也包括适当的清除。

小说中，迪安娜认为捕食者更重要，“捕食可以剔除年老体弱的个体，控制种群的爆炸式增长”，因此他赞成埃迪猎杀火鸡，但反对埃迪猎杀郊狼等捕食者的行为。当卢萨得知忍冬是外来物种，会破坏生态后，就坚决将它铲除，“这种藤蔓一经引入就会紧紧地盘绕，占据所有的绿色之地，而那些地方本应是人类和野生生灵共生共栖的所在”。

小说分三条线索依次展开，“捕食者”讲述了森林护林员迪安娜与捕猎者埃迪·邦多的故事。“蛾之爱”讲述了来自大城市的昆虫学家卢萨经营丈夫科尔家农场的故事。“老栗树”讲述了杀虫剂信徒加尼特与反对杀虫剂的邻居南妮的故事。“从对立走向和谐”是《纵情夏日》的主线。

“对立”指的是观念的鲜明对立：究竟应以“自然的利益”为中心，还是以“人的利益”为中心？迪安娜认为食肉动物是生态链重要的一条，因此要保护食肉动物郊狼，但埃迪却认为郊狼会捕食牲畜，影响农民利益，因此要做赏金猎人。卢萨是上过大学的昆虫学家，致力于环保，提倡有机农业，科尔的侄子里克等亲戚却愿意种植收益更高的烟草，愿意破坏树林、打猎和采摘人参。加尼特热爱使用杀虫剂，觉得这样才能杀死害虫，南妮则强烈反对杀虫剂。

芭芭拉·金索沃（Barbara Kingsolver），美国人文领域最高荣誉“国家人文勋章”获得者。生于1955年，在肯塔基州乡间长大。迄今出版了9部长篇小说，代表作有《毒木圣经》《豆树青青》《纵情夏日》《罂粟》《迁徙行为》《无所庇护》等。

观念的对立，核心是争取利益最大化的对象不同，但人与自然并非对立，而是和谐共生。“自然的利益”和“人的利益”并不冲突，维护自然的利益，会促进人的利益；相反，一味维护人的利益，不仅损害了自然的利益，最终也会损害人的利益。这部小说借三位女性之口，向三位男性详细解释这个理念。“哪怕只是踏出一步，对足底的甲虫而言都有如惊雷，牵动起一张大网上无形的丝线，既把配偶引向配偶，亦将捕食者引向猎物，是始，亦是终”。人类的微小活动

都会对自然产生重要影响，自然界的生杀予夺，并没有道德判断，而是生物链的合理闭环。所以人类要尊重自然规律，保护那些看起来会破坏，实际在平衡生态的物种。

迪安娜告诉埃迪，郊狼并不以牛羊为主食，相反，郊狼能够帮助农民清除破坏农作物的田鼠，杀死郊狼等肉食动物，反而会让田鼠失去天敌，带来更加破坏性的后果。由于郊狼的天敌狼在美国几乎被人为“抹除”，猎杀郊狼反而会增加幼狼的生存几率，让郊狼变得更多。卢萨告诉侄子里奇，种植利润率高的烟草，砍伐森林树木获利，看似短期能获得最大收益，但是长期不利于生态平衡。她发现了伊斯兰教和犹太教的节日离得很近，城里对羊肉需求量大的机会，大量养殖山羊，获取不菲回报。南妮告诉加尼特，使用杀虫剂并不会让害虫减少，反而会杀死食用害虫的有益生物，让害虫更快繁殖。总结起来，就是：要尊重生物链的完整，“根本没有什么杀光就幸福快乐的故事”。

人类生活与自然规律的和谐

“和谐”是男性与女性的和谐，城市与乡村的和谐。三位男性接受了三位女性的环保主义理念，男性与女性最终达成友好的理解。

埃迪悄悄离开了迪安娜，留下纸条，“让一个男人承认他遇到了死对头太难了”，迪安娜意识到，“在这片山林，再也不会因他而起的伤害”。

卢萨作为一个父亲是波兰人，母亲是巴基斯坦人的混血女性，一个大学毕业的昆虫学家，在阿巴拉契亚山脉的保守小村子里，从对婆家的本能抵触，坚决不改夫姓，到最终发现婆家亲戚们的淳朴，主动提出要保留怀德纳的姓氏；看到朱厄尔的丈夫离家出走、朱厄尔患上乳腺癌后，主动提出要收养朱厄尔的两个孩子，并将科尔·怀德纳家的农场变为有机农场。

加尼特从对杀虫剂的热爱，到得知南妮的女儿因为杀虫剂患上唐氏综合征早早夭折（因此南妮给女儿取名“蕾切尔”——致敬《寂静的春天》作者蕾切尔·卡森），开始重新思考杀虫剂的危害。

当然了，如果小说只关心环保，

难免陷入说教，在理念之上还有人性的美。回到《纵情夏日》这个题目，既然是夏天，蓬勃的繁殖欲望就要充分流淌。

夏日是繁殖的季节，森林里的动植物植物们纵情抒发繁殖的冲动，这股冲动也勾动了迪安娜、卢萨和加尼特的心。金索沃笔下男女性都是可爱的，他们直面自己的欲望，并做出了最好的处理。

迪安娜是敬业的护林员，丈夫嫌弃她不像个淑女而离婚，迪安娜看似没有“女人味”，但这正是她对自己最美的定义——“两年的独居生活已使她懒于打理自己的外表，在这方面她乐得做个瞎子”。

面对精壮小伙子埃迪毫不掩饰的好感，迪安娜也充分表达对埃迪身体的渴望，在性生活中，她也毫不羞怯地占据主动。但是当她发现埃迪到来是为了猎杀郊狼，她也愿意放弃埃迪的爱情。迪安娜发现自己怀上了埃迪的孩子，她决定下山和南妮住在一起，悉心抚养这个小生命。

卢萨在丈夫出车祸去世后，面对十七岁侄子里奇的示爱，内心虽然渴望，但是理智战胜欲念，将小里奇聘任为自己的农场助理，并且教育他学习自己的环保理念（“除了割草机和镰刀，不能用别的东西除草，不能去碰树林，不得伤害松鼠、鹿和郊狼，也不得采摘人参”）。卢萨也从经营农场中体会到自己与科尔和科尔家人的紧密联结。

加尼特对南妮从嫌恶变为理解，甚至重新感受到身体的勃发，他羞怯而闷骚地对南妮示爱。羞涩的示爱获得了南妮热情的回应“她将一侧脸颊贴着他那陈旧、虚弱的心脏，用她那粉色的耳廓捕捉他心中唱起的歌”。

在故事结尾，每个人都获得了最好的结局。读到处此，真让人嘴角不自觉咧开。

在秋季寒冷的雨天读完这本小说，浑身都暖洋洋的，仿佛也来到阿巴拉契亚山的密林，感受到满溢着蜂蜜、花香和群鸟啁啾的夏日。当然也许这部小说太理想化了，也许它回避了一些更现实、更尖锐的矛盾，但正是怀着这样的理想，才让小说充满蓬勃的希望。