

### Suggested translation Extract from Pierre Sylvain

She<sup>1</sup> no longer remembered<sup>2</sup> there was a weapon<sup>3</sup> until the father took it out of the chest he had kept it safely inside, wrapped in flanellette, since the day they had first moved into this farm, which was, like many others, in a remote<sup>4</sup> spot. It was a pistol, a high-calibre<sup>5</sup> Browning<sup>6</sup> which he had, up to then, had no grounds to make use of. The mother sat across from him at the large table and watched him taking the gun apart, placing the parts on an old sheet of newspaper to protect the tabletop. She watched him apply grease and readjust each part, check the working of the trigger and finally load the magazine with the bullets which he took one by one from a small canvas<sup>7</sup> bag closed with a drawstring. She could tell<sup>8</sup> he was worried. He went back into the bedroom and placed the gun, with its safety catch on, on the chest at the side<sup>9</sup> of the bed, within reach. The previous evening, a military engineer had come and left him signal flares,<sup>10</sup> just as a precaution,<sup>11</sup> he had said.

Life went on at the farm as we had always known it. There were no advance warning signs, none of the rumours which sometimes spread<sup>12</sup> among the native population disturbed the usual routine. Then like a thunderbolt out of a blue sky<sup>13</sup>, the evening newspaper reported that there had been a terrorist attack that very morning in the town. Several bombs had exploded in the rush hour and killed a number of people, mostly Europeans, in the central market square. The bloodbath was thought to be the work of people working for

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<sup>1</sup> You cannot begin with « The weapon, she ... ». Focalization works differently in the two languages. If you were to begin « As for the gun, she did not... » it would be grammatically possible, but not the best option here.

<sup>2</sup> Or « She did not recall... »

<sup>3</sup> Or ... that the weapon even existed

<sup>4</sup> Secluded, or isolated (slightly less good). Not « withdrawn » which is a personality trait.

<sup>5</sup> Or « large calibre ».

<sup>6</sup> The gun is named after its inventor, so the capital letter is retained. This is a general rule in English, so such nouns as Darwinism or Marxism take a capital, as do adjectives like Freudian, Edwardian or Chomskyan.

<sup>7</sup> It could be hessian [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hessian\\_fabric](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hessian_fabric)

<sup>8</sup> Or see

<sup>9</sup> Not at the bottom : think practical.

<sup>10</sup> If you just say « flares » it sounds like you mean a particular style of trousers, with wide bottoms, popular in the 1970s

<sup>11</sup> Or « to be on the safe side ».

<sup>12</sup> Someone found « which will sometimes spread », which is very good. This is « characteristic will ».

<sup>13</sup> Or « a completely unexpected thunderbolt. »

the independence<sup>14</sup> movement. After the two days of unrest<sup>15</sup> which followed, all the signs pointed to a rapid aggravation of the situation, more terrorist attacks, and an inevitable<sup>16</sup> chain of violence and repression.



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<sup>14</sup> « Separatist » is more specific, and doesn't fit here. The Catalan separatist movement wants to break away from its host state. The Moroccan independence movement wanted to break away from another state, France. The story is set in colonial Morocco.

<sup>15</sup> Or « disorder. »

<sup>16</sup> My feeling is that « unavoidable » is not as good here, since it often refers to a personal chance of avoiding or not avoiding events. There is also a difference between « unavoidably » and « inevitably ». If I am late, I may, formally, say « I'm afraid I was unavoidably detained » (this means I was unable to avoid a problem : eg an urgent phone call, a sick child etc. If I said « I was inevitably detained », it would suggest that the delay was the same as the delay which happens every time, because of a situation which is written in the nature of things. One online commentator suggested « Perhaps "inevitable" is used more for matters of fate and "unavoidable" for matters of human intervention? »



Flares : a design of trousers or jeans with wide leg bottoms.



Signal flares

British National Corpus (BYU-BNC)

SEARCH FREQUENCY CONTEXT HELP

unavoidable

46 HYB W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C and unchallengeable knowledge. Increasingly today, they are accepting that scientific pronouncements have an **unavoidable** element, not only of subjectivity and uncertainty within a safe environment, so that they are able to manage these **unavoidable** aspects of life without trying to resort to premature certainty.

47 HYB W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C religion which may not be received by someone in a misleading way. Controversy is **unavoidable**. What is needed are ways of expressing controversy courteously.

48 HYB W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C apply to termination of partnerships by this means. # 7 Dissolution Sometimes dissolution is **unavoidable**. Sometimes even it is desired to vest a power to do priority period – hence the virtue of the procedure for effecting registration when there is a **unavoidable** delay mentioned above. When buying a property on

49 JSP W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C of baggage, medical expenses abroad, loss or theft of (—) cheques, and **unavoidable** cancellation of your holiday. The list above covers the main insurance

50 JSP W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C 'Kee emphasises that there is no mention whatsoever of jesus. The implications are **unavoidable**... It is clear that the life and death of Christ have no

51 BNL W\_religion A B C give prominence to the use of the blood. Both sacrifices deals with unwitting or **unavoidable** breaches of law. Hence "sin" in these contexts often has a pur

52 EDY W\_religion A B C as the bastardisation of a property, a little out-of-decoration is often **unavoidable** unless you restrict yourself to a very limited range of choice. Few of us

53 EFT W\_religion A B C into-wing-wings. By then the glider may be airborne and a car-wheel will be **unavoidable**. This situation can be prevented by being prepared to release in

54 HU9 W\_religion A B C , or to bad planning leading to a situation from which a crash is almost **unavoidable**. # Stalling at low altitudes if the glider is very low and there

55 GRB W\_advert A B C political parties accept that long-term increases in petrol prices are not only environmentally necessary but **unavoidable**. We will phase these in gradually by

56 KAI W\_essay\_school A B C Cancellation and curtailment 3.000 # Covers non-recoverable travel and accommodation charges in the event of **unavoidable** cancellations or curtailment of

57 CG5 W\_instructional A B C as the bastardisation of a property, a little out-of-decoration is often **unavoidable**

58 AOH W\_misc A B C into-wing-wings. By then the glider may be airborne and a car-wheel will be **unavoidable**. This situation can be prevented by being prepared to release in

59 AOH W\_misc A B C , or to bad planning leading to a situation from which a crash is almost **unavoidable**. # Stalling at low altitudes if the glider is very low and there

60 AB9 W\_misc A B C political parties accept that long-term increases in petrol prices are not only environmentally necessary but **unavoidable**. We will phase these in gradually by

61 AMD W\_misc A B C resort and hotel facilities. # RESORT DEVELOPMENT # Building works and noise are almost **unavoidable** in certain developing resorts. Unfortunately such developments

62 ARS W\_misc A B C overall picture, which illustrates the limitations of production on a small farm and the **unavoidable** expenses. It also emphasizes the need for money-spinning

63 AS1 W\_misc A B C in direction. No drain should pass under a building, but where this is **unavoidable** it must be specially protected by encasing in concrete and supported agai

## Unavoidable in the BNC

British National Corpus (BYU-BNC)

SEARCH FREQUENCY CONTEXT HELP

inevitable

iu : CH3 W\_newsp\_tablet A B C ... were move for me, redundancy and a wrecked career as a jorgomian and seemed **inevitable** until right on the due Saturday I threw me a memo and pers

11 CH6 W\_newsp\_tablet A B C rather ordinary. His manager Major Ron Ferguson described it as '**inevitable**. He said: "It's not possible for the Prince to keep

12 CH6 W\_newsp\_tablet A B C the book are being taken' very seriously indeed'. An inquiry was '**inevitable**' and prosecutions were not ruled out – even after ten years. # JOHN

13 CH6 W\_newsp\_tablet A B C publish more evidence of their carousing – the prospect of Andy and Fergie divorcing seems **inevitable**. The title Fergie may or may not be allowed to keep is also

14 CH6 W\_newsp\_tablet A B C tried to kiss me.' I was shocked but he told me it was **inevitable**. I didn't see anything **inevitable** about an affair with a priest who had

15 CH6 W\_newsp\_tablet A B C was shocked but he told me it was **inevitable**. I didn't see anything **inevitable** about an affair with a priest who had taken a vow of celibacy.'

16 CH6 W\_newsp\_tablet A B C Today those qualities have been, if anything, enhanced. It was her **inevitable** fate that an imperfect marriage and the relentless scrutiny of the modern royals wo

17 K2P W\_newsp\_tablet A B C the idea very much, but rising sales figures for diesels made it just about **inevitable**. And, in true BMW style, when the engineers did it, they

18 K3U W\_newsp\_other\_science A B C ability to implement change quickly. Why that should be when we know change is **inevitable** is something I shall have to ask my daughter.

19 K5M W\_newsp\_other\_science A B C be due to their team's position in the league, but is an almost **inevitable** element of a severe bout of flu. The incubation period of the virus is

20 ASY W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C was stubborn in exploiting the naturally occurring situations of privacy, where natural conversation is **inevitable** because it is interactionally difficult to abstain from

21 ASY W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C Eastern's policemen and women from the loss of morale which Manning claims is an **inevitable** result of the contradiction between the image the police have of the

22 ASY W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C as a shoplifter, is apprehended, although this is rare. There is the **inevitable** paperwork, but this is much less than for section police although, given the

23 AGF W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C commitment to further nationalization. Yet a large public sector appeared to be an almost **inevitable** part of the modern economy. Even when industries were not

24 AGF W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C recover to its 1979 level. Some decline of the manufacturing trade balance was probably **inevitable** because of the advent of North Sea oil at a time of floating exc

25 AGF W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C power is exercised in and with the Cabinet. In addition, there are the **inevitable** pressures from the outside world, the difficulties of the British economy, and the

26 AGM W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C fall significantly (with some exceptions such as Kenya and Cameroon) and therefore the **inevitable** diversion of some aid finance from investment to consumpti

27 ABP W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C of private capital to make it grow. It is only since 1945 that the **inevitable** inflation of the currency has led investors to think that 'equities' are safer

28 ER9 W\_ac\_polit\_law.edu A B C Neither interpretation of *cooperation* necessitates a *cooperative* account of the *desire*, for an **inevitable** distortion arises if one attempts to confute this substanti

## Inevitable in the BNC



Canvas bag with drawstring



Hessian bag with drawstring