

Annie avait quitté N. le jour où s'était tenue la messe en mémoire de sa mère. Je savais qu'elle n'avait pas fait que fuir cette messe mais qu'elle était partie, et j'étais bien décidé à aller la chercher.

Je n'avais eu aucun mal à trouver leur adresse à Paris. A la poste, un type de mon âge m'avait renseigné en me souriant bizarrement. Sur le coup, je n'avais pas compris. Il semblait très bien connaître l'endroit, du moins les alentours. Dans la rue perpendiculaire, il y avait une galerie de tableaux, il fallait que je passe devant et, après, c'était la première à droite. Au numéro 65.

J'ai sonné.

C'était Madame M. qui m'avait ouvert. Elle tenait le bébé dans ses bras. L'enfant d'Annie, je n'arrivais pas à le croire. Je ne pouvais pas le quitter des yeux. Elle l'avait serré plus fort contre elle.

Non, Annie n'était pas là, malheureusement elle n'avait plus aucune nouvelle d'elle [...].

Je m'étais arrêté devant la galerie de tableaux, celle dont m'avait parlé le guichetier de la poste, les toiles dans la vitrine m'avaient fait penser à celles d'Annie. Mais en levant la tête pour voir le nom de ce magasin, je compris soudain ce qui s'y cachait réellement.

Hélène Grémillon, *Le Confident*, Gallimard, 2010

Proposition de traduction

Annie had left N. on the day a mass was celebrated in memory of her mother. I knew that she had not just fled from that mass, but that she was gone, and I was determined to go and look for her.

I had no trouble finding their address in Paris. At the post office a guy of my age gave me the information while smiling in a strange way. At the time I did not understand why. He seemed to know the place very well, or at least the neighbourhood. There was a picture gallery in the street perpendicular to hers. I had to walk past it and then it was the first one to the right. At number 65.

I rang the bell.

It was Madame M. who opened. She was holding the baby in her arms. It was Annie's baby. I could not believe my eyes. I could not take my eyes off it. She tightened her hold on the child.

No, Annie was not there, unfortunately, and she had not heard from her at all [...].

I stopped outside the art gallery, the one the post-office employee had told me about, and the paintings in the window reminded me of Annie's.

But as I looked up to see the name of the shop, I suddenly understood what it actually concealed.

All the years that I taught in a high school I didn't teach literature, as you might expect, but mathematics. Then staying home I grew restless and undertook something else - writing tidy and I hope entertaining biographies of Canadian novelists who have been undeservedly forgotten or have never received proper attention. [...]

I liked the work, I thought it worthwhile, and after years in classrooms I was glad of the control and the quiet. But there might come a time, say around four in the afternoon, when I just wanted to relax and have some company.

And it was around that time on a dreary closed-in day when a woman came to my door with a load of cosmetics. At any other time I wouldn't have been glad to see her, but I was then. Her name was Gwen, and she said she hadn't called on me before because they had told her I wasn't the type.

"Whatever that is," she said. "But anyway I had the idea, just let her speak for herself, all she has to do is say no."

I asked her if she would like a cup of the coffee I had just made and she said sure.

She said she was just getting ready anyway to pack it in. She set her burdens down with a groan.

"You don't wear makeup. I wouldn't wear none neither if I wasn't in the business." Maybe it had made her uneasy, to be asked in. She kept taking jumpy little looks around.

Proposition de traduction

Pendant toutes ces années où j'ai enseigné dans un lycée, ce n'est pas la littérature que j'enseignais, comme on pourrait s'y attendre, mais les mathématiques. Puis, à force de rester à la maison, ne tenant plus en place, j'ai entrepris de faire autre chose – écrire des biographies bien écrites et, je l'espère, distrayantes, de romanciers canadiens injustement oubliés ou n'ayant jamais reçu l'attention qu'ils méritaient. Ce travail me plaisait. Je trouvais que cela en valait la peine, et après des années passées dans des salles de classe, j'étais contente de voir que je maîtrisais la situation et j'appréciais d'être au calme. Pourtant, il pouvait se trouver un moment de la journée, disons vers les quatre heures de l'après-midi, où j'avais tout simplement envie de me détendre et d'avoir quelqu'un à qui parler.

Et c'est à peu près à cette heure là, par un jour sinistre où j'étais restée cloîtrée chez moi, qu'une femme se présenta à ma porte chargée de produits de beauté. En temps ordinaire, je n'aurais pas été contente de la voir, mais cette fois-là, ce fut différent. Elle s'appelait Gwen. Elle me dit qu'elle ne m'avait pas rendue visite avant parce qu'on lui avait dit que ce n'était pas mon style.

« Peu importe votre style », dit-elle. « Bref, je voulais juste l'entendre me le dire elle-même ; tout ce qu'elle a à faire c'est de refuser. »

Je venais de faire du café et lui ai demandé si elle en voulait une tasse. Elle accepta.

Elle me dit que de toute façon qu'elle s'apprêtait à tout remballer. Elle posa son barda sur le sol, tout poussant un grognement.

« Vous mettez pas de maquillage. Moi aussi j'en mettrais pas si je faisais pas ce boulot. »
Le fait que je la laisse entrer l'avait sans doute mise mal à l'aise. Elle n'arrêtait pas de jeter des petits coups d'œil nerveux autour d'elle.

Expression écrite

Q1: Why is the US government **unlikely** to crush the **spirit** of hackers **like Jeremy Hammond**?

*Too many candidates treat this first question as if it were asking them to summarize the article. **The first rule of thumb is to select only information that addresses the question.***

*For example, including information about the role of technology from the paragraph starting, "With the right skills, you no longer have to hide out..." would be **off-topic**. While it helps to explain the rise of this new kind of heroism, the **ease of access to information** does not explain **why** American authorities will have trouble "crushing their **spirit**."*

*Conversely, you do need to include some background information explaining what "**hackers like Hammond**" have done to incur the wrath of Washington. In the answer below, the first two paragraphs are devoted to laying out this background, while the three paragraphs that follow identify three distinct factors that contribute to strengthening the **spirit** of hactivism. As always, a paragraph contains only one central idea.*

A new kind of heroism is on the rise: hacktivism. In recent years a number of big corporations and federal institutions have been victims of young hackers looking not for **personal gain** but rather seeking to denounce what they see as government **wrongdoing**. By gaining illegal access to classified data and releasing them to the public, digital activists have exposed the extent to which federal agencies have been **encroaching on** the privacy of US citizens.

The reaction from authorities has been swift and harsh. So harsh, in fact, that the measures taken against such activists, including unspecified jail terms and even solitary confinement, look unjust and out of proportion to the crime. Clearly the government means to make an example of digital **offenders** so as to discourage any **copycat** hacktivism.

The problem is that such a response only helps **make the case against an overreaching** and repressive government. The more hactivists are pursued and persecuted by the authorities that they accuse of abusing power, the more justified and noble their cause appears.

Moreover, **digital natives** grew up in an era where politicians routinely **falsified evidence** and in which **corporate greed** precipitated economic meltdown. These youngsters are not intimidated by the **powers-that-be** because they simply do not recognize those powers as legitimate.

Instead, they advocate (for) a culture of transparency **empowered by** ICT, where citizens are **entitled** to know whatever information the government has gathered about them. Hactivists' strength **stems** mostly **from** their deep conviction that **civil disobedience** in the face of an oppressor is their moral duty. // ...that **it is morally incumbent upon** them to **raise awareness** about the abuse of power. (about 260 words)

Q2: To what extent can disseminating information obtained illegally be justifiable?

*A brief introduction should problematize the question, that is to say, justify it. Why ask this question here and now? What are the issues at stake? Where is the debate? Essay-writing implies position-taking, and position-taking implies an underlying conflict between basic principles. It is your job to identify these principles clearly. The rest of the essay will be devoted to making a case in defense of **your** principles, whatever they may be.*

One of the main challenges of this second question is that you may be overly influenced by the article. With a little distance, however, it is not difficult to observe that the journalist presents only the case in defense of hactivism. While you may ultimately agree that such hactivism is justified, you should at the very least acknowledge the dangers and limits of such tactics.

The formulation "to what extent" then invites you to draw the line or set the limits on such practices on a continuum from "never" to "always". A convincing essay will do this by examining concrete cases in the light of the conflicting principles that have been outlined in the introduction.

When Snowden broke the law and blew the whistle on the NSA, he made the case for the "**right to know**." Yet dissemination of classified data can also compromise **national security**, since the information is "out there" to be used by enemies. So question arises: at what point does collateral damage from leaks outweigh the benefits of greater transparency?

First, it must be acknowledged that just as states can abuse their surveillance powers, so counter-powers like the media have abused the "right to know." The tabloid *News of the World* clearly went too far when it hacked into a murdered teen's phone purely to satisfy the curiosity of its readership. The case was a poignant reminder that transparency is not an absolute right, that some information must be protected from public view.

The case of hactivism is fundamentally different, however, in that these leaks serve the greater public interest. They reveal the extent to which government has overstepped its authority and encroached on individual rights like privacy, or even committed military crimes, like the helicopter shooting of civilians in Bagdad. In the absence of proper oversight, only illegal disclosures can ensure that governments are accountable to the people who have democratically elected them.

But by the same token these leaks revealed the identities of key informants in Afghanistan, putting them in harm's way. They did severe damage to diplomatic relations with US allies like Germany. So anti-establishment hactivism has undermined the credibility and authority of US institutions abroad, while creating a corrosive climate of distrust and cynicism at home. The vacuum of leadership left in the wake may prove even more dangerous than government overreach. (275 words)