

Passage one

The lost wedding ring

Married for almost 30 years, Paula was living a happy life.

One day, Paula was in the bathroom cleaning everything up, from the sink to the floor and the shower. She had a ring that her husband, Michael, bought for their wedding anniversary on her finger. The golden ring with the couple's names engraved (雕刻) on it was something she would cherish.

As soon as Paula finished washing the bathtub, she moved on to the most unpleasant part—the toilet. Wanting to get it out of the way, she quickly scrubbed the inside of the toilet, and washed the toilet bowl with water.

Suddenly, something fell off. Paula's heart skipped a beat as soon as she looked down at her ring finger. She was horrified to find that her treasured anniversary gift was gone! Paula couldn't believe that she just let several thousand dollars go down the drain (排水孔). She searched the rest of the bathroom and even the whole house, hoping that she had just dropped it somewhere and forgotten about it. She even took the toilet apart and searched inside the pipes with a flashlight, but in vain. Paula was desperate at the thought that the ring could have been washed away and buried under waste and sewage (污水) in a dark sewer. Even the most experienced sewer worker was unlikely to find it. She thought.

Paula had no idea how she was going to tell her husband about it. Michael worked extra hard for years to save money, so to tell him the accident was unimaginable to her. When Michael came home from work, Paula knew that there was no going back now. Visibly sweaty and nervous, she said that she had bad news to tell him. Michael became worried, but listened. Paula cried and told everything that had happened. Michael was quiet the whole time, and his face didn't show any anger, which made Paula worried. She thought he was so overwhelmed by anger and frustration that he couldn't even say anything. There was an awkward silence between them.

请根据阅读材料内容和以下提示续写两段，使之构成一篇完整的短文。词数不少于 150。

Suddenly, Michael interrupted the silence. _____

Several days later, Ted, Director of the Public Works Department, visited Paula unexpectedly.
