

王子与贫儿 The Prince and the Pauper

版社

马克•吐温 著 尹东湘 编译

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中学生英文读物

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CHAPTER I The Birth of the Prince and the Pauper

It was in the sixteenth century, on a cold autumn day. In the old city of London a boy was born to a poor family called Canty. The family did not want this boy.

On the same day in England another child was born. He was born to a rich family called Tudor, who wanted him very much. All England wanted him. People talked only about the new baby, Edward Tudor, Prince of Wales, who lay in silk and did not know the fact that all England wanted him so much.

But there was no talk about the other baby, Tom Canty, who lay in his dirty rags and did not know the fact that nobody wanted him.



第一章

王子与贫儿的诞生

故事发生在十六世纪一个寒冷的秋天。在古老的伦敦城 里,一个男孩出生在一个叫堪提的贫苦人家。这家人并不想要 这个男孩。

同一天,在英格兰,另一个孩子诞生了。他出生在一个富裕的叫都铎的家庭,他们非常想要这个孩子。整个英格兰都盼望着他的到来。人们谈论的都是这个新出生的婴儿,爱德华·都铎,威尔士亲王。他丝绸裹身,对英格兰人的盼望毫无所知。

但是没人谈起那另一个婴儿,汤姆·堪提。他破布裹身, 对没人想要他这一事实毫无所知。

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The Prince and the Pauper

CHAPTER II Tom's Early Life

A few years passed. London was fifteen hundred years old and was a big town.

The street where Tom's family lived was not far from London Bridge and was called Offal Court. It was dirty, and the houses were made of wood, with small windows. Canty's family lived in one room on the third floor of one of these houses.

The mother and the father had a bed, but Tom, his grandmother, and his two sisters, Bet and Nan, slept on the floor and the things covered them are rags.

Bet and Nan were fifteen years old. They were twins. They were always dirty and in rags, but they were kind-hearted. Their mother was just like them. But the father and the grandmother were very bad. They often drank a lot and then they fought each other and beat the children.

第二章

汤姆的早年生活

几年过去了,伦敦作为一座伟大的城市,已经有一千五百 年的历史了。

汤姆的家人居住的那条街离伦敦桥并不远,名字叫做垃圾 院。它很脏,房子都是木头做的,窗户小小的。堪提一家住在 这样一栋房子三楼的一个房间里。

父亲和母亲有一张床,但汤姆、他的祖母和他的两个姐姐 贝特和南却睡在地板上,只有破布条盖在身上。

贝特和南有十五岁了。她们是双胞胎。她们身上总是很 脏,衣衫褴褛,但她们心肠很好。她们的妈妈和她们一样,但 父亲和祖母却是很坏的人。他们经常喝很多酒,然后就彼此厮 打,揍孩子们。

The Prince and the Pauper

Tom's father, John Canty, was a thief, and Tom's grandmother was a beggar, and they made the children beg.

Every day Tom went out to beg on the streets. If nobody gave him any money, his father and grandmother beat him at night and sent him to bed with an empty stomach.

But there were some wonderful^① things in Tom's life. Among the people that lived in the house there was a kind old man who taught Tom a little Latin and how to read and write. He also told him many stories about kings and princes. Tom liked hearing his stories. He also read the books that the old man gave him.

Tom was a bright boy, he knew so much! And he could do and say such funny things! The children of Offal Court liked to listen to the stories he told them.

When the children played, Tom was always a prince and the boys were lords of his court.

At night when he lay in the darkness on his dirty rags, he forgot his hunger and his father's beatings. He thought about kings and princes, who were clean and decent and lived in beautiful palaces. Tom wanted to be clean and decent too. But in the morning he had to go out in his rags to beg. At night he dreamed that he lived in a palace among lords and ladies. Oh, how he wanted to see a real prince with his own eyes! This wish became stronger and stronger day by day, and at last he could think of nothing else.

① wonderful:奇妙的

汤姆的父亲,约翰·堪提,是一个贼。祖母是乞丐。他们 也让孩子们乞讨。

每天汤姆都走到街上去乞讨。假如没有人给他钱的话,晚 上他的父亲和祖母就会打他,然后让他饿着肚子去睡觉。

但是在汤姆的生活中也有一些美好的东西。住在那栋房子 里的人中,有一个善良的老头。他教了汤姆一点儿拉丁文,还 有如何读和写。他还给汤姆讲了许多国王和王子的故事。汤姆 还读了一些老人送给他的书籍。

汤姆很聪明,他懂的真多!他能够讲一些很有趣的事情, 垃圾院的孩子们喜欢听他讲的故事。

孩子们玩耍时,汤姆经常做王子,那些孩子们则是他的朝 廷大臣。

晚上,当他睡在破布条上,躺在黑暗里时,他忘了饥饿和 父亲的鞭打。他想着那些干干净净的、穿得漂漂亮亮的、住在 华美宫殿里的国王和王子。汤姆也想干干净净的、漂漂亮亮 的。但到了早晨,他不得不穿着破衣服外出乞讨。在夜晚,他 梦想着生活在绅士淑女之中,住在宫殿里。哦,他多么想亲眼 看看真正的王子!这个愿望一天比一天变得强烈,最后他什么 别的事也不能想了。

The Prince and the Pauper

CHAPTER III Tom's Meeting with the Prince

One day Tom got up very hungry and left home very hungry. His head was full of his dreams.

He walked along the streets, and he did not know where he was going. He passed many streets and suddenly found himself near the king's palace—Westminster.

Poor little Tom, in his rags, came up to the gates and looked at the guards who were standing at each side of the gates. Then suddenly through the bars of the gates he saw a hand some boy, who was beautifully dressed.

Oh, that was a prince, a living prince, a real prince!

Tom was so excited to see him that he did not know what he was doing: he put his face against the bars.

The next minute one of the soldiers pushed him away and he fell down. The crowd that stood near the palace began to laugh at Tom, but the young prince ran towards him and cried out:



第三章

汤姆与王子会面

一天汤姆饿着肚子起了床,饿着肚子离开了家。他的脑海 中萦绕的尽是昨晚的梦。

他沿着街道往前走,不知道要到哪儿去。他走过许多街道,突然发现自己身处国王的宫殿——威斯敏斯特宫旁。

可怜的小汤姆,他穿着破衣服向大门走去,盯着大门两端 的卫兵瞧。突然,通过大门栅栏之间的空隙,他看见一个漂亮 的男孩,衣着富丽堂皇。

喔,那是王子,一个活生生的王子,一个真正的王子!

汤姆看到王子后是如此兴奋,他不知道自己在做什么:他 把他的脸靠在大门的栅栏上。

接着,一个卫兵把他推开,他摔倒了。宫殿旁的人群开始 嘲笑汤姆,可年轻的王子冲他跑过来,嚷道: