

· 英语简易读物 ·

George Eliot

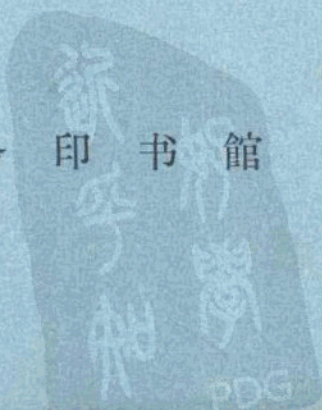
The Mill on the Floss

弗洛斯河上的磨坊

(简写本)



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本书簡介

乔治·爱略特 (George Eliot, 1819—1880 年) 是十九世紀末叶的英国女作家。她的眞名是瑪丽·安·伊文思 (Mary Ann Evans)。

乔治·爱略特的文学活动是以反宗教为內容的論文和翻譯作品开始的。1857 年出现了她的最初的一些文艺作品。爱略特的第一部长篇小說是《亚当·比德》(Adam Bede, 1859 年)。《弗洛斯河上的磨坊》(The Mill on the Floss, 1860 年) 是她的第二部长篇巨著。接着, 她又写了《織工馬南传》(Silas Marner, 1861 年) 和《罗慕拉》(Romola, 1862—63 年)。爱略特的第二个創作时期是从《費立克斯·霍尔特》(Felix Holt, 1866 年) 开始的。这时, 她已从乡村生活的描写轉到社会小說的創作上去了。《米德尔馬契》(Middlemarch, 1872 年) 是她的社会小說中最富于现实主义的一本。她最后的一部重要作品是《丹尼尔·狄朗达》(Daniel Deronda, 1876 年), 这是一本批判資產階級婚姻的小說。

乔治·爱略特的作品帶有批判性的现实主义特点, 她的尖銳批判的鋒芒始終針对着英国当时的假道学、目光浅短和各种落后的观点。她所描繪的場面与狄更斯和薩克雷相比較似有逊色, 但在她所描写的那些圈子里, 却显示了她的卓越的技巧和惊人的天才。

本书是小說原著前两篇的簡写本。它描写湯姆和

瑪琪兄妹二人的童年生活。故事是以保守拘泥的英国生活及其狭隘性为背景的。

磨坊主透烈弗尔是个自尊心很强的人，但当他和强有力的仇敌——狡猾的訟师和法律家进行斗争时，却显得软弱无力。他的妻子和她的三个姊妹——迪恩太太、格萊格太太和普列特太太只关心自己的家务和健康，她們娘家的一切事物對她們說來都是神圣不可侵犯的，并且是不应有任何改变和批評的。作者以幽默和諷刺的笔調描繪了她們的空虛的生活和虛偽的面貌。

作者用瑪琪和她的社会环境的对比来表現自己对这一个社会环境的看法和关系。很显然，爱略特的同情心是在瑪琪这一面的。她以鮮明而細膩的笔法刻划出瑪琪的个性以及她对周围环境的分歧和矛盾。

爱略特的文笔以簡洁明快和透辟精炼著称，她的每一句話語都耐人寻味。她特別善于描繪儿童和各种人物的心理状态；往往寥寥几笔便把人們的神情仪态描繪得栩栩如生，从而賦予讀者一种身临其境的感覺，仿佛讀者也听到了书中主人公的一言一笑，并同他們分担了忧虑和喜悅。

爱略特是个同情貧苦大众、关怀普通人民命运的作家。她的每部作品都洋溢着这种精神。但是，她的人生观受当时資產階級的哲学影响頗深，她企图把道德原則和宗教思想联系起来。因此，她的作品有时帶有一种鮮明的道德說教傾向，有时也摻杂了一些悲觀感伤的忧郁色彩，給讀者带来一种沉悶抑郁之感。

爱略特虽然对资本主义制度抱着一定的批判态度，可是这种态度却始终停留在改良主义的立场上。

卢思源

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CHAPTER I

DORLCOTE MILL¹

I am standing on the bridge, resting my arms on the cold stone.

I see before me a wide plain, where the Floss² hurries on between its green banks to the sea, and the tide rushes to meet it. On this tide the black ships, carrying the fresh-scented fir-planks and rounded sacks of oil-bearing seed, or with the dark glitter of coal, are carried along to the town of St Ogg's,³ which shows its red roofs between the low hill and the river-bank. Far away on each side stretch the rich fields. Just by the red-roofed town the Ripple⁴ flows merrily into the Floss. How lovely the little river is with its dark changing wavelets! It seems to me like a living companion while I wander along the bank and listen to its low soft voice.

And this is Dorlcote Mill. I must stand a minute or two here on the bridge and look at it, though it is late in the afternoon. Even in

1. Dorlcote Mill ['dɔ:lkət mil] — 道尔可特磨坊.

2. the Floss [flɒs] — 弗洛斯河. 注意: 在江河等专有名词前, 一般要用定冠词 the.

3. St Ogg's [snt 'ɒgz] — 圣阿格兹 (镇名).

4. the Ripple [ripl] — 丽波尔河 (弗洛斯河的支流).

this leafless time¹ of February it is pleasant to look at the comfortable house, as old as the trees that shelter it from the northern wind.

The rush of the water and the booming of the mill are like a great curtain of sound. And now there is the thunder of the huge covered cart, coming home with sacks of grain. That honest waggoner is thinking of his dinner getting dry in the oven at this late hour,² but he will not touch it till he has fed his horses.

Now they are on the bridge. I can turn my eyes toward the mill again, and watch its wheel sending out the diamond drops of water.

That little girl is watching it too; she has been standing on just the same spot at the edge of the water ever since I paused on the bridge. And that funny white dog with the brown ear is jumping about and barking at the wheel.

It is time she went in,³ I think, and there is a very bright fire to tempt her;⁴ the red light shines through the window against the dark-grey of the sky. It is time, too, for me

1. leafless time — 树叶脫淨的时候。指隆冬季节。

2. That honest waggoner ... at this late hour — 時間不早了，那个誠实的赶車人在想念着他的晚飯要被炉子烤干了。

3. It is time she went in — 現在該是她回到屋子里的时候了。

4. a very bright fire to tempt her — 炉火很旺，暖得誘人。

to leave off resting my arms on¹ the cold stone of this bridge.

*

I have been resting my elbows on the arms of my chair and dreaming that I was standing on the bridge, in front of Dorlcote Mill as it looked one February afternoon many years ago.

And now I will tell you what Mr. and Mrs. Tulliver² were talking about, as they sat by the bright fire on that very afternoon I was dreaming of.³

CHAPTER II

MR. TULLIVER, OF DORLCOTE MILL, DECLARES HIS RESOLUTION ABOUT TOM

“What I want, you know,” said Mr. Tulliver, — “what I want is to give Tom a good education, an education that will be bread to him. That was what I was thinking of when I decided that he must leave the academy.⁴ I

1. to leave off resting my arms on ... — 停止将手臂靠在... leave off=stop.

2. Mr. and Mrs. Tulliver ['misis 'tʌlɪvə] — 透烈弗尔夫妇.

3. on that very afternoon I was dreaming of — 就在那个我所梦见的下午.

4. That was what I ... leave the academy. — 我想到这一层, 就决定他必须离开这所学校. academy [ə'kædəmi] 是英国当时的私立男童寄宿学校.

mean to put him to a really good school at Midsummer.¹ The two years at the academy are good enough for a miller and a farmer; he's had much more schooling than I ever got. All the learning *my* father ever paid for was a bit of birch at one end and the alphabet at the other.² But I want Tom to be a bit of a scholar," said Mr. Tulliver to his wife, a pretty blond woman in a sweet cap. "So that he might be up to the tricks³ of these fellows that talk well and write with a flourish.⁴ It would be a help to me with these lawsuits, and arbitrations and things.⁵ I don't want to make a real lawyer of the lad, for I don't want him to be a rascal — but a sort of engineer, or valuer, like Riley,⁶ one of those businesses that are all profits and no outlay."⁷

"Well, Mr. Tulliver, you know best. *I've*

1. Midsummer — 仲夏. 这里指 Midsummer day 施洗约翰节 (6月24日), 英国四结帐日之一.

2. a bit of birch at one end and the alphabet at the other — (学生) 认不出字, (先生) 就用桦树枝打手心.

3. So that he might be up to the tricks — 这样他就可以学会那套本领了. be up to = be capable of, 能够.

4. that ... write with a flourish — 口才和文笔很好的人. with a flourish, 华丽.

5. It would be ... and things — 可能在这些诉讼、仲裁和其他的事情上对我有所帮助.

6. Riley ['raili] — 莱利 (人名).

7. businesses that are all profits and no outlay — 只有赢利而没有开支的生意经.

no objections. But hadn't I better kill a couple of fowl,¹ and invite the aunts and uncles to dinner next week, so that you may hear what sister Glegg and sister Pullet² have to say about it? There is a couple of fowl that wants killing."³

"You may kill every fowl in the yard if you like, Bessy, but I shall ask neither aunt nor uncle what I'm to do with my own boy," said Mr. Tulliver defiantly.

"Dear heart!"⁴ said Mrs. Tulliver shocked at this bloodthirsty speech. "How can you talk so, Mr. Tulliver? But it's your way to speak disrespectfully of my family,⁵ and sister Glegg says it's my fault, though I am sure I am as innocent as a baby. For nobody's ever heard *me* say that it wasn't lucky for my children to have aunts and uncles that can live independently. However, if Tom must go to a new school, I should like him to go where I can

1. hadn't I better kill a couple of fowl ...? — 我杀两只鸡好嗎? a couple of 作“两个”解. fowl, 单复数同形.

2. sister Glegg [gleg] and sister Pullet ['pulit] — 透烈弗尔太太的姊妹.

3. There is a couple of fowl that wants killing — 两只鸡已长得可以杀来吃了.

4. Dear heart! — 啊呀! (表示惊愕的叹語).

5. it's your way ... of my family — 你老是喜欢不尊重地談論我的娘家. way 在此处作“习惯”解.

wash him and mend him,¹ else he might as well have calico as linen,² for one will be as yellow as the other before they've been washed half-a-dozen times. And then, I could send the lad a cake, or a pork-pie, or an apple, for he can do with an extra bit, bless him!³ whether he gets good meals or no. My children can eat as much as others, thank God!"

"Well, well, we won't send him too far from home, if other things fit in," said Mr. Tulliver. "What I am thinking of, is how to find the right sort of school to send Tom to, for I might be taken in again,⁴ as I've been with the academy. I'll have nothing to do with⁵ an academy again: whatever school I send Tom to, it shan't be⁶ an academy; it will be a place where the lads spend their time in something else besides blacking the family's shoes⁷

1. wash him and mend him — 替他洗补衣服.

2. else he might as well have calico as linen — 否则他会把白洋布衣服当作亚麻布衣服穿了.

3. he can do with an extra bit, bless him! — (除了一天三顿正餐以外) 他还能吃点零食, 但愿他的身体健康!

4. for I might be taken in again — 可能我还会再次受骗.

5. I'll have nothing to do with ... 我将不再和...打交道了 (不愿再和它发生任何关系).

6. it shan't be = it shall not be. shall 用在第二或第三人称后, 表示说话人的意志. 这里作 '决不是' 解.

7. besides blacking the family's shoes — 除了和校长的家里人擦皮鞋之外.

and getting up the potatoes. It's a very hard thing to know what school to choose."

Mr. Tulliver paused a minute or two, and dived with both hands into his pockets as if he hoped to find some suggestion there.

Presently he said, "I know what I'll do: I'll talk it over with Riley: he is coming to-morrow, to arbitrate about the dam."

"I think Mr. Riley is likely to know something about schools. He has had some schooling himself and meets many people on business. And we shall have time to talk it over to-morrow night when the business is done. I want Tom to be such a sort of man as Riley, you know, — who can talk as if it were all written out for him and knows a good lot of words that don't mean much: and he has a good solid knowledge of business too."

"Well," said Mrs. Tulliver, "so far as talking and knowing everything,¹ it is all right. But those fine-talking men from the big towns mostly wear false shirt-fronts,² and wear them till they are all in a mess.³ And then if Tom is to go and live in Mudport⁴ like Riley, he'll

1. so far as talking and knowing everything — 就辞令和各方面的学識而論. so far as, 就...而論.

2. false shirt-fronts — 假衬胸 (shirt-fronts 是衬衫的硬胸部).

3. till they are all in a mess — 直穿到它們(假衬胸)一团糟为止.

4. Mudport [ˈmʌdpɔ:t] — 馬得波特 (城名).

have a kitchen hardly big enough to turn in, and never get a fresh egg for his breakfast; and sleep up three pairs of stairs,¹ and be burnt to death before he can get down."

"No, no," said Mr. Tulliver. "I've no thoughts of his going to Mudport; I mean him to set up his office at St. Ogg's, close by us, and live at home. But," continued Mr. Tulliver after a pause, "what I'm a bit afraid of is that Tom hasn't got the right sort of brains for a clever fellow; I'm afraid he's a little bit slowish. He takes after your family,² Bessy."

"Yes, that he does," said Mrs. Tulliver, "he always likes much salt in his soup. That was my brother's way, and my father's before him."

"It seems a bit of a pity, though,"³ said Mr. Tulliver, "that the lad takes after the mother's side instead of the little wench.⁴ The little one⁵ takes after my side, now: she's twice as clever as Tom. Too clever for a woman, I'm afraid," continued Mr. Tulliver, turning his head first on one side and then on the other.

1. sleep up three pairs of stairs — 睡在四层楼上。

2. He takes after your family — 他像你們家里的人。to take after, 作“像”解，指容貌、性格而言。

3. It seems a bit of a pity, though — 然而看来这是令人感到有点遺憾的。though 在此处是語气詞，不作“虽然”解。

4. the little wench=the little girl, 这个小女孩。

5. the little one — 指瑪琪 (Maggie)。

“It all leads to naughtiness, Mr. Tulliver. How to keep her in a clean pinafore two hours — this passes my cunning.¹ And now that you mention her,” continued Mrs. Tulliver, rising and going to the window, “I don’t know where she is now, and it’s nearly tea-time. Ah, I thought so, — wandering up and down by the water, like a wild thing;² she’ll fall in some day.”³

Mrs. Tulliver rapped the window sharply, beckoned, and shook her head, — a process which she repeated more than once before she returned to her chair.

“You talk of cleverness, Mr. Tulliver,” she observed as she sat down, “but I’m sure the child’s half an idiot in some things; for if I send her upstairs to fetch anything, she forgets what she’s gone for, and perhaps will sit down on the floor in the sunshine and plait her hair and sing to herself like a Bedlam creature,⁴ while I’m waiting for her downstairs. That never ran in my family,⁵ thank God! No more

1. passes my cunning — 超越我的智能。

2. a wild thing — 野孩子。

3. she’ll fall in some day — 有一天她将会跌到河里溺死的。

4. a Bedlam creature — 疯子。Bedlam [ˈbedləm] 是倫敦一家瘋人醫院的名字。

5. That never ran in my family — 我娘家的人从来没有这种模样。ran in my family = was found in all members of my family.

than the brown skin that makes her look like a mulatto. It seems hard to have but one girl,¹ and she so comical."

"Pooh, nonsense!" said Mr. Tulliver; "she's a straight black-eyed wench. I don't know in what she's behind other folks' children, and she can read almost as well as the parson."

"But her hair doesn't curl all I can do with it, and she gets furious when it is put into papers."²

"Cut it off — cut it off short," said the father rashly.

"How can you talk so, Mr. Tulliver? She's too big a girl — past nine, and tall for her age — to have her hair cut short; and there's her cousin Lucy³ that has a row of curls round her head, and not a hair out of place.⁴ It seems hard that my sister Deane should have that pretty child; I'm sure Lucy takes more after me than my own child does. Maggie,⁵ Maggie," continued the mother, as this small mistake of nature⁶ entered the room, "where's the use of

1. It seems hard to have but one girl — 遺憾的是只有一个女儿。

2. papers — 紙发卷。

3. Lucy ['lju:si] — 魯茜 (Maggie 的表妹)。

4. not a hair out of place — 头发一絲不乱。

5. Maggie ['mægi] — 瑪琪 (湯姆的妹妹)。

6. this small mistake of nature — 上帝造物时的小錯誤 (指上帝沒有賜給瑪琪一个漂亮的脸蛋), 这里即指 Maggie。

my telling you to keep away from the water? You'll fall in and be drowned some day, and then you'll be sorry you didn't do as mother told you."

Maggie threw off her bonnet; she was incessantly tossing her head back to keep the dark, straight heavy locks out of her gleaming black eyes.¹

"Oh, dear, oh, dear, Maggie, what are you thinking of, to throw your bonnet there? Take it upstairs, brush your hair, and put your other pinafore on, and change your shoes, do, for shame;² and come and go on with your patchwork, like a little lady."

"Oh, mother," said Maggie in a cross tone, "I don't want to do any patchwork."

"What! your pretty patchwork, to make a present to your aunt Glegg?"

"It's foolish work," said Maggie with a toss of her mane, "tearing things to pieces to sew them together again.³ And I don't want to do anything for my aunt Glegg. I don't like her."

And Maggie ran out, dragging her bonnet

1. to keep the dark ... gleaming black eyes — 让烏黑、直而密的头发不致遮住她那双閃閃发光的黑眼睛。作“头发”解时，lock 須用复数。

2. for shame — 多么可耻啊。

3. tearing things to pieces to sew them together again — 把东西撕成碎片，然后又縫合起来。

by the string, while Mr. Tulliver laughed heartily.

"I wonder at you, that you laugh at her, Mr. Tulliver," said the mother in a cross tone.

Mrs. Tulliver was what is called a good-natured person — never cried when she was a baby, and from the cradle upwards had been healthy, fair, plump and dull-witted; in short,¹ the flower of her family.

CHAPTER III

MR. RILEY GIVES HIS ADVICE CONCERNING A SCHOOL FOR TOM

The gentleman in the white tie and shirt-frill,² taking his brandy-and-water so pleasantly with his good friend Mr. Tulliver, is Mr. Riley, a gentleman with a pale face and fat hands, rather highly educated for his work.

The conversation had come to a pause. Mr. Tulliver did not dwell on his favourite subjects³ — the dam, and the lawyers that had

1. in short — 总而言之 (=in a word).

2. in the white tie and shirt-frill — 打白領結, 穿皱边衬衫 (的紳士).

3. did not dwell on his favourite subjects — 并没有长篇大論地談論他最喜歡談的問題. to dwell on, 在这里作“长篇大論”解.