

英汉对照全译



Sense and Sensibility

英语大书虫世界文学名著文库

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The old gentleman died: his will was read, and like almost every other will, gave as much disappointment as pleasure. He was neither so unjust, nor so ungrateful, as to leave his estate from his nephew;—but he left it to him on such terms as destroyed half the value of the bequest.

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那老绅士死了,他的遗嘱被公布了,与别的遗嘱一样,让人又高兴又失望。他并非那样偏颇无情,还是将田庄留给了他的侄子。不过,由于他给他的时候附有条件,就使这份遗产失去了一半价值。

达什伍德先生希望得到这笔财产的目的,主要是为了他的妻子和他的女儿,而不是为了他自己和他的儿子。可财产却要传给他的儿子与他的孙子,那孩子才四岁,所以这笔财产,或



英 语 大 书 虫
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理智与情感

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导 读

简·奥斯丁(1775—1817)是英国文学史上杰出的女现实主义小说家。她生于英国乡村牧师家庭,没有上过正规学校,只是曾在父亲的指导下读过大量文学作品,她酷爱写作,在她十几岁时,便开始以写作为乐事了,在20岁左右便开始写作,终身未嫁,卒年仅42岁。简·奥斯丁是英国第一个现实地描写日常平凡生活中平凡人物的作家,凭着她那细致敏锐的观察力和对英国乡村生活的深刻了解,她的小说一反当时英国小说界中正流行的浪漫式的小说传统。在她的第一部小说《理智与情感》问世以后,方得以把这种局面打破,在英国小说史上起到了承上启下的作用。然后,简·奥斯丁又发表了《傲慢与偏见》、《曼斯菲尔德庄园》、《爱玛》等六部长篇小说。这些作品为英国十九世纪现实主义小说高潮的到来奠定了基础。简·奥斯丁凭她个人的理智来领会整个世界,《理智与情感》初稿写成于1795年,这一部关系世态人情的喜剧作品,是简·奥斯丁最富于幽默情趣的作品之一。

小说以姐姐埃莉诺与妹妹玛丽安性格迥异为线索。姐姐非常有见识,富有同情心,懂得如何克制,是一位头脑冷静的姑娘;妹妹虽然也是年轻美貌,聪明伶俐,但过于多愁善感,不知节制。她们的父亲去世后,房产均归她们的同父异母的哥哥约翰所有,使得她们过起寄人篱下的生活。她们后来在德文郡找到一座乡间别墅作为新居。在她们的感情问题上,姐姐在选择对象时,不重仪表,只讲人品,爱上了性情坦率的爱德华,后来无意听到露西·斯蒂尔私下告知她,自己与爱德华私订终身已有四年之久,虽说面临要与她刚爱上不久的爱德华分手的可能,她还是竭力克制住自己,表现出一副若无其事的样子。小说中描写道,在她的妹妹,倍受相思之苦的玛丽安因被威洛比抛弃而大受刺激,从而病倒在床,而埃莉诺则把自己被人欺骗的痛苦压在心底,安慰妹妹,帮助她振作起来。后来,因为爱德华相继受到母亲与露西的遗弃,而姐姐埃莉诺对他仍是一往情深,表现出宽大的胸怀,在爱德华走投无路之际,她受人之托,通知爱德华可以得到一个牧师的职位,以资与露西成婚。未料露西早已离他而去,爱德华深为所动,从而埃莉诺和爱德华终成眷属。

而妹妹玛丽安由于对自己的爱情始终抱着浪漫色彩的幻想，一心要嫁一个“风度翩翩”的如意郎君，当三十五岁的布兰登上校对她表示好感时，她却不屑一顾，在乡间邂逅并倾心迷恋的花花公子威洛比，却把她抛弃，她为此还自我作践，并几乎送掉性命，她为此便吸取教训，学她姐姐的样子，开始考虑默默爱着她，并一直都在关心她的布兰顿上校，也改变了她那两年前因天真而追求浪漫的恋爱观，心甘情愿地嫁给那位心地善良、品格高尚的老单身汉——布兰登上校。

另外，小说中也描绘了另一些冷漠自私、富有“理智”的反面人物，如净是歪门斜道，并残酷地把继母与妹妹赶出他们长期居住的诺兰庄园的那个约翰·达什伍德；以及那个无情地把不听从自己所安排婚事的儿子爱德华变得一贫如洗，并发誓要让自己的儿子永无出头之日的费拉斯太太。这两个人，一个是为争财产而不要兄妹情谊，另一个则是为了门第而抛弃母子情深。小说中也有几个可谓妙趣横生的戏剧性场面，如小说第二章中，在约翰·达什伍德夫妇争议是不是要资助继母与三个妹妹的场面描写中，由作者经过简短的对话，便把两个冷漠自私的守财奴形象给勾勒出来了。在第三十四章中，作者描写前面的那对守财奴夫妇在宴请约翰·米德尔顿夫妇时，了了几笔，便把他们言谈贫乏的场面给写了出来。

时值新千年之际，我们本着有助于广大青年读者学习英语的目的，在翻译时参照现有译本，本着直译的原则。尽可能体现原作者的本意，让他们在欣赏大家风范的同时，还可以体味英语的原味，做中英文对照的目的并不在于要为读者解决阅读障碍，而是要让读者在阅读过程中有个参照，检查自己能否体味出英语原作所表述的细微情节，也是对广大读者英语翻译水平的一个测验。

译者

CHAPTER 1

The family of Dashwood had been long settled in Sussex. Their estate was large, and their residence was at Norland Park, in the centre of their property.

where, for many generations, they had lived in so respectable a manner as to engage the general good opinion of their surrounding acquaintance.

The late owner of this estate was a single man, who lived to a very advanced age, and who for many years of his life, had a constant companion and housekeeper in his sister. But her death, which happened ten years before his own, produced a great alteration in his home; for to supply her loss, he invited and received into his house the family of his nephew Mr. Henry Dashwood, the legal inheritor of the Norland estate, and the person to whom he intended to bequeath it.

In the society of his nephew and niece, and their children, the old Gentleman's days were comfortably spent. His attachment to them all increased. The constant attention of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dashwood to his wishes, which proceeded not merely from interest, but from goodness of heart, gave him every degree of solid comfort which his age could receive; and the cheerfulness of the children added a relish to his existence.

By a former marriage, Mr. Henry Dashwood had one son; by his present lady, three daughters. The son, a steady respectable young man, was amply provided for by the fortune of his mother, which had been large, and half of which devolved on him on his

第一章

达什伍德家已经在苏塞克斯住了好多年了。他们的田庄很大，他们家就在田庄当中的诺兰庄园。

他们在那儿已经住了好几代了，一直都过着很体面的生活，得到了周围人们的称赞。

上一个庄园主人是个单身汉，活了挺大的岁数。活着的时候，是他妹妹整天陪着他，给他当管家。但妹妹在他去世的十年前就去世了，使得他家里发生了很大的变化。为了补上她的空缺，他把侄儿亨利·达什伍德一家接到了家里。而亨利·达什伍德先生是诺兰田庄的法定继承人，他想将遗产留给他。

在侄子、侄媳和他们的孩子的陪伴下，这位老先生的生活过得很舒适。他特别喜欢他们。亨利·达什伍德夫妇不光是因为利害关系，而且还因为心地善良，对他总是照顾得特别周到，使他在晚年的时候过得很舒适。而那些活泼可爱的孩子也使他的生活增色不少。

在前一次婚姻中，亨利·达什伍德先生有了一个儿子，而现在的妻子则生了三个女儿。他儿子是个踏实可敬的年轻人，当他成年的时候，他继承了他母亲留下的那笔遗产的一半，那是很大的一笔财富，这使他

coming of age. By his own marriage, likewise, which happened soon afterwards, he added to his wealth. To him therefore the succession to the Norland estate was not so really important as to his sisters; for their fortune, independent of what might arise to them from their father's inheriting that property, could be but small. Their mother had nothing, and their father only seven thousand pounds in his own disposal; for the remaining moiety of his first wife's fortune was also secured to her child, and he had only a life interest in it.

The old gentleman died; his will was read, and like almost every other will, gave as much disappointment as pleasure. He was neither so unjust, nor so ungrateful, as to leave his estate from his nephew;——but he left it to him on such terms as destroyed half the value of the bequest.

Mr. Dashwood had wished for it more for the sake of his wife and daughters than for himself or his son;—but to his son, and his son's son, a child of four years old, it was secured, in such a way, as to leave to himself no power of providing for those who were most dear to him, and who most needed a provision by, any charge on the estate, or by any sale of its valuable woods.

The whole was tied up for the benefit of this child, who, in occasional visits with his father and mother at Norland, had so far gained on the affections of his uncle, by such attractions as are by no means unusual in children of two or three years old; an imperfect articulation, an earnest desire of having his own way, many cunning tricks, and a great deal of noise, as to outweigh all the

有了很富足的家产。没过多长时间,他就结婚了,这又增加了他的家产。因此,继承诺兰田庄对他而言,就没有对他那些妹妹那么重要。她们要是不依赖父亲继承这笔财产可能增加她们的财产,那她们的财产就会非常少。她们的母亲什么都没有,父亲手里只有七千镑,他只在活着的时候对他前妻另一半遗产拥有所有权,等他死了,那些财产就要给她儿子。

那老绅士死了,他的遗嘱被公布了,与别的遗嘱一样,让人又高兴又失望。他并非那样偏颇无情,还是将田庄留给了他的侄子。不过,由于他给他的时候附有条件,就使这份遗产失去了一半价值。

达什伍德先生希望得到这笔财产的目的,主要是为了他的妻子和他的女儿,而并不是为了他自己和他的儿子。可财产却要传给他的儿子与他的孙子,那孩子才四岁,所以,他就没有权力动用这笔财产,或是变卖这笔财产,去赡养他那些他认为最亲近而且又最需要赡养的人。

为了那个孩子的利益,所有的财产全都被冻结了。他只不过偶尔跟他的父亲和母亲来过诺兰庄园几次,与别两岁的孩子一样,也没有什么特别吸引人的地方,也不过就是正在学说话,又很固执,有很多的鬼点子,喜欢喊叫,却赢得了老绅士的喜欢。而侄媳和她的女儿这么多年以来对他的照顾,却没有了任

value of all the attention which, for years, he had received from his niece and her daughters. He meant not to be unkind, however, and, as a mark of his affection for the three girls, he left them a thousand pounds a-piece.

Mr. Dashwood's disappointment was, at first, severe; but his temper was cheerful and sanguine, and he might reasonably hope to live many years, and by living economically, lay by a considerable sum from the produce of an estate already large, and capable of almost immediate improvement. But the fortune, which had been so tardy in coming, was his only one twelvemonth. He survived his uncle no longer; and ten thousand pounds, including the late legacies, was all that remained for his widow and daughters.

His son was sent for, as soon as his danger was known, and to him Mr. Dashwood recommended, with all the strength and urgency which illness could command, the interest of his mother-in-law and sisters.

Mr. John Dashwood had not the strong feelings of the rest of the family; but he was affected by a recommendation of such a nature at such a time, and he promised to do every thing in his power to make them comfortable. His father was rendered easy by such an assurance, and Mr. John Dashwood had then leisure to consider how much there might prudently be in his power to do for them.

He was not an ill-disposed young man, unless to be rather cold hearted and rather selfish, is to be ill-disposed: but he was, in general, well respected; for he conducted himself with propriety in the discharge of his

何的价值。但是,他也不愿意太苛刻,为了表达他对三个女孩的心意,他给她们每个人留了一千英镑。

刚开始,达什伍德先生特别失望。但他的性情很乐观,想着自己可以活很长时间,靠着如此大的一个田庄,生活再节俭一点,情况立即就能得到改善。可是,对这笔姗姗来迟的财产,他只拥有了十二个月,他叔父死了没多长时间,他也去世了。包括叔父的遗产在内,他给妻子和女儿留下来的财产也只剩有一万镑。

他刚一病危,他们就让人叫来了他的儿子。达什伍德先生竭尽全力,向儿子做了紧急交代,让他照顾好继母与那几个妹妹。

约翰·达什伍德先生没有家里别的人那样强烈的感情。不过,在这个时候,受到这样的嘱咐,他也很受感动,他许诺说他会尽全力让她们过得舒服些。听了这些许诺,他父亲也放下了心。于是,一有空闲,约翰·达什伍德先生就考虑:若是精打细算起来,他究竟能为她们出多少力。

如果你认为冷漠无情与自私自利不是坏心眼的话,那他并不是一个心眼很坏的年轻人。大体上讲,他还是很可敬的,因为他平时做事的时候,一般都很恰当。要是他跟

ordinary duties. Had he married a more amiable woman, he might have been made still more respectable than he was;—he might even have been made amiable himself; for he was very young when he married, and very fond of his wife. But Mrs. John Dashwood was a strong caricature of himself;— more narrow-minded and selfish.

When he gave his promise to his father, he meditated within himself to increase the fortunes of his sisters by the present of a thousand pounds a-piece. He then really thought himself equal to it. The prospect of four thousand a-year, in addition to his present income, besides the remaining half of his own mother's fortune, warmed his heart and made him feel capable of generosity. "Yes, he would give them three thousand pounds: it would be liberal and handsome! It would be enough to make them completely easy. Three thousand pounds! He could spare so considerable a sum with little inconvenience."—— He thought of it all day long, and for many days successively, and he did not repent.

No sooner was his father's funeral over, than Mrs. John Dashwood, without sending any notice of her intention to her mother-in-law, arrived with her child and their attendants. No one could dispute her right to come; the house was her husband's from the moment of his father's decease;—but the indelicacy of her conduct was so much the greater, and to a woman in Mrs. Dashwood's situation, with only common feelings, must have been highly displeasing; but in HER mind there was a sense of honour so keen, a generosity so romantic, that

一个和蔼一点的女人结了婚的话,那他可能会更让人尊敬,那样连他自己也能变得亲切一点。可他结婚的时候还很年轻,又十分喜爱他的妻子。但是,约翰·达什伍德夫人也跟他一样,只不过气量更小,心地更自私而已。

当他向他的父亲许诺的时候,他就暗自考虑,再送给他妹妹一个人一千镑的财产。那个时候,他真的认为他能做到这一点。他除了眼下的收入与母亲另一半遗产之外,看来一年还可以再增加四千镑,这就暖了他的心,也让他觉得还能再大方一点。“对,我将给她们三千镑,那应该是很慷慨的了,足够让她们过上舒服的生活了。三千镑!我能一点都没费劲地结余下如此大的一笔款项。”他一天到晚地考虑着这事,一连想了很多天,而且他也没有反悔。

刚办完他父亲的葬礼,约翰·达什伍德夫人也没跟她婆婆说一声,就领着孩子、佣人过来了。没人可以怀疑她有来这里的权力,因为自她公公去世的那一刻起,这个家就是她丈夫的了。但是,她的行为太粗俗了,就算依照人之常情,一个女人处在达什伍德太太这种情况下,一定会觉得非常不高兴。而且,达什伍德太太的自尊心非常强,又非常的慷慨大方,对这样无礼的冒犯,不管是哪个人做的或者冲哪个人来的,她都会觉得非常厌恶。约翰·达

any offence of the kind, by whomsoever given or received, was to her a source of immovable disgust. Mrs. John Dashwood had never been a favourite with any of her husband's family; but she had had no opportunity, till the present, of shewing them with how little attention to the comfort of other people she could act when occasion required it.

So acutely did Mrs. Dashwood feel this ungracious behaviour, and so earnestly did she despise her daughter-in-law for it, that, on the arrival of the latter, she would have quitted the house for ever, had not the entreaty of her eldest girl induced her first to reflect on the propriety of going, and her own tender love for all her three children determined her afterwards to stay, and for their sakes avoid a breach with their brother.

Elinor, this eldest daughter whose advice was so effectual, possessed a strength of understanding, and coolness of judgment, which qualified her, though only nineteen, to be the counsellor of her mother, and enabled her frequently to counteract, to the advantage of them all, that eagerness of mind in Mrs. Dashwood which must generally have led to imprudence. She had an excellent heart;—her disposition was affectionate, and her feelings were strong; but she knew how to govern them; it was a knowledge which her mother had yet to learn, and which one of her sisters had resolved never to be taught.

Marianne's abilities were, in many respects, quite equal to Elinor's. She was sensible and clever; but eager in every thing; her sorrows, her joys, could have no moder-

什伍德夫人在他丈夫家里从来都没让人喜欢过,不过直到现在她才有机会跟她们证明:必要的时候,她做事会一点都不在乎其他人的痛痒。

达什伍德太太特别讨厌这种没有教养的行为,而且就因为这个,她很看不起她的儿媳。要不是大女儿恳求她先想想合不合适,后者刚一来,她就想永远离开这个家。她又很爱她的三个女儿,后来心就软了下来,她就决定留下来。为了她们,就不跟她们的哥哥闹翻了。

大女儿埃丽诺的劝说很有效。埃丽诺理解能力很强,头脑也很冷静,尽管只有十九岁,却可以给母亲出主意了。达什伍德太太的性格如烈火,老是很轻率。埃丽诺为她们所有的人着想,不断地劝说她。她心眼好,性格温和,感情很强烈,不过她知道如何克制感情,这些知识,她母亲还要去学习,而她的一个妹妹下定决心永远也不学。

在很多方面,玛丽安的才干都比得上埃丽诺。她又聪明又敏锐,不过做任何事都很急切。她的忧伤,她的快乐,都毫无节制。她很大

ation. She was generous, amiable, interesting; she was everything but prudent. The resemblance between her and her mother was strikingly great.

Elinor saw, with concern, the excess of her sister's sensibility; but by Mrs. Dashwood it was valued and cherished. They encouraged each other now in the violence of their affliction. The agony of grief which overpowered them at first, was voluntarily renewed, was sought for, was created again and again. They gave themselves up wholly to their sorrow, seeking increase of wretchedness in every reflection that could afford it, and resolved against ever admitting consolation in future. Elinor, too, was deeply afflicted; but still she could struggle, she could exert herself. She could consult with her brother, could receive her sister-in-law on her arrival, and treat her with proper attention; and could strive to rouse her mother to similar exertion, and encourage her to similar forbearance.

Margaret, the other sister, was a good-humoured well-disposed girl; but as she had already imbibed a good deal of Marianne's romance, without having much of her sense, she did not, at thirteen, bid fair to equal her sisters at a more advanced period of life.

CHAPTER 2

Mrs. John Dashwood now installed herself mistress of Norland; and her mother and sisters-in-law were degraded to the condition of visitors. As such, however, they were treated by her with quiet civility; and by her husband with as much kindness as he could feel

方,又很亲切,而且非常有趣,什么都好,只是不够谨慎,跟她母亲的共同之处非常多。

埃丽诺看到妹妹过于敏感,就很担心,但达什伍德太太却认为那非常的难能可贵。现在,她们俩在强烈的悲痛之中,相互感染,相互助长。刚开始,她们就伤痛得不能自持,而那种伤痛又周而复始。她们完全陷入了伤痛之中,哪方面伤心就想哪方面,于是就越来越痛苦,觉得这一生没什么前途了,谁劝都没有用。埃丽诺也非常伤心,但是她还可以支撑得住,她尽力克制着自己。她可以跟哥哥商量着办些事,她嫂子来了,她还能接待她。她还可以让她母亲也这样做,并鼓励她也这样忍耐。

另一个妹妹玛格丽特是个很快乐的小女孩,也很善良,只是因为 she 吸收了很多玛丽安那种浪漫的性情,又没有她聪明,刚刚十三岁,还没法比得上涉世较深的姐姐们。

第二章

约翰·达什伍德夫人现在成了诺兰庄园的女主人,而她的婆婆与小姑们却变成了客人。不过,这样一来,她对她们反而文明礼貌了起来。她丈夫对她们也很亲切,除了对他自己与他的妻子和孩子以外,

towards anybody beyond himself, his wife, and their child. He really pressed them, with some earnestness, to consider Norland as their home; and, as no plan appeared so eligible to Mrs. Dashwood as remaining there till she could accommodate herself with a house in the neighbourhood, his invitation was accepted.

A continuance in a place where everything reminded her of former delight, was exactly what suited her mind. In seasons of cheerfulness, no temper could be more cheerful than hers, or possess, in a greater degree, that sanguine expectation of happiness which is happiness itself. But in sorrow she must be equally carried away by her fancy, and as far beyond consolation as in pleasure she was beyond alloy.

Mrs. John Dashwood did not at all approve of what her husband intended to do for his sisters. To take three thousand pounds from the fortune of their dear little boy, would be impoverishing him to the most dreadful degree. She begged him to think again on the subject. How could he answer it to himself to rob his child, and his only child too, of so large a sum? And what possible claim could the Miss Dashwoods, who were related to him only by half blood, which she considered as no relationship at all, have on his generosity to so large an amount. It was very well known that no affection was ever supposed to exist between the children of any man by different marriages; and why was he to ruin himself, and their poor little Harry, by giving away all his money to his half sisters?

"It was my father's last request to me,"

他对其他人最多也就是这样了。他也确实很诚恳地让她们将诺兰庄园当成她们的家。因为达什伍德太太见暂时在附近还没有很合适的房子,还不如先住在这儿,于是就接受了他的邀请。

对达什伍德太太而言,留在这个地方,所有的东西都让她想起过去的欢乐,也是正中下怀。在高兴的时候,没有人能比她更快乐,也没人比她更乐观地期待着幸福,好像期待本身就是一种幸福一样。不过要是伤心起来,她一样也会胡思乱想,就跟她高兴的时候没法控制自己一样,她伤心的时候也难以解脱。

约翰·达什伍德夫人一点也不赞成丈夫帮他的妹妹们的忙,从他们心爱的孩子的财产里拿走三千镑,那会将他彻底变成穷光蛋的。她恳求他再考虑一下这件事。他怎能夺去自己的孩子那样大的一笔财产呢?那可是他唯一的儿子呀。达什伍德小姐们跟他仅仅有半拉血缘关系,而她觉得那压根就没什么关系,她们怎么能接受他如此大方的资助?大家都知道,同父异母子女之间从来都没有什么感情,那他为何要将自己全部的财产送给同父异母的妹妹,从而搞垮自己,还有他们可怜的小哈里呢?

"这是我父亲最后对我的嘱

replied her husband, "that I should assist his widow and daughters."

"He did not know what he was talking of, I dare say; ten to one but he was light-headed at the time. Had he been in his right senses, he could not have thought of such a thing as begging you to give away half your fortune from your own child."

"He did not stipulate for any particular sum, my dear Fanny; he only requested me, in general terms, to assist them, and make their situation more comfortable than it was in his power to do. Perhaps it would have been as well if he had left it wholly to myself. He could hardly suppose I should neglect them. But as he required the promise, I could not do less than give it: at least I thought so at the time. The promise, therefore, was given, and must be performed. Something must be done for them whenever they leave Norland and settle in a new home."

"Well, then, LET something be done for them; but THAT something need not be three thousand pounds. Consider," she added, "that when the money is once parted with, it never can return. Your sisters will marry, and it will be gone for ever. If, indeed, it could: ever be restored to our poor little boy——"

"Why, to be sure," said her husband, very gravely, "that would make a great difference. The time may come when Harry will regret that so large a sum was parted with. If he should have a numerous family, for instance, it would be a very convenient addition."

"To be sure it would."

托,"她丈夫回答道,"要我帮助他的寡妻与女儿们。"

"我敢说,他都不知道他自己想的是什么。那个时候,他十有八九是昏了头,否则他就不会想这样的事情,竟让你从自己孩子的财产中拿出一半送出去。"

"我亲爱的范妮,他并未规定任何具体的数目,他只不过大概地说一下,让我帮帮她们,使她们的境况比原来他在的时候舒服一点。他要是将整个事情都交给我的话,可能会好一些。他也不会认为我会忽略她们。不过他要我答应下来,我也只有许诺他;至少在那个时候,我是这样考虑的。因此,我就答应了,并且还一定得实现。不管她们什么时候离开诺兰庄园,再安置一个新家,总得要为她们做点事吧。"

"好吧,那就为她们做点事吧,但是帮帮忙也不需要三千镑啊,你想一想,"她补充道,"钱只要一拿出去,就永远也不会回来了。你的妹妹们将来一出嫁,那些钱就再不会回来了。事实上,如果这钱还能给我们可怜的小儿子……"

"噢,那当然,"丈夫很认真地说道,"那可就大不一样了。总有一天,哈里会后悔失去了如此大的一笔钱。他要是有了一个大家庭,这些钱的作用就大了。"

"肯定会有的。"

“Perhaps, then, it would be better for all parties if the sum were diminished one half.——Five hundred pounds would be a prodigious increase to their fortunes!”

“Oh! Beyond anything great! What brother on earth would do half so much for his sisters, even if REALLY his sisters! And as it is——only half blood! ——But you have such a generous spirit!”

“I would not wish to do any thing mean,” he replied. “One had rather, on such occasions, do too much than too little. No one, at least, can think I have not done enough for them: even themselves, they can hardly expect more.”

“There is no knowing what THEY may expect,” said the lady, “but we are not to think of their expectations: the question is, what you can afford to do.”

“Certainly——and I think I may afford to give them five hundred pounds a-piece. As it is, without any addition of mine, they will each have about three thousand pounds on their mother's death——a very comfortable fortune for any young woman.”

“To be sure it is: and, indeed, it strikes me that they can want no addition at all. They will have ten thousand pounds divided amongst them. If they marry, they will be sure of doing well, and if they do not, they may all live very comfortably together on the interest of ten thousand pounds.”

“That is very true, and, therefore, I do not know whether, upon the whole, it would not be more advisable to do something for their mother while she lives, rather than for them——something of the annuity kind I mean.——My sisters would feel the good ef-

“那么,要是将钱减少一半的话,那样对所有的人可能都会更好一些——每人五百镑,她们也算发大财了。”

“噢,绝对是发大财了! 有哪个哥哥能为妹妹做这么多,哪怕是他的亲妹妹,也不会做到你的一半! 而且你们只不过是同父异母! 但你却有如此大方的精神。”

“我不喜欢做一点小气的事,”他回答道,“到这样的時候,一个人宁可做得过一些,也不能做得太少。最起码谁也不会认为我为她们做的不够,就算是她们自己,也不能期望更多了。”

“谁清楚她们会期望什么,”夫人说道,“但是,我们也不用去想她们所期望的事。问题是你能提供多少。”

“当然了,我觉得我可以一个人给她们五百镑,说实话,就算不加上我这一笔,她们的母亲去世了,她们一个人也会获得三千来镑,对一个年轻女子而言,这是一笔很不错的财富啦。”

“就是! 其实,我觉得压根就不需要另外给她们钱了。她们会有一万镑拿去平分。如果她们结了婚,她们一定过得很好。要是她们不结婚的话,那靠这一万镑的利息,她们在一块也会过得很舒服。”

“说得对。因此我也不知道,总的来说,当她们的母亲还在世的时候,为她做点事,会不会比帮她们更明智一些。我是说给她些年金之类的。跟她们的母亲一样,我的妹妹们也可以感觉到它的良好结果。每

fects of it as well as herself. A hundred a year would make them all perfectly comfortable."

His wife hesitated a little, however, in giving her consent to this plan.

"To be sure," said she, "it is better than parting with fifteen hundred pounds at once. But then if Mrs. Dashwood should live fifteen years, we shall be completely taken in."

"Fifteen years! my dear Fanny; her life cannot be worth half that purchase."

"Certainly not; but if you observe, people always live for ever when there is any annuity to be paid them; and she is very stout and healthy, and hardly forty. An annuity is a very serious business; it comes over and over every year, and there is no getting rid of it. You are not aware of what you are doing. I have known a great deal of the trouble of annuities; for my mother was clogged with the payment of three to old superannuated servants by my father's will, and it is amazing how disagreeable she found it. Twice every year these annuities were to be paid; and then there was the trouble of getting it to them; and then one of them was said to have died, and afterwards it turned out to be no such thing. My mother was quite sick of it. Her income was not her own, she said, with such perpetual claims on it; and it was the more unkind in my father, because, otherwise, the money would have been entirely at my mother's disposal, without any restriction whatever. It has given me such an abhorrence of annuities, that I am sure I would not pin myself down to the payment of one for all the world."

年一百镑就会让她们过得都很舒适。"

不过,他妻子并未立即同意这个计划,她迟疑了一下。

"当然了,"她说道,"这比一次拿出一千五百镑好一些。但是,如果达什伍德太太能活十五年的话,我们可就吃大亏了。"

"十五年!我亲爱的范妮,她的命连一半时间也活不到。"

"肯定不会了。但是,你仔细观察一下,一个人如果有了年金的话,那他们就根本没法去生活了。她还很健壮,还没有到四十岁。年金是一件非常严肃的事情,每年都会有,根本没有办法甩掉。你还要意识到你做的是什么事情,我可是领教过很多有关养老金的麻烦事儿,因为我的母亲依照我的父亲的遗嘱,每年都要给三个退休的老佣人两次退休金,她发觉这件事真的是太让人讨厌了。这些养老金一年要给两次,将钱送给他们特别的麻烦。后来听说其中一个人去世了,但后来发觉根本就沒这样的事。我母亲感到特别厌烦。她说过,如果一直这样长期得要下去,那她的家产就不再是她的了。都是我父亲太狠心了,否则那些钱就全都归我母亲支配了,一点儿限制都不会有的。这就让我特别讨厌年金,我敢保证,我是绝对不会给谁付年金的。"

“It is certainly an unpleasant thing,” replied Mr. Dashwood, “to have those kind of yearly drains on one’s income. One’s fortune, as your mother justly says, is NOT one’s own. To be tied down to the regular payment of such a sum, on every rent day, is by no means desirable: it takes away one’s independence.”

“Undoubtedly; and after all you have no thanks for it. They think themselves secure, you do no more than what is expected, and it raises no gratitude at all. If I were you, whatever I did should be done at my own discretion entirely. I would not bind myself to allow them any thing yearly. It may be very inconvenient some years to spare a hundred, or even fifty pounds from our own expenses.”

“I believe you are right, my love; it will be better that there should be no annuity in the case; whatever I may give them occasionally will be of far greater assistance than a yearly allowance, because they would only enlarge their style of living if they felt sure of a larger income, and would not be sixpence the richer for it at the end of the year. It will certainly be much the best way. A present of fifty pounds, now and then, will prevent their ever being distressed for money, and will, I think, be amply discharging my promise to my father.”

“To be sure it will. Indeed, to say the truth, I am convinced within myself that your father had no idea of your giving them any money at all. The assistance he thought of, I dare say, was only such as might be reasonably expected of you; for instance, such as looking out for a comfortable small

“一个人的收入每年就那样流失了,”达什伍德先生回答道,“那肯定是一件很讨厌的事情。不错,就像你母亲说的那样,那财产就不是他自己的了。一到支付年金的那一天,就得照例拿出那样一大笔钱,那也太令人讨厌了:那就夺去了一个人的自主权。”

“毫无疑问。而且,还没有人感谢你。她们认为自己很有保障,而你给的不会更多,于是对你就一点儿都不感激。如果我是你的话,无论干什么,我都会按自己的想法干。我绝不会答应给她们任何东西来缚住自己。说不定哪一年,从咱们自己的开支中拿出一百镑,甚至是五十镑都很困难。”

“我亲爱的,我相信你是正确的,这事不给年金的话会更好一些。时不时地给她们些钱,会比给年金好得多,因为如果她们要是觉得能保证有一大笔收入的话,她们只会扩大开支,而到了年末,连一分钱都不会剩。这绝对是一个最妙的办法。时不时地给她们五十镑,会防止她们缺钱花,而且我觉得,这样也能很好地完成我答应过父亲的事。”

“肯定是这样。其实,我觉得你父亲压根就没想着让你给她们钱。我敢说,他所认为的帮助,只是让你适当地帮上一点,比如为她们找一处舒适的小屋子啦,帮她们搬一下她们的东西啦,到东西上市的时候,送给她们一些鱼呀什么的,等等。