THE SECRET GARDEN

秘密花园

[美] 弗朗西丝・伯内特 著 By F.H.Burnett [美] 詹姆斯・豪 改写 Adapted by James Howe 尚孟 译



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When Mary Lenn中园本m to Misselthwaite

Manor to live with her uncle, everyone said she was the most disagreeable looking child ever seen. She arrived from india after an epidemic of deadly cholera had swept through that country like a hot, relentless wind. Many people had died, and among them were Mary's parents. Now, were it not for her uncle Archibald Craven. Mary would have found herself quite alone in the world.

She did not miss her parents, for she had hardly known them. Her father had always been busy. And her mother, who had not wanted a little girl at all, had handed her over to the care of servants from the time. Mary was born. As she was a sickly child, all the servants obeyed her and gave her her own way in everything. And now that her parents and all her

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Chapter One Misselthwaite Manor

When Mary Lennox came to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle, everyone said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. She arrived from India after an epidemic of deadly cholera had swept through that country like a hot, relentless wind. Many people had died, and among them were Mary's parents. Now, were it not for her uncle Archibald Craven, Mary would have found herself quite alone in the world.

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第一章 米塞斯维特庄园

当玛丽·伦诺克斯来到米塞斯维特庄园和姨父同住时,大家都说她是长得最不讨人喜欢的小孩。她由印度回来,致命的霍乱无情地横扫过该国之后,许多人因此丧生,其中也包括玛丽的父母。如今,除了阿奇博尔德·克雷文姨父之外,玛丽在这世上没有任何亲人。

她不想念父母,因为她几乎不认识他们。父亲总是很忙,而母亲根本不想要小女孩,所以玛丽一出生,母亲就把她交给用人照顾。由于她是一个体弱多病的孩子,用人们全都对她百依百顺,给予她想要的一切。

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servants were gone, she fully expected that whoever took care of her next would continue to obey her and give her whatever she demanded.

Mary had a thin little face and a thin little body, thin light hair and a very sour expression. She never smiled—not once during the long voyage to England. This she made under the care of an officer's wife, who was rather glad to hand her over to the woman that Mr. Archibald Craven sent to meet her in London—his housekeeper, Mrs. Medlock.

"My word! She's a plain little piece of goods!" said Mrs. Medlock of Mary, who pretended not to hear.

"Perhaps she will improve as she grows older," the officer's wife said good-naturedly.

"She'll have to alter a good deal," answered Mrs. Medlock. "And there's nothing likely to improve children at Misselthwaite, if you ask me!"

Mary did not like the stout woman, whose flushed face she found common, but as she very seldom liked people, there was nothing remarkable in that. 现在父母和用人们都不在了,她非常希望将来照顾她的人也会继续服从她并让她予取予求。

玛丽有张瘦削的面孔及一副弱小的身材,头发稀疏,神情不悦。回英国漫长的旅程中,她一次也没有笑过。一名军官太太负责在旅途中照顾她,到了伦敦把她交给克雷文先生派来的管家梅德洛克夫人时,那位太太十分高兴。

"哎呀!她真是个丑丫头!"梅德洛克夫人说道,玛丽假装没有听见。

"或许长大一点会好一些。"军官太太好心地说。

"她一定得改变很多才行,相信我,米塞斯维特是不可能让小孩子变得更好的。"梅德洛克夫人答道。

玛丽不喜欢这个粗壮的女人,她觉得她红彤彤的 脸极为平庸。不过,反正她从来也没有喜欢过任何人, 所以这根本不足为奇。 Still, she could not help but wonder about her uncle and the place he lived in. She had heard he was a hunchback. What was a hunchback? she wondered. She had never seen one.

The next day they set out on their journey to Yorkshire. Mary sat in her corner of the railway carriage and looked plain and fretful. Her black dress made her skin look yellower than ever, and her limp hair straggled from under her black hat.

"I suppose you might as well be told something about where you're going to," said Mrs. Medlock gruffly. "It's a queer place."

Mary said nothing at all. Mrs. Medlock looked rather put out by her apparent indifference but went on.

"The house is six hundred years old and it's on the edge of the moor and there's near a hundred rooms in it, though most of them's shut up and locked. And there's a park round it and gardens and trees." She paused and took a breath. "But there's nothing else," she ended suddenly.

Mary sat still.

"What you're to be kept at Misselthwaite Manor for I don't know. He's not going to trouble 不管怎样,她仍然不由自主地想到她的姨父及他 所居住的地方。听说他是一个驼背,驼背是什么呢? 她很好奇。她从来没有看到过。

第二天,他们启程前往约克郡。玛丽烦躁无聊地 坐在火车车厢内,黑色的衣裳使得她的皮肤看起来比 以前更黄,黑色的帽子底下稀松的头发无力地散 开着。

梅德洛克夫人粗暴地说:"我想你可能听说过你要 去的地方,它是一个奇怪的地方。"

玛丽没有出声。梅德洛克夫人虽因她的无动于衷 而发窘,但仍继续说着:

"它是一栋位于荒野、有六百年历史的房子,里面差不多有一百个房间,但大多数都锁了起来。房子四周有庭园、花园及树木。"她停住吸了一口气,"除此之外,没有什么了。"她突然住了口。

玛丽仍旧静静地坐着。

"我不清楚为什么要收留你住在米塞斯维特庄园,

himself about you, that's sure and certain. He never troubles himself about no one."

She stopped herself as if she had remembered something just in time.

"He's got a crooked back," she said. "That set him wrong. He was a sour young man and got no good of all his money and big place till he was married."

Mary's eyes turned toward Mrs. Medlock in spite of her intention to seem not to care.

Seeing this, the housekeeper continued. "She was a sweet, pretty thing, and he'd have walked the world over to get her a blade of grass she wanted. When she died—"

"Oh! Did she die!" Mary exclaimed, quite without meaning to. Suddenly she felt sorry for Mr. Archibald Craven.

"Yes," Mrs. Medlock answered. "And it made him queerer than ever. He cares about nobody. He won't see people. And ten to one he won't see you. Most of the time he goes away, and when he's at Misselthwaite, he shuts himself up in the West Wing."

Mary gazed out the train window at the gray rainstorm, which looked as if it would go on forever.

可以确定的是他不愿意你打扰他,他一直都不愿意别人打扰他。"

她像是突然想起什么似的停住了。

"他是一个驼背,"她接着说,"那使他不快乐。虽然拥有金钱和大庄园,他年轻时脾气很坏,直到他结婚。"

尽管玛丽似乎漠不关心,但她将视线转向梅德洛 克夫人。

管家察觉了她的眼神,接着说了下去。

"她是一位甜美的女子,他甚至为她行遍世界寻觅她要的植物。她死后·····"

"噢!她死了吗?"玛丽高声地喊道。她不是故意的,但突然间她为阿奇博尔德·克雷文先生感到难过。

"是的。"梅德洛克夫人答道,"从此,他变得更加古怪。他不关心任何人,也不想见任何人,所以,十之八九他不会见你。他大部分时间外出旅行,当他回到米塞斯维特时,他都把自己关在西边的房间里。"

玛丽注视着火车车窗外灰蒙蒙的暴风雨,它仿佛永远不会停止。