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简易英语注释读物



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# *Daughter of Earth*

大地的女儿

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**SIMPLE ENGLISH READERS**

Vol. 105

# *Daughter of Earth*

Agnes Smedley

Adapted and With Chinese Notes

by

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矫 才

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## 内 容 提 要

本书是作者半自传性的小说，着重描述了她童年和青年时期生活和思想成长的过程。她一家人颠沛流离的生活，擦亮了她的眼睛，使她立志改造社会。她参加校内外斗争而被捕入狱。获释之后，她毫不动摇，立即投入新的战斗。

简易英语注释读物

大 地 的 女 儿

史沫特莱著

靳才 注释

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史沫特萊象

## 作者及作品简介

《大地的女儿》的作者史沫特莱(1894—1950)是一个进步的美国作家和记者。她生于密苏里州的一个工人家庭。上了几年学后,做过工人、服务员、打字员等。一九一八年在纽约因为和印度民族主义者的联系而被捕入狱。第二年被释放后,她离开美国到欧洲。一九二八年她作为一家德国报纸的记者初次来到中国。此后除短期离开外,在中国一直住到一九四一年。一九三六年她经西安到达延安,曾经见到中国人民的伟大领袖毛主席和其他领导同志。

她是中国人民的朋友。她写了很多揭露国民党反动派的黑暗统治和歌颂中国共产党领导的革命斗争的作品。最著名的有 *China's Red Army Marches* (1934), *China Fights Back* (1938), *Battle Hymn of China* (1943), *The Great Road* (1956) 等书。一九五〇年五月,当她准备回到已经解放了的中国来的时候,不幸在伦敦逝世。根据她生前表示的愿望,她的骨灰葬于北京。

《大地的女儿》出版于一九二九年,是一本半自传性的小说。这本书部分地反映了作者的童年和青年时期的生活和思想成长的过程,对美国资本主义社会有一定的揭露。

原书较长,在改写过程中,除简化其语言外,对内容也有所取舍。欢迎读者对这个简写本提出批评和意见。

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## 1. MY EARLIEST MEMORIES

I was born in 1894 on a small farm in northern Missouri.<sup>1</sup> My father was half Indian;<sup>2</sup> my mother was a white woman. We were very poor, but I didn't know about that — I was too young then.

There was no big town near by and all the world seemed to be just like my home. There were the beautiful sunny days which I spent playing under a big tree, with my father working in the fields, and my mother walking down the path, barefoot, to our small log home.<sup>3</sup> This home had only two rooms. In one stood two beds. The other was the kitchen, dining room and work room all in one.

My mother had gone to the sixth grade in school, and my father to the third. A man didn't need more, he said. Education was only for women and men who were rich.

But my father was not happy on the land.<sup>4</sup> He wanted to be somewhere else. He said he wanted to make money, a lot of money. He wanted to break away from the farm with its endless toil. He didn't want to follow the plow over the poor, stony soil.<sup>5</sup> He believed he could make a lot of money if he went elsewhere.

1. Missouri [mi'zuəri]: (美国)密苏里州。2. half Indian ['indjən]: 有一半印第安人血统。3. log home: 木屋(树干作墙和屋顶)。4. not happy on the land: 不愿做农民。5. to follow the plow [plau] over the poor, stony soil: 犁那贫瘠、多石的土地。

My mother didn't think that way. She was happy to work on the land and save a few pennies a year. She said if she could carry two pails of water from a well a mile away in her bare feet,<sup>1</sup> he should have nothing to complain of.

One day my father and mother quarreled. He threatened to leave her and never come back. And he would take me and my younger brother with him. "Come here, Marie!<sup>2</sup> Come here, George!" he shouted.

My mother sank<sup>3</sup> into a kitchen chair and began to weep. My father ordered me to go up to him again. But there was something about my mother that told me not to obey my father that night. I ran to my mother and laid my hand on her knee and her tears fell on it.

My father did not go away, and I thought it was because I would not go with him. But he won at last, for we all went away. And from that moment our roots were torn from the soil and we began a life of wandering, searching for success and happiness and riches that always lay just beyond — where we were not.<sup>4</sup> Only later did I hear the old saying: "Where I am not, there is happiness."

We went by wagon<sup>5</sup> for a long distance, traveling for days. In the wagon were two beds and a cooking stove, together with boxes of food and clothing. At night one bed was removed from on top of the other and put under the wagon. There my father and mother slept. We children slept in the wagon. We reached a forest and stopped. A

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1. in her bare feet: 她光着脚。2. Marie ['ma:ri]: 玛丽。3. sank: 沉重地坐下。4. that always lay just beyond ...: 总是在我们前面, 可望而不可即的地方。5. wagon ['wæɡən]: 马拉的四轮大车。



tent was pitched;<sup>1</sup> beds and a table were made from white pine. My father began to cut trees for a man who lived in a white house on the hill.

The forest smelled of a thousand sweet things.<sup>2</sup> We built fires at night from its pine branches. All day long I played where it was deeply silent and dark. At times<sup>3</sup> I stood at a crossroad and watched the highway stretching to the further end of the world.

With the first heavy fall of snow we left the silent forest and returned to our little farm where the soil was so hard. My father and mother hardly spoke to each other, and she wept much. Then he left us and went away and we did not see him again for many months. Our house was cold and lonely and my mother's eyes were often red with weeping. My grandfather brought sacks of food for us; he would stand in the kitchen and talk with my mother. His face was thin and very pale.

That winter I went to school. The road was long. The one-room, unpainted board schoolhouse<sup>4</sup> stood on a hill that was muddy and slippery.<sup>5</sup> At the end of the school-room was a blackboard. I learned that when I sat facing it, that was north, while south was back over my shoulder. East was on my right side and west on my left. Figures were strange little creatures.<sup>6</sup> Adding one figure to

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1. A tent was pitched [pitʃt]: 搭起一个帐篷。 2. The forest ... sweet things: 树林里有各种各样的香味。 3. at times: 有的时候。 4. The one-room, unpainted board schoolhouse: 只有一间屋的, 没有上油漆的木板搭成的校舍。 5. muddy ['mʌdi] and slippery ['slipəri]: 又泥泞又滑。 6. Figures ['fiɡəz] were ... creatures ['kri:tʃəz]: 数字好似奇怪的小动物。

another was very tiring work and took me a long, long time, and my teacher scolded me for my stupidity.

In the autumn of the next year my grandfather moved us away from the farm to a little village, on whose outskirts stood an old, abandoned, two-room board house. It had no plaster<sup>1</sup> on the inside and there was no ceiling. You could stand in the room and look straight up to the roof where there were holes that let the sky in.<sup>2</sup>

My mother now talked to me as if we were friends. She always did that when my father was not there. Together we put up her loom<sup>3</sup> and she began to weave rag carpets and rugs.<sup>4</sup> The village people not only gave her work to do, but they brought us bundles of newspapers and with these we papered<sup>5</sup> the house. We made big pans of paste from flour and water; I spread out the newspapers on the floor and my mother put the paste over them. Then we pasted them on the walls, layer upon layer, for they would keep out the cold of the winter.

One day my father returned to us. He came walking along the railroad track, and asked someone for our house. He wore a soiled shirt and a pair of blue overalls.<sup>6</sup> He spoke no more of his dreams of earning much money quickly. But the next day he left us again. He went away on a railroad hand-car.<sup>7</sup> We all stood on the track and watched until he disappeared in the distance.

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1. had no plaster: 没有粉刷。2. let the sky in: 可以见到天空。3. loom [lu:m]: 织布机 (此处指织地毯用的)。4. rag carpets and rugs: 用碎布织成的大、小地毯。5. papered: 用纸糊墙。6. a pair of blue overalls ['əuvə:lz]: 一条工装裤。7. a railroad hand-car: (在铁轨上行驶的) 手摇车。

## 2. GOING TO SCHOOL

We lived in the tent my father had pitched near a river and a railroad on the outskirts of the town of Trinidad, Colorado.<sup>1</sup> Each day my younger sister and I and our two little brothers dragged sacks along the tracks and filled them with coal that had fallen from the passing engines.<sup>2</sup> When the trains came, we rushed to the side and looked at the fine people framed<sup>3</sup> in the shiny windows.

My father earned three dollars a day, hauling sand from the river bed with a wagon to some place or other. Sometimes he hauled bricks.

We were now city people. Trinidad had fully five thousand inhabitants. It had a grade school building and a high school building.<sup>4</sup> The latter<sup>5</sup> lifted its head among trees on the hill across the river; over there rich people lived. The high school and riches seemed to go together. Anyway we, who lived beyond the tracks, knew that we could never dream of going to high school.

The grade school was the first such school I had ever seen. The teachers were clean, wore fine suits and spoke a language that I could hardly understand at first. My mother had explained to one of them on the first day that I was almost ten years old and had been in the

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1. Trinidad ['trɪnɪdæd], Colorado [ˌkɒlə'reɪdəʊ]: (美国) 科罗拉多州特立尼达德城。 2. engine ['endʒɪn]: 火车头。 3. framed: 加上框子的。 4. grade school building: 小学校舍; high school building: 中学校舍。 5. the latter ['lætə]: (两者中的) 后者(此处指 high school building)。

"third reader"<sup>1</sup> in my last school. The teacher had gazed at her for a long time, at her old dress, and at her hands which were almost black, which might have belonged to a scrubwoman<sup>2</sup> of fifty.

"Yes," the teacher had said at last, "I understand."

She was a kind, young teacher. When I read before her in a trembling voice, she smiled encouragingly at my eagerness and at my attempt to forget the room filled with well dressed little boys and girls.

I felt very shy and humble in that school. In the front seat on the outside row sat a little girl. Her skin was white and her dresses, shoes and stockings were always white. When the teacher asked about her father, she replied, "My father is a doctor!" On Mother's Day<sup>3</sup> her mother came and sat near the teacher and didn't talk with the other women. My mother stood in the back of the room, apart from the well-dressed women, and she watched as they talked so easily with each other.<sup>4</sup> After that she never came again.

Once the little white girl invited me to her birthday party. By then I had become the best pupil in the room. My mother objected to buying bananas as a present, but after I had cried and said everyone else was taking things, she reluctantly bought three.

When I arrived at the little girl's home I saw that other children had brought presents of books, silver pieces,<sup>5</sup>

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1. the "third reader": 第三册课本。 2. scrubwoman ['skrʌbwʊmən]: 做粗活的女工。 3. Mother's Day: 母亲节 (五月的第二个星期日)。 4. as they talked so easily ...: 当她们毫无拘束地在一起聊天。 5. silver ['sɪlvə] pieces: 银币。

handkerchiefs and lovely things such as I had never seen in my life. They were all laid out on a table covered with a cloth. I had to walk up before them all and place my three bananas there. Then I made my way to a chair against the wall and sat down, wishing that I had never come.

Then we were called into another room, in which was a long table covered with a white tablecloth, beautiful cakes and fruit. I was seated next to a little boy at the table.

"What street do you live on?" he asked, trying to start a polite conversation.

"Beyond the tracks."

He looked at me in surprise. "Beyond the tracks! Only tough kids<sup>1</sup> live there!"

I stared back trying to think of something to say, but failed.

"My papa's a lawyer — what's yours?" he asked again.

"Hauls bricks."

He again stared at me. "My papa doesn't haul bricks!" he informed me, as if to rub it in.<sup>2</sup> Where the insult lay I couldn't see, yet I knew one was meant.<sup>3</sup> So I insulted back.

"My papa can lick your papa I bet!"<sup>4</sup> I informed him,

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1. tough [taɪ] kids: 粗野的孩子。 2. to rub it in: 使之得到深刻的印象。  
3. where the insult ['ɪnsəlt] lay ... one was meant: 我不清楚他想在哪一点上耻笑我,但我知道他想侮辱我。 4. My papa can lick your papa I bet! 我敢打赌我爸爸能把你爸爸揍一顿!

just as a well-dressed woman bent over us with huge plates of yellow ice cream in her hands.

"What are you talking about?" she asked with a smile.

"Her father hurls bricks and she lives beyond the tracks and she says her father can lick my father!" the boy piped.<sup>1</sup>

"That doesn't matter, dear, that doesn't matter! Now, now,<sup>2</sup> just eat your ice cream." But I saw her look at me disapprovingly<sup>3</sup> and I knew it did matter.<sup>4</sup>

After we left the table and went into the next room, the boys and girls began choosing partners for a game. No little boy came to me. I saw them trying to avoid me. The mother of my little hostess tried to be kind:

"Are you sick, Marie?" she asked. "Would you like to go home?"

I said "Yes, mam,"<sup>5</sup> and she took me to the door and smiled kindly, saying she hoped I had had a nice time. The door closed behind me. I walked rapidly away.

### 3. A HIRED GIRL

My father signed a contract to haul coal for a mine-owner. The mine lay far back in the mountains; the coal

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1. the boy piped: 那男孩尖声说。 2. now, now: 好了,好了。 3. disapprovingly ['disə'pru:vɪŋli]: 不以为然地。 4. I knew it did matter: 我明白这并非(如她刚才所说的)没有关系。 5. mam [mæm]: (madam 的略式)对妇女的尊称。

had to be hauled from a dark canyon.<sup>1</sup> He had worked for several months when the mine-owner came to "settle up."<sup>2</sup> My mother cooked and baked and was excited.

"Now, Mr. Turner, just sit down and help yourself!" she said to him. Mr. Turner took off his hat and sat down. He ate alone and we watched, my father sitting at one end of the table, my mother waiting on table.<sup>3</sup>

In the evening I returned from play and paused at the door of the house to hear my father shouting:

"And my wife's worked like a dog and now we haven't got enough to buy her a shirt!"

The polite voice of Mr. Turner replied, "Look at the contract, Mr. Rogers, look at the contract!"

Again my father's voice: "God, man, I've worked since May and I've been up at daylight and come home at dark."

My mother was crying.

Mr. Turner had seen many angry men and weeping women in his day,<sup>4</sup> men and women who knew nothing of legal phrases<sup>5</sup> in the contracts they signed. He owned many little mines hidden back in the hills.

"I'm only holding to our contract, Mrs. Rogers. Here's your husband's signature."

The signature was a scrawl,<sup>6</sup> for my father could hardly write. When he saw his own awkward pencil marks that mocked at his ignorance and helplessness,<sup>7</sup> something

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1. canyon ['kænjən]: 深谷。2. settle up: 结账。3. waiting on table: 端饭菜, 伺候人吃饭。4. in his day: 他一生中。5. legal ['li:gəl] phrases: 法律用语。6. The signature ['sɪgnətʃə]...scrawl [skro:l]: (他的)签字写得很难看。7. mocked at his ignorance ['ɪgnərəns] ...: 讥笑他的无知和束手无策。

seemed to break in him. "God damn you! So we're to work to buy silk dresses for your wife and send your kids to high school! I've got a wife and four kids. Look at my wife. She's thirty and she looks fifty. Think of it, man! And you came here and showed me a piece of paper. I trusted your word. I didn't know you were a thief stealing bread out of the mouths of women and children!"

He reached out and clawed into Mr. Turner's neck,<sup>1</sup> shaking him as a cat shakes a rat. The little man was screaming: "I'll have you arrested, John Rogers, if you don't let me go!" Let me go! Let me go!"

My mother was struggling with my father and crying: "Don't, John ... Think of the police."

Then the little man was gone. Our house was very still and the atmosphere was heavy. The next day we packed our few household things, loaded them onto the wagon, and started down the long road to Trinidad.

My father found work in a distant mining town. I returned to the school in Trinidad. But I was also "kitchen help"<sup>2</sup> to a family that lived near the school. After school I went there to wash dishes and take care of the baby. The baby screamed as I reluctantly rocked it. I got food on a plate and ate it on an old kitchen table, and the woman of the house seemed to think me a part of the kitchen furniture. I was the first "help" she had ever had and she wanted no mistake made about the difference in our positions. It was a very difficult thing to learn that I was not a child, but just a "hired girl."

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1. He reached out and clawed [klo:d] ... neck: 他伸出手来抓特纳先生的脖子。 2. Let me go: 放开我。 3. kitchen help: 厨房女仆。



The school work was a burden now. I cried a great deal over the dishes as I washed them, and over the crying baby. I was not unhappy when the woman found fault with me<sup>1</sup> and told me to go.

My mother took in washing. Sometimes she went out to wash. She would knock at the back doors of some comfortable homes and tell the women that she did very good washing and ironing. She asked for only one dollar and thirty cents a day. Yes, she was weak, but she washed things white. All people had to do was just to give her a trial. The women shook their heads when they looked at her face. But then they saw her hands, rough and black from heavy work. They would believe her.

She washed all that winter. At night she was, as she herself admitted, "tired as a dog."

There were days when my mother did washing at home. She started with the dawn and the kitchen was filled with steam and soapsuds.<sup>2</sup> In the afternoon her face was thin and drawn and she complained of pains in her back. I wrung<sup>3</sup> and hung out clothes or carried water from outside. She and I were now friends and comrades, planning to buy a washing machine as we worked. We charged one dollar and thirty cents a dozen pieces for washing and ironing, but the women always gave us their biggest pieces — sheets, tablecloths, overalls, shirts, and generally they threw in the thirteenth piece just for good measure.<sup>4</sup>

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1. found fault with me: 挑我的错。 2. steam and soapsuds ['səup-sadz]: 水蒸汽和肥皂泡沫。 3. wrung: 拧干。 4. just for good measure ['meʒə]: (外加一些)为了使分量足够。