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Амос Тутуола

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AMOS TUTUOLA

THE BRAVE AFRICAN HUNTRESS

ADAPTED FOR THE 7th FORM
OF THE EIGHT-YEAR SCHOOL
by *N. Panayeva*

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АМОС ТУТУОЛА

СМЕЛАЯ АФРИКАНСКАЯ ОХОТНИЦА

КНИГА ДЛЯ ЧТЕНИЯ НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ
В VII КЛАССЕ ВОСЬМИЛЕТНЕЙ ШКОЛЫ

Адаптация, примечания и словарь
Н. П. Панасовой

ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Амос Тутуола родился в 1920 г. в городе Абекита в Нигерии. Он принадлежит к большому племени Йоруба, которое насчитывает около 4 миллионов человек.

Предлагаемая книга является третьим произведением автора, написанным не на языке Йоруба, а на английском языке.

Произведения Тутуолы ценны тем, что в них ярко выражается свободолюбие африканцев, их стремление к независимости. Особенно показательна в этом отношении «Смелая африканская охотница».

Стремление к счастью народа превращает слабую девушку в непобедимую воительницу, помогает ей преодолеть ужас перед чудовищами, трудности и лишения, с которыми ей пришлось столкнуться во время странствий в джунглях.

Характерно, что, при всей фантастичности событий, образ главной героини наделен вполне реалистическими чертами: смелая охотница не обладает никакой волшебной силой. В упорном труде она становится первоклассной охотницей. Попадая в джунгли, она испытывает ужас при встрече с первым чудовищем, но, верная своей высокой миссии, она преодолевает страх и побеждает. Адебиси страдает от голода и усталости. Совершая необыкновенные подвиги, она остается всего лишь восемнадцатилетней девушкой, любопытной и жадной к новым впечатлениям. Увидев впервые в своей жизни бегемотов, она так увлекается созерцанием их игры, что, забывая осторожность, оставляет все свое оружие и следует за животными, всецело поглощенная новым для нее зрелищем.

В книге можно найти и много черт, привнесенных из современной действительности. При чтении эпизода в тюрьме невольно проводишь аналогию с режимом современных буржуазных тюрем, с непосильным трудом и скудным питанием, с режимом, рассчитанным на физическое уничтожение или моральное порабощение заключенных.

Повесть Амоса Тутуолы отражает современную африканскую действительность, проникнутую борьбой за независимость, полную контрастов, противоречий.

При адаптации книга подверглась значительному сокращению и некоторой композиционной переработке.



Chapter I

MY FAMILY

My name is Adebisi. ¹ I am an African huntress from Nigeria. ² My father was a hunter too. He hunted in the jungle and killed thousands of wild animals. My father was so brave that he went deep into the jungle where all other hunters were afraid to go. They respected him so much for his bravery that they made him chief of the village.

About one hundred miles from our house there was a jungle which everybody called the Jungle of the Monsters. Strange birds and animals lived in it and sweet fruit covered its trees. There was iron, copper and gold in the ground. It was a very rich jungle indeed.

¹ Adebisi [ædəˈbɪsi] — Адебиси

² Nigeria [naɪˈdʒɪəriə] — Нигерия

All the men of our village wanted to hunt in it, to dig out the metals and gather the fruit. But, alas, the Jungle of the Monsters was a very dangerous place. The hunters who risked to enter it seldom returned home: the monsters which lived in this jungle often killed them, or took them prisoners.¹

One day (I was still quite a baby then) my father and my four elder brothers called together the best hunters of the village and said:

"We must go into the jungle and try to kill the monsters. Then our people will hunt in it and they will grow rich."²

The hunters agreed to follow their chief.

"We shall be very careful," my father said to my mother, "we shall not go deep into the jungle."

He wanted to comfort her, because she was full of fear.

All the following days my mother waited for my father and brothers. Every moment she hoped to hear the sound of their footsteps. At last she exclaimed:

"They are coming! I hear them."

Then she listened again and suddenly grew very pale.³

"I hear only *his* footsteps! Where are my *sons*?" she cried and ran out of the house to meet my father.

A moment later⁴ my mother saw him on the road that led to our house. He walked slowly and his face was very sad.

"They are lost, they are lost. The monsters have them!"⁵ he repeated many times in a low voice.

Next day the whole village knew about our misfortune. There was sorrow in many other houses too, for⁶ husbands, fathers and sons did not return to their families. They were prisoners of the monsters now.

¹ took them prisoners — брали их в плен

² they will grow rich — они разбогатеют

³ grew very pale — сильно побледнела

⁴ a moment later — через мгновение

⁵ they are lost... the monsters have them — они погибли... они в лапах у чудовищ

⁶ for — *эд.* так как

"We shall never go to that jungle again," said the hunters who came back safe and sound, ¹ "it is too terrible."

My father was very brave, but even *he* did not go back to the jungle.

"Alas, I am too old to hunt," he said, "and my sons who were young and strong are the slaves of the monsters now. What can I do in the jungle alone?"

Chapter II

I LEARN ² ABOUT THE JUNGLE

My father became a farmer and so did many other hunters. ³ But the land was poor and the people were often hungry. They came to our house, for, as I told you before, my father was the chief of the village. They spoke about the jungle and the wild animals.

"How shall we live if we have nowhere to hunt?" ⁴ they often said. "Our land is poor, our fields do not give us enough food. Our children cannot grow strong because they are always hungry."

I was eight years old and I listened with interest to those talks. You see, ⁵ I knew nothing then of the Monsters' Jungle and of my brothers' fate.

My father loved me very much and he did not let me go far from the house. But I could run about in the village and play with my little friends as much as I liked.

One day I stood near the house of one of our neighbours. There was a woman at the window above me. She saw me, then turned to somebody in the room and said:

¹ safe and sound — целыми и невредимыми

² I learn — я узнаю

³ so did many other hunters — как и многие другие охотники (стали земледельцами). Здесь *did* заменяет глагол *became*.

⁴ if we have nowhere to hunt — если нам нигде охотиться

⁵ you see — видите ли

"It is terrible that Adebisi's brothers are dead. There will be no more ¹ hunters in the family now."

Those words made me very sad. I went home and sat down silently near my father's chair. My mother looked at me attentively.

"What is the matter with you, ² my child?" she asked.

"Oh, nothing, Mother dear," I answered. At that moment I did not want to speak.

Some days later I went to the fields with my father, for I sometimes helped him with his work. During our lunch I said to him:

"Father dear, I do not know anything about my brothers. Tell me about them."

"Why do you ask me that to-day?" he asked.

"A neighbour spoke to somebody about my brothers when I stood near the window of her house," I said.

"Well, ³ Adebisi, I shall tell you the truth now," my father said with a deep sigh. "Your brothers went with me to the Jungle of the Monsters one day. I lost them there. Perhaps they are still alive, and the monsters keep them in their prisons. Nobody dares to go deep into that terrible jungle. Alas, I ~~do~~ cannot go there and try to find them, for I am old." ~~either~~

My father's eyes filled with tears when he said this. I was very sorry for him. ⁴

"Oh, Father!" I cried. "When I grow big, ⁵ I shall go to the Jungle of the Monsters. I shall fight with them and bring my brothers home."

He looked at me with a sad smile and said:

"Even brave hunters cannot fight with those monsters, and there are many wild animals in the jungle too. If you, a girl, go there, they will kill you before you see them."

¹ there will be no more — больше не будет

² what is the matter with you? — что с тобой?

³ well — эд. ну что ж

⁴ I was very sorry for him. — Мне его было очень жалко.

⁵ when I grow big — когда я вырасту (стану большой)



"I want to become a good huntress," I said firmly. "I will go ¹ to the Jungle and find my brothers."

"You are a foolish child," he answered. "You do not know what you are saying. Those monsters are so terrible. One, for example, has sixteen horns in his forehead, and no man can stand ² the light of his eyes."

My father spoke to me for a long time and told me all about the terrors of the jungle. But he could not frighten me.

Some months later I began to hunt with a bow. When father saw how well I could do it, he gave me a small gun and soon I learned to shoot.

Chapter III

I BECOME A HUNTRESS AND START ON MY JOURNEY

When I was fifteen years old, I could shoot very well. Once again ³ I said to my father:

"I want to go to the Jungle of the Monsters and hunt there."

"Nonsense, child," he said angrily. "Girls cannot be hunters. They are not strong enough. You must understand that."

"I shall not speak about it now," I said to myself. "A day may come when my father will change his mind about me." ⁴

Three years passed and I became a perfect huntress. ⁵ When I was eighteen years old, I returned to the subject of the Monsters' Jungle.

¹ I will go — я непременно пойду (здесь will — модальный глагол, выражающий решимость)

² no man can stand — никто не может выдержать

³ once again — и снова

⁴ A day may come when my father will change his mind about me. — Может быть, наступит день, когда отец изменит свое мнение обо мне.

⁵ I became a perfect huntress — я стала настоящей охотницей

"You know very well," I told my father, "that I am unhappy because you do not let me go to the jungle. But you know too that I am the best hunter in our village."

"Well, I shall let you go," said my father, "but first you must inherit the hunting profession from me. ¹ I shall invite all the people of our village for this great ceremony."



"Thank you, Father," I cried. "But please don't put the ceremony off. ² I want to start as soon as possible."

Five days later hundreds of people gathered round our house. The ceremony began in the morning. There was a great feast that lasted for many hours.

¹ you must inherit the hunting profession from me — ты должна унаследовать от меня профессию охотника

² don't put the ceremony off — не откладывай церемонию

When the feast was over, it was already afternoon. My father brought his hunting-dress, his bag and his gun to the square before our house. I knelt before him,¹ and he handed me the dress, the gun and the bag.

Then one of the oldest hunters addressed me:

"You are very young, my daughter," he said. "But you go to the jungle because you want to help your people. We thank you, brave huntress. May you return safe and sound to us."²

My mother wept bitterly.

"Don't go, don't go," she repeated through her tears.

I comforted her as well as I could and then moved to the centre of the square.

"Old women, old men, young people and children," I said in a loud voice, "I am leaving you this afternoon and going to the Jungle of the Monsters! Though young and a woman,³ I am not afraid to go because I want to bring happiness to our village and many other villages. I shall try to drive the monsters away and bring back all the hunters that are kept in their prisons.⁴ My people must be happy and rich. Good-bye to you all! Good-bye!"

All the village followed me to the turning of the road that led to the jungle. The women wept. The men were silent. Once again I said good-bye to them and started on my long and dangerous journey.

For many hours I walked along the road and stopped only once for my supper. After a short rest I went on⁵ and soon came to a place where many roads crossed.

I did not know which road to take.⁶ It was already late

¹ I knelt before him — я опустилась на колени перед ним

² May you return safe and sound to us. — Вернись же к нам целой и невредимой.

³ though young and a woman — хоть я и молода и я женщина

⁴ that are kept in their prisons — которые томятся в их тюрьмах

⁵ went on — продолжала путь (здесь он после глагола указывает на продолжение действия)

⁶ which road to take — по какой дороге пойти



and darkness was coming on. ¹ I decided to make a fire and have a few hours of sleep. ²

"In the morning I shall decide which way to go," I said to myself.

The sun was already high in the sky when I woke up. After a short breakfast I continued my journey along one of the roads though I cannot tell you why I chose that road and no other. ³ After a walk of about two hours I saw a forest before me.

"This cannot be the Monsters' Jungle yet," I said to myself, "but I must enter it and try to shoot some birds for my food. Perhaps I shall find a small river. I am so thirsty!" ⁴

So I walked bravely into the jungle. "Now a life full of danger and adventures is beginning for me," I thought.

Chapter IV

ODARA ⁵ AND I MEET

"Where are you going all alone, ⁶ brave maiden," I suddenly heard a man's voice. I turned and saw six hunters behind me.

"Who are you and what do you want?" I asked them.

"We are hunters from the town of Ibembe. ⁷ We want to shoot wild birds. But why are you here, all alone in this dark forest?"

"I am going to the Jungle of the Monsters, because I must find my brothers and set them free ⁸ if I can," I answered.

¹ was coming on — наступала

² have a few hours of sleep — поспать несколько часов

³ that road and no other — именно эту дорогу, а не другую

⁴ I am so thirsty! — Мне так хочется пить!

⁵ Odara [ə'dɜ:rə] — Одара (имя одного из чудовищ)

⁶ all alone — одна-одинешенька, совсем одна

⁷ Ibembe [aɪ'bembɪ] — Айбемби (название города)

⁸ set them free — освободить их

"You, to the Jungle of the Monsters!" cried one of the men.

"Hush, brother," said another. "Don't speak so loud. If Odara hears you, he will come here and kill us all."

"Who is Odara?" I asked.

"He is a giant who lives in the Monsters' Jungle," answered the hunter. "Sometimes he comes to this forest. He is terrible indeed."

He had hardly uttered these words ¹ when we heard a strange noise. We all stopped and listened. The noise grew louder every minute.

"It is Odara and his band!" whispered one of the hunters. "We must hide quickly where we can."

There was a tall tree near by ² and I climbed it and hid among its thick leaves. The tree was not far from the road, and I could see everything. Odara's band was quite near now.

"Leave this road, leave this road," shouted the monsters. "Here comes Odara! ³ Odara with his poisonous cudgels!"

Then all the band disappeared in the forest. I could see from my tree many birds flying to and fro ⁴ and animals that ran in a panic and tried to hide from the terrible monster. Then a very strong wind rose. All the trees shook, and the dead leaves were blown high into the air. ⁵ A moment later I heard Odara's voice. It was so terrible that I almost fell off ⁶ my tree, I was so frightened.

The monster was now quite near and a few seconds later I saw him. Odara was a giant with fierce eyes and a very large mouth. He had a bag full of cudgels over his shoul-

¹ he had hardly uttered these words — едва успел он произнести эти слова

² near by — поблизости

³ Here comes Odara! — Вот идет Одара!

⁴ flying to and fro — летающих туда и сюда

⁵ the dead leaves were blown high into the air — сухие листья поднимались высоко в воздух

⁶ I almost fell off — я чуть не свалилась

der. To my terror he saw me at once and shouted again in triumph.¹

I shot at him but missed and he laughed so loud that I trembled with fear. Then he took a cudgel from his bag and threw it at me. But this time² he missed.

Now some poisonous snakes began to crawl up my tree, for they also wanted to hide from Odara. When the monster saw this, he was very pleased.

"You will soon come down, lovely maiden," he cried and laughed again.

But he did not know that I always smeared my body with a special medicine when I went into the forest to hunt. This medicine saved me now, for the snakes fell dead to the ground as soon as they touched me.

When Odara saw this, he was very angry.

"You do not want to come down, brave huntress," he shouted. "But you will have to do so." He then began to shake my tree with such force that I managed to hold on³ to the branches with great difficulty.

Suddenly Odara saw one of the hunters behind a bush not far from the tree. The monster caught him and threw him into his bag. At that moment I shot at Odara, and once again I missed. Then he shook the tree still harder.⁴ This time I could not hold on and fell to the ground.

Terror gave me strength. I was on my feet in a moment and then I ran through the forest as fast as I could.

* *

*

When the other five hunters saw that Odara was after me,⁵ they came out of their hiding places and ran in the opposite direction.

¹ in triumph ['traɪəmf] — с торжеством

² this time — на этот раз

³ I managed to hold on — мне удалось удержаться

⁴ still harder — еще сильнее

⁵ that Odara was after me — что Одара преследует меня