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大学生必读



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序 言

一个民族由于文学的产生,语言的色彩因而更丰富,语言的表现力更生动了。在文学的民族宝库中蕴藏着民族语言的精华。在不同的人生场合,我们有所感悟、有所感慨时,往往会感激古人,把我们想倾吐而又不知该怎么说的,表达得那么贴切、精辟,如同自己的肺腑之言。例如:“同是天涯沦落人,相逢何必曾相识。”“不识庐山真面目,只缘身在此山中。”

我们甚至不曾意识到我们的日常谈吐中已融入了代代相传、都有来历的语言,而且多不胜数,像“割鸡焉用牛刀”(《论语·阳货》),“人言可畏”(《诗·郑风·将仲子》),“战战兢兢”(《诗·小雅·小旻》),“勾心斗角”(《阿房宫赋》),“三思而行”(《论语·公冶长》)等等。孔子自述“三十而立,四十而不惑,五十而知天命”(《论语·为政》);我们借以表达人已进入某一阶段时,就说“而立之年”、“不惑之年”、“知命之年”。

英美文学中的佳句、警句,同样显示出进入日常语言的亲和力。例如:美国期刊《时代》(*Time*, 2002, 12, 23)发表专文推荐可能为奥斯卡年度最佳外语片的《对她说》(*Talk to Her*),文章标题脱胎于《第十二夜》开头第一句“If music be the food of love, play on”,作者巧妙地把它

改为“If Conversation Be the Food of Love, Talk On” (“如果谈话是爱情的食粮,谈下去吧”)。

第二次世界大战期间,英国首相邱吉尔访美,呼吁大力援助战争物资,引用了狄更斯笔下的孤儿奥列佛·退斯特,在儿童收容所中饥饿难忍,端起一只空碗,向掌勺的人发出的那一声迫切的呼吁:“Give me more!”(再添一些吧!)借助于这文学背景,在座的议员们为之动容,演讲收到了非常好的效果。

明白了一个民族的语言精华蕴藏在他们优秀的文学作品中,也就可以理解我们编写这套“英美文学经典丛书”的宗旨所在了。因为对于广大英语学习者来说,掌握了基本词汇量,攻克了语法等难点,具备了一定的阅读能力,又有志于进一步提高自己的英语修养,从而对于英语能有更深入、更亲切的认知,那么广泛阅读,尤其是有选择的精读优秀的英美文学,可说是不二法门了。

方 平



导 读

英国作家戴·赫·劳伦斯(1885—1930)是20世纪世界文坛上最富争议也是最富创新的作家之一。在短暂的创作生涯中,劳伦斯给世人留下了大量的文学财富,其中包括10部长篇,7部中篇,50多个短篇小说,1000多首诗,8卷书信集以及剧本、文学评论、游记和杂文等。《儿子与情人》是劳伦斯10部长篇中的第三部,是劳伦斯生前最受人们喜爱的一部小说,它成功地奠定了劳伦斯作为文学家的声誉,使他真正地开始了伟大的文学创作生涯,也使他不仅在英国乃至世界的文坛上站稳了脚跟。

《儿子与情人》主要以劳伦斯童年和少年时代的生活为创作背景,讲述了英国中部贝斯吾德小镇上莫瑞尔一家两代人的生活。矿工沃尔特·莫瑞尔在一次舞会上结识了受过一些教育,出身中产阶级的葛楚德·考伯德,两人一见钟情,不久就结了婚。婚后,莫瑞尔太太对丈夫的贪杯、粗俗和胸无大志感到厌倦。两人争吵不断,妻子对丈夫越来越失去希望,开始把时间、感情和精力倾注在孩子们身上。大儿子威廉英俊、聪慧,20多岁便在伦敦找到了满意的职位,但是因感情的纠葛和劳累过度英年早逝,于是,母亲便把全部的爱转移到二儿子保罗身上。为了弥补婚姻的缺陷,母亲一心要在精神上完全拥有和控制

儿子，容不得保罗与别的女孩子谈情说爱。保罗的第一个女友米利安是个注重精神蔑视肉欲的姑娘。保罗与米利安虽是青梅竹马，但是这种恋爱关系既因保罗内心无法摆脱母亲的精神控制而无法在精神和肉体上真正地相爱，更因母亲的极力干预而无法继续下去。失望中的保罗结识了已婚的克拉拉。克拉拉美丽漂亮，充满活力，思想开放。保罗在与克拉拉的相处中在肉体上得到了暂时的满足，但却无法从克拉拉那里求得精神和肉体的平衡，最后不得不选择分手。母亲在与其他的女人争夺儿子的斗争中心力交瘁，身患绝症，悲哀地结束了一生。孤独绝望的保罗在安葬了母亲后，似乎得到了精神上的解脱，大踏步地朝着前方熟悉的城市走去，走向新的世界和新的未来。

自1913年5月《儿子与情人》问世以来，人们对它的认识和评价也经历了复杂漫长的过程。最初，人们对它关注最多的是小说中恋母情结的描写。许多人认为，当年劳伦斯在修改这部作品的第四稿时正与情人弗利达在一起，而弗利达的德国情人曾是弗洛伊德的弟子。连弗利达自己也曾声言她参与了作品最后的修改。于是有些评论家认为这足以证明作者受了弗洛伊德的心理分析理论的影响，把“数千万英国青年的悲剧”写成了一部恋母情结的小说。不过，有资料表明，从不步别人后尘的劳伦斯并不认同弗洛伊德的精神分析理论。

随着人们对《儿子与情人》认识不断加深，这部伟大的作品的深刻内涵和容量也越发凸显出来。评论家开始超越过去的定位，把眼光投到了小说的更广阔、更深刻的

一面。数年来不同时期的批评家把它归入不同的文学种类。比如,有的人着重小说中的阶级分析和人物关系,有的人则着眼于小说对资本主义工业文明的批判,有的人认为它是用传统手法写成的现代主义小说等等。在 21 世纪的今天,当我们用现代人的眼光去再次审视它时,会发现这是部从小处着眼,反映 20 世纪英国社会乃至整个世界世纪初社会全景的恢弘巨著。它讲述的不仅是保罗·莫瑞尔的悲剧,正如劳伦斯自己所说,那是全英国年轻人的悲剧,而这种悲剧我们何尝不能在世界的许多其它地方见到呢?从小说对人物的描写中,我们甚至可以看到 20 世纪初女权主义运动的端倪,看到普通人精神信仰的失落,看到进化论对社会和道德生活的影响以及人们对禁忌话题如“性”的认识上的突破等等。劳伦斯之所以被认为是社会发展的预言家,《儿子与情人》便足以证明这一点。

《儿子与情人》在劳伦斯的作品中之所以重要,还因为它的创作过程既是劳伦斯人生也是他作为艺术家的成长和成熟的重要阶段。小说形成的两年中,劳伦斯经历了像保罗·莫瑞尔一样的脱胎换骨的转变。在小说创作的 4 稿中,第一稿具有较强的自传性色彩,到创作第二稿时,文中已经很少有自传性的成分,第四稿出来之际,劳伦斯在信中说它描写的是“数千万英国青年的悲剧”。这一年,也即小说出版前的 1912 年,他与弗利达正在意大利等着弗利达丈夫的离婚承诺,两个人穷得叮当响。那时候的劳伦斯与其说希望成为一个文学家,还不如说更希望自己能 and 一同私奔到意大利的弗利达过上衣食无忧的生活。他在给爱得华·加内特(Edward Garnett)的信

中极力推荐自己的这本书,竟然在一封信里多次用“伟大的”一词来形容自己的作品。

需要说明的是,这本劳伦斯的血汗之作自出版之日起经历了一个删节到足本的过程。小说第一稿于1910年10月到11月写成,约100页,其时劳伦斯还是伦敦郊区的一个小学教师。1911年3月到7月劳伦斯写了第二稿,1911年11月到1912年6月写了第三稿。1912年10月他将小说的原名《保罗·莫瑞尔》(Paul Morel)改成了《儿子与情人》。实际上,书名的改变也证明了劳伦斯在心理上的变化和文学创作上的成熟。1912年11月劳伦斯把小说第四稿从意大利寄往伦敦的达克沃斯(Duckworth)出版社。出版社的文学顾问爱得华·加内特是劳伦斯做小学教师时的旧友,他很赏识劳伦斯的才华,也是个文学事业的热心支持者。加内特认为从商业出版的角度考虑,劳伦斯的这部小说太长。劳伦斯既对加内特的知遇之恩备怀感激,也急于想让小说付梓出版,以解决经济上的燃眉之急,所以他不仅同意加内特的建议,而且明确表示要把小说献给他。于是加内特删掉了小说中80页的内容,使小说缩短了十分之一。自1913年5月《儿子与情人》第一版问世起一直到1992年剑桥大学出版社恢复了加内特删掉的80页内容止,不管哪家出版社出版的《儿子与情人》都是加内特的删节本。中国国内《儿子与情人》的中译本有5种以上,用的都是删节本,包括由译林出版社于2003年8月出版的《儿子与情人》的中译本。

算上《儿子与情人》,劳伦斯至少有5部长篇是以家乡伊斯吾德为创作背景的,其他几部有《虹》、《恋爱中的女人》、《白孔雀》和《查泰莱夫人的情人》。因此读完《儿

子与情人》再读劳伦斯的其他几部作品时相信读者对作品中许多的场景描写会感到更加容易理解。《儿子与情人》不是自传,但是小说记述了劳伦斯许多亲身经历,书中许多地名和人名至今在他的家乡仍可以找到原型。伊斯吾德方圆几英里以及诺丁汉市与劳伦斯以及他的作品有关的地方都有“劳伦斯遗产”的标志,且许多地方至今仍保持当年的原貌。为了方便读者了解和领会原著的精神,也为了有些读者在做研究时便于查找,我们在标注小说中虚构的重要地名或人名时尽量在其后给出实际的地名或人名。

回想 20 世纪 90 年代末在诺丁汉大学的劳伦斯研究中心访学期间,我曾多次踏上美丽的伊斯吾德小镇,穿越《查泰莱夫人的情人》中描写的那片林子,走访劳伦斯青年时代的恋人钱伯斯家的乡舍,参观了在伊斯吾德镇的劳伦斯家 4 处故居,在做这本书注释的日日夜夜,幼小的伯特就在我的眼前,伊斯吾德的一草一木历历在目。离开英国 5 年后的今天,当我再次细读这部作品时,我能感到伟大的文学家劳伦斯的脉搏的跳动,感受到他对被他称作“我心中的故乡”(the country of my heart)的那片土地和人民所抱有的深厚的爱。正因如此,我更加胆战心惊、诚惶诚恐地做着每一个注释,惟恐我的一个小小的失误会给读者带来对劳伦斯原作的误解和误读,因为在中国,人们对劳伦斯的误解已经够多的了。近些年来由于商业的炒作,人们对他的误解和误读越发严重,原因之一应是缺少对原著的阅读。所以我虽然有从英国背回的一大堆资料,有去劳伦斯家乡学习的经历,但是做起注释来仍然感到任务的艰巨。在参考了国内四部中译本和一部

注释本后，对以前注释和翻译中理解的偏差做了仔细的考证后，我们尽力做到给出准确的注释。尽管如此，由于时间仓促，水平有限，注释中仍不免有错误之处，还请读者见谅。

刘须明

于南京

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PART ONE

CHAPTER 1

THE EARLY MARRIED LIFE OF THE MORELS

"THE BOTTOMS" succeeded to "Hell Row"^①. Hell Row was a block of thatched, bulging^② cottages that stood by the brookside on Greenhill Lane^③. There lived the colliers^④ who worked in the little gin-pits^⑤ two fields away. The brook ran under the alder trees, scarcely soiled by these small mines^⑥, whose coal was drawn to the surface by donkeys that plodded wearily^⑦ in a circle round a gin. And all over the countryside were these same pits, some of which had been worked in the time of Charles II^⑧, the few colliers and the donkeys burrowing down^⑨ like ants into the earth, making queer mounds and little black places among the corn-fields and the meadows. And the cottages of these coal-miners, in blocks and pairs here and there, together with odd farms and homes of the stockingers^⑩, straying over the parish^⑪, formed the village of Bestwood^⑫.

Then, some sixty years ago, a sudden change took place. The gin-pits were elbowed aside by the large mines of the financiers^⑬. The coal and iron field of Nottinghamshire^⑭ and Derbyshire^⑮ was discovered. Carston, Waite and Co. ^⑯ appeared. Amid tremendous excitement, Lord Palmerston formally opened the company's first mine at Spinney Park, on the edge of Sherwood Forest^⑰.

About this time the notorious Hell Row, which through growing old had acquired an evil reputation, was burned down, and much dirt was cleansed away.

① "THE BOTTOMS" succeeded to "Hell Row": "底层"矿工住宅区取代了"地狱小区" ② bulging: 鼓鼓囊囊的 ③ Greenhill Lane: 格林希尔路 ④ colliers: 矿工 ⑤ gin-pits: 用马或驴等向外拉煤的浅小煤窑 ⑥ The brook ran... scarcely soiled by these small mines: 小溪在桤树下流过, 几乎没有受到这些小煤窑的影响。 ⑦ plodded wearily: 步履沉重地转圈圈 ⑧ Charles II: 英国国王查理二世(1630—1685) ⑨ burrowing down: 掘洞打穴 ⑩ stockingers: 织袜工 ⑪ parish: 行政堂区(英格兰乡村的基层行政单位) ⑫ Bestwood: 贝斯伍德村, 即劳伦斯出身的小镇 Eastwood, 位于诺丁汉市西北约 8.5 英里处。 ⑬ The gin-pits were elbowed aside by...: 小煤窑被金融家经营的大煤矿挤到一边。 ⑭ Nottinghamshire: 英国中部的诺丁汉郡 ⑮ Derbyshire: 德比郡, 东邻诺丁汉郡 ⑯ Carston, Waite and Co.: 卡森·韦特煤矿公司 ⑰ Sherwood Forest: 诺丁汉附近的舍伍德森林

Carston, Waite & Co. found they had struck on a good thing^①, so, down the valleys the brooks from Selby and Nuttall, new mines were sunk, until soon there were six pits working. From Nuttall, high up on the sandstone among the woods, the railway ran, past the ruined priory^② of the Carthusians^③ and past Robin Hood's Well^④, down to Spinney Park, then on to Minton, a large mine among corn-fields; from Minton across the farmlands of the valleyside to Bunker's Hill, branching off there^⑤, and running north to Beggarlee and Selby, that looks over at Crich and the hills of Derbyshire; six mines like black studs^⑥ on the countryside, linked by a loop of fine chain, the railway^⑦.

To accommodate the regiments of miners, Carston, Waite and Co. built the Squares^⑧, great quadrangles^⑨ of dwellings on the hillside of Bestwood, and then, in the brook valley, on the site of Hell Row, they erected the Bottoms.

The Bottoms consisted of six blocks of miners' dwellings, two rows of three, like the dots on a blank-six domino^⑩, and twelve houses in a block. This double row of dwellings^⑪ sat at the foot of the rather sharp slope from Bestwood, and looked out, from the attic windows at least, on the slow climb of the valley towards Selby.

The houses themselves were substantial and very decent^⑫. One could walk all round, seeing little front gardens with auriculas^⑬ and saxifrage^⑭ in the shadow of the bottom block, sweet-williams^⑮ and pinks in the sunny top block; seeing neat front windows, little porches, little privet hedges^⑯, and dormer windows for the attics^⑰. But that was outside; that was the view on to the uninhabited parlours of all the colliers' wives^⑱. The dwelling-room, the kitchen, was at the back of the house, facing inward between the blocks, looking at a scrubby^⑲ back garden, and then at

① struck on a good thing: 交上了好运 ② ruined priory: 废弃的修道院 ③ the Carthusians: 天主教加尔都西会的隐修修士 ④ Robin Hood's Well: 罗宾汉山泉, 位于 Eastwood 东北约 2 英里一片林子边。罗宾汉为英国民间故事中杀富济贫的传奇式人物。传说 12 世纪罗宾汉和他的绿林好汉们就活动在英国中部的舍伍德森林地区。⑤ branching off there: 在那儿分岔 ⑥ like black studs: 像黑色的螺钉 ⑦ linked by a loop of fine chain, the railway: 铁路犹如一条环状的细链把它们连接起来 ⑧ the Squares: 宅区的名字, 因房子都为方形的而得名, 此为作者家乡的真实地名。⑨ quadrangles: 四方形院落 ⑩ like the dots on a blank-six domino: 排列得像六分骨牌上的图案一样 ⑪ This double row of dwellings: 这两排住宅 ⑫ The houses ... substantial and very decent: 房屋结实耐看 ⑬ auriculas: 耳状报春花 ⑭ saxifrage: 耳草虎 ⑮ sweet-williams: 石竹 ⑯ privet hedges: 水蜡树树篱 ⑰ dormer windows for the attics: 阁楼的天窗 ⑱ that was the view ... the colliers' wives: 那是客厅窗外的景色, 而矿工妻子们的客厅是不住人的。⑲ scrubby: 矮小的, 劣质的

the ash-pits^①. And between the rows, between the long lines of ash-pits, went the alley, where the children played and the women gossiped and the men smoked. So, the actual conditions of living in the Bottoms, that was so well built and that looked so nice, were quite unsavoury^② because people must live in the kitchen, and the kitchens opened on to that nasty alley of ash-pits.

Mrs. Morel was not anxious to move into the Bottoms, which was already twelve years old and on the downward path^③, when she descended to it from Bestwood. But it was the best she could do. Moreover, she had an end house^④ in one of the top blocks, and thus had only one neighbour; on the other side an extra strip of garden. And, having an end house, she enjoyed a kind of aristocracy among the other women of the "between" houses^⑤, because her rent was five shillings and sixpence instead of five shillings a week. But this superiority in station was not much consolation^⑥ to Mrs. Morel.

She was thirty-one years old, and had been married eight years. A rather small woman, of delicate mould but resolute bearing^⑦, she shrank a little from the first contact with the Bottoms women. She came down in the July, and in the September expected her third baby.

Her husband was a miner. They had only been in their new home three weeks when the wakes^⑧, or fair, began. Morel, she knew, was sure to make a holiday of it. He went off early on the Monday morning, the day of the fair. The two children were highly excited. William, a boy of seven, fled off immediately after breakfast, to prow round^⑨ the wakes ground, leaving Annie, who was only five, to whine all morning to go also. Mrs. Morel did her work. She scarcely knew her neighbours yet, and knew no one with whom to trust the little girl^⑩. So she promised to take her to the wakes after dinner.

William appeared at half-past twelve. He was a very active lad, fair-haired, freckled, with a touch of the Dane or Norwegian about him^⑪.

① ash-pits: 即没有下水管道的粪坑,因用灰掩盖粪便而得名,所以周围很臭。见本段最后一句。 ② quite unsavoury: 味道极其难闻 ③ on the downward path: 此处既指下坡的路,也有房子的状况不断恶化的意思 ④ an end house: 一排房子最头上的一户 ⑤ she enjoyed a kind of aristocracy ... the "between" houses: 与住在中间的女人们相比,她像个贵族了 ⑥ consolation: 安慰 ⑦ A rather small woman, of delicate mould but resolute bearing: 她娇小玲珑,体质纤弱,但举止果断 ⑧ the wakes: 原为宗教节日,后演变成为每年一度的集市,有娱乐活动等,期间矿工们有一到两天的假期 ⑨ prow round: 闲逛 ⑩ knew no one with whom to trust the little girl: 没有她可以把小闺女托付带到集市去的熟人。 ⑪ with a touch of the Dane or Norwegian about him: 看起来有些像丹麦人和挪威人

"Can I have my dinner, mother?" he cried, rushing in with his cap on. "'Cause it begins at half-past one, the man says so."

"You can have your dinner as soon as it's done," replied the mother.

"Isn't it done?" he cried, his blue eyes staring at her in indignation. "Then I'm goin' be-out^① it."

"You'll do nothing of the sort^②. It will be done in five minutes. It is only half-past twelve."

"They'll be beginnin'," the boy half cried, half shouted.

"You won't die if they do," said the mother. "Besides, it's only half-past twelve, so you've a full hour."

The lad began hastily to lay the table, and directly the three sat down. They were eating batter-pudding^③ and jam, when the boy jumped off his chair and stood perfectly stiff. Some distance away could be heard the first small braying^④ of a merry-go-round^⑤, and the tooting of a horn^⑥. His face quivered as he looked at his mother.

"I told you!" he said, running to the dresser for his cap.

"Take your pudding in your hand — and it's only five past one, so you were wrong — you haven't got your twopence," cried the mother in a breath.

The boy came back, bitterly disappointed, for his twopence, then went off without a word.

"I want to go, I want to go," said Annie, beginning to cry.

"Well, and you shall go, whining^⑦, wizzening^⑧ little stick!^⑨" said the mother. And later in the afternoon she trudged up the hill under the tall hedge with her child. The hay was gathered from the fields, and cattle were turned on to the eddish^⑩. It was warm, peaceful.

Mrs. Morel did not like the wakes. There were two sets of horses^⑪, one going by steam, one pulled round by a pony; three organs were grinding^⑫, and there came odd cracks of pistol-shots, fearful screeching of the cocoanut man's rattle^⑬, shouts of the Aunt Sally man^⑭, screeches from the peep-show^⑮ lady. The mother perceived her son gazing enraptured^⑯ outside the Lion Wal-

① be-out; without ② You'll do nothing of the sort: 不会耽误你的。

③ batter-pudding: 用鸡蛋牛奶做成的布丁 ④ braying: (喇叭的) 嘟嘟声

⑤ a merry-go-round: 供儿童乘做的旋转木马 ⑥ the tooting of a horn: 号角的吹奏声 ⑦ whining: 哭哭啼啼 ⑧ wizzening: 哼哼唧唧 ⑨ stick: (口语) 呆头呆脑的人 ⑩ eddish: stubble, 此处指草割了后留下的茬 ⑪ horses: merry-go-rounds ⑫ three organs were grinding: 三架手风琴不停地演奏着 ⑬ screeching of the cocoanut man's rattle: 卖椰子小贩刺耳的吆喝声 ⑭ Aunt Sally man: "萨利大婶", 英国集市游戏中口含烟斗的女模拟像名, 游戏者用球或棒投掷烟斗。此处指此游戏场的主人 ⑮ peep-show: 西洋景 ⑯ gazing enraptured: 出神地盯着看

lace booth^①, at the pictures of this famous lion that had killed a negro and maimed for life two white men. She left him alone, and went to get Annie a spin of toffee. Presently the lad stood in front of her, wildly excited.

"You never said you was coming — isn't the' a lot of things?^② — that lion's killed three men — I've spent my tuppence — an' look here."

He pulled from his pocket two egg-cups, with pink moss-roses^③ on them.

"I got these from that stall where y'ave ter^④ get them marbles in them holes. An' I got these two in two goes — 'aepenny^⑤ a go — they've got moss-roses on, look here. I wanted these."

She knew he wanted them for her.

"H'm!" she said, pleased. "They ARE pretty!"

"Shall you carry 'em, 'cause I'm frightened o' breakin' 'em?"

He was tipful of excitement^⑥ now she had come, led her about the ground, showed her everything. Then, at the peep-show, she explained the pictures, in a sort of story, to which he listened as if spellbound^⑦. He would not leave her. All the time he stuck close to her, bristling with a small boy's pride of her^⑧. For no other woman looked such a lady as she did, in her little black bonnet and her cloak. She smiled when she saw women she knew. When she was tired she said to her son:

"Well, are you coming now, or later?"

"Are you goin' a'ready?" he cried, his face full of reproach.

"Already? It is past four, I know."

"What are you goin' a'ready for?" he lamented.

"You needn't come if you don't want," she said.

And she went slowly away with her little girl, whilst her son stood watching her, cut to the heart to let her go, and yet unable to leave the wakes. As she crossed the open ground in front of the Moon and Stars^⑨ she heard men shouting, and smelled the beer, and hurried a little, thinking her husband was probably in the bar.

At about half-past six her son came home, tired now, rather pale, and somewhat wretched. He was miserable, though he did not know it, because he had let her go alone. Since she had gone, he had not enjoyed his wakes.

"Has my dad been?" he asked.

① Lion Wallace booth: 雄狮华莱士表演场 ② isn't the' a lot of things: 可以看的東西不少吧。小說中許多對話,特別是礦工和兒童的對話都是用諾丁漢方言寫成,讀者只要多讀幾次便會知道大意。下文除特別難懂的外不再加註。 ③ moss-roses: 半枝蓮 ④ y'ave ter: you have to ⑤ 'aepenny: halfpenny ⑥ tipful of excitement: 非常高兴 ⑦ spellbound: 入迷的,出神的 ⑧ bristling with a small boy's pride of her: 童稚的心里充滿了对她的自豪。 ⑨ the Moon and Stars: 酒吧名

"No," said the mother.

"He's helping to wait at the Moon and Stars^①. I seed him through that black tin stuff wi' holes in^②, on the window, wi' his sleeves rolled up."

"Ha!" exclaimed the mother shortly. "He's got no money. An' he'll be satisfied if he gets his 'lowance^③, whether they give him more or not."

When the light was fading, and Mrs. Morel could see no more to sew, she rose and went to the door. Everywhere was the sound of excitement, the restlessness of the holiday, that at last infected her. She went out into the side garden^④. Women were coming home from the wakes, the children hugging a white lamb with green legs^⑤, or a wooden horse. Occasionally a man lurched past, almost as full as he could carry. Sometimes a good husband came along with his family, peacefully. But usually the women and children were alone. The stay-at-home mothers stood gossiping at the corners of the alley, as the twilight sank, folding their arms under their white aprons.

Mrs. Morel was alone, but she was used to it. Her son and her little girl slept upstairs; so, it seemed, her home was there behind her, fixed and stable. But she felt wretched with the coming child. The world seemed a dreary place, where nothing else would happen for her — at least until William grew up. But for herself^⑥, nothing but this dreary endurance — till the children grew up. And the children! She could not afford to have this third. She did not want it. The father was serving beer in a public house, swilling^⑦ himself drunk. She despised him, and was tied to him. This coming child was too much for her. If it were not for William and Annie, she was sick of it, the struggle with poverty and ugliness and meanness.

She went into the front garden, feeling too heavy to take herself out, yet unable to stay indoors. The heat suffocated her. And looking ahead, the prospect of her life made her feel as if she were buried alive.

The front garden was a small square with a privet hedge. There she stood, trying to soothe herself with the scent of flowers and the fading, beautiful evening. Opposite her small gate was the stile^⑧ that led uphill, under the tall hedge between the burning

① He's helping to wait at the Moon and Stars: 他在酒吧帮忙呢。

② black tin stuff wi' holes in: 酒吧的黑铁皮窗户上的窟窿 ③ if he gets his 'lowance: allowance: 津贴、零用钱等,此处指帮忙所得的好处费 ④ side garden: 房屋一头的花园。莫瑞尔家住在连体房屋的一头,所以会有 side garden ⑤ white lamb with green legs: 指染着绿腿的白色的玩具羊 ⑥ But for herself: 对她而言 ⑦ swilling: 大喝、痛饮 ⑧ stile: (篱笆或墙两侧的)台阶