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HATTER'S
CASTLE

〔英〕阿·约·克罗宁 原著

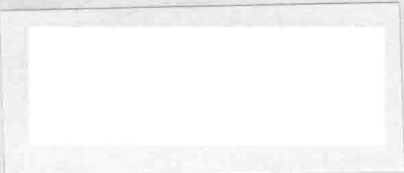
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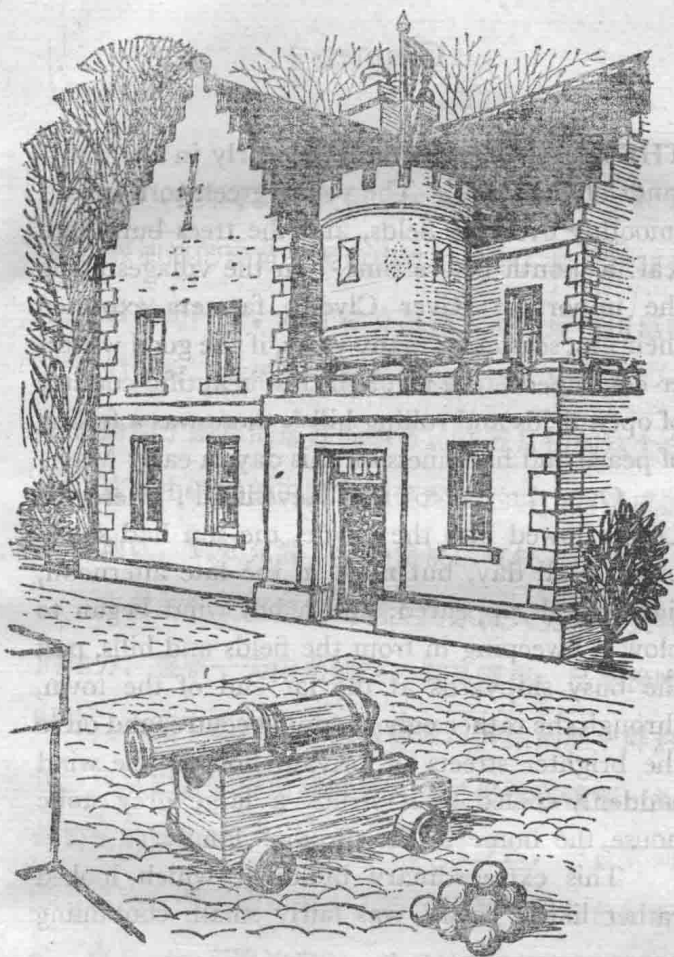
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Hatter's Castle.

Chapter 1

THE SPRING of 1879 began early in the Lowlands of Scotland¹. The young green corn spread smoothly over the fields, and the trees burst into leaf² a month before time. In the villages along the important River Clyde³, farmers expected their best season for many years, if the good weather continued. All through this beautiful country of open fields and rolling hills⁴, there was a feeling of peace and happiness on this day in early May.

Over the old town of Levenford⁵, where the Leven flowed into the Clyde, the sun had shone brightly all day, but now, in the late afternoon, light clouds appeared, and a hot wind began to blow. Sweeping in from the fields and hills, past the busy shipyards at the far end of the town, through the rather ugly shopping centre, and on to the brighter streets of private houses, the wind suddenly cooled as it struck a large grey stone house, the home of the Brodie⁶ family.

This extraordinary building, which looked rather like a castle, was fairly small, containing

1. the Lowlands of Scotland —— 苏格兰低地区。 2. burst into leaf —— 抽芽。 3. River Clyde [klaɪd] —— 克莱德河。
4. rolling hills —— 绵延起伏的群山。 5. Levenford ['li:vɪnfɔ:d] —— 利文福德(镇名)。 6. Brodie ['brɔ:di] —— 布罗迪。

第一章

一八七九年的春天很早就来到了苏格兰低地区。绿油油的麦苗平展地盖满了田野，树木也提前一个月抽出叶芽。居住在克莱德大河沿岸村庄里的农夫们认为，如果天气继续晴朗的话，这将是一个他们盼望了多年的最好的季节。在五月初的这个白天，这片由开阔的田野和绵延起伏的群山所组成的美丽地区，到处充满了宁静愉快的气氛。

古老的利文福德镇是利文河水流入克莱德大河的地方，整整一天阳光灿烂，但是现在，已是傍晚时分，天空中出现了一块块浮云，开始刮起一阵热风。风从田野和群山刮过来，吹过坐落在镇那一头的繁忙的造船厂，穿越不景气的商业区，一直吹到住宅区比较明亮的街道上，当风吹到一幢灰色的石砌大房子——布罗迪家时，突然凉爽了。

这幢与众不同、看上去很象城堡的建筑物相当小，里面大约只有七间房间，但那阴冷的石头和它

only about seven rooms, but the cold stone and its strange shape made it appear much bigger. The house stood higher from the ground than the others in the road, suggesting that its owner considered himself a nobler man than his neighbours; and, in the front of the house, there was a large tower, with a flag flying from its roof. Below this tower was the front door, which was so narrow that it was only just possible to enter by it: it looked like the mouth of an angry man warning visitors to keep out. The lower windows, like the door, were also narrow—mere holes in the walls, large enough to admit a little light, but small enough to prevent people from¹ looking in.

The whole appearance of the house, with its hard lines and peculiar angles², was frightening. The people of Levenford never laughed at this house, at least not openly; something forbade them even to smile.

In the large kitchen, which the Brodie family also used as their living-room, the hands of the clock now pointed to twenty minutes past five, and old Grandma Brodie, who was seventy-two, sat by the fire helping to make the tea. She kept throwing angry looks at her granddaughter, Mary³, a pretty girl of seventeen, who was sitting in the chair used by her father and therefore forbidden to everyone else.

“You’re sitting in your father’s chair, Mary,”

1. prevent ... from ——阻止. 2. peculiar angles ——奇异的角度. 3. Mary ['meəri] ——玛丽.

那奇异的形状使它显得大多了。在这条街道上，这幢房子从地基开始就比其他房子高，这使人想到房子的主人自以为要比他的左邻右舍高贵；房子前面矗立着一座很大的塔楼，塔楼顶上飘扬着一面旗帜。塔楼下面是正门，门狭小得刚够一个人进去，看上去象一个发怒的人的嘴巴，警告来访者不许进来。底楼的窗户同门一样，也很狭小，简直就是墙上的洞洞，一小束光亮照射进去倒是足够大的，但是小得足以防止人们往里张望。

这幢房子的整个外貌，粗犷的轮廓和古怪的楼角，令人害怕。利文福德镇上的人们从来不敢嘲笑这幢房屋，至少不敢公开嘲笑；甚至人们的笑也被什么东西禁止了。

在那间宽敞的、布罗迪一家也作起居室用的厨房里，时钟的针现正指在五点二十分上，七十二岁的布罗迪祖母坐在炉火旁帮着煮茶。她生气地直盯着孙女玛丽。玛丽是个十七岁的漂亮姑娘，正坐在她父亲一个人用的因而不准别人坐的椅子上。

“玛丽，你坐在你父亲的椅子上呵，”她终于说。

she said at last.

Mary was looking out of the window in deep thought¹, and did not answer.

“That chair which you’re sitting in is your father’s, do you hear?” Grandma Brodie repeated. “Are you deaf as well as stupid?”

Like a sleeper waking, Mary looked up and smiled. “Were you speaking, Grandma²?”

At that moment Margaret Brodie³ hurried into the kitchen to lay the table. Her clothes were stained, her hair was untidy, and her face was tired and sad. She looked ten years older than her forty-two years. This was Mary’s mother, but now they seemed unrelated.

“Get up at once, Mary,” she cried. “It’s nearly half past five. Go and call your sister.”

Her daughter went into the hall and called: “Nessie! Tea time—tea time!⁴”

A moment later, the two sisters entered the room. Nessie was twelve years old, with long fair hair and a soft, gentle expression that gave her the appearance of always trying to please.

“Have you washed your hands?” Mrs. Brodie asked her.

Without waiting for a reply, she looked at

1. in deep thought —— 沉思. 2. Grandma —— (儿语)祖母.
3. Margaret ['mɑ:ɡərɪt] Brodie —— 玛格丽特·布罗迪. 4. Nessie
['ni:si] —— 妮西; tea time —— [英]吃茶点的时间 (一般在下午
五时左右,有肉食冷盆的正式茶点).

玛丽正望着窗外在沉思；没有回答。

“你坐的是你父亲的那把椅子，你听到没有？”

布罗迪祖母又说道。“你是傻瓜还是聋子？”

玛丽好象刚睡醒似的，抬起头微笑道：“您在说话吗，祖母？”

这时候，玛格丽特·布罗迪匆匆忙忙走进厨房来摆餐桌。她衣服很脏，头发蓬乱，面容憔悴、忧郁，看上去比她四十二岁的年龄要老十岁。她就是玛丽的母亲，但是现在她们之间却好象没有这层关系似的。

“快起来，玛丽，”她大声说。“快五点半了。去把你妹妹叫来。”

女儿走进门厅喊道：“妮西！吃茶点了——吃茶点了！”

一会儿，姐妹俩走进厨房。妮西十二岁，一头金色长发，表情温柔、文雅，很招人喜欢。

“你洗过手没有？”布罗迪太太问她。

她没有等女儿回答，就看了看时钟，赶紧命令道：“坐下！”

the clock and hastily commanded: "Sit down!"

The four people in the room seated themselves at table, and waited anxiously. As the clock struck the half-hour, the front door opened and was noisily shut again. Heavy footsteps advanced along the passage; and James Brodie¹ came into the room. He was a big, powerful man, over six feet in height. He walked straight to the table, sat down, and hungrily began to eat the special meal that had been cooked for him.

This, then, was the reason for their punctuality and anxious waiting: immediate service for the master of the house, at meal-times as in everything, was demanded.

Now that Brodie had started to eat, the others were allowed to begin, although for them there was only a simple tea. They ate in absolute silence, showing neither surprise nor regret at the absence of conversation. When Brodie chose to be silent then no word might be spoken. Tonight he was in a particularly angry mood. Looking around the table between mouthfuls to see how the others were behaving, he saw to his disgust² that his mother, Grandma Brodie, was dipping her bread into³ her tea.

"Are you a pig to eat like that, woman?" he called at her across the table.

She looked up in surprise. "Eh, what, James? What for?"

1. James [dʒeɪmz] Brodie — 詹姆斯·布罗迪. 2. to one's disgust — 使人厌恶, 可厌的是. 3. dip into — 浸下去.

厨房里，四个人在餐桌旁坐了下来，焦急地等待着。时钟刚敲五点半，前门开了，然后又带着响声关上了。沉重的脚步沿着走廊走来，詹姆斯·布罗迪走进厨房。他是个个子大、强壮的男子，身高六英尺多。他径直走到餐桌旁坐下，饿得发慌似的开始吃起特意为他做的晚餐。

这就是她们严守时刻和焦急等待的原因：进餐时也好，做其他事情也好，要求别让这一家之长稍等片刻。

既然布罗迪已经开始用餐，那么其他人也可以开始了，尽管她们吃的只是简单的茶点。她们在极其沉默的气氛中吃着，对于互不交谈既不表示惊讶也不表示遗憾。布罗迪需要安静时，那就必须鸦雀无声。今晚，他的心情特别不愉快。他一边吃，一边环视坐在餐桌旁的其他人，注视她们的举动，当看到他的母亲布罗迪祖母正在把面包浸入茶里时，感到很厌恶。

“老太婆，你是头猪吗？这样吃法？”他隔着桌子对她吼叫起来。

她吃惊地抬起双眼。“哦，怎么，詹姆斯？为什么？”



Now that Brodie had started to eat, the others were allowed to begin.

“Have you not got the sense to know when you're eating like a pig? Remember your manners, you old fool!”

He looked disapprovingly at the others and continued his meal.

Mrs. Brodie tried to change the conversation by asking her younger daughter: “Well, Nessie dear, and how did you get on at school today?”

Nessie hesitated. “Quite well, Mamma.”

Brodie stopped eating and looked her in the face. “Quite well? You're still top of your class, aren't you?”

“Not today, Father. I was only second.”

“What! You let somebody beat you! Don't you realize what your education is going to mean to you?”

The small child burst into tears.¹

“She's been top for

“你没有意识到你吃饭的样子象头猪吗? 不要忘记规矩, 你这个老笨蛋!”

他不满地看了看其他几个人, 然后又吃了起来。

布罗迪太太想把话题扯开, 她问小女儿: “哦, 亲爱的妮西, 今天你在学校里过得怎么样?”

妮西犹豫了一下。 “很好, 妈妈。”

布罗迪停住不吃了, 盯着她的脸看。 “很好? 你仍然是班级里成绩最好的, 是吗?”

“今天不是, 爸爸。我只是第二名。”

“什么! 你让别人赶上了! 你难道还没有搞清, 学业对你意味着什么?”

小女孩突然哭了起来。

“她差不多连

1. burst into tears —— 突然哭起来。

nearly six weeks, Father," Mary interrupted bravely. "And the others are older than she is."

Brodie turned on Mary in anger. "Be silent!"

"It's that French!" Nessie cried. "I feel as if I shall never get it right."

"Not get it right! I should think you will get it right! You're going to be educated, my girl! You've got brains—my brains, for your mother's a fool!—and I'll see that you use them. You'll work at your lessons¹ tonight."

"Yes, Father."

Brodie gave a faint smile², which was partly of love but far more of pride. "You're my own girl. You'll add honour to the name of Brodie," he said.

Then, as he turned his head, his eyes fell upon his other daughter, and immediately his expression changed.

"Mary!"

"Yes, Father."

"I heard news of you today that nearly made me sick. I was told that you were seen talking to a young gentleman, who I believe is a bad character."

Nessie, relieved to be no longer the centre of attention, said without thinking: "Oh, Mary, was it Denis Foyle³?"

Mary looked down at her plate. "He's

1. work at one's lesson —— 做功课. 2. a faint smile —— 微微一笑. 3. Denis Foyle ['denis 'fəʊl] —— 丹尼斯·福尔.

续六个星期保持了第一名，爸爸，”玛丽勇敢地打断了父亲的话，“而且别的学生年龄都比她大。”

布罗迪生气地转向玛丽。“少罗嗦！”

“就是那门法语！”妮西哭道。“我觉得好象永远学不好法语了。”

“学不好了！我认为你可以学好！你将得到深造，我的孩子！你头脑聪明——象我，因为你母亲是个蠢货！——我要你动脑筋。今晚你要做功课。”

“嗯，爸爸。”

布罗迪微微一笑，这笑容，部分出于父爱，但更多的则是得意。“你是我的亲生女儿。你要为布罗迪这个姓氏增添荣誉，”他说。

然后，他转过头来，眼光落在另一个女儿身上，表情陡变。

“玛丽！”

“哎，爸爸。”

“今天我听到了关于你的新闻，险些使我晕倒。听说有人看到你和一個我认为名声不好的青年男子交谈。”

妮西由于自己不再是大家注意的中心人物而感到轻松，她脱口而出：“哦，玛丽，他是不是丹尼斯·福尔？”

玛丽低头望着她的盘子。“他不是一个名声不

not a bad character !”

“What !” shouted Brodie. “You are speaking back to your own father !”

Although she had never dared to argue with her father before, Mary added: “Denis is in a good business¹, Father.”

“Indeed now ! Have you anything more you would like to say about the noble character of the gentleman ?”

Mary knew she would only make matters worse by replying, but she said: “His employers think well of him.²”

“Lies — all lies !” Brodie shouted. “He’s rotten ! It’s shameful that you ever spoke to him. You’ll never speak to him again. I forbid it.”

Mary began to cry. “But, Father ! Oh, Father, I — I ...”

“Mary, Mary, don’t speak to your father like that !” came Mamma’s voice from the other end of the table. But her words only drew Brodie’s anger upon herself.

“Are you talking, or am I ? Keep your mouth shut and don’t interrupt ! You’re as bad as she is !”

Turning back to Mary, he said: “I have spoken. If you dare to disobey me, there will be trouble. And one more point: this is the first night of Levenford Fair. No child of mine is to go near that show-ground. I forbid it.”

1. in a good business —— 正派的。 2. think well of —— 重视；对…评价很高。