

茵夢湖

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IMMENSEE

## IMMENSEE

### THE OLD MAN

One afternoon in the late autumn a well-dressed old man was walking slowly down the street. He appeared to be returning home from a walk, for his buckle-shoes, which followed a fashion \*long since out of date,<sup>1</sup> were covered with dust.

Under his arm he carried a long, gold-headed cane; his dark eyes, in which the whole of his long-lost youth seemed to have centred, and which contrasted strangely with his snow-white hair, gazed calmly on the sights around him or peered into the town below as it lay before him, bathed in the haze of sunset.

He appeared to be almost a stranger, for of the passers-by only a few greeted him, although many a one involuntarily was compelled to gaze into those grave eyes.

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1. long since out of date. 早已不時興的。

## 茵 夢 湖

### 老 人

晚秋的一天下午，一個衣冠整齊的老人沿着街道慢慢地走着。他好像是散步之後回家去，因為他那早已不合時樣的釘鞋上被滿了灰塵。

他挾着一根金頭子的長手杖；他那雙黑眼睛，好似是蘊藏着他那早已逝去的青春的全部，配着他那雪白的頭髮，顯得很特別的樣子，這雙眼睛平靜地凝神望着他周圍的景色，或是窺視着他前面的低處，那浴在落日的烟霞裏的城市。

他幾乎像是一個外鄉人，因為過路的人只有很少的幾個向他招呼，雖則有許多人都不得要注視那雙莊重的眼睛。

At last he halted before a high, gabled house, cast one more glance out toward the town, and then passed into the hall. At the sound of the door-bell some one in the room within drew aside the green curtain from a small window that looked out on to the hall, and the face of an old woman was seen behind it. The man made a sign to her with his cane.

“No light yet!” he said in a slightly southern accent, and the housekeeper let the curtain fall again.

The old man now passed through the broad hall, through an inner hall, wherein against the walls stood huge oaken chests bearing porcelain vases; then through the door opposite he entered a small lobby, from which a narrow staircase led to the upper rooms at the back of the house. He climbed the stairs slowly, unlocked a door at the top, and landed in a room of medium size.

It was a comfortable, quiet retreat. One of the walls was lined with cupboards and bookcases; on the other hung pictures of men and places; on a table with a green cover lay *\*a number of*<sup>1</sup> open books, and before the table stood a massive arm-

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1. a number of, several.

最後他在一座有三角頂的高房子前面站住了，再向那城市望了一眼，然後走進門廳裏。一聽門鈴的響聲，屋內便有人將一個望得見門廳的小窗戶上的綠窗幃扯開，窗內便露出了一個老婦人的面孔，這老人用他的手杖向她招呼了一下。

“還沒有點燈！”他用一種微帶南方口音的話說了這一聲，那管家婦便又將窗幃放下來。

這老人走過那寬大的門廳，再走過一個裏面的穿堂，那裏靠着牆壁立着幾個很大的櫥木櫃子，上面放着許多瓷瓶；然後他進了對面的一道門，走進一個小小的過道裏，那裏面有一道樓梯通着這座房子後面樓上的房間。他慢慢地爬上樓梯，把頂上的門開了鎖，走進一個大小適中的房間裏。

這是一個舒適而清靜的隱避之所。牆壁的一面擺着一排碗廚和書架；另一面掛着一些人物和風景的畫片；一張鋪着綠綽毯的棹子上放着幾本掀開的書，棹前擺着一把笨重的安樂椅，椅上有一隻紅色

chair with a red velvet cushion.

After the old man had placed his hat and stick in a corner, he sat down in the arm-chair and, folding his hands, seemed to be *\*taking his rest* after his walk. While he sat thus, it was growing gradually darker; and before long a moonbeam came streaming through the window-panes and upon the pictures on the wall; and as the bright band of light passed slowly onward the old man followed it involuntarily with his eyes.

Now it reached a little picture in a simple black frame. "Elisabeth!" said the old man softly; and as he uttered the word, time had changed: *he was young again.*

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1. take rest, 休息。



天鵝絨的腰枕。

這老人把他的帽子和手杖，放在一個屋角裏之後，便在那安樂椅上坐下，雙手交叉着，似乎是作散步後的休息。他這樣坐着的時候，天色漸漸地黑起來了；不久便有一道月亮光從玻璃窗戶裏射進來：照到壁上的畫片上；這一道明亮的光輝慢慢移動的時候，老人便不由自主地將他的眼睛追隨着牠。

後來這道光照到了一個樸素的黑鏡框裝着的一張小像片上。“依麗沙白！”這老人輕聲地說；他說出這個名字的時候，時間便改變了：他又回到了他的幼年時代。

## THE CHILDREN

*\*Before very long*<sup>1</sup> the dainty form of a little maiden advanced toward him. Her name was Elisabeth, and she might have been five years old. He himself was twice that age. Round her neck she wore a red silk kerchief which was very becoming to her brown eyes.

“Reinhard!” she cried, “we have a holiday, a holiday! No school the whole day and none tomorrow either!”

Reinhard was carrying his slate under his arm, but he flung it behind the front door, and then both the children ran through the house into the garden and through the garden gate out into the meadow. The unexpected holiday came to them at a most happily opportune moment.

It was in the meadow that Reinhard, with Elisabeth's help, *\*had built a house out of sods of grass*.<sup>2</sup> They meant to live in it during the summer evenings; but it still wanted a bench. He set to work at once; nails, hammer, and the necessary boards were *\*already to hand*.<sup>3</sup>

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1. before very long, after a short time, soon.

2. had built a house out of....., 用.....造成了一所

## 兒 時

沒有過很久的工夫，一個小姑娘的秀美的形體便向他走過來。她的名字叫作依麗沙白，年齡大約是五歲光景。他自己的年齡比這大一倍。她的頸上圍着一條紅色絲巾，配着她那雙棕黃眼睛是很適宜的。

“賴恩哈！”她喊道，“我們今天放假，放假！整天沒有課，明天也沒有！”

賴恩哈挾着他的石板，但是他把牠拋在前門背後，於是兩個孩子便由屋子裏跑出去，跑到花園裏，再出了花園的大門，跑到草場上。這意外的放假日子真是來得非常之湊巧哩。

在這草場上，賴恩哈得了依麗沙白的幫助，業已用草皮造了一座房子。他們打算在夏天的晚上住在這裏面，但是還缺少一條長橈。他馬上就着手工作：釘子，錘子，和必需的木板都是現成在手邊的。

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房子。

3. already to hand, 在手邊

alone 单独的

While he was thus engaged, Elisabeth went along the dyke, gathering the ring-shaped seeds of the wild mallow in her apron, *\*with the object of<sup>1</sup>* making herself chains and necklaces out of them; so that when Reinhard had at last finished his bench in spite of many a crookedly hammered nail, and came out into the sunlight again, she was already wandering far away at the other end of the meadow.

"Elisabeth!" he called, "Elisabeth!" and then she came, her hair streaming behind her.

"Come here," he said; "our house is finished now. Why, you have got quite hot! Come in, and let us sit on the new bench. I will tell you a story."

So they both went in and sat down on the new bench. Elisabeth took the little seed-rings out of her apron and strung them on long threads. Reinhard began his tale: *\* 'There were once upon a time three spinning-women . . .'*<sup>2</sup>

"Oh!" said Elisabeth, *"\*I know that off by heart<sup>3</sup>*; you really must not always tell me the same story."

Accordingly Reinhard had to give up the story

1. with the object of....., 目的在於.....。
2. 此係 Grimm 最有名的童話之一的起頭一句。

hard 当(少说, 不)白(等)

- 21 的  
和 的

他從事於這種工作的時候，依麗沙白便沿着溝渠走去，採集野錦葵的環形花實放在她的圍裙裏，想要用來給她自己作成鏈子和頸環；賴恩哈作橈子雖則有許多釘子都錘成了彎的，但是他終於作成了，當他走出來再到太陽光裏的時候，她已經是在這草場的另一頭遠遠的地方亂跑了。

“依麗沙白！”他喊道，“依麗沙白！”於是她就來了，她的頭髮在背後飄蕩着。

“到這裏來罷，”他說；“我們的房子現在完全了。唉，你曬得太熱了啊！進來罷，我們在新橈子上坐起來。我給你講一個故事。”

於是他們倆便一同進去，在那新橈子上坐下了。依麗沙白從她的胸襟裏拿出那些小圈兒，用長線將她們穿起來。賴恩哈便開始講他的故事：“從前有三個紡紗的女人……”

“哦！”依麗沙白說，“這個我記得爛熟了；你千萬不要每次都給我講這一個故事罷。”

因此，賴恩哈便只得拋下這三個紡紗女人的故

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3. I know that off by heart, 我把這個記熟了。

of the three spinning-women and tell instead the story of the poor man who was cast into the den of lions.

"It was now night," he said, "black night, you know, and the lions were asleep. But *\*every now and then*<sup>1</sup> they would yawn in their sleep and shoot out their red tongues. And then the man would shudder and think it was morning. *\*All at once*<sup>2</sup> a bright light fell all about him, and when he looked up an angel was standing before him. The angel beckoned to him with his hand and then went straight into the rocks."

Elisabeth had been listening attentively. "An angel?" she said. "Had he wings, then?"

"It is only a story," answered Reinhard; "there are no angels, you know."

"Oh, fie! Reinhard!" she said, *\*staring him straight in the face*<sup>3</sup>.

He looked at her with a frown, and she asked him hesitatingly: "Well, why do they always say there are? Mother, and Aunt, and at school *\*as well*<sup>4</sup>?"

"I don't know," he answered.

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1. *now and then*, 時時。時而。前面加 *every*, 語氣更重。
  2. *All at once*: suddenly; all of a sudden.

事，另外講一個窮人被丟到獅子洞裏的故事。

“那是夜裏的時候，”他說，“漆黑的夜，你知道咯，獅子們都睡着了。不過他們睡着的時候，時而總要打一打呵欠，把他們那紅舌頭伸出來。那麼這個人就發抖，以為這是早晨到了。忽然一下子，一道晃亮的光射到他四周圍來，他抬頭一看，原來是一個天使站在他前面。這位天使向他招手，然後一直跑到那些山崖當中去了。”

依麗沙白是專心聽着的。“一位天使嗎？”她說，“那麼他有翅膀沒有？”

“這不過是一個故事罷了？”賴恩哈回答說：“並沒有什麼天使的，你要知道。”

“啊，呸！賴恩哈！”她說着，瞪着眼睛望着他臉上。

他繃一繃眉頭望着她，她又遲疑地問他道：“那麼，為什麼他們總說是有呢？媽媽，姑母，還有學校裏？”

“我不知道，”他回答說。

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3. staring him straight in the face, 注視其面。

4. as well, 也；還有。

“But tell me,” said Elisabeth, “are there no lions either?”

“Lions? Are there lions? In India, yes. The heathen priests harness them to their carriages, and drive about the desert with them. When I’m big, I mean to go out there myself. It is thousands of times more beautiful in that country than it is here at home; there’s no winter *\*at all*<sup>1</sup> there. And you must come with me. Will you?”

“Yes,” said Elisabeth; “but Mother must come with us, and your mother as well.”

“No,” said Reinhard, “they will be too old then, and cannot come with us.”

“But I mayn’t go by myself”

“Oh, but you may right enough; you will then really be my wife, and the others will *\*have no say*<sup>2</sup> in the matter.”

“But Mother will cry!”

“We shall come back again, of course,” said Reinhard impetuously. “Now just tell me *\*straight out*<sup>3</sup> will you go with me? If not, I will go all alone, and then I shall never come back again.”

The little girl *\*came very near to*<sup>4</sup> crying.

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1. at all, 完全; 全然。

2. have no say, 不管; 不干與。



“不過你要告訴我，”依麗沙白說，“獅子也是沒有的嗎？”

“獅子嗎？獅子有沒有嗎？在印度，有的。那些邪教的教士把牠們來駕車，趕着在沙漠地裏到處走。我長大了的時候，我就打算自己到那邊去。那個地方比我們這個地方要漂亮到千萬倍了；那裏一年到頭沒有冬天。你一定要和我一同去。你願意嗎？”

“願意，”依麗沙白說；“不過媽媽一定要和我們一同去才行，還有你的母親哩。”

“不，”賴恩哈說，“她們到那時候太老了。不能和我們一同去。”

“可是我總不好一個人去。”

“哦，你儘可以去哩；你到那時候一定是我的老婆了，別人是管不着的。”

“可是媽媽會哭呀！”

“我們還是要回來的，不消說，”賴恩哈燥急地說。“現在你快點老實告訴我，你會不會和我一同去呢？你若不去，我就一個人去，那麼我永遠不回來了。”

這小姑娘差不多哭起來了。“請你不要作出這麼

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3. straight out, 爽爽快快地。

4. come near to, 幾乎要。