

The Stars Look Down

群星俯瞰



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第4辑

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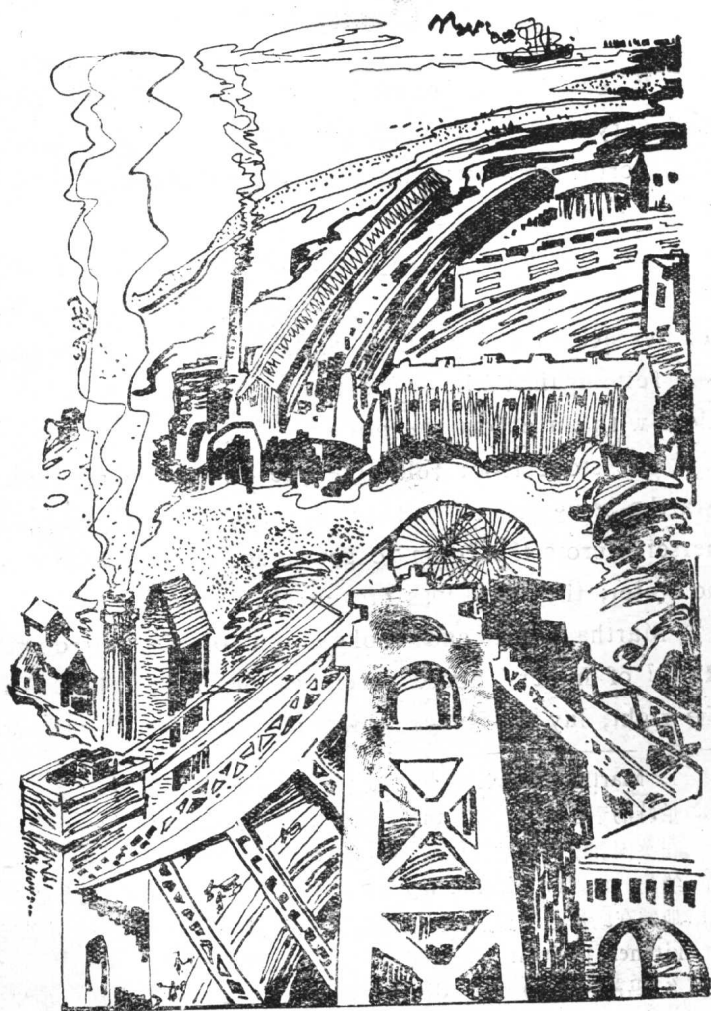
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内 容 简 介

“群星俯瞰”是一部描写工人生活和斗争的小说。二十世紀初期，在英国北部的一个煤矿上，工人为争取改善生活和工作条件，多次发动罢工，向矿主展开斗争，但资本家为了赚取高额利润，根本无视矿工安全，不顾工人死活，以致酿成井下大水事故，一百多人丧失性命。

书中写了两个青年矿工，他们对生活的态度不同，志趣不同，选择的生活道路也不同。小说通过两个不同人物，两种人生道路的描写，对当时社会的各种矛盾展现出一幅生动的图景。

本书选自英国出版的简易读物，故事情节曲折、生动，语言流畅。现将生词和语言难点加上汉语注释，并配以插图，供高中二年级学生和同等英语程度的读者阅读。



Chapter 1

When Martha Fenwick¹ woke, it was still dark and very cold. The wind, which was sweeping across the North Sea², blew through the cracked³ walls of the old two-room house.

Martha lay quite still in the kitchen bed and kept herself away from Robert, whose coughing had disturbed her sleep.⁴ She tried to control the bitterness⁵ that she felt against him. She thought for a minute and then with an effort she got up.

The stone floor felt like ice to her bare feet. Martha struggled to put on her clothes and dragged herself across the room to get some water. There was no water; the pipe⁶ was frozen up.

Martha stood and looked out of the window. Rows⁷ of miners' houses stretched out before her. To the right, lay the black town of Sleescale, with the

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1. Martha Fenwick ['mɑ:θə 'fenwɪk] 玛莎·芬威克 (女名, 罗伯特的妻子)。 2. the North Sea 北海 (为大西洋的一部分, 在英国和欧洲大陆之间)。 3. cracked [krækt] adj. 有裂缝的。 4. Martha lay quite still ... her sleep. 玛莎静静地躺在厨房里的床上, 罗伯特的咳嗽打扰她睡眠, 使她离开了他。 kitchen ['kɪtʃɪn] n. 厨房。 Robert ['rɒbət] 罗伯特 (男名, 玛莎的丈夫)。 disturb [dɪs'tɜ:b] vt. 打扰(某人), 妨碍(安眠)。 5. bitterness ['bɪtənɪs] n. 辛酸, 痛苦。 6. pipe n. 管子; 烟斗。 7. row [rəʊ] n. (一)排, (一)行。

harbour beyond and then the cold open sea.¹ To the left, the great Neptune coal-mine workings stood out against the sky.²

A look of misery³ spread over Martha's face. The miners⁴ had been on strike for three months now. Martha moved quickly away from the window and began to light the fire. She had only some damp⁵ wood and coal dust⁵ but at last she managed to get the fire lit. She went through the back door, broke the ice on a water barrel⁶ with an angry blow⁶ and got some rain water. She came back and boiled it, filled a cup, and sat in front of the fire and slowly drank. The hot water was not as good as tea but it warmed her and gave a little life to her cold body.

Suddenly she turned. Her husband was awake⁷. He was lying on his side watching her. He began to cough again. He raised himself and spat⁸ on to a piece of newspaper. Martha felt a sudden hatred⁹ of

1. To the right, lay the black town ... open sea. 右边是煤城斯利斯凯尔, 远处是港口, 再过去是寒冷的大海. lie vi. 位于. Slescale ['sli:skel] 斯利斯凯尔(地名). harbour ['hɑ:bə] n. (海)港, 海湾. beyond ['bi'jɒnd] adv. 在远处, 更远处. 2. To the left, ... the sky. 左边, 海神大煤矿耸立入云. Neptune ['neptju:n] 海神(罗马神话), 海王星. coal-mine n. 煤矿. working n. (常用复数) 矿内巷道, 矿坑. stand out 突出, 显著.
3. misery ['mizəri] n. 痛苦, 悲惨. 4. miner ['mainə] n. 矿工. 5. coal dust 煤末. dust [dʌst] n. 粉末, 灰尘.
6. blow n. 打, 一击. 7. awake [ə'weik] adj. 醒着的.
8. spit (spat, spat) vi. 吐唾沫, 吐痰. 9. hatred ['heitrid] n. 憎恨, 憎恶.

Robert and his cough; but she rose, filled another cup with hot water and gave it to him. He took it in silence.

It was lighter. The clock had been sold and so Martha had to guess the time. She thought that it must be about seven o'clock. She wrapped one of David's stockings² round her neck, put on a man's cloth cap and got into her old, worn-out³ black coat. Without a word to Robert, she went out and walked down to the town.

Martha had only two pennies⁴ to spend. She saw a boy sweeping outside a meat shop. "Have you got anything for me this morning?" she asked him. She hoped that he would give her some bits of meat that would be thrown away, or perhaps a bone to make soup.⁵

The boy shook his head. "I'm afraid not — nothing this morning. Ramage⁵ won't let me give away anything. He was very angry when I gave you bones last time."

Martha walked away and went along to the harbour. She hoped to get some fish there, but none of the boats had been to sea.

She turned slowly and began to go back. Outside a baker's shop, Dan Teasdale was loading loaves of

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1. David ['deivid] 戴维(男名, 玛莎的二儿子)。 2. stocking ['stokin] *n.* 长(统)袜。 3. worn-out *adj.* 穿破的, 破旧的。
4. penny ['peni] *n.* (复数 pennies) 便士(英国货币单位)。
5. Ramage ['ræmeidʒ] 拉梅奇(姓)。

bread into a cart for delivery.¹ Martha smelt the hot new bread and paused². Dan turned and saw the hungry look on her face and immediately he was filled with sympathy³ for her. He quickly took a loaf out of his basket and put it into her hands.

Martha said nothing. She was so grateful⁴ that she was almost in tears. She climbed slowly up the hill and went home.

Robert and her three sons, all of whom worked in the mine, were sitting by the fire. Her eldest son, Sammy⁵, who was nineteen, cried out: "Look! Mother has got a loaf!"

David gave a little smile. He was only fourteen — a thin, quiet boy with a white face and a serious, rather determined expression.⁶

"Isn't it wonderful, boys?" Sammy went on. "We're all hungry and getting thinner and thinner. Now mother walks in with a feast!"

1. Outside a baker's shop, ... for delivery. 在一个面包店的外面, 丹·蒂斯代尔正往送货车上装面包. baker ['beɪkə] *n.* 面包师傅. Dan Teasdale ['dæn 'ti:zdeɪl] 丹·蒂斯代尔(男名). load [ləʊd] *vt.* 装, 装载. loaf [ləʊf] (复数 loaves [ləʊvz]) *n.* 一条面包, 一只面包. delivery [dɪ'livəri] *n.* 送货, 交付. 2. pause [pəʊz] *vi.* 中止, 停留. 3. sympathy ['sɪmpəθi] *n.* 同情, 同情心. 4. grateful ['ɡreɪtful] *adj.* 感激的, 感谢的. 5. Sammy ['sæmi] 萨米(Sam 萨姆的昵称). 6. He was only fourteen ... expression. 他刚刚十四岁, 是一个瘦弱文静的孩子, 长了一副白净的面孔, 带着严肃而坚决的表情. thin *adj.* 瘦的. determined [dɪ'tɜ:mɪnd] *adj.* 坚决的, 已决定了的. expression [ɪks'preʃən] *n.* 表情, 脸色. 7. feast [fi:t] *n.* 盛宴, 筵席.

“You’re lucky to get this,” said Martha.

She began to cut the loaf.

They all watched her with excitement¹. Even Hugh² looked up and stopped repairing his football boots³. Hughie⁴ never said much; but he looked at the loaf.

Sammy jumped up and handed the plate of bread to his father.

Robert took a piece and quickly looked at Martha. “Where did this come from?” he asked.

Martha did not answer.

Robert repeated the question. “If you were given the bread, I don’t want it,” he said.

Sammy called out cheerfully⁵: “It doesn’t matter where it came from. We’re all going to eat it.” He caught his father’s eye.⁶ “Oh, cheer up, dad. Forget about the strike,” he said. “This strike must end. You may want it, but I want to work again. We can’t go on standing idle⁷ and wait for mother to get us food.”

1. excitement [ik'saitmənt] *n.* 兴奋, 激动。 2. Hugh [hju:] 休 (男名, 玛莎的小儿子)。 3. boot *n.* (皮革或橡胶制的) 长统靴。 4. Hughie ['hju:i] 休吉 (Hugh 的昵称)。 5. cheerfully ['tʃiəfəli] *adv.* 高兴地, 快乐地。 6. He caught his father's eye. 他引起了他的爸爸的注意。 catch one's eye 引某人注目, 引起某人的注意。 7. stand idle 袖手旁观。 idle ['aidl] *adj.* 空闲的, 无所事事的。

Martha took back the plate and she and her sons ate their bread in silence.

Chapter 2

Ten o'clock. David picked up his cap and went out. He was on his way to Joe's home.

The wind had suddenly dropped² and the sun was shining. The bright sunlight seemed beautiful to David. In winter he often did not see the sun for ^{/several/}several days. It was dark in the morning when he went down the mine; and it was dark in the evening when he came up again.

David walked up the street where Joe lived. Small groups of miners were standing idly outside their old and dirty houses. They looked at David with angry eyes, because his father had started the strike. David felt awkward³. He hurried along to Joe's house and went inside.

Joe and his father, Charley Gowlan⁴, were having breakfast. The room was dirty and very untidy⁵. The table was piled with food and dirty plates and

1. Joe [dʒəu] 乔(男名, Joseph ['dʒəuzɪf] 约瑟夫的呢称)。

2. drop vi. (风、声音等)变弱。 3. awkward ['ɔ:kwəd] adj. 尴尬的,笨拙的。

4. Charley Gowlan ['tʃɑ:li 'gaulən] 查利·高兰(男名)。

5. untidy [ʌn'taɪdi] adj. 不整洁的。

dishes, and the room smelt of drink, grease and sweat¹.

“Hullo, lad!” said Charley Gowlan, whose fat stomach was resting against the edge of the table.² He pushed a big piece of meat into his big mouth, waved³ his knife, and gave David a smile. Charley was a friendly man. He tried to be popular with the miners and he was also anxious to please Barras,⁴ the owner of the Neptune coal mine.

David sat down and watched Joe and Charley eat. They ate with great enjoyment⁵. Joe’s young jaws opened and shut like a machine. David watched with envy⁶.

Suddenly Charley looked up and said: “Would you like to scrape out the pot, boy?”⁷”

David was too proud to accept. “No, thank you—I’ve had my breakfast.”

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1. ... the room smelt of drink, grease and sweat. 屋里有酒、黄油和汗水的气味。grease [gri:s] *n.* 脂肪, (美俚) 黄油。 sweat [swet] *n.* 汗。 2. ... whose fat stomach was resting ... the table. 他那肥胖的肚子靠在桌边上。stomach ['stamək] *n.* 肚子, 腹部。rest against 靠, 搁(在)。edge [edʒ] *n.* 边, 边缘。 3. wave *vt.* 挥舞, 晃动。 4. He tried to be popular with ... Barras ... 他既要努力和矿工们搞好关系, 又要急于向巴勒斯讨好…… popular ['pɒpjulə] *adj.* 得人心的, 受欢迎的。Barras 即 Richard Barras ['ritʃəd 'bærəs] 理查德·巴勒斯(男名)。 5. enjoyment *n.* 享受……的乐趣。 6. envy ['envi] *n.* 羡慕, 妒忌。 7. Would you like ... boy? 小伙子, 你把锅里的东西吃光, 好吗? scrape [skreɪp] *vt.* 擦, 刮。 pot *n.* 锅, 壶, 罐。

Charley smiled. "And how does your father feel now that we're likely to be beaten?" he asked.

"I don't know."

Charley sucked his knife. "The strike has caused a lot of misery," he said. "None of us wanted it. We're striking about nothing."

David said fiercely²: "There's a lot of water in Scupper Flats³. It may flood the mine."

"Water!" Charley cried. He worked on the surface and never went down the mine and so the water did not worry him.

"Your father's not afraid of a drop of water, is he?" he said.

David felt angry. "He's worked in water for twenty-five years. So he oughtn't to be afraid of it."

"That's right, boy. Stand up for your dad.⁴ If you don't defend him, nobody else will."⁵ Charley got up, stretched himself, and went over to the fire.

Joe and David went out.

"He doesn't have to work in the wet places like

1. ... we're likely to be beaten?我们很可能要被人打败?
likely *adj.* 很可能的. beat (beat, beaten) *vt.* 打败, 战胜.
2. fiercely ['fiesli] *adv.* 凶猛地. 3. Scupper Flats 排水层,
排水间(坑道名). scupper ['skʌpə] *n.* 排水孔. flat 平地, 洼地.
4. Stand up for your dad. 支持你爸爸. stand up for 支持.
dad *n.* (口语)爸爸. 5. If you don't defend ... will.
如果你不为他辩护, 别人谁也不会为他辩护. defend [di'fend]
vt. 保卫; 替……辩护.

I do!" Joe said as soon as the door was shut.

"The wet isn't the only trouble," said David.

"My dad says —"

"I know — I know. Your dad thinks Scupper Flats is dangerous. I'm tired of hearing about it. Your father thinks he knows everything," said Joe.

David answered hotly¹: "He didn't start the strike for fun."

"Some of the men think that he did². They want to start working again."

"Well, let them start!"

"They will," said Joe. "They're going to meet this afternoon and they'll decide to go back to work." He looked at David.

"Oh, I'm tired of³ working in a coal mine," he went on. "I'm going to leave as soon as I get a chance. I want to make money⁴ and have a good time."

David was silent⁵. He wanted to leave the Neptune, too, for a different reason.

Joe was very good-looking⁶ and proud of the fact. As they walked along the street together, he talked in a grand manner⁷. "You've got to have money to enjoy

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1. *hotly adv.* 热切地, 愤怒地。 2. *he did* = he started the strike for fun. 他发动罢工为闹着玩的。 3. *be tired of (doing) something* 厌烦(做)某事。 4. *make money* 赚钱。 5. *silent* ['saɪlənt] *adj.* 沉默的, 不作声的。 6. *good-looking adj.* (外貌)好看的, 漂亮的。 7. *grand manner* 极好的风度。 *manner* ['mænə] *n.* 态度, 风度。

yourself. I'm going to make a lot of money. I'll beat everyone and come out on top.¹ One day I'll be a rich man, you'll see!" Suddenly Joe stopped his boasting² and hit David on the back. "Come on, Davey³," he said. "Let's get a boat and row⁴ out to sea."

They went down to the harbour. There, in the dirty water, some youths were looking for bits of coal. Joe looked at them with scorn⁵. In his home there was plenty of coal; he had stolen it from the mine himself.

Suddenly one of the youths, Ned Softley⁶, gave a loud shout. After three hours in the bitter cold, he had filled his bag with coal. He was just going to put it on his shoulder and take it home. But Jake Wicks⁷ quickly picked up the bag and walked away with it.

Joe laughed loudly. "That was clever — very clever!" he cried.

David ran up to Wicks. "That belongs to Ned," he shouted. "You can't take it away from him!"

Jake looked at David. "Oh? And who will stop me?"

"I will."

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1. I'll beat ... on top. 我要打败所有的人,取得胜利。come out on top 赛赢,占首位。
2. boast vi. 夸,自夸。 3. Davey ['deivi] 戴维(David 的呢称)。 4. row [rəu] vi. 划船。
5. scorn [sko:n] n. 轻蔑,藐视。 6. Ned Softley ['ned 'softli] 内德·索夫特利(男名)。 7. Jake Wicks ['dʒeik 'wiks] 杰克·威克斯(男名)。

Everybody stopped laughing.

Jake put down the bag. "You will?"

David was so angry that he could not speak. Wicks was older, taller and heavier than David. But David did not care. He looked at Jake's dirty spotted¹ face. In a flash², he struck him a fierce blow on the nose.

Jake shook his head like a dog and rushed at David. At that moment someone shouted: "Take care! Wept³ is coming!" David turned round. Jake seized his opportunity⁴ and struck him on the ear. David, blinded by the blow, fainted⁵.

The youths quickly scattered⁶, leaving David lying on the ground.

Wept was a miner — a kind and very religious⁷ man. He looked at David with an expression of sorrow. He took the boy to his home and gave him a good meal. Wept's kindness touched David deeply. He thought of the poverty and troubles in his own home and of the bitterness between his parents. He felt a sudden desire⁸ to do something to make life easier for

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1. spotted *adj.* 有斑点的, 沾污的。 2. in a flash 一刹那间。 flash *n.* 闪光, 转瞬间。 3. Wept 韦普特(男名)。
4. opportunity [ˌɒpə'tju:niti] *n.* 机会, 良机。 5. David, blinded by the blow, fainted. 戴维被打得眼花缭乱, 晕了过去。 blind *vt.* 使失明, 把……的眼睛弄花。 faint *vi.* 昏厥, 晕倒。
6. scatter ['skætə] *vi.* 分散, 溃散。 7. religious [ri'lɪdʒəs] *adj.* 笃信宗教的, 认真的。 8. desire [di'zaɪə] *n.* 愿望, 要求。

people. "I must and will do something," he said to himself, and a tear ran down his face.

Chapter 3

Half past one. Lunch at "The Law"¹ was just ending. Arthur² watched his father with loving³, troubled⁴ eyes. He knew that the men who were employed⁵ at his father's mine were going to meet in the afternoon. "Will the men decide to go back to work?" he wondered. "Or will they continue this terrible strike?" Arthur was trembling with anxiety.⁶

Richard Barras sat proudly at the head of the table; he was very calm. He never mentioned⁷ the strike; he behaved⁸ as if it were just a small unimportant quarrel. Suddenly he rose from his chair and said: "I'm going to Tynecastle on some private business."⁹

"Will you be home for tea, Richard?" Aunt Carrie¹⁰

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1. The Law 法律楼 (意译, Richard Barras 的住宅名).
2. Arthur ['ɑ:tə] 阿瑟(男名). 3. loving *adj.* 可爱的, 表示爱的. 4. troubled *adj.* 不安的, 忧虑的.
5. employ [im'plɔɪ] *vt.* 雇用. 6. Arthur was trembling with anxiety. 阿瑟焦急得发抖. trembling *adj.* 发抖的, 哆嗦的. anxiety [æŋg'zaiəti] *n.* 忧虑, 担心, 焦急. 7. mention ['menʃən] *vt.* 提到, 说起. 8. behave [bi'heiv] *vi.* 举动, 表现. 9. I'm going to ... business. 我要到泰内卡斯尔去办点私事. Tynecastle ['tainəkɑ:sl] 泰内卡斯尔(地名). private ['praɪvɪt] *adj.* 私人的, 个人的. 10. Carrie ['kæri] 卡丽(女名, Arthur 的姨妈, Caroline ['kærəlain] 卡罗琳的昵称).