

The Tale of John Mouse

城市鼠约翰尼的故事

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一大早,城市就忙碌了起来,勤劳的女仆正在搬送刚运来的蔬菜,乡下鼠威利也跟着送菜的马车进了城。城市与乡村真不一样啊,在这里,威利结识了好朋友——城市鼠约翰尼,见识了完全不一样的城市生活。















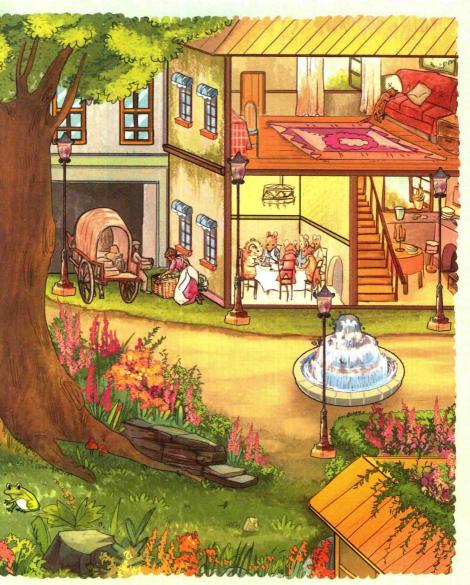








忙忙碌碌的城镇生活





市鼠出生在小橱柜里, 乡村鼠出生在菜园里。一天, 乡村鼠不小心闯进了一个装满了蔬菜的柳条筐, 去了城里, 他不习惯城市鼠的生活, 回到了乡村, 城市鼠有一天也来到了乡村……



Johnny Town-Mouse was born in a cupboard. Timmy Willie was born in a garden. Timmy Willie was a little country mouse who went to town by mistake in a hamper.

城市鼠约翰尼在一个碗柜里出生,蒂米·威利则在一个菜园里出生。蒂米·威利是一只乡下鼠,他之所以能来到城市,是因为误打误撞钻进了一个菜筐。

The gardener sent vegetables to town once a week by carrier; he packed them in a big hamper.

菜农每周都要请搬运工往城里送一次菜, 他会将菜装进一个大菜筐里。

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The gardener left the hamper by the garden gate, so that the carrier could pick it up when he passed. Timmy Willie crept in through a hole in the wickerwork, and after eating some peas—Timmy Willie fell fast asleep.

菜农把菜筐放在菜园门口,搬运工经过这里时就会把菜筐捎走。蒂 米·威利从一个小洞钻进了柳条筐,吃了一点豌豆之后,很快就睡着了。



He awoke in a fright, while the hamper was being lifted into the carrier's cart. Then there was a jolting, and a clattering of the horse's feet; other packages were thrown in; for miles and miles—jolt—jolt! And Timmy Willie trembled amongst the jumbled-up vegetables.

当柳条筐被装上马车时,蒂米·威利突然惊醒了。这时,马车颠簸了一下,马蹄声"嗒嗒"地响起,向前走去。马车在沿途又装了一些包裹。后来,颠颠簸簸的马车走了一程又一程。蒂米·威利藏在颠簸的蔬菜中,吓得浑身发抖。



At last the cart stopped at a house, where the hamper was taken out, carried in, and set down. The cook gave the carrier sixpence; the back door banged, and the cart rumbled away.

最后,马车停在了一座房子前。在这里,柳条筐被抬了下来,搬进屋里,放在地下。厨子付给了搬运工六便士,"呯"的一声关上了后门,随着一阵"隆隆"的声音,马车渐渐走远了。

But there was no quiet; there seemed to be hundreds of carts passing. Dogs barked; boys whistled in the street; the cook laughed, the parlour maid ran up- and down-stairs; and a canary sang like a steam engine.

然而,房间里一点儿都不安静,好像有几百辆马车来回穿梭。狗在吠,男孩们在街上吹口哨,厨子哈哈大笑, 女仆在楼梯间跑上跑下,还有一只金丝雀在唱歌,声音好像蒸汽机的鸣笛声。



Timmy Willie, who had lived all his life in a garden, was almost frightened to death. Presently the cook opened the hamper and began to unpack the vegetables.

Out sprang the terrified Timmy Willie.

蒂米·威利一直住在菜园子里,他快要被吓死了。不一会儿,厨子打 开菜筐,开始把蔬菜从筐里一样样拿出来。

蒂米·威利害怕到了极点,瞬间冲出了菜筐。



Up jumped the cook on a chair, exclaiming "A mouse! A mouse! Call the cat! Fetch me the poker, Sarah!" Timmy Willie did not wait for Sarah with the poker; he rushed along the skirting board till he came to a little hole, and in he popped.

厨子跳到一把椅子上,尖叫道,"一只老鼠,一只老鼠!快把猫叫来!快把我的火钳拿来,莎拉!"蒂米·威利没等莎拉拿来火钳,就沿着壁脚板往前跑,一直跑到一个小洞前,一头钻了进去。

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He dropped half a foot, and crashed into the middle of a mouse dinner party, breaking three glasses.

蒂米·威利坠落了足足有半英尺深,摔在一个老鼠晚宴的中央,还打碎了三个玻璃杯。

"Who in the world is this?"inquired Johnny Town-mouse. But after the first exclamation of surprise he instantly recovered his manners.

"你到底是谁?"城市鼠约翰尼问道。不过, 在一声惊呼后,他很快恢复了温文尔雅的样子。



With the utmost politeness he introduced Timmy Willie to nine other mice, all with long tails and white neckties. Timmy Willie's own tail was insignificant. Johnny Town-mouse and his friends noticed it; but they were too well bred to make personal remarks; only one of them asked Timmy Willie if he had ever been in a trap.

城市鼠约翰尼礼貌地为蒂米·威利一一介绍其他九只系着白餐巾的长尾巴老鼠。城市鼠约翰尼和他的朋友们注意到,蒂米·威利的尾巴十分不起眼,不过他们都很有教养,没有对客人品头论足。其中一只老鼠问蒂米·威利是否被老鼠夹夹过。



The dinner was of eight courses; not much of anything, but truly elegant. All the dishes were unknown to Timmy Willie, who would have been a little afraid of tasting them; only he was very hungry, and very anxious to behave with company manners. The continual noise upstairs made him so nervous that he dropped a plate. "Never mind, they don't belong to us," said Johnny.

晚宴一共上了八道菜,虽然不是很丰盛,但真的十分精致。蒂米·威利从没见过这些菜品,他还有些害怕,不太敢用餐。但是,他实在是饥肠辘辘,又想表现得有体面,就勉为其难地吃了几口。楼上那持续不断的噪声弄得蒂米·威利十分紧张,以致他碰掉了一只餐盘。"别担心,那些声音与我们无关。"约翰尼说。