



Vol. 115



Jamaica Inn

贾梅卡旅店

(英汉对照)

商务印书馆



SIMPLE ENGLISH READERS

Vol. 115

Jamaica Inn

by

Daphne du Maurier
(A Bilingual Edition)

Translated and Annotated by
Yang Zhendan

杨枕旦

Revised by
Xu Yuehan
许约翰

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内 容 提 要

本书是英国女作家达夫妮·杜莫里埃除《蝴蝶梦》以外的另一部重要作品,描述了一位年轻姑娘来到“贾梅卡旅店”(一伙杀人越货犯的巢穴)后的一段经历。在叙事的同时,作者还介绍了当时康沃尔郡的风土人情和社会习俗。全书情节曲折,文笔优美,适于大学一、二年级学生和同等程度的英语自学者阅读。

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简易英语注释读物

贾梅卡旅店

(英汉对照)

[英] 达夫妮·杜莫里埃 著

杨枕旦 译注 许约翰 校订

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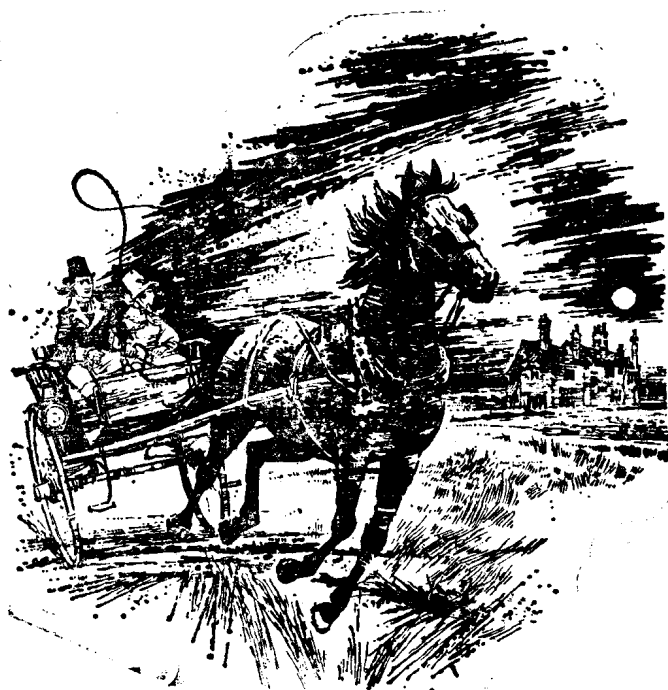
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1

IT was a cold grey day in late November, and although it was now only a little after two o'clock in the afternoon the dark of a winter evening seemed to have come down upon the hills, hiding them in cloud. The air was cold, and in spite of the tightly closed windows it came into the coach. The leather seats felt damp to the hands, and there must have been¹ a small crack in the roof, because now and again² little drops of rain fell softly through³ leaving on the leather a darkblue stain⁴ like a mark made by ink. The wind blew hard. The wheels of the coach sank into the holes in the road, and sometimes they threw up mud against the windows, where it mixed with the rain so that any view there might have been⁵ was blocked out.

The few passengers sat close together for warmth. Mary Yellan sat where the drops of rain came through the crack in the roof. She brushed them away with impatient fingers. Although she was hardly⁶ forty miles by road from what had been her home for twenty-three years, the hope within her heart had tired. The courage which was so large a part of her, and had helped her so much during the long misery of her mother's illness and death, was now shaken by this rain and wind.

She remembered the letter from her aunt. The writer said that the news from her niece had given her a shock; that she had had no idea that her sister was ill, because it was many years since she had been to her home in Helford.⁷ And she went on: "There have been changes with us that you would not know. I no longer live in Bodmin,⁸ but nearly twelve miles outside it, on the road to Launceston.⁹ It's a wild and lonely spot, and if you were to come to us I should be glad of your company in winter-time. I have asked your uncle, and he does not object, he says, if you do not

第一章

是十一月末一个寒冷的阴天。虽然刚刚下午两点多钟，但是冬天的黄昏似乎已经来到群山里，把它们笼罩在朦胧暮色之中。天气很冷，马车上的窗子虽然关得紧紧的，冷空气还是钻了进来。皮座位摸上去潮乎乎的，车顶上肯定有一小条裂缝，因为不时有小雨滴的雨水轻轻地落下来，给皮座位留下一块象是墨水造成的深蓝色渍斑。风刮得很凶。马车轮子有时陷进路上的坑里，把泥浆溅到窗子上，泥浆和雨水混在一起，把窗外的景色全给挡住了。

车里旅客不多，但为了暖和起见，大家都挤着坐在一起。玛丽·耶兰正坐在雨水从顶上裂缝滴下的地方。她不耐烦地用手指把雨水抹掉。玛丽离开自己住了二十三年的家，上路走了虽然还不到四十英里，信心却已经不那么坚定了。她身上原来有的那股勇气在她母亲患病和去世的漫长痛苦中，曾经给过她很大的帮助，现在却被这场风雨动摇了。

她想起了姨妈的来信。姨妈说，她接到外甥女所说的消息后非常吃惊，她一点不知道自己的姐姐病了，因为自从她去过了姐姐在赫尔福德的家到现在已经有好多年了。她还说：“我们也有许多你不大会知道的变化。我已经不住在博德明了，而是住在离它大约十二英里的地方，在通往朗斯顿的路上。这个地方又荒凉又偏僻，你要是想在冬天来和我们作伴的话，那我会很高兴的。我问过你姨父，他说你只要不多嘴，

1. **there must have been**: 必定有。must 和原形动词的完成形式构成谓语，有时表示对过去情况的一种推断，故可译成“想必”、“准是”等。 2. **now and again**: = from time to time, 时而。 3. **fell through**: 透过...落下来。可看作是 through the crack 的省略形式。 4. **leaving on ... stain**: 在...上面留下...渍斑。这个分词短语在句中起结果状语的作用。 5. **there might have been**: 本来有的。这是一个省去关系代词的定语从句，谓语动词用的是虚拟语气。 6. **hardly**: = only just, 才；只不过。 7. **Helford** ['helfəd]: 赫尔福德（英国康沃尔郡南部的一条河流）。 8. **Bodmin** ['bɒdmɪn]: 博德明（英国康沃尔郡一城市，位于普利茅斯之西偏北）。 9. **Launceston** ['lɔːnstən]: 朗斯顿（英国康沃尔郡一城市，位于博德明之北）。

talk too much and will give help when it is needed. He cannot give you money or feed you for nothing, as you will understand.¹ He will expect your help in the bar in return for your board and lodging. You see, your uncle is the landlord of Jamaica Inn."

Mary folded the letter. It was a strange message of welcome from the smiling Aunt Patience she remembered. A cold, empty letter, giving no word of comfort, and admitting nothing, except that her niece must not ask for money. Aunt Patience, with her silk skirts and delicate ways, the wife of an innkeeper!

So it was that Mary² Yellan found herself travelling northward in the coach. Villages were scattered now, and there were few smiling faces³ at the cottage doors. Trees were few. The wind blew and the rain came with the wind. And so the coach rolled into Bodmin, grey and unwelcoming like the hills around it, and one by one the passengers gathered up their things ready to leave — all except Mary, who sat still in her corner. The driver, his face a stream of rain,⁴ looked in at the window.

"Are you going on to Launceston?" he said. "It'll be a wild⁵ drive tonight across the moors.⁶ You can stay in Bodmin, you know, and go on by coach in the morning. There'll be no one in this coach going on but⁷ you".

"My friends will be expecting me,"⁸ said Mary. "I'm not afraid of the drive. And I don't want to go as far as Launceston; will you please stop for me at Jamaica Inn?"

The man looked at her curiously. "Jamaica Inn?" he said. "What would you do at Jamaica Inn? That's no place for a girl. You must have made a mistake, surely?" He looked hard at her, not believing her. He called over his shoulder to a woman who stood in the doorway of the Royal Hotel, lighting a lamp. It was already getting dark.

"Come here and reason with⁹ this young girl. I was told she was going to Launceston, but she has asked me to leave her at Jamaica Inn!"

有活儿时还能帮着干点什，他就不反对你来。但是你要明白，他不会白给你钱和白给你吃住的。他希望你帮着站站柜台，作为他供你吃住的报答。要知道，你姨父现在是贾梅卡旅店的老板。”

玛丽把信折好。在玛丽的记忆中，佩兴斯姨妈经常是笑容满面的，真想想不到她会写出这样一封欢迎信来。一封冷漠而又空洞的信，里面连一句安慰话都没有，什么愿都没有许，只是叫她的外甥女别张口要钱。佩兴斯姨妈，一个穿绸裙子的娇小姐，居然成了一家旅店的老板娘！

玛丽·耶兰发现自己正好是怀着这样一种心情坐在往北驶去的马车里。眼前是一些零星的村落，农舍门口见不到几张笑脸。树木稀疏，风雨交加。马车就这样驶进了同周围丘陵一样阴郁惨淡的博德明镇。旅客们一个一个地收拾行李准备下车，只有玛丽一个人一动不动地坐在角落里。脸上淌着雨水的车夫望着车窗里面说：

“你是打算去朗斯顿吗？今天夜里坐车穿过荒原太冒险了，你可以在博德明住一宿，明天早晨再搭车走。这辆车里的乘客没有再往前走的了。”

“我的朋友们在等着我，”玛丽说，“我不怕坐车。何况我不去那么远——不去朗斯顿，你能不能送我去贾梅卡旅店？”

车夫好奇地看着她说：“贾梅卡旅店？你去贾梅卡旅店干什么？那可不是一个姑娘去的地方。你一定是搞错了吧？”他狐疑地紧紧盯着玛丽，然后回过头去对着站在皇家旅店门口正在点灯的一个妇女喊了起来。这时天色已渐渐暗下来了。

“过来劝劝这位姑娘。她原来告诉我说要去朗斯顿，可现在她要我送她去贾梅卡旅店下车。”

1. **as you will understand**: 这点你要明白。as 此处为关系代词，指代它前面的整个句子。2. **So it was that Mary...** : 玛丽·耶兰发现自己正怀着这样的心情……。it was ... that ... 是一种强调结构，本句中强调的是 so 这个状语。3. **there were few smiling faces**: 没有几张笑脸。注意 few = not many, a few = some。4. **his face a stream of rain**: 他的脸上雨水直流。这是说明 driver (车夫) 的一个独立成分，形容他当时所处的状态。5. **wild**: 相当于 imprudent, 轻率的，欠考虑的。6. **moors**: 荒原(此处是指英国康沃尔郡内丘陵起伏的旷野)。7. **but**: 除...外。but 此处用作介词，相当于 except。8. **will be expecting me**: 会等我的。这是将来进行时态，用以表示预计发生的某种动作。9. **Come here and reason with ...**: 过来劝劝...。reason 此处为动词，与 with 连用时作“劝说”解。

The woman came down the steps and looked into the coach.

"It's a wild, rough place up there," she said, "and if you're looking for work, you won't find it on the farms. They don't like strangers on the moors. You'd do better down here in Bodmin.¹"

Mary smiled at her. "I shall be all right," she said. "I'm going to relatives. My uncle is the landlord of Jamaica Inn."

There was a long silence. In the grey light of the coach Mary could see that the woman and the man were looking at her. She felt cold, suddenly, and anxious. Then the woman drew back² from the window. "I'm sorry," she said. "It's not my business, of course. Good night."

The driver began to whistle, rather red in the face,³ as one who wishes to end an awkward situation. Mary leant forward and touched his arm. "Would you tell me?" she said. "I shan't mind what you say. Is my uncle not liked? Is something the matter?"⁴

The man looked very uncomfortable. He avoided her eyes. "Jamaica Inn's got a bad name," he said; "strange stories are told — you know how it is⁵. But I don't want to make any trouble. Perhaps they're not true."

"What sort of stories?" asked Mary. "Do you mean that there is too much heavy drinking there? Does my uncle encourage bad company?"

The man would not say. "I don't want to make trouble," he repeated, "and I don't know anything. It's only what people say. Good people don't go to Jamaica Inn any more. That's all I know. In the old days we used to⁶ give the horses water there, and feed them, and go in for a bite of food and drink. But we don't stop

1. You'd do better down here in Bodmin. do 在此代替上文中的动词短语 find work, 以避免重复。全句也可改写成 You would have better chance to find work ...。 2. drew back: 往回走。 3. rather red in the face: 脸上有些发红。 rather 此处为程度副词, 作“有几分”、“颇”解, 例如: rather good 颇佳。 4. Is something the matter? 是不是他有什么问题? 本句可理解为在最后省略了 with him 二词。类似的句子有: Nothing is the matter (with me).

那个妇女走下台阶，向马车里面张望着。

“那片地方很荒凉，”她说，“你要是想找活干的话，在那里的农场是找不到活的。他们不喜欢陌生人到荒原去。你最好还是呆在博德明。”

玛丽朝那个妇女笑了一笑说：“我不会出什么岔子的。我是找亲戚去，我姨父是贾梅卡旅店的老板”。

大家沉默了好一阵子。借着马车里微弱的灯光，玛丽看得见那个妇女和车夫都在盯住她看。突然间，一阵凉意袭上心头，玛丽感到很是不安。接着，那个妇女离开车窗，说道：“对不起，当然，这不关我的事，晚安！”

车夫涨红着脸，开始吹着口哨，就象人们想结束一个尴尬的场面时所做的那样。玛丽向前探着身子，碰了一下他的胳膊说：“请你告诉我，是我姨父人缘不好？还是有什么别的问题？不管你说什么，我都不会和你计较的。”

车夫显得很不自在。他避开玛丽的眼光说：“贾梅卡旅店的名声很不好。人们说了许多怪话——你会明白这是怎么回事。不过我可不想招惹是非，也许那些都是不确实的。”

“都是一些什么事？”玛丽问道，“你是说那里经常酗酒，还是我姨父结交坏人？”

车夫不肯再说下去，只是一再地说：“我不想招惹是非。我什么也不知道，那都是听别人说的。我只知道正经人再也不上贾梅卡旅店去。早先我们经常在那里给马饮水喂料，自己也进去找点吃喝。但是，现在

(我)没什么。 5. strange stories are told— you know how it is. 破折号后面那个句子用于补充说明前面那个句子，是宽慰玛丽的一种表示，暗示一般人常喜捕风捉影、添枝加叶，有些怪话未必完全可信。 6. used to: (以前)惯常；一向。注意它和 be used to (习惯于...) 的区别。例如：I used to get up very early, but I am not used to getting up so early. 我一向起得很早，但现在已不习惯这么早起了。

there any more.”

“Why don't people go there? What is their reason?”

The man hesitated; it was as if he were searching for words.

“They're afraid,” he said at last; and then he shook his head; he would say no more. He shut the door and climbed into his seat.

The coach rolled away down the street, past the safe and solid houses, the busy lights, the scattered people hurrying home for supper, their figures bent against the wind and rain. Now the horses were climbing the steep hill out of the town and, looking through the window at the back of the coach, Mary could see the lights of Bodmin fast disappearing, one by one, until the last was gone. She was now alone with the wind and the rain, and twelve long miles of bare moor between her and her journey's end. She sat in her corner, shaken from side to side by the coach. On either side of the road the country stretched away into space. No trees, no paths, no cottages, but mile after mile¹ of bare moor, dark and empty, rolling like a desert land to the unseen horizon. No human being could live in this country,² thought Mary, and remain like other people; the very³ children would be born twisted, like the blackened bushes, bent by the force of a wind that never stopped blowing. Their minds would be twisted too, their thoughts evil,⁴ living as they must⁵ amongst marsh and granite,⁶ rough bushes and hard stone.

At last she lifted the window and looked out. Ahead of her, at the top of a hill on the left, was some sort of building,⁷ standing back from the road. She could see tall chimneys in the darkness. There was no other house, no other cottage. If this was Jamaica Inn, it stood alone, unprotected from the winds. Mary gathered her wrap around her. The horses had been pulled to a stop and stood

1. mile after mile: 一英里又一英里。此处形容距离之长。 2. live in this country: country 此处相当于 place。 3. very: very 此处为形容词，相当于 even the。 4. their thoughts evil: 这是一个省略句，省去了谓语动词 would be。 5. living as they must: 他们既然只得生活在……。这是一个省略句，在

我们再也不在那儿歇脚了。”

“为什么人们现在不到那里去了？那是什么道理？”

车夫犹豫起来了，象是寻思用什么字眼合适。

“他们害怕——”车夫终于说出了口，然后摇摇头，再也不肯往下说了。他关好车门，爬上了自己的座位。

马车离开旅馆，沿着街道往前驶去，掠过一所所坚实的房屋，闪烁的灯光，以及三三两两忙着赶回家去吃晚饭的行人。那些人正缩着身子，顶着风雨向前走着。马儿这时正往镇外小山的陡坡上爬；透过后窗户望去，玛丽见到博德明的灯火一盏一盏地在眼前飞快地掠过，直到最后一盏灯消失为止。她此刻只有风雨相伴，还得经过十二英里长的、光秃秃的荒原地带才能到达旅途的终点。玛丽坐在角落里，被颠得东倒西歪。道路两旁是空旷的原野，没有树木，没有小路，没有农舍。只有光秃秃的、连绵不断的荒原，又阴暗又空旷，如同一望无际的沙漠。这地方的人不可能象别地方的人一样生活，玛丽想，连孩子们生下来也会是“畸形”的，就象颜色变黑了的灌木丛在刮个不停的风的威力下直不起身子一样。他们既然不得不在沼泽地和花岗岩之间、在蓬乱的灌木和坚硬的岩石之间生活，他们的头脑也一定是“畸形”的，思想也一定是邪恶的。

最后，玛丽把车窗抬高了一点，向外边望去。在左前方的小山顶上，象是有幢房子在大路靠后一点的地方。她看见有几个高高的烟囱矗立在黑暗之中，四周再没有别的房子和村舍。如果这是贾梅卡旅店的话，那么它就是孤零零地立在那里，任凭风吹雨打。玛丽裹紧了披肩。车夫这时已经勒住了马，两匹马汗湿淋淋地站在雨中，身上直冒

must 后面省去了系动词 be; as 此处相当于 since, 将 living 搁在句首是为了加强语气。6. amongst marsh and granite: amongst 同 among; marsh (沼泽地)和 granite (花岗岩)都是康沃尔郡荒原特有的地征。7. some sort of building: 某种建筑物。some 用于修饰可数名词单数, 常作“某种(的)”解。

sweating¹ under the rain, the steam coming from them in a cloud.

The driver climbed down from his seat, pulling her box down with him. He seemed hurried, and kept looking² over his shoulder towards the house.

"Here you are," he said, "across the yard over there. If you hammer on the door³ they'll let you in. I must be going on,⁴ or I'll not reach Launceston tonight."

In a moment the coach was away down the road, disappearing as if it had never existed, lost and swallowed up in the darkness.

Mary stood alone, with her box at her feet. She heard the sound of the door being unbarred in the dark house behind her, and then it was thrown open. A great figure walked into the yard, swinging a light from side to side.

"Who is it?" came a shout. "What do you want here?"

Mary stepped forward and looked up into the man's face. The light shone in her eyes, and she could see nothing.

"Oh, it's you, is it?" he said. "So you've come to us after all? I'm your uncle, Joss Merlyn, and I give you welcome to Jamaica Inn." He drew her into the shelter of the house, laughing, then shut the door and put the light upon a table in the passage. And they looked at each other face to face.

2

HE was a great man, nearly seven feet high, with a big face and a dark brown skin. His thick black hair hung down over his eyes and round his ears. He looked as if he had the strength of

1. stood sweating: 站着直在流汗。sweating 此处用作表语, 类似的有: sit still (静坐); lie supine(仰卧)等。 2. kept looking ...: keep常接 ...ing 形式, 作“不断”解。 3. hammer on the door: 用力在门上敲打。“打门”一般用 hammer at the door。 4. I must be going on: 我还得继续往前

热气。

车夫从座位上爬下来，随手把玛丽的箱子搬到地上。他显得很匆忙，不时回头看看那所房子。

“你到地方了，”车夫说，“穿过那个院子，你只要使劲敲门，他们就会让你进去的。我还得赶路，要不今夜就赶不到朗斯顿了。”

马车很快上路走了，一下子就消失得无影无踪，象是被黑暗吞没了似的。

玛丽孤零零地站在那里，箱子在脚旁放着。她听到身后黑屋子里拔门闩的声音，接着门就开了。一个高大的身影走进院子，提着一盏灯来回地晃动着。

“是谁？”那人大声吆喝着，“来这儿有什么事？”

玛丽往前走了一步，抬头看着那人的脸。灯光在自己眼前闪耀，她什么都看不见。

“哦，是玛丽吧？”那个人说，“你还是到我们这里来了？我是你的姨父乔斯·默林，欢迎你到贾梅卡旅店来。”他大声地笑着，把玛丽拉进屋里，随手关好门，把灯放在过道里的一张桌子上面。然后，两人彼此面对面地望着。

第 二 章

乔斯是一个大个子，身高近七英尺，脸盘挺大，皮肤黝黑。浓密的黑发披散着，遮住了眼睛和耳朵。他看上去非常健壮，肩膀宽大力，

走。must 和原形动词的进行形式构成谓语，有时表示“即将”、“将要”等意思。
5. Who is it? 谁? it 此处泛指来人。 6. Oh, it's you, is it? 这是一种具有修辞色彩的疑问句，后一部分用于强调前一部分的内容，并不需要对问题作出回答。

a horse,¹ with immense, powerful shoulders, long arms that reached almost to his knees, and large hands. His nose was hooked, curving to a mouth that might have been perfect once but was now sunken and fallen, and there was still something fine about his great dark eyes,² in spite of the lines³ about them. The best things left to him were his teeth, which were all good still, and very white, so that when he smiled they showed up clearly against⁴ the brown of his face, giving him the appearance of a hungry animal.

"So you are Mary Yellan," he said at last, towering above her, his head bent to observe her more closely, "and you've come all this way to look after your Uncle Joss. I call it very nice of you."⁵

He laughed again, his laugh roaring through the house, acting like a whip on Mary.

"Where is my Aunt Patience?" she asked, looking around her in the dark passage, with its cold stone floor and narrow staircase. "Is she not expecting me, then?"

"Where's my Aunt Patience?" he copied her.⁶ Then he lifted his face to the stairs.

"Patience!" he roared, "what are you doing? Here's the girl arrived, crying for you. She's tired of the sight of me already".

There was a noise at the top of the stairs, and a footstep dragged. Down the stairs came a woman, shielding the light from her eyes. She wore a cap on her thin grey hair, which hung to her shoulders. Her eyes were large, as though they continuously asked a question, and she had a little habit of moving her mouth, now tightening her lips and now letting them go loose. She wore a faded striped skirt that had once been red and was now a pale pink, and over her shoulders was thrown a much-mended wrap. Mary watched her without speaking, full of sorrow. Was this poor creature⁷ the beautiful Aunt Patience of her dreams — dressed like this, and looking twenty years older?

The little woman came down the stairs and into the hall; she

胳膊几乎长达膝盖,还有一双大手,鹰钩鼻子弯向嘴边,一张原来还不算难看的嘴已经瘪下去了,一双黑色的大眼睛还显得有点精神,尽管周围已经看得见皱纹。他身上所剩下的最好的东西要算牙齿——它们很白,还都完好无缺。所以,他在发笑的时候,棕色的脸庞衬托着一嘴白牙,特别显眼,看上去活象一头饥饿的野兽。

“那么,你就是玛丽·耶兰了,”他终于开了口。他比玛丽高出许多,所以低下头去更仔细地看玛丽。“你那么老远地跑来照顾你乔斯姨父,真是太好了。”

他又一次放声大笑起来,声音响彻整座房子,象鞭子一样抽打在玛丽的身上。

“我佩兴斯姨妈呢?”玛丽问,同时看着四周阴森的过道,冰冷的石板地和狭窄的楼梯。“她不是在盼我来吗?”

“我佩兴斯姨妈呢?”乔斯学着样说,然后脸冲着楼上大声喊道:

“佩兴斯!你在干什么?姑娘已经到了,吵着要见你呢。她已经不耐烦看我了。”

楼梯上面传来一阵窸窣声和缓慢的脚步声,然后走下一个妇女,用手挡着耀眼的灯光。她戴着一顶便帽,稀疏的灰白头发垂到了肩上。她的一双眼睛很大,象是不断在探索着什么。她有一种抽动嘴巴的小毛病,时而咬紧双唇,时而又把它们松开。她穿着一条褪色的带条纹的裙子,原来是红色的,现在已褪成了浅粉色,肩上披着一块打了不少补丁的披肩。玛丽默默无言地望着她,心里很不好受。自己梦境中漂亮的佩兴斯姨妈竟然是这么一个可怜的人——这么个打扮,而且看起来比实际年龄还大二十岁!

这个小小女人走下楼梯,进了客厅。她一把握住玛丽的双手,仔

1. had the strength of a horse: 象马一样有力。英语中常用 as strong as a horse 来形容一个人的健壮有力,相当于我国的俗语“力大如牛”。 2. there was still something fine about ... eyes: fine 和 about eyes 分别是 something 的定语。 3. lines: 皱纹(一般用复数)。 4. against: 此处作“与...成对照”解。 5. I call it very nice of you. 我认为你这样做太好了。it 此处指 come ... to look after ... 一事; call 相当于 consider。 6. he copied her: 他学着玛丽的声调说。copy 原意为“模仿”。 7. poor creature: 可怜的人儿。creature 通常指生物,用于指人时,常借助连用的形容词表示一定的感情色彩。

took Mary's hands in hers and looked closely into her face. "Have you really come?" she whispered. "It is my niece Mary Yellan, isn't it? My dead sister's child?"

Mary nodded, thanking God that her mother could not see her now. "Dear Aunt Patience," she said gently, "I'm glad to see you again. It's so many long years since you came to us at Helford."

The woman suddenly held her tightly, burying her head against her shoulder, and she began to cry, loudly and fearfully.

"Ah, stop that," shouted the husband, "what sort of welcome is this? What have you got to cry about, you fool? Can't you see the girl wants her supper? Get out to the kitchen and give her some meat and a drink."

Aunt Patience controlled herself. She led the way to yet³ another dark passage, and so into the kitchen where a low fire burned.

"You mustn't mind your Uncle Joss," she said, her manner changing suddenly to that of³ a dog that has been trained by continuous cruelty to unquestioning obedience and who, in spite of kicks and curses, will fight fiercely for his master. "Your uncle must be treated carefully, you know; he has his ways,⁴ and strangers don't understand him at first. He's a very good husband to me, and has been ever since we were married."

She talked on mechanically, going backwards and forwards across the stone-floored kitchen as she laid the table for supper. There was a footstep outside the door, and with a sinking heart Mary realised that Joss Merlyn had come downstairs again. He came into the room, and looked from one to the other. He pulled a chair from the wall, and crashed it against the table. He sat down heavily, and reaching for the loaf, cut himself a great piece of bread, which he pushed into his mouth, and called Mary to the table. "You need food, I can see that," he said, and carefully buttered the loaf. He cut a thin piece from it and then cut this into four quarters for her, the whole business very delicately done and quite different from⁵ his manner in serving himself — so much so that⁶ to