

简易英语注释读物



Vol • 120



The Quadroon

混血姑娘

(英汉对照)



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SIMPLE ENGLISH READERS

Vol. 120

The Quadroon

(A Bilingual Edition)

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简易英语注释读物
HÙN XUÈ GŪ NIÁNG

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(英 汉 对 照)

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内 容 提 要

“混血姑娘”(The Quadroon)是英国小说家汤·梅·雷德(Thomas Mayne Reid, 1818—1883)写的小说,叙述一个同情黑人的英国青年和一个有四分之一黑人血统的女子恋爱的故事。小说也反映了美国南部黑人的痛苦生活、买卖奴隶的情况、各式各样的人物和当地的风光。作者通过这一惊险的故事,表示了他对被压迫的黑人的同情,这是值得称许的;但是故事以女主人重新获得种植园而结束,可见作者并不真正反对奴隶制,他只是要求待他们不要太残酷罢了。

作者生于爱尔兰,1840年到美国,熟悉美国的生活。他的生活经历很丰富,曾经做过记者、商人、黑奴的监工、中学教员、军人、演员、戏剧家和猎人等等,著作很多,最出名的除 The Quadroon (1856) 外,还有 The Rifle Rangers (1850), The Scalp Hunters (1851), The Boy Hunters (1852) 等书。

这个简写本文字浅易流畅,现英汉对照并详加注释,供大学英语专业二年级学生和程度相当的自修英语的读者阅读。书后附有词汇表。

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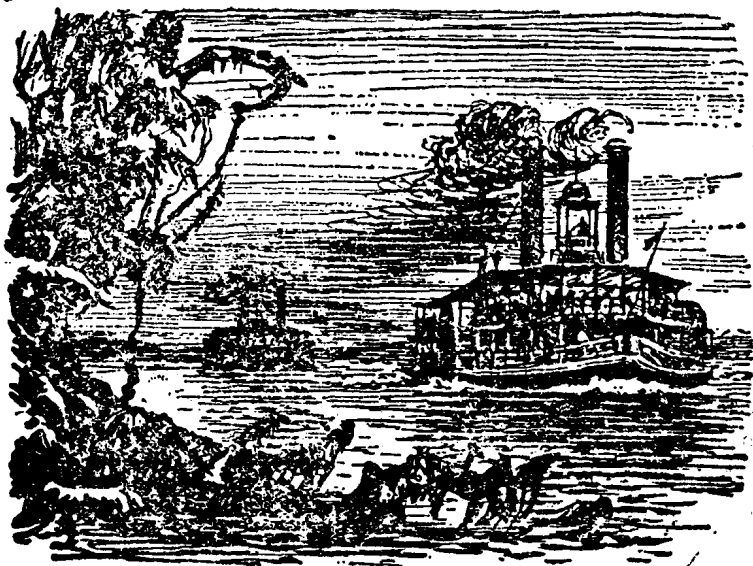
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1 SIX MONTHS IN NEW ORLEANS.¹

Just from college I was not happy at home, I wanted to travel. I wanted to see the world known to me only from books. My dreams came true. I left my native land and started on a voyage across the Atlantic to the New World.² I was young and my mind was full of noble ideas. I wanted liberty and love. I wanted romance³ and I soon found it under the smiling skies of

1. New Orleans ['nju:'ɔ:liənz] 在美国东南部, 位居密西西比河口, 为 Louisiana 州的首府。 2. New World 新世界, 指美洲。注意: 二字大写, 它是一个专有名词, 系对旧世界(指欧洲)而言。哥伦布发现新大陆之后便有了这种说法。作者在此交代本书主人公是从欧洲去的。 3. I wanted romance 我希望过惊险的激荡的(不平凡的)生活。

Louisiana.¹

In the month of January 18—I arrived in New Orleans. An hour after my arrival, I was already walking about the streets of the city. I was staring with interest at the new scenes around me. But soon my thoughts turned to other things.

As I walked about the streets of this city I began to understand my own uselessness. I had been one of the best pupils in college. But could I use the dry knowledge I had received?

I had been taught the classic languages² and logic. Now, in real life, they seemed useless to me. I had thought that I was an educated man, but now I understood that I really knew nothing.

The first six months I spent in New Orleans were a good school for me. I learned more of life than I had learned during many years of study at college. By the end of those six months I had very little money. After paying for my room I had only twenty-five dollars left in my pocket. I had to write home³ for more money and wait for an answer. This would take many weeks, because there were no Atlantic steamers at that time.

I wanted to find a job, but my classic education⁴ had not prepared me for any kind of useful work. Friendless, and troubled about my future, I walked about the streets.⁵ It was the middle of June. The weather was hot and becoming hotter every day. In a week or two the season would begin when tropical malaria was usually raging in the city. The fear of that illness was driving people out of New Orleans to the North. I was no braver than the others,⁶ so it seemed to me that I, too, had bet-

1. Louisiana [lu:zi:'ænə] 州名,在美国东南部,面对墨西哥海湾。 2. Classic languages 古典语言,指希腊文拉丁文。 3. to write home 写信回家,指他在欧洲的家。 4. classic education 古典语教育。 5. Friendless, and troubled about my future, I walked about the streets. 此处 about 不是“关于”,应把 walked about 合起来看,是“到处逛”的意思。此句主语是 I, walked 是谓语,开头的 friendless 描写 I 是形容词的成分。 6. I was no braver than the others 我并不比别人更勇敢些。意即:我也和别人一样害怕。

ter¹ go away.

St. Louis² seemed to be the best place and I thought I would go there. I had enough money for the passage, though I did not know how I would live afterwards. I packed up my luggage and stepped aboard the "Beauty of the West," the steamer in which I was going to make my trip to St. Louis.

2 THE "BEAUTY OF THE WEST"

I came to the steamboat two hours early. I spent this time looking over the ship. It looked like a two-storey house about two hundred feet long. It was built of wood and painted white. There was a row of windows along the upper storey and two tall funnels rose³ in the centre. The machinery was on the deck and the boilers were very large, because the steam which made the ship move was produced by burning logs⁴ of wood. Most of the goods were also placed on the deck. There were all kinds of bags, boxes and barrels.

The saloon for passengers was a large long room filled with rich furniture⁵—fine tables, sofas, chairs and armchairs. The walls and the large door were richly ornamented.

From the saloon I went to the deck. This was the favourite place with the passengers during the trip. There was a number of chairs on the deck, where passengers sat talking and watching the river. I sat down in one of the chairs and decided to watch the busy life of the landingplace.

It was particularly lively at two points of the landing: near

1. had better 最好还是……。这是固定的说法，现在时态也一样用 had better. 2. St. Louis [snt'lʊ:is] 在密西西比河中游，为密苏里州的首府。 3. rose 本义升起，此处引伸作突出解。 4. logs 是一段一段的木头。 5. filled with rich furniture. 充满了华贵的家具。rich 本义富有，有钱；引伸作华贵，精美解。

our steamboat and near another large boat, the "Magnolia."¹ She² was also ready to sail. Passengers were hurrying to the "Magnolia," fearing to be late. Everything showed that the ship was about to start.³ The same lively activity could be observed on our "Beauty of the West." The boats were so close that their sailors could shout to each other. From what they said and from the tone of their remarks I understood that the "Magnolia" and "Beauty of the West" were "rival boats." I soon learned that the two boats would start at the same time, and that a "race" was expected.

I had heard that the best boats often had races. The "Beauty of the West" and her rival both were commanded by well-known and popular river captains. Naturally they were also rivals. So⁴ were the sailors of the two boats. As for the owners of the ships, they thought only of their profit.

The boat that won in one of these races, became fashionable with the public.⁵

There were always many people who wanted to make a voyage on such a popular boat.

I soon discovered that the passengers were also eager for the race. Some of them looked forward to⁶ the excitement, while others were betting on the result.⁷

"The 'Beauty' is sure to win!" cried a fellow at my shoulder.⁸

"I'll bet twenty dollars on the 'Beauty'!"⁹

1. Magnolia [mæg'nəuljə] 船名。不是书中主人公乘的船，是另外一条船。
2. She 英语中船只用 she 作代称。
3. about to start 快要起程了。about 到“快要...”之意，此处 about 也不作“关于”解。
4. so 并不是“所以”的意思，而是代替前句 rivals 一字。
5. public 此处是名词，指公众。
6. looked forward to 渴望着...的到来。
7. betting on the result 对（竞赛的）结果打赌。就是猜哪一条船胜利，猜对的赢钱，猜错的输钱。
8. at my shoulder 紧在我背后。此处不是“在我肩膀上”的意思。
9. "Beauty" 就是 "Beauty of the West" 的简称。

"Will you bet, stranger?"

"No," I replied angrily.

He then turned to someone else:

"Twenty dollars that the 'Beauty' wins the race. Twenty dollars on the 'Beauty'!"

My thoughts were not very pleasant. It was my first trip on an American steamboat, and I had heard that these races often ended unhappily. I remembered all the stories of "boiler explosions, and I knew that these stories were true. Many of the passengers felt the same way about it.¹ Some of them wanted to ask the captain to cancel the race. I decided to speak to the captain and, leaving my seat, walked in his direction.

3 A NEW FELLOW-PASSENGER

Before I had reached the captain, I saw a carriage driving up to the landing-place. It was occupied by a young, richly-dressed lady.²

The carriage stopped in the centre of the landing-place and I saw the lady talking to one of the sailors, who then pointed to our captain. The captain stepped up to the side of the carriage and bowed to the lady. I heard every word.

"Sir! Are you the captain of the 'Beauty of the West'?"

"Yes, madam,"³ was the reply.

"May I go by your boat?"

"I shall be most happy, madam. There is still one unoccupied cabin on the boat."

"Never mind!" the lady said. "I don't need any. You will

1. felt the same way about it. 意即:也觉得这种竞赛太危险, 不应该。 2. It was occupied by a young richly-dressed lady. it 指上句的 carriage. occupied 本义是占领, 此处转义为“在里面坐着”。 3. Madam 对妇女的尊称。

reach my plantation before midnight and I shall not have to sleep on board."

The captain evidently impressed by the words 'my plantation,' asked where the lady wanted to land.

"At Bringiers,"¹ she replied. "Captain," the lady continued, "I have one condition."

"Name it,"² madam."

"It is said³ that you will have a race with the 'Magnolia.' In that case I cannot be your passenger."

The captain looked upset.

"You know," she continued, "last year I had a narrow escape,⁴ and I don't want to risk my life a second time."

"Madam —" the captain began and became silent.

"Oh, then!" exclaimed the lady, "if you cannot decide, I must wait for some other boat."

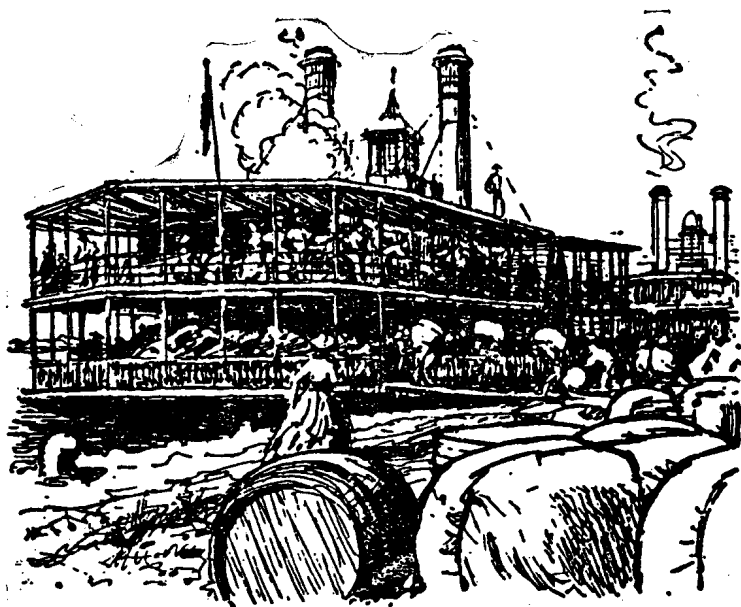
The captain hung his head. He was thinking hard. On the one hand, he wanted to have the race. On the other,⁵ he did not want to turn the lady away.⁶ She was the owner of a plantation and might wish to send goods down⁷ with his river boat. At last the captain said:

"I agree to your condition, madam. The boat shall not race. I promise you that."

"Thank you, captain."

She jumped down from the carriage, gave her arm to the captain and he led her politely to her cabin.

1. Bringiers [brɪŋˈʒjə:r] 地名。 2. Name it. 请把条件说出来吧。这里 name 是动词。 3. It is said... 听说... 4. a narrow escape 差不多送了命。narrow, 本义狭窄, escape 本义脱逃。 5. On the one hand ... on the other ... 一方面...一方面又...。 6. to turn ... away 是词组。 7. down 此地指从她的种植园到河口的 Louisiana, 是往下游走之意。



4 THE STEWARD

The lady aroused my curiosity. She was a “Creole.”¹ I had met very few people of that kind and wanted to know more about them. I knew they did not like Englishmen and Americans, whom they looked upon as invaders. I was also struck with the fact that² the lady had looked at me with great attention. I thought it was simple curiosity, and no more. The colour of my skin and eyes, and my clothes, told her I was a stranger in that land. I wanted to know the name of this woman. Her

1. creole ['kri:əul] 此处指 Louisiana 州的法国移民的后代。 2. I was also struck with the fact that ... 我也发觉...。这是固定的说法。



steward, I thought, could help me in this. He was a tall, grey-haired Frenchman. I came up to¹ him and asked him a few questions. But his answers were short.

"Sir, who is your mistress?" I said.

"A lady," was the answer.

"True. Any one may tell that if he looks at her. I should like to know her name."

"You have no business² to know it."

"Is it so important to keep it secret?"

The man made no answer and turned away. I tried to find out the lady's name from the carriage-driver, but he, too, would

1. came up to... 走到...的跟前。up 不作“上面”解。 2. business 本义“事务”，但在不同地方可作不同的解释。例如：I have no business with him. 我和他毫无关系。

not tell me.

However, I soon learned her name. I had returned to the boat and had again sat down on the deck to watch the sailors, who were carrying the lady's luggage: a great number of barrels, bags of coffee and many dried hams.

"Provisions for her plantation," I thought. Just then some boxes were carried on board the steamer.

"That is her personal luggage," I thought, and suddenly I saw some letters written on one of the boxes. I jumped from my seat, and, looking carefully at the letters, I read—

*"Eugenie Besançon."*¹

5 THE STARTING

The last bell rang and the large wheels of the ship began to turn.² The boat moved slowly from the landing-place into the middle of the river. As soon as we had started, I came out on deck to look at the scenery. The last houses of the city were soon passed. Their roofs disappeared slowly behind the horizon. The ship moved on between the picturesque shores of the Mississippi.

The river was here about half a mile wide. Its water was of a yellow colour. Dark forests appeared on the line of the horizon. Between those far-away forests and the river banks lay fields of sugar-cane, tobacco and cotton. Black slaves were at work in the fields. For a moment or two the scenery looked black. What is the good of all this beauty, if it is all the sweat of slaves!³

1. Eugenie Besançon [ju:ʒə'ni: beza:n'sɒn] 是本书女种植园主的名字。按: 这是法国名字, 因为她是法国人的后代。 2. the large wheels of the ship began to turn. 指船中部两旁的拨水轮, 当时轮船还没有使用现代的船尾水下螺旋推进器。 3. What is the good of all this beauty, if it is all the sweat of slaves! 按: 这句话表示主人公是爱好自由平等的。