

Jane Eyre

简·爱



英语世界名著简读丛书

江苏教育出版社

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〔英〕Charlotte Bronte

吴艾玲 译注

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前言

本书作者夏洛蒂·勃朗特(Charlotte Brontë, 1816~1855),是19世纪英国批判现实主义代表作家之一。马克思曾经把她和狄更斯、盖斯凯尔夫人和萨克雷并列,称为“当代杰出的英国小说家”。她出生于一个贫穷的牧师家庭。上过教规严厉、生活条件恶劣的寄宿学校,后来当过家庭教师。1854年与亚瑟·尼科尔斯结婚,次年去世。她的代表作有:《教师》(*Professor*, 1847),《简·爱》(*Jane Eyre*, 1847),《雪莉》(*Shirley*, 1849),以及《维莱特》(*Villette*, 1853)。

说到夏洛蒂·勃朗特,不得不提及她的两个妹妹:艾米莉·勃朗特和安妮·勃朗特。一家三姐妹都成为著名作家,这种现象恐怕在世界文坛上空前绝后。她们既作为璀璨的群星而闪耀,又作为单独的巨星而发光。艾米莉·勃朗特的作品有《呼啸山庄》,安妮·勃朗特发表过《艾格妮丝·格雷》,和《怀尔德菲尔府的房客》。

《简·爱》是夏洛蒂·勃朗特的代表作。它经过了一百多年的考验,已经在世界文学宝库中占有不可动摇的地位。它以一个出身卑微、无钱无势、相貌

平庸但有着强烈的自尊自爱、不堪欺辱个性的姑娘作为主人公，来反映当时的英国社会。该作品在社会、宗教、妇女和爱情等方面叛逆的描写，不仅表现了作者和主人公的个性，而且代表了英国当时普通妇女的心态。

《简·爱》故事发生在19世纪中叶英国乡村。女主人公简·爱从小就失去父母，之后被舅母里德太太在极不情愿的情况下收养下来。在盖茨海德府，她得不到长辈的爱抚和同辈的相伴，而深受虐待。原以为进入洛伍德慈善学校会有改变，然而，无论在精神上还是在肉体上她继续遭受折磨。她忍气吞声地度过了6年学生、两年教师的生涯，猛然感到该是独立闯荡世界、获得自由和新生活的时候了。于是她登报求职，当上了桑费尔德府的家庭教师。在那里，她鄙视徒有仪容、贪图钱财的上层社会妇女，以自己的纯情、清高和独立赢得了庄园主人罗切斯特的爱情。由于思想境界一致，情趣爱好相投，简·爱决定嫁给他。可是，就在他们在教堂举行婚礼的时候，有人揭发罗切斯特在15年前就结过婚，虽然他妻子是个疯子，但仍然活着。这个突如其来的打击使简·爱极为伤心，却没有使她失去对尊严和平等的要求。她悄悄地离开桑费尔德。在她濒临走投无路之际，遇上了里弗斯一家人。他们不仅搭救了她，而且还为她提供了小学教师职位，从而使她重新获得生存能力。在后来的日子里，简·爱意外地得到她叔叔的遗产，同时获悉里弗斯兄妹是自己的表哥表姐。里弗斯发现

简·爱身上具有许多优良品质,很适合做一个传教士的妻子,便向简·爱求婚。简·爱认为,人与人之间的感情胜过人与上帝之间的感情,起码可以说男女之间的爱情本身就是上帝爱人类的体现。她不愿意放弃爱情而随着里弗斯献身于上帝。她毅然决定要找回那刻骨铭心的爱。带着物质上和精神上的平等,她重返桑费尔德。此时,罗切斯特的财产以及他的疯妻子都毁于火灾,连自己也失去了做一个完整人的资格。他双目失明,一手残废,然而简·爱不但没有嫌弃他,相反觉得他在各方面与自己处于一条水平线上。他们最终成为眷属。

这本简写本是用 2000 个常用词汇将原文改写而成的,但基本故事情节和语言风格依旧保存,文字简洁流畅。为了给中级英语爱好者提供“轻松之中学英语”的机会,笔者在此将全文译成中文,并对书中的难点作了适当的解释。译文放在最后的目的,是为了不影响阅读的完整性。读者在注释的初步帮助下仍有不解之处时再查阅汉语译文。

错误之处,敬请斧正。

译注者

1996 年 9 月于南京

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Chapter 1 Gateshead¹

There was no possibility of taking a walk that day. We had, indeed, been wandering in the leafless garden for an hour in the morning, but since dinner, the cold winter wind had brought with it such dark clouds and such heavy rain that further exercise out of doors was impossible.

I was glad of it. I never liked long walks, especially on cold afternoons. Coming home in the twilight was terrible to me—with frozen fingers and toes, and a heart saddened by the scoldings of Bessie, the nurse, and by the consciousness of how weak my thin little body was, compared with² those of Eliza, John and Georgiana Reed.

Eliza, John and Georgiana were now gathered round their mama in the drawing room at Gateshead, their home. She lay resting by the fire-side, and with her loved ones near her, for the

1. Gateshead 盖茨海德府, 是简·爱的舅妈的家 2. be compared with 与……相比

time neither quarrelling nor crying, she looked perfectly happy. She had dismissed me from the group, saying that she regretted she was forced to keep me at a distance, but that until I tried earnestly to develop a more friendly and attractive nature, she really could not admit me to pleasures intended only for contented, happy little children¹.

‘But what have I done?’ I asked.
‘Jane, I don’t like questions or objections. Children should not speak to their elders in such a way. Sit down somewhere, and until you can speak pleasantly, remain silent.’

A small breakfast room lay next to the drawing room. I crept in there. It contained bookshelves, and I soon took possession of a book², making sure that it should be one full of pictures. I climbed on to the window-seat, and gathering up my feet³, I sat cross-legged. There, having drawn the red curtains, I felt doubly sheltered⁴.

Every picture told a story, mysterious often to

1. she ... children 她不允许我享受只有那些知足、幸福的小孩子才能享受到的乐趣。admit... to 让……享有

2. take possession of 拥有 3. gather up 蜷缩(肢体等)

4. shelter 可以作名词,也可作动词。作名词是“遮掩”之意。这里的过去分词表示“人被东西遮掩住”。

my undeveloped understanding¹, yet always deeply interesting — as interesting as the stories that Bessie² sometimes began on winter evenings, when she happened to be in a good temper, holding our eager attention with memories of love and adventure taken from old songs and stories.

With the book on my knee, I was happy. I feared nothing but interruption, and that came too soon.

The voice of John Reed called me. Then he paused. He found the room empty.

‘Where in the world is she?’ he cried. ‘Lizzy! Georgy!’ he called to his sisters. ‘Jane is not here. Tell Mama she has run out into the rain. Bad animal!’

‘It is lucky that I drew the curtain,’ I thought, and I wished with all my heart that he might not discover my hiding place. Nor would he have found it³ out for himself, as he was neither sharp-sighted nor intelligent, but Eliza put her head in at the door, and said at once:

‘She is in the window-seat, surely, John.’

1. undeveloped understanding 未成熟的理解力 2. Bessie 贝西, 简·爱的舅妈家的女佣人 3. it 指前面的 hiding place 躲藏处

I came out immediately, because I trembled at the idea of being dragged out by John.

‘What do you want?’ I asked.

‘Say, “What do you want, Master Reed?”’ was the answer. ‘I want you to come here.’ Seating himself in an armchair, he made a sign to me to approach and stand before him.

John Reed was a schoolboy of fourteen years, four years older than I, large and fat for his age¹, with an unhealthy skin, coarse features and thick arms and legs. He ought now to have been at school, but his mama had taken him home for a month or two, ‘on account of his delicate health’². His schoolmaster said that his condition was the result of greed, but his mother’s heart turned from such a severe opinion, and she preferred to believe that he worked too hard and missed his home.

John was not very fond of his mother and sisters, and he hated me. He treated me badly, and punished me, not two or three times in the week, nor once or twice in the day, but continually. I had

1. large and fat for his age 对于他那个年龄来说,身体长得太胖了 2. on account of his delicate health 由于他脆弱的身体。on account of 因为,由于

no protection from him¹. The servants did not like to offend their young master, and Mrs Reed never appeared to see him strike me or to hear him insult me, though he did both sometimes in her presence²—more frequently, however, behind her back.

Being by long habit obedient to John, I came up to his chair. He spent about three minutes in putting out his tongue at me. I knew that he would soon strike, and while I waited fearfully for the blow, I considered his disgusting and ugly appearance. I wonder whether he read the thought in my face³, for suddenly, without speaking, he struck sharply and hard. I almost fell, and on recovering my balance⁴, drew back a step from his chair.

‘That is for questioning Mama,’ he said, ‘and for creeping like a thief behind curtains, and for the look you had in your eyes two minutes ago, you rat!’

1. I had no protection from him. 没有人来保护我,不让他来打我。protect ... from 防止某人做某事 2. in her presence 当她的面 3. read the thought in my face 从我脸上看出我的心思。read 在此是“理解”之意,例如: read a riddle 猜出谜语, read one's hand 看某人的手相 4. on recovering my balance 当我站稳的时候。“on”加上动名词相当于一个以 as soon as, once 引导的时间状语从句。

I was so accustomed to John Reed's insults that I never had any idea of replying to them. My care was how to receive the blow that would certainly follow.

'What were you doing behind the curtain?' he asked.

'I was reading.'

'Show me the book.'

I returned to the window and fetched it in silence.

'You have no right to take our books. You are a poor relation, Mama says. You have no money. Your father left you none. You ought to beg, and not live here with gentlemen's children like us, and eat the same meals as we do, and wear clothes at our mama's expense. Now, I'll teach you to interfere with my bookshelves¹, because they *are* mine². All the house is mine, or will be in a few years. Go and stand by the door, out of the way of the mirror and the windows.'

I did so, not at first realising his intention,

1. interfere with my bookshelves 乱翻我的书架。interfere with 打扰,干涉 2. because they *are* mine 因为书架是*我*的。本书中的斜体部分表示强调。翻成中文时,有时可以转换到其他的词,例如此句,可转换到“我的”。

but when I saw him lift and balance the book and stand in the act of¹ aiming it, I sprang aside with a cry of alarm. Not soon enough, however. The heavy thing was thrown, it hit me, and I fell, striking my head against the door and cutting it. The cut bled², and the pain was sharp. My extreme fear had passed its limit, and changed to other feelings.

‘Wicked and cruel boy!’ I said. ‘You are like a murderer — you are like a slave-driver — you are like the evil rulers of ancient Rome!’

‘What! What!’ he cried. ‘Did she say that to me? Did you hear her, Eliza and Georgiana? I’ll tell Mama! But first —’

He ran straight at me. I felt him grasp my hair and shoulder³. He had attacked a dangerous thing⁴: I really thought him a murderer. I felt a drop or two of blood from my head running down my neck, and my sense of suffering for the moment conquered my fear. I fought him madly. I

1. stand in the act of 站在那做……的动作 2. The cut bled 伤口在流血。 3. I felt him grasp my hair and shoulder. 我感觉到他在抓住我的头发和臂膀。 4. He had attacked a dangerous thing 他打的是一个会反抗的人。本书中有许多貌似简单的词,特别是形容词,译成中文时,要根据语境来理解其含义。