



外研社·企鹅英语分级有声读物

The Turn of the Screw

拧紧的心弦


Henry James (英) 著
王春景 注



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● 初中一、二年级学生适用

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FOREIGN TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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前言

亲爱的老师们，同学们，“外研社·企鹅英语分级有声读物”丛书是由外语教学与研究出版社和培生教育出版集团(Pearson Education)联合推出的又一力作。本丛书为广大学生提供了充分享受阅读乐趣的大平台！

我们出版此套分级读物的宗旨是为了给学习者提供大量的、不同题材的阅读材料。材料不仅要适合读者的语言能力水平，更要能够激发阅读兴趣——让读者感到自己是在读故事，听故事，而不是在学(study)英语，从而卸去教材课本中枯燥的语法知识的沉重负担，真正做到寓教于乐。更重要的一点是，读完一本小册子后你会很有成就感，觉得学习英语就是这么轻松、愉快！

本套丛书内容丰富，由易渐难，主要突出了以下特色：

分级明确

结合最新颁布的国家《英语课程标准》(实验稿)的精神划分适用年级，遵循语言学习的规律，充分考虑到不同年龄段学生生理和心理发展的特点和需求；

配有音带

有助于提高听力水平，加强学生对语言的理解力；

插图生动

带你进入“读图时代”，意向直观、准确；

题材丰富

涵盖现代流行、经典名著和精彩原创三大类别，内容还涉及名人、名著、电影、戏剧等不同的领域；

注释简洁

帮助减少阅读过程中可能遇到的阻力，并激发学习者的自信心；

配有练习

理解题目按照阅读图式认知理论精心设计，为阅读提供了方向性指导与检测手段。

如果你们喜欢这套读物，请把它推荐给朋友们。如果你们对这套读物有什么意见和建议，也请告诉我们。愿这套读物让广大的读者受益匪浅，成为大家课外的良师益友！

很多具有丰富教学经验的中小学教师为这套读物做了注释和相关练习，我们在此表示衷心的感谢！

Introduction

"They were a wicked pair," Mrs Grose said, "but what can they do now? They're dead."*

"They're still here . . . They can still take Miles and Flora from us!"

A young lady has come to a big country house to teach two young children. It is her first job and she is alone with the housekeeper, Mrs Grose. Strange things begin to happen. She sees a man on the roof* of the house, and a woman by the lake, dressed in black. The man and woman are dead, so these are their ghosts*! What do they want? Who are they looking for? And why?

A terrible story of fear and danger begins. The children are beautiful but are they good? Can the new governess help the children? Or will the ghosts of Peter Quint and Miss Jessel take Miles and Flora away?

Henry James wrote this famous story in 1898. He wrote it for an American magazine named *Collier's*. Later he put it into a book. It is one of the most famous ghost stories written in English. Benjamin Britten used the story to make a musical play with the same title.

Henry James was an American, born in New York in 1843. His father was a well-known writer and speaker, and his brother, William James, was a famous university teacher. As a young man, Henry James travelled widely in Europe and he also studied law at Harvard University. He began to write short stories in 1865. He moved to England in 1876 and stayed there for the rest of his life. He lived in the small town of Rye on the south coast. Many famous writers came to visit him there: Joseph Conrad, Ford Madox Ford and H. G. Wells. Wells became one of his greatest friends. Henry James wrote many famous books, among them



*Washington Square** (1880), *The Portrait** of a Lady (1881), *The Bostonians** (1886), *What Maisie Knew* (1887), *The Wings** of the Dove* (1902), *The Ambassadors** (1903) and *The Golden Bowl* (1904). A number of these books have now become films. In 1915, James decided to become British and the King of England gave him the Order* of Merit* (a title* which the king or queen gives to successful people in different areas of work). James died the following year.

Henry James writes about how people think and feel when they are unhappy or in love or afraid, or when they want to be rich or famous. The people in his books are usually people with plenty of money. They like to travel around the world. One of his favourite subjects is young Americans who visit Europe and make friends with Europeans.* The Americans are usually rich and innocent* and the Europeans are often clever and selfish.* they want to get their hands on the Americans' money. Not many of James's stories have happy endings. By the end, the innocent people have usually become wiser.* they don't believe everything that others tell them. Most of his stories take place* in the real world. *The Turn of the Screw** is unusual because it is about ghosts.

The title of the book is rather strange. It means "making the reader's feelings tighter*", that is, stronger. In this story we feel fear and danger. We are afraid of what is going to happen to the two children. But we don't understand clearly what things the children have done. Are they really innocent? Did Quint and Miss Jessel teach them to be bad? If they really *are* bad, what bad things did they do? Why do the ghosts want to take them away? Will the children die?

Even when we get to the end of the story, we are still not able to answer most of these questions. Perhaps this is why the story seems so modern. All these unknown facts form a mystery* which



we go on thinking about. *The Turn of the Screw* is a story that is very difficult to forget.

内容简介

“他们是邪恶的一对，”格罗斯太太说，“但他们现在能做什么呢？他们死了。”

“他们还在这儿……他们仍能从我们这里夺走迈尔斯和弗洛拉！”

一个年轻的女子为了教两个孩子，来到了乡下的一幢大房子。这是她的第一份工作，她只身一人和管家格罗斯太太待在一起。奇怪的事情开始发生了。她看到了房顶上的一个男人和站在湖边身穿黑衣服的女人。这对男女已经死了，所以她看到的应当是他们的幽灵。他们想要干什么？他们在找什么？为什么呢？

一个令人恐惧、充满危险的可怕故事开始了。两个孩子都很漂亮，但他们是好孩子吗？这位新来的女家庭教师能帮孩子们吗？彼特·昆特和杰塞尔小姐会把迈尔斯和弗洛拉夺走吗？

亨利·詹姆斯于1898年写了这个著名的故事。他是为一家名叫《柯利尔》的美国杂志写的。后来他把这个故事编进了一本书里。这是用英文所写的最有名的幽灵故事之一。本杰明·布里滕用这个故事编了一出同名音乐剧。

亨利·詹姆斯是个美国人，1843年出生于纽约。他的父亲是一位著名的作家和演说家。他的哥哥威廉姆·詹姆斯是一位很有名的大学教师。年轻时的亨利·詹姆斯广游欧洲，同时还在哈佛大学学习法律。他于1865年开始写短篇故事。1876年他移居英格兰并在那里度过了余生。他住在南海岸一个名叫拉伊的小镇上。许多著名的作家前往那里拜会他。其中有约瑟夫·康拉德、福

特·马多克斯·福特与H.G.威尔斯。其中威尔斯成了他最好的朋友之一。亨利·詹姆斯写了许多著名的书。它们是《华盛顿广场》(1880),《贵妇画像》(1881),《波士顿人》(1886),《梅齐知道什么》(1887),《鸽翼》(1902),《使节》(1903)和《金碗》(1904)。这些书中相当一部分已改编成电影。1915年,詹姆斯决定加入英国国籍,英国国王并授予他功绩勋章(一种头衔,是由国王或女王授予在不同领域里取得巨大成就的人)。詹姆斯于次年即1916年去世。

亨利·詹姆斯擅长描写人们在不愉快时、恋爱时、害怕时或想变富、想出名时的想法和感受。他书中的人物通常是有钱人,他们喜欢周游世界。他最喜欢写的主题之一是年轻的美国人到欧洲游览,与欧洲人交朋友。美国人通常富有而淳朴;欧洲人通常聪明但自私,他们总想把手伸向美国人的钱袋。詹姆斯所写的故事中有圆满结局的不多。到故事的结尾部分,淳朴的人通常变得更聪明:他们不相信别人告诉他们的每一件事情。他所写的大多数故事都发生在现实生活中。但本书不同于一般,因为它是有关幽灵的故事。

书名相当奇特。意思是“使读者的心感到绷得更紧”,那种紧张的感觉更强烈。在故事里我们感到了恐惧和危险。我们担心有什么不测会发生在两个孩子身上。但是我们并不清楚两个孩子究竟做了什么。他们真是天真无邪的吗?昆特和杰塞尔小姐把孩子们教坏了吗?如果他们真是坏孩子,他们做了什么坏事呢?为什么幽灵要把他们带走?孩子们会死吗?

即使我们读到了故事的结尾,我们还是不能回答大多数问题。也许,这就是为什么这个故事如此具有时代感。也正是这些未知的现象构成了谜团,诱发我们继续思考。因而这个故事就令人特别难忘。



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Chapter*1 A Governess* Gets a Job

It was a strange story which we heard in that old house, on the night before Christmas. We sat by the fire and listened silently until the end. Then somebody said, "How unusual! It's the first time that I've ever heard about a child who saw a ghost."

I could see that Douglas wanted to say something. After a few seconds, he spoke. "It's not the only time that a child has seen a ghost. A ghost story with one child in it is frightening* enough. But two children who see ghosts – isn't that quite strange? Doesn't that give the story another turn of the screw?"

"Of course!" somebody answered. "Two children give two turns of the screw! We want to hear the story!"

Douglas looked at all of us, and said quietly, "It's a terrible story. It is the most frightening story that I know."

"Then begin at once!" I said.

"I can't. It's in a book which is locked in my desk at home. I can ask my servant* to put it in the post."

"Oh yes! Please do!" Everyone asked him to hurry.

"Is it your story?" I asked him.

"No, no! I heard it from a woman. I've never forgotten it. She wrote it down, and when she died it came to me. She was ten years older than me. She was my sister's governess when I was a student at university. In the summer holidays I talked to her a lot. Yes – don't smile – she was beautiful. She was also clever and interesting, and I liked her very much. I think she liked me too. It was forty years ago, but I remember everything."

"Did she tell any others her story?"

"No, she said that I was the first person to hear it."

The packet* arrived in the post two days later. We all wanted to hear the story, and we sat down ready after dinner that evening.

Before Douglas read the story to us, he told us about the young woman. She was twenty years old; she came from a poor, church* family, and she decided to work as a governess. She heard about a man who wanted to employ* a governess for two children. She went to London and met him at his large house in Harley Street. They were his brother's children; his brother was dead, and now he had to look after them.

The man was handsome,* rich, and unmarried,* and the young woman was immediately in love with him.

"I'll be so pleased if you can take the job!" he told her. "London isn't a good place for children. I've taken them to my family home in Essex – it's a large house with big gardens and a park. I have no time to look after them. I've sent my best servants there, and the housekeeper, Mrs Grose, is a very good woman. You will like her, I'm sure."

He was very worried about the children, a little girl and her older brother. Not long ago, their first governess died suddenly, and now their uncle had to employ a new governess quickly. He had to find the right person. The boy was away at school, but he came back in the holidays, and the little girl was home all the time.

"How did the first governess die?" a listener asked Douglas. "Was the job dangerous?"

"You will hear everything," he answered.

The young lady did not give her answer at once. It was her first job; and the house was big, and almost empty. The money was good, but could she be happy there, alone? She wanted to help this wonderful man, but could she look after the children well enough?

She returned to the house in Harley Street two days later.

"I have decided to take the job," she said.



"I'll be so pleased if you can take the job!" he told her.

"Her love for her new master*—" somebody said.

"Yes, of course. This love helped her later – it helped her to be brave,*" Douglas continued.*"But her employer said, 'There's one thing that you must promise* me. You must never bring any problem to me. You must never write to me. You must decide everything.'"

She promised. He took her hand; he was so pleased with her. She never saw him again.

Douglas opened the red book on his knee,*and began to read the governess's story to us.

Chapter 2 The Two Children

I was very worried during the journey. Was I making a mistake? I was going alone to a strange house, to teach two children that I did not know. But it was a beautiful day, and when I arrived, the house was a pleasant surprise. It was large, but light, with open windows and bright flowers in the gardens. And Flora was the most beautiful child that I have ever seen. Her hair was gold in colour, and her dress was blue. She and Mrs Grose, the housekeeper, were there to meet me.

Mrs Grose seemed to be a kind, good woman, and at supper that evening, I asked her about Miles, the boy.

"If you like this little girl, you will like the boy, too," she said. She smiled at Flora, and Flora smiled at us both. "He's so clever."

"When will I see him? Tomorrow?"

"No, the day after."

I was very excited that night, and did not sleep much. I heard some small sounds in the house; perhaps someone was awake.* My room was large and comfortable.* There was a little bed in it for Flora, but on my first night she slept with Mrs Grose. I woke up with the birds, and looked forward to* my first full day with her.



When I arrived, the house was a pleasant surprise.

Flora showed me everything in the house and garden. She showed me the secret places, the old stairs, the empty rooms. After half an hour we were good friends.

"Perhaps," I thought, "I'm in some wonderful story. But, no, it's real, and it will be an adventure* for me."

I remembered my promise to my employer that evening. A letter came from Miles's school. I was not excited now, but worried. The head at the school wrote that Miles could not go back there again.

"They won't take him back!" I told Mrs Grose.

"Never?" she asked, surprised.

"Never. Here, you can read the letter."

I gave it to her but she shook* her head sadly.

"I cannot read," she said. "What has he done?" she was almost crying.

"They don't say. But they think that he's dangerous to the other children."

"Dangerous?" Mrs Grose was angry now.

"Is he a bad child?"

"He's only ten years old! How can he be bad? Is she bad?" She pointed* at Flora, who was sitting quietly at the table. The little girl was writing, practising* her letter 'O'.

"Naughty*, then?" I asked her.

"Oh yes, of course, he is sometimes naughty! But—"

"Every boy must be naughty sometimes."

"Yes! A boy who is not naughty is not a boy for me!"

Later, before Miles arrived, I asked her about the last governess.

"What kind of lady was she?"

"She was young and pretty like you."

"Was she careful with the boy?"

"With some things – yes. But perhaps not with everything. But she's dead now, so I mustn't speak badly of her."

"Yes, of course," I said, quickly. "Was she ill? Did she die here?"



"He can't be bad! It's not possible!"