

JANE EYRE

世界文学经典名著

英文原版·注释本
(英) Charlotte Brontë 著

简·爱



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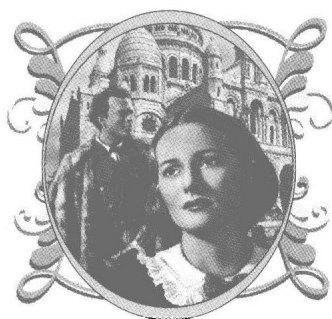
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简·爱

Jane Eyre

夏洛蒂·勃朗特（英）

Charlotte Brontë

注释 闫秋燕

世界文学经典名著

主编 范希春 马德高
英文原版·注释本

Jane Eyre



夏洛蒂·勃朗特(Charlotte Brontë 1816—1855),是英国文学史上著名三姐妹作家中的老大,她出生于一个乡村牧师家庭,童年时生活在环境条件极为恶劣的慈善学校。成年后做过家庭教师,但一直倾情于文学创作,她的代表作即是本书《简·爱》。

《简·爱》这部小说,塑造了一位性格倔强、情感激烈,具有独立精神的女性。简从小父母双亡,寄居在舅父家中,舅父死后,舅母一家对简百般虐待;简奋起反抗,结果是被打发到罗伍德寄宿学校。在寄宿学校生活数年后,简应聘到桑费尔德庄园当家庭教师。虽然,桑费尔德庄园的主人罗切斯特性情乖张,言辞严厉,但是简不卑不亢,态度独立,举止勇敢。这使得罗切斯特渐渐对她产生了好感。经过一段时间的相处,两人相爱了,简也答应了罗切斯特的求婚。但是,正当他们在教堂举行婚礼时,一位叫梅森的人领着律师赶到现场,宣布罗切斯特已有妻室,不能再结婚。原来,罗切斯特的父兄,为了让罗切斯特不参与分配家中的遗产,便安排罗切斯特与一位疯女人结婚,以求合法地占有这位疯女人的财产,这位疯女人便是梅森的姐姐。罗切斯特结婚后只好把妻子关在庄园楼顶的密室中,以防她跑出来伤人或走失。这些年来,罗切斯特一直过着有名无实的婚姻生活。

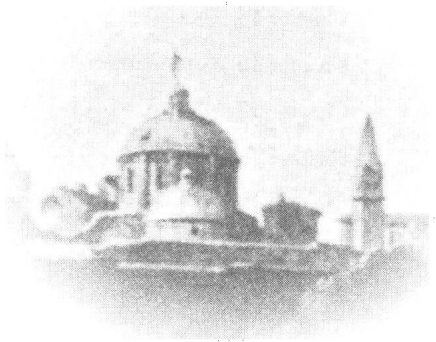
感情受到意外沉重打击的简,带着自己简单的行李出走了,但是举目无亲的简昏倒在路途中,幸遇圣·约翰·里维尔斯和两位妹妹才得救。从此,简被圣·约翰一家收留,并在他们的帮助下做了乡村教师。

圣·约翰是一位献身宗教的青年人,他的理想是到印度做个传教士,为此,他要求简和他结婚,并一起去印度,在他的坚决要求下,简勉强答应下来。但是处于思想矛盾斗争中的简,突然间似乎听到了罗切斯特的呼叫,断然决定返回桑费尔德庄园,但庄园已成一片废墟,心爱的人罗切斯特已双目失明,一只手残废了,并且在火灾中破了产——原来,罗切斯特患疯病的妻子放火烧了庄园,自己也坠楼身亡。

简和罗切斯特结了婚。他们最丰富的财产是爱情,他们最大的困难是生活——或许,简的所做所为便是一部分女人关于爱情的最浪漫的诠释。

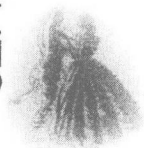
关于《简·爱》,西方某些人认为,它是 10 部改变了世界的重要书籍之一,他们认为:

这位思想独立的女性简的故事以及她与罗切斯特先生的爱情为女性打开了一个全新的空间,成为作者及历代女权主义者前进的航灯。(The Story of the independentminded Jane and her love affair with Mr. Rochester opened up new dimensions for women both as Writer and generations of feminists.)



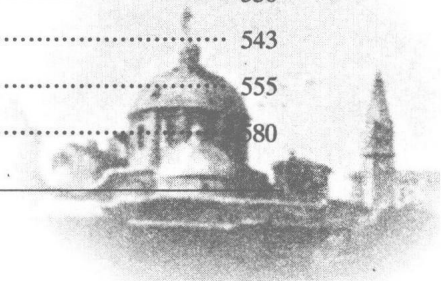
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Chapter 1

There was no possibility of taking a walk that day. We had been wandering, indeed, in the leafless shrubbery an hour in the morning; but since dinner (Mrs. Reed, when there was no company, dined early) the cold winter wind had brought with it clouds so sombre, and a rain so penetrating, that further outdoor exercise was now out of the question.

I was glad of it: I never liked long walks, especially on chilly afternoons: dreadful to me was the coming home in the raw twilight^①, with nipped fingers and toes, and a heart saddened by the chidings of Bessie, the nurse, and humbled by the consciousness of my physical inferiority to Eliza, John, and Georgiana Reed.

The said Eliza, John, and Georgiana were now clustered round their mama in the drawing-room: she lay reclined on a sofa by the fireside, and with her darlings about her (for the time neither quarrelling nor crying) looked perfectly happy. Me, she had dispensed from joining the group; saying, “She regretted to be under the necessity of keeping me at a distance^②; but that until she heard from Bessie, and could discover by her own observation, that I was endeavouring in good earnest to acquire a more sociable and childlike disposition, a more attractive and sprightly manner—something lighter, franker, more natural, as it were—she really must exclude me from privileges intended only for contented, happy, little children.”

“What does Bessie say I have done?” I asked.

“Jane, I don’t like cavillers or questioners^③; besides, there is something truly forbidding in a child taking up her elders in that manner. Be seated

① in the raw twilight: 在阴冷的黄昏

② She regretted to...: 她为自己不得不让我离他们远一点感到遗憾。

③ cavilers or questioners: 吹毛求疵或寻根究底的人

somewhere; and until you can speak pleasantly, remain silent.”

A small breakfast-room adjoined the drawing-room, I slipped in there. It contained a bookcase: I soon possessed myself of a volume, taking care that it should be one stored with pictures. I mounted into the window-seat^①; gathering up my feet, I sat cross-legged, like a Turk; and, having drawn the red moreen curtain nearly close, I was shrined in double retirement.

Folds of scarlet drapery shut in my view to the right hand; to the left were the clear panes of glass, protecting, but not separating me from the drear November day. At intervals, while turning over the leaves of my book, I studied the aspect of that winter afternoon. Afar, it offered a pale blank of mist and cloud; near a scene of wet lawn and storm-beat shrub, with ceaseless rain sweeping away wildly before a long and lamentable blast.

I returned to my book—Bewick’s *History of British Birds*^②; the letter-press thereof I cared little for, generally speaking; and yet there were certain introductory pages that, child as I was, I could not pass quite as a blank. They were those which treat of the haunts of sea-fowl; of “the solitary rocks and promontories” by them only inhabited; of the coast of Norway, studded with isles from its southern extremity, the Lindeness, or Naze, to the North Cape—

“Where the Northern Ocean, in vast whirls
Boils round the naked, melancholy isles
Of farthest Thule^③; and the Atlantic surge
Pours in among the stormy Hebrides^④. ”

① window-seat: 窗座, 尤指室内凸形窗子里侧的宽窗台, 可做座位。

② Bewick’s *History of British Birds*: 比韦克的《英国禽鸟史》, Thomas Bewick (1753—1828): 英国画家, 木刻家, 以书籍插图而闻名。他的《英国禽鸟史》于 1797 年出版。

③ farthest Thule: 极地, 世界尽头

④ Hebrides: (英国) 赫布里底群岛

Nor could I pass unnoticed the suggestion of the bleak shores of Lapland, Siberia, Spitzbergen, Nova Zembla, Iceland, Greenland^①, with “the vast sweep of the Arctic Zone^②, and those forlorn regions of dreary space,—that reservoir of frost and snow, where firm fields of ice, the accumulation of centuries of winters, glazed in Alpine heights above heights, surround the pole and concentrate the multiplied rigours of extreme cold.” Of these death-white realms I formed an idea of my own: shadowy, like all the half-comprehended notions that float dim through children’s brains, but strangely impressive. The words in these introductory pages connected themselves with the succeeding vignettes, and gave significance to the rock standing up alone in a sea of billow and spray; to the broken boat stranded on a desolate coast; to the cold and ghastly moon glancing through bars of cloud at a wreck just sinking.

I cannot tell what sentiment haunted the quite solitary churchyard, with its inscribed headstone; its gate, its two trees, its low horizon, girdled by a broken wall, and its newly-risen crescent, attesting the hour of eventide.

The two ships becalmed on a torpid sea, I believed to be marine phantoms.

The fiend pinning down the thief’s pack behind him, I passed over quickly: it was an object of terror.

So was the black horned thing seated aloof on a rock, surveying a distant crowd surrounding a gallows.

Each picture told a story; mysterious often to my undeveloped understanding and imperfect feelings, yet ever profoundly interesting: as interesting as the tales Bessie sometimes narrated on winter evenings, when she chanced to be in good humour; and when, having brought her ironing-table to the nursery hearth, she allowed us to sit about it, and while she got

① Lapland, Siberia, Spitzbergen, Nova...: 拉普兰, 西伯利亚, 斯匹次卑尔根群岛, 新地岛, 冰岛, 格陵兰岛

② the Arctic Zone: 北极地带

up Mrs. Reed's lace frills, and crimped her nightcap borders, fed our eager attention with passages of love and adventure taken from old fairy tales and other ballads; or (as at a later period I discovered) from the pages of *Pamela*^①, and *Henry, Earl of Moreland*^②.

With Bewick on my knee, I was then happy: happy at least in my way. I feared nothing but interruption, and that came too soon. The breakfast-room door opened.

"Boh! Madam Mope^③!" cried the voice of John Reed; then he paused: he found the room apparently empty.

"Where the dickens is she!" he continued. "Lizzy! Georgy! (calling to his sisters) Joan is not here: tell mama she is run out into the rain—bad animal!"

"It is well I drew the curtain," thought I; and I wished fervently he might not discover my hiding-place: nor would John Reed have found it out himself; he was not quick either of vision or conception; but Eliza just put her head in at the door, and said at once—

"She is in the window-seat, to be sure, Jack."

And I came out immediately, for I trembled at the idea of being dragged forth by the said Jack.

"What do you want?" I asked, with awkward diffidence.

"Say, 'What do you want, Master Reed?'" was the answer. "I want you to come here;" and seating himself in an armchair, he intimated by a gesture that I was to approach and stand before him.

John Reed was a schoolboy of fourteen years old; four years older than I, for I was but ten: large and stout for his age, with a dingy and unwholesome

① *Pamela*:《帕米拉》,作者为英国小说家理查逊(Samuel Richardson 1689—1761)

② *Henry, Earl of Moreland*:《莫兰伯爵亨利》韦斯利(John Weslev)根据爱尔兰小说家和剧作家布鲁克(Henry Brooke)的小说《显赫的傻瓜》(the Fool of Quality)删节而成的一部畅销书,首次出版于1781年。

③ *Madam Mope*:忧郁的小姐(John Reed对Jane Eyre的蔑称)

skin; thick lineaments in a spacious visage, heavy limbs and large extremities. He gorged himself habitually at table, which made him bilious, and gave him a dim and bleared eye and flabby cheeks. 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." Mr. Miles, the master, affirmed that he would do very well if he had fewer cakes and sweetmeats sent him from home; but the mother's heart turned from an opinion so harsh, and inclined rather to the more refined idea that John's sallowness was owing to over-application and, perhaps, to pining after home^①.

John had not much affection for his mother and sisters, and an antipathy to me. He bullied and punished me; not two or three times in the week, nor once or twice in the day, but continually: every nerve I had feared him, and every morsel of flesh in my bones shrank when he came near. There were moments when I was bewildered by the terror he inspired, because I had no appeal whatever against either his menaces or his inflictions; the servants did not like to offend their young master by taking my part against him, and Mrs. Reed was blind and deaf on the subject: she never saw him strike or heard him abuse me, though he did both now and then in her very presence, more frequently, however, behind her back.

Habitually obedient to John, I came up to his chair: he spent some three minutes in thrusting out his tongue at me as far as he could without damaging the roots: I knew he would soon strike, and while dreading the blow, I mused on the disgusting and ugly appearance of him who would presently deal it. I wonder if he read that notion in my face; for, all at once, without speaking, he struck suddenly and strongly. I tottered, and on regaining my equilibrium retired back a step or two from his chair.

"That is for your impudence in answering mama a while since^②," said

① but the mother's...:但他妈妈根本听不进如此刺耳的意见,她把约翰的脸色不好归结为用功过度抑或是想家。

② a while since:刚才 since 同 ago

he, “and for your sneaking way of getting behind curtains, and for the look you had in your eyes two minutes since, you rat!”

Accustomed to John Reed’s abuse, I never had an idea of replying to it; my care was how to endure the blow which would certainly follow the insult.

“What were you doing behind the curtain?” he asked.

“I was reading.”

“Show the book.”

I returned to the window and fetched it thence.

“You have no business to take our books^①; you are a dependant, mama says; you have no money; your father left you none; you ought to beg, and not to live here with gentlemen’s children like us, and eat the same meals we do, and wear clothes at our mama’s expense. Now, I’ll teach you to rummage my bookshelves; for they are mine; all the house belongs to me, or will do 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 aware what was his intention; but when I saw him lift and poise the book and stand in act to hurl it, I instinctively started aside with a cry of alarm: not soon enough, however; the volume was flung, it hit me, and I fell, striking my head against the door and cutting it. The cut bled, the pain was sharp; my terror had passed its climax; other feelings succeeded.

“Wicked and cruel boy!” I said. “You are like a murderer—you are like a slave-driver—you are like the Roman emperors!”

I had read Goldsmith’s *History of Rome*^②, and had formed my opinion of Nero^③, Caligula, etc. Also I had drawn parallels in silence, which I never

① You have no...: 你没有资格动我们的书。

② Goldsmith’s *History of Rome*: 哥尔斯密的《罗马史》哥尔斯密(Oliver Goldsmith(1730—1774)), 英国著名作家,《罗马史》首次出版于1769年。

③ Nero: 尼禄(Nero Claudius Caesar 37—68)和下文中的卡利古拉(Caligula 12—41)都是古罗马皇帝,以暴虐闻名

thought thus to have declared aloud^①.

“What! what!” he cried. “Did she say that to me? Did you hear her, Eliza and Georgiana? Won’t I tell mama? but first—”

He ran headlong at me: I felt him grasp my hair and my shoulder: he had closed with a desperate thing. I really saw in him a tyrant, a murderer^②. I felt a drop or two of blood from my head trickle down my neck, and was sensible of somewhat pungent suffering: these sensations for the time predominated over fear, and I received him in frantic sort. I don’t very well know what I did with my hands, but he called me “Rat! Rat!” and bellowed out aloud. Aid was near him: Eliza and Georgiana had run for Mrs. Reed, who was gone upstairs; she now came upon the scene, followed by Bessie and her maid Abbot. We were parted: I heard the words—

“Dear! dear! What a fury to fly at Master John!”

“Did ever anybody see such a picture of passion!”

Then Mrs. Reed subjoined—

“Take her away to the red-room, and lock her in there.” Four hands were immediately laid upon me, and I was borne upstairs.

① Also I had...:我曾在心里暗自把约翰和他们比较过,但我从没想过会这样大声嚷出来。

② I really saw...:在我看来,他就是一个暴君,一个杀人犯。

Chapter 2

I resisted all the way: a new thing for me, and a circumstance which greatly strengthened the bad opinion Bessie and Miss Abbot were disposed to entertain of me. The fact is, I was a trifle beside myself; or rather *out of* myself, as the French would say: I was conscious that a moment's mutiny had already rendered me liable to strange penalties, and, like any other rebel slave, I felt resolved, in my desperation, to go all lengths^①.

"Hold her arms, Miss Abbot: she's like a mad cat."

"For shame! for shame!" cried the lady's-maid. "What shocking conduct, Miss Eyre, to strike a young gentleman, your benefactress's^② son! Your young master."

"Master! How is he my master? Am I a servant?"

"No; you are less than a servant, for you do nothing for your keep^③. There, sit down, and think over your wickedness."

They had got me by this time into the apartment indicated by Mrs. Reed, and had thrust me upon a stool: my impulse was to rise from it like a spring; their two pair of hands arrested me instantly.

"If you don't sit still, you must be tied down," said Bessie. "Miss Abbot, lend me your garters; she would break mine directly."

Miss Abbot turned to divest a stout leg of the necessary ligature. This preparation for bonds, and the additional ignominy it inferred, took a little of the excitement out of me.

"Don't take them off," I cried; "I will not stir."

In guarantee whereof, I attached myself to my seat by my hands.

① I felt resolved...: 绝望中我横下一条心, 决计不顾一切了。

② benefactress: 女恩人, 这里指简爱的舅母

③ for you do...: 因为你什么也不做, 吃白食。keep: 生活费。