

Daisy Miller

英美文学精品详注丛书

第三辑 第一册

黛西·密勒

〔美〕亨利·詹姆斯 著



中国对外翻译出版公司

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Henry James

DAISY MILLER

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《黛西·密勒》

亨利·詹姆斯(1843-1916) 生于纽约。父亲是个哲学家,教子有方;他和哥哥威廉都深受其益。12岁时,随家人去了欧洲,在那里呆了3年,继续读书求学。

他最初创作的文学随笔表明,他曾尝试采取现实主义创作方法,但不久便开始把小说当作一种艺术形式,而非单纯的叙事。1860年代,他渐渐成了生活的旁观者,努力挖掘心理真实。

《黛西·密勒》最初发表在《康希尔杂志》(1878年7、8月),1883年出书。作者将黛西置于中央舞台之上,但对她的处置则模棱两可;她是因受不了温特伯恩所体现的社会非难而死,还是因热病而死,只好由读者去意会了。不过,詹姆斯对她的同胞,即旅居国外的美国人,评论既尖锐又诙谐,极为精采;他们迫不及待地拥抱“另一”文化,再也认识不到自己文化的优点。他们不能容忍黛西的天真烂漫,因为他们已经忘记世间会有天真烂漫存在。

Henry James

Daisy Miller

Henry James (1843-1916) was born in New York, the son of Henry James, the philosopher. Like his brother, William, he benefited greatly from his father's original ideas for his sons' education. At the age of twelve he went to Europe with his family and stayed there for three years, continuing his education.

His first essays into literature show an attempt at realism but he soon began to regard fiction as an art form rather than as mere narrative. In the 1860's he was becoming a spectator of life, working towards psychological truth.

Daisy Miller was first published in the *Cornhill Magazine* (June, July 1878) and in volume form in 1883. The author places Daisy at centre stage but his disposal of her is ambiguous; it is up to the reader to decide whether she dies from social disapproval as expressed by Winterbourne – or from fever. However, James's observation of her compatriots is excellent, an acute and witty comment on Americans abroad who have so eagerly embraced the 'other' culture that they can no longer recognize the virtues of their own. Daisy's innocence offends them because they have forgotten that it can exist.

At the little town of Vevey, in Switzerland, there is a particularly comfortable hotel. There are, indeed, many hotels; for the entertainment of tourists is the business of the place, which, as many travellers will remember, is seated upon the edge of a remarkably blue lake – a lake that it behoves every tourist to visit. The shore of the lake presents an unbroken array of establishments of this order, of every category, from the ‘grand hotel’ of the newest fashion, with a chalk-white front, a hundred balconies, and a dozen flags flying from its roof, to the little Swiss *pension* of an elder day, with its name inscribed in German-looking lettering upon a pink or yellow wall, and an awkward summer-house in the angle of the garden. One of the hotels at Vevey, however, is famous, even classical, being distinguished from many of its upstart neighbours by an air both of luxury and of maturity. In this region, in the month of June, American travellers are extremely numerous; it may be said, indeed, that Vevey assumes at this period some of the characteristics of an American watering-place. There are sights and sounds which evoke a vision, an echo, of Newport and Saratoga. There is a flitting hither and thither of ‘stylish’ young girls, a rustling of muslin flounces, a rattle of dance-music in the morning hours, a sound of high-pitched voices at all times. You receive an impression of these things at the excellent inn of the Trois Couronnes, and are transported in fancy to the Ocean House or to Congress Hall. But at the Trois Couronnes, it must be added, there are other features that are much at variance with these suggestions: neat German waiters, who look like secretaries of legation; Russian princesses sitting in the garden; little Polish boys walking about, held by the hand, with their governors; a view of the snowy crest of the Dent du Midi and the picturesque towers of the Castle of Chillon.

I hardly know whether it was the analogies or the differences that were uppermost in the mind of a young

particularly: especially. **indeed:** in fact.
for: because. **entertainment:** amusement.

seated: situated. **edge:** border. **remarkably:** extraordinarily, unusually. **behoves:** is necessary for. **shore:** stretch of land bordering the lake. **unbroken:** uninterrupted, continuous. **array:** series, collection. **establishments:** buildings; *here*, hotels. **order:** type. **newest:** most recent. **chalk-white:** very white. **front:** most important, prominent, *sidé*. **dozen:** twelve; *here*, about. **flags:** pieces of cloth attached by one edge to a rope, used as a distinctive symbol of a country. **flying:** *here*, moving in the wind. **pension:** guest house. **elder day:** past times. **inscribed:** written. **awkward:** not graceful or elegant. **angle:** corner.

upstart: person, thing, etc. that has risen suddenly to wealth, position, etc.; *here*, new. **neighbours:** people living in the same area; *here*, hotels in the same area. **luxury:** *here*, richness, opulence. **extremely:** very.

watering-place: place for holidays.

sights: things to be seen. **evoke:** make one remember.

Newport: fashionable resort on Rhode Island, where James spent part of his childhood. **Saratoga:** Saratoga Springs, in New York State. **flitting:** quick movement. **hither:** (*old use*) *here*.

thither: (*old use*) *there*. **stylish:** fashionable. **rustling:** making a gentle, light sound. **muslin:** thin, fine cotton cloth. **flounces:** strips of cloth sewn to a skirt as an ornament. **rattle:** repetition of short, sharp sounds. **high-pitched:** acute, not deep, in tone. **at all times:** always. **inn:** public eating and drinking place. **fancy:** imagination. **features:** characteristics. **at variance:** in contrast.

suggestions: *here*, impressions. **neat:** in good order, tidy. **waiters:** men who serve at tables in a restaurant. **legation:** official residence and office of a diplomatic minister. **held:** kept. **snowy:** covered with snow. **crest:** top. **Dent du Midi:** peak commanding the Val d'Illiez. **picturesque:** visually pleasing. **Castle of Chillon:** built in 1238, situated on an isolated rock in the lake and connected to the shore by a wooden bridge. **hardly:** almost not, scarcely.

whether: if. **uppermost:** predominant.

American, who, two or three years ago, sat in the garden of the Trois Couronnes, looking about him, rather idly, at some of the graceful objects I have mentioned. It was a beautiful summer morning, and in whatever fashion the young American looked at things, they must have seemed to him charming. He had come from Geneva the day before, by the little steamer, to see his aunt, who was staying at the hotel – Geneva having been for a long time his place of residence. But his aunt had a headache – his aunt had almost always a headache – and now she was shut up in her room, smelling camphor, so that he was at liberty to wander about. He was some seven-and-twenty years of age; when his friends spoke of him, they usually said that he was at Geneva, ‘studying’. When his enemies spoke of him they said – but, after all, he had no enemies; he was an extremely amiable fellow, and universally liked. What I should say is, simply, that when certain persons spoke of him they affirmed that the reason of his spending so much time at Geneva was that he was extremely devoted to a lady who lived there – a foreign lady – a person older than himself. Very few Americans – indeed I think none – had ever seen this lady, about whom there were some singular stories. But Winterbourne had an old attachment for the little metropolis of Calvinism; he had been put to school there as a boy, and he had afterwards gone to college there – circumstances which had led to his forming a great many youthful friendships. Many of these he had kept, and they were a source of great satisfaction to him.

After knocking at his aunt’s door and learning that she was indisposed, he had taken a walk about the town, and then he had come in to his breakfast. He had now finished his breakfast, but he was drinking a small cup of coffee, which had been served to him on a little table in the garden by one of the waiters who looked like an attaché. At last he finished his coffee and lit a cigarette. Presently a small boy came walking along the path – an urchin of nine or ten. The child, who was diminutive for his years, had an aged expression of countenance, a pale complexion, and sharp little features. He was dressed in knickerbockers, with red

idly: in a lazy way.

graceful: attractive, beautiful.

whatever: no matter what. **fashion**: way.

charming: pleasing.

steamer: ship powered by steam. **aunt**: sister of one's father or mother; wife of one's uncle.

headache: continuous pain in the head.

shut up: closed. **camphor**: aromatic crystals used in medicine.

at liberty: free. **wander about**: *here*, go out. **some**: , about.

enemies: those who hate a person.

extremely: very. **amiable**: easy and pleasant to talk to. **fellow**: man. **universally**: generally.

affirmed: said.

foreign: not of the same nationality.

indeed: in fact.

singular: strange.

attachment: *here*, affection.

Calvinism: theological system of Calvin and his followers who established the first presbyterian government in Geneva. **put**: sent.

afterwards: after this. **led to**: caused, induced. **a great many**: a large number of. **youthful**: *here*, in his youth. **source**: cause, origin.

knocking: hitting, striking, gently with the back of the closed hand. **indisposed**: not well.

looked like: was similar in appearance. **attaché**: junior member of the staff of an embassy. **Presently**: after a short time.

path: surfaced walk, especially through a garden. **urchin**: mischievous small boy. **diminutive**: remarkably small. **years**: age.

countenance: face. **pale**: having little colour. **complexion**: natural colour of the skin. **sharp**: pointed. **features**: nose, eyes, mouth, etc. **knickerbockers**: loose, wide trousers finishing just below the knees.

stockings, which displayed his poor little spindleshanks; he also wore a brilliant red cravat. He carried in his hand a long alpenstock, the sharp point of which he thrust into everything that he approached – the flowerbeds, the garden-benches, the trains of the ladies' dresses. In front of Winterbourne he paused, looking at him with a pair of bright, penetrating little eyes.

'Will you give me a lump of sugar?' he asked, in a sharp, hard little voice – a voice immature, and yet, somehow, not young.

Winterbourne glanced at the small table near him, on which his coffee-service rested, and saw that several morsels of sugar remained. 'Yes, you may take one,' he answered; 'but I don't think sugar is good for little boys.'

This little boy stepped forward and carefully selected three of the coveted fragments, two of which he buried in the pocket of his knickerbockers, depositing the other as promptly in another place. He poked his alpenstock, lance-fashion, into Winterbourne's bench, and tried to crack the lump of sugar with his teeth.

'Oh, blazes; it's har-r-d!' he exclaimed, pronouncing the adjective in a peculiar manner.

Winterbourne had immediately perceived that he might have the honour of claiming him as a fellow-countryman. 'Take care you don't hurt your teeth,' he said, paternally.

'I haven't got any teeth to hurt. They have all come out. I have only got seven teeth. My mother counted them last night, and one came out right afterwards. She said she'd slap me if any more came out. I can't help it. It's this old Europe. It's the climate that makes them come out. In America they didn't come out. It's these hotels.'

Winterbourne was much amused. 'If you eat three lumps of sugar, your mother will certainly slap you,' he said.

'She's got to give me some candy, then,' rejoined his young interlocutor. 'I can't get any candy here – any American candy. American candy's the best candy.'

'And are American little boys the best little boys?' asked Winterbourne.

'I don't know. I'm an American boy,' said the child.

displayed: showed. **spindleshanks**: thin legs.

cravat: old-fashioned form of tie.

alpenstock: long, iron-tipped stick used in climbing mountains.

sharp point: pointed end. **thrust**: pushed. **approached**: came near. **flowerbeds**: plots of land in which flowers are grown.

benches: long wooden seats. **trains**: parts of long dresses that trail behind on the ground. **paused**: stopped.

lump: small piece. **sharp**: shrill, high in tone.

yet: however. **somehow**: in some way.

glanced: took a quick look.

coffee-service: complete set of pots, cups and saucers for coffee. **several**: a number, some. **morsels**: very small pieces.

stepped forward: *here*, came to the table. **selected**: chose.

coveted: desired strongly. **fragments**: pieces. **buried**: *here*, concealed from sight, put. **knickerbockers**: loose, wide trousers finishing just below the knees.

depositing: putting. **promptly**: without delay, immediately. **poked**: pushed. **alpenstock**: long, iron-tipped stick used in mountaineering.

lance-fashion: as if it were a long pointed weapon. **crack**: break into pieces. **blazes**: *exclamation*. **hard**: not easily broken. **peculiar**: strange, unusual.

manner: way. **perceived**: understood.

claiming: asserting as a fact. **fellow-countryman**: person living or coming from the same country. **Take care**: be careful. **hurt**: damage.

paternally: like a father.

right: immediately. **afterwards**: after this.

slap: strike with the palm of the hand. **help**: avoid.

makes: causes to.

lumps: pieces.

slap: hit with the open hand.

candy: sweets. **rejoined**: answered.

interlocutor: person taking part in a dialogue or discussion.

'I see you are one of the best!' laughed Winterbourne.

'Are you an American man?' pursued this vivacious infant. And then, on Winterbourne's affirmative reply – 'American men are the best,' he declared.

His companion thanked him for the compliment; and the child, who had now got astride of his alpenstock, stood looking about him, while he attacked a second lump of sugar. Winterbourne wondered if he himself had been like this in his infancy, for he had been brought to Europe at about this age.

'Here comes my sister!' cried the child, in a moment. 'She's an American girl.'

Winterbourne looked along the path and saw a beautiful young lady advancing. 'American girls are the best girls,' he said, cheerfully, to his young companion.

'My sister ain't the best!' the child declared. 'She's always blowing at me.'

'I imagine that is your fault, not hers,' said Winterbourne. The young lady meanwhile had drawn near. She was dressed in white muslin, with a hundred frills and flounces, and knots of pale-coloured ribbon. She was bare-headed; but she balanced in her hand a large parasol, with a deep border of embroidery; and she was strikingly, admirably pretty. 'How pretty they are!' thought Winterbourne, straightening himself in his seat, as if he were prepared to rise.

The young lady paused in front of his bench, near the parapet of the garden, which overlooked the lake. The little boy had now converted his alpenstock into a vaulting-pole, by the aid of which he was springing about in the gravel, and kicking it up not a little.

'Randolph,' said the young lady, what *are* you doing?'

'I'm going up the Alps,' replied Randolph. 'This is the way!' And he gave another little jump, scattering the pebbles about Winterbourne's ears.

'That's the way they come down,' said Winterbourne.

'He's an American man!' cried Randolph, in his little hard voice.

The young lady gave no heed to this announcement, but looked straight at her brother. 'Well, I guess you had better be quiet,' she simply observed.

pursued: continued. **vivacious:** full of life, lively.

infant: child. **reply:** answer.

declared: asserted.

astride: with one leg on each side. **alpenstock:** long pointed stick for mountaineering. **about:** around.

wondered: asked himself.

infancy: childhood.

advancing: *here*, coming towards them.

cheerfully: happily. **companion:** *here*, friend.

ain't: is not.

blowing at: shouting at, criticizing.

fault: responsibility for being wrong.

meanwhile: *here*, by this time. **drawn:** come.

muslin: fine, thin, cotton cloth. **frills:** ornamental borders on a

dress. **flounces:** ornamental gathered strips of cloth sewn to a garment by the top edge. **knots:** pieces of ribbon twisted and tied

as ornaments. **ribbon:** narrow, ornamental strip of material.

bare-headed: without a hat. **balanced:** *here*, held. **large:** of

considerable size. **parasol:** umbrella used to give shade from the

sun. **deep:** *here*, wide. **embroidery:** ornamental needlework.

strikingly: noticeably, in a manner which attracts attention. **pretty:**

attractive. **straightening ... seat:** sitting in a more erect position.

seat: place to sit. **rise:** stand up. **paused:** stopped. **bench:** long

wooden seat. **parapet:** wall. **overlooked:** had a view of. **con-**

verted: changed. **vaulting-pole:** long stick used for jumping. **aid:**

help. **springing:** jumping. **gravel:** small stones. **kicking it up:**

striking violently with the foot so that it went high into the air. **not**

a little: a lot. **going up:** climbing. **replied:** answered. **scattering:**

sending in different directions. **pebbles:** small stones.

heed: attention.

straight: directly. **guess:** think.

It seemed to Winterbourne that he had been in a manner presented. He got up and stepped slowly towards the young girl, throwing away his cigarette. 'This little boy and I have made acquaintance,' he said, with great civility. In Geneva, as he had been perfectly aware, a young man was not at liberty to speak to a young unmarried lady except under certain rarely occurring conditions; but here, at Vevey, what conditions could be better than these? — a pretty American girl coming and standing in front of you in a garden.

This pretty American girl, however, on hearing Winterbourne's observation, simply glanced at him; she then turned her head and looked over the parapet, at the lake and the opposite mountains. He wondered whether he had gone too far; but he decided that he must advance farther rather than retreat. While he was thinking of something else to say, the young lady turned to the little boy again.

'I should like to know where you got that pole,' she said.

'I bought it!' responded Randolph.

'You don't mean to say you're going to take it to Italy!

'Yes, I am going to take it to Italy!' the child declared.

The young girl glanced over the front of her dress, and smoothed out a knot or two of ribbon. Then she rested her eyes upon the prospect again. 'Well, I guess you had better leave it somewhere,' she said, after a moment.

'Are you going to Italy?' Winterbourne inquired, in a tone of great respect.

The young lady glanced at him again. 'Yes, sir,' she replied. And she said nothing more.

'Are you — a — going over the Simplon?' Winterbourne pursued, a little embarrassed.

'I don't know,' she said. 'I suppose it's some mountain. Randolph, what mountain are we going over?'

'Going where?' the child demanded.

'To Italy,' Winterbourne explained.

'I don't know,' said Randolph. 'I don't want to go to Italy. I want to go to America.'

'Oh, Italy is a beautiful place!' rejoined the young man.

'Can you get candy there?' Randolph loudly inquired.

presented: introduced. **stepped**: went.

have made acquaintance: have become friends. **civility**: politeness. **had been perfectly aware**: had well known.

at liberty: free.

occurring: existing, happening.

observation: remark. **glanced at**: gave a quick look at.

wondered: asked himself.

gone too far: done something which would be considered rude.

advance: go forward. **retreat**: go back.

pole: long piece of wood.

responded: answered.

mean: want.

glanced over: gave a quick look at.

smoothed out: made flat, free from irregularities. **knot**: decorative bow. **rested her eyes upon**: *here*, looked at. **prospect**:

view. **guess**: think, suppose. **somewhere**: in some place.

inquired: asked.

tone of: voice showing.

Simplon: one of the main mountain passes between Switzerland and Italy. **pursued**: went on, continued.

demanded: asked.

rejoined: answered.

candy: sweets. **loudly**: in a voice which is strong in volume.