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The Waterbabies

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外语教学与研究出版社

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(简写本)

Charles Kingsley 原著

Michael West 改写

崔 玲 译

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Charles Kingsley

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Simplified by Michael West

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内 容 简 介

汤姆是一个孤苦伶仃的打扫烟囱的穷孩子。他没有朋友，经常遭受主人的打骂。有一次，他干完活，从壁炉中钻出来时，走错了房间，惊醒了小姑娘爱丽。他仓皇逃走，由于饥寒、劳累，病倒了。在梦中他变成了一个水婴，在河海中游玩。他遇到了各种水生动物，结识了很多水婴。但他很淘气，干了不少恶作剧的事。爱丽是个善良、美丽的姑娘，在梦中也变成水婴。她帮助汤姆改正缺点，使他成为好孩子。后来，他们两人成了好朋友。

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1 Up the chimney

Chimney-sweep boy

Tom was not a happy boy. His mother died when he was very small, and Tom lived and worked with a man called Grimes.

Grimes was a chimney-sweep. In those days the smoke from all the fires in a house went up through one big chimney. A man couldn't go up the chimney, but a very small boy could. Grimes made Tom go up inside chimneys to clean them. It was very bad inside the chimneys.

If Tom didn't work quickly, Grimes hit him. If Tom asked for more food, Grimes hit him. He wanted Tom to stay small so that he could go up the chimneys.

They lived in a dirty little house in a



dirty street, and Tom never heard a kind word. Now you know why he was unhappy. Perhaps you know why he was sometimes naughty too.

The old woman in black

One day a man came riding on a horse down the dirty little street. Tom threw a stone at the horse. The horse jumped, and the man nearly fell off. He was angry, but he said, 'Tell me, you naughty boy, where does Mr Grimes live? He must come and clean the chimneys at the Big House.'

Grimes came out of his house. The man said, 'Are you Grimes? I work for Sir John at the Big House. Bring your boy to clean the chimneys tomorrow.'

The next day, Grimes got on his donkey to go to Sir John's house. He made Tom walk.

As they went along the road they saw a poor old woman. She was very poor. She had bad shoes, and her clothes were black and old and ugly.

Grimes said, 'Do you want to ride with me on the donkey?'

She said, 'No, thank you. I'll walk with this boy.'

So she walked with Tom and talked to him. She asked a lot of questions. 'Where do you live? Why is your face so dirty? Haven't you got any clean clothes?'

At the river

They went down a hill and came to a little river. The sun was very hot. Grimes went to the river and washed his face.

Tom went and began to wash his face too. Grimes was angry and hit him.

'Why do you want to wash your face?' Grimes said. 'It will soon be dirty again when you go up Sir John's chimneys....Come on!'

The poor woman in black looked at him. 'I know you, Grimes!' she said. 'If you hit that boy again, I'll be angry.'

Grimes looked at her. Then he looked down.

'Go and sit down there, Grimes,' she said. 'Tom, go and wash your face.'

When Tom's face was clean, she said, 'Now you may go on to Sir John's house.'

She stood beside the little river. Tom and Grimes went up on to the road. Tom looked back; the old woman was not there! He couldn't see her! She wasn't near the river. She wasn't in the field!

'Where is she hiding?' Tom asked himself.

Grimes and Tom went on to the Big House. They went to the back of the house, and a woman took them into a big room. There was a great fire-place there, and

Grimes made Tom go into it.

‘Go on!’ said Grimes, and he hit Tom. ‘Up!’

2 Down the chimney and over the wall

The white room

Tom went up the chimney. Black dirt filled his eyes and his nose and his mouth. He went up and up and up. There were very many rooms.

In each room there was a fire-place. The chimney went up at the back of the fire-places.

Tom went on, and on, and on; he went up to the top. Then he came down—and down—and down—and down. And as he came down, he cleaned the sides of the chimney. The black smoke dust fell down the chimney, and it covered Tom. It was hard for him to see; his eyes were full of dust—and his nose, and his ears, and his hair...

At last he thought, ‘This is the fire-place of the big room where Grimes is waiting. I must go out here—through this fire-place.’

So Tom went out from the chimney into the fire-place, and out from the fire-place into the room.

It was not the big room! It was another room.

There were pictures of flowers on the white walls of the room. There was a table with a pot of flowers on it. There were chairs covered with beautiful cloth. Tom had never seen such a beautiful room.

Then he saw a little white bed in the room. There was a little girl in the bed. She was very beautiful. Her eyes were shut. She was asleep.

Tom ran back to the fire-place, but he hit the table. It fell, and the pot of flowers fell. Crash! The little girl (her name was Ellie) opened her eyes and saw Tom. She cried out, 'Oh! Oh! Oh! Help! Help! Help!'



Tom runs away

People ran into the room. Tom jumped out of the window. He fell on to a little tree. He fell down from the tree, and he ran across the garden. People ran after him. He came to a wall; he climbed over the wall and jumped down the other side. He was in a big

field. He ran across the field and came to another field. Then he went up a hill—and down—and over another hill. He ran on—and on—and on.

The sun was very hot. He had had no food. He wanted food and water. He fell down. He ran on—and fell down again.

‘I can’t go on,’ he thought. Then, from the top of a hill, he saw a little house, near a river. There was a garden in front of the house. There was a woman in a white dress in the garden. ‘I’ll ask her for food and water,’ Tom said to himself.

He went down the hill.

It was a very long way. He went on—and on—and on. He came to a lane. He went along the lane—a long, long way. At last he was at the little house and the garden. He opened the door.

3 The little house

The old woman in white

It was a very pretty room. There was a big fire-place—with flowers in it (not a fire beacuse it was a hot day) . There was a big chair near the fire-place. An old woman in a white dress was sitting in the chair. At her side there was a big cat. On the other

side of the room there were twelve children. They were doing their lessons at little tables. Some were reading; some were writing.

The old woman in white looked up. 'Oh!' she said. 'A chimney-sweep! Go away! The chimney is clean, and I don't want a chimney-sweep.'

Tom is ill

'Water!' cried Tom, and he fell down.

'Poor boy!' said the old woman, coming to him. 'He's ill.'

She took him up and put him on a bed in another room. Then she brought him some milk and some bread.

'Eat the bread,' she said. 'It's good bread. I made it myself.'

'I can't eat,' said Tom.

'Poor boy,' said the old woman. 'He's very ill.'

He shut his eyes. His head was very hot. His body was hot; it was like fire. He thought of the cold water in the little river. He thought of the poor woman in a black dress, and the old woman in a white dress.

'Cold water,' he said. 'Cold—cold—water. Little river...river...water.'

Sleep came over him.

4 The dream

Cold water

Tom was asleep, but in his sleep he had a dream. In his dream, he was at the side of the little river.

He looked down into the water. He could see the stones under the water, and little fish swimming among the stones, and the long grass that grew up through the water.

He put his hand in the water; 'Cold! Cold!'

He thought that he saw the face of the old woman in the water. Was it the old woman that he saw by the river? Or was it the old woman in the little house? He didn't know. Then he looked again; there was no face in the water. He looked behind him; no one was there. He looked in the water again; and he saw the face.

'I want to be a fish,' he said. 'I want to be a fish and swim in the water.'

Down into the water

He put his feet in the water. He went down into the water. He saw the face of the old woman in front

of him. The water came over his head. The old woman was there in front of him; but she was not an old woman. She was beautiful and young. She had a long green dress made of water-plants and water-flowers on her head. Water-fairies were swimming round her.

She said, 'Fairies! I have brought you a new little brother. I have come with him to this place from the Big House. I have been with him all the time, but he hasn't seen me. You must be with him, but he mustn't see you. He mustn't be harmed; no bad thing must happen to him. He isn't a bad boy; he's sometimes naughty, but he'll be a very good boy—in time.'

5 Tom, the waterbaby

Water creatures

Tom opened his eyes. He had been changed. He had been changed into a waterbaby. He was swimming along in the water. He was very happy. He swam up to the top. The top of the water was his sky; he couldn't see out of it. He swam down to the bottom. There were a lot of creatures living on the bottom. Some of them were caddises. Each caddis lived in a little house. It made its house by putting bits of wood and bits of grass and little stones on its body. The

house had a little door. When the house was ready, the caddis shut the door and went to sleep. As the caddis was sleeping, it changed into a fly.

Tom is naughty

Tom wanted to see what was inside these little houses. He broke open the door of a caddis-house.



The water-fairies saw him break the door, and they were very sad. The caddis was very angry. She was just going to sleep.

‘Why have you done that?’ she cried. ‘You have broken my door. I was just going to sleep. Now I must make a new door. You naughty boy! Go away!’

The little fish

Tom swam on. He saw a lot of little fish. He caught one little fish in his hand; it was very afraid.

It got away, but Tom caught another.

‘Oh! Oh! Oh!’ cried the little fish.

The other little fishes called out, ‘Save him! Save him!’

Then the great big mother-fish came, with angry eyes, and swam at Tom and hit him on the head, and her big mouth opened to bite him.

Tom opened his hand and the little fish got out of it, and Tom swam quickly away.

Tom wasn’t happy. There were no other boys here. There were caddises and fish and other creatures, but they were angry with him and did not want to be his friends. He had no friends in this place.

The ugly creature

He went on. Then he saw a creature in a hole in the side of the river. It had a big body. The body was inside a shell. The creature had six legs. It had big eyes. Its face was like a donkey’s face.

‘Oh!’ said Tom. ‘What an ugly creature! Oh! You are ugly!’

Then a long arm came out very quickly and caught Tom’s nose.

‘Ow! Ow!’ cried Tom. ‘You’re hurting me!’

‘Am I ugly?’

‘No! No! No! You’re beautiful.’