• 中文导读英文版 •



Sunt Tomo's Winnes

# 上流社会

〔美〕莱曼・弗兰克・鲍姆 著

#### **纯爱英文馆・美国少女成长系列** ・中文导读英文版・

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Xunt Jane's Nieces in Society

[美] 莱曼・弗兰克・鲍姆 著

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### ∞の序 言

《上流社会》是"纯爱英文馆·美国少女成长"系列的第五本。

约翰叔叔虽然是华尔街鼎鼎有名的大富翁,但是他依然身着平常的衣衫,过着和普通人一般无异的简单生活。为了他的三位侄女——贝丝、帕齐和露易丝能够进入纽约上流社会,他决定去和亨瑞克·凡·泰尔谈一笔交易。泰尔家世显赫,坐拥万贯家财,且在社交界有着很高的地位。经过一番交涉,亨瑞克决定委托他的女儿黛安娜·凡·泰尔去处理这件事情。

三个女孩在社交场合的第一次露面获得了成功,宾客们都很喜欢这三个稚气未脱、略显青涩的可爱女孩。黛安娜在这次聚会上依旧维持着她一贯理智谨慎的风格。然而,一位名为亚瑟·威尔登的年轻男子的出现却扰乱了她的心。出人意料的是,黛安娜发现亚瑟竟然与这三位女孩是旧识,并在言语和眼神中流露出钟情于露易丝之意。对于亚瑟之前的突然离去,露易丝的心中也充满了谜团。一番解释之后,

二人终于冰释前嫌,露易丝也默默地接受了亚瑟对自己的 追求。

在与黛安娜约定见面的日子,亚瑟爽约了。机警的黛安娜拨通了露易丝家的电话,询问亚瑟是否还在,毫无城府的露易丝回答亚瑟还在她家。黛安娜心中的怒火不停燃烧,于是,她心生一计,找来已被父亲驱逐的兄弟查尔斯(又名查理),密谋将亚瑟夺至自己身边。

查尔斯开始大胆而热烈地追求露易丝。露易丝没有拒绝他的过分热情,然而,花市上发生的事情改变了露易丝对查尔斯的看法,于是她开始疏远查尔斯。得知露易丝与亚瑟订婚的消息,恼羞成怒的查尔斯像一头疯狂的野兽一般开始了铤而走险之路——劫持露易丝。

焦急的大家找来有名的侦探弗格特寻找露易丝。经过很多天的努力与等待,在一个大雪纷飞的冬日,弗格特终于找到了藏匿露易丝的旧宅。然而,眼前的一幕却令所有人都大惊失色,露易丝所在的房间竟然空无一人!从房间的窗口望出去,白茫茫的雪地仿佛没有尽头地向远处延伸着。她究竟去哪儿了?最终,大家有没有找到她呢?

黛安娜是整部小说中鲍姆塑造得较为成功的人物之一。 她举手投足间散发着贵族气质,说话的语调柔弱而缓慢,但 脸上的神情比较拘谨,优雅却难掩做作之感。按照与约翰叔 叔的约定,她依次拜访了露易丝、贝丝和帕齐。三个女孩迥 然不同的反应令她惊诧不已:露易丝内心的欢喜溢于言表; 贝丝认为黛安娜并不属于自己的生活;帕齐则显露出敌意, 十分不愿意接受黛安娜的邀请。黛安娜把这一切都看在了眼 里。同时,这个情节将她世故圆滑、左右逢源、善于观察的 特点表现得淋漓尽致。

从表面上看,她显得理智谨慎、冷若冰霜,实际上她心机颇深、狡猾奸诈,十分精于算计。她在花市上故意将传家宝——串价值连城珍珠项链丢失,并陷害露易丝。为了争夺亚瑟,她不惜联合查尔斯共设陷阱。然而,这样一个城府颇深、机关算尽的女人也有软弱且富同情心的一面。在事态发展至不可收拾的局面时,她的内心十分惶恐,每时每刻都被懊恼的感觉折磨着。她害怕事情一旦暴露,自己在社交界的名声将大受损失。她后悔不该伤害露易丝,不该纵容查尔斯绑架露易丝。终于,她决定不顾一切前往她家旧日的宅邸。

查尔斯也是一个很有特点的人物。劣迹斑斑的他被亨瑞克逐出家门。得知黛安娜希望与他达成一笔交易,他欣然允诺。最初他只是想通过这笔交易获取钱财,没承想初见露易丝的那一瞬间,他感到浪荡惯了的自己竟被丘比特之箭意外地射中了,于是,他向露易丝展开了追求的攻势。求之不得后,查尔斯竟然不惜一切代价想出了绑架露易丝的计谋。表面上看起来他是那样邪恶,但细究起来,是内心炽热到变态的情感才促使他一步步深陷至不可自拔。

露易丝受母亲玛莎的影响很深,她很希望进入上流社会。 黛安娜的初次拜访令她兴奋不已、受宠若惊,她认为这是一 次极为难得的机会,一定要好好把握。成为亚瑟的恋人后, 她依然不拒绝查尔斯的热切追求,反而满心欢喜地与他交谈, 甚至不惜令亚瑟伤心。也许在她心里,这样的处理方式可以 很好地证明自己的魅力。在被囚禁的日子里,她显露出机警聪明、坚持不懈的一面。一天早晨,当老仆人克瑞斯为她梳妆打扮时,她忽然发现梳妆镜上印有字母 "D.V.T.",这无疑是由黛安娜姓名的首字母组合而成。于是,她判定这是黛安娜的住宅,这次的事件也与黛安娜有关。她每天都检查房门是否被锁紧,每天都哭泣着恳求克瑞斯放了她,在言谈之间故意多次提及威尔登,并把他的电话号码透露给克瑞斯。

亚瑟·威尔登这个人物则显得比较矛盾。最初,他对露易丝流露出爱意,遭到拒绝后忽然去了欧洲。他曾与黛安娜一同看演出,一同结伴出游,直至后来消失。尽管重新出现后他向露易丝解释了消失的理由,但还是不尽可信。虽然已钟情于露易丝,他还是答应与黛安娜单独谈话及会面,却又在会面当天爽约。他是那样懦弱且不够坦诚,无法直面问题,也没有用直接的方式将问题处理妥当。可以说,他不清晰的态度也是导致露易丝被绑架的间接原因之一。

同时,亚瑟也显露出痴情、包容、坚定的一面。面对查尔斯的热烈追求,露易丝非但没有拒绝,反而多次冷落亚瑟。可怜的亚瑟虽然心生怨愤,但一直默默忍耐,直到有一天和露易丝就此事严肃地谈了起来。他并没有责怪露易丝一句,而是如实将查尔斯的恶劣行径告诉了露易丝。在露易丝被绑架之后,他无时无刻不在担心、思念着他的恋人。他极力说服不愿接手这一案件的侦探弗格特,在大家都被失望情绪笼罩的时刻,他依然坚定地继续寻找露易丝,不放弃一丝希望。露易丝逃走后,他在漫天大雪里苦苦地找寻着她。

虽然并非主要人物,但泰尔家的老仆人克瑞斯与侦探昆

塔斯·弗格特的形象显得格外鲜明。在对主人的忠贞与作为一个人的良心之间,克瑞斯从踌躇不定到最终选择了遵从自己的内心。她在泰尔家做了一生的仆人,忠于主人、守口如瓶的观念在她心里是那样根深蒂固。面对露易丝每日泣涕涟涟的恳求,她表面上依然不为所动,不忘每晚将露易丝卧室的门锁紧。但其实她心里很明白,她只是主人的工具而已。她非常努力地照顾露易丝的饮食起居,并最终决定给亚瑟打电话。

从外表上看, 侦探弗格特就像一个涉世未深的青涩男孩, 实际上他集聪颖、机敏、幽默与智慧于一身, 是一名十分优秀的侦探。他有很强的正义感, 虽然刚刚结束的案子令他疲惫不堪, 但是在亚瑟说明情况后, 他还是决定尽力帮助这位焦急无助的青年。在案件的最后阶段, 弗格特与查尔斯并肩在漫天大雪里寻找露易丝的踪迹。弗格特问查尔斯是否喜欢露易丝, 查尔斯承认了。这时, 弗格特做出了一个惊人的决定, 他希望帮助自己追踪许久的查尔斯, 让他免于被起诉, 在新的地方开始全新的生活。弗格特确是一名至情至性的侦探, 令人感动不已。

与同系列其他九部小说不同的是,这部小说着力开掘人物的心灵,呈现出人性的复杂与多面性,呈现出自我内心的博弈与人物之间博弈的交织重叠。没有严格的正反人物划分,没有对人物的褒贬评价,一切都在情节的展开与言语的叙述中流露出来。作者隐藏在情节的背后,如同一个客观冷静的叙事者,等待读者对这一切自行判断。

小说中的人物都显得十分矛盾, 无论是行为本身还是内

心深处。行为的自相矛盾与内心的强烈斗争都令这些人物剥离了鲍姆一贯塑造的童话人物的外衣,显得格外真实。然而,这略显残酷的真实却在希望与温暖并存的情节中被悄悄化解。即使人性是这般复杂得令人捉摸不透,最终正义与善良会战胜黑暗与邪恶。这一点又更好地折射出鲍姆小说一贯的童话特质及作者本人内心的温暖与纯净。

鲍姆并没有忘记在这现实的情节中注入梦幻的场景,精 致幽深的泰尔家老宅,呼啸的狂风中几乎看不到尽头的茫茫 雪地,都染上了一抹奇幻的颜色。在那座偏僻的农舍里,亚 瑟用深深的一吻唤醒了如同睡美人一般沉睡着的恋人,这一 幕更是充满了唯美浪漫的童话色彩。

表面上光鲜奢靡的纽约上流社会究竟是什么样子? 东奥 兰治的老旧宅邸是否有着特殊的寓意? 威尔登会一直深爱着 露易丝并坚持把她营救出来吗? 那就快来纽约的上流社会一 探究意吧! 贝丝(简姨妈的侄女) Beth

帕齐(简姨妈的侄女)Patsy

露易丝(简姨妈的侄女,玛莎·梅瑞克的女儿)Louise

约翰·梅瑞克(约翰叔叔) John Merrick (Uncle John)

玛莎·梅瑞克(约翰巴故兄弟的妻子) Martha Merrick

亚瑟·威尔登(露易丝未来的丈夫) Arthur Weldon

道尔上校(帕齐的父亲)Major Doyle

亨瑞克·凡·泰尔 Hedrik Von Taer

黛安娜·凡·泰尔(亨瑞克·凡·泰尔的女儿)

Diana Von Taer

查尔斯(又名查理)·克若迪·蒙素(黛安娜的兄弟)

Charles (Charlie) Connoldy Mershone

克瑞斯(泰尔家的老仆人)Cerise

昆塔斯·弗格特(侦探)Quintus Fogerty



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## Chapter 1

#### **UNCLE JOHN'S DUTY**

约翰·梅瑞克与玛莎·梅瑞克就三个女孩是否需要进入纽约上流社会一事展开了激烈的争论。虽然约翰叔叔说出了种种理由,但玛莎依然十分固执地坚持自己的意见,认为这是一件极不可行之事。那么,三位女孩究竟会不会进入上流社会呢?





"You're not doing your duty by those girls, John Merrick!"

The gentleman at whom this assertion was flung in a rather angry tone did not answer his sister-in-law. He sat gazing reflectively at the pattern in the rug<sup>1</sup> and seemed neither startled nor annoyed. Mrs. Merrick, a pink-cheeked middle-aged lady attired in<sup>2</sup> an elaborate morning gown, knitted her brows severely as she regarded the chubby little man opposite; then, suddenly remembering that the wrinkles might leave their dreadful mark on her carefully rolled and massaged features, she banished them with a pass of her ringed hand and sighed dismally.

"It would not have mattered especially had the poor children been left in their original condition of friendless poverty," she said. "They were then like a million other girls, content to struggle for a respectable livelihood and a doubtful position in the lower stratas of social communion. But you interfered. You came into their lives abruptly, appearing from those horrid Western wilds with an amazing accumulation of money and a demand that your three nieces become your special protégées. And what is the result?"

The little man looked up with a charming smile of good humored <u>raillery</u><sup>3</sup>. His keen gray eyes sparkled as <u>mischievously</u><sup>4</sup> as a schoolboy's. Softly he rubbed the palms of

① rug: 小毯子

② attire in: 穿着

③ raillery: 开玩笑

④ mischievously: 淘气地

his hands together, as if enjoying the situation.

"What is it, Martha, my dear? What is the result?" he asked.

"You've raised them from their lowly condition to a sphere in which they reign as queens, the envy of all who know them. You've <u>lavished</u> your millions upon them <u>unsparingly</u>; they are not only presumptive heiresses but already possessed of independent fortunes. Ah, you think you've been generous to these girls; don't you, John Merrick?"

"Go on, Martha; go on."

"You've taken them abroad—you took my own daughter, John Merrick, and left me at home! —you've lugged your three nieces to the mountains and carried them to the seashore. You even encouraged them to enlist in an <u>unseemly</u> campaign to elect that young imbecile, Kenneth Forbes, and—"

"Oh, Martha, Martha! Get to the point, if you can. I'm going, presently."

"Not until you've heard me out. You've given your nieces every advantage in your power save one, and the neglect of that one thing renders futile all else you have accomplished."

Now, indeed, her listener seemed perplexed. He passed a hand over his shiny bald head as if to stimulate thought and exorcise bewilderment.

"What is it, then? What have I neglected?" was his mild

① lavish: 慷慨给予

② unsparingly: 慷慨地

③ unseemly: 不适宜地

enquiry.

"To give those girls their proper standing in society."

He started; smiled; then looked grave.

"You're talking foolishly, " he said. "Why, confound it, Martha, they're as good girls as ever lived! They're highly respected, and—"

"Sir, I refer to Fashionable Society." The capitals indicate the impressive manner in which Mrs. Merrick pronounced those words.

"I guess money makes folks fashionable; don't it, Martha?"

"No, indeed. How ignorant you are, John. Can you not understand that there is a cultured, aristocratic and exclusive Society in New York that millions will not enable one to gain entrée<sup>©</sup> to?"

"Oh, is there? Then I'm helpless."

"You are not, sir."

"Eh? I thought you said-"

"Listen, John; and for heaven's sake try for once to be receptive. I am speaking not only for the welfare of my daughter Louise but for Beth and Patricia. Your nieces are charming girls, all three. With the advantages you have given them they may well become social celebrities."

"H-m-m. Would they be happier so?"

"Of course. Every true woman longs for social distinction,

① entrée: 人场许可

especially if it seems difficult to acquire. Nothing is dearer to a girl's heart than to win acceptance by the right social set. And New York society is the most exclusive in America."

"I'm afraid it will continue to exclude our girls, Martha."
"Not if you do your duty, John."

"That reminds me. What is your idea of my duty, Martha? You've been talking in riddles, so far, "he protested, shifting uneasily in his chair.

"Let me explain more concisely, then. Your millions, John Merrick, have made you really famous, even in this wealthy <a href="mailto:metropolis">metropolis</a>. In the city and at your club you must meet with men who have the entrée to the most desirable social circles: men who might be induced to introduce your nieces to their families, whose endorsement would effect their proper presentation."

"Nonsense."

"It isn't nonsense at all."

"Then blamed if I know what you're driving at."

"You're very obtuse<sup>2</sup>."

"I won't agree to that till I know what 'obtuse' means. See here, Martha; you say this social position, that the girls are so crazy for—but they've never said anything to me about it—can't be bought. In the next breath you urge me to buy it. Phoo! You're a thoughtless, silly woman, Martha, and let your wild ambitions run away with your common sense."

① metropolis: 大都市

② obtuse: 迟钝的