

· 纯爱英文馆·美国少女成长系列 ·

· 中文导读英文版 ·



Aunt Jane's Nieces

一个忙碌的假期

〔美〕莱曼·弗兰克·鲍姆 著

中国国际广播出版社

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序 言

《一个忙碌的假期》是“纯爱英文馆·美国少女成长”系列的第七本。

书中讲述了百万富翁约翰·梅瑞克（简的哥哥）和他的三个侄女——露易丝、贝丝和帕齐，从纽约来到米尔维尔度假时，历经各种困难成功创办一份报纸的故事。

本书中，三个女孩在叔叔和他人的帮助下，在人口稀少、文化落后、资金紧张的情况下，历经曲折，成功做成一份深受米尔维尔当地人喜欢的报纸。书中三个女孩的形象最为鲜活生动。她们不断地成长、成熟起来。露易丝已经 20 岁，她意志坚定，遇事沉着，为人亲切，但小有心机；帕齐 18 岁，真诚、率直；贝丝出落得漂亮可人，喜欢真实，亦讲求实际，略有保守，个性与两个姐姐差别较大。

本书男主人公约翰·梅瑞克是个有钱人，他慷慨大方，为人正直，思虑周全，深谋远虑，全力支持三个侄女创办报纸，书中有一段描写他的话让人印象深刻，表现了他的优秀品质：

In spite of Major Doyle's reckless investments of my money, and—and the little we manage to give to deserving charities, I'm getting richer every day. When a small leak like this newspaper project occurs, it seems that Fortune is patting me on the back. I've no idea what a respectable newspaper will cost, but I hope it will cost a lot, for every dollar it devours makes my mind just that much easier.

从中可以看出他淡泊名利，有爱心，乐于为社会奉献，追求精神的富足。在物欲横流的社会中，约翰叔叔的精神显得弥足珍贵。

书中值得一提的人物是流浪汉史密斯和漫画家海蒂·休伊特。

史密斯在第一章就登场，初次登场时是一个落魄的流浪汉形象，但在后面的章节中他的形象发生了逆转。在报社遭遇困难时，他数次化解危机，可以说是在关键时刻力挽狂澜的“神通广大”的人物，这增添了他的神秘色彩，成为本书出彩的一笔。

海蒂·休伊特，才华横溢，敢怒敢言，在纽约时曾沉溺于酗酒、玩乐，来到米尔维尔后改过自新，成为报纸的重要一员，并在此邂逅了美好的爱情。史密斯和海蒂·休伊特的人生经历有相似之处，都曾是纽约的成功人士，经历人生的跌宕起伏，来到米尔维尔后开始全新的生活，这告诉我们：人非圣贤，孰能无过？过而能改，善莫大焉。只要敢于改变，乐于进取，每个人都可以有崭新的开始。

俗话说，世上无难事，只怕有心人，这句话在本书中得

到了印证。在米尔维尔这样的落后、闭塞的小城试图办一份报纸，这简直是不能想象的。因为在当时的社会情形下，报纸一般只在大城市里有。但三个女孩靠着执著、毅力与敢于尝试的精神让这一不可能变成了现实。一份《米尔维尔每日论坛报》终于诞生。其中的曲折可想而知。

这份报纸给米尔维尔注入了新鲜血液，丰富了当地人的精神生活，加强了与外界的沟通。在办报纸的过程中，三个女孩和漫画家海蒂·休伊特历经磨练，各自的才能得到了发挥，都成长、成熟了很多。创办报纸后短短的几个月里他们历经曲折，经受住了邪恶势力的恐吓和挑唆，先是来自斯科特经理的打击报复，后有政客伯格林因想利用《米尔维尔每日论坛报》进行参议员选举被拒，于是指使造纸厂恶棍疯狂报复，但种种行径都被他们用智慧和妙计一一化解，正义最终战胜了邪恶，使得报纸存活下去。

尤其值得一提的是，书中描写争吵、报复的场景扣人心弦，异常精彩，将约翰·梅瑞克等人的正直品性、女孩们的临危不惧展现得淋漓尽致，作者也把恶棍们的丑恶嘴脸刻画得入木三分，让我们读之激愤不已，由此可见作者驾驭文字的功底之深。虽然这些较为激烈的场面让人不免绷紧心弦，不过书中亦不乏幽默的语言与桥段，做到了有张有弛，宽紧适度。

在写作技巧方面，作者的高明之处让人叹服，尤其是几处鲜明的对比：纽约大都市的繁华与米尔维尔的落后闭塞；三个女孩的才华横溢与米尔维尔人及造纸厂工人的愚昧；造纸厂经理斯科特的狡猾、卑鄙与约翰、鲍勃等人的公平正直，

这种强烈的对比增强了本书的震撼力与感染力，让本书更具文学性和可读性。另外，作者处处设悬念，步步留空间，比如，从头至尾针对史密斯设置的悬念，史密斯出色的才能与之前流浪汉的形象悬殊，让人愈发好奇，想探个究竟，而他的身份之谜看似在第二十二章终于被揭开了，而最后一章却又被否认了，那结局到底是怎样的呢，就请读者亲自去探究一下吧！

在场人物

约翰·梅瑞克（简的哥哥）*John Merrick*

帕齐（简姨妈的侄女）*Patsy*

贝丝（简姨妈的侄女）*Beth*

露易丝（简姨妈的侄女）*Louise*

道尔（帕齐的父亲）*Doyle*

亚瑟·韦尔登（露易丝的丈夫）*Arthur Weldon*

史密斯（流浪汉）*Smith*

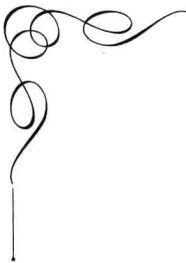
海蒂·休伊特（漫画家）*Hetty Hewitt*

鲍勃·韦斯特（五金店店主）*Bob West*

斯科特（造纸厂经理）*Skeelty*

伯格林（政客）*Boglin*

福格蒂（侦探）*Fogerty*



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Chapter 1

THE HOB^① AT CHAZY JUNCTION

一个清晨，火车站管理员贾金斯发现了一个因汽车故障在枢纽站呆了一夜的流浪汉。起初，贾金斯驱赶流浪汉，但流浪汉的伶牙俐齿让贾金斯只得作罢。后来贾金斯向流浪汉谈起了一个神秘的有钱人……

① hobo: 流浪汉

Mr. Judkins, the station agent^① at Chazy Junction, came out of his little house at daybreak, shivered a bit in the chill morning air and gave an involuntary start as he saw a private car on the sidetrack. There were two private cars, to be exact—a sleeper and a baggage car—and Mr. Judkins knew the three o'clock train must have left them as it passed through.

"Ah," said he aloud; "the nabobs^② hev arrove."

"Who are the nabobs?" asked a quiet voice beside him.

Again Mr. Judkins started; he even stepped back a pace to get a better view of the stranger, who had approached so stealthily^③ through the dim light that the agent was unaware of his existence until he spoke.

"Who be you?" he demanded, eyeing the man suspiciously.

"Never mind who I am," retorted the other in a grumpy^④ tone; "the original question is 'who are the nabobs?'"

"See here, young feller; this ain't no place fer tramps," observed Mr. Judkins, frowning with evident displeasure; "Chazy Junction's got all it kin do to support its reg'lar inhabitants. You'll hev to move on."

The stranger sat down on a baggage truck and eyed the private car reflectively. He wore a rough gray suit, baggy and threadbare^⑤, a flannel shirt with an old black tie carelessly knotted at the collar, a brown felt hat with several holes in

① station agent: 火车站管理人员

② nabob: 富豪

③ stealthily: 暗地里

④ grumpy: 脾气暴躁的

⑤ threadbare: 磨破的, 衣衫褴褛的

the crown, and coarse cowhide shoes that had arrived at the last stages of usefulness. You would judge him to be from twenty-five to thirty years of age; you would note that his face was browned from exposure, that it was rather set and expressionless but in no way repulsive^①. His eyes, dark and retrospective^②, were his most redeeming feature^③, yet betrayed little of their owner's character. Mr. Judkins could make nothing of^④ the fellow, beyond the fact that he was doubtless a "tramp" and on that account most unwelcome in this retired neighborhood.

Even tramps were unusual at Chazy Junction. The foothills were sparsely settled and the inhabitants too humble to be attractive to gentlemen of the road, while the rocky highways, tortuous^⑤ and uneven, offered no invitation to the professional pedestrian.

"You'll hev to move on!" repeated the agent, more sternly.

"I can't," replied the other with a smile. "The car I was—er—attached to has come to a halt^⑥. The engine has left us, and—here we are, I and the nabobs."

"Be'n ridin' the trucks, eh?"

"No; rear platform. Very comfortable it was, and no interruptions. The crazy old train stopped so many times

① repulsive: 令人厌恶的; 冷淡的

② retrospective: 怀旧的; 回顾的

③ redeeming feature: 可取之处

④ make nothing of: 不以……为意

⑤ tortuous: 弯曲的, 扭曲的

⑥ come to a halt: 停止前进, 停下来

during the night that I scarcely woke up when they sidetracked us here, and the first thing I knew I was abandoned in this wilderness. As it grew light I began to examine my surroundings, and discovered you. Glad to meet you, sir."

"You needn't be."

"Don't begrudge^① me the pleasure, I implore you. I can't blame you for being gruff^② and unsociable; were you otherwise you wouldn't reside at—at—" he turned his head to read the half legible sign on the station house, "at Chazy Junction. I'm familiar with most parts of the United States, but Chazy Junction gets my flutters. Why, oh, why in the world did it happen? "

Mr. Judkins scowled^③ but made no answer. He was wise enough to understand he was no match in conversation for this irresponsible outcast who knew the great world as perfectly as the agent knew his junction. He turned away and stared hard at the silent sleeper, the appearance of which was not wholly unexpected.

"You haven't informed me who the nabobs are, nor why they choose to be sidetracked in this forsaken stone-quarry," remarked the stranger, eyeing the bleak hills around him in the growing light of dawn.

The agent hesitated. His first gruff resentment had been in a manner disarmed and he dearly loved to talk, especially

① begrudge: 羡慕, 嫉妒

② gruff: 粗暴的; 脾气坏的

③ scowl: 皱眉表示; 对……沉下脸

on so interesting a subject as "the nabobs." He knew he could astonish the tramp, and the temptation to do so was too strong to resist.

"It's the great John Merrick, who's got millions to burn but don't light many bonfires," he began, not very graciously at first. "Two years ago he bought the Cap'n Wegg farm, over by Millville, an'—"

"Where's Millville?" inquired the man.

"Seven mile back in the hills. The farm ain't nuthin' but cobblestone^① an' pine woods, but—"

"How big is Millville?"

"Quite a town. Eleven stores an' houses, 'sides the mill an' a big settlement buildin' up at Royal, where the new paper mill^② is jest started. Royal's four mile up the Little Bill Hill."

"But about the nabob—Mr. Merrick, I think you called him?"

"Yes; John Merrick. He bought the Cap'n Wegg place an' spent summer'fore last on it—him an' his three gals as is his nieces."

"Oh; three girls."

"Yes. Clever gals, too. Stirred things up some at Millville, I kin tell you, stranger. Lib'ral an' good-natured, but able to hold their own with the natives. We missed 'em, last year; but t'other day I seen ol' Hucks, that keeps their house for 'em—he 'n' his wife—an' Hucks said they was cumin'

① cobblestone: 圆石, 鹅卵石

② paper mill: 造纸厂

to spend this summer at the farm an' he was lookin' fer 'em any day. The way they togged up thet farmhouse is somethin' won'erful, I'm told. Hain't seen it, myself, but a whole carload o' furnitoor—an' then some more—was shipped here from New York, an' Peggy McNutt, over t' Millville, says it must 'a' cost a for-tun'."

The tramp nodded, somewhat listlessly^①.

"I feel quite respectable this morning, having passed the night as the guest of a millionaire," he observed. "Mr. Merrick didn't know it, of course, or he would have invited me inside."

"Like enough," answered the agent seriously. "The nabob's thet reckless an' unaccountable, he's likely to do worse ner that. That's what makes him an' his gals interestin'; nobody in quarries. How about breakfast, friend Judkins?"

"That's my business an' not yours. My missus^② never feeds tramps."

"Rather ungracious to travelers, eh?"

"Ef you're a traveler, go to the hoe-tel yonder an' buy your breakfas' like a man."

"Thank you; I may follow your advice."

The agent walked up the track and put out the semaphore lights, for the sun was beginning to rise over the hills. By the time he came back a colored porter stood on the platform of the private car and nodded to him.

① listlessly: 无精打采地; 冷淡

② missus: 太太

"Folks up yit? " asked Judkins.

"Dressing, seh."

"Goin' ter feed 'em in there? "

"Not dis mohnin'. Dey'll breakfas' at de hotel. Carriage here yit? "

"Not yit. I s'pose ol' Hucks'll drive over for 'em," said the agent.

"Dey's 'spectin' some one, seh. As for me, I gotta live heah^① all day, an' it makes me sick teh think of it."

"Heh!" retorted the agent, scornfully; "you won't git sick. You're too well paid fer that."

The porter grinned, and just then a little old gentleman with a rosy, cheery face pushed him aside and trotted down the steps.

"Mornin', Judkins!" he cried, and shook the agent's hand. "What a glorious sunrise, and what crisp, delicious air! Ah, but it's good to be in old Chazy County again!"

The agent straightened up, his face wreathed^② with smiles, and cast an "I told you so!" glance toward the man on the truck. But the stranger had disappeared.

① heah: 这里（等于 here，多用于黑人英语）

② wreath: 包围；覆盖