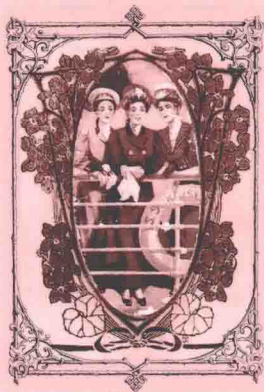


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*Aunt Tane's Nieces*

# 欧洲之行

[美] 莱曼·弗兰克·鲍姆 著

中国国际广播出版社

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〔美〕莱曼·弗兰克·鲍姆 著

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## 序 言

《欧洲之行》是“纯爱英文馆·美国少女成长”系列的第二本，继续讲述简·梅瑞克的三个侄女——贝丝、露易丝和帕齐的故事。这一次，她们将跟随约翰叔叔到欧洲旅行、历险。如果你没有读过第一本也没有关系，书中讲述的是一个完全独立的故事，并且本书的第二章也对第一本书的内容作了简单的回顾。

首先让我们来认识一下主人公。约翰叔叔，60岁，在太平洋海岸做生意致富，回家探视亲人时偶然结识了三个未曾谋面的侄女。他们在简的住所共同度过了一段美好的时光。约翰叔叔后来为帕齐父女买了房子，并与他们住在一起，把那里当成自己的家。贝丝，15岁，是俄亥俄州贫穷的音乐教师家的孩子，她生得漂亮，但由于父母成天喋喋不休地争吵使她生性内向，不愿与人交往。帕齐，16岁，率直、真诚，母亲过世后和父亲相依为命。露易丝，17岁，有心计，父亲去世后和母亲靠着父亲留下的保险过活。母女俩的希望就是露易丝能找个不错的丈夫，她们过上安逸的生活。抛开母女

俩世俗、不受欢迎的野心来看，露易丝有很多优良的品性，但是她受到虚荣、自私的母亲的影响，她的这些优良品格没有彰显出来。

约翰叔叔一行人的欧洲之行以亲历维苏威火山喷发拉开序幕。书中用了三分之一的篇幅详细描绘了火山喷发时的壮丽场面和对村镇造成的破坏。事实上，本书作者鲍姆本人曾亲眼目睹过维苏威火山喷发，书中主人公欧洲之行的路线与鲍姆曾经旅游的路线很接近，甚至他们住的旅店也是鲍姆曾经住过的。正是鲍姆切身体验的融入，使书中的很多场景描写让人读起来身临其境。而且当地人在火山爆发后仍然继续做生意的泰然态度也是鲍姆对当地风土人情准确把握的体现。

书中继维苏威火山的描写之后，用了更多的篇幅讲述了约翰叔叔遭遇土匪的经历，故事悬念重重，惊险有趣。书中处处埋设伏笔，在约翰叔叔和三个孩子登上旅行的轮船时，下半场的人物也已经跟随出场。

书中有两个神秘人物。土匪头子维克多·瓦尔迪当属其一。他一出场便带着几分神秘色彩。瓦尔迪言谈举止中带着几分文雅，也带着几分粗犷。在航船上，开朗直率的帕齐竭尽所能让其“善于交际”。但是我们从后面情节得知，瓦尔迪从帕齐那里打探了不少关于约翰叔叔的事。之后在陶尔米纳，约翰和孩子们再次遇到他。所有人似乎都对这位被称为“公爵”的人避而远之，至此，瓦尔迪的神秘色彩已经越染越浓。

费雷尔伯爵是书中出现的另一个神秘人物。他的假身份虽然从一出场便被揭穿，但其真实身份直到书的最后才揭晓。他一直让人不断地猜测、揣摩，在约翰叔叔失踪前他和瓦尔

迪一同出现过，而后他又和约翰叔叔一同失踪了，这让很大一部分读者都赞同贝丝的猜测：他和瓦尔迪是同谋。他们究竟是不是同谋呢？这个答案留着你去找寻吧。

除了这两个男主人公之外，书中还塑造了一个重要形象——塔托，书中对塔托这个小姑娘的描写也是不吝笔墨的。她女扮男装，以小男孩的身份出现，古灵精怪，先是成功地将约翰叔叔骗入土匪的老巢，后来再次成功地取得众人的信任，与女孩们朝夕相处几日后，成功地偷走了约翰叔叔和费雷尔之前未付的赎金。第二次骗取大家的信任是所有人始料不及的。当瓦尔迪带着她走到众人面前真诚道歉的时候，所有人也许都认为这一次这个孩子要重新开始新生活了，那么她最终会吗？

鲍姆除了对这些新出场的人物进行了淋漓尽致的描述之外，也进一步发掘了原有主人公的优秀品质。从本书第二章对人物事件的回顾中我们可以看出，露易丝之前一直遵循母亲的引导，为寻找一个有钱的丈夫进行各种精心谋划。然而从本书中我们可以看到，她喜欢亚瑟·威尔登，完全不在乎他是否会被剥夺继承权，这充分体现了她真诚、感性和独立的一面。贝丝在本书中是三个小姐妹中最勇敢、最有计谋的一个，她精心谋划了营救约翰叔叔的计划，并在行动中以优秀的表现成功地震慑了土匪，起到了关键性作用。她后来因为打中土匪的手指而晕厥，醒后发誓不再碰枪，前后反差的展现恰到好处地体现了一个少女的刚柔相济。书中留给小姐妹的堂兄肯尼思的篇幅不多，但从其参与营救约翰叔叔一事中我们也能看出，他在三个表妹及其监护人的影响下，不仅

性格变得随和，而且其原先呆笨的形象也荡然无存了。

少年心理的健康发展需要一个历练的过程，生活阅历中的挫折、情感体验中的悲喜、精神世界的追求都是人生中不可或缺的成长过程。让我们一起翻开《欧洲之行》，同书中的主人公一起启程吧。

## 在场人物

---

帕齐 *Patsy*

露易丝 *Louise*

贝丝 *Beth*

梅瑞克夫人（露易丝的母亲） *Mrs. Merrick*

格拉夫教授（贝丝父亲） *Professor De Graf*

格拉夫夫人（贝丝母亲） *Mrs. De Graf*

约翰叔叔 *Uncle John*

道尔上校（帕齐的父亲） *Major Doyle*

费雷尔伯爵（真实姓名是亚瑟·威尔登，露易丝的追求者）

*Count Ferralti*（*Arthur Weldon*）

维克多·瓦尔迪 / 公爵（土匪） *Victor Valdi/Il Duca*

塔托（瓦尔迪的女儿） *Tato*

公爵夫人（瓦尔迪的母亲） *Duchessa*

安杰利上校（约翰的朋友） *Colonel Angeli*

弗拉斯卡蒂（车夫） *Frascati*

托马索（土匪） *Tommaso*

塞拉斯·沃森（约翰叔叔的朋友） *Silas Watson*

肯尼思·福布斯（简·梅瑞克未婚夫的侄子） *Kenneth Forbes*





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## *Chapter 1*

### **THE DOYLES ARE ASTONISHED**

一天，帕齐在一遍遍地演奏一支她唯一会的钢琴曲，她父亲一直在聚精会神地欣赏，时不时地点头表示赞许，忽然约翰叔叔的一声鼾声打断了这幅美丽的画面，而后他宣布了一个令父女俩都吃惊的计划……

It was Sunday afternoon in Miss Patricia Doyle's pretty flat at 3708 Willing Square. In the small drawing room Patricia—or Patsy, as she preferred to be called—was seated at the piano softly playing the one "piece" the music teacher had succeeded in drilling into her flighty head by virtue of much patience and perseverance. In a thick cushioned morris-chair reclined the motionless form of Uncle John, a chubby little man in a gray suit, whose features were temporarily eclipsed by the newspaper that was spread carefully over them. Occasionally a gasp or a snore from beneath the paper suggested that the little man was "snoozing"<sup>①</sup> as he sometimes gravely called it, instead of listening to the music.

Major Doyle sat opposite, stiffly erect, with his admiring eyes full upon Patsy. At times he drummed upon the arms of his chair in unison"<sup>②</sup> with the music, nodding his grizzled head to mark the time as well as to emphasize his evident approbation"<sup>③</sup>. Patsy had played this same piece from start to finish seven times since dinner, because it was the only one she knew; but the Major could have listened to it seven hundred times without the flicker of an eyelash. It was not that he admired so much the "piece" the girl was playing as the girl who was playing the "piece." His pride in Patsy was unbounded. That she should have succeeded at all in mastering that imposing looking instrument—making it actually "play chunes" —was surely a

① snooze: 小睡, 打盹

② in unison: 一致地

③ approbation: 称赞

thing to wonder at. But then, Patsy could do anything, if she but tried.

Suddenly Uncle John gave a dreadful snort<sup>①</sup> and sat bolt upright, gazing at his companions with a startled look that melted into one of benign complacency as he observed his surroundings and realized where he was. The interruption gave Patsy an opportunity to stop playing the tune. She swung around on the stool and looked with amusement at her newly awakened uncle.

"You've been asleep," she said.

"No, indeed; quite a mistake," replied the little man, seriously. "I've only been thinking."

"An' such beautiful thoughts," observed the Major, testily, for he resented the interruption of his Sunday afternoon treat. "You thought 'em aloud, sir, and the sound of it was a bad imitation of a bullfrog in a marsh. You'll have to give up eating the salad, sir."

"Bah! Don't I know?" asked Uncle John, indignantly.

"Well, if your knowledge is better than our hearing, I suppose you do," retorted the Major. "But to an ignorant individual like meself the impression conveyed was that you snored like a man that has forgotten his manners an' gone to sleep in the presence of a lady."

"Then no one has a better right to do that," declared Patsy, soothingly; "and I'm sure our dear Uncle John's thoughts were

---

① snort: 鼻息声

just the most beautiful dreams in the world. Tell us of them, sir, and we'll prove the Major utterly wrong."

Even her father smiled at the girl's diplomacy, and Uncle John, who was on the verge of unreasonable anger, beamed upon her gratefully.

"I'm going to Europe," he said.

The Major gave an involuntary start, and then turned to look at him curiously.

"And I'm going to take Patsy along," he continued, with a mischievous grin.

The Major frowned.

"Control yourself, sir, until you are fully awake," said he. "You're dreaming again."

Patsy swung her feet from side to side, for she was such a little thing that the stool raised her entirely off the floor. There was a thoughtful look on her round, freckled face, and a wistful one in her great blue eyes as the full meaning of Uncle John's abrupt avowal<sup>①</sup> became apparent.

The Major was still frowning, but a half frightened expression had replaced the one of scornful raillery<sup>②</sup>. For he, too, knew that his eccentric brother-in-law was likely to propose any preposterous<sup>③</sup> thing, and then carry it out in spite of all opposition. But to take Patsy to Europe would be

---

① avowal: 公开宣布

② raillery: 逗趣, 开玩笑

③ preposterous: 荒谬的, 可笑的

like pulling the Major's eye teeth or amputating<sup>①</sup> his good right arm. Worse; far worse! It would mean taking the sunshine out of her old father's sky altogether, and painting it a grim, despairing gray.

But he resolved not to submit without a struggle.

"Sir," said he, sternly—he always called his brother-in-law "sir" when he was in a sarcastic or reproachful mood—"I've had an idea for some time that you were plotting mischief. You haven't looked me straight in the eye for a week, and you've twice been late to dinner. I will ask you to explain to us, sir, the brutal suggestion you have just advanced."

Uncle John laughed. In the days when Major Doyle had thought him a poor man and in need of a helping hand, the grizzled old Irishman had been as tender toward him as a woman and studiously avoided any speech or epithet that by chance might injure the feelings of his dead wife's only brother. But the Major's invariable courtesy to the poor or unfortunate was no longer in evidence when he found that John Merrick was a multi-millionaire with a strongly defined habit of doing good to others and striving in obscure and unconventional ways to make everybody around him happy. His affection for the little man increased mightily, but his respectful attitude promptly changed, and a chance to reprove or discomfit his absurdly rich brother-in-law was one of his most satisfactory diversions. Uncle John appreciated this, and holding the

---

① amputate: 切断

dignified Major in loving regard was glad to cross swords with him now and then to add variety to their pleasant relations.

"It's this way, Major Doyle," he now remarked, coolly. "I've been worried to death, lately, over business matters; and I need a change."

"Phoo! All your business is attended to by Isham, Marvin & Co. You've no worry at all. Why, we've just made you a quarter of a million in C.H. & D's."

The "we" is explained by stating that the Major held an important position in the great banking house—a position Mr. Merrick had secured for him some months previously.

"That's it ! " said Uncle John. "You've made me a quarter of a million that I don't want. The C.H. & D. stocks were going to pieces when I bought them, and I had reason to hope I'd lose a good round sum on them. But the confounded luck turned, and the result is an accumulation of all this dreadful money. So, my dear Major, before I'm tempted to do some-other foolish thing I've determined to run away, where business can't follow me, and where by industry and perseverance I can scatter some of my ill-gotten gains."

The Major smiled grimly.

"That's Europe, right enough," he said. "And I don't object, John, to your going there whenever you please. You're disgracefully countryfied and uninformed for a man of means, and Europe'll open your eyes and prove to you how insignificant you really are. I advise you to visit Ireland, sor,



which I'm reliably informed is the central jewel in Europe's crown of beauty. Go; and go whenever you please, sir; but forbear<sup>①</sup> the wickedness of putting foolish thoughts into our Patsy's sweet head. She can't go a step, and you know it. It's positive cruelty to her, sir, to suggest such a thing!"

The Major's speech had a touch of the brogue<sup>②</sup> when he became excited, but recovered when he calmed down.

"Why, you selfish old humbug<sup>③</sup>!" cried Uncle John, indignantly. "Why can't she go, when there's money and time to spare? Would you keep her here to cuddle and spoil a vigorous man like yourself, when she can run away and see the world and be happy?"

"It's a great happiness to cuddle the Major," said Patsy, softly; "and the poor man needs it as much as he does his slippers or his oatmeal for breakfast."

"And Patsy has the house to look after," added the Major, complacently.

Uncle John gave a snort of contempt.

"For an unreasonable man, show me an Irishman," he remarked. "Here you've been telling me how Europe is an education and a delight, and in the next breath you deliberately deprive your little daughter, whom you pretend to love, of the advantages she might gain by a trip abroad! And why? Just because you want her yourself, and might be a bit lonesome

---

① forbear: 忍耐, 克制

② brogue: 土腔 (指爱尔兰口音的英语)

③ humbug: 骗子