

WORLD FAMOUS FICTIONS

墜樓記
KENILWORTH

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CHAPTER VII

This is he
Who rides on the court gale, controls its tides,
Knows all their secret shoals and fatal eddies,
Whose frown abases, and whose smile exalts.
He shines like any rainbow—and, perchance,
His colours are as transient.

Old Play.

The countess paused, as if what the earl last said had excited some painful but interesting train of thought; and, as she still remained silent, her husband proceeded.

“And now, loveliest, your wish is gratified, and you have seen your vassal in such trim array as accords with riding vestments; for robes of state and coronets are only for princely halls.”

“Well, then,” said the countess, “my gratified wish has, as usual, given rise to a new one.”

“And what is it thou canst ask that I can deny?” said the fond husband.

“I wished to see my earl visit this obscure and secret bower,”¹ said the countess, “in all his princely array; and now, methinks, I long to sit in one of his princely halls, and see him enter dressed in sober russet, as when he won poor Amy Robsart’s heart.”

“That is a wish easily granted,” said the earl; “the sober russet shall be donned to-morrow, if you will.”

¹ bower 深閨; 花塲.

墜樓記

第七回 瓦爾尼

〔當英國女主依利薩伯 (Elizabeth) 在位的時候，她所寵任的是兩個大臣，一個是伯爵勒司德 (Leicester)，一個是伯爵沙塞克 (Sussex) 兩人分黨爭權。女主戀愛勒司德，在言語舉動中，屢屢微露其意。勒司德是欲與女主結婚，以傾彼黨，而先已私娶一個鄉下爵士的小姐愛梅，洛白沙特 (Amy Robsart) 爲妻，深藏於甘諾爾宅 (Cummer Place) 中，不令人知。有一晚他私自回宅，把他許多珍寶及寶星大綬給愛梅看，解說來歷，他又說了幾句話，寧願做一個自由的諸侯，不願娶一個北方窮女主，仰她的鼻息。譯者注〕

伯爵夫人聽了這幾句話，心有所感，好像激動一串愁苦而有意義的思想，他仍然一言不發，她的丈夫就往下說道。

『我的至愛，現在你既如願以償，你又看見你的臣僕，照着騎馬出行的裝扮；因爲大禮服和諸侯的小冕；只是在王公的殿庭穿戴的。』

伯爵夫人說道，『我是如願以償了，但是往往一願既償，又新生一願。』

這個愛情很深的丈夫說道，『你能要什麼是我所不能答應的？』

伯爵夫人說道，『我前次的願望，是要我的伯爵來看看這個黑暗而祕密的藏嬌之所，陳設得如王侯宮殿那樣華美；現在我想我久已要坐在他的一所王侯的宮殿裏，看他穿了他的樸素的棕色衣服進來，如從前他贏得愛梅的心的時候一樣。』

伯爵說道，『這一種願望是很容易償的；你若願意看我明天就穿上那件樸素棕色衣服。』

"But shall I," said the lady, "go with you to one of your castles, to see how the richness of your dwelling will correspond with your peasant habit?"

"Why, Amy," said the earl, looking around, "are not these apartments decorated with sufficient splendour? I gave the most unbounded order, and, methinks, it has been indifferently well obeyed; but if thou canst tell me aught¹ which remains to be done, I will instantly give direction."

"Nay, my lord, now you mock me," replied the countess; "the gaiety of this rich lodging exceeds my imagination as much as it does my desert. But shall not your wife, my love—at least one day soon—be surrounded with the honour which arises neither from the toils of the mechanic who decks her apartment nor from the silks and jewels with which your generosity adorns her, but which is attached to her place among the matronage, as the avowed wife of England's noblest earl?"

"One day!" said her husband. "Yes, Amy, my love, one day this shall surely happen; and, believe me, thou canst not wish for that day more fondly than I. With what rapture could I retire from labours of state, and cares and toils of ambition, to spend my life in dignity and honour on my own broad domains, with thee, my lovely Amy, for my friend and companion! But, Amy, this cannot yet be; and these dear but stolen interviews are all I can give to the loveliest and the best beloved of her sex."

"But *why* can it not be?" urged the countess, in the softest tones of persuasion. "Why can it not immediately

¹ aught 無論什麼。

夫人說道，『但是你肯同我到你的許多堡砦之一，使我看你的府第的華麗，同你的鄉下人衣服怎樣相稱麼？』

伯爵四圍看看，說道，『愛梅，難道你以為這好些房子還裝飾得不夠華美麼？我吩咐他們只管花錢裝飾，並不限制他們，據我看來，他們裝飾得很好，無可挑剔的了；只要你能告訴我，還要裝飾無論什麼，我立刻就吩咐他們辦去。』

伯爵夫人答道，『不是的，你現在是取笑我啦，這所富麗房子的華美，不獨遠過我所配受的，而且遠出我的想像之外。這些鋪陳裝飾，是工匠們費力造出來的，絢綵珠寶，是你的慷慨打扮我的，我的愛人呀，我是你的正室，在婦女之中，有她的地位所該學不僅鋪陳與打扮出來的體面，難道你的夫人，將來至少有一天，英國的最高貴的伯爵的正式承認的夫人，不該被這樣的體面所包圍麼？』

她的丈夫答道，『有一天！是呀，愛梅，我的愛妻，將來有一天，必定有這樣的事出現；你想這一天，我更想這一天，你要相信我這句話。等到我不須為國宣勞，不須為爭權耗費心力，能夠歸隱的時候，在我自己的廣大土地上過尊貴的生活，有我們的可愛的愛梅同我做朋友，與我做同伴，那時候我是多麼狂樂呀？愛梅，不過這個時候還不能辦到；現在我所能給我的最美貌的與最被戀愛的女人的，不過是這樣寶貴的及偷偷摸摸的私會。』

伯爵夫人用最溫柔的相勸的腔調問道，『但是為什麼

take place—this more perfect, this uninterrupted union, for which you say you wish, and which the laws of God and man alike command? Ah! did you but desire it half as much as you say, mighty and favoured as you are, who or what should bar your attaining your wish?”

The earl's brow was overcast.

“Amy,” he said, “you speak of what you understand not. We that toil in courts are like those who climb a mountain of loose sand: we dare make no halt until some projecting rock afford us a secure footing and resting-place; if we pause sooner, we slide down by our own weight, an object of universal derision. I stand high, but I stand not secure enough to follow my own inclination. To declare my marriage were to be the artificer of my own ruin. But, believe me, I will reach a point, and that speedily, when I can do justice to thee and to myself. Meantime, poison not the bliss of the present moment by desiring that which cannot at present be. Let me rather know whether all here is managed to thy liking. How does Foster bear himself to you? in all things respectful, I trust, else the fellow shall dearly rue it.”

“He reminds me sometimes of the necessity of this privacy,” answered the lady, with a sigh; “but that is reminding me of your wishes, and therefore I am rather bound to him than disposed to blame him for it.”

“I have told you the stern necessity which is upon us,” replied the earl, “Foster is, I note, somewhat sullen of mood, but Varney warrants to me his fidelity and devotion to my service. If thou hast aught, however, to complain of the mode in which he discharges his duty, he shall abye it.”¹

¹ abye it, 因此受罰.

不能？爲什麼不能立刻辦到——爲什麼不能使這樣更完全，這樣不間斷的締結，立刻發現，因爲你說你願這樣辦，況且上帝的法律與人類的法律都要這樣辦。咳！假使你的心願只要有你的口說的一半，如你這樣有勢力與蒙寵任的人，有什麼人，或有什麼事，會攔阻你，使那不能如願以償呀？』

伯爵聽了皺眉。

他說道，『愛梅，你所說的，都是你所不能懂得的話。我們在宮庭辦事的人，就如同爬鬆沙造成的山一般：我們往上爬，要爬到有一塊突出的山石，可以使我們立足，可以使我們歇息，我們才敢站住；我們若未曾爬到這樣的地方就要站住，我們會被我們自己的重量所拖，就溜下去，就變作衆人的笑柄。我所站的地方很高，但是我的立足地方還不夠穩，不能想做什麼就做什麼。我若宣布我已結婚，就是自己害自己。但是我只要到了一定地點，我想不久就可以走到，我就能夠還你公道，還我自己公道，我要你相信我這句話。現在你切勿因爲想做現在所不能做到的事，害了現在的歡樂。我只要曉得這裏的一切布置是不是合你的意。福斯德（Foster，這是伯爵派在這所宅子看管她自己夫人的一個粗鹵僕人——譯者註。）待你還好麼？我相信，他無事不以禮待你，不然的話，他要後悔的。』

夫人歎氣說道，『他有時使我記得這樣的祕密是必要的；但是這不過是使我記得這是你的意思，是你要他這樣的；所以我不願怪他，我只好受他的約束。』

伯爵答道，『我已經告訴你，我們不能不嚴守祕密。我看出福斯德的脾氣有點不好，但是瓦爾尼（Varney 是一個聰明敢作敢爲的惡毒小人，是伯爵的心腹及爪牙，——譯者註。）對我擔保這個死心塌地替我出力。雖是這樣說，你若對於他執行他們職務有什麼不滿意的地方，我就懲罰他。』

"Oh, I have nought to complain of," answered the lady, "so he discharges his task with fidelity to you; and his daughter Janet is the kindest and best companion of my solitude, her little air of precision¹ sits so well upon her!"

"Is she indeed?" said the earl; "she who gives you pleasure must not pass unrewarded. Come hither, damsel." . . .

"Help me to don a plainer riding-suit, Varney," said the earl, as he laid aside his morning-gown, flowered with silk and lined with sables, "and put these chains and fetters there (pointing to the collars of the various orders which lay on the table) into their places of security; my neck last night was wellnigh broke with the weight of them. I am half of the mind that they shall gall me no more. They are bonds which knaves have invented to fetter fools. How think'st thou, Varney?"

"Faith, my good lord," said his attendant, "I think fetters of gold are like no other fetters: they are ever the weightier the welcomer."

"For all that, Varney," replied his master, "I am wellnigh resolved they shall bind me to the court no longer. What can further service and higher favour give me, beyond the rank and large estate which I have already secured? What brought my father to the block, but that he could not bound his wishes within right and reason? I have, you know, had mine own ventures and mine own escapes; I am wellnigh resolved to tempt the sea no farther, but sit me down in quiet on the shore."

"And gather cockle-shells, with Dan Cupid to aid you," said Varney.

¹ precision 清潔派.

夫人答道，『呀，只要他對於你忠心服務，我並無不滿意於他的話；他的女兒展尼忒（Janet）是我的寂寞境地的最和氣的最好同伴，她的清潔派態度與她很相稱！』

伯爵道，『是麼？她既能使你歡樂，必要得賞。女孩子，你過來。』

（展尼忒自稱是清潔派，不肯受伯爵所賞的戒指及金錢——譯者註。）

（第二天早上瓦爾尼幫伯爵穿衣，因為瓦爾尼不獨是他的太僕，還要照應他穿衣服，——譯者註。）

伯爵一面把繡花鑲貂皮的早衣卸下，一面對他說道，『瓦爾尼，你幫我穿上一件較為樸素的騎馬衣服，把這許多鏈子及桎梏（他指着放在桌上的各種勳章的領子）放在安穩地方；昨天晚上我的頭頸子幾乎被這些重東西壓斷了。我打定一半主意，再不讓這些東西磨痛我。這許多東西都是枷鎖，是惡棍造出來束縛傻子的。瓦爾尼，你看是不是？』

他的侍從說道，『我的好主人，我想金枷鎖不比別的枷鎖；金枷鎖是越重越好。』

他的主人答道，『雖是這樣說，我卻是頗堅決的要辭職，不使這些東西把我束縛在宮庭裏。我已經得着高官與廣大的土地，再效勞，再得寵，還能夠給我什麼？我的父親為什麼殺頭的（他的父親試行廢立，事覺，被殺。——譯者註。）還不是因為他的欲望太奢，不能謹守正道理失性的範圍麼？你是曉得的，我曾作過我的冒險事，得過我們倖免；我幾乎決定不再冒風濤的危險啦，我只想安安靜靜的，坐在海邊罷了。（這個伯爵在一五六四至一五八八年間，當過英國海陸軍統將，以禦西班牙入犯的舟師。——譯者註。）

瓦爾尼說道，『坐在海邊拾蛤蜊殼子玩，帶着司戀愛的神幫你忙。』

"How mean you by that, Varney?" said the earl, somewhat hastily.

"Nay, my lord," said Varney, "be not angry with me. If your lordship is happy in a lady so rarely lovely that, in order to enjoy her company with somewhat more freedom, you are willing to part with all you have hitherto lived for, some of your poor servants may be sufferers; but your bounty hath placed me so high, that I shall ever have enough to maintain a poor gentleman in the rank befitting the high office he has held in your lordship's family."

"Yet you seem discontented when I propose throwing up a dangerous game, which may end in the ruin of both of us."

"I, my lord!" said Varney; "surely I have no cause to regret¹ your lordship's retreat. It will not be Richard Varney who will incur the displeasure of majesty, and the ridicule of the court, when the stateliest fabric that ever was founded upon a prince's favour melts away like a morning frost-work. I would only have you yourself be assured, my lord, ere you take a step which cannot be retracted, that you consult your fame and happiness in the course you propose."

"Speak on, then, Varney," said the earl; "I tell thee I have determined nothing, and will weigh all considerations on either side."

"Well, then, my lord," replied Varney, "we will suppose the step taken, the frown frowned, the laugh laughed, and the moan moaned. You have retired, we will say, to some one of your most distant castles, so far from court that you hear neither the sorrow of your friends nor the glee of your

¹ regret 捨不得

伯爵有點着急，問道，『瓦爾尼，你這句話是什麼意思？』

瓦爾尼說道，『我的主人，我並無什麼意思，不要同我生氣。爵爺，你有了這樣罕見的美貌女人覺得很歡樂，若因你要更自由的享受她的陪伴，就願意拋棄你一生所求得的尊榮，你是好了，無如你的僕從們就許受困苦；但是你的恩惠已經把我提拔到很高，我有足用的錢財，以維持我這樣一個窮的上等人的地位，保全我在你家裏所執的高等職事的觀瞻。』

『我們所要的是一種很危險的把戲，到後來就許可以把你我都毀了，當我提議要不要把戲的時候，你好像大不滿意。』

瓦爾尼說道，『我的主人，我確無理由捨不得你辭職不幹。將來並不是瓦爾尼逢女主的怒，受庭臣們恥笑，我是說你拿一個君主的寵任作基礎，蓋造頂壯麗的宮殿，一旦冰消瓦解，如朝露一般的時候的話。我的主人，我不過要你先打定主意才好踏步，一失足卻是不能挽回的，我要你當提議這件事的時候，既要顧到你的歡樂，亦要兼顧你的名譽。』

伯爵說道，『瓦爾尼，既是這樣，你只管往下說。我告訴你，我並未決定做什麼，我將權衡兩邊的輕重。』

瓦爾尼答道，『我的主人，既是這樣，很好，我們假作你走了這一步，憎惡你的，憎惡了，笑你的，也笑了，歎氣的，也歎氣了。我們譬如說，你到了你的最遠的一座堡砦裏歸隱了，那裏離宮庭極遠，你既聽不見你的朋友們的憂

enemies. We will suppose, too, that your successful rival will be satisfied—a thing greatly to be doubted—with abridging and cutting away the branches of the great tree which so long kept the sun from him, and that he does not insist upon tearing you up by the roots. Well, the late prime favourite of England, who wielded her general's staff and controlled her parliaments, is now a rural baron, hunting, hawking, drinking fat ale with country esquires, and mustering his men at the command of the high sheriff——”

“Varney, forbear!” said the earl.

“Nay, my lord, you must give me leave to conclude my picture. Sussex governs England, the Queen's health fails, the succession is to be settled—a road is opened to ambition more splendid than ambition ever dreamed of. You hear all this as you sit by the hob, under the shade of your hall chimney. You then begin to think what hopes you have fallen from, and what insignificance you have embraced, and all that you might look babies in the eyes of your fair wife¹ oftener than once a fortnight.”

“I say, Varney,” said the earl, “no more of this. I said not that the step, which my own ease and comfort would urge me to, was to be taken hastily, or without due consideration to the public safety. Bear witness to me, Varney; I subdue my wishes of retirement, not because I am moved by the call of private ambition, but that I may preserve the position in which I may best serve my country at the hour of need. Order our horses presently. I will wear, as formerly, one of the livery cloaks, and ride before the portmantle.² Thou shalt be master for the day,

¹ I look babies in the eyes of your fair wife 看你美貌夫人眼裏的瞳人。 ² portmantle 卽 portmanteau, 衣包; 皮包。

愁，亦聽不見你的仇人們的快樂。我們又假如你的得勝的對頭也滿意了——這一層卻還有大疑問——你的對頭滿意於把久已遮住他，使他不能見太陽的那棵大樹的枝子，該折的折了，該斬去的也斬去了，他並不努力連根把這棵樹拔去。好呀，從前是英國女主的第一個得寵的大臣，這個大臣曾執過她的統將的權杖，曾操縱過她的上下兩議院，現在當了一個居鄉的諸侯，獵獸，臂鷹，同小鄉紳們喫會令人發胖的麥酒，州長的命令一到，他就得奉令維謹，招集他手下的人們——』

伯爵說道，『瓦爾尼，你不可往下說啦！』

他答道，『我的主人，不要攔阻我，你得讓我寫完這幅畫。沙塞克伯爵治英國，女主多病，要議定繼位人——這就打開一條好路給有大志的人走，這是有大志的人向來所夢想不到的。你在你的大廳的爐牆之下，坐在火爐的鐵檻旁邊，聽人說這些熱鬧事。那時候你就起首想你失丟多少機會，你做了什麼不相干的事，爲的是你可以多多的看你的美貌夫人，不止兩星期只見一次。』

伯爵說道：『瓦爾尼，不要再說啦。我原爲的是舒服與安樂，才想走這一步，我並不曾說匆匆忙忙就要辦到，我亦並不曾說，不正式考慮過國家的安寧，就走這一步。瓦爾尼，你可以作證：我把我想歸隱的意思壓下去，並不是因爲被私人的大志所動，只因我在朝就可以保全我的地位，我在這個地位，當國家要用我時，我就可以盡我的能力，爲國家效勞。你就去吩咐預備馬匹。我將同從前一樣穿騎馬的外衣，我前走，衣包隨後來。瓦爾尼，你今天當

Varney; neglect nothing that can blind suspicion. We will to horse ere men are stirring. I will but take leave of my lady, and be ready.~ I impose a restraint on my own poor heart, and wound one yet more dear to me: but the patriot must subdue the husband."

Having said this in a melancholy but firm accent, he left the dressing-apartment.

"I am glad thou art gone," thought Varney, "or, practised as I am in the follies of mankind, I had laughed in the very face of thee! Thou mayst tire as thou wilt of thy new bauble, thy pretty piece of painted Eve's flesh there, I will not be thy hindrance. But of thine old bauble, ambition, thou shalt not tire, for as you climb the hill, my lord, you must drag Richard Varney up with you; and if he can urge you to the ascent he means to profit by, believe me he will spare neither whip nor spur. And for you, my pretty lady, that would be countess outright, you were best not thwart my courses, lest you are called to an old reckoning on a new score. 'Thou shalt be master,' did he say? By my faith, he may find that he spoke truer than he is aware of. And thus he, who, in the estimation of so many wise-judging men, can match Burleigh and Walsingham in policy, and Sussex in war, becomes pupil to his own menial; and all for a hazel eye and a little cunning red and white, and so falls ambition. And yet, if the charms of mortal woman could excuse¹ a man's politic pate for becoming bewildered, my lord had the excuse at his right hand on this blessed evening that has last passed over us. Well, let things roll as they may, he shall make me great, or I will make myself happy; and for that softer piece of creation,

¹excuse 原諒; 藉口.

主人：凡是能夠遮掩人眼，不會犯疑的事，都要做到。我們當人們還未起來就得上馬出發。我只要同我的夫人辭行，就能上路了。我只好壓下我的可憐的心，還要傷一個我所更寶貴的人的心：這也沒法，愛國人必得壓住丈夫。』

他說這番悽慘而決絕的話，就出了梳裝室。

瓦爾尼想道，『你走了，我很高興；不然的話，我既深知世人所做的種種荒謬的事，我會當着你的面大笑的！你得了一個新耍貨，擦脂抹粉的女人，你將來是會厭倦的，我不來攔阻你。但是我卻不讓你厭倦你自己的舊耍貨，我說的是你的大志；我的主人，因為你向山上爬，你必得拖瓦爾尼上去；他若能夠強逼你上山，以便他從中取利，你得相信，他是要用鞭子或用靴距，當你是隻馬，逼你上山。我的美貌貴夫人，你立刻想做伯爵夫人麼，你最好不要攔阻我進行，不然的話，我要你在新欠項下算舊債的，（這是說他新近曉得夫人與特列西林見面，要藉此修舊怨。——譯者註。）他剛纔不是說（這個他指伯爵——譯者註。）你做主人麼？他要曉得他是說了一句更真實的話，真實過他所曉得的，有許多明智而善斷的人都說，以政術論，他能夠同柏爾力（Barleigh）及窩爾星干（Walsingham）比肩，以戰術論，他能夠同沙塞克匹敵，卻反變作他自己的奴僕的學生；只因他愛一雙淡褐色的眼，及一點善能惑人的紅與白，他的大志就倒地了。雖是這樣說，假使一個女人的迷人的美貌，能夠原諒一個有計謀的頭腦變糊塗了，在我們所過的昨天晚上，我的主人就近得了原諒。好嗎，讓事體只管進行，他必得使我變作大人物，不然的話，我將使我自己歡樂；（瓦爾尼早已有意要奪伯爵的夫人——譯

if she speak not out her interview with Tressilian, as well I think she dare not, she also must traffic with me for concealment and mutual support in spite of all this scorn. I must to the stables. Well, my lord, I order your retinue new; the time may soon come that *my* master of the horse shall order mine own. What was Thomas Cromwell but a smith's son, and he died 'my lord'—on a scaffold, doubtless, but that, too, was in character.¹ And what was Ralph Sadler but the clerk of Cromwell, and he has gazed eighteen fair lordships,—*via!*² I know my steerage as well as they." . . .

CHAPTER VIII

Host. I will hear you, Master Fenton;
And I will, at least, keep your counsel.
Merry Wives of Windsor.

"If you have seen Will Badger, mine host," said Tressilian, "you have heard enough of Sir Hugh Robsart; and therefore I will but say, that the hospitality you boast of hath proved somewhat detrimental to the estate of his family, which is perhaps of the less consequence, as he has but one daughter to whom to bequeath it. And here begins my share in the tale. Upon my father's death, now several years since, the good Sir Hugh would willingly have made me his constant companion. There was a time, however, at which I felt the kind knight's excessive love for field-sports detained me from studies by which I might have profited more; but I ceased to regret the leisure which gratitude and hereditary friendship compelled

¹ in character 與性格相稱. ² via 叩 away 走吧.