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Far from the Madding Crowd

远离尘嚣

Thomas Hardy (英) 著 黄芳 注

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亲爱的老师们、同学们,"外研社·企鹅英语分级有声读物"丛书是由外语教学与研究出版社和培生教育出版集团联合推出的又一力作。本丛书为广大学生提供了充分享受阅读乐趣的大平台!

我们做此套分级读物的宗旨是为了给学习者提供大量的、不同题材的阅读材料。材料不仅要适合读者的语言能力水平,更要能够激发阅读兴趣——让读者感到自己是在读故事、听故事,而不是在学(study)英语,从而卸去教材课本中枯燥的语法知识的沉重负担,真正做到寓教于乐。更重要的一点是,读完一本小册子后你会很有成就感,觉得学习英语就是这么轻松、愉快!

本套丛书内容丰富,由易渐难,主要突出了以下特色:

分级明确 结合最新颁布的国家《英语课程标准》划分适用年级,遵循语言学习的规律,充分考虑到不同年龄段学生生理和心理发展的特点和需求:

配有音带 有助于提高听力水平,加强学生对语言的理解力;

插图生动 带你进入"读图时代", 意向直观、准确;

题 材 丰富 涵盖现代流行、经典名著和精彩原创三大类别,内容 还涉及名人、名著、电影、戏剧等不同的领域;

注释简洁 帮助减少阅读过程中可能遇到的阻力,并激发学习者的 自信心;

配有练习 理解题目按照阅读图式认知理论精心设计,为阅读提供了方向性指导与检测手段。

如果你们喜欢这套读物,请把它推荐给朋友们。如果你们对这套读物有什么意见和建议,也请告诉我们。愿这套读物成为大家课外的良师益友!

很多具有丰富教学经验的中小学老师为这套读物做了注释和相关练习, 我们也在此表示衷心的感谢!

Introduction

Gabriel watched every morning for the girl's visit to the fields. Her bright eyes, her long black hair and her quick laugh became more attractive to him every day. In fact, love – that quiet thief – was slowly beginning to steal young Farmer Oak's heart.

Gabriel Oak has worked hard all his life and knows what he wants. And when he meets Bathsheba Everdene, he is soon sure that he wants to marry her. But Bathsheba has other ideas – beautiful and independent, she is not ready to marry yet. When Gabriel loses his farm, he knows that he has lost all hope. But "love is a golden prison", so when Bathsheba asks for his help on her own farm, he cannot say "no". Even when she falls in love with the handsome but selfish Sergeant* Troy, Gabriel refuses to leave her. Is he a fool, or her only true friend? And will Bathsheba's beauty bring her happiness, or life-long pain and sadness?

A story of hard lives and strong feelings, Far from the Madding Crowd is a book that few people can forget.

Thomas Hardy was born in 1840, in Upper Bockhampton, a small village near Dorchester in the south-west of England. His father was a builder and stonecutter*. Thomas was educated at local schools and then got a job in a local builder's office, where he worked for ten years. In 1861 he moved to London and studied at evening classes. He began to write stories. One of his early books was *Under the Greenwood Tree* (1872), a gentle, humorous picture of love and marriage in a Dorset village. The book was quite successful and he decided to become a professional writer. In 1874, he married Emma Gifford, a musician, and completed Far from the Madding Crowd, which

appeared in the Cornhill magazine. This story already has some of the sadness and seriousness that are to be found in Hardy's later work. Other stories followed: The Mayor of Casterbridge (1886), The Woodlanders (1887), Tess of the D'Urbervilles (1891) and Jude the Obscure (1895).

Hardy had a deep understanding of the poorer people in society and of the passions which people of any class feel. At the same time he was an admirer of Darwin's writings and realized that very often human beings cannot control their lives or change the course of events. Most of his stories end unhappily.

In 1883, Hardy went back to live in Dorset. In his later years he stopped writing stories and wrote poems, most of them produced after he was seventy. He believed that the language of his poems should be as close as possible to spoken language. His poems have great simplicity* and some readers value them more highly than his stories. Wessex Poems and Other Verses came out in 1898 and was followed by other collections.

In 1910, Hardy was given the Order of Merit by the king, in recognition of his work. He married for the second time in 1914 and died in 1928 at the age of eighty-eight.

内容简介

加布里埃尔每天早上都期待着这位姑娘的到来。她那明亮的眼睛、长长的黑发,以及那欢快的笑声,一天比一天更吸引着他。事实上,爱情已经悄无声息地偷走了这个年轻农夫奥克的心。

加布里埃尔·奥克一直努力工作,他知道自己想要的是什么。当他遇到芭谢巴·埃弗汀时便下定决心要娶她。但是芭谢巴可不这么想,这位美丽且独立的女孩儿还不想嫁人呢。加布里埃尔失去农场后,他知道一切希望都破灭了。但是"爱情是金子做的牢笼",因此当芭谢巴向他求助时,他依然无法拒绝。甚至当她爱上了英俊却自私的特洛伊中士时,奥克也不曾离开她。他是傻瓜还是她真正的朋友?芭谢巴的美貌给她带来的是幸福还是一生的痛苦和伤悲?

《远离尘嚣》带给我们的这个关于艰苦生活和强烈感情的故事让人难以忘怀。

托马斯·哈代1840年生于英格兰西南部多切斯特市附近的一个名叫上博克汉普顿的小村庄。父亲是一个建筑工人兼石匠。托马斯在地方学校接受教育,然后在当地一家建筑公司工作了十年。1861年,他来到伦敦上夜校并开始写作。他的早期作品之一《绿林阴下》(1872)描述了发生在多切斯特的一个关于爱情和婚姻的温和而幽默的故事。这部作品的成功使他决心专业从事写作。1874年,他与音乐家埃玛·吉福德结婚,同年完成的《远离尘嚣》被登在了《康希尔杂志》上。这部作品已初具哈代式的哀伤与严肃的写作风格,这在其后的作品中均有体现。之后,他又陆续完成了《卡斯特桥市长》(1886)、《林地居民》(1887)、《德伯家的苔丝》(1891)和《无名的裘德》(1895)。

哈代甚为了解社会较贫困阶层的人们,并深知各阶层人们的不同情感 取向。同时,他也是达尔文学说的推崇者,认为多数时候人们都无法掌控 命运或是改变事情的进程。他的小说多是非圆满的结尾。 1883年,哈代搬回到多切斯特居住。在其后的日子里他停止小说的创作转而写诗,大多数诗歌是他年过古稀后的作品。他坚信他诗歌中的语言和口语一样贴近生活。他的诗歌朴实无华,有的读者甚至认为他的诗歌比小说更有价值。《韦塞克斯诗集》于1898年出版,之后其他选集也陆续出版。

1910年,国王亲授哈代勋章,以表彰他的成就。他于1914年再婚;1928年逝世,享年88岁。

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- 1 King Solomon's Mines 所罗门王的宝藏
- ② The Doll's House and Other Stories 玩具屋及其他故事
- 3 Far from the Madding Crowd 远离尘器
- 4 Management Gurus 管理大师
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Chapter 1 An Offer* of Marriage

Farmer Oak was a strong, well-built* man, with a wide smile that reached from ear to ear. His first name was Gabriel, and his comfortable old clothes and quiet way of walking about his fields showed him to be a calm, sensible man. He was hard-working, had intelligent opinions, and went to church on Sundays. His neighbours generally thought well of him.

He was at the best age for a man. The confused feelings and thoughts of a very young man were behind him, and he had not yet arrived at the time when he had to carry the heavy responsibilities of a wife and family. In short, he was twenty-eight and unmarried.

On a sunny morning in December, Oak was walking across one of his fields. Next to the field was a road, and Oak could see a wagon* moving slowly along. The wagon was full of furniture and boxes, and on the top of all these things sat a woman, young and attractive. As Oak watched, the wagon came to a stop*.

"One of the boxes has fallen off, Miss," said the wagoner.

"Oh, then I think I heard it fall not long ago," the girl said.

The wagoner ran back to find the box and for a few minutes the girl sat without moving. The only sounds were birds singing. Then she suddenly picked up a small paper packet, opened it, and took out a mirror. She quickly looked round to see if she was alone, then held the mirror up to look at her face. As she looked, her lips moved, and she smiled.

The sun shone down on the girl's bright face and dark hair, and the picture was certainly a pretty one. But it was an odd* thing to do when travelling on an open wagon. The girl did not tidy her hair or do anything; she just looked at her own face. Still unseen in his field, Gabriel Oak smiled to himself in amusement.

When the wagoner came back, the girl put away her mirror and the wagon moved on down the road. Oak followed it slowly, and when he came near the gate at the bottom of the hill, he heard the girl arguing* with the gatekeeper. She was refusing to pay the extra* twopence* that the gatekeeper asked for, and after a few minutes the girl won the argument. The gate was opened, and the wagon drove on. The gatekeeper watched it go.

"That's a handsome girl," he said to Oak.

"And she knows it - too well," said Gabriel, thinking of the mirror.

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In the next few weeks, Oak saw the girl again several times. She had come to live with her aunt in the village, and was often in the field next to Gabriel's, milking her aunt's cow. Once, Gabriel found her hat for her when it had blown off in the wind. She spoke a few words to him then, and after that meeting Gabriel found that the girl's lovely face was often in his mind.

It was the time of year when the sheep had their lambs*, and Gabriel spent a lot of time in the fields, looking after his sheep and the new lambs. This was his first year as a farmer; before that he had worked on other people's farms, as a shepherd* or a farm manager. He had worked hard and borrowed money to start his own farm with two hundred sheep, so it was an important time for him.

But although he was busy with his sheep, Gabriel watched every morning for the girl's visit to the fields. He learnt that her name was Bathsheba Everdene, and her bright eyes, her long black hair and her quick laugh became more attractive to him every day. In fact, love – that quiet thief – was slowly beginning to steal* young Farmer Oak's heart. And one day he said to

himself, "I'll make her my wife. I'll never be happy without her."

So a few days later, he put on his best clothes, and went down to the village. When he got to the house, only the aunt was at home, but as he came away from the village, he met Bathsheba coming down the hill. They stopped, and looked at each other.

Farmer Oak had had no practice in asking girls to marry him, and he did not quite know how to begin.

"I've just been down to your house, Miss Everdene," he said. "I came to ask if you'd like to marry me." He paused. "But perhaps you've got a young man already."

"Oh, no!" The girl shook* her head quickly. "I haven't got a young man at all."

Gabriel looked pleased. "I'm truly glad to hear that," he said, smiling one of his long, special smiles. He held out his hand to take hers, but she hurriedly put her hand behind her back.

"I'm not sure if I want to marry anyone," she said, her face a little pink.

"Come," said Gabriel quickly, "think a minute or two. I love you dearly, Bathsheba, and I'm sure I can make you happy. I have a nice little farm, and when we are married, I'll work twice as hard as I do now. And in a year or two you can have a piano . . . And a nice little wagon to go to market." He watched her hopefully*.

"Yes, I would like that."

"And you'd have chickens," continued Gabriel, as the ideas came to him. "And a little garden for flowers and vegetables."

"I'd like that very much."

"And at home by the fire, whenever you look up, there I shall be . . . And whenever I look up, there you will be."

"Wait, wait! You're in too much of a hurry, Farmer Oak!" Bathsheba stared* thoughtfully* at a small tree. Then she turned to Gabriel.

"No, it's no good," she said at last. "I don't want to marry you. A wedding* would be nice, it's true. But a husband... Well, he'd always be there, as you say. Whenever I looked up, there he would be." She shook her head. "No, I don't think I want a husband, so I won't marry — not yet."

"That's a silly thing to say!" said Gabriel quickly. "But my dear," he continued sadly, "why won't you have me?"

"Because I don't love you, Mr Oak."

"But I love you," said Mr Oak, very seriously. "And one thing is certain*. I shall go on loving you until the day I die."

"I'm very sorry," Bathsheba said. She looked sad for a moment, then she gave a little laugh. "No, Mr Oak, I'm not the right wife for you. I'm too independent, and you wouldn't like that, you know."

Oak heard the decision in her voice, and felt that his chances were finished. "Very well," he said quietly. "Then I'll ask you no more."

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When a man has begun to love, it is not easy to stop loving. Soon after, Gabriel heard that Bathsheba had left the village and gone to live at Weatherbury, twenty miles away. But this news did not put out* the slow-burning flame* of love in Gabriel's heart.

Chapter 2 A Fire in the Farmyard

Two months had passed, and Gabriel Oak was in the marketplace in the town of Casterbridge, looking for work as a shepherd. He was Farmer Oak no longer. One disastrous* night a young dog had driven his sheep over the edge of a very steep* hill, and most of the sheep and their lambs had fallen to their deaths below. Oak was just able to pay back the money he had borrowed to start his farm. After that, he was a free man with the clothes on his back, and nothing more.

Although he smiled less often now and his eyes were sadder, he was a man of quiet good sense* and showed a calm face to the world. But that day in Casterbridge the world had no job to offer him, and at nightfall* Oak set off* on the road towards Weatherbury to visit another market the next day. The name of Weatherbury had some magic* for him, since that was where Bathsheba Everdene now lived.

After a time, Oak stopped to rest, and as he sat on a gate, he saw a red light in the night sky across the fields. He watched, and the light grew brighter. Something was on fire. He jumped down from the gate and ran across the fields towards the fire.

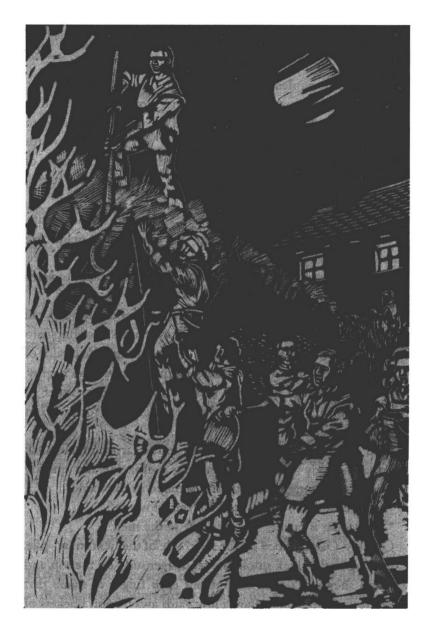
When he arrived, he saw that the fire was in a farmyard. A tall pile of new-cut straw was burning wildly, flames shooting into the sky. It was too late to save that pile, but through the clouds of smoke Oak saw that there were several more straw-piles nearby. All the corn of the farm was there — and in great danger of burning. Already tongues of flame were beginning to reach out greedily* towards the next pile.

Men were running here and there in the farmyard, but Oak saw that nobody was doing anything useful. He ran quickly towards the burning straw-pile and shouted to the men.

"Bring a ladder - quick! And buckets of water."

"The ladder is burnt," shouted one of the men.

Quickly, Oak climbed up the steep side of the next straw-pile. Coughing in the thick smoke, he sat dangerously on the top, and with his shepherd's stick he put out each finger of flame that came from the burning straw a few yards away. Soon buckets of water were passed up, and slowly Oak and the other men began to win the fight against the fire.



At one end of the farmyard, away from the smoke and confusion, were two women, one of the women was on horseback.

At one end of the farmyard, away from the smoke and confusion* around the fire, were two women, watching with worried faces. One of the women was on horseback, the other on foot.

"He's a shepherd, I think," said the woman on foot. "He's a fine young man, Miss!"

"I wonder whose shepherd he is," said the woman on horseback. She called to a man who was passing. "Jan Coggan! Who is the shepherd?"

"I don't know, Miss. He's a stranger," replied Jan Coggan. "But he's a brave man. He's saved your corn for you."

"Yes. And I'm very grateful to* him," said the rider. "Ask him to come and speak to me."

The fire was beginning to die now, and Gabriel had climbed down. He thought of asking for a job here – he had learnt from one of the villagers that the farmer was a rich young woman. Her uncle had died recently and the farm was now hers.

Jan Coggan led Gabriel over to the woman on horseback. Gabriel's clothes were burnt into holes, and his face was tired and dirty, but he lifted his hat politely and looked up at the woman.

Then his eyes opened wide in surprise. The woman stared down at him, equally* surprised. Gabriel Oak and his coldhearted love, Bathsheba Everdene, were face to face.

Bathsheba did not speak, and after a moment Gabriel said, in a quiet, sad voice, "Do you want a shepherd, Miss?"

Bathsheba was not embarrassed*, but she was certainly surprised. Life had clearly been unkind to Gabriel Oak, and she felt sorry for him.

"Yes," she said slowly, "I do want a shepherd, but . . . "

One of the villagers spoke up warmly for Gabriel. "He's just the man you need, Miss. Look how he fought that fire!"

"Very well," said Bathsheba. "Then tell him to speak to my