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书虫·牛津英汉双语读物

- Thomas Hardy (英) 著
- Jennifer Bassett (英) 改写
- Bob Harvey (英) 插图

The Withered Arm

萎缩的胳膊



外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



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内容简介

生活中有时候会有些奇怪的事情发生，没人能解释为什么。一扇门在夜里开了，却见不到人。一只冰冷的手掐住了你的脖子，你身边却没有别人，天气也很暖和。你进了一间房子，里面都是人。你看不到他们，却能感受到他们的存在，他们在黑暗中等待。

罗达是农场里的工人。她高高的个子，有一双美丽的黑眼睛，每天工作很长时间，挣得却不多。格特鲁德不工作。她很漂亮，有一双小巧白皙的手，一副甜美的笑容，还有许多美丽的裙子。洛奇先生是农场主，拥有一栋很大的农舍，一座富庶的农场和很多良种奶牛。两个女人中哪个是洛奇农场主的妻子？农场主过去爱谁，现在爱谁，谁又是他儿子的母亲？

上面这些人里谁有一条萎缩的胳膊？一条可怜的、细细的、萎缩的胳膊，一条留有手指印迹的胳膊，一条一周周愈加纤瘦、枯槁的胳膊。胳膊上的印迹是从哪里来的？没人知道，也没人能解释。但人们都说，那是女巫留下的……

（本书属于哈代的非现实题材小说）

THE WITHERED ARM

Sometimes strange things happen, and nobody can explain why. A door opens in the night, but there is nobody there. A cold hand takes you by the neck, but you are alone, and it is a warm day. You go into a house, and it is full of people. You cannot see them, but you can feel them there, waiting in the dark.

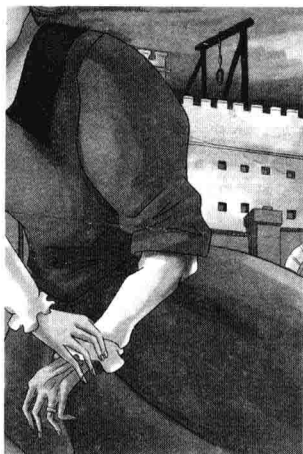
Rhoda is a farm worker. She is tall, with beautiful dark eyes, and works long hours for not much money. Gertrude does not work. She is pretty, has small white hands, a sweet smile, and beautiful dresses. Mr Lodge is a farmer, with a big farmhouse, and many fine cows on his rich farm. Which of the two women is the wife of Farmer Lodge? Which woman did he love, which woman does he love, which woman is the mother of his son?

And which of these people has a withered arm? A poor, thin, withered arm, an arm with the marks of fingers on it, an arm that grows thinner and more withered, week by week. How did those marks get there? Nobody knows, nobody can explain them. But people say they are a witch's marks . . .

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1

The milkmaid and the wife

It was six o'clock on a warm April evening, milking time for Farmer Lodge's eighty cows. They stood quietly in the dairy, and the milkmaids were all at work.

'They say Farmer Lodge is coming home with his new wife tomorrow,' said one milkmaid.

'Yes. And she's young and pretty, I hear,' a second girl said.

She looked past her cow to the other end of the dairy. There was another milkmaid there, a thin, older woman, about thirty years old.

The first girl looked at the older woman too. 'I'm sorry for *her*,' she said quietly to her friend.

'Oh no,' said the second girl. 'That was years and years ago. Farmer Lodge never speaks to Rhoda Brook these days.'

When the milking was finished, the milkmaids left the dairy and went home. The thin woman, Rhoda Brook, did not walk to the village with the other girls. She went up the hill behind the farm to a little house near the trees. It was a poor house, of only two rooms, and the roof did not keep the rain out.

At the door of the house the woman met her son, a boy of about twelve, and they went inside.

'I heard something at the dairy today,' the woman said.

1

挤奶女工和夫人

这是个温暖的四月傍晚，六点钟是给洛奇农场主的80头奶牛挤奶的时间。奶牛们静静地站在棚中，挤奶女工们都在忙活。

“听说洛奇场主明天要跟他的新夫人回家来了。”其中一个挤奶女工说。

“是的。而且我听说她又年轻又漂亮。”

另一个女孩儿说。

她的目光越过眼前的奶牛，望向奶牛场的另一头。那边还有一个挤奶女工，瘦瘦的，年龄稍大，三十岁上下。

第一个说话的女孩儿也在望着那个年纪大些的女工。“我真替她难过。”她悄悄地跟自己的同伴说。

“嘻，算啦，”第二个女孩儿说，“那都是多少年前的事了。现在洛奇场主从来不跟罗达·布鲁克说话。”

挤奶工作结束后，女工们离开奶牛场回家了。那个瘦瘦的女人罗达·布鲁克没有跟其他女孩儿一起走回村子。她走上农场后面的小山，来到树旁的一幢小房子跟前。房子很破旧，只有两间屋，屋顶已经遮不了雨。

女人在门口碰到了她12岁上下的儿子，两人一起进了屋。

“我今天在奶牛场听说了件事情。”女人



*'I'm sorry for her,' the milkmaid
said to her friend.*

milkmaid *n.* a woman who works in a dairy, milking cows 挤奶女工

dairy *n.* a place where cows are milked, milk is kept, etc 奶牛场

thin *adj.* not fat 瘦的

village *n.* a very small town in the countryside 村庄，村子

poor *adj.* not good 破旧的

‘Your father is bringing his young wife home tomorrow. I want you to go and look at her.’

‘Yes, mother,’ said the boy. ‘Is father married then?’

‘Yes . . . You can go into town and do my shopping for me. And when you see her, there or on the road, look at her carefully.’

‘Yes, mother.’

‘What is she like? I want to know. Is she tall, is she short? Are her eyes blue or brown or green? Look at the colour of her hair, the colour of her dress. And look at her hands. Does she have small white hands, or the hands of a milkmaid, a worker’s hands? You must look at all these things, and tell me.’

‘Yes, mother,’ the boy said again. He took a piece of bread from the table and began to eat it.

His mother said nothing more, but turned her thin, pale face to the open door. Her beautiful dark eyes stared out at the trees, seeing and not seeing.



The next evening was warm and sunny. The road from the town to the farm went up and down a number of hills, and near the top of one big hill the boy saw a carriage behind him. It was Farmer Lodge with his new wife. She was a pretty young thing, much younger than her husband, with a sweet, innocent face.

The boy carried a heavy bag, and was happy to stop and stare for a minute. The carriage came slowly up the hill, and the boy took a good long look at the farmer’s wife. His eyes

说,“你爸爸明天要带着他年轻的妻子回家来了。我想让你去看看她。”

“好的,妈妈。”男孩儿说,“这么说爸爸是结婚了?”

“是啊……你可以到镇子上去,替我买点东西。在镇子上或是路上碰到她时,仔细看看她。”

“好的,妈妈。”

“我想知道她长什么样儿。高还是矮?眼睛是蓝色的、棕色的,还是绿色的?看看她头发的颜色,裙子的颜色。再看看她的手,看她长了一双小巧白皙的手,还是一双挤奶女工的、劳动的手?这些都要看看,然后告诉我。”

“好的,妈妈。”男孩儿再次答应。他从桌上拿起一片面包,吃了起来。

他的母亲没再说别的,只是把她瘦削苍白的脸转向敞开着的大门。她美丽的黑眼睛凝望着门外的树木,似乎在看,又似乎没在看。



第二天傍晚,天气晴朗又暖和。从镇子到农场的路要上上下下翻过几座山。在快走到一个高高坡顶的时候,男孩儿看到他身后有一辆马车。车里坐的是洛奇农场主和他的新婚妻子。那女人很年轻,比她丈夫年轻得多,面容甜美无邪。

男孩儿背着沉重的包,很高兴能停下来看上一会儿。马车缓缓地爬上山来,让他有机会好好端详了一番农场主的妻子。他的眼



The boy took a good long look at the farmer's wife.

married *adj.* having a husband or a wife 结婚的,已婚的

pale *adj.* with no colour in the face (脸色)苍白的

stare *v.* to look at something for a long time 凝视,注视

carriage *n.* a kind of 'car' that is pulled by horses 马车

sweet *adj.* kind and gentle 甜美的,温柔善良的

innocent *adj.* not having much experience of the bad things in the world 无邪的

heavy *adj.* difficult to move or carry 沉重的

never left her face.

The farmer did not look at the boy once, and at the top of the hill the carriage went faster, leaving the boy behind.

‘How that poor boy stared at me!’ said the young wife.

‘Yes, my love. I saw that,’ the farmer said.

‘Is he a boy from the village?’

‘No. I think he lives with his mother on one of these hills.’

‘He knows you, then.’

‘Of course. And everyone is going to stare at you at first, my pretty Gertrude.’

‘Yes, I know. But that poor boy had a very heavy bag. Perhaps he wanted us to help him with the bag.’

‘Oh, these country boys can carry anything,’ said her husband. ‘They do it all the time.’

The carriage went quickly on. After a time the boy left the road and went up the hill to his mother’s house.

She was home before him. She took the heavy bag from him and began to take the things out.

‘Well, did you see her?’

‘Yes. I had a good look at her on the road.’

‘And what is she like?’

‘She’s nice.’

‘Is she young?’

‘Well, she’s older than me.’

睛一直盯着她的脸。

农场主看都没看男孩儿一眼。到了山顶以后，马车加快了速度，男孩儿被甩在了后面。

“那个可怜的男孩儿怎么那样盯着我！”年轻的妻子说。

“哦，亲爱的，我看到了。”农场主说。

“他是村子里面的孩子吗？”

“不是。我想他跟他妈妈一起住在这里的某座小山上。”

“那他认识你啦。”

“当然认识。谁第一次见到你都会盯着你看的，我美丽的格特鲁德。”

“是，这我知道。可是那可怜的孩子背着那么重的包，说不定他是想让我们帮他带一程呢。”

“放心吧，这些乡下的男孩子什么都扛得动。”她的丈夫说，“他们整天都在做这些活儿。”

马车继续向前疾驰。过了一会儿，男孩儿离开了大路，走上小山，回到了母亲的房子。

他母亲比他先到了家。她从孩子肩上取下沉重的包，开始把里面的东西往外拿。

“我说，你见到她了吗？”

“见到了。我在路上好好瞅了瞅她。”

“她长什么样儿？”

“挺好看的。”

“年轻吗？”

“哦，至少比我大。”

‘Of course she is. But is she older than *me*?’

‘No, she’s younger.’

‘Ah. What colour is her hair?’

‘It’s a brown colour, and her face is very pretty.’

‘Are her eyes dark?’

‘No, they’re blue, and her mouth is very nice and red, and when she smiles, you can see white teeth.’

‘Is she tall?’ said the woman, a little angrily.

‘I couldn’t see. She was in the carriage.’

‘Then tomorrow you must go to church. Go early, before she and Mr Lodge arrive, and watch her when she walks in. Then come home and tell me.’

‘Very well, mother. But why don’t *you* go and look at her?’

‘Never! I don’t want to see her. She was with Mr Lodge, of course. Did he look at you or speak to you?’

‘No.’

The next day the boy went to church, and waited and watched. When Mr and Mrs Lodge arrived, everybody – not just the boy – stared at the new wife with interest.

When the boy reached home, his mother said, ‘Well?’

‘She’s not tall. She’s short,’ the boy said.

‘Ah!’ said his mother, pleased.

‘But she’s very pretty – very. She had a beautiful white dress on, and it made a lot of noise when she moved. Mr Lodge looked very happy with her.’

“她当然比你大。我是问她比我大吗？”

“不，比你年轻。”

“哦。她的头发是什么颜色的？”

“是棕色的。她长得非常好看。”

“她的眼睛是黑色的吗？”

“不是，是蓝色的。她的嘴巴很漂亮，红红的，一笑起来就露出白白的牙齿。”

“她个子高吗？”女人问，语气有些气恼。

“我看不出来。她坐在马车里。”

“那你明天得去趟教堂。早早地去，抢在她和洛奇先生之前到那儿，等她走进来的时候看看她，然后回来告诉我。”

“完全可以，妈妈。可是为什么你不去看她呢？”

“我不去！我不想见到她。她刚才肯定是跟洛奇先生在一起的。洛奇先生看你了吗？跟你说什么了吗？”

“没有。”

第二天，男孩儿去了教堂，边等边张望。当洛奇夫妇到达的时候，每个人——不仅仅是男孩儿——都饶有兴致地盯着那位新夫人。

等男孩儿回到家里，他母亲问：“怎么样？”

“她个子不高，挺矮的。”男孩儿说。

“哦！”他母亲开心了一点儿。

“可是她非常漂亮——非常。她穿了一条好看的白裙子，一动就窸窣窸窣地响。洛奇先生跟她在一起看起来非常幸福。”



‘Mr Lodge looked very happy with her,’ the boy said.

reach v. to arrive at a place 到达
move v. to change from one position to another 移动

‘No more now,’ said the woman. ‘You can tell me more later.’

In the next days, Rhoda Brook heard more and more from her son about the new wife. The boy often saw Mrs Lodge around the farmhouse, but his mother never saw her, and never went near the farmhouse.

At the dairy the other milkmaids talked a lot about the new wife. They usually stopped when Rhoda was near, but she heard some of it. She remembered everything, and forgot nothing.

And slowly Rhoda Brook made a picture in her head of the young Mrs Lodge – a picture as good, as true as a photograph.

“就说到这儿吧!”女人说,“你改天再跟我说其他的。”

接下来的几天里,罗达·布鲁克从儿子那里听到了越来越多关于那位新夫人的情况。男孩儿经常在农舍附近看到洛奇夫人,但他母亲从来没见过她,也从来不去农舍附近。

在奶牛场,其他的挤奶女工经常谈论这位新夫人。罗达在附近的时候,她们通常会停住不说,可罗达还是听到了些只言片语。她把听到的话都记在了脑子里,一句都没忘掉。

慢慢地,罗达·布鲁克在她的头脑中勾画出了一幅年轻的洛奇夫人的画像——一幅跟照片一样真实、生动的画像。

farmhouse *n.* the main house on a farm, where the farmer lives 农舍