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A CUP OF TEA

After K. Mansfield

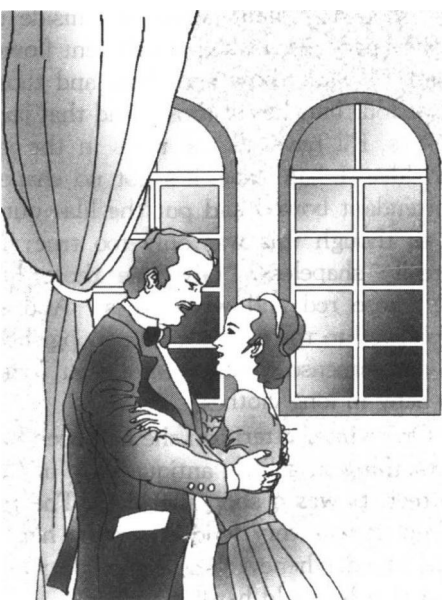
1 Rosemary Fell was not exactly beautiful. No, you couldn't have called her beautiful. Pretty? Well, if you took her to pieces ... But why be so cruel as to take anyone to pieces ?



一 杯 茶

凯·曼斯菲尔德原著

1 罗斯玛丽·费尔并不是真正的美人。不，你不能说她是美的。漂亮么，哦，如果你把她分成几部分来瞧的话……可为什么要那么残酷，把人分成几部分呢？她正值青春年华，光



She was young, brilliant, extremely modern, very well dressed, well read in the newest of the new books, and her parties were a mixture of the really important people and ... artists — strange creatures, discoveries of hers, some of them too terrifying for words, but others quite decent and amusing.

2 Rosemary had been married two years. She had a wonderful son. And her husband absolutely adored her. They were rich, really rich, not just comfortably well off. If Rosemary wanted to shop she would go to Paris as you and I would go to Bond Street. If she wanted to buy flowers, the car stopped at that perfect shop in Regent Street and inside the shop Rosemary just looked at different flowers and said: "I want those and those and those. Give me four bunches of those. And that jar of roses. Yes, I'll have all the roses in the jar. No, no lilac. I hate lilac. it's got no shape." The attendant bowed and put the lilac out of sight, as though this was only too true; lilac was really shapeless. "Give me those little tulips. Those red and white ones." And she was followed to the car by a thin shopgirl carrying an immense white armful that looked like a baby in long clothes ...

3 One winter afternoon she had been buying something in a little antique shop in Curzon Street. It was a shop she liked. The man who kept it was very fond of serving her. He was delighted whenever she came. He was so pleased that he could hardly speak.

彩照人,又特别时髦,衣着极为考究,还博览各种最新书籍。来参加她的聚会的人中有真正的大人物，也有……演员——这是些怪诞的人,是她所发现的,其中有的谈吐惊人,可另一些却很庄重,很风趣。

2 罗斯玛丽是在两年前结的婚。她有一个极可爱的儿子。她的丈夫对她是百依百顺。他们很富有,是真正的富有,不仅是一般性的舒适。如果罗斯玛丽要买东西，她就得去巴黎，就像你我去邦特大街一样。如果她想买花，小汽车就在里金特大街的那家高级商店门口停下,罗斯玛丽进入店内,环顾各种花卉,说道:"我要那种、那种和那种,给我4束那样的花,还有那瓶玫瑰。啊,瓶里的玫瑰我全要。不,不要紫丁香,我讨厌紫丁香。它一点样子没有。"随从鞠着躬,把紫丁香挪开,似乎那是千真万确的，紫丁香就是没有样子。"给我再来点小小的可爱的郁金香,那些红的和白的。"然后她走向汽车,身后跟着一个瘦小的女店员捧着一大抱白色的花，这花看起来好像是裹在襁褓之中的婴儿……

3 一个冬天的下午她在柯兹恩大街一家小古玩商店选购东西。这是她喜欢光顾的一家商店。老板非常愿意为她效劳。每当她来时,他总是满面春风。他是那么兴奋,似乎话都说不出来了。

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creature ['kriːtʃə] *n*. 创 威 胁
造物 生物 人,家伙
terrify ['terifai] *v*. 吓唬，
adore [ə'dɔː] *v*. 敬慕,崇拜
jar [dʒɑː] *n*. 罐子 坛子

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4 "You see, madam," he would explain in his low respectful tones, "I love my things, I would rather not part with them than sell them to someone who does not appreciate them, who has not that fine feeling which is so rare ..." And, breathing deeply, he unrolled a very small piece of blue velvet and put it on the glass counter with his pale fingers.

5 Today it was a little box. He had been keeping it for her. He had shown it to nobody as yet. A beautiful little box. On the lid a minute creature stood under a flowery tree, and a more minute creature still had her arms round his neck. Rosemary took her hands out of her long gloves. She always took off her gloves to examine such things. Yes, she liked it very much. She loved it; it was beautiful. She must have it. And, turning the box, opening and shutting it, she couldn't help noticing how charming her hands were against the blue velvet. The shopman may have dared to think so too. For he took a pencil, leant over the counter, and his pale bloodless fingers moved towards those rosy, flashing ones, as he murmured gently: "If I may point out to madam, the flowers on the little lady's dress."

6 "Charming!" Rosemary admired the flowers. But what was the price? For a moment the shopman did not seem to hear. Then a murmur reached her. "Twenty-eight guineas, madam."

7 "Twenty-eight guineas." Rosemary did not say anything. She laid the little box down;

4 “你瞧,夫人。”他总是用他的低微的恭敬的语调解释说“我爱我那些玩意。我真不愿和它们分手，如果是卖给一个不珍惜它们的人，一个没有那种非常难得的高尚情操的人的话…… ”他深深地呼吸一下,然后用他那苍白的手指解开一个精致的蓝色天鹅绒的物件,再把它放在玻璃柜台上。

5 这是一个小匣子。他专门为她保存着的。他还没有给任何人瞧过。一个精美的小匣子，盖上是一个细巧的人儿站在鲜花怒放的树下,一个更细巧的人儿,用她的胳膊搂着他的脖子。罗斯玛丽解下她的长手套，她总是解下手套来鉴赏这类玩意儿的。的确她非常喜欢它。她爱它，这太美了。她得把它要下来。她转着这小匣子,打开又合上,她不禁注意到她的手衬着这蓝色的天鹅绒是多么动人。这老板可能也在这么想。他手拿着一枝铅笔,俯身在柜台上。他的苍白的、无血色的手指伸向那些闪光的玫瑰花，彬彬有礼地轻语道“请允许我提请夫人注意那些在细巧的女士的衣服上的花朵。”

6 “太美了!”罗斯玛丽给这些花迷住了。可是这匣子多少钱呢？有片刻时间这老板似乎没有听见。然后她耳边传来了轻轻的回答：“28个畿尼(旧英国金币——译注),夫人。”

7 “28个畿尼。”罗斯玛丽没有作声。她

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lilac [ˈlailək] *n*. 紫丁香　随员
shape [ʃeip] *n*. 形状,样式　tulip [ˈtju:lip] *n*. 郁金香
attendant əˈtendənt] *n*

she buttoned her gloves again. Twenty-eight guineas. Even if one is rich... "Well, keep it for me — will you? I'll ..."

8 But the shopman had already bowed as though keeping it for her was all any human being could ask. He would be willing, of course, to keep it for her forever.

9 The door shut. She was outside, gazing at the winter afternoon. Rain was falling, and with the rain it seemed the dark came too. There was a cold bitter wind, and the lighted lamps looked sad. Sad were the lights in the houses opposite. Dimly they burned as if regretting something. And people hurried by, hidden under their umbrellas. Rosemary felt a strange pang. She pressed her muff to her breast; she wished she had the little box. Her car was there. She had only to cross the pavement. But still she waited... But at that instant a thin young girl — where had she come from? — was standing at Rosemary's elbow and a voice like a sigh, almost like a sob, breathed: "Madam, may I speak to you a moment?"

10 "Speak to me?" Rosemary turned. She saw a little creature with enormous eyes, quite young, no older than herself, who clutched at her coat-collar with reddened hands, and shivered as though she had just come out of the water.

11 "M-madam," stammered the voice, "would you let me have the price of a cup of

放下了这匣子，她又套上了手套。 28 个畿尼。即使是有钱的也……“好吧，给我留下——嗯？我就……”

8 这老板忙不迭鞠躬,仿佛‘为她留下’是任何顾客都会要求这么做的。当然，他是乐意永远为她保留的。

9 店门关上了。她走了出去，凝视着这冬日的下午。雨下着,因为这雨,似乎暮色也降临了。周围刮着凛冽的寒风，因而燃明的灯也显得很惨淡。对面房子中的灯光也那么惨淡。这些朦胧的灯光仿佛是在沉痛地怀念什么。人们用伞遮身，匆匆而过。罗斯玛丽感到一种莫名的痛楚。她把她的皮手筒按在胸前,她真想要那小匣子。她的汽车在那边,她只要穿过人行道就可以了。然而她还是伫立着……就在这当儿，一个瘦小的少女——她是从哪儿冒出来的？——正站在罗斯玛丽的肘旁,一个好像是哀诉,或者说几乎是啜泣的声音在轻轻地说：“夫人，我能跟你说句话吗？”

10 “跟我说？”罗斯玛丽转过身来。她看到一个娇小的人儿，长着一双大眼睛，年纪很轻，比自己年轻，用两只冻红的手抓着大衣领子，浑身在颤栗，仿佛是刚从水里出来似的。

11 “夫人，”声音结结巴巴的，“你能给我

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immense [i'mens] *a*. 无限的,广大的,极好的
antique [æn'ti:k] *a*. 古时的
n. 古物,古玩
madam ['mædəm] *n*. 夫人

tea?"

12 "A cup of tea?" There was something simple, sincere in that voice; it wasn't the voice of a beggar. "Then have you no money at all?" asked Rosemary.

13 "None, madam," came the answer.

14 "How extraordinary!" Rosemary looked at the girl and the girl looked back at her. How more than extraordinary! And suddenly it seemed to Rosemary such an adventure. It was like something out of a novel by Dostoevsky, this meeting in the dark. Supposing she took the girl home? Supposing she really did one of those things she was always reading about or seeing on the stage, what would happen? It would be thrilling. And she heard herself saying afterwards to the amazement of her friends: "I simply took her home with me," as she stepped forward and said to that person beside her: "Come home to tea with me."

15 The girl drew back much surprised. She even stopped shivering for a moment. Rosemary put out a hand and touched her arm. "I want you to," she said, smiling. And she felt how simple and kind her smile was. "Why won't you? Do come! Come home with me now in my car and have tea."

16 "You — you don't mean it, madam," said the girl, and there was pain in her voice.

17 "But I do," cried Rosemary. "I want you to. To please me. Come along."

18 The girl put her fingers to her lips and

一杯茶的钱吗？”

12 “一杯茶？”在这声音中含着朴实真挚的味道，这不是乞丐的声音。“那么说，你是一点钱都没有？”罗斯玛丽问道。

13 “没有，夫人。”回答说。

“多么希奇！”罗斯玛丽打量着这少女，而这少女也望着她。真是太希奇不过了！瞬间，罗斯玛丽感到这是了不起的奇遇！她们相遇在黑暗中，真像是陀斯妥也夫斯基的小说中的一段情节。她把这少女带回家去吧，怎么样？她也来做一件她常常在小说中读到或舞台上看到的那类事情，怎么样？结果会如何呢？它一定是动人肺腑的。她向前跨着步子并对身旁这个人说：“跟我回家喝茶去吧。”同时正想像着事后如何向她的朋友们叙说的情景，她仿佛听到自己说：“我毫不犹豫地把她带走了。”而朋友们都惊讶得什么似的。

14 这少女十分吃惊地后仰了一下。一瞬间她甚至停止了颤栗。罗斯玛丽伸出手来，抚摸着她的胳膊。“我想要你去。”她微笑地说着，这女孩感到她的微笑是那么诚挚可亲。“你干吗不呢？来，走吧！跟我坐汽车回家喝茶去。”

16 “您——您并不想这样做，夫人。”少女说道，她的声音中含着悲楚。

“我真是这个意思。”罗斯玛丽大声说，“我想要你去，别让我不高兴，走吧。”

17 这少女把手指按着嘴唇，目不转睛地

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part [pɑːt] *v.* 分开，切断　　rare [reə] *a.* 稀罕的，珍贵的

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her eyes were fixed on Rosemary. "You're — you're not taking me to the police station?" she stammered.

19 "The police station?" Rosemary laughed out. "Why should I be so cruel? No, I only want to make you warm and to hear — anything you would like to tell me."

20 Hungry people are easily led. The driver held the door of the car open.

21 "There!" said Rosemary. She had a feeling of triumph. She could have said, "Now I've got you," as she looked at the little captive she had caught. And, of course, she meant it kindly. Oh, more than kindly. She was going to prove to this girl that — wonderful things happened in life, that — fairy godmothers were real, that — rich people had hearts, and that women were sisters. She turned quickly, saying: "Don't be frightened. After all, why shouldn't you come with me? We're both women. If I'm the more fortunate, you ought to expect..."

22 But happily at that moment, for she didn't know how the sentence was going to end, the car stopped. The bell was rung, the door opened, and with a charming, protecting movement Rosemary drew the other into the hall. Warmth, light, a sweet odour, all these things so familiar to her that she never even thought about them, she watched that girl receive. It was wonderful. She was like the little rich girl in her nursery with all the cupboards

望着罗斯玛丽。“您——您不会把我送到警察局去吧?”她结结巴巴地说道。

19 “警察局?”罗斯玛丽笑出声来;“干吗我要那么狠心呢?不,我只是想让你暖和暖和,也想听一听你愿意告诉我的——不论是什么。”

20 饥饿的人是容易摆布的。司机打开车门等着。

21 “好啦!”罗斯玛丽说。她体会到一种胜利的感觉。当她瞧着她的这个娇小的俘虏时,她真想说:“哈,我把你收服了。”当然,她是善意的,哦,岂止是善意。她向这个少女证实,生活中是有奇遇的,及时雨式的恩人是存在的,她还想证实富人是有慈悲心肠的,并且四海之内皆姊妹也。她迅速转过身来说道:“别害怕,不管怎么说,你干吗不该和我一起回去呢?我们都是女人。如果我是比较幸运的,你可以指望……”

22 可真是谢天谢地,正当她不知道怎样说完这句话时,汽车停住了。门铃响了,大门开了,于是罗斯玛丽以优美的、爱护备至的动作扶持着她进了大厅。罗斯玛丽注意着这个少女接受着那温暖,光亮,那芬芳的香味——所有这些对她来说都已习以为常,她甚至从未去想过这些。这太好了。她就像一个富家的小姑娘在她的儿童室里那样,所有的食品

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lid [lid] *n*. 盖　　charm [tʃɑːm] *n*. 魅力,风韵 *v*. 迷人
minute [mai'njuːt] *a*. 微细的 精密的

to open, all the boxes to unpack.

23 "Come, come upstairs," said Rosemary, wishing to be kind. "Come up to my room." And, besides, she didn't want the servants to stare at this poor little thing; she decided as they went up the stairs she would not even ring for Jeanne, but take off her things by herself. The great thing was to be natural!

24 And "There!" cried Rosemary again, as they reached her beautiful big bedroom with the curtains drawn, the fire illuminating her wonderful furniture, her gold cushions and blue rugs.

25 The girl stood just inside the door; she seemed unable to move. But Rosemary didn't mind that.

26 "Come and sit down," she cried, dragging her big chair up to the fire, "in this comfy chair. Come and get warm. You look so dreadfully cold."

27 "I daren't, madam," said the girl.

28 "Oh, please," — Rosemary ran forward — "you mustn't be frightened, you mustn't, really. Sit down, and when I've taken off my things we shall go into the next room and have tea and be cosy. Why are you afraid?" And gently she pushed the thin figure into a deep chair.

29 But there was no answer. The girl stayed just as she had been put, with her hands by her sides and her mouth slightly open. To be quite sincere, she looked rather stupid. But Rosemary wouldn't acknowledge

柜都打开，所有的盒子也都解开了。

23 “来，来，上楼来，”罗斯玛丽说，尽量地显得和蔼可亲；“上我的房间。”另外，她不想使佣人们注视这个可怜的小东西，她决定她们上了楼后她都不打铃叫唤珍妮，而将自己来脱衣帽。平易自然可是件了不起的事。

24 “好啦！”当她们到了她的华丽、宽敞的卧室时，罗斯玛丽又喊了一声。卧室中窗帘低垂、炉光映亮了漂亮的家具、她的金色坐垫和蓝色的地毯。

25 这少女一进了门就站住了，她看来是再也走不动了，可是罗斯玛丽没有注意到这。

26 “来坐下。”她喊道，把她的大椅子拉到炉火边；“坐这张安乐椅。来暖和暖和。看你真是冻坏了。”

27 “我不敢，夫人。”少女说。

28 “啊，不要紧。”罗斯玛丽跑上前，“你别害怕，你别，真的。坐下，待我脱下衣帽我们就到隔壁房间去喝茶，舒畅舒畅。你干吗害怕呢？”接着她轻轻地把那瘦小的身躯按到深深的椅子里。

29 然而没有任何反应。少女坐在那里就如刚才被按下时那样，两手分两边，嘴儿微微张开。说实在的，她显得怪笨拙的。可是罗

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guinea [ˈgini] *n*. 畿尼（旧英国金币）

button [ˈbʌtn] *v*. 扣住 *n* 纽扣

gaze [geiz] *v*. 凝视

dimly [dimli] *ad*. 朦胧地

pang [pæŋ] *n*. 苦痛

muff [mʌf] *n*. 皮手筒

it. She leaned over her, saying: "Won't you take off your hat? Your pretty hair is all wet. And one is so much more comfortable without a hat, isn't one?"

30 There was a whisper that sounded like "Very good, madam," and the old hat was taken off.

31 "Let me help you off with your coat, too," said Rosemary.

32 The girl stood up. But she held on to the chair with one hand and let Rosemary pull. It was quite an effort. The girl did not help her at all. She seemed to stagger like a child, and the thought came and went through Rosemary's mind, that if people wanted helping they must help themselves a little, just a little, otherwise it became very difficult indeed. And what was she to do with the coat now? She left it on the floor, and the hat too. She was just going to take a cigarette off the mantelpiece when the girl said quickly: "I'm very sorry, madam, but I'm going to faint. I shall faint, madam, if I don't have something to eat."

33 "Good heavens, how thoughtless I am!" Rosemary rushed to the bell.

34 "Tea! Tea at once! And some brandy immediately!"

35 The maid was gone again, but the girl almost cried out. "No, I don't want any brandy. I never drink brandy. It's a cup of tea I want, madam." And she burst into tears.

36 It was a terrible moment. Rosemary

斯玛丽是不会说她看出这一点的。她俯身对着她说:"你不脱下你的帽子吗 你那漂亮的头发都湿透了，再说，人不戴帽子要随意得多,是吗 ?"

30 只听到像耳语般的声音，仿佛是说，"很好,夫人。'于是那顶旧帽子被脱下了。

31 "让我来帮你把外套也脱下来。'罗斯玛丽说。

32 少女站了起来。可是她用一只手扶着椅子，听任罗斯玛丽脱衣。这可是够费劲的。少女压根儿不来配合她，看来像个娃娃似的站都站不稳。于是罗斯玛丽的脑海里浮起并盘旋着这句话 如果一个人要求帮助,那么他必须自己也尽一点力,哪怕是一点儿,否则这真会是非常困难的。现在她拿这外套怎么办？她把它放在地板上，帽子亦然。正当她要从壁炉架去取香烟时，那少女急促地开了腔:"对不起,夫人,我就要昏倒了,我要昏倒了,夫人,如果我不吃点什么的话。"

33 "天哪 我怎么那么糊涂 !'罗斯玛丽急忙去打铃。

34 "茶点 马上来茶点 还拿些白兰地,快 !"

35 女仆来了又走了，可是这少女几乎哭出声来了:"不,我不要白兰地,我从不喝白兰地。我要的是一杯茶,夫人。'说着她号啕大哭起来。

36 这是一个令人难受的场面。罗斯玛丽

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sob [sɔb] *v.* & *n.* 哽咽，说；呼吸 哭诉

enormous [i'nɔ:məs] *a.*

breathe [bri:ð] *v.* 低声巨大的

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