

<<劝导-纯爱英文馆>>

图书基本信息

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内容概要

Jane Austen's last completed novel , Persuasion is a delightful social satire of England's landed gentry and a moving tale of lovers separated by class distinctions. After years apart , unmarried Anne Elliot , the heroine Jane Austen called "almost too good for me , " encounters the dashing naval officer others persuaded her to reject , as he now courts the rash and younger Louisa Musgrove. Superbly drawn , these characters and those of Anne's prideful father , Sir Walter , the scheming Mrs. Clay , and the duplicitous William Elliot , heir to Kellynch Hall , become luminously alive—so much so that the poet Tennyson , visiting historic Lyme Regis , where a pivotal scene occurs , exclaimed : "Don't talk to me of the Duke of Monmouth. Show me the exact spot where Louisa Musgrove fell!"

章节摘录

She had , while a very young girl , as soon as she had known him to be , in the event of her having no brother , the future baronet , meant to marry him; and her father had always meant that she should. He had not been known to them as a boy , but soon after Lady Elliot's death Sir Walter had sought the acquaintance , and though his overtures had not been met with any warmth , he had persevered in seeking it , making allowance for the modest drawing back of youth; and in one of their spring excursions to London , when Elizabeth was in her first bloom , Mr Elliot had been forced into the introduction. He was at that time a very young man , just engaged in the study of the law; and Elizabeth found him extremely agreeable , and every plan in his favor was confirmed. He was invited to Kellynch Hall; he was talked of and expected all the rest of the year; but he never came. The following spring he was seen again in town , found equally agreeable , again encouraged , invited and expected , and again he did not come; and the next tidings were that he was married. Instead of pushing his fortune in the line marked out for the heir of the house of Elliot , he had purchased independence by uniting himself to a rich woman of inferior birth. Sir Walter had resented it. As the head of the house , he felt that he ought to have been consulted , especially after taking the young man so publicly by the hand; ' For they must have been seen together , ' he observed , ' once at Tattersall's , and twice in the lobby of the House of Commons. ' His disapprobation was expressed , but apparently very little regarded. Mr. Elliot had attempted no apology , and shown himself as unsolicitous of being longer noticed by the family as Sir Walter considered him unworthy of it; all acquaintance between them had ceased. This very awkward history of Mr. Elliot was still , after an interval of several years , felt with anger by Elizabeth , who had liked the man for himself , and still more for being her father's heir , and whose strong family pride could see only in him , a proper match for Sir Walter Elliot's eldest daughter. There was not a baronet from A to Z , whom her feelings could have so willingly acknowledged as an equal. Yet so miserably had he conducted himself that though she was at this present time (the summer of 1814) wearing black ribbons for his wife , she could not admit him to be worth thinking of again. The disgrace of his first marriage might , perhaps , as there was no reason to suppose it perpetuated by offspring , have been got over , had he not done worse; but he had , as by the accustomed intervention of kind friends they had been informed , spoken most disrespectfully of them all , most slightly and contemptuously of the very blood he belonged to , and the honors which were hereafter to be his own. This could not be pardoned. Such were Elizabeth Elliot's sentiments and sensations; such the cares to allay , the agitations to vary , the sameness and the elegance , the prosperity and the nothingness , of her scene of life -such the feelings to give interest to a long , uneventful residence in one country side , to fill the vacancies which there were no habits of utility abroad , no talents or accomplishments for home , to occupy.

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