图书基本信息

书名:《(卡斯特桥市长)Mayor Of Casterbridge》

13位ISBN编号:9780195168440

10位ISBN编号: 0195168445

出版时间:2003-08-07

出版社: Oxford University Press, USA

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页数:368

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内容概要

Featuring a stunning Introduction by popular author of The Ice Storm and Demonology Rick Moody, this special edition of The Mayor of Casterbridge is a tie-in to the A&E Television Network adaptation of Thomas Hardy's critically acclaimed novel. In a surprisingly personal essay, Moody names the saga "the first great novel about alcoholism." and delivers penetrating insight into the character of Michael Henchard and the crippling deficiencies that foretell his ruin. The Mayor of Casterbridge opens with an act of such heartlessness and cruelty that it still shocks readers today. Michael Henchard, an out-of-work hay-trusser, gets drunk at a fair and for five guineas sells his wife and child to a sailor. When the horror of his act sets in the following morning, the wretched Henchard swears he will not touch alcohol for twenty-one years. Through hard work and acumen, he becomes rich, respected, and eventually the mayor of Casterbridge. Eighteen years pass before Henchard's fateful oath comes back to claim its due. Upon the return to Casterbridge of his wife and daughter, Elizabeth-Jane, Henchard's fortunes steadily decline. He clashes with his business assistant, Donald Farfrae, who soon becomes his major rival. He ruins his business through impulsive speculations and takes to drinking again. One by one he forfeits his possessions and relationships to Farfrae. Soon Farfrae owns Henchard's business and his house, has gained the affection of his lover Lucetta, and has even become the mayor of Casterbridge. In a final insult, Farfrae marries Elizabeth-Jane. Having lost everything he once possessed, Henchard is forced to face himself in his most tragic and desperate moment.

精彩短评

露赛妲尊重感情,却阴差阳错的在毁灭之前与丈夫失之交臂。她是反复无常的,可也因此而可爱。至于我们的亨察尔,不幸同时拥有雌性的敏感和雄性的暴烈,悲惨结局是注定的。可是我好奇:他这样一个一无所有的人,是凭借什么一手缔造了卡斯特桥呢?这也是书中一个奇怪的空白。亨察尔这样的人,在现实中几乎肯定是起不来的。他是一个假人。

2、 一个倒霉的男人,每次当生活似乎展露笑颜的时候,又却是遭受了愚弄,失而复得的前妻,得而复失的女儿,由嫉生恨的伙伴,他似乎应当抱怨命运,他像被诅咒般,无论富有还是贫穷,无论是情场上得意或失意,内心依旧冷清而不安,并由得这骨子里的不安变得暴躁冲动,成为这样的人如何才能解脱呢?人确实当惜福而自省。同情这样的人,非常。

3、写的真好

我会记得鞍钢工人在那个年代的福利

- 4、亨查德的确是缺点极其明显却让人莫名喜爱的人物,因为他有"一颗心",虽然这颗心千疮百孔、扭曲古怪。他提着鸟笼去参加婚礼那段以及后面的死亡汇聚了悲剧的力量。相比之下法弗雷就是庸常但更适应社会时代发展的那类人。不过伊丽莎白简倒不算很假,哈代赋予她一种与亨查德对照的平静自省的态度,这是她的优点,也是她的局限。小说结尾哈代通过她的视角发出人生概叹:她知道自己得到的比应得到的多,也知道有些人没有得到该得到的,更知道幸福在人生中的位置。这种具有反讽意味的通达反映出哈代自己的矛盾吧。
- 5、 穆齐尔说男人对女人的深情,就像一只花豹对着新鲜刚死的猎物在温柔的咕咕,如果那猎物敢对他的方式说三道四他是要见怪的。

伐尔伏雷发现伊丽莎白没有在她的主人家里好好等他时受了小小的刺激,而且是在他们没有任何 约定的情况下。哈代说男人就是这样想入非非自以为是的东西。

我一直喜欢哈代,塞林格在他的成名作里说希望跟哈代做朋友,有时还想要打电话给他,我也挺喜欢塞林格。是由衷的喜欢,不是敬佩,欣赏,拜倒或者赞叹那些情感。我想这大概是因为他们都显著的被海王星式的理想主义的光芒笼罩着的缘故吧。

这部《卡斯特桥的市长》却不是十分讨喜,书里两个正面人物伊丽莎白和伐尔伏雷都令人厌倦。他们的痛苦无法感染我,他们的修养和信条无味而俗气,后期的伊丽莎白简直就是个紫薇式的烂好人,在给亨察尔致命一击时却背倚着道德标尺的高墙表现得如孩童撕裂小鸡般残忍。高墙衬得她十分清白和圣洁,从此以后我连这两个词都要厌恶了。伐尔伏雷也没有人味儿,他的歌喉,运气,少见的好脾气都掩饰不住哈代对他毫不关心。他也没办法喜欢这一对儿假人儿,即使他慷慨的赋予他们金钱,地位和幸福,把溢美之词和好事儿都堆在他们身上,还企图装成喜欢他们的样子也没有用。这是种颠倒的表达,仔细品味之下非常有趣。

而亨察尔呢,开篇他就耍酒疯把自己贤惠美丽的老婆在粥摊给卖了,之后在愧悔中向主发誓二十年之内绝不再沾一滴酒,并一丝不苟的贯彻了这一誓言。他有时候固执的不可理喻,又酷爱报复。他反复无常,一时好了就把一切献给你都还嫌不够,坏起来就凶狠的揍你,揍到濒死才能泄恨。他曾造成他人极大地痛苦,自己也为此承受了丝毫不少于受害者的煎熬。哈代却在他身上倾注了他在本书中几乎所有的情感,使你站在全能全知的角度看到他的一切错误和心思,却仍会被他牵动,并同他之情。谁看了他提着装金丝雀的笼子满心忐忑又一片深去情的去参加伊丽莎白的婚礼却被以高尚的名义狠心杀灭的段落会不为之动容呢?问完我就觉得自己这话问得真二,所有没有心的人都不会的。

哈代只喜欢性格激烈于世难容的脱俗之人,却又在道德规则的作用下迫使自己推崇那些世俗的楷模,他深深确信:只有那些楷模会得到世俗世界的幸福和馈赠,而他自己真正喜欢的人都不会有什么好下场的。我觉得老哈代对他身处的世界真是悲观透了。而他的悲观还是有一定道理的,看看他的最

后一任夫人吧,他就是被这样平庸却颇有手段的俗人捏在手里,彻底的老了,到死。

我手中的版本是1981年9月的第一版,竖排繁体,间或又出现一两页简体字,读起来蛮有趣味。这是鞍钢图书馆的藏书,大概那里现在已经不需要这种书了。曾经拥有这本书的那个年代的鞍钢工人还是有些幸福的,起码他们有借阅这本书的权利,虽然这权利从未被使用过。这本书到我手里时,每一页的直角都刚裁出来似地挺括尖厉,连比邮票还薄小的检验证都还在。虽然岁月的旧棕色已经无声的沁满了它的肌理,它仍是本崭新的旧书。现在却在我手中切实的旧了。

The Mayor of Casterbridge, first published in year of 1886, is one of Thomas Hardy's tragical novels, of 6、 which the protagonist, Michael Henchard, underwent vissitudes of life, from drags to fame and then to obscurity and dust. The novel begins with Henchard's scandlous auction of his wife, Susan, and his daughter, Elizabeth-Jane, to an unknown sailor, Richard Newson. His life changed tremendously after this event, and once again on revealing this fact about twenty years later. Henchard is elected the mayor of Casterbrige because of his fortune attained through arduous hay-trussing. One can catch a shadow of &guot; Amercian Dream&guot; from him. In the prime of his career, his wife appearers. Henchard is on a dilemma: he has agreed to marry Lucetta; he has to re-marry Susan for his sense of guilt. Being a man of responsibilities, Henchard determines to choose the second. Before their remarriage, Henchard gets acquainted with Donald Farfrae, who becomes the manager and the pillar of his business. Jeasous, Henchard dismisses Donald for his popularity among the twonspeople. Thus, they deteriorate from bosom friends into rivals, first in business then in love when Lucetta Templeman moves to Casterbridge after the decease of Susan. Unfortunately for Henchard, Lucetta and Donald fall in love. Soon they get married. Henchard's hatred towards Donald aggravates and he attempts to revenge himself on Lucetta by reading the letters she wrote to him in front of Donald. Lucetta overhears their conversation and pleads with Henchard for mercy. Moved by her modest pleadings, Henchard returned those letters to her through the hand of Jopp. However, Jopp divulges the staggering secret to the town and they plan to do a " skimmington ride" for fun. But this ride kills Lucetta. After the death of Lucetta, Henchard finds comforts in his stepdaughter whose affection for him unalters so far. Unfortuately, Newson show up. In fear of the loss of Elizabeth-Jane, Henchard deceives Newson by telling him that Elizabeth has died and been buried beside her mother. Newson trusts him and leaves. Two years later, on the eve of Elizabeth's announcement of her marriage with Donald, Henchard leaves them for the return of Newson. He divined that he is an "outcast, an encumberer of the ground, wanted by nobody, and despised by all" after the last meeting with his precious stepdaughter in the evening of her wedding.

No one is fortunate in this novel, and the most tragic one is Henchard. The auction of his wife and daughter brings him wealth and authority, but it also foreshadows his loss of everything he has won. Hardy's notion of tragedy is akin to Aristotle's, but differs from the latter in his seclection of heros and heroines. Aristotle's heros are all of noble birth, whereas, Hardy's obscurity. It implies that great tragedies can occur among the commonplace. Despite this difference, they both emphasize the importance of the plot, which is the core of Aristotle's conception of tragedy, and the function of errors which contribute to the birth of tragedies. The tragedy of Henchard is brought forth by his semi-conscious selling of his wife and daughter when he is drunken. This is the very error.

7、 主人公亨察德是一个性格不太好的人,按现代人的说法他的情商不太高。他脾气暴躁、刚愎自用,而且还很孤傲,不能也不愿与人进行沟通,此外,他的思想还有些狭隘,也不能做到与时俱进,这些都导致了他一步接着一步的犯错,最后把自己弄到了很悲惨的境地。哈代的故事设计的很巧妙、奇特,他的文笔也很精彩,许多场景只寥寥几笔,就栩栩如生地展现在你的面前;他描绘的各色人物,也只是几笔,他们的外貌、人物性格都出现在了你眼前。故事中的苏珊,是个头脑非常简单,善良,严谨的女人,她为了女儿,对亨察德说了谎;伊丽莎白是一个纯洁、善良、温柔、积极上进的好姑娘,从来不怨天尤人,也不自哀自怨;法夫瑞是个聪明、活波、善良、漂亮的苏格兰小伙子;路塞塔是个非常漂亮,但有些轻浮(不是轻浮的让人不可接受),爱耍一些小手腕,没有什么学识的女人;牛森先生,是个大大咧咧、豪爽、慈祥的好爸爸;此外,书里还有卑鄙无耻的小人赵普,一些低俗下贱底层的人。总之,这本书写得很好,值得阅读。若评分的话,我评5分。

8、 如果不记录这本书我会忘掉什么吗?

最近读到"Omissions are not accidents",越琢磨越有味道,觉得无论有意或无意,选择呈现时的筛选过程增加了人心之深与记忆的复杂。

显然我不会忘掉我曾经读到的东西,以及在这个年龄我内心的情感会怎样随着阅读变化,然而另外存在着茫然不确之感阻止我去写。一个人在二十岁初无法理解melodrama,做单纯的情感信徒,好像是无害的,不过再过几年仍然发现自己不够理解melodrama,就算不觉恐慌,也会对这种不解感到不解。我对Lucetta的不满是那样强烈,尽管我明白一个女人在更理想的对象出现抛弃不够理想的对象时能够多么残忍绝情;我对罩在Farfrae眼前的这层无知之幕这样费解,以至于我违背内心对Elizabeth-Jane最忠实的祝福,期望她不要与Farfrae结合,尽管书中没有谁比她更配得到幸福。

我对Elizabeth - Jane的偏爱和一个良好结局的肯定,排除她的美德与道德上的判断,是因为她是唯一无辜和真正无知的,而我对Lucetta大部分的不满也在于某种程度上她"偷走"了Elizabeth - Jane发展爱情的机会。如果说Mayor Henchard在Lucetta身上遭遇的挫折是因为女人善变和不能指望的"真爱",在Farfrae身上经历的失败是因为性情刚愎、连串厄运的打击和过时的经营模式,如果说这一切都能有所解释因而有所安慰,那么他与Elizabeth - Jane的诀别是全书真正让人心碎的悲剧,这个悲剧不仅是对Henchard的最后一击,也是他所有的错误中最值得被原谅的,而偏偏它是最不可赎回的最终的悲剧。除了无法克服的嫉妒跟伤痛,失去Lucetta这个人并没有什么,她只是一个走了运的普通人,她毫无价值,她对世界的推动是建立在爱欲死之上的自私自利;对Farfrae怒不可遏更像是对作者怒不可遏,哈代把所有刻意的疏离(如同那刻意的好运)都归结为特殊的苏格兰身份,但他毕竟没有主动打击过Henchard,特别在商业竞争上;而Elizabeth - Jane是珍贵的,无辜,坚韧,善良,一丝最后发现的希望,可也竟因为发现得太晚失去了。

我会有种被牵动触发而茫然不解的感觉,我茫然不是因为真情实感,而是因为我不确定我从中看出了有关生活的——启迪?一个多少让人发笑的傻词。人们老是觉得自己被感动是件特别重要的事,从而是一个特别重要的艺术标准,仿佛他们不知道自己是多么容易被感动,这是melodrama长盛不衰的原因,网线所及之处皆有杀尽世间狗的好刀笔,这也同时是melodrama价值不断缩水的原因,我会去看也会感动,但我感到不安,它让人怀疑故事背后的严肃性。这里似乎有将哈代贬低为通俗作家的嫌疑,但只是一种气氛上的嫌疑,没有任何实质上有内容的批评。有些价值是容易总结的:Lucetta是那样的典型,Farfrae也可以说有种古怪的冷淡的魅力,更不用再去说Elizabeth - Jane会教人流下多少行泪,而在所有次要人物之上,Henchard是一位屹立不倒的悲剧人物,他凝聚了一个凡人最强烈的爱憎、悔恨跟渴望,他是一个鲁莽的暴君,重复Othello与King Lear的悲剧,他最后的遗言像噩梦一样不断在我闷热的夏夜里显灵——我还没见过有那个人物在弥留之际如此决绝于孤独,而没有一丝一毫的缓和。放一千万位后起之秀编织这样精细而棘手的画卷,偶有能勉强不把它写为喜剧的几位也只能做出做作的悲情,其余亦是平庸的闹剧,而难称喜。

我并不想论证"理解生活"和"理解小说"的关系,仿佛它概括了Melodrama的一切价值,但是理解一事的确可以作为理解另一事的证明,也就是说,我们可以从对一本书的见解中看出一个人是否有能力看清自己的生活,哪怕仅仅是一小部分。Chesterton曾评论哈代说,哈代走向了沼泽,作为一个村里的无神论者去研究植物(The Victorian Age In Literature)。Chesterton选择放在哈代对立面的是Meredith,Meredith独上高山,作为衣着考究的惠特曼。在我所读的作家中没有哪位像Chesterton这样自觉又持久地热衷担忧信仰的动摇,从这个意义上,哈代身上"维多利亚"的色彩其实减淡了,他更像是属于"混乱时代"。错误来不及改正,忏悔无人倾听,最终一无所有,并在持续的不安中等待偶然的幸福,可爱情并没得到赞颂和更多的权利,只有沉默的风光无所谓地改变,无所谓地回复原状。我想,我可能是怕看到这一切,启迪。

- 9. Happiness is but the occasional episode in a general drama of pain.
- 10、 原来的新文艺版是繁体,结果81年的译文版加入了部分简体的页码。虽然不多,但是看到了就有点吃了麻辣怪味豆的感觉。原因不明,或许当初的新文艺版本就有这个问题(那就要出来一个穿越时空的怪侠了),或者工人排版错误(那就要追究责任编辑的问题了)。

这种情况还是第一次碰到。以前读过同一时期重排重印的《温泉》就没发现这种情形。

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