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图书基本信息

- 书名:<<诺桑觉寺-纯爱英文馆>>
- 13位ISBN编号:9787507834567
- 10位ISBN编号:7507834565
- 出版时间:2012-9
- 出版时间:中国国际广播出版社
- 作者:简·奥斯汀
- 页数:253
- 字数:200000

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内容概要

《纯爱英文馆:诺桑觉寺(英文)》与其他五部奥斯丁的长篇不同,采用了公开的叙述者和外露 的作者型的叙述声音,展现了作者权威。

它是奥斯丁打算出版的第一部小说,定稿完成于1797年左右,即奥斯丁大概22岁的时候。

在这部小说中,作者初露锋芒,文风初步成形,就是以"一个村镇上的三、四户人家"为生活背景,以极具讽刺的笔法叙述一个婚嫁故事。

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章节摘录

'Ah, Catherine! Were it settled so, it would be some-what less intolerable, though in such common attentions you would have received but half what you ought. But -how can I tell you? -Tomorrow morning is fixed for your leaving us, and not even the hour is left to your choice; the very carriage is ordered, and will be here at seven o'clock, and no servant will be offered you. ' Catherine sat down, breathless and speechless.'I could hardly believe my senses, when I heard it; -and no dis-pleasure, no resentment that you can feel at this moment , however justly great, can be more than I myself -but I must not talk of what I felt. Oh ! that I could suggest any-thing in extenuation! Good God! What will your father and mother say ! After courting you from the protect: ion of real friends to this - almost double distance from your home, to have you driven out of the house , without the considerations even of decent avility ! Dear , dear Cather-ine , in being the bearer of such a message, I seem guilty myself of all its insult; yet, I trust you will acquit me, for you must have been long enough in this house to see that I am but a nominal mistress of it, that my real power is nothing. ' Have I offended the General?' said Catherine in a fal-tering voice. 'Alas! for my feelings as a daughter, all that I know, all that I answer for is, that you can have given him no just cause of offence. He certainly is greatly, very geatly discomposed; I have seldom seen him more so. His tem-per is not happy, and something has now occurred to ruf-fle it in an uncommon degree; some disappointment, some vexation, which just at this moment seems impor-tant; but which I can hardly suppose you to have any concern in , for how is it possible?' It was with pain that Catherine could speak at all; and it was only for Eleanor's sake that she attempted it. I am sure , ' said she, 61 am very sorry ifl have offended him. It was the last thing I would willingly have done. But do not be unhappy, Eleanor. An engagement you know must be kept. I am only sorry it was not recollected soon-er, that I might have written home. But it is of very little consequence. 'I hope, I earnestly hope that to your real safety it will be of none; but to everything else it is of the greatest con-sequence; to comfort, appearance, propriety, to your family, to the world. Were your friends, the Allens, still in Bath, you might go to them with comparative ease; a few hours would take you there; but a journey of seventy miles, to be taken post by you , at your age , alone , unat-tended ! '



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