



圣诞节的梦

*Christmas Dream
Dust*

儿童故事和彩图

Children's Story and Coloring Book

Clayton Mansion stood magnificently, surrounded by perfectly mowed lawns. Elegant rows of rosebushes lined the pebbled pathways leading to the house. Perfectly clipped hedges circled the property. It was a breathtaking sight.

The inside of Clayton Mansion was richly furnished and absolutely spotless. Large paintings lined the walls of the wide hallways. The doors in the mansion were all intricately carved out of oak.

Jessica was sitting by the Christmas tree, wearing a lovely green and gold dress. A mountain of presents lay under the tree, and the eight-year-old girl was busily sorting through them, carefully inspecting the ones that bore her name on the tag.



柯公馆雄伟地矗立着，它被修剪整齐的坪所围绕。虽然十二月的玫瑰丛并不开花，但它们却一行行地排列在通向房子的、铺满了鹅卵石的小路两旁：这个美丽的住宅由那些修剪得很完美的篱笆所环绕。那是一种多么宏伟壮观的景象啊！

柯公馆里面的摆设得非常华丽，而且一尘不染。许多巨大的油画镶嵌在宽敞的大厅墙壁上。宅第里的门都是用橡木精心雕制而成的。

柯思慧正坐在圣诞树旁边，她身穿一件绿色与金黄色相点缀的天鹅绒裙子。树下有一大堆的礼物。这个8岁的女孩正在忙着整理它们，她还仔细地检查着那些带有她名字标签的礼物。

“Can you play with me?” her little brother’s voice asked

Jessica didn’t even look up. “Go away, Jeffrey,” she said in a nasty voice. “I don’t have time to play with you. And plus, you always ruin things.”

“Miss Jessica,” a maid called from the next room. “You need to get ready for your horse-riding lessons.”

“I don’t want to go riding today,” answered Jessica lazily.

The maid sighed and continued cleaning.

Jeffrey came into the entrance hall, this time with his train set. “Please will you help me set up my train, Jess?” he asked. “I can’t do it myself.”

“I told you no before,” Jessica snapped. “Go get one of the servants to help you, and don’t bother me anymore.”

“Wake up, Jessie! Wake up!” the little voice lisped. The chubby hands reached out and shook Jessica’s shoulders insistently.

“Go away, Jeffrey,” she muttered and turned over.

“你能和我玩吗？”她小弟弟问道。

思慧甚至都不抬头看一下。“走开，小杰，”她厉声地说。“我没有时间和你玩。再加上，你总是毁坏东西。”

“思慧小姐，”一个女佣从隔壁房间叫道。“你需要为骑术课作准备了。”

“今天，我不想去骑马！”思慧懒散地回答道。

那个女佣边叹气边继续打扫。

小杰又来到大厅入口。这一次，他拿来了一套玩具火车；他说：“姐姐，请你帮我组装火车，好吗？”他问。“我自己不会装。”

“我刚才已经告诉你了，不行！”思慧无礼地说。“去找仆人们帮你吧！不要再来打扰我！”

“醒醒，思慧！醒醒！”一个口齿不清的声音小声说道，一支胖呼呼的手不断地摇着思慧的肩膀。

“走开，小杰，”她咕哝着，并翻过身去。

“I’m not Jeffrey. I’m Kenny,” came the voice again.

“Who’s Kenny?” Jessica asked, as she opened her eyes sleepily. As soon as she looked around the dark, cold room, she bolted out of bed. This wasn’t her room at all!

Newspaper was stuffed into cracks in the walls to keep the cold air out. She saw tattered curtains and a rickety dresser. Four beds were crammed into the tiny room. The blankets on the beds were patched and stitched from continual wear. She looked out the window and saw the bustle of a fairly busy street. “Albertson Drive?!” she exclaimed, reading the street sign outside the window. “Where am I?”

Jessica looked around the room for her clothes. On the dresser she found a set of folded clothes, but though they were clean and repaired nicely, they were obviously very old and frequently used. She put them on.

Just then a woman’s head peeked around the door. “Good morning, Jessica,” she called. “I trust you slept well.”

“I slept fine,” Jessica answered.

“我不是小杰。我是小尼，”那个声音再次说道。

“谁是小尼？”思慧问道，并打开睡意朦胧的眼睛。当她环视那个又黑又冷的房间时，她猛然从床上跳了起来。这完全不是她的房间！

报纸塞满了墙壁上的裂缝，以便阻挡外面的冷空气进来。她看见破旧的窗帘和摇摇晃晃的梳妆台。在这个小小的房间里，挤满了四张床，而且床上的毯子被一补再补。她从窗口望出去，看到一条熙熙攘攘的街道。“艾森街？！”她惊叫着，并读着窗外街上的标志。“我在哪儿？”

思慧在房间里到处寻找她的衣服。她在梳妆台上发现了一打叠好了的衣服，它们虽然很干净而且修补得很好，但却已经很旧了。她穿上了它们。

就在这个时候，一个女人的头探进了门。“早安，思慧，”她说道。“我相信你睡得很好。”

“我睡的很好。”思慧回答说。

“Once you’ve made your bed, would you please set the table for breakfast?” the woman asked sweetly.

“Isn’t the maid supposed to do that?” Jessica snapped back, before she could catch herself.

Mother looked puzzled for a moment, and then a smile spread across her face. “That must’ve been quite some dream, child!” she said with a little laugh. “But we really must be on with our day. Father will be returning from his night shift shortly and we’ll eat breakfast together. Please come and give me a hand as soon as you’re done tidying your room.”

“Uh, yes,” Jessica stuttered. She stared blankly at the bed, trying to think how to go about making it. Her attempt ended in frustration; the bed was all wrinkles and lumps. Kenny giggled as he watched. Jessica scowled at him fiercely, and the little boy stopped laughing and tried to help her finish making the bed.



“你整理好床以后，可以为早餐摆好桌子吗？” 女人很温柔地问。

“那不是仆人们的工作吗？” 她回嘴说。

妈妈先困惑了一小会儿，然后一个微笑又在她的脸上绽开了。“孩子，你一定是做了一个很不寻常的梦！”她笑着说，“但是，我们必须开始我们今天的生活。你可以呆一会儿再告诉我你的梦。爸爸很快就会下夜班了，我们将一起吃早饭。当你整理完你的房间以后，请快点儿来帮助我。”

思慧呆呆地瞪着床铺，不知该怎样去整理它。虽然她在尝试，但床铺还是凌乱不堪。这令她十分懊恼。小尼边看边咯咯地笑了。思慧非常愤怒地瞪着他，小尼停止了笑声，并开始去帮助她整理床铺。

Jessica gingerly crept out of the room, not sure where she was supposed to go. From the doorway of her room she could see the living room and kitchen. The house was small and shabby, but there were homemade Christmas decorations strung around the living room. A roaring fire blazed in the fireplace, and in the corner stood a scrawny tree decorated with simple, homemade decorations.

Jessica went to the kitchen to set the table, but soon realized she didn't know how. Not knowing where anything was, she began to open every cupboard door in search of bowls and utensils.

CRASH! One of the bowls fell to the ground and shattered. The house went completely silent as everyone turned and eyed Jessica. The family was so poor that every bowl was valuable.

Jessica bent to pick up the larger pieces of the broken bowl. As she did, she cut her finger on the broken bowl, and let out a cry of pain. Mother quickly turned, saw the situation, and grabbed a cloth. She wrapped it tightly around the cut to stop the bleeding. "It'll be okay," she said softly.

"I'm sorry," was all Jessica could mutter.

思慧悄悄地、战战兢兢地走出了房间，不知道该去哪里。她从自己房间的门口，可以看到客厅和厨房。这幢房子又窄小又破旧，但一些家庭制作的圣诞饰物却挂满了客厅。壁炉里燃烧着很旺的火。在房间的角落里，有一棵被家庭制作的饰物所装饰起来的脆弱小树。

思慧来到厨房想摆放饭桌，但她很快就发现：她既不知该怎样做，也不知道任何东西放在哪里。她打开每一个碗柜去寻找碗碟和餐具。

哗啦！一只碗掉在地上被摔碎了。每个人都转过身来看着思慧，这个家庭很穷，所以每个碗都是很宝贵的。

思慧弯下腰去捡大块的碎碗片，即刻，她的手就被破碗片划破了，她痛得大叫起来。妈妈很快转过身来，随手抓了一块布把伤口紧紧地包裹起来，以便阻止流血。“会好的！”她温柔地说。

“对不起，”思慧咕嘟着。

When the father had returned, the family gathered around the table. As Jessica took a bite of her porridge, she cringed. It had no butter and very little sugar in it. But she was so hungry that she gingerly took another bite and then another. *It's not too bad, I guess*, she thought to herself.

After breakfast there were dishes to do. The woman asked Sara, the eldest sister, to do the dishes, while Jessica was to keep an eye on the two younger ones, Kenny and Becky, so that she could go out.

“But I was going to go play with my...” Jessica started to answer, but stopped. “All right,” continued Jessica, and called the little kids to follow her.

That afternoon, after Mother had returned from the market, she came to see Jessica. She was carrying a small basin of warm water and a cloth. “How’s your hand doing, Jessie?” she asked.

“Fine. The bleeding stopped a while ago, but it’s a little sore.”

当爸爸回来的时候，这个家庭已经围坐在饭桌的四周了。当思慧吃了一口麦片粥时，她马上缩起了身子，因为粥里没有放黄油，而且只有一点点糖。但她很饿，所以就小心翼翼地又吃了一口，接下来又是一口。“这还不错，”她自己想着。

早饭后需要洗碗，妈妈便让姐姐素玲去洗。然后，她让思慧去照顾两个较小的孩子小尼和小碧。这样，她便可以出去买菜。

“但是，我要去玩……。”思慧开始说，但又停了下来。“好吧。”思慧接下说，并叫小孩子们跟她一起去。

那天下午，当妈妈从市场上回来时，过来看思慧。“你的手怎么样了？”说着，她拿来了装有温水的小盆和一块布。

“很好。血已经止住了，但是伤口有一点痛。”

“I’m so sorry about that. Let me clean it, so that it won’t get infected.” Mother removed the bandage and gently cleaned the cut.

“Is everything okay?” she asked Jessica. “You seem a little out of sorts. I noticed that you’re finding your jobs harder to do around the house. You question doing them much more than you used to.”

Jessica stared at the floor, embarrassed by what she heard. *But how am I supposed to react?* she asked herself.

“There is something I want you to know,” Mother said, as she wrapped a clean bandage on Jessica’s hand. “I want you to know how much I need and appreciate your help around the house. Sara and you are both so helpful, and it makes things a lot easier for me. I can’t imagine how it would be if I didn’t have you to help me. So I wanted to thank you for helping me, even if there are other things that you would prefer to be doing instead.”



“真抱歉你的手被弄伤了。让我来清洗它，这样就不会发炎了。”妈妈把绷带拿掉，并轻柔地清洗着伤口。

“一切还好吧？”她问思慧，“你看起来有点和平常不一样。我注意到你不喜欢在家里帮忙，你不像以往那样愿意做事了。”

思慧注视着地板，她听到这话感到有点困窘。“我应该怎么办呢？”她心里自问。

“有件事我想要你知道，”当妈妈在思慧的手上包扎一块干净的绷带时，她说：

“在家里，我很需要和感谢你的帮助。素玲和你对我的帮助很大，使我的担子轻松了很多。我无法想象，如果没有你们的帮助，事情将会怎样。所以，我想谢谢你对我的帮助，即使你本来宁可去做别的事情。”

Jessica had never had anyone thank her for helping, because she had never taken the time to help another person. Jessica felt ashamed of how selfish and unkind she had been. “I know you want to do the right thing, Jessica, and I understand that it’s not always easy. So thank you very much for doing it anyway, and for helping me all the time. I love you so much.”

Mother hugged Jessica for a few moments before she left the room.

Jessica sat there for a few minutes reflecting. *I want to be kinder to other people*, she thought. *I don’t know how exactly, but I’m sure there are things that I can do to help and I want to try to do that.*

All that day, whenever she was asked, Jessica helped with the children, and cleaned the house. She also helped Mother and Sara cook dinner. It was a lot of work, but Jessica found that it was actually fun. Every time she helped someone or shared something with others, she felt good inside. That night she went to bed feeling content and satisfied.

“Good morning, Jessica! Merry Christmas!” a voice called from beside her bed.

从来没有任何人曾为思慧的帮助而感谢她，因为她从来都没有花过任何时间去帮助别人。思慧为她曾是多么的自私和不友善而感到很羞愧。“我知道你想做正确的事，而且我明白那样做不总是很容易的，所以非常感谢你不管怎样还是去这样做，而且总是在帮助我。我非常爱你。”

妈妈在离开房间之前，拥抱了思慧一小会儿。

思慧坐在那儿想了几分钟：我想对别人更友善一些，可我不知道该怎样做；但我可以确定，有些事我可以力所能及，而且我应该努力去做。

那天，无论什么时候需要她，她都去尽力而为：帮助照看孩子们，或是打扫房间。她还帮助妈妈和素玲做晚饭。这样做虽然很辛苦，但思慧发现：这实际上很有趣。每一次，当她帮助了什么人和与什么人分享之后，她的内心都觉得很痛快。那天夜晚上床睡觉的时候，她感到心满意足。

“早安，思慧！圣诞快乐！”从她的床边传来一个声音叫道。

Jessica opened her eyes slowly and there standing beside her bed was Jeffrey. She was back in her own room, in Clayton Mansion!

“How did I get back?” she cried, as she jumped out of bed. “Oh my goodness, Jeffrey! It must have all just been a dream!” She laughed happily. “It’s wonderful to be back. And it’s so good to see you!” she said as she gave him a big hug. Jeffrey’s eyes were wide with surprise!

“I love you, Jeffrey. I’m so sorry I haven’t been very nice to you lately. Please forgive me? Let’s go set the table for breakfast.” The two of them went downstairs to the dining room.

“Merry Christmas, Maria!” the two chorused, as the maid came in with a big tray of food. She was so surprised at the sight of the set table that she almost dropped the tray on the floor.

“Why, thank you for helping,” Maria said with a smile. “That’s just wonderful!”

After breakfast, Jessica exclaimed, “Oh, Mother, I have an idea. Why don’t we find a poor family who doesn’t have anything special for Christmas, and bring them some presents? I’d like to give some of my presents away to make them happy.”

思慧慢慢睁开了眼睛，她看到床边站着小杰。她已回到了自己的房间，而且身在柯公馆里！

“我是怎么回来的？”她一边从床上跳起来一边大声问。“天哪，小杰！刚才所有的一切都一定是个梦！”她快乐地大笑起来。”回来真是太好了，见到你非常高兴！”她边说边给小杰一个亲切的拥抱。小杰因此而惊奇地睁大了眼睛。

“我爱你，小杰。对不起，我最近对你不够好，请原谅我！走，让我们一起去为早饭摆放饭桌。”他们两个下楼到了饭厅。

“圣诞快乐，美玲！”当女佣端着一大盘食物进来的时候，他们齐声说道。当她看到摆放好的饭桌时，惊讶得差点儿把托盘掉在了地上。

“谢谢你们的帮助，”美玲微笑着说，“这真是太美妙了！”

早饭后，思慧兴奋地说道：“妈妈，我有一个主意，我们为什么不去寻找一个没有任何特别的东西来庆祝圣诞节的家庭、并带给他们一些礼物呢？我想把我的一些礼物送给他们，好让他们也高兴。”

There were tears in her mother's eyes when Jessica had finished. "That's such a kind thought, Sweetheart."

As Jessica was putting presents into a big red sack, Jeffrey came to her. "I want to share my presents too," he said softly. Jessica and Jeffrey finished filling the sack with presents, and tied it shut with a gold ribbon.

When they got to the shabby house on Albertson Drive, they set the sack outside the door. Jessica peeked out from behind a bush and saw the woman, with a few small children behind her, coming out of the house and looking in surprise at the bundle on the doorstep. "Look what an angel has brought us!" she happily exclaimed.

Jessica smiled and felt warm inside. It really did feel good to be kind and sharing and to do nice things for other people.

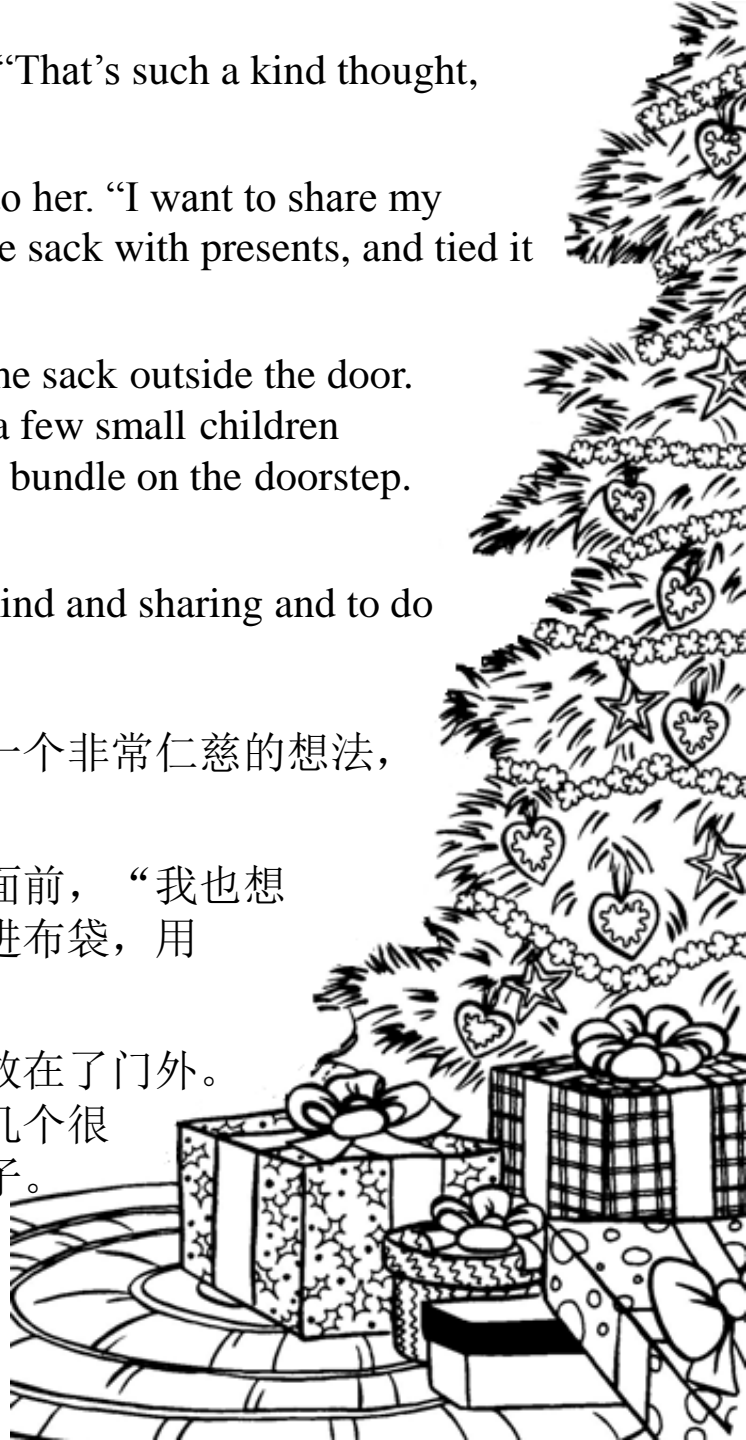
当思慧说完时，妈妈的眼里充满了喜悦的泪花。“这真是一个非常仁慈的想法，亲爱的。”

当思慧把礼物放进一个红色大布袋的时候，小杰也来到她面前，“我也想分享一些我的礼物。”他轻轻地说。思慧和小杰把礼物放进布袋，用一根金色的带子扎住袋口。

当他们来到艾森街的一间破旧房子跟前时，他们便把袋子放在了门外。思慧从一棵矮树后偷看着，在她梦中遇到的那位女士带着几个很小的孩子走出了房子，他们惊讶地看到了摆在台阶上的袋子。

“看！一位天使给我们送来了什么？”她快乐地大叫道。

思慧微笑着，内心感到非常的温暖。对别人友善，与别人分享，为别人做一些好事，真的感觉很好！





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