

[每日阅读]Lady,areyourich? PDF转换可能丢失图片或格式，建议阅读原文

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It was Thanksgiving morning and in the crowded kitchen of my small home I was busy preparing the traditional Thanksgiving turkey when the doorbell rang. I opened the front door and saw two small children in rags huddling together inside the storm door on the top step. “ Any old papers, lady? ” asked one of them. I was busy. I wanted to say “ no ” until I looked down at their feet. They were wearing thin little sandals, wet with heavy snow. “ Come in and I ’ ll make you a cup of hot cocoa. ” They walked over and sat down at the table. Their wet sandals left marks upon the floor. I served them cocoa and bread with jam to fight against the cold outside. Then I went back to the kitchen and started again on my household budget. The silence in the front room struck me. I looked in. The girl held the empty cup in her hands, looking at it. The boy asked in a flat voice, “ Lady, are you rich? ” “ Am I rich? Mercy, no! ” I looked at my shabby slipcovers. The girl put her cup back in its saucer carefully and said, “ Your cups match your saucers. ” Her voice was hungry with a need that no amount of food could supply. They left after that, holding their bundles of papers against the wind. They hadn ’ t said thank-you. They didn ’ t need to. They had done more than that. They had reminded me that I had so much for which to be grateful. Plain blue china cups and saucers were only worth five pence. But they matched. I tasted the potatoes and stirred the meat soup.

Potatoes and brown meat soup, a roof over our heads, my man with a good steady job ? these matched, too. I moved the chairs back from the fire and cleaned the living room. The muddy prints of small sandals were still wet upon my floor. Let them be for a while, I thought, just in case I should begin to forget how rich I am. 注：
huddle v. 挤作一团 storm door n. (防风、雨、雪等的) 外重门
sandal n. 浅帮鞋 cocoa n. 可可茶 household budget n. 家庭预算
slipcover n. 椅套 saucer n. 茶碟 bundle n. 捆 stir v. 搅动 steady adj.
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