



Mutiny on the Bounty

邦蒂号暴动

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Two hundred years ago life on a sailing ship was not easy. You ate hard bread and bad meat. You worked night and day, often cold and wet and hungry. You saw no land for months and months. There were dangerous storms and many accidents; some ships never came home again.

In 1787 *HMS Bounty* leaves England and sails halfway round the world to Tahiti in the south seas. The captain of the ship is William Bligh, and his First Officer is Fletcher Christian. The *Bounty* is not a happy ship. Bligh is a hard man, and his officers and his men do not like him. They are angry and afraid—afraid of more long months at sea. It takes a year to sail home to England . . . a year of Captain Bligh.

They begin to talk quietly . . . Why not stay here in Tahiti, with its blue skies and its friendly people? Why do we need a captain? Why not put Captain Bligh in the ship's boat and send him home to England in that?

But the punishment for mutiny is death . . .

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1

From England to Tahiti

It was a cold day in December, 1787. There was a strong wind and a green sea. Three men and a boy stood on the deck of the little ship, *HMS Bounty*. Behind them, on the land, were some hills and small white houses. The ship moved slowly out to sea.

The boy, Peter Heywood, was fourteen years old. He was a young officer, and he was happy and excited.

‘England looks very small, Mr Christian,’ he said.

Fletcher Christian smiled at him. Christian was a tall young man with black hair and a long tired face. ‘England is small,’ he said. ‘But we’re going to some much smaller islands. Tahiti. The Friendly Islands. They’re small, but they’re very warm and beautiful.’

A sailor, John Adams, laughed. ‘That’s right, Mr Christian, sir,’ he said. ‘Good food, warm sun, blue skies—and hot, beautiful women, too! I want—’

‘Be quiet, man!’ someone shouted. Christian and Heywood looked behind them. They saw the captain, William Bligh. He was a small man with brown hair. Christian knew Bligh well; they were friends. But Bligh was a captain now, so things were different. The *Bounty* was his first ship, and it was very important to him.

‘Don’t talk about women on my ship, Adams!’ he said

1. 从英国到塔希提

1787年12月一个寒冷的日子,碧绿的海上吹着强劲的海风。三个男人和一个男孩儿站在一艘小船——“女王陛下邦蒂”号——的甲板上。在他们身后的陆地上,有几座山丘和几幢白色的小房子。这艘船正慢慢地驶向大海。

那个男孩儿,彼得·海伍德,14岁。他是一名年轻的副官,此刻他既高兴又兴奋。

“英国看起来真小啊,克里斯琴先生。”他说。

弗莱彻·克里斯琴微笑着看着他。克里斯琴是个高个子的年轻男子,黑头发,一张长长的脸上满是倦容。“英国是小,”他说,“但是我们将要去一些更小的岛,塔希提,可爱的群岛。它们很小,但非常温暖而美丽。”

一名叫约翰·亚当斯的水手笑了起来。“是这样的,克里斯琴先生,长官,”他说,“美食、暖阳、蓝天——还有热辣美丽的女人!我想——”

“闭嘴!”有人喊了一声。克里斯琴和海伍德朝后看去。他们看见了威廉·布莱船长。他是个矮个儿,长着棕色的头发。克里斯琴对布莱非常了解;他们曾是朋友。但现在布莱是船长了,情况就不一样了。“邦蒂”号是他的第一艘船,这次航行对他来说很重要。

“亚当斯,在我的船上禁止谈论女人!”



deck n. platform in a ship serving as a floor. 甲板; 舱板, 舱面. officer n. high-ranking officials on a ship. 高级船员, (船上的) 副官. hot adj. passionate. 热烈的. captain n. commander of a ship. 船长; 舰长.

angrily. 'Be quiet, and sail this ship! Do you hear?'

'Yes, sir,' said Adams quietly.

'Now, listen to me, Mr Christian. And you, too, Mr Heywood.' Bligh stood very near them, but he didn't speak quietly. All the sailors could hear him. 'I'm the captain of this ship—remember that! We're going thirty thousand kilometres through bad weather and very bad seas, and I don't want any accidents. You are officers, so you don't talk to sailors about women or drink, or anything! You must work hard, and your sailors must work hard, too. Do you understand me, Mr Christian?'

'Yes, sir,' said Christian. But he didn't look happy.

'Good. And you, Mr Heywood?'

'Yes, sir.' The boy looked at Bligh, afraid. Then Bligh smiled.

'Is this your first time at sea, boy?'

'Yes, sir.'

'Well, you must work hard, and listen to me. One day, perhaps, you can be a captain too. Would you like that?'

'Yes, sir, of course.' Peter Heywood smiled.

'Right then, Mr Christian! Look at those men there—they aren't working! Run and talk to them, quickly!'

Bligh smiled again at Heywood. 'In a happy ship, the men must work hard, but the officers must work harder. Do you understand, boy?'

他气愤地说。“安静，都干活儿去！听到了吗？”

“是，长官。”亚当斯小声回答道。

“现在，听我说，克里斯琴先生。还有你，海伍德先生。”布莱就站在他们旁边，但说话的声音还是很高，所有的船员都能够听到。“我是这艘船的船长——记住！我们将航行 3 万公里，会遇到恶劣的天气，险恶的海域，我不想发生什么事故。你们是副官，所以你们不能和水手谈论酒色，或者别的什么！你们必须努力干活儿，你们的水手也一样。明白了吗，克里斯琴先生？”

“是，长官。”克里斯琴说。但他看起来并不高兴。

“很好。你呢，海伍德先生？”

“是，长官。”男孩儿看着布莱，有点儿害怕。然后布莱笑了笑。

“小家伙，这是你第一次出海吗？”

“是的，长官。”

“哦，你干活儿得勤快些，并且听我的指挥。或许有一天，你也能成为一名船长。想吗？”

“是的，长官，那当然。”彼得·海伍德笑了。

“很好。克里斯琴先生！看那边那些人——他们没有干活儿！跑过去说说他们，快！”

布莱又微笑着对海伍德说：“要想船上关系融洽，每个人都必须努力干活儿，但副官们必须更卖力。明白了吗，小家伙？”



The *Bounty* sailed south across the Atlantic. For ten days they were in a storm near Cape Horn, but they could not sail west because of the strong west wind. So they sailed east to South Africa, Tasmania, and Tahiti.

There were thirty-three sailors on the *Bounty*, and eleven officers. Bligh was the captain, Christian was his first officer. The ship was often wet and cold, but no one was ill. Once Bligh gave the sailors some apples, but they would not eat them because they were old and bad. Bligh was very angry.

‘Damn you men!’ he shouted. ‘Apples are good for you! You eat them, I say!’

On 26 October 1788 the *Bounty* arrived at Tahiti. The islanders came to the ship in big canoes with food. The King of Tahiti, Otoo, was friendly. Bligh went to Otoo’s house, and gave him things from the King of England.

‘Thank you, Captain,’ Otoo said. ‘You are welcome here. I must give the King of England something, too. But he’s a rich man. What would he like? Do you know?’

Bligh smiled. It was an important question. ‘My King is very rich, Otoo,’ he said. ‘But we don’t have any breadfruit trees in England. My King would like some, for his people in Jamaica. Can I take some on my ship?’

Otoo laughed. ‘Of course,’ he said. ‘That’s easy! Take



“邦蒂”号向南行驶穿越大西洋。十天当中,他们一直处在合恩角附近的风暴中,由于强劲的西风,他们无法向西航行。于是他们就向东航行,驶往南非、塔斯马尼亚和塔希提。

在“邦蒂”号上有 33 名水手和 11 名副官。布莱是船长,克里斯琴是他的大副。船上经常是又冷又湿,不过还好没有人生病。一次布莱给大家发了些苹果,但没有人吃,因为那些苹果搁了很久,都坏了。布莱非常生气。

“你们这些该死的家伙!”他吼道,“苹果对你们的身体有好处!你们都给我吃掉!”

1788 年 10 月 26 日,“邦蒂”号到达了塔希提。岛民们划着装满食品的大独木舟靠近他们的船。塔希提的国王奥图很好客。布莱去了奥图国王的住处,给他送去英国国王的礼物。

“谢谢,船长,”奥图说,“欢迎你们来这里,我也应该送给英国国王一些礼物。但是他太富有了,他会喜欢什么呢?你知道吗?”

布莱笑了笑。这是个很重要的问题。“我们国王是很富有,奥图,”他说,“但我们英国没有面包树。我们的国王愿意为他在牙买加的臣民要一些。我能带些上船吗?”

奥图大笑起来。“当然可以,”他说,

sail v. navigate (a ship etc.). 驾驶(船等)。Cape Horn 合恩角。damn v. used to express annoyance, anger, etc. 表示厌烦、愤怒等。breadfruit n. round edible tropical fruit with white starchy pulp. 面包果(一种可食的圆形热带水果,果肉白色,含淀粉)。

lots of them. My people can help you.'

The *Bounty* stayed at Tahiti for five months, and by March there were a thousand breadfruit trees on the ship. Tahitian children played on the ship, and in the evenings the sailors danced and sang with the women.

One morning, some sailors and Tahitian women took a ship's boat to a different island. Bligh was very angry. When the sailors came back, he put chains on their legs. Then he shouted at his officers and men. 'You men must stay away from these women!' he said. 'You must all listen to me, and work hard for me and the King!'

Some officers kept pigs on the ship. Sometimes Bligh took the pigs from his officers. 'I'm giving this food to the sailors,' he said. 'They need it, not you!'

April 4th was the *Bounty's* last day in Tahiti. The ship was full of food and people—Otoo and his family, all the sailors and their Tahitian friends. But nobody sang or danced. Everyone was quiet and sad.

Peter Heywood saw John Adams with a Tahitian woman. She cried, and he talked to her for the last time. Then she got into a canoe and went back to the island. Peter stood near him, sadly. The sun went down in the west.

'Mr Christian?' shouted Captain Bligh. 'Are all the Tahitians off the ship?'

'Yes, sir,' Christian answered.

'Good. Then we sail for Jamaica, and then back to old

“那太容易了！尽量多带一些。我的人会帮助你们的。”

“邦蒂”号在塔希提逗留了五个月，到三月份的时候船上已经有了1,000棵面包树。塔希提的孩子们到船上嬉戏，晚间水手们和岛上的妇女载歌载舞。

一天早上，一些水手和岛上的妇女划了船上的救生筏去了另外一个岛。布莱非常生气。那些水手们回来后，他用链子锁上了他们的腿，然后对着他的副官和水手们吼道：“你们这群家伙必须离这些女人远点儿！”他说，“你们必须听我的，为国王和我努力干活儿！”

有些副官在船上养了几头猪。有时布莱把猪从副官那儿弄走。“我要把这食物给水手们吃，”他说，“他们比你们更需要这个！”

4月4日是“邦蒂”号在塔希提岛停靠的最后一天。船上装满了食物，还有很多人——奥图国王和他的家人、所有的水手和他们的塔希提朋友。但没有人唱歌跳舞，每个人都静静的，有点儿伤感。

彼得·海伍德看到约翰·亚当斯和一个塔希提女人在一起。她哭泣着，他在和她进行最后一次交谈。然后她坐进一条独木舟返回了岛上。彼得伤感地站在他旁边。太阳西沉。

“克里斯琴先生？”布莱船长喊道，“所有的塔希提人都下船了吗？”

“是的，长官。”克里斯琴回答道。

“好。那我们启航驶往牙买加，然后就

chain *n.* connected series of metal links. 链子，链条。**stay away** keep a distance; not interfere. 保持距离。**go down** (of the sun and moon) disappear beneath the horizon. 落下，没入地平线以下。



England!’ He looked at Peter. ‘Don’t stand there, boy! Get to work! Look at all our beautiful breadfruit trees! King George is going to be very happy about them!’



返回古老的英国!”他看了看彼得,“别站在那儿,小家伙!干活儿去!看看我们美丽的面包树!乔治国王肯定会很高兴的!”