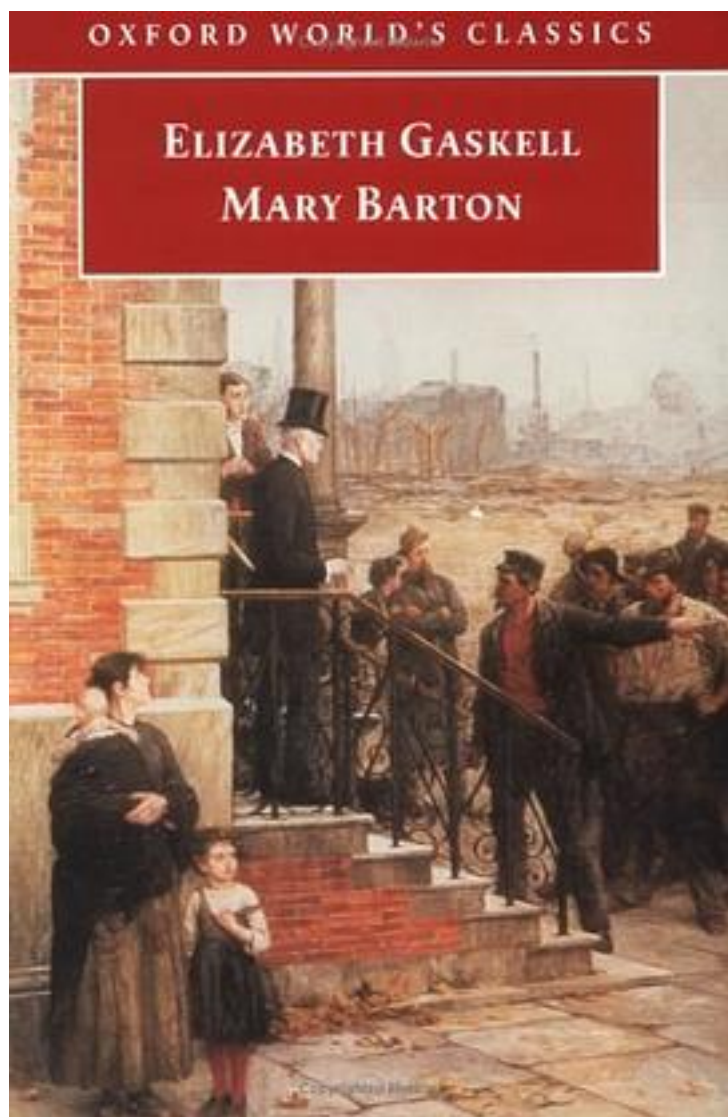


Mary Barton



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著者:Elizabeth Gaskell

出版者:W. W. Norton & Company

出版时间:2008-7-25

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780393930634

Mary Barton is a novel with an author, genre, plot and conclusion marked by tension, opposition and conflict. It exists on the event horizon between the British industrial and agricultural economies, between Tory Anglicanism and the non-conformist Whigs, between employers and works and, finally, between women and men. The original title was to have been John Barton, but was changed later to its present form. Yet, critics reading it today find its narrative to fall, as did the original publication, into two books, with the first following the descent of John Barton and the other the ascendancy of his daughter, Mary.

The first half follows John's union activities and the industrial upheavals of 1840s Manchester. Its strong sympathies for the labor class, use of their crude language and description of their nauseating living conditions caused many to criticize the novel, despite Charles Dickens' praise.

The second half of the novel exposes the conflicting Victorian ideals of womanhood. Through the characters of Esther Barton, a prostitute, and Mary Barton, a vain and naive girl who transforms into a capable woman, Gaskell sets up a framework for feminism. Though on the surface an English Provincial novel in the fashion of Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte and George Eliot, Mary Barton rewards multiple readings by revealing webs of inner conflict that both affirm convention and whisper rebellion.

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标签

英国文学

ElizabethGaskell

Gaskell

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评论

作者第一部作品，可能当时有影响力，但从文笔、故事情节、角色塑造看都很一般般，太过罗嗦和压抑，看不出作者个性特色。看了五分之一无比郁闷，最后决定弃读。

2/5

人物性格塑造的有点儿不太连贯，冲突的解决有些理想化。

看的是Penguin1970年版。芥子之中得见须弥，小故事中看出大历史。弥漫着忧伤的死亡气息。那一句All flesh is grass，简直有eschatology的成分了。。

应该是小说版的《英国工人阶级状况》了吧。但感觉后半部分情节衔接的不很顺畅，有点生硬；文笔也不如George Eliot那么有textual quality.tale+melodrama以及大团圆有点削弱了前半部分对于社会现实的出色表现的光辉。。不过故事和思想都还是算得上很有力的。

split novel前半是social realism后半是典型俗套的melodrama。如果按照前半的思路写下去或许可以成为一部伟大的小说，但是到了后半部分充满各种妥协。首先可能由于出版商的原因为迎合市场将笔触重点从John Barton转移到Mary Barton的爱情故事。雷蒙德威廉斯观察到，受限於中产阶级的“情感结构”，作者同情工人阶级但又对工人阶级企图当家做主有一种恐惧，描写巴顿的政治谋杀后来又从这个谋杀案中退缩出去重点描写玛丽就是这一种情感结构的反映。当苦难已经无法令人忍受时，支持她的怜悯的是一种搪塞的写法，在小说结尾通过宗教的力量使资本家和工人达成和解，并把Mary一家以及Margaret等人全部迁移到没有苦难的新世界加拿大使得现实世界的苦难一笔勾销得到“想象性解决”

British culture and society reading material. A realism novel characterized by careful and sympathetic depiction of the working class, posing some intriguing and timeless questions to the readers, e.g. the relationship between moral and social class/wealth

kindle上拖拖拉拉看完。不如北与南和cranford,前半部分明显比后半部分好。violence&tenderness. a rose for Esther.

“你想好读什么方向了吗？对Victorian感兴趣吗？” “我想好了想好了想好了谢谢！不用不用不用！”

两门课都要读的书，以为会是旷世之作，但其实跟平时看的小言没啥区别。拜金最后洗白的女主，渣男男二，舔狗男主，配上维多利亚时期工厂背景，乡村爱情既视感。

挺小众的，但还是看完了！ masrers vs. laborers
比较现实地再现了工业化进程中的劳工冲突，但情节有些戏剧化。
文中的宗教色彩挺浓厚，可见当时人们还是挺虔诚的。

"Keep senses operating". 刨去道德的说教(为什么要刨去？),
曲折的情节不会因为不自然而令人生厌，所有的评判都不会片面，所有的感觉都是真实的复杂和真实的深刻和自然，且清清楚楚，做梦都是Gaskell的视角感，幸福！

挺狗血的嗯……

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书评

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