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Jane Austen 简·奥斯汀

Vicki: Hi, and welcome to BBC Learning English. I'm Vicki and in this programme we're going to talk about a famous author from the 19th century.

Oliver: 一位十九世纪的作家？你为什么想谈论这位作家呢？

Vicki: Well Oliver, we're talking about Jane Austen because there's a new film about her life, called *Becoming Jane*.

Oliver: Jane Austen 是一位女作家吗？

Vicki: Yes she is one of the most famous female authors ever. You could also call her a literary figure. Literary means anything to do with books.

Oliver: 文学的、书本的。

Vicki: She wrote novels like 'Pride and Prejudice' and 'Emma'. Have you read any of her novels Oliver?

Oliver: 没有，我没有读过她的小说。说到这部电影，是一部传记片吗？

Vicki: Well sort of, but the film is only based on her life. It's not completely factual.

Oliver: Based on –基于、取材于。Factual 事实的。

Vicki: Here's James MacAvoy, an actor in the film to explain. He says the film is not a biopic.

Oliver: 意思是传记影片 biopic，让我们听听 James 是怎么说的。

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It's not a biopic really, we're taking a literary figure, using an early part of her life, that we know a little bit about to hypothesise.

Vicki: So the film makers know a little bit about Jane Austen's life and then they hypothesise.

Oliver: Hypothesise 的意思是假设、虚构(猜想可能发生了什么)。Vicki，到现在为止，我们已经听到了不少的新单词儿了。

Vicki: Yes, a literary figure.

Oliver: 文学大师。

Vicki: Based on.

Oliver: 基于，取材于。

Vicki: A biopic.

Oliver: 名人传记影片。

Vicki: To hypothesise.

Oliver: 假设、虚构。

Insert

It's not a biopic really, we're taking a literary figure, using an early part of her life, that we know a little bit about to hypothesise.

Oliver: 那么，电影 'Becoming Jane' 都讲了些什么呢？

Vicki: It's the story of why Jane didn't get married. Her mother wanted her to find a wealthy husband. Here's Kirsty Lang from BBC programme Front Row.

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The film opens with 20 year old Jane coming under pressure from her mother to find a wealthy husband. But instead she falls in love with a dashing young Irish lawyer called Tom Lefroy.

Oliver: 她承受了很多压力。

Vicki: Under pressure.

Oliver: 她爱着的那个男人不是非常富有，但是却充满活力。

Vicki: He's dashing. But at that time it was very important for people to marry well. That means to marry someone with money or status.

Oliver: To marry well 嫁给有钱或者有地位的人。难道这些比爱还重要吗？

Vicki: That's right. But unfortunately for Jane, the man she loved also needed to marry well.

Oliver: 让我们再听听 James 的看法，他在电影里扮演了 Jane 爱着的那个男人。

Insert

We believe that his family probably pulled him away, because she wasn't a good enough prospect for him. His family, were becoming poor, so it was his responsibility to revive the fortunes by marrying well you know.

Vicki: Jane wasn't a good enough prospect.

Oliver: A good prospect 给家里带来财富的人。给家人带来财富是他的责任。

Vicki: James said 'revive the fortunes'.

Oliver: To revive 字面上的意思是复兴，在这里的意思是增加。

Insert

We believe his family probably pulled him away, because she wasn't a good enough prospect for him. His family, were becoming poor, so it was his responsibility to revive the ailing fortunes by marrying well you know.

Oliver: 让我们再来复习一下刚才听到的单词儿。

Vicki: Dashing.

Oliver: 活跃的。

Vicki: A good prospect.

Oliver: 门当户对的。

Vicki: To marry well.

Oliver: 嫁个好人家。

Vicki: So we've heard what the film about Jane Austen's life is all about, but what did our BBC film critic Kathryn Hughes think about the actress playing Jane? Although Jane is an English character, she's being played by an American actress, Anne Hathaway. Kathryn says, like several other American actresses, Anne is good at pretending to be English.

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She joins a long long list of American actresses who do a really good cut glass English accent that's absolutely flawless.

Oliver: Flawless 无暇的。那么他用什么表达方式来描述她的口音的呢？

Vicki: She said a cut glass English accent. That just means a very clear, precise accent, like this. A cut glass English accent.

Oliver: 这么说 a cut glass accent 就是清楚、清晰的口音。

Vicki: But Kathryn doesn't think that the character in the film is like Jane Austen really was. She says it doesn't ring true.

Oliver: 这不能反映实情。

Insert

But she's actually playing Jane Austen as a very sweet doe eyed girl, and we know actually from letters she wrote at the time to her sister that she was a catty little miss. She was a sharp little thing. So this kind of rather gentle, moist eyed girl doesn't really ring true at all.

Vicki: Kathryn describes the character in the film as sweet and gentle. But Jane Austen wasn't really like that in real life, she was sharp and catty.



Oliver: Sharp 精明的和。Catty 阴险的 (刻薄的)。

Insert

She joins a long long list of American actresses who do a really good cut glass English accent that's absolutely flawless. But she's actually playing Jane Austen as a very sweet doe eyed girl, and we know actually from letters she wrote at the time to her sister that she was a catty little miss. She was a sharp little thing. So this kind of rather gentle, moist eyed girl doesn't really ring true at all.

Oliver: 让我们再回顾一下刚才听到的词汇。

Vicki: A cut glass accent.

Oliver: 清晰、清楚的口音。

Vicki: Flawless.

Oliver: 无暇的。

Vicki: To ring true.

Oliver: 反映实情。

Vicki: Catty.

Oliver: 狡猾的、阴险的。

Vicki: In BBC Learning English today we're talking about Jane Austen, the famous English female author.

Oliver: 我们刚才已经介绍了一部根据她生平改编的电影 'Becoming Jane'. 那 Vicki, 还有没有根据她的小说改编的电影或电视剧呢?

Vicki: Yes, lots. There have been films and TV adaptations of her novels. In fact there are some new TV versions which have just been made. One of them is Mansfield Park. Like a lot of Austen's novels, it's about unrequited love.

Oliver: Unrequited love 没有回报的爱, 讲述了一个什么样的故事呢?

Vicki: It's about a young girl called Fanny Price. Here's Kirsty Lang from BBC Front Row to tell us about her.

Insert

She's a sweet and kind young woman who's been rescued from poverty by her rich uncle who lives at Mansfield Park, and she's secretly in love with her cousin Edmund. However the rest of the family never allows her to forget her place as the poor relative.

Oliver: Fanny 是个贫穷的女孩儿, 但是有一个富有的舅舅。他舅舅把她从贫穷中解救出来。

Vicki: Poverty. And she's secretly in love with her cousin.



Oliver: 但是她不能和他结婚，因为她很穷。

Vicki: **She's the poor relative.**

Oliver: **Relative** 亲戚。还有什么其它的可以用来表述亲戚的词儿吗？

Vicki: **Yes, you can also say a relation.**

Oliver: 他们有什么不同吗？

Vicki: **No, they mean the same. A relative, a relation, a member of your family.**

Oliver: 在表达 **Fanny's** 在家里的地位的时候，这儿用了一个很有意思的短语。

Vicki: **Yes, she's not allowed to forget her place. In those days social status was much more important than now, and someone who was poor had to 'know their place'.**

Oliver: 意思就是他们必须记住，自己比别人低一等。

Vicki: **It's quite an old-fashioned expression.**

Insert

She's a sweet and kind young woman who's been rescued from poverty by her rich uncle who lives at Mansfield Park, and she's secretly in love with her cousin Edmund. However the rest of the family never allows her to forget her place as the poor relative.

Vicki: **Let's hear some of the vocabulary again. Unrequited love.**

Oliver: 没有回报的爱。

Vicki: **Poverty.**

Oliver: 贫穷。

Vicki: **A relative or relation.**

Oliver: 亲戚。在电视剧 **Mansfield Park** 里谁扮演 **Fanny Price** 呢？

Vicki: **Well it's an interesting choice of actress, Billie Piper. She's a young actress who is known for her recent role in Doctor Who, a very popular sci-fi series.**

Oliver: **Sci-fi** 是 **science fiction** 科幻小说的缩写。和简奥斯汀的作品可有很大的不同啊，是吗？

Vicki: **Yes, this period drama is quite different from the sci-fi show Billie was in recently.**

Oliver: **A period drama?**

Vicki: **Yes that's what you call a TV show or film which is in a historical setting. This is set in 19th century.**

Oliver: 那 Billie 在这部古装戏里的表现怎么样？

Vicki: Well Kirsty Lang asked Kathryn Hughes, a critic, what she thought. She wants to know if Billie is convincing.

Oliver: Convincing 让人信服的。

Insert

Kathryn , is she convincing as Fanny Price? No absolutely not, I mean Fanny Price is this meek, rather plain girl, certainly not this kind of luscious wench that Billy Piper plays her as. So it didn't work at all, no.

Oliver: 这么说 Kathryn 不觉得 Billie 能够让人信服，她觉得书中的角色和 Billie 有很大不同。

Vicki: In the book, Fanny is described as meek and plain.

Oliver: Meek 温顺的，和 plain 普通的，不吸引人的。

Vicki: Whereas the TV character is a luscious wench.

Oliver: Luscious 是非常有魅力的。

Vicki: Wench is an old fashioned word for a girl or young woman, but it tends to mean someone quite sexually attractive.

Oliver: 其实，我倒是更喜欢电视版本！但是 Kathryn 说不行。

Insert

*Kathryn , is she convincing as Fanny Price?
No absolutely not, I mean Fanny Price is this meek, rather plain girl, certainly not this kind of luscious wench that Billy Piper plays her as. So it didn't work at all no.*

Oliver: 让我们再来总结一下刚才听到的生词儿？

Vicki: Sure. Sci-fi, science fiction.

Oliver: 科幻小说。

Vicki: A period drama.

Oliver: 古装戏。

Vicki: Convincing.

Oliver: 让人信服的。

Vicki: Meek.

Oliver: 温顺的。

Vicki: Plain.

Oliver: 普通的、朴素的。



Vicki: Luscious.

Oliver: 甜美的。

Vicki: However, there is a reason why Billie Piper is a good choice for the role. She is a popular actress with young people, so it makes the TV show more appealing to a young audience.

Oliver: Audience 观众。

Insert

Billy Piper's presence does make this very contemporary, and you can see ITV are clearly marketing this at a young audience. I watched it with my 15 yr old daughter and she loved it. It's absolutely right that this should be cast very young, after all what we're watching is a lot of teenagers falling in love.

Vicki: Kirsty said that the show is contemporary.

Oliver: Contemporary 现代的。

Vicki: And that it's marketed at a young audience.

Oliver: To market something 向什么人推广什么。

Vicki: And Kathryn says that the story is really about teenagers.

Oliver: 青少年。

Insert

Billy Piper's presence does make this very contemporary, and you can see ITV are clearly marketing this at a young audience. I watched it with my 15 year old daughter and she loved it. It's absolutely right that this should be cast very young, after all what we're watching is a lot of teenagers falling in love.

Oliver: 让我们再总结一下。

Vicki: Contemporary.

Oliver: 现代。

Vicki: To market something.

Oliver: 推广什么东西。

Vicki: Well that's all we have time for today.

Oliver: 今天的节目就到这里，下次再见。

Vicki: Bye!