

Поллианна / Pollyanna

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Легко читаем по-английски

Книга знакомит читателя с удивительной историей девочки-сироты Поллианны, которую взяла на воспитание ее строгая тетка Полли. Маленькая героиня произведения обладает поразительной способностью радоваться жизни при любых обстоятельствах. Она учит многих взрослых своей «игре в радость», и все, кто начинают играть в нее, забывают о своих бедах и горестях! Текст произведения сопровождается комментариями к наиболее трудным словам и выражениям, а также упражнениями на проверку понимания прочитанного. В конце книги расположен словарь, облегчающий чтение. Книга предназначена для тех, кто только начинает изучение английского языка (уровень 1 – Elementary).

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Поллианна / Pollyanna

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Chapter I. Miss Polly

Miss Polly Harrington entered her kitchen a little hurriedly this June morning. Nancy, who was washing dishes at the sink, looked up in surprise.

“Nancy!”

“Yes, ma’am.[1 - ma’am – мэм (краткая форма обращения к женщине; в настоящее время практически не используется)]” Nancy answered cheerfully, but she still continued to wipe a pitcher in her hand.

“Nancy, when I’m talking to you, I wish you to stop your work and listen to what I say.”

Nancy flushed. She set the pitcher down at once.

“Yes, ma’am.” Nancy said. She was wondering if she could ever please this woman. Nancy had never worked for anybody before;[2 - Nancy had never worked for anybody before – До этого Нэнси ни на кого не работала] but her mother was a widow with three younger children besides Nancy herself. So she was very pleased when she found a place in the kitchen of the great house on the hill. Nancy came from “The Corners,” six miles away, and she knew Miss Polly Harrington only as the mistress of the old Harrington homestead. That was two months before. She knew Miss Polly now as a stern woman who frowned if a knife clattered to the floor, or if a door banged.

“Finish your morning work, Nancy,” Miss Polly said, “and clear the little room in the attic and make up the cot bed. Sweep the room and clean it, of course, after you clear out boxes.”

Miss Polly hesitated, then went on: “I suppose I may as well tell you now, Nancy. My niece, Miss Pollyanna Whittier, will soon live with me. She is eleven years old, and she will sleep in that room.”

“A little girl will soon be here, Miss Harrington? Oh, won’t that be nice! [3 - Oh, won’t that be nice! – Ну разве это не здорово!]” cried Nancy.

“Nice? Well, that isn’t exactly the word I should use,” said Miss Polly, stiffly. “However, I am a good woman, I hope; and I know my duty.”

“Don’t forget to clean the corners, Nancy,” she finished sharply, as she left the room.

“Yes, ma’am,” sighed Nancy.

In her own room, Miss Polly took out once more the letter which she had received [4 - she had received – она получила] two days before. The letter was addressed to Miss Polly Harrington, Beldingsville, Vermont; and it read as follows:

“Dear Madam: – I regret to inform you that the Rev. John Whittier died two weeks ago, leaving one child, a girl eleven years old.

“I know he was your sister’s husband, but he gave me to understand the families were not on the best of terms [5 - were not on the best of terms – не очень ладили]. He thought, however, that you might wish to take the child and bring her up. Hence I am writing to you.

“Hoping to hear favorably from you soon, I remain,

“Respectfully yours,

“Jeremiah O. White.”

Miss Polly answered the letter the day before, and she had said she would take the child, [6 - she had said she would take the child – она сказала, что возьмет ребенка] of course.

As she sat now, with the letter in her hands, her thoughts went back to her sister, Jennie, Pollianna’s mother, and to the time when Jennie, as a girl of twenty, married the young minister and went south with him. The family had little more to do with the missionary’s wife.

In one of her letters Jennie wrote about Pollyanna, her last baby, the other babies had all died. She named her "Pollyanna" for her two sisters, Polly and Anna.

A few years later they received the news of her death, told in a short, but heart-broken little note from the minister himself.

Miss Polly, looking out at the valley below, thought of the changes those twenty-five years had brought to her. She was forty now, and quite alone in the world. Father, mother, sisters – all were dead. She was mistress of the house and of the thousands left to her by her father. There were people who pitied her lonely life.

Miss Polly rose with frowning face. She was glad, of course, that she was a good woman, and that she not only knew her duty, but had strength of character to perform it. But – POLLYANNA! – what a ridiculous name!

Chapter II. Old Tom and Nancy

In the garden that afternoon, Nancy found a few minutes in which to interview Old Tom, the gardener.

"Mr. Tom, do you know that a little girl will soon come here to live with Miss Polly?"

"A – what?" demanded the old man.

"A little girl – to live with Miss Polly. She told me so herself," said Nancy. "It's her niece; and she's eleven years old."

The man's jaw fell.[7 - The man's jaw fell. – У мужчины упала челюсть.]

"Oh, it must be Miss Jennie's little girl!"

"Who was Miss Jennie?"

“She was an angel,” breathed the man; “but the old master and mistress knew her as their oldest daughter. She was twenty when she married and went away from here long years ago. Her babies all died, I heard, except the last one; and that must be her.”

“And she’s going to sleep in the attic – more shame to HER!” scolded Nancy.

Old Tom smiled.

“I wonder what Miss Polly will do with a child in the house,” he said.

“Well, I wonder what a child will do with Miss Polly in the house!” snapped Nancy.

The old man laughed.

“I’m afraid you aren’t fond of Miss Polly,” he grinned.

“As if ever anybody could be fond of her!”[8 - As if ever anybody could be fond of her! – Можно подумать, найдется кто-то, кому она понравится!]

scorned Nancy.

“I guess maybe you didn’t know about Miss Polly’s love affair,” he said slowly.

“Love affair – HER! No!”

“You didn’t know Miss Polly as I did,” he said. “She used to be real handsome – and she would be now, if she’d let herself be.”[9 - She used to be real handsome – and she would be now, if she’d let herself be. – Она была настоящей красавицей, и сейчас бы была, если бы захотела.]”

“Handsome! Miss Polly!”

“Yes, she is different now, I know. It begun then – at the time of the trouble with her lover,” nodded Old Tom; “and she is bitter and prickly to deal with.”

“Nancy!” called a sharp voice.

"Y-yes, ma'am," stammered Nancy; and hurried toward the house.

Chapter III. The Coming of Pollyanna

"Nancy," Miss Polly said, "my niece will arrive tomorrow at four o'clock. You must meet her at the station. Timothy will take the open buggy and drive you over. The telegram says 'light hair, red-checked gingham dress, and straw hat.' That is all I know."

Promptly at twenty minutes to four the next afternoon Timothy and Nancy drove off in the open buggy to meet the expected guest. Timothy was Old Tom's son. He was a good-natured youth, and a good-looking one, as well. The two were already good friends.

When they got to the station, Nancy hurried to a point where she could best watch the passengers. Over and over in her mind Nancy was saying it "light hair, red-checked dress, straw hat." Over and over again she was wondering just what sort of child this Pollyanna was.

At last they saw her – the slender little girl in the red-checked gingham with two fat braids of flaxen hair hanging down her back. Beneath the straw hat, an eager, freckled little face turned to the right and to the left, searching for some one.

"Are you Miss Pollyanna?" Nancy faltered.

"Oh, I'm so glad, GLAD, GLAD to see you," cried an eager voice in her ear. "Of course I'm Pollyanna, and I'm so glad you came to meet me! I hoped you would.[10 - I hoped you would. – Я надеялась, что вы придете.]"

"You did?" stammered Nancy.

“Oh, yes!” cried the little girl. “And I’m glad you look just like you do look.”

Timothy came up.

“This is Timothy. Maybe you have a trunk,” she stammered.

“Yes, I have,” nodded Pollyanna, importantly. “I’ve got a brand-new one. The Ladies’ Aid[11 - The Ladies’ Aid – Организация «Женская помощь», одно из благотворительных обществ в США] bought it for me.”

The three were off at last, with Pollyanna’s trunk in behind, and Pollyanna herself snugly ensconced between Nancy and Timothy. During the whole process of getting started, the little girl kept up an uninterrupted stream of comments and questions.

“There! Isn’t this lovely? Is it far? I hope it is – I love to ride,” sighed Pollyanna. What a pretty street! I knew it was going to be pretty:[12 - I knew it was going to be pretty – Я знала, что будет очень красиво!] father told me – ”

She stopped with a little choking breath. Nancy saw that her small chin was quivering, and that her eyes were full of tears. In a moment, however, she hurried on, with a brave lifting of her head.

“Father has gone to Heaven to be with mother and the rest of us, you know. He said I must be glad. But it’s pretty hard to, because I need him, as mother and the rest have God and all the angels, while I don’t have anybody but the Ladies’ Aid. But now I’m sure it’ll be easier because I’ve got you, Aunt Polly. I’m so glad I’ve got you!”

“Oh, but – but you’ve made an awful mistake, dear,[13 - you’ve made an awful mistake, dear – ты ошибаешься, дорогая]” she faltered. “I’m only Nancy. I’m not your Aunt Polly!”

“You – you AREN’T?” stammered the little girl.

“No. I’m only Nancy. I never thought you’re taking me for her.”

Timothy chuckled softly.

“But who ARE you?” asked Pollyanna.

“I’m Nancy, the hired girl. I do all the work except the washing and ironing.”

“But there IS an Aunt Polly?” demanded the child, anxiously.

“You bet your life there is,[14 - You bet your life there is – Еще как есть (о существовании тети Полли)]” cut in Timothy.

Pollyanna relaxed visibly.

“Oh, that’s all right, then.” There was a moment’s silence, then she went on brightly: “And do you know? I’m glad, after all, that she didn’t come to meet me; because now I’ve got you besides.”

“I-I was thinking about Miss Polly,” faltered Nancy.

Pollyanna sighed contentedly.

“I was, too. I’m so interested in her. You know she’s all the aunt I’ve got, and I didn’t know I had her for ever so long. Then father told me. He said she lived in a lovely great big house “on top of a hill.”

“She does. You can see it now,” said Nancy. “It’s that big white one with the green blinds.”

“Oh, how pretty! – and what a lot of trees and grass all around it! I never saw such a lot of green grass. Is my Aunt Polly rich, Nancy?”

“Yes, Miss.”

“I’m so glad. It must be perfectly lovely to have lots of money. Does Aunt Polly have ice-cream Sundays?”

“No, Miss. Your aunt doesn’t like ice-cream.”

Pollyanna's face fell.[15 - face fell – лицо вытянулось от изумления]

"Oh, doesn't she? I'm so sorry! Maybe Aunt Polly has got the carpets, though."

"Yes, she's got the carpets."

"In every room?"

"Well, in almost every room," answered Nancy, thinking about the attic room where there was no carpet.

"Oh, I'm so glad," exulted Pollyanna. "I love carpets. And Mrs. White had pictures, too, perfectly beautiful ones of roses and little girls kneeling and a kitty and some lambs and a lion. Don't you just love pictures?"

"I don't know," answered Nancy.

"I do. But we didn't have any pictures. My![16 - My! – О боже!] but isn't this a perfectly beautiful house?" she broke off.

Chapter IV. The Little Attic Room

Miss Polly Harrington did not rise to meet her niece.

"How do you do, Pollyanna? I – ".

"Oh, Aunt Polly, Aunt Polly, I don't know how to be glad enough that you let me come to live with you," she was sobbing. "You don't know how perfectly lovely it is to have you and Nancy and all this!"

"Nancy, you may go," Aunt Polly said.

"We will go upstairs to your room, Pollyanna. Your trunk is already there, I presume. I told Timothy to take it up – if you had one. You may follow me."

Without speaking, Pollyanna turned and followed her aunt from the room. Her eyes were filled with tears, but her chin was bravely high.

She was on the stairway now.

"Oh, Aunt Polly, Aunt Polly," breathed the little girl; "what a perfectly lovely, lovely house! How awfully glad you must be you're so rich!"

"PollyANNA!" ejaculated her aunt. "I'm surprised at you – making a speech like that to me!"

"Why, Aunt Polly, AREN'T you?" asked Pollyanna, in wonder.

"Certainly not, Pollyanna. How can I be proud of any gift the Lord has sent me?[17 - How can I be proud of any gift the Lord has sent me? – Как я могу гордиться дарами, которые посылает мне господь?]" declared the lady.

Miss Polly turned and walked down the hall toward the attic stairway door. At the top of the stairs there were innumerable trunks and boxes. It was hot. Pollyanna lifted her head higher – it seemed so hard to breathe. Then she saw that her aunt threw open a door at the right.

"There, Pollyanna, here is your room, and your trunk is here. Do you have your key?"

Pollyanna nodded. Her eyes were a little wide and frightened.

Her aunt frowned.

"When I ask a question, Pollyanna, I prefer that you should answer aloud not merely with your head."

"Yes, Aunt Polly."

"Thank you; that is better. I believe you have everything that you need here," she added. "I will send Nancy to help you unpack your trunk. Supper is at six o'clock," she finished and left the room.

For a moment Pollyanna stood quite still. Then she turned her wide eyes to the bare wall, the bare floor, the bare windows and fell on her knees, covering her face with her hands.

Nancy found her there when she came up a few minutes later.

“There, there, you, poor lamb,[18 - There, there, you, poor lamb – Ну-ну, бедненькая ты моя овечка]” she crooned, drawing the little girl into her arms.

“Oh, Nancy, I’m so wicked,” she sobbed. “I just can’t understand why God and the angels need my father more than I do.”

“There, there, child, let’s have your key and we’ll get inside this trunk and take out your dresses.”

Pollyanna produced the key.

“There aren’t very many there,” she faltered.

“Then they’re all soon be unpacked,” declared Nancy.

“It’s such a nice room! Don’t you think so?” Pollyanna stammered.

There was no answer. Nancy was very busy with the trunk.

“And I can be glad there isn’t any looking-glass here, too, because where there ISN’T any glass I can’t see my freckles.”

A few minutes later, Pollyanna clapped her hands joyously.

“Oh, Nancy, look at these trees and the houses and that lovely church spire, and the river. Oh, I’m so glad now she let me have this room!”

To Pollyanna’s surprise, Nancy burst into tears.

“Why, Nancy – what is it?” she cried; “This wasn’t – YOUR room, was it?”

“My room!” stormed Nancy. “You are a little angel straight from Heaven!”

After that Nancy sprang to her feet and went down the stairs.

Left alone, Pollyanna went back to her “picture,” as she mentally designated the beautiful view from the window. The next moment she opened the window. She ran then to the other window and opened it too. Then Pollyanna made a wonderful discovery – against this window there was a huge tree. Suddenly she laughed aloud.

“I believe I can do it,” she chuckled. The next moment she climbed to the window ledge. From there it was easy to step to the nearest tree-branch. Then she reached the lowest branch and dropped to the ground.

She was at the back of the house. Then Pollyanna reached the path that ran through the open field.

Fifteen minutes later the great clock struck six. At the last stroke Nancy sounded the bell for supper.

One, two, three minutes passed. Miss Polly frowned. She rose to her feet, went into the hall, and looked upstairs. For a minute she listened; then she turned and went to the dining room.

“Nancy,” she said, “my niece is late. You need not call her,” she added. “I told her what time supper was, and now she will have to suffer the consequences.[19 - she will have to suffer the consequences – ей придется смириться с обстоятельствами] She must learn to be punctual. When she comes she may have bread and milk in the kitchen.”

“Yes, ma’am.”

At the possible moment after supper, Nancy crept up to the attic room.

She softly pushed open the door. The next moment she gave a frightened cry. “Where are you?” she panted, and flew to Old Tom in the garden.

“Mr. Tom, Mr. Tom, that blessed child’s gone,[20 - that blessed child’s gone – это чудесное дитя пропало]” she cried.

The old man stopped, straightened up and pointed at the slender figure on top of a huge rock.

Chapter V. The Game

“Miss Pollyanna, what a scare you did give me,[21 - what a scare you did give me – как же вы меня напугали]” panted Nancy, hurrying up to the big rock.

“Scare? Oh, I’m so sorry; but you mustn’t, really, ever get scared about me, Nancy,” said Pollyanna and slid down the rock.

“I didn’t see you go, and nobody didn’t. I guess you flew right up through the roof; I do, I do. Poor little lamb, you must be hungry, too. I-I’m afraid you’ll have to have bread and milk in the kitchen with me. Your aunt didn’t like it – because you didn’t come down to supper.”

“But I couldn’t. I was up here. But I’m glad.”

“Glad! Why?”

“I like bread and milk, and I’d like to eat with you. I don’t see any trouble about being glad about that.”

“You don’t seem to see any trouble being glad about everything,” retorted Nancy.

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

notes

Примечания

1

ma'am – мэм (краткая форма обращения к женщине; в настоящее время практически не используется)

2

Nancy had never worked for anybody before – До этого Нэнси ни на кого не работала

3

Oh, won't that be nice! – Ну разве это не здорово!

4

she had received – она получила

5

were not on the best of terms – не очень ладили

6

she had said she would take the child – она сказала, что возьмет ребенка

7

The man's jaw fell. – У мужчины упала челюсть.

8

As if ever anybody could be fond of her! – Можно подумать, найдется кто-то, кому она понравится!

9

She used to be real handsome – and she would be now, if she'd let herself be. – Она была настоящей красавицей, и сейчас бы была, если бы захотела.

10

I hoped you would. – Я надеялась, что вы придете.

11

The Ladies' Aid – Организация «Женская помощь», одно из благотворительных обществ в США

12

I knew it was going to be pretty – Я знала, что будет очень красиво!

13

you've made an awful mistake, dear – ты ошибаешься, дорогая

14

You bet your life there is – Еще как есть (о существовании тети Полли)

15

face fell – лицо вытянулось от изумления

16

My! – О боже!

17

How can I be proud of any gift the Lord has sent me? – Как я могу гордиться дарами, которые посылает мне господь?

18

There, there, you, poor lamb – Ну-ну, бедненькая ты моя овечка

19

she will have to suffer the consequences – ей придется смириться с обстоятельствами

20

that blessed child's gone – это чудесное дитя пропало

21

what a scare you did give me – как же вы меня напугали

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