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Annotation and Vocabulary

Jack London
“Martin Eden”

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Annotation

Jack London was an average low-class American who had fulfilled “the American Dream” and became a successful writer. At the zenith of his career, he writes “Martin Eden” his autobiography. He did not end up well, he has got an overdose at the age of 40.

London describes Ruth as, “... a pale, ethereal creature, with wide, spiritual blue eyes and a wealth of golden hair”. Mart thought she is gorgeous. He did not see a woman like Ms. Morse, his poor knowledge told him that there are women like Ruth in the books. But here she is alive and she tries to support their conversation. Suddenly, comes Artur and invites them to dinner. Arthur is one of the two younger Ruth’s brothers, who has just been saved by Martin Eden, and to thank Eden, he invited him to dinner.

Mr. Eden was not used to such things as this house, food that he enjoyed for the first time, paintings, and books which he saw before dinner. He was even called “Mr. Eden” and it shocked him. He was just a young sailor, cowboy, in the past but here in this house, he is being called “Mr. Eden” like he is one of the elites. He was getting nervous but Ruth’s presence was calming him down. After dinner, he had some time with Ruth. She showed him her piano skills and they were talking about books that Mart read and has just seen in Morse’s living room. Ruth granted him some of her books. Martin was very happy because it meant that he has a purpose to see his love again. When he was leaving, he was very far from being sober although he did not drink that evening at all.

Mart sees the gap between him and the Morse family and he wants this gap to disappear. He wants to be as good as they are and he has made his life’s purpose to make Ruth his wife. Edan had lots of women from different countries but he has never been in love with them. Ruth was the first one. Martin immediately stops drinking, buys an abonnement for the library, starts taking care of his appearance, learns how to behave in high society.

A week has passed. Martin could not help himself he wanted to see Ruth. He has already read her books and improved a lot. Mart comes to visit Ruth. Ms. Morse saw him like a wild dog but there was something in him that caught her attention. She was nicely impressed after she had seen how better Marin has become. She did not understand her feelings and decided that she wants

to be his teacher. That is how the next couple of months have passed. Martin was reading all the books which have caught his attention and he was visiting Ruth she was instructing him and they were talking about all the thing they ever could.

Slowly but surely Martin was running out of money. The next eight months he will spend on a ship sailing across the ocean. During his journey, he has read more books and improved his grammar. He was comparing his speech with the captain one's and he was confident that he is way better. Martin has got the idea of becoming a writer. His mind was shining he could not help himself. He wanted to see Ruth.

If you want to know how the story ends you should read the book yourself. This book teaches you how to live or at least it should have. I will not recommend it to anyone because of London's ideology. Although London's last masterpiece was written in realism, his understanding of love is wrong. It is not even close to being real. London did not have the life he was hoping for and somewhere in the middle of his age, he has lost the true understanding of love and he will not be able to restore it even when he dies. He binds his deepest sorrow with love and it is unacceptable.

Vocabulary

1	latch-key	ключ від дверей (зн. в книжці)
2	smacked	заляпане
3	manifestly	явно
4	He'll see me through all right	Він бачить мене наскрізь
5	unwittingly	мимоволі
6	to heave	підняти
7	the heave and lunge of sea	функція хвиль
8	gait	хода
9	hazard	небезпека
10	ladle	ківш
11	pot	горщик
12	drearily	тоскливо
13	gaze	вдивлятися
14	torn	розірваний
15	gleam	блиск
16	preliminary	попередній
17	arrangement	домовленість
18	nauseated	нудота
19	congealed	застиглий
20	swift	стрімкий
21	tidal	припливні
22	indignation	обурення
23	condemned	засуджений
24	bourgeois	буржуазний
25	rousing	захоплюючі
26	posses	володіння
27	lengthwise	уздовж
28	crosswise	хрест-навхрест
29	languidly	мляво
30	sightless	беззорий
31	definiteness	визначеність
32	surge	сплеск
33	outrigger canoe	виносний каное
34	stern	суворий

35	scarlet	ясно-червоний
36	paddle	весло
37	turquoise	бірюзовий
38	onlooker	спостерігач
39	steep	крутий
40	jet	струменя
41	rumble	гул
42	placid	спокійний
43	vain	даремно
44	stir	розмішати
45	aimlessly	безцільно
46	arouse	збудити
47	pile	купа
48	stuffy	душно
49	chartless	без діаграм
50	rudderless	без керма
51	hollow	порожнистий
52	loaf	буханка
53	inclination	нахил
54	idle	простоює
55	recoiled	відступив
56	fled	втік
57	swarm	рій
58	furtively	нишком
59	maltreated	знуцання
60	facetious	вигадливий
61	circulation	обіг
62	gibed	обдарований
63	sneered	насмівався
64	laundry	прання білизни
65	kinship	спорідненість
66	wizened	висушений
67	badinage	балачки
68	stoutly	міцно
69	heresy	єресь
70	cripple	каліка

71	arduous	важкий
72	futile	марний
73	solace	заспокоєння
74	pestiferous	шкідливий
75	frail	тендітний
76	dawn	світанок
77	ceased	припинився
78	tide	приплив
79	pawnshop	ломбард
80	cease	припинити
81	woodshed	дроварня
82	instinct of preservation	інстинкт збереження
83	flutter	тріпотіння
84	superb	чудово
85	barring	заборона
86	verge	межі
87	zest	родзинка
88	appalled	приголомшений
89	transacted	укладений
90	endured	витримав
91	abruptly	різко
92	beaut	красуня
93	incomprehensible	незрозумілий
94	wharf	причал
95	temptation	спокуса
96	groan	стогін
97	muttering	бурмотіння
98	cramp	судоми
99	ceaselessly	невпинно
100	lethargy	млявість
101	glare	відблиски
102	subservient	підлеглий
103	whim	примха
104	realm	царство
105	harking back	зволікаючи
106	utterance	висловлювання

107	wearied	втомлений
108	contemplate	споглядати
109	lusty	хтивий
110	soaked	замочений
111	humid	вологий
112	surcease	перервати
113	stanza	строфа
114	stirred	ворушився
115	impetus	поштовх
116	disdainfully	зневажливо
117	reeling	намотування
118	oscillated	коливається
119	feebly	немічно
120	he ceased to know	забуття