Elizabeth is Missing

Emma Healey

Costa Book Awards

Maud Hor-sham Palmer
Dementia is an umbrella term for several diseases affecting memory, other cognitive abilities and behaviour that interfere significantly with a person’s ability to maintain their activities of daily living. Although age is the strongest known risk factor for dementia, it is not a normal part of ageing. When a person’s ability to maintain their activities of daily living is declined significantly, it is important to consider the possibility of dementia.
「狂い」を引き受けること——Elizabeth Is Missingにおける老年と記憶の語り（宮本）

モデルは、実際には『エリザベスは行方不明』という表題を巻いて入院しているのだが、周囲がいくら言うに聞かせてもタイトルの通り「エリザベスは行方不明」という思い込みを正せず、ヘレンを困感させ、エリザベスの息子Peterに対してエリザベスについてしつこく問い詰め、ついには新聞に彼女の行方を問う尋ね手の広告を出すに至り、彼の怒りをも買ってしまった。

だが、この作品のタイトルにはひっそりと加えられている。本作はエリザベスの失踪をめぐる物語ではなく、アイデンティティと記憶の危機をめぐる物語なのである。モードの実態の裏には、彼女のおおむね平穏な人生があったとおぼしい人生で経験した最大の衝撃であり、強いトラウマとなって精神の深部に秘匿されてしまったと思われる事件が深くかかわっている。それは結婚したばかりの妻スーが第二次世界大戦終結の直後に失踪したこと、現在に至るまで未解決の事件となっていることからスーが殺害の疑いをかけられる姉のフランクの怪しさを感じつつも、モードは彼を二人きりで複数回会わせた存在ゆえに、この二つの語りはそれぞれにミステリ小説的な様相を呈している。
Still Alice

Iris: A Memoir of Iris Murdoch

Iris Murdoch

Charmian Colton

1959

John Bayley
Elizabeth Is Missing

'ten times more sophisticated [than I]'
He turned his head towards my words still. There was a scuffling sound as Douglas kicked at the wall behind me. Frank didn't put a thumb up to my mouth, letting it hover a fraction of an inch from my lips. 'I don't wear lipstick,' I said, the effort of not moving towards his touch making my words stiff. There was a scuffing sound as Douglas kicked at the wall behind me. Frank didn't look like you've got smashed lips, I said. Like you've been kissing someone. His hands had stopped shaking and he
though half of it doesn't mean anything to you." (182) "Anyway, you checked most of Dad's stuff in the blink of an eye, but you're desperate to keep all this crap, even if it isn't for Elizabeth. "Yes, yes, I need that." […] "It's for Elizabeth." he said.

Look at him, but stroked his thumb lightly over the last of the wet blackberry juice on my top lip and then smeared it on to his own.
But I can just hear it, Mopps. The glass breaking and the blighters fluttering out, flapping their wings, coming to peck my eyes out. The glass was still cold. She pulled her row of stitches straight. “Silly, isn’t it...no matter how many times I say to myself, “They’re stuffed and dead, Sukey, get a hold of yourself,” I still can’t shake the idea...”
「狂い」を引き受けること——Elizabeth Is Missingにおける老年と記憶の語り（宮本）

本作のイジェッションにおいて、追うくる死の象徴としての鳥が占めている位置は、間違いない重要なものと言えよう。これと呼応するかのように、マッド・ウーマンもモードの母親に向かって「小さな鳥が頭の周りを飛んでいる」と語る（333）。そして、妻が嫌う剥製の鳥をわざわざ目立つ位置に飾るフランクのふるま

いう言葉を残してどこ切れるか一踏るか。いは、彼が妻を威嚇しつつ支配し、自分の意に染まなければその命すら奪う強権的な存在であることを読者に感じさせるに十分である。モラル・ハラスメントの加害者にとって、被害者は「人間ではない」（モド）と見なされ、（）

同じに彼は、モノの収集を生きる手段にするしたたかさも兼ね備えている。行動とはいえ無かった家庭道具を、家じゅう足の踏み場がないほどに置き、ときどきそれを誰かに与え、そこから築いた人脈から知り合いに様々な便を家に集めて保管し、認知症を得た今でも外で拾ったものをビックルスの瓶に詰めて保管するという奇妙な収集癖を持ち合わせているのだ。これは、とりたてて趣味を持たないモードにとっては唯一の目立った習慣であり、彼女はヘレンに懐で

なOxfam（イギリスの慈善団体で、全国に古着などを扱うリサイクルショップを展開している）にモードが認知症で働けなくなるまで勤めていた点も興味深い。他の人々が使用した中古品や古いものを収集し、それらに閉ま
I saw you coming towards the car, I thought for a minute it was her. You don't know what that did to me.

I felt odd, as if I had somehow taken St. key's place. [...] Had we switched places? (144)
一方、こうしたモードの「人気」へのゆがんだ渴望を否定し糾弾するのがダグラスであり、その最も象徴的な事象はモードの口紅への嫌悪だ。ごく平凡な主婦として50年以上過ごしてきたと思われるモードだが、化粧室にいたものの、口紅だけは何度も試してみた数分とつけていられないほど耐え難く、電話交換手として働く中国でいうところの「狂い」をどこかで感じ取りつつも、過去の映りの中では、ダグラスは二回口紅をモードから択う役割を担っている。ひとつは、モードからの檄のプアレンゼントに礼を言いながらスキーが彼女の額にキスした後、そこでいた口紅をダグラスが笑ってぶき取る場面。そしたらもうひとつは、スキーが彼女の額にキスした後、そこについた口紅をダグラスが笑ってぶき取る場面。所々を塗ってフランクに会い、家に帰ったところ、そのことを知っていたダグラスが彼女を非難し、口紅を無理やり挿き取る場面である。本作の中でもひときわ印象的な後者を見てみよう。
'Playing at being her. That's what you're doing. Wearing her clothes. Going out with her husband. What does he do? Take you back to their house? To their bed?'

'Don't be disgusting,' I said, cheeks burning. 'We just talk, about Sukey, that's all.' I looked away, trying to put some space between us, and he grabbed my chin with his fist, squeezing it the way he had squeezed the newspaper, shifting closer.

'You're even wearing her lipstick,' he said, his face an inch from mine. 'Get it off.' [...]

'Stop it,' he said, his breath hot on my face. 'Stop trying to replace her. You can't ever replace her.'
Sukey (163)

He will understand, I promise.

Please let us be friends again. But I really must tell Frank. He will understand, I promise. Sukey

So sorry. So silly and wrong of me. So glad you wrote.

Doug
said. He let out a sob which made the rest of us jump, as if he'd smashed a plate. [ ... ] I remember the first time I saw her,' Frank said. God, it's terrible.' He let out a sob which made the rest of us jump, as if he'd smashed a plate. [ ... ]
「狂い」を引き受けること——Elizabeth Is Missingにおける老年と記憶の語り（宮本）

先に触れたとおり、本作のほぼ全編にわたり登場し言及されるマッド・ウーマンもまた、記憶に強く執着していいる人物であり、過去形と現在形両方の語りにおいてモードの意識にたびたび上る。本作に初めて登場するのは第2章、母の使いで買い物に出かけ、食料品店から出てきたモードを傘で二回殴打する場面である。その後もサークルが彼女の家を現れ、夜中に待ち伏せていたとストーカー的な行動を見せる。マッド・ウーマンはいったい何者なのか、という謎は物語が進むにつれて少しずつ解明される。最後に彼女が交通事故で亡くなったとき、ようやくタグ拉斯は彼女が自分の母親であることを明かす。マッド・ウーマンが狂気に陥った理由は、夫と娘を戦争で失ったことで狂気に陥ったマッド・ウーマンの姿は、明らかに現在のモード——認知症によって理性の内側から外側へ移行している——の映し鏡である。両者とも、狂気と認知症という「狂い」を抱えることで、社会から周囲化された存在となり、アンタッチャブルな人物として扱われている。認知症になった今、数々の奇縁の息子ベーターの怒りを買うモードが、かつて地元の住民から気の毒だけは困った人物だと言巻きに噂されていた。
the mad woman. She shouted after me, repeating in a yell the words she'd whispered, and then, just before I was out of earshot, I saw Dad, my heart thumping. When I looked back there was a figure coming away from the hut, an umbrella in her hand. It was a human eye. Someone was inside, looking out. I could hear a voice from within, whispering. Whispering about glass smash-ing and birds flying. Whispering about a van and soil and summer squash. Whispering until the whisper broke, and whoever it was inside the dancing shack was suddenly shouting. 'I'm watching. I'm watching you.'

I didn't doubt it. The eye stared straight at me through the hole in the wood, and desperate to get out of my line of vision, I ran in watching, in watching you.
thought she said Sukey’s name. I stopped and nearly went back, but she was always shouting and I was frightened.
Sukey will run out screaming because of the mad woman and Frank will tell her to go to the Station Hotel, only she never goes because Frank does something. Pushes her into the mantelpiece? Hits her so she falls? Brains her with the glass dome full of ground would be dug and how deep. I'll say these things if I speak, but they can't be true, they can't possibly be true.
It's my fault. I was there. I know the place because of the pebble wall, and I'd just gone to dig too. I'd have found it all out and
I think for a moment of the cold earth around the pale bones and I feel the same cold creep inside me, and if I had known I would.

Neither can I,' Helen says under her breath. 'Right, that's it. Get out of the car. Wait! I'll help you out.'
ing over my head. After that she was always careful to be the one who was buried, and I would heap handfuls of powdery grit on
Elizabeth Is Missing

were it earth in an earthy bed

Maud'

Alfred Tennyson

warned from my mouth as if some life has been forced into it. (266)

I would have done anything to be near her the way this bit of glass was. I press it between my fingers, feeling how it haswarmed from my touch as if some life has been forced into it.

willingly have curled into that wooden chest and kept her company for seventy years. I would never have let her be alone all that

time.
top of her, compacting it until she couldn't move and smoothing it into shapes, giving her the tentacles of an octopus or the tail of a
Poor Elizabeth,' I say. I haven’t seen her since she came to our kitchen to collect currants from my mother’s cake. Anything might

Gallimard, 1970

Elizabeth Is Missing

Alfred Tennyson, The Princess, Part I, pp. 1-16

BPSD [behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia]

Découverte, 1998

Marie-France Hirigoyen, Le Harcèlement Moral

La Violette Faure, An Quiladien (Découverte, 1996)

Lisa Genova, Still Alice (Little, Brown & Co, 2007)

Irish Folk and the Friends: A Year of Minories (Cecil Duckworth & Co Ltd, 1999)

Michael Smith, Memorial Man (Macmillan, 1991)

M. Y chromosomes, 2013