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Suzanne Collins
THE HUNGER GAMES

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В конце книги помещен англо-русский словарь.

Издание предназначено для всех, кто начал и продолжает учить английский язык, кто стремится читать книги в оригинале.

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PART I

THE TRIBUTES

1.

When I wake up, the other side of the bed is cold. My fingers stretch out, **seeking Prim’s warmth but finding only the rough canvas cover of the mattress.**¹ **She must have had bad dreams and climbed in with our mother. Of course, she did.**² This is the day of the reaping.

I prop myself up on one elbow. There’s enough light in the bedroom to see them. My little sister, Prim, **curled up on her side**, cocooned in my mother’s body, **their cheeks pressed together.**³ In sleep, my mother looks younger, still worn but not so beaten-down. Prim’s face is as fresh as a raindrop, as lovely as the primrose for which she was named. My mother was very beautiful once, too. Or so they tell me.

Sitting at Prim’s knees, guarding her, is the world’s ugliest cat. Mashed-in nose, half of one ear missing, eyes the color of rotting squash. Prim named him Buttercup, insisting that his muddy yellow coat matched the bright flower. He hates me. Or at least distrusts me. Even though it was years ago, I think he still remembers how I tried to drown him in a bucket when

Part I

The Tributes

1.

¹ *пытаюсь нащупать тепло Прим, но находя только грубый холст чехла матраса.*

Причастие настоящего времени *seeking* с зависимыми словами образует причастный оборот, служащий обстоятельством причины, см. Грамматический справочник (ГС) 15.

Причастие настоящего времени *finding* с зависимыми словами образует причастный оборот, служащий обстоятельством следствия, см. ГС 15.

² *Должно быть, ей снились страшные*

сны, и она перебралась к матери. Конечно, перебралась.

Модальный глагол *must* с перфектными инфинитивами *have had* и *have climbed* (у второго инфинитива вспомогательный глагол перфекта *have* опущен) выражает предположение, граничащее с уверенностью, о том, что происходило в прошлом, см. ГС 25, 52.

Во втором предложении во времени Past Simple вместо ранее употреблённого глагола *climb* используется вспомогательный глагол этого времени *did*, который иногда функционирует как слово-заместитель, чтобы избежать повторения.

³ *свернувшаяся на боку... прижавшись щека к щеке.*

Это два причастных оборота. Первый образован причастием прошедшего времени *curled* и служит определением существительного *sister*, см. ГС 16.

Второй — независимый причастный оборот, образованный существительным *cheeks* и причастием

Prim brought him home. Scrawny kitten, belly swollen with worms, crawling with fleas. The last thing I needed was **another mouth to feed**⁴. But Prim begged so hard, cried even, I had to let him stay. It turned out okay. My mother got rid of the vermin and he's a born mouser. Even catches the occasional rat. Sometimes, when I clean a kill, I feed Buttercup the entrails. He has stopped hissing at me.

Entrails. No hissing. This is the closest we will ever come to love.

I swing my legs off the bed and slide into my hunting boots. Supple leather that has molded to my feet. I pull on trousers, a shirt, tuck my long dark braid up into a cap, and grab my forage bag. On the table, under a wooden bowl to protect it from hungry rats and cats alike, sits a perfect little goat cheese wrapped in basil leaves. Prim's gift to me on reaping day. I put the cheese carefully in my pocket as I slip outside.

Our part of District 12, nicknamed the Seam, is usually crawling with coal miners heading out to the morning shift at this hour. Men and women with hunched shoulders, swollen knuckles, many who have long since stopped trying to scrub the coal dust out of their broken nails, the lines of their sunken faces. But today the black cinder streets are empty. Shutters on the squat gray houses are closed. The reaping isn't until two. May as well sleep in. If you can.

Our house is almost at the edge of the Seam. I only have to pass a few gates to reach the scruffy field called the Meadow. **Separating the Meadow from the woods, in fact enclosing all of District 12, is a high chain-link fence topped with barbed-wire loops.**⁵ In theory, **it's supposed to be electrified twenty-four hours a day**⁶ as a deterrent to the predators that live in the woods—packs of wild dogs, lone cougars, bears—**that used to threaten our streets**⁷. But since we're lucky to get two or three hours of electricity in the evenings, it's usually safe to touch. Even so, I always

take a moment to listen carefully for the hum that means the fence is live. Right now, it's silent as a stone. Concealed by a clump of bushes, I flatten out on my belly and slide under a two-foot stretch that's been loose for years. There are several other weak spots in the fence, **but this one is so close to home**⁸ I almost always enter the woods here.

As soon as I'm in the trees, I retrieve a bow and sheath of arrows from a hollow log. Electrified or not, the fence has been successful at keeping the flesh-eaters out of District 12. Inside the woods they roam freely, and there are added concerns like venomous snakes, rabid animals, and no real paths to follow. But there's also food if you know how to find it. My father knew and he taught me some before he was blown to bits in a mine explosion. There was nothing even to bury. I was eleven then. Five years later, I still wake up screaming for him to run.

Even though trespassing in the woods is illegal and poaching carries the severest of penalties, more people would risk it if they had weapons. But most are not bold enough to venture out with just a knife. My bow is a rarity, crafted by my father along with a few others that I keep well hidden in the woods, carefully wrapped in waterproof covers. **My father could have made good money selling them, but if the officials found out he would have been publicly executed for inciting a rebellion.**⁹ Most of the Peacekeepers turn a blind eye to the few of us who hunt because they're as hungry for fresh meat as anybody is. In fact, they're among our best customers. **But the idea that someone might be arming the Seam would never have been allowed.**¹⁰

In the fall, a few brave souls sneak into the woods to harvest apples. But always in sight of the Meadow. Always close enough to run back to the safety of District 12 if trouble arises. "District Twelve. Where you can starve to death in safety," I mutter. Then I

• прошедшего време-
• ни *pressed*, см. ГС 62.
• Он стоит в середине
• предложения, что ха-
• рактерно для этого
• автора.

• ⁴ *ещё один рот, кото-
• рый надо накормить.*

• Инфинитив *to feed*
• является определени-
• ем существительного
• *mouth*, см. ГС 52.

• ⁵ *Отделяя Луг от леса,
• фактически опоя-
• сывая весь Район 12,
• стоит высокий сетчатый забор, увенчанный
• витками колючей про-
• волоки.*

• Причастия настояще-
• го времени *separating*
• и *enclosing* с зависи-
• мыми словами обра-
• зуют два причастных
• оборота, служащих
• обстоятельствами
• причины, см. ГС 15.

• ⁶ *предполагается, что
• он находится под на-
• пряжением двадцать
• четыре часа в сутки*

• Здесь используется
• конструкция *сложное
• подлежащее* с пассив-
• ным инфинитивом *to
• be electrified* со сказу-
• емым *is supposed*, см.
• ГС 56, 52.

• ⁷ *которые раньше
• угрожали нашим ули-
• цам.*

• Конструкция *used to*
• выражает привычное
• действие или ситуа-

цию в прошлом. С тех пор ситуация изменилась, и теперь это не так, см. ГС 21.

⁸ *но это так близко к дому*

Местоимение *one* замещает ранее употреблённое словосочетание *weak spot*, чтобы избежать его повторения, см. ГС 12.

⁹ *Мой отец мог зарабатывать хорошие деньги, продавая их, но если бы власти узнали, его бы публично казнили за подстрекательство к мятежу.*

Модальный глагол *could* с перфектным инфинитивом *have made* выражает действие, которое могло произойти, но не произошло в прошлом, см. ГС 23, 52.

В этом предложении есть условное придаточное, выражающее нереальное условие в настоящем, а следствие, вытекающее из этого условия, рассматривается как относящееся к прошлому, см. ГС 59.

Герундий *inciting* используется после предлога *for*, см. ГС 53.

¹⁰ *Но никогда бы даже не допустили и мысли,*

glance quickly over my shoulder. Even here, even in the middle of nowhere, you worry someone might overhear you.

When I was younger, I scared my mother to death, **the things I would blurt out about District 12¹¹**, about the people who rule our country, Panem*, from the far-off city called the Capitol. Eventually I understood this would only lead us to more trouble. So I learned to hold my tongue and to turn my features into an indifferent mask so that no one could ever read my thoughts. Do my work quietly in school. Make only polite small talk in the public market. Discuss little more than trades in the Hob**, which is the black market where I make most of my money. Even at home, where I am less pleasant, I avoid discussing tricky topics. Like the reaping, or food shortages, or the Hunger Games. Prim might begin to repeat my words and then where would we be?

In the woods waits the only person with whom I can be myself. Gale***. **I can feel the muscles in my face relaxing, my pace quickening as¹²** I climb the hills to our place, a rock ledge overlooking a valley. A thicket of berry bushes protects it from unwanted eyes. The sight of him waiting there brings on a smile. Gale says I never smile except in the woods.

“Hey, Catnip,” says Gale. My real name is Katniss, but when I first told him, I had barely whispered it. So he thought I’d said Catnip. Then when this crazy lynx started following me around the woods looking for handouts, it became his official nickname for me. **I finally had to kill the lynx¹³** because he scared off game. I almost regretted it because he wasn’t bad company. But I got a decent price for his pelt.

* **Panem** — Панем

** **Hob** — Котёл

*** **Gale** — Гейл

“Look what I shot,” Gale holds up a loaf of bread with an arrow stuck in it, and I laugh. It’s real bakery bread, not the flat, dense loaves we make from our grain rations. I take it in my hands, pull out the arrow, and hold the puncture in the crust to my nose, inhaling the fragrance that makes my mouth flood with saliva. Fine bread like this is for special occasions.

“Mm, still warm,” I say. **He must have been at the bakery**¹⁴ at the crack of dawn to trade for it. “What did it cost you?”

“Just a squirrel. Think the old man was feeling sentimental this morning,” says Gale. “Even wished me luck.”

“Well, we all feel a little closer today, don’t we?” I say, not even bothering to roll my eyes. “Prim left us a cheese.” I pull it out.

His expression brightens at the treat. “Thank you, Prim. We’ll have a real feast.” Suddenly he falls into a Capitol accent as he mimics Effie Trinket*, the maniacally upbeat woman who arrives once a year to read out the names at the reaping. “I almost forgot! Happy Hunger Games!” He plucks a few blackberries from the bushes around us. **“And may the odds—”** He tosses a berry in a high arc toward me.

I catch it in my mouth and break the delicate skin with my teeth. The sweet tartness explodes across my tongue. “— **be ever in your favor!**¹⁵” I finish with equal verve. We have to joke about it because the alternative is to be scared out of your wits. Besides, the Capitol accent is so affected, almost anything sounds funny in it.

I watch as Gale pulls out his knife and slices the bread. He could be my brother. Straight black hair, olive skin, we even have the same gray eyes. But we’re not related, at least not closely. Most of

• **что кто-то, возмож-**
• **но, вооружает Шрам.**

• Здесь используется
• сослагательное на-
• клонение для обо-
• значения ситуации с
• подразумеваемым ус-
• ловием (*если бы что-*
• *нибудь подобное случи-*
• *лось*), см. ГС 60.

• Модальный глагол
• *might* с продолжен-
• ным инфинитивом
• *be arming*, выража-
• ет предположение о
• действиях, происхо-
• дящих «вокруг насто-
• ящего момента», см.
• ГС 24, 52.

• ¹¹ *то, что у меня ино-*
• *гда вылетало про Рай-*
• *он 12*

• Определительное
• придаточное предло-
• жение *I would blurt out*
• *about District 12* пояс-
• няет существительное
• *things*, присоединяет-
• ся к главному пред-
• ложению без союза и
• переводится на рус-
• ский язык со словом
• *что*. Глагол *would* обо-
• значает привычное
• действие в прошлом,
• см. ГС 28.

• ¹² *я чувствую, как*
• *мышцы у меня на лице*
• *расслабляются, а шаг*
• *ускоряется*

• В этом предложении
• после сказуемого *feel*
• употребляется кон-
• струкция *сложное*

* **Effie Trinket** — Эффи Бряк

дополнение с причастиями настоящего времени *relaxing* и *quickenning*, см. ГС 55.

¹³ *В конце концов, мне пришлось убить рысь*

Модальный глагол *have to* обозначает вынужденное действие, см. ГС 18.

¹⁴ *Он, должно быть, побывал в пекарне*

Модальный глагол *must* с перфектным инфинитивом *have been*, выражает предположение с большой степенью уверенности о возможности действия в прошлом, см. ГС 25, 52.

¹⁵ *И пусть удача ... всегда будет на твоей стороне!*

Здесь используется форма сослагательного наклонения с глаголом *may* и инфинитивом смыслового глагола. Эта форма выражает пожелания.

¹⁶ *он иногда собирал лекарственные травы и продавал их в её аптеку, чтобы из них готовили лекарства.*

Глагол *would* обозначает привычное, повторяющееся действие в прошлом, см. ГС 28.

Пассивный инфинитив *to be brewed* слу-

the families who work the mines resemble one another this way.

That's why my mother and Prim, with their light hair and blue eyes, always look out of place. They are. My mother's parents were part of the small merchant class that caters to officials, Peacekeepers, and the occasional Seam customer. They ran an apothecary shop in the nicer part of District 12. Since almost no one can afford doctors, apothecaries are our healers. My father got to know my mother because on his hunts **he would sometimes collect medicinal herbs and sell them to her shop to be brewed into remedies.**¹⁶ She must have really loved him to leave her home for the Seam. I try to remember that when all I can see is the woman who sat by, blank and unreachable, while her children turned to skin and bones. I try to forgive her for my father's sake. But to be honest, I'm not the forgiving type.

Gale spreads the bread slices with the soft goat cheese, carefully placing a basil leaf on each while I strip the bushes of their berries. We settle back in a nook in the rocks. From this place, we are invisible but have a clear view of the valley, which is teeming with summer life, greens to gather, roots to dig, fish iridescent in the sunlight. The day is glorious, with a blue sky and soft breeze. The food's wonderful, **with the cheese seeping into the warm bread and the berries bursting in our mouths.**¹⁷ **Everything would be perfect if this really was a holiday**¹⁸, if all the day off meant was roaming the mountains with Gale, hunting for tonight's supper. **But instead we have to be standing in the square at two o'clock waiting for the names to be called out.**¹⁹

"We could do it, you know," Gale says quietly.

"What?" I ask.

"Leave the district. Run off. Live in the woods.

You and I, we could make it," says Gale.

I don't know how to respond. The idea is so preposterous.

"If we didn't have so many kids," he adds quickly.

They're not our kids, of course. But they might as well be. Gale's two little brothers and a sister. Prim. And you may as well throw in our mothers, too, because how would they live without us? Who would fill those mouths that are always asking for more? **With both of us hunting daily, there are still nights when game has to be swapped for lard or shoelaces or wool, still nights when we go to bed with our stomachs growling.**²⁰

"I never want to have kids," I say.

"I might. If I didn't live here," says Gale.

"But you do," I say, irritated.

"Forget it," he snaps back.

The conversation feels all wrong. Leave? How could I leave Prim, who is the only person in the world I'm certain I love? And Gale is devoted to his family. We can't leave, so why bother talking about it? And even if we did ... even if we did ... where did this stuff about having kids come from? There's never been anything romantic between Gale and me. When we met, I was a skinny twelve-year-old, and although he was only two years older, he already looked like a man. **It took a long time for us to even become friends**²¹, to stop haggling over every trade and begin helping each other out.

Besides, if he wants kids, Gale won't have any trouble finding a wife. He's good-looking, he's strong enough to handle the work in the mines, and he can hunt. You can tell by the way the girls whisper about him when he walks by in school that they want him. It makes me jealous but not for the reason people would think. Good hunting partners are hard to find.

"What do you want to do?" I ask. We can hunt, fish, or gather.

• жит обстоятельством
• цели, см. ГС 52.

• ¹⁷ и сыр придал свой
• вкус тёплому хлебу, а
• ягоды лопались у нас
• во рту.

• Это два независимых
• причастных оборота,
• образованные суще-
• ствительными *cheese*
• и *berries* и соответ-
• ственно причастиями
• настоящего времени
• *seeping* и *bursting*, см.
• ГС 62.

• ¹⁸ Всё было бы чудесно,
• если бы это на самом
• деле был праздник

• Это предложение с
• условным придаточ-
• ным II типа (нереаль-
• ное условие в настоя-
• щем), см. ГС 59.

• ¹⁹ А вместо этого в
• два часа нам нужно
• стоять на площади и
• ждать, когда назовут
• имена.

• Модальный глагол
• *have to* обозначает вы-
• нужденное действие,
• см. ГС 18. Он употре-
• бляется с продолжен-
• ным инфинитивом *to*
• *be standing*, который
• выражает действие,
• происходящее в опре-
• делённый момент (*в*
• *два часа*), см. ГС 52.

• Причастие настояще-
• го времени *waiting* с
• зависимыми словами
• образует причастный
• оборот, являющийся

обстоятельством прича-
 стия, см. ГС 15.

В причастном обо-
 роте после причастия
waiting употребляется
 конструкция *for* +
существительное/ме-
стоимение + *инфини-*
тив с пассивным ин-
 финитивом *to be called*
out, см. ГС 52.

²⁰ *При том, что мы*
оба ежедневно ходим
на охоту, всё равно
есть ночи, когда дичь
нужно обменивать
на жир или шкурки
для обуви или шерсть,
ночи, когда мы ложим-
ся спать с урчащими
от голода животами.

Предложение на-
 чинается с незави-
 симого причастного
 оборота с предлогом
with. Он образован
 местоимением *both* и
 причастием *hunting*,
 см. ГС 62.

Дальше употребляется
 конструкция *there*
is/are, см. ГС 54.

Модальный глагол
have to, обозначаю-
 щий вынужденное
 действие, употре-
 бляется с пассивным
 инфинитивом *to be*
swapped, см. ГС 18.

²¹ *Нам потребовалось*
много времени даже
для того, чтобы под-
ружиться

“Let’s fish at the lake. We can leave our poles and
 gather in the woods. Get something nice for tonight,”
 he says.

Tonight. **After the reaping, everyone is supposed
 to celebrate. And a lot of people do²²**, out of relief
 that their children have been spared for another year.
 But at least two families will pull their shutters, lock
 their doors, and try to figure out how they will survive
 the painful weeks to come.

We make out well. The predators ignore us on a
 day when easier, tastier prey abounds. By late morning,
 we have a dozen fish, a bag of greens and, best of all,
 a gallon of strawberries. I found the patch a few years
 ago, but Gale had the idea to string mesh nets around
 it to keep out the animals.

On the way home, we swing by the Hob, the black
 market that operates in an abandoned warehouse that
 once held coal. When they came up with a more ef-
 ficient system that transported the coal directly from
 the mines to the trains, the Hob gradually took over
 the space. Most businesses are closed by this time on
 reaping day, but the black market’s still fairly busy. We
 easily trade six of the fish for good bread, the other
 two for salt. Greasy Sae*, the bony old woman who
 sells bowls of hot soup from a large kettle, takes half
 the greens off our hands in exchange for a couple of
 chunks of paraffin. We might do a tad better elsewhere,
 but we make an effort to keep on good terms with
 Greasy Sae. **She’s the only one who can consist-
 ently be counted on to buy wild dog.**²³ We don’t
 hunt them on purpose, but if you’re attacked and you
 take out a dog or two, well, meat is meat. “Once it’s
 in the soup, I’ll call it beef,” Greasy Sae says with a
 wink. No one in the Seam would turn up their nose
 at a good leg of wild dog, but the Peacekeepers who
 come to the Hob can afford to be a little choosier.

* Greasy Sae — Сальная Сэй

When we finish our business at the market, we go to the back door of the mayor's house to sell half the strawberries, knowing he has a particular fondness for them and can afford our price. The mayor's daughter, Madge*, opens the door. She's in my year at school. Being the mayor's daughter, you'd expect her to be a snob, but she's all right. She just keeps to herself. Like me. Since neither of us really has a group of friends, **we seem to end up together a lot at school.**²⁴ Eating lunch, sitting next to each other at assemblies, partnering for sports activities. We rarely talk, which suits us both just fine.

Today her drab school outfit has been replaced by an expensive white dress, and her blonde hair is done up with a pink ribbon. Reaping clothes.

"Pretty dress," says Gale.

Madge shoots him a look, trying to see if it's a genuine compliment or if he's just being ironic. It is a pretty dress, but she would never be wearing it ordinarily. She presses her lips together and then smiles. "Well, if I end up going to the Capitol, I want to look nice, don't I?"

Now it's Gale's turn to be confused. Does she mean it? Or is she messing with him? I'm guessing the second.

"**You won't be going to the Capitol**²⁵," says Gale coolly. His eyes land on a small, circular pin that adorns her dress. Real gold. Beautifully crafted. It could keep a family in bread for months. "What can you have? Five entries? I had six when I was just twelve years old."

"That's not her fault," I say.

"No, it's no one's fault. Just the way it is," says Gale. Madge's face has become closed off. She puts the money for the berries in my hand. "Good luck, Katniss." "You, too," I say, and the door closes.

* **Madge** — Мадж

Здесь используется конструкция *for + существительное/местоимение + инфинитив* с инфинитивом *to become* после существительного *time*, см. ГС 52.

²² *После Жатвы предполагаются, что все празднуют. И многие действительно празднуют*

В первом предложении используется конструкция *сложное подлежащее* с инфинитивом *to celebrate* со сказуемым *is supposed*, см. ГС 56, 52.

Во втором предложении глагол *do* замещает ранее употреблённый глагол *celebrate*. Во времени Present Simple вместо ранее употреблённого глагола может использоваться вспомогательный глагол этого времени *do*, который иногда функционирует как слово-заместитель, чтобы избежать повторения.

²³ *Она единственная, на кого можно посто-янно рассчитывать, чтобы продать дикую собаку.*

Местоимение *one* имеет здесь обобщающее значение, см. ГС 12.

to viu — инфинитив цели, см. ГС 52.

²⁴ *кажется, в школе мы часто оказываемся вместе.*

Здесь используется конструкция *сложное подлежащее* с инфинитивом *to end up* со сказуемым *seem*, см. ГС 56.

²⁵ *Ты не поедешь в Канитоллий*

Здесь употребляется время Future Continuous для обозначения действия, ожидаемого в будущем, см. ГС 40.

²⁶ *а бедным приходится хуже всех.*

Буквально: *а бедняки получают худшее.*

the poor — бедные, бедняки. Имена прилагательные могут употребляться в значении существительных. Они употребляются с определённым артиклем со значением множественного числа и обозначают группу лиц с данным признаком: *the dead* — мёртвые, *the rich* — богатые, *the sick* — больные, *the military* — военные, см. ГС 2.

the worst — худшее; *the worst* — субстантивированное прилагательное, то есть прилагательное,

We walk toward the Seam in silence. I don't like that Gale took a dig at Madge, but he's right, of course. The reaping system is unfair, **with the poor getting the worst of it.**²⁶ You become eligible for the reaping the day you turn twelve. That year, your name is entered once. At thirteen, twice. And so on and so on until you reach the age of eighteen, the final year of eligibility, when your name goes into the pool seven times. That's true for every citizen in all twelve districts in the entire country of Panem.

But here's the catch. Say you are poor and starving as we were. You can opt to add your name more times in exchange for tesserae. Each tessera is worth a meager year's supply of grain and oil for one person. You may do this for each of your family members as well. So, at the age of twelve, **I had my name entered four times.**²⁷ Once, because I had to, and three times for tesserae for grain and oil for myself, Prim, and my mother. In fact, every year I have needed to do this. And the entries are cumulative. So now, at the age of sixteen, my name will be in the reaping twenty times. **Gale, who is eighteen and has been either helping or single-handedly feeding a family of five for seven years**²⁸, will have his name in forty-two times.

You can see why someone like Madge, who has never been at risk of needing a tessera, can set him off. **The chance of her name being drawn is very slim compared to those of us who live in the Seam.**²⁹ Not impossible, but slim. And even though the rules were set up by the Capitol, not the districts, certainly not Madge's family, it's hard not to resent those who don't have to sign up for tesserae.

Gale knows his anger at Madge is misdirected. On other days, deep in the woods, I've listened to him rant about how the tesserae are just another tool to cause misery in our district. A way to plant hatred between the starving workers of the Seam and those who can generally count on supper and thereby ensure

we will never trust one another. “It’s to the Capitol’s advantage to have us divided among ourselves,” **he might say if there were no ears to hear but mine.**³⁰ If it wasn’t reaping day. If a girl with a gold pin and no tesserae had not made what I’m sure she thought was a harmless comment.

As we walk, I glance over at Gale’s face, still smoldering underneath his stony expression. His rages seem pointless to me, although I never say so. It’s not that I don’t agree with him. I do. But what good is yelling about the Capitol in the middle of the woods? It doesn’t change anything. It doesn’t make things fair. It doesn’t fill our stomachs. In fact, it scares off the nearby game. I let him yell though. Better he does it in the woods than in the district.

Gale and I divide our spoils, leaving two fish, a couple of loaves of good bread, greens, a quart of strawberries, salt, paraffin, and a bit of money for each.

“See you in the square,” I say.

“Wear something pretty,” he says flatly.

At home, I find my mother and sister are ready to go. My mother wears a fine dress from her apothecary days. Prim is in my first reaping outfit, a skirt and ruffled blouse. It’s a bit big on her, but my mother has made it stay with pins. Even so, she’s having trouble keeping the blouse tucked in at the back.

A tub of warm water waits for me. I scrub off the dirt and sweat from the woods and even wash my hair. To my surprise, my mother has laid out one of her own lovely dresses for me. A soft blue thing with matching shoes.

“Are you sure?” I ask. I’m trying to get past rejecting offers of help from her. For a while, I was so angry, I wouldn’t allow her to do anything for me. And this is something special. Her clothes from her past are very precious to her.

“Of course. Let’s put your hair up, too,” she says. I let her towel-dry it and braid it up on my head. I

• перешедшее в разряд
• существительных.
• Некоторые прилагательные становятся
• существительными, обозначая абстрактные понятия, они используются только в единственном числе с определённым артиклем, например, *the good* — добро, *the evil* — зло, *the beautiful* — красивое.
• Предложение заканчивается независимым причастным оборотом с предлогом *with*. Он образован субстантивированным прилагательным *the poor* и причастием *getting*, см. ГС 62.

• ²⁷ *моё имя вносили в списки четыре раза.*
• Конструкция *have smth done* выражает, что не подлежащее производит действие, а кто-то другой.

• ²⁸ *Гейл ... либо помогал, либо самостоятельно кормил семью из пяти человек семь лет*
• Здесь употребляется время Present Perfect Continuous для обозначения действия, начавшегося в прошлом и продолжающегося до настоящего времени, см. ГС 44.

• ²⁹ *Шанс, что вытянут её имя, совсем невелик*

по сравнению с именами тех из нас, кто живёт в Шраме.

Пассивный герундий *being drawn* употребляется с предшествующим существительным *name*. Такое сочетание переводится на русский язык придаточным предложением, где существительному соответствует подлежащее, а герундию — сказуемое, см. ГС 53.

³⁰ *мог бы сказать он, если бы здесь не было ничьих ушей, кроме моих, чтобы услышать это.*

Это предложение с условным придаточным II типа (нереальное условие в настоящем и будущем), см. ГС 59.

³¹ *Что может случиться невысказанное.*

the unthinkable — невысказанное; *the unthinkable* — субстантивированное прилагательное, то есть прилагательное, перешедшее в разряд существительных. Некоторые прилагательные становятся существительными, обозначающими абстрактные понятия, они используются только в единствен-

но can hardly recognize myself in the cracked mirror that leans against the wall.

“You look beautiful,” says Prim in a hushed voice.

“And nothing like myself,” I say. I hug her, because I know these next few hours will be terrible for her. Her first reaping. She’s about as safe as you can get, since she’s only entered once. I wouldn’t let her take out any tesserae. But she’s worried about me. **That the unthinkable might happen.**³¹

I protect Prim in every way I can, but I’m powerless against the reaping. The anguish I always feel when she’s in pain wells up in my chest and threatens to register on my face. I notice her blouse has pulled out of her skirt in the back again and force myself to stay calm. “Tuck your tail in, little duck,” I say, smoothing the blouse back in place.

Prim giggles and gives me a small “Quack.”

“Quack yourself,” I say with a light laugh. The kind only Prim can draw out of me. “Come on, let’s eat,” I say and plant a quick kiss on the top of her head.

The fish and greens are already cooking in a stew, but that will be for supper. We decide to save the strawberries and bakery bread for this evening’s meal, to make it special we say. Instead we drink milk from Prim’s goat, Lady, and eat the rough bread made from the tessera grain, although no one has much appetite anyway.

At one o’clock, we head for the square. Attendance is mandatory unless you are on death’s door. This evening, officials will come around and check to see if this is the case. If not, you’ll be imprisoned.

It’s too bad, really, that they hold the reaping in the square—one of the few places in District 12 that can be pleasant. The square’s surrounded by shops, and on public market days, especially if there’s good weather, it has a holiday feel to it. But today, despite the bright banners hanging on the buildings, there’s an

air of grimness. The camera crews, perched like buzzards on rooftops, only add to the effect.

People file in silently and sign in. **The reaping is a good opportunity for the Capitol to keep tabs on the population**³² as well. Twelve- through eighteen-year-olds are herded into roped areas marked off by ages, **the oldest in**³³ the front, the young ones, like Prim, toward the back. Family members line up around the perimeter, holding tightly to one another's hands. But there are others, too, who have no one they love at stake, or who no longer care, who slip among the crowd, taking bets on the two kids whose names will be drawn. Odds are given on their ages, whether they're Seam or merchant, if they will break down and weep. Most refuse dealing with the racketeers but carefully, carefully. These same people tend to be informers, and who hasn't broken the law? I could be shot on a daily basis for hunting, but the appetites of those in charge protect me. Not everyone can claim the same.

Anyway, Gale and I agree that **if we have to choose between dying of hunger and a bullet in the head, the bullet would be much quicker**.³⁴

The space gets tighter, more claustrophobic as people arrive. The square's quite large, but not enough to hold District 12's population of about eight thousand. Latecomers are directed to the adjacent streets, where they can watch the event on screens as it's televised live by the state.

I find myself standing in a clump of sixteens from the Seam. We all exchange terse nods then focus our attention on the temporary stage that is set up before the Justice Building. It holds three chairs, a podium, and two large glass balls, one for the boys and one for the girls. I stare at the paper slips in the girls' ball. Twenty of them have Katniss Everdeen written on them in careful handwriting.

Two of the three chairs fill with Madge's father, Mayor Undersee, who's a tall, balding man, and Effie

ном числе с определённым артиклем, например, *the good* — добро, *the evil* — зло, *the beautiful* — красивое.

³² *Жатва — это хорошая возможность для Капитолия вести учёт населения*

Здесь используется конструкция *for* + существительное/местоимение + инфинитив с инфинитивом *to* *keep* после существительного *opportunity*, см. ГС 52.

³³ *самые старшие*
См. комментарий 26 выше (аналогично *the poor*).

³⁴ *если нам придётся выбрать между смертью от голода и пулей в голове, пуля была бы намного быстрее.*

Здесь условное предложение I типа (реальное условие в будущем) с Present Simple сочетается с предложением, вытекающим следствием из этого условия как нереальное, гипотетическое, в котором употребляется сослагательное наклонение, см. ГС 59.