

世界名著 • 经典电影 • 双语阅读

小妇人

Little Women

◆ [美] 路易莎·梅·奥尔科特 著

◆ 段鸿欣 编译



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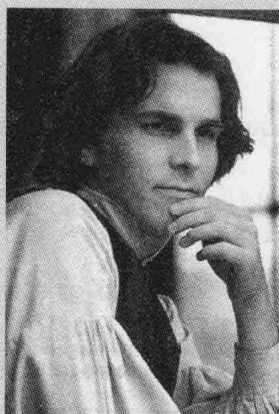
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Chapter 1

Playing Pilgrims

Role: Jo, Meg, Amy, Beth

Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug. ✓

"It's so dreadful to be poor!" sighed Meg, looking down at her old dress.

"I don't think it's fair for some girls to have lots of pretty things, and other girls nothing at all," added little Amy, with an injured sniff.

"We've got father and mother, and each other, anyhow," said Beth, contentedly, from her corner.

The four young faces on which the firelight shone brightened at the cheerful words, but darkened again as Jo said sadly, —

"We haven't got father, and shall not have him for a long time." She didn't say "perhaps never," but each silently added it, thinking of father far away, where the fighting was.

Nobody spoke for a minute; then Meg said in an altered tone, —

"You know the reason mother proposed not having any presents this Christmas, was because it's going to be a hard winter for every one; and she thinks we ought not to spend money for pleasure, when our men are suffering so in the army. We can't do much, but we can make our little sacrifices, and ought to do it gladly. But I am afraid I don't;" and Meg shook her head, as she thought regretfully of all the pretty things she wanted.

"But I don't think the little we should spend would do any good. We've each got a dollar, and the army wouldn't be much helped by our giving that. I agree not to expect anything from mother or you, but I do want to buy *Undine and Sintram* for myself; I've wanted it so long," said Jo, who was a bookworm.

第一章

扮演朝圣者

grumble

['grʌmbəl]

vi & vt. 咕哝

sniff

[snɪf]

vt. 嗤之以鼻地表示

“圣诞节没有礼物，就不是圣诞节了。”乔躺在地毯上咕哝着。

“贫穷真是可怕呀！”梅格低头看着自己的旧衣服，叹了口气。

“一些女孩子有很多好东西，另一些则什么都没有，我认为这不公平。”小艾米委屈地从鼻子里哼了一声。

“但我们有父亲、母亲，还有彼此。”贝思满足地在她的角落里说道。

炉火映照着的四张小脸被这句鼓舞的话引得有了喜色，但是乔的一席伤心话又使她们重新陷入阴郁，——

“爸爸不在我们的身边，而且今后很长时间都不会在。”她没有说“也许永远不会”，但是每个人都在心中加上了这一句，同时想起了远在战场上^①的父亲。

大家一时无语，梅格再开口时语气变了，——

“你们知道妈妈为什么提议今年圣诞节不送礼物吗？因为这个冬天对每个人来说都很难。她认为当我们的男子汉在兵营里吃苦时，我们不该花钱享乐，我们出不了大力，但可以做出小小的牺牲，而且应该做得心甘情愿。不过恐怕我是做不到了。”梅格摇摇头，遗憾地想到了她期待的那些漂亮礼物。

“可是我觉得我们本该花掉的那点儿钱也帮不上什么忙。我们每个人只有一块钱，献给部队也没有什么用。我不盼着妈妈或者你们送我什么礼物，但我很想为自己买一本《水妖记》，我已经想了很久了。”乔说道。她是个书虫。

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"I planned to spend mine in new music," said Beth, with a little sigh, ✓
which no one heard but the hearth-brush and kettle-holder.

"I shall get a nice box of Faber's drawing pencils; I really need them,"
said Amy, decidedly.

"Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to
give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun; I'm
sure we **grub** hard enough to earn it," cried Jo, examining the heels of her
boots in a gentlemanly manner.

"I know I do, —teaching those dreadful children nearly all day, when
I'm longing to enjoy myself at home," began (Meg), in the complaining tone
again.

"You don't have half such a hard time as I do," said (Jo). "How would
you like to be shut up for hours with a nervous, **fussy** old lady, who keeps
you **trotting**, is never satisfied, and worries you till you're ready to fly out of
the window or box her ears?" ✓

"It's naughty to fret, —but I do think washing dishes and keeping things
tidy is the worst work in the world. It makes me cross; ✓ and my hands get so
stiff, I can't practise good a bit." And (Beth) looked at her rough hands with a
sigh that any one could hear that time.

"I don't believe any of you suffer as I do," cried (Amy); "for you don't
have to go to school with **impertinent** girls, who plague you if you don't know
your lessons, and laugh at your dresses, and label your father if he isn't
rich, and insult you when your nose isn't nice."

"If you mean **libel** I'd say so, and not talk about labels, as if pa was a
pickle-bottle," advised Jo, laughing.

"I know what I mean, and you needn't be 'statirical' about it. It's
proper to use good words, and improve your vocabulary," returned Amy,
with dignity.

"Don't peck at one another, children. Don't you wish we had the money
papa lost when we were little, Jo? Dear me, how happy and good we'd be,
if we had no worries," said Meg, who could remember better times.

"You said the other day you thought we were a deal happier than the King
children, for they were fighting and fretting all the time, in spite of their
money."

"So I did, Beth. Well, I guess we are; for though we do have to work,
we make fun for ourselves, and are a pretty jolly set, as Jo would say."

"Jo does use such slang words," observed Amy, with a reproving look

grub

[grʌb]

vi. 苦干

fussy

['fʌsi]

a. 易激怒的, 爱挑剔的

trot

[trɒt]

vt. 使小跑

impertinent

[im'pɜ:tinənt]

a. 傲慢的

libel

['laɪbəl]

vt. 以文字(或图画等)

诽谤

“我本来打算买些新乐谱。”贝思说着，轻轻叹了口气，她的叹息除了炉刷和壶架，谁都没听到。

“我要买一盒费伯牌画笔，我真的很需要。”艾米说，语气很坚决。

“妈妈没有提过我们的钱，她也不会希望我们两手空空，我们买点各自喜欢的东西高兴高兴。那些钱确实是我苦干赚来的。”乔大声说着，绅士般看了看自己的鞋跟。

“我也一样——整天教那群讨厌的小孩子，真盼着舒舒服服地呆在家里。”梅格的语气中又有了抱怨。

“你受的苦还赶不上我一半多呢。”乔说，“如果让你好几个小时和一个吹毛求疵的神经质老太婆关在一起，被她支得团团转，她还总不能满意，把你气得只想飞出窗外或者扇她一记耳光，你会有什么样的感受？”

“烦恼是不对的，可我的确觉得世界上最烦人的工作就是刷盘子和收拾东西了，这活儿不仅惹我气恼，还使我的手变得僵硬，连琴都练不了。”贝思望着粗糙的双手，轻轻地叹息着，这一次大家都听到了。

“我认为你们谁吃的苦都比不上我多。”艾米高声嚷道，“因为你们不用和那些傲慢的女孩子一起去上学。你弄不懂功课，她们就会让你难堪，还讥笑你穿的衣服。如果你父亲没钱，她们就会给你贴标签^②；如果你鼻子长得不好看，她们就会羞辱你。”

“你的意思是‘中伤’吧？要是我就用这个词，而不说什么‘贴标签’，好像爸爸是个腌菜瓶似的。”乔笑着纠正道。

“我的意思我明白，你不必嘲能（弄）我。是应该使用好的字眼，能扩大词回（汇）量。”艾米一板一眼地反击着。

“别斗嘴了，姑娘们。乔，难道你不希望我们拿回小时候爸爸失去的那些钱？老天，要是能无忧无虑地过日子该有多幸福呀！”梅格说道，她还记得往昔的好时光。

“那天你还说我们比金家的孩子们幸福呢，因为他们虽然有 钱，却一天到晚发愁、吵架。”

“我是这么说过，贝思，嗯，我是这么想的。虽然我们得干活，却能自得其乐，正像乔说的，我们这一窝挺快活。”

“乔就是爱用俚语。”艾米责备地望着伸展在地毯上的长长

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at the long figure stretched on the rug. Jo immediately sat up, put her hands in her apron pockets, and began to whistle.

"Don't, Jo; it's so boyish."

"That's why I do it."

"I detest rude, unlady-like girls."

"I hate affected, niminy piminy chits."

"Birds in their little nests agree," sang Beth, the peace-maker, with such a funny face that both sharp voices softened to a laugh, and the "pecking" ended for that time.

✓ "Really, girls, you are both to be blamed," said Meg, beginning to lecture in her elder sisterly fashion. "You are old enough to leave off boyish tricks, and behave better, Josephine. It didn't matter so much when you were a little girl; but now you are so tall, and turn up your hair, you should remember that you are a young lady."

"I ain't! and if turning up my hair makes me one, I'll wear it in two tails till I'm twenty," cried Jo, pulling off her net, and shaking down a chestnut mane. "I hate to think I've got to grow up and be Miss March, and wear long gowns, and look as prim as a China-aster. It's bad enough to be a girl, any way, when I like boy's games, and work, and manners. I can't get over my disappointment in not being a boy, and it's worse than ever now, for I'm dying to go and fight with papa, and I can only stay at home and knit like ✓ a poky old woman;" and Jo shook the blue army-sock till the needles rattled like castanets, and her ball bounded across the room.

"Poor Jo; it's too bad! But it can't be helped, so you must try to be contented with making your name boyish, and playing brother to us girls," said Beth, stroking the rough head at her knee with a hand that all the dish-washing and dusting in the world could not make ungente in its touch.

"As for you, Amy," continued Meg, "you are altogether too particular and prim. Your airs are funny now, but you'll grow up an affected little goose if you don't take care. I like your nice manners, and refined ways of speaking, when you don't try to be elegant; but your absurd words are as bad as Jo's slang."

"If Jo is a tom-boy, and Amy a goose, what am I, please?" asked Beth, ready to share the lecture.

"You're a dear, and nothing else," answered Meg, warmly; and no one contradicted her, for the "Mouse" was the pet of the family.

As young readers like to know "how people look," we will take this

niminy piminy

['nimini'pimini]

a. 装模作样的, 矫揉造作的

tom-boy

['tɒmbɔɪ]

n. 假小子

的身体。乔立即坐起来,把手伸进口袋,吹起了口哨。

“别这样,乔,太像男孩子了。”

“所以我才这样。”

“我讨厌没有淑女风范的野姑娘!”

“我憎恶扭捏作态的小丫头。”

“‘巢中的鸟儿不打架。’”贝思这个调停人开口唱道,脸上的滑稽表情把两个尖厉的声音化成了和缓的笑声,斗嘴终于停止了。

“说实话,姑娘们,你们两个人都不对。”梅格开始以长姊的身份训话了,“约瑟芬,你已经长大了,该丢掉那些男孩子的把戏,规范行为。小时候无所谓,可现在你这么高,又挽起了头,应该记住你是位小姐。”

“我不是!要是挽起头就成了小姐,我就把两条辫子一直梳到二十岁。”乔一边嚷着,一边拉下发网,散落一头栗色的秀发,“一想到我得长大,成为马奇小姐,穿上长裙,拘谨得像朵翠菊,我心里就发狠。生为女孩已经够倒霉了,偏偏我又喜欢男孩子们的游戏、活计和举止,没有生为男孩一直令我失望,现在我更失望了,因为我渴望和爸爸一起去战斗,可我只能呆在家里,像个走不动路的老太太那样编织东西。”乔使劲晃着蓝色的军袜,弄得编针像响板似的乱响,线球一直滚到了房间的另一头。

“可怜的乔!真是太糟糕了!可这有什么办法,你只能改个男孩的名字,在我们姐妹中充当兄弟,以此安慰自己。”贝思说着,用手轻抚靠在她膝上的那个头发蓬乱的脑袋。尽管这双手洗过无数碗碟,揩过无数灰尘,却没有改变抚慰时的温柔。

“至于你,艾米,”梅格接着说,“你太过讲究,太过正经。你的样子现在挺有趣,可如果不注意,长大后就会成为一个做作的小傻瓜。你不故作优雅时,你的举止不俗、谈吐迷人,我挺喜欢,可你滑稽的语言和乔的俚语一样糟糕。”

“如果乔是假小子,艾米是傻瓜,那我是什么?”贝思问道,她已经做好准备接受姐姐的训导。

“你什么都不是,就是个宝贝。”梅格亲热地回答。没有人表示异议,因为这只“小老鼠”是全家人的宠儿。

年轻的读者喜欢知道“人物的相貌”,我们不妨借此机会

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moment to give them a little sketch of the four sisters, who sat knitting away in the twilight, while the December snow fell quietly without, and the fire crackled cheerfully within. It was a comfortable old room, though the carpet was faded and the furniture very plain, for a good picture or two hung on the walls, books filled the recesses, **chrysanthemums** and Christmas roses bloomed in the windows, and a pleasant atmosphere of home-peace pervaded it.

✓
指示人
Margaret
Jo
Elizabeth
Beth
Amy

Margaret, the eldest of the four, was sixteen, and very pretty, being plump and fair, with large eyes, plenty of soft brown hair, a sweet mouth, and white hands, of which she was rather vain. Fifteen-year old Jo was very tall, thin and brown, and reminded one of a colt; for she never seemed to know what to do with her long limbs, which were very much in her way. She had a decided mouth, a comical nose, and sharp gray eyes, which appeared to see everything, and were by turns fierce, funny, or thoughtful. Her long, thick hair was her one beauty; but it was usually bundled into a net, to be out of her way. Round shoulders had Jo, big hands and feet, a fly-away look to her clothes, and the uncomfortable appearance of a girl who was rapidly shooting up into a woman, and didn't like it. Elizabeth, —or Beth, as every one called her, —was a rosy, smooth-haired, bright-eyed girl of thirteen, with a shy manner, a timid voice, and a peaceful expression, which was seldom disturbed. Her father called her "Little Tranquillity," and the name suited her excellently; for she seemed to live in a happy world of her own, only venturing out to meet the few whom she trusted and loved. Amy, though the youngest, was a most important person, in her own opinion at least. A regular snow maiden, with blue eyes, and yellow hair curling on her shoulders; pale and **slender**, and always carrying herself like a young lady mindful of her manners.

The clock struck six; and, having swept up the hearth, Beth put a pair of slippers down to warm. Somehow the sight of the old shoes had a good effect upon the girls, for mother was coming, and every one brightened to welcome her. Meg stopped lecturing, and lit the lamp, Amy got out of the easy-chair without being asked, and Jo forgot how tired she was as she sat up to hold the slippers nearer to the **blaze**.

"They are quite worn out; Marmee must have a new pair."

"I thought I'd get her some with my dollar," said Beth.

"No, I shall!" cried Amy.

"I'm the oldest," began Meg, but Jo cut in with a decided—

chrysanthemum

[kri'sænθəməm]

n. 菊花

pervade

[pə:'veɪd]

vt. 弥漫于

slender

['slendə(r)]

a. 修长的, 苗条的

blaze

[bleɪz]

n. 火堆, 火焰

约略描绘一下这姐妹四人的形象。时值十二月, 屋外, 雪静静地飘落, 屋内, 炉火欢快地噼啪作响, 四姐妹坐在暮色中编织。这是一所舒适的老房子, 尽管地毯褪了色, 家具也很简单, 但墙上挂着一两幅好画, 壁龛中放满了书籍, 窗台上摆放着盛开的菊花和圣诞玫瑰, 屋子里满是安宁宜人的家庭气氛。

玛格丽特是四姐妹中的老大, 今年十六岁, 秀丽丰盈, 皮肤白皙, 一双大大的眼睛, 一头柔软的棕色头发, 嘴唇甜甜的, 两手白白的——那是她的骄傲。十五岁的乔又高又瘦, 皮肤黝黑, 让人联想到一匹小马, 因为长在身上的修长四肢很是碍事, 她似乎一直不知道如何处置它们。她有一张坚毅的嘴, 一个滑稽的鼻子, 一双灰眼睛异常敏锐, 似乎能洞察一切, 它们时而激烈, 时而诙谐, 时而充盈万千思绪。长而浓密的头发是她身上的亮点, 却被她为了方便挽在了发网里。她双肩圆润, 手大脚大, 穿着宽松, 脸上总是带着几分不安, 那是一个即将成熟却拒绝长大的女孩的特有神情。伊丽莎白, 被大家称为贝思, 她是一个有着玫瑰色面庞的十三岁女孩, 头发柔软, 眼睛明亮, 举止羞涩, 声音细弱, 一脸平和的神情, 很少受到干扰。她父亲叫她“小静”, 这名字配她再合适不过, 因为她仿佛生活在自己的快乐天地中, 只有遇到她信任、热爱的人时, 才冒险出来相会。艾米虽然年龄最小, 却不可或缺, 至少她自己这么认为。她相貌端庄, 肌肤晶莹, 一双蓝蓝的大眼睛, 一头卷曲的金黄色头发垂落双肩, 面容皎洁, 体态窈窕, 言谈举止十足是一位讲究仪态的年轻小姐。

钟敲六点, 贝思扫干净壁炉, 把一双拖鞋放在旁边烘烤。看到这双旧鞋, 姐妹们的心情有了好转——妈妈就要回来了, 她们振作了精神, 准备迎接她。梅格停止了训话, 点亮了灯。艾米没用人说, 就离开了安乐椅。乔也忘记了身体的疲惫, 坐起来把拖鞋向火边挪了挪。

“这双鞋太旧了, 妈妈得换双新鞋。”

“我本来想用我的钱给她买一双。”贝思说。

“不, 我来买!” 艾米嚷道。

“我最大……” 梅格刚一开口, 就被乔斩钉截铁地打断了——

Little Women

"I'm the man of the family now papa is away, and I shall provide the slippers, for he told me to take special care of mother while he was gone."

"I'll tell you what we'll do," said Beth; "let's each get her something for Christmas, and not get anything for ourselves."

"That's like you, dear! What will we get?" exclaimed Jo.

Every one thought **soberly** for a minute; then Meg announced, as if the idea was suggested by the sight of her own pretty hands, "I shall give her a nice pair of gloves."

"Army shoes, best to be had," cried Jo.

"Some handkerchiefs, all **hemmed**," said Beth.

"I'll get a little bottle of **Cologne**, she likes it, and it won't cost much, so I'll have some left to buy something for me," added Amy.

"How will we give the things?" asked Meg.

"Put 'em on the table, and bring her in and see her open the bundles. Don't you remember how we used to do on our birthdays?" answered Jo.

"I used to be so frightened when it was my turn to sit in the big chair with a crown on, and see you all come marching round to give the presents, with a kiss. I liked the things and the kisses, but it was dreadful to have you sit looking at me while I opened the bundles," said Beth, who was toasting her face and the bread for tea, at the same time.

"Let Marmee think we are getting things for ourselves, and then surprise her. We must go shopping to-morrow afternoon, Meg; there is lots to do about the play for Christmas night," said Jo, marching up and down with her hands behind her back, and her nose in the air.

"I don't mean to act any more after this time; I'm getting too old for such things," observed Meg, who was as much a child as ever about "dressing up" frolics.

"You won't stop, I know, as long as you can trail round in a white gown with your hair down, and wear gold-paper jewelry. You are the best actress we've got, and there'll be an end of everything if you quit the boards," said Jo. "We ought to rehearse to-night; come here, Amy, and do the fainting scene, for you are as stiff as a poker in that."

"I can't help it; I never saw any one faint, and I don't choose to make myself all black and blue, tumbling flat as you do. If I can go down easily, I'll drop; if I can't, I shall fall into a chair and be graceful; I don't care if Hugo does come at me with a pistol," returned Amy, who was not gifted with dramatic power, but was chosen because she was small enough to be borne

soberly

['səʊbəli]

ad. 冷静地

frolic

['frɒlɪk]

n. 欢乐的聚会(或游戏)

“爸爸不在家，我就是家里的男子汉，这双鞋该由我来买。因为他告诉过我，他不在家的时候，要我好好照顾妈妈。”

“告诉你们怎么办吧。”贝思说道，“我们别给自己买什么了，每个人送她一件圣诞礼物。”

“这才像你呢，宝贝儿！咱们买什么？”乔大声地嚷着。

大家仔细地琢磨了一会儿，梅格似乎从自己漂亮的双手得到了启发，她宣布：“我要送给她一副精美的手套。”

“一双军用皮鞋，要最好的。”乔喊道。

“几块镶边的手帕。”贝思说。

“我要买一小瓶香水。她喜欢香水，而且也不贵，剩下的钱可以再给自己买点东西。”艾米接着说。

“怎么把这些礼物送出去呢？”梅格问。

“把礼物放在桌子上，把妈妈带进来，让她自己拆开礼包。你不记得我们过生日时是怎么干的了？”乔问。

“每次轮到我坐在大椅子上，头戴花冠，看着你们一个个走过来送礼物、吻我时，我都特别紧张。礼物和亲吻让我开心，但是在你们的注视下拆开礼包，可就让我着慌了。”贝思一边说，一边烤茶点，她的脸被炉火烤得通红。

“让妈妈以为我们是在为自己买东西，然后给她一个惊喜。明天下午就得去买了，梅格，圣诞之夜的演出还要做很多准备呢。”乔说着，背起手，仰着头，在房子里踱来踱去。

“我以后不打算再参加演出了，年龄大了，这种事干不来了。”梅格说道，其实对于“化装”这类游戏，她会永远保持一颗童心。

“我明白，只要让你散下头发，戴上金纸做的首饰，穿着白色长裙走来走去，你就不会拒绝了。你是我们这儿最好的演员，如果你退出，一切就都完了。”乔说，“我们晚上应该排练一下。来，艾米，过来，演一下昏倒的那场戏，你总是僵得像根拨火棍。”

“我没办法，我没见过人昏倒，也不想像你那样直挺挺地摔在那儿，弄得身上青一块紫一块的。要是我能轻轻倒下，我就倒下，否则我就倒在椅子上，保持优雅形像。我才不在乎雨果是否用枪对着我呢。”艾米回答，她缺乏演艺天分，只因为个子小才被选中，因为她可以尖叫着被男主角扛