

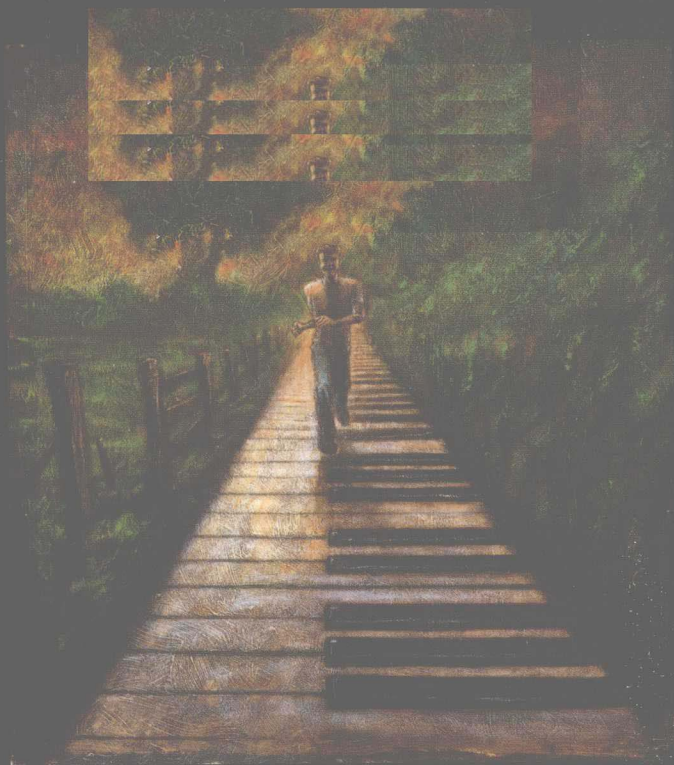
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书虫·牛津英汉双语读物

■ Rosemary Border (英) 著

The Piano

钢琴之恋



H319.4:1561

外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

2019年10月10日 星期四

第1000期

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- Rosemary Border (英) 著
- 彭 燕 译

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FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS
北京 BEIJING

京权图字：01 - 2006 - 3298

Originally published by Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford.
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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

钢琴之恋 = The Piano / (英)博德(Border, R.)著; 彭燕译. — 北京:
外语教学与研究出版社, 2007.7

(书虫·牛津英汉双语读物)

ISBN 978-7-5600-6839-8

I. 钢… II. ①博… ②彭… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物 ②中篇小说—英国—现代 IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2007) 第 110797 号

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出 版 人：于春迟

责任编辑：易 璐

封面设计：孙莉明

出版发行：外语教学与研究出版社

社 址：北京市西三环北路 19 号 (100089)

网 址：<http://www.fltrp.com>

印 刷：清华大学印刷厂

开 本：850×1092 1/32

印 张：2.5

版 次：2007 年 8 月第 1 版 2009 年 8 月第 6 次印刷

书 号：ISBN 978-7-5600-6839-8

定 价：5.90 元

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如有印刷、装订质量问题出版社负责调换

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版权保护办公室举报电话：(010)88817519

物料号：168390101

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1**In the Dressing-room**

SIR ANTHONY EVANS PLAYS LISZT. The words above the door of the theatre were a metre high. On the wall there was a big picture of Sir Anthony at the piano. Hundreds of people were waiting outside the ticket office. It was Sir Anthony's eightieth birthday concert and everybody wanted a ticket. I had a special ticket, because I was a newspaper reporter. I wanted to talk to the famous pianist before his concert. I showed my ticket to the doorman and went into the theatre. Then I walked upstairs to the dressing-rooms.

On my way upstairs I thought about the famous pianist. I was a little afraid. My mouth was dry and my hands were shaking.

I arrived outside the dressing-room.

There was a big gold star on the door.

I knocked, and a tall man opened it. He was very old, but his eyes were blue and bright. He was wearing black trousers and a beautiful white shirt. He had a lot of straight, silvery hair. He looked just like his picture on the wall of the theatre.

'My name's Sally Hill,' I began. 'I...'

The old man saw my notebook and smiled at me.

1. 化妆间里

安东尼·埃文斯爵士演奏会。曲目：李斯特。横幅张挂在剧院门口，每个字都高达一米。墙上挂着一幅安东尼爵士弹奏钢琴的巨幅肖像画。售票处门外排着几百人的长队。这是安东尼爵士的八十寿辰音乐会，每个人都想要张票。由于我是报社记者，所以得到了一张记者专用票。我想在音乐会开始之前采访这位著名的钢琴家。我把票出示给看门人，然后走进了剧院，朝楼上的化妆间走去。

我一边上楼，一边想着这位著名的钢琴家。我有点害怕，我的嘴巴发干，手也在抖。

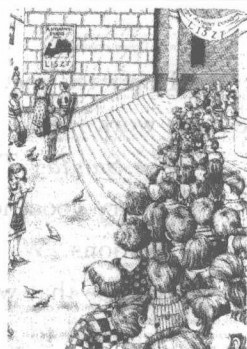
我来到化妆间门外。

门上有一颗很大的金色的星星。

我敲了敲门，一位高个子男士开了门。他的年纪很大了，可是眼睛湛蓝湛蓝的，眼神明亮。他穿着黑色的长裤和漂亮的白衬衫，满头笔直的银发。他看上去跟剧院墙上的那幅画里一模一样。

“我叫萨莉·希尔，”我开口道，“我……”

老人看见我的笔记本，对我露出了微笑。



pianist *n.* a person who plays the piano 钢琴家, 钢琴演奏者 **shake** *v.* to move forcibly or quickly up and down or to and fro 发抖, 颤抖

‘Don’t tell me. You’re a reporter. Which newspaper do you work for?’

‘*The Sunday Times*, sir.’

‘A very good newspaper. Come in and sit down. Ask your questions. We were young once, weren’t we, Linda? But of course that was a long time ago.’

He turned to a tall woman, who was standing in the corner. She smiled at me with friendly brown eyes. ‘So this is Lady Evans,’ I thought. ‘What a nice face she has! She looks like a farmer’s wife.’

I was not afraid any more. I sat down and opened my notebook.

‘Tell me about yourself, please, Sir Anthony. Did you come from a musical family? Did you start to learn the piano when you were three, like Mozart?’

The famous pianist smiled. ‘No, no, my dear. I am the first musician in my family. And I was fourteen years old before I touched a piano for the first time.’ He saw the surprise on my face. ‘We have a little time before my concert. I’ll tell you my story. It’s a strange story, but every word of it is true. You see, I left school when I was thirteen. Everybody called me Tony in those days. I worked on a farm...’

“啊，不用说，你是记者。你是哪一家报社的？”

“《星期日报》，先生。”

“那是家很好的报纸。进来，坐吧。有什么问题就问吧。我们也曾经年轻过，对不对，琳达？不过，那当然是很久很久以前的事情了。”

他转向角落里站着的一位高个子女士。她那双褐色的眼睛含着友好的笑意看着我。“那么，这一位一定是埃文斯夫人了，”我心想，“她的脸庞真慈祥！她看上去就像农夫的妻子。”

我不再感到害怕了。我坐下来，摊开笔记本。

“请告诉我一些关于您自己的事情，安东尼爵士。您出身于音乐世家吗？您是不是像莫扎特那样，三岁就开始学习弹钢琴了？”

这位著名的钢琴演奏家笑道：“不，亲爱的孩子，不是这样。我是我们家出的头一个音乐家。一直到14岁，我才第一次接触钢琴。”他看到我脸上讶异的神色，接着说：“音乐会开始之前，我们能有一小会儿时间，让我把我的故事讲给你听吧。这是一个不可思议的故事，但字字句句都是真的。是这样的，我13岁就离开了学校。那会儿他们都叫我托尼。我在一个农场里干活儿……”

Lady *n.* used as the title of the wife of a knight 夫人，太太（用作对爵士妻子的尊称）**surprise** *n.* the feeling you have when something unexpected or astonishing happens 惊奇，诧异

It was an exciting story and he told it well. At first I tried to write everything down in my notebook. Then the pen fell from my hand and I just listened. I was lost in Sir Anthony's wonderful story. He told me about an old school behind a high wall in a dirty street. There was broken glass on top of the wall. The school yard was very small. As he spoke, pictures came into my mind. I saw a little boy called Tony Evans, playing football with an old tin...

他娓娓道出了一个令人激动故事。起初，我试图把他说的每一句话都记在笔记本上。然而，听着听着，笔从我手中滑落，我只是投入地听他讲述。我沉浸在安东尼爵士那个奇妙的故事当中。他向我讲到一条肮脏的小巷里高墙内的一所旧学校，墙头插着碎玻璃，学校的院子很窄小。他讲着讲着，我脑海里渐渐浮现出这样一幅画面：一个名叫托尼·埃文斯的小男孩，把一个旧罐头盒当足球踢着……

exciting *adj.* arousing great interest or enthusiasm 刺激的,令人兴奋的 **yard** *n.* a piece of enclosed ground *esp.* attached to a building or used for a particular purpose 天井,庭院 **tin** *n.* a metal container used for preserving food (存放食物的)金属盒

2

A Poor Boy

The teacher's name was Mr Grey. He was grey, like his name: he was old and grey and tired. Everything about him was grey: grey suit, grey shirt, grey hair and a long, thin, grey face. When he smiled the children saw his long, grey teeth. But he did not often smile. Mr Grey did not enjoy his job. He did not like children.

'Why does he work here?' one of the children asked one day. 'He doesn't like us.'

'But he likes the long school holidays!' said Tony. The other children laughed. They thought that was a very clever answer.

But Tony was not a clever boy. He was big and slow and silent. He did not enjoy his lessons. Usually he just sat at his desk and waited quietly for four o'clock to come, when he could go home.

But Tuesday mornings were different, because Tuesday was music day. Every Tuesday morning an old lady called Mrs Lark came to the school. Mrs Lark played the piano and the children sang. She was not a very good pianist, but she liked children and she enjoyed her work. She knew a lot of songs too. Every Tuesday her fat little fingers flew like

2. 一个穷孩子



这里的老师是格雷先生。他的人和他的名字一样陈腐老套。他年岁大了，头发灰白，看上去疲惫不堪。他身上的每一样东西都是灰色的。他的外套是灰色的，衬衫是灰色的，头发是花白的，一张脸也瘦长而苍白。他咧嘴一笑，孩子们就能看到他那长长的、灰白的牙齿。但他不常笑。格雷先生对他的工作一点也不热心，他不喜欢孩子们。

“他干吗干这份工作？”一天，有个孩子问道，“他又不喜欢我们。”

“可他喜欢学校长长的假期！”托尼说。其他孩子纷纷笑了起来，觉得他的回答很聪明。

不过，托尼可不是个聪明的孩子。他个子高大，慢吞吞的，话也很少。他不喜欢听讲，平常他总是坐在自己的座位上静静地等着，等到4点钟，他就可以回家了。

但是，星期二的早晨却不一样，因为这一天是唱歌的日子。每个星期二早晨，一位被大家称作拉克夫人的老太太都会到学校来，她弹钢琴，孩子们唱歌。她的琴弹得不太好，可她喜欢孩子们，也喜欢这份工作。她会弹的曲子真不少。每个星期二，她胖胖的、短小的手指头都会像

grey *adj.* between black and white in colour; gloomy; pale 灰色的；阴郁的；面色苍白的

birds up and down the keys of the piano. The children sang like birds, too. Then twelve o'clock came. Mrs Lark said 'goodbye' and locked up the piano for another week.

Tony did not often hear music. His family was poor, and poor people did not often hear music. There was no TV or radio in those days. There were concerts in the town, of course, but poor people did not go to concerts. Sometimes an Italian street musician came to town. He had a little piano on wheels, and a poor thin monkey which sat on top of it. The people came out of their houses to listen to his music. Then the monkey went round with a little tin cup. 'Give us a penny!' sang the musician. But when the monkey came back, the tin cup was always empty. The musician shook his head and pushed his little piano away.

There were six children in the Evans family, and Tony was the oldest. They lived in a very small house at the end of a long, grey street. The toilet was outside, in the yard. There was no bathroom. Everybody washed in the kitchen. On Saturday evenings everybody in the family had a bath one after another in an old tin bath in front of the fire. It took all evening. Every Monday Mrs Evans washed all the family's clothes in the tin bath. But the Evans were clean and they had enough to eat. Tony did not feel poor, because all his friends were poor too.

In those days, poor children usually left school when they were thirteen. Most of Tony's friends found jobs in

小鸟一样在琴键上灵活地上下跳跃，孩子们唱得也像小鸟一样动听。一转眼，12点就到了。拉克夫人说声“再见”，把钢琴锁上，再想唱歌就要等下个星期了。

托尼难得听到音乐。他家境贫寒，而穷苦人家总是没什么音乐可听的。那个时候既没有电视，也没有收音机，城里当然也举行音乐会，但穷人是去不起的。城里偶尔也会来一个意大利流浪琴师。他有架带轮子的小钢琴，琴上还坐着一只可怜的小瘦猴。人们纷纷走出门来听他演奏。接着，小猴就拿着一只小小的锡杯在人群里转一圈。“施舍点吧！”琴师唱道。可是小猴回来的时候，杯子总是空的。琴师只有摇摇头，推着小小的钢琴走了。

埃文斯家有六个孩子，托尼是老大。他们一家住在一条阴暗的长巷子尽头一幢很小很小的房子里。马桶在外面的院子里。家里没地方洗漱，全家人只得在厨房里将就。每到周六晚上，一家人就一个接一个在炉火前用一个旧的锡澡盆洗澡，要一整晚才能全部洗完。每个星期一，埃文斯太太都要把一家人的衣服泡在锡澡盆里洗干净。但是埃文斯一家衣着干净，也能吃得饱饭。托尼不觉得自己家穷，因为他的朋友们也都很穷。

那时候，穷人家的孩子往往到了13岁就辍学了。托尼的朋友们大多在城里



tin n. a soft white metal 锡

shops or factories in the town. Tony did not want to work in a shop or a factory. But he needed a job because his family needed the money.

A few days after his thirteenth birthday, Tony left school too. He began to look for a job. But he was unlucky. The factory did not want him. The shops did not want him. Then his mother thought, 'What about farming?'

One hot summer afternoon she decided to take her son to a farm outside the town.

'I worked on Mr Wood's farm when I was young,' she told Tony. 'Then I met your father and we moved to the town. But I enjoyed farm work, and I think you'll like it too... I wrote to Mr Wood last week and asked him to give you a job on the farm. That will be better than the factory.'

的商店或是工厂里找了活儿干。而托尼既不愿意去商店，也不愿意进工厂。可他需要一份活计，因为家里需要这点钱。

13岁生日过完没几天，托尼也离开了学校，他开始找工作。可是他的运气不好。工厂不要他，商店也不要他。然后他的母亲想到：“种田怎么样？”

一个炎热的夏日午后，她决定把儿子带到郊外的一个农场去。

“年轻时，我曾在伍德先生的农场里干过活儿，”她对托尼说，“然后我遇见了你父亲，我们搬到了城里。可是我喜欢干农活，我觉着你也会喜欢的……我上个星期给伍德先生写了封信，让他给你在农场里找份活儿干，总比在工厂里强。”

*because conj. for the
reason that; since 因为*