

双语名著无障碍阅读丛书

第三级

[3300 生词注释 · 流畅阅读名著]



黑骏马 下

Black Beauty

[美国] 安娜·西韦尔 著
姜宝洪 刘淑艳 著



中国出版集团公司
中国对外翻译出版有限公司



Chapter 27

Ruined, and Going Downhill

As soon as my knees were **sufficiently**^① healed, I was turned into a small meadow for a month or two. No other creature was there, and though I enjoyed the liberty and the sweet grass, yet I had been so long used to society that I felt very lonely. Ginger and I had become fast friends, and now I missed her company extremely.

I often neighed when I heard horses' feet passing in the road, but I seldom got an answer, till one morning the gate was opened, and who should come in but poor old Ginger! The man slipped off her halter and left her there. With a joyful whinny I trotted up to her; we were both glad to meet, but I soon found that it was not for our pleasure that she was brought to be with me. Her story would be too long to tell, but the end of it was that she had been ruined by hard riding, and was now turned off to see what rest would do.

Lord George was young and would take no warning. He was a hard rider, and would hunt whenever he could get a chance, quite careless of his horse. Soon after I left the stable there was a **steeplechase**^②, and he determined to ride. Though the groom told him the mare was a little **strained**^③, and was not fit for the race, he did not believe it, and on the

① sufficiently /sə'fɪʃntli/ *adv.*
充分地, 充分地

我的膝伤一愈合就被送到一个小草场待了一两个月。那儿没有其他的牲畜; 虽然我享受着自由, 吃着香甜的草, 但因为我长期习惯于城镇生活, 所以我觉得孤独。金格是我最要好的朋友, 现在我特别需要她的陪伴!

听到路上有马蹄声我就常常嘶鸣, 但我很少得到回应, 直到有一天门开了, 不是别人, 正是金格, 我快乐地打着鼻笛迎接她; 再次见面我俩都非常高兴, 但我很快发现并不是让我们彼此高兴一下, 才把金格带到我身边。金格经历的事太多了, 她最终毁在一个残酷的骑者手里, 现在她被带到这儿来是看看她还能做什么。

乔治少爷年轻, 不愿听任何警告。他是个凶狠的骑手, 只要有机会他就去打猎, 而不管马如何, 在我离开马厩不久, 那里举行一个障碍赛, 他决定参加, 虽然马夫说这匹小母马有点儿伤, 不适合参加比赛, 可他不相信, 他在比赛那天还是驱使金格追赶跑在最前面的骑

② steeplechase /'sti:plɪtʃeɪs/ *n.*
障碍赛

③ strain /streɪn/ *n.* 过度的疲劳; 紧张(文中指一点小伤)

day of the race he urged Ginger to keep up with the foremost riders. With her high spirit, she strained herself to the utmost and came in with the first three horses; but her wind was touched, besides which, he was too heavy for her, and her back was strained.

“And so,” she said, “here we are, ruined in the prime of our youth and strength—you by a **drunkard**^①, and I by a fool; it is very hard.”

We both felt in ourselves that we were not what we had been. However that did not spoil the pleasure we had in each other’s company. We did not gallop about as we once did, but we used to feed and lie down together, and stand for hours under one of the shady **lime-trees**^② with our heads close to each other; and so we passed our time till the family returned from town.

One day we saw the Earl come into the meadow, and York was with him. Seeing who it Was, we stood still under our lime-tree, and let them come up to us. They examined us carefully. The Earl seemed much annoyed.

“There is three hundred pounds flung away for no **earthly**^③ use,” said he; “but what I care most for is, that these horses of my old friend, who thought they would find a good home with me, are **ruined**^④. The mare shall have a twelve-months’ run, and we shall see what that will do for her; but the black one must be sold; ’tis a great pity, but I could not have knees like these in my stables.”

“No, my lord, of course not,” said York, “but he might get a place where appearance is not of much **consequence**^⑤, and still be well trained. I know a man in Bath, the master of some livery stables, who often wants a good horse at a low **figure**^⑥; I know he looks well after his homes. The inquest cleared the home’s character, and your lordship’s

手。她精神高涨，全力奔跑终于跑进了前三名；但她的胸口碰了一下，而且骑手对她来说太重了，所以她的背也受伤了。

“就这样，”她说，“我们正当风华正茂，却毁于一旦；你被一个酒鬼害了，我毁在一个傻瓜手里，太残忍了！”

我们的身体状况都不如以前了，但那并没有影响我们彼此拥有对方为伴的快乐。虽然我们不再像从前一样奔跑，但我们常常一块儿吃草，一块儿躺在草场上，或者在菩提树下站上几个钟头，头挨着头。我们就这样度过了这段时光，等着亲人从城里回来。

一天俄尔伯爵来到了草场，约克陪着他，看见他们来了，我们仍站在树下，等待他们向我们这儿走过来，他们仔细检查我俩，伯爵好像被激怒了。

“即使花三百英镑也无济于事啦。”他说，“我最不能容忍的是，我老朋友本以为他的马可以在我这儿过得很愉快，但现在却给毁了。那母马先让她跑上一年以后，我们看看还能给她做点儿什么。但那匹黑马必须卖了，虽然很遗憾，但在我的马厩里我不能容忍任何一匹马带着那样的膝伤。”

“不能，当然不能，主人。”约克说，“但必须给他找一个不重相貌却能受到很好驯养的地方，在巴思我认识一个人，他拥有几个马厩，一直想低价买匹好马，我知道他照料马儿很周到，熟知马的特点，再加上我们跟他说一下马的情况，会给他很大帮助。”

① drunkard /'drʌŋkəd/ *n.* 酒鬼，醉汉

② lime-tree /laɪm-'tri:/ *n.* 菩提树

③ earthly /'ɜrθli/ *adj.* 地球的；可能的；俗世的（文中 *no earthly use* 连用指无济于事）

④ ruined /'ru:ɪnd/ *adj.* 毁灭的；荒废的

⑤ consequence /'kɒnsɪkwəns/ *n.* 结果；推论；推理

⑥ figure /'fɪgə/ *n.* 图形，形状，数字（文中指价格）

recommendation^① or mine would be sufficient warrant for him.”

“You had better write to him, York. I should be more particular about the place than the money he would fetch.”

After this they left us.

“They’ll soon take you away,” said Ginger, “and I shall lose the only friend I have, and most likely we shall never see each other again.’ Tiss a hard world! ”

About a week after this, Robert came into the field with a halter, which he slipped over my head and led me away. There was no leave-taking of Ginger; we neighed to each other as I was led off, and she trotted anxiously along by the hedge, calling to me as long as she could hear the sound of my feet.

Through the recommendation of York, I was bought by the master of the livery stables. I had to go by train, a new experience to me, **requiring**^② a good deal of courage the first time; but as I found the puffing, rushing, whistling, and more than all, the trembling of the horse-box in which I stood, did me no real harm, I soon took it quietly.

When I reached the end of my journey, I found myself in a tolerably comfortable stable and well **attended**^③ to. These stables were not so airy and pleasant as those I had been used to. The stalls were laid on a **slope**^④ instead of being level, and as my head was kept tied to the manger, I was obliged always to stand on the slope, which was very fatiguing. Men do not seem to know yet that horses can do more work if they can stand comfortably and can turn about.

However, I was well fed and well cleaned, and, on the whole, I think our master took as much care of us as he could. He kept a good many horses and carriages of different kinds, for hire. Sometimes his own men drove them; at others the horse and chaise were let to gentlemen or ladies who drove themselves.

① recommendation

/,rekəmen'deɪʃn/ n. 推荐优点,长处

② require /rɪ'kwaɪə (r)/ v. 需要,要求,命令(文中指考验)

③ attend /ə'tend/ v. 照顾,照料,侍候

④ slope /sləʊp/ n. 斜坡,倾斜,斜面

“你最好写信给他,约克。我更加关心马能有个好的归宿,而不是他能卖多少钱。”

此后,他们就离开了。

“他们很快会把你带走的。”金格说,“我就要失去我惟一的朋友,而且很可能我们再也没有机会见面了,这真是太悲惨了。”

从这以后大约一个礼拜,罗伯特来了,把带来的笼头套在我头上,就把我给牵走了。我和金格难舍难分彼此发出撕肝裂胆的哀鸣,金格沿着篱笆急切地追送着我,不停地向我大声喊,直到我的脚步声消失。

经约克的推荐,我被马房的主人给买走了。我必须乘火车走,这可真是一次新体验,对我而言这是一次考验。我发现火车会冒烟,向前冲,鸣笛,最重要的是我发现装我的笼子虽然抖动,但并不能伤害我,因此我很快就适应了。

到达旅途终点时,我被安置在还算不错的马厩里,而且我得到很好的照顾,虽然这些马厩不如以前我住的空气清新,令人愉快,栏舍、地面不是水平的,而是在斜坡上,当我的头伸向马槽时,我需要站在斜坡上,真是累人呀,人们大概不明白,如果马能舒服地站着或走动,他们会做更多的事。

不管怎样,我得到精心的照顾,最重要的是,我们的主人总是尽可能地关心我们,也有许多不同种类的马和车,可供租赁。有时是他自己的人驾驭,有时是租马和马车的先生或女士自己驾驭。

Chapter 28

A Job Horse and Its Drivers

Hitherto I had always been driven by people who at least knew how to drive; but in this place I was to get my experience of all the different kinds of bad and ignorant driving to which we horses are **subjected**^①; for I was a “**job-horse**^②”, and was let out to all sorts of people who wished to hire me; and as I was good-tempered and gentle, I think I was more often let out to the ignorant drivers than some of the other horses, because I could be depended upon. It would take a long time to tell of all the different styles in which I was driven, but I will mention a few of them.

First, there were the tight-rein drivers—men who seemed to think that all depended on holding the reins as hard as they could, never relaxing the pull on the horse’s mouth or giving him the least liberty of movement. These are always talking about “keeping the horse well in hand”, and “holding a horse up,” just as if a horse was not made to hold himself up.

Some poor broken-down horses, whose mouths have been made hard and **insensible**^③ by just such drivers as these, may, perhaps, find some support in it; but for a horse who can depend upon its own legs, has a

28

打工马和他的雇主们

在这以前，我一直被那些至少懂得如何骑马的人驾驭，但在这个地方，我却听命于那些根本不知道如何使唤马的人，因为我是一匹“打工马”，所以可以租给所有想雇我的人；又因为我脾气好、驯良，所以我比其他马儿更多地租给那些不懂驾驭的人，要把所有那些五花八门的驾车方式讲一遍还真要花些时间，就说说那么几种吧。

首先，是那些紧拉缰绳的骑手，即那些以为一切都在于紧紧拉着绳子的人，他们从不放松勒着马嘴的绳子，也从不给马一点活动的自由。他们总说“紧拉着马”，和“勒住那马”，好像马从不自己停下似的。

一些劳损的老马，由于长期受到这样不当的驱使，马的嘴受到损害，对控制不敏感了，或许勒紧缰绳管用，这样做还有情可原，但对那些有能力的马，完全能够轻松驾驭，这样做就显得很愚蠢。

① subject /'sʌbʒɪkt/ *v.* 使隶属，使受到

② job-horse /dʒɒb-hɔ:s/ *n.* 打工马

③ insensible /ɪn'sensəbl/ *adj.* 不知的，无知觉的，昏迷的（文中指不敏感）

tender^① mouth, and is easily guided, it is not only tormenting, but stupid.

Then there are the loose-rein drivers, who let the reins lie easily on our backs and their own hand rest lazily on their knees. Of course, such gentlemen have no control over a horse, if anything happens suddenly. If a horse **shies**^②, starts, or stumbles, they are nowhere, and cannot help the horse or themselves till the **mischief**^③ is done.

Of course, for myself, I had no objection to it, as I was not in the habit of either starting or stumbling, and had only been used to depend on my driver for guidance and encouragement; still, one likes to feel the rein a little in going downhill, and likes to know that one's driver has not gone to sleep.

Besides, a **slovenly**^④ way of driving gets a horse into bad, and often lazy, habits; and when he changes hands he has to be whipped out of them with more or less pain and trouble. Squire Gordon always kept us to our best pace and our best manners. He said that spoiling a horse and letting him get into bad habits was just as cruel as spoiling a child, and both had to suffer for it afterwards.

Moreover, these drivers are often altogether careless, and will attend to anything else rather than to their horses. I went out in the **phaeton**^⑤ one day with one of them; he had a lady and two children behind. He **flopped**^⑥ the reins about as we started, and, of course, gave me several **unmeaning**^⑦ cuts with the whip, though I was **fairly**^⑧ off. There had been a good deal of roadmending going on, and even where the stones were not freshly laid down there was a great many loose ones about. My driver was laughing and joking with the lady and the children, and talking about the country to the right and to the left; but he never thought it worth while to keep an eye on his horse, or to drive on the smoothest parts of the road; and so it easily happened that I got a stone

① tender /'tendə (r)/ *adj.* 嫩的; 敏感的, 一触就痛的;

② shy /ʃaɪ/ *v.* 乱投, 乱掷(文中指突然乱跑)

③ mischief /'mɪʃɪf/ *n.* 伤害, 故障, 危害(文中指不幸发生)

④ slovenly /'slʌvnlɪ/ *adj.* 懒散的; 不修边幅的(文中指变懒)

⑤ phaeton /'feɪtən/ *n.* 双头四轮轻型马车; 敞篷马车

⑥ flop /flop/ *v.* 笨重地摔, 乱抖, 笨拙地抛下

⑦ unmeaning /'unmi:nɪŋ/ *adj.* 无意义的; 无表情的

⑧ fairly /'ferli/ *adv.* 公平地, 清楚地, 相当地

接着便是那些放松缰绳的驾驭者。他们把缰绳任意搭在我们的后背上, 而他们的手懒懒地放在膝盖上, 这样如果意外发生了, 这些绅士就不知道如何处理了, 如果马儿突然跑起来或绊了一跤, 他们就会不知所措, 难以控制马和他们自己, 从而导致不幸发生。

当然, 对我自己来说, 我并不反对放松缰绳, 因为我没有前冲和绊脚的习惯, 也不依赖于我的骑手给我指引和鼓励; 但是, 下坡时马却喜欢被缰绳拉着一点儿, 这样便可知道他的骑手没有睡着。

另外, 不认真不正确的驾驭方式就会使马变坏、变懒, 如果再想改变他们的坏习惯, 这些马就要吃些苦头了。高登先生总让我们保持优雅的步伐和举止, 他说损害一匹马使马养成坏习惯, 就像害了一个孩子似的残酷, 以后都会遭到报应。

而且, 这些驾骑者总是不认真, 想着别的事儿, 从不关心马, 我就遇上这样一位, 有一天我拉着敞篷马车跟着这位雇主出去了, 车上有一个女士和两个孩子, 这位先生从我们一开始上路就乱抖缰绳, 用鞭子毫无意义地抽我, 那里正在大修马路, 即使在没有新石堆积的地方, 也会有许多散落的小石头。这位先生跟女士和孩子说说笑笑, 谈天说地, 就是不知道他需要照看马, 应该让马在最平坦的路面行驶。所以毫不奇怪我的前蹄儿扎进了一颗石子儿。

in one of my **fore**^① feet.

Now, if Mr. Gordon or John, or, in fact, any good driver, had been there, he would have seen that something was wrong before I had gone three paces. Or, even if it had been dark, a practised hand would have felt by the rein that there was something wrong in the step, and would have got down and picked out the stone. But this man went on laughing and talking whilst at every step the stone became more firmly **wedged**^② between my shoe and the frog of my foot. The stone was sharp on the inside and round on the outside, which, as every one knows, is the most dangerous kind that a horse can pick up, as it cuts his foot and at the same time makes him most **liable**^③ to stumble and fall.

Whether the man was partly blind or only very careless, I can't say; but he drove me with that stone in my foot for a good half mile before he saw, anything was wrong. By that time I was going so **lame**^④ with the pain that at last he saw it, and called out, "Well, here's a go! Why, they have sent us out with a lame horse! What a shame! "

He then jerked the reins and flipped about with the whip, saying, "Now, then, it's no use playing the old soldier with me; there's the journey to go, and it's no use turning lame and lazy. "

Just at this time a farmer came riding up on a brown **cob**^⑤; he lifted his hat and pulled up.

"I beg your pardon, sir," he said, "but! think there is something the matter with your horse; he goes very much as if he had a stone in his shoe. If you will allow me, I will look at his feet; these loose, scattered stones are very dangerous things for the horses."

"He's a hired horse," said the driver. "I don't know what's the matter with him, but it's a great shame to send out a lame beast like this."

① fore /fɔ:/ *n.* 前部; 前桅; 前蹄

② wedge /wedʒ/ *n.* 楔子, 起因, 楔形物 (文中指尖型石子)

③ liable /'laɪəbl/ *adj.* 有...倾向的, 应负责的 (文中指可能)

④ lame /leɪm/ *v.* 使成残废 (文中指一瘸一拐)

⑤ cob /kɒb/ *n.* 玉米穗轴; 结实的矮脚马 (文中指马牵引的车)

如果换了高登先生, 约翰或任何一位好驭手, 我不出三步他们都能发现哪儿出了毛病。即使是个新手, 也会发现我的步伐不对劲儿, 然后下来把石子弄走, 但这个人只管说笑, 石头在我的脚掌上, 我每多走一步就多几分疼痛, 石头内尖外圆, 就是那种众所周知的马所能碰到的最危险的石头, 因为它割开马蹄的同时可能使马绊倒摔跤。

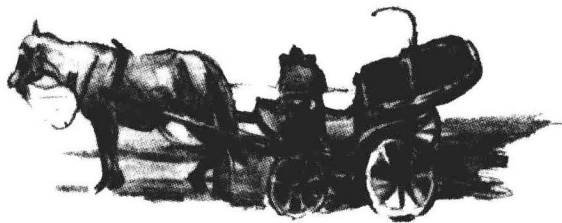
这人是半瞎还是完全不小心, 我不知道, 但他让我带着那块石头足足走了半英里, 才发现不对劲儿, 那时我一瘸一拐地走着, 他见了叫了起来: “嗯, 这是怎么回事? 他们给了我们一匹瘸马, 真不要脸。”

他然后就拽住缰绳抖起来, 用鞭子抽我, 说: “好, 现在跟我装老没用, 我们要走路, 装瘸装懒也不行!”

就在这时候, 一个农夫驾着褐色的车经过, 他摘下帽子停下。

“对不起, 先生,” 他说, “我想你的马遇到了什么麻烦, 他走起来像有块石头卡在脚里, 如果你允许, 我来检查一下他的蹄子, 那些散乱的石头对马可真危险啊。”

“这是一匹雇来的马,” 我的雇主说, “但



The farmer **dismounted**^①, and, slipping his rein over his arm, at once took up my near foot.

“Bless me, there’s a stone. Lamé! I should think so! ”

At first he tried to **dislodge**^② it with his hand, but as it was now very tightly **wedged**^③, he drew a **stone-pick**^④ out of his pocket, and very carefully, and with some trouble, got it out. Then, holding it up, he said, “there, that’s the stone your horse has picked up; it is a wonder he did not fall down and break his knees into the bargain! ”

“Well, to be sure! ” said my driver. “That is a **queer**^⑤ thing; I never knew before that horses picked up stones.”

“Didn’t you? ” said the farmer rather **contemptuously**^⑥; “but they do, though, and the best of them will do it, and can’t help it sometimes on such roads as these. And if you don’t want to lame your horse, you must look sharp and get them out quickly. This foot is very much bruised,” he said, setting it gently down and patting me. “If I may advise, sir, you had better drive him gently for a while; the foot is a good deal hurt, and the lameness will not go off directly.”

Then, mounting his cob, and raising his hat to the lady, he drove off.

When he was gone, my driver began to **flop**^⑦ the reins about and whip the harness, by which I understood that I was to go on, which of course I did, glad that the stone was gone, but still in a good deal of pain.

This was the sort of experience we job-horses often had.

① dismount /dis'maunt/ v. 下车, 下马, 使下马

② dislodge /dis'lodge/ v. 逐出, 使移动; 离开原位 (文中指取出)

③ wedged /wedʒ/ v. 楔入, 楔进

④ stone-pick /stəʊn-pik/ n. 镊子

⑤ queer /kwɪə/ adj. 奇怪的, 可疑的, 不舒服的

⑥ contemptuous /con'temptjuəs/ adj. 轻蔑的, 瞧不起人的, 侮辱的

⑦ flop /flop/ v. 笨重的摔, 猛落; 笨拙地抛下 (文中指抖, 抽)

我不知道他哪儿出毛病了。租这样的瘸家伙，真是丢脸的事儿。”

农夫下马，把缰绳扣在胳膊上，立即靠近了我的蹄子。

“天哪，有一块石头，瘸马！我猜对了。”

起初他想用手取出石头，但石头陷得很深，他从口袋里取出一只镊子，非常小心地把石头取出来，当然挺费劲啦，然后举起石子儿，说：“这就是你的马蹄子上的石头，太奇怪了，他怎么没有倒下，那样就会摔断他的膝盖。”

“噢，真的呀。”我的雇主说，“可真奇了，我从不知道马蹄子上也会扎进石头。”

“难道你不知道吗？”农夫蔑视地说，“但他们会的，最好的马也会，若是走这样的路扎进石头更不可避免。如果你不想让马变瘸，你就得小心照顾他们而且要及时取出石头。马蹄淤血了，”他说，把石头轻轻扔了，拍拍我，“我建议你，先生，你最好待会儿悠着点儿驾车，马蹄子受伤太深了，不会立即就好。”

然后他跨上车，对着女士抬抬头上的帽子，以示道别，驾车走了。

他走之后，我的雇主又开始抖缰绳，抽鞭子，这样我明白我不得不继续走，我当然得走了。令我高兴的是石头没有了，但脚仍很疼。

这就是我们打工马常有的经历。

Chapter 29

Cockneys

Then there is the steam-engine style of driving; these drivers were mostly people from towns, who never had a horse of their own, and generally travelled by rail.

They always seemed to think that a horse was something like a steam-en-gine only smaller. At any rate, they think that if only they pay for it, a horse is bound to go just as far, and just as fast, and with just as heavy a load, as they please. And be the roads heavy and **muddy**^①, or dry and good, be they stony or smooth, uphill or downhill, it is all the same—on, on, one must go at the same pace, with no **relief**^② and no **consideration**^③.

These people never think of getting out to walk up a steep hill. Oh, no, they have paid to ride, and ride they will. The horse? Oh, he's used to it! What were horses made for, if not to drag people uphill? Walk! A good joke, indeed! And so the whip is **plied**^④, and the rein is **jerked**^⑤, and often a rough, scolding voice cries out, "Go along, you lazy beast! " And then comes another slash of the whip, when all the time we are doing our very best to get along, **uncomplaining**^⑥ and