

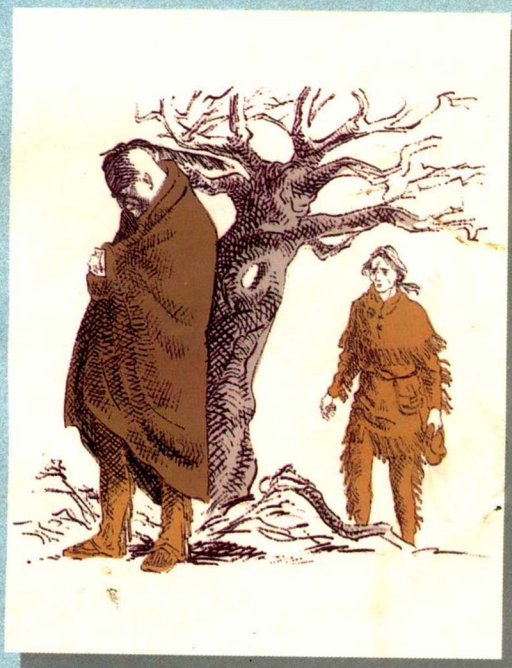
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The Last of the Mohicans

最后的莫希干人

James Fenimore Cooper



西蒙与舒斯特国际出版公司
世界图书出版公司

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James Fenimore Cooper 原著

John M. Hurdy 改写

江南大学图书馆



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A PACEMAKER CLASSIC: The Last of the Mohicans

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序

世界图书出版公司北京公司出版的《有声名著精选》乃是很好的泛读及听说材料，适合高中及大学低年级学生学英语之用，对于自学英语的人也非常合适。其特点大致有四：

一、简写本出自西方语言学专家之手，文字流畅，语言规范，用词造句都是经过深思熟虑的，完全合乎现代英语习惯。改写者极为重视词汇、语法及修辞的基本用法，力求文字清新流畅，浅显易懂，准确而且实用。很多句子本身便是某一词汇、语法用法的很好的例句。

二、简写本多为欧美文学经典作品，这些作品在不同程度上反映欧美社会的各个方面。尤其是一些进步作家如：狄更斯、马克·吐温，他们在作品中深刻地剖析了他们自己所处的社会，读这些作品比读西方政治经济学还有益处。文化背景知识不是可有可无的，只有较广泛地了解欧美社会的各个方面，欧美人的生活、风俗、习惯，以及各种价值观念，才有可能在实际工作中得心应手地使用语言，应付裕如。

三、简写本的中文前言分别对原著作者、时代背景、内容梗概及作品特点作了介绍，并附有人物表，相信对读者进一步理解作品会有所帮助。

四、与简写本配套的朗读磁带，语音语调纯正，可以作为学习发音的楷模。

广泛阅读是学习英语的必由之径。精泛并举，“两条腿走路”，方能掌握语言。精读提供理性知识，泛读提供感性知识，二者不可或缺。通过泛读，许多语言现象会被自然而然地吸收、掌握。这些

词汇及语法现象在泛读中重复出现多次,读者不需强记便能正确地掌握他们,而且不会忘记。所以广泛阅读乃是学习外语的重要环节,不可忽视。简写本为泛读提供了方便。

这些简写本的出版非常及时,希望以后还有更多的简写本出版,以飨读者。

上海复旦大学外文系教授

索天章

1997年5月

前言

本书原著作者詹姆斯·费尼莫·库珀(James Fenimore Cooper, 1789~1851),是19世纪美国著名小说家。他生于美国新泽西州一个大地主家庭,后移居到纽约以其父亲姓氏命名的库珀镇。他曾就读于耶鲁大学法学系,但中途辍学,还曾做过5年的海员。

库珀最初写作只出于好胜,处女作《警惕》(Precaution, 1820)并不成功。第二部作品《间谍》(The Spy, 1821)受到了好评,他也因此走上了文学家之路。他一生创作了近50部作品,除长篇小说外还有旅行随笔、政论、讽刺小品、寓言故事等。但决定了他在美国文学史上地位的作品是他的长篇小说。

库珀在美国文学史上开创了3种不同类型小说:革命历史小说,如描写美国革命的《间谍》、海上冒险小说,如《舵手》(The Pilot, 1823)和边疆题材小说。最著名的边疆题材小说是五部曲《皮袜子故事集》(The Leather-Stocking Tales)。故事以一个生长在印第安人中间,同情印第安人的白人纳蒂·班波(Natty Bumppo)一生的经历为穿线(他总是系着鹿皮的绑腿,因此得了“皮袜子”的绰号),按故事情节发展的时间顺序排列应包括《猎鹿人》(Deeslayer, 1841)、《最后的莫希干人》(The Last of the Mohicans, 1826)、《探路者》(The Pathfinder, 1840)、《拓荒者》(The Pioneers, 1823)和《草原》(Prairie, 1827)五部长篇小说。故事集揭露了殖民主义者对印第安人的无情掠夺和残酷迫害,反映了美国早期移民艰苦创业的生活。这本故事集是库珀最有成就的作品,其中以《最后的莫希干人》最为出色。

《最后的莫希干人》的故事发生在1757年。英法殖民者为掠

夺印第安人的土地而发生战争。双方都利用当地不同部落的印第安人作雇佣军,充当他们的炮灰。同时又利用一个印第安人因受英军迫害而劫走了司令的两个女儿这件事,挑拨离间,使得印第安两个部落之间相互残杀,最后导致莫希干族的最后一个后裔——勇敢、善良、真诚的温卡斯(Uncas)在残杀中死亡,整个部落终于绝灭。

库珀是美国文学史上第一位描写民族题材的作家。同时,他的小说里流露着对印第安人的同情。这同他的早年生活有关。他早年生活的库珀镇在印第安人区域附近。从小的耳闻目睹使他熟悉了印第安人的风俗习惯,了解了许多印第安人的英勇事迹,也看到了他们的悲惨命运。在所有描写美国印第安人的小说中,《最后的莫希干人》是其中一部经典之作。

北京外国语大学 朱雪云

1997年4月

Cast of Characters

Hawkeye	An English scout
Chingachgook	A Mohican chief
Uncas	Chingachgook's son, the last Mohican brave
Cora and Alice Munro	The daughters of Colonel Munro
Colonel Munro	An English officer, commander of Fort William Henry
Magua	A Huron scout
Major Duncan Heyward	An English officer, escorting the Munro sisters to the fort
David Gamut	A singing teacher

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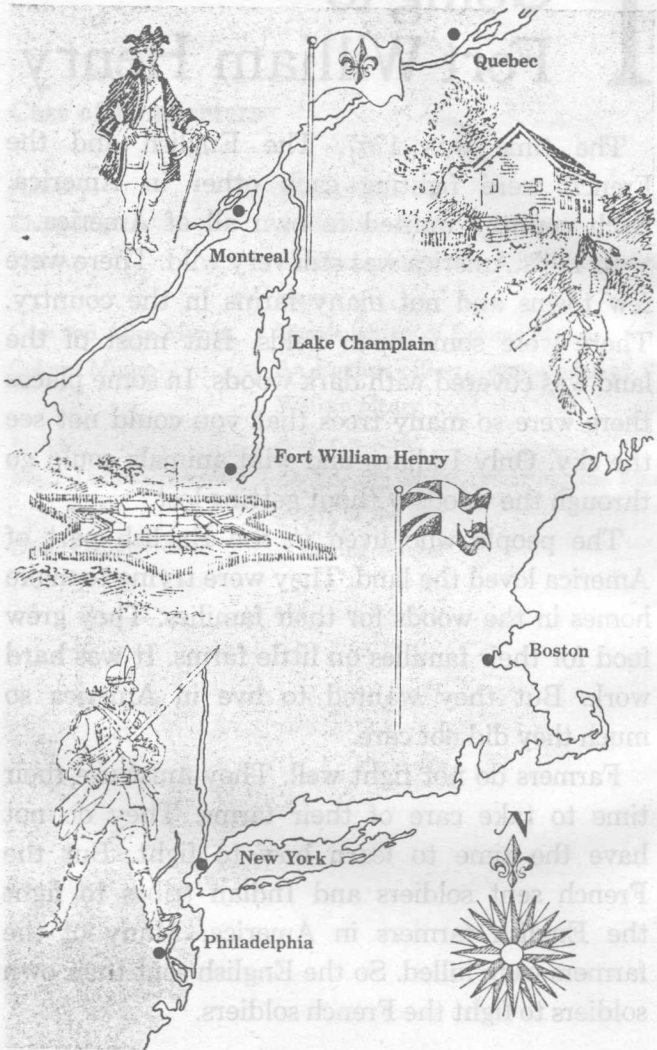
1 Going to Fort William Henry

The time was 1757. The English and the French were fighting each other in America. Each country wanted to own all of America.

In 1757, America was still very wild. There were few towns and not many farms in the country. There were some open fields. But most of the land was covered with dark woods. In some places there were so many trees that you could not see the sky. Only Indians and wild animals could go through the woods without getting lost.

The people who lived in the English part of America loved the land. They were trying to make homes in the woods for their families. They grew food for their families on little farms. It was hard work. But they wanted to live in America so much they did not care.

Farmers do not fight well. They must use their time to take care of their farms. They do not have the time to learn how to fight. But the French sent soldiers and Indian tribes to fight the English farmers in America. Many of the farmers were killed. So the English sent their own soldiers to fight the French soldiers.



That is why Cora and Alice Munro came from England. Their father, Colonel Munro, was an English soldier. Cora had dark hair and brown eyes. Alice had blue eyes and light hair. Some people thought Cora was more beautiful than Alice. Other people thought Alice was more beautiful than Cora. But it did not matter, because they were both beautiful. And they were as nice to be with as they were pretty.

The two sisters could have stayed in England away from the fighting. There they could have gone to parties and shopped for new clothes. But their father was a soldier. When he was sent to America, Cora and Alice came with him.

Colonel Munro commanded the English soldiers at Fort William Henry. There were not many soldiers at Fort William Henry. That was bad at any time. But then word came that the French were on the move. They were bringing up "as many men as there are leaves on the trees." They were coming to try to take Fort William Henry.

The French were willing to do anything to win. They got the Huron and the Delaware Indians to help them. They gave these Indians many presents to kill the English. This was very bad for the farmers, because Indians did not fight like soldiers. They killed not only men, but women and

children, too. At night they would make a surprise attack on a farmer's house. Sometimes the Indians would kill only one of the family. At other times, no one was left when the Indians were through.

Cora and Alice had been visiting some friends many miles from Fort William Henry. Then they heard that the French were coming. They wanted to go to their father's side.

But how could they get home? Fort William Henry was a long ride away. The girls could not go alone.

Major Duncan Heyward was a soldier under Colonel Munro's command. He was going back to Fort William Henry. He said he would take the girls back with him.

In those days English soldiers had coats of bright red. That was why they were called Redcoats. Major Heyward had on a bright red coat, too. But he was better looking than most soldiers.

Major Heyward liked both girls, but he loved Alice. He found two good horses for Cora and Alice to ride. And he brought along his Indian scout, Magua, to show them the way.

Magua had a tomahawk and a scalping knife. His face was covered with colored paints. But still, Magua did not look like most Indians.

Just as the four of them were about to start off, a man rode up. He was thin, and so was his horse. His clothes were too short for him. And he was too long for his horse. He did not ride his horse well. In short, he looked like a clown in the circus riding a circus horse.

The girls, who were very kind, tried hard not to laugh.

"Who are you?" Major Heyward asked.

"I, my good man, am a singing teacher," answered the thin man.

"A singing teacher!" Major Heyward could not believe his ears.

The thin man said, "That is right. I teach people how to sing."

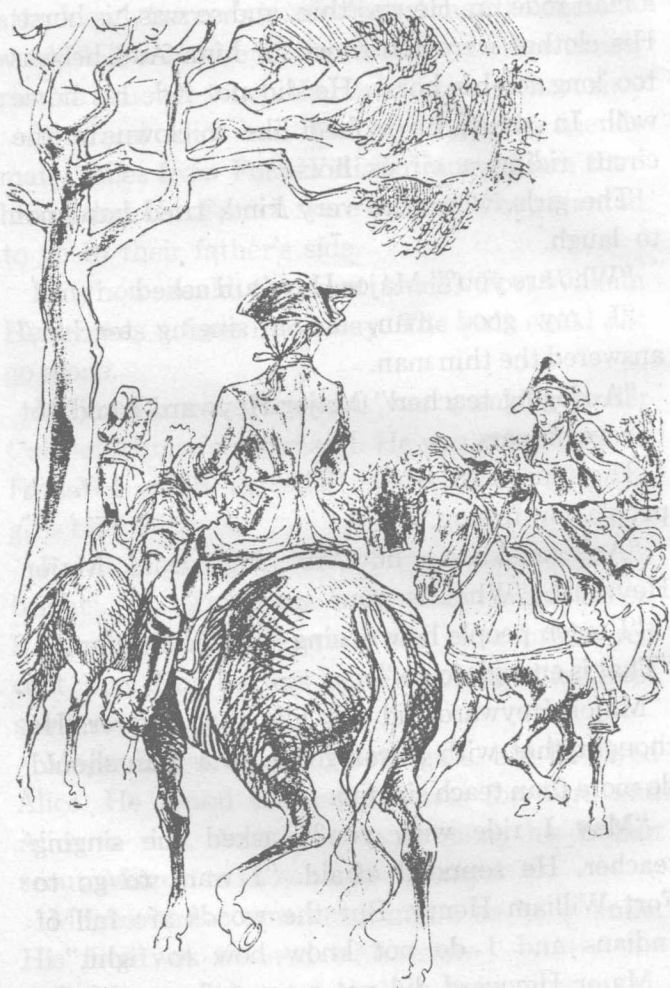
"Anyone knows how to sing," said Major Heyward. "What is your work?"

"I teach people how to sing," said the thin man. "That is enough to do."

Major Heyward did not like that answer. He thought that with a war going on a man should do more than teach singing.

"May I ride with you?" asked the singing teacher. He sounded afraid. "I want to go to Fort William Henry. But the woods are full of Indians and I do not know how to fight."

Major Heyward did not want to have to take



care of a singing teacher. It was enough to watch out for two girls. But Alice liked singing.

"Let him come with us, Duncan," she said.

Major Heyward could never say no to Alice.

"I will sing a song for you, my dear," said the singing teacher to Alice. He said this as though he were giving her a present.

They had not gone far when Major Heyward cried, "What was that?" He pulled his horse to a stop. He thought he had seen a face through the branches of a tree.

Magua rode back to the Major. "Come," Magua said. "No time to stop."

"No," said Major Heyward. "I saw something behind those trees." He looked into the woods.

"Do you think you could see something I could not?" Magua laughed. "Indian eyes are better than white eyes. There is nothing in the trees but birds."

But Magua was lying. After Major Heyward's party rode on, an Indian stepped out from the trees. He was a Huron, and he was painted for war. The Huron took careful note of the trail the party was taking.

Magua knew the Hurons were watching them. But he did not know the woods held three other men.

2 Lost in the Woods

One of the three other men in the woods was a white man. His name was Hawkeye. He was a scout for the English.

Hawkeye was tall and thin. He was wearing clothes made from the skins of deer. The sun had browned his face. And time had put a little gray in his hair. But he was very strong. And he knew as much about the woods as any Indian. He had always lived in the woods.

The other two men were Indians. But they were not Hurons. They were the last two men left of a great tribe of Indians. Chingachgook and his son, Uncas, were the last of the Mohicans.

The Mohicans were painted all over. They did not wear many clothes. And on their heads they had just one long band of hair. This band was for their enemies to scalp—if they could. They had tied feathers into their hair.

Chingachgook was sitting on a log. Near him was a dead deer that Uncas had shot. Hawkeye was filling his powder horn.