



经典读库
名家
名作

英汉对照

ENGLISH-CHINESE EDITION

SELECTED SHORT STORIES
OF GUY DE MAUPASSANT

莫泊桑短篇小说精选

莫泊桑/著

青 闰 李丽君/译注



外文出版社

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导读

居伊·德·莫泊桑（1850~1893），十九世纪后期自然主义文学潮流中的大作家。他继承了法国现实主义文学的传统，又受到了左拉的影响，带有明显的自然主义倾向，在短暂的一生中取得了令人瞩目的文学成就。他的短篇小说数量巨大，达到的艺术水平，在法国文学乃至世界文学史上，都不同凡响，被誉为“短篇小说之王”。

莫泊桑的短篇小说描绘的生活面非常广泛，构成了十九世纪下半期法国社会的全景风俗画。小说题材既丰富多彩，又有三个突出重点：普法战争、巴黎的小公务员生活以及诺曼底地区乡镇的风光和轶事。更重要的是，他把现实主义短篇小说的艺术提高到了一个前所未有的水平。

莫泊桑在创作历程中始终关注普法战争，是对这场战争描绘得最多的法国作家，其中的著名短篇有《羊脂球》、《菲菲小姐》、《女疯子》、《两个朋友》、《米隆老爹》、《一场决斗》、《俘虏》等。

莫泊桑是公务员和小职员阶层在文学上的代表，在这方面的出色短篇有《骑马》、《珠宝》、《我的叔叔于勒》、《项链》、《散步》等。

莫泊桑还把诺曼底地区城镇乡村五光十色的生活带入了法国文学，《瞎子》、《小狗皮埃罗》、《在乡下》、《一次政变》、《绳子》、《老人》、《小酒桶》等作品都是关于这方面的题材。

莫泊桑在文学史上的首要贡献，在于把短篇小说艺术提高到了一个空前水平。逼真自然是莫泊桑在短篇小说创作中追求的首要目标，也是他现实主义小说艺术的重要标志。在选材上，莫泊桑的短篇大都以日常生活的故事为内容，没有人工编排和臆造的戏剧性，

以一种真实自然的叙述艺术与描写艺术吸引人。在描述中，莫泊桑不用情节作为短篇的支架与线路，总是以纤细隐蔽、几乎看不见的线索将一些可信小事巧妙地连在一起。在对人物的描绘上，莫泊桑致力于描写处于常态的感情、灵魂和理智的发展，表现人物内心的真实与本性的自然。

莫泊桑艺术描写逼真自然，形象鲜明，不拘成法，自由运用各种手法。在描述对象上，有时是一个完整故事，有时是事件的某个片断，有时是某个场景，有时是一段心理活动与精神状态。既有故事性强的，也有情节淡化甚至根本没有情节的；既有人物众多的，也有人物单一甚至还有根本没有人物的。在描述时序上，有顺叙，有倒叙，有插叙，有现在与过去的交叉。在描述角度上，有客观描述的，也有主观描述的，有时描述者与事件保持了时空的距离，有时描述者则又是事件的参加者，有时描述者有明确的身份，有时则又身份不明。莫泊桑大大丰富了短篇小说的描述方式，提高了叙述艺术的水平，为后来的短篇小说创作开辟了更为广阔的道路。

莫泊桑善于以白描的笔法进行勾画，而以丰富鲜明的色彩进行细致描绘也是他的独特才能。莫泊桑堪称法国文学史中的语言大师之一，他摒弃华丽的辞藻，使用最规范的语言，追求“一个字适得其所的力量”。他的文学语言清晰、简洁、准确、生动，像一池透明的清水。他的语言不仅与他精练的叙述方式、简明的白描手法浑然天成，而且在写景状物、绘声绘色上也具有极强的表现力。正是以这种优美的语言，莫泊桑对诺曼底的山川平野、小镇风貌、田舍风光、渔家景象、巴黎街景和自然景色进行了出神入化的描绘。

屠格涅夫称莫泊桑是十九世纪末法国文坛上“最卓越的天才”。托尔斯泰认为，莫泊桑的小说具有“形式的美感”和“鲜明的爱憎”，他之所以是天才，是因为他“不是按照他希望看到的样子而是照事物本来的样子来看事物”。左拉说，莫泊桑的作品“丰富多彩，精彩绝妙，令人叹为观止”。

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..... 莫泊桑短篇小说精选



01

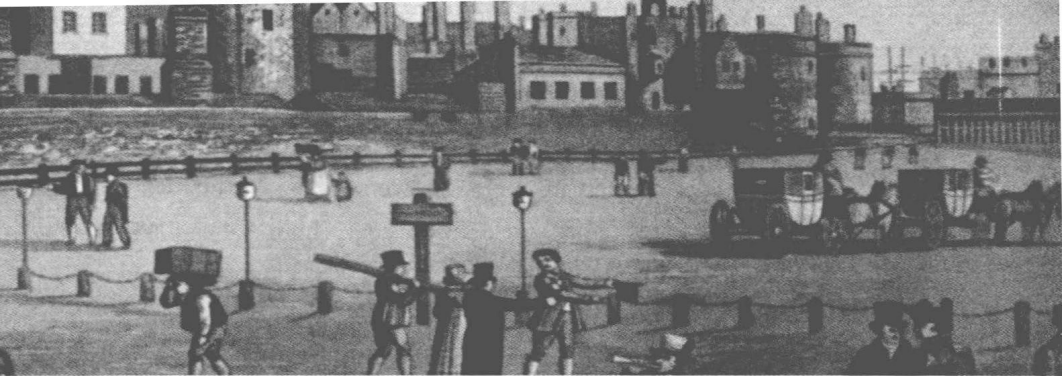
My Uncle Jules

A whitebeard begged us for alms. My companion, Joseph Davranche, gave him five francs. Noticing my surprised look, he said: “That poor man reminds me of a story which I shall tell you, the memory of which continually **pursues**^① me. Here it is:

“My family, which came originally from **Le Havre**^②, was not rich. We just managed to **make both ends meet**^③. My father worked hard, came home late from the office, and earned very little. I had two sisters.

“My mother suffered a good deal from our **reduced circumstances**^④, and she often had harsh words for her husband, veiled and sly **reproaches**^⑤. The poor man then made a gesture which used to distress me. He would pass his open hand over his forehead, as if to wipe away **perspiration**^⑥ which did not exist, and he would answer nothing. I felt his helpless suffering. We economized on everything, and never would accept an invitation to dinner, so as not to have to return the courtesy. All our provisions were bought at bargain sales. My sisters made their own gowns, and long discussions would arise on the price of a piece of braid worth fifteen **centimes**^⑦ a yard. Our meals usually consisted of soup and beef, prepared with every kind of sauce. They say it is wholesome and nourishing, but I should have preferred a change.

“I used to go through terrible **scenes**^⑧ on account of lost buttons and torn trousers.



我的叔叔于勒

① pursue /pə'sjuː/
vi. 追赶; 追踪

② Le Havre
/lə'hɑ:vre/ 勒阿弗尔 (法国港市)

③ make both ends meet 量入为出

④ reduced circumstances n.
贫困生活; 穷困潦倒的处境

⑤ reproach
/ri'prəʊt/ n. 责备; 斥责; 指责

⑥ perspiration
/ˌpɜ:spə'reɪʃən/
n. 汗 (水)

⑦ centime /'sɛ:nti:m/
n. 生丁 (= 1/100 法郎)

⑧ scene /si:n/ n.
发脾气; 争吵; 吵闹

一个白胡老人向我们乞求施舍。我的同伴约瑟夫·达夫朗什给了他五法郎。注意到我惊讶的表情，他说：“这个可怜人使我想起一件事，对这件事的回忆不断纠缠着我。我告诉你，事情是这样的：

“我家最初来自勒阿弗尔市，并不富裕。我们仅能勉强度日。父亲拼命工作，很晚才下班回家，挣的钱并不多。我还有两个姐姐。

“我们穷困潦倒，母亲为此非常痛苦，常常对丈夫说一些刻薄无情的话，背地里偷偷指责他。每当此时，这个可怜人总是做出一个常常让我难过的姿势。他总是张开手按一下额头，仿佛要抹去并不存在的汗水，而且他总是什么也不回答。我体会得到他无助的痛苦。我们样样东西都省着用，从不接受赴宴的邀请，以免不得不回请。我们所有的日用品买的都是减价货。姐姐们的衣服都是她们自己做的，价值十五生丁一码的一条饰带也总要讨价还价半天。我们吃的饭通常是肉汤和备有各种调料的牛肉。据说那样既卫生又营养，但我宁愿换换花样。

“我常常因而丢失钮扣和扯破裤子而遭到臭骂。

“Every Sunday, dressed in our best, we would take our walk along the breakwater. My father, in a frock coat, high hat and kid gloves, would offer his arm to my mother, decked out and **beribboned**^⑨ like a ship on a holiday. My sisters, who were always ready first, would await the signal for leaving; but at the last minute some one always found a spot on my father’s frock coat, and it had to be wiped away quickly with a rag moistened with **benzine**^⑩.

“My father, in his shirt sleeves, his silk hat on his head, would await the completion of the operation, while my mother, putting on her spectacles, and taking off her gloves in order not to spoil them, would make haste.

“Then we set out **ceremoniously**^⑪. My sisters marched on ahead, arm in arm. They were of marriageable age and had to be displayed. I walked on the left of my mother and my father on her right. I remember the **pompous**^⑫ air of my poor parents in these Sunday walks, their stern expression, their stiff walk. They moved slowly, with a serious expression, their bodies straight, their legs stiff, as if something of extreme importance depended upon their appearance.

“Every Sunday, when the big steamers were returning from unknown and distant countries, my father would **invariably**^⑬ utter the same words: ‘What a surprise it would be if Jules were on that one! Eh?’

“My Uncle Jules, my father’s brother, was the only hope of the family, after being its only fear. I had heard about him since childhood, and it seemed to me that I should recognize him immediately, knowing as much about him as I did. I knew every detail of his life up to the day of his departure for America, although this period of his life was spoken of only in **hushed**^⑭ tones.

“It seems that he had led a bad life, that is to say, he had **squandered**^⑮ a little money, which action, in a poor family, is one of the greatest crimes. With rich people a man who amuses himself

- ⑨ **beribboned**
/bi'ribənd/ *adj.*
有饰缎带的
- ⑩ **benzene**
/benzi'n/ *n.*
汽油
- ⑪ **ceremoniously**
/,seri'məunjəsli/
adv. 隆重地
- ⑫ **pompous**
/'pɒmpəs/ *adj.*
浮夸的; 傲慢的
- ⑬ **invariably**
/in'veəriəb(ə)li/
adv. 不变地;
总是
- ⑭ **hush** /hʌʃ/ *vt.*
使肃静; 使沉默
- ⑮ **squander**
/'skwɒndə/ *vt.*
浪费

“每到星期天，我们都身穿节日盛装，沿着防波堤散步。父亲身穿双排扣长礼服，戴着高顶硬礼帽和羔皮手套，总是伸手臂给母亲挽着；母亲饰着缎带，打扮得像节日里的轮船。姐姐们总是最先准备好，等候出发的信号；但到了最后一分钟，总有人在父亲的双排扣长礼服上发现一个污点，于是不得不赶快用一块蘸着汽油的破布擦掉。

“父亲只穿衬衫，头戴大礼帽，等候着污渍给擦干净，而母亲也总是忙不迭地戴上眼镜，脱掉手套，以免弄脏。

“随后，我们就隆重出发了。姐姐们彼此挽着胳膊走在前面。她们都到了结婚年龄，必须得露露脸。我和父亲一左一右簇拥着母亲。我至今记得可怜的父母每当星期天散步时那自命不凡的样子，表情严肃，步伐僵硬。他们一脸庄重，身体绷直，腿部僵硬，缓缓前行，好像一件极其重要的事情取决于他们的出现。

“每星期天，当那些大汽船从不知名的遥远国家回来时，父亲总会说着同一句话：‘要是于勒在那艘船上，那会多么让人惊喜啊！对吧？’

“父亲的弟弟于勒叔叔原先是家里唯一的祸害，现在则是家里唯一的希望。我小时候就听人说起过他，我对他知道的是那么多，好像一见面我就会马上认出他。我对他动身去美洲以前的每个生活细节都了如指掌，尽管人们说起他的这段生活时反而压低了声音。

“好像他曾经生活放荡，也就是说，他挥霍过一点钱，这种行为对于一个贫穷家庭来说简直就是最大的犯罪。对富人来说，一个寻欢作乐的人只不

only **sows his wild oats**^⑭. He is what is generally called a **sport**^⑮. But among needy families a boy who forces his parents to break into the capital becomes a good-for-nothing, a rascal, a **scamp**^⑯.

“And this distinction is just, although the act be the same, for consequences alone determine the seriousness of the act.

“Well, Uncle Jules had visibly **diminished**^⑰ the inheritance on which my father had counted, after he had swallowed his own to the last penny.

“Then, according to the custom of the times, he had been shipped off to America on a freighter going from Havre to New York.

“Once there, my uncle began to sell something or other, and he soon wrote that he was making a little money and that he soon hoped to be able to **indemnify**^⑱ my father for the harm he had done him. This letter caused a profound emotion in the family. Jules, who up to that time had not been **worth his salt**^⑲, suddenly became a good man, a kind-hearted fellow, true and honest like all the Davranches.

“One of the captains told us that he had rented a large shop and was doing an important business.

“Two years later a second letter came, saying: ‘My dear Philippe, I am writing to tell you not to worry about my health, which is excellent. Business is good. I leave to-morrow for a long trip to South America. I may be away for several years without sending you any news. If I shouldn’t write, don’t worry. When my fortune is made I shall return to Havre. I hope that it will not be too long and that we shall all live happily together...’

“This letter became the gospel of the family. It was read **on the slightest provocation**^⑳, and it was shown to everybody.

“For ten years nothing was heard from Uncle Jules; but as time went on my father’s hope grew, and my mother, also, often said: ‘When that good Jules is here, our position will be different. There is one who knew how to get along!’

“And every Sunday, while watching the big steamers approaching

- ⑩ sow one's wild
oats 放荡
- ⑪ sport /spɔ:t/ n.
(美俚) 好酒色
的人; 爱享受
的人
- ⑫ scamp /skæmp/
n. 流氓
- ⑬ diminish
/di'miniʃ/ v.
减少
- ⑭ indemnify
/in'demifai/ v.
赔偿
- ⑮ worth one's salt
称职; 胜任
- ⑯ on the slightest
provocation 动
不动就

过算生活放荡，常常被人称为花花公子。但在贫困家庭里，如果一个男孩逼得父母动用本钱，那他就是废物、流氓、无赖。

“尽管行为一样，但这样区别是公正的，因为只有后果决定行为的严重性。

“那么，于勒叔叔不仅将自己那份遗产挥霍一空，显然也削减了我父亲指望得到的那份遗产。

“于是，根据当时的风俗，他被送上了一艘从勒阿弗尔市到纽约的货船，前往美洲。

“一到那里，于勒叔叔就开始做起了买卖，不久写信来说他要赚点钱，有望不久能够补偿以前他对我父亲造成的损失。这封信在家里引起了极大震动。此前一文不值的于勒一下子变成了好人、善人，像达夫朗什家的所有人一样忠诚老实。

“一位船长告诉我们说他租赁了一个大店铺，在做大买卖。

“两年后，来了第二封信，信上说：‘我亲爱的菲利普：我写信，是告诉你不要为我的健康担心，我身体很好。生意也不错。我明天动身远赴南美。我可能会离开好几年，其间不给你发任何消息。如果我不写信，请不要担心。等发了大财，我就回到勒阿弗尔。我希望这不会太久，我们大家会幸福地生活在一起……’

“这封信成了家里的福音，大家动不动就念上一遍，并拿给所有人看。

“十年来没有收到于勒叔叔的来信；但父亲的希望与日俱增，母亲也常说：‘只要那个好心的于勒回来，我们的境况就会不同。那是一个生活有起色的人！’

“每星期天，望着那些喷着滚滚浓烟，从地平

from the horizon, pouring out a stream of smoke, my father would repeat his eternal question: ‘What a surprise it would be if Jules were on that one! Eh?’

“We almost expected to see him waving his handkerchief and crying: ‘Hey! Philippe!’

“Thousands of schemes had been planned **on the strength of**²³ this expected return; we were even to buy a little house with my uncle’s money — a little place in the country near Ingouville. In fact, I wouldn’t swear that my father had not already begun negotiations.

“The elder of my sisters was then twenty-eight, the other twenty-six. They were not yet married, and that was a great grief to every one.

“At last a suitor presented himself for the younger one. He was a clerk, not rich, but honorable. I have always been morally certain that Uncle Jules’ letter, which was shown him one evening, had swept away the young man’s hesitation and definitely decided him.

“He was accepted eagerly, and it was decided that after the wedding the whole family should take a trip to Jersey.

“Jersey is the ideal trip for poor people. It is not far; one crosses a strip of sea in a steamer and lands on foreign soil, as this little island belongs to England. Thus, a Frenchman, with a two hours’ sail, can observe a neighboring people at home and study their customs.

“This trip to Jersey completely absorbed our ideas, was our sole **anticipation**²⁴, the constant thought of our minds.

“At last we left. I see it as plainly as if it had happened yesterday. The boat was getting up steam against the quay at Granville; my father, bewildered, was **superintending**²⁵ the loading of our three pieces of baggage; my mother, nervous, had taken the arm of my unmarried sister, who seemed lost since the departure of the other one, like the last chicken of a brood; behind us came the bride and groom, who always stayed behind, a thing that often made me turn round.

㉓ on the strength of
依赖……；凭
借……

㉔ anticipation
/ˌæntɪsɪ'peɪʃən/
n. 预期

㉕ superintend
/ˌsju:pərɪn'tend/
v. 管理；监督

线渐渐驶近的大汽船，父亲总是重复他那句永恒的话语：“要是于勒在那艘船上，那会多么让人惊喜啊！对吧？”

“我们简直盼望看到他挥动手帕喊道：“嘿！菲利普！”

“我们料想于勒叔叔一定回国，拟定过无数计划，甚至计划用叔叔的钱买一座小房子——在安谷维尔附近买一座乡村小别墅。事实上，我敢发誓父亲已经找人商量过。

“大姐当时二十八岁，另一个姐姐二十六岁。她们都还没有出嫁，而这对于每个人都是一大困扰。

“终于有一个人主动上门向二姐求婚。他是一名职员，不是很富，但体面。我始终坚信是一天晚上让那个小伙子看了于勒叔叔的那封信，才使他的犹豫一扫而空，下定了决心。

“我们迫不及待接受了他的求婚，并决定婚礼之后，全家要去泽西岛短期旅行。

“对穷人来说，泽西岛是一次理想的旅行。距离不远，坐一艘汽船渡过海峡，就到了外国的土地上，因为这座小岛属于英国。这样，一个法国人经过两小时航行，就能看到一个邻国的民族，研究他们的习俗。

“泽西岛之行完全占据了我们的思想，成了我们唯一的期待，成了我们不变的梦想。

“我们终于动身了。那情景宛如昨天发生的一样，至今还清晰地展现在眼前。轮船正在慢慢加速准备离开格朗维尔码头；父亲手足无措地监督着我们的三件行李装上船；母亲则紧张地挽着我那个没有出嫁的姐姐的胳膊，我这位姐姐自从另一个姐姐嫁人后，就像窝里的最后一只小鸡，似乎茫然失措；我们后面走来了新郎新娘，他们总是落在后面，这使我常常回头。

“The whistle sounded. We got on board, and the vessel, leaving the breakwater, **forged ahead**²⁸ through a sea as flat as a marble table. We watched the coast disappear in the distance, happy and proud, like all who do not travel much.

“My father was swelling out his chest in the breeze, beneath his frock coat, which had that morning been very carefully cleaned; and he spread around him that odor of benzine which always made me recognize Sunday.

“Suddenly he noticed two elegantly dressed ladies to whom two gentlemen were offering oysters. An old, ragged sailor was opening them with his knife and passing them to the gentlemen, who would then offer them to the ladies. They ate them in a **dainty**²⁹ manner, holding the shell on a fine handkerchief and advancing their mouths a little in order not to **spot**³⁰ their dresses. Then they would drink the liquid with a rapid little motion and throw the shell overboard.

“My father was probably pleased with this delicate manner of eating oysters on a moving ship. He considered it **good form**³¹, refined, and, going up to my mother and sisters, he asked: ‘Would you like me to offer you some oysters?’

“My mother hesitated on account of the expense, but my two sisters immediately accepted. My mother said in a **provoked**³² manner: ‘I am afraid that they will hurt my stomach. Offer the children some, but not too much, it would make them sick.’

“Then, turning toward me, she added: ‘As for Joseph, he doesn’t need any. Boys shouldn’t be spoiled.’

“However, I remained beside my mother, finding this **discrimination**³³ unjust. I watched my father as he pompously **conducted**³⁴ my two sisters and his son-in-law toward the ragged old sailor.

“The two ladies had just left, and my father showed my sisters how to eat them without spilling the liquor. He even tried to give them an example, and seized an oyster. He attempted to imitate the