

| 中英对照莎士比亚最精彩的故事 |

A Midsummer Night's Dream 仲夏夜之梦

(英) 查尔斯·兰姆 玛丽·兰姆 改编

杨涛译



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:: 随笔大师兰姆专为青少年改写 尽显莎剧的精髓与趣味

:: 风行两百年的青少年必读书

:: 中国人理解莎士比亚的第一扇窗



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无事生非

Much Ado About Nothing

《无事生非》写于1598—1599年，是莎士比亚喜剧写作最成熟时期的创作，内容热闹欢乐，富有哲思。故事主旨为面具、伪装或游戏，剧中人物探寻的则是男女关系中的自我意识以及真诚与尊重。

故事讲述的是少年贵族克劳狄奥与总督之女希罗一见钟情，决定一周后举行婚礼，众人又极力撮合互相争强斗胜的贝特丽丝和培尼狄克相爱。唐·约翰设下诡计，让克劳狄奥误以为希罗是个荡妇，在婚礼上当众辱骂她。希罗气急晕倒，克劳狄奥以为希罗已死，十分痛悔，到灵堂追悼。最终真相大白，两人重逢。

There lived in the palace at Messina two ladies, whose names were Hero and Beatrice. Hero was the daughter, and Beatrice the niece, of Leonato, the governor of Messina.

Beatrice was of a lively temper and loved to divert her cousin Hero, who was of a more serious disposition, with her sprightly sallies. Whatever was going forward was sure to make matter of mirth for the light-hearted Beatrice.

At the time the history of these ladies commences some young men of high rank in the army, as they were passing through Messina on their return from a war that was just ended, in which they had distinguished themselves by their great bravery, came to visit Leonato. Among these were Don Pedro, the Prince of Arragon, and his friend Claudio, who was a lord of Florence; and with them came the wild and witty Benedick, and he was a lord of Padua.

These strangers had been at Messina before, and the hospitable governor introduced them to his daughter and his niece as their old friends and acquaintance.

Benedick, the moment he entered the room, began a lively conversation with Leonato and the prince.

Beatrice, who liked not to be left out of any discourse, interrupted Benedick with saying, "I wonder that you will still be talking, Signor Benedick. Nobody marks you."



梅西那皇宫里住了两个姑娘，一个叫希罗，一个叫贝特丽丝。希罗是梅西那总督里奥那托的女儿，贝特丽丝是他的侄女。

贝特丽丝个性活泼，希罗则比较严肃，贝特丽丝就喜欢说些俏皮话来逗逗堂妹。无论是什么事情，轻松自在的贝特丽丝都能拿来说笑一番。

这两个姑娘的故事是这样开始的：几位骁勇善战的年轻高级军官，刚刚结束一场战役，在返乡途中路过梅西那，特来拜访里奥那托。他们当中有阿拉贡亲王唐·彼德罗，有亲王的佛罗伦萨贵族好友克劳狄奥，还有狂放机智的帕都亚贵族培尼狄克。

这些客人以前就来过梅西那，好客的总督待他们如老友旧识，把自己的女儿和侄女介绍给他们认识。

培尼狄克一进屋，就熟络地跟里奥那托及亲王聊了起来。

贝特丽丝可不喜欢被排除在谈话之外。她打断培尼狄克说：“培尼狄克先生，我很奇怪你为什么还在说话，根本没人理你啊。”

用泪洗的面孔才是最真实的面孔：喜极而泣比哭的时候私心窃喜要好多了！^①

——《无事生非》第一幕第一景

① 本书名言均取自梁实秋译《莎士比亚全集》。

Benedick was just such another rattlebrain as Beatrice, yet he was not pleased at this free salutation; he thought it did not become a well-bred lady to be so flippant with her tongue; and he remembered, when he was last at Messina, that Beatrice used to select him to make her merry jests upon.

And as there is no one who so little likes to be made a jest of as those who are apt to take the same liberty themselves, so it was with Benedick and Beatrice; these two sharp wits never met in former times but a perfect war of raillery was kept up between them, and they always parted mutually displeased with each other.

Therefore, when Beatrice stopped him in the middle of his discourse with telling him nobody marked what he was saying, Benedick, affecting not to have observed before that she was present, said, "What, my dear Lady Disdain, are you yet living?"

And now war broke out afresh between them, and a long jangling argument ensued, during which Beatrice, although she knew he had so well approved his valor in the late war, said that she would eat all he had killed there; and observing the prince take delight in Benedick's conversation, she called him "the prince's jester." This sarcasm sank



虽然培尼狄克自己跟贝特丽丝一样多话，他还是不喜欢她那种过于随意的问候方式。培尼狄克想，这么出言不逊的姑娘，必定不是很有教养。他还记得上次在梅西那时，贝特丽丝就老爱拿他开玩笑。

喜欢开别人玩笑的人，最不喜欢被别人拿来开玩笑，培尼狄克和贝特丽丝都是这样的人。过去，这两个机智风趣的人只要一见面，就要唇枪舌剑一番，最后弄得不欢而散。

现在培尼狄克话说到一半就被贝特丽丝打断了，说什么没有人在听他说话。于是他故意装作没有注意到她在场，说：“哦？亲爱的傲慢小姐，你还活着啊？”

顿时他们又展开舌战，大肆争吵辩论一番。贝特丽丝明知道培尼狄克在此次战役中十分英勇，却仍说她能把他在沙场上所杀的人全部吃光。她又注意到亲王很喜欢听培尼狄克说话，所以说他是“亲王的弄臣”，这种讽刺话比她以前所有的挖苦话都更让培尼狄克觉得刺耳。

世间的时髦乃是避免损失，而你却迎上前来。

——第一幕第一景

deeper into the mind of Benedick than all Beatrice had said before.

The hint she gave him that he was a coward, by saying she would eat all he had killed, he did not regard, knowing himself to be a brave man; but there is nothing that great wits so much dread as the imputation of buffoonery, because the charge comes sometimes a little too near the truth; therefore Benedick perfectly hated Beatrice when she called him "the prince's jester."

The modest lady Hero was silent before the noble guests; and while Claudio was attentively observing the improvement which time had made in her beauty, and was contemplating the exquisite graces of her fine figure (for she was an admirable young lady), the prince was highly amused with listening to the humorous dialogue between Benedick and Beatrice; and he said in a whisper to Leonato, "This is a pleasant-spirited young lady. She were an excellent wife for Benedick."

Leonato replied to this suggestion, "O my lord, my lord, if they were but a week married, they would talk themselves mad!"

But though Leonato thought they would make a discordant pair, the prince did not give up the idea of



她说要吃光他所杀掉的人，来暗指他是懦夫，他不在乎。因为他坚信自己是勇者。但一个机智聪明的人最怕被指称为小丑，因为这种指责有时有点儿过于接近事实。听到贝特丽丝说自己是“亲王的弄臣”时，培尼狄克简直恨透了她。

在贵宾面前，谨慎的姑娘希罗沉默不语。克劳狄奥凝视着她优雅的身姿，发现她长得越来越漂亮（她本来就是容易令人倾心的姑娘）。亲王兴致勃勃地听着培尼狄克和贝特丽丝的对话，悄悄地对里奥那托说：“这个姑娘活泼开朗，给培尼狄克当妻子一定是绝配。”

听到这个提议，里奥那托答道：“啊，殿下呀殿下，这两个人要是结婚了，不出一个星期就会吵疯的。”

尽管里奥那托认为两人不般配，但亲王并没有放弃撮合这两个智多星的念头。

礼貌本身也会变成傲慢，如果你来到她的跟前。

——第一幕第一景

matching these two keen wits together.

When the prince returned with Claudio from the palace he found that the marriage he had devised between Benedick and Beatrice was not the only one projected in that good company, for Claudio spoke in such terms of Hero as made the prince guess at what was passing in his heart; and he liked it well, and he said to Claudio, "Do you affect Hero?"

To this question Claudio replied, "O my lord, when I was last at Messina I looked upon her with a soldier's eye, that liked, but had no leisure for loving; but now, in this happy time of peace, thoughts of war have left their places vacant in my mind, and in their room come thronging soft and delicate thoughts, all prompting me how fair young Hero is, reminding me that I liked her before I went to the wars."

Claudio's confession of his love for Hero so wrought upon the prince that he lost no time in soliciting the consent of Leonato to accept of Claudio for a son-in-law.

Leonato agreed to this proposal, and the prince found no great difficulty in persuading the gentle Hero herself to listen to the suit of the noble Claudio who was a lord of rare endowments and highly accomplished, and Claudio, assisted by his kind prince, soon prevailed upon Leonato to fix an early day for the celebration of his marriage with Hero.



克劳狄奥陪亲王从王宫里回来。亲王发现，他们一路上不只谈到撮合培尼狄克和贝特丽丝这事，克劳狄奥还老谈到希罗。看他提到希罗时的样子，亲王猜到了他的心思。亲王心里很高兴，问克劳狄奥：“你喜欢希罗？”

克劳狄奥回答说：“啊，殿下，我上次在梅西那时，是用军人的眼光来看待她，心里虽然喜欢她，却没有时间谈恋爱。现在，天下安宁太平，不用考虑战争，所以我心中全是轻柔细腻的思绪。我惦念着希罗的情影，回想起了在出征之前就有的情意。”

听到克劳狄奥表白对希罗的感情，亲王很感动。他一刻也没耽搁，马上请求里奥那托将克劳狄奥纳为女婿。

里奥那托同意了这门亲事。亲王也没费多少力气，就说服温柔的希罗亲自接受高贵的克劳狄奥的求婚。克劳狄奥资质极佳，成就非凡，加上好心亲王的帮助，很快就说动里奥那托择日尽早举办他和希罗的婚礼。

我宁可在篱笆上作一株野蔷薇，也不肯在他的恩宠之下作一朵玫瑰；受大家的鄙夷比勉强矜持以求人爱怜要更合于我的性格：在这一方面，我虽然不能说是一个油腔滑调的君子，不容否认我的确是一个坦白无欺的小人。

——第一幕第三景

Claudio was to wait but a few days before he was to be married to his fair lady; yet he complained of the interval being tedious, as indeed most young men are impatient when they are waiting for the accomplishment of any event they have set their hearts upon. The prince, therefore, to make the time seem short to him, proposed as a kind of merry pastime that they should invent some artful scheme to make Benedick and Beatrice fall in love with each other.

Claudio entered with great satisfaction into this whim of the prince, and Leonato promised them his assistance, and even Hero said she would do any modest office to help her cousin to a good husband.

The device the prince invented was that the gentlemen should make Benedick believe that Beatrice was in love with him, and that Hero should make Beatrice believe that Benedick was in love with her.

The prince, Leonato, and Claudio began their operations first; and watching upon an opportunity when Benedick was quietly seated reading in an arbor, the prince and his assistants took their station among the trees behind the arbor, so near that Benedick could not choose but hear all they said; and after some careless talk the prince said, "Come hither, Leonato. What was it you told me the other day-that your



再过几天，克劳狄奥就可以迎娶他心爱的美丽姑娘了，可是他还嫌这几天沉闷无聊。确实，不论是什么事，大多数的小伙子在专心期待它完成时，总是会不耐烦。亲王为了帮克劳狄奥打发时间，提出了一个好玩的点子：想个妙计，让培尼狄克和贝特丽丝坠入爱河。

克劳狄奥很兴奋地参与亲王的这个突发奇想，里奥那托也答应帮忙，连希罗都说她愿意尽绵薄之力，帮堂姐找到一个好丈夫。

亲王想出的主意是，男士们去让培尼狄克相信贝特丽丝迷恋他，希罗则去让贝特丽丝相信培尼狄克钟情于她。

亲王、里奥那托和克劳狄奥率先行动。他们瞅准时机，在培尼狄克安静地坐在凉亭里看书时，亲王和帮手们就站在凉亭后面的树丛里。他们故意离培尼狄克很近，让他不得不听到他们全部的对话。一阵闲聊之后，亲王说：“里奥那托，过来。你那天跟我说什么呀？你说你侄女贝特丽丝爱上了培尼狄克先生？我从没想到那位姑娘会爱上任何男人啊！”

如果不能获得立刻的解救，至少得到忍受的耐心。

——第一幕第三景

niece Beatrice was in love with Signor Benedick? I did never think that lady would have loved any man."

"No, nor I neither, my lord," answered Leonato. "It is most wonderful that she should so dote on Benedick, whom she in all outward behavior seemed ever to dislike."

Claudio confirmed all this with saying that Hero had told him Beatrice was so in love with Benedick that she would certainly die of grief if he could not be brought to love her; which Leonato and Claudio seemed to agree was impossible, he having always been such a railer against all fair ladies, and in particular against Beatrice.

The prince affected to harken to all this with great compassion for Beatrice, and he said, "It were good that Benedick were told of this."

"To what end?" said Claudio. "He would but make sport of it, and torment the poor lady worse."

"And if he should," said the prince, "it were a good deed to hang him; for Beatrice is an excellent sweet lady, and exceeding wise in everything but in loving Benedick." Then the prince motioned to his companions that they should walk on and leave Benedick to meditate upon what he had overheard.

Benedick had been listening with great eagerness to this



“是啊，殿下，我也没想到。”里奥那托回答，“最奇怪的是她竟会对培尼狄克如此多情，表面上看起来她很不喜欢他啊！”

为了证实这些，克劳狄奥还说希罗告诉过他，说贝特丽丝非常迷恋培尼狄克，要是培尼狄克拒绝她，她一定伤心死了。但是，里奥那托和克劳狄奥都觉得培尼狄克不可能爱她，因为培尼狄克一向喜欢讥讽所有的年轻姑娘，特别是嘲讽贝特丽丝。

亲王一边听，一边装作十分同情贝特丽丝的样子。他说：“要是有人能告诉培尼狄克这件事就好了。”

“那有什么用呢？”克劳狄奥说，“他会拿这事来消遣罢了，这样可怜的姑娘会更加难过的。”

亲王说：“他要是真的这样，那就应该绞死他。贝特丽丝是个出色的可人儿，她凡事特聪明，只是爱上培尼狄克这件事例外。”说完，他就示意大伙接着往前走，留下培尼狄克在那里回味刚才所听到的话。

求婚，结婚，后悔，恰似一曲苏格兰的轻快舞，一只庄严舞，一场五步舞：初次求婚是热烈而急促的，像是一曲苏格兰的轻快舞，同样的怪诞不经；结婚，则温文有礼，像一只庄严舞，充满了雍容的旧式的仪节，随后是后悔，踱着蹒跚步，变成五步舞，越跳越快，直到进入坟墓为止。

——第二幕第一景