

The True Story of My Little Maomi.



我家有个小猫咪

张冰姿 · 唐厚志



献给所有爱护小动物的人



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Zhang Bingzi & Tang Houzhi



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张冰姿 • 唐厚志

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致我那美丽而有灵性的小猫咪

妈 咪

你喜欢的小野花春天又开了，
你爱吃的狗尾巴草又长出来了，
我给你攒了好多好多小饼干。

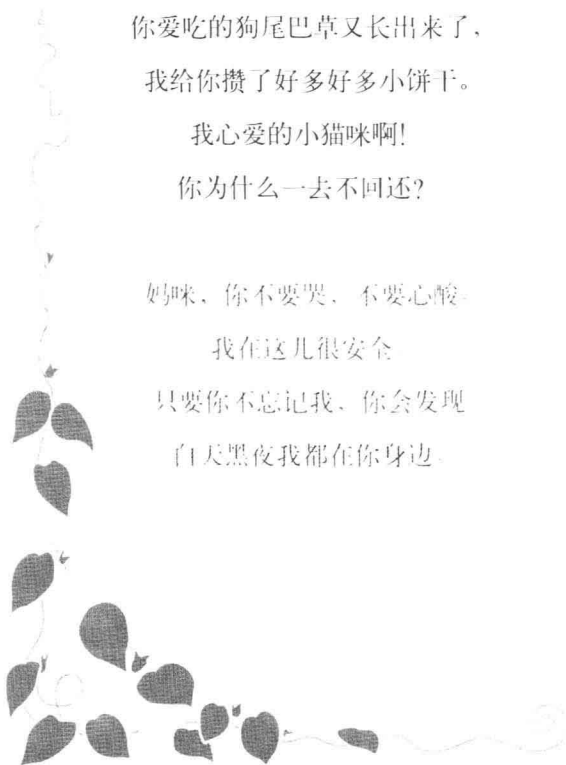
我心爱的小猫咪啊！

你为什么一去不回还？

妈咪，你不要哭，不要心酸。

我在这儿很安全。

只要你不忘记我，你会发现
白天黑夜我都在你身边。



To Little Maomi,

My beautiful, intelligent pussy cat

Mummy

The little wild flowers you delighted to see
are back with the spring.

The green bristle grass you loved to eat
is coming up again.

I have saved lots and lots of tidbits for you.

My beloved Little Maomi,
Why were you gone, never to return?

Don't cry, Mummy. Don't feel sad.
This has kept me out of harm's way.
As long as you remember me,
you will find me always by your side
by day and by night.



◆ 难忘的一天 ◆

十八年前，一个风和日丽的五月的早晨，邻

居小惠提着一个竹篮子来到我家。她

说：“阿姨，我给你带来一只小猫。”可是我并没有想要小猫

啊！正当我找词儿婉言谢绝的时候，篮子盖儿掀开了。“唉呀！多

么美丽的小猫啊！”我不禁叫了起

来。它端庄地坐在篮子里，那双明亮的深绿色的大眼睛好奇地望着我，似乎在问：“你愿意做我的朋友吗？”愿意，愿意，我哪能不愿意呢！我轻轻地摸摸它的背，低声地对它说：“小猫咪，我很喜欢你。你愿意住在我这儿吗？”听了这话，它跳出竹篮，开始查看它的新居，一个角落也不肯放过。小惠和我坐在一旁观看。它那股认真劲儿，真让人觉得好笑。

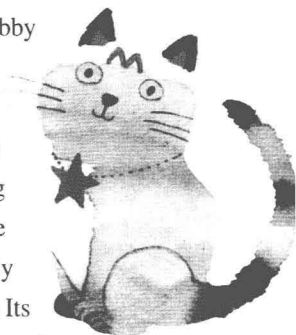
它看上去出生两个多月，脑门上那个清晰的M字母表明了它是名猫——斑猫之后。它是个小黑猫，白胸脯，小红嘴，那双明亮而美丽的大眼睛上画着黑眼圈，更增添了戏剧色彩。它的毛长长的，尾巴大大的，四只小爪洁白如雪。它胖乎



◆ *A Day Long to Be Remembered* ◆

Eighteen years ago, one fine morning in May, my neighbour Xiao Hui came with a bamboo basket in her hand. "Ah Yi, I've brought you a kitten," she said. But I was not sure if I wanted one. Just as I was trying to find words for a polite refusal, the lid of the basket was opened. "Wow! What a beautiful little creature !" I exclaimed. It sat there quietly, its remarkably large, deep green eyes looking at me inquiringly. They seemed to ask, "Will you be my friend?" Of course, I would and how could I be otherwise! I stroked its back gently, saying in a soft voice, "Little Maomi (a Chinese term for puss), I like you very much. Will you stay with me?" Hearing this, it jumped out of the basket and made a full exploration of every corner of its new home while Xiao Hui and I sat watching with amusement.

It was about two months old. The clear letter "M" marking on its forehead showed its tabby origin. It was a black kitten with a white chest and pink mouth. The sparkling, beautiful eyes were lined in black, adding to its theatrical look. It had a rich flowing coat and a long bushy tail. Its paws were as white as snow. Its plump little body swayed from side to side when it walked. Its big tail was carried high as it searched and



乎的，走起路来一摇一摆。它喜欢东闻闻西看看，把大尾巴翘得高高的。它最喜欢往高处爬。看它登五屉柜才好玩呢！它跳上去以后，高兴得不得了，不觉手舞足蹈起来。忽然一不小心摔了下来，便立刻合上眼，好像在地上睡着了。再睁开眼睛一看，哪儿也没摔着，它高兴得撒腿就跑。

到了晚上，它开始想妈妈了。“妈咪，你在哪里？”我轻轻地抚摸它，给它喝牛奶，吃点固体食物。

“小猫咪，”我低声对他说：“可爱的小宝贝，我爱你，我保护你。现在该睡觉啦！”我把它轻轻地放在沙发上，再轻轻地抚摸它。“闭上眼睛睡觉吧！亲爱的。”它一会儿就睡着了。夜里，它找到了我的床。依偎着我，两只小爪交替地按摩我，满意地打着呼噜。后来我才知道，这轻轻的一按的动作是向我私下表示它感到一切都好，快乐极了。显然它把我当成了它的妈妈，真有趣。



smelt about. It took special delight in climbing heights. When it got to the top of the chest of drawers, it was so happy that it danced about on the edge. "Whoops !" It fell. Its eyes were shut immediately as if it had gone off to sleep on the floor. When it opened them again, seeing that nothing had happened, it trotted happily away.

When evening came, it began to miss its mother. "Mummy!" It miaowed. "Where are you?" I stroked it gently and fed it with milk and some solid food.

"Little Maomi," I whispered, "my sweet little baby. I love you, and I will protect you. Now it's time for bed." Gently I placed it on the settee and stroked it again. "Close your eyes, dear. Now go to sleep," I said. Soon it was fast asleep. During the night it found its way to my bed and cuddled up to me. It pushed one of its little paws then another alternately into my body, purring contentedly. Later I learnt that this gentle in-and-out movement of paws was a private demonstration of serene ecstasy. Obviously it had taken me for the mother cat. I was greatly amused.

◆ 一主二仆 ◆

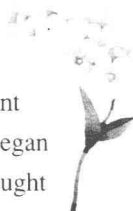
我先生是个国际上的法律专家，我是个外语教师。我们结婚二十二年没有孩子。我们的家里非常安静，太安静了。我们工作起来一干就是很长的时间，中间没有休息，也没有个打岔的。时间久了，生活变得单调乏味，我们开始感到寂寞。小猫咪的来临使我们的生活发生了惊人的变化。

这小东西真逗人爱，那么聪明，那么顽皮，跟人又那么亲近。它常常坐在窗台上看着我们读书、写字，耐心地等着，一有机会就下来跟我们玩。它



◆ *Two Servants Serving One Master* ◆

My husband was an international law expert and I was a language teacher. We had been married for 22 years without children. The house was quiet, too quiet. We used to work long hours without a break or an interruption. As time went by, life became dull and monotonous and we began to feel lonely. The arrival of Little Maomi wrought amazing changes in our life.



It was such a cute little thing, so intelligent, playful and intensely affectionate. It would sit by the window watching us reading and writing, waiting patiently for a chance to play with us. It was an excellent footballer. It handled the ping-pong ball with purr-fect ease. It showed us how to fish by flinging the ball up into the air backwards over its head, swinging round and leaping after it. It showed us how to hunt by approaching its prey (which was no other than the same ping-pong ball) stealthily with body pressed close to the ground and suddenly pouncing on it when it was within easy range. Little Maomi did not need many toys. A small ball or a piece of string would do all the trick. I did not know when it acquired the skill of turning on or off the electric light. But one evening when my husband and I came home after dark, we saw from a distance that our house was brightly lit. Hurriedly we ran up the stairs and

是个踢球健将，玩乒乓球易如反掌。它教我们捕鱼：把乒乓球往脑后一扔，随即转身向空中飞着的“鱼”扑去。它教我们狩猎：把身子低低地贴近地面，偷偷地接近猎物（还是那个乒乓球），走到好逮的地方，突然向它猛扑过去。小猫咪不需要多少玩具，只有一根小绳就行了。不知道什么时候它学会了拉灯绳。有一次，天黑以后，我和我丈夫从外面回来，老远就看到家里灯火通明。我们急忙跑上台阶，打开房门一看，里面没有什么人，只有我们的小猫咪。它笑眯眯地、得意洋洋地跳上前来迎接我们。

小猫咪知道我们很忙。它常常一连几小时坐在我的书桌上，看我给学生改作业。有一次我去倒茶，回来的时候，这小家伙正抱着我的红圆珠笔在学生的作业本上划圈儿呢！



天真的小猫咪充满了活力。我每天晚上睡觉以前，都要拿个小扫把扫扫床，它便以为这是逗它玩。每次我扫床，它都向小扫把扑去。你扫到东，它跳到东，你扫到西，它跳到西，弄个满床转，让你扫不成。有

opened the door. There was nobody inside except our dear Little Maomi, who was hopping up on its hind legs to greet us, smiling complacently.

Little Maomi knew that we were very busy. It would sit on my desk for hours watching me marking the students' papers. Once I went off to fetch some tea. When I came back, I found the little fellow holding the red ball-pen with both of its paws, drawing circles in a student's exercise book!



My Little Maomi was full of vitality. Every evening before going to bed, I swept my bed with a small broom, which it mistook for an invitation to play. It would never let me down. Up it sprang at the broom, chased it around the bed, pounced on it and made a mess of my work. Sometimes it got so high-spirited that it seized my hand as its trophy, biting, caressing and kicking it in quick succession, its wide-open eyes shining in delight.

The arrival of Little Maomi brought cheerfulness to our home. It became a constant source of joy and

时它兴致上来了，把我的手也当成战利品，抱住不放，一会儿咬，一会儿舔，一会儿用小脚蹬个不停。那双大眼睛瞪得圆圆的，闪烁出喜悦的光芒。

小猫咪给我们家带来了欢乐。它的趣事层出不穷，使我们活得很开心。小猫咪很幽默，很勇敢，很善于与人交流。我们无论干什么它都极感兴趣，而且还会以种种微妙的方式表达对我们的深情厚意。它很快就征服了我们的心。我们把它看成我们的独生子，我们的小王子。工作之余，我们俩就像两个仆人，甘心情愿围着它团团转。



amusement. With its sense of humour, its dauntless courage, its communicative power, its keen interest in everything we did, and the depth of affection which it was able to show us in so many exquisite ways, it soon won our hearts. We looked upon it as our only child and our little prince. When we were free, my husband and I were like two willing servants dancing attendance upon a single master.

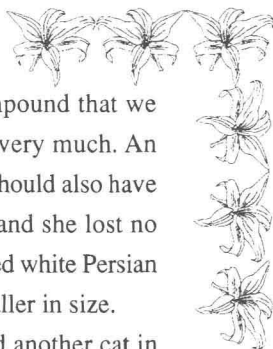
◆ 一个新发现 ◆

不久整个大院都传开了，说我家养了一只小黑猫，爱得不得了。一位热心的邻居坚持主张我们再养一只小白猫和它作伴儿。她随即给我们送来一只蓝眼睛的白波斯猫。那小猫和小猫咪差不多大，可是个子比它小得多。

小猫咪发现家里又来一只猫，大吃一惊。它突然一变，个子比平常大多了，小腿伸得直直的，毛发都竖了起来，显得很高大。它一步一步向它的对手逼近。“你给我滚出去！”它不客气地说。可把那只小白猫给吓坏了，它弓了弓背，蹲伏在地上。小猫咪哪肯接受投降！它上去就是一耳光，打得那个新来的小猫到处乱跑，哀声求救。它这一跑不要紧，更挑起小猫咪狩猎的欲望。它直取小白猫：“管你弓背不弓背！”我把小白猫抱起来，搂在怀里。小猫咪像一只触怒了的小老虎，蹿到我身上。我把那可怜的小东西藏在被底下，小猫咪用小脑袋拱翻了被垛。小白猫逃到哪里，它就追到哪里。晚上我把小白猫藏在我被窝里。小猫咪继续前来威胁。它围着我们来回转，千方百计要



◆ *A Fresh Revelation* ◆



Soon word went around in the compound that we had a little black cat, whom we loved very much. An overzealous neighbour insisted that we should also have a little white cat to keep its company, and she lost no time in bringing us one. It was a blue-eyed white Persian about Little Maomi's age but much smaller in size.

Little Maomi was astonished to find another cat in its home. It suddenly looked bigger than usual. Walking tall on fully stretched legs with all its black hairs erected, it approached its rival menacingly. "You get out of here !" It growled. The white kitten was scared. It arched its back and crouched low on the ground. But Little Maomi would not accept capitulation. It gave the newcomer a box on the ear, sending the latter rushing about in the room searching for a hiding place. In the meantime, the sight of the fleeing object triggered off Little Maomi's hunting urges. It went straight for the kill, arched back or no arched back. I picked up the white kitten, holding it in my arms. Little Maomi leapt upon me like a little enraged tiger. I put the poor thing under the quilts. It knocked over the quilts with its head. No matter where the white kitten was hidden, Little Maomi was sure to find it. In the evening I hid it under the fold of my sheet. Little Maomi continued its menace by walking round and round us, trying in every way possible to get in, its

钻进被窝。它的眼睛在黑暗中发出红光，活像两团火。我怎么劝它、抚摸它都不行。它下定决心，决一死战：“有我没它，有它没我！”它把那只小白猫看成是一种威胁，一种对它的幸福乃至生命的严重威胁。我可怜的小宝贝那天夜里一刻也不能合眼。第二天一清早，天刚亮，我赶紧把小白猫送还原主。威胁排除了，小猫咪逐渐恢复了平静。我回来的时候，它正沐浴在阳光里，一丝不苟地舔着小爪，洗着小脸。我的小猫咪从来没有显得这样温柔。现在它简直像个温顺的小绵羊。

我从没有想到一只小猫能够爱得这样强烈，这样专心。在此以前，我一直按英语语法规则称之为“*It*”，现在我开始认识到我错了。

