

英漢對照·世界名著

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霍桑短篇小說選

*Twelve Tales by
Nathaniel Hawthorne*

霍桑原著
徐孝哲譯

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霍桑短篇小說選

TWELVE TALES
BY
NATHANIEL HAUTHORUE

霍桑生平簡介

霍桑於一八〇四年生於波士頓。四歲時，父親死於海外，留下的遺產不到三百美金，寡母只好帶了三個孤兒回娘家依其經商的弟弟生活。九歲時，霍桑不幸在玩球時傷了足部，此後三年中大部份時間困居室內，但養成了讀書的習慣。十二歲時全家遷居湖邊林地，這時他足部已痊癒，第一次享受到野外生活的樂趣。十五歲回塞冷（Salem）上學，十七歲時由舅舅資助進了緬因州的波都恩大學（Bowdoin College），和朗斐羅（Longfellow）及皮爾斯（Franklin pierce，後來是第十四任總統，一八五三——一五七）等同學。霍桑和朗斐羅不算深交，但與皮爾斯則一直保持深厚的友誼。

一八二五年霍桑自大學畢業，全班三十八人，他是第十八名。他的成績以英文、拉丁文最佳，數學和科學平平，演說最差，這是因他對此道無興趣，後來成名之後他仍避免演講，但是他必須講的時候，表現得很好。當時校內有兩種學生俱樂部，一種比較嚴肅，朗斐羅屬之，一種比較輕鬆，霍桑屬之。後來自認在校時是個懶散的學生，但他對於以文學寫作為事業的志願在畢業以前就有了決定。

四年級時，霍桑已開始創作。結業以後，他回到寒冷和母親及姊妹同住，並改變了生活方式：他很少出外交際，以大部分時間看書，記筆記，寫作。從他畢業到一八三七年第一部短篇集子出版，這十一年常被史家稱為霍桑的「孤獨的歲月」或

「隱居時代」。霍桑在事後追憶那一時期的生活和情緒時也給人這種印象，好像他已經「和社會斷絕了關係」，並且「離開了人世的主流」。這是一種強調的說法，或者是他的心理想像的描寫。

畢業後三年，霍桑匿名出版了第一部中篇小說「范恩雪」Fanshawe。出版之後不久，他發現「范恩雪」要不得，於是趕緊設法追回所有出庫的書，然後一一把它們銷毀。可是到底還有幾本已不知去向；霍桑死後一年有一本出現了，他的太太最初竟不承認那是她丈夫的作品。霍桑對「范恩雪」不滿意可以說到了極點，他連太太都瞞着，不讓她知道他曾寫過一本不成熟的作品。但「范恩雪」在今日已成「珍本」，數年前有人以六千美金之高價購得收藏。

「范恩雪」失敗後，霍桑竭力從事短篇寫作，一部分是故事，一部分是素描性質的小品文。退稿和撕稿的經驗很多，刊出的數量實在不多，十年間失三十餘篇，其中十八篇收於一八三七年出版的集子，名「呢喃往事」Twice-Told Tales。這時世人第一次認識納桑尼爾·霍桑(Nathaniel Hawthorne)，因他以前的作品都未署名或用的是筆名。他後來自稱早年的他是「美國最默默無聞的文人」。事實上霍桑的讀書圈子直到一八五〇年「紅字」The Scarlet Letter 問世後才真正擴大。

霍桑和鄰居蘇菲雅·皮帕迪(Sophia Peabody)小姐

在一八三八年相識，兩人的感情發展得很快，不久就成爲一對戀人。霍桑的造訪和情書漸漸減輕了蘇菲雅時常頭痛的毛病，蘇菲亞的熱情也提高了霍桑對生活的興趣。但霍桑寫作的收入不足維持兩個人的生活，於是他活動進了波士頓的海關。他在那裡做了兩年的煤鹽檢驗員。

霍桑第二個短篇集於婚後的第二年出版，是一八三七年 **Twice-Told Tales** 的增訂版，分兩冊，新添二十一篇。愛倫坡「論霍桑」一文的初稿就是評的這個集子。成長中的文名仍不能改善霍桑一家的生活條件，於是經過政界及民主黨朋友的協助，他在一八四六年又進入海關，不過這次是故鄉的寒冷關。同年「古屋苔痕 (**Mosses From the Old Manse**)」出版，含二十三篇，其中十七篇是婚後在康崗 (**Concord**) 的新居寫成的。

一八四九年夏天，失業和喪母之痛接踵而來。這時蘇菲雅開始做些燈罩之類的手工製品出賣，並拿出平日積蓄的私房錢來貼補家用。霍桑的朋友也合起來匿名捐了一筆款子給他們。心情沉重的霍桑發現他現在有的是時間，他從九月開始每天躲在書房裡寫作九小時，第二年二月三日完稿，這就是成爲世界名著的「紅字」。那天晚上，霍桑把最後幾章繼續讀完給蘇菲雅聽，霍桑自己的聲音幾乎不能自持，而蘇菲雅更是心都要碎了。「紅字」這一齣偉大的悲劇在問世十天之內，初版兩千冊即銷售一空，第二版三千冊也很快地被訂購了。不久，英國即

有人盜版翻印，霍桑雖然拿不到一文錢，可是他的文名從此震於大西洋兩岸，以後的著作可以同時在英美出版，版稅方面不再吃虧。作品的出路已經打開，生活逐漸趨好轉。

在他失業喪母這一段「不幸」過後是他一生創作力最強，產量最多的時期。四十六歲完成「紅字」之後，第二年就出版長篇「七角大廈」*The House of the Seven Gables* 和一本兒童故事集，並再版 *Twice-Told Tales*，其後是新短篇故事集「雪像」*The Snow Image* 和長篇「歡樂谷」*The Blithedale Romance*（一八五二），並爲他正在競選總統的老朋友皮爾斯寫了一本小傳。一八五三年皮爾斯就任總統，任命霍桑爲駐英國刊物浦領事，同時他又出版了一本兒童讀物。

在利物浦任職四年間，霍桑沒有作品出版，但筆記資料累積甚多。一八五六年辭職在英國各地遊歷，二年後赴意大利，在佛羅倫斯定居，並開始寫一個新的長篇小說。一八五九年在羅馬住了半年後又回到英國，完成了以意大利爲背景的長篇，於一八六〇年出版，是爲「大理石牧神」*The Marble Faun*。同年回國之後陸續在「大西洋月刊」發表旅英觀感，各篇收於「我們的老家」*Our Old Home*（一八六三）。一八六四年五月霍桑逝世時，留下四部未完稿的小說。

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Sylph Etherege



On a bright summer evening, two persons stood among the bushes of a garden, secretly watching a young girl who sat in the window-seat of a neighboring home. One of these unseen observers, a gentleman, was youthful, and had an air of being of good family, and the face of a thinker. He was not otherwise handsome in appearance. His face wore a threatening, though somewhat satisfied expression, while he pointed his long finger at the girl, and seemed to regard her as a creature completely within his influence.

“The trick works!” said he, in a low whisper.

“Do you know, Edward Hamilton—since so you choose to be named—do you know,” said the lady beside him, “that I am almost prepared to tell the truth at once? What if the lesson should prove too hard! True, if my **ward** could be thus laughed out of her foolish **nonsense**, she might be the better for it through life. But then, she is such a delicate creature! And besides, are you not ruining your own chance by putting forward this shadow of another person?”

“But will he not disappear into thin air, when I so command?” replied Edward Hamilton. “Let the trick work!”

息爾夫·愛瑟累姬

在一個明亮的夏夜裏，有兩個人站在花園的樹叢中，偷偷地瞧著一位坐在鄰家窗椅上的年青女孩。這兩位未被發覺的偷窺者，其中一位年青的紳士，生長在一個很好的家庭，他面孔是屬思考型的。雖然他的臉上帶有十分滿意的表情，但還禁不住露出激動的臉色。當他用他的長指頭指向那女孩時，他似乎認為她完全是個在他影響之內的造物。

「詭計成功了！」他低聲的說。

「你知不知道，自從你這樣被稱呼著—愛德華·漢彌爾敦—你知不知道，」這位少女在他旁邊低語，「我幾乎馬上準備將真相說出來嗎？這種把戲應該證明太難嘛！真的，如果我的監守會被笑得使她清醒的話，她可能會過得好一點。然而；她是那麼漂亮的美人兒呀！除此之外，你是不是以他人的影子，這種主張來破壞自己的機會呢？」

「但是當我這麼做的時候，他會不會消失在空中呢？」愛德華·漢彌爾敦回答說：「就讓詭計繼續下去吧！」

The girl's thin and sylph-like figure was colored with light from the sunset clouds, surrounded by rich, silken curtains, and set within the deep frame of the window. It was a perfect picture. Though her occupation excited much interest in the two observers, she was merely gazing at a **miniature** which she held in her hand, framed in white silk and red leather. There did not appear to be any other cause for the evil smile with which Hamilton regarded her.

"The trick works!" he whispered again. "Our pretty Sylvia's lack of interest will be paid for dearly!"

At this moment the girl raised her eyes. Instead of a living likeness of the miniature, she beheld the un-beautiful shape of Edward Hamilton, who now stepped forth from his hiding place in the bushes.

Sylvia Etherege was a girl without father and mother. Till a few months before, she had spent her life under the care of an unmarried uncle, in whose home she lived. While yet a child, she had been promised in marriage to a cousin, also still a child. Their future marriage had been planned as the means of uniting two rich families, and had been agreed upon by the parents on both sides. Edgar Vaughan, the promised husband, had been raised from babyhood in Europe. He had never seen the beautiful girl whom he was to marry. But already, for several years, letters had been exchanged between the cousins. A relationship had grown be-

少女苗條如美女似的身段被日落的彩雲照亮，厚的絲窗簾包覆著，給固定在窗戶的深框裏面。那的確是幅很動人心弦的圖畫。雖然她的行動引起兩位偷窺者很多興趣，但是她只凝視她手中用白絲和紅皮革所框起的人像。漢彌爾敦知道並沒有其他的原因會使少女有這不正常的笑容。

「這詭計成功了！」他再度的低語。「我們美麗的息爾維亞將會為這缺乏興趣的事付出很大的代價哩！」

在這個時候，少女抬起她的眼睛。她所看到的是愛德華·漢彌爾敦不美的身軀，而不像那張生動的人像。愛德華現由藏身的灌木叢中向前走出去了。

息爾維·亞愛瑟累姬是位無父沒娘的少女。直到幾個月前，她才投靠一位未婚的叔父家接受照料。當她還是孩提時，就被安排嫁給她的表兄，而她的表兄當時還是個小孩。他們的婚姻被做為聯合兩富家的手段，同時雙方家長都同意這門婚事。愛德葛·浮漢這位準丈夫，從小就在歐洲長大，他從未看過這位美麗他所要娶的少女。但已經有好幾年的信件來往而改變了他們

tween them, though they knew little about each other's character.

Sylvia was gentle, quiet, and fanciful. Her uncle's lonely habits had shut her out from the world, even so much of it as is generally open to maidens of her age. She had been left to seek friends for herself in the world of imagination. She conversed with them, sometimes in the language of dead poets, oftener in the poetry of her own mind. The companion whom she most often imagined was the cousin with whom her earliest thoughts had been connected. She made an imaginary picture of Edgar Vaughan, and colored it with many bright and delicate perfections. To this shadow she was lovingly faithful. With its airy presence sitting by her side or walking along her favorite paths, the loneliness of her young life was happy. Her heart was satisfied with love, while its purity was untouched by the earthliness that the touch of a real lover would have left there. Edgar Vaughan seemed to sense her character. For in his letters, he gave her a name that was proper to her delicate character and to the **spiritual** beauty of both her mind and person. Instead of Sylvia, he called her Sylph—with the authority of a cousin and a lover—his dear Sylph Etherege.

When Sylvia was seventeen, her uncle died, and she passed under the care of Mrs. Grosvenor, a lady of wealth and fashion. She was Sylvia's nearest **relative**, though a distant one. While living with Mrs. Grosvenor's family, she still kept some of her lifelong habits of loneliness, and drew back from a too

。兩人之間的關係增長了，雖然互相只了解一點而已。

息爾維亞溫柔，沈靜和充滿幻想力。她叔父孤獨習性把她和世界給隔絕，通常就是和她同年的少女們也不能接觸。她只有在她想像的世界中找朋友罷了。她和這些朋友說話，有時在死沈沈的詩句中表露出來，也常在詩中表現她的心思。她最常想像的伴侶就是她心思極早被連繫的表兄。她造塑愛德葛浮漢爲想像式照片並且用很多明顯和動人完美的典型將照片着上顏色。她對這影像相當忠實。這影子虛幻的出現坐在她身邊；或者沿着她所喜愛的小徑走去竟使得她孤獨的年青生活快樂。當她的純真尚未接觸到世俗真正的愛時，她對於她那種愛頗爲心滿意足。愛德葛浮漢好像了解她的個性。因爲在他的信中，他給了那少女一個名字，而那名字很適合少女優美的性情，同時也很適合他和少女對於心靈美的看法。他稱呼此女爲息爾芙而不叫息爾維亞—他是以表兄和情人的身分給他親愛的息爾芙愛瑟累姬取名的。

當息爾維亞十七歲時，她的叔父死了，於是她就在一位富有而時髦女士葛洛士維諾太太照管之下。這位太太雖是遠親但她是息爾維亞最接近的親戚。住在葛洛士維諾太大家時，息爾維亞仍然保持着獨居的生活，同時還同她熟悉的同伴保持距離

familiar companionship with those around her. Still, too, she was faithful to her cousin, or to the shadow which bore his name.

The time now drew near when Edgar Vaughan, whose education had been completed by a period of travel, was to revisit the land of his birth. Edward Hamilton was a young gentleman who had been Vaughan's companion, both in his studies and travels. He had already recrossed the ocean, bringing letters to Mrs. Grosvenor and Sylvia Etherege. These letters earned him a warm welcome. However, on Sylvia's part, the welcome was not followed by personal preference, or even the respect that seemed due to her cousin's closest friend. She herself could have given no cause for these feelings. Hamilton, it is true, was not handsome, especially when beheld for the first time. Yet, in the eyes of most people, the lack of good looks was made up by his fine manners, and by the quick mind which so often shone through his dark features. Mrs. Grosvenor, with whom he immediately became a great favorite, tried to overcome Sylvia's feeling. But, in this matter, her ward could not be reasoned with. The presence of Edward Hamilton was sure to make her cold and distant.

Sylvia's simplicity made it easy for so sharp an observer as Hamilton to read her feelings. Whenever he saw her, a strange smile might be seen to come over the young man's face.

A few weeks after Hamilton's arrival, he presented to Sylvia Etherege a miniature of her cousin.