

英漢對照·世界名著

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針樅之鄉

*The Country Of
The Pointed Firs*

by SARAH ORNE JEWETT

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陳頗得譯

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The Pointed Firs*



石景宜先生贈書

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針樅之鄉

THE COUNTRY OF THE POINTED FIRS

紀維特原著

by Sarah Orne Jewett

譯 者 序

作者紀維特於1849年出生於美國東北部緬因州海岸的一個村莊裡。二十餘歲時，她對於緬因州鄉村風光的很多描寫陸續的刊載於豎琴手、世紀、大西洋等文藝雜誌中。從1877年，她的第一部小說集「深巷（Deephaven）問世。自此至1909年她逝世時止，一共出了十四部小說集及很多的詩集和少數兒童讀物。

「針樅之鄉」於1896年初版。1925年出版的紀維特最佳小說集以這篇小說作為她成名的代表作。維娜·凱塞（Villa Carter）為該集所寫的序言裡說：「假如有人問我哪三本美國書的壽命最長，我會立即回答是：「紅字（The Scarlet）頑童流浪記（Huckleberry Finn）和針樅之鄉（The Country of the Pointed firs）」，她認為「針樅之鄉」能經得起時間的考驗，是因為沒有盲從物質享受的時尚。


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The Return

 THE TOWN of Dunnet seemed more pleasant than other villages on the coast of the state of Maine in the eastern United States. Perhaps this was because I was familiar with the country around it, the rocky shore and dark forest.

I knew well the few houses set among the rocks of the hillside near the harbor. They seemed to be caught there and held in their places by the trees. Small gardens around them were bright with flowers. The front of all the houses faced the sea. Tiny windows, high up under the pointed roofs, looked out like eyes, watching the harbor and the distant line where the sea and the sky came together. To the north was the shore with the dark fir trees behind it.

Learning to know a village is like learning to know a person. Two people can love each other immediately and forever. But the growth of true friendship may be an affair of an entire lifetime. Similarly, many years are needed to develop real love for a town.

During a boat trip two or three summers before, I had visited Dunnet briefly. Later I dreamed of its shores with the pointed fir trees and the odd, pleasing manners and customs of the village people. The town was far from crowded cities, but its people were childishly certain that their village was the center of the world.

One evening in June I returned to Dunnet. I was the only passenger coming ashore from the boat, and I was

針 樅 之 鄉

第一章 舊地重遊

美國東部海岸緬因州的杜內鎮，似乎要較其他鄉鎮更能使人愉悅。這或許是因為我對這個城鎮周遭的一切，就如那岩石疊疊的海濱和黑森林非常熟悉的緣故吧。

我對港口附近，座落在岩礁上的幾幢房子和道得很清楚。它們像是被緊緊的楔住和釘住般的座落在那兒。那兒到處都是花朵盛開的小花園。所有的房子都面向着海洋。尖削的三角牆頂上的小格窗子，像栩栩如生的眼睛，看守着港口和遠處的海面，向北則眺望着海濱和海濱背後黑黝黝的針樅樹林。


學着去認識一個鄉鎮就像學着去認識一個人。兩個人在一起可以一見鍾情和永遠相愛，但真摯友誼的滋長却是畢生之事。同樣的，對於一個鄉鎮的摯愛是需要許多歲月去培養的。

過去兩三個夏天我曾乘小艇到杜內鎮作短暫的遊覽。之後我就經常想望它那佈滿尖削樅樹的海濱，以及當地村民奇異而令人愉悅的態度和風俗。該鎮遠離吵雜的城市，但當地的村民幼稚地相信他們的村子是世界的中心。

一個六月的夜晚，我回到了杜內鎮。那時我是唯一乘小艇

delighted to find the whole scene unchanged. The tide was high, and I smelled the salty air gratefully. A large crowd of people was watching the coming of the boat. With quiet excitement, the younger members of the crowd followed me up the narrow street between the white wooden houses.

Mrs. Todd

 AFTERWARD, I found only one fault with my choice of a home for the summer. When I first saw it, the tiny house of Mrs. Almira Todd seemed to be a true shelter from the busy world. Later I learned that every person in town came there in the summer to buy Mrs. Todd's herb drinks and remedies.

The house, behind its small bushy green garden, did not face the street. The garden was a queer little place, and a puzzle to a stranger. Most of the garden was filled with green plants. The few flowers were growing close to the gray wall.

I soon discovered that Mrs. Todd was a lover of **herbs**, both those growing in her garden and those growing wild in the forest and fields. The wind from the sea would blow through the window nearest the street. With the wind came the smells not only of flowers, but also of the garden herbs, **sage** and **mint** and **thyme**, and dozens of others too numerous to name.

Often Mrs. Todd went to the far corner of her garden. With her foot she crushed thyme, and I would know of its

上岸的旅客，而且很高興的發覺整個鄉鎮的景象並沒有改變。當時潮水高漲，我心情興奮的聞到充滿鹽味的空氣。碼頭上有一大群人望着漸近的小艇。許多年輕人擁擠的跟隨我步入兩旁白色木屋中間的狹窄街道。

第二章 杜德太太

後來我發現我所選擇夏天度假的住所祇有一點可以挑剔。我第一次看到杜德太太的尖聳房子時，它似乎是一座真正與熙攘外界隔絕的房子。不久之後我才曉得鎮上每個人在夏天都會來這兒買杜德太太的草藥酒和藥物。

這座房子並不面向街道，房子後面是一座枝葉扶疏的小花園。那是個奇異的小園地，對陌生人來說，是個不解之謎。花園大部份的地方都種滿了綠色植物。有幾株花朵生長在靠近灰色石牆的地方。

我不久就發現杜德太太是個藥草的愛好者，不論野草或家草，都同樣的愛好。海風吹入房子臨街的窗子，不但帶來各種的花香，而且也送來了許多藥草的芬芳氣息，諸如鼠尾草、琉璃苣、百里香、以及許許多多說不出名字的藥草。

杜德太太經常踱到花園較遠的角落去。她的脚步重重的踏

presence by its smell. Since she was a very large person, her skirts brushed and bent almost every thin plant. Although half-asleep in the morning, I would realize she was walking in the garden. In the course of a few weeks' experience, I would know by the smell of the herbs coming in my window the exact corner of the garden where she walked.

In one part of this herb section were other plants that could be used for medicines, strange plants not often seen. The unusual smells made me remember something in the distant and forgotten past. Some of these plants might once have been used in ancient forms of worship. Secret words to accompany their use may have been told by mother to daughter during the passing centuries. But now the herbs were used only in simple mixtures. These were made in a pot on Mrs. Todd's kitchen stove and given to suffering neighbors.

The neighbors came almost secretly, usually at night, bringing their own ancient bottles to be filled. One mixture was called the Indian **remedy**, and its price was only 15 cents. I could hear Mrs. Todd's whispered instructions as the buyers passed my windows.

With most remedies, the buyer was allowed to depart immediately from the kitchen. But with some remedies Mrs. Todd gave instructions while she stood in the door of the house. She would accompany other mixtures as far as the gate. At the gate she whispered long instructions, keeping her secret and important manner until the neighbor left.

Mrs. Todd may possibly not have been dealing only with the common illnesses of humanity. Among the strange, wild-seeming plants in her garden, there may have been remedies for love and hate and unfavorable winds at sea.

The village doctor and herb-woman were very friendly with each other. Perhaps some of her medicines made people sick enough to require his care. Whether this was

在百里香草上，我聞到了那氣味就曉得她在那兒。因為她是個身材碩大的人，所以幾乎每一種細長的植物都會被她的長裙掃過或壓倒。即使是在早晨的半醒狀態中，我都曉得她正在花園裡踱着。經過了一連幾個星期的經驗後，我就學會了斷定她究竟在花園裡的那個角落了。

這片草地的一邊生長了許多可以用作藥方的植物，一些並不常見的其他植物。這些不尋常的氣味使我想起一些隱約和久已忘懷的事物。有些植物可能參予過神聖奇奧的儀式，蘊藏着數百年輾轉傳遞下來的學識。可是如今藥草祇是用來泡製不值錢的配方。這些配方是在杜德太太廚房火爐上的小鍋裡配製，然後分發給鄰近病人治病。

鄰居通常都在晚上，幾乎都是偷偷摸摸的帶着他們自己的舊瓶子來拿藥。有一種配方叫做印地安藥，索價僅一毛五分錢。每當顧客經過窗口時，我都可以聽到杜德太太低聲的指示用法。

大多數的草藥都可以不用指示，就讓顧客從廚房拿走。可是有些草藥却得杜德太太站在門口叮嚀指示半天。另外有些草藥，她還要陪着踱到閘門那麼遠的地方。在閘門的地方，她喃喃低語，長篇大論的指示，並且保持一種神秘和驕矜的神態，直到鄰居走了為止。

杜德太太所治療的可能不祇是人類的普通疾病，有時連愛、恨和海上逆風都可以在她花園裡光怪陸離的藥草中找到救藥。

鄉村醫生和這位藥婆彼此相處得很友善。這或許是因為她的藥會使病人更加嚴重而需要他的醫治吧。不管這是不是真的

true or not, the doctor visited often and exchanged greetings with Mrs. Todd at the garden fence. After the first brief words, they would begin to discuss medicines. He would stand holding a sweet-smelling plant in his fingers, perhaps making a friendly joke about her faith in the usefulness of her Indian remedy. Sometimes her faith in it was great enough to endanger the life and health of worthy neighbors.

I arrived at this quiet village beside the sea late in June. The busy herb-gathering season was only beginning. June was also the time that Mrs. Todd began to make her well-known **spruce-beer**. This cooling drink had been made perfect after a long series of experiments. It had gained great local fame, and Mrs. Todd often had to make a new supply.

I was a writer and had been seeking a summer home that was somewhat quiet and lonely. Dunnet was an otherwise delightful part of the world, but it was certainly not lonely. The business agreement between Mrs. Todd and me included a simple cold lunch at noon. At night she prepared a hot supper. Late in the afternoon of some days, I might be seen hurrying down the street toward the **pier** to catch a fish for our evening meal. Our agreement allowed Mrs. Todd the time to go often for long, slow walks through forests and **meadows** gathering herbs and roots.

The buyers of spruce-beer came regularly during the hot weather. Others came for different remedies and medicines. In the beginning I had been unwisely curious about these medicines and now knew the remedies well enough to sell them. Mrs. Todd, I realized, was a widow who had only this small business and the money I paid her. For this reason, I willingly served the neighbors who knocked on her door to buy herbs. Besides my work as her business associate, I sometimes went walking with Mrs. Todd.

With all these activities, the July days passed quickly.

。總之，醫生經常在籬笆前同杜德太太互相問好。經過簡短的寒暄之後，他們就會開始討論醫藥的事。他通常會手持香草站在那裡，開開友善的玩笑，也許是笑她太過於執信重用她的印地安藥。有時候，她的執迷不悟是很足以危害高尚鄰居的生命和健康的。

我於六月底來到了這個寧靜的海邊村落。當時採收草藥的季節剛剛開始。六月也是杜德太太開始釀製她那聞名的針樅酒的時候。這種清涼的酒是經過長期試驗才能臻於完美的。這種酒在當地名氣很響，所以杜德太太經常要釀製新酒以便供應。

我是個作家，想找個多少要僻靜不吵雜的夏季住所。杜內鎮是個世外桃源，但卻一點也不隱僻。我和杜德太太言明中午由她供應簡單的冷餐，而晚上則須供應煮熟的晚餐。有時候傍晚我就匆匆趕路到碼頭釣魚為晚餐加菜。我們的協議給了杜德太太在樹林裡和牧場下緩慢的摘草工作很大的好處。

暑假經常有針樅酒的顧客前來。另外有些人則來購買不同的草藥和藥物。我到此的初期曾受不明智的好奇心驅使我認識草藥，現在則已精通到足以出售草藥了。我知道杜德太太是個寡婦，祇靠着這個微薄的生意和我所付的膳宿費維生。因此，我便樂於為那些前來敲門購買草藥的鄰居服務。除了做她生意上的夥伴外，我有時候還陪杜德太太出去漫遊。

One evening, with much pride and pleasure, I gave Mrs. Todd two dollars and 27 cents that I had received during the day for herbs I had sold. It was very pleasant to earn two dollars and 27 cents during a single day and to have Mrs. Todd's grateful friendship.

But the employment of writers is uncertain. I must force myself to leave these pleasant successes and do my own work. I told Mrs. Todd that I would not be able to continue the pleasure of "greeting people." She was as sad as I had expected. I realized that the neighbors might suffer. Mrs. Todd would not have as much freedom to seek the different wild herbs that were so much needed to ease the winter illnesses of her friends.

"Dear," she said sorrowfully, "your being here has been a great advantage to me. I have not had such a profitable season for many years. I have never had anyone I could trust as much. You lack only a little judgment and experience. But after a while you would be very good in the business. I would stand here and tell that to anyone."

The change in our business affairs did not harm our friendship. Actually, Mrs. Todd and I became better friends.

Late some evenings a strange herb of the night would have a strong, sharp smell. I would smell this herb when the grass was wet, the moon was high in the sky and the cool air would come up from the sea.

At such times, Mrs. Todd would want to talk to someone, and I was always glad to listen. We were both affected by the smell of the herb and by the moonlight. She would stand outside my window or come into my room. Sometimes she would tell the ordinary news of the day. But one cloudy night she revealed to me a secret of her youth. Thus I learned that she had loved a man from a family much wealthier than hers.

"No, dear, he could never think of marrying me," she said. "We were young together, but his mother did not

就在這些活動中，七月的日子很快的飛逝過去了。有一天晚上，我滿懷過份的自傲和興奮的把我在白天出售草藥的二元二角七分錢交給杜德太太。一天之內賺到二元二角七分錢實在叫人高興，同時贏得了杜德太太的親切友誼。

可是作家的幫忙是靠不住的，我必須強迫自己摒棄這些令人興奮的成就，而從事我自己的寫作。我告訴杜德太太說，我不能再享受所謂「接見客人」的樂趣了。她如我所料的感到很失望。我瞭解有些鄰居可能會遭難。杜德太太可能無法隨心所欲的去尋找各種野外的草藥，那是她的冬季病患所賴以治療的藥草。

「親愛的，」她憂傷的說道：「妳在這兒對我有很大的助益。我有很多年都沒有這樣好的收穫了。我從來沒有一位可以這樣足以信賴的人。妳所欠缺的祇是一點判斷和經驗。不過過些時候，妳對這門生意就會很出色的。我可以站在這兒對任何人說這句話。」

我們這項業務關係的改變並不傷害到我們之間的友誼。相反的，杜德太太同我竟變得更要好。

有時在晚上會有奇異的草藥發出一種強烈濃厚的氣味。每當草葉受潮，明月高照，海上清涼的空氣吹來，我就會聞到這種藥草味。

每當這種時候，杜德太太就會去找個人傾談，而我總是樂於傾聽。我們兩人都陶醉於這種藥草味和月光中。她總是站在我的窗口，或跑進我的房間裡。有時她會講述當天最平凡的新聞。可是在一個多雲的夜晚，她却對我透露一段她年輕時的祕密。因此我曉得她愛過一個出生於富有家庭的男人。

「不，親愛的，他從沒有想要娶我。」她說道：「我們是