

世界名著 · 英漢對照

小婦人

LITTLE WOMEN

原著 / Louisa May Alcott

譯註 / 陳美燕

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給讀者的話

在我們每一個人的心靈中都同時擁有富裕與貧乏。富裕會帶來驚人潛力的可能性；貧乏則是我們每天生活的世界加諸於身上的束縛。沒有時間、沒有金錢，一到早上就必須起床。在家庭、在學校、在公司又必須遵從團體的規定。而能從這些不自由的現實生活，讓我們的精神得以解放的，乃藝術的偉大力量。

在各種藝術當中，文學能描繪出我們日常生活中所無法經驗的世界。帶領著讀者進入另一個想像的時空。我們不僅觀看書中人物的生活及冒險，甚至融入他（她）的生命裏，隨著他（她）一起喜、怒、哀、樂、恐懼、憧憬、受苦。這種心境上的起伏，能產生共同感或排斥感，讓我們更深一層認識人類的心理以及自己的心靈深處。這也就是心靈的成長。

「透過世界名著學英語系列」所收集的作品都是如前面所提的，能給予世人感動和智慧的名作。編譯這系列作品的每一位都希望這些作品能成為讀者的精神食糧。祈願在這些筆觸之下，能引起讀者若干的迴響。

原著中頁數過多，在這一系列中，我們全都改寫為八十頁到一百六十八頁的現代簡易英語。盡可能使用二千至三千的基本語，稍微難解的文法或句型則加以註解。

希望這些書能在各位年輕的歲月中留下永恆的記憶，更祈求這些作品能使各位心靈的成長更趨豐富、踏實。



作者簡介

露易莎·梅·阿爾考特生於一八三二年，一八八八年不幸因腦膜炎逝世，期間躬逢了美國南北戰爭。阿爾考特一家人都是傑出的人才，父親是位著名的作家，妹妹是一位藝術家，而露易莎本人則是一位聲名遠播的文學家。本書中四位主角之一的喬，就是作者本身的寫照，所以對於露易莎的為人處世及性格，讀者盡可以自己從字裏行間去認識。露易莎終身未嫁，她將那份真摯、深切的情感，都藉著文學宣洩出來，而成為一位傑出的女作家。

露易莎在一八六八年時已是一位頗有基礎的作家，當時她雖已略有名氣，可以稍藉寫作來幫助家計，但是對於被貧窮、艱苦和疾病所籠罩的阿爾考特家，仍是入不敷出的。為了改善家境，這個身材高大、豪爽如男孩的露易莎，終於應出版社經理尼爾的要求，寫了這本女孩子的書。

「小婦人」第一版於一八六八年十月問世，即刻成為暢銷書，其暢銷的程度，使得尼爾要求露易莎立即動筆寫作續集——「好妻子」。

露易莎，一個自認永遠也寫不出一本讓女孩閱讀之書的女孩，却給了全世界女孩一篇永遠忘不了的故事。

序 文

「小婦人」是部老少咸宜的經典名著，任何年紀閱讀皆不嫌遲，因為此書永遠能適時地滋潤你的心田，使人生充滿溫馨與和諧。

此書是美國教育小說中極精采的一部。作者露易莎以美國內戰為歷史背景，敘述一個家庭有四千金的平凡家庭中，所發生的一些深富教育性及趣味性的事情。在平淡瑣碎的日常生活中，樸樸實實地展現出一群真實可愛的人物，串連成的一段真實的人生。千百種情緒在一書中表達得維妙維肖、淋漓盡致，難怪會令人讀時讚賞不已。

「小婦人」所描寫的，其實就是作者本身的家庭點滴。因她要寫一本有關女孩子的故事，而她唯一了解深刻的女孩便是自己的幾個姊妹，於是她決定寫自己一家人的困苦與奮鬥，恬淡與快樂。因此大姊安妮變成了梅，自己則化身為喬，小妹玫則是艾美，而早夭的小伊莉莎白亦活躍於字裏行間。共同組合成馬奇家可愛動人的「小婦人」。

馬奇一家雖窮苦，但並不可憐。因為艱苦與貧窮並不悲哀，悲哀的是被艱苦與貧窮所擊垮。馬奇家一直沒有真正的傾圮過，微笑不斷地展現在每個人堅毅寬和的臉上，所以他們雖窮，却擁有最充實飽滿的人生。「小婦人」之動人處，即在於那平實而洋溢著熱情的心靈世界。展現了中等家庭的生命觀、道德觀，發揮了無盡的愛與寬容，使書中充滿摯情與感動，猶如暖陽般照耀讀者的心田深處。

LITTLE WOMEN

Chapter 1

“Christmas won’t be Christmas without any presents,”
Jo said unhappily as she lay on the carpet.

5 “It isn’t at all nice to be poor,” announced Meg
while looking down at her old dress.

“Some girls have lots and lots of pretty things, and
other girls have nothing at all,” said little Amy, and it
was clear that she was thinking of herself as she said it.

10 “We’ve got Father and Mother, and we’ve got each
other,” observed Beth from her corner of the room.

Their mother thought that, this Christmas, the four

4 **as** 當。 5 **It**=to be poor 那。 5 **announced** 宣稱。 7 **Some**
~**and other**~ 某些…而其他…。 8 **It**=that. 10 **We’ve got** = We have
已擁有。 11 **observed**=said 評論, 說。

小 婦 人

第一章

喬躺在地毯上不高興的嘀咕著：「在聖誕節沒有禮物，根本就不能算是聖誕節。」

梅看著她破舊的衣服，感慨地說：「貧窮，真是件可怕的事。」

小艾想到自己不禁唏噓的說：「在這世界上，有些女孩子擁有好多漂亮的東西，而另一些女孩子，卻一貧如洗。」

蓓絲在屋子角落，提醒著說：「我們擁有父母，和彼此親愛的姊妹。」

她們的母親認為今年的聖誕節，馬奇家的四個女孩將不會貪圖個人的快樂，而花費她們的金錢。正有

March girls should not spend their money for pleasure. Many men were off at the Civil War, fighting and dying for their country. She thought her daughters should remember those men by deciding not to have any pre-
5 sents this year.

“But we *haven't* got Father, for he's away helping the men who are fighting, and he won't be back for a long time.” Jo did not say what each of the girls was thinking, that perhaps their father would *never* come back.

10 It was clear that Meg, who wanted so many pretty things, found it hard to agree to her mother's plan. In fact, all of the girls were finding it hard to agree.

Jo continued, “We've each got only a dollar, and how can that little bit help anyone so far away? There
15 is one book I want so very much to buy.” That was so very like Jo, who loved books so much.

“And I've wanted some new music for such a long time,” said Beth.

2 **were off** 出征。 2 **the Civil War** 南北戰爭(1861-65)。 8 **what~**
什麼…。 11 **found it hard to~** 發現很困難去…。 12 **In fact** 事實上
14 **that little bit** 那少許的。 16 **so very like~** 倒非常像…。

許多戰士在戰場上受苦，爲了國家挺身而戰，不惜犧牲自己。她認爲她的女兒們應該記住這些勞苦功高的戰士，而決定今年不得到任何禮物。

喬黯然地說：「但是父親，並不在我們身邊，而在遠方幫助作戰的人，要很久不能回來。」雖然喬沒說什麼，但每個女孩忍不住想著也許她們的父親將永不再回來。

很明顯地，對於渴望擁有很多漂亮東西的梅而言，似乎很難去同意她母親的主意。事實上，所有的女孩，都很難去遵從它。

非常愛看書的喬繼續說道：「我們每個人只有一塊錢，區區的一點錢對於前綫的戰士無濟於事，並且我一直渴望買一本書。」這正像喬所講的話。

蓓絲說：「我已經盼了好久，想買些新的樂譜。」

“I want some new drawing pencils. I really need them,” announced Amy.

“Mother didn’t say that we couldn’t use our own money,” Meg went on. “I know I certainly work hard
5 enough to get it. I have to teach those difficult King children every day, and it makes me tired!”

“Think about me! All day, every day, I have to stay with Father’s old aunt, Aunt March. It’s not easy having to do things for her all the time—bringing her
10 things, reading to her, talking about things which don’t interest me at all.”

“I know that it’s hard for you both, but I have to help with the work around the house—washing the dishes, and cleaning, and I don’t know what all. My
15 hands are all red! Just look at them!” Beth breathed deeply after she said all this.

“I still think that my life is the most unhappy of all,” observed Amy. “I have to go to school every day,

5 **difficult** 難以教會的，意指不懂事的。 6 **it makes me tired** 使我疲憊。
8 **It's not easy having to do~** 那並不容易做。 14 **I don't know what**
all 我全然不懂。 15 **breathe** 呼吸。 17 **still** 依舊。

艾美堅決地說：「我想要幾枝新的圖畫筆，我真的很需要。」

梅接著說：「媽媽並沒有說，我們不能花自己的錢，我認爲我日夜辛苦工作，足夠有資格花錢。每天教金家那些不懂事的小孩，簡直讓我筋疲力竭。」

「替我想想，每天和爸爸的姑媽，馬奇姑媽在一起，整個時候，她都是很難侍候的。替她買東西，唸書給她聽，以及談些我毫不感興趣的事。」

「我知道那些事對妳們兩個而言是艱辛的，但是我幫忙做家裡所有的事——洗碗盤、整理房子，那些我未曾做過的事，看看我的手，都變紅了。」蓓絲說完後深深地吸了一口氣。

艾美激動地說：「我仍然認爲我的生活是姊妹中最不快樂的。每天必須上學，如果我不太了解課業，

and the other girls make fun of me if I don't know my lessons, and laugh at me because Father isn't rich, and everything!"

Let us stop for a moment here and describe these
5 young ladies who were talking. Outside that December night the snow was falling and it was cold, but inside the house it was warm and comfortable.

These were the four March daughters. Margaret, or



1 **make fun of** ~ 嘲笑…。
名。

2 **lessons** 課程，課業。

8 **or** 簡稱，別名。

其他的女孩就會嘲弄我，而且譏笑我的父親沒有錢，以及每一件事。」

讓我們在這裡停頓一會，來描述一下這些談話的年輕女孩。十二月的夜晚，雖然屋外是嚴寒的深冬，而且飄著白雪，屋內卻是暖烘烘的使人非常舒適。

MEMO

Meg, was the oldest—sixteen, and very pretty, though a little fat. Fifteen-year-old Jo was always unhappy because she was not a boy. She finally decided that she couldn't help it, so she did the best she could by
 5 making her real name, Josephine, shorter. Jo at least *sounded* like a boy's name. She was not pretty, but she did have beautiful long brown hair. Elizabeth, or Beth, was thirteen and the pet of the family—shy and quiet. Amy was the youngest, but she thought herself the most
 10 important. She was pale and nicely thin, and she always acted as like a lady as she could.

When they noticed that it was six o'clock, the girls suddenly forgot their own worries and turned their minds to their mother, who would be home soon. She often
 15 went out to help some family which was much poorer than they, and her four daughters were waiting for her to return.

The thought of their mother caused them to half agree

2 **Fifteen-year-old Jo** 喬十五歲。 4 **couldn't help it** 無法改變它。 5
at least 至少，起碼。 6 **sounded**~ 聽起來…。 11 **as like a lady**
as she could 她儘可能地像一位淑女。

馬奇家的四個女兒，老大瑪格麗特簡稱梅今年十六歲，雖然有點豐滿，卻長得很美麗。老二喬今年十五歲，經常因為自己不是男孩而悶悶不樂。她最後發覺無法改變事實，所以她盡其所能將她的名字喬瑟芬縮短為喬。喬這個名字起碼聽起來頗像個男孩的名字。雖然她並不漂亮，但她卻擁有一頭漂亮的棕色長髮。老三伊莉莎白簡稱蓓絲，今年十三歲，生性害羞、安靜，被家人寵愛著。老四艾美，雖是最小的，但她卻認為自己是所有姊妹中最重要的一個。她的皮膚白皙、身材苗條，時常千方百計地裝出淑女的動作。

當她們注意到壁上的鐘已敲六下時，這些女孩很快地忘記了自己的煩惱，將她們的注意力轉到她們的母親身上，很快地她就要回家了。她經常出門去幫助一些比她們貧窮的家庭，於是她的四個女兒就待在家裡等着她的歸來。

to her idea. All right, they wouldn't buy presents for each other, and they wouldn't buy things for themselves, but they *had* to buy presents for Mother. Meg, looking at her own hands, which she thought very pretty, 5 announced that she would buy gloves, while Jo decided to buy good, strong shoes. Beth wanted to get some handkerchiefs, and Amy wanted to buy something to make them smell sweet.

“We'll put them all on the table on Christmas morning! She'll be surprised to see them all, and she'll be happy to get them.” This was Jo's idea, but the others quickly agreed.

When their mother came home, she had a great surprise for *them*—a letter from their father. She sat in 15 a great chair near the fire, while her daughters gathered around her to hear her read the letter. Their father was well, he informed them, but he missed his children so very much! He hoped that they would be good

1 All right=Yes; Okay 是的, 好的。 8 make them [=handkerchiefs]
smell sweet 使它們聞起來芳香。 13 surprise 驚奇。 16 hear her
read 聽她讀。 17 missed~ 想念…。