

英漢對照·世界名著

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鈎魂攝魄

Eight Strange Tales

by ELIZABETH ENRIGHT

茵 萊 特 著
陳 頗 得 譯

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EIGHT STRANGE TALES

茵萊特著

ELIZABETH ENRIGHT

序

神秘……恐怖……難預料是茵萊特小說的特點。這些故事將激發你的幻想，且令人意想不到的結尾會使你感到驚奇不置。

「甚至於一隻蒼蠅也會生氣！」在這本書裡，這幾個字以古文字寫在窗子上。這表示什麼呢？誰寫的呢——爲什麼呢？

在「藍色的名字」一文中，一個小女孩被取了一個她憎恨的名字——她一直恨她的名字，直到後來一天她發現她的名字有來由有歷史。

在「簽名」一文中，一個婦人發現他自己在一個神秘不可知的異鄉。她不知道她是誰，也不知道她身在何地。聰明的讀者看完了本文後，將會猜出來。

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FAIR EXCHANGE

SYLVIA HOWARD and her friend Jane Pember-ton were walking on the beach looking for bits of broken glass that had their edges smoothed by the waves and sand. It was a pleasant November day with a gray-colored sky and very little wind. The sea was calm.

"Here is a blue one," said Jane, bending down. "You want this, don't you?"

Sylvia took the piece of glass. She had a bowl full of these smooth, rounded pieces in her room, and sometimes when she was alone she would feel them in her hand and count them, as if they were really the jewels they appeared to be.

"Perfect," she said, holding the blue glass up to the light.

"A jewel of value, not a sharp edge anywhere. From a medicine bottle, no doubt."

"Yes," said Jane thoughtfully. She was spending a few days with her friend and they had sat late into the night, talking.

Near the water a group of birds walked along the shore on their little legs. Farther on the beach larger sea gulls stood looking at the ocean. As the women approached, they rose

公平交易

施爾菲亞·哈瓦德和她的朋友珍尼·潘博敦，在海灘走着尋找碎玻璃，那些玻璃的稜角都已被海浪和沙石磨平了。這是個使人愉悅的十月天，天空佈滿灰雲，風微微地吹着，海面一片平靜。

「這兒有顆藍色的。」珍尼彎下身說道：「妳要不要這個？」

施爾菲亞接過那顆玻璃珠。她房子裡有滿滿一皿這種平滑、圓滾的玻璃珠。有時候她自己一個人時，她就會拿它們在手上玩着、數着，就當它們是真正的珠寶般的把玩。

「很精美。」她說着，把藍玻璃珠拿起來透着光看着。

「價值直可比得上一顆珍珠，一點也沒有稜角。一定是藥瓶上的。」

「嗯。」珍尼同意道。她正同她的朋友同住幾天，她們經常坐下來，聊天聊到很晚。

近水處，有一群水鳥以牠們細小的腳沿着海岸走着。海灘的遠處，有更大的海鷗站立着凝視海洋。當這兩位女人走近時牠們就飛上空中，在更遠的地方停下來。牠們每隔一會就這樣

into the air and settled farther still. Soon they would do this again, and then again.

"What manly birds they are," said Sylvia, "I always think of a sea gull as being a 'he'."

Jane did not answer. She was looking at a closed house which could be clearly seen beyond the sand hills.

"Those people, the Paulsons (I have not thought of that name in five years), what has happened to them?"

"Oh, didn't you know? They separated the year after you stopped coming here. It was the most talked-of thing that summer. It seems he was in love with the secretary at the Atlantic Hotel. Had been, for a long time. And then *she*—remember she was rather pretty? She finally married someone from Turkey."

"This *place*," said Jane. "Things happen to people here. Do you suppose there is something wrong with it? Electricity in the air, perhaps?"

"Things happen to people everywhere," Sylvia said. "Every person's life is strange."

"No. Since last night I have heard of three couples separating; four now, including the Paulsons. And there was the Fine girl who became mentally ill, and Tony Jackson, too, and old Mrs. Craddock who drank too much liquor secretly. And also Leila Gebney and the man who sold fish, and Dr. Archibald who changed his religion, and Mary Totter writing

飛飛停停的。

「那些鳥真有男子氣魄。」施爾菲亞說道：「我經常認為海鷗真是個『男子漢』」

珍尼沒有回答。她正望着近處的一座房子，那座房子在沙洲那邊，很清楚的可以看到。

「包爾遜夫婦怎麼啦？」（我有五年沒有想到那姓名了。）」

「哦，妳不曉得嗎？在妳不到這裡來的那年，他們就分手了。那是那年夏天大家談得再多的事。好像是『他』愛上了大飯店的女秘書。經過了很久之後，然後『她』——妳記得她很漂亮嗎？她最後嫁給一位從土耳其來的人。」

「這個地方的人所發生的一切事物，妳認為有什麼不對嗎？或許，天空中有電磁吧？」

「每個地方的人都有各自的際遇。」施爾菲亞說道：「每個人的生命都是奇異的。」

「不。從昨晚到現在，我已經聽到有三對夫婦分手了；包括現在的包爾遜夫婦，已是第四對了。而那善良的女孩精神已變得不正常，還有湯妮·傑克森也是一樣，另外克雷道克老太太也偷偷的酗酒。以及雷拉·吉伯芮和那個賣魚的男人，還有改變宗教信仰的亞齊伯德醫生和寫那本書的瑪麗·杜特也都是

that book. You will agree . . . And all that happening, or I should say, all of it being discovered only in the last five years, in this one little summer place."

"This one little summer place is a little world. Because it is so small, we can observe each other more easily. Things happen to people everywhere, the strangest things."

"My life seems normal," said Jane. "I am a wife and mother. Same husband for ten years. We live near the city in the winters and at the seashore in the summers."

"Yes, but Jane, think. Why did you stop coming *here* in the summer?"

Jane looked uncomfortable. "Oh, that doesn't trouble me now. I saw him last year at the theater, and I thought, How *could* I have been interested in him! And," she continued, more confidently, "it was in this place that it happened. There *is* something about this place."

They walked without speaking. And Jane's other adventures in other places, Sylvia thought. Her need of secrets, her fear of growing old. But Sylvia liked her friend and said no more.

Between sand hills they saw a field with bare trees, sea gulls and a little white house with bushes all around it.

"Whitney Parmenter's house," said Jane. "Does he still stay here all year? I am sure *he*

一樣。妳該會同意……所發生的一切，或許我該說，這一切僅是這個夏日小勝地，在過去五年內所發現的。」

「這個小避暑勝地就是個小世界。因為它太小了，所以我們很容易觀察到每一個人。各地方的人各有不同的際遇，最奇異的際遇。」

「我的生命像是正常的。」珍尼說道：「我是個家庭主婦和有孩子的母親。跟同一個丈夫相處了十年。我們冬季住在城郊，一到夏天就住到海濱。」

「不錯，不過珍尼，請想想。你們為什麼夏天不到這裡來了呢？」

珍尼顯得很不安。「哦，那件事現在已不再困擾我了。我去年在戲院裡看到他，而且我怎麼可能關心他！」她繼續更具信心地說道：「那件事是在此地發生的。這地方必定有什麼神奇在。」

她們默默地走着。珍尼在別的許多地方有許多不同的經歷，施爾菲亞想着。她那不可告人的需要，她對於衰老的懼怕。不過施爾菲亞喜歡她的朋友，也就不說什麼了。

在沙丘之間，她們看到有一塊田地，周圍有光禿的樹林，海鷗和一座爬滿蔓藤的小白屋。

「懷特內·巴曼特的房子。」珍尼說道：「他整年都住在

is the same. Nothing ever happened to Whitney."

"He died," Sylvia said.

"He *did*? I never heard! How strange that he should die."

"Oh, Jane. People die everywhere."

"But it is so unlike him to die. Anything so real happening to him seems strange. He was only interested in important people, his garden, and those beautiful English dishes no one ever saw."

"I saw them once. He finally had a party one summer; only one, and I know it was difficult for him. There wasn't enough to eat or drink."

"What was the house like?"

"Perfect for an unmarried man. Many valuable little things on the tables. Beautiful paintings on the walls, and as I said, the lovely English dishes. Oh, people always did talk about how he went to everyone's house but never invited anyone, to his house. But he was the only unmarried man for miles around, and I suppose he could do that."

"Do you remember how he always knew who everyone was, or had been? 'She was a Pratt,' he would say, or 'She was a Kissam,' as though he were talking about different kinds of insects. He is one person who escaped the powers of this place. Nothing happened to him except death."

這裡嗎？我敢說他還是老樣子。懷特內從沒有發生過什麼事故。」

「他去世了。」施爾菲亞說道。

「他去世啦？我沒有聽過！他死得真是奇。」

「哦，珍尼。到處都有人死呀。」

「可是他不像是會死的人。他身上所發生的一切看來都很奇特。他祇關心重要人物，他的花園；以及那些沒有見過的英國美麗的碟皿。」

「我曾經見過那些碟皿。他後來在一個夏天舉行了一個宴會；唯一的一次，而且我曉得那對他是很難得舉行的。宴席上吃的東西和飲料都不夠。」

「房子是什麼樣子的？」

「純粹是個未婚男人的家的樣子。桌上有許多珍貴的小東西。牆上掛着美麗的圖畫，以及我所說的可愛的英國碟皿。哦，大家總是說他怎麼到每個人的家裡去，却不曾邀請任何人到他家去。不過他是附近幾哩內唯一的單身漢，我想他可以那麼做的。」

「妳記得他對於人物非常熟悉嗎？『她是個雕刻家。』他總是這麼說，或者說：『她是個吉森第二。』就像他正談論着許多不同種類的昆蟲。他是個逃脫此地魔力的人。除了死亡外，他沒有發生過什麼事故。」

"Not as much was known about him as you may think. I discovered that one year."

"Tell me about Whitney," said Jane.

"You know how I love to come here in the autumn," Sylvia said. "Every year when the children are in school I try to have a few days alone. The houses are closed, the beach is bare. All you hear is sea and perhaps a few insects. Oh, and the geese! Canada geese. The first time I heard them I thought they were hunting dogs barking. They sound the same; but the barking was coming from the sky, and when I looked up, there they were with their long necks and their mouths open."

"Three years ago, I came here alone. I had quarrelled with Donald. Nothing serious, you know, only a husband and wife quarrel, and I felt we needed a vacation from each other, and I needed a vacation from everything. If I could have come out of my skin and had a vacation from myself, I would have been glad."

"Oh, I know the feeling so well," said Jane. "To escape for a while and be a different person. A greater person. To be someone like Albert Schweitzer for a few days."

"But, because that is impossible, a change of place has to be enough," Sylvia continued. "I came on that awful afternoon train that stops at every station and often in between, no one really knows why, and when I arrived it was nearly dark. I remember standing

「他爲人所知的並不如妳所想的那麼多。有一年我才發現了這件事。」

「說說有關懷特內的事吧。」珍妮說。

「妳曉得我很喜歡在秋天到此地來。」施爾菲亞說道：「每年當孩子住在學校時，我就盡量設法獨處幾天。秋天這裡的房子都關了門，海灘光禿禿的。妳所能聽到的祇有海潮聲，或者一些動物。哦，天鵝！加拿大天鵝。我第一次聽到牠們的叫聲，還以爲是獵狗在叫呢。牠們的叫聲聽起來一模一樣；不過那叫聲是從空中而來的，當我抬頭望時，牠們都在空中伸長頸子，嘴巴張得開開的。」

「三年前，我跟杜那德吵架獨自到這裡來。妳曉得，情況並不嚴重，祇是夫妻之間的爭吵而已，我覺得我們需要分開來，各自渡個假期，我需要擺脫一切渡假。如果我能擺脫我的親人，自己有個假期，我就會非常愉快。」

「哦，我很能了解那種心情。」珍妮說道：「逃避一會兒，是可以改頭換面的。變爲一個更偉大的人。過些時日就可成爲像史懷哲那樣偉大人物了。」

「不過，因爲改變個地方就夠了那是不可能的。」施爾菲亞繼續說道：「我坐上那累人的下午班車，到這兒時，天色已快暗了，那火車每一站都停，而且在站與站之間也經常停，弄