

英漢對照・世界名著

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我兒姜尼

Death Be Not Proud

by John Gunther

約翰・根室著

楊武晃譯

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我兒姜尼

**DEATH
BE NOT
PROUD**



A Few Words About This Book

Death Be Not Proud was written by John Gunther, the world-famous writer of such books as *Inside U.S.A.*, *Inside Europe Today*, *Inside South America*, *Inside Russia Today*.

Death Be Not Proud is the story of John Gunther's son, Johnny, and his long and fearless battle with death. It is a story not only of suffering, great as that suffering was, but of simple human courage. This book is not about the happy early years, but about the years when Johnny was ill. It is the story of what happened to Johnny's brain.

Johnny was born in Paris, France, on November 4, 1929. His family moved to Vienna, Austria, when he was a few months old, and he went to his first school there. The family moved again to London when he was six, and he had a year and a half in England. Then the Gunthers returned to the United States and Johnny went to several schools; the last one was in Deerfield, Massachusetts, in the north-eastern part of the United States. He died on June 30, 1947, when he was 17. He would have entered college at Harvard, had he lived, and studied science which was the great love of his life.

爲此書獻幾言

「我兒姜尼」是約翰·根室所作的，他是聞名世界的作家，也是下類書本的作者：「美國內幕」、「今日歐洲內幕」、「南美內幕」、「今日蘇聯內幕」。

「我兒姜尼」是約翰·根室的兒子姜尼長期無畏和死亡爭鬥的故事。它不僅只是苦痛的故事，不管那苦痛有多大；而且是人類勇氣的寫實。這本書寫的不是他的快樂童年，而是姜尼生病年中的事。是姜尼腦中所發生的故事。

姜尼於一九二九年十一月四日生在法國的巴黎。他的家庭在他只有幾個月大時遷往奧地利的維也納，他在那兒進了第一所學校。他的家庭在他六歲時再度遷往倫敦，他在英國停留了一年半的時間。然後根室一家回到美國，姜尼分別進了幾所學校，最後一處是在馬薩諸塞州的鹿田，在美國的東北部。他死於一九四七年六月三十日，當時才十七歲。如果他還活著，他將會進入哈佛大學，研習他一生最喜歡的科學。

Some Few Notes on Johnny by the writer

I must try to give you a picture of Johnny. He was a tall boy when he died, and thin, with hair the color of wheat in the sun, large bright blue eyes, and the most beautiful hands I have ever seen. Most people did not think of the way he looked, however; they thought of his delightful character, his gentleness, and above all, his unusually able mind. Also, Johnny always thought of others before **himself**.

There was that day after the first **operation**, the operation that lasted almost six hours, when Dr. Putnam thought it wise to tell him what was wrong with him. Johnny was no fool; he could no longer be told things which were not true. Dr. Putnam said quietly, "Johnny, what we **operated** for was a brain **tumor**."

No one else was in the room, and Johnny looked straight at him.

"Do my father and mother know this? How shall we tell them?"

Soon after I wrote *Death Be Not Proud*, I began to receive letters from people everywhere in the world. They came by the hundred, day after day. In one week, I received more than a thousand letters. These letters showed more than just understanding for a suffering family; they did more than honor a young and **courageous** boy. They showed that the problem of **cancer** is one that is shared by people

著者小註

我必須想法給你們一個姜尼的印象。他死時是個瘦高的孩子，黃金色的頭髮、大而亮的藍眼，和我曾看過最美麗的手。然而，大部分人並不如此看他；他們考慮他歡欣的性格、他的溫和，而最重要的是他超乎平常的心靈。姜尼也總是先為別人設想。

第一次手術後，那次手術進行了幾乎六個鐘頭，布南大夫認為應該告訴他出了什麼毛病。姜尼不是笨孩子；他不能再為他人所隱瞞。布南大夫冷靜地說：「姜尼，我們動手術是為了解腦瘤。」

沒有別人在房間裏，姜尼盯著他看。

「我父母親知道嗎？我們要如何告訴他們？」

我寫完「我兒姜尼」後不久，開始收到世界各地人們寄來的信件。信件一天一天成百的到來。一星期後，我收到的信超過了一千封。這些信件中顯示很多對受苦家庭的瞭解；他們作的不只是紀念一位年輕勇敢的男孩。他們表示癌症的問題是各地人們所共同有的，癌症侵襲的對象是

everywhere, that cancer can come to both young and old, rich and poor, and that it is the duty of all human beings to join together in the fight against this illness.

But let us return to Johnny—

Some letters came from people who were very poor and suffering more than Johnny ever suffered. Some were from families who also had children dying from cancer. One letter was from a man in Australia who said, "I think Death must have taken Johnny with great sadness." Another came from a family who offered to let the Gunthers "keep" their own son for a while. One lady writes every year on June 30, the day of Johnny's death.

And that is what happened. People have been strengthened and helped by *Death Be Not Proud*. There is in all human beings a desire to share pain and suffering, which is the reason the book produced so many letters from people everywhere. That, and Johnny's wonderful character. Readers will understand that this story is more than a story of the death of a boy. It is the story of a life, too. But now, let *Death Be Not Proud* speak for itself, in Johnny's name.

不分老幼、貧富的，聯合起來共同對抗這種病症是全人類的責任。

但是讓我們回到姜尼身上

有些信件寄自家境很窮的人家，他們所受的苦比姜尼還要來得多。一些信件來自也有小孩死於癌症的人家。有一位澳洲的婦人寄來一封信，她說：「我想死神也很傷心地奪走了姜尼的生命。」另外一封信來自一個願意讓我們暫時「擁有」他們的孩子的家庭。有一婦人每年六月三十日，即姜尼去世那天都寫信來。

這就是所發生的故事。我們藉「我兒姜尼」一書而加強了聯繫。所有人類都有共苦的願望，這也就是為何這本書造成世界各地人們寄來那麼多信件的原因。另外還有姜尼奇妙的性格。讀者會瞭解這不只是一個男孩死亡的故事。它也是生命的故事。但是現在以姜尼的名字，讓「我兒姜尼」自己道出吧。

1 JOHNNY came home from school to visit us in December of 1945, and he seemed healthy and well. He was 16 and growing in body and mind, too, as children seem to do suddenly. We had been together a lot, and before going on the train to return to school in January, he said, “**Pop**, those were the best days I ever had!” He did not often speak of his own feelings so freely, and I was pleased.

Then in March, 1946, he came to visit us again. Frances—his mother—and I took him to see several of the best shows in New York. He went to hear various talks on **physics**, and Frances took him to the public dinner given by the City of New York to honor the great

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一九四五年十二月，姜尼由學校回家來看我們，當時他似乎顯得很健康。那時他十六歲，身心都在成長着，和一般小孩子並無兩樣。我們共處了一段時光，一月時在回學校的火車上，他說：「爹，這是我有過最快活的時光！」他不常如此放肆地談論自己的感觸，我著實覺得很高興。

後來，一九四六年三月，他又再度回來看我們。他母親弗蘭思和我帶他到紐約幾個一流的劇院去。他去聽了幾次有關物理學的演講。弗蘭思也帶他去由紐約市爲慶祝偉大的英國領袖邱吉爾而舉辦的晚宴去。他玩著，忙著化學

English leader, Winston Churchill. He played games, busied himself with **chemistry**, and read the first pages of *Inside U.S.A.*, a book I had started to write.

I thought he seemed tired, but I was not troubled by it. I believed it to be the result of the busy life at Deerfield, together with the fact that he was growing from boyhood to manhood. He had his usual visit with Dr. Traeger, our family doctor, who told us he was perfectly healthy. He also saw an eye doctor. This was important. Johnny had had some trouble with his eyes the summer before and had been told what to do to try and strengthen them. The eye doctor found nothing wrong; indeed his eyes were much better now.

The day after his visit with Dr. Traeger, Johnny suddenly told us that he had difficulty moving his neck. If this had happened before Dr. Traeger saw him, I would have been more troubled. But since we had just been told he was in good health, we were not especially worried. Indeed, he was able to move his neck by the next day. Johnny then returned to school, a little sad that his visit at home was ended, but happy and looking forward to returning to school.

Early in the year, a boy at Deerfield became ill with polio, a very **serious** illness, which often begins with a person being unable to move his neck. The school, as it always

，也讀了我開始寫的一本書「美國內幕」的頭幾頁。

我認爲他似乎顯得疲倦，但我沒有爲這件事掛意。我相信是由於鹿田煩忙的生活和他在發育的緣故。他如往常一樣去看我們的家庭醫生崔傑大夫，他說姜尼的健康情況很好。他也去看了一位眼科醫生。這很重要，去年夏天姜尼的眼睛出了一點毛病，別人還告訴他增強視力的方法。眼科醫生找不到什麼毛病；他的眼睛現在也確實好多了。

他去拜訪崔傑大夫的次日，姜尼突然告訴我們他不易扭動脖子。如果這是發生在崔傑大夫檢查他以前，我也許會很擔心。但是因爲我們才聽說他的健康情況很好，我們也就沒有特別的操心。確實，隔日他就能夠扭動脖子了。接著姜尼回學校去，雖然因爲假期結束顯得有點悲傷，但是仍然快快樂樂地走了。

那年年初，鹿田有一個男孩子患了小兒麻痺症，這是一種非常嚴重的病症，症狀的初期徵象通常是不能扭動脖子。學校和往常一樣迅速地通知了學生的家庭。

did in such cases, quickly told all families about this.

Then in the third week of April, I heard from Dr. Johnson, the school doctor. He told me that Johnny was unable to move his neck, but they did not believe he had polio. We should not worry, he said; boys often have this kind of thing. Indeed, Dr. Johnson said, he was telling us about Johnny's neck only because we knew there was polio at school. And he did not want us to think the boy was sick with anything like that.

I spoke to Johnny over the **telephone** for a moment. He was lonely and unhappy at being away from his class work for a week. But except for that, all was well. He was going into a nearby town the next day to have a **medical test**. Dr. Johnson asked me to learn from Dr. Traeger when the last time was that he had given Johnny that test, and what the result was. I told Frances all this and did not think much about it any more.

Later we discovered that Johnny might not have gone to the doctor at school, since he never told anyone when he was ill. But one of his friends, noticing that he could not move his neck, forced him to go. Then, wisely, Dr. Johnson put him in the sick-room so that he could be watched more closely. Had this not happened, Johnny might have died that day.

At about three in the afternoon on Thursday, April 25, we heard the **telephone** ring in our New York home. Just a moment before, I

後來，四月的第三個禮拜，我從校醫詹森大夫那兒得到消息。他告訴我說姜尼不能扭動他的脖子，但是他們不相信是得了小兒麻痺症。我們不必擔心，他說；男孩常有這類事情發生。詹森大夫說，他告訴我們有關姜尼脖子事情，實在只是因為我們知道學校有小兒麻痺症患者，而他不要我們認為孩子也得了那種病。

我和姜尼在電話上談了一會兒。他只是孤獨，對慢了一星期的功課煩惱。但是除了這些，一切順利。隔天，他要去鄰鎮去作一次醫學檢查。詹森大夫請我向崔傑大夫打聽他最近一次向姜尼施行這種檢查的時間和結果。我把這些事告訴弗蘭思後，就沒有再去想它。

後來我們發現姜尼也許在這以前沒有去看過校醫，因為他從來沒有告訴別人是什麼時候病的。但是他有一個朋友，注意到他不能扭動脖子，才逼他去的。後來詹森大夫明智地把他安置在病房裡，以便能仔細地檢查。如果不是這樣，姜尼也許當天就死了。

四月二十五日，星期四下午大約三點的時候，我們在紐約家裡的電話鈴響起。稍前，我剛完成我的書的第一部

had finished the first part of my book, and I planned to telephone Johnny that night to tell him.

Quickly, without preparing us for bad news, Dr. Johnson said, "We have brought a doctor in from the town of Springfield to see your son. Dr. Hahn is a **neurologist**. Here he is."

Dr. Hahn said, "I think your child has a brain tumor."

It was as though I had received a blow. I was so surprised that all I could think to say was, "But that's very dangerous, isn't it?"

Dr. Hahn said, "Yes, it is dangerous!" Explaining why he thought Johnny had a brain tumor, he told me not to lose a moment's time. I was to talk to Dr. Tracy Putnam, who had much experience **treating** tumors. Indeed, before talking to me, he and Dr. Johnson had tried to call Dr. Putnam. During the next half hour I was busy at the telephone. I talked to Dr. Traeger; I talked to the doctors again at the school; I talked to Frances, who was away from home at the time; I was able to talk to Dr. Putnam; I spoke to Dr. Traeger once more, and at 4:30 in the afternoon I was waiting in Dr. Putnam's office.

We met Frances in New Haven, Connecticut. Driving as fast as we could, on a rainy night when it was difficult to see out the window, we reached Deerfield at about ten o'clock. Dr. Putnam said little as we sat in the car, with fear in our hearts. Five minutes after we