

义犬阿黄

● 简写本 ● 上海译文出版社

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英 汉 对 照 读 物

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作者简介

弗莱德·吉普森 (Fred Gipson), 1908 年生于美国得克萨斯州中部的山村, 并在他父亲的农场里长大。象其他的农村孩子一样, 他学会了挤牛奶、看管牲畜和训练骡子等活。他还帮助家里摘过棉花, 但是他说他宁愿以偷窃为生也不愿干那种累死人的活儿。在空余时间, 他钓鱼、打猎, 还为狩猎猎人当向导。渐渐地他熟悉了这个乡村以及生活在那里的野生动物, 并对之产生了深厚的感情。

还在得克萨斯州立大学念书的时候, 他就开始为一家报馆工作, 当了好几年的新闻记者。1940 年回到家乡, 除了写小说外他还自己经营一个农场。

许多登载在杂志上的故事和小说, 包括《义犬阿黄》(瓦特·狄斯尼把它改编成了一部很成功的电影), 都是根据他童年的经历写成的。作品描写了鸟类、走兽以及得克萨斯州农民的艰辛生活。许多人都很欣赏《义犬阿黄》, 因此作者又写了它的续篇——阿黄的儿子, 小阿里斯的幼犬——《凶猛的山姆》。

故事梗概

《义犬阿黄》描写了阿黄与特拉维斯一家结下的生死情谊。

故事发生在得克萨斯山区的一个小村子里，特拉维斯的爸爸要出远门了，十四岁的特拉维斯成了一家之主。在这人烟稀少、野兽出没的山区，他既要照料牲口，又要忙着狩猎、干农活；而且五岁的小弟弟——阿里斯还常常给他添麻烦。他深深地感到要是有一只忠实而又机灵的狗作他的帮手，那该多好。

就在这时，“阿黄”出人意外地溜进了他们家。可是，特拉维斯对它毫无好感，而且一心想把它赶走，原因是它不仅把他们家上年冬天仅剩的一大块肉偷吃了，把他们家的饮用水弄脏了，而且当两条公牛在他们家门口搏斗，需要它出力帮忙时，它却表现得无动于衷。只是由于小阿里斯酷爱“阿黄”，拼命加以保护，再加上妈妈的劝说，他才勉强地把它收留了下来。

其实，“阿黄”决不是贪馋偷懒的家伙，而是一个忠心耿耿、智勇双全的帮手。它帮助特拉维斯打猎、看牛、赶猪，陪着他通宵达旦地在田里守护庄稼。最难能可贵的是，在关键时刻，它奋不顾身地、一次又一次救了他们的性命：它机智地击败大母熊，救了小

阿里斯；又舍命从一群充满杀机的野猪群里救出了特拉维斯；最后又与一头患了狂犬病的大灰狼搏斗，使女主人和小丽丝贝免遭劫难，而它却为此献出了生命。

Old Yeller

义犬阿黄

(简写本)

One

We called him Old Yeller. The name had sort of¹ two meanings. One was that his short hair was a dirty yellow. The other was that when he opened his mouth the sound he let out was more of a yell than a bark.

I remember like yesterday how he strayed in out of nowhere to our log cabin on Birdsong Creek. He made me so mad at first that I wanted to kill him. Then, later, when I had to kill him, it was like having to shoot a friend. That's how much I'd come to think of Old Yeller.

He came the year Papa and the other settlers had to go along the trail to Kansas. This was to get cash, a thing all Texans were short of in those years. We had plenty of grass, wood and water, *wild game*², and good ground for growing corn.

"In fact," as Papa told the others, "all we need is money, and that we can get by selling our cattle in Kansas."

The men talked it over with each other and with the women. Kansas was more than six hundred miles north of our Texas hill

1. 有一点儿,有几分地。(口语) 2. 猎味,野味。

第 一 章

我们管它叫阿黄。阿黄这个名字有那么两层意思：一是它那短短的狗毛呈灰黄色；二是它张口发出的声音与其说是犬吠还不如说是狂叫。

我对此事记忆犹新，就象昨天刚发生的一样：它不知从哪儿钻了出来，溜进了我们鸟鸣河畔的小木屋。起先它使我火冒三丈，都想把它给宰了。可是，后来到了我不得不把它杀死时，就好象不得不枪杀一位朋友似的。可见我对阿黄的关注已经到了何等的程度了。

它来到我家的那年正好爸爸和其他的一些移民要沿着山间小道上堪萨斯去，为了去弄些现金，那年头所有得克萨斯州的人都缺少这玩意儿。我们有大量的牧草，丰富的森林，充足的水源，还有不少野味以及大片种植玉米的肥沃土地。

就象爸爸对别人说的那样，“事实上，我们所需要的只不过是钱。而钱呢，我们可以到堪萨斯去卖牛来换取。”

男人们互相商量，也和妇女们商量。堪萨斯在我们得克萨斯山区北面六百多英里远的地方。把牛

country. It would take months to drive the cattle and then ride back home, and all that time the women and children would have to be left to look after themselves the best they could.

Still, they needed money, and they decided to go. They told their families what to do if the Indians came, or if the coons *took to*¹ eating the corn, or the bears were killing too^c many hogs. Then they collected their cattle, burned a trail brand on their hips, and started out.

I remember how it was the day Papa left. He was standing in front of the cabin with his horse, his gun, and his bedroll. I remember how tall and straight and handsome he looked. And I remember how Mama was trying not to cry because he was leaving, and how Little Arliss, who was only five and didn't know much, wasn't trying at all. He was crying all right. Not because Papa was leaving, but because he couldn't go too.

I was fourteen years old—nearly a grown man. I stood back and didn't *let on*² for a second that I wanted to cry. Papa got on his horse. I looked up at him and saw he wanted us to talk alone. So I walked beside his horse down the trail.

When we were out of hearing of the house, Papa reached down and put a hand on my shoulder.

1. 开始从事于…, 养成…习惯, 后面跟动名词。
流露出想哭的神情 (口语, 通常用在否定句中)。

2. 泄露, 这儿指

赶到那儿，然后骑马回来得花几个月的时间。在这段时间里，妇女和孩子们只得留在家里，尽可能自己照顾自己了。

可是，他们需要钱，所以还是决定去走一趟。他们关照家人如果印第安人来该怎样对付，如果浣熊来吃玉米或者熊把猪弄死得太多了又该怎么办。他们把牛赶拢，在它们的臀部烙上印记，然后就上路了。

我还记得爸爸离别那天的情景。他牵着马，背着枪，带着铺盖卷站在木屋前。他看上去是多么高大、多么挺拔，又是多么地英俊！我还记得，由于爸爸要出远门，妈妈是怎样地强忍住泪不让自己哭出来。而小阿里斯才五岁，还不大懂事，根本没想到要控制自己。他哇哇地哭开了。他哭的倒不是因为爸爸要出门了，而是因为他自己不能跟着爸爸一起去。

我十四岁了——差不多是个成年人了，我靠后站着，一点儿也没有流露出要哭的样子。爸爸跨上了马。我抬起头来看了看他，知道他想和我单独谈谈。于是，我走在马的旁边，和他并排沿着那条小路走去。

当我们走到家里人听不到的地方，爸爸俯下身来，一只手搭在我的肩上。

“Now¹, Travis,” he said, “while I’m gone you’ll be *the man of the family*². I want you to take care of Mama and Little Arliss. Look after the work and don’t wait for your Mama to say what needs to be done. Do you think you can do that?”

“Yessir,” I said.

“There will be the cows to milk, the wood to cut, the young pigs to mark, and *fresh meat*³ to shoot. And then there’s the corn patch. If you let the coons *get at*⁴ it, we’ll be without bread corn for the winter.”

“Yessir,” I said.

“All right, boy, I’ll be seeing you towards the end of the year.”

I stood there and let him ride on. There wasn’t any more to say.

Then I remembered. I went running down the trail after him, calling for him to wait.

He pulled up his horse and turned in the saddle. “Yeah, boy,” he said. “What is it?”

“That horse,” I said.

“What horse?” he said, like he’d never heard about it before. “You mean you’re wanting a horse?”

“Papa....” Didn’t he remember? “You know how much I’ve been wanting a horse to ride. I’ve told you time and again.”

1. 语助词,通常用于句首,表示命令,抗议或引起注意. 2. 一家之主,“man”这儿作“男子汉”解. 3. 指狩猎获得的新鲜肉食.
4. 损坏,吃(玉米).

“啊，特拉维斯，”他说，“我离家外出期间，你就是家中的男子汉了。我要你照顾好妈妈和小阿里斯，管好家里的事，别等着让你妈妈吩咐你该做些什么。你看你能做到吗？”

“能，先生，”我答道。

“奶牛要挤奶，要砍柴，小猪要打印记，还得去打猎搞些鲜肉来。对了，还有那块玉米地呢，如果你让浣熊把玉米地糟蹋了，我们整个冬天就吃不上玉米面包了。”

“知道了，先生。”我答道。

“好吧，孩子，年底再见了。”

我站在那里，看着他骑马离去。其他没啥好说的了。

后来，我又想起一件事。我沿小道跑着追赶他，喊他等一下。

他停住马，在马鞍上转过身来。

“唷，孩子，”他说，“什么事啊？”

“那匹马，”我说。

“什么马？”他问道，好象他以前从未听说过这件事似的。“你的意思是想要一匹马，是不是？”

“爸爸……，”他难道不记得了吗？“你知道我多么想有一匹马骑骑，我已经跟你讲过好几回了。”

I looked up in time to catch him smiling at me. So he was only teasing.

“What you’re needing more than a horse is a good dog.”

“Yessir,” I said, “but a horse is what I’m wanting more.”

“All right,” he said. “You act like a man while I’m gone, and I’ll *see that*¹ you get a man’s horse to ride when I sell the cattle. I think we can shake on *that*².”

He reached out his hand and we shook. It was the first time I’d ever shaken hands like a man. It made me feel big. I knew then that I could do whatever needed to be done while Papa was gone.

I turned and started back up the trail towards the cabin. I did need a dog, Papa was right. All the other settlers had dogs. They were big fierce animals that the settlers used for catching hogs, and driving cattle, and fighting coons out of the cornfields. They were watchdogs, too, against wolves, bears, panthers, and raiding Indians. There was no question about it: for the sort of country we lived in, a good dog was sometimes worth more than two or three men.

I knew this as well as anybody, because the summer before I’d had a good dog. His name was Bell. He was nearly as old as I was, and

1. 务必使，一定。

2. 指上面所允诺的条件: “You act like man... and I’ll see that you get a man’s horse...”

我抬起头来，正好看到他在朝着我笑。原来他在逗我呢。

“你现在更需要的是一只好狗而不是马。”

“是的，先生，”我答道，“可我更想要一匹马。”

“好吧，”他说，“我不在家的时候，你要象个男子汉那样地办事，那么我卖掉牛后就一定给你买一匹男子汉骑的马，我看，我们可以握握手一言为定。”

他伸出手来，我们握了一下。这是我生平第一次象个男子汉似的与别人握手。这使我感到自豪。当时我就知道，爸爸不在家的时候，一切该做的事，我都能做。

我转过身来沿着那条通向木屋的小道往回走。爸爸是对的，我确实需要一只狗。别的人家都养狗。他们用这些又高大又凶猛的家伙去捉猪，赶牛，去轰走玉米地里的浣熊。这些狗还能用来看家，提防狼、熊、豹以及印第安人的袭击。有一点是毫无疑问的：在我们所居住的这种山村里，一只好狗有时会比二、三个人还顶用。

我和其他的人一样明白这一点，因为在去年夏天以前我曾经有过一条好狗。它的名字叫贝尔，年令差不多和我一样大。从我开始记事，它就和我们

we'd had him ever since I could remember. Then he went and *got himself bitten*¹ playing with a rattlesnake. You'd have thought such a smart dog would have had more sense.

He died the same night, and I cried for a week. Papa tried to make me feel better by saying he'd get me another dog right away, but I didn't want that. It made me mad just to think of some other dog trying to take Bell's place.

And I still felt the same about it. All I wanted now was a horse.

The trail I followed led along the bank of Birdsong Creek. The bushes were white with flowers and smelling sweet. I came to our spring where clear cold water came out from a rock. The water poured down into a small pool. There in the pool, up to his ears in the water, stood Little Arliss. Right in our drinking-water.

I said, "Arliss! You get out of that water."

Arliss turned and put out his tongue at me.

"I'll take a stick to you!" I shouted.

All he did was put out his tongue at me again, and splash water towards me.

I got out my knife and cut a hard green branch. I took off all the leaves and then headed for him.

Arliss was frightened. He came out of the pool fast, knocking water all over his clothes

1. 让自己给咬伤了。get 后面接复合宾语,表示“使得”,“使被弄得”。

在一起了。后来，它竟然去和一条响尾蛇嬉戏起来，结果被咬了一口。你一定会想这样机灵的一只狗不应该那样没有头脑。

当天晚上它就死了，我哭了一个星期。爸爸想安慰我，说他马上再给我弄一只狗，但是我不要。一想到另一只狗要来代替贝尔，我就气得要命。

关于这件事的想法，我至今未变。现在我想要的只是一匹马。

我脚下的那条小路沿着鸟鸣河畔向前伸展。灌木丛中开满了白色的鲜花，清香扑鼻。我来到我们的那个泉边，清澈冰凉的泉水从岩缝里流出，注入底下的一个小池子里。小池里站着小阿里斯，泉水一直没到他耳根。他就站在我们的饮用水中。



我喊道：“阿里斯，你给我出来！”

阿里斯回过头来，朝我吐了吐舌头。

“我要拿棍子来揍你了！”我喊道。

他只是又冲着我吐了吐舌头，还朝我泼水。

我拿出小刀，削下一根结实的绿树枝，把上面的叶子扯个精光，然后朝他走去。

阿里斯害怕了。他赶紧从池子里跑出来，溅得