



新经典阅读



中英文对照
永世不衰的经典收藏

小公主

A Little Princess

(美) 伯内特/著 Burnett.F.H.
秦悦笙/译



中国工人出版社



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导 读

《小公主》是一部闻名世界的优秀儿童文学小说，自 1905 年问世以来，曾多次再版，并被译成多种文本，还被拍成电影、电视连续剧，是一部经久不衰的畅销书籍。

小说所描述的主人公萨拉·克鲁是一位出生在印度的富家之女，她自幼失去母亲，其父对她疼爱有加。她拥有各种各样的玩具，小猫小狗，还有一个尊敬她的女佣。她父亲的朋友们都说她长大后会成为富人，因此，在她的小脑瓜里，富人的概念只是拥有这些东西这么简单。7 岁时，她被父亲送到伦敦一所女子寄宿学校里去读书。尽管她对此很不情愿，可并不像别的孩子那样提出抗议，她知道这是没用的，于是就只好默默接受了。萨拉虽然只有 7 岁，却成熟得像 12 岁的孩子一样，她总是会思考一些成年人的事情和他们所拥有的世界，说起话来尽管充满童稚，可还是一本正经的样子，给人一种小大人的感觉。

她本人聪明伶俐，爱读书，爱幻想。尽管她并不是真正的皇族血统，由于她待人彬彬有礼，仁慈宽厚，具有真正的公主气质，再加上她的父亲在送她进校之前，曾带她大肆购买衣物用品，因此被大家称为“小公主”，并颇受大家的尊敬、爱戴和羡慕。谁想到这却引起了女子学校校长明钦小姐的妒忌，她由此而对这个孩子产生了厌恶之感。尽管如此，可由于萨拉家的财产，她还是不敢对萨拉表示不恭。

在学校里，萨拉独自拥有一间漂亮的卧室和起居室，有一匹

小马和一辆马车,还有一名女佣来代替在印度一直照顾她的那个女佣。所有的这一切都是金钱所带来的。萨拉还有一个大得像真孩子一样的洋娃娃,她为它取名叫埃米莉。虽然埃米莉只是个洋娃娃,可富于幻想的萨拉从来都把它当成一个有生命的精灵,跟它谈心,把它当成最知己的好朋友。

几年之后,萨拉的父親誤以為好友卡里斯福特先生騙走了他在鑽石礦上投資的巨額錢財,從而導致他的破產,於是便在悲憤之下患病而死。薩拉馬上成了身無分文的孤兒,被利欲熏心而又冷酷无情的明欽小姐從原來豪華舒適的單身臥室裡趕到陰暗、潮濕的閣樓上去住。薩拉的地位也隨之而發生了變化,她由一個富家之女淪落為一個備受虐待的小苦工。儘管如此,她仍然保留著公主般的气质,富而沒有嬌氣,貧卻具有傲骨,讓人很是欽佩。

隨後,好運又突然降臨,曾經認為完全失去的財產又失而復得。原來,苦苦尋覓她的卡里斯福特先生終於找到了她。他開發鑽石礦已經成功,於是薩拉便成了鑽石礦的繼承人。此時明欽小姐深感後悔,但是為時已晚。薩拉由於切身體驗了一段寒冷而飢餓的苦日子,深知流浪者之苦,於是便用自己的巨額財產來幫助那些乞丐們。

小說情節起伏動人,對於少年兒童的道德教育具有一定的指導意義。

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Sara

Once on a dark winter's day, when the yellow fog hung so thick and heavy in the streets of London that the lamps were lighted and the shop windows blazed with gas as they do at night, an odd-looking little girl sat in a cab with her father and was driven rather slowly through the big thoroughfares.

She sat with her feet tucked under her, and leaned against her father, who held her in his arm, as she stared out of the window at the passing people with a queer old-fashioned thoughtfulness in her big eyes.

She was such a little girl that one did not expect to see such a look on her small face. It would have been an old look for a child of twelve, and Sara Crewe was only seven. The fact was, however, that she was always dreaming and thinking odd things and could not herself remember any time when she had not been thinking things about grown-up people and the world they belonged to. She felt as if she had lived a long, long time.

At this moment she was remembering the voyage she had just made from Bombay with her father, Captain Crewe. She was thinking of the big ship, of the Lascars passing silently to and fro on it, of the children playing about on the hot deck, and of some young officers' wives who used to try to make her talk to them and laugh at the things she said.

Principally, she was thinking of what a queer thing it was that at one time one was in India in the blazing sun, and then in the middle of the ocean, and then driving in a strange vehicle through strange streets where the day was as dark as the night. She found this so puzzling that she moved closer to her father.

"Papa," she said in a low, mysterious little voice which was almost a



第一章

萨 拉

在一个黑漆漆的冬日里，当沉沉的黄色浓雾笼罩在伦敦街头的时候，路灯已经被点亮了，煤气灯把商店里的窗子照得发出亮光来，一个看起来有些古怪的小女孩与她的父亲一起坐在一辆马车里，马车相当缓慢地穿过一条大街。

她把腿曲蜷着坐在那里，斜靠在父亲身上，父亲用一只手臂搂着她，这时她盯着窗外过路的行人，她那双大大的眼睛里流露出奇怪而深思的神情，显得人很是老气。

她是一个这么小的女孩子，没有人能够想到这样一种神情会出现在她的小脸上。这种老成的神情应该出现在一个十二岁的小姑娘的脸上，然而萨拉·克鲁才只有7岁。事实上，她总是在梦想，并想一些古怪的事情，她自己都想不起来什么时候她没有想成年人的事情，以及属于他们的那个世界。她感觉自己似乎已经生活了很长很长时间一样。

在这个时候，她正回忆的是和自己的父亲克鲁上尉刚刚从孟买回来的旅行。她正在想的是那只很大的船，船上的印度水手们一声不响地在那里走来走去，孩子们在炽热的甲板上玩耍，还有一些年轻军官的妻子们，她们总是设法让她跟她们讲话，并对她所说的事情加以取笑。

她所想的最主要的事情是：多奇怪啊，一个人刚才还在烈日炎炎的印度，然后又到了大海的中间，再然后又乘着一辆古怪的车穿过一条古怪的街道，这里的白天就像黑夜一般的漆黑一片。她感觉这一切都是那样的让人莫名其妙，于是便向自己的父亲靠近了一些。

“爸爸，”她压低声音叫道，那神秘的小声音几乎都成了耳语了，



whisper, "papa."

"What is it, darling?" Captain Crewe answered, holding her closer and looking down into her face. "What is Sara thinking of?"

"Is this the place?" Sara whispered, cuddling still closer to him. "Is it, papa?"

"Yes, little Sara, it is. We have reached it at last." And though she was only seven years old, she knew that he felt sad when he said it.

It seemed to her many years since he had begun to prepare her mind for "the place," as she always called it. Her mother had died when she was born, so she had never known or missed her. Her young, handsome, rich, petting father seemed to be the only relation she had in the world. They had always played together and been fond of each other. She only knew he was rich because she had heard people say so when they thought she was not listening, and she had also heard them say that when she grew up she would be rich, too. She did not know all that being rich meant. She had always lived in a beautiful bungalow, and had been used to seeing many servants who made salaams to her and called her "Missee Sahib," and gave her her own way in everything. She had had toys and pets and an ayah who worshipped her, and she had gradually learned that people who were rich had these things. That, however, was all she knew about it.

During her short life only one thing had troubled her, and that thing was "the place" she was to be taken to some day. The climate of India was very bad for children, and as soon as possible they were sent away from it - generally to England and to school. She had seen other children go away, and had heard their fathers and mothers talk about the letters they received from them. She had known that she would be obliged to go also, and though sometimes her father's stories of the voyage and the new country had attracted her, she had been troubled by the thought that he could not stay with her.

"Couldn't you go to that place with me, papa?" she had asked when she was five years old. "Couldn't you go to school, too? I would help you with your lessons."

"But you will not have to stay for a very long time, little Sara," he had always said. "You will go to a nice house where there will be a lot of



“爸爸。”

“怎么了，亲爱的？”克鲁上尉回答道，更紧地拥着她，并向下看着她的脸。“萨拉正在想什么呢？”

“这儿是不是那个地方呢？”萨拉耳语道，又向他靠紧了一点。“是不是，爸爸？”

“没错，小萨拉，是的。我们终于到这里了。”尽管她还只有七岁，但她知道，当他说这句话的时候会感到难过。

自从她对“那个地方”开始做好思想准备以来（她一直都是这样来称呼它的），她觉得已经有好多年了。在她出生的时候，她的母亲就已经去世了，因此她既不了解她也不会去想她。她那年轻、英俊、富裕且宠爱她的父亲似乎是她在这个世界上唯一的亲人了。他们经常会在一起玩耍，彼此之间相亲相爱。她只知道他是一个有钱人，因为她曾经听到人们这么说过，而那个时候他们往往会认为她并没有在听。而且她还听他们说，等她长大的时候，她也会很富有的。她一点儿也不理解富有的意义。她一直都住在带有走廊的漂亮平房里，而且已经习惯看到许多的仆人向她行礼问安，并叫她为“小姐”，还让她为所欲为。她拥有着玩具和宠物，还有一个对她很是尊敬的女仆。于是，她渐渐明白了富裕的人们都会拥有这些。不过，她知道的一切也就是这些了。

在她那短暂的过去中，让她颇为心烦的只有一件事情，这件事就是“那个地方”，总有一天，她得到那里去。对孩子来说，印度的气候是很恶劣的，他们要尽快地被送到别处去——通常情况下都被送到英国去读书。她曾经看见过其他的孩子离去，并听到他们的父亲和母亲说他们收到了孩子们的来信。她知道自己也是必须得去的，虽然有时候她父亲所讲的关于航行和这个新国度的故事会引起她的兴趣，然而一想到父亲不能留在她的身边了，她还是会感到很苦恼的。

“爸爸，难道你不能跟我一块儿去那个地方吗？”她在五岁的时候就曾这样问过。“难道你就不能也去读书吗？我会在你的功课上为你提供帮助的。”

“不过你是不会呆上太长时间的，小萨拉，”他一直都是这么说的，“你会住在一间很好的房子里面，那里将会有一大群小姑娘，于



little girls, and you will play together, and I will send you plenty of books, and you will grow so fast that it will seem scarcely a year before you are big enough and clever enough to come back and take care of papa."

She had liked to think of that. To keep the house for her father; to ride with him, and sit at the head of his table when he had dinner parties; to talk to him and read his books – that would be what she would like most in the world, and if one must go away to "the place" in England to attain it, she must make up her mind to go. She did not care very much for other little girls, but if she had plenty of books she could console herself. She liked books more than anything else, and was, in fact, always inventing stories of beautiful things and telling them to herself. Sometimes she had told them to her father, and he had liked them as much as she did.

"Well, papa," she said softly, "if we are here I suppose we must be resigned."

He laughed at her old – fashioned speech and kissed her. He was really not at all resigned himself, though he knew he must keep that a secret. His quaint little Sara had been a great companion to him, and he felt he should be a lonely fellow when, on his return to India, he went into his bungalow knowing he need not expect to see the small figure in its white frock come forward to meet him. So he held her very closely in his arms as the cab rolled into the big, dull square in which stood the house which was their destination.

It was a big, dull, brick house, exactly like all the others in its row, but that on the front door there shone a brass plate on which was engraved in black letters:

MISS MINCHIN,

Select Seminary for Young Ladies.

"Here we are, Sara," said Captain Crewe, making his voice sound as cheerful as possible. Then he lifted her out of the cab and they mounted the steps and rang the bell. Sara often thought afterward that the house was somehow exactly like Miss Minchin. It was respectable and well furnished, but everything in it was ugly; and the very armchairs seemed to have hard bones in them. In the hall everything was hard and polished –



是你们就会在一起玩耍了，而且我还会给你寄好多好多的书，你很快就会长大了，简直连一年都不用，你就会长得很大很聪明，就可以回来并照顾爸爸了。”

她很喜欢想这些事情。为自己的父亲照看家事，和他一起去骑马，当他在举行宴会的时候，坐在餐桌的主席位上，跟他谈话，并读他的书——在这个世界上，这些都是她最喜欢做的事情，如果一个人必须得到英国的“那个地方”去的话，她就必须打定主意去。对于其他的小姑娘，她倒并不是十分地不在乎，只是如果她有许多书的话，她就可以安慰自己了。与其他任何东西相比，她最爱的就是书。其实，她总是会编一些很美的故事出来，并把这些故事讲给自己听。有时候她也会把它们讲给父亲听，他差不多和她一样喜欢听这些故事。

“好啦，爸爸，”她轻声说道，“既然我们已经到这里了，我想我们应该顺从天意吧。”

他笑了笑她这种老气横秋的说法，亲了她一下。实际上他一点儿也没想着要顺从天意，不过他知道自己必须得守住一个秘密。他那古怪的小萨拉对他来说是一个很好的伙伴，他觉得等他回到印度以后，他便成了一个孤苦伶仃的人了，他知道当他走进自己的平房的时候，就不能再指望看到一个穿着白色上衣的小人儿跑出来迎接他了。于是 he 用自己的胳膊把她搂得更紧了，这时马车驶进了一个阴沉沉的大广场，他们的目的地就在广场上矗立的那座房子里。

这是一座又大又阴沉的砖砌的房子，与它所在的那一排的其它房子别无二致，不过这座房子的门前有一块儿闪闪发亮的黄铜牌子，上面刻着黑体的字母：

明钦小姐

私立女子学校

“萨拉，我们已经到了。”克鲁上尉尽可能使自己的声音显得愉快一些地说道。然后，他从马车上把她抱了下来，他们走上了台阶，并按了按门铃。后来，萨拉常想这座房子不知何故非常像明钦小姐。它是很有名望的，而且有着很好的家具，但是所有的一切却都是丑陋的。而且就连扶手椅子的里面也似乎有着坚硬的骨头似的。在大厅里，所有的一切都是坚硬的，而且磨得光光的，甚至连角落里



even the red cheeks of the moon face on the tall clock in the corner had a severe varnished look. The drawing room into which they were ushered was covered by a carpet with a square pattern upon it, the chairs were square, and a heavy marble timepiece stood upon the heavy marble mantel.

As she sat down in one of the stiff mahogany chairs, Sara cast one of her quick looks about her.

"I don't like it, papa," she said. "But then I dare say soldiers - even brave ones - don't really LIKE going into battle."

Captain Crewe laughed outright at this. He was young and full of fun, and he never tired of hearing Sara's queer speeches.

"Oh, little Sara," he said. "What shall I do when I have no one to say solemn things to me? No one else is as solemn as you are."

"But why do solemn things make you laugh so?" inquired Sara.

"Because you are such fun when you say them," he answered, laughing still more. And then suddenly he swept her into his arms and kissed her very hard, stopping laughing all at once and looking almost as if tears had come into his eyes.

It was just then that Miss Minchin entered the room. She was very like her house, Sara felt; tall and dull, and respectable and ugly. She had large, cold, fishy eyes, and a large, cold, fishy smile. It spread itself into a very large smile when she saw Sara and Captain Crewe. She had heard a great many desirable things of the young soldier from the lady who had recommended her school to him. Among other things, she had heard that he was a rich father who was willing to spend a great deal of money on his little daughter.

"It will be a great privilege to have charge of such a beautiful and promising child, Captain stroking Crewe," she said, taking Sara's hand and it. "Lady Meredith has told me of her unusual cleverness. A clever child is a great treasure in an establishment like mine."

Sara stood quietly, with her eyes fixed upon Miss Minchin's face. She was thinking something odd, as usual.

"Why does she say I am a beautiful child?" she was thinking. "I am not beautiful at all. Colonel Grange's little girl, Isobel, is beautiful. She has dimples and rose-colored cheeks, and long hair the color of



那只高高的钟表的那双颊红润的圆脸上,也看起来有一种严厉的光泽。他们被引到一间客厅里,那里铺着一块地毯,上面有正方形的图案,椅子也是正方形的,笨重的大理石壁炉架上立着一只笨重的大理石钟表。

当萨拉在一把硬梆梆的红木椅子上坐下来的时候,迅速地瞥了一眼自己的周围。

“爸爸,我讨厌这里,”她说道,“不过我敢说士兵们,哪怕是勇敢的士兵,他也并不见得就真的喜欢去打仗。”

克鲁上尉被这些话逗得开怀大笑起来。他是个年轻人,而且十分爱开玩笑,对于萨拉那些奇怪的话语,他是从来都不会厌烦的。

“哦,小萨拉,”他说道,“当没有人再跟我说一些严肃的事情的时候,我该怎么办呢?没有一个人会像你那样认真严肃的。”

“但是为什么这些庄重严肃的事情还会使你那样大笑呢?”萨拉询问说。

“那是因为你在说那些话的时候是如此的有趣。”他笑得更加厉害地回答道。后来他突然把她紧紧地搂在怀里,拼命地去吻她,大笑也在那时突然停止了,看上去似乎眼泪都要从他的眼睛里流出来了。

就在这个时候,明钦小姐进了客厅。她跟她的房子非常相像,萨拉是这样认为的:她个子高高的,脸色阴沉,体面而又丑陋。她长着一对冷漠而呆滞的大眼睛,脸上也挂着冷漠而呆滞的笑容。当她看到萨拉和克鲁上尉的时候,那笑容立刻伸展开来成了一种非常夸张的笑容。她从一位夫人那里听说了很多关于这个年轻军人的一些好的事情,也正是这位夫人把她的学校推荐给了他。在这些事情当中,她还听说他是一个很有钱的父亲,心甘情愿地自己的小女儿身上花大笔的金钱。

“得以照看这样一位漂亮而又有前途的孩子可真是一桩极大的荣幸啊,克鲁上尉,”她说着,拉住了萨拉的手,并抚摸着,“梅雷迪思夫人对我说,她可不是一般的聪明。在像我这样的一所学校里,一个聪明的孩子可是一笔极大的财富。”

萨拉静静地站在那里,她的眼睛定定地看着明钦小姐的脸。她正像平常那样在想一些古怪的事情呢。



gold. I have short black hair and green eyes; besides which, I am a thin child and not fair in the least. I am one of the ugliest children I ever saw. She is beginning by telling a story."

She was mistaken, however, in thinking she was an ugly child. She was not in the least like Isobel Grange, who had been the beauty of the regiment, but she had an odd charm of her own. She was a slim, supple creature, rather tall for her age, and had an intense, attractive little face. Her hair was heavy and quite black and only curled at the tips; her eyes were greenish gray, it is true, but they were big, wonderful eyes with long, black lashes, and though she herself did not like the color of them, many other people did. Still she was very firm in her belief that she was an ugly little girl, and she was not at all elated by Miss Minchin's flattery.

"I should be telling a story if I said she was beautiful," she thought; "and I should know I was telling a story. I believe I am as ugly as she is - in my way. What did she say that for?"

After she had known Miss Minchin longer she learned why she had said it. She discovered that she said the same thing to each papa and mamma who brought a child to her school.

Sara stood near her father and listened while he and Miss Minchin talked. She had been brought to the seminary because Lady Meredith's two little girls had been educated there, and Captain Crewe had a great respect for Lady Meredith's experience. Sara was to be what was known as "a parlor boarder," and she was to enjoy even greater privileges than parlor boarders usually did. She was to have a pretty bedroom and sitting room of her own; she was to have a pony and a carriage, and a maid to take the place of the ayah who had been her nurse in India.

"I am not in the least anxious about her education," Captain Crewe said, with his gay laugh, as he held Sara's hand and patted it. "The difficulty will be to keep her from learning too fast and too much. She is always sitting with her little nose burrowing into books. She doesn't read them, Miss Minchin; she gobbles them up as if she were a little wolf instead of a little girl. She is always starving for new books to gobble, and she wants grown-up books - great, big, fat ones - French and German as well as English - history and biography and poets, and



“为什么她要说我是一个漂亮的孩子呢？”她这样想着。“我可是一点儿也不漂亮。格兰奇上校的小姑娘艾索贝尔，她才算得上漂亮。她长着酒窝，玫瑰色的脸蛋，还有金黄色的长头发。我长的是黑黑的短发和一对绿色的眼睛，除此之外，我还是一个瘦瘦的孩子，根本就不漂亮。在我曾经见过的孩子当中，我是最最丑陋的一个。她这是在编故事呢。”

然而，认为自己是一个丑陋的孩子，在这上面她可错了。她一点儿也不像艾索贝尔·格兰奇，艾索贝尔是团里的美人，不过萨拉也有着自己独特的迷人之处。她是一个苗条而灵活的小姑娘，对于她这个年龄来说，她的个子也是相当高的，她还长着一张热情而有魅力的小脸蛋儿。她的头发又浓又黑，只是头发梢处有些卷曲。她的眼睛是灰绿色的，这倒是事实，不过这是一双很大、很漂亮的眼睛，长着又长又黑的眼睫毛，尽管她自己并不喜欢眼睫毛的颜色，可还是有很多人喜欢的。尽管如此，她还是固执地相信自己是一个难看的姑娘，于是对于明钦小姐的恭维，她一点儿也不感到高兴。

“如果我说她长得漂亮的话，那就是在编故事，”她想着，“而且我应该知道我是在说故事。依我看来，我相信我跟她一样的丑陋。她为什么要这么说呢？”

当她认识明钦小姐时间长了之后，她便知道她为什么会这么说了。她发现，对于每一个把孩子送到她的学校来的爸爸和妈妈，她都是这么说的。

萨拉站在父亲旁边听他与明钦小姐之间的谈话。由于梅雷迪思太太的两个小女孩曾在这里受过教育，而克鲁上尉对于雷迪思夫人的经验又是十分地重视，因此她才被送到这所学校里。萨拉将成为一个众所周知的“特殊寄宿生”，她将比一般的特殊寄宿生享受更多的待遇。她将得到一间属于自己的漂亮的卧室和起居室，她还将有一匹小马和一辆马车，还有一个女佣，这个女佣将替代她在印度时照顾过她的那个女佣。

“对于她的学习，我是一点儿也不担心的，”克鲁上尉说着，愉快地笑了起来，他拉着萨拉的手，并拍了拍它。“困难的是要控制她不要学得太快太多了。她总是坐在那里，把她的小鼻子伸到书本里头，她可不是在读书，明钦小姐，她仿佛一只小狼似地在大口大口地

