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SELECTION OF
MODERN ENGLISH
AND AMERICAN
LITERATURE



河北人民出版社

现代英美文学作品选读

(上)

英语注释读物

沙昭宇 周清民 选注

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河北人民出版社出版 (石家庄市北马路45号)

河北新华印刷一厂印刷 河北省新华书店发行

787×1092毫米 1/32 4.5 印张 90,000字 印数: 1—13,000 1984年6月第1版
1984年6月第1次印刷 统一书号: 7086·1144 定价: 0.45 元

前 言

文学是语言的艺术。对学习和研究外语的人来说，阅读外国文学作品，特别是阅读一些文学名著，把它们读懂、背熟，这无疑对外语水平的提高有极大的益处。

鉴于目前中学广大的中、青年英语教师和其他英语爱好者对英美文学作品接触较少，我们试编了这套英美文学作品注释读物，供中学英语教师和具有同等程度的英语爱好者阅读。这些文章都选自十九世纪末、二十世纪内的英美文学大师的名著，然而由于种种原因，在思想内容上也还有它的时代局限性，这是在阅读时必须注意的。我们虽然勉力从事，但由于我们研究得不够深，能力有限，错误在所难免，希望读者指正。

在本书编写过程中，陈声洪、程喆生、张英进等同志参加了部分具体工作，仅在此表示感谢。

编注者

1983年3月

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1. An Embarrassing Situation

By Mark Twain

作者简介:

Mark Twain (马克·吐温, 1835—1910) 是美国现代优秀的现实主义作家和卓越的讽刺家。原名 Samuel Langhorne Clemens (萨缪尔·兰亨·克里曼斯)。出身于一个并不富裕的地方法官家庭, 童年时代是在密苏里州的一个小城里度过的。十二岁丧父, 后来当了印刷所学徒、排字工人、密西西比河上的领港员、淘金工人和记者等。

在密西西比这条商运繁忙的大河上的生活和后来的流浪年代, 对于他说来, 可以算是一种大学。他熟悉并研究了各式各样人物的性格。他的创作具有深刻的民主性, 其中充满了对人民的真挚的爱。轻松的幽默、愤怒的讽刺、优美的抒情、细微的心理分析以及尖锐的政治性——这就是他那多方面的、光辉的艺术天才的几个重要组成部分。其代表作 “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” (《汤姆·索亚历险记》, 1876) 和 “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” (《哈克贝利·芬历险记》, 1884) 借儿童的观察和感受, 暴露资产阶级的欺诈虚伪, 谴责种族歧视, 语言简练生动, 受到全世界广大

读者的欢迎。

本文 “An Embarrassing Situation” (《尴尬的场面》) 是作者以第一人称的形式描写他在国外旅行时在一家餐馆里发生的一段小插曲。他为了在朋友面前显示出他并不懦弱, 就壮着胆子编了许多话和餐厅里的一位美丽女郎开玩笑, 但反被女郎逼入窘境。

The dining-room of the Schweitzerhof furnished an excellent opportunity to observe the people. We used to try to guess the nationalities. One morning I said, “There is an American party.¹” Harris said, “Yes, but name the State².”

I named one state, Harris named another. We agreed upon one thing, however, that the young girl with the party was very beautiful, and very tastefully dressed³. But we disagreed as to her age. I said she was eighteen, Harris said she was twenty. Finally I said with a pretence of being in earnest, “Well, there is one way to settle the matter... I will go and ask her.”

Harris hinted that perhaps there was no great danger of my venturing to speak to her.

“I really didn't intend to approach her,” I said, “but I see you think I'm a coward. I am not afraid of any

1. There is an American party. 有一群美国人。 2. ...name the State 指出这个洲的名称。此句中的 “name” 用作动词, 意为 “说出”。美国由五十一个洲组成, 故称: “the United States.”

3. tastefully dressed 穿着很入时。

woman that walks,⁴” I boasted. “I’ll go and speak to this young girl.”

I meant to address her in the most respectful way and say:⁵ “I beg your pardon⁶...perhaps your strong resemblance to a former acquaintance of mine is deceiving me⁷...but aren’t you Miss Smith?”

When she should reply that the name I mentioned was not the name she bore⁸, I meant to beg pardon again, most respectfully, and retire. There would be no harm done.⁹ I walked to her table, bowed to the gentlemen with her, then turned to her and was about to begin my little speech when she exclaimed,

“I knew I wasn’t mistaken...I told John it was you! I said you would recognize me and come over; and I’m glad you did, for I shouldn’t have felt much flattered if you had gone out of this room without recognizing

4. I am not afraid of any woman that walks. 我不怕任何女人。
5. I meant to address her in the most respectful way and say; 我原打算以最礼貌的方式与她打个招呼, 并说..., (“meant to” 的意思是“原来打算...而实际上没有这样做。”) 6. I beg your pardon. 此句读作升调时, 意思是“我没听清, 请再说一遍。”如读作降调时, 意思是“对不起”。此处该读作降调。 7. ...perhaps your strong resemblance to a ...is deceiving me... 你与我以前的一位熟人十分相像, 我差点分辨不出。 8. When she should reply that the name I mentioned was not the name she bore, ...此句中的 should = by any way. 表示一种猜测, 比直接使用过去时的条件分句可能性为小, 但意思相差不大。全句的意思是: “如果她回答说我所提到的名字不是她的名字...” 9. There would be no harm done. 不会有什么坏处。 “done” 是过去分词作定语, 置于名词 “harm” 后。

me.¹⁰ Sit down, sit down...how odd it is...you are the last person I was ever expecting to see again.¹¹

This was a surprise. It took my wits clear away for an instant.¹² However, we shook hands cordially all around, and I sat down. I seemed to vaguely remember the girl's face now, but I had no idea where I had seen it before, or what name belonged with it. I immediately tried to get up a conversation¹³ about Swiss scenery, to keep her from branching out into topics that might betray that I did not know her¹⁴, but it was of no use, she went right along upon¹⁵ matters which interested her more.

"O dear, what a night that was, when the sea washed the boats away...do you remember it?"

"O, don't I!"¹⁶...but I didn't.

"And don't you remember how frightened poor Mary was, and how she cried?"

10. I shouldn't have felt much flattered if you...recognizing me! 要是你离开这屋子而没有认出我来, 我可不会这么高兴了。

11. you are the last person I was ever expecting to see again. 我怎么也没想到会再见到你。the last+n.意思是“最不可能的。”

12. It took my wits clear away for an instant. 好一阵子我不知所措。此句中的 clear 是副词, 意思是“完全, 彻底”。13. ...to get up a conversation 攀谈起来。14. to keep her from branching out into the topics...know her 使她不致于把话题谈到能暴露我不认识她的情况方面去。15. ...she went right along upon... 她紧接着就谈起…。这里含有这样的意思: “她不管别人说些什么, 只管自己不断地说着。”16. "O, don't I!" = Indeed, I do. 啊, 我怎么会忘记呢! 此处用感叹号表示不可能忘记, 但事实上根本记不得。

“Indeed I do!” said I. “Dear me, how it all comes back!”¹⁷

I wished it would come back; ...but my memory was a blank. The wise way would have been to frankly own up¹⁸, but I could not bring myself to do that¹⁹, after the young girl had praised me so for recognizing her.

She went on... “Do you know, George married Mary, after all?”

“Why, no! Did he?”

“Indeed he did. As it turned out,²⁰ Mary was not in the least to blame, it was all her father’s fault,...at least his and old Darley’s.”

It was necessary to say something,...so I said,...

“I always regarded Darley as a troublesome old thing.”²¹

“So he was, but then they always had a great affection for him. You remember that when the weather was the least cold, he would try to come into the house.”

I was afraid to proceed. Evidently Darley was not a man, he must be some other kind of animal,...possibly a

17. ...how it all comes back! 记忆犹新呢! 18. ...to frankly own up 坦白, 爽快承认。 19. I could not bring myself to do that,...我不能强迫我自己这样做。to bring oneself to do something, 强迫自己(促使)做某事。 20. As it turned out. 结果就是这样。 21. ...old thing 此处的“thing”可指人或其它动物, 带有感情色彩, 或爱怜, 或轻蔑, 视上下文决定其确切意思。

dog, maybe an elephant. However, tails are common to all animals²², so I ventured to say,...

“And what a tail he had!”

“One! He had a thousand.”

This was puzzling. I did not quite know what to say. Anything with a thousand tails is a topic which a person cannot talk fluently upon without more or less preparation.²³ But there, to my gratitude, she interrupted my thought and went on gossiping.

“Yes, when it came to tales of his crazy troubles,²⁴ there was simply no end to them if anybody would listen. But the family did not mind him and always listened patiently to him because he had saved Tom's life. You remember Tom?”

“O, perfectly. Fine fellow he was, too.”

“Yes, he was. And such a pretty child he had too. You named it. What was the name? I can't recall it now.”

It appeared to me that the ice was getting pretty thin²⁵

22. ...tails are common to all animals 动物倒是都有尾巴的。

23. Anything with a thousand tails...more or less preparation. 一个有一千条尾巴的东西可不是一个人都可以信口胡说的题目。此处的幽默在于 tails 和 tales 的谐音。显然女郎指的是后者，而文中的“我”却理解为前者，故陷入困境。24. ...when it came to tales of his crazy troubles, ... 至于谈到它所闹出的那些荒唐的麻烦事儿...，when it comes to + n. 是习语，意思是“提到”。25. ...the ice was getting pretty thin 这冰薄得眼看就要破裂。（事情马上就要露馅。）

here. I would have given something to know what the child's sex was. However, I had the good luck to think of a name that would fit either sex,—so I brought it out,²⁶—

“Frances.”

“After a relative, I suppose? But you named the one that died, too,—one that I never saw. What did you call that one?”

I was out of neutral names²⁷, but as the child was dead and she had never seen it, I thought I might risk a name for it and trust to luck. Therefore I said,—

“I called that one Thomas Henry.”

“That is very singular…very singular.”

I sat still and let the cold sweat run down. I was in a good deal of trouble but I believed I could get through somehow if she wouldn't ask me to name any more children. I wondered where the lightning was going to strike next.²⁸ I was about to say something about the weather, when the girl slipped in²⁹ ahead of me and said,...

“How I have enjoyed this talk over those happy old

26. ...so I brought it out 于是我就编造了一个。 27. I was out of neutral names 我已经想不出什么中性（既适合男性，又适合女性）的名字来了。 to be out of 是商店主人常用的一个短语，意为“卖完了”。此处是作者的幽默风格。 28. I wondered where the lightning was going to strike next. 我真不知道下一个打击将从何来。（我真不知道下面她将出些什么难题。） 29. ...slipped in... 抢先说道。

times,—haven't you?"

"I never have spent such a half hour in all my life before," said I with emotion. I was most grateful to be through with the torture and was about to say good-bye, when the girl said, "But there is one thing that is puzzling me."

"Why, what is that?"

"That dead child's name. What did you say it was?"

Now I was in trouble again. I had forgotten the child's name; I hadn't imagined it would be needed again. However, even at the risk of contradicting myself, I had to pretend to know, so I said,...

"Joseph William."

"The young gentleman corrected me, and said,..."

"No,...Thomas Henry."

"O yes,—yes. Thomas Henry was the poor child's name. I named him after Thomas,—er,—Thomas Carlyle, the great author, you know, —and Henry—er, —er, Henry VIII. The parents were very grateful to have a child named Thomas Henry."

"That makes it more singular than ever," murmured my beautiful friend.

"Does it? Why?"

"Beause when the parents speak of that child, they always call it Susan Amelia."

That finished me.³⁰ I simply sat still and suffered... for I was being slowly fried to death in my own blushes. Presently she laughed and said,...

"I have enjoyed this talk over old times but you have not. I saw very soon that you were only pretending to know me, so I made up my mind to punish you. Mary and the storm were facts...all the rest was fiction. Mary was my sister; her full name was Mary Hardy. Now do you remember me?³¹"

"Yes," I said, "I do remember now," I confessed I was conquered, and complimenting the young woman, I went back to Harris.

30. That finished me. 这下我全完了。 31. Now do you remember me? 这下你可领教我了吧?

2. The Open Window

By Saki

作者简介:

Saki (沙基, 1870—1916) 是现代英国著名的讽刺小说家。真名 Hector Hugh Munro (曼罗), Saki 是他的笔名。1902 年以 Saki 为笔名发表了政治小品文集 “The Westminster Alice” (《威斯敏斯特爱丽丝》), 笔调轻快、流畅, 富有幽默感, 深受读者欢迎。后来致力于短篇小说的写作。1904 年发表了他的第一本短篇小说集 “Reginald” (《雷金纳德》)。尔后, 又发表了 “Chronicles of Clovis” (《克洛维斯的编年史》, 1911)、 “Beasts and Superbeasts” (《野兽与高级野兽》, 1914) 等小说集。

他的短篇小说往往以有闲人的生活为题材, 讽刺他们的浅薄、庸俗等, 并经常把小说中的主人公放在离奇古怪的情景里来描写, 情节生动, 别出心裁, 结构新颖, 不入俗套, 扣住了读者的心弦。

从本篇《敞开的窗户》中我们可以看出作者的写作技巧和才智。故事讲的是一个少女为了打发掉讨厌的客人, 灵机一动, 编了谎言, 使得神经衰弱的来客吓得不顾体统地跑掉。事后她又翻转过来, 不动声色地三言两语

开脱了自己。故事结构巧妙，对话机智，妙趣横生。

“My aunt will be down presently, Mr Nuttel,” said a very self-possessed young lady of fifteen, “in the meantime you must try and put up with me.”¹

Framton Nuttel endeavoured to say the correct something which should duly flatter the niece of the moment without unduly discounting the aunt that was to come.² Privately he doubted more than ever whether these formal visits on a succession of total strangers would do much towards helping the nerve cure³ which he was supposed to be undergoing.

“I know how it will be,” his sister had said when he was preparing to migrate to this rural retreat⁴; “you will

1. “in the meantime...put up with me.” in the meantime 同时(这里指她的姨母还没有下来的这段时间里); put up with 容忍、忍耐。全句的意思是“您只得暂时由我来陪您一段时间”。 2. Framton Nuttel endeavoured...to come. 弗兰姆顿·那特儿想找一句适当的话,说出来既能使这位外甥女听了高兴,又不会因此降低了还没有下楼来的她的姨母的身份。(言外之意是如果他现在对这位外甥女把什么好话都说尽了,那么等她的姨母下楼来后他又又要说什么呢!)此句中的“the correct something”是一个比较少见的表达法。一般语法书都说“something”之前不可加定冠词和其它指示代词如 this, that 等,而且形容词应该放在“something”的后面。但当它表示某些特殊意义时,我们会发现例外情况。例如我们可以说 “There is a something in his expression”(他话中有话)。这里的 “the correct something” 相当于 “the adequate words” (适合的话)。“the niece of the moment” 的意思是 “这位外甥女”。 3. the nerve cure 神经疗程。“cure”是指整个治疗过程。 4. rural retreat 乡下的休养所。

bury yourself down there and not speak to a living soul, and your nerves will be worse than ever from moping. I shall just give you letters of introduction to all the people I know there. Some of them, as far as I can remember, were quite nice.”

Framton wondered whether Mrs Sappleton, the lady to whom he was presenting one of the letters of introduction, came into the nice division.

“Do you know many of the people⁵ round here?” asked the niece, when she judged that they had had sufficient silent communion⁶.

“Hardly a soul,” said Framton, “My sister was staying here, at the rectory, you know, some four years ago, and she gave me letters of introduction to some of the people here.”

He made the last statement in a tone of distinct regret.

“Then you know practically nothing about my aunt?” pursued the self-possessed young lady.

“Only her name and adress,” admitted the caller. He was wondering whether Mrs Sappleton was in the married or widowed state. An undefinable something about the room

5. many of the people 此短语与 many people 无多大区别。many people 比较泛指；many of the people 比较特指。 6. silent communion 无声的交流(沉默的会意)