

“蓝眼睛看中国”  
英文读物系列

Rajesh Kanoi(Jack)[印度] 著  
许俊农 何峻 等 译注

*hua fei hua*

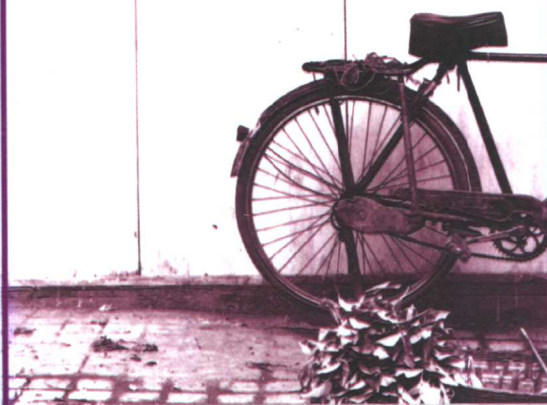


# 花非花

*Jack's Story*

——Jack 英文短篇故事

*Jack yingwen  
duanpian  
gushiji*



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安徽科学技术出版社

“蓝眼睛看中国”英文读物系列

# 花 非 花

—— Jack 英文短篇故事集

Jack's Short Stories

Rajesh Kanoo (Jack) [印度] 著

许俊农 许峻 等 译注

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Once, someone asked me in a room full of students, "Do you like China?"

"No," I said and the class was quiet, a little surprised, I think.

After a small pause, I told them, "I love China." They were happy then, and clapped and I was happy to see them happy.

I dedicate this book of simple, from-the-heart short-stories to the country I love so dearly, China and its people, culture, languages and history that I love equally dearly... a small gift of love.

No matter how long I live in China, to me it will never be long...

Jaelle.

## 编辑的话

第一次读到 Jack 的文章，是他向我们出版社下属的《海外英语》杂志投稿。由于我同时也是杂志编辑，所以第一时间读到了他的短篇小说。当时的感觉只能用震撼两个字来形容，我不明白，一个并非生于斯长于斯的人，竟然会对中国的文化和风土人情如此了解，竟然会对中国人内心的那些微妙的情感有如此透彻的把握，我以为他一定是在中国生活了相当长的一段时间。后来通过电话和电邮，我们渐渐熟悉了，我才知道，在他写那些文章的时候，他仅仅在中国当了一年的老师。惊叹之余，我只有把这归因于他身为作家的那种敏感，他那种非凡的观察力和理解力造就了这些动人的故事。

这本集子里收录了作者原创的 18 篇短篇小说，其中有强烈的爱、恨、痴迷、妒忌、欢喜、悲伤、绝望，每种感情都那么真实，那么打动人心。希望读者也能和编辑一样，从这些小说中获得美的享受，同时也提高英语水平。

为适应我国读者的需求，本书的每篇故事前都附有引言，提纲挈领地介绍了该故事的梗概，使读者在阅读之前就对文章大意有所了解，文中的重点词和难词均给以详解，难句也都加以了翻译。



## Acknowledgements

I owe a debt of gratitude to Molly and Xuanhai Li of the Zhanjiang Ocean University who first invited me to come to China to teach, and the President and staff of the Cunzin College campus, who made my stay both comfortable and rewarding; Barbara Kieser, a Canadian teacher at the ZOU, who always had the patience to read my stories or hear me read them and encouraged me on; Joan Lee, an excellent teacher and human being and her husband Zhang Weixiong, who not only became my best friends in China but also helped me whenever I needed any help, and they did so without any questions; Liu Jier (Jill) of the Cunzin College campus of the ZOU, who painstakingly dug out information on the different English Language publishers in China and translated the information; the staff and students of Junior Oxford Bilingual School in Dongguan, Guangdong Province; He Xunwen (Harriet), my editor, who cajoled me and inspired me and then published me and Xu Junnong (Daniel), not merely a friend but an institution in He Fei; Mr. Chen, Miss Wang and Ms. Wu along with the staff of Hefei Union University; and above all, all my students in China, at the schools, colleges and universities, who not only shared the most intimate details about their own lives and inspired me to write on but also became friends.

I must also acknowledge my gratitude to my family members, who let me go far away from home, to fulfill a writer's urge to travel, experience and then express.



## Preface

When my stories first began appearing in the magazine, Overseas English, my readers and students would often ask me if the stories were true. I really did not know what to answer them because, to say they were or were not, would both have been off the mark, and perhaps “untrue”. Truth, is sometimes, so subtle. Is it wise to characterise one’s experiences only as truth, to the exclusion of others? I wonder. Or is truth only what we collectively experience, sometimes within the limitation of our senses? The best and most honest answer that I can give to the question whether the stories are true, is “maybe”.

In the little time that I have spent in this ancient land that is fast embracing modern life, I have often been amazed at the ease and comfort with which both, the ancient and the modern, seem to co-exist, sometimes in each other’s very shadow. At another level, its people seem to be both very simple and sophisticated, and sometimes one needs to merely scratch the surface, to see glimpses of the other. Therefore, for me to say, or even think that I understand this nation, would be a gross exaggeration. All I can say is that I am experiencing China, at least at this moment as I write these words, and would love to do so for a long time to come, circumstances permitting.

Working in China, as a writer and teacher, has been an

immensely rewarding experience, though not financially, unfortunately. But life has an agenda of its own, and financial realities must sometimes be relegated to the background. Otherwise, life can become a drudgery. I have enjoyed complete freedom of thought, word and action and nowhere at anytime has anyone interfered with my freedom, which is something that I hold dear and sacrosanct.

If the stories in this collection help some readers to reflect and work towards finding the elusive thing called truth, my work will be vindicated.



## 致读者

当我所写的故事第一次出现在《海外英语》杂志上时,我的读者们和学生们就常问我这些故事是否是真实的。我真不知道该如何作答,因为,说它们是真实的或不真实的,都不太准确。真实往往是很难描述的。排除其他的形容词而仅用“真实”二字来描述它们,这是明智之举吗?我怀疑。或者有时由于我们感官的局限性,只有真实才是我们共同的经历?这些故事是否真实,我能给予的最好、最诚实的答案就是:或许吧。

在这片迅速被现代生活所包围的古老国度里,我只呆了有限的一段时间,然而一切都那么令我讶异:这个国家能将传统与现代那么和谐地统一起来,而她的人民似乎既简单又复杂。因此,我不能夸口说自己已经了解了这个国家。我能说的是,我正在感受中国,至少此时此刻,当我写这些话语时,我要说,如果环境允许,我将很乐意在此长期呆下去。

身为作家和教师,在中国的工作是我宝贵的经历,虽然报酬不高。但生活自有其安排,不能只考虑到金钱,否则生活会变成一种苦役。在这里,我享受到了一种思想、言论和行动上的完全自由,一种没有任何人干涉的自由,这是我认为最为可贵和重要的。

如果这本短篇故事集中的故事能帮助一些读者思考并试图找到那难以捉摸的、叫做真理的东西,那么我的工作将被证明是有价值的。

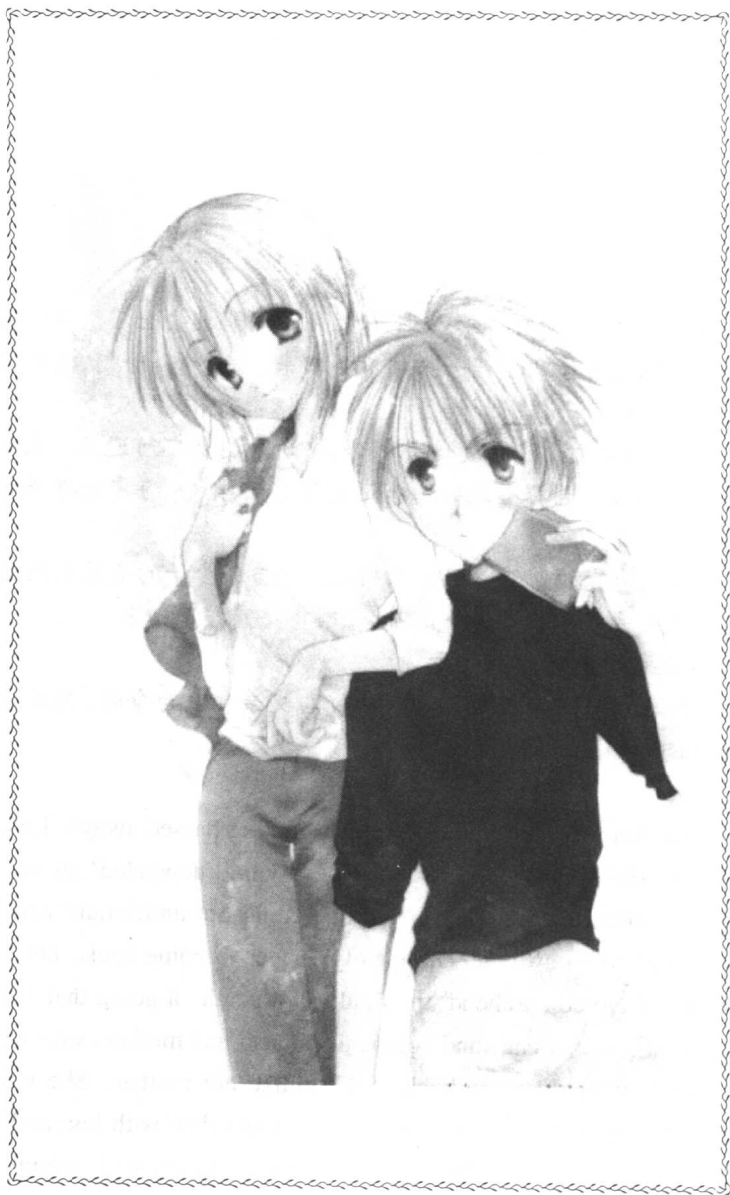
本书由许俊农、何峻、赵婷、张凌、吴昌顺译注,许俊农审订。



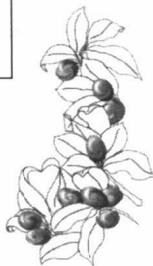
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## Forever Alone

海霞是个苦命的孩子。五岁时,她的妈妈就去世了。年幼的海霞无法理解,为什么妈妈一去就不再回来。她等啊,盼啊,直到有一天,爸爸领回来一位新妈妈。

海霞怎么也无法接受这位新妈妈,矛盾自然不可避免。在新妈妈的授意下,爸爸狠心地将海霞送到了寄宿学校,海霞觉得爸爸也要抛弃她了。

其实,海霞的爸爸心里也很内疚。他与新妻子的关系也因此疏远,并最终破裂。新妻子一走,他立刻将海霞接了回来。

小海霞重新感受到了爱。

可命运之神太残酷了!正当海霞与父亲相依为命时,他父亲开的车翻了……

Hai Xia was barely<sup>1</sup> five when her mother passed away<sup>2</sup>. Like all children, Hai Xia loved her mother deeply and depended<sup>3</sup> on her totally for guidance<sup>4</sup>, help and love. She could not understand why her mother had to go away so completely, never to come back, her little mind unable to comprehend<sup>5</sup> the finality<sup>6</sup> of death, a going that was so permanent<sup>7</sup>. Her friends and companions<sup>8</sup> also had mothers who would go, but they would come back soon, unlike her mother. She waited hopefully<sup>9</sup>, at first, for her mother's return and then with less and less certainty<sup>10</sup>. She did not have any brothers or sisters with whom she could talk about her mother and the possibility<sup>11</sup> of her return. Some

## 永远孤单



像所有的小孩子一样，海霞完全依赖着妈妈，需要妈妈的指导、帮助和爱。她不明白，为什么妈妈一去就再不回来，她幼小的心灵还不能理解死亡的结局——永远地离开。她的朋友和同伴们的妈妈有时也会离开，但和她妈妈不同的是，她们很快就会回来。起初她还满怀希望地盼着妈妈回来，但后来，她越来越不确定了。

1. ['beəli] *ad.* 仅仅, 几乎没有
2. pass away 去世
3. [di'pend] *v.* 依靠, 依赖
4. ['gaidəns] *n.* 指引, 指导
5. [kəm'pri'hend] *v.* 理解
6. [faɪ'næləti] *n.* 结局
7. [pə:mənənt] *a.* 永久的
8. [kəm'pænjən] *n.* 同伴
9. ['həupfʊli] *ad.* 怀有希望地
10. ['sə:tənti] *n.* 确实, 肯定
11. [pɒsə'biliti] *n.* 可能, 可能性

of her friends would tell her that sometimes there is a sleep from which one can never get up, no matter how much you shake<sup>12</sup> the sleeping person, or call to him, or throw water on him and then they would take the sleeping person away and bury him. She would listen quietly to those friends with growing fear and uncertainty and then she would run away home and shed<sup>13</sup> copious<sup>14</sup> tears, holding her favourite doll, that her mother had given her, for comfort.

Days passed into weeks and then into months but Hai Xia's mother did not return. Her father was mostly busy and though he tried to explain about her mother and comfort her, Hai Xia could not understand her father. And then one day her father announced<sup>15</sup> to her that her mother would come, only she would look different from her old mother. She would be her new mother. But, Hai Xia wanted a mother, her own mother, and she hoped it would be the same mother that she knew and loved so well.

When the new mother came she looked different in many ways. Most of all, the new mother would not do all those things that her old mother used to do and though she would talk and hold her sometimes, it felt different. Hai Xia tried to forget her mother, the old mother, but she would often come to her when she slept and say nice things to her and sometimes hold her at her breast, too. That really comforted Hai Xia and she would ask her new mother if she could not become her old self again. Finally, one day when the new mother had been through a fight<sup>16</sup> with her husband and was in a terrible mood<sup>17</sup>, she let Hai Xia know in no uncertain terms, that she was not the same mother, that she was only her stepmother<sup>18</sup> and that her mother had gone forever and ever. Hai Xia was broken-hearted and locked herself in her room, holding her doll for comfort. That evening there was a terrible row<sup>19</sup> between Hai Xia's father and her stepmother and things became strained<sup>20</sup> in the little family.

她的一些朋友告诉她,有时候,人会沉沉睡去,不论你如何摇晃他,或是喊他,甚至是往他身上泼水,都不能使他再醒过来。

一天,父亲告诉她,妈妈就要来了,只不过,这个妈妈和她以前的妈妈看起来有些不同。

新妈妈来了,她好多地方都和以前的妈妈不同。最主要的是,她不愿意为海霞做她以前妈妈经常为她做的事。尽管有时她也会和海霞说话并抱抱她,但那感觉也不相同。

这使海霞非常安慰,海霞也常常问新妈妈,她能否还变回过去的模样。(译者注:因为海霞年龄太小,无法理解死亡的概念,还以为是自己的妈妈变了样子,不知道现在这个妈妈其实只是她的继母。)终于有一天,新妈妈和海霞的爸爸吵了一架之后,在心情奇糟的状况下,她很确定地告诉海霞,自己只不过是她的继母,她妈妈走了,永远也不会再回来了。

12. [ʃeɪk] *v.* 摇,(猛力) 摇动
13. [ʃed] *v.* 流出,流下
14. ['kəʊpjəs] *a.* 大量的
15. [ə'naʊns] *v.* 告知, 传达
16. [faɪt] *n.* 争吵
17. [mu:d] *n.* 心情,情绪
18. ['stepɪməldə] *n.* 继母
19. [raʊ] *n.* (口) 争吵, 口角



A few days later things became a little more normal on their own. Hai Xia's father and stepmother needed one another for all kinds of reasons and they were able to resolve<sup>21</sup> their differences. Hai Xia, however, began to grow distant from her stepmother and that in turn, led her farther away from her own father, too. She was becoming a little island in the small family and her father slowly began to see things her stepmother's way.

Hai Xia's mother thought it would be better both for herself and her stepdaughter if she were sent away to a boarding school<sup>22</sup>. Perhaps, Hai Xia would make new friends and that would help her to forget her mother. She would have more privacy<sup>23</sup> at home with her husband and they would be able to do all those things together that they could not, with Hai Xia always in their midst. Moreover, her husband would be able to focus more of his time and energy on her. She began slowly hinting<sup>24</sup> to her husband that Hai Xia needed better education and that the environment in a boarding school would be good for her. She even told him that she knew of a school that would be perfect for Hai Xia. Her father was reluctant<sup>25</sup>, at first, but following his wife's repeated assertions<sup>26</sup> he agreed to send her away. His only condition was that the school had to be near where they lived so that he could visit her whenever the need arose.

When her father told Hai Xia about their decision, she did not agree and clung to<sup>27</sup> her father, pleading with<sup>28</sup> him not to send her away. But Hai Xia, soon realized that her father was firm and she became even more withdrawn<sup>29</sup> than before. She rarely played with her friends or companions and spent most of her time in her room, clinging to her doll. Barely seven, it was soon time for another parting for little Hai Xia, this time from her father and her new mother.

On the day of her departure, Hai Xia's things were packed and