

# THE SEA PRINCESS



## 海的女儿

中学生课外读物(英语)

鸭

指姑娘

4

## 海 的 女 儿

周 微 林

责任编辑：廖世英

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## 说 明

### 目 录

本书为安徒生童话选篇，是最新的英文简写本。它包括三篇有趣的故事，其英文文字十分浅显，只有五百单词量，很适合中学生阅读。

安徒生是大家所熟知的童话作家，他的童话不仅是优美的故事，而且是饱蘸血泪写成的诗，是包涵着意味深长的人生哲理的诗。这些童话读起来使人感到亲切，意味隽永，所以不仅孩子们爱看，成年人，甚至老年人都是拿起来就舍不得放下的。从安徒生的童话里我们可以看出，他的想象力极为丰富，但这种丰富的想象，又仿佛是从他深切的生活体验和对人生的探索中，长了翅膀飞出来的。所以有些作品，你每读一次，都会有新的领会，新的感受。比如《海的女儿》，你能用一句话说出它的意义来吗？海王的小女儿为了获得一个“人”的灵魂，愿意放弃海底幸福的生活，忍受一般人难以忍受的身心痛苦，最后化为海上的泡沫，而终不后悔。从这个美极了的动人形象里，我们今天仍能从中领悟到深刻的人生哲理。本书选择的另外两篇童话《丑小鸭》和《大拇指姑娘》，也同样如此。

译 注 者

一九八一年

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## One

# The Ugly<sup>①</sup> Little Duck

The country was beautiful. There were woods along the sides of the fields. In the woods there was an old hut<sup>②</sup> and many small rivers. The grass near the rivers was very long. No one ever went there.

One day a duck was sitting on her eggs<sup>③</sup> in these woods. She sat there for a long time and she began to grow unhappy<sup>④</sup>. The other ducks liked to stay in the rivers: they did not want to sit in the long grass near her.

At last the eggs opened and little ducks came out of them.

"Tchick, tchick!"<sup>⑤</sup> the little ducks said as they put their heads outside the eggs.

"Quack, quack<sup>⑥</sup>," said the old duck.

Then the little ducks stood up and looked at the grass.

"How big everything is!" they said.

The old duck got up. "I have not got you all<sup>⑦</sup>," she said. "The largest egg is still here. It is not open. How long will this last? I don't want to sit here all day." Then

she sat down again.

Another duck came to see her. "How are you?" she asked.

"This one egg makes me stay here so long!" the old duck said. "It will not open! But look at the others! They are the prettiest little ducks that I have ever seen."

"Let me see the egg which will not open," the other duck said. "Ah, yes! It is a big egg. Do not sit on it any longer. Show the other little ones how to go into the river."

"I will sit on it a little longer," the duck said.

The big egg opened at last. "Tchick, tchick," said the little one, and it fell out. But oh! how big and ugly it was! The duck looked at it. "That is a very big duck," she said. "None of the others are at all like it. But it must go into the water, too. I'll put it in now."

The next day the old duck took all the little ducks down to the river. She went into the water. "Quack, quack," she cried, and one little duck after another jumped in. The water went over their heads, but they all came up again. All were there, even the ugly one.

"See how it goes through the water. It is a good little duck: it is my own child," the old duck said. "It is very

pretty when you look at it now. Quack, quack, come with me! I shall show you many things and I shall take you to see all the other ducks. But stay near me, or someone may walk on you. Do not go too near the cat."

So they went to see the other ducks in the garden. There was much noise; the two ducks<sup>⑨</sup> were having a quarrel about some food.

"Stay near me and speak to the old duck which you see over there. She is the greatest of the ducks here," the duck said to her children.

The little ducks did as they were told. But the other ducks who were in the garden looked at them and said, "Now there are some more ducks: there are too many of us. And look how ugly that one is. We shall send him away."

Then one of the ducks ran to him and bit him.

"Do not touch him," the old duck said. "He is doing nothing to hurt you."

"He is big and ugly, so we will bite him."

"He is not beautiful, but he is a very good child," the old duck told the other ducks. "He is very good in the water. I think he will grow like the others in time. He may even look<sup>⑩</sup> smaller. He stayed so long in his egg: that is why he is not the same<sup>⑪</sup>."

But the poor little duck who was the last out of its

egg was bitten by the ducks and hens. "It is so big," they all said. The poor little thing did not know what to do: he was very unhappy because he was so ugly.



After the first day he grew more and more<sup>②</sup> unhappy. No one wanted to speak to him or to go near him. Even his brothers and sisters were not kind to him. They said, "I wish the cat would catch you, you ugly duck!" And even the old duck said, "I wish you were far away!" The ugly little duck ran out of the garden. The little birds in the trees were very afraid. "That is because I am so ugly," the little duck thought. He shut his eyes and ran



on. At last he came to a big field where some wild ducks lived. He lay down and stayed all the night there.

In the morning the wild ducks got up and saw the little duck. "Who are you?" they asked. The ugly little duck was very nice to them.

"You are very ugly," the wild ducks said. "But we will still like you if you do not marry any of our children." Poor thing! he never thought of marrying. All he wanted was to sit in the long grass and drink some water.

He stayed there for two days. On the next day two wild geese came.

"You are very ugly but we like you," they said. "Will you come with us and be a wild bird?"

Bang! It was the noise made by a gun. The two wild geese fell down dead in the long grass. Bang! It was the noise of a gun again. Many wild geese went up in the sky from the long grass. Bang!

There were many men with guns. They were shooting the wild geese. They were on all sides of the little duck, some were even sitting in the trees. Their dogs ran through the long grass. How afraid the little duck was! He wanted to hide his head so that he could not see. Just then a big dog stood near him. The big dog's mouth opened when he

saw the little duck. Then he looked again and went away—without touching the little duck.

"I am glad that I am ugly," said the duck. "I am so ugly that even the dog will not eat me<sup>15</sup>."

And now he lay still; the noise of the shooting could be heard all day. Even at night the poor little duck was afraid to get up. He waited a long time before he looked through the long grass. Then he ran away as quickly as he could.

At last he came to a little hut. The door of the hut was open, so the little duck walked inside.

An old woman lived in the hut with her cat and her hen. The old woman called the cat "My little son"; the hen laid very good eggs, and the old woman loved her as her own child.

The next morning they found the little duck in the room. The cat and the hen began to make a noise.

"What is it?" the old woman asked, looking everywhere in the room. But her eyes were not good, so she thought that the young duck was a fat old duck who had lost her way<sup>16</sup>.

"I shall now have duck's eggs. This is very good," she said.

And so the old woman, the cat and the hen all waited for the little duck to lay eggs. They waited for a long time, but no eggs came.

The cat and the hen were angry with the little duck.

"Can you lay eggs?" the hen asked.

"No."

"Then do not speak."



And the cat said, "Can you make a nice noise like I do?—Purr, Purr⑩."

"No." "Then you must not speak when we are speaking."

So the little duck sat alone in the room and was very unhappy. He began to think of his friends and the sun. He wanted to go into the river again and he told the hen about this.

"Are you ill?<sup>18</sup>" the hen asked. "You have nothing to do and you think about these things. If you lay eggs, you will not remember them."

"But it is so nice to go into the river," the little duck said. "It is nice when the water goes over your head."

"Now I know that you are ill," the hen said. "Ask the cat what she thinks. Ask her if<sup>19</sup> she would like the water to go over her head. Ask the old woman—there is no one alive who knows more than she does<sup>20</sup>. Do you think that she would like to fall in the river?"

"You do not know how nice it is," the little duck said.

"What! We do not know how nice it is! So you think you know more than the cat and the old woman. You should thank us for being so kind to you. Are you not living in a nice room with nice people? Learn to lay eggs or to purr."

"I think I will go into the fields and woods again," the little duck said.

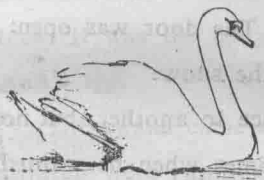
"Go at once," answered the hen.

So the little duck went. He went to the river and

jumped into the water. But no one spoke to him because he was so ugly.

Soon the days became cold and it began to snow. The poor little duck did not find it easy to stay alive.

One night, just as the sun was going down in the sky, the little duck saw some large and beautiful birds. He had never seen anything so beautiful before. Their bodies were white: they were swans. They went up and up in the sky, away from the cold country and over the sea to hotter countries. The ugly little duck looked at them for a long time and cried out after them.



Ah! he would always remember those beautiful birds. When he could see them no longer<sup>①</sup>, he put his head in the cold water. He did not know what the birds were called; he did not know where they were going; but he loved them more than anything. He did not want to be as beautiful as they were: he would be happy if he could just live with the other ducks in the garden<sup>②</sup>.

But the river was so cold, so cold! The little duck could never stay still in the water: it was so very cold. At last, he fell down in the snow. He could live no longer.

In the morning a poor man came to the river. He saw the little duck near the side of the river. So he brought him home to his wife.

The little duck opened his eyes. The poor man's children wanted to play with him, but the little duck was afraid of them. He was so afraid that<sup>23</sup> he jumped into some milk. The poor man's wife cried out, and the noise made the little duck even more afraid. He jumped on the food and ran everywhere.

The woman cried out again and hit him. The children ran to catch him and cried out, too. The door was open: he jumped out of the house and into the snow.

The little duck went from one place to another, but no one wanted to help him. There were times when he wanted to sit down in the snow and die. But he lived through the cold days and at last he saw the sun in the sky once more.

The little duck got up. He was bigger than before and he could go up and up in the sky. Up! Up! At last he came down out of the sky. He came down into a large garden, full of beautiful trees. There was a river near the trees. Oh! everything was so beautiful!

Three beautiful white swans came out of the woods. They went into the river and sat on the water so beautifully.

The little duck remembered seeing these beautiful birds before.

"I will go to them, those beautiful birds!" he said. "They will kill me because I am so ugly. But I must go to them."

He ran into the water and went up to the beautiful birds. They saw him and came to him. "Kill me," said the poor little duck, and he put his head down near the water. and he saw. ...! What did he see in the water? He saw his own body<sup>④</sup>. It was not the body of a fat, ugly little duck. It was the body of a swan! He had come from a swan's egg.

The swans came to him and touched him. Some little children were running about in the garden. They threw bread into the water, and the youngest cried out, "There is a new one!" The others cried out, too. "Yes, a new swan has come!" They looked at him happily. "The new one is so young and so beautiful. He is the most beautiful of them all!"

The young swan was so happy! He remembered how no one liked him before. Now the children said that he was the most beautiful of all beautiful birds. He said, "I never thought that I could be so happy."

## 注 解:

- ① ugly [ʌgli] a. 丑陋的
- ② hut [hʌt] n. 棚屋
- ③ was sitting on her eggs 伏在她的蛋上
- ④ grow unhappy 变得烦闷起来
- ⑤ tchick [tʃik] 动物发出的细小的声音, “啾啾”
- ⑥ quack [kwæk] 嘎嘎的叫声
- ⑦ I have not got you all. 我还没有把你们全孵出来。
- ⑧ None of the others are at all like it. 其他的小鸭子一点也不象它。
- ⑨ the two ducks 两群鸭子
- ⑩ look 显得
- ⑪ ...that is why he is not the same. ....这就是它与众不同的原因。
- ⑫ grew more and more... 变得越来越……
- ⑬ bang [bæŋ] 砰, 枪声
- ⑭ to hide his head so that he could not see 藏起他自己的头不去看所发生的一切
- ⑮ so ugly that even the dog will not eat me 那么丑, 连狗都不愿意吃我
- ⑯ lost...way 迷路
- ⑰ purr [pɜ:] 猫叫声
- ⑱ Are you ill? 你(精神上)有毛病吗?
- ⑲ if [if] conj. 是否
- ⑳ There is no one alive who knows more than she does. 活着的人没有一个知道得比她更多的。
- ㉑ no longer 不再
- ㉒ He would be happy...garden. 假如他能同其他的鸭子一起生活在园子里, 他就感到满意了。
- ㉓ so...that 如此……以致
- ㉔ He saw his own body. 他看见了自己的身影。



译文：

## 丑小鸭

乡下是美丽的。田野四周有树林。树林里有一座古老的棚屋和许多小河流。小河边青草长得很深，向来没有人去那儿。

有一天，有一只鸭子在树林子里孵蛋。她在那里孵了很久，开始感到心烦起来。别的鸭子喜欢待在河里；他们不愿意在她近边的深草里坐着。

鸭蛋终于破裂了，小鸭子们从蛋壳里拱出来。

“啾啾！啾啾！”小鸭子把脑袋伸出蛋壳时叫着。

“嘎嘎！嘎嘎！”老鸭子叫着

于是小鸭子站起来，望望青草。

“样样东西都是那么大大的！”他们说。

老鸭子站起来。“还没有把你们全孵出来呢！”她说：“最大的一个蛋还在这里，没有裂开，还要孵多久呢？我真不想整天伏在这里了。”但说完她又重新伏了下去。

另一只鸭子跑来看她。“你好吗？”她问道。

“就是这个蛋使我待在这里那么久！”老鸭子说：“它总不裂开！可您瞧瞧另外那些！他们是我所见到的最标致的小崽子。”

“让我来看看那只老不破裂的蛋吧，”另外那只鸭子说：“喔唷，好大一只蛋！不要再孵下去了。去告诉那些小家伙们下河里去吧。”

“我要再孵一小会儿，”鸭婆子说。

那只大蛋终于开裂了。“啾啾！啾啾！”小家伙叫着就一跤跌了出来。