

简易英汉对照读物

Little Women

Louisa M. Alcott



小妇人

外语教学与研究出版社

Louisa M. Alcott
Little Women
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小妇人

(简写本)

钟 怡 译

杨志才 叶 林 校

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本书简介

本书原作者路易莎·梅·奥尔科特 (Louisa May Alcott, 1832—1888) 是十九世纪的美国著名女作家。她的父亲主张简朴、博爱，曾经开办过一所小学，因收一名黑人儿童入学，白人加以抵制，不再进他的学校。学校停办后，一家人过着穷苦的生活。作者根据自己的生活经历写出《小妇人》(*Little Women*) 和《好妻子》(*Good Wives*) 这两本脍炙人口的小说；她以自己一家人为模特儿，生动而细致地描写了马奇家四个姑娘的性格、爱好以及成长的过程，反映了美国南北战争时期小城镇的社会风貌和作者心目中的真善美，人物性格鲜明，感情真挚动人，而且有一定的教育意义。

这个简写本是以上述两本小说为基础，用一千五百个英语词改写的，书名沿用我国旧译法。本书英语语言简洁、明快，有不少值得学习的日常生活用语、短语、句型及习惯说法，可供高中学生、高等院校非英语专业一二年级学生及有相当英语程度的自学者阅读。

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1. THE FOUR SISTERS

It was near Christmas-time. Four girls sat by a warm fire. They looked through the window at the snow falling outside.

"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," said Jo.

"Being poor makes one so unhappy!" said Meg, looking down at her old dress.

"I don't think it's fair that some girls should have pretty things and we should not," said Amy.

"We've got father and mother . . ." began Beth.

"We haven't got father, and we shan't have him for a long time," answered Jo.

These four sisters, who did not like being poor, lived in the town of Concord in the United States of America. At this time there was a war between the North and the South, and their father was away with the Army helping to take care of the sick and wounded. He had once been rich but had lost most of his money in trying to help a friend.

Meg—the eldest, could remember when there was plenty of money for everything that was needed. She was now sixteen years old and very pretty, with light brown hair, large eyes, small hands and feet. Her fifteen-year-old sister, Jo, was tall, thin and not very graceful. Jo had grey eyes and very lovely red-brown hair. She always wished she was a boy so she did not care how she looked. She loved to run and climb trees, and do things which boys like doing.

1. 四姐妹

圣诞节快到了。四个姑娘坐在暖和的火炉旁，望着窗外飘落的雪花。

“没有礼物，圣诞节就算不上圣诞节了。”乔说。

“人穷了可真倒霉！”梅格低头看着自己的旧衣服说道。

“我想，有些姑娘有漂亮的东西，我们没有，这不公平。”艾米说。

“我们有爸爸、妈妈——”贝思没有把话说完。

“我们现在没有爸爸，在很长一段时间里，我们还会没有爸爸的。”乔回答说。

这四个不喜欢过贫困日子的姑娘，住在美国康科德城。那时，南北战争^①正在进行，她们的父亲随军照顾伤病员去了。他过去是个有钱的人，可是为了帮助一个朋友，几乎把所有的钱都损失掉。

梅格年龄最大，她还记得从前富裕的时候，需要什么都有钱买。现在她十六岁了，长得很漂亮，一头浅棕色的头发，大大的眼睛，手脚都很小巧。她十五岁的妹妹乔，又高又瘦，举止也不怎么文雅。乔有一对灰色的眼睛，红棕色的头发很好看。她总觉得自己要是个男孩子就好了，对自己长得怎么样，根本不在乎。她爱奔跑、爬树，做男孩子们爱做的事。

^① 十九世纪中叶，美国北方各省的工业日趋发展，与以农奴制种植园为基础的南方各省发生尖锐矛盾，1861年爆发战争，1865年以南方失败告终。

Beth was thirteen years old, bright-eyed, with a face like a rose. She was gentle and thoughtful, but was afraid of talking to people whom she did not know. In this she was very unlike her youngest sister, Amy. Amy was only twelve years old; she thought that she was an important person and was very proud of her golden hair, her white skin and blue eyes. She knew that her nose was rather flat; but she hoped to grow up to be beautiful and to marry a rich husband.

The girls' mother, Mrs. March, was giving all her time to working for the soldiers, making them warm clothes; and the girls had given up their Christmas presents for the soldiers. That was why Jo said: "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents."

"Mother will be coming soon," said Beth.

She put her mother's shoes to warm in front of the fire; then Jo held them up close to it so as to warm them quickly.

"These shoes are quite worn out," she said. "Mother must have new ones."

"I have got a dollar, I thought that I would buy some for her with that," said Beth.

"No! I shall," cried Amy.

Jo stood up: "Father called me the 'man of the family' and told me to take special care of mother. So I will buy the shoes."

"Let us each get her something for Christmas," said Beth, "and not get anything for ourselves."

Jo began to march up and down with her hands behind her back, like a man.

"We will let her think that we are getting things for ourselves, and then surprise her," she said.

"I was so busy that I could not come home to dinner," said Mrs. March as she came in.

贝思十三岁，眼睛明亮，脸蛋儿象玫瑰。她性情温柔，喜欢思考，不过怕跟不认识的人谈话。在这一方面，她和小妹妹艾米很不一样。艾米只有十二岁，她自认为是个重要的人物，很为自己金黄色的头发、雪白的皮肤和天蓝色的眼睛而骄傲。她知道自己的鼻子有点儿扁，可是她希望长大了会很美，能嫁个有钱的丈夫。

姑娘们的母亲马奇太太把所有的时间都用来为士兵们服务，为他们缝制暖和的衣服；而姑娘们则为士兵们舍弃了圣诞节礼物。因此乔才说：“没有礼物，圣诞节就算不上圣诞节了。”

“妈妈快回来了。”贝思说。

她把母亲的鞋子放在火炉前烤烤暖；后来乔又把鞋子拿出来，放在离火近一点的地方，好让鞋子暖得快些。

“这双鞋相当破了。”她说，“妈妈该有双新鞋了。”

“我有一块钱，我本来拿这钱想给她买双鞋的。”贝思说。

“不！我来买。”艾米大声说。

乔站起来说：“爸爸把我叫做‘家里的男人’，还要我特别注意照顾妈妈，所以该我买。”

“我们每个人都买点什么给她作圣诞节礼物吧，”贝思说，“我们自己就不要了。”

乔于是背着手，象男人那样，迈着大步踱来踱去。

她说：“我们要让她以为我们是在为自己买东西，使她出乎意外。”

“我太忙了，没能回家吃午饭。”马奇太太说着进来了。

She took off her wet clothes and sat down by the fire.

Meg and Jo set ready the table for their evening meal. Beth was busy in the kitchen. Amy sat with her hands by her side and gave orders to everyone but did nothing herself.

When they were all sitting round the fire, Mrs. March said, "I have something nice for you girls — a letter."

"A letter from Father!" cried Jo. "How I wish I could be a soldier and go to help in the War."

"I don't," said Amy. "I should think it would be very unpleasant."

"When is he coming home?" asked Beth.

"Not for a very long time unless he is ill," replied their mother. "Now come and hear what your father writes to you."

It was a long letter, and the last part of it was written for the girls. "Give them my love," Mr. March wrote to his wife. "Tell them how much I think of them and pray for them. It will be a whole year before I shall see them, tell them not to waste the time, but to work hard. I know that they will be loving children to you and will do their duty. I hope that each one will try to fight against her own weakness, so that when I come back I may be proud of my little women."

2. CHRISTMAS DAY

It was Christmas morning. The girls dressed quickly and went down to the sitting-room. There they met Hannah, the old servant who had lived with the family since Meg was born. Hannah was loved by them all, more as a friend than a servant.

"Where is Mother?" asked Meg.

她脱掉湿衣服，在炉火旁坐下。

梅格和乔摆桌子准备吃晚饭。贝思在厨房里忙着。艾米坐着，手也不抬一下，对大家发号施令，自己却什么也不干。

她们在炉边坐下后，马奇太太说：“姑娘们，我有一样好东西给你们看——一封信。”

“爸爸来的信！”乔大声说，“我要是能在战争中当兵出力该有多好！”

“我可不想去，”艾米说，“我认为那是很不愉快的。”

“他什么时候回家？”贝思问道。

“除非他病了，短时间回不来。”母亲回答道，“好，来听听爸爸给你们写了些什么。”

这是一封长信，最后一部分是写给姑娘们的。马奇先生在信上对他妻子说：“问她们好。跟她们说，我多么怀念她们，并为她们祈祷。还有整整一年我才能见到她们。告诉她们，别浪费时间，要努力工作。我知道，她们会是你的好孩子，会尽自己的责任。我希望她们每个人都要尽力克服自己的缺点，这样等我回来的时候，我就会为我的小姑娘们感到自豪。”

2. 圣 诞 节

圣诞节早晨，姑娘们很快地穿好衣服，下楼到起居室去，她们在那里碰见了汉娜，梅格出生以后，这个老用人就和他们一家生活在一起。她们都很爱汉娜，不把她当用人，而把她当朋友看待。

“妈妈呢？”梅格问道。

"Someone came to call her to help a family who have no food," said Hannah.

"Oh well," said Meg, "you bring our breakfast and she will soon be back."

By the time Hannah had finished cooking, the girls were very hungry. Just at that minute their mother came in.

"Happy Christmas," they said.

"Happy Christmas, my daughters," said Mrs. March. "Before we sit down I want to tell you that I have just been to a house where there are six children. Their mother — Mrs. Hummel — has no fire to keep them warm and no food to give them. Hannah and I will take them some wood. Will you come with us and take them your breakfasts?"

They were all silent for a few minutes. Then Jo said, "What a good thing we hadn't begun to eat."

"May I go and help carry the things to the poor little children?" asked Beth eagerly.

"I shall take the hot cakes," said Amy, bravely giving up the food which she most liked.

Meg was already putting the bread and butter into a basket.

"I thought that you would do it," said Mrs. March, smiling. "You shall all go and help me, and when we come back we will have bread and milk for breakfast. We shall eat more at dinner-time so there will be no real loss."

In the evening they acted a play which Jo had written and a few friends came in to see it.

The play went well: the actors made a great deal of **noise**, and their friends who were listening shouted and laughed. Just as it was ending Hannah came into the room and said, "Mrs. March **wants** you all to come down and eat something."

“有人来找她，去帮助一家没饭吃的人去了。”汉娜说。

“好吧，”梅格说，“你把早饭做好端来，她很快就会回来的。”

汉娜做好早饭，姑娘们都很饿了，这时，她们的母亲回来了。

“圣诞快乐。”她们说。

“圣诞快乐，孩子们。”马奇太太说，“坐下来吃饭以前，有件事要跟你们说。我刚才到一个人家去，那儿有六个孩子，他们的妈妈——赫梅尔太太——没有生火让他们取暖，也没有东西给他们吃。汉娜和我要给他们送点柴火去。你们跟我们一块儿去吧，把你们的早饭带上，给他们吃好吗？”

一时她们都默不作声。过了一会儿乔说：“幸而我们还没有有吃。”

“我可以帮着把东西送给那些可怜的孩子吗？”贝思热心地说。

“我来拿这些烤饼。”艾米说，她勇敢地放弃了自己最爱吃的东西。

梅格已经在把面包和黄油放进篮子里去。

“我早知道你们会这样做的，”马奇太太笑着说，“你们都会帮我的，我们回来就吃面包和牛奶当早点，中饭可以多吃些，不会有什么损失。”

晚上，她们排演乔写的剧本，有几个朋友来看演出。

这出戏很成功。演员们吵吵嚷嚷，看戏的朋友们又叫又笑。演出结束时，汉娜走进屋子说：“马奇太太请你们去吃点东西。”

This was not expected, even by the actors: and when they saw the table, they looked at one another with delighted surprise. There were cakes of all sorts; there was fruit, and sweets. It was a wonderful supper. In the middle of the table there was a pot of beautiful flowers.

"Where did it come from?" they all wanted to know.

"Did the fairies bring it?" asked Amy.

"Father Christmas brought it," said Beth.

"Mother did it," said Meg.

"Aunt March felt good for once, and sent us these things," said Jo.

"You are all wrong. Old Mr. Laurence in the big house next door sent it," replied Mrs. March.

"The Laurence boy's grandfather!" said Meg. "Why did he do that? We don't know him."

"Hannah told one of his servants that you took your breakfast to the poor children. He is rather a strange old gentleman, but that pleased him. He knew my father many years ago; and this afternoon he sent me a friendly note: 'I have heard what your children did this morning,' he wrote, 'and I am sending a little Christmas present to them.' So you have this nice meal to make up for a breakfast of bread and milk."

"I suppose it was his grandson who told him to do it," said Jo. "I think his grandson would like to get to know us, and I am sure that I should like to know him."

"I like his manners," said Mrs. March, "and I do not mind your knowing him when a proper chance comes. He brought the flowers himself; he looked very sad when he went away — hearing your fun and not having any of his own."

"We will have another play some time," said Jo. "Perhaps he