

# 诺贝尔文学奖作家高尔斯华绥

John Galsworthy

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### 诺贝尔文学奖作家短篇小说精选一高尔斯华绥

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## 导 读

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高尔斯华绥的写作风格真实可信,生活画面广阔,心理描写细腻,语言简练生动。他曾把自己的艺术座右铭归纳为和谐、匀称与均衡。这些表达了他的思想的天然特色,也表达了一种崇高的精神追求。

本书选译了他的《小山上的喜鹊》、《品质》、《演变》、《苹果树》和《在前的与在后的》五个经典短篇。这些小说都是以现实主义为基调,融入了大量心理分析描写手法。在这些短篇小说中,高尔斯华绥常常通过具有图画般直观的明暗对比的艺术效果引发读者的感情共鸣。当饱醮个人风格的叙述变得栩栩如生、跃然纸上时,他往往能在寥寥数页中触动读者的心灵。

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《苹果树》是高尔斯华绥最出色、最著名的短篇小说。这部 作品描写细腻,情感真挚,每一段文字都散发着淡淡的忧伤,仿 佛即将凋谢的苹果花,让人感到说不出的美与痛。它以极其优美的笔触描述了一个凄美动人的爱情故事,但这个故事迷人的外表却掩盖不了作者内心的冲突。一方面,作者意图揭露与批判资产阶级意识形态;另一方面,自身所处的阶级立场却使他在潜意识当中试图掩藏和宽恕资产阶级的恶行。就这样,文学的美与善掩盖了现实的丑陋,二者的矛盾综合体构成了一篇传世佳作。

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高尔斯华绥的叙事艺术常常把教育和正义交织在一起,对当时的生活见解与思想习惯产生了深远的影响。他的剧作也是如此。他在戏剧创作上的成就也格外突出,主要的剧作有《银盒》、《斗争》、《正义》、《鸽子》、《忠诚》和《逃跑》等。在他的剧作中,丰富的思想内涵与高度的机智技巧相互结合,渲染出一种出神入化的剧场效果。

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### Magpie over the Hill

I lay often that summer on a slope of sand and coarse grass, close to the Cornish sea, trying to catch thoughts; and I was trying very hard when I saw them coming hand in hand.

She was dressed in blue linen, and a little cloud of honey-coloured hair; her small face had serious eyes the colour of the **chicory**<sup>®</sup> flowers she was holding up to **sniff at**<sup>®</sup>— a clean **sober**<sup>®</sup> little maid, with a very touching upward look of trust. Her companion was a strong, active boy of perhaps fourteen, and he, too, was serious — his deep-set, black-lashed eyes looked down at her with a queer protective wonder; the while he explained in a soft voice broken up between two ages, that exact process which bees adopt to draw honey out of flowers. Once or twice this hoarse but charming voice became quite **fervent**<sup>®</sup>, when she had evidently failed to follow; it was as if he would have been impatient, only he knew he must not, because she was a lady and younger than himself, and he loved her.

They sat down just below my **nook**<sup>⑤</sup>, and began to count the petals of a chicory flower, and slowly she **nestled**<sup>⑥</sup> in to him, and he put his arm round her. Never did I see such **sedate**<sup>⑦</sup>, sweet lovering, so trusting on her part, so guardian-like on his. They were like, in **miniature**<sup>®</sup>— though more **dewy**<sup>⑨</sup>,







### 小山上的喜鹊

那年夏天,我经常躺在靠近康沃尔海的一道遍布沙子和原 生草的斜坡上,尽力捕捉一些想法;我正在苦思冥想,这时我 看到他们手拉手走来。

她身穿蓝色亚麻布衬衣,一小团蜂蜜色的浓发;她的小脸蛋上有一双认真的眼睛,眼睛的颜色就像她举起来去闻的菊苣花的颜色——是一个纯洁朴素的小姑娘,她抬眼看人的神情楚楚动人,充满信任。她的同伴是一个强壮活泼的男孩,大概有十四岁,他也非常认真——睫毛乌黑的、深陷的眼睛带着一种奇特呵护的诧异神情俯视着她,他正用处于变声期的沙哑声音轻轻解释着蜜蜂从鲜花中采蜜的准确过程。有一两次,这个沙哑却迷人的声音变得相当热烈,此时她显然没有听懂;好像他本来会不耐烦,只是他知道不能这样,因为她是一位淑女,年龄比他小,况且他又爱她。

他们在我躺的隐蔽处正下方坐下来,开始数一朵菊苣花的 花瓣,随后她慢慢地依偎向他,他一只胳膊环抱着她。我从未 见到过如此沉着甜美的爱恋,她非常信任,他则很像护花使者。

① chicory /'tʃikəri/ n. 菊苣

② sniff at 嗅; 闻

④ fervent / fə:vənt/ adj. 炽热的

⑥ sedate /si'deit/ adj. 安静的; 稳重的

<sup>®</sup> miniature / minjət∫ə/n. 缩影; 微小模型

⑨ dewy /'djuːi/ adj. 纯洁的; 清新的

③ sober /'səubə/ adj. 冷静的

⑤ nook /nuk/ n. 隐蔽处

⑦ nestle / nesl/ vi. 偎依

— those sober couples who have long lived together, yet whom one still catches looking at each other with **confidential** tenderness, and in whom, one feels, passion is **atrophied** from never having been in use.

Long I sat watching them in their cool communion<sup>®</sup>. half-embraced, talking a little, smiling a little, never once kissing. They did not seem shy of that: it was rather as if they were too much each other's to think of such a thing. And then her head slid lower and lower down his shoulder, and sleep buttoned the lids over those chicory-blue eyes. How careful he was, then, not to wake her, though I could see his arm was getting stiff! He still sat, good as gold<sup>®</sup>, holding her, till it began quite to hurt me to see his shoulder thus in chancery. But presently I saw him draw his arm away ever so carefully, lay her head down on the grass, and lean forward to stare at something. Straight in front of them was a magpie, balancing itself on a stripped twig of thorn-tree. The agitating bird, painted of night and day, was making a queer noise and flirting one wing, as if trying to attract attention. Rising from the twig, it circled, vivid and stealthy, twice round the tree, and flew to another a dozen paces off. The boy rose; he looked at his little mate, looked at the bird, and began quietly to move toward it; but uttering again its queer call, the bird glided on to a third thorn-tree. The boy hesitated then — but once more the bird flew on, and suddenly **dipped** over the hill. I saw the boy break into a run; and getting up quickly, I ran too.

When I reached the **crest**<sup>®</sup> there was the black and white bird flying low into a **dell**<sup>®</sup>, and there the boy, with hair streaming back, was rushing **helter-skelter**<sup>®</sup> down the hill. He

他们像长期生活在一起的稳重情侣——虽然比较纯洁清新,但你仍会发现他们以秘而不宣的柔情相互对视,而且你会感到,激情因从未利用而在衰退。

我长久坐着观望他们沉着密会,半推半就,交谈很少,微 微含笑,从未亲吻过一次。他们好像并不羞于亲吻:更准确地 说,好像他们彼此属于对方的太多了,所以想不起这样一件事 来了。随后,她的头越来越低,从他的肩上滑下来,睡神扣紧 了那双菊苣色蓝眼睛的睑子。他当时是多么小心,不去惊醒 她,尽管我可以看到他的胳膊正在渐渐变得僵硬!他仍然乖乖 地坐在那里抱着她: 我看见他的肩膀如此进退两难, 开始心疼 不已。但是,过了一会儿,我看到他小心翼翼地抽走了胳膊, 把她的头放倒在草地上,然后倾身向前凝视着什么东西。原来 他们正前面是一只喜鹊,喜鹊在一棵山楂树的小秃枝上平衡着 自己的身体。这只羽毛黑白相间的鸟儿躁动不安, 正发出一种 奇怪的声音,摇晃着一只翅膀,仿佛在设法引起注意。它从树 枝上飞起,绕着那棵树飞了两圈,既活跃又秘密,然后飞到了 十几步开外的另一棵树上。男孩站起身: 他看看小伴侣, 又瞧 瞧喜鹊,然后开始悄悄地朝它走去:然而,鸟儿又发出奇怪的 叫声,轻快无声地飞到了第三棵山楂树上。于是,男孩举棋不 定——而喜鹊又一次向前飞去,突然向下飞过了山岗。我看见 男孩突然撒腿飞奔:我马上站起身,也跑了起来。

我跑到山顶后,只见那只黑白相间的鸟儿正在一个小山谷 里低飞:男孩头发向后飘拂,也正慌里慌张冲下山去。他到达

① confidential /kɔnfi'den [əl/ adj. 秘密的; 机密的

① atrophied /ə'trɔfid/ adj. (机能) 衰退的; 萎缩的

① communion /kəˈmjuːnjən/ n. 交流; 恳谈

<sup>(13)</sup> good as gold 乖乖的

<sup>14</sup> in chancery /'tfa:nsəri/ adv. 进退两难; 骑虎难下

<sup>[5]</sup> agitate /ˈædʒuteit/ v. 激动; 使不安; 使焦虑

<sup>16</sup> flint /fla:t/ vt. 摆动; 迅速移动

① dip/dip/v. 浸;蘸;沾

①8 crest / krest/ n. 顶峰

<sup>19</sup> dell /del/n. 小溪谷; 幽谷

<sup>20</sup> helter-skelter /heltə'skeltə/ adv. 慌张; 狼狈

reached the bottom and vanished into the dell. I, too, ran down the hill. For all that I was prying and must not be seen by bird or boy, I crept warily in among the trees to the edge of a pool that could know but little sunlight, so thickly arched was it by willows, birch-trees, and wild hazel<sup>®</sup>. There, in a swing of **boughs** above the water, was perched no pied bird, but a young, dark-haired girl with, dangling, bare, brown legs. And on the brink of the black water goldened, with fallen leaves, the boy was crouching, gazing up at her with all his soul. She swung just out of reach and looked down at him across the pool. How old was she, with her brown limbs, and her gleaming, slanting eyes? Or was she only the spirit of the dell, this elf-thing swinging there, entwined with boughs and the dark water, and covered with a shift of wet birch leaves. So strange a face she had, wild, almost wicked, yet so tender; a face that I could not take my eyes from. Her bare toes just touched the pool, and flicked up drops of water that fell on the boy's face.

From him all the sober **steadfastness**<sup>®</sup> was gone; already he looked as wild as she, and his arms were stretched out trying to reach her feet. I wanted to cry to him: "Go back, boy, go back!" but could not; her elf eyes held me **dumb**<sup>®</sup>— they looked so lost in their tender wildness.

And then my heart stood still, for he had slipped and was struggling in deep water beneath her feet. What a gaze was that he was turning up to her — not frightened, but so longing, so desperate; and hers how triumphant, and how happy!

And then he **clutched**<sup>®</sup> her foot, and clung, and climbed; and bending down, she drew him up to her, all wet,

山麓,消失在小山谷里。我也跑下了山。虽然如此,但我还是 想探个明白,又不能让鸟儿或男孩看到。我从树林里小心谨慎 地爬到一个池塘边,这里柳树、桦树和野榛树密匝匝形成的拱 状绿荫只能让细微的阳光照射进来。池水上方摇晃的大树枝上 没有杂色小鸟栖息, 而是一个黑发少女悬垂着赤裸的褐色长 腿。幽暗的水边因落叶而染成了金色,男孩正蹲伏在那里,全 神贯注地抬头凝望着她。女孩在他探不到的地方一边摆动,一 边越过水面俯视着他。这个褐色肢体、斜视明目的姑娘多大年 龄了呢?要么她只是小山谷的精灵?是一个在那里摇晃,树枝 和黑水环绕,湿漉漉的桦树叶覆盖的精灵似的东西?她有一张 非常奇异、疯狂、近乎邪恶却又非常温柔的脸庞: 这是一张我 无法移开目光的脸。她赤裸的脚趾刚好触到水面, 轻轻弹起水 珠,落在男孩的脸上。

对他来说,所有的沉着坚定都烟消云散了,他看上去已经 像她一样疯狂, 他的胳膊伸出来试图去摸她的脚。我想对他大 声喊叫:"回去吧,孩子,回去吧!"但不能;她的小精灵似 的眼睛使我说不出话来——这双眼睛看上去陷入了温柔的野性 之中。

随后,我的心脏静止,因为他已经滑倒,在她脚下的深水 里奋力挣扎。他用一种怎样的目光仰望着她啊——不是惊恐, 而是非常渴望,不顾一切:而她的目光却是多么得意,多么 快乐!

接着,他紧紧抓住她的脚,紧握着爬上去:她弯下腰,把

<sup>2</sup>D for all that adv. 虽然如此

② pry /prai/ v. 探查; 窥探

<sup>23</sup> hazel /'heiz/ n. 榛子

<sup>24</sup> bough /bau/ n. 主枝; 大树枝

② pied /paid/ adj. 斑驳的;杂色的 ② brink /brink/ n. (峭岸、崖的) 边缘

② spirit / spirit/ n. 幽灵

<sup>28</sup> entwine /in twain/ v. (使) 缠住; (使) 盘绕

<sup>29</sup> bough /bau/ n. 大树枝; 主枝 30 steadfastness n. 坚定; 稳当

③ dumb /dAm/ adj. 哑的; 无声音的 ③ clutch /klAtf/ vt. 抓住; 攫住

and clasped him in the swing of boughs.

I took a long breath then. An orange gleam of sunlight had flamed in among the shadows and fell round those two where they swung over the dark water, with lips close together and spirits lost in one another's, and in their eyes such drowning ecstasy<sup>®</sup>! And then they kissed! All round me pool, and leaves, and air seemed suddenly to swirl<sup>®</sup> and melt — I could see nothing plain! ... What time passed — I do not know — before their faces slowly again became visible! His face the sober boy's — was turned away from her, and he was listening; for above the whispering<sup>®</sup> of leaves a sound of weeping came from over the hill. It was to that he listened.

And even as I looked he slid down from out of her arms; back into the pool, and began struggling to gain the edge. What grief and longing in her wild face then! But she did not wail. She did not try to pull him back; that elfish heart of dignity could reach out to what was coming, it could not drag at what was gone. Unmoving as the boughs and water, she watched him abandon her.

Slowly the struggling boy gained land, and lay there, breathless. And still that sound of lonely weeping came from over the hill.

Listening, but looking at those wild, **mourning**<sup>®</sup> eyes that never moved from him, he lay. Once he turned back toward the water, but fire had died within him; his hands dropped, **nerveless**<sup>®</sup>— his young face was all **bewilderment**<sup>®</sup>.

And the quiet darkness of the pool waited, and the trees, and those lost eyes of hers, and my heart. And ever from over the hill came the little fair maiden's lonely weeping.

浑身湿透的他拉上来,并在树枝的摇晃中紧紧地抱住他。

我长出了一口气。一道橘黄色的阳光从阴影中照了进来,落在他们俩在幽暗水面上摇晃的倒影上;他们的嘴唇紧贴在一起,他们的灵魂迷失在对方的灵魂之中,迷失在他们的眼睛里,他们的眼睛流露出了压倒一切的狂喜!接紧着,他们亲吻起来!在我周围,池塘、树叶和空气仿佛突然旋转、融化——我什么都看不清!……在我又可以慢慢地看到他们的脸庞之前——我不知道过去了多少时间!他的脸庞——那个沉着男孩的脸庞——从她身边转开,他在倾听;因为越过树叶的飒飒声,从山那边传来了哭泣声。他倾听的就是这个声音。

甚至还在我看着时,他就从她的怀抱里滑下来,又回到了池塘,开始奋力向池边游去。此时,她疯狂的脸庞是多么悲伤和渴望啊!但是,她没有痛哭,也没有尽力拉他回来。那颗高贵的自尊心能够伸向即将到来的东西,却不能拽住失去的东西。她像树枝和池水一样岿然不动,望着他弃她而去。

慢慢地,男孩挣扎着到达陆地,躺在那里,上气不接下 气。孤寂的哭声仍从山那边传来。

他躺在那里倾听,但望着那双从未离开他的疯狂悲痛的眼睛。他一度向水面回转身,但他内心的火已经熄灭了;他的双手落下,有气无力——他年轻的脸庞充满了困惑。

平静昏暗的湖水等待着,还有树木、她那双神情恍惚的眼睛和 我的心也等待着。那个美丽少女孤寂的哭声不断从小山那边传来。

<sup>33</sup> ecstasy / ekstəsi/ n. 入迷

<sup>34</sup> swirl /swə:l/ vi. 打漩; 盘绕

<sup>3</sup> whispering / (h) wisperin/ adj. 耳语的

<sup>30</sup> elfish /'elfi [/ adj. 如小精灵的

③ dignity / digniti/ n. 尊严; 高贵

<sup>38</sup> abandon /ə'bændən/ vt. 放弃; 遗弃

<sup>39</sup> mourning /'mɔːnin/ n. 悲恸

<sup>40</sup> nerveless /'nə;vlis/ adj. 无力的: 松懈的

<sup>4</sup>D bewilderment /bi wildəmənt/ n. 困惑