

LITTLE WOMEN

小妇人

[美] 露易莎·梅·奥尔科特 著 By Louisa May Alcott

[加拿大] 莫妮卡·库林 改写

Adapted by Monica Kulling

尚孟 译



浙江出版联合集团
浙江文艺出版社

013059153

H319.4:I
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013028123

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

小妇人:英汉对照/(美)奥尔科特(Alcott, L.)
著;(加拿大)库林(Kulling, M.)改写;尚孟译. —杭州:
浙江文艺出版社, 2013. 8
(兰登英汉双语经典)
ISBN 978-7-5339-3642-6

I. ①小… II. ①奥… ②库… ③尚… III. ①英语-汉语-
对照读物 ②长篇小说-美国-近代 IV. ①H319.4;I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2013)第 047107 号

Louisa May Alcott

Little Women

Copyright © 1994, Random House, Inc.

by Random House Children's Books Through Bardon-Chinese Media Agency

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版权合同登记号:图字:11-2011-182

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特约编辑:任战

装帧设计:高静芳

浙江文艺出版社出版发行

杭州市体育场路 347 号

浙江省新华书店集团有限公司经销

山东德州新华印务有限责任公司印刷

开本 890 毫米×1240 毫米 1/32 印张 5.75 插页 2 字数 68 千字

2013 年 8 月第 1 版 2013 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 978-7-5339-3642-6

定价:16.00 元

(如有印、装质量问题,请寄承印单位调换)



英 汉 对 照

兰登书屋经典文学简明读本

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Chapter One

A Merry Christmas

The four March sisters sat in the living room. A fire crackled in the fireplace. It was the day before Christmas, but the girls weren't very happy.

"Christmas won't be Christmas without presents," said Jo. She was lying on the rug.

"It's awful to be poor," said Meg, sighing. She was the oldest. She looked at her shabby dress as she spoke.

"And it's not fair!" exclaimed Amy. She was the youngest. "Some girls have lots of pretty things. And other girls have nothing at all."

"We've got Father and Mother and one another," said Beth. Beth was the shy one. She always looked on the bright side of things.



第一章

愉快的圣诞节

马奇家的四姐妹坐在客厅里，壁炉里的火噼噼啪啪地烧着。虽是圣诞节的前一天，但女孩们并不很高兴。

“没有礼物的圣诞节算什么圣诞节！”乔躺在地毯上说道。

“贫穷真是令人讨厌！”梅格叹了口气说道。她是四个女孩儿中最大的一个，她边说边看看自己身上那件破旧的衣服。

“而且不公平！”埃米叫道，她是四个女孩中年纪最小的，“有些女孩有许多漂亮的东西，有些女孩却什么也没有。”

“我们有爸爸、妈妈，还有彼此啊！”贝丝说道。贝丝是个害羞的女孩儿，她总是往事情的光明面看。

“We haven’t got Father,” said Jo sadly. “And we might not have him for a very long time.”

The girls were suddenly silent. Light from the fire shone on their faces. They were thinking of Father. He was fighting in a war far away. He wouldn’t be home for Christmas. And there wouldn’t be Christmas presents because there was no money.

“We each have a dollar!” exclaimed Jo. “We could at least buy something for ourselves.” Jo loved to read and wanted to buy a new book.

“I’ll spend my dollar on music,” said Beth.

“I’ll spend mine on drawing pencils,” said Amy. She was always drawing.

Meg didn’t say a word. She wanted so many pretty things that she didn’t know where to begin.

Beth put Marmee’s slippers in front of the fire to warm them. The girls’ mother would soon be home. This thought cheered them up.

“Marmee needs a new pair,” said Beth. She looked at her mother’s worn slippers.

“I’m the man of the family now that Papa’s gone,” said Jo. She was the second-oldest and a



“爸爸又不在，”乔悲伤地说道，“而且我们可能会有好长一段时间看不到他。”

女孩儿们忽然都沉默了。壁炉中闪动的火光映照在她们脸上。她们正思念着父亲，他在远方的战场上打仗，不会回来过圣诞节。而且也不会有圣诞节礼物，因为家里没有钱。

“我们每人都有一块钱嘛！”乔高声叫道，“至少我们可以给自己买些什么呀！”乔爱看书，她想买本新书。

“我要用我的钱买乐谱。”贝丝说道。

“我要用我的钱买画笔。”埃米说道。她常画画儿。

梅格什么也没说。她想要的东西太多了，不知道该说哪一样才好。

贝丝将妈妈的拖鞋拿到壁炉前烤暖。女孩儿们的母亲就快到家了。一想到这里，她们的精神便为之一振。

“妈妈需要一双新拖鞋。”贝丝说道。她的目光停在母亲那双穿破的拖鞋上。

“既然爸爸不在家，我就是家中的男人啦！”乔说

tomboy. "It's my job to take care of Marmee. I'll buy the slippers."

"I'll tell you what," said Beth. "Let's each get Mother something for Christmas and not get anything for ourselves."

The girls were excited as they planned what to get their mother. After deciding on the presents, they worked on the Christmas night play.

Every Christmas Jo wrote a play. The girls put on the play for family and friends. They were practicing their lines when Marmee walked in.

"Hello, my merry girls," said Mother. Marmee worked as a volunteer for the Soldiers' Aid Society. She had spent the day packing boxes to send to the men. Today she brought happy news: a letter from Father!

"Gather round, girls," said Mrs. March. "Here's a nice, long letter from Father. He is well and sends his Christmas greetings."

Mother read the letter to her eager daughters. It was a cheerful, hopeful letter. In it Father described army life. He described the marches and



道，她是家中的老二，也是个假小子，“照顾妈妈是我的职责，我来买拖鞋。”

“我有个建议，”贝丝说道，“我们每人给妈妈买个圣诞礼物，不要给自己买了。”

于是女孩儿们兴高采烈地计划着要买什么礼物给妈妈。决定好礼物之后，她们又忙着排演圣诞节晚上的戏剧。

每年的圣诞节，乔都会写一出戏剧，女孩儿们就把它呈现给亲朋好友。当妈妈进来时，她们正在对台词。

“我快乐的女儿们，我回来了。”母亲说道。母亲在军人后援会里当义工，她整天忙着寄送包裹给前线的士兵们。今天她带了好消息回来——一封父亲寄来的信！

“女儿们，都过来，”马奇太太说道，“爸爸寄来一封报告好消息的长信。他一切平安而且祝福你们圣诞节快乐。”

母亲将信念给她那群急于知道详情的女儿听。那是封愉快且充满希望的信，父亲在信中提到行军以及

the men. But he didn't describe the hardships. He didn't want to worry his girls. Father wrote:

Take care of your mother, my loving children. Do your duty faithfully. I know that when I get home I will be fonder and prouder than ever of my little women.

Mother finished the letter. The girls were silent. How they missed Father!

"This time without Father will be hard," said Mother. "It will be like a long journey. And you will be like pilgrims on this journey. You will have to be strong and carry your burdens bravely."

"I wish we had a guidebook to help us on our way," said Jo.

"Look under your pillows Christmas morning," said Mother with a smile.

On Christmas morning Jo was the first to awake. Under her pillow was a little Bible with a red cover. Beth and Amy woke up next, then Meg. Each girl found a Bible under her pillow. Each Bible had a different color cover.



军人们的情形,但是对于军旅中的艰苦却只字未提,因为他不想让女儿们担心。父亲写道:

我可爱的孩子们,要照顾好你们的妈妈,要认真尽责。我知道当我回家时,我会比以往更喜欢你们且更以你们为荣——我的小妇人们。

母亲念完了信,女孩儿们静默不语。她们是多么地想念父亲啊!

“这时候爸爸不在我们身边,的确是不好过。”母亲说道,“这就好像一趟漫长的旅程,而你们就像旅程中的朝圣者一样,必须坚强且勇敢地扛起肩上的重担。”

“我希望我们能有一本指南好一路帮助我们。”乔说道。

“圣诞节早晨伸手探探枕头下面,你们就会找到了。”母亲微笑着说。

圣诞节清晨,乔是第一个醒来的,她的枕头下有一小本红皮的《圣经》。接着醒来的是贝丝和埃米,梅格最后醒来。梅格她们都在自己枕头下找到一本《圣经》,每一本《圣经》的书皮颜色都不一样。