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[英国]查尔斯·兰姆 玛丽·兰姆 改写

萧乾 译 文洁若 注释



莎士比亚喜剧故事

Comedies from Shakespeare

Charles Lamb & Mary Lamb

双语插图本





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■ A Midsummer Night's¹ Dream

There was a law in the city of Athens² which gave to its citizens the power of compelling their daughters to marry whomsoever they pleased³, for upon a daughter's refusing⁴ to marry the man her father had chosen to be her husband, the father was empowered⁵ by this law to cause her to be put to death; but as fathers do not often desire the death of their own daughters, even though they do happen to prove a little refractory⁶, this law was seldom or never put in execution⁷, though perhaps the young ladies of that city were not unfrequently threatened by their parents with the terrors of it.

There was one instance, however, of an old man, whose name was Egeus⁸, who actually did come⁹ before Theseus¹⁰ (at that time the reigning Duke of Athens), to complain that his daughter Hermia¹¹, whom he had commanded to marry Demetrius¹², a young man of a noble Athenian family, refused to obey him, because she loved another young Athenian¹³, named Lysander¹⁴. Egeus demanded justice¹⁵ of Theseus, and desired that this cruel law might be put in force¹⁶ against his daughter.

Hermia pleaded in excuse for her disobedience, that Demetrius had formerly professed love for her dear friend Helena¹⁷, and that Helena loved Demetrius to distraction; but this honourable reason, which Hermia gave for not obeying her father's command, moved not¹⁸ the stern Egeus.

1. Midsummer Night: Midsummer-day(6月24日,仲夏)的前夕。 2. Athens['æθinz]:雅典。
3. whomsoever they pleased=anyone whom they pleased. they指the citizens。 4. upon a daughter's refusing=when a daughter refused。 5. empowered=given power or authority; authorized。
6. refractory=disobedient。 7. put in execution:施行。 8. Egeus[i(:)'dʒi:əs]:伊吉斯。 9. did come: did 用于加强语气,意思是:真的…;的确…。 10. Theseus ['θi:sjəs]:忒修斯。

雅典城有一条法律,规定市民高兴把女儿嫁给谁,就有权力强迫她嫁给谁。要是女儿不肯跟她父亲替她选中的男人结婚,父亲凭这条法律就可以要求判她死罪。可是做父亲的一般是不愿意把自己女儿的性命送掉的,所以尽管城里的年轻姑娘们也有不大听话的时候,这条法律却很少或者从来也没有施行过,也许做父母的只是时常用这条可怕的法律来吓唬吓唬她们罢了。

可是有一回竟出了一桩事。一个名叫伊吉斯的老人真的跑到忒修斯(当时统治雅典的公爵)面前来控诉说:他命令他女儿赫米亚嫁给雅典贵族家庭出身的青年狄米特律斯,可是女儿不同意,因为她爱上了另外一个年轻的雅典人,叫拉山德。伊吉斯请求忒修斯进行审判,并且要求照这条残酷的法律来处治他的女儿。

赫米亚替自己辩解,她之所以不听话是因为狄米特律斯曾经向她的好朋友海丽娜表示过爱情,并且海丽娜也疯狂地爱着狄米特律斯。可是尽管赫米亚提出这个正大光明的理由来说明她为什么违背父亲的命令,却没能感动严峻的伊吉斯。

11. Hermia ['hə:mjə]: 赫米亚。 12. Demetrius [di'mi:triəs]: 狄米特律斯。 13. Athenian [ə'θi:njən]: 雅典人。 14. Lysander [lai'sændə]: 拉山德。 15. justice=administration of the law; trial. 16. put in force=put in execution. 17. Helena ['helinə;he'li:nə]: 海丽娜。 18. moved not: 没能感动(=did not move)。十六世纪英文里的否定结构,常把副词not放在动词后面。

Theseus, though a great and merciful prince, had no power to alter the laws of his country; therefore he could only give Hermia four days to consider of it¹: and at the end of that time, if she still refused to marry Demetrius, she was to be put to death.

When Hermia was dismissed² from the presence of the duke, she went to her lover Lysander, and told him the peril she was in, and that she must either give him up and marry Demetrius, or lose her life in four days³.

Lysander was in great affliction at hearing these evil tidings; but recollecting that he had an aunt who lived at some distance from Athens, and that at the place where she lived the cruel law could not be put in force against Hermia (this law not extending⁴ beyond the boundaries of the city), he proposed to Hermia that she should steal out of⁵ her father's house that night, and go with him to his aunt's house, where he would marry her. "I will meet you," said Lysander, "in the wood a few miles without⁶ the city; in that delightful wood where we have so often walked with Helena in the pleasant month of May."

To this proposal Hermia joyfully agreed; and she told no one of her intended flight but her friend Helena. Helena (as maidens will do foolish things for love) very ungenerously resolved to go and tell this to Demetrius, though she could hope no benefit from betraying⁷ her friend's secret, but the poor pleasure of following her faithless lover to the wood; for she well knew that Demetrius would go thither in pursuit of Hermia.

The wood, in which Lysander and Hermia proposed to meet was the favourite haunt⁸ of those little beings known by the name of *Fairies*.

Oberon⁹ the king, and Titania¹⁰ the queen of the Fairies, with all their tiny train of followers, in this wood held their midnight revels.

Between this little king and queen of sprites¹¹ there happened, at this time, a sad disagreement; they never met by moonlight in the shady walks of

1. consider of it: 这里加of是古时候的用法, 今已不通用。 2. dismissed=allowed to go. 3. in four days: 四天以后。in是表示时间经过的前置词。 4. this law not extending=as this law did not extend. 5. steal out of=flee secretly out of. 6. without=outside of; out of. 古语。

忒修斯虽然是位伟大而又仁慈的君主，却没有权力改变国家的法律。因此，他只能给赫米亚四天的工夫去考虑；四天以后，要是她仍然不肯嫁给狄米特律斯，就要判她死刑。

赫米亚从公爵跟前退出来以后，就去找她的情人拉山德，把她的危急情势告诉他，说她要么就得放弃他而嫁给狄米特律斯，要么就得在四天以后死掉。

拉山德听到这个不祥消息十分悲伤。这时候他想起他有个姑妈住在离雅典不远的地方，到那个地方就不能对赫米亚施行这条残酷的法律了（因为出了城界它就无效了），他提议赫米亚当天晚上从她父亲家里逃出来，跟他一起到他姑妈家去，他们就在那儿结婚。“我在离城几英里地以外的树林子里等着你——”拉山德说，“就是咱们在愉快的五月里，常跟海丽娜一起散步的那个可爱的树林子。”

赫米亚兴高采烈地同意了这个建议。除了她的朋友海丽娜，她再没把要逃跑的事告诉旁人。海丽娜（姑娘们为了爱情会做出傻事来的）非常不仁厚地决定去把这件事说给狄米特律斯听，虽然除了跟着她那不忠实的爱人到树林子里去这点可怜的乐趣外，泄露朋友的秘密她是指望不上什么好处的，因为她准知道狄米特律斯一定会到那里去追踪赫米亚。

拉山德跟赫米亚约定见面的树林子，就是那些叫作**仙人**的小东西经常喜欢去的地方。

仙王奥布朗和仙后提泰妮娅带着他们所有的小随从，在这个树林子里举行午夜的宴会。

这时候，小仙王和小仙后之间不幸闹翻了。每逢皎月当空的夜晚，他们在这个快乐的树林子里的阴凉小道上总是一见面就吵架，直吵到

7. betraying=revealing; disclosing. 8. haunt=place frequently visited. 9. Oberon ['əubərən]: 奥布朗。 10. Titania ['ti:tɑ:njə]: 提泰妮娅。 11. sprites=fairies; elves(和spirit同语源)。

this pleasant wood, but they were quarrelling, till all their fairy elves would creep into acorn-cups and hide themselves for fear.

The cause of this unhappy disagreement was Titania's refusing to give Oberon a little changeling boy¹, whose mother had been Titania's friend; and upon her death the fairy queen stole the child from its nurse, and brought him up in the woods.

The night on which the lovers were to meet in this wood, as Titania was walking with some of her maids of honour, she met Oberon attended by his train of fairy courtiers.

"Ill met² by moonlight, proud Titania," said the fairy king. The queen replied. "What, jealous Oberon, is it you? Fairies, skip hence³; I have forsworn⁴ his company." "Tarry⁵, rash fairy," said Oberon; "am not I thy lord?⁶ Why does Titania cross her Oberon? Give me your little changeling boy to be my page."

"Set your heart at rest," answered the queen; "your whole fairy kingdom buys not the boy of me." She then left her lord in great anger. "Well, go your way," said Oberon: "before the morning dawns I will torment you for this injury."

Oberon then sent for Puck⁷, his chief favourite and privy counsellor.

Puck, (or as he was sometimes called, Robin Good-fellow⁸) was a shrewd and knavish sprite, that used to play comical pranks in the neighbouring villages; sometimes getting into the dairies and skimming the milk⁹, sometimes plunging his light and airy form into the butter-churn¹⁰, and while he was dancing his fantastic shape in the churn, in vain the dairy-maid would labour to change her cream into butter: nor had the village swains any better success; whenever Puck chose to play his freaks in the brewing copper¹¹, the ale was sure to be spoiled. When a few good neighbours were met to drink some comfortable ale together, Puck would jump into the bowl of ale in the

1. changeling boy: changeling一般是指欧洲神话中仙人在半夜把人家聪明美丽的孩子偷去后,留下来替换的那个妖童,此处则指提泰妮娅换来的孩子。 2. Ill met=We have ill met. 古时人们见面,一般都招呼说 well met,此处是反语。 3. skip hence: skip=hurry; hasten.前面省略了let us. hence一般是因此(therefore)或从此(from now)的意思,此处是古语,意思是离开这儿(away from here)。 4. forsworn:是forswear的过去分词。 forswear=deny

那些小仙子都害怕得爬到橡果壳儿里藏起来。

这次不愉快的争吵是由于提泰妮娅不肯把她偷偷换来的小男孩送给奥布朗——这个小男孩的母亲是提泰妮娅的朋友，她一死，仙后就把孩子从奶妈那儿偷来，在树林子里抚养。

这一对情人在树林子里相会的晚上，提泰妮娅正带着几个宫女散步，她遇见奥布朗，后边还跟着仙宫的侍臣。

“真不巧又在月光下面碰见了你，骄傲的提泰妮娅！”仙王说。仙后回答说：“怎么，好妒忌的奥布朗，是你吗？仙子们，快快走开吧，我已经发誓不跟他在一起啦！”“等一等，莽撞的仙女，”奥布朗说，“难道我不是你的丈夫吗？为什么提泰妮娅要违抗她的奥布朗呢？把你偷偷换来的小男孩给我做僮儿吧。”

“你死了心吧，”仙后说，“拿你整个仙国也买不了我这个孩子。”然后她就气冲冲地离开了她的丈夫。“好，去你的吧，”奥布朗说，“为了报复这次的侮辱，我要在天亮以前给你苦头吃。”

于是，奥布朗把他最宠信的枢密顾问官迫克叫来。

迫克(有时他也被称作“好人罗宾”)是个伶俐狡猾的精灵，他常在邻近的村子里玩些滑稽的鬼把戏：有时跑到牛奶房去撇取奶皮，有时他那轻巧灵便的身体钻进搅奶器里。当他在搅奶器里以奇妙的姿势跳舞的时候，挤奶的姑娘无论费多大事也不能把奶油做成黄油，村里的小伙子去做也不成。什么时候迫克高兴到酿酒器里去恶作剧，麦酒就一定给他弄坏。当几个善良的街坊聚在一起喝美味的麦酒的时候，迫克就变

by oath. 发誓，否认。 5. Tarry=Wait. 6. am not I thy lord? =am I not thy lord? 7. Puck [pʌk]: 迫克。 8. Robin Good-fellow ['rɒbɪn'gʊd.feləʊ]: 好人罗宾。 9. skimming the milk=skimming the cream from the milk. 10. butter-churn: 提取黄油用的搅奶器。 11. brewing copper: 酿啤酒用的铜质深罐。

likeness of¹ a roasted crab², and when some old goody³ was going to drink he would bob against her lips, and spill the ale over her withered chin; and presently after, when the same old dame was gravely seating herself to tell her neighbours a sad and melancholy story, Puck would slip her three-legged stool from under her, and down toppled the poor old woman, and then the old gossips⁴ would hold their sides⁵ and laugh at her, and swear they never wasted a merrier hour.

“Come hither, Puck,” said Oberon to this little merry wanderer of the night; “fetch me the flower which maids call *Love in Idleness*⁶; the juice of that little purple flower laid on the eyelids of those who sleep, will make them, when they awake, dote on the first thing they see. Some of the juice of that flower I will drop on the eyelids of my Titania when she is asleep; and the first thing she looks upon when she opens her eyes she will fall in love with, even though⁷ it be a lion or a bear, a meddling⁸ monkey, or a busy⁹ ape; and before I will take this charm from off her sight, which I can do with another charm I know of, I will make her give me that boy to be my page.”

Puck, who loved mischief to his heart¹⁰, was highly diverted¹¹ with this intended frolic of his master, and ran to seek the flower; and while Oberon was waiting the return of Puck, he observed Demetrius and Helena enter the wood: he overheard Demetrius reproaching Helena for following him, and after many unkind words on his part, and gentle expostulations¹² from Helena, reminding him of his former love and professions of true faith to her, he left her (as he said) to the mercy of the wild beasts, and she ran after him as swiftly as she could.

The fairy king, who was always friendly to true lovers, felt great compassion for Helena; and perhaps, as Lysander said they used to walk by moonlight in this pleasant wood, Oberon might have seen Helena in those happy times when she was beloved by Demetrius. However that might be,

1. in the likeness of=in the outward appearance of. 2. crab=crab apple. 野生苹果树(crab tree)上的果实,个头很小,焙熟后放在啤酒里,把酒弄温了再喝。 3. goody=[married]old woman of low class. goodwife 的变形。 4. gossips=persons, mostly women, who delight in idle talk. 5. hold one's sides;捧腹[大笑]。sides指两肋。 6. Love in Idleness;三色堇(=

成一只焙熟的野苹果，跳进酒杯里去。趁老太婆要喝的当儿，他就蹦到她的嘴唇上，把麦酒洒遍了她那干瘪的下巴。过了一会儿，老太婆正要庄重地坐下来，讲个悲惨的故事给街坊听，迫克又从她身底下抽出那只三脚凳，把那可怜的老太婆摔在地上。于是那些爱嚼舌头的老人都捧腹大笑，赌誓说，他们从来也没有这么开心过。

“迫克，到这儿来，”奥布朗对这个快乐的小夜游者说，“去替我采一朵姑娘们叫作‘戏恋花’的那种花。把那小紫花的汁液滴在睡着的人的眼皮上，就能叫他们醒来头一眼看见什么就爱上什么，在我的提泰妮娅睡着的时候，我要把这种花汁滴到她眼皮上去。她一睁开眼睛不管看见的是狮子、熊、好捣乱的猴子，还是爱管闲事的无尾猿，她都会爱上的。我还有另外一种魔法，可以替她解除眼睛上的这种魔法，可是她得先把那个孩子给我做傣儿。”

迫克打心坎上喜欢恶作剧，对主人要玩的这个把戏感到非常有兴趣，就跑去找花了。奥布朗等着迫克回来的当儿，看见狄米特律斯和海丽娜走进树林子里来，他偷听到狄米特律斯怪海丽娜不该跟着他。他说了许多无情的话，海丽娜温柔地劝他，叫他回想当初他怎样爱过她，并且向她表示过忠诚。他却丢下她（像他所说的），任凭野兽去摆布，她呢，仍旧拼命追他。

一向对忠实的爱人有好感的仙王，深深同情海丽娜。拉山德说，他们在月光底下常到这个愉快的树林子里来散步，也许在狄米特律斯爱着海丽娜的快乐日子里，奥布朗还看见过她呢。不管怎样，等迫克带着

wild pansy; the heartsease)。idleness一般作“懒惰”解，此处作“轻浮”(triviality)解，此词的意思是逢场作戏的爱情(=love without serious intention)。7. even though=even if. 8. meddling=mischievous. 9. busy=given to interfering. 10. to his heart=heartily. 11. diverted=amused. 12. expostulations=earnest and kindly protests.

when Puck returned with the little purple flower, Oberon said to his favourite, "Take a part of this flower; there has been a sweet Athenian lady here, who is in love with a disdainful youth; if you find him sleeping, drop some of the love-juice in his eyes, but contrive to do it when she is near him, that the first thing he sees when he awakes may be this despised lady. You will know¹ the man by the Athenian garments which he wears." Puck promised to manage this matter very dexterously²; and then Oberon went, unperceived by Titania, to her bower³, where she was preparing to go to rest. Her fairy bower was a bank, where grew wild thyme, cowslips, and sweet violets, under a canopy of wood-bine, muskroses, and eglantine. There Titania always slept some part of the night; her coverlet the enamelled skin of a snake⁴, which, though a small mantle, was wide enough to wrap a fairy in.

He found Titania giving orders to her fairies, how they were to employ themselves while she slept. "Some of you," said her majesty, "must kill cankers⁵ in the muskrose buds, and some wage war with the bats for⁶ their leathern wings, to make my small elves coats; and some of you keep watch that⁷ the clamorous owl, that nightly hoots, come not near me⁸: but first sing me to sleep." Then they began to sing this song: —

"You spotted snakes with double tongue,
Thorny hedgehogs, be not seen;
Newts and blind-worms do no wrong
Come not near our Fairy Queen
Philomel⁹, with melody,
Sing in our sweet lullaby,
Lulla, lulla, lullaby; lulla, lulla, lullaby;
Never harm, nor spell, nor charm,
Come¹⁰ our lovely lady nigh¹¹;

1. know=recognize. 2. dexterously=skilfully. 3. bower: 此处语义双关, 既有“卧室”(a bedroom)的意思, 也作“树荫”(a shady recess)解。4. her coverlet...snake=her coverlet was the enamelled skin of a snake. 5. cankers: 尺蠖(=canker-worms), 专吃花蕊的害虫。6. for=

小紫花回来,奥布朗就对他的宠儿说:“拿一点儿花去,树林子里有个可爱的雅典姑娘,她爱上了一个傲慢的小伙子。你要是看见那个小伙子在睡觉,就滴一些爱汁在他眼睛里,可是要等姑娘离他很近的时候再去滴,那么他醒来头一眼看见的就会是这个受他轻视的姑娘。你可以从那个小伙子穿的雅典式衣裳上认出他来。”迫克答应把这件事办得很巧妙,然后奥布朗就趁提泰妮娅不在意,到她的卧室去,这时候她正预备睡觉。她的仙室是个花坛,在金银花、麝香蔷薇和野玫瑰铺成的罩盖下面,长着野麝香草、莲香花和芬芳的紫罗兰。提泰妮娅每天晚上总要在哪儿睡一阵,她盖的被子是研光了的蛇皮,虽然是很小的一块,却也足够裹起一个仙人了。

他看见提泰妮娅正在吩咐她的仙女们在她睡着的时候都该做些什么。“你们当中,”仙后说,“有的去杀死麝香蔷薇嫩苞里的蛀虫子,有的去跟蝙蝠打仗,把它们的皮翅膀拿来给我的小仙子们做外衣,有的去监视那每天晚上都吵吵闹闹啼叫的猫头鹰,不要让它走近我的身边。不过,现在先把我唱睡了吧。”于是,她们就唱起这支歌来了:

双舌的花蛇,扎手的刺猬,
远远走开吧;
蝶螈和蜥蜴,不要捣乱,
也不要走近仙后的身边。
夜莺,用甜蜜的腔调,
跟我们一道唱催眠曲吧。
睡呀,睡呀,睡觉吧!睡呀,睡呀,睡觉吧!
灾害、邪魔和符咒都走开,
永远不许挨近美丽仙后的身边。

in order to get. 7. that: 间接格中的关系代词,指owl. 8. come not near me: come not=may not come, 虚拟语气。9. Philomel ['fɪlmel]=Nightingale. 10. come=may come. 虚拟语气。11. nigh=near. near本来是nigh的比较级。our lovely lady是nigh的宾语。

So good night with lullaby.”

When the fairies had sung their queen asleep¹ with this pretty lullaby, they left her to perform the important services she had enjoined them. Oberon then softly drew near his Titania, and dropped some of the love-juice on her eyelids, saying, —

“What thou seest when thou dost² wake,
Do it for thy true-love take³.”

But to return to⁴ Hermia, who made her escape out of her father's house that night, to avoid the death she was doomed to⁵ for refusing to marry Demetrius. When she entered the wood, she found her dear Lysander waiting for her, to conduct her to his aunt's house; but before they had passed half through the wood, Hermia was so much fatigued, that Lysander, who was very careful of this dear lady, who had proved her affection for him even by hazarding her life⁶ for his sake, persuaded her to rest till morning on a bank of soft moss, and lying down himself on the ground at some little distance, they soon fell fast asleep. Here they were found by Puck, who, seeing a handsome young man asleep, and perceiving that his clothes were made in the Athenian fashion, and that a pretty lady was sleeping near him, concluded that this must be the Athenian maid and her disdainful lover whom Oberon had sent him to seek; and he naturally enough conjectured that, as they were alone together, she must be the first thing he would see when he awoke; so, without more ado, he proceeded to pour some of the juice of the little purple flower into his eyes. But it so fell out⁷, that Helena came that way, and, instead of Hermia, was the first object Lysander beheld when he opened his eyes; and strange to relate, so powerful was the love-charm, all his love for

1. sung their queen asleep=sung their queen to sleep. 2. What thou seest...dost: thou是你的古语。这里,thou比你含有更亲切的意味。thou后面的动词,一般都加上st或est的词尾。如:you see=thou seest; you saw =thou sawest; you take=thou takest; you do=thou dost(doeest). 注意, 还有以下例外:you shall=thou shalt; you are=thou art; you will=thou wilt; you were=