

AMERICAN SHORT STORIES IN SPECIAL ENGLISH

美國短篇故事

《中英對照》

第二輯



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EXTRA! EXTRA!

by Robert E. Sherwood

It was night and the rain was falling in big heavy drops. Many people began to run. Others just walked on calmly, not caring if the rain made them wet.

On the street corner two men were trying to sell an extra printing of their newspaper. They were shouting: "Extra! Extra! Evening paper!"

A running woman stopped and bought one. She opened it and placed it on her head for protection. Then she ran again. Down the street lived Mr. Weyden. He was sitting in his chair reading an earlier newspaper. He heard the two men shout, but decided it was too wet to go out to buy the "extra." Still there seemed to be a threat in their voices, a warning of tragedy of a disaster.

Mrs. Weyden heard the men shout, too. She ran out of the kitchen where she was cooking dinner.

"Roy, the men are shouting 'extra,'" she said.

"Yes, I heard them, Emmy. Can't everyone hear them?"

Mr. Weyden's attempt to be funny was not enjoyed by his wife. She walked to the window, opened it and felt the rain with her hand. She put her head out of the window to see the newspaper men.

"Roy, something terrible must have happened. Does

號外中的號外

傍晚時下起大雨。行人都跑了起來。有些人仍然若無其事的走着，不在乎給雨淋濕。

街道轉彎處有兩位男士在賣着報紙的特別版。他們高聲叫着：「號外！號外！晚報！」

一位女士跑過來買了一份。她打開擺到頭上去遮雨後又跑了起來。住在這條街上的威登先生正坐在椅子上看一份較早版的報紙。他聽到了那兩位男士的叫賣聲，但是雨太大了，他並不想出去買一份。他們的叫賣聲似乎是有不幸的悲劇發生的訊號。

威登太太也聽到了叫賣聲，她從正在燒晚飯的廚房中走了出來。

「羅伊，那些人在喊『號外，』」她說。

「是啊，我聽到了，艾美。誰沒有聽到？」

威登先生滑稽的語氣並不叫他太太欣賞。她走去打開窗子，並且伸出手探探雨。接着她從窗子伸出頭去看看賣報的。

「羅伊，一定發生了可怕的事。你的報上有刊些什麼消息嗎？」

your newspaper say anything about it?"

"This is a noon newspaper, Emmy, and it's guaranteed not to have any news at all."

Again, Mrs. Weyden didn't see anything funny. And again she said:

"Roy, something terrible must have happened."

Roy Weyden felt the anger grow in his wife. He wished she would say: "Now why don't you go get a newspaper? Go buy the 'extra'"

But she never would. She always tried to urge him to do things without clearly asking him to do them. She tried again:

"Roy, something awful must have happened."

Roy moved in his chair and felt a little guilty but he didn't want to go out in the rain.

"Oh, Emmy," he said, "these 'extra' papers never printed anything new. They just shout to make you feel they are."

"Aren't you going to see?"

"No. I don't think I will, Emmy. If something has happened, we can learn about it tomorrow."

"You are so lazy, Roy Weyden. You just sit there night after night after night. What do you read anyway? Nothing. You just sit there and look at your fool newspaper, probably the death news. When something important happens, you don't care."

「這是午報，艾美，保證不會有什麼特別新聞的」。

「威登太太還是不覺得他的話好笑，她再度說道：「羅伊，一定發生了什麼可怕的事。」

羅伊·威登感覺出他太太在生氣了。他希望她會說：「你為什麼不現在就去買份報紙來？去把這份『號外』買來。」

但是她從不這樣講。她老是想法子慫恿他去做事，而不講明她的要求。她又說了：

「羅伊，一定發生了什麼可怕的事。」

羅伊在椅子上動了動，有點不安，但他的確不想冒雨出去。

「喔，艾美，」他說，「這些『號外』從不刊什麼新鮮的消息。只是他們的叫賣聲讓你覺得他們真的有些什麼新鮮的罷了。」

「你不去瞧瞧嗎？」

「不，我不想去，艾美。如果發生了什麼事，我們明天就知道的。」

「你好懶，羅伊·威登，你只會每晚坐在那裡。你看到了什麼消息？沒有。你光坐在那兒看你的大頭報，也許光看一些訃聞。你一點也不關心發生什麼重大的事。」

Roy Weyden felt his own anger grow. But Emmy still talked. "I guess you want me to go out in the rain, me, with all the work I have to do, dinner to cook, dishes to wash, baby to feed. Well, alright I'll go and you can sit like a king and rest."

Roy Weyden knew when he was defeated. The same old debate had been going on for seven years. If only she would change her attack. But she never would. First she tested his feelings with a question. If he didn't lift his head from his newspaper and look at her, she became angry. She would call him lazy and then say the same old words: "I'll do it myself."

He was tired of the same old words night after night. Seven years of listening to an angry woman would tire any man. He recognized the defeat and he acted. He threw his newspaper to the floor and stood on his feet. He walked into the bedroom for his coat. He saw little Conrad, his son, sleeping in his bed. Above, on the wall, was a photograph of the Taj Mahal. He looked long at the picture. "I've always wanted to see the Taj Mahal," he thought. "If I could only see that and Singapore, the west coast of Africa and . . ."

"Roy, Roy Weyden, are you going or do I have to go?"

"I am going, dear." His voice sounded as if he meant forever. He put on his coat, kissed little Conrad goodbye

羅伊威登覺得自己的氣冒了上來。艾美仍舊在嘮叨：「我想你是存心要我出去淋雨。我，要燒飯、洗盤子、餵孩子、要做一切家事。好，好，我就去，你像個老太爺坐在那兒休息吧。」

羅伊威登知道他這時候被打敗了。這樣的爭執已經持續了七年之久。真希望她改變一下回嘴的方式。但是她永遠不會。她先來個問題試試他的反應，如果他不攔下報紙抬頭看看她，她就生氣了。她罵他懶，接着說些老掉牙的話：「我自己來做吧。」

他厭煩了每晚同樣的嘮叨。那一個男人都會厭煩一個生氣的女人七年來同樣的嘮叨。他認輸了，並且採取了行動。他把報紙扔在地上，站起來走進臥室去拿外套。他看到了他的兒子小康拉德正在他的床上睡覺。牆上掛着一幅他其馬哈爾廟的照片，他看了好一會兒照片。「我老想去他其馬哈爾廟看看，」他想。「如果能去那個地方，去新加坡，或去非洲西岸和……能去看看就好了。」

「羅伊，羅伊威登，是你去呢？還是非我去不行？」

「我就要去了，親愛的。」他的聲音聽來好像要一去不回的樣子。他穿上外套，吻別小康拉德，又看了一下他其馬哈爾廟的

and looked at the Taj Mahal once more. He turned out of the bedroom and went into the dark rain.

A ship began blowing its foghorn down in the bay. He remembered the Taj Mahal then, and without even looking back toward the house, he walked with sure steps toward the ship.

Today 12 years later, the sun is shining. Mrs. Weyden is married to another man, a Mr. Burkshal. Her name is now Mrs. Weyden Burkshal. She is sitting in front of her house, looking at the garden. Her thoughts turned to her first husband—Roy.

She had not seen or heard from him for 12 years. She wondered what he was doing. She rose from her chair and went inside. She saw her son, Conrad, sitting in her chair reading a book. Her thoughts returned to her first husband, and she became angry again.

"What are you doing in the house on such a nice day? Go outside and get some fresh air."

Conrad went outside and began to bounce a ball on the road. A little later, a strange man came toward him. The stranger asked: "Does Mrs. Burkshal live here?" The man stood looking carefully at the boy. Then said: "I used to know your mother before I went to sea."

Just then, Conrad's mother came out of the house. She almost dropped to the ground. She walked toward her first husband. "So you're a seaman, are you? Well, you look like a nothing. I always knew you would never

照片，然後離開臥室，走入黑暗的雨中。

一艘船在海灣中鳴着霧笛。這時他想起了他其馬哈爾廟。他也不對自己的家回一下頭，就堅定的往那艘船走去了。

十二年後的今天，陽光普照。威登太太已改嫁另一位男士布克歇爾先生。她現在的名字是威登·布克歇爾太太。她坐在屋前瀏覽着花園。她想到了她第一任丈夫羅伊。

已經十二年沒有看到他，也沒有他的消息，她不知道他在幹什麼。從椅子上起來她走進室內。她看到她兒子康拉德坐在她的椅子上讀書。她的第一任丈夫又跑回她的腦海中，她又生起氣來了。

「大晴天，你呆在屋子裡幹什麼？去外面吸點新鮮空氣。」

康拉德到外面馬路上拍起球來。過一會兒，一個陌生人向他走來問道：「布克歇爾太太住在這裡嗎？這個人站在那兒仔細端詳這個男孩，接着說：「在我出海前，我就認識你媽媽了。」

這時，康拉德的母親從屋子裡走了出來。她差點跌倒，接着走向她的第一任丈夫。「你做海員了，是吧？很好哇，你這個廢物，我就知道你一輩子不會有出息。」

be a success in life."

"I think you're right, Emmy," he said.

"Tell me something, Roy, why did you do it? Why did you leave me, me, your wife?"

"I don't really know, Emmy. It was raining that night. I heard a ship blow it's foghorn on the river. It sounded as if it were calling me."

"So you left me for a ship's foghorn"

"Well I knew you'd be all right. Your mother had money."

"Why did you come back here? What do you want? Money? But you won't get any. So you can leave right now."

"Don't worry, my ship sails at 6 o'clock."

She saw Roy's ship in her mind and she laughed to herself. "It must be an old ship," she thought.

"Well, why did you come back?"

"I just wanted . . . I just wanted to see Conrad."

Emmy grew angry. "Well, you have seen him. So why don't you leave?"

"Alright, Emmy."

She watched him walk away from her. Suddenly, the past returned. She remembered the rainy night he left. He hadn't even said goodbye just as he left now without a goodbye. She remembered the two newspaper men shouting: "Extra! Extra!"

「給你料中了，艾美，」他說。

「告訴我，羅伊，爲什麼你要這麼做？爲什麼要離開我，離開你的妻子？」

「我真的不知道，艾美。那晚下着雨，我聽到船在河上的霧笛，它好像在向我呼喚。」

「你就爲了那條船的霧笛把我丟下。」

「唉，我知道你不要緊的，妳媽媽很有錢。」

「那你回來這裡幹什麼？你想要什麼？錢嗎？你拿不到。你現在就可以走了。」

「別替我操心，我的船六點就開航。」

她想着羅伊的船，在心裡笑了起來。「那必是一條破船。」她想。

「好說，那你爲什麼回來？」

「我只是想……我只是想來看看康拉德。」

艾美生氣了。「好，你已看到他了，爲什麼還不走？」

「我就走，艾美。」

她目送他離去。突然，往事重回腦際。她記起他離去的雨夜，也沒有告別一下，就像現在一聲不吭的走掉。她記起那兩個賣報的在叫着：「號外！號外！」

Suddenly, all the old feelings came back. Her heart and mind began to live her first marriage again. She grew more and more angry. And before she knew what had happened, she heard her voice shouting:

"Roy, Roy Weyden, come here this minute!"

Roy Weyden obeyed the demand without thinking. "I'm coming, dear." And he walked toward her.

"Roy Weyden, what was printed in the extra that rainy night you left me? You remember the night the two men shouted 'extra' all night?"

Roy thought a minute. He knew he had forgotten. He began to smile secretly inside his heart. Then for one of the few times in his life, he told her a lie. "Oh, it was nothing, Emmy. I think the weatherman said it was going to rain for four days more, something like that."

Emmy lost control of herself. For 12 years, he had been gone and hadn't even missed her. This man had wasted seven of the best years of her life. And now, he wouldn't even tell her what was in the newspaper.

She began to shout at him. But Roy Weyden—seaman and former husband didn't even hear her. He stood tall and straight and felt happy. He turned and left her and walked away toward his ship.

忽然，舊情湧湧。她在心裡重溫第一次的婚姻。她愈來愈氣。不知不覺中，她聽到自己的聲音叫着：

「羅伊，羅伊威登，快給我回來！」

羅伊威登毫不猶豫的應着叫聲。「來了，親愛的。」他向她走了過來。

「羅伊威登，你離去的那個雨夜，號外上刊些什麼消息？你還記得那個雨夜，賣報的叫了整晚的『號外』嗎？」

羅伊回想了一下。他知道他早忘了。他在心裡竊笑起來。於是他對她撒了一個一生中很少撒的謊話。「沒什麼，艾美，是氣象人員報導說會下個四天，或則更久的雨，大約是這樣吧。」

艾美失去了自制。他離開她十二年，竟不曾想念過她。這個男人虛擲了她生命中最珍貴的七個年頭。現在，他甚至連號外上刊着什麼名堂也不跟她講。

她對他吼叫起來。但是船員兼前任丈夫的羅伊威登竟然充耳不聞。他很得意的站在那裡，感到非常愉快。他轉身離開她，往他的船走去。
