

· 英語簡易叢書 ·

J. Galsworthy

Courage
and Other Stories

勇 气

(簡 寫 本)

商 務 印 書 館



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[英] J. Galsworthy 原著

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本書簡介

約翰·高爾斯華綏 (John Galsworthy, 1867—1933) 是二十世紀英國文學方面有名的批判現實主義作家。他出身於一個富裕的資產階級家庭，大學畢業後當過律師，但不久就放棄了律師職務，從事寫作。他一生創作的小說約有二十本，其中，最著名的是三部曲《福賽蒂世家》(The Forsyte Saga)。它无情地揭露了英國資產階級的生活和精神面貌，並對他們的私有財產觀念和占有欲進行了批判。高爾斯華綏也是一個劇作家。在他寫的許多劇本之中，《鬥爭》(Strife) 這一劇本尖銳地暴露了英國資產階級社會的矛盾。不過，作者只是企圖緩和階級矛盾，從不主張改變社會制度的基礎。儘管如此，他的初期作品仍然是英國社會生活的真實反映，同時也是英國近代文學中的優秀創作。他的後期作品則失去了原有的批判精神，表明了他在第一次世界大戰以後思想上的落後。

本書收集了高爾斯華綏的短篇故事七篇。故事內容都是描寫資本主義社會里的一些“小人物”如攤販，鞋匠，馬車夫，戲院的樂師，失業青年等不幸的生活遭遇。他們心地善良，但沒有鬥爭性。故事的結局都是悲哀和失敗。

這個簡寫本由菲西克斯 (M. Fishkis) 和舒別克 (I. Shubik) 改寫，是蘇聯中學十年級學生的英語課外讀物。現加以漢語注釋和英漢對照詞匯表重排出版，供初學英語者閱讀。

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COURAGE

At that time I was in poverty. I existed on¹ bread and tobacco, going without² breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I lived in a lodging-house. Three, five, seven beds in a room.

There used to come to that house a little Frenchman³ with a yellow wrinkled face; he was not old, about thirty. But his life had been hard — no one comes to these houses if life is soft.⁴ He came to shave us — charged a penny;⁵ most of us forgot to pay him, so that in all⁶ he shaved three men for a penny — this gave him his income. How he worked! He also went to shave at the prison. This was not so profitable, for there he was paid a penny for ten men. He used to say to me, moving his tired fingers like little yellow sticks, “Ah! I work like a slave!” He hoped to save money and go back to France. We had a liking for

1. existed on — 靠...生存.

2. to go without — 沒有; 忍受(某种物质的缺乏).

3. there used to come to that house a little Frenchman — 有一个矮小的法国人常到这所房子里来. used to 表示过去一种习惯动作.

4. if life is soft — 假如生活过得舒服.

5. charged a penny — 收費一便士.

6. in all — 总算起来.

each other.¹ He shaved me slowly and always talked while he was doing it.

“Yes,” the little man would say,² “when I came here first I thought I should soon go back, but now I’m not so sure. I’m losing my illusions. Money has wings, but it’s not to me it flies.”³

I got a job as fireman on a steamer and left that place, but six months later I was back again. The first morning after my return I saw the Frenchman, for it was shaving day. He had become a little yellower, and perhaps more wrinkled. “Ah!” he called out to me, “there you are — back again. I knew you would come. Wait till I’ve finished with this man — I’ve a lot to talk about.”

We went into the kitchen and sat down by the fire.

“You see,” he said, “I’m still here, but my comrade Pigon⁴ is dead. You remember him — the big man with black hair who had a shop not far from here. A nice fellow, a good friend to me; and married. He died suddenly of heart disease. Wait a bit; I’ll tell you about that...”

“One fine day in October, when I had just

1. We had a liking for each other. — 我喜欢他，他也喜欢我。

2. would say — 常说 (would 表示习惯动作)。

3. it's not to me it flies — 可是它并不朝着我飞来。

4. Pigon [pi'gon] — 人名。

finished my work here, I was drinking my coffee at home and thinking of that poor Pigon who had died three days ago — when suddenly comes a knock, and there is Madame Pigon!¹ Very calm—a woman of good family, well brought up² — a fine woman. But her cheeks were pale, and the eyes so red, poor soul.³

“‘Well, Madame,’ I asked her, ‘what can I do for you?’

“She told me that there was not a cent in the house. This poor Pigon died bankrupt.⁴ He was two days in his grave and the bailiffs were already in his shop.

“‘Ah, Monsieur,’⁵ the poor woman said to me, ‘what am I to do?’⁶

“‘Wait a bit, Madame!’ I got my hat and went to the shop with her.

“What a scene!⁷ Two bailiffs, who wanted a shave,⁸ were sitting in the shop, and everywhere, upon my word,⁹ everywhere — there were

1. When suddenly comes a knock, and there is Madame Pigon! — 突然有人敲門, Pigon 夫人已站在我面前了. Madame [mə'dɑ:m] (法語) 夫人.

2. well brought up — 很有教養的.

3. poor soul [soul] — 可憐的人.

4. died bankrupt ['bæŋkrəpt] — 死時是破產了的.

5. Monsieur [mə'sjɔ:] — (法語) 先生.

6. What am I to do? — 我怎麼辦呢?

7. What a scene [si:n]! — 那是一種什么样的情景呵!

8. who wanted a shave — 他們很需要刮臉 (即鬍子很长).

9. upon my word — 相信我的話.

children. A little girl of ten, very like her mother; two little boys in little trousers, and one in a chemise, and three others, quite small, — all rolling on the floor. And what a horrible noise! All were crying, all but¹ the little girl. The bailiffs seemed perplexed. It was enough to make one weep!² Seven! Some quite small!

“The bailiffs behaved very well. ‘Well,’ said one of them, ‘we give you twenty-four hours to find this money; my mate will wait here in the shop. We don’t want to be hard on you!’³

“I helped Madame Pigon to calm the children.

“‘If I had the money,’ I said, ‘it should be at your service,⁴ Madame. But I have no money. Have you any friends to help you?’

“‘Monsieur,’ she answered, ‘I have none. I’ve had no time to make friends—I, with seven children!’

“‘But in France, Madame?’

“‘None, Monsieur. . It is now seven years since we came to England.’

1. but — 除...之外.

2. It was enough to make one weep! — 这情景真够让你掉泪的!

3. to be hard on you — 对你过分严厉.

4. ...it should be at your service — 它(我的錢)就可以由你随便使用.

"That was bad, but what could I do?" I could only say:

"Hope always, Madame, — trust in me!"

"I went away. All day long I thought how calm she was — magnificent! And I kept saying to myself:¹ 'Something must be done! Something must be done!' But nothing came into my mind.

"The next morning it was my day to shave at the prison, and I started off, still thinking what could be done for that poor woman. It was as if the little ones had got hold of my legs and were dragging at me.²

"That day I worked as I have never worked. Ten for a penny! Ten for a penny! I thought of the poor woman. And then an idea came to me. I finished and walked away.

"I went to the Pigeons' shop. The bailiff was still there.

"I can't give them any more time," he said to me.

"It is of no importance,"³ I replied; and I knocked, and went into the back room.

"The children were playing in the corner, and that little girl, a heart of gold, was watching

1. kept saying to myself — 不断地对我自己說。

2. It was as if the little ones had got hold of my legs and were dragging at me — 就好像那群孩子抓住了我的腿，拖着我。

3. it is of no importance — 这并不重要；没有关系。

them like a mother; and Madame was sitting at the table with a pair of old black gloves on her hands. My friend, I have never seen such a face — calm, but so pale, so frightfully discouraged. One would say¹ she was waiting for her death.

“‘Good morning, Madame,’ I said. ‘What news? Have you been able to arrange anything?’

“‘No, Monsieur. And you?’

“‘No!’ And I looked at her again — a fine woman; ah! a fine woman.

“‘But,’ I said, ‘an idea has come to me this morning. What would you say if I asked you to marry me? It would perhaps be better than nothing.’

“She looked at me with her black eyes and answered:

“‘Oh, willingly, Monsieur!’ And then, my friend, only then, she cried.”

The little Frenchman stopped, and stared at me.

“Hm!” I said at last, “you have courage!” He looked at me again, his eyes were troubled.

“You think so?” he said at last, and I saw that the thought was gnawing at him.²

1. one would say — (看到这种表情) 你会說....

2. the thought was gnawing ['nɔ:ɪŋ] at him — 这想法使他苦恼。

"Yes!" he said, and his good yellow face wrinkled and wrinkled. "I was afraid of it even when I did it. Seven children!" Once more he looked at me:

"Life is hard! What would you have?¹ I knew her husband. Could I leave her to starve?"

1. What would you have? — 你有什么别的办法可想呢?

COMPENSATION

If, as you say, there is compensation in this life for everything, do tell me where it comes in here.¹

Two years ago I was interpreter to a hotel in Ostend² and spent many hours on the embankment, waiting for the steamers. There I always saw a young man who had a stall of cheap jewellery; I didn't know his name, for among us he was called Tchuk-Tchuk,³ but I knew him — for we interpreters know everybody. He came from Southern Italy.⁴ He was an intelligent boy and had a beautiful head of frizzly hair.⁵ His clothes had been given him by an English tourist — a pair of trousers, an old frock-coat and a black hat. He was little and thin, and that was not surprising, for all he ate a day was⁶ half a pound of bread, or a plate of macaroni, with a little piece of cheese,

1. do tell me where it comes in here — 告訴我在這件事情中報酬又在哪里呢？(do 在這裡用來加強語氣。)

2. Ostend ['ɒstənd] — 比利時的著名的療養避暑勝地(在北海邊上)。

3. Tchuk-Tchuk ['tʃʌk'tʃʌk] — 人名。

4. Italy ['ɪtəli] — 意大利。

5. had a beautiful head of frizzly hair — 有一頭漂亮鬚曲的頭髮。

6. all he ate a day was — 他一天所吃的只是...

and on a feast day a bit of sausage. In those clothes, which had been made for a fat man, he had the appearance of a scarecrow with a fine, large head.

Tchuk-Tchuk lived alone, and he worked like a slave. He was at his stall, day in, day out;¹ if the sun burned; if there was a storm. He was often wet through, but he always smiled to everyone who passed him and stretched out his hand with some gimcrack. He always tried to impress the women, with whom he did most of his business. Ah! how he looked at them with his great eyes!

His expenses were twopence a day for food and fourpence for his bed in a café full of other birds of his feather² — sixpence a day, three shillings and sixpence a week.

Tchuk-Tchuk sold; not very hard work, you say? Try it for half an hour; try and sell something good — and Tchuk-Tchuk's things were rubbish — flash coral jewellery, celluloid gimcracks. In the evenings I've often seen him doze off from fatigue, but always with his eyes half-open, like a cat. His soul was in his stall.³ He watched everything — but he thought only of selling his gimcracks, for nothing interested

1. day in, day out — 逐日, 天天如此。

2. other birds of his feather — 其他像他那样的人。

3. His soul was in his stall. — 他的整个身心都在摊子上。

him — the people, the sea, the amusements. He had his stall, and he lived to sell.¹ He was like a man shut up in a box — with not a pleasure, not a sympathy.

“I’m of the South,” he would say to me,² looking at the sea; “it is hard there. There I’ve got a girl, and she would be glad to see me again. Over there one starves;³ name of a Saint,⁴ it is hard there!” He was longing for his south, for his sunshine, and his girl. He had his hopes. “Wait a bit!” he would say. “I’ll make some money⁵ this season.”

There was something pathetic in the persistency of Tchuk-Tchuk and the way his clothes hung about him like sacks.

One wet day I came on the Estacade⁶ when hardly a soul was there. Tchuk-Tchuk had covered his stall with a piece of old oil-cloth. He was smoking a long cigar.

“Aha! Tchuk-Tchuk,” I said, “smoking?”⁷ “Yes,” said he, “it’s good!”

“Why don’t you smoke every day, you

1. he lived to sell — 他活着就是为作买卖。

2. he would say to me — 他常对我說。

3. Over there one starves — 在那里，人們挨着餓。

4. name of a Saint — 咀咒語。（說話者不敢妄用神名，所以沒有將神名說出來。）

5. to make money — 賺錢。

6. the Estacade [‘estakeid] — (法語) 碼頭。

7. smoking? (= are you smoking?) — 說話時省略了某些部分。參看下文：costs money (= it costs money)。

miser? It comforts you when you're hungry."

He shook his head. "Costs money," said he. "This cigar cost me nothing. A red-faced Englishman gave it to me and said he couldn't smoke it. He knew nothing,¹ the idiot — this is good, I tell you!"

The end of the season came, and one evening, when there were scarcely twenty visitors in the place, I went as usual to the café. There were only three Italians there.

Presently in came Tchuk-Tchuk.² It was the first time I had ever seen him in a place where one could spend a little money. How thin he was, with his little body and his great head! One could think he hadn't eaten for a week. A week? A year! He sat down, and called for a bottle of wine; and at once he began to talk cheerfully and to laugh.

"Ha, ha!" says one of the Italians; "look at Tchuk-Tchuk. What a nightingale³ he has become all of a sudden.⁴ Come,⁵ Tchuk-Tchuk, give us some of your wine, seeing you're in luck!"⁶

1. He knew nothing — 他什么也不懂。

2. Presently in came Tchuk-Tchuk. — (倒装句) 这时 Tchuk-Tchuk 走进来了。

3. nightingale — 夜莺 (这里意思: 架子十足)。

4. all of a sudden — 突然。

5. come — 好啊! (表示鼓动。)

6. you're in luck — 你交好运。

Tchuk-Tchuk gave us his bottle of wine, and ordered another.

We drank, Tchuk-Tchuk faster than all. He became cheerful — it is not difficult to make an Italian cheerful who has been living for months on water and bread and macaroni. It was evident, too, that he had reason to feel gay. He sang and laughed, and the other Italians sang and laughed with him. One of them said: "It seems our Tchuk-Tchuk has been doing good business. Come, Tchuk-Tchuk, tell us what you have made¹ this season!"

But Tchuk-Tchuk only shook his head. All of them began talking of his gains, except himself; Tchuk-Tchuk smiled and kept silence.

"Come, Tchuk-Tchuk," said one, "a little frankness."

"He won't beat my sixteen hundred!"² said another.

"Name of a Saint!" said Tchuk-Tchuk suddenly, "what do you say to four thousand?"³

But we all laughed.

"La, la!" said one, "he mocks at us!"

Tchuk-Tchuk put his hand into his frock-coat pocket.

1. what you have made — 你賺了多少錢。

2. He won't beat my sixteen hundred! — 我賺了一千六，他賺的無論如何不會比我多。

3. What do you say to four thousand? — 四千怎樣?