

生物学家 作家

Rachel 雷切尔·卡森 Carson

[美] 梅利沙·斯图尔特
傅霞

著
译

(英汉双语)



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译者前言

四十多年前,雷切尔·卡森(1907—1964)的传世之作《寂静的春天》在美国出版发行。四十多年来,这本经典环保文学名著不仅唤醒了无数美国人民的环保意识,还开启了人类历史上的环保时代。

雷切尔·卡森在美国几乎无人不知。在美国前副总统戈尔的办公室里,雷切尔·卡森的照片与历代总统的照片并排挂在墙上。这位美国政坛的风云人物说:“雷切尔对我的影响,甚至超过他们的总和。在精神上,雷切尔出席了我们政府的每一次环境会议。我们也许还没有做到她所期待的一切,但我们毕竟朝着她所指明的方向前行。”1980年,时任美国总统卡特为雷切尔追赠“总统自由奖章”,这是美国政府颁给人民的最高荣誉。

雷切尔所提倡的环保思想也引起了民众的强烈反响,促使美国政府于1970年成立了环保署,美国第一个民间环境组织也由此应运而生。雷切尔去世以后,美国内政部在她曾经生活过的缅因州设立“雷切尔·卡森国家野生动物保护区”。

童年时代的雷切尔生活在一个普普通通的美国家庭:父亲经营农场,屡遭失败;母亲当过教师,喜欢读书,热爱自然。由于受母亲的鼓励,雷切尔读书格外用功,而且聪颖过人,11岁就成了专业作家。许多人都认为她在写作上前途无限,但在大三那年,雷切尔却做出了一个惊人之举,她把自己的主修由英文转为生物学。虽然女性科学家在当时寥若晨星,但雷切尔仍立志成为一位生物学家。为了让读者对海洋和海洋生物有更清晰的了解,雷切尔开始写作她的第一本书《海风下》。初次尝试受到了科学家们的的好评,雷切尔又相继创作了《周边的海》和《海之滨》等经典之作。评论界也对雷切尔的作品称赞不已,她在文学界与科学界都



获得了巨大的成功，赢得了许多荣誉学位和荣誉奖章。

然而，雷切尔在盛名之下仍然坚守着宁静质朴、亲近自然的生活，直到她的惊世之作《寂静的春天》一书的出版。当时，社会上掀起了轩然大波，雷切尔成了举国争议的焦点。报纸的标题赫然写着“‘寂静的春天’已经变成‘吵闹的夏天’”。雷切尔除了得到读者一如既往的支持和喜爱，同时也面临着化工界的诋毁和抨击。然而，在咄咄逼人的对手面前，她从容而镇定地发出警告，滥用化学制剂将给人类和自然带来无穷的灾难。她以一位科学家的远见卓识和非凡勇气，守护着事实的真相和民众的安全。她优雅的声音将如同大自然的春天一样，永远不会寂静。

本书作者梅利沙·斯图尔特也与雷切尔一样，热爱自然和写作。原著用清新简约、朴实无华的语言，向读者生动地展示了雷切尔·卡森这位杰出女性的生命历程。译者在翻译过程中力图接近原著风格，但因译者水平有限，译文中难免存在疏忽甚至错误之处，恳请读者朋友批评指正。

傅 霞

2006年10月于杭州





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RACHEL CARSON

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Introduction

序 言

C 改变世界

HANGING THE WORLD



Imagine a place where no birds sing on sunny spring mornings, no bees collect pollen on lazy summer afternoons, and no chipmunks hoard seeds for the long, cold winter. This is what Rachel Carson asked her readers to do in the opening pages of her book *Silent Spring*. She wanted them to imagine what could happen if the government continued to spray toxic chemical pesticides over our fields and forests.

Today, we are aware that what we do can affect the natural world. We recycle glass, paper, and plastic. Government officials track and control the amount of polluting substances that are dumped into rivers and spewed from smokestacks. Scientists study global warming and watch for changes in the ozone layer. Environmentalists fight to save endangered species and limit the destruction of their natural habitats. We do all this because we understand that our planet is fragile and that life is precious and rare. We do all this because we do not want to live in a world where no birds sing. We do all this because, in 1962, Rachel Carson wrote a book called *Silent Spring*.



设想有这样一个地方：在暖融融的春日清晨听不到鸟儿高歌欢唱，在懒洋洋的夏日午后见不到蜜蜂采集花粉，也没有金花鼠为漫长的寒冬储藏种子，这就是雷切尔·卡森在《寂静的春天》一书的开头向读者提出的问题。她让读者猜想，如果政府继续在我们的田野和森林里喷洒有毒的化学杀虫剂，将会出现怎样的后果。

今天，我们已经意识到我们的所作所为会对自然界产生影响。我们对玻璃、纸张和塑料一一回收利用。政府官员追踪、管制倒入江河的污染物的数量和从大烟囱里排出的废气量。科学家们研究全球变暖，关注臭氧层的变化。环保工作者们为保护濒临灭绝的物种，减少对它们的自然栖息地的破坏而奋战着。我们所做的这一切是因为我们明白我们的地球是脆弱的，而生命是如此的宝贵和珍稀；我们所做的这一切是因为我们不希望生活在一个听不到鸟儿鸣唱的世界里；我们所做的这一切还因为雷切尔·卡森在1962年撰写的那部名为《寂静的春天》的著作。



Silent Spring is considered one of the most influential books ever written. Many people credit its powerful message with launching the modern movement to protect the environment. Along with the first views of Earth from space, *Silent Spring* made people begin to realize that we must protect and preserve our world and the creatures that share it with us.

Rachel Carson is best remembered as the demure, intelligent, petite, and driven author of *Silent Spring*, but she also wrote three other best-selling books that described the oceans and sea life. *Under the Sea-Wind*, *The Sea Around Us*, and *The Edge of the Sea* contain rich, poetic portraits of ocean creatures and enlightening accounts of the interdependence of living things in a natural community. These books also explain how all living things are affected by weather, soil conditions, and other aspects of their environment. This way of thinking about the natural world was new to most people when these books were written. Carson's ideas inspired scientists to develop a new area of study called ecology—the study of living things as part of a natural system, such as an ecosystem or biome.



《寂静的春天》被认为是最有影响的书籍之一,许多人认为该书蕴涵的深刻寓意对于倡导当代环保运动功不可没。除了最初从太空中看到地球以外,《寂静的春天》还让人们认识到了我们必须保护地球,保护与我们共享一个地球的其他生物。

提起雷切尔·卡森,人们所铭记的是,她是一位写了《寂静的春天》的娴静聪颖、身材娇小、有紧迫感的作家。但她还写了其他三本关于大海和海洋生活的畅销书,分别是《海风下》、《周边的海》和《海之滨》。这三本书用华丽、诗化的语言描写了海洋生物,讲解了一个自然群落里生物之间相互依存的关系。书中还解释了生物是如何受到天气、土质,以及环境其他方面的影响。在写这些书的时候,这种对大自然的思考方式对许多人而言还是全新的。卡森的思想激励科学家们去开发一个被称为生态学的全新的研究领域——把生物作为自然体系(比如生态系统或生物群落区)的一部分来研究。



After her second book, *The Sea Around Us*, was published in 1951, Rachel Carson was acknowledged as a literary genius. But when the chemical industry realized the negative effect that *Silent Spring* would have on their business, however, they tried to discredit her. They called her “a hysterical woman” and claimed that she was “un-American.” Rachel did not take the praise or the criticism too seriously, however. She loved science and she loved writing and, no matter how the world reacted to her work, she remained committed to putting down on paper her thoughts, dreams, and passions.





Watching hawks fly overhead. Rachel Carson devoted her life to understanding and protecting the natural world.

瞭望空中雄鹰。雷切尔·卡森为了解和保护大自然奉献了一生。

1951年,她的第二本书《周边的海》出版后,雷切尔·卡森被认为是一位文学天才。但是当化工界认识到《寂静的春天》有可能给他们的经营带来负面影响时,他们竟不择手段地诋毁她,说她是“歇斯底里的女人”,并断言她“不是美国人”。然而,雷切尔荣辱不惊。她热爱科学、热爱写作,不管外界如何评论自己的作品,她仍然致力于把自己的思想、梦想和热情付诸笔端。



1

少女时代

THE EARLY YEARS



On May 27, 1907, Maria Carson gave birth to a “dear plump, little blue-eyed baby.” She and her husband, Robert, named their newborn daughter Rachel, after the infant’s maternal grandmother. Rachel was Maria and Robert’s third child. At the time, Rachel’s older sister, Marian, was ten years old, and her brother, Robert Jr. , was eight.

The Scotch-Irish family lived on a 65-acre (26-hectare) farm in Springdale, Pennsylvania. Their small, two-story clapboard house had four large rooms, but no electricity or indoor plumbing. A barn, a garage, a springhouse, a chicken coop, and two outhouses surrounded it. The family kept some chickens, as well as a pig and a horse, but Rachel’s father did not consider himself a farmer. He had bought the land as an investment.

Beyond the Carson home lay open pastureland, orchards with dozens of apple and pear trees, and woods teeming with wildlife. Rachel spent much of her childhood exploring these areas. She and her mother often took long walks together and shared their fascination with the beauty of the natural world. Rachel learned birdsongs and the names of flowers. She watched squirrels scamper up trees, chipmunks dart under leaf litter, and deer leap with their young fawns.

