

所罗门之歌 Song of Solomon

〔美〕 Toni Morrison 原著

雷芳 翻译

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致读者

亲爱的读者,在这个多元文化的世界里,渴望知识、钟情文学、热爱英语的你是否希望站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢?

"哈佛蓝星双语名著导读"系列是全美最风行的经典名著导读笔记,由哈佛学生们融会名著阅读和文学学习精华,亲笔撰写而成。蓝星系列精选了来自世界各国的杰出经典著作,以经典性和流行性并重的名著为素材,以明晰的风格和地道的语言,解读名著精华和具有时代性的主题和思想。每一分册都包括名著的创作背景、人物分析、主题解析、篇章讲解、重要引文释义、作品档案,并且附有相关的思考题、推荐论题、小测验以及延伸阅读篇目。

如今"蓝星"漂洋过海,轻轻落在了国内英语学习读者的掌中,读者不需走出国门,即可轻松掌握哈佛课堂上的知识。蓝星系列丰富的内容编排,使我们不仅仅停留于名著内容的了解,而且对著作的精华和内涵有更全面、深入的掌握,进而对英语语言和文化做更进一步的了解和研究。蓝星精辟、明晰的编写风格让"半天阅读一本名著"成为现实,使我们在有限的闲暇时间内阅读更多的书,同时迅速增强英语水平,提高文学修养,增加谈资。

天津科技翻译出版公司之前推出的"蓝星"系列 50 册,在图书市场上收到了很好的反响。本次新推出的品种同样精 挑细选了国外近现代经典作品,以期进一步丰富该系列的内容。本次出版仍由天津外国语学院张滨江教授和青年教师负责翻译和审校,并严格按照原作的风格,提供原汁原味的英语环境,让读者自由地阅读、想象和发挥。

蓝星闪耀,伴你前行!

CONTEXT

oni Morrison was born Chloe Anthony Wofford on February 18, 1931, in Lorrain, Ohio, a steel town on the banks of Lake Erie. Morrison's parents, George and Rahmah, were children of sharecroppers who migrated from rural Georgia and Alabama. The second of four children, Morrison excelled in high school, graduated from Howard University, and received her master's degree from Cornell. Initially opting for a career as a teacher and editor, Morrison became an instructor at several historically black universities and worked for Random House. She brought writers such as Angela Davis and Toni Cade Bambara to national prominence. Morrison married and later divorced a Jamaican architect, Harold Morrison. The couple had two sons.

Morrison began her first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, while she taught at Howard University. It was published to critical acclaim in 1970. Morrison's second novel, *Sula*, brought the young author national recognition as well as a nomination for the 1975 National Book Award in fiction. *Song of Solomon*, Morrison's third novel, was popular with both critics and readers. In 1978, the novel won the National Critics Circle Award and the Letters Award. 570,000 paperback copies are currently in print. Morrison's carreer continued its meteoric rise, and in 1988 she won a Pulitzer Prize for her novel *Beloved*. In 1993, Toni Morrison joined the exclusive ranks of the world's premier writers when she became the first African-American

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托妮·莫里森,原名克娄·安东妮·沃福德,1931年2月18日出生在美国俄亥俄州的洛雷恩镇,那是伊利湖岸上一个生产钢铁的小镇。莫里森的父母名叫乔治和拉玛,他们的父辈是从佐治亚州和阿拉巴马州的乡村地区迁居过来的小佃农。莫里森在四个孩子中排行第二,她在高中时学习优秀,大学毕业于霍华德大学,在康奈尔大学获得了硕士学位。起初,莫里森选择做教师和编辑,她在几所历史上曾是黑人大学的学校做教师,还为兰登书屋工作。她使安吉拉·戴维斯和托妮·加德·班巴拉这样的作家全国闻名。莫里森与牙买加建筑师哈罗德·莫里森结婚,后来两人离异。他们育有二子。

莫里森在霍华德大学任教期间,开始写自己的第一部小说《最蓝的眼睛》。这本小说于1970年出版,获得了评论界的好评。莫里森的第二本小说《秀拉》,使她这名年轻的作家赢得全国赞誉,还获得1975年全国图书奖中小说类奖项的提名。《所罗门之歌》是莫里森的第三部小说,受到评论界和读者们的喜爱。1978年,这部小说获得了全国图书评论家协会奖和作家类,当时印刷出版了57万册平装本。莫里森的事业迅速崛起,1988年,她因小说《宠儿》赢得普利策文学类。1993年,托妮·莫里森成为第一位获得诺贝尔文学类的美国黑人女性,她也跻身成为世界最重要作家

woman to win the Nobel Prize in literature.

Morrison's fiction does not fit well into a single category. It blends themes of race and class, coming-of-age stories, and mythical and realistic genres. Some critics classify Morrison as magical realist in the vein of Gabriel García Márquez. However, others claim that she is a black classicist, an heir to nineteenth century European novelists such as Gustave Flaubert and Fyodor Dostoevsky. Finally, other scholars argue that African-American oral narratives, rather than European traditions, provide the raw material for her work. Morrison draws on all of these styles to create a rich tapestry of backgrounds and experiences for her distinctive characters.

Morrison's biography serves as rich source material for the literary characters in *Song of Solomon*. Jake (also known as Macon Dead I) has experiences similar to those of Morrison's beloved grandfather, John Solomon Willis. After losing his land and being forced to become a sharecropper, Willis became disillusioned by the unfulfilled promises of the Emancipation Proclamation, Abraham Lincoln's 1865 document freeing black slaves. The character Heddy may have been modeled after Morrison's Native American great-grandmother. Guitar is a composite character, made up of Morrison's family and friends whose lives were destroyed by racism. Milkman's journey to uncover his roots can be compared to Morrison's own. Like Milkman's, Morrison's creative life began after age thirty and has been grounded in the African-American experience.

Toni Morrison has said in interviews that she opposed desegregation in the early 1960s despite being aware of its terrible effects. She worried that the excellent historically black



莫里森的小说不能归为一种单一的类别。她的小说把种族和阶级的主题、发展成熟的故事情节,以及虚幻和现实主义的流派融合在一起。有些评论家认为莫里森属于魔幻现实主义作家,具有加夫列尔·加西亚·马尔克斯的风格。然而,其他评论家则称莫里森是黑人古典派作家,是像古斯塔夫·福楼拜和福渥特·陀思妥耶夫斯基这样的十九世纪欧洲小说家的承袭者。最后,还有另外一些学者认为莫里森的作品是从美国黑人的口头叙述文学,而不是欧洲文学传统获得素材。莫里森使用了所有这些文体,为自己独具特色的人物们创造出丰富多彩的背景和经历。

莫里森的传记是《所罗门之歌》一书中人物形象的丰富原始资料。吉克(也就是第一代麦肯·戴德)和莫里森深爱的祖父约翰·所罗门·威利斯有类似的经历。威利斯失去自己的土地并且被迫成为小佃农后,对亚伯拉罕·林肯于 1865 年颁布的解放黑奴的《解放奴隶宣言》无法履行的承诺就不再抱幻想了。海迪这一人物可能是模仿莫里森那在美国土生土长的曾祖母塑造的。吉他是一个混合而成的人物,由莫里森的亲人和朋友形象组成,他们的生活被种族主义毁掉了。奶娃寻根的历程与莫里森自己寻根的历程相似。和奶娃一样,莫里森建设性的生活是从 30 岁后开始的.并且建立在美国黑人经历的基础上。

托妮·莫里森在几次采访中说过,她在20世纪60年代初期,反对废除种族隔离,尽管她知道这样做的可怕后果。她担心那些优秀的历史悠久的黑人中学

schools and universities would disappear. Morrison wondered if the treasures of folklore, art, music, and literature created by the relatively insular African-American community would disappear once that community became more porous. Accordingly, while *Song of Solomon* explores the different experiences of white people and black people, almost all of the action occurs within an African-American world, drawing on its vitality for inspiration.

Although the black community provides the setting of Song of Solomon, the novel's themes are universal. Milkman's quest toward self-discovery, Macon Jr.'s obsession with wealth, Pilate's boundless love for others, Ryna's and Hagar's madness from broken hearts, and Guitar's destructive thirst for revenge are classic stories that have been told countless times in literatures of all traditions.

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和大学会不复存在。而一旦美国黑人族群变得更加松散,莫里森不知道由相对孤立的美国黑人族群创造的民间传说、艺术、音乐和文学这样的财富,会不会消失。因此,虽然《所罗门之歌》探究了白人和黑人的不同经历,但几乎所有的情节都是发生在一个美国黑人世界里,靠吸取黑人世界的活力以获取灵感。

虽然黑人族群为《所罗门之歌》提供了背景,但是 这本小说的主题具有普遍意义。奶娃对自我发现的追求,小麦肯对财富的痴迷,派拉特对其他人无限的爱, 莉娜和哈格尔由于心碎产生的疯狂行为,还有吉他想 要复仇的毁灭性的欲望,都是各种风格的文学作品里 无数次讲述到的经典故事情节。★

PLOT OVERVIEW

obert Smith, an insurance agent in an unnamed Michigan town, leaps off the roof of Mercy Hospital wearing blue silk wings and claiming that he will fly to the opposite shore of Lake Superior. Mr. Smith plummets to his death. The next day, Ruth Foster Dead, the daughter of the first black doctor in town, gives birth to the first black child born in Mercy Hospital, Milkman Dead.

Discovering at age four that humans cannot fly, young Milkman loses all interest in himself and others. He grows up nourished by the love of his mother and his aunt, Pilate. He is taken care of by his sisters, First Corinthians and Magdalene (called Lena), and adored by his lover and cousin, Hagar. Milkman does not reciprocate their kindness and grows up bored and privileged. In his lack of compassion, Milkman resembles his father, Macon Dead II, a ruthless landlord who pursues only the accumulation of wealth.

Milkman is afflicted with a genetic malady, an emotional disease that has its origins in oppressions endured by past generations and passed on to future ones. Milkman's grandfather, Macon Dead, received his odd name when a drunk Union soldier erroneously filled out his documents (his grandfather's given name remains unknown to Milkman). Eventually, Macon was killed while defending his land. His two children, Macon Jr. and Pilate, were irreversibly scarred by witnessing the murder and became estranged from each other. Pilate has