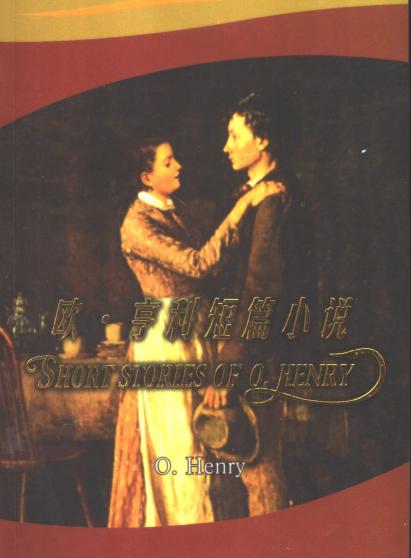
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大学生必读



青岛出版社

SHORT STORIES OF O. HENRY 欧·亨利短篇小说

O. Henry

顾问方平主编 孔庆华注释 顾邵阳王丽艳

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序 盲

一个民族由于文学的产生,语言的色彩因而更丰富,语言的表现力更生动了。在文学的民族宝库中蕴藏着民族语言的精华。在不同的人生场合,我们有所感悟、有所感慨时,往往会感激古人,把我们想倾吐而又不知该怎么说的,表达得那么贴切、精辟,如同自己的肺腑之言。例如:"同是天涯沦落人,相逢何必曾相识。""不识庐山真面目,只缘身在此山中。"

我们甚至不曾意识到我们的日常谈吐中已融入了代代相传、都有来历的语言,而且多不胜举,像"割鸡焉用牛刀"(《论语·阳货》),"人言可畏"(《诗·郑风·将仲子》),"战战兢兢"(《诗·小雅·小旻》),"勾心斗角"(《阿房宫赋》),"三思而行"(《论语·公冶长》)等等。孔子自述"三十而立,四十而不惑,五十而知天命"(《论语·为政》);我们借以表达人已进入某一阶段时,就说"而立之年","不惑之年"、"知命之年"。

英美文学中的佳句、警句,同样显示出进入日常语言的亲和力。例如:美国期刊《时代》(Time,2002,12,23)发表专文推荐可能为奥斯卡年度最佳外语片的《对她说》(Talk to Her),文章标题脱胎于《第十二夜》开头第一句"If music be the food of love, play on",作者巧妙地把它

SHORT STORIES OF O. HENRY

改为"If Conversation Be the Food of Love, Talk On" ("如果谈话是爱情的食粮,谈下去吧")。

第二次世界大战期间,英国首相邱吉尔访美,呼吁大力援助战争物资,引用了狄更斯笔下的孤儿奥列佛·退斯特,在儿童收容所中饥饿难忍,端起一只空碗,向掌勺的人发出的那一声迫切的呼吁:"Give me more!"(再添一些吧!)借助于这文学背景,在座的议员们为之动容,演讲收到了非常好的效果。

明白了一个民族的语言精华蕴藏在他们优秀的文学作品中,也就可以理解我们编写这套"英美文学经典丛书"的宗旨所在了。因为对于广大英语学习者来说,掌握了基本词汇量,攻克了语法等难点,具备了一定的阅读能力,又有志于进一步提高自己的英语修养,从而对于英语能有更深入、更亲切的认知,那么广泛阅读,尤其是有选择的精读优秀的英美文学,可说是不二法门了。



导 读

欧·亨利(O. Henry,1862—1910),原名威廉·西德尼·波特(William Sydney Porter),是 20 世纪初美国著名短篇小说家,美国现代短篇小说的创始人,批判现实主义作家。

1862年9月11日,他生于北卡罗来纳州的一个小 镇,父亲是一位医生。他幼年丧母,后来跟父亲搬到祖母 家,和独身的姑姑林娜·波特一起生活。在姑姑家里,他 接触到了不少文学艺术作品和民间故事,激发了他对文 学的浓厚兴趣。由于家境贫寒,他17岁便开始在药房当 学徒,20岁时由于健康原因去得克萨斯州的一个牧场当 了两年牧牛人,从而积累了西部生活的经验。此后,他在 得克萨斯做过不同的工作,包括在奥斯汀银行当出纳员。 他还办过一份名为《滚石》的幽默周刊,并在休斯敦一家 日报上发表幽默小说和趣闻逸事。1887年,他结婚并生 了一个女儿。1894年,他由于账目交代不清被法院审讯, 后来不了了之。但在 1896年,奥斯汀银行再次指控他在 任职期间盗用资金。他为了躲避受审,逃往洪都拉斯。 一年之后,因得知妻子病危,他回家探视,终于在 1898 年 被捕,以贪污银行公款罪被判五年徒刑。在狱中,波特担 任医务室的药剂师,并在业余开始写小说,想挣些稿费寄 给女儿。1899年,他的第一个短篇小说《口哨狄克的圣诞

礼物》发表,署名"欧·亨利",借用了一个法国药典书作者的名字。小说在著名的杂志《麦克吕尔》上发表,获得了巨大的成功,其独特的风格也引起了出版界的注意。这样,他从一个专栏作家变成了一个具有世界影响的小说家欧·亨利。

1901年,由于欧·亨利在狱中表现良好,得以提前释 放。出狱后第二年,他迁往纽约,以一周一篇的速度为杂 志写小说,获得读者的一致好评。到 1910 年病逝为止, 欧·亨利以旺盛的精力创作了将近300篇短篇小说,分 别收入《四百万》(1906)、《剪亮的灯盏》(1907)、《西部的 心》(1907)、《城市之声》(1908)、《善良的骗子》(1908)、 《命云之略》(1909)以及《滚石》(1913)等十余部集子,其 中有几部是他去世后由别人编辑整理出版的。欧•亨利 惟一的一部长篇小说是《白菜与国王》(1904),这部小说 以拉丁美洲为背景,描写美国公司对拉美的经济掠夺。 该书情节比较松散,无法与他的短篇相比,因此,现在基 本上无人问津了。1907年,欧·亨利和童年时的女友结 婚,但这桩婚姻很快就破裂了。于是他借酒消愁,健康状 况日益恶化,生活十分拮据。1910年,也就是他去世的那 年,他为了摆脱经济困境,与别人签订了将他的小说改编 为剧本的合同,但没等剧本改编结束,他就去世了。

本书辑录的 22 篇短篇小说力求从不同的角度和题材来体现欧·亨利作品的不同风格。欧·亨利的小说着力描写的大多是"小人物"的命运,如工人、店员、小职员、艺术家、流浪汉、警察、骗子,甚至盗贼等。但在反映这些人物时,作者的出发点各不相同,而且涉及面也很广。这些作品里有可歌可泣、令人断肠的爱情故事,如《麦璞的

礼物》、《带家具的出租屋》、《爱的牺牲》;有讴歌朋友之间 无私忠贞的故事,如《最后一片树叶》、《朋友忒拉马科 斯》:有抨击都市里惟利是图的经纪人和尔虞我诈的行径 的故事,如《忙碌 经 纪 人 的 浪 漫 故 事》、《我 们 选 择 的 道 路》;还有暗讽"金钱高于一切","有钱能使鬼推磨"的肥 皂大亨的故事,如《财神与爱神》。作品中有的写良心未 泯的强盗,如《提线木偶》;有的写不徇私情、秉公执法的 警察,如《二十年后》;也有的写都市里的流浪汉,如《警察 和赞美诗》:还有的写爱慕虚荣的饭店小职员,如《汽车等 待的时候》:还有的写绑架却要倒贴赎金的绑匪,如《红毛 酋长的赎金》。另外,有披露西部美丽风景的故事,如《公 主与美洲狮》:还有让人警醒的幽默故事,如《一个幽默家 的自白》。其中脍炙人口的是《麦琪的礼物》、《最后一片 树叶》、《警察和赞美诗》和《爱的牺牲》等,作者用幽默的 笔触, 饱含着同情心写他们的不幸遭遇和喜怒哀乐以及 在困境中闪烁着的爱情和人性的光辉。作品读来无不让 人笑中带泪,喟叹不已。

在《麦琪的礼物》中,一对年轻夫妇,为了给对方赠送圣诞礼物,妻子德拉卖掉了一头像瀑布般的美丽的长发,给丈夫吉姆买了块白金怀表短链,好配他那块祖传的金表;而丈夫呢,则卖掉了那让所罗门都"妒忌得直翘胡子"的金表,为德拉买了一套玳瑁发梳。结果两人费尽心思买的圣诞礼物都没有派上用场,只得搁置起来。故事虽然戛然而止,但那份温馨和感动却长留在读者心中。

在《爱的牺牲》中,乔·拉雷必是个浑身洋溢着绘画艺术天才的小伙子,而德利亚·卡鲁塞斯则在音乐上很有天赋,他们志趣相投,一见钟情。他们各自在名家的门

下学画画和学钢琴。可是不久,他们就没钱付学费了。 为了对方,他们心甘情愿地放弃了自己的艺术,并且编造 了美丽的谎言,来相互隐瞒,最后由于德拉的手被烫伤而 真相大白。

再比如《警察和赞美诗》中,冬天即将来临,流浪汉索 比无法再露宿街头,于是一心想到监狱里安稳过冬,他几 次三番制造事端,警察却视而不见,不予理睬。当在一条 僻静的路边听到教堂里传出的赞美诗的音乐时,他深受 感染,决心自食其力、重新做人。就在这时,警察却无缘 无故地逮捕了他,并判他监禁三个月。故事带给人们的 是一种苦涩的笑,幽默的笔调中饱含了作者对小人物不 幸命运的同情。

《最后一片树叶》则讴歌的是为友谊奉献一切的真挚 情感。年轻画家琼珊因遭肺炎的袭击而对生活失去了信 心,把那棵根部枯萎、老态龙钟的藤树当作自己生命的象 征。如果最后一片树叶也凋谢了,那么她的生命之火也 将熄灭了。为了让琼珊找回生活的勇气,她的朋友苏找 到了她们楼下的一位穷困潦倒的老艺术家贝尔曼,并请 他帮忙。于是在风雨交加的一个晚上,老贝尔曼冒着大 雨亲手画了那片永不凋谢的最后一片常春藤树叶,正是 这片树叶给了琼珊生命的活力和生活的勇气。她终于脱 离了危险。而老贝尔曼却在医院因肺炎去世了。小说充 分显示了欧·亨利式结尾的强烈审美感受,无愧为欧·亨 利的千古名篇。

欧·亨利的小说在谋篇布局上匠心独运,他让读者 顺着故事的线索一路读下去,情节明明朝着他们预期的 方向发展,不料笔锋一转,结局出乎意料。由于他埋了伏

笔,做了铺垫,因此结局又不显得突兀,符合情理。这意外的结局一般说来是令人宽慰的,即便是悲哀的结局,也常常包含着某种光明和希望,这就是所谓"带泪的微笑"。正是这种出人意料的结局提高了小说的思想境界,升华了人物形象,给读者以强烈的审美享受。

欧·亨利常采用夸张的手法来达到幽默的效果。他的夸张手法不仅用在细节描写上,还用在人物塑造和情节结构上。这种夸张看似荒谬,却反映了生活的某些本质,发人深省。如在《一位忙碌经纪人的浪漫史》中,欧·亨利把夸张手法发挥到了极致。主人公手忙脚乱的情景、办公室乱糟糟的场面以及匆忙求婚的一幕,让人哑然失笑,又对环境给人造成的影响有更深的理解。

欧·亨利还是一位极具天赋的语言大师,他不仅在 遺词造句上准确生动,还经常根据故事情节的发展和人 物塑造的需要,熟练地运用各种方言,从而使得他的小说 地方特色鲜明,人物刻画活灵活现。他还经常引用《圣 经》和《一千零一夜》中读者耳熟能详的典故,灵活地运用 俚语、谐音、双关、比喻、揶揄等修辞手法,妙语连珠,诙谐 幽默,具有独特的艺术魅力。无怪乎有人把欧·亨利的 小说誉为美国生活的幽默百科全书。

顾邵阳

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THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing^① the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony^② that such close^③ dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.

There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection[®] that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second^⑤, take a look at the home. A furnished flat at \$8 per week. It did not exactly beggar description^⑥, but it certainly had that word on the lookout for the mendicancy squad^⑦.

In the vestibule below was a letter-box into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring. Also appertaining thereunto was a card bearing the name "Mr. James Dillingham Young."

The "Dillingham" had been flung to the breeze®

① bulldozing: 原意为"强行、胁迫",这里指死乞白赖地讨价还价。② the silent ... parsimony: 別人虽没明说,但也显得太吝啬了。③ close: 吝啬的,小气的 ④ instigates the moral reflection: 引起人富含寓意的思考⑤ subsiding from ... second: 从第一阶段转到第二阶段,这里指情绪由激动转向平静。⑥ beggar description: 难以形容,beggar 是"难以……"的意思。⑦ mendicancy squad: 乞丐队 ⑧ appertaining: 属于:有关 ⑨ thereunto: 到那里;向那里 ⑩ flung to the breeze; 春风得意

during a former period of prosperity when its possessor was being paid \$30 per week. Now, when the income was shrunk to \$20, the letters of "Dillingham" looked blurred, as though they were thinking seriously of contracting to a modest and unassuming D. But whenever Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above he was called "Jim" and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young, already introduced to you as Della. Which is all very good.

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks^② with the powder rag. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a grey cat walking a grey fence in a grey backyard. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result³. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling - something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honour of being owned by Jim.

There was a pier-glass^⑤ between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen a pier-glass in an \$8 flat. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips[®], obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered the art.

Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood

① modest and unassuming: 质朴又谦逊 ② attended to her cheeks: 往她面颊上(扑粉) ③ with this result: 指只搬到一元八角七分钱这样一 个结果 ④ go far: 够用;能满足很多人 ⑤ pier-glass: 壁镜;(置于两个 窗口间墙上的)穿衣镜 ⑥ in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips: 一连 串纵向变幻的片段

I.

before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its colour within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the Queen of Sheba^① lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts. Had King Solomon^② been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard^③ from envy.

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.

On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she fluttered out the door and down the stairs to the street.

Where she stopped the sign read: "Mme. Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds." One flight up Della ran, and collected herself, panting. Madame, large, too white,

① the Queen of Sheba: 示巴女王,以美貌和财富著称于世。据《圣经·旧约·列王记》上载,示巴女王带了许多香料、宝石和黄金去朝觐所罗门王,用难题来测其智慧。示巴古国位于阿拉伯西南,今也门所在地。② King Solomon; 所罗门王,公元前 10 世纪以色列国王,以智慧和豪富著称。③ pluck at his beard; 用力拽胡子,意指嫉妒得心痒难熬。

*

chilly, hardly looked the "Sofronie".

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

"I buy hair," said Madame. "Take yer hat off and let's have a sight at the looks of it."

Down rippled the brown cascade.

"Twenty dollars," said Madame, lifting the mass with a practised hand.

"Give it to me quick," said Della.

Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor³. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present.

She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. There was no other like it in any of the stores, and she had turned all of them inside out. It was a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation—as all good things should do. It was even worthy of The Watch. As soon as she saw it she that it must be Jim's. It was like him. Quietness and value—the description applied to both. Twenty-one dollars they took from her for it, and she hurried home with the 87 cents. With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company. Grand as the watch was, he sometimes looked at it on the sly on account of the old leather strap that he used in place of a chain.

When Della reached home her intoxication gave way a little to[®] prudence and reason. She got out her curling

① Sofronie: 莎弗朗妮,意大利诗人塔索(1544—1595)所著的史诗《被解放的耶路撒冷》中的人物。她为了拯救耶路撒冷全城的基督徒,勇敢承认自己并未犯过的罪行,成了舍己救人的典范。② lifting the... hand: 手法熟练地拎起大把的头发 ③ hashed metaphor: 蹩脚的比喻 ④ platinum fob chain; 白金怀表短链 ⑤ in any company: 在任何场合 ⑥ gave way... to; 让位;让路;退让

irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love^①. Which is always a tremendous task, dear friends - a mammoth task.

Within forty minutes her head was covered with tiny, close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully like a truant schoolboy. She looked at her reflection in the mirror long, carefully, and critically.

"If Iim doesn't kill me," she said to herself, "before he takes a second look at me, he'll say I look like a Coney Island^② chorus girl. But what could I do — oh! what could I do with a dollar and eighty - seven cents?"

At 7 o'clock the coffee was made and the frying-pan was on the back of the stove hot and ready to cook the chops.

Iim was never late. Della doubled the fob chain in her hand and sat on the corner of the table near the door that he always entered. Then she heard his step on the stair away down on the first flight, and she turned white for just a moment. She had a habit for saying little silent prayers about the simplest everyday things, and now she whispered: "Please God, make him think I am still prettv. "

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious. Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two -- and to be burdened with a family! He needed a new overcoat and he was without gloves.

Iim stopped inside the door, as immovable as a setter at the scent of quail. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that she could

① to work ... love: 动手补救出于爱和慷慨而造成的灾害 ② Coney Island: 科尼岛,位于纽约市布鲁克林南端海滨,原为一小岛,后为旅游休闲 胜地。 ③ as a ... quail: 像闻到鹌鹑气味的猎狗