

Humorous

Mini-Stories

in English and Chinese

英汉对照

幽默微型小说 2

闻春国 编译



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译者简介：

闻春国，安徽合肥人，资深翻译，中国翻译协会专家会员，四川省翻译协会理事，四川省作家协会会员，中国微型小说学会会员，九三学社社员。20世纪80年代开始诗歌创作，后专注于外国文学，尤其是微型小说的翻译。近十年来，先后在《百花园》《译林》《世界文学》《青年参考》《啄木鸟》《故事会》和《科幻世界》等国内大型报刊杂志上发表了译作三百六十多篇，近一百八十万字，并成为《读者》《百花园》等刊物签约作家。译作中有不少微型、短篇小说被数十家报刊竞相转载，或被国内外国文学专著收录。此外，还结集出版有《2001年度美国最佳科幻小说选》《谢克里最佳科幻小说集》（续）《美国最佳科幻小说年度选》（第21辑）和《弗洛·文奇科幻小说集》，合作出版《军情六处》《森林报》《勇敢的船长》，推出《安娜·凯瑟琳·格林系列侦探推理小说》，并出版有《英汉对照幽默微型小说》《天堂之门》《金色的拖鞋》等译作。



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A False Cue

Years ago while attending a dinner party hosted by some friends of mine, the hostess served a meal with this delicious mushroom sauce. After the meal there was a small amount of leftover and the hostess decided to allow her pregnant cat to enjoy the treat as well as the guests. The guests all felt it was a great gesture and showed the cat was a member of the family.

The sauce was the highlight (/ 'haɪlaɪt / *n.* 最精彩的部分; 亮点) of the evening's topic of conversation: everyone commented on how delicious it was, and the hostess beamed at all the compliments. One of the guest commented half-jokingly that toadstools were much like mushrooms except for being toxic, and how funny it would be if such a culinary (/ 'kʌlɪnəri / *a.* 烹饪的) treat were made from that instead.

As if on cue, the pet cat started crying and squirming (squirm / skwɜ:m / *v.* 扭动) on the floor, clutching its belly. The hostess exclaimed, "Oh my God, it's the mushroom sauce!"

We all went to the emergency room in a mad rush, and had our stomachs pumped after telling them we had eaten poisonous mushrooms. This was an extremely unpleasant experience.

When we got back, the cat was lying on the floor peacefully looking up at us, and had given birth to kittens.

错误的暗示

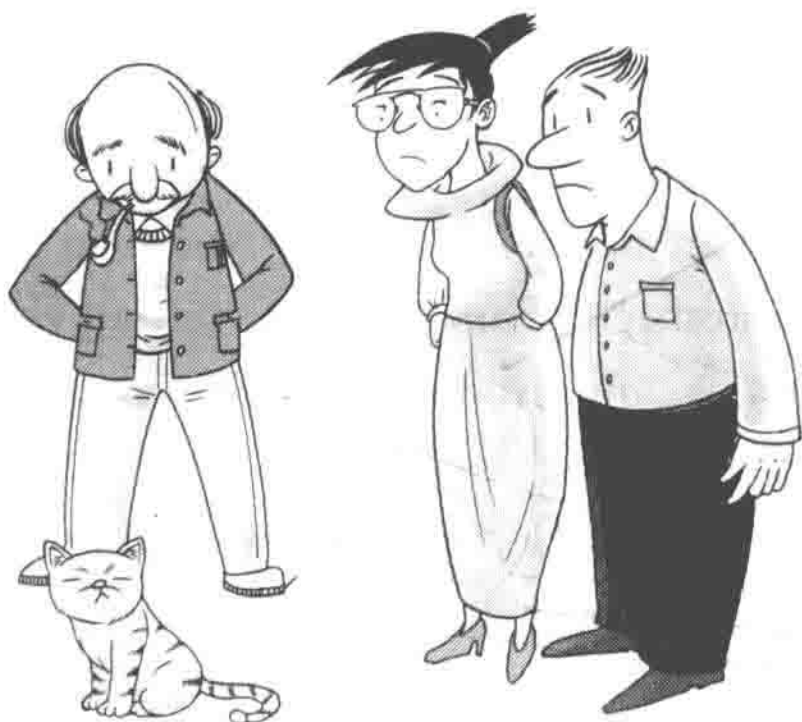
几年前，我参加一个朋友举办的晚宴。女主人用自己烹制的美味蘑菇沙司招待我们。晚宴过后，还剩了一些沙司，女主人决定让她那怀孕的猫咪也跟客人一样享受一下这份美味。客人们都觉得这是一种值得称道的高姿态，表明这只猫已经成了她的家庭一员。

美味沙司成了当晚人们谈话的焦点，每个人都在赞扬这沙司有多么好吃。在一片夸赞声中，女主人的脸上露出了会心的微笑。这时，一位客人半开玩笑地说，伞菌除了有毒外，其它方面跟蘑菇极为相像，假如用它来款待大家的话，那简直是太可笑了。

仿佛是受了暗示一样，那只宠物猫开始在地板上又叫又滚，并且不停地挠着自己的肚子。女主人惊叫：“噢，我的上帝啊，肯定是蘑菇沙司吃糟了！”

我们全都火速赶往急诊室，并告诉医生我们吃了有毒的蘑菇。结果，我们一个个被洗了胃。唉，这次经历把我们弄得很不愉快。

从医院回到了女主人的家里，那只猫平静地躺在地板上望着我们。它生小猫了！





Mary and Her Dog

A woman named Mary with a broken ankle was gingerly (/ 'dʒɪndʒəli/ *ad.* 小心翼翼地; 轻手轻脚地) hobbling (hobble / 'hɒbl / *v.* 跛行; 摇晃不稳地行进) along on crutches as she attempted to walk her dog one day. Because of her handicap, however, she was having a lot of trouble keeping the dog under control. Finally, the dog lunged (lunge / lʌndʒ / *v.* 冲, 扑) forward, the leash slipped out of her hand, and the dog went running down the street. She called and called, but the dog wouldn't come back. Since she couldn't chase after it, she eventually gave up and went home.

A couple of hours later she heard something scratching at the door. When she went to the door she found her dog standing there with a dead rabbit in its mouth. Upon closer inspection, she realized it was the neighbors' pet rabbit. She knew she would never be able to tell them what happened, and since they were out of town for the weekend, she hit upon a plan.

Mary took the rabbit into the bathroom, washed it off, and blew its fur dry. Then she took the rabbit back to the neighbors' backyard and put the rabbit back in its cage. She thought the neighbors would discover the rabbit dead and think it died in the cage. They would never suspect what really happened.

Early morning on Monday, there was a knock at the door, and when she answered, there was her neighbor

standing there. He asked her if she had seen anyone in their backyard over the weekend.

“No.” She said.

He said, “Did you see anything strange going on around our house or yard?”

“No,” she shook her head again, without appearing suspicious (/ səˈspɪʃəs / a. 可疑的). She then said, “Why are you asking me these questions? What happened?”

He said, “Well, something really strange is going on in my backyard. On Friday our rabbit died, so we buried it in the backyard. But when we came back from the weekend, it was back in the cage!”

弄巧成拙

有一天,一个叫玛丽的女人在外面遛狗。因为脚踝受了伤,她只好拄着拐杖一瘸一拐地跟在狗的后面。正因为腿脚不便,玛丽费了九牛二虎之力才将狗控制住。突然,那只狗一个劲地往前冲,最终挣脱了主人的控制,并沿着马路一路奔去。无论她怎么招呼,那狗就是不回头。玛丽知道自己根本追不上,便不再追了,最后独自一人回了家。

几个小时过后,玛丽听到门口传来爪子挠门的响声。打开门一看,她的狗蹲在门外,嘴里还叼着一只死兔子。她走近了一看,发现是邻居家养的那只宠物兔。玛丽心想,这事决不能让邻居知道。还好,他们眼下都去城外度周末去了。于是,她想出了一个好主意。

玛丽先把那只死兔子放进浴缸里洗干净,用吹风机把它身上的毛吹干,然后又把它重新放回邻居家后院的兔笼里。她心想,邻居回来后一定会认为兔子是自己死在了笼子里,决不会想到这里所发生的一切。

星期一清晨，外面传来了敲门声。玛丽打开房门，邻居站在门外。他问玛丽周末有没有看到什么人去过他家的后院。

“没有。”玛丽回答道。

“那你有没有看到我们家房子或院子周围发生了什么奇怪的事情？”邻居又问。

“没有。”玛丽又摇了摇头，免得让对方起疑。然后，她问：“为什么你要问我这些问题？究竟出了什么事？”

邻居回答说：“哦，我家的后院出了一件怪事。上周五，我们家的兔子死了，我们把它埋在后院，可是当我们度完周末回到家里，发现它竟然又重新回到了笼子里。”



Love Letters

Jenny Cordon was a very kind and beautiful woman and before she married, many men were in love with her. Many of them wrote to her, telling her how wonderful she was, how much they loved her and wanted to marry her.

Jenny kept all these letters. She tied them up with a red ribbon and put them away in an old box. She never looked at them as she was happily married; however, they were a part of her life and she did not want to throw them away.

Jenny had a daughter, Susan. Susan was six. One day, Jenny had to leave Susan alone for half an hour.

“Now be a good girl,” she said. “Play quietly. If you need anything, go to the lady next door.”

When she returned home, she asked Susan, “Have

you been a good girl?"

"Oh, yes, Mommy," Susan said.

"What did you do while I was out?" Jenny asked her.

"I played mailman," Susan told her.

"How could you play mailman, darling?" Jenny asked. "You didn't have any letters."

"Oh, yes I did, Mommy," Susan said, "I found some in an old box upstairs. They were tied up with a red ribbon. I put one in every mailbox in the street. Wasn't I a good girl?"

情 书

珍妮·戈登是个非常温柔美丽的女人,在她结婚之前,许多男人都追求过她。他们给她写情书,夸赞她的美貌,表述自己是多么的爱她,并且期望她能嫁给他们。

所有这些情书,珍妮一直珍藏着。她用了一条红色丝带把这些信件扎好,把它放在一个旧盒子里面。自从她有了美满的婚姻之后,她就再也没有打开过这些信件。然而,这些信件毕竟是她人生中所经历的一段美好的记忆,所以她并不想把它们扔掉。

珍妮有一个女儿叫苏珊,今年六岁。一天,珍妮有事要出门,要把苏珊独自一人留在家中半个钟头。

"要做一个乖孩子啊!"她告诉苏珊,"在家好好玩。如果需要什么,就去找邻家的阿姨。"

珍妮办完事情回到家中,她问苏珊:"有没有做个乖孩子啊?"

"当然了,妈妈。"苏珊答道。

"我不在家的时候你都干了什么?"珍妮问她。

"我假扮邮递员做游戏。"苏珊说道。

"亲爱的,你怎么扮的邮递员?"珍妮追问道:"你又没有

什么信件!”

“噢，妈妈，我有！”苏珊兴奋地说道，“我在楼上的旧盒子里面找到了好多信件，信上还用红色的丝带扎着呢！我把那些信件一封封地放进了街上每家的邮箱里了。你说我是不是个乖孩子？”



Temperature Taken

The general was confined to the military hospital for treatment of a minor malady. For almost a week he made a complete nuisance (/ 'nju:səns / *n.* 讨厌的东西、人等) of himself, irritating (irritate / 'iriteit / *v.* 激怒, 使恼怒) both staff and the other patients, demanding attention and expecting his every order to be followed immediately. He was in a six-man ward rather than a private room, his meals were too cold or not served to suit his taste, the light needed to be adjusted to his demands, the nighttime activities interfered (interfere / ,ɪntə'fiə / *v.* 干扰; 妨碍) with his rest ... and on, and on.

One afternoon an orderly entered the room. “Time to take your temperature, General.”

After growling (growl / graʊl / *v.* 咆哮; 粗暴地说) at the orderly, the general opened his mouth to accept the thermometer.

“Sorry, General, but for this test we need your temperature from the other end.”

A whole new barrage (/ 'bærɑ:ʒ; bə'rɑ:ʒ / *n.* 齐射攻击; 一连串; 大量) of verbal abuse followed, but the

orderly was insistent that a rectal temperature was what the test called for. The general at last rolled over, bared his rear, and allowed the orderly to proceed. The orderly then told the general, "Stay exactly like that and don't move. I'll be back in five minutes to check up on you and withdraw."

An hour later, the head nurse entered the room. She saw the general with his bare rear in the air and gasped, "What's going on here?"

"Haven't you ever seen someone having their temperature taken?" the general barked.

"Yes I have, General, but with a daffodil?"

测 体 温

一位将军因为一点小病在一所军队医院里接受治疗。在差不多一个星期里，他是横挑鼻子竖挑眼，这让医院工作人员和病友们对他非常反感。他要求医护人员随叫随到，而且希望他的每个命令必须立即执行。他抱怨自己被安排在六人病房，而不是单人房；他不是责怪这里的饭菜太凉了，就是说不合他的口味；一会儿要求将灯光调到他需要的亮度，一会儿要求别人的夜间活动不得影响他的休息，如此等等。

一天下午，一个勤务兵走进他的病房。“该测体温了，将军。”

在对这个勤务兵咆哮了一通之后，将军张开了嘴巴，准备让他测量体温。

“对不起，将军，我们这一次需要从您肛门那一头测体温。”

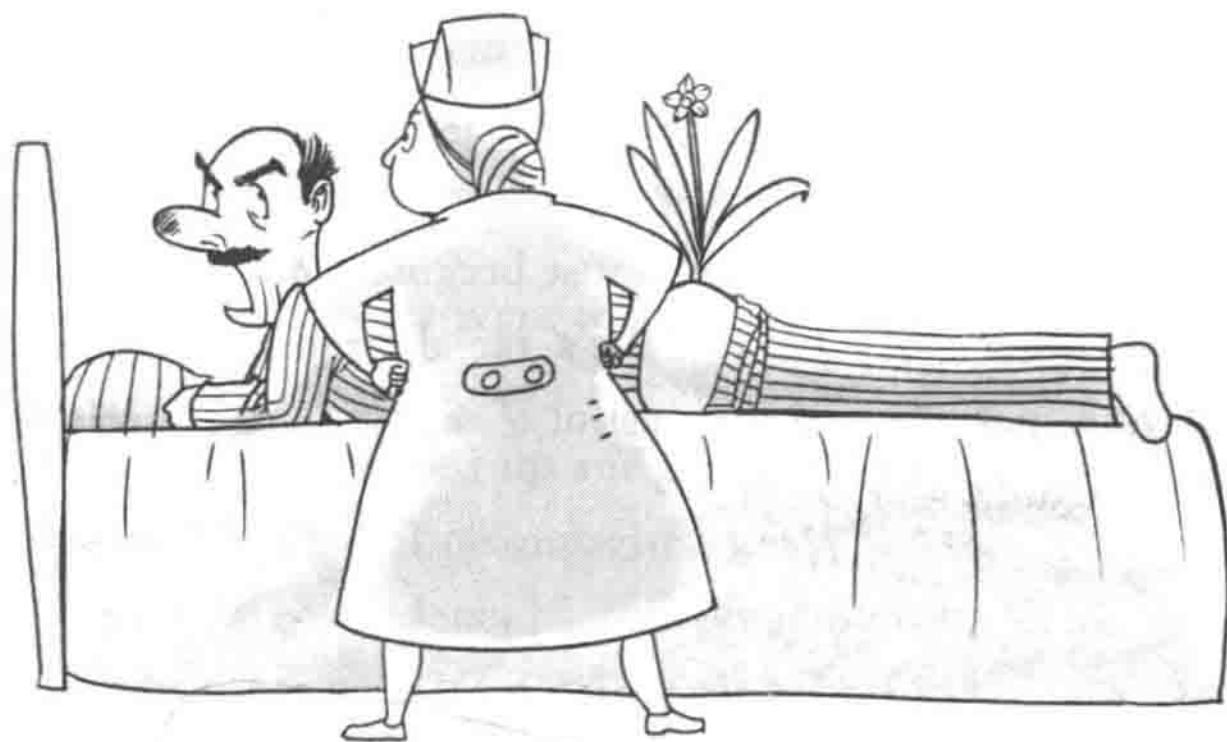
将军又一阵劈头盖脸的辱骂之后，这位勤务兵还是坚

持要从肛门测量体温。最后，将军翻过身去，脱下了裤子，让勤务兵开始测量。这时候，勤务兵对将军说道：“就这样躺着别动，我五分钟后过来，检查后就把它取出来。”

一个小时过后，护士长走进了病房。她看见将军光着屁股躺在那儿，便问：“这是怎么回事？”

“你没见过测体温是什么样的吗？”将军大声嚷道。

“我当然见过，将军。可那儿怎么插了一枝水仙呀？”



Racial Prejudice

It was in a grade one classroom on a warm summer afternoon.

Teacher: We are going to have a spelling competition this afternoon. Anyone who can spell a word correctly can go home early. We'll start with Mary. What did you do at lunchtime?

Mary: I played in the sandpit.

Teacher: Mary, can you spell “pit”?

Mary: P ... I ... T?

Teacher: Very good, you may go. Now, Tommy, what did you do at lunch?

Tommy: I was playing with my toy car.

Teacher: Tommy, can you spell “car”?

Tommy: C ... A ... R.

Teacher: Very good, you may go. Now Johnny, why are you crying?

Johnny (sniff): Because Tommy and Mary wouldn't play with me at lunchtime, just because I'm black.

Teacher: My God. That's racial prejudice. Johnny, can you spell “racial (/ 'reɪʃəl / a. 种族的) prejudice (/ 'predʒudɪs / n. 歧视)”?

种族歧视

一个炎热的下午,在一年级教室里,老师对学生们说:

“今天下午,我们要进行一场拼字比赛。谁能准确无误地拼出一个字就可以提前回家。我们先从玛丽开始,你午饭时间去干什么了?”

玛丽回答说:“我在沙坑里玩。”

“那你能拼出‘坑’这个字吗,玛丽?”老师问。

“K-eng……Keng?”

老师马上说:“非常好,你可以走了。现在轮到汤米了,你午饭时间都干什么了?”

汤米回答说:“我在玩我的玩具车。”

“那你能拼出‘车’这个字吗?”老师问。

“Ch-e……Che。”汤米试着拼了起来。

老师马上表扬道:“非常好,你也可以走了。下一个,约