

A Very Naughty Girl

女顽童

[英] L·T·米德 著 胡锦涛 译
L.T.MEADE

金 鹰 英 汉 双



语 对 照 文 本



百 家 出 版 社

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

女顽童/(英)米德著;胡锦涛译. —上海:百家出版社,2005.5
(金鹰英汉双语对照文丛)

ISBN 7-80703-208-1

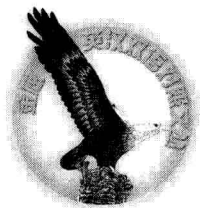
I. 女... II. ①米...②胡... III. 英语-对照读物,小说-英、汉 IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2005)第 020149 号

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 丛 书 名 | 金鹰英汉双语对照文丛 |
| 书 名 | 女 顽 童 |
| 著 者 | [英]L. T. 米德 著 |
| 译 者 | 胡锦涛 |
| 丛书策划 | 姜逸青 |
| 责任编辑 | 金长蔚 |
| 封面设计 | 梁业礼 |
| 出版发行 | 百家出版社(上海茶陵路 175 弄 3 号) |
| 经 销 | 全国新华书店 |
| 印 刷 | 常熟市兴达印刷有限公司 |
| 开 本 | 787 × 960 毫米 1/32 |
| 印 张 | 22.625 插页 2 |
| 版 次 | 2005 年 5 月第 1 版 2005 年 5 月第 1 次印刷 |
| ISBN | 7-80703-208-1/I · 34 |
| 定 价 | 28.00 元 |

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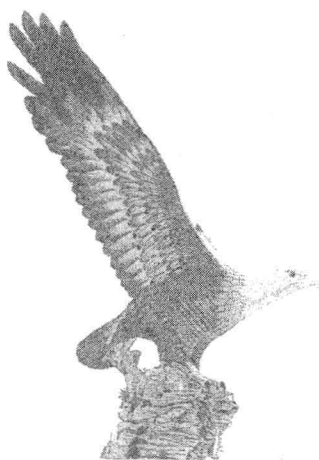
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女 頑 童

A Very Naughty Girl





CHAPTER I . SYLVIA AND AUDRY.

IT was a day of great excitement, and Audrey Wynford stood by her schoolroom window and looked out. She was a tall girl of sixteen, with her hair hanging in a long, fair plait^① down her back. She stood with her hands folded behind her and an expectant^② expression on her face.

Up the avenue^③ a stream of people were coming. Some came in cabs^④, some on bicycles; some walked. They all turned in the direction of the front entrance, and Audrey heard their voices rising and falling as they entered the house, walked down the hall, and disappeared into some region at the other end.

"It is all detestable^⑤," she muttered; "and just when Evelyn is coming, too. How strange she will think it! I wish father would drop this horrid^⑥ custom. I do not approve of it at all."

Just then her governess, a bright-looking^⑦ girl about six years Audrey's senior, came into the room.

"Well," she cried, "and what are you doing here? I

第一章 西尔维亚与奥德丽

这真是激动人心的一天，奥德丽·温福德站在课堂的窗子旁向外张望。她是个十六岁的高个子女孩，长长的金黄色辫子拖在背后。她背着双手站在那儿，脸上露出期待的神情。

一大群人从林阴大道上向房子这边涌过来，有的坐马车，有的骑自行车，还有一些步行。他们都朝前门走来，奥德丽能听到他们走进屋子时此起彼伏的声音，她走下大厅，消失在另一头。

“太可恶了，”她咕哝着，“要是伊夫林来了，她一定会觉得不可思议！真希望爸爸改掉这个可怕的习俗，我一点儿也不喜欢。”

正在这时，比她年长六岁、聪明伶俐的家庭教师走进了房间。

“嘿！”她叫起来，“你在这儿干什么？我还以为

注释：①plait: (n.) 辫子 ②expectant: (adj.) 预期的，期待的
③avenue: (n.) 林阴道 ④cab: (n.) 马车 ⑤detestable: (adj.) 嫌恶的，厌恶的 ⑥horrid: (adj.) 恐怖的，令人讨厌的 ⑦bright-looking: (adj.) 长相聪明伶俐的



thought you were going to ride this afternoon."

"How can I?" said Audrey, shrugging^① her shoulders.
"I shall be met at every turn."

"And why not?" said Miss Sinclair. "You are not ashamed^② of being seen."

"It is quite detestable," said Audrey.

She crossed the room, flung^③ herself into a deep straw^④ arm-chair in front of a blazing log fire, and took up a magazine.

"It is all horrid," she continued as she rapidly turned the pages; "you know it, Miss Sinclair, as well as I do."

"If I were you," said Miss Sinclair, "I should be proud — very proud — to belong to an old family who had kept a custom like this in vogue^⑤."

"If you belonged to the old family you would not," said Audrey. "Every one laughs at us. I call it perfectly horrid. What possible good can it do that all the people of the neighborhood, and the strangers who come to stay in the town, should make free of^⑥ Wynford Castle on New Year's Day? It makes me cross^⑦ anyhow. I am sorry to be cross to you, Miss Sinclair; but I am, and that is a fact."

Miss Sinclair sat down on another chair.

"I like it," she said after a pause.

"Why?" asked Audrey.

你今天下午要去骑马呢。”

“怎么可能？”奥德丽耸了耸肩，说，“无论我去哪儿都会被人碰见的。”

“为什么不去呢？”辛克莱小姐问，“让人碰见并不丢脸啊。”

“可是很烦人。”奥德丽回答。

她穿过房间，走到炉火正旺的壁炉边，一屁股坐在前面一把深深的麦秸扶手椅里，拿起一本杂志。

“烦透了，”她一边迅速翻动杂志，一边继续抱怨，“辛克莱小姐，你知道，我讨厌这件事。”

“如果我是你，”辛克莱小姐说，“属于一个拥有这样时兴习俗的古老家族，我会觉得非常自豪——引以为荣。”

“你要是真属于这样的家族，就不会这么想了，”奥德丽接着抱怨，“大家都笑话我们，我也觉得这件事令人讨厌。新年这天让附近的人和镇上的陌生人随心所欲地游玩温福德城堡，到底有什么好处？不管怎样，这事让我不开心。真抱歉，辛克莱小姐，我不想对你生气的，但我的的确确不开心。”

辛克莱小姐坐在另一把椅子上。

“可我喜欢。”停了一会儿，辛克莱小姐才说。

“为什么？”奥德丽追问道。

注释：①shrug: (v.) 耸肩 ②ashame: (a.) 惭愧的，羞耻的 ③flung: (vt.) fling 的过去式，猛投，使陷入 ④straw: (n.) 稻草，麦秆 ⑤vogue: (n.) 时尚，时髦风气 ⑥make free of: 让……享有权利，让……任意使用 ⑦cross: (adj.) 发怒的，生气的



"There were some quite hungry people passing through the hall as I came to you just now."

"Let them be hungry somewhere else, not here," said the angry girl. "It was all very well when some ancestor^① of mine first started the custom; but that father, a man of the present day, up-to-date^② in every sense of the word, should carry it on — that he should keep open house for every individual who chooses to come here on New Year's Day — is past endurance^③. Last year between two and three hundred people dined or supped^④ or had tea at the Castle, and I believe, from the appearance of the avenue, there will be still more today. The house gets so dirty, for one thing, for half of them don't think of wiping their feet; and then we run a chance of^⑤ being robbed, for how do we know that there are not adventurers in the throng^⑥? If I were the country-folk I would be too proud to come; but they are not — not a bit."

"I cannot agree with you," said Miss Sinclair. "It is a splendid old custom, and I hope it will not be abolished^⑦."

"Perhaps Evelyn will abolish it when she comes in for the property^⑧," said Audrey in a low tone. Her face looked scarcely amiable^⑨ as she said the words.

Miss Sinclair regarded her with a puzzled expression.

"Audrey dear," she said after a pause, "I am very fond of you."

“我刚刚找你时,看见有些饥肠辘辘的人穿过了大厅。”

“让他们在别处饥肠辘辘吧,不要在这儿。”女孩生气地说,“我家祖先当初创立这个习俗时确实不错,但是要我爸爸——无论怎么说都很现代的人——在新年这天坚持开放城堡,真让人无法忍受。去年有两三百人在城堡里吃吃喝喝,看看大道上的情形,我相信今年来的人会更多。第一,房子变得脏兮兮的,因为他们中有一半人不会想到擦鞋;第二,没准我们还可能被盗——谁知道人群中有没有危险分子呢?要是我是乡下人,我才不会来呢,因为我有自尊心,但他们不是——他们一点自尊都没有。”

“我可不这样想。”辛克莱小姐说,“这个古老风俗棒极了,而且我希望以后也不要废除。”

“也许伊夫林继承了财产以后会废除它的。”奥德丽低声咕哝着。她说这句话时,脸上显得一点也不可爱。

辛克莱小姐满脸疑惑地凝视着她。

“亲爱的奥德丽,”她过了一会儿说,“我喜欢你。”

注释:①ancestor:(*n.*)祖先,祖宗 ②up-to-date:(*adj.*)最近的,当代的,新式的,现代(化)的 ③endurance:(*n.*)忍耐(力) ④sup:(*vi.*)吃晚饭,啜饮 ⑤run a chance of:有……的可能 ⑥throng:(*n.*)群,人群 ⑦abolish:(*vt.*)废止,废除 ⑧property:(*n.*)所有物,财产 ⑨amiable:(*adj.*)温柔的,可爱的



“And I of you,” said Audrey, a little unwillingly. “You are more friend than governess.”

“Then if I am, may I just as a friend, and one who loves you very dearly, make a remark^①?”

“It is going to be something odious^②,” said Audrey — “that goes without saying — but I suppose I’ll listen.”

“Don’t you think you are just a wee bit^③ in danger of^④ becoming selfish, Audrey?” said her governess.

“Am I? Perhaps so; I’m afraid I don’t care.”

“You would if you thought it over; and this is New Year’s Day, and it is a lovely afternoon, and you might come for a ride — I wish you would.”

“I will not run the chance of meeting those folks on any consideration whatever,” said Audrey; “but I will go for a walk with you, if you like.”

“Done,” said Miss Sinclair. “I have to go on a message^⑤ for Lady Wynford to the lodge^⑥; will you come by the shrubberies and meet me there?”

“All right,” replied Audrey; “I will go and get ready.”

After her pupil had left her, Miss Sinclair sat for a time gazing into the huge log fire.

She was a very pretty girl with a high-bred^⑦ look about her. She had received all the advantages which modern education could afford, and at the age of three-and-twenty had

“我也喜欢你，”奥德丽有点不情愿地附和道，“你不像家庭教师，倒更像个朋友。”

“如果你真的觉得我很好的话，那我能不能以一个非常爱你的朋友的身分，谈谈我的看法？”

“继续这个话题真让人讨厌。”奥德丽忙说，“这还用得着说吗——不过，你还是说吧，我在听。”

“你不觉得自己变得有点儿自私吗，奥德丽？”她的家庭教师说。

“我？也许吧，我可不在乎。”

“你要是仔细想想，会在乎的。今天是新年的第一天，天气又这么好，你可以去骑骑马——我希望你能去。”

“我可不想冒这个险，我怕碰上那些人。”奥德丽说，“不过，你要是愿意，我们一块儿去散散步。”

“好，”辛克莱小姐说，“我得去门房为温福德夫人办点事，你穿过树林去那儿跟我碰面，好吗？”

“好，”奥德丽答道，“我去准备一下。”

奥德丽离开后，辛克莱小姐凝视着烧得正旺的炉火，独自坐了一会儿。

辛克莱小姐面容清秀、举止端庄，受过现代

注释：①make a remark: (v.) 发表意见，说说看法 ②odious: (a.) 惹人讨厌的 ③a wee bit: (a.) 一丁点儿，一点点 ④in danger of: (adv.) 有……的危险 ⑤go on a message: (vi.) 外出为别人做事 ⑥lodge: (n.) 门房 ⑦high-bred: (adj.) 受过教育的，端庄的



left Girton with the assurance^① from all her friends that she had a brilliant future before her.

The first step in that future seemed bright enough to the handsome, high-spirited^② girl. Lady Wynford met her in town, took a fancy to^③ her on the spot^④, and asked her to conduct Audrey's education. Miss Sinclair received a liberal^⑤ salary and every comfort and consideration. Audrey fell quickly in love with her, and a more delightful pupil governess never had.

The girl was brimming over with^⑥ intelligence, was keenly alive to the responsibilities of her own position, was absolutely original, and as a rule^⑦ quite unselfish.

"Poor Audrey! she has her trials before her, all the same," thought the young governess now. "Well, I am very happy here, and I hope nothing will disturb our present arrangement for some time. As to Evelyn, we have yet to discover what sort of girl she is. She comes this evening. But there, I am forgetting all about Audrey, and she must be waiting for me."

It so happened that Audrey Wynford was doing nothing of the sort. She had hastily put on her warm jacket and fur cap and gone out into the grounds. The objectionable^⑧ avenue, with its streams of people coming and going, was to be religiously^⑨ avoided, and Audrey went in the direction of a copse^⑩ of young trees, which led again