

哈佛

蓝星双语名著导读

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喜福会

The Joy Luck Club

〔美〕 Amy Tan 原著
Selena Ward 导读
胡向华 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，热爱英语的你是否想过站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢？

你手上这本蓝色小册子正是风行全美的哈佛蓝星笔记，是哈佛学生们将名著阅读与文学学习融会贯通，编写而成的名著导读本。它们以经典性和流行性并存的名著为素材，以明晰的风格和地道的语言而著称。每一本都包括著作的创作背景，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，推荐的论文题，阅读后的小测验，要点注释，以及推荐阅读篇目。

这样的编排使你不仅仅停留在对名著内容上的了解，更可迅速、全面、深入地掌握著作的全部资料，同时也满足了对文化做进一步了解和研究的需求。蓝星精辟、明晰的编写风格将“半天阅读一本名著”的想法变为现实，帮你在有限的闲暇内阅读更多的书，在地道的语言环境中迅速提高英语水平，丰富文学内涵，增加谈资。

天津科技翻译出版公司精挑细选了50本蓝星笔记，由我外语界资深专家张滨江教授、刘品义教授主持翻译和审校工作，天津外国语学院教授、副教授以及部分优秀青年教师进行翻译，陈法春教授，阎玉敏、常子霞副教授和李晓霞讲师协助部分审校，共同合作、精心制作成为“哈佛蓝星双语名著导读”，既保留了原书特点，并对文中的知识要点做了注释，更加适合你的需要。

蓝星闪耀，照你前行！

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CONTEXT

AMY TAN was born in Oakland, California, in 1952. Her parents, both Chinese immigrants, lived in various towns in California before eventually settling in Santa Clara. When Tan was in her early teens, her father and one of her brothers each died of a brain tumor within months of each other. During this period, Tan learned that her mother had been married before, in China. Tan's mother had divorced her first husband, who had been abusive, and had fled China just before the Communist takeover in 1949. She left behind three daughters, whom she would not see again for nearly forty years.

After losing her husband and son, Tan's mother moved her family to Switzerland, where Tan finished high school. During these years, mother and daughter argued about Tan's college and career plans. Tan eventually followed her boyfriend to San Jose City College, where she earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in English and linguistics, despite her mother's wish that she study medicine.

After Tan married her boyfriend, Louis DeMattei, she began to pursue a Ph. D. in linguistics. She later abandoned the program in order to work with developmentally disabled children. Then she became a freelance business writer. Although she was successful, she found writing for corporate executives unfulfilling. She began to write fiction as a creative release.

Meanwhile, Tan's mother was suffering from a serious illness, and Tan resolved to take a trip to China with her mother if

来龙·去脉


谭恩美 1952 年出生在加利福尼亚的奥克兰市。父母二人都是中国移民，在圣克拉拉定居之前，曾在加利福尼亚的许多小城镇居住过。谭十几岁时，父亲和一个弟弟数月之内相继死于脑瘤。这时谭才得知，母亲曾在中国结过婚。谭的母亲与她第一位粗暴的丈夫离婚后，在共产党 1949 年执政以前离开了中国。她身后留下了 3 个女儿，已有近 40 年时间未能与她们相见。

失去丈夫和儿子之后，谭的母亲举家移居到瑞士。谭是在瑞士完成高中学业的。这些年来，母女俩一直为她的大学和事业选择争论不休。尽管母亲希望她能学医，但最后谭还是跟着她的男朋友进入圣荷塞市学院学习，并在那里取得英语和语言学学士学位和硕士学位。


谭与男朋友路易·德梅泰结婚后，便开始攻读语言学博士学位。后来她为了帮助有发育障碍的儿童，而放弃了这个计划。此后，她成为一位商业自由撰稿人。虽然在这方面很成功，但为公司总裁撰稿她总有点壮志未酬的感觉，于是便开始写小说，以发挥她的创作才能。

这时，谭的母亲重病缠身；于是谭决定，如果母亲能够康复，便与母亲回中国一趟。1987 年，母亲恢复

she recovered. In 1987, after her mother returned to health, they traveled to China, where Tan's mother was reunited with her daughters and Tan met her half-sisters. The trip provided Tan with a fresh perspective on her mother, and it served as the key inspiration for her first book, *The Joy Luck Club*. Soon after its publication in 1989, *The Joy Luck Club* garnered enthusiastic reviews, remaining on the *New York Times* best-seller list for many months. It won both the National Book Award and the L. A. *Times* Book Award in 1989.

Tan continues to publish popular works. In response to the widely held opinion that she writes with a social aim—to portray the Chinese American experience—Tan often emphasizes that she writes first and foremost as an artist. She argues that her bicultural upbringing is her work's source of inspiration but not its primary subject. Through her writing, Tan approaches issues that are universally applicable to all groups of people. She explores themes of family and memory, as well as the conflicts of culture that arise in so many American communities. 

健康后，她们一同到中国旅行；谭的母亲与她的3个女儿在中国重新团聚，谭也在那里见到了她同母异父的姐姐们。这次中国之行使谭对母亲的认知有了一个全新的视角。这个新视角就是谭第一本小说《喜福会》重要的创作灵感。1989年，这本小说出版不久，便获得了许多热情洋溢的评价，一连数月登在纽约时报畅销书一栏中。1989年，这本小说不仅获得了全美图书奖，而且还获得了洛杉矶时代周刊的图书奖。

此后，谭又发表了一些通俗作品。人们普遍认为，谭的创作有社会目的，即描述美籍华人的生活经历，但谭经常强调，说她首先是以艺术家的身份来进行创作的。她争辩道，她的双重文化背景只是她作品的创作素材，而不是作品的第一主题。谭实际上通过她的作品，触及了许多观点，这些观点可普遍地应用于所有人类群体。她不仅探索了家庭问题、记忆问题，而且还探索了美国许多社会群体中所发生的文化冲突。

PLOT OVERVIEW

THE JOY LUCK CLUB contains sixteen interwoven stories about conflicts between Chinese immigrant mothers and their American-raised daughters. The book hinges on Jing-mei's trip to China to meet her half-sisters, twins Chwun Yu and Chwun Hwa. The half-sisters remained behind in China because Jing-mei's mother, Suyuan, was forced to leave them on the roadside during her desperate flight from Japan's invasion of Kweilin during World War II. Jing-mei was born to a different father years later, in America. Suyuan intended to return to China for her other daughters, but failed to find them before her death.

Jing-mei has taken her mother's place playing mahjong in a weekly gathering her mother had organized in China and revived in San Francisco: the Joy Luck Club. The club's other members—Lindo, Ying-ying, and An-mei—are three of her mother's oldest friends and fellow immigrants. They tell Jing-mei that just before Suyuan died, she had finally succeeded in locating the address of her lost daughters. The three women repeatedly urge Jing-mei to travel to China and tell her sisters about their mother's life. But Jing-mei wonders whether she is capable of telling her mother's story, and the three older women fear that Jing-mei's doubts may be justified. They fear that their own daughters, like Jing-mei, may not know or appreciate the stories of their mothers' lives.

The novel is composed of four sections, each of which contains four separate narratives. In the first four stories of the book, the mothers, speaking in turn, recall with astonishing

情节·览

《喜福会》包括了 16 个相互交织的小故事，表现了作为中国移民的母亲与美国长大的女儿之间的文化冲突。这部小说是以精美赴华会见同母异父双胞胎姐姐春玉和春花为线索的。因为，精美的母亲在二次世界大战期间，日本进犯桂林时，被迫将女儿丢在逃难的路上。数年后在美国，她又嫁给另外一个男人生下精美。素云为能再见另外两个女儿一面，一心想回中国，但直至闭目以前，也未能如愿。

现在，在每周的聚会上，精美代替母亲来玩麻将；这个周聚会是精美母亲在中国组织的，回旧金山后又把它恢复了起来，这个周聚会就是：喜福会。喜福会的其他会员有：琳达、英英、安梅——三位都是母亲最早的朋友和移民伙伴。她们告诉精美说，就在地母亲去世之前，如愿以偿地找到了她失散女儿的地址。这 3 个女人一而再，再而三地劝精美回中国将母亲的事告诉她的姐姐们。但精美极想知道的是，自己能否讲好母亲的故事，而且这 3 位中年妇女也担忧，精美的疑虑是否真的有些道理。她们怕自己的女儿会像精美一样，可能也不了解或不欣赏她们自己母亲的故事。

这部小说由 4 部分组成，每一部分里又包括 4 个单独的叙述。小说第 1 部分的 4 个故事中，母亲们以轮流叙述的方式，出奇清楚地回忆起与自己母亲之间

clarity their relationships with their own mothers, and they worry that their daughters' recollections of them will never possess the same intensity. In the second section, these daughters—Waverly, Jing-mei, Lena, and Rose—relate their recollections of their childhood relationships with their mothers; the great lucidity and force with which they tell their stories proves their mothers' fears at least partially unfounded. In the third group of stories, the four daughters narrate their adult dilemmas—troubles in marriage and with their careers. Although they believe that their mothers' antiquated ideas do not pertain to their own very American lifestyles, their search for solutions inevitably brings them back to their relationships with the older generation. In the final group of stories, the mothers struggle to offer solutions and support to their daughters, in the process learning more about themselves. Lindo recognizes through her daughter Waverly that she has been irrevocably changed by American culture. Ying-ying realizes that Lena has unwittingly followed her passive example in her marriage to Harold Livotny. An-mei realizes that Rose has not completely understood the lessons she intended to teach her about faith and hope.

Although Jing-mei fears that she cannot adequately portray her mother's life, Suyuan's story permeates the novel via Jing-mei's voice: she speaks for Suyuan in the first and fourth sections, the two "mothers' sections," of the novel. Suyuan's story is representative of the struggle to maintain the mother-daughter bond across cultural and generational gaps; by telling this story as her mother's daughter, Jing-mei enacts and cements the very bond that is the subject of Suyuan's story. When Jing-mei finally travels to China and helps her half-sisters

的关系；她们担心女儿对她们的回忆将永远不会如此清晰。小说的第2部分中，女儿们——韦弗利、精美、莉娜和罗斯——分别回忆起她们童年时期与母亲之间的关系；她们的故事叙述如此清晰而动人，证明母亲们的担忧至少有一部分是毫无根据的。小说的第3组故事是四位女儿讲述了她们成年时期的困境——婚姻上的麻烦及事业上的曲折。尽管她们认为，母亲的陈旧观念与她们的美国生活方式毫不相干，但她们在寻找解决问题的过程中，又不可避免地回到与老一代人的关系问题上。在小说最后一组故事中，母亲更进一步地了解了自己，并在这个了解过程中，给女儿出主意，努力做女儿的后盾。琳达通过女儿韦弗利认识到，美国文化已不可逆转地改变了自己。英英意识到，莉娜在与哈罗德·利沃特尼的婚姻生活中，逆来顺受，愚蠢地步了她的后尘。安梅认识到，罗斯根本没完全明白她想教给她的忠诚和希望。

虽然精美担心她不能完整地讲述母亲的生活经历，但素云的故事通过精美的声音贯穿了整部小说：精美在小说第1和第4部分，及涉及“母亲们”的两部分中，代替母亲进行陈述。素云的故事体现了为跨越文化鸿沟和代沟，维护母女关系纽带所做的努力；通过女儿讲述母亲的故事，精美建立并巩固了母女的联系纽带，这也是素云故事本身的主题。当精美终于来了中国，帮助同母异父的姐姐了解她们已不记得