

哈佛 蓝星双语名著导读

Today's Most Popular Study Guides

宠儿 Beloved

〔美〕 Toni Morrison 原著
Selena Ward 导读
Pelagia Horgan 徐颖 翻译

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H319.4:J
2M552

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

宠儿/(美)莫里森(Morrison, T.)著;徐颖译. —天津:天津科技翻译出版公司, 2003.9

(哈佛蓝星双语名著导读)

书名原文:Beloved

ISBN 7-5433-1652-8

I. 宠… II. ①莫… ②徐… 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(2003)第 027467 号

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著作权合同登记号:图字:02-2003-9

哈佛蓝星双语名著导读:宠儿

TODAY'S MOST POPULAR STUDY GUIDES

责任编辑:袁永 常连颖

美术编辑:朱爽蕾

出版者:天津科技翻译出版公司(天津市南开区白堤路 244 号 邮编 300192)

电 话:022-24314802

传 真:022-24310345

E - mail: tstbc@public.tpt.tj.cn

印 刷:深圳利丰雅高印刷有限公司

发 行:全国新华书店

开 本:850mm×1168mm 1/32 印 张:6.5 字 数:153.1千字

版 次:2003年9月第1版 印 次:2003年9月第1次印刷

书 号:ISBN 7-5433-1652-8/H·52

定 价:9.00元

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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，更可以迅速、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，由我国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

Toni Morrison was born Chloe Anthony Wofford in 1931 and spent the first years of her life in Ohio. She received an undergraduate degree in English from Howard University and completed a master's program at Cornell. When many of her classmates had difficulty pronouncing her uncommon first name, she changed it to Toni (a derivative of her middle name). In 1958, she married Harold Morrison, an architect from Jamaica, and the couple had two sons. They divorced six years later. After pursuing an academic career teaching English at Howard, Morrison became an editor at Random House, where she specialized in black fiction. At the same time, she began building a body of creative work that, in 1993, would make her the first African-American woman to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. Her 1970 novel *The Bluest Eye* was followed by *Sula* in 1974, which secured Morrison a nomination for the National Book Award. In 1977, Morrison won the National Book Critics Circle Award for her book *Song of Solomon*. Her other works include *Tar Baby* (1981), *Jazz* (1992), *Paradise* (1998), and, of course, *Beloved**. That novel, considered by many to be her best, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1988. Today, Morrison is the Robert F. Goheen Professor* in the Council of Humanities at Princeton University, where she conducts undergraduate workshops in creative writing.

Set during the Reconstruction era* in 1873, *Beloved* centers on the powers of memory and history. For the former slaves in the novel, the past is a burden that they desperately and willfully try to forget. Yet for Sethe, the protagonist of the novel,


来龙·去脉

托妮·莫里森出生于1931年,原名克娄·安东尼·沃福德。在俄亥俄州度过了童年和少年时代之后,莫里森在霍华德大学获得了英文学士学位,又在康奈尔大学获得了文学硕士学位。莫里森原来的名字很特别,她的同学第一次叫她时总会叫错,所以她就将自己的名字改为托妮(这取自她中间的名字)。1958年,她与牙买加建筑师哈罗德·莫里森结婚,育有二子,6年之后两人离异。莫里森曾任霍华德大学的英文教授,之后又任兰登书屋的编辑,主要负责黑人小说的编辑工作。同时,莫里森本人也开始创作一系列作品。1993年,她凭借这些构思独特的作品,成为第一个获得诺贝尔文学奖的美国黑人女性。1970年,莫里森出版小说《最蓝的眼睛》。1974年她又出版小说《秀拉》,这部小说为她赢得了全国图书奖的提名。1977年她以小说《所罗门之歌》获得了全国图书评论家协会大奖。她的其他作品还有《柏油娃娃》(1981)、《爵士乐》(1992)、《天堂》(1998),当然还有《宠儿》。《宠儿》这部作品被公认为她最好的作品,并在1988年为她赢得了普利策文学奖。现在,莫里森任普林斯顿人文学院的罗伯特·F·戈辛教席教授,专门指导大学本科生进行文学创作。

《宠儿》的背景是1873年的美国重建时期。小说着重表现了记忆和历史的重量。对于小说中的那些已获自由的黑奴来说,过去是一种负重,一种他们竭尽全力、一心一意想要忘记的东西。然而小说的女主人


memories of slavery are inescapable. They continue to haunt her, literally, in the spirit of her deceased daughter. Eighteen years earlier, Sethe* had murdered this daughter in order to save her from a life of slavery. Morrison borrowed the event from the real story of Margaret Garner, who, like Sethe, escaped from slavery in Kentucky and murdered her child when slave catchers caught up with her in Ohio. *Beloved* straddles the line between fiction and history; from the experiences of a single family, Morrison creates a powerful commentary on the psychological and historical legacy of slavery.

Part of Morrison's project in *Beloved* is to recuperate a history that had been lost to the ravages of forced silences and willed forgetfulness. Morrison writes Sethe's story with the voices of a people who historically have been denied the power of language. *Beloved* also contains a didactic element. From Sethe's experience, we learn that before a stable future can be created, we must confront and understand the "ghosts" of the past. Morrison suggests that, like Sethe, contemporary American readers must confront the history of slavery in order to address its legacy, which manifests itself in ongoing racial discrimination and discord.

Morrison once said that she wanted to help create a canon of black work, noting that black writers too often have to pander to a white audience when they should be able to concentrate on the business of writing instead. Many readers believe Morrison's novels go a long way toward the establishment of her envisioned tradition. The poetic, elegant style of her writing in *Beloved* panders to no one. Morrison challenges and requires the reader to accept her on her own terms. 

公塞丝却怎么也逃不出奴隶生活的记忆，那记忆似阴影一般笼罩在她的心头。这些记忆附着在她死去女儿的魂灵上，一直纠缠着她。18年前，塞丝为了让这个女儿摆脱奴隶生活的厄运而杀死了她。莫里森的这个故事取自发生在玛格利特·加纳身上的一个真实事件：她和塞丝一样，从肯塔基州的奴隶制度的魔爪下逃出来。当猎奴者循踪追至俄亥俄州将要逮住她时，她杀死了自己的孩子。《宠儿》就游离于虚幻的小说和真实的历史之间。通过对一个黑人家庭悲欢离合的记录，莫里森深刻论述了蓄奴制的历史遗毒及其对人心理上的影响。

莫里森写《宠儿》，一部分原因是为了重建失落的历史。这段历史曾因黑奴受到压迫，处于“失语”状态和他们自己刻意忘却身为奴隶的惨痛经历而失落。一个原本在历史上被剥夺了语言力量的民族，却在莫里森书写的这段历史中找到了自己的声音。《宠儿》一书也具有一定的说教意味。从塞丝的经历，我们可以悟出这样一个道理：我们必须去正视，去理解往昔岁月中“那不散的阴魂”，才能够开创出未来的安定生活。莫里森暗示，当代的美国读者必须像塞丝一样，直面那段蓄奴制的历史，才能更好地解决蓄奴制的遗留问题，进而解决这些遗留问题所表现出来的年深日久的种族歧视与纷争。

莫里森曾经说过，她想帮助建立一种黑人作品的标准。因为她注意到一些黑人作家过于迎合白人读者的口味。她觉得这些作家应当把精力放在写作本身。许多读者认为，莫里森的小说已经朝着她自己的文学理想迈出了很大的一步。她写《宠儿》时所运用的那种富有诗意而优雅的风格，并没有迎合任何人。莫里森需要并激励她的读者去接受她的写作方式。 

PLOT OVERVIEW

BELOVED begins in 1873 in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Sethe, a former slave, has been living with her eighteen-year-old daughter Denver. Sethe's mother-in-law, Baby Suggs, lived with them until her death eight years earlier. Just before Baby Suggs's death, Sethe's two sons, Howard and Buglar, ran away. Sethe believes they fled because of the malevolent presence of an abusive ghost that has haunted their house at 124 Bluestone Road for years. Denver, however, likes the ghost, which everyone believes to be the spirit of her dead sister.

On the day the novel begins, Paul D, whom Sethe has not seen since they worked together on Mr. Garner's Sweet Home plantation in Kentucky approximately twenty years earlier, stops by Sethe's house. His presence resurrects memories that have lain buried in Sethe's mind for almost two decades. From this point on, the story will unfold on two temporal planes. The present in Cincinnati constitutes one plane, while a series of events that took place around twenty years earlier, mostly in Kentucky, constitutes the other. This latter plane is accessed and described through the fragmented flashbacks of the major characters. Accordingly, we frequently read these flashbacks several times, sometimes from varying perspectives, with each successive narration of an event adding a little more information to the previous ones.

From these fragmented memories, the following story begins to emerge: Sethe, the protagonist, was born in the South to an African mother she never knew. When she is thirteen, she is

情节·览

《宠儿》这个故事从1873年俄亥俄州的辛辛那提镇开始。已摆脱奴隶生活的塞丝与她18岁的女儿丹芙在此相依为命。塞丝的婆母贝比·萨格斯8年前曾与她们生活在一起。贝比临终前，塞丝的两个儿子——霍华德和巴格拉，离家出走。塞丝一家人住在蓝石街124号的房子里。这房子常年被一个爱折磨人的冤魂恶意纠缠，所以塞丝将这看做是导致两个儿子出走的原因。丹芙却很喜欢这冤魂，人们觉得这冤魂是丹芙死去的姐姐所化。

小说一开始，一位名叫保罗·D的男人在塞丝家门前驻足。原来他和塞丝在20多年前，曾同为肯塔基州的一个种植园的奴隶，分开之后就再也没见过面。这个种植园名为“甜蜜之家”，主人是加纳先生。保罗·D的出现唤醒了塞丝心中埋藏了近20年的记忆。故事从这里开始，在两个层面展开。辛辛那提的现实生活组成了其中的一个层面，而发生于约20年前肯塔基州的一系列事件则组成了另一个层面。这后一个层面，是通过主要人物支离破碎的回忆，呈现于读者面前的。相应地，读者可以通过不同人物的不同视角，反复多次地读到这些回忆。每读一次，对这个事件叙述的理解就会丰满一层。

故事是这样在支离破碎的回忆中展开的：主人公塞丝，在南方出生，母亲是个非洲人，她对母亲的了解也就仅限于此了。13岁的时候，塞丝被卖到名叫“甜蜜之家”的种植园。园主加纳先生在那里实行的是一

sold to the Garners, who own Sweet Home and practice a comparatively benevolent kind of slavery. There, the other slaves, who are all men, lust after her but never touch her. Their names are Sixo, Paul D, Paul A, Paul F, and Halle. Sethe chooses to marry Halle, apparently in part because he has proven generous enough to buy his mother's freedom by hiring himself out on the weekends. Together, Sethe and Halle have two sons, Howard and Buglar, as well as a baby daughter whose name we never learn. When she leaves Sweet Home, Sethe is also pregnant with a fourth child. After the eventual death of the proprietor, Mr. Garner, the widowed Mrs. Garner asks her sadistic, vehemently racist brother-in-law to help her run the farm. He is known to the slaves as schoolteacher, and his oppressive presence makes life on the plantation even more unbearable than it had been before. The slaves decide to run.

Schoolteacher and his nephews anticipate the slaves' escape, however, and capture Paul D and Sixo. Schoolteacher kills Sixo and brings Paul D back to Sweet Home, where Paul D sees Sethe for what he believes will be the last time. She is still intent on running, having already sent her children ahead to her mother-in-law Baby Suggs's house in Cincinnati. Invigorated by the recent capture, schoolteacher's nephews seize Sethe in the barn and violate her, stealing the milk her body is storing for her infant daughter. Unbeknownst to Sethe, Halle is watching the event from a loft above her, where he lies frozen with horror. Afterward, Halle goes mad: Paul D sees him sitting by a churn with butter slathered all over his face. Paul D, meanwhile, is forced to suffer the indignity of wearing an iron bit in his mouth.

When schoolteacher finds out that Sethe has reported his and his nephews' misdeeds to Mrs. Garner, he has her whipped

种较“仁慈”的奴隶管理制度。“甜蜜之家”里的奴隶，除了塞丝以外，全是男人。他们的名字是：西克索，保罗·D，保罗·A，保罗·F 和黑尔。他们都渴望得到塞丝，却没有人敢对她有不轨行为。塞丝最终选择了黑尔。其中有个很明显的原因：黑尔周末去别的庄园打工，赚到足够的钱为自己的母亲赎得自由，由此看来黑尔足够慷慨。塞丝和黑尔共生了两男一女，男孩的名字是霍华德和巴格拉，那女孩的名字就没有人知道了。当塞丝逃离“甜蜜之家”时，正怀着第四个孩子。园主加纳先生过世之后，守寡的加纳太太请来了加纳先生的妹夫来帮她打理种植园的大小事务。这是一位有施虐倾向的狂热的种族主义分子，人称“学校老师”。他的高压政策使得奴隶们在种植园的生活雪上加霜。奴隶们都下定决心要逃离“甜蜜之家”。

学校老师和他的两个侄子，算计到了奴隶们会出逃，就去抓保罗·D和西克索。学校老师杀死了西克索，并把保罗·D带回了“甜蜜之家”。保罗·D以为他再也见不到塞丝了。塞丝还是一心想要逃走。她已经把她的3个孩子送到了她在辛辛那提的婆母贝比·萨格斯家了。学校老师的两个侄子，由于近来跑了好几个奴隶而恼羞成怒。他们把塞丝带到马厩里强暴了她，并吸走了她的奶水，那奶水本来是她打算给还是婴儿的女儿吃的。塞丝并不知道，当时，黑尔就在地上面的厩楼里亲眼目睹了这一切，但被他们的暴行吓得呆若木鸡。后来，黑尔疯了：保罗·D亲眼看见他坐在搅乳器旁，黄油洒得满脸都是。那时，保罗·D的嘴上被套上了铁嚼子，终日忍受非人的羞辱。

塞丝告诉了加纳夫人学校老师和他两个侄子的暴行。当学校老师得知这一切时，用鞭子将塞丝毒打了

severely, despite the fact that she is pregnant. Swollen and scarred, Sethe nevertheless runs away, but along the way she collapses from exhaustion in a forest. A white girl, Amy Denver, finds her and nurses her back to health. When Amy later helps Sethe deliver her baby in a boat, Sethe names this second daughter Denver after the girl who helped her. Sethe receives further help from Stamp Paid, who rows her across the Ohio River to Baby Suggs's house. Baby Suggs cleans Sethe up before allowing her to see her three older children.

Sethe spends twenty-eight wonderful days in Cincinnati, where Baby Suggs serves as an unofficial preacher to the black community. On the last day, however, schoolteacher comes for Sethe to take her and her children back to Sweet Home. Rather than surrender her children to a life of dehumanizing slavery, she flees with them to the woodshed and tries to kill them. Only the third child, her older daughter, dies, her throat having been cut with a handsaw by Sethe. Sethe later arranges for the baby's headstone to be carved with the word "Beloved." The sheriff takes Sethe and Denver to jail, but a group of white abolitionists*, led by the Bodwins, fights for her release. Sethe returns to the house at 124, where Baby Suggs has sunk into a deep depression. The community shuns the house, and the family continues to live in isolation.

Meanwhile, Paul D has endured torturous experiences in a chain gang* in Georgia, where he was sent after trying to kill Brandywine, a slave owner to whom he was sold by schoolteacher. His traumatic experiences have caused him to lock away his memories, emotions, and ability to love in the "tin tobacco box" of his heart. One day, a fortuitous rainstorm allows Paul D and the other chain gang members to escape. He travels north-