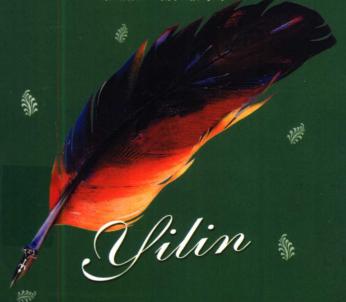


# 译林 短篇小说

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❖ 张柏然 杨仁敬等译



₩ 译林出版社

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张柏然 杨仁敬等译

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#### 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英汉对照译林短篇小说精选/ 张柏然 杨仁敬等译.-南京: 译林出版社,2002.5

ISBN 7-80657-385-2

1.英... □.①张... ②杨... □.英语-对照读物,小说-英、汉 □V.H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2002) 第 019291 号

书 名 英汉对照译林短篇小说精选

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责任编辑 赵燮生 田 智

出版发行 译林出版社

E-mail yilin(a yilin.com

U R L http://www.yilin.com

地 址 南京湖南路 47 号(邮编 210009)

印 刷 南京五四印刷厂

开 本 787×1092 毫米 1/36

印 张 9.5 插 页 2

版 次 2002年5月第1版 2002年5月第1次印刷

书 号 ISBN 7-80657-385-2/1·304

定 价 14.50元

译林版图书若有印装错误可向承印厂调换

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## 编者的话

《译林》的短篇小说素以内容精彩,可读性强为读者称道、许多读者在阅读之余,迫切希望能够读到原文,通过英汉对照,提高运用英语的能力,掌握英译汉的技巧。为了满足读者的要求,我们从《译林》所发表的短篇小说中撷取十二篇编成本书。

所选的小说题材广泛多样,贴近社会生活,大多为当代名家的优秀作品,译者也大多具有文学翻译的功力,如张柏然教授翻译的马拉默德的小说《职业的选择》、杨仁敬教授翻译的海明威的小说《印第安人营地》等。有的小说是近年的获奖佳作,如《城市生活》曾获得1997年美国欧·亨利短篇小说奖一等奖。有的译文,如《书里书外》、《重负》,曾分别获得第三届、第四届戈宝权文学翻译奖一等奖,原文有一定的难度,但译者较为准确地再现了原著的风格。其他小说也各有特色,译文都有可取之处,读者从中一定会有所得益。

编选英汉对照译林短篇小说还是一种尝试,不足 之处在所难免,金盼读者批评指正。

#### A Choice of Profession

#### Bernard Malamud

1

Cronin, after discovering that his wife, Marge, had been two-timing him with a friend, suffered months of crisis. He had loved Marge and jealousy lingered unbearably. He lived through an anguish of degrading emotions and, a few months after his divorce, left a wellpaying job in Chicago to take up teaching. He had always wanted to teach. Cronin taught composition and survey of literature in a small college town in Northern California, and, after an initially exhilarating period, began to find it a bore. This caused him worry because he hoped to be at peace in the profession. He wasn't sure whether it was true boredom or simply not knowing whether he wanted to teach the rest of his life. He was bored mostly outside the classroom—the endless grading of papers and bookkeeping chores; and for a man of his type, Cronin felt, he had too much to read. He also felt he had been asking from teaching more than he was entitled to. He had always thought of teaching as something

### 职业的选择

[美国] 伯纳德·马拉默德 张柏然译

克罗宁发觉妻子玛吉, 背着他同另一个男人私通, 几个月里,他感到痛苦欲绝。他一直爱着玛吉,因而嫉 妒缠绕心头,难以忍受。他经历了一段充满耻辱、颓唐、 苦恼的日子。离婚后不到几个月,他便辞去芝加哥的一 个薪俸优厚的职位,转而操起教书的生涯。克罗宁过去 是一直向往教书这一职业的,而现在就在北加利福尼 亚的一个小小的大学城里教授写作和文学评论。刚开 始教书的时候,还颇有兴致,可是后来,他渐渐觉得枯 燥乏味了。他本来指望能从这个职业中求得心境的安 宁,而现在却是满腹惆怅。他自己也闹不清楚,究竟是 教书确实无聊呢, 还是他在是否以教书来度过自己余 生的这个问题上表现得犹豫不决。特别在课后,他更加 感到百无聊赖——批改试卷啦,登录成绩啦,各种琐 事,没完没了。克罗宁觉得,像他这样的人,需要读的书 太多了: 同时也感到自己希望从教书中得到的东西远 远超出他应该得到的。他过去一直把教书看做一种类 religious and perhaps still did. It had to do with giving oneself to others, a way of being he hadn't achieved in his marriage. Cronin, a tall, bulky-shouldered man with sensitive eyes and a full brown mustache, smoked too much. His trousers were usually smeared with cigarette ashes he brushed off his thighs; and lately, after a period of forbearance, he had begun to drink. Apart from students there were few women around who weren't married, and he was alone too often. Though at the beginning he was invited to faculty parties, he wanted nothing to do with the wives of his colleagues.

The fall wore away. Cronin remained aimlessly in town during the winter vacation. In the spring term a new student, and older girl appeared in his literature class. Unlike most of the other girls, she wore bright attractive dresses and high heels. She wore her light hair in a bun from which strands slipped but she was otherwise feminine and neat, a mature woman, he realized. Although she wasn't really pretty, her face was open and attractive. Cronin wondered at her experienced eyes and deepbreasted figure. She had slender shoulders and fairly heavy but shapely legs. He thought at first she might be a faculty wife but she was without their combination of articulateness and timidity; he didn't think she was He also liked the way she listened to him in class. Many of the students, when he lectured or read poetry, looked sleepy, stupefied, or exalted, but she 似宗教的职业,也许他现在的看法还是这样。这种职业要求他为了别人而耗尽自己,就像他自己在婚姻问题上一无所获一样。克罗宁,高高的个子,宽阔的肩膀,一双敏锐的眼睛,蓄着浓密的棕色胡子。他的烟瘾很大,裤子上常常沾满了从身上掸下来的烟灰;虽然他熬了一段时间,但近来还是开始喝酒了。在他的周围,除了学生,未婚的女子寥寥无几。因此,他常常是孑然一身,形单影只。虽然在开始时,他经常应邀出席系里的晚会,但他并不想跟同事们的夫人有什么暧昧情意的纠葛。

秋天慢慢地挨过去了。寒假期间,克罗宁漫无目的地呆在城里。春天开学时,他的文学课上来了一位新生,是个有点老气的大姑娘。与大多数姑娘不同,她穿着颜色鲜艳、惹人注目的衣服和高跟鞋,淡色的头发拢成了一个发髻,几绺头发从发髻里滑脱出来。不过克罗宁知道,她若不这样打扮,那就显得像一个富有女性气质的、体态优雅的、成熟的女人了。她虽说不上漂亮,但她的面庞却开朗而诱人。克罗宁惊奇地打量着她那双目光锐利的眼睛和她那乳房高耸的身材。她有着一副纤弱的肩胛和一双略显肥胖、但线条优美的大腿。起初,克罗宁以为她是一位教授的夫人,可她并没有教授夫人那种善于辞令而又羞涩胆怯的气质;他猜想她是个未婚的女子。他还喜欢她听课时的那副神态。克罗宁在讲解和朗读诗歌的时候,许多学生看上去不是昏昏欲睡、无动于衷,就是摇头晃脑、趾高气扬;但是,她却

listened down to bedrock, as if she were expecting a message or had got it. Cronin noticed that the others in the class might listen to the poetry but she also listened to Cronin. Her name, not very charming, was Mary Lou Miller. He could tell she regarded him as a man, and after so long a dry, almost perilous season, he responded to her as a woman. Though Cronin wasn't planning to become involved with a student, he had at times considered taking up with one but resisted it on principle. He wanted to be protected in love by certain rules, but loving a student meant no rules to begin with.

He continued to be interested in her and she occasionally would wait at his desk after class and walk with him in the direction of his office. He often thought she had something personal to say to him, but when she spoke it was usually to say that one or another poem had moved her, her taste, he thought, was a little too inclusive. Mary Lou rarely recited in class. He found her a bit boring when they talked for more than five minutes. but that secretly pleased him because the attraction to her was quite strong and this was a form of insurance. One morning, during a free hour, he went to the registrar's office on some pretext or other and looked up her records. Cronin was surprised to discover she was twentyfour and only a first-year student. He, though he sometimes felt forty, was twenty-nine. Because they were so close in age, as well as for other reasons, he decided to

自始至终专心地听着,好像是在期待着什么信息,或者已经有所洞悉。克罗宁发现,班上其他学生对诗歌也许只是听听而已,可她却不但谛听诗歌,而且也在谛听他克罗宁本人。她的名字并不很美,叫玛丽·卢·米勒。他看得出来,她把他看做一个男人;在经历了一个漫长的、枯燥的、几乎是多险的季节以后,他看到她,首先想到的是:她是一个女人。虽说克罗宁并不打算同一位学生有什么牵扯,但有时也曾考虑结识个把学生,不过,在原则上他还是忍住了。他想让自己的爱情生活受到某些原则的保护,但同一位学生恋爱,一开始就无原则可依。

他继续对她怀有兴趣。而玛丽·卢也偶尔在下课后站在他的讲台旁,等候着他,同他一起走向办公室。他忖度着,她大概有些个人的事情要同他谈,然而她通常所说的只是这首诗或那首诗感动了她。克罗宁认为她的兴趣未免太广泛了。玛丽·卢很少在课堂上背诵诗句。他同玛丽·卢谈话超过五分钟,就觉得她有点儿令人生厌;不过,这一点倒使他暗暗自喜,因为她对他的吸引力相当强烈,而这种讨厌的心情可以保证他不被吸引过去。一天上午,他趁没课,便找了个借口,溜到登记处去查阅了她的履历表。克罗宁惊讶地发现,她已经二十四岁,但还只是个一年级学生;而自己呢,虽然有时觉得已有四十岁了,但实际上不过二十九岁。由于他

ask her out. That same afternoon Mary Lou knocked on his office door and came in to see him about a quiz he had just returned. She had got a low C and it worried her. Cronin lit her cigarette and noticed that she watched him intently, his eyes, mustache, hands, as he explained what she might have written on her paper. They were sitting within a foot of one another, and when she raised both arms to fix her bun, the imprint of her large nipples on her dress caught his attention. It was during this talk in the office that he suggested they go for a drive one evening at the end of the week. Mary Lou agreed, saying maybe they could stop off somewhere for a and Cronin, momentarily hesitating, said he thought they might. All the while they had been talking she was looking at him from some inner place in herself, and he had the feeling he had been appraising her superficially.

On the ride that night Mary Lou sat close to Cronin. She had at first sat at the door but soon her warm side was pressed to his though he had not seen her move. They had started at sunset and for an hour the sky was light. The Northern California winter, though colder than he had anticipated, was mild compared to a winter in Chicago, but Cronin was glad to be in touch with spring. He liked the lengthening days, and tonight it was a relief to be with a woman once more. The car passed through a number of neon-lit mountain towns neither of them had

们俩的年龄十分接近,以及种种其他原因,他决定邀请 她外出一趟。就在当天下午,玛丽·卢来敲办公室的门, 讲来询问有关刚发下来的小测验卷子的事。她得了个 "C", 这使得她甚为不安。克罗宁替她点燃了香烟。在讲 解应该怎样解题时,他发觉她全神贯注地凝视着他,凝 视着他的眼睛,他的胡子和他那双手。他们俩都坐着, 相隔不到一尺 她举起双臂梳理发髻时,裹在衬衣里的 两个颇大的乳头引起他的注意。就在这次谈话中,克罗 宁建议他们俩在周末的晚上,驾车出去游玩。玛丽·卢 表示同意,还说,或许两人还可以停在什么地方喝杯酒 呢。克罗宁踌躇了片刻,然后说,或许可能吧。谈话的时 候,玛丽·卢自始至终都用心灵的眼睛一眨不眨地注视 着克罗宁:而克罗宁觉得,他对玛丽·卢的了解还是十 分肤浅的。

那晚,在驱车兜风的路上,玛丽·卢紧挨克罗宁坐着。她起先坐在车门口,过了一会儿,她那暖烘烘的身子就紧紧贴着他了,虽然他并没有发觉她是怎么移过来的。他们于傍晚出发,汽车开了一个小时后,天还没黑。北加利福尼亚的冬天,虽说比他预料的要冷,但同芝加哥的冬天相比,要暖和得多。不过,克罗宁还是喜欢跟春天打交道。他高兴的是白昼渐渐变长了,而今晚能再次同一个女人在一起,着实令人欣慰。汽车驶过几

been in before, and Cronin noticed that every motel flashed vacancy signs. Part of his good mood was an awareness of the approach of a new season, and part that he had thought it over and decided there was nothing to worry about. She was a woman, no eighteen-year-old kid he would be taking advantage of. Nor was he married and about to commit adultery. He felt a sincere interest in her.

It was a pleasant evening drive in early March, and on their way back they stopped off at a bar in Red Bluff, about forty miles from the college, where it was unlikely anyone they knew would see them. The waiter brought drinks and when Mary Lou had finished hers she excused herself, went to the ladies room, and, upon returning, asked for another on the rocks. She had on a bright blue dress, rather short, and wore no stockings. During the week she used no lip rouge or nail polish, tonight she had both on and Cronin thought he liked her better without them. She smiled at him, her face, after she had had two, flushed. In repose her smile settled into the tail end of bitterness, an expression touched with cynicism, and he wondered about her. They had talked about themselves on the ride, she less than he, Cronin reticently. She had been brought up on a farm in Idaho. He had spent most of his life in Evanston, Illinois, where his grandfather, an evangelical minister, had lived and preached. Cronin's father had died when Cronin was

座闪烁着霓虹灯的城市。这些城市,他们俩都没有到过。克罗宁发现每一家汽车游客旅店都亮着缺额的告示。他的心情是愉快的:一方面,他感到一个新的季节就要来临;另一方面,他想来想去,认为自己已没有什么可忧愁的了。她是一个女人,但并不像一个十八岁的姑娘那样,可以轻而易举地勾引上手。他也不是一个有妇之夫去跟她通奸。克罗宁觉得自己对她的兴趣是真诚的。

这是在初春三月的一个夜晚所进行的一次愉快的 驾车兜风。在归途中,他们在雷德布勒夫的一家酒吧间 门口停了下来。这酒吧间离学院大约四十英里,在这儿 是不大可能碰到熟人的。酒店侍者端来了酒。玛丽·卢 喝完后,说了声对不起,便走进女厕所。回来后,她又要 了份加冰块儿的酒。她穿了件鲜艳的天蓝色短外套,没 穿长袜。在这个星期里,她既没有涂口红,也没有搽指 甲膏。今晚,她却涂了口红,搽了指甲膏。然而,克罗宁 认为,她如不用这些化妆品,倒使他更加喜欢。玛丽·卢 向他微笑着,喝了两杯酒后,她脸上泛起了红晕。休息 时,那笑容从她恬静的面庞上渐渐消失了,最后变得凄 楚动人,略带着一种愤世嫉俗的样子、克罗宁对她有点 捉摸不诱。他们俩在车上谈了各自的身世。比起沉默赛 言的克罗宁,她要健谈得多。她是在爱达荷的一个农场 里长大的。克罗宁的大部分时间是跟他祖父一起在伊 利诺斯州的埃文斯顿度过的。他的祖父是一名福音派 新教会的牧师,一直在那儿生活和传教。父亲去世的时