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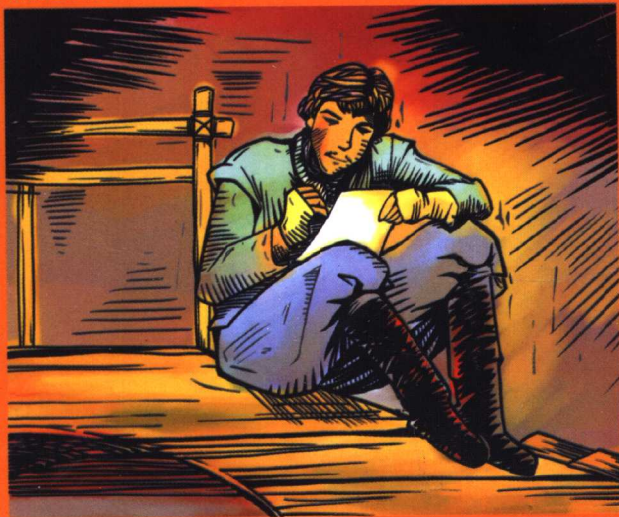
Four Shakespeare Comedies

莎士比亚的四部喜剧

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

原著 威廉·莎士比亚

尽管英国最伟大戏剧家的这四部喜剧是用现代英语重述的，但它们仍然保留了莎士比亚语言的特色。尤为重要的是，它们保持了莎翁作品中的幽默诙谐和富于传奇色彩的吸引力，给世界各地读者带去了无尽的欢欣与快乐。



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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Adapted by Kerry Edwards

Series Editor Dr Colin Swatridge

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注释 陈 荣



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出版说明

为了促进我国中学生的英语学习,培养他们的文化素养和文学修养,上海外语教育出版社经过长时间的酝酿和市场调研,决定将英国麦克米伦出版公司的一套文学名著简写本引荐给我国的中学生。

麦克米伦出版公司是从20世纪初开始陆续出版这套文学名著简写本的。为了满足世界各地英语为非母语国家、也包括英语国家不同程度中学生的阅读需要,他们请专家对一些大家耳熟能详的世界文学名著进行了改写,在保留原著的故事情节和原著者的创作风格的同时,适当地降低了语言的难度,至今已经推出了200多本。若干年过去了,这些书仍然受到世界各地读者的欢迎。

外教社从麦克米伦出版公司的这套文学名著简写本中精心挑选了40本,汇成一套“轻松读经典丛书”,难易程度跨越“英语课程标准”的3级—8级。这套丛书选编了英、美、法等国文学大师的经典之作,包括莎士比亚、狄更斯、马克·吐温、哈代、大仲马等著名作家的作品。为了让中学生在阅读过程中更好地把握原书的精髓和作家的创作历程,外教社还特地对读物中的语言难点做了注释;并加入了一篇关于作家、作品的背景介绍。

我们衷心希望“轻松读经典丛书”能够有助于提高我国中学生的文学欣赏水平,陶冶他们的道德情操,增强他们的英语阅读能力,成为开启中学生英语文学名著阅读之门的金钥匙。

外教社编辑部

2002年11月



简介

威廉·莎士比亚(William Shakespeare, 1564—1616)是英格兰的伟大戏剧家兼诗人,莎士比亚的戏剧创作是世界文学宝库中的瑰宝。当今,我们将“喜剧”看做是让我们捧腹发笑的剧本,但在莎士比亚的年代,一部喜剧可能仍像中世纪的道德剧一样蕴涵有道德说教的寓意。喜剧可以是浪漫的,可以有情节和陪衬情节,而后者中可能有一些愚人白痴类的角色,他们的目的就是使观众发笑,为观众逗乐。一般而言,喜剧均是以好人终有好报的结局收场;甚至坏人也会被轻易地饶恕。

该书收录了莎士比亚的四部喜剧。《错误的喜剧》和《维洛那两绅士》是莎士比亚的早期喜剧,在1594年左右曾在舞台演出过。当时莎士比亚对喜剧初试身手,也逐步确立了他作为一位剧作家的地位。剧中的情节还相当粗糙而且多以现成的故事改编。剧中的角色多以易于识别的乔装打扮出场,以至于观众都能认出他们来,不过,奇特的是其他的角色却都大受蒙骗。剧中角色会突然改主意,故而《维洛那两绅士》中的普洛丢斯会今天爱上朱丽娅,明天又会爱上西尔维娅;凡伦丁爱着西尔维娅,但却会一时冲动地将西尔维娅拱手相让给普洛丢斯。《错误的喜剧》的整个剧

情构建于奇特的巧合的基础上:两对孪生兄弟,一对叫安笛普洛斯,另一对叫多米欧。没有人能够分辨出这两对孪生兄弟,即便是主人、仆人,还是妻子,也都无法做到。

《皆大欢喜》和《无事生非》都创作于五年之后的1599年左右。剧情仍然涉及到乔装打扮及令人难以置信的巧合(例如,《无事生非》中,希萝在教堂里没有被就站在她身边的新郎认出),但到这个阶段,莎士比亚作品中的主要人物都已更加丰满逼真。尤其是像《皆大欢喜》中的罗瑟琳,《无事生非》中的彼瑾斯更是成为莎士比亚戏剧中魅力无穷、令人难忘的女性形象。

正如英语中许多剧本和小说一样,莎士比亚喜剧的大团圆结局也通常是以婚礼结束的。这里所收录的《错误的喜剧》是一个例外,但是即使是在这部喜剧中,不幸长期分离的夫妻也最终团聚。在《维洛那两绅士》和《无事生非》中,两对有情人终成眷属;而在《皆大欢喜》的剧末,至少三对新人喜结良缘。

当然,用现代散文文体及语体重述莎士比亚的故事,其精妙绝伦、出神入化的语言不可避免地会显得略为失色。但是,故事情节并非是戏剧的关键。(情节通常都是从早期作家处借用而来的,这也是无须掩盖的事实。)再者,大部分的重述多采用直接引语,故而戏剧的基本特色仍然得以保留,所有的角色都用自身充满特色的语言表现了自己。

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THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

EPHESUS and Syracuse, two great trading cities, are at war with each other. The Duke of Ephesus has ruled that if any man from Syracuse is discovered in the city, he must pay for his freedom or die. Such a man is Aegeon, a merchant of Syracuse. He has no money with which to ransom¹ himself, but he has had such a hard life that the thought of death is almost welcome.

The Duke visits him in prison. He explains that he has no choice but to enforce his own law. He asks Aegeon why he left Syracuse in the first place, and what his purpose was in coming to Ephesus. By way of reply, Aegeon tells a long and sad story.

‘I was born, grew up, and married in Syracuse. I often undertook voyages to Epidamnum, and made a lot of money from trading. But I was away from home a lot. My wife decided to fol-

¹ ransom: 赎金

low me to Epidamnum at a time when she was expecting a baby. Soon after joining me, she gave birth to identical¹ twin² boys, so alike you could not tell them apart.

‘The amazing thing was, though, that a poor woman, in the same inn at which we were staying, gave birth to similarly identical twin boys, at the very same time. She did not have the means to feed or clothe her babies, so I bought them, and brought them up to be the servant-companions of my own two sons.

‘My wife was anxious to return home, so rather unwillingly, I made preparations to set sail. We were not long at sea when a storm blew up. The wind was so strong, and the waves so high, that we feared for our lives. The sailors took our only lifeboat, leaving us alone on the ship. My wife secured one of our sons, together with his companion, and herself, to one of the two masts³. I secured the other children, and myself, to the other. When the storm calmed, and it was light, we saw two boats racing towards us from a far shore.

‘Before they reached us, however, the ship hit rocks and broke into two pieces. The faster of

1 identical: 完全一样的, 同一的, 同样的 2 twin: 双胞胎, 孪生子

3 mast: 桅杆



the two boats reached my wife and two of the boys, rescued them, and carried them off to safety. The slower boat at length, reached us, and bore us to Syracuse. I have not seen my wife since that day, not my other son, nor his companion. '

Aegeon pauses in his story, unable to contain his grief, for some moments. When he has recovered, he goes on:

'When my son Antipholus was eighteen, he vowed¹ to find his twin, and his mother. His companion, Dromio, was equally determined to seek out his brother. I had to let them go, though I feared to lose them as well as their long-lost twins.

'I have myself these last five years gone in search of my family, to the very frontiers of Asia, but without any success. I came at last to Ephesus, and here I must die. '

'I with I could break the law that sentences² you to death,' says the Duke. 'You have had such an unhappy life. But I cannot do that. What I can do is to release³ you for one day to enable you to beg or borrow the ransom money from friends that you have in Ephesus, and so to buy your freedom. '

1 vow: 誓约, 发誓 2 sentence: 判决, 宣判 3 release: 释放

Meanwhile, two visitors to the town stand in conversation in the public square. A merchant who is with them advises them to claim to be from Epidamnum rather than from Syracuse. He says, 'There's a merchant from Syracuse due to die this very day, being unable to pay the ransom for his release.'

These two visitors are none other than Antipholus and Dromio of Syracuse. Antipholus sends his companion to the inn, with a purse of money, and tells him that he will join him and the merchant for dinner there later. Left on his own, he means to see the sights of the town. He can never forget that he is searching for his mother and brother also — but he has almost despaired¹ of finding them.

At this moment Dromio of Ephesus enters. So alike are the two brothers, that Antipholus mistakes him for *his* Dromio, just as this Dromio mistakes Antipholus of Syracuse, for *his* Antipholus.

'Why have you returned so soon?' asks Antipholus.

'So soon?' answers Dromio of Ephesus (let us call him Dromio E). 'I fear I may be too late. Your dinner is going cold, and my mistress

1 despair: 绝望, 失望



struck me in her annoyance at you for not coming home. '

'I don't know what you're talking about,' Antipholus of Syracuse (let us call him Antipholus S) replies. 'What have you done with the money I gave you?'

'Money? What money?'

'You know what money I'm talking about. This is no time for silly jokes. '

'I know nothing about any money,' protests Dromio E. 'All I know is I was sent to the market to fetch you home to dinner. My mistress and her sister are waiting for you. '

'Who is this mistress you're talking about?' Antipholus S demands, quite angry by now. 'I want to know what you've done with the money. '

'What mistress? Whom do you think I mean? I mean your wife, who's waiting for you at home. '

Antipholus can stand no more of this nonsense. He is accustomed to a joke from Dromio, but not insolence¹. He raises his hand to the man he thinks is his servant, meaning to knock some sense *into* him, but Dromio E, not wishing to have the sense knocked *out* of him,

1 insolence: 傲慢无礼

takes to his heels¹.

Dromio E returns home, where he finds Adriana, his master's wife, and Luciana, her sister, more impatient than ever. Adriana does not have a single good word to say about men, and warns her sister against marrying.

'Where is your master?' she asks, as Dromio E comes in.

'I'm afraid my master's gone mad,' he replies. 'I said my mistress was waiting for him to come home to dinner, and he asked "What mistress?", and "What have you done with the money that I gave you?" and other such nonsense. I tried to persuade him to come home, but he kept on about his money, and even came at me to beat me.'

'Well, if you don't go straight back there, and fetch him home, *I'll* be the one to do the beating.' With this, Adriana raises her hand to strike Dromio E, but he is too quick for her, and escapes.

'Why doesn't he come home?' Adriana asks her sister. 'Has he grown tired of me already? Is there some other woman? Someone younger, and prettier than me?'

If Adriana is worried about her husband,

1 take to his heels: 逃走, 逃跑



Antipholus is less worried than he was about his money. He has been to the inn, and discovered that his manservant has handed over the money for safe-keeping. What he still cannot understand is why Dromio acted so strangely at their recent meeting. Just as he is wondering about this, Dromio S reappears.

‘Ah, Dromio!’ Antipholus calls out to him. ‘Have you come to tell me my dinner’s ready, and that my wife is waiting for me? Or have you some new joke up your sleeve?’

‘When did I say such a thing?’

‘Just now. Fifteen minutes ago. Your mistress has sent you, you said.’

‘But I haven’t seen you since you sent me to the inn with the money!’

‘What’s got into you, Dromio? Do I have to beat you a second time — once for silly tricks, and again for denying them? You must learn when it is appropriate to play the fool, and when it isn’t.’

‘Beat me, by all means, when I have displeased you but spare me your blows, and your accusations, when all that I have done since we last met was to do as you asked.’

The two men stare at each other, confused. But there is confusion all round, when Adriana and Luciana come hurrying into the square. Adri-

ana sees Antipholus straight away, and raises her voice in protest before she has reached him.

‘Why do you look at me so strangely?’ she asks. ‘Have you forgotten who I am? Is there some other woman in your life now? You know that you are the only man that I have ever loved. Don’t cast me off now. You know how miserable you would be if I was to leave you for another man. Imagine, then, how I feel, half suspecting, half knowing that you have been unfaithful¹ to me.’

‘I’m afraid I have no idea what you are talking about,’ Antipholus S replies. ‘I have not been in Ephesus for ten hours, so the town is as strange to me as your talk is.’

Luciana joins in. ‘What do you mean by talking to my sister like that?’ she asks. ‘You know very well that she sent Dromio to fetch you home for dinner.’

‘She sent Dromio?’

‘She sent me?’ asks Dromio, amazed.

‘You, yes!’ answers Adriana. ‘And you said your master had beaten you, and had refused to come home.’

‘Did you speak to this lady?’ Antipholus asks Dromio S.

1 unfaithful: 不忠实的



‘Me? No! I’ve never seen her before, till this moment.

‘You’re lying. You told me, just a short time ago, that my dinner was going cold, and that my mistress was waiting for me. Those were your very words to me.’

‘I tell you I’ve never spoken to her before,’ Dromio S protests.

‘How does she know your name then? Tell me that.’

‘Don’t blame your servant when it’s you who are at fault,’ says Adriana. ‘But I forgive you. Now that I’ve found you I’ll not let you out of my sight. Come home now, and be a good husband to me.’

Antipholus is properly confused now. He is uncertain whether he has been dreaming and is married to this woman in his dream or whether he is asleep and dreaming now, and imagining everything that is happening. He decides that the best thing to do, while he is so uncertain, is to do as the lady bids¹ him do, until the lady vanishes², or he wakes up, and certainty returns.

‘Dromio, go home and bid the servants lay the table for dinner,’ Luciana orders. ‘It is getting late.’

1 bid: 命令,吩咐 2 vanish: 消失,突然不见