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外教社人物传记丛书

第二辑

OPRAH WINFREY

英 汉 对 照 Katherine Krohn

奥普拉·温弗瑞

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OPRAH WINFREY

奥普拉·温弗瑞出身贫寒，儿童时代多次受到性虐待。由于缺乏家庭的温暖和爱护，她曾经一度堕落，成为问题少女。但长大后，在父亲的监护下，她在学校成绩优越，顺利进入了大学。一次偶然的机会使她进入了电视行业，开始了主持人的职业生涯。

凭借自己的天赋和不懈的努力，奥普拉成了美国最受观众喜爱的脱口秀电视节目主持人。她主持风格随和、坦诚；在节目中，奥普拉毫不隐瞒地跟观众分享自己的经历，以各种方式激励观众做真实的自己，勇敢地面对生活中的种种不幸；有很多人把她作为生活中的榜样。她的节目曾是美国历史上收视率最高的脱口秀节目。

从不幸的童年到成功的脱口秀节目主持人，该书讲述了奥普拉如何从一个贫困的私生女一步一步走向成功的历程。

外教社人物传记丛书（第二辑）

- | | |
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出版前言

曾经有人做了一项调查，拥有最多读者的书籍是传记。阅读一本优秀的人物传记，往往可以使人振作精神，奋发图强，尤其对于青少年，阅读传记更可以使他们建立起正确的人生坐标，从而开拓美好的未来。

上海外语教育出版社从美国乐勒出版集团引进的“外教社人物传记丛书”就是这样一套奉献给青少年朋友的优秀传记丛书。本丛书第一辑13册自2006年初问世以来，得到了广大青年读者的认可和好评。为满足他们了解优秀人物、获取精神财富的需求，我社今年又隆重推出该丛书第二辑13册，包括诺贝尔和平奖获得者德兰修女、曼德拉，政坛风云人物拿破仑、丘吉尔，文学巨匠马克·吐温和简·奥斯丁，天才科学家霍金，影视娱乐界巨星乔治·卢卡斯、克里斯托弗·里夫和奥普拉·温弗瑞，环法自行车赛冠军兰斯·阿姆斯特朗，以及世界历史上著名的两位女王——伊丽莎白一世和克娄巴特拉。阅读这些著名人物的传奇人生，可以帮助青少年朋友们了解西方不同时代的社会历史背景，更能激励他们树立远大理想，以积极的态度直面人生的风雨。

这套传记丛书均由专门从事青少年文学创作的美国资深作家撰写，语言生动活泼，故事性强，引人入胜。外教社特邀一批在翻译方面颇有建树的年轻学者对丛书进行翻译和注释，希望英汉对照加注释这一形式能更好地帮助读者学习英语，享受阅读。

这套丛书特别适合高中生和大学一二年级的学生阅读。我们相信它必将成为青少年朋友们学习英语、探求人生真谛的好伙伴！

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2008年1月

OPRAH WINFREY

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奥普拉·温弗瑞

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CHAPTER ONE

FARM GIRL

乡村女孩

Veronica wasn't sure what to name the new baby. A week after the birth, Veronica's sister, who had just returned from the new men-
—the family after a character in the Bible—
the Book of Ruth. But the name was mis-
—the baby's birth certificate as "Oprah."
—how it has been spoken and written ever

During the 1950s, many African Americans in the South were still living financially



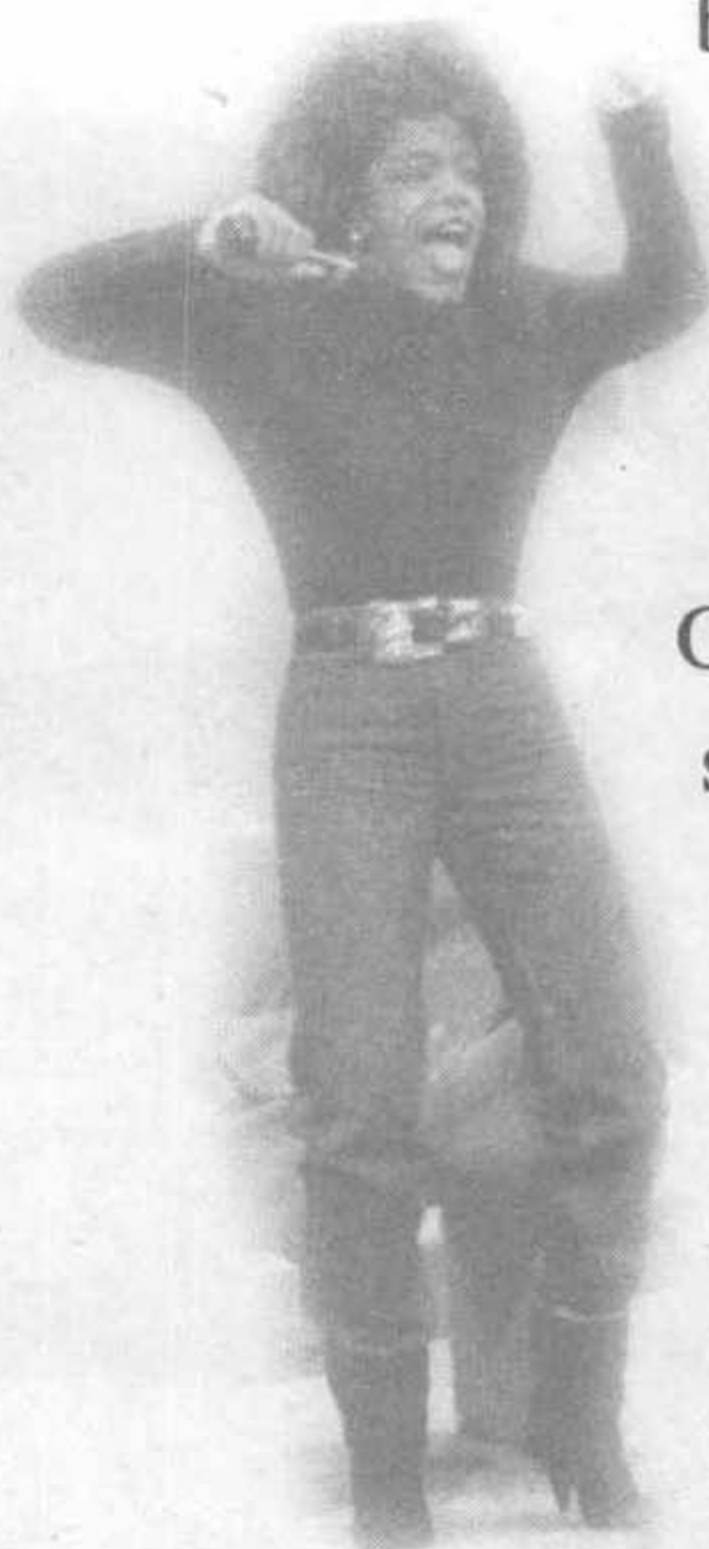
Four-year-old Oprah Winfrey stood on the screened-in^[1] back porch on her grandmother's small farm in rural Mississippi. Oprah watched her grandmother, Hattie Mae Lee, stir and poke at^[2] a big black iron pot of boiling clothes. It was 1958, and Hattie Mae couldn't afford an electric washing machine. Instead, she cleaned her family's dirty clothes in boiling water.

"I remember thinking, my life won't be like this...it will be better," Oprah said later. "And it wasn't from a place of arrogance, it was just a place of knowing that things could be different for me somehow."

Oprah Gail Winfrey was born in her grandmother's house in Kosciusko, a small town in central Mississippi, on January 29, 1954. She was born with the help of a midwife, a woman who delivers babies. Oprah's mother, Vernita Lee, was eighteen, unmarried, and not in a serious relationship with the baby's father. He was Vernon Winfrey, a twenty-five-year-old U.S. Army private^[3] stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama. The new unnamed baby girl was the great-great-granddaughter of Constantine and Violet Winfrey, a Mississippi slave couple who had been freed after the Civil War.

Vernita wasn't sure what to name the new baby at first. A week after the birth, Vernita's sister, Ida, suggested that Vernita name the new member of the family after a character in the Bible—Orpah, in the Book of Ruth. But the name was misspelled on the baby's birth certificate as "Oprah," and that's how it has been spoken and written ever since.

During the 1950s, many African Americans in the small towns of the South were still hurting financially





[1] screened-in

纱窗式

[2] poke at 轻轻

地翻动

[3] private 士兵，

列兵

在密西西比乡下外祖母的小农场上，四岁的奥普拉·温弗瑞站在纱窗式后门廊上，看着外祖母哈蒂·梅·李在搅动大铁锅里用沸水煮着的衣服。那是1958年，哈蒂买不起洗衣机，就在沸水里煮洗全家的脏衣服。

后来，奥普拉说：“我记得，我当时就想，我以后的生活不会是这样的……我会过得好一些。当时这样想不是出于狂妄，只是感觉我的情况将有所不同。”

奥普拉·盖尔·温弗瑞1954年1月29日出生在密西西比州中部的一个小镇——科修斯科外祖母家中，由接生婆接生，就是分娩婴儿的妇女。奥普拉的妈妈弗尼塔·李当年只有18岁，还没有结婚，也没有跟她爸爸正式交往。她爸爸弗农·温弗瑞25岁，是美军驻亚拉巴马州鲁克堡的一名士兵。这个刚出生的女婴还尚未取名，她是康斯坦丁·温弗瑞和瓦奥莱特·温弗瑞的曾曾孙女，他们夫妇在美国内战前是密西西比的黑奴。

起初，弗尼塔不知道给孩子起什么名字。孩子出生一周后，弗尼塔的姐姐艾达建议她用《圣经·路得记》里一个人物的名字——奥帕(Orpah)给这个家庭新成员命名。但是，在孩子的出生证明上，这个名字被写成了奥普拉(Oprah)，从此，大家就这样叫她。

在20世纪50年代，南部小镇上的很多非裔美国人仍然处在经济大萧条的影响下，生活非常贫困。这场经济危机在20世纪30年代和40年代初期使美国陷入瘫痪，很多人失业，无家可归。很

from the Great Depression. This economic crisis had crippled^[1] the United States in the 1930s and early 1940s and left many people without jobs and homes. Many black southerners, tired of being poor, moved to northern states in search of work. Cities like Detroit, Cleveland, Milwaukee, and New York offered better opportunities for employment.

Oprah was only four years old when her mother decided to pack her bags and move to Milwaukee, Wisconsin—without Oprah. In Milwaukee Vernita hoped to find work as a maid and make a better life for herself. She planned to send for her daughter once she found work in the city.

Oprah turned to her grandmother, whom she called Mama, for love and guidance. Mama was very strict, but she also cared deeply for Oprah.

Chores and Church

Hattie Mae lived on the outskirts of town, and there were no other children nearby. Oprah yearned for^[2] playmates. Instead of befriending children, she made friends with the animals on the farm, giving names to the chickens and pigs and telling them stories.

From an early age, Oprah was expected to do chores around the farm. Her grandmother taught her to hang the freshly hand-washed laundry on the clothesline with wooden clothespins^[3]. She also showed Oprah how to make soap from lye, a strong-smelling, powdery white chemical.

“Watch me, ’cause you’re going to have to learn how to do this,” said Hattie Mae. But Oprah had different plans for her future. “Don’t need to watch Grandma,” she thought, “because my life isn’t going to be like this.”

Hattie Mae’s house did not have indoor





[1] crippled 削弱

多南部的黑人为了摆脱贫困的生活，纷纷前往北方各州找工作。底特律、克利夫兰、密尔沃基、纽约这些城市都有比较好的就业机会。

在奥普拉四岁那年，她妈妈决定收拾行囊，搬到威斯康星州的密尔沃基市，而且不带奥普拉。弗尼塔希望在密尔沃基找到一份女佣的工作，自己能过得好一点。她打算等她找到工作后，就把女儿接过去。

奥普拉就与外祖母相依为命，她叫外祖母“妈妈”。“妈妈”对她很严，但也很疼爱她。

家务与教堂

[2] yearned for

渴望

哈蒂·梅住在郊区，附近没有小孩儿，所以奥普拉特别渴望有自己的玩伴。没有伙伴玩， she就把农场的小动物当朋友，给小鸡和小猪都起了名字，还给它们讲故事。

奥普拉从小就要在农场周围做家务活。外祖母教她怎么用木衣夹把刚洗好的衣服夹在晒衣绳上，并教她怎么用碱做肥皂，碱是一种有强烈气味的白色粉状化学品。

[3] clothespins 晒

衣夹

哈蒂·梅说：“看着我怎么做，你一定要学会这样做”。但是，奥普拉对自己的未来却另有打算。她想：“不用看外婆怎么做，因为我的生活肯定不是这样的。”

哈蒂·梅的房子没有室内管道设施。

plumbing^[1]. Oprah's main chore was to haul^[2] water from the well, located several yards from the house, every morning and night. Oprah and her grandmother used the water for drinking, washing dishes, and cleaning themselves with a washcloth. On Saturday nights, Oprah received her weekly tub bath, using water heated on the stove. The next day, she and Mama would be fresh and clean for church.

Oprah's family couldn't afford store-bought toys. She had a favorite doll that her grandmother made from a corncob^[3]. Although the doll was plain, Oprah thought she was beautiful.

Hattie Mae wanted Oprah to grow up reading *the Bible*, so she taught her to read when she was only three years old. She encouraged her to memorize passages from *the Bible* and other religious books. Young Oprah had a phenomenal memory. She quickly memorized her *Bible* verses. Hattie Mae was proud of her granddaughter and wanted to show her off^[4]. Hattie Mae arranged for Oprah to speak at church services on Easter Sunday.

"Little Mistress Winfrey will render^[5] a recitation," announced the preacher at Kosciusko Baptist Church^[6]. Oprah stood up for her very first public speaking appearance. She smiled and spoke confidently in her high-pitched, little-girl voice.

"Jesus rose on Easter Day, Hallelujah, Hallelujah...all the angels did proclaim^[7]," she recited.

Hattie Mae smiled proudly from the front-row pew. A woman sitting nearby leaned toward her. "[Hattie Mae,] this child is gifted," she whispered, fanning herself with a paper fan.

Oprah's grandmother nodded as the church people praised Oprah's speaking ability. The



一. 乡村女孩



[1] plumbing 管道设备

[2] haul 拖拉, 搬运

[3] corncob 玉米芯

[4] show off 炫耀

[5] render 给与, 表演

[6] Baptist Church 浸礼会教堂

[7] proclaim 宣布, 赞扬

奥普拉的主要家务就是每天早晚从离家几码远的井里提水, 供她和外祖母饮用、洗碗和擦澡。每到周六晚上, 奥普拉用火炉烧开水, 洗一次盆浴。第二天, 她和“妈妈”就干干净净地去做礼拜。

奥普拉家里买不起店里的玩具, 她有一个心爱的娃娃, 是外祖母用玉米芯做的。娃娃很简陋, 但奥普拉觉得她很漂亮。

哈蒂·梅希望奥普拉长大的时候能读懂《圣经》, 因此从奥普拉三岁起, 就教她读书。她让奥普拉背诵《圣经》和其他宗教书籍里的段落。小奥普拉记忆力惊人, 很快就背会了《圣经》里的章节。哈蒂·梅为自己的外甥女而自豪, 想让她显显本领, 于是她就安排奥普拉在复活节的教堂礼拜上演讲。

科修斯科浸礼会教堂的牧师宣布: “小温弗瑞小姐将为大家朗诵。”奥普拉站起来, 开始她的第一次公开演讲。她面带微笑, 用她那清脆而又稚嫩的声音充满自信地朗通道: “耶稣在复活节那天复活了, 所有天使都在欢呼: 哈利路亚! 哈利路亚!”

哈蒂·梅坐在前排, 面带笑容, 感到非常自豪。坐在旁边的一位妇女一边扇扇子, 一边侧身对她说: “(哈蒂·梅) 这个孩子很有天赋”。

教堂的人对奥普拉的演说能力大加赞扬, 她外祖母也点头表示同意。这么小的孩子竟然讲得这么生动流畅, 所有的教友都惊叹不已。

每次哈蒂·梅的朋友去她家, 奥普拉就

whole congregation^[1] was awestruck^[2] that a small child could speak so eloquently.

Oprah had other occasions to recite when Hattie Mae had company over to the house. “I would just get up in front of her friends and start doing pieces I had memorized,” Oprah said. “Everywhere I went, I’d say, ‘Do you want to hear me do something?’”

While Oprah was encouraged to recite *Bible* passages, at most other times she was discouraged from talking in public. Hattie Mae, like many people in her generation, expected children to be “seen and not heard.” Children were supposed to remain quiet except when spoken to by an adult.

Oprah’s grandmother also believed in *the Bible* phrase, “Spare the rod and spoil the child.” In other words, she felt that children who did not receive physical punishment would grow up to be spoiled and disrespectful. Oprah, lively and full of spirit, was strictly disciplined.

Oprah’s heart sank whenever her grandmother told her to “go get a switch^[3].” That meant Oprah had done something that displeased her grandmother and that Oprah was in for another “switching,” or beating with a stick. She had to cut a tree branch herself and bring it to her grandmother.

Oprah figured that white children never got beatings. She thought they must have perfect lives. Oprah admired the happy, glamorous^[4] film stars she saw when she went to the movie theater with her grandmother. She especially liked Shirley Temple, a cheerful child movie star with shiny blond curls and an upturned^[5] nose. Oprah wanted to be just like Shirley Temple.

“I used to sleep with a clothespin on my nose, and two cotton balls,” Oprah recalled. “And I





[1] congregation

(宗教的)集会,

(教堂的)会众

[2] awestruck 惊

奇不已的

[3] switch (树

林) 柔软的细

枝, 鞭子

[4] glamorous 迷

人的

[5] upturned 向上

翻的

在他们面前背诵。奥普拉说：“我就站在她朋友面前背诵我记住的段落，不管走到哪儿，我都问人家‘你想听我背诵吗？’”

虽然哈蒂·梅鼓励奥普拉在有些场合背诵《圣经》段落，但大多数时候，她不让奥普拉当着众人的面多说话。跟她那一代的人一样，她认为小孩儿应该“只可现身，不可出声”，保持安静，除非有大人跟他讲话。

奥普拉的外祖母还相信《圣经》里的一句话：“不打不成器。”也就是说，她认为，如果不对小孩儿进行体罚，他们就会被惯坏，长大后就不懂规矩。奥普拉生性活泼好动，所以外祖母对她管得很严。

每次外祖母让奥普拉“去把鞭子拿来”，她的心就猛地一沉，因为那意味着她做的事情惹外祖母生气了，又要挨鞭子或者挨棍子。她还得自己去砍一根小树枝并亲自递给外祖母。

奥普拉听说白人的孩子从来不会挨打，她想他们的生活肯定很幸福。奥普拉很崇拜那些她和外祖母在电影里看到的明星，他们生活幸福，魅力四射。她尤其喜欢活泼可爱的小童星秀兰·邓波儿，她长着闪亮的金色卷发和朝天鼻。奥普拉就想成为秀兰·邓波儿那样的人。

后来奥普拉回忆说：“为了让我的鼻子长成像她那样的朝天鼻，我常常睡觉时在鼻子里放两个棉球，并用衣服夹子