

· 英语简易读物 ·

H G. Wyatt

*Stories from
Shakespeare*

莎士比亚戏剧故事集

下 册

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[英] H. G. Wyatt 改写

吴翔林 注释

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1979年·北京

內 容 提 要

本册包括《裘力斯·該撒》、《雅典的泰門》、《仲夏夜之梦》、《科利奧蘭納斯》、《罗密欧与朱丽叶》、《辛白林》、《錯誤的喜劇》、《泰尔亲王配力克斯》等八个故事，由莎士比亚的著名剧本改写而成。內容情节曲折、饒有趣味，文字浅易流暢。除对难句难詞加上汉语注释外，书末附有詞汇表。

本书适合大学英语专业二年級以上学生或同等程度的讀者閱讀。

英語簡易讀物

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商 务 印 书 馆 出 版

(北京王府井大街36号)

新华书店北京发行所发行

重 庆 新 华 印 刷 厂 印 刷

787×1092毫米 1/44 4⁸/22印张 130千字

1964年8月第1版 1979年2月重庆第2次印刷

印数：20,001—323,000册

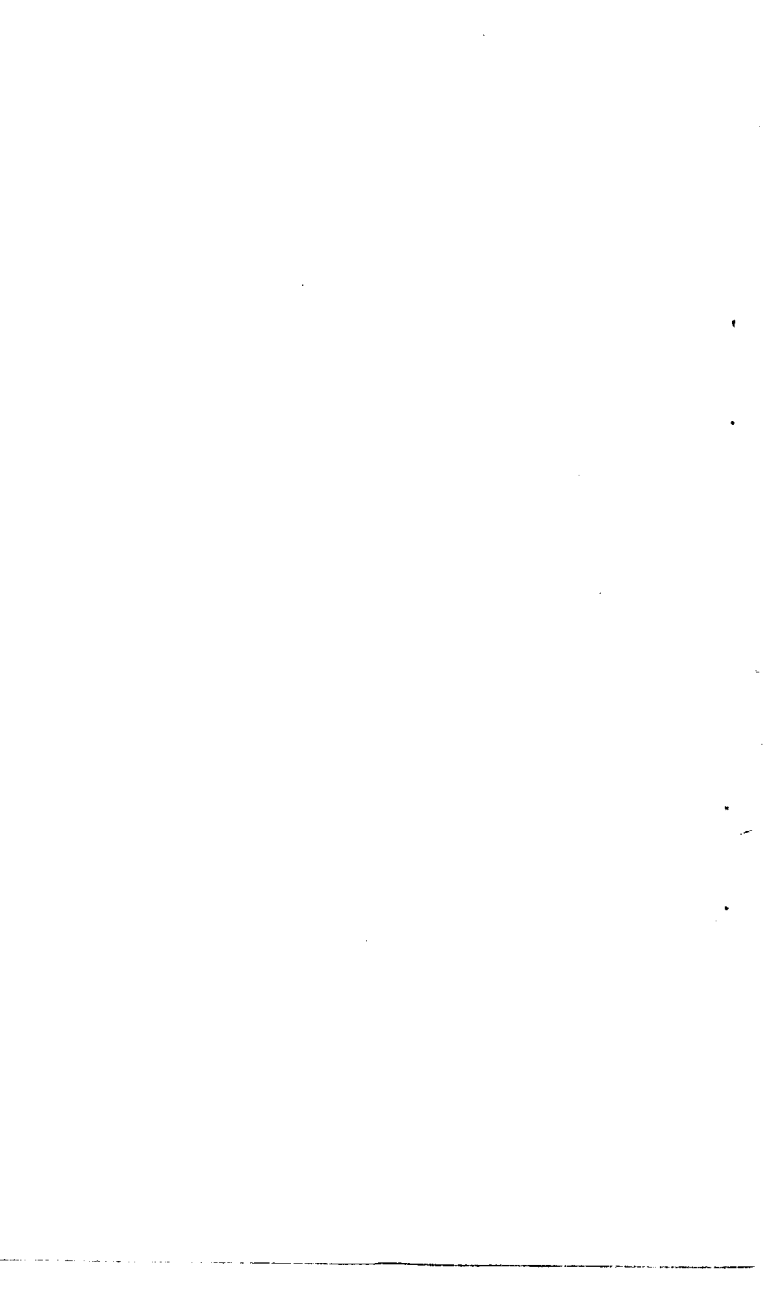
统一书号：9017·523 定价：0.47元

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THE LIFE AND DEATH OF JULIUS CAESAR

JULIUS CAESAR¹ is usually known as the first of the emperors or single rulers of Rome. In her early days Rome was ruled by a body of her best citizens, and it was the custom and pride of the Romans to put the good of their country before their own advantage.² But gradually, as Rome became more powerful and spread her rule over many peoples, the citizens of Rome lost much of their old patriotism, and instead of working for the general good, they³ split into parties under party leaders. These were constantly fighting against one another, each seeking his party's advantage.

At the time this play begins, a struggle between two powerful leaders, Pompey⁴ and Julius Caesar, had recently ended in the defeat and death of Pompey; Caesar had just returned to Rome fresh from victory,⁵ and was the most

1. Julius Caesar ['dʒuːljəs 'siːzə] — 人名 (羅馬將軍、政治家, 公元前 100 年—44 年).

2. to put the good of their country before their own advantage — 把國家的福利放在他們自己的利益之上.

3. instead of working for the general good, they... — 他們不為公共福利努力, 而....

4. Pompey ['pɒmpi] — 人名.

5. fresh from victory — 新近得勝.

powerful man in the State.

Perhaps at this stage in her history it would have been best for Rome to be ruled by one able man devoted to the good of the people; but there were many who did not believe this, and wanted to keep the old form of government.

When Julius Caesar entered Rome to celebrate his recent victory, the people, as was their custom, enjoyed a general holiday, and thronged the streets, eager publicly to applaud and honour the victor. Not long before, they had celebrated the many victories of Pompey, who had conquered large territories for Rome in eastern lands. But they were now just as ready to do the same for his rival and conqueror, Caesar.

As the people were gathering in the streets in gay clothes and holiday mood, they were met and addressed by their two tribunes. These were officers of government whose special duty it was to look after the interests of the common citizens.¹ In their address the tribunes reproached the idle mob for their ingratitude to their former hero, Pompey.

‘O you hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome,’ said one of the tribunes,

1. whose special duty it was to look after the interests of the common citizens — 他們的專門職責就是維護平民的利益。

'Knew you not Pompey? Many a time
 and oft
 Have you climb'd up to walls and bat-
 tlements,
 To towers and windows, yea, to chim-
 ney-tops,
 Your infants in your arms, and there
 have sat
 The live-long day, with patient expecta-
 tion,
 To see great Pompey pass the streets of
 Rome.'¹

The tribunes, who feared that Caesar might win the people's support and seize the sole power, did not want them to be too favourable to him. So they tried to dissuade them from² assembling to greet him.

Caesar, on his return from victory, entered the city in public procession, surrounded by the leading citizens. With him were Mark Antony,³ who had been his chief officer in his campaigns, and Brutus,⁴ a leading senator and his trusted friend. But there were some there

1. (六行) '你們忘記了邦貝嗎? 好多次你們爬到城牆上、雉堞上, 有的登在塔頂, 有的倚着樓窗, 还有人高据烟囱的頂上, 手里抱着嬰孩, 整天地坐着耐心等候, 为了要看一看伟大的邦貝經過羅馬的街道。' (第一幕第一場)

2. to dissuade them from... — 劝他們不要....

3. Mark Antony ['mɑ:k 'æntənɪ] — 人名.

4. Brutus ['brʊtəs] — 人名.

who envied Caesar his success and popularity. Moreover, as it was the ancient custom of Rome to be ruled by the Roman Senate, it seemed a strange and dangerous thing to entrust the affairs of state to a single man, however wise and public-spirited. So Caesar had many enemies among the senators.

As the procession moved through the streets, a soothsayer pushed his way out of the crowd, toward Caesar, called on him by name, and twice uttered the same words of warning:

‘Beware the Ides of March.’¹

But he was dismissed as an idle dreamer. The procession passed on its way. Brutus, however, having no mind for gaiety, drew to one side, and chanced to find himself alone with an acquaintance named Cassius.² This man, though openly a friend, had long been a secret enemy of Caesar. And as they talked together, Cassius soon discovered that Brutus, in spite of his great friendship for Caesar, was afraid that the people might offer him the kingship, and that he might then misuse his power. So Cassius began to belittle Caesar and tried to arouse Brutus’ distrust of him.

He related to Brutus how Caesar challenged

1. ‘Beware the Ides of March’ — ‘当心三月十五号!’
(ides [aidz]: 按古罗马历为三月、五月、七月、十月的十五日及其他月份的十三日.)

2. Cassius [ˈkæsiəs] — 人名.

him one cold day to swim with him out to a certain point in the River Tiber.¹ According to Cassius' story Caesar's strength soon gave out, and he might have drowned if Cassius had not helped him back to shore. Other tales he made up² to show that Caesar lacked spirit and courage, and that he had no right to lord it over others.³

‘Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world,

Like a Colossus; and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs, and peep about
To find ourselves dishonourable graves.
Men at some time are masters of their fates:

The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,

But in ourselves, that we are underlings.’⁴

Thus speaking, Cassius suggested that no noble Roman could let any single man enslave the Roman people.

1. the River Tiber [ˈtaɪbə] — 横贯罗马市的一条河名。

2. made up — 编造；捏造。

3. to lord it over others — 在别人头上逞威作福；横行霸道。

4. (七行) ‘嘿，老兄，他像一个巨人似地跨越这狭隘的世界；我们这些渺小的凡人一个个在他粗大的腿下行走，四处张望着，替自己寻找不光荣的坟墓，人们有时可以支配他们自己的命运；要是我们受制于人，亲爱的勃鲁脱斯，那错处并不在我们的命运，而在我们自己。’（第一幕第二场）

Brutus was struck by¹ this warning, which matched with his own anxieties; and he promised Cassius that he would think it over. Speaking for himself he said:

‘Brutus had rather be a villager
Than to repute himself a son of Rome
Under these² hard conditions as this time
Is like to lay upon us.’³

By ‘these hard conditions’ he meant possible tyranny, and Caesar as the tyrant.

They remained talking together long and earnestly. Meantime the shouts of public applause sounded in the distance, where games were being held in Caesar’s honour.⁴ At length the procession was seen returning from the public games, and a friend of Cassius, Casca⁵ by name, left the crowd and joined the two. He told them what had happened at the games. He described how Caesar had thrice been offered the crown by Mark Antony. Caesar, he said, had refused it only because he was not sure the mob were favourable. What Casca

1. was struck by — 为...所打动.

2. these — 在当代英語中应为 such.

3. (四行) ‘勃魯脫斯寧願做一個鄉野的賤民，不願在這種將要加到我們身上來的難堪的重壓之下，自命為羅馬的兒子。’（第一幕第二場）

4. games were being held in Caesar’s honour — 正為慶祝 Caesar（的凱旋）而舉行競技會。

5. Casca [‘kæskə] — 人名。

said only deepened Brutus' distrust of Caesar's ambition. After the three had separated and gone to their homes, Cassius sent anonymous letters to Brutus, as if from several different writers, all hinting how Rome looked to Brutus for protection against Caesar's ambitious designs.¹ But in the meantime Cassius had divulged to Casca the details of a conspiracy to make an end of² Caesar. Casca agreed to join with him, and together they schemed to do all they could to persuade Brutus to take the lead. Said Cassius:

‘Come, Casca, you and I will yet ere day
See Brutus at his house: three parts of
him

Is ours already, and the man entire
Upon the next encounter yields him
ours.’³

The reason why Cassius wanted Brutus in particular to be leader was not only because Brutus was a man of great influence, but be-

1. all hinting how Rome looked to Brutus for protection against Caesar's ambitious designs — 所有的信都隐隐提到羅馬是怎样盼望 Brutus 去保护他們免受 Caesar 的野心阴谋之害。(指 Caesar 想当皇帝而推翻共和政体)

2. to make an end of — 除掉; 杀死。

3. (四行) ‘来, 开斯加, 我們两人在天明以前, 还要到勃魯脫斯家里去看他一次。他已经有四分之三属于我們, 只要再跟他談談, 他就可以完全加入我們这一边了。’ (第一幕第三場)

cause he was generally respected for his upright character. If the high-minded Brutus turned against Caesar, people would think the cause was surely just.

That same night, before the fateful Ides of March, Brutus had no sleep. He was slowly, against all his natural inclination, forming a very difficult resolve, namely, to put an end to Caesar before Caesar put an end to the Republic. It was true that Caesar was his friend; but it still seemed better to kill even a friend if that friend was likely to be a danger to the State. Caesar had been willing to be crowned—that meant he wanted to be sole ruler, and the only way to prevent that was by killing him.

As Brutus was thinking over these things, his servant brought him notes which he had found by the window of his study. These were the anonymous letters prepared by Cassius. But Brutus thought they came from ordinary citizens, and that they proved how the people relied upon him to save the State.

He was still debating with himself, when, just after midnight, Cassius and the conspirators came secretly to see him. By Cassius' appeal to his sense of duty¹ Brutus was finally won over,² and the details of the plot were

1. appeal to his sense of duty — 以責任感來打動他。

2. was... won over — ...被爭取過去了。

then arranged. Someone suggested that Antony, Caesar's chief general, should be killed along with Caesar. But Brutus decided, against Cassius' advice, to spare him. To Brutus Antony seemed 'but a limb of Caesar', but to Cassius, who was a far better judge of character than Brutus was,¹ Antony seemed 'a shrewd contriver' who might later prove very troublesome to them.

To make certain that Caesar would be present at the Capitol² that day, Decius, one of their number, agreed to visit Caesar and prevail on him to come.³ The conspirators, having arranged with Brutus the place and hour for the deed, took their departure.⁴

Now Brutus' loving and loyal wife, Portia,⁵ had already on the previous evening noticed in her husband's face and manner signs of his distraction and anxiety. And now, when she woke in the night, after the plotters had arrived, and discovered that Brutus had left the room, and overheard him talking in another

1. who was a far better judge of character than Brutus was — 他在判斷人物上比 Brutus 高明得多。

2. the Capitol ['kæpɪtəl] — 古羅馬的 Jupiter 神殿。(Jupiter 是眾神之王)

3. Decius ['di:ʃɪəs] one of their number, agreed to... prevail on him to come — Decius 他也是他們一伙的，同意去... 勸說他前來。

4. took their departure — 離開

5. Portia ['pɔ:ʃɪə] — 人名。

room with several visitors at this unusual hour, she became very troubled. When the talking ceased and Brutus did not come back, she rose and came to him. She begged him to tell her what was on his mind;¹ for had not his wife a right to share his secret? She was just prevailing on Brutus to disclose his trouble to her when a visitor sent by the other plotters interrupted their talk. This was a man not yet favourable to their design, whom the plotters wanted Brutus to win over to them. As Brutus disclosed the plot to him, the thought of his wife's constant loyalty to him only made him stick more strongly to² his new resolution.

'O ye gods,' he prayed silently,

'Render me worthy of this noble wife.'³

The night on which these things had been happening in Brutus' house, had been equally disturbed for Caesar in his palace. His wife, Calpurnia,⁴ had had disquieting and foreboding dreams. She tried to dissuade him from appearing in public on the morrow.⁵ Warning

1. what was on his mind — 他在想什么.

2. stick to — 坚持.

3. 'O ye gods, Render me worthy of this noble wife.' — '神啊! 保佑我不要辜負了這樣一位高貴的妻子.'
(第二幕第一場)

4. Calpurnia [kæl'pə:njə] — 人名.

5. to dissuade him from appearing in public on the morrow — 劝他第二天不要在公共場所露面. on the morrow ['mɔ:rou] (詩,雅) = the next day; 翌日; 次日.

portents, she had heard, had been seen:

‘A lioness hath whelped in the streets;
And graves have yawn’d and yielded up
their dead;
Fierce fiery warriors fought upon the
clouds,
In ranks, and squadrons, and right form
of war,
Which drizzled blood upon the Capitol;
The noise of battle hurtled in the air,
Horses did neigh, and dying men did
groan,
And ghosts did shriek and squeal about
the streets.’¹

She reminded him of what was a common
belief in old times,

‘When beggars die there are no comets
seen;
The heavens themselves blaze forth the
death of princes.’²

But Caesar made light of his wife’s fore-
bodings,³ and refused to be moved by them.

1. (八行) ‘一头母獅在街道上生产;坟墓裂开了口,放鬼魂出来;凶猛的武士在云端里列队交战,他們的血淋到了圣庙的屋上;战斗的声音在空中震蕩,人們听見馬的嘶鳴,瀕死者的呻吟,还有在街道上悲号的鬼魂.’(第二幕第二場)

2. (二行) ‘乞丐死了的时候,天上不会有彗星出現;君王們的凋殞才会上感天象.’(第二幕第二場)

3. Caesar made light of his wife’s forebodings — Caesar 对妻子的預感置若罔聞.