

University Reader  
大学生读书计划



# 萧红小说选



## Selected Stories by Xiao Hong

English-Chinese • Gems of Chinese Literature • Modern

英汉对照 • 中国文学宝库 • 现代文学系列

萧红 著  
Xiao Hong

中国文学出版社  
Chinese Literature Press

外语教学与研究出版社  
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## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

萧红小说选:英、汉对照/萧红著. —北京:中国文学出版社;  
外语教学与研究出版社, 1999. 8

(中国文学宝库·现代文学系列)

ISBN 7-5071-0575-X

I. 萧… II. 萧… III. 小说-中国-现代-对照读物-英、汉  
N. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(1999)第 29632 号

中文责编:邓锦辉

英文责编:殷雯

英汉对照 中国文学宝库·现代文学系列

**萧红小说选**

萧红著

中国文学出版社  
(北京百万庄路24号) 出版发行  
外语教学与研究出版社  
(北京西三环北路19号)

北京市鑫鑫印刷厂印刷  
新华书店总店北京发行所经销

开本 850×1168 1/32 10.875 印张  
1999年8月第1版 1999年8月第1次印刷  
字数:160千 印数:1--5000册

ISBN 7-5071-0575-X/I·518

定价:12.90元

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## 大学生读书计划

——中国文学宝库出版呼吁

在即将开机印刷这第一批 50 本名为中国文学宝库的英汉对照读本时,我们的心情竟然忧多于喜。因为我们只能以保守的 5000 册印数,去面对全国 400 万在校大学生。

虽然我们并非市场经济的局外者,若仅为印数(销售量)计,大可奋起而去生产诸如 TOFEL 应试指南,或者英语四六级模拟试题集一类的教辅图书,但我们还是决定宁可冒着债台高筑的风险,也有责任对大学生同胞发出一声亲切的呼唤:请亲近我们的中国文学。

身为向世界译介中国文学和向国内出版外语读物的,具有双重责任的出版社,我们得知目前大学生往往仅注重外语的学习而偏废了母语的提高,以及忽视了中国文学的阅读,放弃了人文知识的训练。有统计表明,某理工院校 57% 的同学不曾读过《红楼梦》等四大名著,以致校园内外流行着“样子像研究生,说话像大学生,作文像中学生,写字像小学生”的幽默。还有一副这样的对联,说大学生的文章是“无错不成文,病句错句破残句,句句不堪入目;有误方为篇,别字错字自造字,字字触目惊心”,横批“斯文扫地”。作为未来社会中坚和整个社会发展关键力量的大学生,这种“文弃”现象的流行,势必导致一场人文精神危机的爆发。对照以科学与人文精神追求为主题的五四新文化运动,八十年的历程告诉我们,以上提醒绝非危言耸听。

我们已经迈入知识经济时代,在追求科学知识的同时,创新精神已成为关键;而创新的源泉其实有赖于多学科多领域知识的交融,依靠的是新型的复合型人才,所以,文学对于新一代

的大学生来说绝非装点,而是沟通自然科学与人文科学的桥梁,使我们在汲取知识的同时更能获得智慧,于创造物质的同时还进一步丰富和完善着精神;无怪乎爱因斯坦认为自己受影响最大的竟是陀思妥耶夫斯基。由此证明,一个真正的科学家应该拥有丰富的文学和文化知识以及完整的人格。十年前,七十五位诺贝尔奖得主聚会巴黎,当时他们所发表的宣言开篇就是,“如果人类要在 21 世纪生存下去,必须回首 2500 年去吸收孔子的智慧。”确实,十年的时间让我们有目共睹,现代经济科技的飞速发展何尝不是一柄双刃的剑?只有文化的力量才能抵消随之而来的负面后果。可见,知识的获取与技能的训练对于大学生来说固然重要,但文化与修养却尤需关切。正因为大学生代表着社会先知先觉的知识力量,置身当前的文化现实,就应有一分责任感与使命感,力求对知识技能以外许多带有根本性质的精神追求形成明确的意识,从而具备一种对生命意义进行探索与追问的精神,一种以人文精神为背景的生存勇气和人格力量。那么,能够引导我们探索前行的一盏明灯,不就是闪烁着理想光芒的不朽的文学名著吗?

一个人乃至一个民族,从其对文学的亲疏态度,可以衡量出其文化素质的程度。文学应是从人类文化中升华出的理想的结晶,她“使人的心灵变得高尚,使人的勇气、荣誉感、希望、尊严、同情心、怜悯心和牺牲精神复活起来”(威廉·福克纳);无疑,只有文学才能从更高的层次上提升人的文化素质和整体素质,充实人的内心世界,焕发人的精神风貌,带给人们真善美。而亲近文学,特别是热爱祖国灿烂的文学以及文化,正是当代中国大学生加强文化修养,弘扬人文精神的有力脚步。

“越是民族的,就越是世界的”,中国文学属于中国,也属于世界。和平是人类共同愿望,交流与共享则是新世纪的潮流。

中国当代大学生的血液里流动着数千年的文化积淀,没有理由在让世界了解中国大学生聪明才智的同时,却无缘分享我们的骄傲——中国大学生不但能够读懂英语的莎士比亚,而且能让世界感动于中国文学的伟大。

这是我们作为出版者的理想。我们原有一个世纪礼物的构想,是同大学生一起做一个“读书计划”。这一次将中国文学的最新荟萃配设高水平的英语译文,是其中推荐给新世纪大学生的第一批读物。盼望着您——我们无数知音中的5000名先来者,给我们鼓励,也给我们意见和批评。

**编者**

一九九九年五月三十日

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只有文学才能从更高的层次上提升人的文化素质和整体素质,充实人的内心世界,焕发人的精神风貌,带给人们真善美。而亲近文学,特别是热爱祖国灿烂的文学以及文化,正是当代中国大学生加强文化修养,弘扬人文精神的有力脚步。

## The Death of Wang Asao

### 1

The grass and the leaves of plants were covered with a layer of gray-white frost. The yellow-leaved trees on the mountain were waiting for the morning sun, and when it appeared over the horizon, it gave rise to a rosy dawn. Flowers and grass in the wild pastureland gave off an aroma that was filled with the chill and desolation of autumn.

The wildflowers, tiny stream, and grass huts were obscured by a cloud-like layer of fog which obliterated all sound and even blotted out the surrounding hills, far and near.

Just before sunrise each morning Wang Asao went out with Little Huan to the square of the front village to slave away for the landlord. Little Huan may have only been seven years old, but she was already learning how to serve the landlord as a slave-child. Spring had come and gone, summer had come and gone. . . . Wang Asao had performed every type of work imaginable, including weeding the fields and planting rice shoots. Now that autumn had arrived she sat with the other village women under the overhanging rush roofs using lengths of hemp cord to make string after long string of eggplants. None of them paid any attention to the mosquitoes and

## 王阿嫂的死

草叶和菜叶都蒙盖上灰白色霜。山上黄了叶子的树,在等候太阳。太阳出来了,又走进朝霞去。野甸上的花花草草,在飘送着秋天零落凄迷的香气。

雾气像云烟一样蒙蔽了野花,小河,草屋,蒙蔽了一切声息,蒙蔽了远近的山岗。

王阿嫂拉着小环每天在太阳将出来的时候,到前村广场上给地主们流着汗;小环虽是七岁,她也学着给地主们流着小孩子的汗。现在春天过了,夏天过了……王阿嫂什么活计都做过,拔苗插秧。秋天一来到,王阿嫂和别的村妇们都坐在茅檐下用麻绳把茄子穿成长串长串的,一直穿着。不管蚊虫把脸和手咬得怎样红

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other insects that continued to bite their already swollen faces and hands any more than they did to the children screaming for their mummies from inside the huts. They were preoccupied with threading the vegetables, their hands weaving back and forth like looms, making one string after another.

On the following morning the strings looked more like threads of purple beads than eggplants as they hung from the eaves in front of Wang Asao's hut, from one end to the other. Even the low willow-branch fence that encircled her hut was literally covered with strings of purple beads. It was the same with all of her fellow village women: row upon row of strung-up eggplants hung from the eaves of their huts.

After hanging in the sun for several days, the eggplants had dried, and all the families in the neighborhood started taking them down and delivering them to the landlord's storeroom. When winter came, all that Wang Asao would have to eat were rotten potatoes that the landlord used as pigfeed. Not a single slice of dried eggplant ever found its way into her mouth.

The eastern sun slanted directly into the workers' eyes. As the fog burned off, gradually exposing the surrounding hills, the men and women in the fields increased their work pace. Clusters of goats and oxen foraged among the wild grasses that were beginning to wither in the autumn frost in the pastureland and on the hill-sides.

Wang Asao was nowhere to be found in the field. That was puzzling. Third Master Zhu came out to the square every morning to pass out the work assignments for Landlord Zhang. On this occa-

肿,也不管孩子们在屋里喊叫妈妈吵断了喉咙。只是穿啊,穿啊,两只手像纺纱车一样,在旋转着穿。

第二天早晨,茄子就和紫色成串的铃铛一样,挂满了王阿嫂的前檐;就连用柳条编成的短墙上也挂满着紫色的铃铛。别的村妇也和王阿嫂一样,檐前尽是茄子。

可是过不了几天茄子晒成干菜了!家家都从房檐把茄子解下来,送到地主的收藏室去。王阿嫂到冬天只吃着地主用以喂猪的烂土豆,连一片干菜也不曾进过王阿嫂的嘴。

太阳在东边放射着劳工的眼睛。满山的雾气退去,男人和女人,在田庄上忙碌着。羊群和牛群在野甸子间,在山坡间,践踏并且寻食着秋天半憔悴的野花。

田庄上只是没有王阿嫂的影子,这却不知为了什么?竹三爷每天到广场上替张地主支配

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sion, he told a young woman who was picking potatoes to go look for Wang Asao.

The work-team leader, Lengsan, broke in with:

"You'd better send me instead. A man can get it done faster."

Two minutes after Third Master Zhu had given his approval, Lengsan was standing outside Wang Asao's window.

"Wang Asao, why aren't you out working?"

There was an immediate response from inside the hut:

"I'm sure glad you're here, Uncle. Would you run over and ask Sister Wang to come over here from the front village. I have such a splitting headache I won't be able to work today."

Little Huan, who was sitting at Wang Asao's side, blurted out through her tears:

"Mommy's lying. She can't go to work 'cause her belly's so big. She cried all night long, but I don't know if it's 'cause her belly hurts or 'cause she was thinkin' 'bout Daddy."

Little Huan's words pierced her mother's heart, pierced it to its very core. She swallowed her tears as she patted Little Huan's head impatiently to get the child to stop talking.

Li Lengsan was a cousin of Wang Asao's husband. Little Huan's outburst seemed to have touched off some familiar sympathies in him, for he dashed off to the front village without hesitation.

Little Huan climbed up onto the window ledge and fussed with her tiny, mussed-up braid with hands that still didn't know how to comb her own hair. A kitten from next door jumped up onto the ledge, where it curled up in the little girl's lap. Seemingly trying to find some warmth, the kitten lay there lazily opening and closing

工人。现在竹三爷派一个正在拾土豆的小姑娘去找王阿嫂。

工人的头目，愣三抢着说：

——不如我去的好，我是男人走得快。

得到竹三爷的允许，不到两分钟的工夫，愣三跑到王阿嫂的窗前三。

——王阿嫂！为什么不去做工呢？

里面接着就是回答声：

——叔叔来得正好，求你到前村把王妹子叫来，我头痛，今天不去做工。——

小环坐在王阿嫂的身边，她哭着，响着鼻子说：——不是呀！我妈妈扯谎，她的肚子太大了！不能做工，昨夜又是整夜地哭，不知是肚子痛还是想我的爸爸？——

王阿嫂的伤心处被小环击打着，猛烈地击打着，眼泪都从眼眶转到嗓子方面去，她只是用手拍打着小环，她急性的，意思是不叫小环再说下去。

李愣三是王阿嫂男人的表弟。听了小环的话，像动了亲属情感似的，跑到前村去了！

小环爬上窗台，用她不会梳头的小手，在给自己梳着毛蓬蓬的小辫。邻家的小猫跳上窗台，蹲踞在小环的腿上，猫像取暖似地迟缓地把

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its eyes.

A rainbow of early morning colors was reflected off the distant hills. The cluster of grazing goats and oxen appeared as tiny black specks moving about in the rosy clouds. But Little Huan was too busy fussing with her mussed-up braid to notice any of this.

## 2

In the villages people referred to one another with names like Sister Wang, Lengsan, and Third Master Zhu. Working-class people customarily use such simplified forms of address, forms that never change. This is a natural symbol of the working class.

Sister Wang sat at Wang Asao's side, while Little Huan squatted on the *kang*; a sense of loneliness gripped all three of them. When the sun was directly overhead, a horde of insects — whatever they were — set up an unbearable din on the hill behind the hut, the sound a mixture of comic laughter and resentful sadness.

Although she was only seven, Little Huan already knew what it was like to experience sadness and to be pensive, just like a young lady. As she listened to the chirping insects, she imitated the two adults by pouting with her tiny mouth and sighing. Perhaps all of this was a direct result of her having lost her mother at such a tender age.

Little Huan's father had been a hired hand who had died before she was even born. Then when she was a child of five she had lost her mother, who had died of humiliation after being raped by Zhang Huqi, Landlord Zhang's son.



眼睛睁开，又合拢来。

远处的山反映着种种样的朝霞的彩色。山坡上的羊群，牛群就像小黑点似的，在云霞里爬走。

小环不管这些，只是在梳自己毛蓬蓬的小辫。

## 二

在村里，王妹子，愣三，竹三爷，这都是公共的名称。是凡佣工阶级都是这样简单而不变化的名字。这就是工人阶级一个天然的标识。

王妹子坐在王阿嫂的身边，炕里蹲着小环，三个人寂寞着。后山上不知是什么虫子，一到中午，就吵叫出一种不可忍耐的幽咽和凄怨的情绪来。

小环虽是七岁，但是就和一个少女般的会忧愁，会思量。她听着秋虫吵叫的声音，只是用她的小嘴在学着大人叹气。这个孩子也许因为母亲死得太早的缘故？

小环的父亲是一个雇工，在她还没生下来的时候，她的父亲就死了！在她五岁的时候她的母亲又死了！她的母亲是被张地主的大儿子张胡琦强奸而后气愤死了的。

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