

英语简易读物

W. Somerset Maugham  
Short Stories

毛姆  
短篇小说选

中国对外翻译出版公司

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# 毛姆短篇小说集

葛传棻  
俞亢咏注释  
俞时澄

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### 毛姆短篇小说集

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# 学习英语的阶梯

(代序)

**葛传棻**

英语简易读物已经出了不少,为什么我们还要出这一本呢?它有什么“与众不同”之处?

有点不同:

第一,本书包括较浅和较深两个部分。第一部分是根据毛姆(简介见下文)所著两篇较长的小说,用简易英语彻底改写的,词汇只限1500字,语法也颇浅显,我们称之为“简写本”;一般简易读物都属于这一类。第二部分是另取毛姆七篇较短的小说,将原著中比较复杂的句子、比较艰深的语词酌予简化,并删去一些可以省略的细节,基本上保持原著格局,文字接近原著,我们称之为“简化本”;它比第一部分“简写本”深些。这样,两个部分形成一个由浅入深的阶梯。

我们希望读者先精读第一部分,反复消化后,进而精读第二部分。如此循序渐进,我们相信凭借词典或注释,当能试着阅读一般英文原著的文艺作品和科技书刊。由于简写本和简化本的语言都简单明了,容易上口,反复诵读对学习口语也有很大帮助。

我们为什么拣中了毛姆小说的简写本和简化本呢?

毛姆(William Somerset Maugham, 1874-1965)是英国小说家兼戏剧家,文笔流畅,叙事动人,刻划人物鞭辟入里,幽默处

使人会心莞尔，辛辣的讽刺发人深思，是二十世纪杰出的现实主义作家。进入八十年代以来，他的作品纷纷在我国翻译出版，其主要作品基本上都有了译本，而且有好几本还有两种译本，深受广大读者欢迎。毛姆已成为我们最熟悉、最喜爱的外国作家之一。

当然很大一个原因是我们找到了较浅和较深的两种毛姆小说的简易读物，完全符合我们作为阶梯的要求。而且正好还有商务印书馆出版的英汉对照原著《毛姆短篇小说选》（潘绍中译注）。读者循序而上，定能在学习英语的道路上发现一个豁然开朗的境界——“我能阅读英文原著了！”

附带说明，我们这里采用的简写和简化的本子都是国外出版的，个别地方我们根据毛姆原著作了一些修改，也有一些改动是由于语法和修辞上的要求。这些改动和我们注释中的不当之处，还请读者批评指教。

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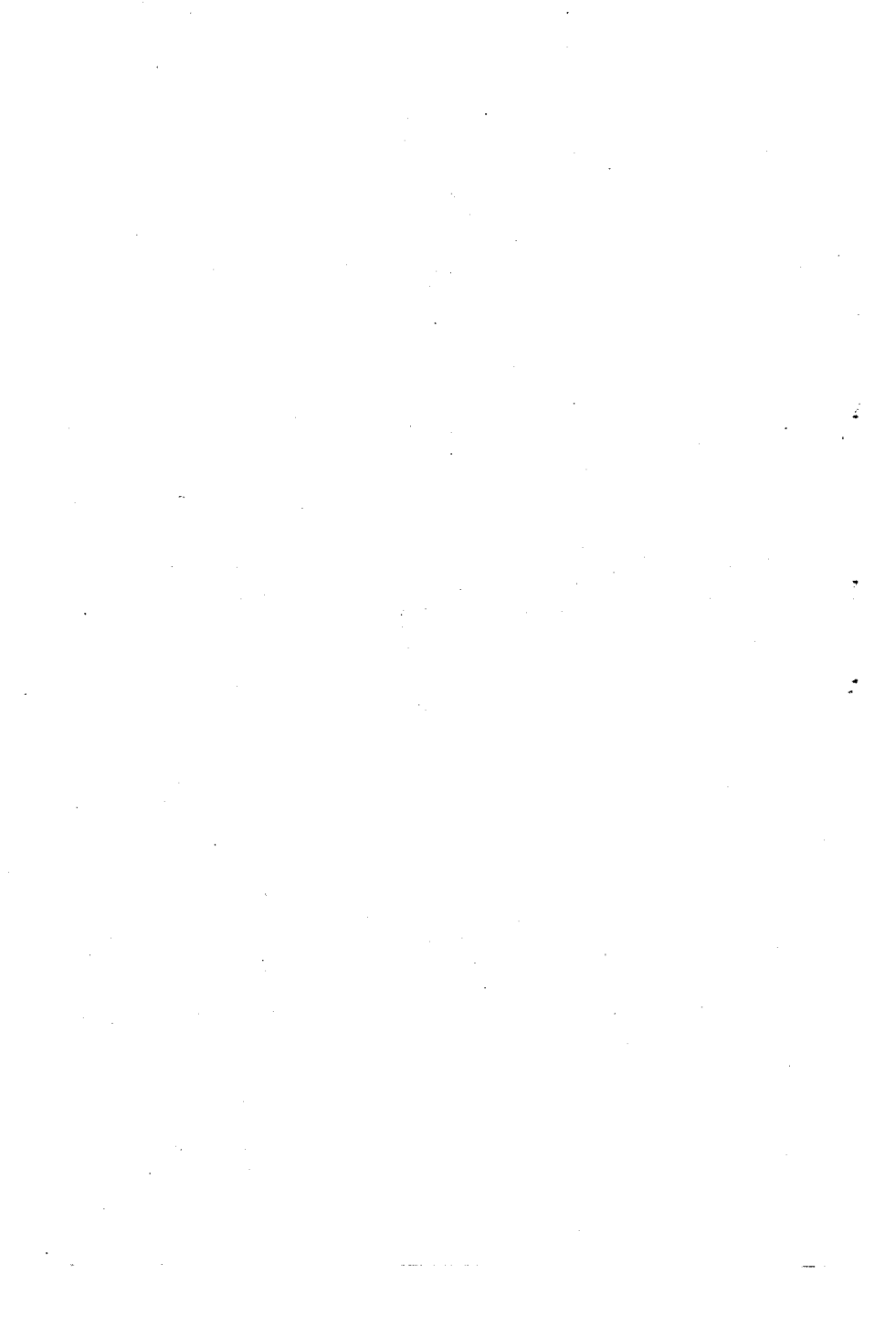
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*PART ONE*

**Mackintosh**

**A Man From Glasgow**





# Mackintosh

## *The People in This Story*

### *Walker*

Walker is an Englishman and he is sixty years old. He has been administrator<sup>①</sup> of the island of Talua for twenty-five years. He is a strict ruler and a coarse<sup>②</sup>, vulgar<sup>③</sup> man, but also very fair and honest<sup>④</sup>. The older people of Talua respect Walker and do what he tells them. Walker wants to have roads made all over the island, but he does not like spending government money. He forces the people of Talua to make the roads very cheaply.

### *Mackintosh*

Mackintosh is also an Englishman, about thirty years old. He has been on the island of Talua for only two years. He is Walker's assistant. His job is to help Walker rule the island, but he does not like Walker. He thinks that Walker should give the people of Talua more money for the work that they do. But, he has learned that Walker is a proud man who never listens to advice.

### *Manuma*

Manuma is the son of the Chief of the village of Matautu. He is twenty years old. He is one of the few people on Talua who have ever left the island and visited another island. Manuma went to the main island of Apia<sup>⑤</sup> to finish his education. On Apia, Manuma learned that the government pays the people a lot of money for making roads.

Manuma knows that Walker pays far too little. Because Manuma is young and has been to Apia, he is not afraid of Walker like the other, older men on the island.

### *The Place of the Story*

The island of Talua is one of the islands of the Samoan Group. This group of islands lies in the south of the Pacific Ocean. Somerset Maugham<sup>⑥</sup> travelled all over the South Seas<sup>⑦</sup> and many of his short stories happen in these islands.

### *The Time of the Story*

The time of this story is about 1910. At that time the Samoan Group of Islands was part of the British Empire. All the islands were ruled by a British Governor who lived on the main island of Apia. Each of the islands was ruled by an Administrator. Because of the great distances between the islands, the administrators could often rule just as they liked.

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① administrator: 这里是指殖民地的行政长官。

② coarse: 粗野。

③ vulgar: 庸俗。

④ fair and honest: 公正廉洁。

⑤ the main island of Apia: 主岛阿批亚(它实际上是位于南太平洋的萨摩亚群岛的主岛乌波卢的首府)。

⑥ Somerset Maugham: 毛姆, 这篇小说原著的作者。

⑦ the South Seas: 尤指南太平洋。

## 1. The Road

After breakfast Mackintosh walked across the dry grass to a large hut that was his office. Although it was still early in the morning, the heat was already making Mackintosh feel uncomfortable. He had been on the island of Talua for two years and he was not happy.

Mackintosh did not like the heat. Also, he could not speak the language of the people of Talua and he was very lonely. Before breakfast Mackintosh had tried to go for a swim in the Pacific. But he had found the water warm and salty. Also, he could not go far out in the sea because of the dangerous sharks<sup>①</sup>.

Mackintosh went into the office. It was a large room with two desks in it. The large desk belonged to Walker, who was the administrator. Mackintosh worked at the other desk which was much smaller and placed against the wall on one side of the room.

There was a bench along the other side of the room. Some of the villagers were sitting on this bench. They were waiting for Walker who had not yet arrived. Mackintosh said good morning to the villagers and sat down at his small desk and began his work.

Mackintosh was a careful worker. Walker liked to talk a lot but he did not like writing reports. Walker left all the written work to Mackintosh.

When Walker came into the office, all the villagers stood up and tried to speak to him. The villagers wanted to finish their business in the office and return home. Walker shouted at them rudely and ordered them to sit down. He

told them to be quiet or he would order the policeman to throw them all out of the office<sup>②</sup>.

Mackintosh hated to sit in the same office as Walker. Mackintosh thought that Walker was rude to the people of the island. But, strangely, the people of Talua seemed to like Walker. Walker had been administrator for so many years that the people looked on him as a father who was often angry and rude. They were certainly afraid of Walker and they always did what he ordered them to do.

Walker started the business and discussed the problems and questions that the villagers had brought to him. Mackintosh sat quietly and tried to get on with his writing. But Walker talked loudly and often shouted at the villagers. It was so noisy that Mackintosh found it difficult to do any work at all.

It was nearly twelve o'clock before Walker came to<sup>③</sup> the most important business of the morning. Walker had kept four villagers from the village of Matautu waiting until the end. Walker wanted these villagers to do some work for him. When all the other people had left, Walker called to the four villagers and they came and stood in front of his desk.

Three of the men stood a little behind the tallest man. This man's name was Tangatu and he was the chief of the village of Matautu. The other three were headmen<sup>④</sup> in the village.

"Greetings, Tangatu," said Walker.

Tangatu and the three headmen replied to Walker's greetings but they did not seem very happy.

"I have called you to my office this morning," Walker continued, "to discuss a very important matter. You all know how important it is for the people of Talua to have good roads all over the island. The roads make life more

comfortable for you. You can go quickly from one village to another, and you can take your crops more easily to the market.

The men from Matautu stood and moved their heads to show that they agreed with Walker. But they did not speak. They were waiting for Walker to continue.

"I want you to make a road from your village of Matautu," said Walker. "There is no road going from your village to the coast. This road would be very useful for you and I want you to make this road."

Walker stood up and showed the villagers of Matautu a map of the island of Talua hung on the wall. Walker explained to them exactly where he wanted the road to go. The roads that the villagers made were not like modern roads. The villagers simply cut down any trees in the way<sup>⑤</sup>. Then they moved all the large stones to the sides and the road was made. Walker told the villagers that it would be very easy to make the road from Matautu to the coast.

When Walker had finished, there was silence in the room. Tangatu and the three headmen stood in front of his desk and looked down at the floor.

"What's wrong with you?" asked Walker in a loud voice. "Haven't you understood what I have told you?"

There was another silence that lasted for a few moments. Then Tangatu lifted up his head and looked at Walker. Tangatu was very afraid of Walker, but at last he spoke.

"How much will you pay us for making this road?" Tangatu asked quietly and fearfully.

Walker was surprised at Tangatu's question. And Mackintosh stopped writing altogether<sup>⑥</sup> in order to listen to what was happening.

"I will pay you what I have always paid for making roads," shouted Walker. "I will pay you twenty pounds."

Walker was a small man with a large, fat face. As he was speaking to Tangatu, his face was becoming red with anger.

Tangatu and the three headmen again stood in silence. Tangatu felt very afraid but at last he spoke.

"That is not enough," said Tangatu. "We must have one hundred pounds for making this road."

There was a long silence in the office. Mackintosh was very surprised. He had never heard anyone defy<sup>7</sup> Walker before. Mackintosh looked at Walker. Walker's face became redder and redder. Walker had been administrator of Talua for twenty-five years and this was the first time that a villager had defied him. Tangatu and his companions looked at the floor. They were too afraid to look at Walker.

Walker stood up. He was not a tall man but he looked frightening. He shouted at the villagers and insulted them.

"You must have gone mad," Walker cried loudly. "Or do you think that I am becoming foolish as I grow older?"

The villagers from Matautu stood in silence. They did not try to argue with Walker. They knew that if anyone argued with Walker, Walker always won.

Walker was surprised at their silence. He was used to arguing with the people of Talua and he always won the argument. Walker's shouting got louder and louder, but Tangatu and the others refused to reply. At last Walker realized that he could not make them speak.

He stopped shouting and spoke quietly to Tangatu.

"Will you make this road or not?" Walker asked quietly.

"We will make this road if you pay us one hundred pounds," replied Tangatu.

"You are mad," Walker shouted at him. "Go back to Matautu and think about it. I will come to your village in three days' time. If you have not started to make the road by then, there will be great trouble for you."

Then he ordered them out of the office and Walker and Mackintosh were left alone.

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- ① sharks: 鲨鱼。
  - ② throw them all out of the office: 把他们全从办公室撵出去。
  - ③ came to: 挨到, 开始处理。
  - ④ headmen: 头人(土著的头领)。
  - ⑤ in the way: 挡路的, 有妨碍的。
  - ⑥ stopped writing altogether: 干脆停止书写。
  - ⑦ defy: 公然违抗, 违拗。

## 2. *The Quarrel Continues*

After Tangatu and the three headmen left the office, Mackintosh sat in silence. He pretended to be busy at his work and went on writing. Walker was very angry and he could not keep quiet.

"Well, Mackintosh, what do you think of this?" asked Walker.

Mackintosh did not know what to say in reply and he kept quiet.

"I know the reason for this," continued Walker. "It is that young man, Manuma. He has been putting ideas into the heads of the villagers."

"Who is Manuma?" asked Mackintosh.

"Manuma is the son of Tangatu," replied Walker. "And

his head is full of foolish ideas<sup>①</sup>. It is all my fault. It was me who sent Manuma to school on the island of Apia to finish his education.

"When Manuma was on Apia," Walker continued, "he saw how foolish the government there is. The government on Apia pay the people far too much money for making roads or doing anything else. Now Manuma has come back from Apia, he thinks that he knows more than anyone else on Talua."

"What has he been doing?" asked Mackintosh.

"Manuma has been speaking to his father and the headmen," replied Walker. "He has told them how much money the people on Apia are paid for making roads. Manuma has filled them with greed and they hope that they can get the same money here. But I will teach the people of Matautu a lesson. When I have finished with them they will never defy me again."

Mackintosh knew that Walker received a lot of money from the government on Apia for making roads. But Walker did not like to spend this money. Walker was an honest man. He did not keep the government money for himself, but he refused to spend it. Walker tried to get everything on Talua done as cheaply as possible. Mackintosh thought that this was wrong. He believed that Walker should pay more money to the people on Talua.

"But why don't you pay these villagers some more money?" Mackintosh asked Walker. "The government on Apia gives you plenty of money for making roads. You never spend all that you are given. Perhaps these villagers of Matautu are asking for too much. But if you cannot pay them one hundred pounds, why don't you pay them fifty pounds?"



“I will pay them twenty pounds and not a penny more,” Walker replied angrily. “If I give them more money, what will they do with it? They will buy whisky and foolish things<sup>②</sup>. All the money that I give them will go into the pockets of greedy and dishonest traders.”

Mackintosh knew that Walker was a stubborn man who never listened to advice. Mackintosh knew that he could not persuade Walker to change his mind. Walker was correct when he said that the people of Talua spent a lot of their money on whisky. But Mackintosh still thought that it was wrong of Walker to give them so little.

“What are you going to do, then?” Mackintosh asked Walker.

“I will go out to Matautu on Monday,” replied Walker, “and see if they have started work. If they haven’t started work, I will think of a way to force them to make the road.”

Mackintosh did not reply to this and the two men soon left the office and went off together for lunch.

While Walker and Mackintosh were sitting at lunch, Tangatu and the headmen were back in their village of Matautu. They were sitting outside Tangatu’s hut and Manuma was sitting with them. He was listening eagerly to his father. Tangatu told Manuma about everything that had happened in Walker’s office.

Walker had guessed correctly. Manuma had encouraged his father and the headmen to defy Walker. Manuma had told them many stories about life on Apia. He had said that Walker should pay one hundred pounds to the villagers for making the road. Manuma had also advised them not to argue with Walker. Manuma knew that Walker always won an argument. When Manuma heard that they had stood si-