

2级

适合初二、初三年级



书虫·牛津英汉双语读物

■ Arnold Bennett (英) 著

■ Nick Bullard (英) 改写

Stories from the Five Towns

五镇故事



外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



Stories from the Five Towns 五镇故事

- Arnold Bennett (英) 著
- Nick Bullard (英) 改写
- 孟颖 译

外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS
北京 BEIJING

京权图字 01 - 2006 - 3283

Originally published by Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford.
© 2000

This edition is licensed for sale in the People's Republic of China only and not for export therefrom.

'Oxford' is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press.

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

五镇故事 = Stories from the Five Towns / (英)贝内特(Bennett, A.)著;
(英)布拉德(Bullard, N.)改写; 孟颖译. — 北京: 外语教学与研究出版社,
2006

(书虫·牛津英汉双语读物)

ISBN 7 - 5600 - 5420 - X

I. 五… II. ①贝… ②布… ③孟… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物
②故事—作品集—英国—现代 IV. H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2006) 第 019036 号

出 版 人: 李朋义

责任编辑: 周 晶

封面设计: 孙莉明

出版发行: 外语教学与研究出版社

社 址: 北京市西三环北路 19 号 (100089)

网 址: <http://www.fltrp.com>

印 刷: 北京新丰印刷厂

开 本: 850×1092 1/32

印 张: 2.125

版 次: 2006 年 6 月第 1 版 2006 年 6 月第 1 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 7 - 5600 - 5420 - X

定 价: 2.90 元

* * *

如有印刷、装订质量问题出版社负责调换

制售盗版必究 举报查实奖励

版权保护办公室举报电话: (010)88817519

内容简介

伯斯利、汉桥、克尼普、朗肖、特恩希尔——这就是本书所说的五镇。这些故事发生在 20 世纪初的英格兰中部地区。如今的五镇已经成为斯托克城，不过这个地方仍然因为陶瓷和阿诺德·贝内特故事中的人物而闻名。

这些人既不是名人，也不是什么大人物。他们在商店和工厂工作；他们恋爱又失恋；他们会拌嘴，会争吵。他们有时头脑聪明而且事业成功，他们有时的所作所为又极其愚蠢。菲利普有个重要消息要告诉母亲，不过他自己也将得到一个大大的惊喜……杰先生讨厌自己的画像，但又能怎么办呢？这可是五镇人送给他的礼物……在克尼普站，托比·霍尔突然决定乘火车去特恩希尔，不过这是为什么呢？最后出场的是约翰和罗伯特。他们是亲兄弟，住在同一屋檐下，在同一张桌子上吃饭——但十年来他们没和对方说过一个字……

STORIES FROM THE FIVE TOWNS

Bursley, Hanbridge, Knype, Longshaw, Turnhill — these are the Five Towns of Arnold Bennett's stories, set in the English Midlands in the early 1900s. Today the Five Towns are the city of Stoke-on-Trent, but the place is still famous for its pottery... and for the people in Arnold Bennett's stories.

They are not famous or important people. They work in shops and factories; they fall in, and out of, love; they argue and they quarrel. Sometimes they are clever and successful, and sometimes they do very stupid things. Philip has some important news to tell his mother, but he is also going to get a big surprise... Sir Jee hates his portrait, but what can he do about it? It was a present from the people of the Five Towns... At Knype station, Toby Hall suddenly decides to take the train to Turnhill, but why? Then there are John and Robert. They are brothers, they live in the same house, they eat meals together — and neither has said a single word to the other for ten years...

Contents

目 录

News of the Engagement	2
订婚消息	3
The Burglary	12
夜盗	13
Beginning the New Year	24
新年伊始	25
The Silent Brothers	34
互不说话的兄弟	35
ACTIVITIES: Before Reading	56
ACTIVITIES: While Reading	57
ACTIVITIES: After Reading	59

News of the Engagement

My mother never came to meet me at Bursley station when I arrived in the Five Towns from London. She always had other things to do; she was getting ready for me. So I always walked alone up Trafalgar Road, between the factories and past the football field. And so tonight, I had time to think. I had some very important news for my mother, and I didn't know how to tell her.

I wrote to my mother every week, to tell her what I was doing. She knew the names of all my friends. I often wrote about Agnes and her family. But it's difficult to write in a letter: 'I think Agnes likes me,' 'I'm in love with her,' 'I'm sure she likes me,' 'I think she loves me,' 'I'm going to ask her to marry me.' You can't do that. Well, I couldn't do it. And on the 20th December I asked Agnes to marry me, and Agnes said yes. But my mother didn't know anything about it. And now, on the 22nd December, I was coming to spend Christmas with my mother.

My mother was a widow. I was her only son — and now I was engaged and she didn't know. I was afraid she was going to be a little unhappy, and I was ready for a difficult evening.

I walked up to the front door, but before I put my hand up to ring, the door opened and there was my mother. She put her arms around me.

订婚消息

每次我从伦敦回五镇，母亲都不会来伯斯利车站接我。她总有别的事要做；她是在为我回家做准备。因此我总是沿着特拉法尔加大街，经过工厂和足球场，一个人走回家。所以，今晚我有时间好好想想。我要告诉母亲一条重大消息，却不知该如何开口。

我每周都给母亲写信，告诉她我在忙些什么。她知道我所有朋友的名字。我经常提到阿格尼丝和她的家人。但在信中写不出这样的话：“我觉得阿格尼丝喜欢我”，“我爱上她了”，“我肯定她喜欢我”，“我觉得她爱我”，“我要向她求婚”。你没法这么写。反正，我是写不出来。12月20日我向阿格尼丝求婚，她答应了。但我母亲对此还一无所知。而今天，12月22日，我回来和母亲共度圣诞。

我的母亲是个寡妇。我是她的独子——而现在我已经订婚可她还不知道。我担心她会不大高兴，我准备好要过个难捱的晚上。

我走到家门口，还没按铃，门就开了，母亲站在那儿。她拥抱了我。



widow n. a woman who has lost her husband by death and has not married again 寡妇

‘Well, Philip! How are you?’

And I said, ‘Oh! I’m all right, mother. How are you?’

She smiled at me. She looked excited and younger than her forty-five years. There was something strange in her smile. I thought: ‘She *knows* I’m going to get married. How does she know?’

But I said nothing. You have to be careful with mothers.

‘I’ll tell her at supper,’ I decided.

I went upstairs to my bedroom. When I came down, my mother was busy in the kitchen. I went into the dining-room, and here I had a surprise. There were three chairs around the table, and three plates and three glasses.

So Agnes *was* coming! I didn’t know how my mother knew, but she did know. She and my wonderful Agnes were planning a surprise for me. Agnes was coming to Bursley for Christmas!

There was a ring at the door. ‘It’s Agnes!’ I thought, and running to the door, I opened it.

It was Mr Nixon.

Mr Nixon was an old friend of the family. He was a large, strong man of about forty-nine or fifty. He was very helpful to my mother after my father’s death.

‘Good evening, young man,’ he said. ‘It’s good to see you back in Bursley.’

“哦，菲利普！你好吗？”

我说：“哦！我很好，母亲。你怎么样？”

她冲我笑了。她有些激动，看起来不像已经 45 岁的人。她笑得有点儿奇怪。我想：“她知道我要结婚了。她怎么知道的？”

但我什么也没说。和母亲们打交道要小心才是。

“吃晚饭的时候我再告诉她，”我打定主意。

我上楼进了自己的卧室，下来的时候，母亲正在厨房忙碌。我走进餐厅，不由得吃了一惊。桌旁摆了三把椅子，桌上是三副杯盘。

这么说阿格尼丝真的要来！我不知道母亲是如何得知的，但她肯定已经知道了。母亲和我可爱的阿格尼丝想给我惊喜。阿格尼丝要来伯斯利过圣诞！

门铃响了。“是阿格尼丝！”我这样想着，跑到门口打开了门。

来客是尼克松先生。

尼克松先生是我家的老朋友。他魁梧健壮，大概 49 岁或 50 岁的样子。父亲死后他对母亲很是照顾。

“晚上好，年轻人，”他说。“很高兴看见你回到伯斯利。”

upstairs adv. to an upper
floor 往楼上

‘Mr Nixon has come for supper, Philip,’ said my mother.

Mr Nixon often came to supper during my visits to Bursley, but never on the first night. I liked him, but I wasn’t very happy to see him tonight because I wanted to talk to my mother. I couldn’t talk to her about Agnes with Mr Nixon sitting at the table.

We started our supper. We talked about this and that, but nobody ate very much. I was thinking about what to say to my mother when Mr Nixon went home. At the end of the meal I told my mother that I must go to the post office. I had an important letter to post.

‘Can’t it wait until tomorrow, my pet?’ my mother asked.

‘It can’t,’ I said.

My letter, of course, was to Agnes. A letter to Agnes could not wait until tomorrow! I walked over to the dining-room door.

‘A letter to a lady?’ asked Mr Nixon, laughing.

‘Yes,’ I replied.

I walked to the post office and posted my letter. When I got back home, I was sorry to see that Mr Nixon was still there. He was alone in the sitting-room, smoking.

‘Where’s mother?’ I asked.

‘She’s just gone out of the room,’ he said. ‘Come and sit down. Have a cigarette. I’d like to talk to you, Philip.’

“尼克松先生来吃晚饭，菲利普，”母亲说。

我以前回伯斯利的时候，尼克松先生也经常来吃晚饭，但从没在我回来的第一个晚上来过。我挺喜欢他，但今晚见到他不是很开心，因为我本打算和母亲谈谈，而如果尼克松先生也在的话，我就不能和母亲谈阿格尼丝的事了。

我们开始吃晚饭。我们东聊西扯，但大家都吃得不多。我一直在想尼克松先生回家以后，我该如何对母亲说。吃完饭后，我告诉母亲我必须去趟邮局。我有一封重要的信要寄。

“宝贝儿，不能等明天再寄吗？”母亲问道。

“不行，”我回答。

我的信当然是寄给阿格尼丝的。给阿格尼丝的信可不能等到明天！我向餐厅门口走去。

“给一位小姐的信？”尼克松先生笑着问我。

“是的，”我回答。

我到邮局寄了信。回到家，我不安地发现尼克松先生还没走。他自己呆在客厅里抽烟。

“母亲在哪儿？”我问。

“她刚出去，”他说。“过来坐下吧，抽支烟。我想和你谈谈，菲利普。”

pet n. a darling, a favourite
宠儿；宝贝

I took a cigarette and sat down. I hoped the talk was not going to be a long one.

‘Well, my boy,’ he said. ‘Would you like me as a stepfather?’

For a second I could not move or speak.

‘What?’ I said. ‘You mean ... you and my mother ...?’

‘Yes, my boy, I do. I asked her yesterday, and she said yes. I’ve wanted to ask her for a long time — I think she knew that. Did she tell you in her letters? No? It’s difficult to write in a letter, of course. She couldn’t really write, “My dear Philip, an old friend, Mr Nixon, is falling in love with me and I think I’m falling in love with him. I think he’ll ask me to marry him soon.” I don’t think your mother could write that, could she?’

I laughed.

‘Shake hands,’ I said. ‘This is wonderful news.’

After a moment my mother came in, a little red in the face.

‘The boy’s very happy, Sarah,’ said Mr Nixon.

I said nothing about my own plans that evening. It was something new to me that my mother could fall in love, and that a man could fall in love with her. It was something new to me that she was lonely in our old house and that perhaps she wanted a new life. Perhaps, like all sons, I thought only about myself and my life. So I decided to say

我接过烟，坐了下来。我希望不会谈太久。

“哦，孩子，”他说。“你愿意让我做你的继父吗？”

有那么一会儿，我愣住了。

“什么？”我说。“你的意思是……你和我母亲……？”

“是的，孩子，是这个意思。昨天我向她求婚，她答应了。我很早就想向她求婚了——我想她也明白。她在信里跟你提过吗？没有？在信里写这个当然挺难的。她写不出这样的话：‘我亲爱的菲利普，一个老朋友，尼克松先生爱上了我，而我也爱上了他。我想他很快会向我求婚。’我觉得你母亲写不出这种话，对吗？”

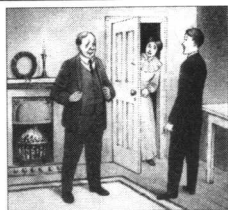
我笑了。

“握个手吧，”我说。“这是个特大的好消息。”

过了一会儿母亲进来了，脸颊微微发红。

“孩子很开心，萨拉，”尼克松先生说。

那天晚上我没提自己的事。我以前从未想过母亲也会恋爱，没想过会有一个男人爱上她。她在老屋里很孤独，或许想开始新生活，这也是我没想到过的。大概和所有当儿子的一样，我只想着自己和自己的生活。所以我决定不说自己的事。在那



stepfather *n.* a male step-parent 继父 **shake hands** *to move someone's hand up and down with your own hand as a greeting or as a sign you have agreed something* 握手 **fall in love** *develop a great love* 爱上

nothing about my news, and that evening my mother came first for me. I could tell her about Agnes tomorrow. We live and learn.

个晚上母亲是最重要的。我可以明天再告诉她阿格尼丝的事。我们活一天就多明白一些事情。

*live and learn to learn by
experience* [用以对刚知道
的事表示惊异]真是活一
天学一天

The Burglary

Lady Dain said: 'Jee, if that portrait stays there much longer, I shall go mad. I can't eat any more with it up there!' She looked up at the big portrait on the wall opposite the breakfast table.

Sir Jehoshaphat said nothing.

Lady Dain did not like the portrait. Nobody in the Five Towns liked the portrait. But the portrait was by Cressage, the finest portrait painter in England, and a portrait by Cressage cost a thousand pounds or more.

Sir Jehoshaphat Dain was perhaps the cleverest and most successful businessman in the Five Towns. His business, called Dain Brothers, had one of the biggest pottery factories in England, and their cups and plates went all over the world. Sir Jehoshaphat was rich, because he sold his pottery very cheaply, and paid his workers very little. But Sir Jee liked to be important, so he used some of his money to pay for schools and hospitals for the people of the Five Towns.

The people of the Five Towns often laughed at Sir Jee, but they also wanted to say thank you for the schools and hospitals. They decided to give him a portrait for a present. So Cressage painted the portrait and many people in London thought it was very good. 'A wonderfully clever