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中国传说故事

Stories of Chinese Legends

梁山伯与祝英台

Butterfly Lovers



廣東省出版集團
廣東教育出版社

Chinese Classic
Cultural Stories Series

中國經典
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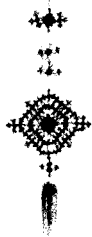
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梁山伯与祝英台的故事,我们这里的人哪个不会讲? 不过讲出来又都会有点不一样。老辈传下来,说这件事发生在东晋年间,到今天起码也有一千多年了。一代一代传下来,越讲越热闹。再加上戏文里天天唱,说书先生到处讲,大家都会添一点进去,这则故事就越发好听起来了。

The story of Butterfly Lovers is a well-known tale in China and has been passed down over the centuries ever since the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317—420). Like Romeo and Juliet to the westerners, the names of the two figures in the story are so familiar to the Chinese that we usually simply refer to this story as Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai. From one generation to the next, the story has been altered and new plots have been added through the media of popular storytelling and traditional opera.





一、乔装求学

1. Going to School in Disguise

先说祝英台。祝英台是浙江上虞城外祝家庄人。父亲祝公远，大家都叫他祝员外，是祝家庄上有名的财主。祝员外快要七十岁了，祝夫人比他小五岁。老夫妻俩一共生了八个儿子，心里总是不满足。都说女儿贴心，他们也一直想要个女儿，总算挨到第九胎，盼来了一个宝贝女儿，从此才算心满意足。女儿小名叫九妹，大名就叫祝英台。老两口从小把祝英台当作掌上明珠，处处地方都要让她三分。再说祝英台也非常争气，她不但生得眉清目秀，玲珑乖巧，处处讨人欢喜，而且还十分懂事。小时候几个哥哥在书房读书，她总要跟在边上一起读。哥哥读了好几遍还背不出的诗文，她却老早就已经背得滚瓜烂熟了。到后来，哥哥们作文章作不出，也会去央求妹妹捉刀代笔。说来也怪，祝英台虽然没有正式拜师，只是跟在边上旁听旁听，却比那几个正式学生都要来得出色，连先生也都对她赞不绝口。所以全家大小，乡里乡亲，人人都喜欢她。

Let us begin the story with the heroine—Zhu Yingtai, who lived in Zhujia Village on the outskirts of Shangyu County. Zhu Gongyuan, Zhu Yingtai's father, was a rich man in the village and everyone called him Master Zhu. Master Zhu was nearly seventy and his wife was five years younger

than he was. The elderly couple had eight sons, but they had longed for a daughter with all their hearts. When their ninth child turned out to be a baby girl, they were thrilled and satisfied, naming her Zhu Yingtai, Ninth Sister. She was the apple of her parents' eye and always had her own way. Zhu Yingtai had been born with a pair of bright and beautiful eyes, paired with curved eyebrows. She was intelligent and pretty. As a young girl, she would often follow her brothers to their study. When her brothers were still struggling to recite the poems, she had already learnt them by heart. Later when her brothers had difficulty in composing essays, they would ask her to write for them. Strangely enough, Zhu Yingtai had only sat in on her brothers' lessons but outperformed her brothers and even earned the teacher's praise. So everyone in her family and in the village all had a great affection for her.

祝英台从小没有姊妹，一天到晚跟着哥哥们读书，在男孩子堆里打滚，时间一长，也就有了点男孩子的性格。她还特别喜欢装扮成男孩子。平日里祝夫人要教她做点针线活，她总是丢三落四，静不下心来；不过只要一拿起书本，她马上就两眼发亮，浑身都是精神。你说怪不怪？祝夫人朝她笑笑，有心要说她几句，又有点舍不得。祝员外也觉察到女儿的毛病，几次想发火，想想自己只有这么一个宝贝女儿，也就忍了下来。

With no sisters as company, Zhu Yingtai grew up with





her brothers. Raised in a world peopled mainly by boys, she developed a boyish side to her nature. She was especially fond of dressing up like a man. Usually she was reluctant to do needlework. When it came to study, however, she would engage herself willingly and enthusiastically. Her mother Madam Zhu was too affectionate to reproach her and just laughed it away. Master Zhu had intended to scold her but managed to restrain himself on the thought of his only precious daughter.

清明一过，祝家的后花园里就一天天热闹起来，桃红柳绿，鸟语花香，再加上春风一阵阵吹来，越发让人觉得心旷神怡。祝英台在闺房里看书，也有点坐不住，就索性带了自己的贴身丫环银心，一起到后花园散散心。

After the Qingming Festival, it was in the springtime and the back yard livened up. The red peach blossoms and green willow leaves, together with the fragrance of the flowers and the twitters of birds brought by the spring breeze, made one refreshed and joyful. This enchanting sight attracted Zhu Yingtai, who was reading in her room. She took her maidservant Yinxin outside into the garden for a walk.

祝英台喜欢荡秋千，一到后花园就荡起秋千来。银心还小，看见几只蝴蝶在花丛里飞来飞去，忍不住拿了一把团扇要去扑蝴

蝶。蝴蝶没有扑到，她反而跌了一跤。祝英台一见，只好从秋千上下来，走过去把银心扶了起来。两个人正在说说笑笑，却听见花园围墙外面人声嘈杂。她们索性跑到假山上去朝外面张望，一看，原来是几个读书人，要到杭州城里去读书，带了书童，挑着担子，一边说说笑笑，一边匆匆赶路。

As soon as they got to the back yard, Zhu Yingtai went to ride on the swings, which was her favorite. Yinxin was younger than Zhu Yingtai and more active. She was attracted by some butterflies around the flower beds and immediately let go of her fan in hand and tried to catch the butterflies. The unwary girl tripped in her pursuit and the butterflies went off. Seeing this, Zhu Yintai came down from the swings and helped Yinxin up. While the two were chatting and laughing, they heard noises coming from the other side of the compound wall. They ran over to the artificial hill to get a better view. By climbing up it, they could see outside the wall several young scholars with their pages¹ carrying luggage on their shoulders. From their chat, Zhu Yingtai knew that they were heading for the Hangzhou City where they would further study. Between talking and laughing, the scholars left.

俗话说：“触景生情”。现在看到围墙外面的情景，不觉又勾

1. Pages were boy servants who usually serve in the study.





起了祝英台的一桩心事。原来祝英台从小跟着几个哥哥，一直对于读书十分向往，以为天底下的事情，没有比读书更加有意思了。可惜好景不长，他的几个哥哥年纪一大，没有一个再读书的，教书先生也早已回去了。祝英台一个人留在家里，没有先生教，心里总觉得空荡荡的，不是滋味。有时候自己一个人翻开旧书来看看，有的地方不懂，也找不到可以请教的人。所以她近来一直在想办法要出去读书。

The scene evoked Zhu Yintai's desire which had been in her mind for years. Since childhood, she had followed her brothers and developed a yearning for study. In her eyes, nothing in the world would be more intriguing than learning. Disappointingly, as her brothers grew up, none of them was willing to continue to study, so the teachers had all left their house. Without teachers, she had no one to turn to when she was going through the old books and had difficulty in understanding. Therefore the idea of going out to seek education had been haunting her lately.

这件事，丫环银心也在边上暗暗出力。她想帮英台小姐四处打听，后来终于打听到一条线索。原来祝员外当年有个好朋友，姓周，大名周士章，是个远近闻名的教书先生，道德文章，人人称赞。听说周先生现在在杭州万松书院执教，桃李满天下，名声响亮。再说祝家有个男佣人王顺，他的一个亲戚就在万松岭一带开着一家小店。那个亲戚过年时候回上虞，还说起过这件事呢。

祝英台自从知道了这个消息，心里就像十五只吊桶打水，七上八下，一直要找个机会跟父亲说，想到杭州城去读书。现在一见墙外几个书生兴高采烈地出门求学，越发坚定了她的信念。心里想，伸头一刀，缩头一刀，不管爹爹答应不答应，我今天是一定要把话挑明了。

The considerate maidservant Yinxin had also been finding ways to help her miss out. Finally she was given a clue that there was a friend of Master Zhu named Zhou Shizhang, a famous teacher. He was now teaching at Wansong Academy of Classical Learning in Hangzhou. He had students from all over the country and his reputation was known far and near. A servant named Wangshun in the Zhu household had a relative who opened a store in the area of Wansong and had mentioned Zhou Shizhang when he was back in Shangyu. The news had greatly excited Zhu Yingtai who had been thinking about talking to her father about going to school in Hangzhou. Now the scene of several scholars going to school in Hangzhou affirmed her intention. She made up her mind to tell her father her long-time wish right now.

祝员外一听女儿要到杭州城去读书，两只眼睛瞪得像田螺，连忙双手乱摇，开口说道：“啊呀呀，你真是吃了灯草，说得轻巧。你到外面去打听打听看，哪里有女孩子读书的规矩？想当年孔夫子杏坛执教，收了弟子三千，也没有一个是女的。那个周士





章固然是我的好朋友，他的学问，我也一向十分钦佩，不过要他收女弟子，我谅他也没有这个胆量。乖女儿，爹别的事情样样依你，这件事可是万万依不得的。”

On hearing his daughter's words, Master Zhu was flabbergasted with his eyes bulging and two hands waved frantically. He admonished, "Are you aware that it is much easier to say than to do? Have you ever heard of girls going to school? When Confucius¹ was teaching at the Xingtan Pavilion², he had three thousand students, none of whom was female. Although Zhou Shizhang is one of my friends and his knowledge deserves my admiration, I don't think he has the nerve to enroll a girl as his student. My dear daughter, I will let you have whatever you want, but not this thing."

祝员外的话说得滴水不漏，谁知道祝英台却老早准备好了回话。只见她微微一笑，不慌不忙地说出一番道理来：“爹爹的话倒也不错，不过这里是不是有漏洞，却还难说。你想想看，孔夫子当年收了三千弟子，难道这中间就没有一个女子改扮男装的

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1. Confucius was a thinker, politician and educator of the late Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods (770-221 B.C.). He was also the founder of the Confucian school.
 2. The Xingtan Pavilion was built in the Song Dynasty in memory of Confucius. Back in those days Confucius sat right here and taught while stroking the zither. His students would be gathered around him listening to his lesson.

吗？你说书上没有写过。是没写过，不过书上也没有写这中间就绝对没有女扮男装的呀，是不是？女扮男装，周围的人都没有发觉，当然谁也不知道这件事，于是也就不会写到书里去了，这个道理难道还不明白吗？”

Reasonable as Master Zhu was, Zhu Yingtai had well prepared her reply. Smilingly and without hurry and bustle, she gave her reasons, “What you said might be true, dad. But there might also be faults in it. How can you be sure that there was no girl student in disguise as a man among those three thousand students? Can you find any written record on this? Of course you can’t! Because people were not aware if there was a girl disguising herself as a man. Can you catch me?”

“什么女扮男装？你在家里面有时候扮个男孩子，那是闹着玩的，倒也无妨。一旦出门在外，一天到晚扮男装，能瞒得过别人吗？”

“Disguised as a man? You dress up like a man at home, that’s all right if you think it’s funny. But going out dressing like a man? It won’t work. You can’t fool anybody.”

“怎么瞒不过？孩儿老早想好了。只要你答应让我去读书，我当然会女扮男装的，保证谁也不会知道我是个女孩子。爹爹不必担心。”

“Of course I can. I have had things figured out. As long





as you give me your permission, I can promise no one will discover that I am a girl. You needn't worry about it at all."

祝员外见女儿得寸进尺，步步紧逼，一时乱了方寸，喉咙就忍不住响了起来：“瞎三话四！你一个女孩子，怎么可以这样狂妄。你知道吗？古书上写得明明白白：女子无才便是德。读书是男人的事，你趁早死了这个心！”

Zhu Yingtai pressed on and Master Zhu started to panic, to the point that he did not know how to respond. Finally he yelled, "Bullshit! How dare a little girl like you be so arrogant? You know from the classics the ancient saying, 'A girl without ability is virtuous.' Education is a matter of man. You'd better give up this silly idea as early as possible."

祝英台一听爹爹说“女子无才便是德”，心里就老大不舒服。这句话她老早就听大人讲过，每次听着总觉得不是滋味，趁着这个机会，壮一壮胆，就索性反驳起来：“爹爹，这句话虽然是古书上写的，却不见得对。再说了，古书上写女子读书的事也不少，你怎么就不提了呢？《论语》里说过，周朝开国的能人有十个，其中一个就是女子，她就是周文王的妻子太姒。你想，太姒不读书，她能帮助文王治理天下吗？东汉有个班昭，也是个女子，她帮助父亲班彪和哥哥班固，续成了有名的《汉书》。难道她也是不读书的吗？所以，我想来想去，‘女子无才便是德’这句话也是不通的。”

The saying of “A girl without ability is virtuous” upset Zhu Yingtai. She had known about this saying and felt offended each time she heard of it. Now that her father had brought the matter up, she rebutted boldly, “This saying is written in the classics but not necessarily right. And, withal, there are records on women seeking education in the classics as well. Why didn’t you mention them? Here is a case in *The Analects*. Among ten capable persons who established the Zhou Dynasty, there was a woman. She was Taini, the wife of the King Zhouwen. If Taini had not read books, would she have been equipped with the knowledge to run a country? Ban Zhao of the Eastern Han Dynasty is another case in point. She assisted her father Ban Biao and her brother Ban Gu in compiling *The History of the Han Dynasty*. Wasn’t she renowned for her great learning? So I came to the conclusion that the saying of ‘A girl without ability is virtuous’ makes no sense.”

祝员外做梦也没有想到，女儿会说出这样一套套的话来，心里真是又喜又恼：喜的是女儿聪明伶俐，越来越有长进，终于长大成人了；恼的是一个女孩儿家总是这样倔头倔脑，不守闺训，将来怎么嫁人为妻？万一出了什么差错，教我一张老脸到哪里去搁？想到这里，忍不住又发起火来：“好了好了，你也不必多费口舌，总而言之，家里的事父母作主，这是天经地义的事。你要



读书，我明天就给你请个先生来，安安分分在家里读。你要女扮男装，到杭州城去读书，那是绝对不可能的。”说罢，一拂大袖，气呼呼地进了里屋。

When Master Zhu heard about this he had mixed feelings: On the one hand, Master Zhu was pleased that his daughter had grown intelligent and smart. On the other hand, he was angry that she had developed such a resolute and fearless character with which she could not be a good wife. If anything should go wrong, he would lose his face. These thoughts put him into a rage again, “Forget it. There’s nothing more to say. In a word, the parents are in charge of the household matters. It is only natural. If you want education, tomorrow I can hire a teacher and teach you at home. But as for going to Hangzhou in disguise as a man, it’s out of the question.” With these words, Master Zhu swung his long sleeves and angrily went into the back room.

再说祝英台也是个倔脾气，见爹爹不答应，索性回到闺房装起病来，饭也不吃，门也不出，整天躺在床上淌眼泪。

Not having her father’s permission, Zhu Yingtai decided to hold her ground. She neither ate nor went out after she returned to her room. All day long she just lay in her bed shedding tears.

这一来，难为了祝夫人和银心，忙里忙外，四处张罗。祝夫人心疼女儿，就到祝员外面前去劝说，说是我们老两口就这么一个宝贝女儿，一直宠到了今天，就索性再依她一回吧。在家里请个先生来教，哪有杭州周先生好？这个道理想来你也是明白的。再说了，英台从小喜欢女扮男装，她扮男装扮得像，很多人都被她骗过，这事你还不知道吗？就说前年清明节扫墓，她不是扮了男装跟着大家一起去的吗？一路上遇到的人都叫她小官人，你也是听见的。好了好了，送佛送到西天，这一次就再依她一回吧。

Thus Madam Zhu and Yinxin had to busy themselves in taking care of Zhu Yingtai. Loving her dearest daughter, Madam Zhu tried to persuade her husband for Zhu Yingtai, saying "We are old and have only one daughter. We have been lenient with her. Why not just let her have her way this time. You must have known that no other teachers are better than Mr Zhou in Hangzhou, didn't you? Moreover, Yingtai has been dressing up like a man since childhood and has fooled many people. Do you remember that she went out to visit the ancestors' grave with us in disguise as a man on the Qingming Festival two years ago? You heard people call her 'little master' on the way, too. Just let her go this time, will you?"

其实祝员外也是宠爱女儿的，心想自己也快要七十岁了，膝下只有这么一个宝贝女儿，弄得太僵了也不太好。再说读书毕竟也不是什么坏事，杭州的周士章又是自己的好朋友，信得过的。

