



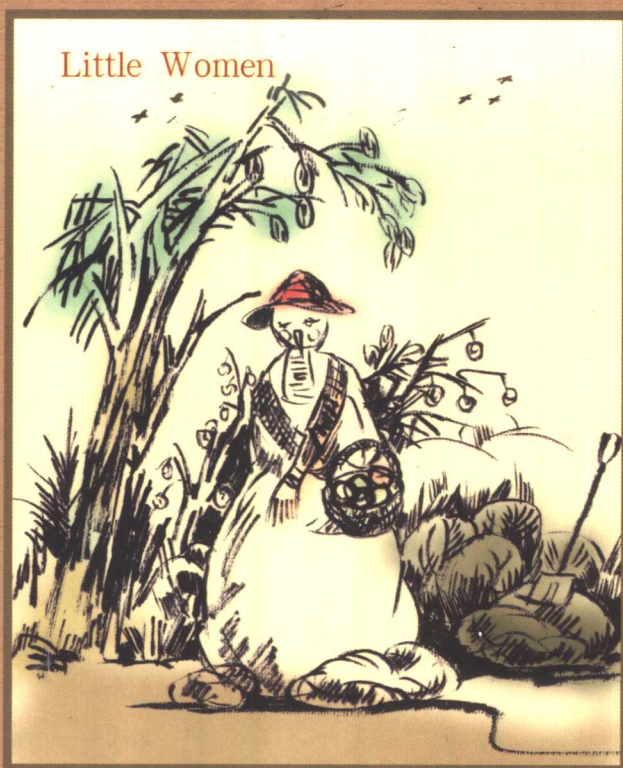
名著名篇双语对照丛书

美国经典文学名著

小妇人

中英对照

路易莎·梅·奥尔科特 著 萧婕 编译



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作者简介

路易莎·梅·奥尔科特(Louisa May Alcott)，美国作家，生于 1832 年，美国宾夕法尼亚州的德国城，1888 年于波士顿辞世。

路易莎是一位富有进取精神的人，年轻时曾教过书，做过护士，当过佣人。这些都为她创作《小妇人》提供了真实的素材。路易莎 15 岁开始写作，21 岁开始发表作品，1868 年写成《小妇人》。本书是一部以美国南北战争为背景，以 19 世纪美国新英格兰地区的一个普通家庭四个姐妹之间的生活琐事为蓝本的带有自传色彩的家庭伦理小说。小说受到当时的大思想家爱默生的影响，强调了个人尊严与自立自律的观念；内容平实却细腻，结构单纯而寓意深远，富有强烈的感染力。本书出版后受到读者和评论家的一致好评，被美国国会图书馆评为世界最畅销的优秀作品之一、美国最优秀的家庭小说之一，被世人评为“卓越的女性主义探讨运动”，一部“女性自我内战、传统与自由之争”的经典作品。路易莎也因此被列入美国 19 世纪最令人瞩目的女作家的行列。

目 录

1 PLAYING PILGRIMS 饰演朝圣者·····	1
2 A MERRY CHRISTMAS 愉快的圣诞节·····	14
3 AN INVITION 邀请·····	24
4 THE PARTY 舞会·····	27
5 BURDENS 重担·····	37
6 BEING NEIGHBOURLY 敦亲睦邻·····	42
7 BETH FINDS THE PALACE BEAUTIFUL 贝丝找到豪华宫殿·····	58
8 JO MEETS APOLLYON 乔遇到恶魔·····	67
9 MEG GOES TO VANITY FAIR 梅格到了“浮华世界”·····	82
10 EXPERIMENTS 试验·····	87
11 DREAMS OF THE FUTURE 未来的梦想·····	98
12 SECRETS 秘密·····	107
13 A TELEGRAM 一封电报·····	114
14 LETTERS 信·····	123
15 LITTLE FAITHFUL 小圣徒·····	128
16 DARK DAYS 黑暗的日子·····	133
17 GREEN FIELDS 绿色的原野·····	141
18 FROM LAURIE AND FROM JO 乔和劳里的礼物·····	145

1. *Playing Pilgrims*

During a winter afternoon the four March girls were sitting by the fireside talking. It was a comfortable room. Though the furniture was plain and the carpet almost worn out, a few good pictures hung upon the walls, and there were several shelves filled with books. Flowers stood in pots near the windows, and there was a pleasant feeling of peace over all.

The firelight shone on the girls as they talked. Margaret, called Meg by the family, was sixteen years old and very pretty. Fifteen-year-old Josephine, or Jo, was tall and thin, with long thick hair—her only beauty, she used to say. She wanted to write stories, and cared little for the things that girls of her age usually care for. Next came Elizabeth, or Beth, a quiet bright-eyed girl of thirteen, who loved music and was loved by everybody. What she most desired was to play the piano well. Amy, the youngest, was twelve, and, in her own opinion, a very important person. She had golden hair and blue



1. 饰演朝圣者

一个冬天的午后，马奇家的四个女孩子围坐在火炉边聊天。那是一间很舒服的屋子，虽然家具简陋，地毯破旧，可是墙上挂着好几幅精致的画，书架上也摆满了各种书籍。花朵插在靠近窗口的花瓶里，到处都洋溢着愉快、安详的气氛。

女孩们在聊天，炉火映照在她们的身上。玛格丽特，家人昵称为梅格，十六岁，长得很漂亮。十五岁的约瑟芬，或叫她乔，身材高挑而纤瘦，留了一头长长的头发，她常说这是她惟一漂亮的地方。她想写小说，所以很少关心像她这样年龄的女孩子们所常关心的事情。接下来的就是伊莉莎白了，或者叫她贝丝，她是一个安静并有一对闪亮的眼睛的十三岁少女，她喜爱音乐，大家都很喜欢她。她最大的愿望是把钢琴弹好。艾美是年纪最小的一个，只有十二岁，依她自己的说法，她是一

eyes, and wanted to be an artist.

The girls were talking about Christmas; what they were going to do, and what presents they would be given. Meg was speaking, “You know, girls, that Mother proposed us not having presents this Christmas, because it is going to be a hard winter for everybody, and she thinks we ought not to spend money for pleasure when our men are suffering in the army.”

“It won’t be like Christmas without presents,” said Jo.

“It is so awful to be poor,” said Meg, looking at the old dress she was wearing.

“We have each got a dollar,” said Jo, “but I think that would not do much good to the army even if we gave it. So I will agree not to expect a present from Mother or from you others, but I would like to buy a story book for myself which I have wanted for so long.”

“I planned to spend my dollar on new music,” said Beth.

“I shall get a box of good drawing pencils. I really need them,” said Amy.

个很重要的角色，她有着金黄的头发和蓝色的眼睛并想成为一个艺术家。

女孩们正在讨论着在圣诞节她们要准备什么节目，以及她们将会得到什么礼物。梅格说：“妹妹们，你们要知道，母亲提议我们这个圣诞节不要送礼物，因为对每一个人来说，这将是一个很艰辛的冬天。她认为，前方的士兵正在军队中饱受苦难，我们不应该为了欢乐而浪费金钱。”

“没有礼物就不像是圣诞节了。”乔说道。

“贫穷是如此可怕。”梅格看着她穿着的旧衣服说。

“我们每个人都有一块钱，”乔说，“我想就算我们都捐献出来，对军队也没有多大帮助，因此我并不期望从母亲或你们那里得到礼物，倒是想为我自己买一本渴望已久的小说。”

“我打算把我的钱花在新的乐谱上。”贝丝说道。

“我要去买一盒好的图画笔，我真的需要它。”艾美说道。



“Well,” said Jo, “Mother did not say anything about how we should spend our money, and she won’t want us to give up everything. Let us each buy what we want and have some fun. I am sure we work hard enough to earn it.”

“Yes,” replied Meg, who went out daily to teach the children of some rich friends.

“You don’t have nearly such a hard time as I do,” said Jo. She worked as companion and help the old Miss March, their father’s aunt. “How would you like to stay for hours with an old lady who is never satisfied, who is always complaining, and who worries you until you feel like crying or jumping out of the window?”

“Well, I suppose its wrong to complain, but I do think that washing dishes and keeping house too is the worst work in the world. It makes my hands so rough and stiff, I can’t play the piano well at all.” Beth looked at her rough hands as she spoke.

“I don’t believe any of you suffer as I do,” cried Amy, “for you don’t



“哎,” 乔说: “妈妈从不过问我们要怎样花我们的钱, 而且她也不希望我们放弃任何一样东西。让我们各人买各人需要的东西, 并从中获得一些乐趣。我确信我们都已经努力地赚到这点钱了。”

“是的,” 梅格回答说。她每天都要去给一些有钱人的孩子们上课。

“你们并不像我这样过着痛苦的时光,” 乔说道。她的工作是陪伴老马奇小姐, 她们父亲的姑妈, 并且服侍她。 “你怎能想象连续几小时陪伴着一位永远不会满足, 而且始终在抱怨的老妇人, 这会让你心烦得快要哭出来, 甚至想从窗口跳出去。”

“好了好了! 我知道发牢骚是不对的, 可是我想洗盘子和整理房间也是世界上最糟的工作。这使得我的双手变得如此的粗糙和僵硬, 让我根本无法把钢琴弹好。” 贝丝一边看着她那双粗糙的手一边说道。

“我不相信你们之中有谁像我那样受苦,” 艾美叫道, “因为你们不需要到学校

have to go to school and be with girls you don't like, who laugh at your dresses, and say unkind things to you about your father."

The sisters continued talking in this way, until the clock struck six, the time for their mother to return from her visiting, and they all became more cheerful to welcome her. Meg lit the lamp, Beth put her mother's soft shoes to warm by the fire, Amy got out of the comfortable chair without being asked, and Jo forgot how tired she was as she held the shoes nearer the fire.

"They are quite worn out. Mother must have a new pair."

"I thought I would get her some with my dollar," said Beth.

"No. I shall," cried Amy.

"I'm the eldest," began Meg, but Jo went on.

"I take the place of the man of the family now Father is away, and I shall provide the shoes. He told me to take special care of mother while he was away."

Then Beth said,

去，和那些你不喜欢、嘲笑你的衣服，又说你父亲坏话的女孩们呆在一起。”

姊妹们继续说着这些事，直到时钟敲了六下，这时她们的母亲拜访朋友就要回来了，她们快乐地准备迎接她。梅格点上了灯，贝丝把她母亲的软鞋放在炉边烘暖，没有人要求艾美做什么，她就离开了那张舒适的椅子，而乔也忘记了自己如何疲倦，而把鞋子移到更靠近炉边的地方。

“这双鞋马上就要破了，妈妈需要一双新鞋子。”

“我决定用我的钱帮她买一双。”贝丝说道。

“不！我来买。”艾美叫着说。

“我是年纪最大的，”梅格刚一开口，就被乔打断了。

“父亲不在家，我代替了家中男主人的地位，应由我来买鞋。他吩咐我在他不在家的时候，更加要照顾母亲。”

然后贝丝说：



“Let us each get Mother something for Christmas, and nothing for ourselves.”

“That’s good of you, dear,” said Jo, “now what shall we get?”

They all thought for a minute. Then Meg, looking at her own pretty hands, said, “I shall give her a pair of gloves.”

“Army shoes, best to be had,” cried Jo.

“Some pretty handkerchiefs,” said Beth.

“I shall buy her a little bottle of scent, Mother likes it, and it won’t cost much, and I shall have some money left to buy my pencils,” said Amy.

Having decided what presents they would give, Jo said that they must now think about practicing their parts in a play to be acted on Christmas night.

“I don’t mean to act any more after this time,” said Meg, “I’m getting too old for such things.” But Meg really loved acting.

“You are the best actress of us all and must not give up acting, and I know you never will, Meg, while you can walk about in a silk dress and wear



“我们每人都给妈妈买个圣诞节的礼物吧，我们自己就不买了。”

“好极了，亲爱的，”乔说：“我们现在要买些什么呢？”

她们想了一会儿，然后梅格看着自己美丽的双手说：“我要买一副手套给她。”

“我要买最好的军鞋。”乔叫道。

“我买几条漂亮的手绢。”贝丝说道。

“我要买一小瓶香水给她，妈妈喜欢它，而且也不需要花太多的钱，我还可以用剩余的钱来买我的画笔。”艾美说道。

决定了各自要送的礼物之后，乔说她们现在必须要排练她们在圣诞夜演出的戏中所扮演的角色了。

“这是我最后一次演出了，”梅格说，“我太大了，不能再做这样的事了。”不过梅格真的很喜欢演戏。

“你是我们当中最优秀的演员，一定不能放弃演戏，我知道，在你还能穿着丝

false jewels,” said Jo. “Now, Amy, come here and practise the fainting scene. You are much too stiff in that.”

“I can’t do it, Jo, because I’ve never seen anybody faint, and I don’t like falling on the floor. If I can go down easily, I will; if I can’t, I shall fall into a chair.”

“Do it this way, Amy: hold your hands together and stagger across the room, crying out, “Save me, save me,” and away went Jo with a very real cry of fear. Amy tried to copy her sister, but she could not act well.

“Oh dear!” said Jo, “that’s no use. You must do the best you can, and, if the audience laughs, don’t blame me.” “Oh, Jo, I don’t know how you can write and act such splendid things,” said Beth, who believed that her sister was wonderfully clever in everything.

“It’s the best play we’ve had yet,” said Meg, and the girls went on talking and laughing, until the door opened and a voice said, “I’m glad to find you so merry, my girls!”



质衣服，戴着人造珠宝，四处走动的时候，梅格，你永远不会放弃的。”乔说，“艾美，现在到这边来排练晕倒的那一幕，这个动作你总是太僵硬了一点。”

“乔，我没办法演，因为我从来没有看过任何人晕倒，而且我也不喜欢倒在地上。要是我能轻易地倒下去，我会倒下去的。否则，我情愿倒在一张椅子上。”

“艾美，这样做：把双手握在一起，蹒跚地走过房间，大叫救命呀！救命呀！”于是，乔发出一声非常逼真的惊叫声走过去。艾美想模仿她的姐姐，但她就是演不好。

“哎，天啊！”乔说，“那是没用的，你必须尽力去做，如果观众嘲笑起来，你可不要怪我。”“哎，乔，我没想到你会写出并演出这样绝妙的故事来。”贝丝说，她相信她的姊妹们样样事情都是绝顶聪明的。

“这是我们演过的最好的剧本呢！”梅格说，于是女孩们继续谈笑着，一直到门开了传来一个声音说：“我的孩子们，真高兴看到你们这样的快乐。”

They turned to welcome their mother, a tall fine-looking woman. She was not dressed in the newest fashion, but her daughters thought her the most splendid mother in the world.

“Well, my dears, how have you got on today? I’m sorry I could not get home sooner.” Mrs. March spoke lovingly to each girl as she took off her outdoor clothes. She sat down in the comfortable chair, put on her warm shoes, and then, drawing Amy towards her, prepared to enjoy the happiest hour of her busy day.

The girls, each in her own way, tried to make things comfortable for their tired mother. Meg arranged the tea-table, Jo put chairs ready, in her excitement dropping or upsetting everything she touched. Beth moved, quiet and busy, between the sitting-room and kitchen, while Amy sat by her mother with hands folded and told the others what to do.”

When they had all sat down to tea, Mrs. March said, “I have a nice surprise for you, after tea.”

“I know,” said Jo, “it’s a letter from Father.”



她们转身去迎接她们的母亲。那是一位高大而美丽的妇人，她没有穿新潮的衣服，可是她的女儿们认为她是全世界最好的母亲。

马奇太太脱掉外套，亲切地对女孩子们说：“嗨，亲爱的孩子们，你们今天过得怎样？很抱歉我没能早点回家。”她坐在那张舒适的椅子上，穿上那双暖烘烘的软鞋，然后把艾美拉到她面前，准备享受她忙碌的生活中最快乐的时光。

这些女孩子们，每人都尽自己的所能，设法使她们疲倦的母亲感到舒适。梅格整理茶几；乔把椅子摆好，但她过于兴奋，所接触到的每样东西反而都会掉落或碰翻；贝丝安静而忙碌地在起居室和厨房之间来回走着；艾美则依偎在她母亲的身边，双手交叉着，告诉母亲别的女孩子们做了些什么。

当她们都坐下来喝茶的时候，马奇太太说：“喝完茶后，我有惊喜的事要告诉你们。”

“我知道了，”乔说，“是父亲的来信。”

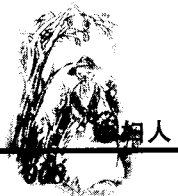
“Yes, a nice long letter. He is well, and thinks he will get through the cold season better than we feared.”

“I think it was so splendid of Father to go as a minister, when he was too old and not strong enough to be a fighting soldier,” said Meg. “When will he come home, Mother?” asked Beth, in a trembling voice.

“Not for many months, dear, unless he is ill. He will stay and do his work faithfully as long as he can. We must not ask for him back a minute sooner than he can be spared. But now listen to the letter.”

They all went close to the fireplace. Mrs. March sat in the big chair, with Beth on the floor at her feet, Meg and Amy on either arm of the chair, and Jo leaning on the back where nobody would see if any part of the letter made her cry.

In his letter, Mr. March said little of the hardships and dangers of war, but gave a cheerful account of camp life and news of the soldiers. Only at the end did he show how full his heart was of love for his family and how



“是的，是一封很热烈的长信。他身体很好，冬季也不会熬得很苦，我们不必担忧。”

“我想，当父亲老了，身体已不够强壮，不能再做军人的时候，去当一位牧师该是多么光荣的事。”“妈咪，父亲什么时候能够回家呢？”贝丝用颤抖的声音问道。

“亲爱的，除非他生病了，不然要不了几个月就会回来了。他在部队一天，就会尽忠职守一天。我们不可以要求他提早一分钟回家。现在听我给你们读这封信。”

她们都靠拢到火炉边，马奇太太坐在一把大椅子上，贝丝坐在她脚旁的地板上，梅格和艾美则坐在椅子两边的扶手上，乔则靠在椅背上，若信中有任何部分使她感动而流泪的话，是没有人瞧得见的。

在马奇先生的信中，他很少提到战争的艰苦和危险，倒是愉快地讲述了军营的生活和士兵们的消息。只是在信尾，他才表示出他心中充满对家人的爱，而且多么



much he wanted to be with them.

“Give my dear girls my love, and each a kiss. Tell them I think of them by day and pray for them at night. I know that they will remember all that I said to them when I left them. They will be loving children, do their daily duties well, fight each her own particular fault, and conquer so well that when I come back to them I may be prouder than ever of my little women.”

The girls felt sad as their mother read the last part. Even Jo was not ashamed of the big tear that dropped off the end of her nose, and Amy hid her head on her mother's shoulder and cried, saying, “I am a selfish girl, but I will try to be better, so that he may not be disappointed in me.”

“We all will,” said Meg. “I think too much of myself and hate work.”

“I'll try to be what he loved to call me, ‘a little woman’ I'll not be rude; I'll try to do my duty here, instead of always wanting to do big things somewhere else,” said Jo, thinking that to keep her temper at home was much harder than to face an enemy in battle.



和人

希望和家人生活在一起。

“把我的爱给我亲爱的女儿们，并给她们每人一个吻，告诉她们我白天想念着她们，夜晚为她们祈祷。我知道她们会记得我离开时，对她们所说的话。她们都是可爱的孩子，努力做她们该做的事，改正缺点，战胜自我。因此当我回到他们身边的时候，我一定会比往常更为我的小妇人们感到骄傲。”

当母亲读到最后一段时，女孩们都感到非常伤心。甚至乔都任由大滴大滴的泪珠从鼻尖滑落下来，艾美把头埋在她母亲的肩上哭了起来并说：“我是一个自私的女孩，不过我要努力改正，这样他才不至于对我感到失望。”

“我们都要努力，”梅格说：“我为我自己想得太多，并且讨厌工作。”

“我要努力做一个他喜爱叫的‘小妇人’，改掉粗鲁的毛病，做好自己分内的事，守本分，而不是总想在其他的地方做大事。”乔说，她心里明白在家不发脾气比在战场上面对敌人还要困难得多。

Beth said nothing, but wiped away her tears with the sock she was making, and thought that she too would try hard to be all that father hoped to find her when at last he was home again.”

The girls had been quiet for a little while, thinking of their father’s letter, when Mrs. March said cheerfully, “Do you remember how you used to play Pilgrim’s Progress when you were very young? How delighted you used to be when I tied bags on your backs for burdens and let you travel up through the house from the bottom, which you pretended to be the City of Destruction, to the top where you had all the beautiful things you could collect to make a Celestial City?”

“Oh yes, Mother, it was all such fun,” said Jo.

“I liked best the place where our bundles fell off, and we came out at the top to the roof and stood and sang for joy in the sunshine,” said Beth, smiling.

“I don’t remember much about it, except that I was always afraid of the dark stairs, but I liked the cake and milk we had when we got to the



贝丝沉默不语，只是用她正在编织着的短袜拭去脸上的泪水，想着当父亲再回家的时候，她也一定会努力做到他所希望看到的样子。

女孩子们平静了一会儿，想着她们父亲的信。这时马奇太太愉快地说：“还记得你们还很小的时候，就熟练地表演‘天路历程’吗？当我把袋子系在你们的背上当作沉重的包袱，让你们从假设是毁灭之城的我们的房屋底层穿越向上旅行，最后到达了顶点，当你们有了一切美丽的东西可以收集起来建造一个天国的时候，你们是多么地兴奋啊！”

“哦，是的，母亲，那是多么有趣啊！”乔说。

“我最喜欢的是我们甩掉重负的那个地方，我们走出来站到屋顶上，在阳光底下快乐地唱歌。”贝丝微笑着说。

“除了害怕黑漆漆的楼梯之外，其他的我都不太记得了。不过我喜欢当我们到达房顶时所得到的蛋糕和牛奶，”艾美说，“如果我现在不是太大的话，我倒是很

top,” said Amy, “and if I wasn’t too old now for such things, I would like to play it all over again.”

“Well, my dear girls,” said their mother, ‘what do you say to playing Pilgrim’s Progress once more during the time your father is away? Each of us must try to do the best she can with bearing our daily burdens, and we shall see how far we can get towards the Celestial City before he comes home again.”

“Oh, yes, do let us, Mother,” they all cried; and Meg said thoughtfully, “Yes, it only means trying to be good, which is very hard sometimes, and this story game may help us when we forget to do our best.”

“Presently, Hannah, the dearly loved servant who had lived with the March family since the girls were very small, came into the room and took away the dishes. The girls brought out their needlework, dull uninteresting sewing, making sheets for Aunt March—but tonight nobody complained. They divided the long edges into four parts, calling them Europe, Asia, Africa and



高兴能再演出一遍。”

“好吧，我亲爱的孩子们，”母亲说，“你们的父亲不在家的时候，再演出一次‘天路历程’好吗？我们每一个人都必须尽最大的能力，担负起我们日常生活的重担，并且我们要在他回家之前，看看我们能够往天国之城走多远。”

“噢，好的，我们演吧，妈妈，”她们异口同声地说着。梅格若有所思地说：“是的，那仅表示我们尽力而为，有时候还是非常艰苦的，可是在我们忘记我们要尽最大的努力时，这部戏剧也许能够帮助我们。”

一会儿，汉娜来到房间里，把茶盅拿了出去。她是从女孩们很小的时候就生活在马奇家里，一直被深爱着的仆人。女孩们拿出她们的针线活，非常枯燥地为马奇姑妈缝被单，但是今晚没有一个人抱怨。她们把长的一边分成四份，分别称为欧