

刘竞译注



休闲英语

ENGLISH

ENTERTAINMENT

英汉对照

世界名家

幽默作品精选

Gifts
OF THE MAGI



聪明人的礼物

O. Henry 著

中国文联出版社

英汉对照

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[美]欧·亨利著

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前 言

欧·亨利(O. Henry)是美国杰出的短篇小说作家,本名威廉·悉尼·波特(William Sydney Porter),1862年9月11日在美国北卡罗来纳州的格林斯博罗出生,1910年6月5日在纽约市去世。

波特父亲是个医生,母亲早死。他小时在他姑妈办的一所私立学校里受教育,15岁时(1877年)离开学校,在他叔父的药房里当见习药剂师。四年后,去了得克萨斯州,先在拉萨尔县的一个牧场上打工两年,1884年去奥斯汀,在那里先后当过簿记员、土地测量员和银行出纳员。在此期间,1887年他在当地结了婚。在银行工作三年(1891-1894年)后,他离开奥斯汀去休斯敦创办和主编幽默杂志《滚石》,未获成功,随后加入《休斯敦邮报》担任记者和专栏撰稿人。1896年,正当他被认为是一位聪明能干的新闻工作者而崭露头角的时候,他原先工作过的银行发现资金亏空,波特被指控有侵吞公款的行为,联邦当局命令他回奥斯汀受审。后来的材料表明,那家银行的亏空完全是因为管理不善,波特是无辜的。但当时波特感到有口难辩;为了避祸,他先逃到新奥尔良,随后又逃离美国,到了洪都拉斯。第二年他得知他的妻子病危,又回到奥斯汀。他妻子死后不久,当局就侵吞公款一案对他进行了审讯。在审讯中,他曾逃亡国外这一事实对他非常不利,尽管并没有足够的证据证明他确实侵吞了公款,他还是被认定有罪,判刑

五年。他于1898年4月进入俄亥俄州哥伦布市的联邦监狱服刑，在狱中因表现良好，得到了减刑。1901年7月，他在服刑3年3个月以后终于被释放出狱。

在狱中，波特因为有曾在药房里工作的经历而当上了监狱医院里的夜班药剂师。这使他白天有充裕的时间来从事写作，以便挣钱养活他的女儿玛格丽特。他入狱后不到半年，他的第一篇短篇小说就在全国性的麦克卢尔辛迪加所属的报刊上刊登出来。从他服刑的第二年起，他的署名“欧·亨利”的一篇篇以他在得克萨斯、洪都拉斯和其他地方所熟悉的生活为依据的奇异故事接连出现在一些杂志上，深受读者欢迎。三年牢狱之灾的煎熬把他从一位虽有文才但写作内容庞杂的报纸专栏撰稿人磨炼成了一位有成就的成熟的作家。

波特在出狱后不久的1902年迁居纽约市专门从事小说写作，开始了他的光辉而短暂的事业。他孜孜不倦地勤奋写作，连珠炮似地向所有的通俗杂志社投稿。在从1902年到1910年他逝世时为止的短短八年中，他用“欧·亨利”这个笔名写了好几百篇短篇小说，大受读者欢迎。从1903年12月到1906年1月这段时间是他写作生涯的顶峰；在此期间他每星期都为《纽约星期日世界杂志》（纽约《世界报》的星期日增刊）写一篇短篇小说，同时还为一些加入辛迪加的杂志写稿。

欧·亨利文思敏捷，下笔很快，稿子写成后很少修改，往往是写完后也不再看一遍就立刻封入信封寄出。

欧·亨利小说的故事背景有在美国各地的，有在中南美洲的，其中以那些写纽约市普通人生活的故事最为精采。那些故事不但生动地描绘了20世纪初纽约这个大都会的生活图景，而且充满了对生活在其中的小人物的遭遇的出自内心的深切同情，这是它们深受读者欢迎的一个重要原因。

在艺术上，欧·亨利的小说一般都有构思巧妙、节奏明快、描写生动、叙述流畅的特点，从故事一开头就引人入胜、使读者在不知不觉中很快进入特定情境、而且被牢牢地吸引着欲罢不能，特别是结尾往往出人意外，但仔细一想却又完全在情理之中，使人回味无穷，获得很高的艺术享受。这种独特的出人意料的结尾已经和作者的名字紧紧地联系在一起，被称为“欧·亨利式的结尾”，对其后的短篇小说作家有相当大的影响。

为了纪念这位短篇小说的怪杰，美国艺术与科学协会于1918年设立了“欧·亨利纪念奖”，对每年评出的由美国人创作并在美国出版的最佳短篇小说的作者给予奖励。

欧·亨利的作品原来分散发表在各种杂志上，在结集成书时，他的一些独特的遣词造句常遭到编者的随意改动，甚至内容也被任意增删。有些被改动后的文本由于多次重印，俨然成了“定稿”，而欧·亨利原作的本来面目反而被湮没了。

欧·亨利的作品幽默而富有人情味，本书所收入他的八篇短篇小说都是属于他的最脍炙人口的作品，选用的文本是它们首次在杂志上发表时原来的

样子,以便读者能欣赏到就像当年的读者在杂志上所读到的那种原汁原味的欧·亨利作品,其中有些地方与流行的文本有所不同,请读者注意。

译注者

1995 年 8 月

Contents 目 录

A Retrieved Reform (2)

重获新生

After Twenty Years (30)

二十年后

Witches' Loaves (42)

女巫的面包

The Cop and the Anthem (56)

警察和赞美诗

Springtime à la Carte (80)

春天的菜单

The Last Leaf (102)

最后一片叶子

Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen (124)

感恩节的两位绅士

Gifts of the Magi (144)

聪明人的礼物

*A RETRIEVED REFORM**

A GUARD came to the prison shoe-shop, where Jimmy Valentine was assiduously stitching uppers, and escorted him to the front office. There the warden handed Jimmy his pardon, which had been signed that morning by the governor. Jimmy took it in a tired kind of way. He had served nearly ten months of a four-year sentence. He had expected to stay only about three months, at the longest. When a man with as many friends on the outside as Jimmy Valentine had is received in the "stir" it is hardly worth while to cut his hair.

"Now, Valentine," said the warden, "you'll go out in the morning. Brace up, and make a man of yourself. You're not a bad fellow at heart. Stop cracking safes, and live straight".

"Me?" ^Qsaid Jimmy, in surprise. "Why, I never cracked a safe in my life".

"Oh, no!" laughed the warden. "Of course not. Let's see, now. How was it you happened to get sent up on that Springfield job? Was it because you wouldn't prove an alibi for fear of compromising somebody in extremely high-toned society? Or

重获新生

一名看守来到监狱里的皮鞋工场，在那里，吉美·伐伦坦正在专心致志地缝着鞋帮。那看守把他带到前面的办公室。在办公室里，典狱长把州长当天上午对他签发的赦免令交给吉美。吉美无精打采地接过了它。四年的刑期他已经服了将近10个月。他原本预料在里面最多只蹲上三个月左右就可以出去的。把一个像吉美·伐伦坦那样在外面有众多朋友的人收监的时候，是不值得费那个劲去把他的头发剃掉的。

“我说，伐伦坦，”典狱长说，“你明天早上就可以出去了。振作起来，做个堂堂正正的人。你心眼并不坏，可别再撬保险箱了，规规矩矩地过日子吧。”

“我？”吉美诧异地说。“哎呀，我可一辈子也没有撬过保险箱啊。”

“噢，没有！”典狱长笑道。“当然没有啦。那就让我们来看一看吧。你是怎么因为斯普林菲尔德的那件案子被送进来的呢？是由于你怕对最上层社会里的某个人造成伤害而不愿意提供证据证明自己当时不在场吗？还是这仅仅是一起心怀恶意的混帐陪审

* 这是这篇小说在1903年4月号的《世界》(Cosmopolitan)杂志上首次发表时原来的篇名，后来被改为“A Retrieved Reformation”。

①=Do you mean me?

was it simply a case of a mean, old jury that **had it in for you?**[®] It's always one or the other with you innocent victims. "

"Me?" said Jimmy, still blankly virtuous. "Why, warden, I never was in Springfield in my life!"

"Take him back, Cronin," smiled the warden, "and **fix him up with**[®] outgoing clothes. Unlock him at seven in the morning, and let him come to the bull-pen. Better think over my advice, Valentine. "

At a quarter past seven on the next morning Jimmy stood in the warden's outer office. He **had on**[®] a suit of the villainously-fitting, ready-made clothes and a pair of the stiff, squeaky shoes that the state furnishes to its discharged, compulsory guests.

The clerk handed him a railroad-ticket and the five-dollar bill with which the law expected him to rehabilitate himself into good citizenship and prosperity. The warden gave him a cigar, and shook hands. Valentine, 9762, was chronicled on the books "Pardoned by Governor" , and Mr. James Valentine **walked** out into the sunshine.

Disregarding the song of the birds, the waving green trees and the smell of the flowers, Jimmy headed straight for a restaurant. There he tasted the first sweet joys of liberty in the shape of a

团存心和你过不去的事例呢？对于你们这些无辜的受害者来说总不外乎是这两个原因，不是这个就是那个，反正总得占一个。”

“我吗？”吉美说，脸上依然是一副十足善良的表情。“唉，典狱长，我这辈子从来也没有去过斯普林菲尔德啊。”

“把他带回去吧，克洛宁，”典狱长微笑着说，“给他发一套出去的衣服，明天早上七点给他打开牢门，让他到候审室来。你最好还是考虑一下我的忠告，伐伦坦。”

第二天早上七点一刻，吉美站在典狱长的外间办公室里。他身上穿着国家为它释放出去的一些被强留的客人提供的一套极不合身的现成衣服和一双僵硬的、走起路来格吱格吱响的皮鞋。

办事员递给他一张火车票，和一张五块钱的钞票，执法当局期望他靠这五块钱重新成为良好公民并发家致富。典狱长给了他一支雪茄烟，而且还和他握了手。9762号犯人伐伦坦在档案里被记载为“由州长赦免”，于是詹姆斯·伐伦坦先生走出了牢门来到了外面灿烂的阳光下。

吉美对那鸟语花香、绿树摇曳的美景全然不屑一顾，径直走向一家餐馆。在那里，他第一次尝到了

② 和你过不去

③ =provide him with

④ =was wearing

broiled chicken and a bottle of white wine — followed by a cigar a grade better than the one the warden had given him. From there he proceeded leisurely to the depot. He tossed a quarter into the hat of a blind man sitting by the door, and boarded his train. **Three hours set him down^⑤** in a little town near the State line. He went to the cafe of one Mike Dolan and shook hands with Mike, who was alone behind the bar.

“Sorry we couldn’t make it sooner, Jimmy, **me^⑥** boy,” said Mike. “But we had that protest from Springfield to buck against, and the governor nearly balked. **Feeling all right?.^⑦**”

“Fine,” said Jimmy. “Got my key?”

He got his key and went up-stairs, unlocking the loor of a room at the rear. Everything was just as he had left it. There on the floor was still Ben Price’s collar-button that had been torn from that eminent detective’s shirt-band when they had overpowered Jimmy to arrest him.

⑤=Three hours later he got down

⑥ 这里的“me”是方言, =“my”。

⑦ 在美国英语对话中,做句子主语的第一人称和第二人称代词时常被省略,句中的时态助动词也一并省去。这种省略的规律似乎是:省略第一人称代词的情况大多出现在陈述句中;省略第二人称代词的情况除祈使句外,大多出现在疑问句和后面带有附加问句的陈述句中。这种现象在本篇中多次出现,下面这些句子都是属于这种

自由的甜头：吃了一只烤鸡，喝了一瓶白葡萄酒，随后又抽了一支雪茄烟，质地比典狱长送他的那支高一个等级。从那儿他再悠闲地走到火车站。他把一枚两毛五分的硬币丢进一个坐在门旁的盲人的帽子里，然后上了火车。三小时后他在州界附近的一个小镇下了车。他来到一个名叫迈克·多兰的人开的咖啡馆，和当时正独自一人站在柜台后面的迈克握手寒暄。

“真对不起，我们没能让你早点出来，吉美，老朋友。可是我们需要顶住来自斯普林菲尔德的抗议。而州长又差点打了退堂鼓。你还好吗？”

“很好，”吉美说。“我的钥匙在你这儿吗？”

他拿到了他的钥匙就上楼去，打开了后面一个房间的门。一切都保持着他离去时的原样。地板上还有本·普赖斯的领扣，那是在他们为了逮捕吉美而将他制服的过程中被从那位著名侦探的衬衫领口上扯下来的。

情况, Feeling all right? = Are you feeling all right?

Got my key? = Have you got my key?

Got anything on? = Have you got anything on?

Say, Billy, . . . = I Say, Billy, . . .

Thought I'd save express charges. . . = I thought I'd save express charges. . .

Got around at last, have you? = You've got around at last, have you?

Guess you're mistaken = I guess you're mistaken.

Don't believe I recognize you = I don't believe I recognize you.

Pulling out from the wall a folding-bed, Jimmy slid back a panel in the wall and dragged out a dust-covered suit case. He opened this and gazed fondly at the finest set of burglar's tools in the East. It was a complete set, made of specially-tempered steel, the latest designs in drills, punches, braces and bits, jimmies, clamps and augers, with two or three novelties, invented by Jimmy himself, in which he took pride. **Over seven hundred dollars they had cost him to have made®** at—a place where they make such things for the profession.

In half an hour Jimmy went down-stairs and through the cafe. He was now dressed in tasteful and well-fitting clothes, and carried his dusted and cleaned suit case in his hand.

"Got anything on?" asked Mike Dolan, genially.

"Me?" said Jimmy, in a puzzled tone. "I don't understand. I'm representing the New York Amalgamated Short Snap Biscuit Cracker and Frazzled Wheat Company."

This statement delighted Mike to such an extent that Jimmy had to take a seltzer-and-milk on the spot. He never touched "hard" drinks.

A week after the release of Valentine, 9762, there was a neat job of safe-burglary done in Richmond, Indiana, with no clue to the author. A

吉美从墙上拉出一张折叠床，把墙上的一块嵌板往里一推，从里面拽出一只上面满是灰尘的手提箱来。他打开手提箱，深情地注视着这套东部地区最精良的窃贼作案工具。这是一套应有尽有的工具，是经过特殊回火处理的钢材制成的，各种最新式的钢钻、打洞器、摇钻、撬棍、钳子和锥子一应俱全，此外还有两三种由吉美本人发明、并被引以自豪的新奇东西，它们是他花了七百多块钱在——在一个专门为干这一行的人制造这一类东西的地方制造出来的。

半小时之后，吉美走下楼来穿过了咖啡馆。他现在身上穿着雅致大方、十分合身的衣服，手里拿着那只已经抹去灰尘，弄得干干净净的手提箱。

“有花头吗？”迈克·多兰亲切地问道。

“我吗？”吉美用一种困惑的语调说。“我听不懂。我现在是纽约松脆饼干与麦片联合公司的代表。”

这句话大大逗乐了迈克，以致吉美不得不当场喝下一杯矿泉水加牛奶。“硬”饮料他是从来不碰的。

在 9762 号犯人伐伦坦被释放后过了一个星期，在印第安纳州的里士满市发生了一起夜间撬窃保险箱的案件，这件事干得干净利落，没有任何关于作案

⑧—Over seven hundred dollars it had cost him to have them made.

scant eight hundred dollars was all that was secured. Two weeks after that a patented, improved, burglar-proof safe in Logansport was opened like a cheese to the tune of[®] fifteen hundred dollars, currency; securities and silver untouched. That began to interest the rogue-catchers. Then an old-fashioned bank-safe in Jefferson City became active and threw out of its crater an eruption of bank-notes amounting to five thousand dollars. The losses were now high enough to bring the matter up into Ben Price's class of work. By comparing notes, a remarkable similarity in the methods of the burglaries was noticed. Ben Price investigated the scenes of the robberies, and was heard to remark:

"That's Dandy Jim Valentine's autograph. He's resumed business. Look at that combination knob—jerked out as easy as pulling up a radish in wet weather. He's got the only clamps that can do it. And look how clean those tumblers were punched out! Jimmy never has to drill but one hole.[®] Yes, I guess I want Mr. Valentine. He'll do his bit[®] next time without any short-time or clemency foolishness."

Ben Price knew Jimmy's habits. He had learned them while working up[®] the Springfield case. Long jumps, quick getaways, no confederates