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诺贝尔桂冠作家小传

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS:  
A BIOGRAPHY OF PEARL S. BUCK

游走在两个世界之间：

# 赛珍珠传

Edwina Pendarvis & Christina St. Clair 著

方柏林 译



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## 读伟人传记 提高人文素养

阅读，对于提高一个人的文化、语言水平至关重要。阅读伟人的传记更能丰富读者的历史文化知识，提高人文素养，帮助确立自己的人生目标，因为任何一部好的传记必定会提供主人公所处的时代背景，描述他(她)的生活理想、奋斗精神，及其在做入从业道路上所做的种种选择。

两年前，上海外语教育出版社采纳了方柏林先生的选题申请，同意出版英汉对照“诺贝尔桂冠作家小传”系列读物，我感到十分高兴。后来方先生和编辑许高女士分别来信要我为丛书作序，我便欣然允诺。

这套传记丛书使我想起了自己的部分阅读经验。在我读英语本科时，国家正处极端时期，学生能从图书馆借阅的文科书籍，量少面窄。直至1978年国家实施改革开放，我等才有机会在本科教育中断十年后，重返母校当了研究生。在学校图书馆新辟的国外赠书阅览室里，我先后读到了一大批外国文人的英文传记，其中很多是诺贝尔奖得主，如英国文豪萧伯纳、美国剧作家奥尼尔、在中国长大的美国作家赛珍珠，还有爱尔兰的贝克特等。当时的感觉就像是一位口渴已久的长途跋涉者无意中获得了醇美的甘露，我一本接一本地不停阅读，有时还去寻找同一作家的不同传记以期获取更多信息并加以比较。书中描写这些文化巨人所作的人生探索，与之俱来的痛苦和欢乐，还有在他们身上折射出来的高贵与猥琐、智慧与愚昧、坚毅与动摇，以及他们如何面对成功和荣誉，如何看待给予与幸福等等，仿佛我是在向这些文化伟人作零距离采访。这些书不但开阔了我的视野，丰富了我的历史文化知识，更是滋润了我的心田，消除了我心无所依而产生的焦虑和饥渴，帮我建起自己的人格心性和修养。毫不夸张地说，这些书在很大程度上决定了我后半辈子的人生道路、事业选择和做人的样式。

“诺贝尔桂冠作家小传”系列丛书的预想读者，是中国高等院校低年级学生。大学低年级学生能在自己人生性格和价值观形成的关键时期，阅读世界文化英才的中英对照传记，在认识一批对人类发展产生过深远影响的作家的生平业绩和内心世界的过程中，提高自己的人文素养和人格心性的境界，而与此同时增强自己英语阅读和翻译的能力，这该是件多么令人向往和愉快的事情！

这套丛书与以往翻译引进的国外图书不同，它是真正专为中国读者“量身定做”、精心设计的读物。方先生、美国作家 Edwina Pendarvis 女



士以及许编辑经过多次反复商讨，选定了一组他们认为是“最有代表性和影响力”、在中国具有相当知名度的诺贝尔文学奖得主。然后以Pendarvis女士为主的美国作家，用形象生动的英语撰写这些文豪的传记。在英语用词和语言难度上，他们都反复讨论协商，从细微处入手，努力为读者创造一个愉快美好的阅读体验。方先生等又把这些传记翻译成鲜活地道的中文，供读者作中英文对照阅读，使这套丛书增添了新的用途和意义。

我对丛书的创意者和翻译者方柏林先生有较多的了解，他出生安徽桐城，是南京大学英语系的一位优秀校友，他中英文功底扎实，勤于思考，又有国内外较长的学习、工作和生活的经历。出于兴趣爱好，他一直在繁忙的工作之余从事着文学写作和翻译。他诙谐幽默而不乏睿智的文章，不但在网络博客上拥有众多读者，也常被刊登在国内外一些重要杂志和报刊上。早年在国内读研究生时，他曾一边撰写品特戏剧语言的英文论文，一边参加翻译英文原著《赛珍珠文化传记》。以后他去美国大学深造和工作期间，独自翻译了《河湾》、《一个唯美主义者的遗言》、《老谋深算》、《万灵节》、《布鲁克林有棵树》等一批名家的获奖小说，由人民文学、译林、漓江等重要出版社出版。

英文主笔Pendarvis女士是美国诗人，她的英语创作，文笔生动细腻，文字精准洗练，特别适合英语学习者阅读。同时，她还是美国著名的特殊禀赋教育(gifted education)专家，专门研究如何对天资聪颖的青少年实施有效教育。这一背景使她能从青少年成长的角度，来叙述诺奖作家成年阶段所受到的种种影响，如阅读的书籍、交往的朋友、施加影响的家人等等。获得诺贝尔文学奖的机遇可遇不可求，但一个人的成长，是可以影响和可以造就的。

获得诺贝尔文学奖的作家都是了不起的成功者，但生活中了不起的成功者不一定是获得大奖的精英，他(她)们可以是平凡的普通人，通过大量阅读和实践，在人格培育和人文素养上成为了不起的成功者。他们知道获取，更懂得奉献，能在生活和事业的实践体验中，找到真正的人生意义和幸福。

这，我想是这套传记丛书的英文作者、中文译者和出版者真正想奉献给广大读者的。

刘海平

南京大学外国语学院前院长

全国美国文学研究会会长

2009年6月于南石皮弄



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## Chapter One

# YEAR OF THE DRAGON

## 龙年生人





From the open window of an upstairs bedroom in the big white farmhouse in Hillsboro, West Virginia, came one wail . . . then another . . . then another. The newborn baby's thin little cries grew in strength, each one traveling farther and farther, through the apple orchard, past the barn, across the meadow, and toward the mountains in the distance.

The day was June 26. The year was 1892, year of the dragon.

According to the Chinese zodiac<sup>1</sup>, babies born in the year of the dragon grow up to be high-spirited, big-hearted, and bold. Most people in the town of Hillsboro hadn't heard of the Chinese zodiac. Those who *had* heard of it didn't pay much attention to it. True, they planted

by the seasons and sometimes by the phases of the moon<sup>2</sup>. They even read horoscopes<sup>3</sup> in the newspaper occasionally; but they didn't really believe the stars affected anyone's destiny. Years later, the townspeople would learn that, for a lot of reasons, this baby grew up to be as energetic, generous, and brave as her zodiac sign predicted. She became a world-famous author and a passionate spokesperson for civil rights.

1. zodiac: *n.* 本指黄道十二宫图, 所谓 Chinese zodiac 指的是中国的十二生肖
2. phases of the moon: 指月亮的盈亏
3. horoscope: *n.* 星象; 天宫图

西弗吉尼亚西斯波罗镇上有幢大大的白色农舍, 农舍楼上是卧房, 窗户敞开着, 从里面传来一声啼哭……一声……又一声。新生儿哭声刚开始还是弱弱的, 越来越响, 越传越远, 越过苹果园, 穿过谷仓, 飘过草地, 奔向远方的山峦。

那一天是6月26日, 那一年是1892年, 农历的龙年。

根据中国生肖传统, 属龙的孩子天性乐观、善良、勇敢。中国十二生肖是怎么一回事, 西斯波罗镇上很少有人听说过。即便听人提起, 也没怎么去注意。是的, 他们播种收割, 都依着时令, 有时候还看月亮的阴晴圆缺。他们偶尔也看看报上的星相预测栏目, 不过他们不相信天上的星星真的会决定人的命运。多年以后, 镇上的人才发现, 这个孩子长大后, 果真精力过人、慷慨大方、英勇无畏, 这倒是在方方面面应验了其属相的预言。日后, 这个孩子成了一位享誉国际的作家, 一个热心的民权代言人。

On that summer day long ago, the baby's mother sat propped up in her canopied bed, held the infant close, and gently rocked her. As she rocked, she hushed the baby and whispered its name.

"Shh . . . shh . . . Don't cry, little Pearl."

She thought that the baby, its fair skin touched with pink, looked like a pearl.

The infant curled her tiny fingers around a strand of her mother's silky hair and hung on tightly. Soon she stopped crying. Her blue eyes, open wide, looked all around. She couldn't make sense of what she saw. Everything was too new. Her eyes were full of wonder as they surveyed her world — a snug<sup>1</sup>, safe world with white ruffled<sup>2</sup> curtains and solid, old-fashioned furniture.

In a few months, the baby's mother, Caroline, and father, Absalom<sup>3</sup>, would take her on a long journey. They would leave the farmhouse, with its cellar-kitchen that stayed cool almost all the time. They would leave the sunny first- and second-floor rooms, decorated so simply and pleasantly, and the attic with its boxes full of old photographs, letters, and other treasured mementos<sup>4</sup>.

1. snug: *adj.* 整洁的, 舒适的
2. ruffled: *adj.* 有褶的; 起皱的, 可指水面、织物、发羽等
3. Absalom: 赛珍珠父亲的名字。但赛珍珠的父亲在中国的时候, 多被人称为赛兆祥
4. memento: *n.* 纪念品

很久以前的那个夏日, 孩子的妈妈坐在带帐顶的床上, 把孩子搂在怀里, 轻轻地摇晃着。她边晃边哄, 让孩子安静下来, 还轻声唤着她的名字。

“嘘……嘘……别哭了, 小珍珠。”

孩子皮肤白里透红, 在妈妈的眼里如同一颗珍珠。

孩子用手指绕着妈妈的一缕秀发, 紧紧抓着不放松。不一会儿, 她就不哭了。一双蓝蓝的眼睛睁得大大的, 四处张望。她还不能弄明白周围都是什么。一切都太新了。她的眼睛扫视着周遭的世界: 白色的褶皱窗帘, 结结实实的老式家具; 这是一个既舒适又安全的世界。

再过几个月, 孩子的母亲卡罗琳和父亲赛兆祥就要带她出远门了。他们会离开这个农舍, 离开这个四季凉爽的地窖式厨房, 离开布满阳光的一二楼房间, 离开他们的阁楼。他们的房间, 一个个布置得既朴素又舒适。阁楼上面有很多箱子, 里面装着老照片、信件, 还有其他宝贵的纪念品。

The West Virginia farm was Caroline's childhood home. It had belonged to her family, the Stultings, since before the Civil War, and Caroline hated to leave. But her husband's work demanded it. They would go back to Absalom's missionary duties in China with their new daughter and their ten-year-old son, Edgar, Pearl's big brother.

On their last evening at home, the couple stood outside on the porch so Caroline could take a long last look at the peaceful view. During the years to come when she was far away, she would want to remember it clearly. Edgar came out to join them. Like his mother, he wished they could stay on the farm.

"I'll miss wading in the creek," he said wistfully<sup>1</sup>.

"I'll miss everything," Caroline said, her voice choked with tears as she surveyed the shady green lawn and the pleasant country lane beyond it.

"Caroline, you know there are countless souls to be saved in China," Absalom said quietly, but a little reproachfully<sup>2</sup>. "We have to go back."

1. wistfully: *adv.* 充满渴望地

2. reproachfully: *adv.* 带着责备语气地

这个西弗吉尼亚的农场是卡罗琳从小长大的地方。这是她娘家斯塔尔廷氏的产业，在南北战争之前就是他们家的了，卡罗琳很不情愿离开这里。可是丈夫的工作却让他们不得不走。他们要回中国，继续传道事业，还要带上新生的女儿，以及他们十岁的儿子（珍珠的大哥）埃德加。

在家里的最后那个晚上，夫妻两人站在门廊外，卡罗琳要最后好好地看一看她平静的故乡。接下来的岁月里，即使在遥远的他乡，她也要把这一切牢记心里。埃德加也跑了出来。和妈妈一样，他也想呆在农场不走。

"以后就不能在小溪里玩水了，我会想念的。"他巴巴地说。

"我什么都会想念的，"卡罗琳哽咽着说。她看着门口荫凉的草地，和不远处那些赏心悦目的乡间小道。

"卡罗琳，你知道中国有多少灵魂要得救啊，"赛兆祥慢条斯理地说，语气中略有些责备。"我们不回去能行吗？"

“I’m not asking to stay. Your mission in China is our life’s work,” Caroline replied, looking directly at him. “Still, it’s hard to leave. Our children won’t grow up here with their uncles and aunts and cousins. Pearl won’t know what it is to be a part of this beautiful place.”

Absalom said nothing more. Caroline knew he would follow his calling no matter what sacrifices it required. She cared about him and respected his *dedication*<sup>1</sup>. Nevertheless, she sometimes wished she had fallen in love with a farmer or a storeowner rather than with Absalom Sydenstricker, this stubborn preacher who cared more about his work than about anything else. She held Pearl tightly to her as she looked again at the scene around them. The weeks since the baby’s birth had passed quickly. Summer had turned to autumn. In the light of the September sun, the leaves of the big maple tree in the front yard glowed like *topaz*<sup>2</sup> and *amber*<sup>3</sup>.

Next day, her mother would carry the baby girl in a basket aboard a passenger train that would take the family across the continent to San Francisco. There they would board a big ship. Crossing the blue-green water of the Pacific Ocean, Pearl stayed

1. *dedication*: *n.* 献身; 献身精神
2. *topaz*: *n.* 黄水晶, 黄玉
3. *amber*: *n.* 琥珀

“我也没说要走。你去中国传道，这也是我们一生的事业，”卡罗琳回答说，她的眼睛直视着他。“不过，走总是舍不得。我们孩子不能在这里和舅舅姨妈待在一起，和表姐妹们一起长大了。这地方这么美，可惜我们珍珠以后一点都不了解。”

北祥没有再说话。卡罗琳知道他这人不管要做出多大牺牲，都要听从内心的召唤。她爱他，尊重他的执着。不过，她有时候心里巴不得自己嫁的是名农夫，或者某个小店老板，怎么也比嫁给北祥强。北祥是个顽固得要命的牧师，除了传道，什么也不管。卡罗琳紧紧抱着珍珠，又留恋起四周的风景来。孩子出世后的几个礼拜，日子过得很快。一转眼就入秋了。九月的阳光把前院老枫树的叶子照得晶莹透亮，如黄玉，如琥珀。

次日，母亲会用小篮子提着孩子，登上火车，火车横穿美国，把她们带往旧金山。从旧金山，他们搭乘大船，航行在太平洋翠蓝翠蓝的水



in her mother's arms most of the day and slept in the little basket at night. When Caroline became too seasick to nurse the baby, Absalom carefully spooned milk from a cup into Pearl's mouth as the ship rolled with the rise and fall of the waves.

The baby's West Virginia birthplace, in the heart of the oldest mountains on earth, lay thousands of miles behind. Her new home would be in younger mountains, but in an older civilization. As Pearl would soon learn, China's imperial history winds, like the tail of a magnificent dragon, far into the past.

面上。珍珠白天多半在妈妈怀里，晚上在小篮子里头睡觉。卡罗琳管船不能喂奶的时候，赛兆祥就用勺子从杯子里舀奶喂到珍珠的嘴里。这一路上，船在波涛之间起起伏伏，摇摇晃晃。

孩子离西弗吉尼亚故乡渐行渐远。故乡在大山里头，远隔千里。故乡的山，是地球上最为古老的山。她要去的也有山，更为年轻，可是那里却有着更为古老的文明。珍珠后来发现，中国的王朝历史，绵延不绝，如巨龙甩尾，伸向遥远的过去。



## Chapter Two

# THE COLOR OF HONEY

## 蜜色童年



The nation to which Caroline and Absalom Sydenstricker brought their children had four thousand years of recorded history. A huge country of flowing rivers, wide plains, sandy deserts, softly rounded hills, and high, wind-carved mountains, China had been unified over two thousand years earlier by the emperor Qin Shi Huang-di. Qin's government set up a common written language and a monetary system to be used across all of China. This emperor made the buying and selling of wheat, rice, and other goods much simpler than it had been before his reign. His government built roads fifty paces wide radiating from the capital into the rest of the country. Qin's government also completed the Great Wall — a brick wall 1,500 miles long. The Great Wall was wide enough for chariots to travel on and high enough for archers to rain arrows down on any attackers.

When Pearl was born, China was ruled by the Ch'ing dynasty, now usually called the Qing dynasty. The Ch'ing dynasty had ruled for over two hundred years; but for longer than that, Europeans and others had been entering the country and gradually changing it, sometimes with the consent of the government, but often without consent.

卡罗琳和赛兆祥带孩子所去的国家，有着四千年历史见诸文字记载。这是一个幅员辽阔的国度，它有奔腾的江河，有开阔的草原，有金沙大漠，有圆顶小丘，有风雕雨琢的山峦。两千多年前，中国就已经统一。号称始皇帝的秦王朝统治者统一了文字和货币系统，这种统一使得小麦、稻谷等的买卖，比以前任何时候都更为便利。秦王朝还以都城为轴心，向四周修建驰道，宽50步，通往全国各地。秦王朝还修建了万里长城，长城实为砖墙，总长1500英里。长城很宽，上面可并行马车，它也有足够的高度，足以让弓箭手在城墙上射箭抵御任何进犯的敌人。

赛珍珠出生的时候，中国还处在满清王朝统治下，该朝代现多称清朝。清朝统治了两百多年，在此期间甚至在更早的时候，欧洲等国人就已渐渐进入这个国家，迫使其渐渐改变，有时候，这些改变得到了政

Missionaries like Pearl's father sometimes angered Chinese people by insisting that their western religion was better than the religions of China. The Empress Dowager<sup>1</sup>, the most powerful person in the nation, was growing old. Though the imperial dynasty clung<sup>2</sup> to its power, the nation was restless. Drastic<sup>3</sup> change was inevitable, but as Pearl's family traveled to their new home, the merchants, fishermen, priests, seamstresses, scholars, and farmers went about their work in much the same way they had for the past century.

Life in the cities could be hectic and crowded for people used to a West Virginia farm. Once, before Pearl was born, Absalom, Caroline, and Edgar had lived in a three-room apartment over a shop beside the Yangtze River. Noise from the bustling<sup>4</sup> streets and the busy river filled their tiny apartment. All day, big steamers and fishing vessels of different shapes and sizes traveled up and down the Yangtze's turbulent waters. Street vendors and shoppers haggled over the price of fish, vegetables, and silk. Pearl's mother disliked the loud noise of the city, but she found almost unbearable the drownings she saw

1. Empress Dowager: 慈禧太后的常见英译
2. cling (to): v. 抓住, 坚持
3. drastic: adj. 剧烈的
4. bustling: adj. 繁忙的, 喧闹的

病的同意,但很多时候,这些改变是不顾当时政府的意愿,而强加给了这个国家。赛珍珠父亲这样的传教士,有时候会引起民众的愤怒,因为这些传教士总说自己的宗教优于中国本土宗教。当时实际掌权的是慈禧太后,她也已经年迈。尽管清王朝还在垂死维护自己的统治,整个国家已经开始躁动不安。巨大的变革势所难免。不过在赛珍珠一家来到中国新家的时候,那些商贩、渔夫、僧道、裁缝、书生、农夫们倒依旧像祖祖辈辈一样,过着各自的营生。

和安静的西弗吉尼亚农场相比,城市里头总显得匆匆忙忙、熙熙攘攘,叫人一下子习惯不了。赛珍珠还没出世的时候,赛北祥、卡罗琳、埃德加一度住在一套三室的房子里,靠近长江,边上就是一家店铺。街头江面吵吵闹闹的声音,把他们小小的屋子都给充满了。长江之水奔腾不息,大大小小的游船、渔船穿梭一般来来往往。街上,小贩子和顾客在为鱼啊、蔬菜啊、丝绸啊讨价还价。珍珠的母亲很不喜欢城市的喧嚣,不过她最难过的,却是江上淹死人的场景。有时候透过楼上窗户,她就

through her upstairs window. Small boats often capsized on the rough river, and sometimes people fell off their boats. Rescue was almost impossible because of the strong currents. These sights horrified her because she could do nothing to save the people who fell overboard.

When they returned to China with Pearl, her mother carried her ashore in Shanghai; but they didn't stay long in that coastal city. Absalom was eager to get back to his work in the Chinese countryside, so they soon traveled inland to Tsinkiang<sup>1</sup>. There, Pearl grew as plump as a dumpling. By the time she took her first baby steps, she had won the heart of her Chinese nursemaid, her *amah*, named Wang.

Wang often patted Pearl's curly blonde hair, gently lifting one of her unruly curls and stretching it out straight, then letting go. It sprang back into a shiny little circle.

"Mise," Wang said. *Mise* means "honey-colored or rice-colored."

She thought her young charge's hair looked golden, like honey with sunlight shining through it. When they went out, though, she often put a cap on Pearl's head. The cap fitted close and hid her yellow hair. The kind-hearted nursemaid worried that others

1. Tsinkiang: 清江浦的旧式英文译名, 今江苏省淮安市主城区(清浦区、清河区)的历史名称

能看到江面上的翻船事故。由于江流湍急, 出事的时候几乎没法去救。看到人掉下水淹死, 她却无能为力, 这些场面总是让她惊恐万分。

带着珍珠回到中国后, 珍珠的妈妈把她抱上了上海的码头, 但是他们没有在上海这个沿海城市过多停留。赛兆祥急着下乡传教, 于是他们来到靠内地的清江浦。珍珠在那儿渐渐长大了, 长得胖胖的, 像个小饺子。她开始学步的时候, 他们家的佣人王妈就喜欢上了这个小丫头。

王妈常常摸着珍珠的一头金发, 把这一缕那一缕的乱发给理直, 谁知这些卷发很快又弹回来了, 又成了亮闪闪的小卷发。

"米色," 王妈说。米色的意思是和蜂蜜或者大米一样的颜色。她觉得东家小孩的头发如同金黄色, 像是阳光照过的蜂蜜一般。不过, 出门的时候, 王妈总给她戴顶帽子。帽子一戴, 那一头黄头发倒是给遮得严