

温馨与爱的成人童话
少女成长中的必读书籍

简·韦伯斯特/著 *Jean Webster*



长腿叔叔

Daddy Long Legs

经典读库·英汉彩绘本

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简·韦伯斯特/著

张琪/译

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作者 (美) 简·韦伯斯特

译者 张琪

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简·韦伯斯特（1876—1916），美国著名小说家，美国著名作家马克·吐温的孙侄女。她的著作大多以孤儿为题材，其中《长腿叔叔》最为著名，自面世以来一直畅销不衰，被誉为少女成长中的必读书籍，还被媒体评为“百年难得一见的好书”。此书出版后不久便被亨尼·米勒改编成舞台剧，1955年在美国被拍成同名电影，1990年又被日本制作成同名动画片。

从小在孤儿院里长大的少女茱蒂，从小就承担起孤儿院繁重枯燥的工作，从没有体会过正常家庭的乐趣。十八岁那年，由于作文的出色被一位神秘理事慷慨资助进了大学，纯真的茱蒂从此开始了另一种人生，她欣喜地汲取着各种知识，积极体验着新奇的生活，并且一直坚持给她尊称为“长腿叔叔”的神秘理事写信，尽管从未收到他的回信。在大学中，她偶然结识了杰维斯少爷，并且深深地爱上了他。毕业后见到了从未谋面的“长腿叔叔”，此人居然就是杰维……

本书是一本书信体小说，由茱蒂写给“长腿叔叔”的78封信组成。茱蒂把“长腿叔叔”当作唯一的亲人和交流的对象，向他倾诉自己成长中的喜怒哀乐。信中的茱蒂善良、纯真、正直和坚持；在她的眼中，任何事情都是值得去体验的，她会把所有的不幸都视为有趣的经历，乐于去体验它的感觉。任凭风云变幻，她都会勇敢面对……

Wednesday

The first Wednesday in every month was a Perfectly Awful Day — a day to be awaited with dread¹, endured with courage and forgotten with haste. Every floor must be spotless, every chair dustless, and every bed without a wrinkle. Ninety-seven squirming² little orphans must be scrubbed and combed and buttoned into freshly starched³ gingham; and all ninety-seven reminded of their manners, and told to say, “Yes, sir,” “No, sir,” whenever a trustee spoke.

It was a distressing time; and poor Jerusha Abbott, being the oldest orphan, had to bear the brunt of it. But this particular first Wednesday, like its predecessors, finally dragged itself to a close. Jerusha escaped from the pantry where she had been making sandwiches for the asylum’s guests, and turned upstairs to accomplish her regular work. Her special care was room F, where eleven little tots, from four to seven, occupied eleven little cots set in a row. Jerusha assembled her charges, straightened their rumpled frocks⁴, wiped their noses, and started them in an orderly and willing line towards the dining room to engage themselves for a blessed half hour with bread and milk and prune pudding.

Then she dropped down to the window seat and leaned throbbing temples against the cool glass. She had been on her feet since five that morning, doing everybody’s bidding scolded and hurried by a nervous matron. Mrs. Lippett, behind the scenes, did not always maintain that calm and pompous dignity with which she

忧郁的礼拜三

每月的第一个礼拜三都是特别可怕的——这是一个在忧虑中等待，勇敢地忍耐后，一忙起来又能很快会忘记的日子。这一天，每层地板都必须光洁如新，每张椅子都要极其干净，每条床单都不能有半点褶皱。还要把九十七个活蹦乱跳的小孤儿梳洗整理一番，给他们穿上浆好的格子衬衫，并且要挨个嘱咐他们要对人有礼貌。只要理事们一问话，他们就要说：“是的，先生”，“不是，先生”。

这真是个折磨人的日子，可怜的杰露莎·艾博特，是孤儿院里年龄最大的，自然是最倒霉的。不过，这个礼拜三跟以前一样，终于也熬了过去。杰露莎逃出了厨房，她刚在那里为客人们做了三明治，转身走到楼上去完成她每天的例行工作。她负责第F号房间，那里有一个从四岁到七岁的小孤儿和他们排成列的十一张小床。杰露莎把他们都叫了过来，帮他们整理好皱巴巴的衣服，擦干净鼻涕，让他们排成一队后领着他们去餐厅，在那里他们可以尽情地享受半个小时，喝牛奶，吃面包，还有梅子布丁吃。

她疲惫地坐在了窗台边，把涨得发疼的太阳穴贴在冰凉的玻璃上。从清晨五点钟开始，她就手脚不停地忙乎，被很多人来回指挥，还要忍受神经兮兮女监事的催促和责骂。里皮特太太面对理事们和

1 dread /dred/ *n.* 恐惧

2 squirm /skwɜ:m/ *vi.* (因不舒适、羞愧或紧张而) 局促不安

3 starch /stɑ:tʃ/ *vt.* 给...上浆

4 frock /frɒk/ *n.* 罩袍

faced an audience of trustees and lady visitors. Jerusha gazed out across a broad stretch of frozen lawn, beyond the tall iron palings that marked the confines of the asylum, down undulating ridges sprinkled with country estates, to the spires of the village rising from the midst of bare trees.

The day was ended — quite successfully, so far as she knew. The trustees and the visiting committee had made their rounds, and read their reports, and drunk their tea, and now were hurrying home to their own cheerful firesides, to forget their bothersome little charges for another month. Jerusha leaned forward watching with curiosity — and a touch of wistfulness — the stream of carriages and automobiles that rolled out of the asylum gates. In imagination she followed first one equipage then another, to the big houses dotted along the hillside. She pictured herself in a fur coat and a velvet hat trimmed with feathers leaning back in the seat and nonchalantly murmuring “Home” to the driver. But on the doorsill of her home the picture grew blurred.

Jerusha had an imagination — an imagination, Mrs. Lippett told her, that would get her into trouble if she didn’t take care — but keen as it was, it could not carry her beyond the front porch of the houses she would enter. Poor, eager, adventurous little Jerusha, in all her seventeen years, had never stepped inside an ordinary house; she could not picture the daily routine of those other human beings who carried on their lives undiscommoded by orphans.

*Je-ru-sha Ab-bott
You are wan-ted
In the office,
And I think you’d
Better hurry up!*

来访的女士时非常冷静和庄重，私底下却完全不是那么回事儿。杰露莎的目光穿过孤儿院那高高的铁栏杆、外边那一大片上了冻的开阔草地、远方起伏连绵的山峦、还有山上散落着的村舍，目光最后落到那树叶凋零的树林里露出房屋的尖顶上。

这一天终于过去了，没出什么岔子，她觉得很圆满了。理事们与访问团已经巡视了一遍，念了报告，喝了茶，现在，他们正急匆匆地赶回自己有温暖壁炉的家，起码要一个月以后才会想起他们照管的这些小孤儿们。杰露莎向前倾着身子，渴望并且好奇地看着那些马车和汽车前前后后涌出孤儿院的大门。

她幻想着，跟着那一辆辆的轿车，来到一栋座落在山坡上的大房子里，身着一件貂皮大衣，戴着用羽毛装饰天鹅绒帽子，靠在后座上，轻声地跟司机说一句“回家”。不过一到家门口，整个幻境就开始模糊起来了。

杰露莎有个幻想——里皮特太太说那是个不小心就会给她惹上麻烦的幻想。但是，无论她的想像力有多丰富，都无法带领她走进那扇她神往的大门。可怜的、对此有着无比渴望的和充满冒险精神的小杰露莎，在她十七年的生活里，从未进入到任何一个正常的家庭。她无法想像，没有其他孤儿打扰的生活是怎么过的。

“杰……露……莎……艾……博……特
有人找……你
去办公室，
我觉得你，
最好动作快点儿！”

Tommy Dillon, who had joined the choir, came singing up the stairs and down the corridor, his chant growing louder as he approached room F. Jerusha wrenched herself from the window and refaced the troubles of life.

“Who wants me?” She cut into Tommy’s chant with a note of sharp anxiety.

*Mrs. Lippett in the office,
And I think she’s mad.
Ah-a-men!*

Tommy piously intoned, but his accent was not entirely malicious¹. Even the most hardened little orphan felt sympathy for an erring sister who was summoned to the office to face an annoyed matron; and Tommy liked Jerusha even if she did sometimes jerk him by the arm and nearly scrub his nose off.

Jerusha went without comment, but with two parallel lines on her brow. What could have gone wrong, she wondered. Were the sandwiches not thin enough? Were there shells in the nut cakes? Had a lady visitor seen the hole in Susie Hawthorn’s stocking? Had — O horrors! — one of the cherubic² little babes in her own room F “sauced” a trustee?

The long lower hall had not been lighted, and as she came downstairs, a last trustee stood, on the point of departure, in the open door that led to the porte-cochere. Jerusha caught only a fleeting impression of the man — and the impression consisted entirely of tallness. He was waving his arm toward an automobile waiting in the curved drive. As it sprang into motion and approached, head on for an instant, the glaring headlights threw his shadow sharply against the wall inside. The shadow

汤米·狄伦，刚加入唱诗班，哼着歌走上楼梯，从走廊走近 F 号房间，声音越来越近，越来越大。杰露莎不得不把思绪从窗外拉了回来，去面对生活里的琐碎事。

“谁叫我呢？”她急忙地问汤米。

“里皮特太太在办公室，
我看她好像火很大，
阿……门！”

汤米依然哼着歌儿，他的腔调并没那么幸灾乐祸。即使是心肠最硬的小孤儿，面对一个做错事的姐姐被叫去见那个讨厌的女监事时，也会表现出同情的。况且汤米挺喜欢杰露莎的，虽然她有时候使劲拽他的胳膊，给他洗脸时差点快把他的鼻子给擦掉了！

杰露莎皱着眉头一声不吭地去了。是哪里出了差错？难道是三明治切得不够薄？还是有壳掉在杏仁蛋糕里了？还是哪个来访的女士看到苏西·华生袜子上的破洞了？还是……哦，糟糕！不会是 F 号房顽皮的小家伙把调味酱弄在理事身上了吧？

又长又矮的走廊里的灯已经关了，当她下楼时，最后一个理事站在通往停车通道的门口，正要离开。杰露莎扫了一眼这个人，感觉他很高。他正朝院外一辆等候的汽车招手，当车靠近的瞬间，车灯刺眼的光把他的影子投射在大厅的墙上，影子里的胳膊和腿都被

1 malicious /mə'liʃəs/ a. 怀恶意的，恶毒的

2 cherubic /tʃe'ru:bik/ a. 天使（似）的，无邪的

pictured grotesquely¹ elongated legs and arms that ran along the floor and up the wall of the corridor. It looked, for all the world, like a huge, wavering daddy-long-legs.

Jerusha's anxious frown gave place to quick laughter. She was by nature a sunny soul, and had always snatched the tiniest excuse to be amused. If one could derive any sort of entertainment out of the oppressive fact of a trustee, it was something unexpected to the good. She advanced to the office quite cheered by the tiny episode, and presented a smiling face to Mrs. Lippett. To her surprise the matron was also, if not exactly smiling, at least appreciably affable; she wore an expression almost as pleasant as the one she donned for visitors.

滑稽地拉长了，从地板一直延伸到走廊的墙上。它看起来很像人们常说的“长腿叔叔”——一只晃来晃去的长脚蜘蛛。

杰露莎紧锁的眉头舒展了，轻松地笑了起来。她是个天性乐观的人，一件小事儿都能把她逗得很开心。从让人压抑的理事身上发现笑料，确实是一件难得的好事。当她进办公室见到里皮特太太时，脸上挂着一丝笑意。令人惊讶的是，她也在冲她笑，虽然不是真正意义上的笑，但是也还算和蔼。她几乎像对待其他来访者一样对她面带笑容。

 **1** grotesquely /grəu'teskli/ *ad.* 奇异的，荒诞的



“Sit down, Jerusha, I have something to say to you.”

Jerusha dropped into the nearest chair and waited with a touch of breathlessness. An automobile flashed past the window; Mrs. Lippett glanced after it.

“Did you notice the gentleman who has just gone?”

“I saw his back.”

“He is one of our most affluent trustees, and has given large sums of money toward the asylum’s support. I am not at liberty to mention his name; he expressly stipulated¹ that he was to remain unknown.”

Jerusha’s eyes widened slightly; she was not accustomed to being summoned to the office to discuss the eccentricities² of trustees with the matron.

“This gentleman has taken an interest in several of our boys. You remember Charles Benton and Henry Freize? They were both sent through college by Mr. — er — this trustee, and both have repaid with hard work and success the money that was so generously expended. Other payment the gentleman does not wish. Heretofore his philanthropies³ have been directed solely toward the boys; I have never been able to interest him in the slightest degree in any of the gifts in the institution, no matter how deserving. He does not, I may tell you, care for girls.”

“No, ma’am,” Jerusha murmured, since some reply seemed to be expected at this point.

“Today at the regular meeting, the question of your future was brought up.”

Mrs. Lippett allowed a moment of silence to fall, then resumed in a slow, placid manner extremely trying to her hearer’s suddenly tightened nerves.

“Usually, as you know, the children are not kept after they are sixteen, but an exception was made in your case. You had finished our

“杰露莎，坐下，我有话要跟你说。”

杰露莎赶紧坐到最近的一张椅子上，屏住了呼吸。窗外汽车驶过，车灯的光闪过窗户。里皮特太太瞥了一眼远去的车子，问道：

“你注意到刚离开的那位先生了吗？”

“我看到了他的背影。”

“他是我们最富有的理事之一，给孤儿院捐赠了很多钱。但是，我不能告诉你他的姓名，因为他特意要求我不要透露。”

杰露莎的双眼微微张大了些。她不习惯被女监事叫到办公室里来讨论关于理事们的怪癖。

“这位先生已经帮助过孤儿院的好几个男孩子。你记得查理·班顿跟亨利·傅理兹吧？他们都是被这位先生……这位理事，资助去上大学的。两人都很用功学习，用优异的成绩回报了他的慷慨资助。这位先生从不要求其他的回报。但是，迄今为止，他的仁慈仅限于对男孩子，我没能让他对女孩们产生有一点点儿兴趣，无论她们有多么出色。我可以这样说，他根本不喜欢女孩子。”

“是的，女士。”杰露莎喃喃答道，此刻似乎应该要回应点什么。

“今天的例会上，有人提起关于你的前途。”

里皮特太太稍微停顿了一下，然后又接着慢条斯理地说，让听她讲话的人感到神经紧张。

“你知道的，通常孩子们过了十六岁以后就不能再留下来了，不过你算是个例外。你十四岁读完孤儿院的课程，表现良好——不

❶ stipulate /'stɪpjuleɪt/ v. 规定，约定

❷ eccentricity /ˌɛksən'trɪsɪti/ n. 古怪，怪僻

❸ philanthropy /fɪ'lænθrəpi/ n. 慈善事业，善心

school at fourteen, and having done so well in your studies — not always, I must say, in your conduct — it was determined to let you go on in the village high school. Now you are finishing that, and of course the asylum cannot be responsible any longer for your support. As it is, you have had two years more than most. ”

Mrs. Lippett overlooked the fact that Jerusha had worked hard for her board during those two years, that the convenience of the asylum had come first and her education second; that on days like the present she was kept at home to scrub.

“As I say, the question of your future was brought up and your record was discussed — thoroughly discussed. ”

Mrs. Lippett brought accusing eyes to bear upon the prisoner in the dock and the prisoner looked guilty because it seemed to be expected — not because she could remember any strikingly black pages in her record.

“Of course the usual disposition¹ of one in your place would be to put you in a position where you could begin to work, but you have done well in school in certain branches; it seems that your work in English has even been brilliant. Miss Pritchard, who is on our visiting committee, is also on the school board; she has been talking with your rhetoric teacher, and made a speech in your favor. She also read aloud an essay that you had written entitled ‘Blue Wednesday’ ”.

Jerusha’s guilty expression this time was not assumed.

“It seemed to me that you showed little gratitude in holding up to ridicule the institution that has done so much for you. Had you not managed to be funny I doubt if you would have been forgiven. But fortunately for you, Mr. —, that is, the gentleman who has just gone — appears to have an immoderate² sense of humor. On the strength of that impertinent paper, he has offered to send you to college. ”

都好，我不得不说你的行为举止并非一贯良好——由于你的表现，我们让你继续读镇里的高中。现在你也快毕业了，我们不能再负担你的生活费了。即使这样，你也已经比其他人多受了两年的教育。”

里皮特太太完全忽略了杰露莎这两年为了她的食宿，非常卖力工作的事实。她永远都先把孤儿院工作做好，再考虑自己的功课。就如同今天这样的日子，她就得留下来打扫卫生。

“我说了，有人提出你的前途问题，会上讨论了你的表现——好好地讨论了一通。”

里皮特太太用一种责备的眼光盯着待审的“犯人”，而这个“犯人”也表现出一副有罪的样子，虽然她真的记不得做错过什么，而是觉得里皮特太太认为她理所应当是这样的表情。

“当然啦，对你来说，给你安排一个工作就不错了，不过你在学校里，有些科目表现突出，尤其是英文可以说很出色。来自于你们学校的理事——普里查小姐，正好在参访团里，她曾跟你的作文老师聊过，会上夸奖了你一番，还读了你的一篇作文——题目是《忧郁的礼拜三》。”

这回杰露莎可知道自己错在哪里了。

“我听说，你非但没有表示出感激，甚至嘲笑这个把你养大的孤儿院，我不知道你是不是有意嘲弄，也不知道你是否会被原谅。不过，你很幸运……那位先生，就是刚走的那位，表现出了令人费解的幽默感。竟因为那篇不适宜的文章，他愿意资助你去念大学。”

❶ disposition /dɪspə'zɪʃən/ *n.* 处置

❷ immoderate /i'mɒdərɪt/ *a.* 无节制的，过度的

“To college?” Jerusha’s eyes grew big.

Mrs. Lippett nodded.

“He waited to discuss the terms with me. They are unusual. The gentleman, I may say, is erratic. He believes that you have originality¹, and he is planning to educate you to become a writer.”

“A writer?” Jerusha’s mind was numbed. She could only repeat Mrs. Lippett’s words.

“That is his wish. Whether anything will come of it, the future will show. He is giving you a very liberal allowance, almost, for a girl who has never had any experience in taking care of money, too liberal. But he planned the matter in detail, and I did not feel free to make any suggestions. You are to remain here through the summer, and Miss Pritchard has kindly offered to superintend² your outfit. Your board and tuition will be paid directly to the college, and you will receive in addition during the four years you are there, an allowance of thirty-five dollars a month. This will enable you to enter on the same standing as the other students. The money will be sent to you by the gentleman’s private secretary once a month, and in return, you will write a letter of acknowledgment once a month. That is — you are not to thank him for the money; he doesn’t care to have that mentioned, but you are to write a letter telling of the progress in your studies and the details of your daily life. Just such a letter as you would write to your parents if they were living.”

“These letters will be addressed to Mr. John Smith and will be sent in care of the secretary. The gentleman’s name is not John Smith, but he prefers to remain unknown. To you he will never be anything but John Smith. His reason in requiring the letters is that he thinks nothing so fosters facility in literary expression as letter writing. Since you have no family with whom to correspond, he desires you to write in this way; also, he wishes to keep track of your progress. He will