

· 英语简易读物 ·

H. G. Wyatt

*Stories from
Shakespeare*

莎士比亚戏剧故事集

上 册

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SHAKESPEARE

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[英] H. G. Wyatt 改写

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1964年·北京

內 容 提 要

本书分上下两册共包括十六个故事。本册包括《威尼斯商人》、《麦克佩斯》、《如願》、《李尔王》、《第十二夜》、《暴风雨》、《哈姆雷特》、《冬天的故事》等八个故事。本书由莎士比亚的著名剧本改写而成，內容情节曲折，饶有趣味，文字浅易流暢。书末附有詞汇表。

本书适合大学英語专业二年級以上学生或同等程度的讀者閱讀。

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本书简介

威廉·莎士比亚 (William Shakespeare, 1564—1616) 是英国文艺复兴时期最重要的剧作家和诗人, 也是世界文学史上最伟大的作家之一。他出生于亚馮河岸斯特腊特福德 (Stratford on Avon), 青年时期去到伦敦, 先为演员, 以后从事写作, 主要是写戏。一般认为, 他写了 37 出戏。此外, 他还写了一些诗歌, 其中最有名的是 154 首十四行诗。他的创作对以后英国文学和语言的发展都有深远的影响。

莎士比亚生活在一个大变动的时代。当时封建制度虽仍占统治地位, 但是英国已开始资本主义原始积累, 正处于新旧两种制度交替的时期。在文化上, 西欧正处于文艺复兴时期, 英国的民族文化也空前高涨。莎士比亚没有受过高等教育, 但是他通过辛勤的自学继承了古希腊罗马、西欧和本民族丰富的文化遗产, 熟悉当时的文学, 同时通过大众化的戏院与各阶层人民保持了密切的联系, 因而从这两方面为自己的创作汲取了无穷的力量。他在剧作中以非凡的艺术概括力极其深刻而包罗万象地反映了当时的社会生活。他一方面揭露和谴责了封建制度的残暴和新兴资产阶级的罪恶, 一方面也表达了文艺复兴时期的人文主义思想和广大人民的思想感情以及他们对美好生活的向往。因此他的戏直到今天还有动人心魄的效果, 为世界各国人民所喜爱。他同时代的剧作家本·琼生 (Ben

Jonson) 曾說他是“时代的灵魂”，“不属于一个时代，而属于所有的时代”。馬克思曾把他的創作誉为“世界艺术高峰之一”。恩格斯曾提到“莎士比亚式的生动性和戏剧效果”。

莎士比亚的劇作大致可分为三个时期。第一期以《仲夏夜之梦》(*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 1595年)、《第十二夜》(*Twelfth Night*, 1600年)等喜剧为主。这一时期也包括《威尼斯商人》(*The Merchant of Venice*, 1596年)、历史剧《亨利四世(上、下部)》(*Henry IV*, 1597年)、《裘力斯·該撒》(*Julius Caesar*, 1599年)，以及早期的悲剧《罗密欧与朱丽叶》(*Romeo and Juliet*, 1594年)。中期以《哈姆雷特》(*Hamlet*, 1601年)、《李尔王》(*King Lear*, 1605年)、《麦克佩斯》(*Macbeth*, 1605年)等悲剧为主。晚期主要是悲喜剧，如《暴风雨》(*The Tempest*, 1612年)等。

莎士比亚的戏剧主要是以无韵詩体(blank verse)写成，夹以散文和韵文。他的文字十分生动、通俗、优美，然而与現今流行的英語有相当大的差别，一般讀者須借助注释才能直接閱讀原剧。根据原剧情节編写的故事集，最有名的当推十九世紀初英国散文名家查理斯·兰姆(Charles Lamb)和他姐姐瑪丽·兰姆(Mary Lamb)合写的《莎氏乐府本事》(*Tales from Shakespeare*, 1807年)。

現在这个故事集是由威埃特(H. G. Wyatt)編写的。威埃特认为，兰姆的本子文字比較古雅艰难，因此他用当今流行的英語，以浅显流暢的文字写了这个故事集，专供初学者閱讀。本书分上、下两册，共

包括 16 个故事，初版于 1925 年。现在采用牛津大学出版社 (Oxford University Press) 1959 年的版本，加以汉语注释，并编制了词汇表。

这个故事集中有些地方引用了莎剧原文，这些地方在注释中均注明了在原剧中出现的场次，并采用了朱生豪的译文（《莎士比亚戏剧集》，人民文学出版社，1962 年）。*Hamlet* 一剧则是采用卞之琳的译文（《哈姆雷特》，人民文学出版社，1958 年）。下册中个别地方引文较长，这些地方未详加注释，只抄录了朱生豪译文，初学者如感困难可以略过。

本书词汇量较大，可供大学英语专业二年级以上学生或同等程度的读者作为一般阅读之用，也可作为阅读莎剧原文前的准备。

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THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

At the time when the city of Venice was at the height of her fame and prosperity,¹ one of her most prominent citizens was a merchant named Antonio.² He was well known for his kindness and generosity, and had many friends, the chief being a young Venetian noble named Bassanio.³ Though of noble birth and high rank,⁴ Bassanio was poor and lived beyond his means in order to keep up his property and appearance.⁵ But Antonio was very fond of him, and lent or gave him money whenever he was in need of it. For the merchant of Venice was a rich man, owning a fleet of valuable ships which brought him wealth by trading with foreign countries.

Now⁶ it happened that Bassanio loved a

1. at the height of her fame and prosperity — 处于声誉与繁荣的鼎盛时代.

2. Antonio [æn'touniəu] 人名.

3. Bassanio [bə'sa:niəu] — 人名.

4. though (he was) of noble birth and high rank — 虽然他是贵族出身并且地位很高.

5. lived beyond his means ... appearance — 为了维持家业和体面, 生活宽绰, 入不敷出.

6. now — 在这里是语气词, 用来交代一件新事情.

lady of wealth and birth¹ named Portia,² whose father had lately died and left her sole heiress to all his fortune.³ So well known was she for her wealth, her beauty, and her gifts of mind,⁴ that many princely and noble suitors wished to marry her. These visitors, because they were rich as well as noble, knew how to make a fine show⁵ before the lady, arriving at her house with costly gifts and a richly-dressed company. But Bassanio, being poor, could afford no display,⁶ and was afraid that this lady might despise him for his poverty and refuse his offer of marriage.

So he went to Antonio and told him of his difficulty. The lady, he told Antonio, seemed to welcome his visits, and he thought that he might win her hand in marriage,⁷ if only his appearance could be more like that of the other magnificent suitors. So he asked Antonio if he could lend him three thousand ducats.

1. a lady of wealth and birth — 一位富有而出身高貴的女子。

2. Portia ['pɔ:ʃjə] — 人名。

3. had left her sole heiress to all his fortune — 遺下全部产业由她单独繼承。

4. gifts of mind — 才智; 聰慧。

5. to make a fine show — 大肆炫耀。

6. could afford no display — 講不起排場。

7. might win her hand in marriage — 可能得到她同意同他結婚。

Antonio was only too ready to¹ help his friend whom he loved, but said that he had no money to spare at the moment.² All his ships were at sea, and he would have plenty of money when they came back. 'Meanwhile,' he suggested, 'I will borrow the money for you from Shylock³ the money-lender, who will lend it readily upon the credit of⁴ those ships.'

Now Shylock the Jew was a wealthy miser — the best known money-lender in Venice. But he was not liked by the people, because he was a hard man who asked a high rate of interest and showed no mercy to debtors who could not pay. And he had a special hatred for Antonio, partly because he was a Christian and partly because Antonio openly showed his dislike of Shylock's hard-heartedness, but chiefly because Antonio himself often lent money without interest, and that spoiled Shylock's business. So Shylock nursed a grudge against⁵ Antonio and waited for the day when he could have his revenge. Not knowing Shylock's enmity against him, Antonio, with his friend Bassanio, went to him to ask for a loan of

1. only too ready to ... — 很願意...

2. had no money to spare at the moment — 那時刻沒有多餘的錢。

3. Shylock ['ʃaɪlək] — 人名。

4. upon the credit of — 以...為担保。

5. nursed a grudge against ... — 對...懷恨在心。

three thousand ducats. 'I shall be able to pay you back the loan with the interest,' said Antonio, 'as soon as my ships come to port. For, as you know, they are at present at sea and are shortly due back with rich cargoes.' At first Shylock seemed unwilling to make the loan. He said that as at the time Antonio's ships were abroad, it was possible that storms or pirates or other misfortunes might visit them;¹ and Antonio might be unable to repay the loan. But as they talked together, a way of obtaining his revenge upon Antonio occurred to the cunning mind of the wicked Jew.²

He said, at last, that he could lend the money. 'You have no claim on me for any loan,'³ said he, 'for you call me dog and treat me openly with contempt. Surely you don't expect a dog to lend you money? But I'll be friends with you all the same,⁴ and as you lend money sometimes and ask no interest, so to show my friendly feelings and that I too can be generous, I will do the same to you.'

1. it was possible that storms ... might visit them
— 那些船只可能碰到暴风雨、海盜或別的灾难。

2. a way of ... occurred to the cunning mind of the wicked Jew — 这个邪恶、狡詐的犹太人想到了一个... 的办法。

3. you have no claim on me for any loan — 你无权要求我借錢給你。

4. But I'll be friends with you all the same — 但是我仍然願意跟你交个朋友。

Antonio heard the money-lender's kind offer with surprise, and then Shylock went on to say, 'Well, just in jest,¹ if you do not repay me by the fixed day, let it be agreed that I shall have a pound of your fair flesh to be cut off from any part of your body I may choose.' 'Very well,' replied Antonio, 'to these terms I agree,² and I admit the Jew has kindness in him after all.' Bassanio began to dissuade Antonio from³ accepting the terms; but Antonio, treating them as a joke, said he would not distrust the Jew's kindness and would sign a bond or agreement according to them. So the three men went to a lawyer and signed a bond that if within three months Antonio did not repay Shylock the three thousand ducats, Shylock was to be allowed to⁴ cut off a pound of flesh from any part of his body he liked. Antonio then obtained his loan, and gave the money to Bassanio. Bassanio now had the means of paying court to⁵ Portia in a manner

1. just in jest — 只是开开玩笑.

2. to these terms I agree — 我同意这个条件. (term 作“条件”讲时只用复数形式 terms).

3. to dissuade someone from ...ing — 劝某人不要....

4. was to be allowed to ... — 将被允许(将可以).... (动词 to be (这里是 was) + 不定式动词 (这里是被动语态的 to be allowed) 表示预先的安排或规定.)

5. had the means of paying court to ... — 有钱向...求爱.

befitting his noble birth and her own wealth and condition. So he collected servants to accompany him and prepared to visit Belmont¹ where Portia lived.

Now Portia's father, before he died, had thought out a curious plan for guiding his daughter in her choice of a husband. He had three small caskets or chests made of different metals. The first was of gold, the second of silver and the last of lead.² One of them contained an image or likeness of Portia. And it was her father's wish that his daughter should marry the first of her suitors who guessed rightly in which casket her portrait lay. But, to test the suitor's sincerity, he had added a condition — each suitor before he guessed must promise that if he guessed wrong, he would never propose marriage to any woman.

Many suitors, when they heard of this condition, went away without venturing to guess at all.³ Of the few who had accepted the conditions, none so far had guessed right. One of them, a prince of Morocco, had chosen the golden casket, because, as he thought, gold

1. Belmont ['belmont] — 地名.

2. The first was (made) of gold, the second (was made) of silver and the last (was made) of lead. — 第一只匣子是用黃金做成的, 第二只是用銀子做的, 第三只是用鉛做的.

3. went away without venturing to guess at all — 連猜都不敢猜一下就掉頭而去了.

was a more worthy metal than silver or lead to hold the portrait of so fair a lady as Portia. But when he opened the casket he found inside it, not the portrait of a lady, but a horrible image representing Death. In one of its eyes was stuck a piece of paper, and on the paper was written the saying, 'All that glisters is not gold.'¹ So that suitor sadly took his leave.

The next suitor who staked his fortune on a guess² was the Prince of Arragon³ in Spain. He was attracted by the silver casket. On this casket were written the words, 'Who chooseth⁴ me will get what he deserves.' These words pleased him, for he thought to himself, 'It would be a good world in which each fared just as he deserved, and if I do not deserve to win this lady, I have no right to have her. But surely I do deserve her. Let me see.' So saying, he opened the silver casket. But when he looked in, he saw an image, not of the fair Portia, but of a blinking idiot. So he too went away disappointed.

After several suitors had come, and gone

1. All that glisters is not gold. — 一切閃爍發光的并不都是金子。(注意不可理解為‘一切閃爍發光的都不是金子。’)

2. staked his fortune on a guess — 拿命運作賭注來猜一猜。

3. Prince of Arragon [ˈærəɡən] — Arragon 王子。(Arragon: 當時小王國名, 今作 Aragon.)

4. chooseth (古體) = chooses.

disappointed, the arrival of Bassanio was announced to Portia. There came with him a friend by name Gratiano,¹ who was in love with Nerissa,² Portia's maid, and he had come to propose to her, just as Bassanio had come to propose to her mistress.

When Bassanio's arrival was announced, Portia received him very kindly.³ For he was far more pleasing to her than any of the other suitors; and there was no one she desired for her husband before him.⁴ So she felt worried and anxious at the thought that he, like the other suitors, might guess the wrong casket. But, by the terms of her father's will, she was forbidden to direct his choice. In her anxiety she begged him to wait awhile before taking the risk of a guess. But as he said he would rather not prolong his anxiety, he too was shown those three caskets, of gold, silver and lead.

Before making his choice Bassanio pondered a long time. But he remembered as he looked at the gold and silver caskets, that appearances are often deceitful, for bad men usually pretend to be good, and ugly people try to hide

1. Gratiano [ˌgrɑːʃiˈɑːnoʊ] — 人名.

2. Nerissa [niˈrɪsə] — 人名.

3. received him very kindly — 很亲切地接待他.

4. there was no one she desired for her husband before him — 她宁愿嫁他, 而不愿嫁别人.

their ugliness by dressing beautifully. So he put the gold and silver caskets on one side and chose the dull and plain lead casket instead. Portia watched him make the right guess¹ with joy and delight. And with equal joy Bassanio opened the casket and saw within it a true portrait of his beloved Portia.

Bassanio then turned to Portia, to see if she too was as pleased as he was, for still he was not quite certain that² she really wished him for her husband. At once Portia confessed her love.³ 'I am,' she said, 'only a girl without much learning or knowledge, and for myself I have no ambitions. But it will be my happiness to learn what you teach me and to be guided in all things by your wisdom. So now I give to you myself, my house and my servants, and as a sign of this I give you this ring.' So saying she handed him a ring, and added, 'If you part with this ring, that will mean our love is at an end.' Bassanio accepted the ring joyfully. 'When I part with this ring,' he said, 'then I am ready to part with my life also.' In this way Portia and Bassanio promised faithfulness to one another.⁴

1. make the right guess — 猜对.

2. was not quite certain that ... — 拿不准...

3. confessed her love. — 承认她爱他.

4. promised faithfulness to one another — 彼此信誓旦旦, 永不变心. (one another 与 each other 可通用.)