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# 美語實況短篇故事

Collection of American Short Stories

胥宏達 編





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美語雜誌外語中心

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## MANY MOONS

## 明月無數

*James Thurber*

Princess Lenore loved cakes, She once ate so many that she became sick and the king's doctor could do nothing to help her. The king promised his little daughter anything she wanted, if she would just get well.

Lenore said she wanted the moon; she would get well if she had the moon.

The king called for his most important official, the Lord High Chamberlain. He was big fat man who wore thick eyeglasses.

The king asked him to get the moon for the young princess. The king's official took a long list from his pocket and said: "Your Majesty, I have gotten you many things. Here is a list of them: ivory, monkeys, peacocks, jewels, pink elephants, little

蕾娜公主嗜食糕餅。有一次，她吃得太貪了，竟然生病，連御醫都對她束手無策，愛莫能助。國王遂應允小女兒，只要她的病好得了，她要什麼，國王就給什麼。

蕾娜說，她要月亮：要是她有了月亮，病自然就好了。

國王召來他的要臣，侍從長。侍從長是個大胖子，戴眼鏡，鏡片厚厚的。

國王要侍從長找月亮來給公主。這位國王內臣由口袋裡掏出一張清單來，說道：「陛下，我替你找到好多東西，全列在這張單子裡：象牙、猴子、孔雀、珠寶、粉紅象、小藍狗、金甲蟲，和天使羽。」

blue dogs, gold insects, and the feathers of angels.”

“And I have brought you giants and little men; and women who lived in the sea; and singers and dancers, and a kilo of butter, a bag of sugar and twenty four eggs—oh, I’m sorry, my wife wrote that!”

The king said he did not remember any little blue dogs and did not want to talk about little blue dogs—he wanted the moon for his daughter, and he wanted it quickly.

The Lord High Chamberlain said, “I have gotten things from far-off places like Africa and Asia. But I cannot get the moon. The moon is sixty thousand kilometers from the earth. It is bigger even than Princess Lenore’s room. And it is made of hot copper. Nobody can touch it. Little blue dogs, yes. But the moon—no.”

The king ordered the Lord Chamberlain out of his room and sent for his mathematician, a little man with no

「而且，我還為你帶過巨無霸和小人兒；海中美人魚；歌伎和舞孃，以及一公斤奶油，一袋糖，二十四雞蛋——喔！對不起，這是我太太寫的！」

國王說，他記不起什麼小藍狗了，也不想談論小藍狗——他要取得月亮，給他女兒，而且馬上就要。

侍從長說，「我從亞非洲，那麼遙遠的地方搜盡了寶物，也不曾搜到月亮。月亮在離地球六萬公里外，這個東西嘛，比蕾娜公主的房間還要大，而且是熱銅做的，無人碰得。若說要小藍狗，沒問題，但要月亮——麻煩可大哩。」

國王把侍從長趕出房外，召進他的數學顧問——一個頂上無憂的

hair on his head. He carried pencils behind his ears.

The king said to him: "Don't tell me all the problems you have settled for me in the last forty years. I am not interested in them. I want the moon for Princess Lenore *now*. Get it!"

The mathematician said, "Thank you, thank you for asking me. On this paper I have written all the problems I have answered for you in the last forty years. I have told you how far up is and how far down is. I showed you the distance between the letters A and Z, and between day and night."

The king got hot with anger. He said he didn't want to talk—he wanted the moon for his daughter. But the mathematician said he could not get the moon. The moon was five hundred thousand kilometers away. It was almost as big as the king's country. It was made of asbestos. And it was nailed to

小個頭。這人耳後還夾根鉛筆。

國王對他說：「別提四十年來，你替我解過了多少難題。我無意聽聞，我只要找來月亮給蕾娜公主，快，這就去拿。」

數學家說，「承蒙召見，無勝感荷。這張紙上，記下了四十年來，我為你解過的所有問題，我告訴過你，天有多高，地有多深，指明了A和Z之間的差距，與日夜間的長短！」

國王火大了，說道，他不要談——他要月亮，好給他女兒。但是數學顧問說，他拿不到月亮，月亮在五十萬公里外，幾乎跟國王的疆土一樣大，是用石棉製成的，而且被釘牢在空中——誰也拿不到。

the sky—nobody could get it.

The king pushed the mathematician out of the room. He called for his jester, the only man who made him laugh. The jester came running into the room. He wore his funny clothes covered with bells.

The king said, "My daughter will stay sick until she gets the moon. All my officials say that they cannot get it." The jester thought for a minute and said: "Well they are all wise men, but have different ideas about the moon. Why don't we ask Princess Lenore what ideas she has about the moon."

The king agreed and the jester went to Lenore's room. The little girl spoke with difficulty. She asked the jester if he brought the moon. He said he would get it. But first, he wanted to know how big she thought the moon was. Lenore answered, "It is as big as the nail on my finger. I know this is so because when I put my small finger in front

國王把數學家推出房外，找來弄臣，只有這人，才能逗他開懷。弄臣跑著進入房內，身上的滑稽服飾，綴滿銅鈴。

國王說，「朕的皇女病了，非拿到月亮不能痊癒，眾臣都說他們拿不到。」弄臣想了一下子，便說道：「嗯，他們都是聰明人，但是對月亮的看法不一，爲什麼不問問蕾娜公主，她對月亮的看法是什麼呢？」

國王同意，弄臣便入了蕾娜公主的房裡。小女孩說話都感吃力，她問弄臣有沒有帶來月亮。弄臣說，他就要去拿，但得先知道公主想像中的月亮有多大。蕾娜答道，「月亮像我的手指甲一般大。我知道就是這麼大的，因爲我把小指頭放在月亮前，我便看不到月亮了。」



of the moon, my fingernail covers it.”

The jester then asked her how far away she thought the moon was. She said that it was *not* as high as the tree near her window.

She knew this because sometimes the moon got caught in the top of the tree.

The jester had one more question. What did she think the moon was made of? The princess laughed and said that, of course, it was made of gold.

The jester left Lenore and went to see the king's jeweler. The jeweler made a round moon of gold, a little smaller than the fingernail of the Princess. Then he put the moon on a gold chain so that Lenore could wear it on her neck.

The jester brought the gold chain to princess Lenore. She was so happy that she quickly got well. The next day, she got out of bed and played in the garden. The king was happy. But then he began to

弄臣又問公主，她覺得月亮離她有多遠。公主說，月亮不會比她窗口的樹還要高。

她清楚這個，因為有時候月亮被樹梢抓住了。

弄臣又問了一個問題，問公主覺得月亮是什麼做的？公主笑了，答道，月亮當然是黃金做的。

弄臣離開蕾娜，走訪御用珠寶匠。珠寶匠用黃金做了一輪圓月，這月，比公主的手指甲小了一點點。然後珠寶匠把這輪月亮繫在一條金鍊子上，好讓蕾娜掛到頸項上。

弄臣把金鍊子拿到蕾娜公主跟前，她高興極了，病痊癒得好快，翌日，她便下床，到花園裡玩耍，國王很高興，但隨即煩惱起來了。他知道，當晚明月會再當空生輝。

worry. He knew the moon that night would be bright in the sky.

If his daughter saw it, she would know that the moon on her neck was not really the moon. Again, he asked his officials to see him.

The Lord High Chamberlain was first.

The king asked what could be done so that Princess Lenore would not see the moon that night. The Lord High Chamberlain thought for a long time. Then he said that if the princess wore black glasses she would not be able to see *anything*.

The king said that if his daughter could not see anything, she would walk into the furniture and hurt herself and be back in bed. He called for his mathematician.

The mathematician walked around in a circle. He said he had the answer: Fireworks, every night in the gardens.

So many bright lights shooting into the sky from the

如果他的女兒看了，便會了解，掛在她頸間的並非真正的月亮。他重又召見眾臣。

第一個被找來的是侍從長。

國王問他，可有法子，讓蕾娜公主當夜見不到月亮。侍從長苦思良久，才說道，如果讓公主戴上墨鏡的話，她便什麼也見不到了。

國王說，如果他的女兒什麼也見不到，走路便會碰到傢俱，碰傷了可不是又要到床上去養傷。他召來他的數學顧問。

數學家踱了一圈，說有了：夜夜在花園裡燃放烟火。

花園裡，有萬丈光芒射向天空

gardens would keep Princess Lenore from seeing the moon.

The king told the mathematician he was stupid. So much light in the sky would not let his daughter sleep. The king looked out of his window. He saw the moon begin to rise. He quickly called for his jester and told him that his little daughter would soon see the moon.

This would make her sick again. None of his officials knew what to do about it.

The jester said that if these wise men did not know how to hide the moon, then the moon could not be hidden.

Again, the king looked out of his window and saw that the moon was shining into Lenore's room. The jester spoke to him. "Who knew what the moon was made of, and how far away?"

"I think that Princess Lenore is wiser than your officials and knows more about the moon than they do. I will ask her to explain how the moon can be

，蕾娜公主便見不到月亮了。

國王斥責數學顧問是笨蛋。萬丈光芒當空，他的女兒焉能入睡？國王往窗外一望，月亮已冉冉上升，他迅即召來弄臣，告訴他，他的小女兒就要看到月亮了。

這又要叫她致病了。眾臣都不知怎麼才好。

弄臣說，既然這些聰明人都不知怎麼藏住月亮，那這月亮便藏不住了。

國王再往窗外一望，看到月輝已經撒進了蕾娜的房裡。弄臣告訴國王，「除了蕾娜公主以外，沒有人知道月亮是什麼做成的，又離我們多遠？」

「我想蕾娜公主比你的臣子聰明，比他們了解月亮。我要問她，爲什麼月亮能同時出現在她的頸間與空中。」

on her neck and in the sky.”

The king could not stop him. The jester went to Lenore's room. She was in bed, but not sleeping. She was looking out the window at the moon in the sky. She held the little moon that the jester had brought her.

The jester asked her: “How can the moon shine in the sky when it is hanging around your neck?”

She looked at him and laughed. She said: “That's a foolish question. When I lose a tooth, a new one grows in its place. Doesn't it?”

The jester answered “Of course! And when a deer loses its horns, new horns grow.” She said “That's right. And when we cut the flowers in the garden, other flowers grow in their places.”

The jester said: “That's right! And after the night takes the place of the day, the day takes the place of the night.”

Princess Lenore said: “It is

國王不得不任他到蕾娜的房裡。她躺在床上，尚未入眠，正望向窗外，那輪高掛空中的明月。她握著弄臣爲她弄來的小月亮。

弄臣問她：「月亮已經掛在你的頸間，怎麼還能在空中閃耀光輝？」

公主看著弄臣，笑道：「你問得好笨啊！我的牙掉了，不是會有新牙補長出來嗎？」

弄臣答道：「當然，鹿角斷了，會再長出新角。」公主搶答道，「對，我們摘下了花園裡的花，又會有新的花朵補長上來。」

弄臣說：「這就對啦！白天走了，來了黑夜，黑夜去了，又會有白日升起。」

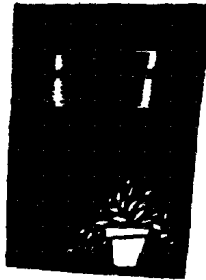
蕾娜公主說：「月亮也是這個

the same with the moon. And I think it is the same with everything." Her voice got lower and lower and the jester looked at her closely and saw that she was asleep.

He covered her gently with the blankets and walked quietly out of her room on his toes.

樣子，我想每種東西都是這樣。」  
公主的聲音越說越低，弄臣專注地望著她，看著她入眠。

弄臣拿毯子輕輕地蓋到公主身上，蹑手蹑腳地出了她的房間。



## THE SHARKS WERE HUNGRY

*Dorothy Cattrell*

Doctor John Perry decided it was time to go home. It had been a perfect day: a day alone, the first such day in many years.

He had filled his bag with all sorts of sea shells, enough to study for months. The island had been a good place to find shells. But now the sun was going down. He must leave before it got dark.

He picked up his bag of shells and walked toward the edge of the island. He came to the sand reef that led from the island to shore. He stopped for a moment to enjoy the sunset on the ocean water, then began to walk down the sand reef toward the shore. He walked slowly, stopping a few times to rest. He began to whistle. Alone with nature all

## 鯊魚餓了

約翰·皮瑞醫生決定現在該回家了，這真是完美的一天：獨自消磨了一天，多年來第一次有這樣的日子。

他已在他的袋子裡，裝滿了各類的貝殼，夠他研究好幾個月了；這個島一向是一個尋找貝殼的好地方，但是現在太陽已開始西沈，他必需在天黑之前離開。

他拿起裝著貝殼的袋子，走向島的邊緣，他走到了該島通往海岸的沙礁，他逗留了一會兒欣賞海上日落，然後開始上了沙礁；他慢慢地走著，且停下來休息了幾次，他開始吹著口哨，獨自一整天與大自然為伍——使他感到愉快，現在他能很清楚的看見海岸了。

day—it had cheered him. He could see the shore.

The gray colors of evening were beginning to spread across the ocean and the sand. He hurried on. Then, suddenly, he stepped into the water. Before he knew what had happened, he dropped down and down . . . the water was covering his head. He rose to the top of the water, blowing and struggling to get back on to the dry sand. He felt the water rushing about him. Somehow he got on to the sand and sat down wet and surprised at his sudden fall. He heard the water still rushing about and then he saw a long gray shark.

He stood up, looked around. He saw the sharks swim toward the shore and then he saw other sharks. Five, six, seven of them. But where was the reef?

But what had happened to it? He began to walk back toward the island. While he had searched for shells on the

黃昏的暮色已開始在海面和沙灘上擴散，他趕緊的走；然後，突然之間，他踏進了水裡，在他還未弄清楚到底是怎麼回事之前，他一直的向下沈…水就要蓋住他的頭了；他升到水面，一邊喘氣一邊掙扎的要回到乾沙礁去，海水在他周圍洶湧著，他總算回到了沙灘，濕漉漉的坐下，對這突然的跌落感到很意外，他看到水仍在激湧著，接著他看到了一條長而灰色的鯊魚。

他站起來環顧四周，他見到鯊魚向岸邊游去，接著他又看到其他的鯊魚，五條，六條，一共七條，但是沙礁到哪兒去了？

沙礁到底怎麼了？他開始向島走回去；當他在島上找尋貝殼時，強烈的海流已把沙礁的一大部分冲

island, the strong ocean waves had washed a large part of the sand reef away. There was nothing between him and the shore but water . . .and sharks.

He did not know much about sharks. . .but he was a good swimmer. He looked at the shore which was now almost black against the red sky. He could swim. . .but what about the sharks? Do they attack in the night? He tried to remember what he had read about sharks. Didn't sharks find their food by smelling it? If they did, it meant they looked for food at all times . . . even during the night. He decided not to swim to shore. It was too dark and he wanted to see the enemy if he was to fight it.

He looked around for his bag of shells, and found it a few meters away. He pulled the bag on to some dry sand, then sat down next to it.

The wind was warm. The stars began to show. The moon rose. The water looked

走了，在他與海岸之間除了水……和鯊魚外，別無他物。

他對鯊魚所知不多……但是他是個游泳好手，他眺望著在紅霞滿天映照下這時幾乎已是漆黑一片的海岸，他雖能游泳，但是鯊魚怎麼辦呢？牠們在夜晚也會攻擊嗎？他儘量回想著曾讀過有關鯊魚的一切，鯊魚不是藉著嗅覺來找尋牠們的食物嗎？如果真是如此，那就意味著牠們任何時候都可找尋食物……甚至是在夜裡；於是他決定不游往海岸，天太黑了，而且如果他要跟敵人格鬥的話，他也希望能在看得見的情形下進行。

他四下找著他那袋貝殼，他在幾公尺以外發現了它，他把袋子拖到乾沙上，靠著它坐下。

風兒很溫暖，星星開始出現，月亮也升起了，海水看來和平安靜



Peaceful and quiet and yellow in the moon light. The gentle noises of night soon made him sleep . . . but not for long. Most of the night he lay down and looked up at the stars, thinking. He thought of the people in the village . . . his friends. They needed him. He was their doctor . . . the only doctor in the village. And it felt good to be needed. He thought of wood for a fire . . . wood to signal for help. But there was no wood. He thought of the sharks. Would they go away during the night?

Then he thought of food. He was hungry, but hunger was his smallest problem. The ocean was filled with fish, if he could catch one. Fish would satisfy both his hunger and thirst. But hunger and thirst could wait. At last the thought of sleep . . . it came at last . . . and he slept until the sun rose.

He felt stiff when he got up. He moved about, then looked

，在月光下泛著一片黃色，夜晚輕柔的聲音很快地使他入睡了…但他睡的並不久；夜間大部份的時間，他只是躺著仰望繁星，思潮起伏不已，他想到了村子裏的人們…他的朋友們，他們需要他，他是他們的醫生…村子裡唯一的醫生！想到被人需要使他感到很愉快，他想到用木柴起火…發出求救的信號，但是没有木柴，他又想到了鯊魚，牠們在夜裏會離開嗎？

接著他想到了食物，他很餓，但是飢餓只是他最小的問題，海裡魚很多，如果能抓到一條的魚，就可以充飢和解渴了，但是飢渴可以等待；最後他想到睡眠…他終於睡著了…而且一直睡到太陽升起。

當他起來時，身子感到有些僵