

Selected English Short Stories

英国短篇小说 选读

上册

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Book I

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上海外国语学院英语系
《英国短篇小说选读》编注组

藏书

上海译文出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英国短篇小说选读. 上册: 英文/上海外国语学院英语系编. —上海: 上海译文出版社, 1981. 8(2003. 8 重印)

ISBN 7-5327-0178-6

I. 英... II. 上... III. 英语-语言读物, 小说
IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2000)第 25502 号

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上海世纪出版集团
译文出版社出版、发行
上海福建中路 193 号
全国新华书店经销
宜兴市德胜印刷有限公司印刷

开本 787×1092 1/32 印张 9.25 字数 252,000

1981 年 8 月第 1 版 2003 年 8 月第 20 次印刷

印数: 175,301—180,400 册

ISBN 7-5327-0178-6/H·054

定价: 7.10 元

本书如有缺页、错装或损坏等严重质量问题, 请向承印厂联系调换

前 言

本书收集了哈代、特罗洛普、韦尔斯、高尔斯华绥、曼斯菲尔、毛姆等十一位英国著名作家的十四个短篇小说。按作者出生先后编排。这些作家对英国文学的发展有相当的影响。限于篇幅，这里收集的作品不一定是他们的代表作，但就其语言运用、风格、写作技巧来说，都各有特色，在一定程度上反映了他们的基本写作特点。作品内容属于讽刺暴露性的比较多，对资本主义社会有所反映和暴露，作者对待各种问题的态度都比较严肃。为便利读者，我们在每篇作品前面加了作者简介和内容提要。

本书的阅读对象为具有中等水平、有一定自学能力的英语工作者和学习者。因此，凡是一般词典中可查阅到的单词和短语就不再作注。注释的范围侧重于土语、方言、俚语、有关背景知识、历史史实、人物、典故，以及难句和含有内在意义的词句。

这些作品都有时代的局限性，希望读者有分析地进行阅读。就语言而论，个别作品与现代英语有所不同，不一定作模仿之用。

本书由秦小孟同志负责组织并进行全面审阅。参加注释的有刘玉麟、颜一德、林相周、李佩莹、艾祖星、江泽玖、胡浩然、袁鹤聘、朱嫣华、何兆熊、王长荣、于月明、吴家禄、邱懋如、王彤福、孙白梅、张定铨等同志。

限于水平，注释可能有不足之处，望读者批评指正。

上海外国语学院英语系
《英国短篇小说选读》编注组
一九八〇年十二月

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Arabella Hardy

Charles Lamb

【作者简介】

查尔斯·兰姆 (Charles Lamb, 1775—1834), 英国散文家, 生于伦敦。1792年开始任东印度公司职员, 1825年退休。兰姆从事写作较晚, 第一部使他初具声名的著作是 *Tales of Shakespeare*。他的最主要的作品是 *Essays of Elia*, 1820年首次刊登于伦敦杂志上。在作品中, 兰姆表达了对人类深切的同情, 语言隽永风趣。他还写有不少短篇小说、改写本、诗歌和书信等。

【内容提要】

本文叙述一个父母双亡的小女孩, 被人们在海上从东印度群岛护送到英国的情况。一路上, 小女孩得到全体船员的照顾和爱护, 而大副更是对她关怀备至。但大副却不幸因病于途中去世。船抵英国后, 小女孩会见大副的母亲和姐妹, 得知大副是个非常英勇的人物, 更是无限钦佩。故事通过小女孩用第一人称叙述。语言虽略见古老, 读来仍亲切感人。本文选自 *Mrs. Leicester's School* 一书。

ARABELLA HARDY

I was born in the *East Indies*¹. I lost my father and mother *young*². At the age of five, my relations thought it proper that I should be sent to England for my educa-

tion. I was to be intrusted to the care of a young woman who *had a character for great humanity and discretion*³, but just as I had taken leave of my friends, and we were about to *take our passage*⁴, the young woman suddenly fell sick, and could not go on board. In this unpleasant emergency no one knew how to act. The ship was at the very point of sailing, and it was the last which was to sail for the season. *At length*⁵ the captain, who was known to my friends, *prevailed upon*⁶ my relation, who had come with us to see us embark, to leave the young woman on shore, and to let me embark separately. There was no possibility of getting any other female attendant for me in the short time allotted for our preparation; and the opportunity of going by that ship was thought too valuable to be lost. No other ladies happened to be going; and so *I was consigned to the care of the captain and his crew*⁷ — rough and unaccustomed attendants for a young creature, *delicately brought up as I had been*,⁸ but indeed they did their best to make me not feel the difference. The *unpolished*⁹ sailors were my *nursery-maids*¹⁰ and my *waiting-women*¹¹. Everything was done by the captain and the men to accommodate me and make me easy. *I had a little room made out of the cabin*,¹² which was to be considered as my room, and nobody might enter into it. The *first mate*¹³ had a great character for bravery and *all sailor-like accomplishments*¹⁴, but with all this he had a gentleness of manners, and a pale, *feminine cast of face*¹⁵, from ill health and a *weakly constitution*¹⁶, which subjected him to some *ridicule from the officers*¹⁷, and caused him to be named Betsy. He did not much like the appellation; but he submitted to it the better, saying that those who gave him a woman's name

well knew that he had a man's heart, and that, in the face of danger, he would go as far as any man. To this young man, whose real name was Charles Atkinson, *by a lucky thought of the captain*¹⁸, the care of me was especially intrusted. Betsy was proud of his charge; and, *to do him justice*¹⁹, *acquitted himself*²⁰ with great diligence and adroitness through the whole of the voyage. From the beginning I had somehow looked upon Betsy as a woman, *hearing him so spoken of*²¹; and this *reconciled me in some measure to the want of a maid*²², which I had been used to. But I was a manageable girl at all times, and gave nobody much trouble.

I have not knowledge enough to give an account of my voyage, or to remember the names of the seas we passed through, or the lands which we *touched upon*²³, in our course. The chief thing I can remember (for I do not recollect the events of the voyage in any order) was Atkinson taking me upon deck to see the great whales playing about in the sea. There was one great whale came bounding up out of the sea, and then he would dive into it again, and then he would come up at a distance where nobody expected him; and another whale was following after him. Atkinson said they were at play, and that the lesser whale loved that bigger whale, and kept it company all through the wide seas: but I thought it strange play, and a frightful kind of love; for I every minute expected they would come up to our ship and toss it. But Atkinson said a whale was a gentle creature, and it was a sort of sea elephant: and that the most powerful creatures in nature are always the least hurtful. And he told me how men went out to take these whales, and stuck long pointed darts into them; and how the sea was

discoloured with the blood of these poor whales for many miles' distance: and I admired the courage of the men; but I was sorry for the inoffensive whale. Many other pretty sights he used to show me, when he was *not on watch*²⁴, or doing some duty for the ship. No one was more attentive to his duty than he: but at such times as he had leisure he would show me all pretty sea sights — the dolphins and porpoises that came before a storm; and all the colours which the sea changed to — how sometimes it was a deep blue, and then a deep green, and sometimes it would seem all on fire. All these various appearances he would show me, and attempt to explain the reason of them to me as well as my young capacity would admit of. There was a lion and a tiger on board, going to England as a present to the king; and it was a great diversion to Atkinson and me, after I had got rid of my first terrors, to see the ways of these 'beasts in their dens, and how venturous the sailors were in putting their hands through the grates, and patting their rough coats. Some of the men had monkeys, which *ran loose about*²⁵; and the sport was for the men to lose them, and find them again. The monkeys would run up the shrouds, and pass from rope to rope, with ten times greater alacrity than the most experienced sailor could follow them: and sometimes they would hide themselves in the most unthought-of places; and when they were found they would grin, and *make mouths*²⁵, as if they had sense. Atkinson described to me the ways of these little animals in their native woods; for he had seen them. Oh, how many ways he thought of to amuse me in that long voyage!

Sometimes he would describe to me the odd shapes

and rarities of fishes that were in the sea, and tell me tales of the sea-monsters that lay hid at the bottom, and were seldom seen by men, and what a glorious sight it would be if our eyes could be sharpened to behold all the inhabitants of the sea at once, swimming in the great deeps, as plain as we see the gold and silver fish in a bowl of glass. With such notions he enlarged my infant capacity to take in many things.

When in *foul weather*²⁷ I have been terrified at the motion of the vessel as it rocked backwards and forwards, he would *still*²⁸ my fears, and tell me that I used to be rocked so once in a cradle, and that the sea was God's bed and the ship our cradle, and we were as safe in that greater motion as when we felt that lesser one in our little wooden sleeping-places.

When the wind was up, and sang through the sails,²⁹ and disturbed me with its violent clamours, he would call it music, and *bid me hark to the sea-organ*³⁰; and with that name he quieted my tender apprehensions. When I have looked around with a mournful face at seeing all men about me, *he would enter into my thoughts*,³¹ and tell me pretty stories of his mother and his sisters, and a female cousin that he loved better than his sisters, whom he called Jenny; and say that when we got to England I should go and see them; and how fond Jenny would be of his little daughter, as he called me. And with these images of women and females which he raised in my fancy, he quieted me for a while. One time, and never but once; he told me that Jenny had promised to be his wife, if ever he came to England; but that he had his doubts whether he should live to get home, for he was very sickly. This made me

cry bitterly.

That *I dwell so long upon the attention of this Atkinson*³² is only because his death, which happened just before we got to England, affected me so much, that he alone of all the ship's crew has engrossed my mind ever since; though, indeed, the captain and all were singularly kind to me, and strove to make up for my uneasy and unnatural situation. The boatswain would pipe for my diversion, and the sailor-boy would climb the dangerous mast for my sport. The rough foremast-man would never willingly appear before me till he had combed his long black hair smooth and sleek, not to terrify me. The officers got up a sort of play for my amusement; and Atkinson, or as they called him, Betsy, acted the heroine of the piece. All ways that could be contrived were thought upon to reconcile me to my lot. *I was the universal favourite*,³³ I do not know how deservedly; but I suppose it was because I was alone, and there was no female in the ship besides me. Had I come over with female relations or attendants, I should have excited no particular curiosity: I should have required no uncommon attentions. I was one little woman among a crew of men; and *I believe the homage which I have read that men universally pay to women was in this case directed to me*³⁴, in the absence of all other womankind. I do not know how that might be; but I was a little princess among them, and I was not six years old.

I remember, the first drawback which happened to my comfort was Atkinson's not appearing the whole of one day. The captain tried to reconcile me to it by saying that *Mr. Atkinson was confined to his cabin*³⁵, that he was not quite Well, but a day or two would restore him.

I begged to be taken in to see him; but this was not granted. A day, and then another, came, and another, and no Atkinson was visible; and I saw apparent solicitude on the faces of all the officers, who nevertheless strove to put on their best countenances before me, and to be more than usually kind to me. At length, by the desire of Atkinson himself, as I have since learned, I was permitted to go into his cabin, and see him. He was sitting up, apparently in a state of great exhaustion; but his face lighted up when he saw me; and he kissed me, and told me that he was going a great voyage, far longer than that which we had passed together, and he should never come back. And though I was so young, I understood well enough that he meant this of his death; and I cried sadly: but he comforted me, and told me that I must be his little executrix, and perform his last will, and bear his last words to his mother and his sisters, and to his cousin Jenny, whom I should see in a short time; and he gave me his blessing, as a father would bless his child; and *he sent a last kiss by me to*³⁶ all his female relations; and he made me promise that I would go and see them when I got to England. And soon after this he died; but I was in another part of the ship when he died; and I was not told it till we got to shore, which was a few days after; but they kept telling me that he was better and better, and that I should soon see him, but that it disturbed him to talk with any one. Oh, what a grief it was when I learned that I had lost an old shipmate, that had made an irksome situation so bearable by his kind assiduities ! And to think that he was gone, and that I could never repay him for his kindness !

When I had been a year and a half in England, the captain, who had made another voyage to India and back, thinking that time had alleviated a little the sorrow of Atkinson's relations, prevailed upon my friends, who had the care of me in England, to let him introduce me to Atkinson's mother and sisters. Jenny was no more. She had died *in the interval*³⁷, and I never saw her. Grief for his death had brought on a consumption, of which she lingered about *a twelvemonth*³⁸, and then expired. But in the mother and the sisters of this excellent young man I have found the most valuable friends I possess on this side the great ocean. They received me from the captain as the little *protégée*³⁹ of Atkinson: and from them I have learned passages of his former life; and this in particular — that the illness of which he died was brought on by a wound, of which he never quite recovered, which he got in a desperate attempt, when he was quite a boy, to defend his captain against a superior force of *the enemy*⁴⁰ *which had boarded him*⁴¹, and which, by his premature valour inspiring the men, they finally succeeded in repulsing. This was that Atkinson, who, from his pale and feminine appearance, was called Betsy: this was he whose womanly care of me got him the name of a woman; who, with more than female attention, condescended to play the handmaid to a little unaccompanied orphan, that fortune had cast upon the care of a rough sea-captain and his rougher crew.

【注释】

1. 旧称东印度群岛，即南洋群岛。

2. 小时候. young 在这里作状语用, 相当于 when I was young.
3. 品性仁慈, 处世谨慎.
4. (乘船)出发.
5. 最后.
6. 说服.
7. 我由船长和全体船员负责照顾.
8. 为 as I had been delicately brought up 加强语势的一种说法.
9. 粗鲁的.
10. 保姆.
11. 女佣人.
12. 在船舱内让出一点空地给我.
13. (船上的)大副.
14. 水手的各种本领.
15. 女性的脸型.
16. 体质虚弱.
17. 使他受到高级船员的耻笑.
18. 亏得船长想起这主意.
19. 说句公道话.
20. = acquitted himself of the duties.
21. 听人家这样说起他.
22. 在某种程度上使我安于缺少一个侍女的情况. to some measure 为短语.
23. 停泊.
24. 不值班时.
25. 到处乱窜.
26. 装怪脸.
27. 坏天气.
28. 止住. 此处作动词用.
29. 风刮起来了, 并在帆间嗖嗖作响.
30. 叫我听海琴演奏出来的声音. 注意 hark 前面省略了 to.

- 31. 他会猜度到我的想法。
- 32. 对这个阿金森的关心谈得这么多。
- 33. 我是众人的宠儿。
- 34. 我可以说，我所觉察到的男人对妇女表示的一般敬意，这回全都倾注到我的身上了。
- 35. 不能离开他的船舱。
- 36. 请我代他吻别……
- 37. 在这期间，这里指阿金森去世以后的一段时间。
- 38. = a year.
- 39. (女)被保护人。
- 40. 这里指的是海盗。
- 41. 已强行登上他的船。

The O'Conors of Castle Conor, County Mayo

Anthony Trollope

【作者简介】

安东尼·特罗洛普 (Anthony Trollope, 1815—1882), 英国小说家, 生于伦敦。由于父亲经营不善, 家道贫寒, 后全家为债务所逼, 迁往比利时, 依靠母亲写作维持生活。特罗洛普先后在哈罗、温切斯特求学, 1834年当邮局职员。他最早的小说有: *The Macdermotts of Ballyclaran*. (1847) 和 *The Kellys and the O'Kellys* (1848)。1855年写成的 *The Wardens* 颇为成功, 为他的写作奠定了基础。他的最佳作品为 *Bar-chester Towers* (1857)。他还写了不少游记。其自传于1883年问世。近年来, 西方读者对特罗洛普再度显示兴趣, 他的不少作品已被再版或改编为电视节目演出。

【内容提要】

英格兰人格林在爱尔兰首都都柏林附近的马约郡狩猎, 遇见康纳城堡的主人汤姆·奥康纳, 应邀去奥康纳家作客。奥康纳遣仆人去格林住宿的旅社取替换的衣履, 但未将跳舞皮鞋取来。格林只得穿了奥康纳家仆人拉里的靴子参加舞会, 结果闹出不少笑话。小说充分显示出特罗洛普细腻生动、幽默含蓄的写作特点。本文选自 *Great English Short Stories* 一书。

THE O'CONORS OF CASTLE CONOR COUNTY MAYO

I shall never forget my first introduction to country life in Ireland, my first day's hunting there, or the manner in which I passed the evening afterwards. Nor shall I ever cease to be grateful for the hospitality which I received from the O'Conors of Castle Conor. My acquaintance with the family was first made in the following manner. But before I begin my story, let me inform my reader that my name is Archibald Green.

I had been for a fortnight in *Dublin*¹, and was about to proceed into County Mayo on business which would occupy me there for some weeks. My *headquarters*² would, I found, be at the town of Ballyglass; and I soon learned that Ballyglass was not a place in which I should find hotel accommodation of a luxurious kind, or much congenial society indigenous to the place itself.

"But you are a hunting man, you say," said old *Sir P — C —*³; "and in that case you will soon know Tom O'Connor. Tom won't let you be dull. I'd write you a letter to Tom, only *he'll certainly make you out without my taking the trouble*⁴."

I did think at the time that the old baronet might have written the letter for me, as he had been a friend of my father's in former days; but he did not, and I started for Ballyglass *with no other introduction to anyone in the county than that contained in Sir P —'s promise that I should soon know Mr. Thomas O'Connor*⁵.

I had already provided myself with a horse, groom,