



Chinese-English / 中英对照



一地鸡毛

Ground Covered with Chicken Feathers



◎ 刘震云 著
Liu Zhenyun

外语教学与研究出版社
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北京 BEIJING

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

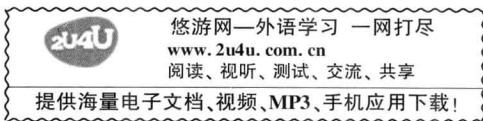
一地鸡毛: 汉英对照/ 刘震云著. — 北京: 外语教学与研究出版社, 2012. 8

(中国故事)

ISBN 978-7-5135-2363-9

I. ①一… II. ①刘… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物 ②小说集—中国—当代 IV. ①H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2012) 第 188533 号



出版人: 蔡剑峰

责任编辑: 郝颖

封面设计: 蔡曼

版式设计: 高蕾

出版发行: 外语教学与研究出版社

社址: 北京市西三环北路 19 号 (100089)

网址: <http://www.fltrp.com>

印刷: 北京方嘉彩色印刷有限责任公司

开本: 680×1040 1/16

印张: 11.5

版次: 2012 年 8 月第 1 版 2012 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

书号: ISBN 978-7-5135-2363-9

定价: 45.00 元

* * *

购书咨询: (010)88819929 电子邮箱: club@fltrp.com

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联系电话: (010)61207896 电子邮箱: zhijian@fltrp.com

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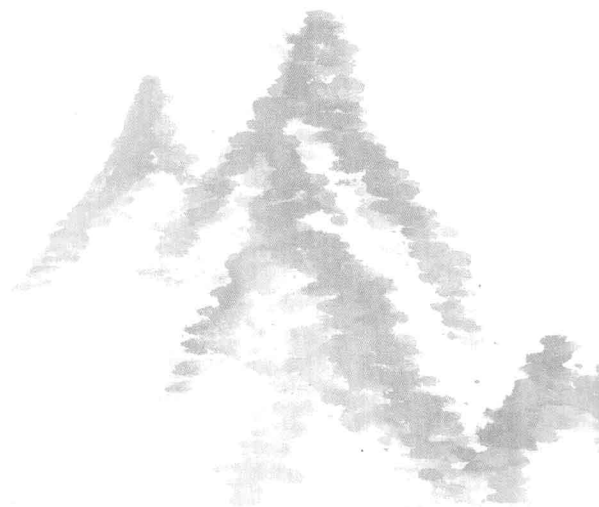
版权保护办公室举报电话: (010)88817519

物料号: 223630001



Multi-language Center for International Promotion of Chinese
Language, Beijing Foreign Studies University
Chinese-English “China Stories” Series

北京外国语大学汉语国际推广多语种基地
中英对照“中国故事”丛书





Publisher's Note

"Once upon a time...", such is the beginning of a story that may have accompanied many people through their childhood no matter what country they live in and what language they speak. When we grow up, we remain keen on one kind of stories or another. This is because stories always keep us at a fascinating distance: things that take place around us may drive home to us a timeless truth, while remote or illusory stories may as well be relevant to reality or reflect the problems of today.

However, if a story is linked with the name of a country, what can the listener expect from it?

The *China Stories* series is dedicated to those who are fond of stories and hope to know about China. The reason why we have chosen this way of storytelling is that while people nowadays may easily get to know a country by turning on the television, surfing the Internet or touching a cellphone screen, we believe stories make China look more vivid, serene and down-to-earth than media or political or economic commentators, historical archives or museums do.

Our stories or "storytellers" generally fall into two categories. Firstly, small works of big names in contemporary Chinese literature, such as *The Love Story of a Young Monk* by Wang Zengqi and *Ah, Xiangxue* by Tie Ning; Secondly, Chinese tales told by writers from other lands from the "other" perspectives, like *The Magic of the White Snake* by the German freelancer Helmut Matt. The differences in settings, plots and the storytellers' personalities have added to the charisma of our stories. This *China Stories* series will maintain its openness by putting forth new stories, so as to present a rich, varied three-dimensional China to our readers. In this sense, this series is catered not only to foreign friends but also to Chinese-speaking natives so that they can observe this country from a fresh point of view.

Instead of lengthy narratives that may wear our readers down, the *China Stories* series is a collection of short stories and novellas that are meant for a pleasant reading experience, an experience that is made all the more delightful by our elaborately produced bilingual texts and beautiful illustrations.

Whether the storyteller or the listener comes from China or elsewhere, we believe that you can derive your own impression of China from these stories, and feel closer to it whether it was familiar or strange to you before you lay your hands on the *China Stories* series. So let's read *China Stories*, and get a taste of China from them.

Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press

August, 2012



出版说明

“很久很久以前……”，许多人的童年或许都伴随着这样开头的故事，无论她或他身处哪个国家，说着何种语言。当我们长大，依然热衷于各种故事。因为故事总是与人们保持一种远近适宜的奇妙距离：身边发生的故事有时能让人悟到恒久长远的道理，而遥远的甚至虚幻的故事又能使人联想到现实的处境，回应当下的问题。

而当故事与一个国家的名称联系在一起的时候，又会给听者一种怎样的期待？

《中国故事》系列丛书献给那些喜欢听故事并且希望了解中国的人们。之所以选择这种方式而不是别的——毕竟，现在想了解一个国家，打开电视，浏览互联网，或者触摸一下手机屏幕就可以做到——因为我们相信，比起新闻媒体、政经评论或者历史文献、博物馆陈列中的中国，也许故事所反映的那个中国来得更真切，更沉静，也更实在。

故事的来源，或者说“讲故事的人”大体有两类。一方面我们收集了现当代一些中国文学大家的小作品，例如汪曾祺的《受戒》，铁凝的《哦，香雪》；另一方面，来自中国以外的作者们基于“他者”的视角重述中国的传奇，例如德国赫尔穆特·马特先生的《白蛇传奇》。故事的背景和事件彼此不同，更因叙述者的个性特征而平添魅力。本系列还将不断推新以保持一种开放性。因此呈现给各位的这一套丛书应该是丰富和立体的，希望借此传达的中国形象也能更加真实、丰满。从这个意义上讲，丛书的目标读者应不仅仅限于海外的朋友，其实也包括以中文为母语的读者们，以便透过新鲜的角度来观察这个国家。

这里没有宏大的叙事，而是以中短篇小说的篇幅给读者绝不沉重的阅读体验。这种轻松感还将通过我们精心提供的双语文本和优美插图得到进一步的体会。

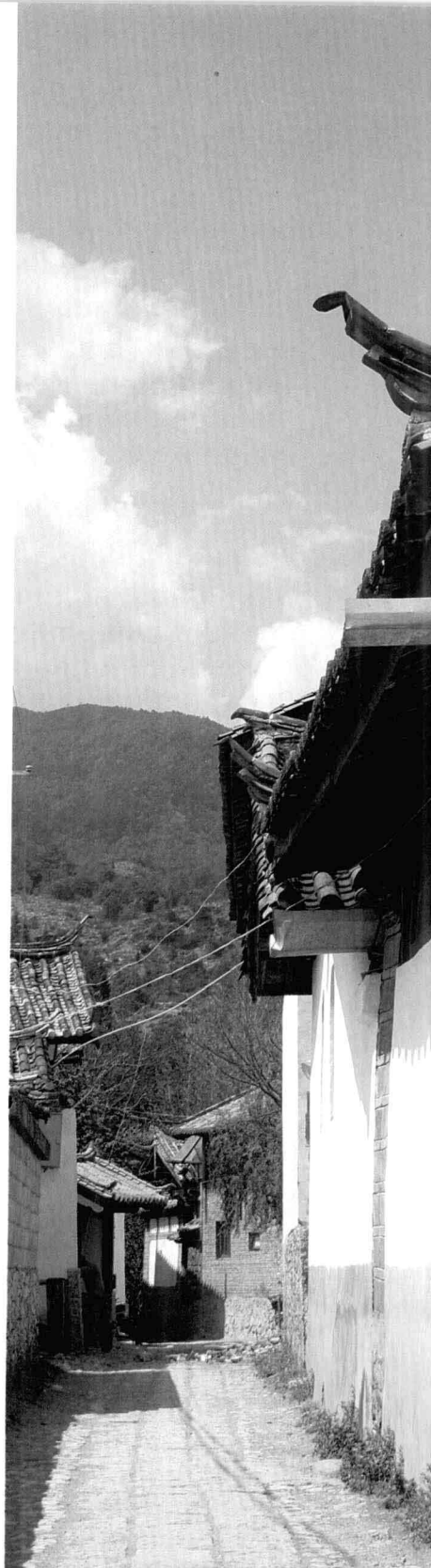
无论讲故事的人以及听故事的人是来自中国还是其他国家，我们都相信您能从故事中获得自己对于中国的印象，对这个已经熟悉或者还很陌生的国度，更多一点儿亲近——阅读中国的故事，品味故事中的中国。

外语教学与研究出版社

2012年8月

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1

Young Lin's bean curd has spoiled.

Half a kilo of bean curd contains five cubes, one hundred grammes each, the common kind on sale in state groceries. The bean curd cubes you buy from a privately owned shop or pedlar weigh half a kilo each. They are watery and thin, and disintegrate if stir-fried in a wok.

He gets up at six each morning to queue for bean curd in front of a state grocery. In spite of this early morning effort, there is no guarantee he will get it. Sometimes there are too many people queuing and the bean curd is already sold out by the time it's his turn, and at other times, it is already seven o'clock and he has to leave the queue and hurry to catch the work unit bus. A certain Old Guan has recently been assigned to the office as the new head who pays close attention to late-comers and early-leavers—a new broom sweeps clean. It's most disheartening when your turn in the queue is just about to come and it's already time to go to work. After walking away, Young Lin always curses the long queue for bean curd: "Damn! It's really too bad there being so many poor people on earth!"

This morning, however, he succeeded in getting the desired bean curd even though he queued till 7:15 thus missing the shuttle bus. It doesn't really matter today. Old Guan, the head of the office, is supposed to be attending a meeting at the ministry while the deputy head, Old He, has gone on a business trip, so a university

小林家一斤豆腐变馊了。

一斤豆腐有五块，二两一块，这是公家副食店卖的。个体户的豆腐一斤一块，水分大，发稀，锅里炒不成团。小林每天清早六点起床，到公家副食店门口排队买豆腐。排队也不一定每天都能买到豆腐，要么排队的人多，赶排到了，豆腐也卖完了；要么还没排到，已经七点了，小林得离开豆腐队去赶单位的班车。最近单位办公室新到一个处长老关，新官上任三把火，对迟到早退抓得挺紧。最使人感到丧气的是，队眼看排到了，上班的时间也到了。离开豆腐队，小林就要对长长的豆腐队咒骂一声：

“妈拉个×，天底下穷人家多了真不是好事！”

但今天小林把豆腐买到了。不过他今天排队排到七点十五，把单位的班车给误了。不过今天误了也就误了，办公室处长老关今天到部里听会，副处长老何到外地出差去了，办公室管考勤的

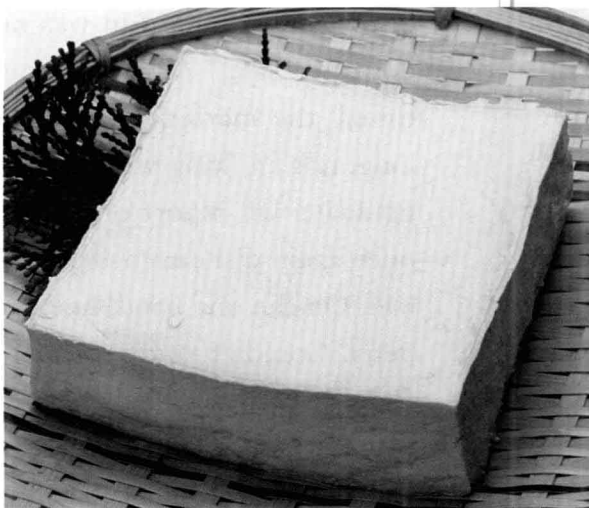


graduate newly assigned to the office is temporarily in charge of the job of checking up on attendance. So Young Lin did not worry about queuing late for bean curd. Since he was in a rush to catch the public bus to work, he forgot to put the bean curd in the fridge. When he got home that evening, the bean curd was still wrapped in the plastic bag in the hall. In hot weather like today, there was no way the bean curd wouldn't turn sour.

The bean curd has spoiled and Young Lin's wife has returned home before him, which makes the matter complicated. At first, his wife blames the childminder for not putting the bean curd into the fridge. But the nanny refuses to take any blame. She is unhappy with her pay, which she thinks is low, and with her employer's poor cooking. She has long threatened to go on strike or go somewhere else. She remains only because Young Lin and his wife have repeatedly persuaded her to stay. She doesn't feel at all sorry about the spoiled bean curd and unhesitatingly shifts the blame onto Young Lin arguing that he didn't tell her to put the bean curd away before going to work that morning. So his wife vents her anger on him as soon as he comes back from work, saying that it might have been all right if you hadn't bought the bean curd in the first place. But once you've bought it, how could you allow it to go off in the plastic bag? Why did you do it? Young Lin has had an unpleasant day in the office today. He didn't expect the newcomer to take things so seriously.

临时变成了一个新来的大学生，这就不怕了，于是放心排队买豆腐。豆腐拿回家，因急着赶公共汽车上班，忘记把豆腐放到了冰箱里，晚上回来，豆腐仍在门厅塑料兜里藏着，大热的天，哪有不馊的道理？

豆腐变馊了，老婆又先于他下班回家，这就使问题复杂化了。老婆一开始是责备看孩子的保姆，怪她不打开塑料袋，把豆腐放到冰箱里。谁知保姆一点不买账。保姆因嫌小林家工资低，家里饭菜差，早就闹着罢工，要换人家，还是小林和小林老婆好哄歹哄，才把人家留下；现在保姆看着馊豆腐，一点不心疼，还一股脑把责任都推给了小林，说小林早上上班走时，根本没有交代要放豆腐。小林下班回来，老婆就把怒气对准了小林，说你不买豆腐也就罢了，买回来怎么还让它在塑料袋里变馊？你这存的是什么心？小林今天在单位很不愉快，他以为今天买豆腐晚点上班没什么，谁知道新来





Seeing that Young Lin was not there at 8 am, he marked him down as “late.” Although Young Lin tartly changed it into “on time,” the matter has been weighing on him the whole day long, not knowing whether or not the newly assigned university graduate will report on him tomorrow. Now back home, he is once again disheartened knowing that the bean curd has turned bad. On the one hand, he blames the childminder for being too petty. Couldn’t you have just made the effort to put it in the fridge even though I didn’t tell you to? Would it really have tired you out to just carry the few cubes of bean curd to the fridge? On the other hand, he blames his wife for making a fuss over a trifling matter like this. Half a kilo of bean curd, that’s all there is to it. Nobody made it turn bad on purpose. Why nag about it endlessly? Both are very tired after a day’s work and there is the child and the dinner to attend to. Is she deliberately trying to create a tiring atmosphere at home? So he responds: “Let it pass, will you? Say it’s my fault. Just half a kilo of bean curd after all. If the worst comes to the worst, we’ll have our dinner without it tonight. I’ll be careful in future.”

If he says this much and no more, the matter will be dropped. It’s a pity that he can’t contain his resentment and adds: “Is half a kilo of bean curd worth raising to a higher plane of principle and going on and on? How much does bean curd cost? Last time you accidentally dropped and broke a thermos flask worth seven or eight yuan. Did anyone ever blame you for that?”

的大学生很认真，看他八点没到，就自作主张给他划了一个“迟到”。虽然小林气鼓鼓上去自己又改成“准时”，但一天心里很不愉快，还不知明天大学生会不会汇报他。现在下班回家，见豆腐馊了，他也很丧气，一方面怪保姆太斤斤计较，走时没给你交代，就不能往冰箱里放一放了？放几块豆腐能把你累死？一方面怪老婆小题大做，一斤豆腐，馊了也就馊了，谁也不是故意的，何必说个没完，大家一天上班都很累，接着还要做饭弄孩子，这不是有意制造疲劳空气？于是说：

“算了算了，怪我不对，一斤豆腐，大不了今天晚上不吃，以后买东西注意放就是了！”

如果话到此为止，事情也就过去了，可惜小林憋不住气，又补了一句：

“一斤豆腐就上纲上线个没完了，一斤豆腐才值几个钱？上次你失手打碎一个暖水壶，七八块钱，谁又责备你了？”





Upon his mentioning the thermos flask, his wife becomes angry again: “At every turn you have to mention that thermos flask. But was I to blame? The thermos wasn’t set down properly. Anyone could have broken it merely by touching it. Let’s talk about the vase instead of the thermos. What happened to the vase last month? It was perfectly all right on top of the wardrobe. You had to break it while doing the cleaning. How come you reprove me?”

The next moment, she is face to face with him, tears in her eyes, her chest heaving up and down and her face very pale. Judging by experience, her pale face indicates a disagreeable day at work. Her office, like Young Lin’s, seldom makes people happy. But are we ever justified in bringing our unhappy feelings back from work and releasing them at home?

He wants to continue remonstrating with her about the vase. But if it continues like this, they’ll find themselves in a vicious circle with many plates and dishes and the like involved. In the end, his wife would throw the bag of bad bean curd at his head. The childminder, used to the couple’s quarrel, is calmly trimming her nails as if nothing is happening. Her attitude further arouses the couple’s anger. Young Lin has written the case off as hopeless and is ready to act recklessly. Fortunately, just at this moment someone knocks at the door and they both shut their mouths. The wife hurriedly dries the tears on her face while he manages to suppress his fury. The childminder opens the door and finds it is the old man who is in charge of reading the water meter.

老婆一听暖水壶，马上又来了火，说：“动不动你提暖水壶，上次暖水壶怪我吗？本来那暖水壶就没放好，谁碰到都会碎！咱们别说暖水壶，说花瓶吧！上个月花瓶是怎么回事？花瓶可是好端端地在大立柜上边放着，你抹灰尘给抹碎了，你倒有资格说我了！”

接着就气到了小林跟前，眼里噙着泪，胸部一挺一挺的，脸变得没有血色。根据小林的经验，老婆的脸一无血色，就证明她今天在单位也很不顺。老婆所在的单位，和小林的单位差不多，让人愉快的时候不多。可你在单位不愉快，把这不愉快带回来发泄就道德了？小林就又气鼓鼓地想跟她理论花瓶。照此理论下去，一定又会盘盘碟碟牵扯个没完，陷入恶性循环，最后老婆会把那包馊豆腐摔到小林头上。保姆看到小林和小林老婆吵架，已经习惯了，就像没看见一样，在旁边若无其事地剪指甲。这更激起了两个人的愤怒。小林已做好破碗破摔的准备，幸好这时有人敲门，大家便都不吱声了。老婆赶紧去抹脸上的眼泪，小林也压抑住自己的怒气，保姆把门打开，原来是查水表的老头来了。