

TALES
OF
AMERICA

美国小故事

胡瑞璋 郭秀萍 编译

海峡文艺出版社

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胡瑞璋 郭秀萍编译

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Lessons From a Pony

by Lincoln Stephens

One day our neighbour Colonel Carter rode his horse over to our house. He had another horse with him. He rode to me and said, "You have helped me a lot during the year. You have been a good boy. Now here is the horse I promised It is yours."

At first I just stood with my mouth open and looked. The horse was a white female, a mare with brown spots. I had never seen anything so beautiful and she was mine, all mine!

"What's wrong?" asked Colonel Carter, "Don't you like her? She is as fast and brave as a wild horse. And she has a sense of fun."

I did not hear a word he said. The only thing I could say was, "Gee, thanks,

小马的启发

林肯·斯蒂芬斯著

有一天我们的邻居卡特上校骑马来我家，还带了另一匹马来。他骑到我家门前对我说：“在这一年中你已帮了我好多忙，你一向是个好孩子。这是我答应给你的马，它是属于你的了。”

起初我只是目瞪口呆地站着看。这是匹白雌马，身上带有棕色的斑点。我从来也没有看到过这样美丽的马。它已属于我的了，完全是我的了！

“你怎么啦？”上校卡特问道，“你难道不喜欢它吗？它象匹野马那样敏捷和勇敢，而且还很爱玩。”

他说的话我一句也没有听进去，我只是说：“哎呀，谢谢，谢谢。”

thanks."

When Colonel Carter got down from his horse, my horse jumped and lifted her front feet high in the air. Then she put her nose into his coat pocket and took a piece of sugar.

"She knows me," said Colonel Carter with a wide smile, "I am the only person who has touched her. She is a kind animal but she is like any woman. Remember this, boy, you can lose her love easily. If you become angry, if you hurt her, she will never obey or love you. You should teach her very gently," Carter said, "It's your job to feed her, clean her and give her water. Put her at the end of a long rope and let her play. Call her name and gently pull on the rope, she will soon learn to come to you when she wants water or food." He talked for half an hour, telling me how to train my horse.

When he finished I said, "Can I have her now? I want to begin right away."

当卡特下马时，我的那匹马跳跃起来，并将前腿高高举在空中，接着它将鼻子伸入他的外套口袋里去拿一块糖。

“它和我很熟，”卡特笑得咧开了嘴，“我是唯一接触过它的人。它是善良的动物，可是它的脾气却象个女人。孩子，要记住这一点：如果你发脾气或伤它的感情的话，你会很容易地失去它的爱，它也就永远不会服从你或爱你了。所以你得很温柔地训它，”卡特说，

“你的工作就是喂养它，把它洗刷干净，并给它水喝。用一根长绳子把它系住，并让它去玩耍。叫唤它的名字，轻轻地拉动系着它的绳子。这样，不久它就会在要饮水或吃东西的时候，懂得向你跑过来。”他谈了半小时之久，告诉我如何训练我的这匹马。

当他讲完时，我说：“现在你可以把这匹马给我了吗？我想立刻就开始按照你讲的去。”

He left me and went to town with my father. I walked away with my horse. The first thing I did was to give her a name. She was so proud and carried her head so high I named her Queen. I fed and cleaned her gently as if she were made of soft cloth. She liked me. I knew it. Because she obeyed me and seemed to enjoy it.

Later when Colonel Carter came home with my father, he asked me about Queen. "You should not train her hard today," he warned, "She has walked all the way from my farm and is tired. You must think for her. Be kind to her, as kind as you are to your sisters."

"Sisters," I thought and felt guilty. I never tried to be especially kind to my sisters. I did not like girls very much. I did not say that. But Colonel Carter laughed as if he knew what I was thinking. He told me that the horse and I had to be like one animal. I was the brains

在他离开我，和我父亲一起到镇上去时，我就牵着马走开了。我要做的第一件事就是给它取一个名字。它非常骄傲，总是把头抬得高高的，因此我就把它叫做“女王”。我温和地喂它，给它梳洗，好象它是用软布做似的。我知道它喜欢我，因为它服从我，而且似乎很乐意服从我。

后来当卡特上校和我父亲一起从镇上回到我们家来时，他问起我有关女王的事。他警告我说：“你今天不能拚命训练它了，它已从我的农庄一直走到这里，一定是很累了。你必须为它着想，要好好待它，如同你待你的姐妹们那样。”

“姐妹们，”我思忖着，感到有点内疚，因我从来也不想对我姐妹们有什么特别好感。我不大喜欢女孩子们。可是我没有把我的话说出来，卡特却笑了起来，好象知道我心里在想什么似的。他告诉我说，马和我要化为一体：我是头脑，马是身体。我喜欢他的那种说法：女王和我连在一起。

and the horse was the body. I liked that, Queen and me together.

From then on, I was with my horse every day. I taught her to run around in the circle to go one way, then turn around and go another. I broke a piece of wood from a tree and used it as my training stick. My small sisters wanted to help me. I let them do some little things but I gave the orders. One sister put the rope around Queen's neck and led her around and around. When I lifted the stick, Queen turned and went the other way. She was a quick horse and learned fast.

A week later I started to teach her to carry me. This was slow work. I began by gently putting my arm on her back. If she did not like it, I slowly moved my arm away. When she let me leave my arm there, I placed a cloth on her back. I slowly got up and sat on the cloth, then got down again. I did this hundreds of times. I wanted to hurry and ride her,

打那以后，我就每天和马呆在一起。我教它兜着圈子跑，先从一头跑，然后转过身来，再从另一头跑。我从树上折下一根树枝，用作教棒。我的姐妹们都要来帮我忙。我让她们做些琐事，由我来指挥她们。我的一个妹妹将绳子套在女王的头颈上，带领它兜着圈子跑。当我举起教棒时，女王就转过身来朝另一头跑。它动作利落，学得很快。

一星期之后我开始教它驮我。这不是一下子就能成功的事。在开始时我温柔地将我的手臂放在它的背上。如果它不喜欢那样做，我就慢慢地把我的手臂移开，而当它让我把手臂放在它背上时，我就把一块布放在它的背上，缓慢地爬上它的背坐在布上，然后又爬下来。就这样，我反复做了好几百次。我心里急着想能骑它。可是当我想起卡特所说的话：要慢慢来、

but I remembered what Colonel Carter said about being slow and gentle I learned how to wait.

At last she let me ride her. Just for a few minutes at first, then for a longer time. When she got tired and started to jump, I got off.

One thing about Queen, she was my horse and she did not let my sisters or anyone else ride her. It was always like that—just Queen and me.

One day the circus came to town. Day and night we could hear the happy circus music. There were many things to see: elephants, lions, men who flew through the air on swinging bars and funny men called clowns. I wanted to see only one thing—the horses. I went to the tent where the trainer lived. I talked to him. He let me watch him train the circus horses. I trained Queen until she was wiser than all of them. She could soon stand up on her back legs, go down on

要温柔，我就懂得要耐心等待了。

它终于让我骑它了。起先它只让骑几分钟，后来骑的时间长了些。当它感到疲乏而开始跳动起来时，我就下马。

女王有一个特点，这就是它属于我，它不让我妹妹们或任何其他入骑它。总是这样，就是女王和我。

有一天马戏团到镇上来了。我们日日夜夜都能听到马戏团令人欢乐的音乐。我们还可以看到许多东西：象、狮、在来回摆动着的棒上飞行的人们以及称为小丑的滑稽表演者们，但我只想看到一样东西：马匹。我跑到训练人员住的帐篷里去跟他聊天。他让我看着他如何训练马戏团里的马，而后来我却能把女王训练得比所有马戏团里的马更聪明。它能很快地用后腿站立起来，用前腿跪下去，甚至还会躺下来翻筋斗。

her front legs and even lie down and roll over.

The big day came at last when I rode Queen into town. The circus men told me that horses liked to look pretty. So I put a coloured blanket on Queen's back and a red flower behind her ear. She loved, she did not walk, she danced to the circus music. Everyone stopped to look and smiled at us. We were happy, my horse and me. It was a day that we would never forget.

I started to teach Queen another trick, a difficult and dangerous trick, but I was sure I could do it. I saw the circus horse do it first. He stepped over a clown that lay on the ground. He ran back and forth and did not touch the clown with his feet. The trainer told me how to teach Queen. At first I got pieces of wood and put them on the ground. I led Queen over them. If she touched one of them, I told her it was wrong and did not give her

盛大的日子终于来到了，于是我骑着女王上镇里去。马戏团里的人告诉我说，马总是喜欢打扮得漂漂亮亮，我就把一条五彩缤纷的毯子披在女王的背上，并把一朵红花插在它的耳朵后面。它喜欢我这样做，并不走动，而且随着马戏团的音乐跳起舞来。镇上每一个人都停下来朝我们看着，向我们微笑着。我和我的马都感到很高兴。这真是我们难以忘怀的一天啊！

我开始教女王另一个把戏，一个高难度的惊险把戏。但我相信我能成功。我先观察马戏团里的马怎样做这种把戏。这匹马来回跑动，而他的脚却一点也不踩到躺在地上小丑身上。驯养者告诉我怎么去教会女王。开始时我拿来几块木头放在地上，接着我领着女王跨过这些木头。如果它的脚踩到其中的一块，我就告诉它做错了，而且不给它吃糖。当它学会这