

书虫·牛津英汉双语读物

■ Janet Hardy-Gould (英) 著

HENRY VIII

AND HIS SIX WIVES

亨利八世和他的六位妻子



外语教学与研究出版社

牛津大学出版社



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- Janet Hardy-Gould (英) 著
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外语教学与研究出版社

牛津大学出版社

(京)新登字 155 号

京权图字: 01-2002-6589

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

亨利八世和他的六位妻子/(英)哈迪-古尔德(Hardy-Gould, J.)著;商海燕译.—北京:外语教学与研究出版社,2003.8

(书虫·牛津英汉双语读物)

ISBN 7-5600-3684-8

I. 亨… II. ①哈… ②商… III. 英语—对照读物,小说—英、汉
IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2003)第 076643 号

Originally published by Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford
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亨利八世和他的六位妻子

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责任编辑:徐 娴

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:北京新丰印刷厂

开 本:850×1092 1/32

印 张:2.375

版 次:2003 年 10 月第 1 版 2003 年 10 月第 1 次印刷

书 号:ISBN 7-5600-3684-8/H·1850

定 价:2.90 元

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“书虫·牛津英汉双语读物”是外研社和牛津大学出版社联合奉献的一大阅读精品,受到了广大英语学习者的热烈欢迎,连续多年畅销不衰。为了满足读者朋友更加广泛的阅读需求,我们再次推出 18 本新的“书虫”系列英汉双语读物,期待与您的相约。

关于本书

英格兰国王亨利八世因为很多事情而出名,但他也因有六个妻子而闻名于世。他不是个好丈夫。人们说,当他挑选新妻子时,父亲们都会小心地带着女儿远离王宫。他们都不愿意让国王选中他们的女儿当下一任王后,因为他的几位王后都很短命,而且都很不幸。

为什么亨利国王会和两位妻子离婚,又杀死了另两个呢?他的王后们到底是什么样子呢?

他的第六位妻子凯瑟琳·帕尔在国王去世后依然健在。一天她回到了白厅的王宫,发现了一个装着旧信的盒子,这些信都是写给国王的——他的前五位妻子每人一封。她坐下来把信念给自己年轻的侍女玛格丽特听。第一封信来自西班牙国王的女儿,阿拉贡的凯瑟琳,她和亨利做了 24 年的夫妻。她孤独地郁郁而终,没有一个朋友……

HENRY VIII AND HIS SIX WIVES

King Henry the Eighth of England was famous for many things, but he was also famous because he had six wives. He was not a kind husband. People say that when he was looking for a new wife, careful fathers took their daughters away from the palace. They did not want the King to choose their daughter to be the next Queen, because some of his Queens had very short and unhappy lives.

Why did King Henry divorce two wives, and kill two others? What were his queens really like?

Catherine Parr, the sixth wife, lived on after the King's death. One day she goes back to the palace of Whitehall and finds a box of old letters written to the King—one from each of the first five wives. She sits down to read them to her young maid, Margaret. The first letter is from the daughter of the King of Spain, Katherine of Aragon, who was Henry's wife for twenty-four years. She died alone and sad and friendless . . .

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1

King Henry is dead

My name is Catherine Parr. A month ago I was the Queen of England, the wife of King Henry the Eighth. Henry died and we buried him last week in St George's Church, Windsor. Two days ago, on 16th February 1547, I went back to the palace of Whitehall, which was once my home. I wanted to take my letters and books and bring them back to my house.

Margaret, my new maid, came to the palace with me. She's very young and doesn't know a lot about the world. She has only just come up to London from her home in Somerset. Perhaps I was like her when I was twelve. I, too, was always asking questions and wanting answers immediately.

When we arrived at the palace, it was cold and dark. We walked into Henry's room. I sat down in one of Henry's large chairs in front of his wooden writing desk and looked at the pictures around the room. Next to me there was a big picture of Henry, when he was young. He was very handsome then, not like the fat old man he was later. I thought his blue eyes were watching me. I turned to Margaret and said:

'You see that picture of the King? That's what he was like when he was young—tall and strong and handsome.

1. 亨利国王去世



我叫凯瑟琳·帕尔。一个月前我还是英格兰的王后，国王亨利八世的妻子。亨利去世了，我们上周在温莎的圣乔治教堂埋葬了他。两天前，也就是1547年2月16日，我回到了白厅的王宫，这儿曾经是我的家。我想拿走我的信件和书籍，把它们带回我的家。

我的新侍女玛格丽特和我一起来到王宫。她非常年轻，不谙世事。她刚从她的家乡萨默塞特来到伦敦。我12岁时可能也和她一样，总爱问问题并总想马上知道答案。

到达王宫时，那里又冷又暗。我们走进了亨利的房间。我在他那木制写字台前的一把大椅子上坐了下来，环视着屋里的画。我旁边是一张亨利年轻时的大幅画像。那时他非常英俊，不像后来那样又老又胖。我觉得，他的蓝眼睛正注视着我。我转向玛格丽特说：

“你看到国王的那幅画像了吧？那是他年轻时的样子——高大，强壮，而且英俊。人

come up to *come to one place from another.* 从一地来到另一地。**immediately** *adv. at once, without delay.* 立刻，马上；当即，毫不耽搁。**handsome** *adj. (of man) good-looking.* (指男子)漂亮的，英俊的。



People say that he never got tired. He could go out riding all day, changing his horses nine or ten times, and then he could dance all night. He was clever, too; he could speak five languages. Will people remember him like that, or will they only remember him because he had six wives?’

‘Did he really have so many wives?’ said Margaret.

‘Yes, of course. I thought that everyone knew that.’

Margaret looked away and said, ‘We didn’t get much news from London at home, and my family’s house is a long way from the nearest village.’

‘It doesn’t matter,’ I said, smiling. ‘One day, I’ll tell you the story of my husband Henry’s life.’

On the desk in front of me there was a wooden box with a large gold H on the top. I opened it slowly and took out some old letters. Each letter was in different writing and some of them were old and yellow. One letter had a picture of a large bird on it. It was from Henry’s second wife, Anne Boleyn.

‘Margaret!’ I said. ‘I’ve found some letters from Henry’s other wives. There’s also a beautiful gold necklace and a small piece of hair.’ I looked at another letter. ‘Here’s one old letter from his first wife, Katherine of Aragon. She was married to him for a very long time.’

‘She only had one child, didn’t she?’ said Margaret.

‘Yes, only Princess Mary is still alive. There were five other children, but they were all born too early and died.’

们说他永远不会疲倦。他能整天在外骑马，换九到十次马，然后还能整夜跳舞。他也非常聪明，会说五种语言。但人们会因为他是这样一个人而记住他，还是仅仅因为他有过六个妻子而记住他呢？”

“他真有那么多个妻子吗？”玛格丽特说。

“是的，当然。我想大家都知道。”

玛格丽特望着远处说道：“我们在家时对伦敦的消息知道得并不多，我家离最近的村子也有很长一段路。”

“不要紧，”我笑着说，“有一天我会把我丈夫亨利一生的故事全告诉你的。”

我面前的桌子上有一个木盒子，上面有一个巨大的金字“H”。我慢慢地打开它，取出了几封旧信。每封信的字迹都不相同，有些已经旧得发黄了。其中一封信上画着一只大鸟，那是亨利的第二任妻子安妮·博伦写来的。

“玛格丽特！”我说，“我发现了亨利其他妻子们写的一些信件，还有一条美丽的金项链和一绺头发。”我看了看另外一封信，“这儿有他的第一任妻子阿拉贡的凯瑟琳写的一封信。他们的婚姻维持了很长一段时间。”

“她只有一个孩子，是吧？”玛格丽特说道。

“是的，只有玛丽公主还活着。她还生过五个孩子，但都是早产，全都夭折了。”



matter *v.* (used esp. in negative sentences and questions; in sentences containing *what*, *who*, *where*, *if*, etc., usu. with *it* as the subject) *be important*. (尤用于否定句和疑问句；句中含 *what*, *who*, *where*, *if* 等词，通常以 *it* 作主语) 关系重大，要紧。
different *adj.* *not the same (as sb. or sth.)*. 不同的。
necklace *n.* *ornament of pearls, beads, etc. worn round the neck*. 项链。

Again I looked at the letter with the picture of the bird on it. 'Have you heard of Anne Boleyn, Margaret?'

'Yes, my mother talked about her. She said she was a very bad woman.'

'Well, that's what some people say. Anne was the mother of Henry's second daughter, Princess Elizabeth. Look,' I said. 'This one is from Katherine Howard, Henry's fifth wife. Both Anne and Katherine were beheaded in that terrible prison, the Tower of London.'

'Why did the King send them to their deaths?' asked Margaret. She looked afraid.

'They had many enemies, who told the King that they had lovers. Perhaps the stories were true, I don't know. But the King believed them.'

I looked at another letter. 'This one is from Jane Seymour. She was the third wife and the mother of Henry's only living son. He is now our King, Edward the Sixth.'

'Was Jane Seymour beheaded too?' asked Margaret.

'No, poor Queen Jane died soon after Edward was born.'

I looked at the last, short letter. 'Look, a letter from Anne of Cleves, Henry's fourth wife.'

'Did she have any children?' asked Margaret.

'No,' I laughed. 'Henry thought that Anne was very ugly and he didn't want her to be the mother of his children.'

我又看了看那封画着鸟的信。“你听说过安妮·博伦吗,玛格丽特?”

“是的,我妈妈说起过她,说她是个很坏的女人。”

“啊,有些人是那么说的。安妮是亨利的第二个女儿伊丽莎白公主的母亲。看,”我说,“这一封信是凯瑟琳·霍华德,也就是亨利的第五任妻子写的。安妮和凯瑟琳都是在伦敦塔那个可怕的监狱里被砍头的。”

“国王为什么要处死她们呢?”玛格丽特问道。她看起来很害怕。

“她们有很多敌人,这些人跟国王说她们有情人。那些故事也许是真的,我不知道。但是国王相信他们的话。”

我看了看另一封信。“这封是简·西摩写的。她是亨利的第三任妻子,也是亨利惟一尚在人世的儿子的母亲。他现在是我们的国王,爱德华六世。”

“简·西摩也是被砍头的吗?”玛格丽特问。

“不,可怜的王后简在爱德华出生后不久就去世了。”

我看到最后一封短信。“看,这封信是克利夫斯的安妮写来的,她是亨利的第四任妻子。”

“她有孩子吗?”玛格丽特问道。

“没有,”我大笑,“亨利认为安妮太丑了,不想让她做他孩子的母亲。”

hear of *be told about or have knowledge of sb., sth.* 听到或知道某人,某事物的情况。**behead** *v.* *cut off the head of (sb.)*, *esp. as a punishment*. 砍(某人)的头(尤指刑罚)。**terrible** *adj.* *causing great fear or distress*. 可怕的。**the Tower of London** 伦敦塔,伦敦著名古迹,位于塔桥附近,南临泰晤士河,建于11世纪末。这座古老的宫殿曾做过王宫、堡垒、档案馆和监狱。**sound** *v.* *give a specific impression when heard*. 听起来,似乎。



Margaret was silent. Then she said, 'King Henry sounds like a terrible husband.'

'He wasn't all bad, Margaret. There were good times, too. He was clever at so many things—horse-riding and tennis, writing and playing music. He wrote many beautiful songs, and he had a wonderful singing voice. But it's true that he wasn't very kind to his wives.'

Margaret looked at the box. 'So why did he keep these letters from them?' she asked.

'Oh, you ask so many questions, Margaret! I don't know. Perhaps each letter says something important.'

I looked up and saw that it was nearly dark. It was time to go home to Chelsea Manor. I put the letters back inside the box.

'Come, Margaret, we must go now.'

'But can't we read the letters?' she asked.

'We'll take them with us and read them tomorrow.'

玛格丽特沉默了。然后她说：“亨利国王听起来像是个很可怕的丈夫。”

“他并非一无是处，玛格丽特。他也有好的时候。他擅长的东西很多——比如骑马、打网球、写作以及演奏音乐。他写过很多优美的歌曲，还有一副动人的歌喉。不过他的确对妻子们不太好。”

玛格丽特看着盒子。“那他为什么还保留着她们的信呢？”她问。

“哦，你问的问题太多了，玛格丽特！我不知道。也许每封信都写了些重要的事情吧。”

我抬头看了看，天差不多黑了。我的家在切尔西庄园，现在该回去了。我把信放回盒子里。

“来，玛格丽特，我们现在得走了。”

“但是我们不能读这些信吗？”她问。

“我们要把它们带回去，明天再读。”

wonderful adj. very good
or admirable. 极好的。it
is time to (do sth.) 是……
的时候了，该做……了。

2**Katherine of Aragon**

We got up early the next morning and went to my favourite room. It has a wonderful view of the large gardens and the River Thames at the bottom.

‘Did you sleep well, Margaret?’ I asked.

‘No. I dreamed that King Henry came back to life and sent me to the Tower of London.’

‘Why did he do that?’

‘Because in my dream I read the letters and he was angry with me. Perhaps it will be bad luck if we read them,’ said Margaret, worried.

‘Don’t worry,’ I said. ‘It was only a dream. He can’t do anything now. He’s dead.’

I went over to the wooden box and opened it. ‘We’ll read the letter from Katherine of Aragon first,’ I said.

‘She was Spanish, wasn’t she?’ said Margaret.

‘Yes, she first came over to England to marry Henry’s brother Arthur, but he died. She then married Henry and was his wife and queen for twenty-four years.’

‘What a long time! What happened to her? Did she go to the Tower of London too?’

‘No, Henry divorced Katherine because he wanted a son, and she only gave him a daughter, Princess Mary. Years before, Katherine *did* have a son—Henry, Prince of

2. 阿拉贡的凯瑟琳

第二天早晨,我们起得很早,来到我最喜欢的房间。这间房子外面的风景很美,有几座很大的花园,远处是泰晤士河。

“你睡得好吗,玛格丽特?”我问道。

“不好。我梦到亨利国王复活了,把我送进了伦敦塔。”

“他为什么会那样做呢?”

“因为我梦到我看了那些信,他很生气。可能我们读了那些信会倒霉的。”玛格丽特忧心忡忡地说。

“别担心”,我说,“那只是个梦。他现在什么也做不了,他已经死了。”

我走到木盒子前,把它打开。“我们还是从阿拉贡的凯瑟琳的信读起吧。”我说。

“她是个西班牙人,对吧?”玛格丽特问。

“是的,她刚来英格兰时嫁的是亨利的哥哥亚瑟,但是他死了。她随后又嫁给了亨利,给他做了24年的妻子和王后。”

“时间真长啊!她后来怎么样了?她也有关进伦敦塔了吗?”

“没有,亨利和凯瑟琳离婚了,因为他想要个儿子,而她只给他生了个女儿,就是玛丽公主。多年前,凯瑟琳的确生了一个儿子——就是亨利,威尔士王子,但他生下来



favourite *adj.* best liked.
最喜欢的。**view** *n.* state of seeing or being seen from a particular place; field of vision. 视野。
luck *n.* chance, esp. thought of as a force that brings good or bad fortune. 运气,造化。
divorce *v.* legally end one's marriage to (sb.). 与(某人)离婚。



Wales, but he died when he was only seven weeks old. The King wanted a son very much. He was in love with Anne Boleyn, but he also wanted a new wife—a younger woman to give him sons. ’

‘Poor Katherine! Divorced after twenty-four years for a younger woman!’ Margaret looked at the letter in my hand. ‘Can we read the letter now, my lady?’

‘Yes, let’s sit down by the window and read it together. ’

‘But I can’t read,’ said Margaret, looking at the floor.

‘That’s all right, I’ll read it for you. ’

We sat down and I began to read it slowly ...

Windsor

28th July 1531

Dear Henry

When you left Windsor last week, you didn’t say goodbye. I feel lonely and unhappy without you. When will I see you again? Please come back soon.

You know that I am your true wife. We have been married for more than twenty years in the eyes of God. I have given you a daughter, Princess Mary. God took from us our other children. I wanted so much to give you a son, but God’s plan for us was different, and we cannot change that.

I pray for you every day and ask for you to come back to me. I have never been untrue to you, Henry, and have always been a good wife, and a good mother to our daughter.