

趣味英汉对照故事丛书

# 天上的星星

主编 李相玲 英妍



北方文艺出版社



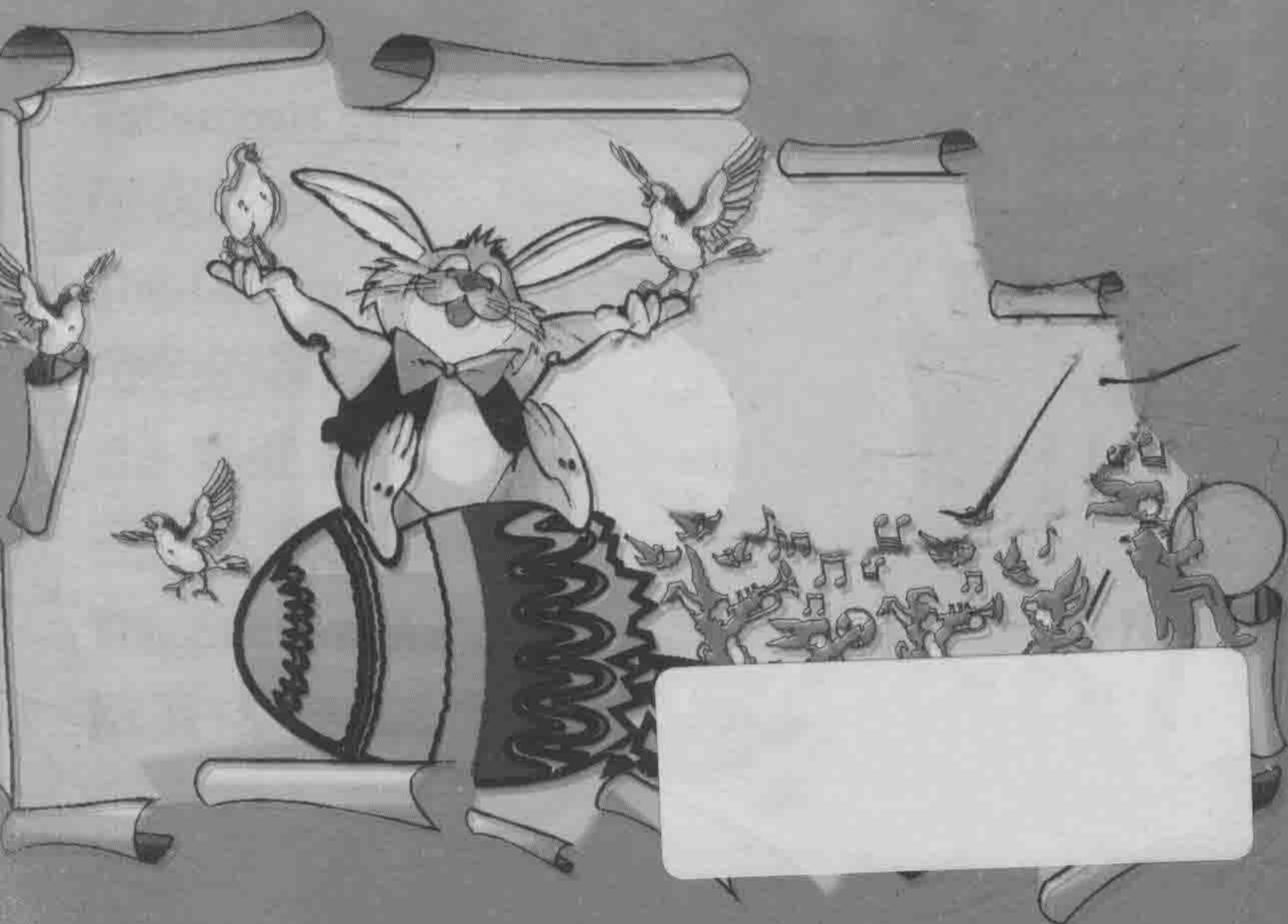
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Tianshang De Xingxing

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威廉·泰尔的故事

## The Stars in the Sky

Once upon a time there was a little girl who wanted to reach the stars in the sky. She saw them shining on clear nights through the panes of her window, and she thought how happy she would be if only she could reach them. She asked her father and her mother if they could get them for her, and they only told her not to be silly. So she would fall asleep thinking how much she would like to have the stars, all the same.

One day she set off by herself to find them. First she came to an old mill beside a millpond, and she said to the millpond, "If you please, have you seen the stars in the sky?"

"Why, yes," answered the millpond, "they



often come and play in my water. Jump in and swim, and perhaps you will find them."

So the little girl jumped into the millpond, and she swam and she swam and she swam, but still she could not find them. All she could find was a little brook, so she asked the brook, "Have you seen the stars in the sky? I would very much like to reach them."

"Why, yes," answered the brook, "they often come down and play on my banks. Paddle along, and perhaps you will find them."

So she paddled and she paddled and she paddled, till she got tired, but still she could not find the stars in the sky. Instead, she came to a meadow where the fairies were playing.

"If you please," she asked of the fairies, "have you seen the stars in the sky? I would very much like to know where I can find them."

"Why, yes," said the fairies, "they often shine in the grass at our feet. Dance with us and perhaps you will find them."

So the little girl danced, and she danced, and she danced, but still she could not find them. She was by now very, very tired, so she sat down and cried.

“I’ve swum, and I’ve paddled, and I’ve danced,” she said, “and still I haven’t found the stars. If you can’t help me then nobody can.”

“Little girl,” said the fairies, “if you will not go home to your mother, then go forward.”

“Shall I reach the stars in the sky?” she asked.

“Perhaps,” said the fairies. “You must ask four feet to carry two feet to no feet at all, and no feet at all will carry you to the stair with no steps; and if you climb the stair with no steps, either you will be near the stars in the sky or you will be somewhere else.”

So she thanked the fairies, and said good-bye, and set off with fresh courage, trying to remember what they had said.

Presently she came to a dark forest, and tied



to a tree at the edge of it stood a horse.

“If you please,” said the little girl to the horse, “can you help me to find the stars in the sky?”

“No,” said the horse, “that has nothing to do with me. My business is to serve the fairies.”

“It was the fairies who told me to ask four feet to carry two feet to no feet at all, and no feet should carry me to the stair without steps, and if I could climb that, I might reach the stars.”

“If that is so,” said the horse, “untie the rope and jump on my back.”

So the little girl did as she was told, and instantly the horse started off through the dark forest. Before long they had gone right through the forest and reached a broad road; and the broad road took them to the sea, and there the horse stopped.

“Get off my back, little girl,” said the horse, “for I have done what the fairies ordered.”

She jumped down from the horse’s back and said, “If you please, can you help me to find no







feet at all?"

"That is none of my business," answered the horse. "I have brought you to the edge of the land, and that is as far as four feet can go."

So saying, he threw up his head, turned round, and galloped off towards the dark forest, leaving the little girl standing beside the sea.

Just as she was wondering what to do next, a great and strange fish appeared at her feet and put its head out of the water.

"If you please," said the little girl, "can you help me to find the stars in the sky?"

"No," said the fish, "that is none of my business. My business is to serve the fairies."

"It was the fairies," she answered, "who told me to find no feet, who should take me to the stair without steps, and if I climbed them I might find the stars."

"If that is so," said the great and strange fish, "jump on my back."

So she jumped on the fish's back and sat



astride, and this was no easy task, for the fish was slippery, but she took hold of one of its fins, and away they went.

They swam across the sea on a wide, shining track of light, at the end of which was a thing in the sky; and the thing was of many colours, red and yellow, blue and green, and it stretched right across the sky. At last they reached the bottom of the thing, and the fish said, "Now you must get off my back, little girl. I have brought you to the stair with no steps, and there I must leave you, for I have done as the fairies ordered."

So the little girl slid off the fish's back, and it turned round, and away it swam and was soon out of sight.

The little girl stood alone at the bottom of the thing in the sky, and she was very much afraid because she was so small and the stair was so steep; but she was full of wonder because the thing was so bright and radiant. So she began to climb. She climbed and she climbed and she climbed, but







still she did not reach the stars in the sky. And the higher she got, the brighter grew the light, till she began to feel giddy. Dizzier and dizzier she grew, until suddenly she slipped and fell. Down, down, down she dropped, and might have been falling to this day, had she not struck the floor in her own bedroom, and woken up and found that it was morning.



## 天上的星星

从前，有一个想够到天上的星星的小姑娘。她透过窗玻璃看到星星们在明朗的夜空中闪烁，便想要是能够到它们，那该有多好啊！她问她的父母，能否为她摘下星星，他们却只是告诉她别犯傻了。因此，她就总是带着自己渴望要那些星星的想法而进入梦乡。

有一天，她独自出发去寻找它们。起初，她来到一座贮水池旁的磨坊边，她对贮水池说：“请问，你曾见到过天上的星星吗？”

“噢，是的。”贮水池回答道，“它们经常到我的水中来玩耍。跳进来游泳吧，也许你会找到它们的。”

因此，小姑娘便跳进贮水池，她游啊，游啊，游啊，但却依然没能找到星星们。她所能找到的是一条小溪，于是她问小溪：“你曾见过天上的星星吗？我非常想要够到它们”。

“噢，是的”。小溪回答道，“它们往常下来在我的岸上玩耍，在水中划船吧，也许你会找到它们的。”

于是，她便划呀，划呀，划呀，直到疲倦为止，但是她仍没能找到天上的星星。于是，她来到仙女们玩耍的草地上。



“请问，”她问仙女们，“你们曾见到过天上的星星吗？我非常想知道能在哪里找到它们。”

“噢，是的。”仙女们说，“它们经常在我们脚下的草地上闪亮。来和我们一起跳舞吧，也许你能找到它们。”

于是小姑娘跳啊，跳啊，跳啊，但是却没能找到星星们。现在她非常非常累，因此她坐下来哭了。

“我游过泳，划过船，跳过舞。”她说，“但仍没能找到星星。如果连你们都不能帮助我的话，那就没人能帮我了。”

“小姑娘，”仙女们说，“如果你不愿回到家中你妈妈身边的话，那么就向前走吧！”

“我能够到天上的星星吗？”她问道。

“可能会的。”仙女们说，你必须请‘四只脚’驮‘两只脚’到‘根本没有脚’那里，‘根本没有脚’将会驮你到‘没有台阶的阶梯’那里；如果你爬上‘没有台阶的阶梯’，你要么会接近天上的星星，要么会置身于别的什么地方。”

小姑娘谢过了仙女们，道了别，鼓足勇气出发了，同时努力记住她们所说的话。

不一会儿，她来到一座阴暗的森林边上，一匹马被拴在一棵树上，站在那里。

“请问，”小姑娘对马儿说，“你能帮我找到天上的星星吗？”

“不。”马儿说，“那与我无关，我的任务是为仙女们服务。”

“正是仙女们告诉我让‘四只脚’驮‘两只脚’去‘根本没有脚’那里，‘根本没有脚’将驮我到‘没有台阶的阶梯’那里，如果我能爬上它，也许就能够到星星了。”



“如果是这样的话，”马儿说，“解下绳子，跳到我背上来吧！”

于是，小姑娘就按马儿告诉她的那样做了，马便立即出发向黑暗的森林走去。不久他们就穿过森林，来到一条宽阔的大路上；大路又引他们来到海边，马儿在那里停下来。

“从我的背上下来吧，小姑娘。”马儿说，“因为我已经完成了仙女们命令我做的事情。”

她从马儿背上跳下来，说道：“请问，你能帮助我找到‘根本没有脚’吗？”

“那可无关我的事。”马儿回答说，“我已经把你带到了陆地的边缘，那是‘四只脚’所能去的最远的地方了。”

这样说完，它便扬起头转过身，朝阴暗的森林那边飞奔而去，只留下小姑娘站在海边。

当她正想着接下来该做什么的时候，一条又大又怪鱼出现在她的脚边，并将头露出水面。

“请问，”小姑娘说，“你能帮助我找到天上的星星吗？”

“不。”鱼儿说，“那与我无关。我的任务是为仙女们服务。”

小姑娘回答道：“正是仙女们告诉我去找‘没有脚’，‘没有脚’带我到‘没有台阶的阶梯’那儿，如果我能爬上阶梯，就能够得到星星。”

“如果是这样的话，”这条又大又怪鱼说，“跳到我背上来吧。”

于是她便跳上了鱼背，跨腿坐了下来，这可不是件容易事儿，因为鱼儿很滑，但是她抓住它的一只鳍，他们就一道出发