

英汉对照读物

小爵爷

LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY

弗朗西丝·霍奇森·伯内特 著



中国对外翻译出版公司

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[美] 弗朗西丝·霍奇森·伯内特 著

勾国庆 译

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译 序

《小爵爷》是美国名作家伯内特的力作，后曾改编为剧本，小说与剧本均获得成功。

主人公塞德里克出生在美国纽约，他祖父多琳考特伯爵是位声名显赫的英国贵族。老爵爷生有三子，长子和次子游手好闲、放荡不羁，颇令他难堪和失望；三子埃罗尔上尉既英俊善良又德才兼备，可是，依据英国当时的法规，排行第三的他不能成为伯爵的继承人。在美国旅行期间，埃罗尔上尉与一位美国平民姑娘相爱并结了婚。老伯爵对这桩婚姻极为不满，一怒之下与儿子断绝了一切关系。

埃罗尔夫妇婚后生下一子塞德里克。小男孩儿生活在善与爱的氛围中，父母间真挚的爱情以及父母对他无微不至的关怀对他影响极深，因而，他从小就养成了关心他人、礼貌待人、勤奋好学的良好习惯，深受众人喜爱。父亲不幸去世后，他越发懂事，与母亲相依为命。不久，他的两个伯父相继死去，未留下继承人，这样，七岁的他便成了伯爵爵位及巨大家产的惟一继承人。老爵爷派律师把住在纽约小巷中的母子二人接到英国，但只要孙子，不肯让儿媳进城堡，而是把她安顿在距城堡不远的一座小房子里。

老伯爵由于连丧三子，且年迈多病，因而孤寂烦闷、心绪极坏，是远近闻名的“暴君”。他本以为塞德里克是个愚昧无知、粗鲁冒失的毛小子，很怕见到孙子后证实这点。可是，使他

意外惊喜的是塞德里克不仅聪明、英俊，而且坦诚、天真、善良和慷慨，祖孙二人很快成了好朋友。通过几个月的朝夕相处，一个天真、善良的小孩儿竟然奇迹般地把一个顽固、自私、傲慢、冷酷的老人彻底改变过来，昔日死气沉沉的庄园里又开始充满了幸福、欢乐、祥和的气氛。

本书故事情节曲折动人，人物性格各具特色，人物心理变化真实、自然，语言简单、流畅、易懂。作品突出这样一个主题：生活中虽然交织着真善美和假恶丑，但真善美终究能够战胜假恶丑。全书富有喜剧色彩，使人获得由忧喜参半到皆大欢喜的情绪体验，在轻松愉快的气氛中得到真善美的熏陶和心灵的净化。

相信该作品会受到广大读者的欢迎，采用英汉对照的方式出版，对英语爱好者会更有帮助。

勾国庆

1997年3月

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A Great Surprise



1

A Great Surprise

CEDRIC himself knew nothing whatever about it. It had never been even mentioned to him. He knew that his papa had been an Englishman, because his mamma had told him so; but then his papa had died when he was so little a boy that he could not remember very much about him, except that he was big, and had blue eyes and a long moustache, and that it was a splendid thing to be carried around the room on his shoulder. Since his papa's death, Cedric had found out that it was best not to talk to his mamma about him. When his father was ill, Cedric had been sent away, and when he had returned, everything was over; and his mother, who had been very ill, too, was only just beginning to sit in her chair by the window. She was pale and thin, and all the dimples had gone from her pretty face, and her eyes looked large and mournful, and she was dressed in black.

"Dearest," said Cedric (his papa had called her that always, and so the little boy had learned to say it), "dearest, is my papa better?"

He felt her arms tremble, and so he turned his curly head and looked in her face. There was something in it that made him feel that she was going to cry.

"Dearest," he said; "is he well?"

Then suddenly his loving little heart told him that he'd better put both his arms around her neck and kiss her again

第一章

大吃一惊

塞德里克本人对此一无所知。没有人跟他讲过这事。他知道爸爸是英国人，因为妈妈这样告诉过他。爸爸去世时他太小，记不了多少事，只记得他很高大，蓝蓝的眼睛，留着长长的髭须。被他扛在肩上围着屋子转悠真是开心极了。自从爸爸死后，塞德里克察觉到最好不要和妈妈提到爸爸。爸爸生病时，塞德里克被送走了，他回来后，爸爸的事情都已料理完了；一直病得很重的妈妈刚刚能起身坐在靠窗的椅子上。她面无血色、身体消瘦，漂亮脸颊上的酒窝全都不见了，她双眼显得很大很哀伤，身上穿着黑色衣裙。

“最亲爱的，”塞德里克说（他爸爸总是这样称呼她，因此，这个小男孩儿也学会这样说了），“最亲爱的，我爸爸好些了吗？”

他发觉她的双臂在颤抖，于是，他转过长着卷发的头来看她的脸。透过她的面部表情他觉得她要哭了。

“最亲爱的，”他说，“他好了吗？”

这时，他幼小的爱心突然告诉他最好还是用双臂搂住她的脖子，尽情亲吻她，并把自己柔软的脸颊紧紧贴在她的脸

and again, and keep his soft cheek close to hers; and he did so, and she laid her face on his shoulder and cried bitterly, holding him as if she could never let him go again.

"Yes, he is well," she sobbed; "he is quite, quite well, but we—we have no one left but each other. No one at all."

Then, little as he was, he understood that his big, handsome young papa would not come back any more; that he was dead, as he had heard of other people being, although he could not comprehend exactly what strange thing had brought all this sadness about. It was because his mamma always cried when he spoke of his papa that he secretly made up his mind it was better not to speak of him very often to her, and he found out, too, that it was better not to let her sit still and look into the fire or out of the window without moving or talking. He and his mamma knew very few people, and lived what might have been thought very lonely lives, although Cedric did not know it was lonely until he grew older and heard why it was they had no visitors. Then he was told that his mamma was an orphan, and quite alone in the world when his papa had married her. She was very pretty, and had been living as companion to a rich old lady who was not kind to her, and one day Captain Cedric Errol, who was calling at the house, saw her run up the stairs with tears on her eyelashes; and she looked so sweet and innocent and sorrowful that the Captain could not forget her. And after many strange things had happened, they knew each other well and loved each other dearly, and were married, although their marriage brought them the ill-will of several persons. The one who was most angry of all, however, was the Captain's father, who lived in England, and was a very rich and important old nobleman, with a very bad temper, and a very violent dislike to America and Americans. He had two sons older than Captain Cedric; and it was the law that the elder of these sons should inherit the family title and estates, which were very rich and splendid; if the eldest son died the next one would be heir; so though he was a member of such a great family, there was little chance that Captain Cedric would

上；他这样做了，她把脸靠在儿子的肩膀上抱着他痛哭起来，仿佛她永远不想让他再离开。

“是的，他好了，”她抽泣着说；“他非常，非常好，可我们，我们，除了你我外再没别人了。没有一个亲人了。”

尽管他还小，但此刻他明白他那身材高大、年轻英俊的爸爸再也不会回来了；虽然他不能准确理解是什么不可思议的事情导致了这样的悲哀，但就像他听说某某人死了一样，他爸爸也死了。由于他提起爸爸时妈妈老是哭，他便暗下决心最好还是少向她说起爸爸，他还发现最好不要让她一动不动、一声不吭地坐在那儿凝视着壁炉里的火苗或向窗外观望。他和妈妈认识的人寥寥无几，过着在一般人看来可能十分孤独的生活，但直到他长大些，得知了没有客人来的原因时他才明白了孤独的含义。后来，他听说妈妈是个孤儿，嫁给爸爸时孤身一人。她长得很漂亮，婚前一直给一位有钱的老太太做伴，这位老太太对她可严厉了。有一天，埃罗尔上尉来这家做客，看见她眼睫毛上挂着泪珠跑上楼梯；她看上去非常漂亮、天真和哀伤，令上尉难以忘怀。在许多不可思议的事情发生后，他们彼此了解并深深相爱了，然后结了婚。但是，他们的婚姻给他们带来的是几个人的敌意。最为气愤的是上尉的父亲。他生活在英国，是位非常富有、地位显赫的老贵族，他脾气很坏、非常憎恶美国和美国人。他还有两个儿子比塞德里克上尉大；依法律规定，应由长子继承家族的爵位和财产，他家的财产真是太可观了；如果长子去世，次子将成为继承人；因此，虽然塞德里

be very rich himself.

But it so happened that Nature had given to the younger son gifts which she had not bestowed upon his elder brothers. He had a beautiful face and a fine, strong, graceful figure; he had a bright smile and a sweet, gay voice; he was brave and generous, and had the kindest heart in the world, and seemed to have the power to make every one love him. But it was not so with his elder brothers; neither of them was handsome, or very kind, or clever. When they were boys at Eton, they were not popular; when they were at college, they cared nothing for study, and wasted both time and money, and made few real friends. The old Earl, their father, was constantly disappointed and humiliated by them; his heir was no honour to his noble name, and did not promise to end in being anything but a selfish, wasteful, insignificant man, with no manly or noble qualities. It was very bitter, the old Earl thought, that the son who was only third, and would have only a very small fortune, should be the one who had all the gifts, and all the charms, and all the strength and beauty. Sometimes he almost hated the handsome young man because he seemed to have the good things which should have gone with the stately title and the magnificent estates; and yet, in the depths of his proud, stubborn old heart, he could not help caring very much for his youngest son. It was in one of his fits of petulance that he sent him off to travel in America; he thought he would send him away for a while, so that he should not be made angry by constantly contrasting him with his brothers, who were at that time giving him a great deal of trouble by their wild ways.

But after about six months, he began to feel lonely, and longed in secret to see his son again, so he wrote to Captain Cedric and ordered him home. The letter he wrote crossed on its way a letter the Captain had just written to his father telling of his love for the pretty American girl, and of his intended marriage; and when the Earl received that letter, he was furiously angry. Bad as his temper was, he had never given way to it in his life as he gave way to it when he read the Captain's

克上尉身为该大家族的一员，但他本人成为富人的机会很小。

可是，大自然却偏偏赠予他一些他的两个哥哥无福拥有的天赋。他有一副漂亮的面孔和一副强健、优美的身材；他有愉快的笑容和欢乐悦耳的声音；他勇敢、慷慨，心地极其善良，似乎具有人见人爱的魅力。然而，他的两个兄长却截然不同；他们既不英俊潇洒，也不善良聪明。在伊顿上中学时，他们就不招人喜欢；上大学时，他们无心学习，一味虚度时光、挥霍钱财，没有交下什么真正的朋友。老伯爵，他们的父亲，常常为他们俩感到失望和羞愧；他的继承人既不会给他的高贵姓氏增光也无望成器，不过是个自私自利、挥霍无度、无足轻重、毫无男人气概或高尚品质的人。令老伯爵想起来便痛苦的是，那个只不过排行老三、将来又得不到多少财产的小儿子竟然具有所有的天赋、所有的魅力、所有的力量和优势。有时，他几乎嫉恨这个英俊的年轻人，因为他似乎拥有了与这高贵头衔和庞大财产相映生辉的所有优点；然而，在老伯爵那傲慢、固执的内心深处，他又禁不住非常关心他的小儿子。有一次他在大发脾气之后打发他去美国旅行。他原以为，他离开一段时间，自己就不会因常常将他与他两个哥哥进行比较而恼火了，当时，他的两位兄长放荡不羁，给老伯爵惹了许多麻烦。

可是，过了六个月之后，他开始感到孤独，暗暗盼望着再见到小儿子，于是，他写信给塞德里克命他回家。他写的信与上尉写给父亲的信在途中交错而过。在信中，塞德里克上尉告诉父亲他爱上了一位漂亮的美国姑娘并打算同她结婚；读完这封信后，老伯爵勃然大怒。尽管他脾气不好，但一生中他还从未像今天读了上尉的来信后这样动怒。在房间里目睹了这

letter. His ^{But} valet, who was in the room when it came, thought his lordship would have a fit of apoplexy, he was so wild with anger. For an hour he raged like a tiger, and then he sat down and wrote to his son, and ordered him never to come near his old home, nor to write to his father or brothers again. He told him he might live as he pleased, and die where he pleased, that he should be cut off from his family for ever, and that he need never expect help from his father as long as he lived.

The Captain was very sad when he read the letter; he was very fond of England, and he dearly loved the beautiful home where he had been born; he had even loved his ill-tempered old father, and had sympathised with him in his disappointments; but he knew he need expect no kindness from him in the future. At first he scarcely knew what to do; he had not been brought up to work, and had no business experience, but he had courage and plenty of determination. So he sold his commission in the English army, and after some trouble found a situation in New York, and married. The change from his old life in England was very great, but he was young and happy and he hoped that hard work would do great things for him in the future. He had a small house in a quiet street, and his little boy was born there, and everything was so gay and cheerful, in a simple way, that he was never sorry for a moment that he had married the rich old lady's pretty companion just because she was so sweet and he loved her and she loved him. She was very sweet, indeed, and her little boy was like both her and his father. Though he was born in so quiet and cheap a little home, it seemed as if there never had been a more fortunate baby. In the first place, he was always well, and so he never gave any one trouble; in the second place he had so sweet a temper and ways so charming that he was a pleasure to every one; and in the third place he was so beautiful to look at that he was quite a picture. Instead of being a bald-headed baby, he started in life with a quantity of soft, fine, gold-coloured hair, which curled up at the ends, and went into loose rings by the time he was six months old; he had big brown eyes and long

一幕的贴身男仆还以为老爷要中风呢，因为他简直都气疯了。他像老虎一样暴跳如雷，一个小时之后，他坐下来给儿子写信，命令他永远不要走近他的老家，也不要再给他父亲和哥哥们写信。他告诉他，他可随心所欲地生活，死在他喜欢的地方，家里将与他永远断绝关系，而且，只要他活着，他就永远别指望得到当爹的帮助。

读了这封信上尉十分伤心。他非常喜欢英国，深深热恋生他养他的美丽的家园；他也爱脾气暴躁的老父亲，对于父亲的沮丧深感同情。但他知道将来别想得到父亲的慈爱和帮助。起初，他简直不知如何是好；他没有接受过工作培训，也没有经商经验，但是他既勇敢又果断。结果，他出让了自己在英国军队的官职，费了一些周折之后在纽约找到了一份工作并结了婚。跟过去在英国的生活比起来变化真是太大了，但他年轻、乐观，希望艰苦的工作会对自己的前途大有裨益。在一条僻静的街巷里，他有一座不大的房子，他的小儿子就降生在那里。生活尽管简朴，却充满了温馨与快乐，他从未因娶了一位服侍阔老太太的美丽姑娘而有过片刻的遗憾，因为她非常可爱，他爱她，她也爱他。她的确非常好看，小儿子长得既像她也像他父亲。他虽然出生在一间非常僻静简陋的小房子里，但世上好像再没有比他更幸运的小孩儿了。第一，他身体总是很健康，从不给任何人添麻烦；而且，他脾性温和、举止可爱，每个人都喜欢他；还有，他的长相非常漂亮，看上去简直就是一幅画。刚出生时，他脑袋上并不是光秃秃的，而是长着一头漂亮柔软的金发，发梢自然弯曲，满六个月时，他的头发长出了散卷儿。他长着一双褐色的大眼睛、长长的睫毛、一副极可爱的小脸蛋

eyelashes and a darling little face; he had so strong a back and splendid sturdy legs, that at nine months he learned suddenly to walk; his manners were so good, for a baby, that it was delightful to make his acquaintance. He seemed to feel that every one was his friend, and when any one spoke to him, when he was in his carriage in the street, he would give the stranger one sweet serious look with the brown eyes, and then follow it with a lovely, friendly smile; and the consequence was, that there was not a person in the neighbourhood of the quiet street where he lived—even to the groceryman at the corner, who was considered the crossdest creature alive—who was not pleased to see him, and speak to him. And every month of his life he grew handsomer and more interesting.

When he was old enough to walk out with his nurse, dragging a small waggon and wearing a short white kilt skirt, and a big white hat set back on his curly yellow hair, he was so handsome and strong and rosy that he attracted every one's attention, and his nurse would come home and tell his mamma stories of the ladies who had stopped their carriages to look at and speak to him, and of how pleased they were when he talked to them in his cheerful little way, as if he had known them always. His greatest charm was this cheerful, fearless, quaint little way of making friends with people. I think it arose from his having a very confiding nature, and a kind little heart that sympathised with every one, and wished to make every one as comfortable as he liked to be himself. It made him very quick to understand the feelings of those about him. Perhaps this had grown on him, too, because he had lived so much with his father and mother, who were always loving and considerate and tender and well-bred. He had never heard an unkind or uncourteous word spoken at home; he had always been loved and caressed and treated tenderly, and so his childish soul was full of kindness and innocent warm feeling. He had always heard his mamma called by pretty, loving names, and so he used them himself when he spoke to her; he had always seen that his papa watched over her and took great care of her,