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CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
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程乃珊

总策划 | 庄之明

主 编 | 琚林勇

责任编辑 | 陈 炜 华 程

助理责编 | 李 军

翻 译 | 程 前

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程乃珊

Plotter | Zhuang Zhiming

Editor-in-Chief | Ju Linyong

Executive Editor | Chen Wei

Hua Cheng

Assistant Editor | Li Jun

Translator | Cheng Qian

English Proof-Reader |

Joshua Haynes Mandell

Painter | Li Xiaolin

Photographer | Wang Quanzhen

Art Designer | Hua Cheng

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作品介绍

这是二十多年前发生在香港的故事。港地名校“圣心”五年级来了个插班生阿琰。她在圣诞节上领唱赞美诗，那柔和甜润的声音，甚至吸引了港督，被誉为“欢乐女神”。她的父母是马戏团的演员，为了供她念书，母亲冒险演出致残。阿琰不得不辍学从艺而成为明星。后来，阿琰声带变坏，退出艺坛，消失在茫茫人海中。

Introduction

An abstract of *A Story about "Merry Goddess"* : The story took place in Hong Kong more than twenty years ago. A girl named Alian joined a class of Grade Five in the famous Holy Heart school. She was the leading singer of psalms on the Eve of Christmas and her beautiful sweet voice even attracted the Hong Kong governor, so she was entitled "Merry Goddess". Her parents were acrobats with a circus and her mother was disabled in taking the risk of performances in order to support her daughter through her education, so Alian had to drop out and turned to entertainment. Later she became a star, but had to quit the line as a result of her ruined vocal cord, and she then sank into oblivion among the multitude.



程乃珊，女，1946 年生于上海。童年在香港度过。1965 年毕业于上海教育学院。现为中国作家协会会员。至今发表了中、长篇小说和散文及翻译作品约四百多万字。代表作有《蓝屋》、《穷街》、《女儿经》等，并都已改编成电视剧和电影上映。其长篇小说《金融家》已改成电视剧并在美国出版。多次应邀去美国、原联邦德国、菲律宾等国，现定居香港。

Cheng Naishan, born in Shanghai in 1946, spent her childhood in Hong Kong and graduated from Shanghai Educational College. Now she is a member of the Chinese Writers' Association and has so far published novels, novelettes, essays and translated works amounting to more than four million words, of which the representative ones like *The Blue House*, *The Poor Neighbourhood* and *The Classics for Women* have been adapted for TV series or films. Her full-length novel *The Financier* has been adapted for a TV series and published in the USA. She has been to the USA, the former federal Germany and the Philippines at invitations and now resides in Hong Kong.

这是二十多年前的事了，那时我住在香港。

小时候家里来了客人，爸妈总是骄傲地把我往客人面前一推：“在‘圣心’书院念书哩！”其实不用介绍，光凭我这身港地独一无二的华丽的校服——深蓝色嵌金线的背心裙子，左胸口绣着一个金“S”，腰间垂着一排金流苏，人们就会认出我是“圣心”的。我也很以作“圣心”的学生而自豪，因为这是港地“最高级”的学校之一。跨进“圣心”的大门，我总以为成了幸福天堂里的一员了，就像圣经上讲的那样，“这里的世界洁白美丽，没有邪恶、虚伪、痛苦……”

It happened more than twenty years ago when I was living in Hong Kong.

In my childhood, whenever a guest came to visit us, my parents would proudly shove me before the guest, "She's at the Holy Heart school!" In fact, such an introduction was unnecessary as one could easily tell it from the unique, luxurious, school uniform I wore — a dark blue vest and skirt inlaid with gold thread with a gold S embroidered on the left breast, and a string of gold tassels on the waist. I myself also took pride in being a student there as it was one of the best schools in Hong Kong. Whenever I entered the school, I thought of myself as being in Heaven, which, as it was described in the Bible, was a pure and beautiful world devoid of evil, hypocrisy and misery...

五年级时我班来了个插班生阿琰。她长得很引人注目，虽然穿着一样的制服，但不知是因为她浓密的头发上别着一只红玻璃发夹呢，还是因为她比别的女孩子更沉静老成的神态，使我们很容易一眼就把她从人丛中认出来。她脸上常常带着甜甜的笑容，让人一看就愿意与她交朋友。不过，即使在她微笑时，脸上也总带着那么一股淡淡的忧郁的神情，这令她更惹人爱怜了。

她和我同桌，我们的关系自然比别的同学更密切了。

When I was in the fifth grade, a new student called Alian joined my class. She was so conspicuous even though we wore the same uniform, that we could easily pick her out in a crowd, either because of the red glass hairpin in her thick hair or because of her more serene and experienced air. She was often wearing a smile on her face, so others wanted to make friends with her as soon as they saw her. Yet, even when she was smiling, her face suggested a kind of thin melancholy, which rendered her even more pitifully loveable.

She sat next to me in class, so we were closer to each other than to other classmates.



她学习认认真真，一丝不苟，即使做礼拜也是这样。一次，我看见她那么全神贯注地祈祷的模样，就忍不住要逗逗她。我才不相信上帝呢，要不，地球上已发射了宇宙火箭，难道就不会触到上帝的脚底板吗？我悄悄用肘子碰碰她说：“瞧你一本正经的样子，上帝也听不见。”她却惊恐地瞪大双眼阻止我说下去。她那黑宝石般的眼睛里仿佛还充满泪水，我不敢再开玩笑。下面开始唱赞美诗了，她放开嗓子热烈、虔诚地唱起来。她的声音甜甜的就像蜂蜜一样，整个脸充满着感人的光彩，就像圣像上画的安琪儿一样。

She was conscientious and careful in her studies, and it was the same when she went to church. Once when I saw her concentrating on her prayers, I could not help teasing her. I did not believe in God, for if he existed, the space rockets launched from the earth would have touched his feet. I quietly nudged her with my elbow, "How serious you are. God can not hear you." Her eyes opened wide in fear, she stopped me from going on. As her eyes, which were like precious black stones, seemed full of tears, I dared not to joke any more. When they began to sing psalms, she sang warmly and piously at the top of her voice, which was as sweet as honey. A touching luster radiated from her face, making her look like an angel in a holy picture.

令人奇怪的是，她的赞美诗唱得再动听，祷告做得再虔诚，我们的训育主任李嬷嬷还是十分讨厌她。她常常要找阿璉的碴儿，不是说她皮鞋擦得不亮，就是说她的袖口和领子没有浆过。她甚至还怪罪到阿璉头上的那个玻璃红发夹。“谁让你别上这么个俗气的东西！”她厉声问阿璉。说实话，这个闪光的玻璃发夹别在阿璉乌黑的发丛中可真漂亮！

To my surprise, our head disciplinarian, Aunt Li, disliked her no matter how beautifully she sang psalms or how seriously she said her prayers. She often found fault with her, reproaching her for not polishing her leather shoes or not starching the cuffs and the collar of her shirt. She even criticized that red glass hairpin. "Who let you put that vulgar thing on your head?" she asked Alian sternly. To be fair, that shiny glass hairpin in her hair looked very beautiful!

“我妈给的。”阿琏嘟起了嘴巴。

“拿下!”李嬷嬷命令着,“改不了的江湖脾气!”她轻蔑地撇撇嘴转身走了。

阿琏慢慢地除下发夹,伤心地哭了。我们都面面相觑不敢作声。一只发夹碍着李嬷嬷什么了,她干吗发这么大的火。

夏天来了,这正是看马戏的好季节。我可喜欢看马戏了,往那大帐篷里一钻,手里再捧着一包喷香的“噗巴康”(爆玉米花)边看边吃,那美劲就别提了。我从小特别喜欢“空中飞人”这个节目,看演员就像仙人在半空中飞来飞去,可开心啦!这次马戏团大篷恰巧就搭在我家附近,妈妈同意我

“My mother gave it to me!” Alian pouted.

“Take it off!” Aunt Li ordered, “an inveterate vagabond’s temperament!” Slanting her mouth contemptuously, she turned and walked away.

Taking it off, Alian wept sadly. We looked at each other and dared not to speak. The hairpin had nothing to do with Aunt Li and she should not have flown into such a rage.

When summer came, it was the season for circus, which I liked best. Squeezing into the big tent, with a bag of popcorn in hand, eating and watching, one could hardly describe the enjoyment. I had taken to the trapeze act. It was fun to look at an acrobat flying in the air like a fairy. This time the big tent happened to be put up near my home, and my mother agreed to let me go



去看了。我高高兴兴地去买了两张马戏票，一张自然是给阿琰的。我兴奋地逗着阿琰：“这次马戏团的节目都是新的，特别是‘空中飞人’，不佩保险带，还蒙着双眼呢！”

“真的？”她惊恐地睁着双眼问我。

“还不信，海报上写着呢！”我说。

“别讲了，我怕，怕极了！”她显得那么紧张，真是胆小鬼，又不是让她自个儿飞。得了，她不去，我只能自个儿去了。

大篷里可真热闹，挤得满满的。我捧着爆玉米花坐下。今晚的爆玉米花一点也不香，小丑的表演也是那么硬邦邦的不逗人，连座位也不舒服。当然了，这全怪阿

to the circus. Happily I went to get two tickets, one, of course, for Alan. I teased her excitedly, “They have a new repertoire this time. Especially, the trapeze act, they don’t use any safety belts and they are blindfold, too.”

“Really?” she asked me in fear with her eyes opened wide.

“I’m not sure, but it says so in the playbill.” I said.

“Stop. I am afraid, terrible!” she looked so frightened, a real coward, not ready to let herself fly. Well, since she did not want to go, I had to go without her.

It was very crowded inside the big tent, which was packed to its capacity. I took my seat, popcorn in hand. The popcorn that night was not good, neither was the clown’s performance, and even the seat was uncomfortable. Of course, it was

璩，要是她也来了，我俩边吃爆玉米花边聊节目多带劲！忽地人丛中闪过一个红发夹，阿璩！她到底来了。她干吗手里拿着一个手电筒，也没穿“圣心”的校服？噢，她在领票呢！我忽地想起李嬷嬷轻蔑地斥责她“改不了的江湖脾气”的那副神情：她与马戏团有什么关系吗？我轻轻走到她身后，一把蒙住她的眼睛。一听出我的声音，她忙把电筒往口袋里一藏，满脸涨得绯红。“我帮你一块领座，完了我们一块看节目，好吗？”我要让她明白，我们依然是好朋友。

all Alian's fault. If she had come, how wonderful it would have been to watch the performance while eating popcorn and chatting over the programs. Suddenly a red hairpin flickered in the crowd. Alian! She had come after all. But why was she holding a flashlight in her hand and why wasn't she wearing her school uniform? Oh, she was a temporary usher! I suddenly remembered the air with which Aunt Li reproached her contemptuously for her inveterate vagabond's temperament. What did she have to do with the circus? I ran up behind her and covered her eyes. On recognizing my voice, she quickly hid her flashlight in her pocket, and her face flushed. "I'll assist you in ushering the audience, then we can enjoy the performance together. How about it?" I wanted her to see that we were still good friends.

“不行，你穿着校服呢，待会儿我来找你。”她说着又忙开了。

“空中飞人”开始了，全场紧张起来。阿琰在我身旁坐下。

灯光慢慢地暗下去，随着优美的旋律，舞台上出现男女两个演员。台上空晃晃的既没有安全网，也没有尼龙保险丝。当两个演员被蒙住双眼送上几丈高的秋千架时，阿琰一把抓住了我的手。“怎么了？阿琰，别怕！”我说。

“他们是我爸爸妈妈，我怕，怕极了，这回他们不会摔死……”她的手冰凉冰凉的，直打哆嗦。我完全明白了！可怜的阿琰！

“No, you are wearing the school uniform. I'll come to you in a while,” after saying these words, she was busy again.

The trapeze act began. The audience was silent. Alian sat down beside me.

The light dimmed slowly and a man acrobat and a woman acrobat appeared to the melody on the stage, which was almost empty, with neither a safety net nor a nylon safety cord. When the two performers were put on two swings, several zhang above the stage, blindfolded, Alian snatched my hand. “What are you doing? Alian, don't be scared!” I said.

“They are my parents. I am terribly afraid. Mightn't they fall to their deaths this time...” Her hands were cold and trembling. I came to see her point. Poor Alian!

