

Vanity Fair

名利场



英语世界名著简读丛书

江苏教育出版社

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原著〔英〕 威廉·麦克皮斯·萨克雷

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出版说明

《名利场》(VANITY FAIR, 1848)是19世纪英国著名小说家威廉·麦克皮斯·萨克雷(W. M. THACKERAY, 1811—1863)的代表作。小说通过两个妇女的不同遭遇,揭露了英国社会中形形色色的争名逐利之徒以及各式各样的势利小人,抨击了资产阶级社会中的金钱统治以及“名利场”中虚伪贪婪、趋炎附势的种种丑态和怪相。

小说的真正女主人公是蓓基·夏普(BECKY SHARP)。她出身寒微,遭受歧视,一心想出人头地,挤进上流社会。她靠自己的姿色和才干打天下,可谓不择手段,寡廉鲜耻,最终堕落成为一个极端自私的女冒险家。

小说人物形象生动逼真,故事情节扣人心弦,对现实生活的反映真实深刻,语言犀利,充分体现了萨克雷卓越不凡的讽刺才能。本书由 E. M. Attwood 精心改写,保持了原作优美的风格、语言特色和艺术魅力,文字流畅,适合中学和大专学校的学生阅读。书中除详加汉语注释外,在书末附有参考译文,以帮助读者提高阅读能力和翻译水平。

译注者

1997年10月于南京

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1. MINERVA HOUSE^①

ONE sunny morning in June, about the year 1813, there drove up to the gates of Miss Pinkerton's school for young ladies, a large family coach^②, with two fat horses, driven by a fat coachman. As a servant got down and rang the bell, at least twenty young heads were seen gazing^③ out of the narrow windows of the old brick house.

"It is Mrs. Sedley's coach, sister," said gentle Miss Jemima, in the headmistress's room.

"Have you completed all the necessary

-
- ① MINERVA HOUSE 女神学堂。Minerva 罗马神话中的智慧女神。这里用作比喻，指平克顿小姐女子学堂
- ② there drove up to the gates... a large family coach 此句是“there + 谓语 + 主语”结构。主语是 a large family coach (家用大马车)。drove up to 驱车一直来到
- ③ twenty young heads were seen gazing... (复合谓语被动结构, gazing 现在分词) 可以看到20个年轻姑娘……凝视着

preparations for Miss Sedley's departure?" asked the great Miss Pinkerton herself.

"The girls were up at four this morning, packing her trunks^①, sister," replied Miss Jemima.

"And I trust you have made a copy of Miss Sedley's account^②. Ninety-three pounds, four shillings. Be kind enough to address it to^③ John Sedley, Esquire^④, and to seal this letter that I have written to his lady."

The letter was as follows;—

Minerva House,

June 15th.

Madam,

After her six years' stay under my care, I have the honour and happiness of presenting Miss Amelia Sedley to^⑤ her parents as a young lady worthy of occupying a position in^⑥ well-bred

① packing her trunks 给她打点箱子。pack a trunk 装箱

② made a copy of... account 抄一份……的账单

③ Be kind enough to address it to... 请写上……收

④ Esquire 先生(放在男子姓名后面的尊称)

⑤ presenting... to... 把……送还给……。present to 介绍;引见

⑥ worthy of occupying a position in... 在……占有地位是当之无愧的。worthy of... 值得……;配得上

society^①.

Her good work and obedience^② have pleased her teachers, and her delightful sweetness of temper^③ has charmed all her companions.

In music, dancing, spelling, and every kind of needlework she has made excellent progress. In geography there is still much to be desired^④. In the principles of religion and right conduct^⑤, Miss Sedley will be found worthy of the good name of Minerva House.

In leaving Minerva House, Miss Amelia carries with her the hearts of her companions and the affectionate wishes of her headmistress^⑥, who has the honour to sign herself.

Yours faithfully,

Barbara Pinkerton

P. S. ^⑦ Miss Sharp accompanies Miss Sedley.

-
- ① well-bred society 上流社会
② good work and obedience 学习好,守规矩;成绩良好,遵守校规
③ delightful sweetness of temper 性格温柔;讨人喜欢
④ there is still much to be desired 仍有许多不足之处
⑤ In the principles of religion and right conduct 在信仰和道德准则方面
⑥ carries with her... the affectionate wishes of her headmistress 满载校长充满深情的祝愿
⑦ P. S. (Postscript 的缩写) 附言; 又及

It is particularly requested that Miss Sharp's stay may not exceed ten days. The family of noble rank^① which is employing her desires to make use of her services^② as soon as possible.

B. P.

This letter completed^③, Miss Pinkerton began to write her own name and Miss Sedley's on the first page of a Johnson's Dictionary^④—the interesting work which she always presented to^⑤ her pupils on their departure.

Miss Jemima, with a timid, hesitating look^⑥, handed her sister a second copy of the book.

“For whom is this?” said Miss Pinkerton, with awful coldness^⑦.

“For Becky Sharp,” answered Jemima, trembling very much, and blushing, “for Becky Sharp; she's going too.”

-
- ① The family of noble rank 贵族之家
② desires to make use of her services 望她赴任奉职
③ This letter completed (= When this letter was completed) 独立分词结构
④ Johnson's Dictionary 《约翰逊词典》(Samuel Johnson, 18世纪英国词典学家、作家)
⑤ presented to... 赠送给……
⑥ with a timid, hesitating look 带着胆怯而犹豫的神色
⑦ with awful coldness 冷酷无情地

“Miss Jemima!” exclaimed Miss Pinkerton, “are you in your senses^①? Replace the dictionary in the cupboard, and send Miss Sedley to me.”

Miss Sedley's father was a merchant in London, and a man of some wealth^②, while Miss Sharp was a student-teacher, for whom Miss Pinkerton thought she had done enough^③, without honouring her with the gift of the dictionary^④.

-
- ① ... are you in your senses (= ... are you out of your senses) 你发疯了。in one's senses 头脑清醒
- ② a man of some wealth 相当有钱的人
- ③ for whom... she had done enough 对……她付出的够多了
- ④ without honouring her with the gift of the dictionary 用不着赠送词典给她增光

2. GOODBYE TO SCHOOL

MISS SEDLEY was a charming young lady, who deserved^① all that the headmistress had written in her praise. She had such a kind, generous heart, that she won the love of everyone who came near her, and she had half the school as her particular friends^②. Her face blushed with rosy health^③, and her lips had the freshest of smiles^④, and her eyes sparkled with bright good-nature, except when they were filled with tears, for she would cry over a dead bird, or over a mouse that the cat had seized, and as for saying an unkind word to her—why, even Miss Pinkerton had given the teachers particular orders to treat her with the greatest gentleness, as severity was harmful to her^⑤.

① deserved... 应受到(赞赏);……当之无愧

② particular friends 知己;要好的朋友

③ blushed with rosy health 面色红润;神采奕奕

④ had the freshest of smiles 露出最甜蜜的微笑

⑤ as severity was harmful to her 因为严厉会伤害她

When the day of departure came, between her two customs of laughing and crying^①, Miss Sedley was greatly puzzled how to act^②. She was glad to go home, and yet dreadfully sad at leaving school^③. But now the flowers and the presents and the trunks had all been arranged in the carriage, and a very small old box with Miss Sharp's card nailed neatly on it^④, had been added to the pile. The farewell visit to the headmistress's room having been paid, Miss Sedley was at liberty to leave^⑤.

“You'll go in and say goodbye, Becky?” said Miss Jemima to a young lady of whom nobody took any notice^⑥.

“I suppose I must,” said Miss Sharp calmly, and after knocking and receiving permission to

-
- ① between her two customs of laughing and crying 她爱哭、爱笑这两个习惯
 - ② was greatly puzzled how to act 真不知道如何才好(哭,还是笑)。be puzzled 感到为难;不知道
 - ③ yet dreadfully sad at leaving school 离开学校感到很难过
 - ④ with... card nailed neatly on it 上面端端正正地钉着……的名片
 - ⑤ was at liberty to leave 可随时离校。be at liberty to do sth. 随便做某事
 - ⑥ of whom nobody took any notice 没人理她

enter, she advanced and said in French, with perfect pronunciation^①, “Madam, I have come to wish you goodbye.”

Miss Pinkerton did not understand French; she only directed those who did^②, but biting her lips and throwing up her head^③, she said, “Miss Sharp, I wish you good morning.” And she waved her hand to give Miss Sharp a chance of shaking one of her fingers.

Miss Sharp only folded her own hands^④ with a very cold smile and bow.

“Come away, Becky,” said Miss Jemima, pulling the young woman out in great alarm, and the door closed on her for ever^⑤.

Then came the parting below.^⑥ All the servants were there in the hall—all the dear friends—all the young ladies; and there was such a

-
- ① with perfect pronunciation 发音纯正
 - ② only directed those who did 只会指挥那些会说法语的人
 - ③ throwing up her head 把头一仰(表示傲慢、轻蔑)
 - ④ folded her own hands 叉着手(十指交叉握持)。fold one's arms 双臂合抱。两个短语意思不同
 - ⑤ the door closed on her for ever 把她永远拒之门外
 - ⑥ Then came the parting below. 接着,楼下出现了离别的场面。

kissing and crying as cannot be described^①. It was over^②—that is, Miss Sedley parted from her friends. Miss Sharp had quietly entered the carriage some minutes before. Nobody cried because she was leaving.

The servant shut the carriage door.

“Stop!” cried Miss Jemima, rushing to the gate with a parcel. “Becky, Becky Sharp, here’s a book for you that my sister—that is, that I—Johnson’s Dictionary, my dear, you mustn’t leave without it. Goodbye. Drive on^③, coachman! God bless you!”

And the kind creature^④ retreated into the garden.

But just as the coach drove off, Miss Sharp put her pale face out of the window, and actually threw the book back into the garden.

-
- ① such a kissing and crying as cannot be described 又是接吻, 又是哭泣, 这一场面难以描述。such 是形容词放在不定冠词之前。as 是关系代词
- ② It was over 告别完了
- ③ Drive on 赶车吧
- ④ the kind creature 这个心地善良的人