

朗文英汉对照阶梯阅读丛书



第三级

Stories from Shakespeare

布赖恩·希顿 迈克尔·韦斯特改写 王蕾 译

莎士比亚故事集

简写本



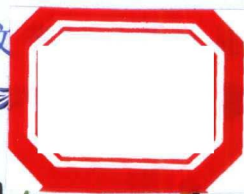
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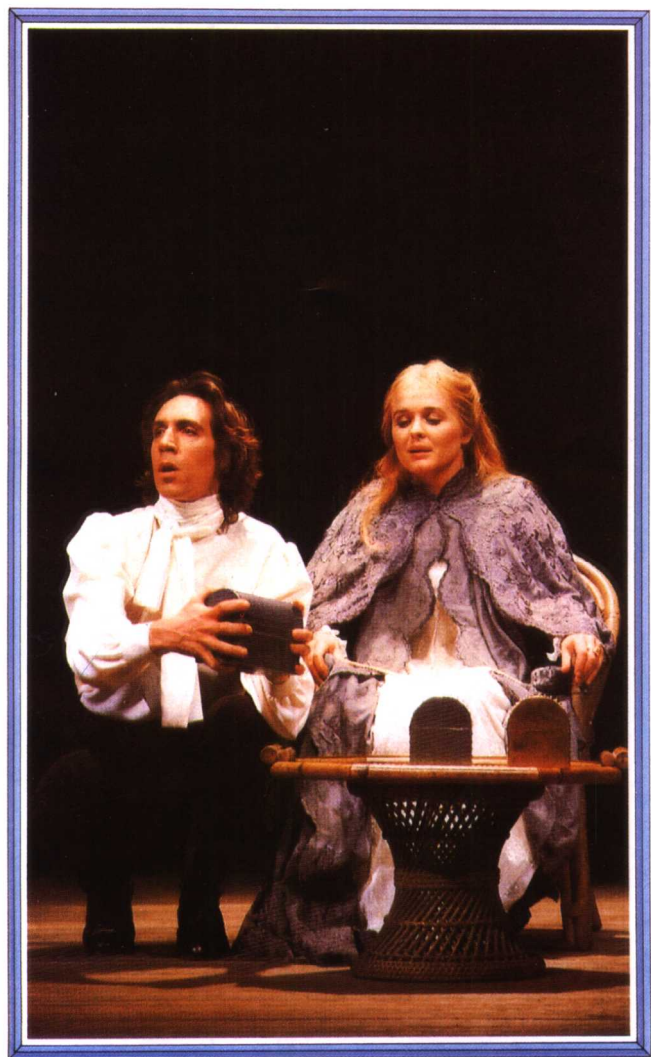
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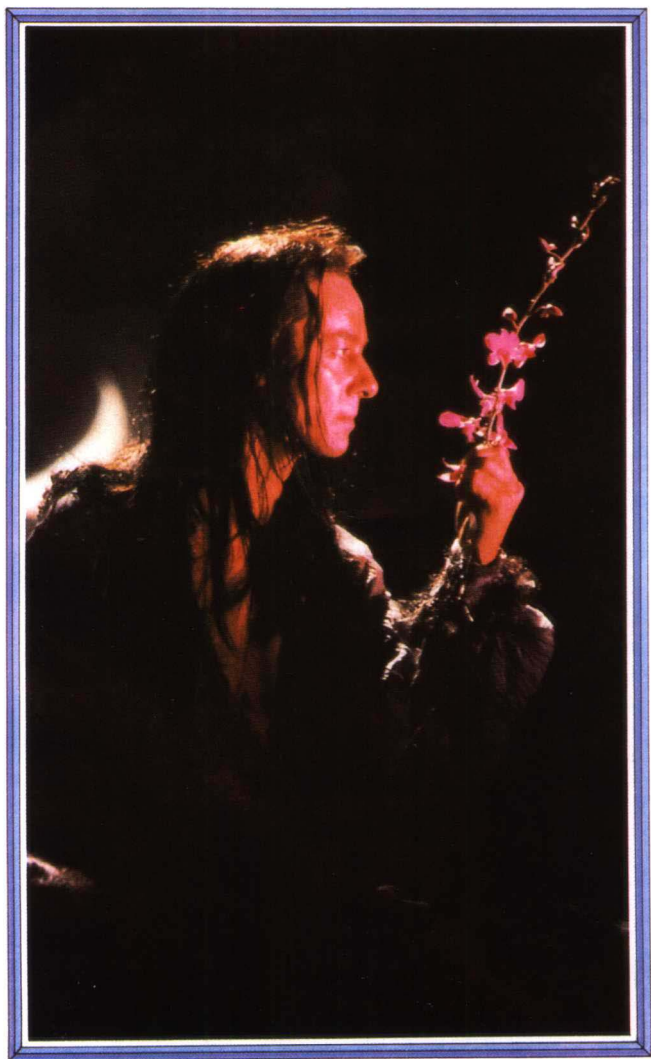
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Bassanio chooses the lead box
巴萨尼奥选择了铅匣 (参见第 12-13 页)



Portia tells Shylock he cannot take any of Antonio's blood
波西娅告诉夏洛克，他不能拿走安东尼奥一滴血（参见第22-23页）



Oberon with the magic flower
奥伯伦拿着魔花 (参见第 36-37 页)



Bottom and Titania

波顿和蒂塔妮娅 (参见第 42-43 页)



Hamlet makes a promise to his father's ghost
哈姆雷特向父亲的亡魂作保证 (参见第 56-57 页)



Hamlet fights with Laertes

哈姆雷特与雷欧提斯决斗 (参见第 70-71 页)

Introduction

Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564. He is the most famous writer of plays in the English language, so it is perhaps surprising that we really know very little about his life. He probably went to the grammar school in Stratford, and so it is likely that he had a good education, especially in Latin.

The next thing we know is that he married Anne Hathaway in 1582, and they had three children: Suzanna (born in 1583), and a boy and a girl (Hamnet and Judith) born at the same time in 1585.

After that, we know nothing until 1592, when he was already writing successful plays in London. We don't know when he went there. By 1597, Shakespeare had made enough money as a writer and actor to buy New Place, the largest house in Stratford. He may have retired to New Place in 1610, but he continued to write plays. The last play he wrote was *Henry VIII*, in 1612. The company were performing that play at the Globe Theatre on 20 June 1613 when the theatre was burnt to the ground.

Shakespeare died at Stratford on 23 April 1616.

Comedies and tragedies

This book contains the stories of four of Shakespeare's plays: two comedies and two tragedies.

Today, a *comedy* is a play in which the story and the people are amusing, and which ends happily. In Shake-

前 言

莎士比亚

威廉·莎士比亚 1564 年生于 (英国沃里克郡) 艾冯河畔的斯特拉特福镇。他是用英语写作的最著名的剧作家。因此, 说起来或许会使人感到吃惊: 实际上我们对于他的生平知之甚少。他大概在斯特拉特福的语法学校学习过, 因此他很可能受过良好的教育, 尤其在拉丁文方面。

我们知道的另一件事是, 他在 1582 年与安·哈瑟维结婚。他们有三个孩子, 长女苏珊娜 (生于 1583 年) 和一对生于 1585 年的孪生兄妹: 儿子哈姆奈特和女儿朱迪丝。

此后直至 1592 年, 我们对他的情况一无所知, 当时, 他已经在伦敦写出了一些成功的剧本。我们不知道他是何时到伦敦去的。1597 年时, 作为剧作家兼演员的莎士比亚已经积攒下足够的钱款, 在斯特拉特福镇买下了最大的房子“新宅”。他大概在 1610 年间退休回到“新宅”, 但仍继续创作剧本。他最后写出的剧本是 1612 年问世的《亨利八世》。1613 年 6 月 20 日, 剧团在 (伦敦) 环球剧院上演该剧时, 不慎发生火灾, 导致整个剧院化为灰烬。

莎士比亚于 1616 年 4 月 23 日在斯特拉特福镇逝世。

喜剧与悲剧

这本书由莎士比亚的四个戏剧故事组成, 其中两个是喜剧故事, 两个是悲剧故事。

今天, 所谓喜剧就是剧情和剧中人物都能逗人发笑的戏, 而且在结尾收场时皆大欢喜。在莎士比亚生活的那个时

speare's time, a play with a happy ending was a comedy, but the happenings in the play needn't all be amusing, and the characters – the people – may be far from funny. The happy ending is for the characters we are expected to like.

The Merchant of Venice ends happily for Antonio (the merchant of Venice), his friend Bassanio, the beautiful and clever Portia, and their friends. So *The Merchant of Venice* is a comedy. The ending is not happy for Shylock, but the people who saw the play in Shakespeare's time (it was probably first played in 1598) wouldn't have liked Shylock and wouldn't have been sorry for him.

A Midsummer Night's Dream was written at about the same time as *The Merchant of Venice*. It is a comedy, but of a different kind. It ends happily for everybody, including the two pairs of lovers, the king and queen of the fairies, and even for Bottom, the funny clothmaker.

Most of us like a happy ending to a story or a play, but the playgoers of Shakespeare's time also liked to have their feelings moved by a tragedy. A tragedy is a serious play that ends sadly, especially one that ends with the death of the main character or characters.

The main character, for us, in *Hamlet* is Prince Hamlet of Denmark. By the end of the play, we are very sorry for him, but we don't feel that a happy ending would be right. He dies, and we are sad, but he has died well, and we feel that the ending is right.

Julius Caesar himself is the cause of almost everything that happens in the tragedy *Julius Caesar*, but he is not the character whose feelings we share. That character is Brutus. Even his enemy says about Brutus that "This was the noblest Roman of them all." He dies in the play, partly because that is what really happened in history (in 42 BC), partly because it is the only end that seems right.

代，一出戏有快乐的结局就是喜剧，但剧中发生的种种情节并不一定逗人发笑，而且剧中的角色——即剧中人物——也许远非是滑稽可笑的。所谓快乐的结局，只是对那些让我们喜欢的剧中人而言。

在《威尼斯商人》这出戏中，对于安东尼奥（即威尼斯商人）、安东尼奥的朋友巴萨尼奥、美丽机智的波西娅以及他们的朋友来说，结局是圆满快乐的，所以，《威尼斯商人》是一出喜剧。这个结局对夏洛克来说并不快乐，但是在莎士比亚的年代，观看这出戏（大约在1598年首次上演）的观众都不会喜欢夏洛克，所以也不会为他感到难过。

《仲夏夜之梦》的写作与《威尼斯商人》差不多在同一时间。它也是一出喜剧，但是类型不同。它有一个皆大欢喜的结尾，包括两对恋人、仙王仙后，甚至滑稽可笑的织布工波顿。

我们大多数人都喜欢一个故事或一出戏有个快乐的结尾，但是莎士比亚时代的戏迷们却同样喜欢让自己的感情被悲剧打动。悲剧是一种内容严肃、结局悲伤的戏剧，以一个或几个主角的死亡作为结尾的剧本尤其如此。

在《哈姆雷特》一剧中，我们看到，丹麦王子哈姆雷特是剧中的主角。当全剧结束时，我们为他感到非常遗憾，但是我们不会觉得快乐的结局是合适的。他死了，我们为此而悲伤，可他死得其所，我们感到结局合情合理。

在悲剧《尤利斯·凯撒》中，尤利斯·凯撒本人几乎是剧中每一个事件的起因，但他并不是一个能让我们共同分担其感情的人物，而具备这种品质的人是布鲁特斯；甚至他的敌人在谈到他时都说：“这是所有罗马人中最高贵的一个。”在剧中他不幸死去，这一方面是因为历史上确有其事（公元前42年），另一方面是因为这似乎是唯一合乎情理的结局。

Reading the stories

When we read the stories in this book, we must try to see the action and hear the spoken words in two ways. First, as they were in history; second, as they were played in the theatre in Shakespeare's time, with the actors wearing the clothes of Shakespeare's time.

Venice in the sixteenth century was a powerful Italian city-state. Its merchants traded with countries all round the Mediterranean Sea. Precious goods and materials from the south and east of Asia came to it by sea from the countries on the eastern coasts of the Mediterranean. The Venetian merchants sold them to traders from every part of Europe. The Duke (called the *Doge*) ruled with a Grand Council.

The city of *Athens* in ancient Greece was a less clear picture in the minds of Shakespeare and the British people of Queen Elizabeth I's time. Shakespeare didn't want the setting to be too clear. He knew, of course, that his Duke of Athens was a story-book hero (Theseus) from the days before history was written. In such a place in a far-away world he could bring in fairies, with their king and queen, and magic. And it was all fun if the people in his theatre seemed to find some very foolish "workmen from Athens" surprisingly like workmen of London in their own time.

Denmark in the tenth century was nearly as misty as ancient Greece, but some of the people in Shakespeare's theatre knew that parts of England had Danish rulers at that time.

The story of Julius Caesar, set in *Rome* and other places in Italy in the first century BC, is a matter of history, but Shakespeare was willing to change a few events to make a better play.

怎样阅读本书的故事

当我们阅读这本书里的几个故事时，我们必须试着从两个方面来理解故事的情节和剧中人的语言。首先，把它们当作历史来看；其次，把它们作为戏剧来看，是演员们穿着莎士比亚时代的服装在莎士比亚时代的剧院里演出来的。

十六世纪的威尼斯是意大利的一个强盛城邦。城里的商人们与地中海沿岸各国保持着贸易往来。来自亚洲南部、东部的珍贵货物和原料途经海上从地中海东岸的国家运入威尼斯。威尼斯的商人们又把这些货物卖给来自欧洲各国的商人。公爵（时称为 Doge）和元老院管辖着威尼斯。

对生活在伊丽莎白女王一世时期的莎士比亚和英国民众来说，古希腊的雅典城在他们的脑海中是一幅不太清晰的图画。莎士比亚并不希望戏剧背景过分清晰。他当然知道他的雅典公爵是一个史料记载前的故事中的英雄人物（雅典王子提修斯）。只有在这样一个地方，一个遥远的世界中，他才能把精灵们连同它们的仙王仙后以及魔术带进故事中。假如坐在他剧院里的观众像是发现了剧中一些“雅典工匠”举止愚笨，活像他们自己时代的伦敦工人，那倒真会令人觉得滑稽不已。

丹麦在十世纪时几乎和古希腊一样面目朦胧，但是在莎士比亚的剧院里，一些人已经知道，在英格兰的部分地区那时已有丹麦的统治者。

尤利斯·凯撒的故事背景放在公元前一世纪的罗马和意大利的其他几处地方，它描述的是一段史实，不过莎士比亚有意改动了一些历史事件，以便使该剧更臻完善。

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