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青闰 听泉 宣碧 编译

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编者的话

经过精心策划,我们隆重推出"人与自然系列丛书":《爱风的女孩》、《紫丁香的回忆》、《牛仔的梦想》、《燕鸥满天》、《午夜秋千》和《春天的承诺》共六本。

我们之所以把这个系列叫作"人与自然",是因为我们想在设定的特殊背景下,充分展现人与自然的融融亲情和相互间千丝万缕的联系,让读者朋友从中领略到一种源于自然、归于自然的感召力和神秘感。

这里有人与飞禽走兽、花草虫鱼的亲情友爱, 有人与山川湖泊、日月星辰的息息相通,也有人 征服自然的勇敢和机智,具有极强的亲合力和包 容性。

我们这里所选译的文章长短不一,由易到难,循序渐进,逐步提高;它们的风格多彩多姿,或优美隽永,或汪洋恣肆,或科学严谨,或撼人心魄,或催人泪下,或励人心志,或生动有趣……可谓色彩缤纷,美不胜收。

为了帮助读者朋友准确快捷地领会原文、最大限度地汲取英语精华,本系列丛书采取英汉对照的形式进行编排,并对疑难词加注音标和词义。 在翻译上,我们力求准确到位,再现原作神韵, 使读者既能学到地道纯正的英语,又能管窥到汉语的博大精深。同时,我们还配制了精美贴切的 情景图片,使您能赏心悦目、乐在其中。 本书在翻译过程中得到了丹冰、慕容韵、云中君、常飞雁等教授的悉心指导,在此深表谢忱。

青 闰 2005年10月21日

前言

《午夜秋千》是"人与自然系列丛书"的第 五本,采用英汉对照和生词注解的方式编排。

本书共选译文章二十二篇,这些文章故事性 强,文字洗练,原汁原味,情节引人入胜。

有清新自然、优美隽永的:心爱的独木舟、 神奇的满月、午夜秋千、春天的乐章;

有历久弥新、回味无穷的: 穿越时间的小船、 男孩和小鹿、小海湾的夏天、人狼奇遇、海豹女 孩、黑雁情深;

有人兽相依、和谐相处的:水晶熊仔、会看 病的马、夏季熊、与豹共舞、月下捕兔、鼠鼠和 臭臭、狼的游戏、为什么蝙蝠夜里飞;

有撼天动地、催人泪下的: 身陷峡谷、夺命 雪峰、哭泣的红河、迷失在西北角。

这些故事像一只只神奇灵动的手拨动着你的 心弦,使你一见如故、相见恨晚,并从中呼吸到 清新自然纯净的英语空气,稳步跨上第五级台阶。

> 青 闰 2005年10月21日

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Our Treasured Canoe

"A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a first step," a Chinese sage¹ once said. Our first step was to rent a pop-up trailer so our family of five could try camping. The trip was a success. To pull the trailer on subsequent² trips, we had to buy a bigger station wagon³. Sundry⁴ equipments followed: sleeping bags, stove, lantern, grill⁵, pup tent⁶, cooler and so on. Eventually, when we went camping, we looked like the Grand Army of the Republic.

Now we were clamoring for ⁷ a canoe. I placed an ad in the paper: "Wanted, canoe for young family on limited budget⁸. Please call after 6 p.m."

We waited for days by a silent phone. Then one night came—THE CALL. "Are you the family

looking for a canoe?" asked an elderly voice.

"Yes, we are, ma'am." I replied.

¹ sage /seidz/ n. 圣人; 年高望重的人

² subsequent /'sʌbsikwənt/ a. 后来的

³ station wagon 旅行车

⁴ sundry /'sʌndri/ a. 各式各样的

⁵ grill n. 烤架

⁶ pup tent 露营用三角小帐蓬

⁷ clamor for 呼喊; 坚持要求

⁸ budget /'bʌdʒit/ n. 预算; 经费

心爱的独木舟

中国一位圣人曾经说过:"千里之行,始于足下。"我们的第一步是从租一辆蹩脚的拖车开始的,这样一家五口人便可一块去野营了。旅行取得了成功。在后来的旅行中,为了拖那辆拖车,我们不得不买了一辆旅行车。接下来是各种各样的装备:睡袋啦、炉子啦、提灯啦、烤肉架啦、三角小帐篷啦、冷却器啦等等。最终出去野营时,我们浩浩荡荡,看上去就像共和国大军。

现在,我们家 嚷嚷着想要一只 独木舟。我在报 纸上刊登了一条 广告:"征求启 事:年轻家庭欲 购独木舟,资金



有限。请下午6点后打电话。"

我们等了好几天都不见有电话。后来有一天 夜里,电话突然响了起来。"是你们家想要独木舟 吗?"一个苍老的声音问道。

"是的,是我们家,太太,"我回答说。

"I may have what you are looking for. First, tell me about your family and your plans for the canoe."

So I told her how our family had enjoyed camping that summer, and how we especially liked remote places near lakes. I told her that a canoe seemed like the next step for us.

Apparently I'd said the right things, for the woman invited us to come to look at a canoe. On the following Sunday, the whole family drove to her house. We rang the bell, and a frail woman with white hair invited us in.

Once we were seated around the kitchen table, she proceeded ² to engage each of us in conversation. She made it clear that the canoe was special to her. She wanted it to go to a family with love and care.

It seems we passed the test, because she invited us out to the garage. It was empty, except for a wooden rack³ on which rested—THE CANOE.

It was 18 feet long, with high, curved bow⁴ and stern⁵; green-painted canvas seats, one with a cedar backrest; and two cushions⁶ stuffed with balsam-fir needles. A portrait of an Indian chief had been wood-burned on a hand-carved paddle.

a frail a 虚弱的; 脆弱的

² proceed /prə'si:d/ vi. 继续下去

³ rack n. 行李架

⁴ bow n. 船头

⁵ stern n. 船尾

⁶ cushion 垫子: 软垫

"我也许有你们要找的那种独木舟。首先, 给我谈谈你们家的情况和你们要独木舟的打算。"

于是,我就把那年夏天我们家一道野营的事 儿告诉了她,同时还告诉她说,我们尤其喜欢湖 附近的偏远地方。我对她说,独木舟好像是我们 下一步计划的关键。

显然,我的话正中下怀,因为老太太邀请我们去看独木舟。第二个星期天,我们全家驱车赶到了她的家。我们按响门铃,随后一位白发苍苍、弱不禁风的老妇人将我们迎了进去。

我们一在她的厨桌边落座,她就开始跟我们每个人攀谈了起来。她明确表示说,独木舟对她来说不同寻常,她想要独木舟归属到一个充满爱心和关怀的家庭。

似乎我们通过了考试,因为她请我们进了她 的车库。那里空荡荡的,只有一个木架,上面放 着一只独木舟。

独木舟长 18 英尺, 船头和船尾弯弯的高高翘起;绿色油漆帆布座,其中一个座上带有雪松木靠背;而且两个垫子装有胶枞针叶;一幅印第安首领的头像浇铸在雕花船桨上。

The canoe was magnificent. It was almost too much to hope that such a glorious thing could be ours.

Dazzled¹, we followed the woman back to the house. She opened an old album and showed us a picture of a smiling couple on a porch swing. We recognized our hostess. The young man was handsome.

She turned the page, and we recognized the canoe. The young man was in the stern, holding the Indian head paddle. In the bow sat a young woman wearing a straw hat. "My husband courted² me in that very canoe," the woman explained. She told us about some of the outings they had enjoyed long ago.

We feared the canoe was beyond our grasp. My wife and I had agreed that we could go as high as \$100. This canoe was clearly worth more than that. Timidly we inquired how much she was asking.

"How much will you prepare to spend?" she asked.

"Seventy-five dollars," I stammered, leaving room for negotiation.

"Tsk³," said the woman. "With your young family, I couldn't possibly accept more than \$35." We shook hands fervently⁴.

¹ dazzled a. 眼花缭乱的

² court vt. 向…求爱

³ tsk /tisk/ int. (表示不赞成、同情、不耐烦等)啧啧

⁴ fervently /ˈfəːvəntli/ ad. 热心地;热诚地

独木舟美观大方,简直难以想像这样一件贵 重东西会归我们所有。

我们晕晕乎乎跟随老太太回到屋里。她打开 一本旧相册,让我们看一张一对夫妇面带笑容坐 在门廊秋千上的照片。我们认出了我们的女主人。 那个小伙子非常英俊。

她翻过那页,我们看到了那只独木舟。那个小伙子手握那只刻着印第安首领头像的船桨坐在船尾。一个年轻姑娘头戴草帽坐在船头。"我的丈夫就是在那只独木舟上向我求爱的。"老太太解释说。她给我们说起了多年前他们外出郊游的情景。

我们担心买不起这只独木舟。我和妻子商定 最高出价 100 美元。独木舟显然不止这个价。我 们不好意思地问她要价多少。

"你们准备花多少钱?"她问。

"75 美元。"我结结巴巴地说,留下了砍价的余地。

"啧啧,"老太太说,"像你们这样年轻的家庭,超过35美元我是不可能接受的。"我们热情地握了握手。