朗文英汉对照阶梯阅读丛书





## Little Women

露易莎·梅·奥尔科特原著 D.K.斯旺 迈克尔·韦斯特改写

简 写 本









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## 朗文英汉对照阶梯阅读丛书(第四级)

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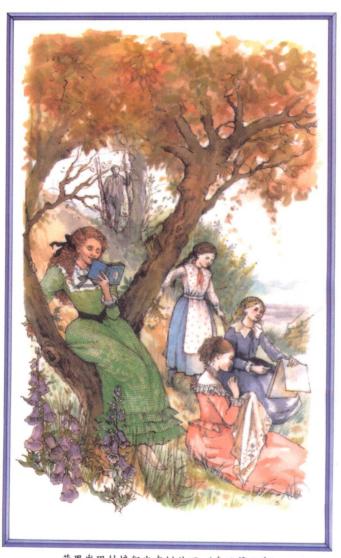


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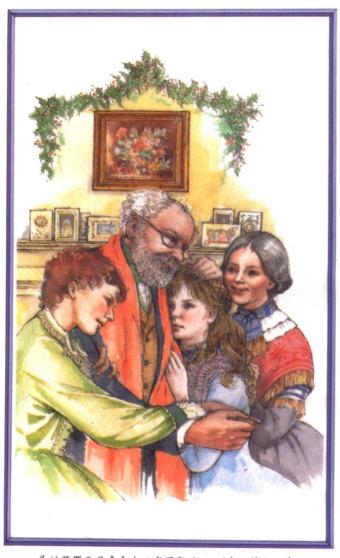
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## 给读者的话

学好英语的关键之一是多读。读什么?英语大师们的回答是:读名著。倘若名著又长又难,怎么办?那么就从简写本开始。《朗文英汉对照阶梯阅读丛书》就是为满足这种需要编写的。这套丛书以循序渐进的方法、最浅显的英语词汇和最精美的全页彩图,给你讲世界上脍炙人口的经典故事。本套丛书有四大特色:

- 一、所选内容均为世界文学名著:
- 二、英语地道、纯正、流畅、清新,均出自英美名家手 笔:
- 三、语言浅显易懂,可读性强。本丛书共分四级,所用英语单词分别为: 第一级 500 个, 第二级 900 个, 第三级 1300 个, 第四级 1800 个, 非常适合不同程度的中学生、大学生及广大英语爱好者阅读:
- 四、英汉对照,帮助理解。汉语译文准确、优美。在符合汉语表达习惯的基础上,力图传达英语原文的意美和形美。

我们的宗旨就是向你打开通向英语名著世界的一扇扇小窗,让你轻轻松松地寓语言学习、文学欣赏和翻译练习于一体,一举而有三得。

## 露易莎·梅·奥尔科特

露易莎生于 1832 年,是布朗森·奥尔科特四个女儿中的老二。她父亲是美国超验主义运动的领袖之一,因此相当有名。他对于改进教育特别有兴趣。他在平等对待学校中的每一个人、结束农奴制以及争取妇女权益等方面,都有许许多多的想法。他超前于他的时代,所以他的许多主张都失败了。他的家庭一直很穷,直到露易莎·梅·奥尔科特成为一名成功的作家时才有所改观。事实上,《小妇人》中马奇家四个女孩的经历同露易莎和她的姐妹们的经历极为相似。

布朗森·奥尔科特坚信我们必须在教育孩子们时"相信他们的才智"。这个信念至今仍被美国教育家们所信奉,而证明这个信念正确的证据之一,就是露易莎本人的教育过程。她酷爱书本。当全家搬迁至康科德时、邻居中有一位是著名的诗人和超验主义作家拉尔夫·瓦尔多·爱默生。他很喜欢露易莎·奥尔科特,让她随意翻阅他家里丰富的藏书。她尽可能长时间地待在他家的藏书室,但她还必须去做工以帮助维持家庭。她做过佣人、制衣工和教师。她的写作从不间断。

终于, 1852 年有本杂志刊登了她写的一个故事, 并付给她稿酬。她为孩子们写的故事, 特别是那些神话故事极受欢迎, 她成了《亚特兰大月刊》的一个固定撰稿人。在美国南北

战争 (1861-1865) 期间,她在华盛顿市当一名护士,她发自医院的信非常感人地描述了伤员以及他们难以处理的事,这些信件赢得了越来越多的读者。1863 年,那些信被收集起来编印成书——《医院速写》,露易莎•梅•奥尔科特成名了。

《小妇人》于 1868 年问世。一些文学杂志将其视为经历文学,他们不喜欢它。一本又一本杂志的评论家攻击它。他们说,这本书太情感化了,意思是它讨好了读者的情感而没有锻炼他们的脑子。但读者们自己,大部分是姑娘和年轻的妇人,则很喜欢它,因为它激起了她们的柔情。这本书的销量极高,读者们关注着书店和图书馆,期盼着露易莎•梅•奥尔科特的下一本著作问世。马奇家的女孩们的故事(即《小妇人》)在《好妻子们》、《小男儿》、《乔的男孩们》以及《乔大妈的废物袋》中继续延伸。露易莎的笔下还流淌出其他许多著作,她成了一位极其成功的作家。

露易莎一生都致力于在美国废除奴隶制。在晚年,她以一个著名作家的身份给予女权运动以强有力的支持,并反对 滥饮烈酒。在她生命的最后一段日子中,她常常犯病,但她仍 不间断地写作,直至 1888 年去世为止。

## 《小妇人》

我们已经说过,最热衷于读《小妇人》的,是姑娘们。但 是读者并非仅仅是她们,因而考虑---下提供什么让年轻人阅 读是颇为重要的。 1868年,即《小女·1人》问世之前,的确也有一些图书是专为儿童和年轻人写的。由于美国早期定居者们的宗教(清教徒)教育以及像卢梭(他的《爱弥尔》对教育思想有很大的影响)这些作家的信仰,所有这些书几乎都是训导性的、特别是教育人要有良好的思想和行为。可是、年轻人渴望通过故事情节和真实人物来发挥他们的想象力,这一类作品却不多。由于这些缘故,在1800年之前,年轻人不得不去看那些写给一般读者看的图书:像《天路历程》(1678)、《鲁滨逊历险记》(1719)、《格列佛游记》(1726)等。1800年以后,童话故事开始出现、它们是以儿童为读者对象的:包括格林的《格林童话》(英语版 1823 年)和汉斯。安徒生的童话故事(英语版 1846 年。

大一些的孩子们喜爱华盛顿。欧文的《睡谷的传说》和《瑞普·凡·温克尔》(1819年出版)。这些小说并不是为孩子们写的,但它们给年轻人提供了机会,使他们能在想象中看到行动并享受到"下一步事态会如何发展"这样的期盼心情。而那也正是露易莎·梅·奥尔科特提供给她的读者们的:书中人物看上去像是真的一样。读者们可以把自己放在人物之一的位置上(投身于某一人物),分享他或她的思想及情感。

《小妇人》中、马奇家的姐妹们各有千秋,她们每个人都有自己的思想方法。在一百多年前的当时,这可能是不寻常的。在大多数中产阶级家庭,女孩子们必须表现良好,服从父母,不应该表现出她们的独立性格。做女红和读书是可以的,但你找不到一个会在雪中扫出一条小道或向男孩子的窗户扔雪球的年轻姑娘。

## Introduction

Louisa May Alcott

Louisa, the second of Bronson Alcott's four daughters, was born in 1832. Her father was well known as one of the leaders of the American "transcendentalist" movement. His special interest was in the improvement of education. He had very many ideas about equal treatment for everybody in schools, and about the end of slavery and the rights of women. He was ahead of his time, and therefore many of his ideas failed, and his family was always poor until the success of Louisa May Alcott as a writer. In fact, the experiences of the four March girls in *Little Women* are very much like the experiences of Louisa and her sisters.

Bronson Alcott firmly believed that we must "trust the intelligence of children" in educating them. One proof of the truth of this belief, which is still respected by American educationists, was in the education of Louisa herself. She had a great love of books. When the family moved to Concord, one of their neighbours was the famous poet and transcendentalist writer Ralph Waldo Emerson. He liked Louisa Alcott and allowed her to use his library with its many books. She spent as much time as she could there, but she had to work to help her family. She worked as a servant, as a dressmaker, and as a teacher. All the time, she wrote.

At last, in 1852, a magazine printed – and paid for – one of her stories. Her stories for children, and especially her fairy stories, were well liked, and she became a regular

writer for the magazine Atlantic Monthly. During the American Civil War (1861–65) she worked as a nurse in Washington D.C., and her letters from the hospital, with their very touching descriptions of wounded soldiers and their problems, had more and more readers. The letters were collected and printed as a book, Hospital Sketches, in 1863, and Louisa May Alcott became famous.

Little Women appeared in 1868. The literary magazines treated it as learned literature, and they disliked it. The critics in magazine after magazine attacked it. The book was too sentimental, they said, meaning that it appealed to the readers' feelings instead of exercising their minds. But the readers themselves, mainly girls and young women, were happy to have their tender feelings moved. The book was bought in very large numbers, and readers watched the bookshops and libraries for the next book by Louisa May Alcott. The story of the March girls (the "Little Women") was continued in Good Wives, Little Men, Jo's Boys and Aunt Jo's Scrap Bag. Other books poured from Louisa's pen, and she became an extremely successful writer.

All through her life, Louisa worked hard for an end to slavery in America. In her later years, as a famous writer, she gave strong support to movements in favour of women's rights and against the misuse of strong drink. Towards the end of her life, she was often ill, but she continued to write until her death in 1888.

### Little Women

We have suggested that the most eager readers of *Little Women* were girls. They were not the only readers, but it is rather important to consider what provision there was for young people's reading.