



J.K. Rowling

J·K·罗琳

【美】乔安妮·马特恩◎著

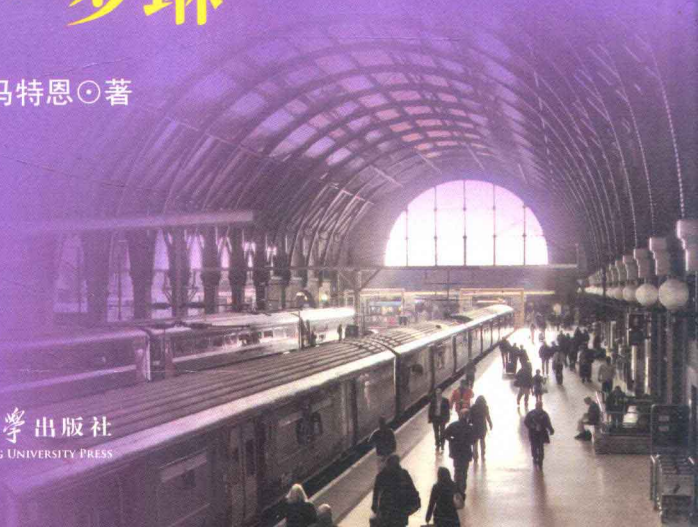
朱一凡◎译

胡开宝◎校译

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上海交通大学出版社
SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY PRESS





英汉对照名人传记系列

J · K · 罗琳

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[美] 乔安妮·马特恩 著

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内 容 提 要

本书是“英汉对照名人传记系列”之一。J·K·罗琳是《哈利·波特》的作者,是全球最富有名望的作家之一。本书介绍了罗琳的家庭、求学、工作和婚姻生活,特别是她写作《哈利·波特》的艰辛过程。本书采用英汉对照形式,即可作为大众读物,又是适合中学生的课外英语扩展读物。

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上海市版权局著作权合同登记号 图字: 09-2010-561 号

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

J·K·罗琳/(美)马特恩著;朱一凡译. —上海:
上海交通大学出版社, 2012
(英汉对照名人传记系列)
ISBN 978-7-313-07931-2

I. ①J… II. ①马…②朱… III. ①英语—汉语—对
照读物②罗琳, J. K. (1965~)—传记 IV.
①H319.4; K

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2011)第 234297 号

J·K·罗琳

[美] 乔安妮·马特恩 著
朱一凡 译

上海交通大学出版社出版发行

(上海市番禺路 951 号 邮政编码 200030)

电话: 64071208 出版人: 韩建民

常熟市文化印刷有限公司印刷 全国新华书店经销

开本: 880 mm×1 230 mm 1/32 印张: 4.25 字数: 107 千字

2012 年 5 月第 1 版 2012 年 5 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 978-7-313-07931-2/H 定价: 17.00 元

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联系电话: 0512-52219025

目录

CONTENTS

1. A Wizard with Words	/ 001
写作奇才	/ 004
2. An Imaginative Child	/ 005
充满想象力的孩子	/ 012
3. Lack of Direction	/ 017
迷失方向	/ 024
4. Discouraged and Heartbroken	/ 029
沮丧与悲伤	/ 041
5. Struggles and Triumphs	/ 049
奋斗和成功	/ 062
6. Wild about Harry	/ 071
为哈利疯狂	/ 088
7. A Whole New World	/ 098
一个全新的世界	/ 109
Time Line	/ 115
How to Become a Writer	/ 118

1 A WIZARD WITH WORDS

Her books have captivated children and adults all over the world. She is one of the most popular authors ever and has won dozens of awards. Whenever she releases a new book, eager readers line up in bookstores to purchase their copies — sometimes camping out overnight to be among the first buyers. Her stories have made her one of the richest women in the world. She is Joanne Kathleen Rowling, author of the phenomenally successful *Harry Potter* series of children's books.

J. K. Rowling published the first *Harry Potter* book in Great Britain in 1997. It was called *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. One year later, the book — retitled *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* — was published in the United States. The book introduced readers to young Harry Potter, an 11-year-old orphan with a strange lightning-bolt-shaped scar on his forehead. Harry doesn't know it, but he is a powerful wizard. He learns the truth about his past and studies how to use magic at a wizards' school called Hogwarts. In the books that followed, Harry learns more about his powers and his mysterious past and prepares to face the dangerous wizard who murdered Harry's parents.

J. K. Rowling did not expect her books to become such a huge success. She did not set out to write a best-selling children's book.



Joanne Kathleen (J. K.) Rowling's books have captivated children and adults all over the world. (Landov)

乔安妮·凯瑟琳·(J.K.)罗琳的作品让全世界的孩子和大人们着迷。(兰道夫提供)

Instead, she wrote a story that appealed to her. The fact that it also touched the imaginations of millions of readers around the world came as a complete surprise to her.

The *Harry Potter* books turned Rowling's life into a dream come true. But until the books were published, Rowling's life was very ordinary. She had a happy childhood, attended school, and later became a single mother struggling to support herself and her young daughter. Inside her mind, however, there was nothing ordinary about J. K. Rowling. Like that of many authors, her imagination held the key to a whole new world.

第1章 写作奇才

她的作品让全世界的孩子和大人们着迷，她是迄今为止最受欢迎的作家之一，她赢得了许多的奖项。每当她有新书发售，迫不及待的读者就会在书店排起长队购买，有时甚至前一天晚上就在书店外露宿以便能第一时间购买到书。她的小说使她成为世界上最富有的女性之一，她就是乔安妮·凯瑟琳·罗琳，取得了巨大成功的《哈利·波特》系列儿童书的作者。

J·K·罗琳 1997 年在英国出版了她的第一本《哈利·波特》，取名为《哈利·波特与仙石》。一年后，该书更名为《哈利·波特与魔法石》在美国出版。这本书让读者认识了小哈利·波特，一个年仅 11 岁的孤儿，他的额头上有一道奇特的闪电状伤疤。哈利自己也不知道伤疤的来历，但是他是一个法力无边的魔法师。他在霍格沃茨魔法学校学习时知道了自己的过去，并且学习如何使用魔法。在接下来的几本书中，哈利更多地了解自己的才能和神秘的身世，做好准备去面对杀害他父母的那个危险的巫师。

J·K·罗琳没有预料到她的书会取得如此巨大的成功。她一开始并没想写一本畅销儿童书，而只是想写一个她自己喜爱的故事。让她大吃一惊的是，这个故事触动了世界上成千上万读者的梦想。

《哈利·波特》系列改变了罗琳的生活，使她梦想成真。事实上这些书出版之前，罗琳一直过着非常平凡的生活。她有一个快乐的童年，然后上学，之后成为单亲妈妈，为了自己和年幼女儿的生计而奋斗。然而在她女儿的心中，J·K·罗琳却一点也不寻常。如同许多作家一样，想象力是她开启崭新世界的钥匙。

2 AN IMAGINATIVE CHILD

Joanne Kathleen Rowling was born on July 31, 1965. Her parents, Peter and Anne, had met on a train the year before. At that time, Peter and Anne were both in England's Royal Navy. They met at King's Cross Station in London and fell in love at first sight. They married early in 1965. Joanne was their first child.

Small-Town Life

The Rowlings' first home was in Yate, a small town about 10 miles northeast of Bristol, an important city in southeast England, across the Bristol Channel from Wales. Another nearby town has the interesting name Chipping Sodbury. As an adult, Joanne, who has a writer's natural fondness for unusual names, said she was born in Chipping Sodbury. However, her birth certificate says she was born in Yate.

Peter and Anne had left the Royal Navy shortly before they married. Peter worked as a production engineer at an aircraft factory in Bristol. Anne stayed home to be a fulltime mother to her daughters.

The Rowlings bought a small one-story house on a street called Sundridge Park. During the 1960s, the area around Sundridge Park was full of fields and open space. A park called

Kingsgate Park was within walking distance.

When Joanne was almost two years old, she became a big sister. Anne gave birth to Dianne in June 1967. Although Joanne had been born in a hospital, Dianne was born at home. Joanne later said that Dianne's birth is her earliest childhood memory.

Soon after Dianne was born, the family moved to a town called Winterbourne, about four miles away. Winterbourne was more rural than Yate, and the Rowlings felt it was a nicer area in which to raise their children.

Books and Games

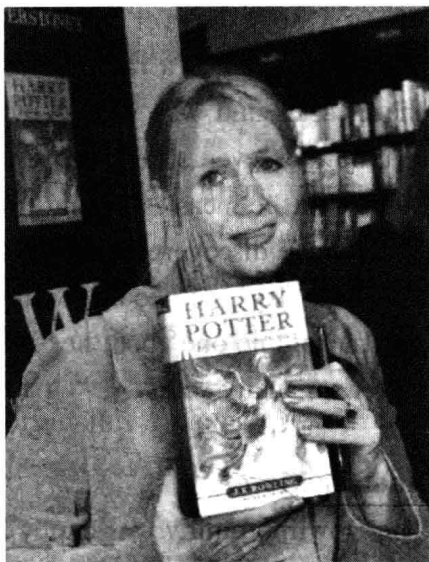
Peter continued to work at the aircraft factory while Anne remained at home. She was a devoted mother to Jo and Di, as the Rowling girls were called. One of the family's favorite pastimes was reading. Neighbors would later comment that the Rowling home had more books than any other home in the neighborhood.

Peter also enjoyed reading to his children. Later, Joanne would recall a favorite childhood memory. When she was quite young, she became sick with the measles. To pass the time, her father read to her from *The Wind in the Willows*, a classic British children's book. Joanne especially enjoyed the way the book's animal characters behaved in human ways. This would be an important influence on her own writing: Many of the animals in her *Harry Potter* books have human characteristics.

Jo and Di were especially close. The girls had many friends on Nicholls Lane, where they lived. Two of their best friends were Vikki and Ian Potter, who lived just a few houses down the street. (Later, Joanne would use the Potters' last name in her

books.) Jo was the oldest of the four children and frequently was the leader in their childhood games.

The four children especially enjoyed using their imaginations. One of their favorite games was playing witches and wizards. The children borrowed brooms from their garages and ran around the neighborhood, pretending to fly. They used dress-up clothes to look like the characters they played. It was not unusual for the children to end up sitting together while Jo told them spooky stories.



Joanne decided to be a writer when she was very young, but she kept her plan a secret for years. (Associated Press)
 在年幼时,乔安妮已立志成为一名作家,但她将此计划保密了多年。(美联社)

The First Stories

Even when she was very young, storytelling was one of Joanne's favorite activities. One day, Joanne made up a story to entertain her younger sister. The story was about a little girl named Di who fell down a rabbit hole. She was rescued by a family of rabbits who fed her strawberries. Dianne loved the story and asked Joanne to tell it over and over again. However, Dianne was annoyed that Joanne changed or added details every time she told the story. To solve this problem, Joanne began to write her stories down.

Rabbits often appeared in Joanne's stories. She remembers

the first story she ever wrote down, when she was five or six years old. The hero was a rabbit named, of all things, Rabbit. He got the measles and was visited by his friends. Like many authors, Joanne took events that happened in real life — such as her own bout with the measles — and transformed them into stories.

Joanne discovered that she loved writing stories. She decided that one day she would write stories for a living. However, Joanne told no one about her ambitions. Her plans would remain a secret for many years.

Another Move

The Rowling family was happy in Winterbourne. However, Peter and Anne had always dreamed of buying an old house and fixing it up. When Joanne was about nine years old, her parents sold the house on Nicholls Lane and moved to Church Cottage in the village of Tutshill, located on the other side of the River Severn, in a wooded area called the Forest of Dean. Their home was a stone house that had been built in 1848 and had once been the village school. Although their parents were happy to be living in an old house in a rural village, Joanne and Dianne were not as excited. Like children anywhere, they dreaded moving to a new home, making new friends, and fitting in at a new school.

Joanne started classes at Tutshill Church of England Primary School when she was nine years old. Her first day at the new school did not go well. Her new teacher, Sylvia Morgan, gave Joanne a math test to see how much she knew. Unfortunately, the test included fractions, which Joanne had not studied in her old school. She scored only half a point on the test. Joanne's poor

score led Mrs. Morgan to believe that Joanne was not very smart. Mrs. Morgan had an interesting seating plan in her classroom. She placed the smartest students on her left and the slower students on her right. Joanne was told to sit at a desk at the far right side of the room. "I was as far right as you could get without sitting in the playground," she later said.

Joanne knew she was smart. Now she had to prove it to Mrs. Morgan and the other students in the class. To achieve this, Joanne worked hard. By the end of the year, she had moved into the second seat on the left. Unfortunately, Joanne's improvement at school cost her some friendships, as the girls in her class thought she was just showing off.

Along with school, Joanne took part in many other activities. She and Di enjoyed long walks along the River Wye and through the Forest of Dean. The area was a perfect setting for Joanne's imaginative stories of heroes and magic. Joanne also participated in local organizations. For several years, she was a Brownie and took part in community service projects with that organization.

Lost in Books

Joanne did well in school, especially when it came to reading. Becoming lost in stories was still her favorite pastime. She especially enjoyed stories that featured girls having adventures. Her favorite book when she was a child was *The Little White Horse* by Elizabeth Goudge. Joanne liked the book so much because the heroine was very unusual; She was not beautiful, and she often got into trouble. Perhaps Joanne felt this heroine was a lot like herself.

Another of Joanne's favorite authors was Jane Austen. Austen was a British writer who lived during the 19th century. Her books feature detailed observations of human behavior and society. Joanne also enjoyed books with magical elements. C. S. Lewis, E. Nesbit, and Paul Gallico were among her favorite authors. Joanne continued to love animals and has often said that Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*, a story about a horse, is one of her favorite books.

Joanne continued to write stories as well as read them. Many features of the books she loved found their way into her writing. She filled her stories with magical characters who had unusual adventures. Despite her enthusiasm for writing, no one knew about her stories except her sister, Di. Even though Di always encouraged Joanne to write, for some reason Joanne was embarrassed about her plan to become an author. Even though writing full time had been her greatest ambition since she was six years old, she felt it was not a practical plan and that people — including her parents — might laugh at her if they found out about it.

Insecurities

In 1976, Joanne graduated from Tutshill Primary School and started classes at Wydean Preparatory School, a comprehensive school. In England, a comprehensive school corresponds to an American junior high and high school.

At first, Joanne did not feel comfortable at the school. She was only 11 years old and felt lost in the large school, which included students up to 17 years old. Joanne also felt she was

unattractive, with a plain face, ugly glasses, and uninteresting hair. She was shy and insecure.

In spite of her shyness, Joanne continued to do well academically. She was always ready to participate in class and frequently raised her hand. Unfortunately, once again Joanne's eagerness to do well academically caused some students to think she was a snob or a show-off. In reality, she was just shy and taking comfort in the one thing she felt she was good at.

Gradually, Joanne began to fit in. Her popularity increased after she got into a fight with a bigger girl at school. Although Joanne claimed that she was leaning against a row of lockers, and that's what held her up during the fight, her classmates admired her for not backing down from the other girl's attack. Joanne discovered that her courage had made her quite famous around school — at least for a few days.

Although she was not part of the popular crowd, she did find a close circle of friends. These friends were a lot like her — shy, serious, and interested in books. As she had when she was a child living in Winterbourne, Joanne became the center of the group, telling stories of her friends and their daring, make-believe adventures. Despite her obvious talents, however, Joanne's longing to be a full-time author remained a secret dream.

第2章 充满想象力的孩子

乔安妮·凯瑟琳·罗琳出生于1965年7月31日。她的父母彼得和安妮，于1964年在一辆火车上相遇。当时，他们都服役于英格兰皇家海军。两人在伦敦的国王十字车站相遇且一见钟情，1965年初成婚，乔安妮是他们的第一个孩子。

小镇生活

罗琳一家一开始住在耶特镇，这是一个位于布里斯托尔东北部10英里左右的小镇，布里斯托尔是英格兰西南部的重要城市，与威尔士隔着布里斯托尔海峡遥相呼应。附近还有一个镇子，名字很有趣叫奇平索德伯里。长大后，作为一名作家，乔安妮对稀奇古怪的名字有天生的喜好，她说自己出生在奇平索德伯里镇，而事实上她出生证上注明的出生地却是耶特镇。

彼得和安妮在结婚前夕离开了英格兰皇家海军。彼得在布里斯托尔一家飞机厂做产品工程师。安妮在家里做全职母亲照料女儿。

罗琳一家在森德里奇公园街买了一小幢平房。在20世纪60年代，森德里奇公园周围都是旷野和空地。附近有个金斯盖特公园。

乔安妮快两岁时做了姐姐，她的母亲安妮在1967年6月生下了戴安妮。尽管乔安妮出生在医院，戴安妮却是在家中出生，乔安妮后来说妹妹的出生是她童年最早的记忆。

戴安妮出生不久，一家人搬到了大约4英里外的温特伯恩镇，这里比耶特镇更为偏远，罗琳夫妇认为这里更适合养育孩子。

书本和游戏

彼得继续在飞机厂工作，而安妮待在家中，她把心血都倾注在了孩子们身上，他们把两个孩子叫做乔和戴。一家人最喜欢的消遣之一就是阅读。邻居们后来回忆说罗琳一家的书在左邻右舍里是最多的。

彼得也很喜欢给孩子们读书。乔安妮后来常回忆起童年难忘的一件事。那时她很小，患上了麻疹，父亲为了打发时光给她读《柳林风声》，这是一本英国经典儿童书。乔安妮特别喜欢书中动物角色的举止，如同人一般。这一点对她的写作影响很大：在她的《哈利·波特》系列中很多动物都有人的特征。

乔和戴特别地亲密。她们在居住的尼可尔斯巷子有很多朋友，其中最要好的两个是韦琪和伊恩·波特，他们几个的家在一条街上，就隔着几幢房子（后来乔安妮常在她的书中使用波特这个姓）。乔是四个孩子中最大的一个，做游戏时她经常是孩子王。

四个孩子尤其喜欢想象，他们最喜欢的游戏之一就是扮演巫师和巫婆。孩子们从各自家的车库里拿来了扫帚，在邻里间跑来跑去假装在飞，并把自己装扮成扮演的各个角色。常常在游戏的最后，他们会坐在一起听乔讲鬼故事。

第一次编故事

乔安妮很小的时候，讲故事就是她最喜欢做的事情之一。有一天，乔安妮编了一个故事来逗妹妹开心。故事讲的是一个叫戴的小女孩掉进了兔子洞，被兔子一家救了，还喂她吃草莓。戴安妮很喜欢这个故事，让乔安妮一遍又一遍地讲给她听。但是，让戴安妮生气的是乔安妮每次讲得都不一样，总是添油加醋。为了解决这个问题，乔安妮开始把故事写下来。

兔子常常出现在乔安妮的故事中。她记得她五六岁时写下的第一个故事。主人公是个兔子，且特别命名为拉比特。拉比特得了麻