



蚌姑娘

The Oyster Sisters

杨永青 / 图 张菱儿 / 文 龚燕灵 于心越 / 译

Illustrated by Yang Yongqing Written by Zhang Ling'er Translated by Gong Yanling & Yu Xinyue

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绘 画 杨永青
文 字 张菱儿
翻 译 龚燕灵 于心越
审 定 [英] Norman Pritchard

选题策划 汪 涛 刘冰远
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很久以前，在海边住着一位名叫白海的年轻渔夫。一天，他像往常一样摇船出海，等他拉上撒下的网时，却发现网里一条鱼也没有，只有一只海蚌。

Once upon a time, there lived a young fisherman named Bai Hai. One day, he went out fishing in his boat as usual. But when he pulled up his net, there was nothing in it, except for one plump oyster shell.



白海失望地把海蚌扔在船板上。蚌壳突然裂开了，一个小姑娘端坐在里面。小姑娘对他说：“我是七妹。求求你，放我回海里去吧！我的六个姐姐还在等我！”

Disappointed, Bai Hai threw the oyster onto the deck. Suddenly, the oyster shell popped open. Inside it sat a little girl. She said to him, "I am Qi Mei (Meaning "the seventh sister"). I beg you, please put me back into the sea! My six sisters are waiting for me!"



白海对七妹的话半信半疑，但还是把她轻轻放回海面上。“谢谢你，再见！”七妹说完，沉入大海。

白海看时间不早了，准备回家。忽然，他的船边冒出来七个小姑娘，正是七妹和她的姐姐们。其中一个对白海说：“谢谢你，好心人。海底有数不清的宝贝，你想要什么？”白海什么也不要。“那我们每人送你一颗珍珠吧！”

Bai Hai was doubtful about Qi Mei's words, but still, he put the shell gently back onto the surface of the sea. "Thank you! Bye!" With these words, Qi Mei dived back into the sea.



Seeing that it was getting late, Bai Hai began to get ready for home. Suddenly, seven girls popped out beside his boat. It was Qi Mei and her sisters. One of them said to Bai Hai, "Thank you, kind-hearted person. There are countless treasures on the bottom of the sea. Whatever you want, we'll get it for you." "No, thank you. I don't want anything," Bai Hai replied. "Then each of us will just give you one pearl."



白海还想拒绝，七妹说：“你就收下吧。把它们用红线穿起来，遇到得粗脖子病的渔民，让他们戴一戴这串珍珠项链，病就会变好。”白海这才收下珍珠。

As Bai Hai still wanted to turn down the offer, Qi Mei said, "Please take it. When you go home, thread them with a red silk string. You can lend the pearl necklace to any fishermen suffering with goiter and ask them to wear it; the disease will be cured in a few days." Hearing this, Bai Hai finally accepted it.

白海的哥哥白山就得了粗脖子病，已经痛苦了好几年。白海回到家，把珍珠穿起来，拿给哥哥戴。果然，三天后，哥哥的粗脖子病就好了。



It turned out that Bai Hai's own brother Bai Shan had been suffering from this disease for several years. When Bai Hai got home, he immediately threaded the pearls into a necklace and gave it to his brother to wear. Three days later, his brother's goiter was cured.



“白海得到了一条神奇的项链！”
这个消息像长了翅膀一样，很快在渔民
中传遍了。得病的渔民纷纷来找白海借
项链。哥哥认为发财的机会来了，想让
白海向他们收钱，但被白海拒绝了。

“Bai Hai's got a magical necklace!” The news spread quickly among the fishermen as if it had sprouted wings. Soon, all those who had the disease came to Bai Hai for the necklace. Bai Shan saw this as a great opportunity to make a fortune. He suggested Bai Hai should charge people for borrowing the necklace. Bai Hai turned the idea down without hesitation.



白海依旧天天出海捕鱼。自从他放走七妹后，每次出海都会网到好多鱼。白海很纳闷儿。一天，他撒下网后，跳进水里察看，发现原来是七个蚌姑娘在往他的渔网里赶鱼呢。白海很感激她们。

Bai Hai went out to sea to fish every day as usual. However, ever since he set Qi Mei free, he always caught a lot of fish on every fishing trip. Bai Hai was puzzled. One day, after he cast his net, he dived into the sea to investigate. He found that the seven oyster sisters were busy herding fish into his net. He felt truly grateful.

这天，白海出海回来，哥哥神秘兮兮地对他说：“皇帝得了粗脖子病。他贴出告示，谁能治好他的病，就赏给谁万两黄金，还给他官做。”白海却摇摇头说：“我对现在的生活很满足，不想当官。”



When Bai Hai came home from fishing, Bai Shan said to him in a mysterious voice, "The emperor is also suffering from the goiter disease. He has posted a notice saying that anyone who cures it will be rewarded with 10,000 liang of gold, and an official position at the royal court." But Bai Hai shook his head and said, "I'm happy with what I have now. And I don't want to be an official, either."

哥哥见说不动白海，就偷偷带着项链去见皇帝。几天后，哥哥身穿官服，头戴官帽，骑着高头大马，带着金银财宝回来了。白海向哥哥要项链，哥哥说：“项链已经被我献给皇帝了。”



When Bai Shan realized that he couldn't talk Bai Hai into it, he secretly took the necklace and presented it to the emperor. A few days later, he came home on a horse, wearing the official's hat and clothes. He also brought home lots of gold and other treasures. When Bai Hai asked his brother for the necklace, Bai Shan said, "I've already given it to the emperor."

白海闯进皇宫，见皇帝的粗脖子病已经好了，就想要回项链，继续给百姓治病。皇帝不想归还宝物，就说：“朕的一根绣花针掉进了大海，如果你能找出来，我就把珍珠项链还给你。”



When Bai Hai dashed into the palace, he saw that the emperor's goiter disease was cured, so he wanted to take the necklace back so as to continue helping others. Not willing to return the necklace, the emperor said, "One of my sewing needles has fallen into the sea. If you can find it for me, I'll return the necklace."

白海知道皇帝故意刁难自己，但还是一头扎进大海里，仔细寻找起来。



Bai Hai knew that the emperor was making it difficult for him on purpose, but he still dived into the sea in search of the needle.



就在白海感觉精疲力尽的时候，七个蚌姑娘出现在他身边，帮忙寻找。不一会儿，她们就找到了那根绣花针。

Just when he started to feel exhausted, the oyster sisters appeared to help him with the search. After a short while, they found the emperor's sewing needle.

皇帝正坐在高大的龙船上，对随从们说：“大海捞针，简直是白费力气！哈哈哈……”他还没有笑完，白海就举着绣花针钻出了海面。皇帝恼羞成怒，下令道：“快，给我放箭！射死他！”



At that moment the emperor was sitting in his large dragon boat, talking to his attendants, "Ha ha... Trying to find a needle in the sea... He's just wasting his breath! Ha ha ha..." While he was still laughing, Bai Hai popped up to the surface, holding the sewing needle. The emperor's embarrassment turned into a rage. He ordered, "Shoot him! Shoot him dead!"



白海没想到皇帝竟然这样言而无信，他没有一点防备，不幸被箭射中，沉入大海。七妹急忙把他托住。

Bai Hai hadn't expected that the emperor would be so untrustworthy. He was caught off guard and an arrow pierced his chest. As Bai Hai sank back into the sea, Qi Mei hurried to catch him.