

Pippi Moves into Villa¹⁾ Villekulla

(excerpt)

Way out at the end of a tiny little town was an old overgrown²⁾ garden, and in the garden was an old house, and in the house lived Pippi Longstocking. She was nine years old, and she lived there all alone. She had no mother and no father, and that was of course very nice because there was no one to tell her to go to bed just when she was having fun, and no one could make her take cod liver oil³⁾ when she much preferred caramel⁴⁾ candy.

Once upon a time Pippi had had a father of whom she was extremely fond. Naturally, she had had a mother too, but that was so long ago that Pippi didn't remember her at all. Her mother had died when Pippi was just a tiny baby and lay in a cradle and howled⁵⁾ so that nobody could go anywhere near her. Pippi was sure that her mother was now in Heaven, watching her little girl through a peephole⁶⁾ in the sky, and Pippi often waved up at her and called, "Don't you worry about me. I'll always come out on top. "

Pippi had not forgotten her father. He was a sea captain who sailed on the great ocean, and Pippi had sailed with him in his ship until one day her father was blown overboard in a storm and disappeared. But Pippi was absolutely certain that he would come back. She would never believe that he had drowned; she was sure he had floated until he landed on an island inhabited by cannibals⁷⁾ and went around with a golden crown on his head all day long.

"My papa is a cannibal king; it certainly isn't every child who has such a stylish⁸⁾ papa, " Pippi used to say with satisfaction. "And as soon as my papa has built himself a boat he will come and get me, and I'll be a cannibal princess. Heighho, won't that be exciting? "

Her father had bought the old house in the garden many years ago. He thought he would live there with Pippi when he grew old and couldn't sail the seas any longer. And then this annoying thing had to happen, that he was blown into the ocean, and while Pippi was waiting for him to come back she went straight home to Villa Villekulla. That was the name of the house. It stood there ready and waiting for her. One lovely summer evening she had said good-bye to all the sailors on her father's boat. They were all fond of Pippi, and she of them.

"So long, boys, " she said and kissed each one on the forehead. "Don't worry about me. I'll always come out on top. "

Two things she took with her from the ship: a little monkey whose name was Mr. Nilsson— he was a present from her father— and a big suitcase full of gold pieces. The sailors stood upon the deck and watched as long as they could see her. She walked straight ahead without looking back at all, with Mr. Nilsson on her shoulder and her suitcase in her hand.

"A remarkable child, " said one of the sailors as Pippi disappeared in the distance.

瑞典儿童文学大师 阿斯特丽德·林格伦

阿斯特丽德·林格伦 (Astrid Lindgren, 1907~2002), 瑞典20世纪享誉世界的女作家, 1907年11月14日生于瑞典南部斯莫兰省 (Smaland) 的一个佃农家庭。父亲名叫塞缪尔·奥古斯特·埃里克松 (Samuel August Ericsson); 全家生活在小城维默比 (Vimmerby) 附近的内斯 (Nas) 农场。小阿斯特丽德住在一栋老式的红房子里, 屋子周围是苹果园。她十分喜爱读书, 尤其热爱那些以小女孩为主角的书籍。但她并不想当作家, 甚至害怕那样一种写作生涯。

1926年阿斯特丽德到首都斯德哥尔摩 (Stockholm) 谋生。接受文秘培训后, 她在皇家汽车俱乐部 (Royal Automobile Club) 供职。1931年她与斯图尔·林格伦 (Sture Lindgren) 结婚, 1952年起孀居。2002年1月28日, 她在斯德哥尔摩的家中逝世。

阿斯特丽德·林格伦的一生是漫长而辉煌的一生。她成名于长篇儿童小说《长袜子皮皮》 (Pippi Longstocking, 1945) 的出版。成名之后, 她一边勤奋创作, 一边长期担任拉本与肖格伦出版公司 (Raben & Sjogren) 儿童部编辑。一生中她创作出版了100多本书, 获得过包括安徒生奖 (Hans Christian Andersen Medal) 在内的许多国际文学大奖, 还被一些国外的大学授予荣誉博士头衔。1999年她当选20世纪最受欢迎的瑞典人。目前, 她的肖像已印上邮票, 在瑞典发行; 她的作品早已风靡世界, 被译成至少60种文字。

用一颗童心、一腔爱心和一生岁月, 阿斯特丽德·林格伦构筑起一个充满魅力的儿童世界。她作品中的小主人公往往有着鲜明的面貌和性格, 或顽皮, 或任性, 或勇敢, 但都善良可爱, 渴望独立并具反抗精神。她最受喜爱的作品有《长袜子皮皮》、《米欧, 我的米欧》 (Mio, My Son, 1954)、《小飞人卡尔松》 (Karlsson-on-the-Roof, 1955)、《淘气包艾米尔》 (Emil in the Soup Tureen, 1963) 和《狮心兄弟》 (The Brothers Lionheart, 1973) 等等。这些作品和作品中的人物已经成为无数孩子心目中的宝贝和偶像, 成为无数成人记忆中难忘的阅读体验。

《长袜子皮皮》系列儿童故事是阿斯特丽德·林格伦的代表作。写作缘起于作者在女儿卡林 (Karin) 患病时给她编的故事。长袜子皮皮的名字是卡林顺口说出来的。故事中的皮皮是一个9岁孤女, 关于她的一切是那么稀奇古怪: 她无父无母, 独居老屋, 身边带着一只小猴; 她无忧无虑, 不愁吃穿, 拥有一袋金币; 她不守规矩, 喜欢冒险, 力气大得能举起一匹马; 她火红的头发扎成两条硬梆梆的小辫子, 土豆似的鼻子上长满雀斑, 脚穿一双超大鞋, 一只袜子黑色另一只袜子棕色。皮皮在一些家长眼里可能是野孩子的形象, 但在孩子们心中代表着自由、勇敢和快乐, 赢得了喜爱。

下文选自《长袜子皮皮》的开头部分, 采用Florence Lamborn的英文翻译。

皮皮住进维尔库拉别墅

在小镇一端的路的尽头是一个草木丛生的古老花园, 花园里有一所老屋, 房屋里住着长袜子皮皮。她有9岁了, 一直是一个人住。她没有母亲也没有父亲, 这当然好极了, 因为在她玩得开心时, 没人告诉她去上床睡觉, 当她非常想吃卡拉梅尔糖时, 没人让她吃鱼肝油。

以前皮皮有过一个父亲, 她很喜欢他。当然她也有一个母亲, 但时间太久, 皮皮已经根本记不住她了。皮皮还是个婴儿时, 她的母亲就去世了, 她被放在摇篮里, 并啼哭着, 以至任何人都不能来到接近她的地方。皮皮肯定她的母亲现在住在天堂里, 在天空中通过一个小孔望着她, 皮皮经常向她招手, 并向她喊, “别担心我。我会一直好极了。”

皮皮没有忘记她的父亲。他是一名航行在大海上的船长, 皮皮以前在船上同他一起航行, 直到有一天他被风暴从甲板上吹走, 消失在海中。可是皮皮坚信他会回来的。她决不相信他会被淹死; 她认为他一直漂着, 直到在一个居住着食人族的岛上登陆, 并在那里整日戴着金

冠自在地终日周游。

“我爸爸是食人族的国王；当然不是每个孩子都有这样一个受人欢迎的爸爸。”皮皮一直骄傲地这样说。

“一旦我爸爸自己造了一只船，他就会回来接我，我就会成为食人族的公主。哎呀，那不是太刺激了吗？”

她的父亲许多年前买下这所位于花园中的老屋。他想当他老了不能再航海了，就和皮皮一起住在那里。可是后来这件恼人的事就发生了，他被吹进海里，皮皮直接回到维尔库拉别墅（这是那所房屋的名称）家中等候他回来。别墅静静站在那里等着她。在一个怡人的夏夜里，她告别了父亲船上所有船员们。他们都非常喜欢皮皮，皮皮也喜欢他们。

她说，“再见，孩子们，”并吻了每个人的前额。“你们不必担心我，我会一直很好。”

她从船上带回两件东西：一只叫做尼尔森先生的小猴--这是他父亲给她的礼物，以及一只盛满金币的大箱子。水手们站在甲板上一直望着她，直到看不见为止。她提着箱子，威尔逊先生伏在她的肩膀上，一直向前走，从没有回头。

当皮皮消失在远方时，一名水手说，“这是个不一般的孩子。”

NOTE 注释：

villa ['vɪlə] n. 别墅

overgrown ['əʊvə'grəʊn] adj. 簇叶从生的

cod liver oil [kɒd 'lɪvə ɔɪl] 鱼肝油

caramel ['kærəməl] n. 卡拉梅尔糖

howl [haʊl] v. 嚎叫，怒吼

peephole ['pi:phəʊl] n. 窥视孔

cannibal ['kænɪbəl] n. 食人者

stylish ['staɪlɪʃ] adj. 时髦的，受欢迎的