

# 《圣诞婚礼的宾客》译文赏析

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摘要: 本译文语料节选自《纽约时报》畅销书作家 Susan Mallery 的《许愿树》系列小说第一部《圣诞婚礼的宾客》, 讲述了萨默维尔家的两姐妹遇见爱情的故事。雷吉自从被前未婚夫抛弃后, 离开家人, 埋头于工作中, 试图忘记失恋的伤痛。黛娜对爱情失去了信心, 但她渴望拥有家庭, 因此通过人工授精成了单亲妈妈。在圣诞节父母的婚礼期间, 雷吉遇见了她的初恋托比, 他们之间的爱情火花重新燃起; 而黛娜遇见了歌曲创作者迈卡, 对方被她单身妈妈的毅力打动。最后姐妹俩都收获了无比珍贵的礼物——爱。笔者翻译的是第一章的一部分, 讲述了雷吉回忆被前未婚夫抛弃的遭遇以及和妈妈的电话聊天。妈妈说服了雷吉回家帮忙筹办她和父亲的婚礼, 以及帮助怀孕的黛娜打理学校的编织项目, 意在帮助雷吉从失恋的伤痛中走出来, 中间还穿插着人和狗的互动。文中洋溢着夫妻之间的爱情, 母女之间的亲情, 人和动物的友爱, 温馨动人。

关键词: 失恋; 爱情; 亲情; 友情

She tried to ignore her sudden sense of dread. Not that she didn't love her parents—she did. Very much. They were good people who cared about her. But they were going to insist she come home for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and she couldn't think of a single reason to refuse.

这让她无地胆怯起来, 但她努力忽略这种感觉。并不是说她不爱她的父母, 她爱他们。而且很爱。他们都很称职, 都很关心她。问题是他们坚持要她回家过感恩节和圣诞节, 而她想不出任何理由拒绝。

Last year had been different. Last year, she'd stayed in Seattle, with only Belle for company, enduring the holidays rather than enjoying them. She'd given herself through New Year's to mourn the breakup and subsequent humiliation that went with the man of her dreams proposing at the Lighting of the Trees on the Friday after Thanksgiving, arranging an impromptu celebration party on Saturday and then dumping her on Sunday.

这和去年的情况不同。去年的那个时候, 她待在西雅图, 身边只有贝尔, 与其说是享受不如说是忍受假期。新年假期就是她自己一个人在哀悼分手和咀嚼耻辱中度过的, 感恩节后的黑色星期五, 她的梦中情人在点亮的圣诞树下向她求婚, 星期六临时安排了一个庆祝派对, 之后在星期日抛弃了她。

After sharing her happiness with nearly everyone she knew, having her friends coo over her gorgeous ring and ask about wedding plans, she'd had to explain Jake had changed his mind. She assumed. His actual words, "I can't do this. It's over. I'm sorry," hadn't given her much to work with.

她几乎已和每个认识的人都分享了她的快乐, 朋友们看到她光彩夺目的婚戒惊叫, 还问及他们的婚礼计划。但之后, 她又不得不说不说杰克改变了主意。她是她的猜测。他这样说: “我不能这样做。一切结束了。对不起。”这些话让她捉摸不透。

Hurt and ashamed, she'd buried herself in work and her life in Seattle. She hadn't returned home to Wishing Tree even once since it had happened, preferring to lick her wounds in private. She'd told herself she was healing, but Reggie knew the truth was less flattering. She was hiding, and it was time to suck it up and get over herself. She'd worked hard to put Jake behind her and move on with her life. Thanksgiving was next week, and she was going home, like she did every year. Besides, it wasn't as if she was still mourning her ex-fiancé. She'd gotten over him, and now it was time to demonstrate that to her hometown...and possibly herself.

伤心和羞愧使她埋头于西雅图的工作中和生活里。那之后, 她一次也没有回过许愿树的家, 她宁愿私下舔舐自己的伤口。她告诉自己她的心情正在痊愈, 但她知道事实并没有那么尽如人意。她躲

藏起来, 但现在是时候面对现实, 走出来了。她努力工作, 希望把杰克抛在身后, 继续她的生活。下周是感恩节, 她要回家了, 就像她每年一样。此外, 这也表明她不再怀念她的前未婚夫。她已经忘记了他, 现在是时候向她的家乡证明这一点了……可能还有她自己。

"At least, that's the plan," Reggie told her dog and pushed the button to phone her mother.

“至少这是我的计划,” 雷吉对她的狗说, 并拨了她妈妈的电话。

"Hey, Mom," she said when the call was answered.

“嘿, 妈妈,” 电话接通时她说。

"Reggie! It's you. You'll never guess. It's so wonderful. Your dad and I are getting married."

雷吉! 是你。你肯定想不到。我和你爸爸要结婚了。太棒了。”

Reggie blinked a couple of times. "You're already married. Your thirty-fifth wedding anniversary is coming up next month. I thought we'd have a party or something." She and her sister had talked about the possibility a couple of weeks ago.

雷吉眨了几下眼睛。“你们已经结婚了。下个月就到你们结婚 35 周年纪念日了。我想我们要开个派对什么的。”她和她的姐姐几周前就谈到过开派对的可行性。

Her mother laughed. "You're right. Technically, we're married. We eloped and I have to tell you, I've always regretted not having a big wedding. Your father pointed out I've been upset about that for the last thirty-five years, so maybe it was time to do something about it. We've decided we're renewing our vows with a big wedding and a reception afterwards. It'll be the Wednesday before Christmas."

她妈妈大笑起来。“是的。从事实上讲, 我们结婚了。我们是私奔的, 因此我必须告诉你, 我一直为没有举行盛大婚礼而遗憾。你父亲说我在过去的 35 年里一直对此感到难过, 所以也许是时候做点什么事了。我们已经决定通过举办一个盛大的婚礼和之后的招待会来重新宣誓。时间定在圣诞节前的星期三。”

"You're having a wedding?"

“你们要举行婚礼吗?”

"Yes. Up at the resort. We're inviting everyone. It's been so much fun, but the planning is getting out of hand. I was hoping you could help me."

是的, 在度假村。我们要邀请每个人。这充满了乐趣, 但事情已经脱离了原计划。我在想是否你能来帮忙。”

"With your wedding?"

“帮助筹备你的婚礼?”

"Yes, dear. Are you feeling all right?"

“是的, 亲爱的。你有空吗?”

"My head's spinning a little."

"这让我有点措手不及。"

"I know it's a surprise, but I'm so happy. You're coming home for Thanksgiving, aren't you?"

"我知道这在意料之外,但我很开心。你要回家过感恩节了,是不是?"

"I am."

"是的。"

"Good. So I was thinking you could just stay through Christmas. There's plenty of room down in the basement for you to work. You could handle your business in the morning and help me in the afternoon. It's only five weeks, Reggie. You have a job that lets you work from anywhere."

"很好。所以我想你可以在家里过圣诞节。地下室有足够的地方供你工作。你可以在上午忙你的工作,在下午帮我。现在只剩下五周了,雷吉。你的工作在任何一个地方都可以处理。"

While that was technically true, Reggie wasn't thrilled at the thought of packing up her life and moving in with her folks for over a month.

虽然理论上是这样的,但雷吉想到打包自己的生活,搬去和家人住一个多月时并不兴奋。

"What about Belle?" she asked, hoping bringing up that subject would help shift things.

"那贝尔呢?"她问道,希望提出这个问题会使事情出现转机。

"You know we love her."

"你知道我们都爱她。"

"She's afraid of Burt."

"她害怕伯特。"

"Oh, they're fine together. It's all a big game."

"哦,他们在一起很好。它俩只是闹着玩呢。"

Reggie thought about how Belle quivered with fear every time she saw her father's small dachshund in the room. Burt was normally good-natured, but he'd never taken to Belle and spent most of his time running after her and biting her ankles. Belle, for her part, tried to keep out of his way, frequently traversing a room by going from tabletop to sofa to chair, often with disastrous results.

雷吉想起,每当贝尔在房间里看到父亲的达克斯狗时,她都吓得发抖。伯特通常情况下脾气很好,但他一直不喜欢贝尔,大部分时间都在追赶她,咬她的脚踝。而贝尔马不停蹄地在房间躲来躲去,从桌面跳到沙发再跳到椅子,但总是难逃厄运。

"I want her to be a flower girl," her mother added. "We'll get her an adorable dress and she can have a basket of rose petals hanging around her neck."

"我希望她当个女童,"她的母亲接着说。"我们会给她买一件可爱的裙子,可以在她脖子上挂上一篮子玫瑰花瓣。"

Reggie rubbed her dog's back. "She'd look good as a flower girl."

雷吉抚摸着她的狗的后背。"她当女童会很漂亮。"

"See? Say you'll come home and help with me with my wedding, Reggie. I need you. Dena's busy with school, and she's developed terrible morning sickness. I have no idea where she got it from—I was fine with both my pregnancies, but she's wiped out. You've been gone too long. It's time to come home."

"你看?我说你会回家帮我办婚礼的,雷吉,我需要你。黛娜忙于学校的事情,她晨吐很严重。我不知道她遗传谁——我两次怀孕都很好,但她被搞得筋疲力竭。你已经离开太久。是时候回家了。"

Almost the exact words Reggie had told herself, minus the wedding guilt.

除了对未举办婚礼感到遗憾,这和雷吉告诉自己的话如出一辙。

"Mom," she began, then held in a sigh. Why fight the inevitable? Once she was home, she would be happy she'd done the right thing. Plus, it was Wishing Tree at Christmas—nowhere else in the world came close

to that little slice of magic.

"妈妈,"她开口说,之后忍住了叹气的冲动。为什么要抗争无法避免的事情呢?一旦她回家了,她就会很高兴自己做出了正确的选择。此外,那是圣诞节时的许愿树镇——是世界上最接近那个小魔法的地方。

"Sure. I'll be there. Belle and I will drive over the day after tomorrow."

当然。我会回家的。我和贝尔后天就开车回去。"

"I'm so happy," her mother squealed. "Thank you. We're going to have fun, you'll see. We haven't had the first snowfall yet. Maybe you'll be home for that, and you can go to the big town party. All right, now that I know you'll be home for the holidays, I have yet another favor to ask you."

"我太高兴了,"她妈妈尖叫道。"谢谢。我们会一起度过美妙的时光,你到时就知道了。第一场雪还没有降落,也许你回家后就会下雪,你可以去参加城镇的盛大派对。好吧,既然我知道要回家度假了,我还有一个事情要请你帮忙。"

Reggie wasn't sure if she should laugh or moan. "What did you do?"

雷吉不确定她是该笑还是该哭。"你做什么了?"

"Nothing, really."

"没什么,真的。"

"It has to be something or we wouldn't be talking about it."

"一定有事情,否则我们就不会谈论它了。"

"Yes. Good point. Dena's class is going to do a knitting project for their holiday charity. Normally I'd be happy to manage it for her, but this year for the wedding and all, I just don't have time. I was hoping you could do it for me."

对。说的没错。黛娜的班级要为他们的假日慈善活动做一个编织项目,通常我很乐意为她打理,但今年的婚礼和这一切,让我不得空闲。我在想是否你能帮我做这些。"

Reggie closed her eyes. "Mom," she began, then stopped, knowing she was going to say yes in the end, so why fight it?

黛娜闭上了眼睛。"妈妈,"她开口说道,之后停了下来,明知她最终会答应,那为什么要抗争呢?

Every year students at the local elementary school came up with several charity projects to do in December. Since Dena, Reggie's older sister, had started teaching there, the family had also gotten involved. For the past couple of years, Reggie's mom had been in charge of that project, organizing supplies and students, paving the way for their good deed.

每年当地小学的学生们都会提议12月份要做的几个慈善项目。自从雷吉的姐姐黛娜开始在那里教学后,他们全家也参与了进来。在过去的几年里,雷吉的妈妈一直负责这个项目,准备材料,组织学生,为他们的善行铺路。

"This is why I've avoided coming home," Reggie said weakly.

"这就是我不愿回家的原因,"雷吉无力地说。

"No, it's not. You avoided coming home because Jake Crane was too stupid to realize what he had with you. I hope he spends the rest of his life regretting his decision and fighting a very painful rash."

"不,不是的。你不愿回家,是因为杰克·克兰太愚蠢了,没有意识到他和你之间发生了什么。我希望他的余生都在后悔自己的决定,并一辈子瘙痒难忍。"

"Go, Mom."

"别说了,妈妈。"

Her mother laughed. "I can be supportive."

她的妈妈笑了起来。"我会一直在你身后的。"

"You always are." Reggie smiled. "Fine, I'll be the knitting queen."

"你总是这样。"雷吉笑了。"好吧,我会成为编织女王的。"

——Susan Mallery 苏珊·马勒里