

探討毛姆短篇小說選集之魅力

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摘要

本研究主要在探討毛姆如何在其短篇小說選集，善用其敏銳的觀察力、豐富的人生經歷、發揮並應用於其“說故事”及人物刻劃之才能，帶給讀者一篇又一篇敘述生動、對話直白卻意義深遠足以打動人心的精采故事。毛姆為20世紀中流行最廣、最受歡迎的英國作家之一，曾被許多書評譽為“最會講故事的作家”。有多篇短篇都曾被翻拍成電影、電視劇集及有聲書。在毛姆的短篇裡，我們可以察覺到他如何運用機智、幽默，和帶有譏諷的筆調，展現出他對人性的憐憫與同情。也因為作者豐富的人生經歷及幾乎遍及全世界的旅行經驗，方能獲悉許多真人真事及各地的風土人情，並融入於或改編成故事，他慣用自己甚至是你我熟悉的人、事、物去敘述故事，因而他的短篇較貼近現實，更能引起讀者的共鳴。也正因為毛姆的短篇小說大都以生活事實為依據，題材新穎，再加上內容豐富，因而具有打動人心的力量。這也正是他的短篇能夠深受讀者喜愛而又魅力長存的重要原因。由於受限於自身的能力和時間，我將從其短篇小說中選出七篇做為文本探討的題材。七篇短篇如下：“一個五十歲的女人”、“愛德華·巴納德的墮落”、“雨”、“紅毛”、“叢林裡的足跡”、“療養院裡”、“一對快樂的夫妻。”本文旨在探討毛姆的短篇小說何以如此廣受歡迎，其魅力歷久不衰原因何在。第二章將論述毛姆說故事手法以及故事與人性突變的關聯。第三章則敘述毛姆如何運用多敘事方式、時間配置手法及對稱對比技巧為其短篇增添吸引力；第四章則是前面三章論述之總結，即毛姆短篇的魅力來自故事的有趣，人性的突變，以及寫作技巧及異國氛圍的加持。

關鍵詞：吸引魅力，說故事，多元敘事手法，時間配置，對稱對比技巧，氛圍，人性的突變

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