



# My Heroes

Bilingual children's stories

## 我的英雄

双语儿童故事

## The Water

It was the hot, dry season. With no rain in almost a month, crops were dying, cows had stopped giving milk, streams had long dried up, and we, like other farmers in the area, faced bankruptcy if we didn't see some rain soon.

I was in the kitchen making lunch when I saw my six-year-old son, Billy, walking purposefully and carefully toward the woods. I could only see his back. Minutes after he disappeared, he came running back.

I continued making sandwiches, but noticed later that he was once again walking toward the woods with that slow purposeful stride. This activity—walk carefully to the woods, run back to the house—was repeated a few more times. Finally I couldn't take it any longer, so I crept out of the house and followed him on his journey, being careful to remain out of sight.

## 水

那是个炎热干燥的季节。几乎一个月没有雨了，庄稼快要旱死了，奶牛也停止产奶了，河道已干涸许久，而我们就像这个地区其它农民一样，如果雨再不来，就要面临破产了。

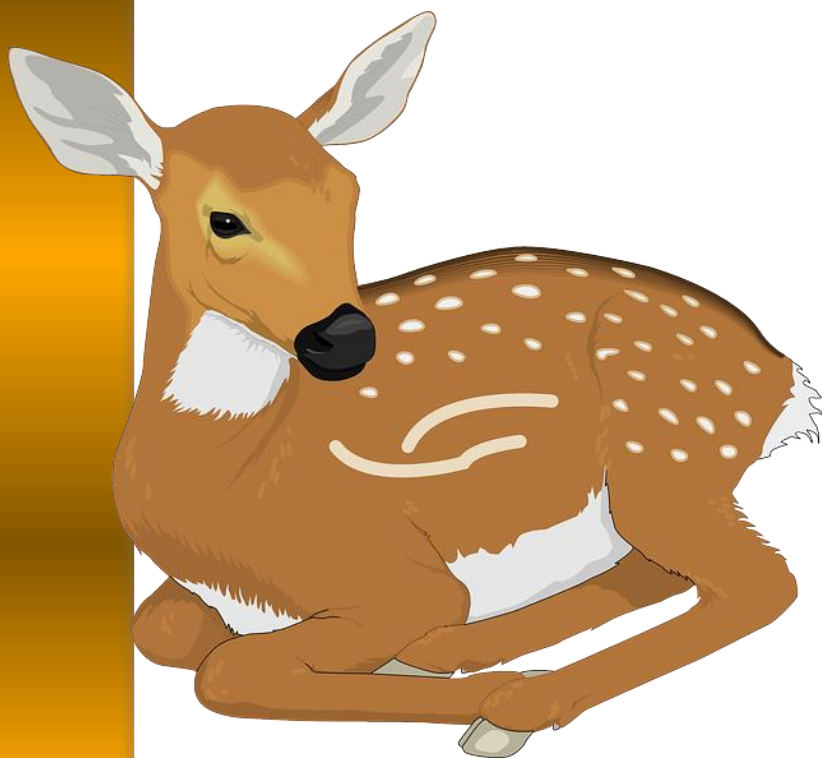
我当时正在厨房准备午饭，看见我六岁的儿子比利小心翼翼、煞有介事地朝树林走去。我只能看到他的背影。他消失了几分钟后，又跑了回来。

我继续做三文治，但发现他后来又朝树林子走去，还是那样煞有介事、小心翼翼。他这样小心翼翼走到树林里，然后又跑回房子，重复了好几次。我终于忍不住了，就出了屋子，偷偷跟在他后面，不让他发觉。



I sneaked along as he went into the woods. Branches and thorns slapped his face, but he didn't try to avoid them. Then I saw the most amazing sight. Several large deer loomed in front of him, but Billy walked right up to them. I almost screamed for him to get away—a huge buck with elaborate antlers was dangerously close. But the buck did not threaten him. He didn't even move as Billy knelt down. Then I saw a tiny fawn that was lying on the ground, obviously suffering from dehydration and heat exhaustion, lift its head with great effort to lap up the water my beautiful boy had brought, cupped in his hands.

只见他进了林子，树枝、荆棘打在他脸上，他却毫不在意、不尝试避开。接着我看到了最惊人的一幕。几只大鹿出现在他面前，而比利径直朝它们走去。我几乎要大叫起来、让他躲开——一头鹿角庞杂、体形巨大的雄鹿就在近旁，很危险的距离。但雄鹿并没有显出要伤害他的模样。当比利跪下后，它甚至动也没有动。接着我看到一头瘦小的幼鹿躺在地上，显然极度缺水、被炎热弄得筋疲力尽，幼鹿以很大的努力，舔舐我那可爱的孩子用双手捧来的水。



When the water was gone, Billy jumped up to run back to the house and I hid behind a tree. I followed him back to a spigot that we had shut off the water to. Billy turned it all the way and knelt to catch the few drops that trickled out. I remembered the trouble he had gotten into for playing with the hose the week before and the lecture he had received about the importance of not wasting water, and I understood why he hadn't asked for help.

The leftover water in the pipes was all but gone, and it took a long time for the drops to fill his makeshift "cup." When he finally stood up and turned around, I was in front of him.

His eyes filled with tears. "I'm not wasting," was all he said.

With a lump in my throat, I handed Billy a cup filled to the brim with water from the kitchen, and together we walked back into the treeline. I let him tend to the fawn, watching proudly as my son worked to save a life.

水喝完后，比利跳起来跑回屋子，我赶紧藏到一棵树后。我跟着他到了一个之前我们停掉的水龙头。比利把它开到最大，跪着接住滴下的几滴水。我想起前一周他因为玩水管而惹的麻烦，他因此领教关于节约水的重要性的训导，于是我理解了他为什么没有让我帮忙。

水管里剩的水几乎快没了，因此水滴满他那临时的“杯子”花了很长时间。当他站起来转身时，发现我就在他面前。

他的眼里充满了泪水：“我没有浪费。”他只说了这话。

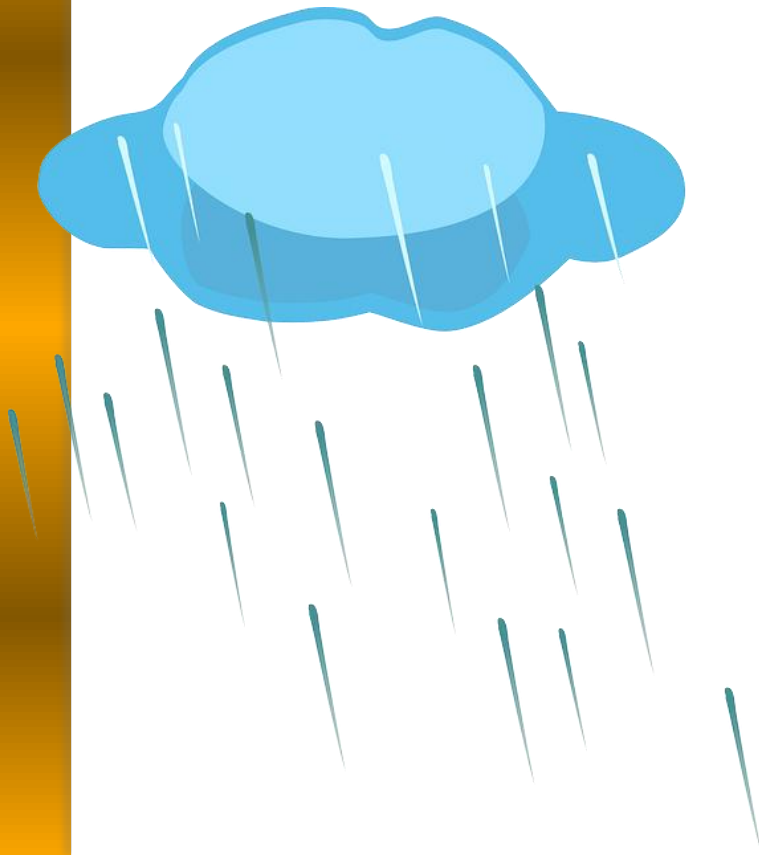
我从厨房里取出一整杯水来，递给比利，只感到如鲠在喉。我们一起走回林子。我让他喂养那只幼鹿，而我在一旁骄傲地看着我的儿子这样努力地救一条生命。

Tears rolled down my face and hit the ground, where they were joined by other drops ... and more drops ... and more. I looked up and saw the sky was dark and rumbling. Billy and I barely made it back to the house before the clouds burst and a heavy rain shower hit.

Some will probably say that this was just a huge coincidence, that it was bound to rain sometime. And I can't argue with that. All I can say is that the rain that came that day saved our farm, just like the actions of a little boy saved a life.

泪水滑过我的脸庞，滴在地上，然后有更多的水滴滴下来……又有水滴滴下来。我抬起头，发现天色变暗，雷声隆隆作响。不一会儿，大雨倾盆而至，我和比利勉强及时赶回家。

有些人可能会说，这只是一个非常巧合的情形，到了某个时间就下雨了而已。我不能与之争辩。我只能说，那天的雨也救了我们的农场，正如一个小男孩救了一条生命。



## The Courage to be Kind

Olivia Bauer

One sunny afternoon roughly seventy years ago, a young girl and her friends were watching through the mesh of a barbed wire fence as a group of men played football [soccer], enjoying the excitement of the game and the skill of the players. Suddenly, a kick sent the ball in an arc over the fence, and it landed near the children.

“It’d be great to have a ball to play with,” one of the boys remarked. “Let’s keep it.”

But a girl disagreed. “It’s not right for us to keep it,” she insisted, throwing the ball back over the fence.

This simple gesture of kindness and integrity took place in the heart of Germany in the early 1940s, during World War II. The players were British prisoners of war, interned in a camp on the outskirts of town. Some of the girl’s friends grumbled. After all, the players were *prisoners*—why should *they* have a ball when the children didn’t?

## 仁慈行善的勇气

鲍莉维

大约在70年前，一个阳光明媚的下午，一个小女孩和朋友们正透过铁丝网围墙，观看一群人在玩英式足球。孩子们很喜欢那比赛热烈的气氛和球员的技巧。突然间，球被踢出、以一个弧线飞过铁丝网，落在了孩子们的身边。

“太好了，这下我们有球玩了。”其中一个男孩说道：“我们留给自己吧。”

但一个女孩子不同意。“我们留给自己是不对的。”她坚持道，还把那足球扔回铁丝网的另一边。

这个仁慈而诚实的行为，在1940年代早期发生，地点是在德国的腹地。那时正值第二次世界大战，那些球员们是英国战俘，他们被囚禁在市郊的一座营地里。那个女孩的有些朋友开始抱怨，毕竟这些球员都是囚犯，为什么他们应该有球玩，而孩子们却没有呢？



Kindness takes thoughtfulness, effort, and time. It also takes courage. Courage to stand alone on an issue. Courage to give, especially when one doesn't have much. Courage to say no to indifference. Courage to act according to what one knows is right.

There is strength of character in kindness—the moral and mental strength to step out, to give, to believe, to persevere, to be true to one's convictions, even when it means enduring challenges or paying a price. These are the kindnesses that leave a lasting impression.

It's been nearly three quarters of a century, but there may yet be survivors of that summer scene—and if so, I imagine they'd remember my grandmother, the village girl who returned a football.



我们需要付出体贴亲切、努力和时间，才能做仁慈之举。这样做还需要勇气——那种独自面对情况的勇气；那种奉献的勇气，特别是当一个人所有不多时；那种拒绝漠不关心的勇气。有勇气按照自己知道是正确的事情去做。

做仁慈之举，显示那人有坚毅的个性。那是一股道德和精神上的力量，激励一个人愿意待人仁慈，去给予、相信、忍耐，坚守个人的信念，即便意味着须要承受挑战或付出代价。像这样的仁慈善行，才会留下持久的印象。

这件事大概已发生在将近75年以前了，如果当年那一幕的见证者还活着的话，我想他们或许仍会记得我的祖母——那位归还足球的乡下小女孩。

## The Cost of a Miracle

Tess was a precocious eight-year-old when she heard her mom and dad talking about her little brother, Andrew. All she knew was that he was very sick and they were completely out of money. They were moving to an apartment complex the following month because Daddy didn't have the money for the doctor's bills and the house. Only very costly surgery could save Andrew now, and it was looking like there was no one to loan them the money. She heard Daddy say to her tearful mother with whispered desperation, "Only a miracle can save him now."

Tess went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She poured all the change out on the floor and counted it carefully, even three times. The total had to be exactly perfect. No chance here for mistakes.

## 奇迹的价钱

泰丝只有八岁，她是一位难能可贵的女孩。她听到爸爸、妈妈正在谈论小弟弟安德鲁。她只知道：弟弟病得很重，他们却已经囊空如洗了。由于爸爸没有钱支付医疗费和房租，因此他们下个月就要搬到一个公寓去了。只有极其昂贵的手术才能救活安德鲁，但却没人借给他们钱。她听到爸爸绝望地对眼泪汪汪的妈妈悄声说：“现在，只有奇迹才能够救安德鲁了。”

泰丝走进了自己的卧室，从壁橱的暗处拉出了一个玻璃果冻罐子。她把里面所有的零钱都倒在了地板上，细心地数了三遍。她想：总金额得完全准确才行，因为现在不容许出差错。





Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way six blocks to Rexall's Drug Store with the big red Indian chief sign above the door.

She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention, but he was too busy. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffing noise. Nothing. She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!

"And what do you want?" the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone. "I'm talking to my brother here from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages," he said, without waiting for a reply to his question.

"Well, I want to talk to you about my brother," Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. "He's really, really sick, and I want to buy a miracle."

"I beg your pardon?" said the pharmacist.

她小心翼翼地把钱放回到罐子里，拧紧了盖子，然后就悄悄地溜出了后门，向瑞库索鲁药房走去。药房有六条街那么远，门上还有一个红色的印第安酋长的大标帜。

泰丝耐心地等待药剂师前来跟自己说话，可他却太忙碌了。泰丝搓捻着自己的脚，用发出的“擦擦”声响，来引起他的注意力；但他却没有理会。于是，她用最难听的声音清了清嗓子，也没有引起药剂师的注意。最后，她从罐子里掏出了一个钱币，用力地把它放在了玻璃柜台上。这回管事了！

“你想要什么？”药剂师用不耐烦的语气问泰丝，但没等她回答又说：“我的兄弟刚从芝加哥来，我们好久没见了。你没看见我们正在聊天吗？！”

“嗯，我想和你说一说我的弟弟。”泰丝用同样不耐烦的口气回答道：“他病得很重，很重。我想买一种名叫‘奇迹’的药。”

“你说什么？”药剂师问。

"His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry, but I can't help you," the pharmacist said, softening a little.

"Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs."

The pharmacist's brother was a well-dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," Tess replied with her eyes welling up. "I just know he's really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But my daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my money."

"How much do you have?" asked the man from Chicago.

"One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered barely audibly. "And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to."

“他叫安德鲁，脑子里长了某种糟糕的东西。爸爸说：现在只有‘奇迹’才能够救活他。一个‘奇迹’需要多少钱啊？”

“孩子，我们这里不卖‘奇迹’。我没有办法帮助你，真对不起。”药剂师说道，他的口气也缓和了一点。

“听着，我有钱买‘奇迹’。要是这些钱不够的话，我会回去再拿一些来。请告诉我，‘奇迹’需要多少钱？”

药剂师的兄弟是个衣冠考究的人。他蹲下来问小泰丝说：“你弟弟需要什么样的奇迹呢？”

“我不知道，”泰丝充满泪水地回答说：“我只知道他病得很重，妈妈说，他得做一次手术，可是爸爸没有钱。所以，我想用我的钱。”

“你有多少钱呢？”那个从芝加哥来的人问道。

“一美元零十一分。”泰丝回答说，声音小得刚刚能听得见：“这是我所有的钱。要是我得付更多钱的话，我也能够弄得到！”

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man. "A dollar and eleven cents, the exact price of a miracle for little brothers." He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said, "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the kind of miracle you need."

That well-dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon specializing in neurosurgery. The operation was completed without charge, and it wasn't long until Andrew was home again and doing well.

Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place. "That surgery," her mom whispered, "was a miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?"

Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost—one dollar and eleven cents—plus the faith of a little child

“多巧啊！”那人微笑着说：“一美元零十一分——刚好是为你的小弟弟得到“奇迹”的价钱。”他用一只手接过了泰丝的钱，又用另一只手抓住了泰丝的手套，然后说：“领我到你住的地方去吧！我想去看看你的小弟弟，见见你爸爸、妈妈。看看我是否能够给你带来你所需要的奇迹。”

这位衣冠考究的人是卡尔童·阿姆斯壮医生(Dr. Carlton Armstrong)，他是一位神经外科专家。这次手术没有收费。不久，安德鲁又回到了家里，而且健康状况良好。

爸爸和妈妈愉快地谈论着使他们遇到目前这种好光景的一连串的事情。妈妈悄声问道：“这次的手术真是一个奇迹！我想知道：要是收费的话，会花多少钱呢？”

泰丝微笑着，她准确地知道这次奇迹的费用：一美元零十一分，外加小孩子的信心。