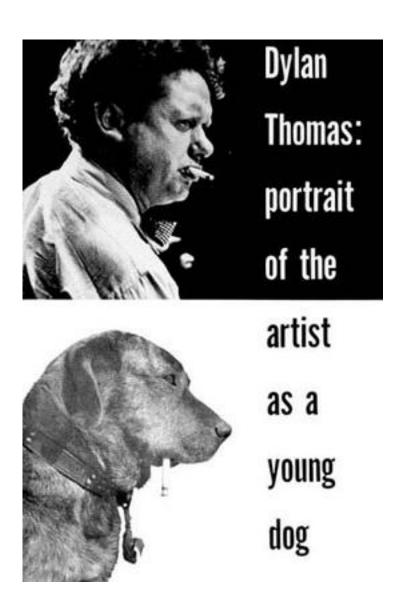
Portrait of the Artist As a Young Dog



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著者:Dylan Thomas

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The 'Young Dog' of the title is of course Thomas himself, and this volume of autobiographical stories by the great modern poet, who shows his waggish humor at its best, his exuberance and verbal magic in spectacular display. It also shows him a spinner of tales and a creator of memorable characters.

作者介绍:

The most important Welsh poet of the twentieth century, Thomas was born in Swansea, about which he remembered unkindly "the smug darkness of a provincial town." He attended Swansea Grammar School but received his real education in the extensive library of his father, a disappointed schoolteacher with higher ambitions. Refusing university study in favor of immediately becoming a professional writer, Thomas worked first in Swansea and then in London at a variety of literary jobs, which included journalism and, eventually, filmscripts and radio plays. In 1936 he began the satisfying but stormy marriage to the bohemian writer and dancer Caitlin MacNamara that would endure for the rest of his career. His life fell into a pattern of oscillation between work and dissipation in London and recovery and relaxation in a rural retreat, usually in Wales. Thomas worked in a documentary film unit during the war. Besides his poetry, he wrote plays and fiction. In the early 1950s, he gave three celebrated poetry-reading tours of the United States, during which his outrageous behavior vied with his superb reading ability for public attention. Aggravated by chronic alcoholism, his health collapsed during the last tour, and he died in a New York City hospital. In his poetry, Thomas embraced an exuberant romanticism in the encounter between self and world and a joyous riot in the lushness of language. His work falls into three periods---an early "womb-tomb" phase during which he produced a notebook, which he later mined for further poems, a middle one troubled by marriage and war, and a final acceptance of the human condition. The exuberant rhetoric of his work belies an equally strong devotion to artistry, what he once called "my craft or sullen art." His great "Fern Hill," for example, builds its imagery of the rejoicing innocence of childhood on a strict and demanding syllabic count. A recollection of boyhood holidays on the farm of his aunt and uncle, that poem places its emotion within an Edenic framework typical of Thomas's work. The impressive sonnet sequence "Altarwise by Owl-Light" (1936) combines the internal quest of romanticism with a more elaborate religious outlook in tracing the birth and spiritual autobiography of a poet. Almost at the end of his career he produced the moving elegy "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" (1952), written during the final illness of his father. Despite his periods of doubt and dissipation, Thomas celebrated the fullness of life. As he wrote in a note to his Collected Poems (1952), "These poems, with all their crudities, doubts, and confusion, are written for the love of Man and in praise of God, and I'd be a damn fool if they weren't." (Bowker Author Biography)

目录: The peaches A visit to Grandpa's Patricia, Edith and Arnold The fight Extraordinary little cough Just like little dogs Where Tawe flows Who do you wish was with us Old Garbo One warm Saturday.

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评论

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书评

狄兰·托马斯的中短篇小说与一般概念上的短篇小说有很大的不同,没有精炼的情节,也没有突出的矛盾,更没有性格鲜明的人物。事实上,与其说他塑造的是情节,不如说是一个个场景,是1920年代威尔士小镇上的风光和人物,从这些看似平淡的故事中可以窥见一个男孩的成长过...

毋庸置疑,狄兰·托马斯的这本《青年狗艺术家的画像》让我对文学有了新的认识。这本回忆童年的中短篇小说集,没有高潮,没有可以评述的文学手段,有的只是絮絮叨叨的家长里短,有的只是一个成人对自己儿童生活的一种真实的记录,如果用流水账来形容它或许更为贴切。然而这...

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