**The weight men carry**

**男人背负的重担**

**1 When I was a boy growing up off the grid in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the men I knew labored with their bodies from the first rooster crow in the morning to sundown. They were marginal farmers, shepherds, just scraping by, or welders, steelworkers, carpenters; they built cabinets, dug ditches, mined coal, or drove trucks, their forearms thick with muscle. They trained horses, stocked furnaces, made tires, stood on assembly lines, welding parts onto refrigerators or lubricating car engines. In the evenings and on weekends, they labored equally hard, working on their own small tract of land, fixing broken-down cars, repairing broken shutters and drafty windows. In their little free time, they drowned their livers in beer from cheap copper mugs at a bar near the local brewery or racecourse.**

**当我还是个小男孩时，我住在弗吉尼亚州一个偏远的地区，那时我所认识的男人们从清晨的第一声公鸡啼鸣一直劳作到日落。他们都是些不起眼的农民、牧羊人，勉强度日，或是焊接工、钢铁工或木匠；他们制作橱柜、挖掘沟渠、开采煤炭，或驾驶卡车，这使他们拥有肌肉结实的上臂。他们训练马匹、填塞炉膛、制造轮胎，站在装配线上将零件焊接到冰箱，或是给汽车发动机上润滑剂。到了傍晚或周末，他们也要同样辛苦地劳作，在自己的一小片土地上耕作，修理出了问题的汽车，修复坏掉的百叶窗和漏风的窗户。在仅剩的闲暇时间里，他们会在当地的啤酒作坊或赛马场附近的酒馆里用盛在廉价铜杯中的啤酒将自己灌得烂醉。**

**2 The bodies of the men I knew were twisted and wounded in ways visible and invisible. Heavy lifting had given many of them spinal problems and appalling injuries. Some had broken ribs and lost fingers. Racing against conveyor belts had given some ulcers. Their ankles and knees ached from years of standing on concrete. Some had partial vision loss as the glow of the welding flame damaged their optic receptors. There were times, studying them, when I dreaded growing up. All around us, the fathers always seemed older than the mothers. Men wore out sooner, being martyrs of constant work. Only women lived into old age.**

**我所认识的那些男人的身躯遭受着种种看得见或看不见的扭曲和伤痛。搬运沉重的物品给他们很多人造成了脊柱病和可怕的伤痛。有些人断了肋骨，掉了手指。在传输带上不停地工作使他们有些人患了溃疡。他们的脚踝和膝盖由于经年累月站立在水泥地上疼痛不已。有些人由于焊接火光损伤视觉感官而遭受部分视觉缺失的折磨。有些时候，打量着他们，我会害怕长大。在我们周围的人中，父亲们看上去总是比母亲们要老。男人衰老得更早，长期遭受着因持续劳作带来的病痛。只有女人才活到年老。**

**3 There were also soldiers, and so far as I could tell, they scarcely worked at all. But when the shooting started, many of them would die for their patriotism in fields and forts of foreign outposts. This was what soldiers were for — they were tools like a wrench, a hammer or a screw.**

**还有士兵也是男人的工作。据我所知，他们几乎不工作，但当战争一打响，他们很多人都会出于爱国热情而战死在疆场或异域前哨的堡垒前。这就是士兵的作用——他们就像工具，如同扳钳、锤子或螺丝一样。**

**4 These weren't the only destinies of men, as I learned from having a few male teachers, from reading books and from watching television. But the men on television — the news commentators, the lawyers, the doctors, the politicians who levied the taxes and the bosses who gave orders — seemed as remote and unreal to me as the figures in old paintings. I could no more imagine growing up to become one of these sophisticated people than I could imagine becoming a sovereign prince.**

**这些并非男人们唯一的归宿，我从曾经有过的几位男教师、从看书及看电视中认识到了这一点。但是，那些上电视的男人们——新闻评论员、律师、医生、课征税款的政治家及发号施令的老板们——在我看来就像古老绘画上的人像，遥远而不真实。我不能想象自己长大会变成这些精明世故的人中的一员，就像我无法想象自己能变成一个权力至高无上的国君一样。**

**5 A scholarship enabled me not only to attend college, a rare enough feat in my social circle, but even to traverse the halls of a historic university meant for the children of the rich. Here for the first time I met women who told me that men were guilty of having kept all the joys and privileges of the earth for themselves. I was puzzled, and demanded clarification. What privileges? What joys? I thought about the grim, wounded lives of most of the men back home. What had they allegedly stolen from their wives and daughters? The right to work five days a week, 12 months a year, for 30 or 40 years, wedged in tight spaces in the textile mills, or in the coal mines, struggling to extract every last bit of coal from the rock-hard earth? The right to die in war? The right to fix every leak in the roof, every gap in the fence? The right to pile banknotes high for a rich corporation in a city far away? The right to feel, when the lay-off came or the mines shut down, not only afraid but also ashamed?**

**一份奖学金使我得以上大学，这可是我社交圈子里极其难得的荣耀。不仅如此，它还让我能够穿行于为富人家的孩子打造的史上著名的大学殿堂里。就在这里，我生平头一次碰到女人告诉我说男人是有罪的，因为他们把地球上所有的欢乐和特权都据为己有。我被弄糊涂了，要求她们予以解释。什么特权？什么欢乐？我想到家乡大多数男人那种艰难严酷、伤痛累累的生活。人们所说的他们从妻子和女儿那里偷走的东西又能是些什么呢？难道是每周五天、每年十二个月，如此三四十年里挤缩在纺织厂狭小的空间里，或是在煤矿下挣扎着从岩石般坚硬的泥土中挖出最后一点煤的劳作的权力？战死疆场的权利？修缮屋顶上每条裂缝和围栏上每个断栏的权利？为一个遥远的城市某个富裕财团垒积钱钞的权利？在遭遇解雇或煤矿倒闭时感到既害怕又羞耻的权利？**

**6 In this alien world of the rich, I was slow to understand the deep grievances of women. This was because, as a boy, I had envied them. Before college, the only people I had ever known who were interested in art or music or literature, the only ones who ever seemed to enjoy a sense of ease were the mothers and daughters. What's more, they did not have to go to war. By comparison with the narrow, compartmentalized days of fathers, the comparatively lightweight work of mothers seemed expansive. They clipped coupons, went to see neighbors, or ran errands at school or at church. I saw their lives as through a telescope, all twinkling stars and shafts of light, missing the details that truly defined their days. No doubt, had I taken a more deductive look at their lives, I would have envied them less. I didn't see, then, what a prison a house could be, since houses seemed to me brighter, handsomer places than any factory. As such things were never spoken of, I did not realize how often women suffered from men's bullying. Even then I could see how exhausting it was for a mother to cater all day to the needs of young children. But, as a boy, if I had to choose between tending a baby and tending a machine, I think I would have chosen the baby.**

**在这样一个满是富人的陌生世界里，我在理解女人们深深的怨怒方面很是迟钝。这是因为，当我还是一个小男孩时，我就嫉妒过她们。在上大学之前，我所认识的唯一对艺术、音乐或文学有兴趣的人，唯一看上去能够享受一丝自在的一群人就是那些做母亲和女儿的人。而且，她们也不必去参加战争。与父亲们所遭受的狭隘的、封闭的日子相比，母亲们所承担的相对较轻的工作显得更加宽泛一些。她们剪用购物券，探访邻居，在学校或教堂跑跑腿。我仿佛是透过望远镜看到她们的生活，满是闪烁的星星和一缕缕光线，而漏掉了她们生活岁月的真实细节。毋庸置疑，如果我用更具理性的方式审视她们的生活，我就不会那么嫉妒她们了。可在那时，我实在看不出一幢房子能成为什么样的牢狱，因为房子在我看来比任何厂房都更亮堂、更体面。我也没有意识到女人是多么频繁地遭受男人的欺凌，因为这样的事情从未被提及过。即使在那时，我也能够看出一个母亲整日忙碌着应付年幼孩子们的需要是多么地辛苦。但是，作为男孩，如果我那时必须在照顾婴儿和照看机器之间作选择，我想我会选择照顾婴儿。**

**7 So I was baffled when the women at college made a racket accusing me and my sex of having cornered the world's pleasures. They demanded to be emancipated from the bonds of sexism. I think my bafflement has been felt by other boys (and by girls as well) who grew up in dirt-poor farm country, by the docks, in the shadows of factories — any place where the fates of men and women are symmetrically bleak and grim.**

**所以，当学校里的女性大吵大囔，谴责我和我所属的性别，说我们霸占着世间的欢乐时，我很困惑。她们要求从性别歧视的束缚中解放出来。我认为别的男孩（女孩也一样）也会有我这样的迷惑，只要他们成长于一贫如洗的农村，成长于码头边或工厂附近——成长于任何让男人和女人的命运同样苍白和严酷的地方。**

**8 When the women I met at college thought about the joys and privileges of men, they didn't see the sort of men I had known. These daughters of privileged, Republican men wanted to inherit their fathers' power and lordship over the world. They longed for a say over their future. But so did I. The difference between me and these daughters was that they saw me, because of my sex, as destined from birth to become like their fathers, and therefore as an enemy to their desires. But I knew better. I wasn't an enemy to their desires, in fact or in feeling. I was an ally in their rebellion. If I had known, then, how to tell them so, or how to be a mediator, would they have believed me? Would they have known?**

**当我在大学里遇到的那些女子们想到男人的享乐和特权时，她们并没有见过我以前认识的那些男人。这些特权阶层的、共和党男人的女儿们渴望继承她们父亲的权力和凌驾世界的贵族身份。她们渴望能对自己的未来拥有发言权。而我也渴望这样。我和这些女儿们之间的区别在于，她们看我时想到的是，我因为自己的性别而自出生起就注定可以成为像她们父亲那样的人，从而也是她们实现自己欲望的敌人。但我比她们更清楚，无论是事实上还是情感上，我都不是她们欲望的敌人。我是她们反抗行动的同盟者。如果那时我就知道如何把这些告诉她们，或如何在中间做一个调停人，她们会相信我吗？她们能够理解吗？﻿**

**What does feminism really mean?**

**女权主义究竟是什么？**

**1 Imagine a world where skirts, makeup, and high heels are prohibited, where men are forbidden from giving gifts to women, where mothers ignore their children, and where marriage and dating are obscene. It sounds nightmarish, but this is the dogma many people have in mind when they hear the word "feminism". Feminists, we're told, hate men and want them dead. Or feminists want to switch places with men, so women can work all day and men can all stay home and keep house. Or maybe feminists want to be like men: dress identically, use the same toilets, compete in the same sports leagues. If this definition is true, it seems feminists would be the provocation for insurgencies across the whole of society, breaking routines, eradicating traditions and ruining everyone's lives in the process!**

**设想这样一个世界：在这里，短裙、化妆品和高跟鞋通通遭禁，男人们被禁止给女人送礼物，母亲们对她们的孩子全然不顾，而婚姻与约会更被视为下流。这听起来像是梦魇，却是很多人在听到“女权主义”这个词时而想到的教条。有人告诉我们说，女权主义者仇恨男人，希望他们都死掉。或者是女权主义者想要与男人互换位置，这样女人就可以成天工作，而男人则都呆在家里管理家务。又或者是女权主义者想要像男人一样：穿同样的衣服，用同样的马桶，在同样的运动联盟中比赛。如果这种定义是真的，那似乎女权主义者将会挑起全社会的暴乱，进而破除惯例，消灭传统，甚至在此过程中毁掉每个人的生命！**

**2 Fortunately, that's not feminism! Feminists don't believe that women are better than men or that women need to become or displace men. True, some feminists enjoy masculine pursuits like boxing, but they don't want to eject men from society. Feminists have fathers, brothers, husbands, and sons. Their lives are just as coiled up with those they love as anyone else's.**

**幸运的是，那并不是女权主义！女权主义者不相信女人比男人更优秀，抑或女人要成为男人或取代男人。诚然，一些女权主义者喜欢像拳击那样的男性所热衷的爱好，但她们并不想将男人从社会中驱逐出去。女权主义者也有父亲、兄弟、丈夫和儿子。她们的生活就像其他任何人一样，与她们所爱的人密不可分。**

**3 So, what do feminists believe? Distilled to its essence, feminism is the idea that men and women should have equal opportunities. A woman should be able to be a man's boss if she is as capable as any other manager, or a man should be allowed to look after children if he has the interest and ability. Nobody should find the situation strange or call it "queer". In other words, feminists believe in a world where no one feels colonized or oppressed because of the roles they fill.**

**那么，女权主义者究竟信仰什么？归根结底，女权主义指的是男人和女人应该拥有平等的机会。如果一个女人与其他任何经理一样能干，那她就可以做男人的老板；如果一个男人有照料孩子的兴趣和能力，那就应该允许他去照看孩子，没有人会觉得这种情况奇怪或称之为“怪异”。换句话说，女权主义者相信有这样一个世界，在那里，没有人会因其承担的角色而感到被奴役或受压制。**

**4 In some countries, gender equality remains far away. There are places where women aren't allowed to participate in government or public life, where women are denied education and remain illiterate, and places where women have to keep their hair and faces hidden, or they will risk terrible lashes, detention, or even execution. There are places where young, virgin girls, with no judicial process to protect them, are forced to marry old men and bear children against their will. There are places where women are not allowed to drive a car or sit in the same section as men when using public transit.**

**在有些国家，性别平等还远未实现。有些地方不允许女性参与政府工作或公共生活，不让女性接受教育以致她们仍是文盲；有些地方女人必须遮盖住头发和面容，否则就要面临可怕的鞭笞、拘役甚至被处死。也有些地方，年幼的少女没有司法程序的保护，被迫嫁给年老的男子并违背她们的意愿生育孩子。还有些地方不允许女人开车或在乘坐公共交通工具时与男人坐在同一区域。**

**5 In comparison, in some other parts of the world, the rights of women have grown tremendously. In the United States, modern women live downright luxurious lives compared to the Pilgrims in colonial times. And in the British Isles, modern women are essentially equal to men compared to the time when the early kings sat upon their mighty thrones. Feminists, men as well as women, have fought hard to overthrow outdated discriminatory practices and win rights we now take for granted, such as girls attending school, women gaining the voting ballot and running in electoral races for the Senate, women owning property, women in sales earning equal commissions as men, and women choosing whether or not to marry or have children. These rights have given women control over their own lives while increasing vastly the number of people in the workforce who discover new ideas and patent new inventions. Can you imagine life without female scientists, inventors, doctors, teachers, and writers?**

**相比之下，在世界其他一些地方，女性的权利已大大提升。在美国，与殖民时期的朝圣者相比，现代女性过着极其奢侈的生活。在英伦诸岛，现代女性与早先国王的统治时期相比，基本上已与男性一切平等。女权主义者，不论是男性还是女性，都曾奋力消除陈旧的歧视性做法，以赢得我们现在认为是理所当然的权利，比如女孩有机会上学、女性获得投票权并参与参议院议员席位的竞选、女性拥有财产、女性销售员挣得同男性一样的提成、女性有权选择是否结婚或生子。这些权利使得女性能够左右自己的生活，并极大增加了能够找到新点子、申请新发明专利的劳动者的数量。你能想象没有女科学家、女发明家、女医生、女教师或者女作家的生活吗？**

**6 With all the progress of the last decades, it can be hard to see that there is still work to be done, or to remember what was so difficult before. Modern women may raise a chorus of complaints that there are no confident men left, and blame feminism. A modern man may long for the days when a wife would stay home with a spatula and a sponge, cooking kidney beans and steak for dinner, fascinated by his work stories. However, he would be forgetting the need to make enough money to support his household alone.**

**有了过去几十年的进步，人们会很难看出在女权主义方面还有什么工作要做，也很难记得以前有多么艰难。现代女性可能会齐声抱怨，说现今再也没有真正自信的男人了，并因此谴责女权主义。现代男性会渴望以前那样的日子，那时妻子呆在家里拿着锅铲和海绵围着锅台转，做芸豆和牛排晚餐，还会入迷地听他讲工作中的故事，而此时，他却忘记了自己需要单独赚足够的钱养家。**

**7 Truthfully, most of us are feminists to some degree. A man who believes that women should stick to working as transcribing secretaries or midwives and leave the "good" jobs to men with families is more feminist than a man who believes in strict segregation of the genders or who insists that a woman shouldn't leave the house or speak to strangers. A "trophy wife" who does nothing but apply eye liner and lipstick and go to parties is still feminist enough to believe she shouldn't be hostage to her husband, unable to go to the police if he attacks her for telling him "no". Many of us are feminist indeed; we work in blended groups of men and women, dividing tasks according to ability and interest, read books without caring about the gender of the author, and listen to female teachers as well as male ones with equal attention and respect.**

**说实话，我们中的大多数人在某种程度上都是女权主义者。如果一位男士认为女人都应该坚持做记录员或助产士，而把“好”工作留给需要养家的男人，那么，他与一名信奉严格的性别隔离制度或一名坚持认为女人不应该到外面或和陌生人说话的男性比起来，要更加具有女权意识。即使是一个只知道画眼线、涂唇膏和参加聚会而其他什么也不做的“花瓶太太”，她也具有足够的女权意识，认为自己不应该是丈夫的人质，不应该因对丈夫说“不”而遭到殴打也不敢报警。我们中很多人实际上都是女权主义者；我们在男女共事的团队中工作，依据各人的能力和兴趣分配任务，读书时不会在意作者的性别，听课时不论老师是女是男，我们都心怀敬意，认真听讲。**

**8 Yet even the most feminist environments have barriers we need to tunnel through. For example, we might criticize successful female solicitors for not devoting enough time to their families, or look down on those women who stay home with children for not being ambitious enough to take up a career. We might look down on men who disobey female bosses for not being team players, or look down on other men who obey the same bosses for acting insufficiently masculine.**

**然而，哪怕是最具女权主义的环境也有我们尚需逾越的障碍。比如，我们可能会批评成功的女律师没有花足够的时间照顾家庭，或者歧视那些呆在家里照看孩子的女性，认为她们缺乏远大的志向去从事一份职业。我们可能会看不起那些不顺从女上司的男人，认为他们不具备团队意识；也可能会歧视另一些听从于这些女上司的男人，认为他们行为举止缺乏男子气。**

**9 These seem like small problems, the lingering ghosts of greater issues, but they're significant when they're happening to you. Culture isn't easy to change; even if you think a woman has every right to speak loudly and swear like pirates, you might have trouble imagining that any man would date her. Or you might have trouble relaxing around a man who is comfortable making less money than his female friends. Clearly, our thirst for equality must never be fully quenched. But feminism cannot become an appendix at the end of a history book, or an artifact of a bygone epoch. We must remain vigilant if we hope for a continuance of the rights of women.**

**这些看上去似乎只是小问题，是大问题的一些残留末节而已，但当它们真正发生在你本人身上时就是大问题了。文化是不容易改变的。即使你认为一个女人有足够的权利大声说话，可以像海盗那样咒骂，你可能仍然无法想象哪个男人会愿意与她约会；或者，当你面对一位即使赚钱比女性朋友要少却依然感觉舒坦的男人时，你可能仍然会不自在。显然，我们对平等的渴望永远也不可能完全得到满足。但是，女权主义不能只作为一本历史书最后的附录，或一件远古时代的手工艺品。如果我们希望女性的权利持续，我们就必须保持警觉。**