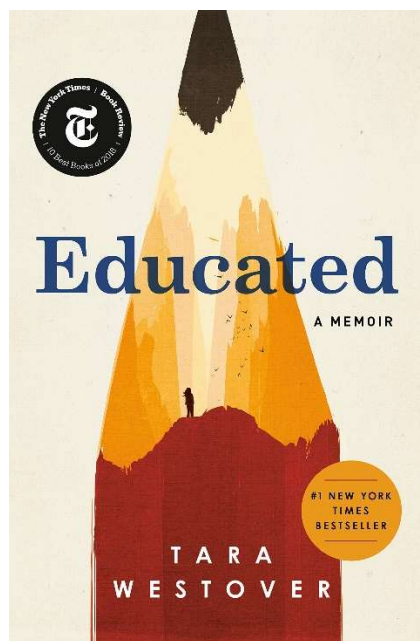


小锐精读笔记:

The Educated 《你当像鸟飞往你的山》
- Tara Westover

Gates Notes 比尔盖茨的书评

Her experience is an extreme version of something everyone goes through with their parents. At some point in your childhood, you go from thinking they know everything to seeing them as adults with limitations. I'm sad that Tara is **estranged from** a lot of her family because of this process, but the path she's taken and the life she's built for herself are **truly inspiring**.

每个人都有和父母一起的经历，然而她的相当极端。在你童年时，你会认为他们了解所有知识，当你成年后你会发现那是有局限的。宁人遗憾的是，在求学过程中，Tara 与她的家人**疏远**了，然而她走过的路和她为自己创造的生活确实令读者**感到鼓舞**。

"I worry that **education is becoming a stick** that some people use to beat other people into submission or becoming something that people **feel arrogant about**," she said. "I think education is really just **a process of self-discovery**—of developing a sense of self and what you think. I think of [it] as this great mechanism of connecting and equalizing."

她说：“我担心教育正在成为某些人用来**击败其他人**，并让他人屈服的**工具**，或者成为让人们**感到自负的东西**。”“我认为**教育实际上只是自我发现的过程**，培养自我意识和想法。我认为这是连接和均衡的好机制。”



THEMES 主题

A theme is **an overarching idea** that runs through a literary text in one or some parts. It makes up the major point the author wants to convey to the readers.

Theme #1: Education as Freedom 教育是一种自由

As the title of the memoir suggests, education allows Tara **to be free to create her own life**. Tara was not only denied the opportunity to attend school—in fact, she was conditioned to think that the pursuit of knowledge itself is dangerous. When Tara sees Tyler flourishing at BYU, she becomes aware that **education is an opportunity**. However, after she begins college, she truly understands how **her father's extremism clouded her perception of history and the world at large**. Tara is able to take control of her education in a way that **grants her a sense of confidence and self-worth**. In addition, Tara's academic community allows her to create a network of friends, colleagues, and advisors that become a **makeshift** extended family. Through her education, Tara is able to find new communities and is not solely dependent on her family for wellbeing.

- 教育是一种通向自由的机会，创造属于她的生活
- 上大学后，她才真正理解父亲的极端主义如何笼罩了她对历史和整个世界的看法
- Tara 最终掌控了自己受教育的方式，从而赋予她自信和自我价值
- **Makeshift**: temporary and of low quality, but used because of a sudden need (权宜的；临时代用的)
e.g: Thousands of refugees are living in makeshift camps. (数千个的难民居住在临时帐篷里。)

Theme #2: Conflict between identities 身份冲突

Many characters in *Educated* suffer from conflict between different identities, and this forces them to make difficult and painful decisions. Most notably, Tara has to choose between her identity as a devout Mormon woman who is **an obedient daughter**, and her identity as **a thoughtful, curious person who wants to ask questions, see the world, and think for herself**. This conflict causes her to suffer because she cannot reconcile these two identities, and she knows she is going to have to choose between her family and her growing identity as a scholar and a modern woman. Tara's two brothers, Tyler and Richard, also pursue their education and experience a similar conflict. Tyler is torn between his identity as Tara's brother, because he wants to stand up for his sister, and his identity as a son, because he knows his loyalty might cause him to be **ostracized** from the family.



- **Tara 的身份冲突:** 听话的女儿 vs 一个有思想、好奇的人 —可以提问题, 看世界, 做自己
- **哥哥 Tyler 的身份冲突:** 力挺妹妹 vs 被家族驱逐
- **ostracize:** to avoid someone intentionally, or to prevent someone from taking part in the activities of a group (故意避开; 排挤, 排斥)
e.g: His colleagues ostracized him after he criticized the company in public. 他公开批评公司之后, 同事们对他采取了排斥态度。

Theme #3: Leaving home and finding one's place in the world

离开家, 在世界上找到自己的位置

The familiar features of home—the ways of behaving, the beliefs, the values, the practices—that **anchored** Westover do not apply when she leaves the mountain.

Westover's experience leaving home and making her way in the world portrays an extremist version of something most people experience at some point in their lives: **The process of learning that the world outside of home does not conform to the standards and expectations of home.** As Westover ventures out and has more experiences in new places, with new people and new ideas, instead of reading the world through the perspective of home, she learns how to read home through the new perspective she gains from her experiences out in the world.

In many cases, home and the outside world are compatible—there are very few conflicts, cultural or ideological, for people who wish to move freely between being who they are at home and being who they are out in the world. This is not the case for Westover, whose fundamentalist religious upbringing ensures that once she becomes a person who learns how to live by the ways of the outside world, she will never truly belong—or be welcome—at home again.

- **anchor: (verb)** to make something or someone stay in one position by fastening him, her, or it firmly (把...系住或扎牢; 使稳固, 使固定)
e.g: We anchored ourselves to the rocks with a rope. (我们用绳子把自己固定在岩石上。)
(noun) someone or something that gives support when needed (可以依靠的人或物; 精神支柱; 靠山)
e.g: She was my anchor when things were difficult for me. (我身处困境时, 她就是我的精神支柱。)
This treaty has been called the anchor (= strongest part) of their foreign policy. (该条约被称作是他们外交政策的基石。)



CLASSIC QUOTES 经典引用

Quote #1: 爱与想念

"You can love someone and still choose to say goodbye to them...you can miss a person every day, and still be glad that they are no longer in your life."

你可以爱一个人，但仍然选择和他说再见；你可以每天都想念一个人，但仍然庆幸他已不在你的生命中。

Quote #2: 教育塑人

"An education is not so much about making a living as making a person."

教育不仅仅是为了谋生，更多是如何做人。

Quote #3: 忠于自己的内心

"My life was narrated for me by others. Their voices were forceful, emphatic, absolute. It had never occurred to me that my voice might be as strong as theirs."

我的一生都活在别人的讲述中。他们的声音铿锵有力，专制而绝对。之前我从未意识到，我的声音也可以与他们的一样有力”

Quote #4: 教育的本质

"The decisions I made after that moment were not the ones she would have made. They were the choices of a changed person, a new self. You could call this selfhood many things. Transformation. Metamorphosis. Falsity. Betrayal."

在那一刻之后，我做出的决定都不再是她会做出的决定。它们是由一个改头换面的人，一个全新的自我做出的选择。你可以用很多说法来称呼这个自我：转变、蜕变、虚伪、背叛。而我称之为：教育。

Quote #5: 教育是种特权

"Everything I had worked for, all my years of study, had been to purchase for myself this one privilege: to see and experience more truths than those given to me by my father, and to use those truths to construct my own mind. I had come to believe that the ability to evaluate many ideas, many histories, many points of view, was at the heart of what it means to self-create."

我所有的奋斗,我多年来的学习,一直为了让自己得到这样一种特权: 见证和体验超越父亲所给予我的更多的真理,并用这些真理构建我自己的思想。我开始相信,评价多种思想、多种历史和



多种观点的能力是造力的核心。如果现在让步,我失去的将不仅仅是一次争论。我会失去对自己思想的掌控权。

Quote #6: 过去是幽灵

"The past was a ghost, insubstantial, unaffacting. Only the future had weight."

过去是一个幽灵, 虚无缥缈, 没什么影响力。只有未来才有分量。