

哈佛 蓝星双语名著导读

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Murder on
the Orient Express

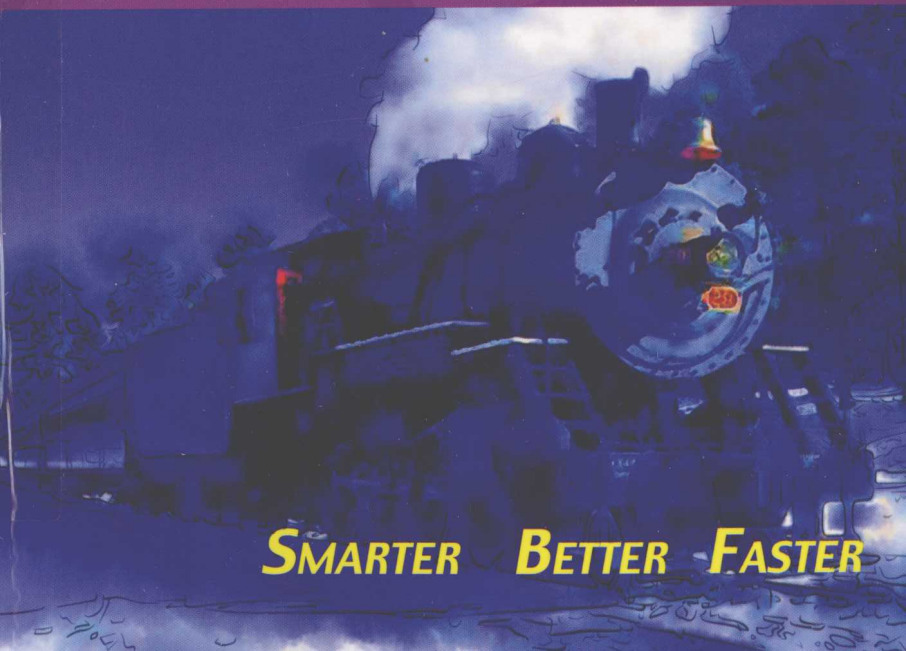
东方快车谋杀案

原著 Agatha Christie〔英〕

导读 Sparknotes

翻译 赵红霞

 天津科技翻译出版公司



SMARTER BETTER FASTER

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[英] Agatha Christie 原著

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张滨江 主审



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致读者

亲爱的读者,在这个多元文化的世界里,渴望知识、钟情文学、热爱英语的你是否希望站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢?

“哈佛蓝星双语名著导读”系列是全美最风行的经典名著导读笔记,由哈佛学生们融会名著阅读和文学学习精华,亲笔撰写而成。蓝星系列精选了来自世界各国的杰出经典著作,以经典性和流行性并重的名著为素材,以明晰的风格和地道的语言,解读名著精华和具有时代性的主题和思想。每一分册都包括名著的创作背景、人物分析、主题解析、篇章讲解、重要引文释义、作品档案,并且附有相关的思考题、推荐论题、小测验以及延伸阅读篇目。

如今“蓝星”漂洋过海,轻轻落在了国内英语学习读者的掌中,读者不需走出国门,即可轻松掌握哈佛课堂上的知识。蓝星系列丰富的内容编排,使我们不仅仅停留于对名著内容的了解,而且对著作的精华和内涵有更全面、深入的掌握,进而对英语语言和文化做更进一步的了解和研究。蓝星精辟、明晰的编写风格让“半天阅读一本名著”成为现实,使我们在有限的闲暇时间内阅读更多的书,同时迅速增强英语水平,提高文学修养,增加谈资。

天津科技翻译出版公司之前推出的“蓝星”系列78册,多为古典及经典题材,在图书市场上收到了很好的反响。本次推出的新品种20册均以现代及当代畅销书为首选,流行性和可读性更强,进一步丰富了该系列的内容。本次出版仍由天津外国语学院张滨江教授和青年教师负责翻译和审校,并严格按照原作的风格,提供原汁原味的英语环境,让读者自由地阅读、想象和发挥。

蓝星闪耀,伴你前行!

CONTEXT

Agatha Christie was born in Torquay, England on September fifteen, 1890. She was the youngest of three children in an upper-middle class home. Agatha was schooled at home by a governess and tutors—a lifestyle later reflected in her novels. She was married in 1914 to Archie Christie, a W.W.I fighter pilot. While he was at war, Christie worked as a nurse. She first worked with patients, but was eventually transferred to the dispensary where she gained an extensive knowledge of poisons. Before Agatha married Archie, Agatha had discussed writing a murder mystery with her sister Madge, but Madge thought it would be too difficult to her. Agatha devoted her downtime at the dispensary to proving her sister wrong.

The Mysterious Affair at Styles was not published until 1920. Agatha's first novel featured her most famous detective character, Hercule Poirot. Poirot became known for his eccentricities, waxy moustache and quick mind. He was a featured character in thirty of Christie's novels.

In 1926, Archie asked Agatha for a divorce. Agatha, already distressed by the recent death of her mother, drove off. Her car was found abandoned, with only a suitcase and some clothing in the backseat. Agatha's disappearance started a nation-wide manhunt, at one point 3 000 people came out to look for the writer in the area her car had been found. About three weeks later she was found at a small hotel in a nearby town.

来龙·去脉

阿加莎·克里斯蒂 1890 年 9 月 15 日出生在英格兰托奎尔市的一个中上层阶级的家庭里，她是三个孩子中最小的一个。阿加莎通过家庭教师在家接受教育，这种生活方式在她以后的作品中有所反映。1914 年，她与一战中的战斗机飞行员阿尔奇·克里斯蒂结婚。在阿尔奇参战期间，阿加莎是一名护士。起初，她的工作是护理病人，最后调到药房。在那里，她通晓了各种毒药的药性。与阿尔奇结婚以前，她同姐姐麦琪曾经讨论过创作侦探小说的想法，但麦琪认为对阿加莎来说，这太困难了。然而，阿加莎利用了药房的所有停工时间证明了姐姐的判断是错误的。

直到 1920 年，《斯泰尔斯庄园奇案》才出版发行。阿加莎在其处女作中塑造了她最著名的侦探形象，赫尔克里·波洛。他性格怪癖，留着光滑的小胡子，并且思维敏捷，这些特征都使他闻名于世。他是克里斯蒂 30 部作品中的主角。


1926 年，阿尔奇提出与阿加莎离婚。而此时由于母亲刚刚去世，生活已经蒙上了阴影的阿加莎突然失踪了。在她遗弃的汽车里，人们只发现了一个手提箱，汽车后座上还有一些衣服。阿加莎的失踪引起了举国上下的搜寻。那时，据说有 3 000 人外出，到汽车被发现的地方寻找这位作家。大约三周后，人们在临近的

Agatha claimed she had suffered a severe loss of memory, the British press claimed she had staged her own murder.

In 1930, Agatha married Max Mallowan, a young archeologist she met in Mesopotamia; much of Agatha's knowledge of the Middle East and archeology stems from her relationship and travels with her husband.

Christie is often regarded as the Queen of the Golden Age detective and mystery novels. *Murder on the Orient Express*, written in 1934, is considered a Golden Age, between-the wars, or classic mystery novel. As in *Murder on the Orient Express*, also known as *Murder on the Calais Coach*, Christie's novels accurately portray the life of upper-middle class, British men and women of this period. Her novels put little emphasis on the working class; the books typically describe the lives of leisure class, rich tourists. In her later work, she attempted to script the lifestyles of the coffee bar, beat generation kids, but with less success.

Murder on the Orient Express was favorably reviewed and praised in England. It was made into a film in 1974 and is one of the most successful British films ever made. Even Agatha, who generally expressed dislike for film versions of her books, expressed appreciation. In 1981, a girl was murdered in Bamberg, West Germany, in the same manner Ratchett is killed in the novel and film. The murder was considered a "carbon copy" of the crime in Christie's novel.


In her lifetime, Christie wrote over sixty-six novels, short stories, screenplays and a series of romance novels under the pen of Mary Westmacott. In 1971 she was named Dame of the British Empire. Agatha Christie died on January 2, 1976. 

一个城镇的小旅馆里找到了她。阿加莎声称自己患有严重的失忆症，而英国媒体则报道她企图自杀。

1930年，阿加莎与在美索不达米亚相识的年轻考古学家马克斯·马洛文结婚。阿加莎对中东和考古知识的了解大部分都源于她丈夫的关系和他们共同的旅行。

克里斯蒂经常被认为是黄金时代的侦探悬疑小说女王。《东方快车谋杀案》写于1934年。它被认为是黄金时代即两战期间的经典侦探小说。《东方快车谋杀案》又称《加莱车厢谋杀案》。克里斯蒂的小说准确地描写了那一时期英国中上阶层男男女女的生活。她的小说的重点不是描写劳动阶层，而是对有闲阶级和富足的旅行者的生活做了典型的描写。在其后期的作品中，阿加莎试图描写咖啡吧里的生活方式和垮掉的一代青年，但收效甚微。

在英格兰，《东方快车谋杀案》受到了广泛的赞誉。1974年它被拍成电影，也是英国电影中最为成功的一部。就连曾经明确表示过不喜欢把自己的作品改编成电影的阿加莎对此也赞不绝口。1981年，一个女孩在西德班贝格被杀害。她被杀害的手段与雷切特在小说和电影中被杀害的手段如出一辙。这起谋杀案被认为是克里斯蒂小说中犯罪的“副本”。

克里斯蒂一生共创作了66部小说、短篇小说和戏剧。她还以玛丽·韦斯特马考特的笔名创作了一系列的爱情小说。1971年，她被授予不列颠帝国女勋爵的称号。阿加莎·克里斯蒂于1976年1月2日逝世。

PLOT OVERVIEW

Hercule Poirot, private detective and retired Belgian police officer, boards the Taurus Express train to Stamboul (Istanbul). On the train there are two other passengers, Mary Debenham and Colonel Arbuthnot. The two act as if they are strangers, but Poirot observes behavior that suggests that they are not. Poirot is suspicious of the couple. The train arrives in Stamboul and Poirot checks in at the Tokatlian Hotel. As soon as Poirot arrives he receives a telegram summoning him back to London. While waiting at the hotel for the next train, Poirot bumps into an old friend, M. Bouc, head of the Wagon Lit. M. Bouc arranges a space for Poirot on the Orient Express. In the dining room of the Tokatlian Hotel, Poirot first spots Ratchett and Hector McQueen eating dinner. Poirot knows that Ratchett is an evil man and he describes him to M. Bouc as an animal.

Poirot boards the Orient Express. He is forced to ride in a second-class cabin because the train is unusually full. Ratchett and Hector McQueen are also aboard the train. Ratchett approaches Poirot and asks if he will work for him, Ratchett tells Poirot he has been receiving threatening letters and that someone is trying to kill him. Poirot refuses the case. M. Bouc has taken the last first class cabin, but arranges to be moved to a separate coach and gives Poirot his space in first class. The first night Poirot sleeps in first class, he observes some strange occurrences. Early in the morning, Poirot is wakened by a cry from Ratchett's compartment next to him. The wagon lit con-

情节·览

赫尔克里·波洛，私家侦探，是比利时退休警员。他登上了开往伊斯坦布尔的陶鲁斯快车。车上还有另外两名乘客，玛丽·德本汉和阿巴思诺特上校。两人表现得行同陌路、互不相识，但波洛观察到的他们的行为表明他们并不陌生，波洛对两人充满怀疑。火车抵达伊斯坦布尔时，波洛入住托凯林旅馆。他刚到就收到一封电报，急召他返回伦敦。在旅馆里等待下一趟车时，波洛碰巧遇见了一位老朋友，国际铁路卧车公司的董事，布克先生。布克先生在东方快车上给他安排了一间包厢。在托凯林旅馆的餐厅，波洛第一次看到正在吃晚饭的雷切特和麦奎恩时，他就感觉雷切特是个坏人。他对布克先生说雷切特像一头凶恶的野兽。

波洛登上了东方快车，但由于火车出奇地满员，不得不住在二等车厢里。雷切特和麦奎恩也在这趟车上。雷切特走到波洛身边，问波洛是否愿意为他工作。雷切特告诉波洛他收到了恐吓信，有人试图杀死他。波洛拒绝了这个案件。布克先生住在最后一个头等包厢里，但他搬到了独立车厢，把他在头等包厢的卧铺让给了波洛。波洛睡在头等包厢的第一个晚上，发现了几件奇怪的事情。凌晨时分，从隔壁雷切特的包厢里传来了一声叫喊，惊醒了波洛。列车员敲了敲雷切特的房门。隔壁传出一个声音，说的是法语：“Ce n'est

ductor responds knocks on Ratchett's door and a voice from inside responds, "Ce n'est rien. Je me suis trompé" (It is nothing. I am mistaken). Poirot has difficulty sleeping because there is a peculiar silence on the train. Mrs. Hubbard rings her bell and tells the conductor a man is in her room. Poirot rings his bell for water and is informed by the conductor that the train is stuck in a snow bank. Poirot hears a loud thump next door.

The next morning, the train still stopped, M. Bouc informs Poirot that Ratchett has been murdered and the murderer is still aboard the train. Poirot tells M. Bouc he will investigate the case. Poirot first examines Ratchett's body and compartment. Ratchett has twelve stab wounds. The window is left open in Ratchett's compartment, presumably to make the investigators think the murderer escaped out the window, but there are no footprints outside the window in the snow. A handkerchief with the initial "H" is found in the compartment, a pipe cleaner, a round match different from the matches Ratchett used and a charred piece of paper with the name "Armstrong" on it.

The piece of paper with the word Armstrong on it helps Poirot figure out who Ratchett really is and why someone would want to murder him. A few years back, a man named Cassetti kidnapped a three-year old girl, Daisy Armstrong. Cassetti collected a ransom from the wealthy Armstrong family, but killed the child anyways. Poirot concludes that Ratchett is Cassetti.

The interviews start with the Wagon Lit conductor, then Hector McQueen. Poirot knows that McQueen is involved with the case because he knows about the Armstrong note found in

rien. Je ne suis tompe.”(没什么事情,我搞错了。)。波洛难以入睡,因为火车上死一般的静。赫伯德太太按响了铃,告诉列车员有个男人在她的房间里。波洛按铃要了些水,列车员告诉他火车陷在雪堆里了。波洛听到从隔壁传来一声巨大的声响。

第二天早上,火车仍停滞原地。布克先生通知波洛,雷切特被杀害了,凶手还在车上。波洛告诉布克先生他将调查这起案子。波洛首先检查了雷切特的尸体和包厢。雷切特被戳了12刀。雷切特包厢的车窗敞开着,想要引调查者做出这样的推测:杀人犯已经跳窗而逃,但窗外雪地上却没有脚印。在雷切特的包厢里,他们发现了一块绣着大写字母H的手绢,烟斗通条,一根较圆的火柴,与雷切特所使用的不同,还有一张烧焦的纸片,上面有“阿姆斯特朗”的字样。

那张写有“阿姆斯特朗”的烧焦的纸片帮助波洛查明了雷切特的真实身份,以及他被害的原因。几年前,一个叫凯塞梯的人绑架了一个三岁大的小女孩黛西·阿姆斯特朗。凯塞梯向富有的阿姆斯特朗家索要了巨额赎金,却杀害了孩子。波洛得出结论,雷切特就是凯塞梯。

审查从列车员开始,而后是麦奎恩。波洛知道麦奎恩与本案有关,因为麦奎恩知道那张在雷切特房间里找到的关于阿姆斯特朗的便条。波洛找到了便条,

Ratchett's compartment, Hector is surprised that Poirot found the note because he thought it had been completely destroyed. He interviews Masterman and then Mrs. Hubbard. Mrs. Hubbard claims that the murderer was in her cabin. All of the passengers give Poirot suitable alibis during their interviews, although a few suspicious elements are brought to light: many passengers observed a woman in a red kimono walking down the hallway the night of the murder, but no one admits they have a red kimono. Mrs. Hubbard tells Poirot she had Greta Ohlsson lock the communicating door between she and Ratchett. Hildegard Schmidt bumped into a stranger wearing a Wagon Lit jacket.

Poirot checks every passenger's luggage. During the check he notices a few interesting things: the label on Countess Andrenyi's luggage is wet, a Wagon Lit uniform is found in Hildegard Schmidt's bag and, lastly, the red kimono is found in Poirot's own luggage.

After the luggage check, Poirot, Dr. Constantine and M. Bouc review the facts of the case and develop a list of questions. With the evidence and questions in mind, Poirot sits and thinks about the case. When he surfaces from a somewhat trance-like state, Poirot has discovered the solution to the case. Before he reveals this solution in full, he calls in several people and reveals their true identities. Poirot discovers Countess Andrenyi is Helena Goldenberg, aunt of Daisy Armstrong. She wet her luggage label and obscured her name, in an effort to conceal her identity. Also, Mary Debenham was Daisy's governess, Antonio Foscanelli was the Armstrong's chaffer, Masterman the valet, and Greta Ohlsson was Daisy Armstrong's nurse. Princess Dragomiroff claims her handkerchief from

这一点让麦奎恩很吃惊。他原以为便条已经完全被销毁了。波洛讯问了马斯特曼,然后是赫伯德太太。赫伯德太太声称凶手曾在她的房间里出现过。几乎所有的乘客都提供了自己不在现场的合理证据,但也有几点值得怀疑:案发当晚,很多乘客看到一个身穿红色和服式晨衣的女人沿着走廊走过,但是谁也不承认自己有这样的一件衣服。赫伯德太太告诉波洛她让格莱达·奥尔逊锁上与雷切特包厢相连的门。希尔德加德·施密特碰见了一个穿着列车员制服的陌生人。

波洛检查了每位乘客的行李。在检查的过程中,他发现了几件有趣的事情:安德烈伯爵夫人的箱子上的标签全湿了,在希尔德加德·施密特的包里发现了一套卧车公司列车员的制服,而红色的和服式晨衣却在波洛自己的行李箱里找到了。

检查完行李,波洛、康斯坦丁医生和布克先生回顾了整个案情,并提出了一系列的问题。有了证词和问题,波洛便坐下来静静地思考整个案件。当他像从昏迷的状态中醒来的时候,他找到了答案。在把答案和盘托出之前,他召集了几个人,揭开了他们的真实身份。波洛发现安德烈伯爵夫人就是海琳娜·戈登堡,黛西·阿姆斯特朗的姨妈。她弄湿行李标签,把名字弄得难以辨认,是为了掩饰自己的身份。同样,玛丽·德本汉是黛西的家庭教师。安东尼奥·福斯卡雷利是阿姆斯特朗的司机。马斯特曼是仆人,格莱达·奥尔逊是黛西·阿姆斯特朗的护士。德拉戈米罗夫公主从波洛

Poirot, the same found in Ratchett's compartment.

Poirot gathers all of the passengers into the dining car and propounds two possible solutions. The first solution is that a stranger entered the train at Vincovci and killed Ratchett. The second solution is that all of the passengers aboard the Orient Express were involved with the murder. He argues that twelve of the thirteen passengers, all close to the Armstrong case, killed Ratchett to avenge the murder of Daisy Armstrong. Mrs. Hubbard, revealed as Linda Arden, admits that the second solution is correct. Poirot suggests that M. Bouc and Dr. Constantine tell the police that the first solution is correct to protect the family. M. Bouc and Dr. Constantine accept Poirot's suggestion. ✿