



奇趣园

英语读物

Collections of Marvelous Anecdotes

读奇闻趣事，学地道英语

英汉对照

English-Chinese Bilingual

(美) George Y. Tang 编著

本书的故事都是以真实的案例为原型，收集的案件分为：奇案、疑案、悬案、冤案、变态案、间谍案等。这些故事情节扑朔迷离，内容曲折生动，全书贯穿了正义与邪恶、法律与犯罪的较量。

扑朔迷离的案件

Puzzled Cases



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“奇趣园英语读物”系列图书收集的短篇故事以世界各地近年来报导的奇闻趣事为基础,经过筛选、改编、翻译、标注而成,以英汉对照的形式出版。丛书主要特点是“奇、趣”,适合有一定英语水平的读者,包括高等院校各年级学生和研究生、英语教师和从事英语翻译工作的人员阅读。读者在阅读流畅易懂、引人入胜的故事的同时,还可以吸收许多现在英美国家最新的英语词汇和表达方式。

《扑朔迷离的案件》是“奇趣园英语读物”的第二册。本书收集的案件分为:奇案、疑案、悬案、冤案、变态案、间谍案等。这些故事情节扑朔迷离,内容曲折生动,全书贯穿了正义与邪恶、法律与犯罪的较量。书中内容也可以供公安、检察、司法、律师、防暴、保安、急救人员等参考。

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前言

Preface



《扑朔迷离的案件》是“奇趣园英语读物”的第二册。这套丛书收集的短篇故事以世界各地近年来报导的奇闻趣事为基础，经过筛选、改编、翻译及标注而成，以英汉对照的形式出版。在加工中增删了一些故事情节，纠正了一些明显的错误，替换了一些生僻的词汇，并且标注了一些建议读者记忆的生词和词组，以帮助中等英语程度的读者，包括高等院校高年级学生和研究生、英语教师和从事英语翻译工作的人员阅读。读者在阅读流畅易懂、引人入胜的故事的同时可以学到许多新的英语词汇和表达方式。

目前市场上的英语辅助读物大多偏重名家的经典著作，这些作品至少有一百年的历史，许多用词行文的方式和现代英语已相去甚远，因此在美国的学校中只是用作学习古英语的教材。而本丛书收集的素材全部是近年发表的，目的是让读者学到现代人使用的“活”英语。

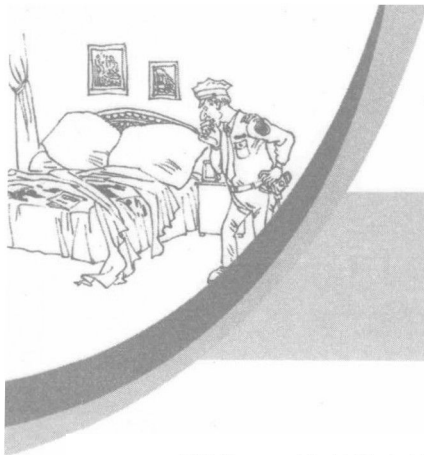
自从有了人类，就有了犯罪。自古以来，正义与邪恶、法律与犯罪不断较量。随着物质文明的发展，人类的贪欲不断上升；随着技术水平的提高，犯罪的手段不断更新，而破案的手段也越来越高明，正所谓“道高一尺，魔高一丈”。贯穿本书的就是这样一种较量。

本书收集的许多案件可以粗略地分成以下六种类型：

奇案——作案者机关算尽，看似天衣无缝，但终究百密一疏，难逃法网；

疑案——作案者出于很特别的动机，使案情疑云密布，难于侦破；

悬案——由于种种原因，很多案子流为积案，有些案子虽然结案，其实未破；



冤案——无辜的人遭陷害，冤情难申，运气好的时候能水落石出，抓出原凶；

变态案——变态人做变态事，作案也变态，常人无法理解；

间谍案——为了个人私欲，向敌方出卖机密，使国家安全面临极大危险。

这些故事情节扑朔迷离，内容曲折生动。但是读这类故事通常会让读者感到一些压抑。所以本书还夹杂一些以趣事为主的花絮文章作为调剂。其实，涉及法律和犯罪的事情也不全都是严肃、苦涩的，有些事情从局外人的角度看还是挺有趣的。书中也不乏这样的笑话。

本书的故事都是以真实的案例为原型，因此书中内容也可以供公安、检察、司法、律师、防暴、保安、急救人员等参考。

我的女儿 **Nina Tang** 审阅了全书并且提出了许多修改意见，特此致谢。

George Y. Tang

2009 年于美国加州 San Jose

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1. Puzzled Cases

There was an old town in Middle West. In this town lived an old sweet widow. Everybody called her Mrs. Montgomery. She was quiet, respectable, and devoted to her church, her friends, and her town.

In August 14, 1983, Mrs. Montgomery had **uncharacteristically**^① failed to keep a morning appointment. A neighbor, worried, went to investigate. The screen door was unlocked. The inside door was wide open. There was a rush of dread. The neighbor withdrew, ran home and called the town police.

At first glance the home appeared tidy as usual, but stunned officers soon found Mrs. Montgomery's bed **splattered**^② with blood. A church newsletter and a **zucchini**^③ bread recipe scattered nearby. And there, in the bathtub, was Mrs. Montgomery. It was ugly. Apparently, she had been tortured on her own bed, sexually assaulted. Then the killer had **strangled**^④ her and left her body lying in bloody water in her own bathtub.

The police officer let the water out of the tub, and moved Mrs. Montgomery out. The police also asked Mrs. Montgomery's friends to clean up the blood and collected the church newsletter and the recipe in the bed. A **plumber**^⑤ had been called in to remove a blood-soaked **sponge**^⑥ and some papers from the toilet, and throw them away.

The town police department later found that their cops didn't have experience with such horror. State police were called. Because the crime scene was kind of destroyed, investigators from the state didn't find anything important in the bathroom except some **Caucasian**^⑦ hairs. They found a fingerprint on the windowsill inside Mrs. Montgomery's bedroom. Investigators believed that the fingerprint might be left behind by the killer when he tried to get in the house.

They interviewed some neighbors and friends of Mrs. Montgomery, and discovered that things were missing from Mrs. Montgomery's house, some cash and jewelry, notably a very unusual **pendant**^⑧ made from an 1881 gold coin. It was something, at least, to go on. If they could find that coin, would they have found the killer?

1. 扑朔迷离的案件

在美国中西部有一座古老的小城。小城里住着一位善良的老寡妇。大家都称她为蒙哥马利夫人。她恬静可敬，对她的教会、她的朋友和这座小城都付出甚多。

1983年8月14日，蒙哥马利夫人没像平日那样按时去参加晨会。一位邻居有点担心，就去她家看了看。发现蒙哥马利夫人家的铁丝网门没有锁，里面的门也大开着。那位邻居一阵恐惧，赶紧逃离，跑回家打电话给市警察局。

蒙哥马利夫人家初看起来就像往常一样整洁，但是惊愕的警官很快就发现蒙哥马利夫人的床上溅满了血迹，一份教会通讯和一份西葫芦面包菜谱散落在床上。而蒙哥马利夫人的尸体泡在浴缸里，场面非常恐怖。显然，她先在自己的床上被折磨、被强奸。随后，凶手扼死了她，并把她的尸体泡在她浴缸中血腥的水里。

警官把浴缸中的水放掉，把蒙哥马利夫人搬出来。他们还让蒙哥马利夫人的朋友们清理血迹，并且把床上的教会通讯和菜谱收起来。又请来一名管道工人把堵塞马桶的一块浸泡血液的海绵和一些纸掏出来扔掉。

后来小城警署觉得他们的警察没有处理这类恐怖案件的经验，就请州里的警察来帮忙。由于犯罪现场已经被破坏，州里的调查人员除了在浴室里捡到几根白种人的毛发以外，没有找到任何重要的东西。他们在蒙哥马利夫人卧室的窗台上发现了指纹。调查人员相信这指纹可能是凶手在进入房间的时候留下的。

他们找蒙哥马利夫人的一些邻居和朋友谈了话，发现蒙哥马利夫人的房子里丢了一些现金和珠宝，特别是用一枚1881年金币制成的很不寻常的项链垂饰。这至少是一项可以继续追查的目标。如果警方能够找到那枚金币，他们是不是就找到凶手了呢？

① uncharacteristically /ʌn,kæriktə'ristikli/ *ad.* 异常地

② splatter /'splætə/ *vi.* 溅

③ zucchini /tsu:'ki:ni/ *n.* 绿皮密生西葫芦

④ strangle /'stræŋgl/ *vi.* 扼死，勒死，绞死

⑤ plumber /'plʌmə/ *n.* 管道工人

⑥ sponge /spʌndʒ/ *n.* 海绵

⑦ Caucasian /kə:'keizjən/ *a.* 高加索的；白种人的

⑧ pendant /'pendənt/ *n.* 项链垂饰



Days passed with no lead, no suspect. People could almost feel the tension rise in town. And then, three days after Mrs. Montgomery was killed, a police **dispatcher**^⑨ got an anonymous call. A female voice said, "Benjamin Black killed that lady."

Officers knew that name, a local high school **dropout**^⑩ who liked his dope and his booze. They found him at a popular beer joint just minutes from the police station. The arrest was announced on local TV.

Benjamin was just 19. He was the youngest of six, whose mother was a respected school principal. His brothers and sisters had gone to college. Although he had drifted frequently into his favorite beer joint, never for a moment did his family think he would be a killer.

Benjamin told investigators that he lived a few blocks from Mrs. Montgomery's house. He admitted he had done some yard work for the victim a couple of weeks earlier. But he insisted he had nothing to do with her murder. One thing the police took as important evidence was that they found the missing gold coin right in Benjamin's pocket.

Benjamin told the investigators that a man named "Cool Breeze" had given him the coin a couple of days before. Had to be nonsense, the police said, nobody had heard of such a man.

A dozen **jurors**^⑪ were called to the county courthouse to decide if Benjamin was guilty of killing Mrs. Montgomery. Many days this grand historic courtroom was filled with friends of the victim, with members of Benjamin's own family, and with curious spectators.

What they heard was a case which seemed to pile up damning evidence against Benjamin, particularly that gold coin. Although Benjamin told the court that a man named "Cool Breeze" had given him the coin, this story sounded so pale. Nobody in this small town had ever heard such name.

The **prosecutors**^⑫ also showed a fingerprint found on the windowsill inside of Mrs. Montgomery's bedroom, and fingerprints found on the recipe and church newsletter on Mrs. Montgomery's bed. Two fingerprint experts from the state crime lab positively identified the latent prints on the items matched to the ink prints of Benjamin.

好几天过去了，没有线索，也没有嫌疑犯。人们几乎都能够感觉到小城不断上升的紧张气氛。不过，在蒙哥马利夫人被杀后三天，一名警察调度员接到一个匿名的电话。一个女性的声音说：“是本杰明·布莱克杀死了那个女人。”

警察知道本杰明。他是一个当地高中辍学生，喜欢吸毒和饮酒。警察在警察局附近的一个热闹的小酒店里找到了他。当地电视台播出了本杰明被捕的消息。

本杰明只有19岁，是家里六个孩子中最小的。他的妈妈是一位受尊敬的校长，哥哥、姐姐都上大学了。虽然他经常光顾他喜欢的小酒店，但他家里没有人认为他会是凶手。

本杰明告诉调查人员说，他住的地方与蒙哥马利夫人的房子只隔几条马路。他承认两个星期前还为被害者收拾了院子。但是他坚持说他跟蒙哥马利夫人的凶案没有任何关系。警察的重要证据是，他们在本杰明的口袋里找到了那枚失踪的金币。

本杰明对调查人员说，金币是两天前一个叫做“凉风”的人给他的。警察认为他肯定是在胡说，因为没人听说过这样一个人。

县法院召集12位陪审员来判断本杰明在蒙哥马利夫人凶杀案中是否有罪。连续很多天，这个壮观的历史上著名的法庭里挤满了被害者的朋友、本杰明的家人和好奇的观众。

他们听到的这个案例的所有信息，好像充满了对本杰明不利的证据，尤其是那枚金币。尽管本杰明告诉法庭说，金币是一个叫做“凉风”的人给他的，但这个故事听起来如此苍白无力。因为在这个小城里从来没人听到过这个名字。

公诉人也出示了在蒙哥马利夫人卧室的窗台上找到的指纹，以及在蒙哥马利夫人的床上的菜谱和教会信封上找到的指纹。州犯罪化验室的两名指纹专家肯定地识别出，这几个物件上的隐约的指纹和本杰明的墨印指纹完全一致。

⑨ dispatcher

/dis'pætʃə/ n. 调度员

⑩ dropout /'drɒpɔ:t/

n. 退学生

⑪ juror /'dʒʊərə/

n. 陪审员

⑫ prosecutor

/'prɒsɪkjʊtə/ n. 起诉人，告发人，检举人

One of Benjamin's public lawyers argued to the court that Benjamin used to work for Mrs. Montgomery. A couple of weeks earlier he had cut grass, washed windows, and washed floors for her. Very possibly he could have left his fingerprints on the windowsill inside the house and on the papers.

The prosecutor pointed out that the church newsletter was sent out only a couple of days prior to the crime. That meant Benjamin had no chance to touch it when he was doing cleaning work in the house a couple of weeks earlier. To this evidence, Benjamin's lawyers could say nothing.

As the trial progressed the jurors saw little pieces of evidence that were not refutable. And, the defense of Benjamin seemed to **sputter**^⑬, offering very little evidence to discount the coin or fingerprint evidence, or anything else.

Two public defenders appointed by the court handled Benjamin's case. But after several days at trial, Benjamin's mother was so unimpressed that she dipped into the savings from her **meager**^⑭ salary to hire a private lawyer.

But, it was not money well spent. It soon became obvious to Benjamin's family that his own lawyer thought Benjamin was guilty. He told Benjamin, "If you just say that you went into the house and stole something, I can get you a life sentence." Besides, that expensive lawyer called Benjamin by a wrong name throughout the proceeding.

Finally, the defense depended on one person who could clear him absolutely — his church-going respected grandmother who would tell the court that at the very moment Mrs. Montgomery was dying her horrible death, Benjamin was at her home with his friends. It was an **alibi**^⑮. But then something happened that turned a great witness into a disaster before she even said a word.

When she was called forward to testify, and was asked to place her hand on the *Bible*, she hesitated about doing that. And finally her hand was placed on the *Bible*. Many jurors thought it meant she couldn't tell the truth. But Benjamin's mother later said that was because the grandmother thought it was **sacrilegious**^⑯ to bring a *Bible* into a courtroom.

本杰明的公设辩护律师之一对法庭争辩说,本杰明经常为蒙哥马利夫人工作。两个星期前他还为她剪草、洗窗户、擦地板。这就很可能在房子的窗台上和纸上留下他的指纹。

公诉人指出,教会通讯是在凶杀案发生前两天才寄出的。那就说明本杰明两个星期前在那座房子里做清洁工作的时候不可能接触到它。对于这个证据,本杰明的律师哑口无言。

随着审讯的推进,陪审员所看到的证据都是无可辩驳的。而本杰明的辩护律师则好像语无伦次,几乎没有提供什么证据可以降低金币或者指纹,或其他对本杰明不利证据的可信度。

法庭指定两位公设辩护律师来处理本杰明的案子。但是审讯开始几天后本杰明的妈妈对他们的辩护很不满意,因此她只好自掏腰包,用自己微薄的薪水积攒起来的钱去雇用一名私人律师。

但是,这钱白花了。本杰明的家人很快就发现,这个新找的律师认为本杰明是有罪的。他对本杰明说:“如果你承认你进了房子、偷了东西,我可以为你争取无期徒刑。”更糟的是,这位昂贵的律师在整个审讯过程中一直叫错本杰明的名字。

最后,本杰明完全依赖一个人来洗清他的罪名。他的那位做礼拜、受尊重的奶奶会告诉法庭,就在蒙哥马利夫人被人杀害的可怕时刻,本杰明正跟他的朋友们一起在她的家里。这是一个不在犯罪现场的证词。可是,随后发生的一件事使得她还没有开口就把自己从一个强有力的证人变成了一场灾难。

奶奶到庭作证那天,法庭要求她把手放到圣经上,她犹豫了。最终她的手被人按到了圣经上。很多陪审员认为这意味着她不会说真话。但是本杰明的妈妈后来说,那是因为奶奶认为把圣经带进法庭是亵渎神明。

⑬ sputter /'spʌtə/

vi. 结结巴巴地说

⑭ meager /'mi:ɡə/

a. 少量的,微薄的

⑮ alibi /'ælibai/ n.

在犯罪现场的抗辩

⑯ sacrilegious

/sækrɪ'lɪdʒəs/ a. 亵渎(神物)的;窃取圣物的;有罪孽的

In fact, Benjamin had alibi witnesses beside his grandmother. Benjamin was playing cards that night at his grandma's with several young men who would confirm that Benjamin was never near Mrs. Montgomery's house. Some of them were sitting right in the courtroom but they were never called to testify. The judge's response was they were just teenagers.

When none of that was enough to convince the court, Benjamin begged to go on the stand himself to refute the evidence against him. The lawyers advised him to keep silent.

And with Benjamin's fingerprints on the windowsill, the recipe and the church newsletter and Mrs. Montgomery's gold coin in his pocket, it took less than 90 minutes for the jury to unanimously find Benjamin guilty of 1st degree murder of Mrs. Montgomery. His punishment was death in the electric chair.

It was as if the whole town sighed with relief when Mrs. Montgomery's killer was sent to death row. The prosecutor called the evidence against Benjamin "overwhelming". No one was very surprised when Benjamin's appeal failed. So did his second appeal, his third, his fourth, his fifth — all failed during the next 12 years. And every time, the electric chair loomed a little closer.

Although the evidence against Benjamin was overwhelming, there was no forensic^⑦ evidence like hair or fibers from Benjamin. And the state never found any eyewitness who could put Benjamin at the murder scene.

In death row, Benjamin was confined to his 5 by 7 foot cell alone for 23 hours a day with one hour for outdoor exercise. On the weekends, he wasn't allowed out of the cell at all. It was hard for him. He would say "I'm tired of being locked up for nothing. I didn't do this and I shouldn't be here."

As life on death row stretched from weeks, to months... to years, Benjamin couldn't bear to keep calendars anymore. And one by one he watched others leave the row to die. It was not surprisingly a depressing existence. But always, through all the dark days, it was his mother who gave him hope, kept Benjamin going.

事实上,除了本杰明的奶奶以外,还有人可以提供他不在犯罪现场的证词。那天晚上,本杰明在他奶奶的家里和几个年轻人一起打扑克。这几个年轻人可以证明本杰明根本就没有靠近蒙哥马利夫人的房子。他们中有人就坐在法庭里,但是他们并没有被叫来作证。因为法官认为他们只不过是几个孩子。

当所有辩护词都不足以说服法庭的时候,本杰明恳求自己来反驳控方的证据。但是律师让他保持沉默。

依据本杰明在窗台、菜谱和教会通讯上留下的指纹以及在他的口袋中发现的蒙哥马利夫人的金币,陪审团用了不到90分钟就意见一致地裁定本杰明对蒙哥马利夫人犯有一级谋杀罪。判决处以电椅死刑。

当杀害蒙哥马利夫人的凶手被送进死囚监狱的时候,好像整个小城都松了一口气。公诉人把控告本杰明的证据称作是“压倒性的”。当本杰明的上诉被驳回时也没有人感到很惊讶。在以后的12年中,他的第二次、第三次、第四次、第五次上诉全部被驳回。而每失败一次,电椅就向他更靠近了一点。

虽然控告本杰明的证据是压倒性的,却没有来自本杰明身上的像毛发或者纤维之类的法庭证据。而州里也没有找到指证本杰明在凶杀现场的目击证人。

⑪ forensic /fə'rensik/

a. 法庭的

在死囚监狱,本杰明每天23个小时被单独关在一间7英尺长5英尺宽的牢房里,每天只有一个小时的户外锻炼时间。周末就完全不允许在牢房外面活动。这对他来说很困难。他说:“我讨厌没有犯罪却被关押。我没有杀人。我不应该在这里。”

当在死囚监狱里的日子从几星期拉长到几个月……到几年的时候,本杰明再也受不了这种数日子的生活了。看到其他的死囚逐一被处死,毫无疑问,他已经沮丧透顶。但是,在所有黑暗的日子里,妈妈一直在给他希望,是她使本杰明支撑了下去。

His mother said that her faith was from the God. Even so, after years of faithful prison visits, his mother decided her emotional support just wasn't enough. She launched a personal **crusade**[®] against the death penalty, drove from county to county with Benjamin's story, and convinced a miracle was on its way.

But no matter how much Benjamin's mother loved him, no matter how much she believed in him, others didn't. And time was running out. Benjamin needed new evidence he wasn't a murderer. But with the meager budgets of court appointed lawyers, it was impossible to get such evidence from death row, even if it did exist.

Then one day, 13 years after he had been sentenced to death, Benjamin saw a familiar face, coming down that **dreary**[®] corridor...

A brand new private investigator named Jimmy happened to be visiting death row and recognized Benjamin, a fellow student from their days at middle school. They knew each other when they played on the same football team.

Benjamin pleaded with his friend to work on his case. "I will work on your case as long as you tell me the truth," Jimmy said. "But if you lie to me once, that is the end of our relationship." Jimmy listened, promised to look into it, and left. Actually, Jimmy believed Benjamin was guilty.

But Jimmy had made a promise. And though the case was old and cold, and though experts had tried and failed, what if he could find something new?

Jimmy dug out the old police reports and went back to Mrs. Montgomery's neat little house. What Jimmy discovered was astonishing and might explain why there was so little evidence at trial that pointed to Benjamin's innocence.

When the police officer came in the murder scene, he let the water out of the tub while Mrs. Montgomery was still in. Police had allowed Mrs. Montgomery's friends to clean up the blood and mess left by the killer. A plumber had been allowed to remove a blood-soaked sponge and some papers from the toilet, and throw them away.