Arthur Conan Doyle

Did the legendary Valley of Fear really exist? Was that a horrible place? What kind of organization was the Scowrers called by the local people? Why were they frightened at the mention of it?

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An English-Chinese Novel

英汉对照

[英] 阿瑟·柯南·道尔-著 * 听泉-译注 * 王琴文-插图

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Arthur Conan Doyle



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上海市延安西路 1882 号

邮政编码: 200051 电话: 021-62193056

联系邮箱:dandes.shen@gmail.com

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前言

本书是作者最惊悚的一部长篇力作。"恐怖谷"为案件代号。伯尔斯通 庄园的主人道格拉斯不幸被害,死状凄惨,头颅几乎被枪击得粉碎,血肉模糊, 惨不忍睹。除了死者左手上的结婚戒指和凶杀现场的一只哑铃不翼而飞,现 场没有遗失任何东西。此外,尸体旁边留有卡片,上面潦草地写着"V.V.341" 的字样。这使案子更加扑朔迷离。这张卡片是凶手留下来的吗?它代表的意 义让道格拉斯惴惴不安。福尔摩斯独辟蹊径,拨云见日,解开了谜团。

本书在翻译和注解过程中,得到了廉凤仙、崔芙蓉、王莹阁、张连亮、刘建东、王超、闫丽萍、王琦薇、王红、乔滢、魏艳萍、宋春艳等同志的热忱帮助,在此深表谢意。

听泉

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PART 1

THE TRAGEDY OF BIRLSTONE

第一部 多型

伯尔斯通惨案

CHAPTER 1 THE WARNING

"I am inclined to think-" said I.

"I should do so," Sherlock Holmes remarked impatiently.

I believe that I am one of the most long-suffering of mortals; but I'll admit that I was annoyed at the **sardonic**¹ interruption. "Really, Holmes," said I severely, "you are a little trying at times."

He was too much absorbed with his own thoughts to give any immediate answer to my **remonstrance**². He leaned upon his hand, with his untasted breakfast before him, and he stared at the slip of paper which he had just drawn from its envelope. Then he took the envelope itself, held it up to the light, and very carefully studied both the exterior and the flap.

"It is Porlock's writing," said he thoughtfully. "I can hardly doubt that it is Porlock's writing, though I have seen it only twice before. The Greek ε with the peculiar top flourish³ is distinctive. But if it is Porlock, then it must be something of the very first importance."

He was speaking to himself rather than to me; but my vexation⁴ disappeared in the interest which the words awakened.

"Who then is Porlock?" I asked.

"Porlock, Watson, is a nom-de-plume⁵, a mere identification mark; but behind it lies a shifty and evasive⁶ personality. In a former letter he frankly informed me that the name was not his own, and defied⁷ me ever to trace him among the teeming⁸ millions of this great city. Porlock is important, not for himself, but for the great man with whom he is in touch. Picture to yourself the pilot fish with the shark, the jackal with the lion—anything that is insignificant in companionship with what is formidable⁹: not only formidable, Watson, but sinister¹⁰—in the highest degree sinister. That is

第一章 警告

"我倾向于认为——"我说。

"我应该这样做。" 夏洛克·福尔摩斯不耐烦地说。

我相信自己是一个最有忍耐力的人,但我要承认,我对他这样挖苦打断我的话感到恼火。"福尔摩斯,"我严厉地说,"你有时确实让人有点儿难受。"

他正聚精会神地思考,所以没有马上对我的抗议作出回应。他支着一只 手,面前放着一口未尝的早餐,盯着刚从信封里掏出的那张纸,然后拿起信封, 对着灯光举起来,非常仔细地察看信封的外观和口盖。

"这是波洛克的笔迹,"他若有所思地说,"尽管我以前只见过两次波洛克的笔迹,但我毫不怀疑。希腊字母 ε 上端奇特的花体与众不同。但如果这是波洛克写的,那它一定是头等重要的事情。"

尽管他是在自言自语,而不是对我说,但这些话引起了我的兴趣,使我 心里的火顿时烟消云散。

"那么,波洛克是谁?"我问。

"华生,波洛克是笔名,仅仅是一个身份符号,但它背后却是一种善于 应变、不可捉摸的个性。在前一封信里,他坦率地告诉我,这不是他自己的 名字,而且我很难在这座大城市成百上千万的人中找到他。波洛克的重要, 不在于他本身,而在于他接触的那个大人物。华生,你自己想象一下鲭鱼和 酱鱼、豺狼和狮子在一起的情景——任何无足轻重的东西和望而生畏的东西

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where he comes within my **purview**¹¹. You have heard me speak of Professor Moriarty?"

"The famous scientific criminal, as famous among crooks as-"

"My blushes, Watson!" Holmes murmured in a deprecating voice.

"I was about to say, as he is unknown to the public."

"A touch! A distinct touch!" cried Holmes. "You are developing a certain unexpected vein of pawky¹² humour, Watson, against which I must learn to guard myself. But in calling Moriarty a criminal you are uttering libel in the eyes of the law-and there lie the glory and the wonder of it! The greatest schemer of all time, the organizer of every deviltry, the controlling brain of the underworld, a brain which might have made or marred the destiny of nations that's the man! But so aloof is he from general suspicion, so immune¹³ from criticism, so admirable in his management and self-effacement¹⁴, that for those very words that you have uttered he could hale you to a court and emerge with your year's pension as a solatium¹⁵ for his wounded character. Is he not the celebrated author of The Dynamics of an Asteroid 16, a book which ascends 17 to such rarefied heights of pure mathematics that it is said that there was no man in the scientific press capable of criticizing it? Is this a man to traduce 18? Foulmouthed doctor and slandered professor—such would be your respective roles! That's genius, Watson. But if I am spared by lesser men, our day will surely come."

"May I be there to see!" I exclaimed **devoutly**¹⁹. "But you were speaking of this man Porlock."

"Ah, yes—the so-called Porlock is a link in the chain some little way from its great attachment. Porlock is not quite a sound link—between ourselves. He is the only flaw in that chain so far as I have been able to test it."

"But no chain is stronger than its weakest link."

"Exactly, my dear Watson! Hence the extreme importance of Porlock. Led on by some rudimentary²⁰ aspirations towards right, and encouraged by the judicious²¹ stimulation of an occasional ten-pound note sent to him by devious²² methods, he has once or twice given me advance information which has been of value—that highest value which

同行的情景:不仅可怕,而且险恶——险恶之极。在我看来,他正是这样一个人。你听我说过草里亚蒂教授吗?"

"那个手段高明的有名罪犯,在窃贼中赫赫有名,就像——"

"真让我脸红、华生!"福尔摩斯以轻蔑的口气低声说道。

"我刚才是想说,公众对他一无所知。"

"机灵!难得机灵!"福尔摩斯大声说道,"华生,想不到你也渐渐有了俏皮幽默的性情,我一定要小心提防。不过,你把莫里亚蒂称为罪犯,从法律上来说,是在诽谤——而这正是奇妙之所在!他是古往今来最大的阴谋家,是全部恶行的组织者,是黑社会的操纵者,是成就或损害民族命运的策划者——就是这个人!可是,大家普遍对他毫不怀疑,也没有人责难他,他的为人处世和谦逊风度令人钦佩,因此就为你说过的那几句话,他就能把你拖上法庭,罚你一年的津贴,赔偿他的名誉损失。他不就是《小行星力学》的著名作者吗?这部书上升到纯数学的千锤百炼的高度,据说科学出版界没有人能对它提出批评。这种人是可以诽谤的吗?满嘴脏话的医生和遭到诋毁的教授——这就是你分别扮演的两个角色!那是天才,华生。可是,只要那些小人不伤害我,我们肯定会得胜。"

"但愿我能亲眼看到!"我虔诚地大声说道,"可是,你刚才说到了波洛克这个人。"

"啊,是的——所谓的波洛克属于这个环节,离它连接的那个大人物并不远。波洛克不是完全牢固的一环——不要告诉别人。就我所能探测的情况来说,他是那个环节中唯一的缺陷。"

"可是,一环薄弱,整个环节都不会牢固。"

"完全正确,我亲爱的华生!因此,波洛克特别重要。一是他还有一些

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anticipates and prevents rather than avenges crime. I cannot doubt that, if we had the cipher, we should find that this communication is of the nature that I indicate."

Again Holmes flattened out the paper upon his unused plate. I rose and, leaning over him, stared down at the curious inscription²³, which ran as follows:

534 C2 13 127 36 31 4 17 21 41 DOUGLAS 109 293 5 37 BIRLSTONE 26 BIRLSTONE 9 47 171



"What do you make of it, Holmes?"

"It is obviously an attempt to convey secret information."

"But what is the use of a cipher²⁴ message without the cipher?"

"In this instance, none at all."

"Why do you say 'in this instance'?"

"Because there are many ciphers which I would read as easily as

I do the apocrypha of the **agony column**²⁵: such crude devices amuse the intelligence without fatiguing it. But this is different. It is clearly a reference to the words in a page of some book. Until I am told which page and which book I am powerless."

"But why 'Douglas' and 'Birlstone'?"

"Clearly because those are words which were not contained in the page in question."

"Then why has he not indicated the book?"

"Your native shrewdness, my dear Watson, that innate26 cunning which is

基本的正义感,二是我偶尔采取迂回的方式送给他一张 10 英镑的钞票,通过这种明智的刺激鼓励,他曾经事先送给我一两次有价值的消息——最高价值就是预见和防止犯罪,而不是惩处犯罪。我毫不怀疑,如果有密码,我们就会发现这种通信具有我指出的那种特性。"

福尔摩斯又把那张纸平放在空盘子上。我站起来,在他后面倾身注视着 那段奇特的题字,题字如下:

534 C2 13 127 36 31 4 17 21 41 道格拉斯 109 293 5 37 伯尔斯通 26 伯尔斯通 9 47 171

"因为有许多密码,我念起来,就像看报纸私事布告栏里的内容一样容易:那些粗糙的手段会让人的智力得到消遣,而不会使心智衰弱。可是,这不一样。它显然是指某本书某一页上的那些词。如果不告诉我哪本书哪一页,那我就会无能为力。"

○ 恐怖谷 ⊗ ○

[&]quot;你从中了解到了什么,福尔摩斯?"

[&]quot;显然是想设法传达秘密的信息。"

[&]quot;可是,没有密码的密码信有什么用呢?"

[&]quot;在这种情况下,一点用也没有。"

[&]quot;你为什么说'在这种情况下'?"

[&]quot;可为什么是'道格拉斯'和'伯尔斯通'呢?"

[&]quot;显然是因为那本书上没有包含那两个词。"

[&]quot;那他为什么没有指出那本书?"

[&]quot;我亲爱的华生,你天生的机灵和固有的灵巧让朋友们高兴,肯定不会

the delight of your friends, would surely prevent you from inclosing cipher and message in the same envelope. Should it miscarry, you are undone. As it is, both have to go wrong before any harm comes from it. Our second post is now overdue, and I shall be surprised if it does not bring us either a further letter of explanation, or, as is more probable, the very volume to which these figures refer."

Holmes's calculation was fulfilled within a very few minutes by the appearance of Billy, the page, with the very letter which we were expecting.

"The same writing," remarked Holmes, as he opened the envelope, "and actually signed," he added in an exultant²⁷ voice as he unfolded the epistle. "Come, we are getting on, Watson." His brow clouded, however, as he glanced over the contents.

"Dear me, this is very disappointing! I fear, Watson, that all our expectations come to nothing. I trust that the man Porlock will come to no harm.

"DEAR MR. HOLMES [he says]:

"I will go no further in this matter. It is too dangerous—he suspects me. I can see that he suspects me. He came to me quite unexpectedly after I had actually addressed this envelope with the intention of sending you the key to the cipher. I was able to cover it up. If he had seen it, it would have gone hard with me. But I read suspicion in his eyes. Please burn the cipher message, which can now be of no use to you.

FRED PORLOCK."

Holmes sat for some little time twisting this letter between his fingers, and frowning, as he stared into the fire.

"After all," he said at last, "there may be nothing in it. It may be only his guilty conscience. Knowing himself to be a traitor, he may have read the accusation in the other's eyes."

"The other being, I presume, Professor Moriarty."

让你把密码和情报放在同一个信封里。如果信件投错,你就完了。实际上,必须两封信都出差错,才会产生危害。我们的第二封信现在早该到了,如果那封信不给我们带来进一步说明的文字,或者更可能的话,指出这些数字的那册书,我就会感到惊讶。"

正如福尔摩斯所料,没过几分钟,小听差比利就带着我们盼望的那封信出现了。

"笔迹相同,"福尔摩斯打开信封时说,"而且居然签了名,"当他一边展开书信,一边兴高采烈地补充道,"嗨,华生,我们要有进展了。"然而,他瞥了一眼信的内容,脸色又阴沉了下来。

"哎呀,这很令人失望! 华生,我怕我们所有的期待都要变成泡影。我相信,波洛克这个人不会遭遇不幸。

"亲爱的福尔摩斯先生(他说):

"我不愿再干这件事了。太危险了——他怀疑我。我可以看得出他怀疑我。 当我写下这个信封的姓名、地址,打算把密码答案送给你时,完全想不到的是, 他居然来到了我身边。我及时盖住了信封。如果他看到,那会让我难以应对。但是, 我从他的目光中看出了疑虑。请烧掉那封密码信,因为现在它可能对你毫无用处。

弗雷德·波洛克"

福尔摩斯在手指间转动着这封信,坐了一小会儿,皱眉凝视着炉火。

"毕竟来说,"他最后说道,"也许其中什么也没有。也许这只是他良心有愧。 他知道自己是一个背叛者,所以可能从另一个人的眼中看出了谴责的神情。"

"我想,另一个人就是莫里亚蒂教授。"

○ 恐怖谷 6 ○ ○

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