

双语爱读 动物星球

张煜◎丛书主编

THE
MOOSE THAT KNOCKED
AT THE DOOR

驼鹿敲门

[加]查尔斯·乔治·道格拉斯·罗伯茨◎著 张煜 孙青 孙海航◎译

世界上最经典的动物文学作品精选

不读这本书，我们可能永远无法理解野生动物的情感生活和丰富的个性
不读这本书，我们可能永远不会了解野生动物的生活习性和丛林遭遇
不读这本书，我们可能永远无法想象动物英雄的高贵品质和严酷的“森林法则”

.....

以动物的视角给人类以感动和反思



国防工业出版社
National Defense Industry Press



驼鹿敲门

[加] 查尔斯·乔治·道格拉斯·罗伯茨◎著 张煜 孙青 孙海航◎译



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PREFACE

前言

朋友，你是否思考过这样的问题：人类是否一定要凌驾于其他动物之上？人类是否必须站在猎捕者的位置上？动物身上的机智彪悍、敢爱敢恨、舐犊情深等品行是否有时已经超越了某些卑小的人类？是否可以说世间生命等价？这些正是查尔斯·乔治·道格拉斯·罗伯茨，这位现实主义动物小说的开山鼻祖在一个个动物故事中向我们提出的问题。

谈到查尔斯·乔治·道格拉斯·罗伯茨，西方读者并不陌生。他于1860年1月10日出生于加拿大的新不伦瑞克省。他是著名诗人，被誉为加拿大“诗歌之父”，他以自己的诗歌才华，被英国国王授以“爵士”称号；他又是浪漫小说作家和动物小说作家，一生中写下了多部浪漫小说和二百多篇长短不一的动物小说，畅销许多国家，成为世界级的经典作品。

我们选译的这套故事集有四个主题：《复仇的母海象》展现了动物父母对孩子的殷殷舐犊之情，《偷乘马车的红狐》刻画了机智勇敢的红狐的形象，《无家可归的“雪鞋”兔》表现了野生动物勇敢向上的品格，《驼鹿敲门》则体现了人兽之间感人的温馨情感。

罗伯茨笔下的动物世界是一个英雄的世界，这里面不乏动物英雄。红狐显示出有别于其他同类动物的智谋和胆量，善于与人周旋，与天敌较量，巧妙地人类所设置的陷阱中受惠，被人类捕获后，利用自己擅长长跑的技能，成功逃脱，摆脱了被人类任意驱使的悲惨命运，其智勇双全的形象令人不禁相形见绌。红狐的身上体现了生命不止，战斗不息的野生动物精神。

罗伯茨笔下的动物世界充溢着伟大的母爱。生活在北极世界的白熊妈妈为了让刚出生不久的孩子吸吮到充足的奶汁，不惜冒着生命危险，偷袭身材庞大的海象来补充自身营养；而失去了孩子的海象妈妈则悲愤交集，穷追不

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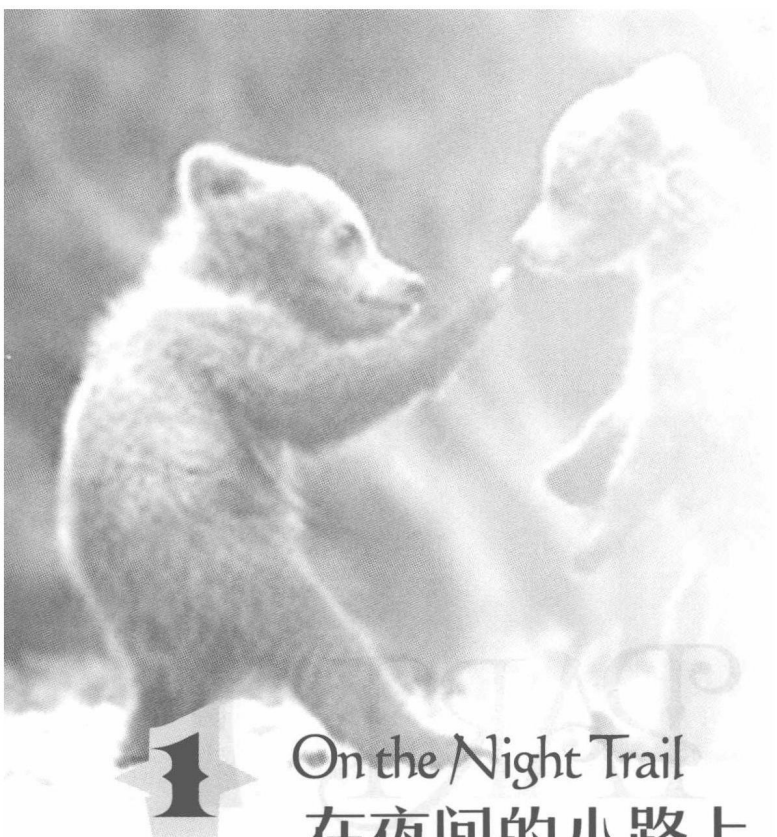
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PART 1

ON THE NIGHT TRAIL
在夜间的小路上





On the Night Trail 在夜间的小路上

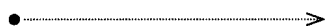
The radiant, blue-white, midwinter moonlight, flooding the little open space of white in the blackness of the **spruce**¹ forest, revealed the frozen fragments of a big lake trout scattered over the snow. They stood out sharply, so that no midnight **forager**² of the wilds, prowling in the fringes of the shadow and peering forth in the watch for prey or foe, could by any possibility fail to sight them.

The stillness of the solitude was intense, breathless, as if sealed to perpetual silence by the bitter cold. At last, at one corner of the open, a spruce branch that leaned upon the snow stirred ever so slightly; and from its shelter a little gray-brown nose, **surmounted**³ by a pair of tiny eyes like black beads, anxiously **surveyed** the perilous space of illumination. For perhaps half a minute there was not **another** movement. Then the shrew-mouse, well aware that death might be watching him **from** under every tree, plucked up a desperate **valour**⁴ and darted out into the light. The **goad**⁵ of his winter hunger driving him, he seized the nearest bit of fish that was small enough for him to handle, and **scurried**⁶ back with it to his safe hole under a fir-root. It was brave adventure, and deserved its success.

For ten minutes more nothing happened to break the stillness. Then again the little

shrew-mouse peered from the covert of his hanging branch. This time, however, he drew back instantly. He had caught sight of a pointed black head and snake-like neck stealthily **reconnoitering**⁷ from the opposite side of the open. A hungry mink was making ready to appropriate some of the fish; but since he knew that a forest glade, far from the water, was not a customary resort of fish, alive or frozen, he was inclined to be suspicious of some kind of trap or **ambuscade**⁸. Instead of looking at the delicious morsels, there in plain, alluring view, he scanned piercingly the shadows and drooping branches which encircled the glade. Suddenly he seemed to detect something to his distaste. A red gleam of anger and ferocity flared into his eyes, and he sank back noiselessly into covert.

A moment later came a huge **lynx**⁹, padding softly but fearlessly straight out into the revealing light, as if he knew that at this season, when the bears were asleep and the bull **moose**¹⁰, bereft of their antlers, had lost their interest in combat, there was none of all the forest kindreds to challenge his supremacy. He was stealthy, of course, in every movement, and his round, sinister eyes glared palely into every covert, but that was merely because he dreaded to frighten off a possible quarry, not because he feared a lurking foe. The frozen fish, however, showed no signs of flight at his approach; so he fell upon the nearest



1. **spruce** [spru:s] *n.* 针枞; 云杉; 云杉木; 灰绿色或墨绿色
2. **forager** ['fɔridʒə] *n.* 强征(粮食)者; 抢劫者
3. **surmount** [sə'maunt] *vt.* 战胜, 克服; 登上, 攀登; 居于...之上; 顶上覆盖着
4. **valour** ['vælə] *n.* (尤指战斗中的) 勇猛, 英勇
5. **goad** [gəud] *n.* 赶牲口的尖棒; 激励; 刺激 *vt.* 刺激; 激励; (用尖棒) 驱赶; 驱使 (或怂恿、刺激) 某人
6. **scurry** ['skʌri] *vi.* 急匆匆地走; 使急赶; 催促 *n.* 快步急跑, 疾走; 仓皇奔跑声; 骤雨, 骤雪; 短距离赛马
7. **reconnoiter** [rə'kɒnɔɪtə] *vi.* 侦察; 勘探 *vt.* 侦察; 勘探 *n.* 侦察; 踏勘
8. **ambuscade** [æmbə'skeɪd] *n.* 埋伏; 伏兵 *vt.* 埋伏; 伏击
9. **lynx** [lɪŋks] *n.* 猞猁, 山猫
10. **moose** [mu:s] 驼鹿 (世界上最大的鹿科动物, 体长210~230厘米, 肩高177厘米, 成年雄鹿体重200~300千克。鼻部隆厚, 上唇肥大, 肩峰高出, 体形似驼, 故而得名。驼鹿为典型的亚寒带针叶林动物, 单独或小群生活, 多在早晚活动)

fragment and bolted it **ravenously**¹¹.

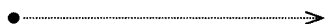
Having thus eagerly disposed of several substantial lumps, the great lynx became more critical, and went sniffing **fastidiously**¹² from morsel to morsel as if he revelled in such unexpected abundance. Suddenly there was a vicious click; and with a spit and a yowl the lynx started as if to jump into the air. Instead of rising, however, some six or seven feet, under the propulsion of his mighty, spring-like muscles, he merely bowed his back and strained tremendously. In response, a small thing of dark steel emerged from the snow, followed closely by a log of heavy wood. The lynx was caught in a trap by his right fore foot.

For a minute or two the panic-stricken beast went through a number of more or less aimless **contortions**¹³, spitting and **screeching**¹⁴, biting at the trap, and clawing frantically at the log. Presently, however, finding that his contortions only made the thing that had him grip the harder and hurt him the more savagely, he halted to consider his **predicament**¹⁵. Consideration not appearing to ease that urgent anguish in his paw, he began to strain steadily backward, hoping, if he could not free himself, at least to drag his captor into the woods and perhaps lose it among the trees. The log, however, was very heavy, and his best efforts could move it but a few inches at a time. When, at the end of an hour of fierce struggle, he lay down utterly exhausted, he was still in the full glare of the moon, still several feet from the shelter of the branches. But no sooner had he lain down, than the crunching of a footstep on the crisp snow brought him to his feet again; and with every hair on end along his back, his eyes **ablaze**¹⁶ with rage and fear, he turned to face the tall figure of a backwoodsman, who stood gazing at him with a smile of satisfaction from the other side of the **glade**¹⁷.

Just about three hours earlier, on his way into the Cross Roads Settlement, Pete Logan had set that trap with particular care, and with the definite purpose of capturing that particular lynx. With all his cunning, little did the great tuft-eared cat suspect that for weeks the backwoodsman had been watching him, noting his **haunts**¹⁸ and trails, observing his peculiarities, and laying plans for his capture. That very evening, at the Cross Roads, Logan had boasted that single-handed he would bring the big lynx into the Settlement, alive and undamaged. He wanted the splendid animal to sell to an American who was collecting wild beasts for menageries; and to avoid injuring the captive's fine gray fur he had partly **muffled**¹⁹ the cruel teeth of the trap, that they might take hold without tearing.

Having no dread of anything that inhabited the wilds, Logan had left his rifle at home, and carried no weapon but the knife in his belt and his light, straight-hafted axe. In the pack on his back, however, he brought what he intended should serve him better than any weapon,—a thick **blanket**²⁰, and a heavy canvas sack. Now, as he stood eying the frightened and furious captive, he undid the pack and shook the big blanket loose. The lynx glared with new terror at the **ample**²¹ folds. He had seen men before, but he had never seen one shaking out a blanket, which looked to him like a kind of gigantic and awful wings.

Logan had made his plans with careful foresight; and now it was with the **deliberation**²² of absolute confidence that he went about the **execution**²³ of them. His axe gripped in readiness for any unforeseen piece of strategy on the part of the foe, he advanced with the blanket outspread before him like a **shield**²⁴. Back and back, to the limit of his



11. **ravenously** ['rævənəsli] *adv.* 贪婪的; 渴望的; 大嚼地
12. **fastidiously** [fæs'tidiəsli] *adv.* 非常讲究地; 挑剔地
13. **contortion** [kən'to:ʃən] *n.* (躯体、面部等的)扭弯, 扭曲, 变形
14. **screech** [skri:tʃ] *n.* 尖叫声, 尖利刺耳的声音; 尖声喊叫 *vi.* 尖着声音讲或喊 *vi.* 发出尖锐的声音; 发出恐惧或痛苦的叫喊声
15. **predicament** [pri'dikəm(ə)nt] *n.* 窘况, 困境; 状态
16. **ablaze** [ə'bleiz] *adj.* 着火的; 闪耀的; 激昂的 *adv.* 着火; 闪耀
17. **glade** [gleid] *n.* 林间空地; 沼泽地
18. **haunt** [ha:nt] *vi.* 常出没于...; 萦绕于...; 经常去... *vi.* 出没; 作祟 *n.* 栖息地; 常去的地方
19. **muffle** ['mʌf(ə)l] *n.* 低沉的声音; 消声器; 包裹物(如头巾, 围巾等); 唇鼻部 *vi.* 蒙住; 裹住; 抑制; 发低沉的声音
20. **blanket** ['blæŋkit] *n.* 毛毯, 毯子; 毯状物, 覆盖层 *adj.* 总括的, 全体的; 没有限制的 *vi.* 覆盖, 掩盖; 用毯覆盖
21. **ample** ['æmp(ə)l] *adj.* 丰富的; 足够的; 宽敞的
22. **deliberation** [di'libə'reiʃən] *n.* 考虑, 深思熟虑; 评议, 审议; (言语、行动等的)从容; 沉着, 慎重
23. **execution** [.eksɪ'kju:ʃ(ə)n] *n.* 执行, 实行; 完成; 死刑
24. **shield** [ʃi:ld] *n.* 盾; 防护物; 保护者 *vi.* 遮蔽; 包庇; 避开; 保卫 *vi.* 防御; 起保护作用

bonds, **cowered**²⁵ the lynx, glaring defiance and **inextinguishable**²⁶ hate. Slowly the man drew near, till, just barely within reach of the beast's spring, he stopped. For perhaps half a minute more neither man nor beast stirred a muscle,— till the tension of the captive's nerves must have neared the breaking-point. Then, as if his own nerves knew by sympathy the exactly proper moment for the next move in the game, Logan made a **swooping**²⁷ forward plunge with the blanket. With a screech of fury the lynx sprang to the grapple, — to find himself, in half a second, rolled over and tangled up and swathed helpless in the smothering woollen folds. In vain he bit, and spat, and yowled, and tore. His keen white fangs caught nothing but choking wool; his rending claws had no chance to do their work; and the crushing weight of the woodsman's sturdy body was bearing him down into the snow. In a few moments, daunted by the thick darkness over his eyes and exhausted by the impotence of his efforts, he lay still, quivering with rage. Then, with the most delicate caution, working through a couple of folds of the blanket, Logan released the jaws of the trap and slipped it warily from the imprisoned paw. To remove it from within the perilous paral was, of course, not to be thought of; but he feared to damage the joint by leaving it in that **inexorable**²⁸ clutch a moment longer than was necessary. This done, he deftly **whipped**²⁹ a lashing of cod-line about the bundle, binding the legs securely, but leaving a measure of freedom about the head and neck. Then he thrust the bundle into the canvas bag, slung it over his back, and started on the five-mile tramp back to his camp.

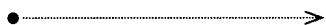
Logan travelled without snow-shoes, because there was just now little snow on the trails, or even in the deep woods. What snow there was, moreover, was frozen almost as hard as rock, except for an inch or two of **fluffy**³⁰ stuff which had fallen leisurely within a couple of days. An extraordinarily heavy and **prolonged**³¹ January thaw, followed by fierce and sudden frost, had brought about this unusual condition, making something like a famine among the hunting **kindreds**³² of the forest, whose light-footed quarry, the eaters of bark and twig and bud, now found flight easy over the frozen surfaces.

The complacent trapper, **ruminating**³³ pleasantly over his triumph and the handsome price his captive was to bring him, had covered perhaps a mile of his homeward journey when from far behind him came to his ears a novel sound, faintly pulsing down the still night air. Without seeming to pay it any attention whatever, he nevertheless was instantly and keenly concerned; and he perceived that the uneasy bundle on his back was interested too, for it stopped its indignant **wrigglings**³⁴ to listen. Up to this moment Logan had

believed that there was no voice in all the wilderness unfamiliar to his ears, no speech of all the wild kindreds which he could not in rough fashion interpret. But this cry he did not understand. Presently it was repeated, a little nearer, and a little more convincingly strange to him. He knotted his rugged brows. A few moments more and again it floated down the moonlight, high, quavering, musical, yet carrying in its mysterious cadences an unmistakable **menace**³⁵. Logan knew now to a certainty that it was a sound he had never heard before; and he knew what it was, though he refused to acknowledge it to himself, because it was a **refutation**³⁶ of many of his most **dogmatic**³⁷ pronouncements.

“It ain’t wolves!” He **muttered**³⁸ to himself obstinately. “Ther’ ain’t never been a wolf in New Brunswick!”

But even as he spoke, the sinister cry arose again, nearer and yet nearer; and he was obliged to confess to himself that, whatever it was, it was on his trail, and he was likely to know more about it within a few minutes. He was not alarmed, but he was annoyed, both at the upsetting of his theories and at the absence of his gun. Undoubtedly, these Charlotte



25. **cower** ['kauə] *vi.* 退缩; 抖缩; 蜷缩; 弯腰屈膝
26. **inextinguishable** [inik'stingwiʃəb(ə)l; inek-] *adj.* 压不住的; 不能消灭的
27. **swoop** [swu:p] *n.* 猛扑; 俯冲; 突然袭击 *vt.* 攫取; 抓去 *vi.* 猛扑; 突然袭击; 突然下降; 飞扑
28. **inexorable** [in'eks(ə)rəb(ə)l] *adj.* 无情的; 不屈不挠的; 不可阻挡的; 无法改变的
29. **whip** [wip] *n.* 鞭子; 抽打; 车夫; [机] 搅拌机 *vt.* 抽打; 煽动; 搅打(蛋, 奶油); 彻底击败 *vi.* 抽打; 急走; 拍击
30. **fluffy** ['flʌfi] *adj.* 蓬松的; 松软的; 毛茸茸的; 无内容的
31. **prolonged** [pro'lonɔd] *adj.* 延长的; 拖延的; 持续很久的
32. **kindred** ['kindrid] *adj.* 同类的; 血缘的; 同族的 *n.* 家族; 相似; 亲属关系
33. **ruminare** ['ru:mineit] *vi.* 反刍; 沉思; 反复思考 *vi.* 沉思, 反刍
34. **wriggle** ['rig(e)l] *vi.* 蠕动; 蜿蜒而行 *vt.* 使蠕动; 蠕动着; 不知不觉地潜入 *n.* 蠕动; 扭动
35. **menace** ['menes] *n.* 威胁; 恐吓 *vt.* 威胁; 恐吓 *vi.* 恐吓; 进行威胁
36. **refutation** [refju:'teifən] *n.* 反驳; 驳斥; 辩驳
37. **dogmatic** [dɔg'mætik] *adj.* 教条的; 武断的
38. **mutter** ['mʌtə] *n.* 咕哝; 喃喃低语 *vi.* 咕哝; 抱怨地说; 低声含糊地说 *vi.* 咕哝; 喃喃自语

County **romancers**³⁹ had been right. There were wolves in New Brunswick. He was ready to apologize for having so **sarcastically**⁴⁰ questioned it.

In spite of the fact that his dignity as a woodsman would not permit him to be alarmed, he could not but recognize that the cry upon his trail was made up of a number of voices, and that a number of wolves might be capable of making things very unpleasant for him. He remembered, uncomfortably, that in this weather, with the snow so hard that the deer could run their fastest upon it, the wolves must be extremely hungry. The more he thought of this fact the more clearly he realized that the wolves must be very hungry indeed, to dare to trail a man. He had been walking as fast as he could; but now he broke into a long, swinging lope, his **moccasined**⁴¹ feet padding with a soft whisper upon the snow. For a moment he thought of ridding himself of the burden upon his back; but this idea he rejected resentfully and with scorn. He was not going to be robbed of his triumph by a bunch of **rascally**⁴², **interloping**⁴³ vermin like wolves.

Meanwhile, the quavering high-pitched chorus was sweeping swiftly nearer through the moonlight, and Logan put on a burst of speed in order to get to a stretch of open burnt lands before his pursuers should come up with him. If he was to have a fight forced upon him, he wanted plenty of room and the chance to keep all his adversaries in plain view. He gained the open, with its scattered black stumps and **gaunt**⁴⁴, ghostly “rampikes” dotting the radiant silver of the snow, and was some eighty or a hundred paces beyond the edge of the woods before the wolves appeared. Glancing over his shoulder, he saw the gray forms of the pack halt, come close together, then separate again, hesitating at the venture of the open. The hesitation was only for a moment, however. Then, in formation so close that one might have covered the whole pack with a bedquilt, they came on again. His trained eye had counted six wolves in the pack; and he was relieved to find that there were not more. From their cries he had imagined there must have been thirty or forty.

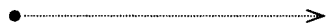
Logan was too wise to run, now that he was in view of his foes. He **stalked**⁴⁵ on with **haughty**⁴⁶ indifference, till the pack was within twenty-five or thirty yards of his heels. Then he turned, and spoke, with an air of sharp, confident authority. Even through their hunger and their savage madness of pursuit the beasts felt the mastery of his voice. They paused, irresolutely, then opened out and sat down on their haunches to see what he would do.

After surveying them **superciliously**⁴⁷ for a few seconds, the woodsman turned again and stalked on, keeping, however, a keen watch over his shoulder and his axe **poised**⁴⁸ ready

for instant use. As soon as he moved on, the wolves followed, but no longer in their pack formation. Not yet **audacious**⁴⁹ enough to come within ten or twelve feet of this arrogantly confident being, whose voice had power to daunt them in the very heat of their **onslaught**⁵⁰, they spread out on either side of the trail, half-surrounding him, and keeping pace with him at a **skulking**⁵¹ trot. Their jaws were half-open, their long white fangs were bared in a snarling grin, and their eyes, all fixed upon him unwinkingly, glinted a green light of ferocity and hunger.

Little by little they drew closer in, while Logan pretended to ignore them contemptuously. All at once he felt, almost more than saw, one of the largest of the pack dart in to spring upon his back. Out went the bright axe-blade like a flash of blue flame, as he whirled on his heel; and the wolf dropped with a choked-off yelp, shorn through the neck. Thrice around him he wheeled the circle of the deadly blade; and the wolves **deferentially**⁵² **slunk**⁵³ beyond reach of it, not yet ready to tempt the fate of their comrade.

Five minutes more, however, and the wary beasts again drew closer and Logan found



39. **romancer** [rəu'mænsə] *n.* 讲虚构故事的人; 传奇小说作家
40. **sarcastically** [sɑ:kæstikəli] *adv.* 讽刺地; 挖苦地
41. **moccasin** ['mɒkəsɪn] *n.* “莫卡辛”鞋(北美印第安人穿的无跟软皮鞋)
42. **rascally** ['rɑ:skəli] *adj.* 无赖的; 卑鄙的 *adv.* 无赖地; 卑鄙地
43. **interlope** ['intə'ləup] *vi.* 闯入; 干涉; [法] 侵占他人权益
44. **gaunt** [ɡɔ:nt] *adj.* 憔悴的; 荒凉的; 枯瘦的
45. **stalk** [stɔ:k] *n.* (植物的) 茎, 秆; (支持叶子、果实和花的) 梗, 柄; 追踪; 高视阔步 *vi.* 追踪, 潜近; 高视阔步 *vi.* 高视阔步地走; 潜近, 偷偷接近
46. **haughty** ['hɔ:ti] *adj.* 傲慢的; 自大的
47. **superciliously** [su:pə'siliəsli] *adv.* 傲慢地; 高傲地
48. **poised** [pɔɪzd] *adj.* 泰然自若的, 镇定的; 平衡的, 均衡的; 摆好姿势不动的, 静止的
49. **audacious** [ɔ:'deɪʃəs] *adj.* 无畏的; 鲁莽的
50. **onslaught** ['ɒnslə:t] *n.* 猛攻; 突击
51. **skulk** [skʌlk] *vi.* 潜伏; 偷偷隐蔽; 逃避责任; 偷偷摸摸地行走 *n.* 躲藏者; 逃避责任者; 潜行的人或动物
52. **deferentially** [defə'renʃəli] *adv.* 谦恭地; 表示敬意地
53. **slunk** [slʌŋk] *v.* 偷偷摸摸地走; 动物早产; 潜逃 (slink 的过去分词)

that the strain of guarding himself on all sides at once was **overwhelming**⁵⁴. At any moment, as he knew, those hungry eyes might all close in on him together. A few hundred yards ahead, as he bethought himself, the trail led under the foot of a high, almost **perpendicular**⁵⁵ rock; and he made up his mind that he must reach that rock as speedily as possible. With his back against the steep face of it he could face the charge of the pack to better advantage. Breaking into a long, unhurried trot, he pressed on, swinging the axe from side to side in swift, menacing sweeps, and uttering angry **expletives**⁵⁶ which the wolves seemed to respect as much as they did the gleaming weapon. Before he gained the foot of the rock, however, the beasts had grown more confident and more impatient, making little sudden leaps at him, from one side or the other, so **incessantly**⁵⁷ that his arm had not a moment's rest; and he realized that the crisis of the adventure could not be much longer delayed.

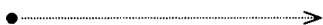
When he reached the foot of the rock and turned at bay, the wolves drew back once more and formed a half-circle before him, a moving, interweaving half-circle that drew closer and grew smaller stealthily. Suddenly the wolf which seemed the leader sprang straight in. But the woodsman seemed to divine the move even before it began, so sharply did he meet it with a step forward and a savage axe-stroke; and the wolf sprang back just in time to save its skull.

And now, in the clutch of the final trial, Logan had an inspiration. With all the **doggedness**⁵⁸ of the backwoods will he had vowed that he would not give up the rich **booty**⁵⁹ on his back. But the question had at last, as he saw, become one of giving up his own life. In this crisis, his backwoods understanding and sympathy suddenly went out toward the **plucky**⁶⁰ but helpless captive in the sack on his back. It would be quite too bad that the splendid lynx, with all his fighting equipment of fangs and claws, should be torn to pieces in his bonds without a chance to make a fight for life. Moreover, as he realized with the next thought, here was perhaps a chance to create an effective diversion in his own favour.

With a shout and a mad whirling of the axe, he once more drew back the narrowing **crescent**⁶¹ of the wolves. The next instant he swung the bag from his back, ripped open the mouth of it, and emptied out the writhing roll of blanket upon the snow at his feet,—while the wolves, eyeing this new procedure with suspicion, held back a few moments before again closing in. As the bundle fell, Logan seized one corner of the blanket, and with a **dexterous**⁶² twist and throw unrolled it, landing the prisoner almost under the noses of the wolves.

Bewildered for an instant, the lynx had no time to bound back and scurry up the steep face of the rock to safety. He had no sooner gained his feet than the whole pack was upon him. With a screech of fury he **proclaimed**⁶³ his understanding of the crisis, and turned every tooth and claw into the **fray**⁶⁴. His fangs, of course, were no match for those of any one of his assailants; but his claws were weapons of such quality that no single wolf could have withstood him. As it was, the wolves in their eagerness got in one another's way; and as the mass of them **smothered**⁶⁵ the lynx down, more than one got eviscerating slashes that sent them yelping out of battle.

For a few breathless seconds Logan watched the fight, glowing with excited approval over his late captive's prowess. Then he realized the time had come when he must take a hand, or find himself again at a disadvantage. Silently he darted upon the screeching, growling heap with his light axe. So skilled was he in all the woodsman's **sleights**⁶⁶, that even in so brief time as takes to tell it, three more of the pack were down, kicking and dying silently on the snow. The leader of the pack, the side of his neck redly furrowed and the lust



54. **overwhelming** [ˌovə'welmiŋ] *adj.* 压倒性的; 势不可挡的 *v.* 压倒; 淹没 (overwhelm 的ing形式); 制服
55. **perpendicular** [pɜ:p(ə)n'dikjulə] *n.* 垂线; 垂直的位置 *adj.* 垂直的, 正交的; 直立的; 陡峭的
56. **expletive** [ik'splɪ:tɪv; ek-] *n.* 填补物; 咒骂语 *adj.* 附加的; 填补的
57. **incessantly** [in'sesntli] *adv.* 不停地, 不间断地
58. **doggedness** ['dɒɡɪdnɪs] *n.* 顽强; 坚持不懈
59. **booty** ['bu:ti] *n.* 战利品; 赃物; 获得之物
60. **plucky** ['plʌki] *adj.* 有勇气的, 大胆的
61. **crescent** ['kresənt] *n.* 新月; 新月状物; 伊斯兰教的标记; 土耳其的新月形国徽
adj. 新月形的; 逐渐增加的 *vt.* 以新月形物装饰; 使成新月形
62. **dexterous** ['dekst(ə)rəs] *adj.* 灵巧的; 敏捷的; 惯用右手的
63. **proclaim** [prə'kleɪm] *vt.* 宣告, 公布; 声明; 表明; 赞扬
64. **fray** [frei] *n.* 争论; 打架; 磨损处 *vt.* 使磨损; 变得令人紧张、急躁 *vi.* 被磨损
65. **smother** ['smʌðə] *n.* 窒息状态; 令人窒息的浓烟 *vt.* 使窒息; 抑制; (用灰等) 闷熄; 忍住 *vi.* 窒息; 被抑制; 闷死
66. **sleight** [slait] *n.* 手法, 技巧; 熟练, 灵巧; 诡计

驼鹿敲门 THE MOOSE THAT KNOCKED AT THE DOOR

of battle hot in his veins, wheeled, and jumped madly at Logan's throat. But the woodsman met him with a terrific short-handled upward stroke, which fairly split his ribs and hurled him over backwards. On the instant the remaining wolves, who had each suffered something in the **melee**⁶⁷, concluded that the game was up. Leaping away from the reach of those deadly-ripping claws, they turned and ran off like whipped dogs.

Bleeding from a dozen **gashes**⁶⁸, **bedraggled**⁶⁹ and battered, but still full of fight to every outspread claw, the lynx crouched and glared at the man, with ears flattened back and eyes shooting pallid flame. For some seconds the two faced each other, the man grinning with approval. Then it occurred to him that the maddened beast, in despair of escape, might **spring**⁷⁰ at him and compel him to strike, which, in his present sympathetic and grateful mood, he was most unwilling to do. Cautiously, keeping his eyes on the sinister flaring **orbs**⁷¹ that faced him, he took a step backwards. Still the lynx crouched, ready to spring. Then Logan spoke, in quiet **expostulation**⁷².

"Don't ye go for to fight me, now! I never done ye no hurt!" he argued **mendaciously**⁷³. "It's them durn wolves, that was after the both of us; an' it was me got ye out of that scrape. Don't ye come lookin' fer trouble, for I don't want to hurt ye!"

At the sound of the quiet voice, soothing yet commanding, the tension of the beast's madness seemed to relax. The fixity of his glare wavered. Then his eyes shifted; and the next moment, turning with a movement so quick that the woodsman's eyes could hardly follow it, he was away like a gray shadow among the stumps and trunks, not leaping, but running belly to ground like a cat. Logan watched him out of sight, then **nonchalantly**⁷⁴ put two wounded wolves out of their misery, **whetted**⁷⁵ his knife on his **larrigans**⁷⁶, and settled down to the task of stripping the **pelts**⁷⁷.

译欣赏

仲冬时节，明亮的蓝白色月光透过黑乎乎的云杉林照亮了一小块开阔的地方；月光下，可以看到湖里的一条大鳊鱼那结了冰的碎块零零星星地散布在雪上。这些碎块非常突出，因此子夜时分荒野的那些猎食者悄然走在阴影边缘，向前寻找猎物或提防天敌的觅食动物，是不可能看不到这些碎块的。

这种孤独的寂静强烈得几乎让人窒息，好像是刺骨的寒冷冰封了长久的宁静。