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阿加莎·克里斯蒂
经典侦探作品集

Agatha Christie

穿棕色套装的人

The Man in the Brown Suit

[英]阿加莎·克里斯蒂 著



The Commercial Press
商务印书馆



附光盘

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〔英〕阿加莎·克里斯蒂 著

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出版说明

商务印书馆创立以来,始终以“昌明教育,开启民智”为己任,致力于移译西学、沟通中外,坚持以高质量的出版物促进文化交流,以传播先进思想推动社会进步。近年来更是加大了外语学习读物的出版,如推出了“莎翁戏剧经典”丛书等。此次引进“阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集”系列,是我馆开发英语学习读物的又一成果。

阿加莎·克里斯蒂(Agatha Christie 1890 - 1976)是英国著名女侦探小说家、剧作家,三大推理文学宗师之一,被誉为举世公认的推理小说女王。其作品已被翻译成一百多种语言,曾多次被搬上银幕。代表作有《东方快车谋杀案》和《尼罗河谋杀案》等,在中国有大批爱好者,读者接受度很高。

这套“阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集”丛书,是英国柯林斯出版公司精选的阿加莎·克里斯蒂的经典作品,由英国语言和文学专家专门为世界各地母语非英语的读者改编设计,每篇小说经过适当删减,其中的词汇和语法也做了简化,是适合中等以上英语水平读者学习的英语读物。

为方便读者使用,中文注释本以脚注的形式给难词标注词性和释义;提供英汉对照的作者简介、出场人物表及文化注释;书后

所配的光盘由英国本土人士录制,声情并茂地再现精彩的故事内容。

希望这套“阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集”丛书,能够帮助读者在欣赏英文小说的同时学习英语、提高英语能力,成为读者英语阅读和学习的最佳选择。

商务印书馆编辑部

2015年5月

作者简介



Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie (1890-1976) is known throughout the world as the Queen of Crime. Her books have sold over a billion copies in English with another billion in over 100 foreign languages. She is the most widely published and translated author of all time and in any language; only the Bible and Shakespeare have sold more copies. She is the author of 80 crime novels and short story collections, 19 plays, and six other novels. *The Mousetrap*, her most famous play, was first staged in 1952 in London and is still performed there—it is the longest-running play in history.

Agatha Christie's first novel was published in 1920. It featured Hercule Poirot, the Belgian detective who has become the most popular detective in crime fiction since Sherlock Holmes. Collins has published Agatha Christie since 1926.

阿加莎·克里斯蒂

阿加莎·克里斯蒂(1890-1976)在世界各地被誉为“侦探小说女王”。她以英语出版的作品销量超过十亿册,而以一百多种外语出版的作品销量也达到了十亿册。她是迄今为止以各语种得到最广泛出版和译介的作家,其作品销量仅次于《圣经》和莎士比亚的作品。她著有 80 部侦探题材的长篇小说和短篇小说集、19 部剧作及其他 6 部小说。《捕鼠器》是她最有名的剧作,1952 年在伦敦被首次搬上舞台,直到今天还在上演——它也成为历史上演出时间最长的戏剧。

阿加莎·克里斯蒂的第一部小说出版于 1920 年,其中塑造了比利时大侦探赫尔克里·波洛这一人物——他已成为自夏洛克·福尔摩斯以来犯罪小说里最知名的侦探。柯林斯出版公司自 1926 年至今一直在出版阿加莎·克里斯蒂的作品。

人物表

Anne Beddingfeld: 年轻女士

Beddingfeld 教授: Anne 的父亲,在科学界很有名,是英国研究原始人的最伟大的专家之一

Eustace Pedler 爵士: 国会议员,非常富有,在罗德西亚有生意

Guy Pagett: Eustace Pedler 爵士的私人秘书

Harry Rayburn: Eustace Pedler 爵士的第二位秘书

Suzanne Blair 夫人: 时尚女士

Race 上校: 著名的大型猎物狩猎者,经常去非洲旅行,据信他与英国秘密特工组织有关联

The “Colonel”“上校”: 一个国际犯罪团伙的首领

John Eardsley: 寻找钻石的年轻冒险者,他最好的朋友是 Harry Lucas

Harry Lucas: 寻找钻石的年轻冒险者,在剑桥大学与 John Eardsley 相识后,两人便成为最要好的朋友

Laurence Eardsley 爵士: 在南非开采金矿发财后成为非常富有显赫的人物,John 是他的儿子

Pettigrew 小姐: Eustace Pedler 爵士在南非雇用的秘书

Anita Grunberg: 神秘的女演员,出生在南非,但其母亲是匈牙利人

Nasby 勋爵: 百万富翁,《每日预算报》的老板

Nadina 夫人: 著名的俄罗斯舞蹈家

Flemming 先生: Beddingfeld 教授的律师

L. B. Carton: 南非来客

James 夫人：为 Eustace Pedler 爵士照看米尔山庄

Augustus Milray：英国外交事务的要人

Smuts 将军：南非首相

Edward Chichester 牧师：在英国海外基督教堂工作

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Agatha Christie

The Man in the Brown Suit

Chapter 1



Everybody has told me that I must write this story — and it is true that I was mixed up in the affair^① from the very beginning. Naturally there are gaps in my knowledge, but they can be filled by Sir Eustace Pedler's diary, which he has kindly asked me to use. So here goes: Anne Beddingfeld begins her adventures.

I have always wanted to have adventures. You see, my father, Professor Beddingfeld, was one of England's greatest experts on Primitive Man^②. His mind lived in Palaeolithic^③ times, but the problem was that his body lived in the modern world. Papa did not care for modern man.

Unfortunately it is difficult to manage without modern men, such as butchers and bakers and greengrocers. Therefore, as Papa spent most of his time thinking about the past and Mamma had died when I was a baby, I had to deal with the practical side of life.

Papa enthusiastically ate what was put before him, but seemed troubled when the question of paying for it came up. And we never seemed to have any money. Papa was famous in the scientific world, and had many letters after his name, but this was not the type of fame that brought in cash.

There were times when I envied^④ Emily, our servant girl. Emily's boyfriends included a large sailor and several boys who worked in the local shops. She said she wanted to 'practise'

① affair *n.* 事情 ② Primitive Man 原始人 ③ Palaeolithic *adj.* 旧石器
的 ④ envy *v.* 羡慕

with different young men — and I thought sadly that I had no one to ‘practise’ with! All Papa’s friends were elderly professors with long beards. What I wanted was adventure, love and romance — and what I had was dullness and boredom.

There was a library in the village — I enjoyed reading the adventures and love affairs in these books, and I went to sleep dreaming of strong, silent men who always ‘knocked down their opponent^① with a single punch^②’. There was the cinema too, with a weekly film ‘The Perils^③ of Pamela’. Pamela was a marvellous^④ young woman. Nothing worried her. She fell out of aeroplanes, adventured in submarines and climbed skyscrapers without a moment’s fear. She was not really clever — the Master Criminal caught her each time — but the hero always rescued her at the beginning of the following week. I used to come out full of a desire for adventure.

Most people have never heard of the ancient bones that were found at the Broken Hill Mine^⑤ in Rhodesia. And yet, one morning, I found Papa full of excitement.

‘Do you understand, Anne? I have always said that the beginning of the human race^⑥ was in Africa. They travelled...’

‘Don’t put marmalade on kippers, Papa,’ I said quickly, stopping my parent’s absent-minded^⑦ hand. ‘Yes, you were saying?’

‘They travelled to Europe on...’

Here he choked badly on a mouthful of kipper bones. ‘We must go to Rhodesia at once,’ he said at last, standing up. ‘There will be so many discoveries. The primitive ox, I think,

① opponent *n.* 对手 ② punch *n.* (拳头的)猛击 ③ peril *n.* 危险

④ marvellous *adj.* 奇妙的 ⑤ mine *n.* 矿井 ⑥ race *n.* 种族 ⑦ absent-minded *adj.* 心不在焉的

but not the woolly rhinoceros. You will write to the travel agent today.'

'What about money, Papa?'

He looked at me in a disappointed way.

'Your point of view always depresses me, my child. We must not let money stand in the way of scientific progress.'

'I think the travel agent might require money, Papa.'

Papa looked upset. 'My dear Anne, you will pay them in cash.'

'I haven't got any cash.'

Papa looked thoroughly irritated.

'My child, I really cannot be bothered with^① these silly details. The bank — I had something yesterday, saying I had twenty-seven pounds.'

'That's your overdraft^②, I believe.'

'Then you must write to my publishers.'

I agreed, although I was not confident. Papa's books bring in more fame than money, though I loved the idea of going to Rhodesia.

'Wait, Papa! You have different boots on,' I called out. 'Take off the brown one and put on the other black one. And don't forget your scarf, Papa. It's a very cold day.'

Papa left, correctly booted and warmly dressed. He returned late that evening, and I was concerned to see that his scarf and overcoat were missing.

'Dear me, Anne, you are right. I took them off to go into the cave^③. One gets so dirty there.'

Our main reason for coming to live in Little Hampsley had

① cannot be bothered with 不想为……而费心 ② overdraft *n.* 透支

③ cave *n.* 洞穴

been the Hampsley Cave. Papa spent most of his days working underground digging out the bones of prehistoric^① animals.

Papa coughed badly all evening, and the following morning I sent for the doctor. Poor Papa. It was pneumonia^②. He died four days later.

① *prehistoric* *adj.* 史前的 ② *pneumonia* *n.* 肺炎

Chapter 2



Everyone was very kind to me. But it took me some time to realize that the thing I had always wanted — freedom — was mine at last. I was very poor, but free. At the same time I realized the kindness of all these people. The vicar did his best to persuade me that his wife needed someone to help her at home. Our tiny library decided to have an assistant librarian. Finally, the doctor suggested I should marry him. I was astonished^①. The doctor was almost forty, a round, fat little man.

‘It’s extremely kind of you,’ I said. ‘But I could never marry a man unless I loved him completely.’

He sighed. ‘But, my dear child, what will you do?’

‘Have adventures and see the world,’ I replied. ‘I’m going to London. If things happen anywhere, they’ll happen in London. I will look out for exciting opportunities and you’ll hear of me next in China or Timbuctoo.’

My next visitor was Mr Flemming, Papa’s London lawyer. He took my hands and spoke to me kindly.

‘My poor child. Your father was a very great man. But he was not good at business.’

I knew that better than Mr Flemming, but I had to listen politely while he told me that my father had only left me £87.

‘Well, well, my dear, we must see what can be done.’ He hesitated, and then said, ‘Would you like to come to stay with us for a time?’

London! The place for things to happen.

① astonished *adj.* 震惊的