

SHERLOCK HOLMES

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

英汉对照
兴趣阅读

福尔摩斯探案

跳舞的人
六座拿破仑像

柯南·道尔 著

雷鸣 张雅丽 译

天津人民出版社

THE DANCING MEN
THE SIX NAPOLEONS

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最后，他端起猎枪，照着拿破仑像的头顶上猛地开了一枪，塑像立刻变成了碎片……

The Dancing Men

Holmes had been seated for some hours in silence with his long, thin back curved over a chemical vessel in which he was brewing a particularly malodorous product. His head was sunk upon his breast, and he looked from my point of view like a strange, lank bird, with dull gray plumage and a black top-knot.

“So, Watson,” said he, suddenly, “you do not propose to invest in South African securities?”

I gave a start of astonishment. Accustomed as I was to Holmes’ s curious faculties, this sudden intrusion into my most intimate thoughts was utterly inexplicable.

“How on earth do you know that?” I asked.

He wheeled round upon his stool, with a steaming test-tube in his hand, and a gleam of amusement in his deep-set eyes.

“Now, Watson, confess yourself utterly taken aback,” said he.

“I am.”

“I ought to make you sign a paper to that effect.”

“Why?”

“Because in five minutes you will say that it is all so absurdly simple.”



跳舞的人



福尔摩斯一声不响地坐了好几个钟头了。他弯着瘦长的身子，低头盯着他面前的一只化学试管，试管里正煮着一种特别恶臭的东西。他的脑袋垂在胸前，从我这里望去，他看起来就像一只瘦长的怪鸟，全身披着深灰的羽毛，只有头上的冠毛是黑的。

他忽然说：“华生，你不打算在南非投资了，是不是？”

我吃了一惊。虽然我已习惯了福尔摩斯的各种奇特本领，但是，他这样突然道破我的心事，仍令我无法解释。

“你究竟是怎么知道的？”我问他。

他在圆凳上转过身来，手里拿着那支冒着气的试管，从他深陷的眼睛里，微微闪现出一丝笑意。

“现在，华生，你承认你是吃惊了。”他说。

“我是吃惊了。”

“我真应该叫你把这句话写下来，再签上你的名字。”

“为什么？”

“因为五分钟之后，你就会说这太简单了。”



"I am sure that I shall say nothing of the kind."

"You see, my dear Watson" — he propped his test-tube in the rack, and began to lecture with the air of a professor addressing his class — "it is not really difficult to construct a series of inferences, each dependent upon its predecessor and each simple in itself. If, after doing so, one simply knocks out all the central inferences and presents one's audience with the starting-point and the conclusion, one may produce a startling, though possibly a meretricious, effect. Now, it was not really difficult, by an inspection of the groove between your left forefinger and thumb, to feel sure that you did not propose to invest your small capital in the gold fields."

"I see no connection."

"Very likely not; but I can quickly show you a close connection. Here are the missing links of the very simple chain: 1. You had chalk between your left finger and thumb when you returned from the club last night. 2. You put chalk there when you play billiards, to steady the cue. 3. You never play billiards except with Thurston. 4. You told me, four weeks ago, that Thurston had an option on some South African property which would expire in a month, and which he desired you to share with him. 5. Your check book is locked in my drawer, and you have not asked for the key. 6. You do not propose to invest your



“我一定不说此类话。”

他把试管放回架子上去，开始用教授给班上的学生讲课的神气往下说：“你要知道，我亲爱的华生，做出一连串的推理，并且使每个推理取决于它前面的那个推理而本身又简单明了，实际上，这并不难。然后，只要把中间的推理统统去掉，对你的听众仅仅宣布起点和结论，就可以得到虽然有点虚夸但还是很惊人的效果。所以，我看了你左手的虎口，就觉得有把握说你没有打算把你那一小笔资金投到金矿中去，这真的不难推断出来。”

“我看不出有什么关系。”

“似乎没有，但是，我可以马上告诉你这一密切的关系。这根非常简单的链条中缺少的环节是：第一，昨晚你从俱乐部回来时，你左手虎口上有白粉；第二，只有在打台球的时候，为了固定球杆，你才在虎口上抹白粉；第三，没有瑟斯顿做伴，你从不打台球；第四，你在四个星期以前告诉过我，瑟斯顿有购买某项南非产业的特权，再有一个月就到期了，他希望你跟他共同使用；第五，你的支票簿锁在我的抽屉里，你一直没跟我要过钥匙；第六，你不打算把钱投到这类事情上去。”



money in this manner. "

"How absurdly simple! "I cried.

"Quite so! " said he, a little nettled. "Every problem becomes very childish when once it is explained to you. Here is an unexplained one. See what you can make of that, friend Watson. "He tossed a sheet of paper upon the table, and turned once more to his chemical analysis.

I looked with amazement at the absurd hieroglyphics upon the paper.

"Why, Holmes, it is a child's drawing, "I cried.

"Oh, that's your idea! "

"What else should it be?"

"That is what Mr. Hilton Cubitt, of Riding Thorpe Manor, Norfolk, is very anxious to know. This little conundrum came by the first post, and he was to follow by the next train. There's a ring at the bell, Watson. I should not be very much surprised if this were he. "

A heavy step was heard upon the stairs, and an instant later there entered a tall, ruddy, clean-shaven gentleman, whose clear eyes and florid cheeks told of a life led far from the fogs of Baker Street. He seemed to bring a whiff of his strong, fresh, bracing, east-coast air with him as he entered. Having shaken hands with each of us, he was about to sit down, when his eye rested upon the paper with the curious markings, which I had just examined and



“这太简单了!”我叫起来了。

他有点不高兴地说:“正是这样! 每个问题, 一旦给你解释过, 就变得连小孩都能懂。这里有个还不明白的问题。你看看怎样能解释它, 我的朋友。”他把一张纸扔在桌上, 又开始做他的化学分析。

我看见纸条上画着一些荒诞无稽的符号, 十分诧异。

我大声地说:“嘿, 福尔摩斯, 这是一张小孩子的画。”

“噢, 那是你的看法。”

“难道会是别的吗?”

“这正是希尔顿·丘比特先生急着想弄明白的问题。他住在诺福克郡马场村庄园。这个小谜语是今天第一班邮车送来的, 他本人准备乘第二班火车来这儿。门铃响了, 华生。如果来的人就是他, 我不会感到非常意外。”

楼梯上响起沉重的脚步声, 不一会儿走进来一位身材高大、体格健壮、脸刮得干干净净的绅士; 明亮的眼睛, 红润的双颊, 说明他生活在一个远离被乌烟瘴气所笼罩的贝克街的地方。他进门的时候, 似乎带来了少许浓郁、新鲜、凉爽的东海岸的空气。他跟我们握过手; 正要坐下来时, 目光落在那张画着奇怪符号的纸上, 那是我刚才仔细看



left upon the table.

“Well, Mr. Holmes, what do you make of these?” he cried. “They told me that you were fond of queer mysteries, and I don’t think you can find a queerer one than that. I sent the paper on ahead, so that you might have time to study it before I came.”

“It is certainly rather a curious production,” said Holmes. “At first sight it would appear to be some childish prank. It consists of a number of absurd little figures dancing across the paper upon which they are drawn. Why should you attribute any importance to so grotesque an object?”

“I never should, Mr. Holmes. But my wife does. It is frightening her to death. She says nothing, but I can see terror in her eyes. That’s why I want to sift the matter to the bottom.”

Holmes held up the paper so that the sunlight shone full upon it. It was a page torn from a notebook. The markings were done in pencil, and ran in this way:



Holmes examined it for some time, and then, folding it carefully up, he placed it in his pocketbook.

“This promises to be a most interesting and unusual case,” said he. “You gave me a few particulars in your



过以后放在桌上的。

他大声说：“福尔摩斯先生，您怎么解释它呢？他们告诉我您喜欢离奇古怪的东西，我看再也找不到比这更离奇的了。我把这张纸条先寄来，以便使您在我来以前有时间研究它。”

福尔摩斯说：“的确是一件很难理解的作品，乍一看似乎是孩子们开的玩笑，在纸上横着画了些正在跳舞的奇形怪状的小人。您怎么会重视一张这么怪的画呢？”

“我是决不会的，福尔摩斯先生。可是我妻子很重视。这张画吓得她要死。她什么也不说，但是，我能从她眼里看出来她很怕。这就是我要把这件事追查到底的原因。”

福尔摩斯把纸举起来，让阳光照着它。那是从记事本撕下来的一页，上面那些跳舞的小人是用铅笔画的，排列成这样：



福尔摩斯仔细看了一眼，然后很小心地把纸条叠起来，放进他的皮夹子里。

他说：“这可能成为一件最有趣、最不平常的案子。您在信上告诉了我一些细节，希尔顿·丘比特先生。但是，如果您能再给

letter, Mr. Hilton Cubitt, but I should be very much obliged if you would kindly go over it all again for the benefit of my friend, Dr. Watson."

"I'm not much of a story-teller," said our visitor, nervously clasping and unclasping his great, strong hands. "You'll just ask me anything that I don't make clear. I'll begin at the time of my marriage last year, but I want to say first of all that, though I'm not a rich man, my people have been at Riding Thorpe for a matter of five centuries, and there is no better known family in the County of Norfolk. Last year I came up to London for the Jubilee, and I stopped at a boardinghouse in Russell Square, because Parker, the vicar of our parish, was staying in it. There was an American young lady there — Patrick was the name — Elsie Patrick. In some way we became friends, until before my month was up I was as much in love as man could be. We were quietly married at a registry office, and we returned to Norfolk a wedded couple. You'll think it very mad, Mr. Holmes, that a man of a good old family should marry a wife in this fashion, knowing nothing of her past or of her people, but if you saw her and knew her, it would help you to understand."

"She was very straight about it, was Elsie. I can't say that she did not give me every chance of getting out of it if I wished to do so. 'I have had some very disagreeable

我的朋友华生医生讲一遍，我将不胜感激。”

“我不是很会讲故事的人。”这位客人说。他那双大而有力的手，神经质地一会儿紧握，一会儿放开。“有什么讲得不清楚的地方，您尽管问我好了。我要从去年我结婚时开始，但是，首先我想说，虽然我不是个富有的人，我们这一家住在马场村大约有五百年了，在诺福克郡再没有比我们一家更出名的了。去年，我到伦敦参加维多利亚女王即位六十周年纪念，住在位于罗素广场的一家公寓里，因为帕克——我们教区的牧师——也住在这家公寓。在这家公寓里还住着一个年轻的美国小姐，她姓帕特里克，全名是埃尔西·帕特里克。于是我们成了朋友。还没有等到我在伦敦住满一个月，我已经爱她爱到极点了。我们悄悄在登记处结了婚，然后作为夫妻回到了诺福克。您会觉得一个名门子弟，竟然以这种方式娶一个身世不明的妻子，简直是发疯吧，福尔摩斯先生。不过您要是见过她、认识她的话，那就能帮助您理解这一点。

“当时她在这一点上很直率。埃尔西的确是直率的。如果我想改变主意的话，她确实给了我这样的机会。她对我说：‘我一生中跟一些讨厌的人来往过，现在只想把他们都



associations in my life,' said she, 'I wish to forget all about them. I would rather never allude to the past, for it is very painful to me. If you take me, Hilton, you will take a woman who has nothing that she need be personally ashamed of; but you will have to be content with my word for it, and to allow me to be silent as to all that passed up to the time when I became yours. If these conditions are too hard, then go back to Norfolk, and leave me to the lonely life in which you found me.' It was only the day before our wedding that she said those very words to me. I told her that I was content to take her on her own terms, and I have been as good as my word.

"Well, we have been married now for a year, and very happy we have been. But about a month ago, at the end of June, I saw for the first time signs of trouble. One day my wife received a letter from America. I saw the American stamp. She turned deadly white, read the letter, and threw it into the fire. She made no allusion to it afterwards, and I made none, for a promise is a promise, but she has never known an easy hour from that moment. There is always a look of fear upon her face — a look as if she were waiting and expecting. She would do better to trust me. She would find that I was her best friend. But until she speaks, I can say nothing. Mind you, she is a truthful woman, Mr. Holmes, and whatever trouble there



忘掉。我不愿意再提过去，因为这对我来说是十分痛苦的。如果你娶我的话，希尔顿，你会娶到一个没有做过任何使自己感到羞愧的事的女人。但是，你必须满足对于我的保证，并且允许我对在嫁给你以前我的一切经历保持沉默。要是这些条件太苛刻了，那你就回诺福克去，让我照旧过我以前所过的孤寂生活吧。’就在我们结婚的前一天，她对我说了这些话。我告诉她我愿意依她的条件娶她，我也一直遵守着我的诺言。

“现在我们结婚已经一年了，一直过得很幸福。可是，大约一个月以前，就在6月底，我第一次看见了烦恼的预兆。那天我妻子接到一封来自美国的信。我看到上面贴着美国邮票。她脸变得煞白，把信读完就扔进火里烧了。后来她不提此事，我也没提，因为我必须遵守诺言。从那一刻起，她就没有过片刻的安宁，脸上总带着恐惧的表情，那表情就好像她在期待着什么。如果她信任我，也许会好过些。她或许会发现我是她最好的朋友。但是，在她开口之前，我什么都不便说。请注意，福尔摩斯先生，她是一个老实人。不论在过去的生活中她有过什么不幸的事，那也不会是她自己的过错。我



may have been in her past life it has been no fault of hers. I am only a simple Norfolk squire, but there is not a man in England who ranks his family honour more highly than I do. She knows it well, and she knew it well before she married me. She would never bring any stain upon it — of that I am sure.

“Well, now I come to the queer part of my story. About a week ago — it was the Tuesday of last week — I found on one of the window-sills a number of absurd little dancing figures like these upon the paper. They were scrawled with chalk. I thought that it was the stable-boy who had drawn them, but the lad swore he knew nothing about it. Anyhow, they had come there during the night. I had them washed out, and I only mentioned the matter to my wife afterwards. To my surprise, she took it very seriously, and begged me if any more came to let her see them. None did come for a week, and then yesterday morning I found this paper lying on the sundial in the garden. I showed it to Elsie, and down she dropped in a dead faint. Since then she has looked like a woman in a dream, half dazed, and with terror always lurking in her eyes. It was then that I wrote and sent the paper to you, Mr. Holmes. It was not a thing that I could take to the police, for they would have laughed at me, but you will tell me what to do. I am not a rich man, but if there is any