



Vol. 118



Hotel

大饭店

(英汉对照)



SIMPLE ENGLISH READERS

Vol. 118

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人 物 表

Peter McDermott ['pi:tə mak'də:mət] 彼得·麦克德莫特, 圣格雷戈里饭店副经理。

Christine Francis ['kristi:n 'frɑ:nsis] 克里斯婷·弗朗西斯, 圣格雷戈里饭店老板的女秘书。

Theodore Ogilvie ['θi:ədɔ: 'ɔʊgli] 西奥多·奥格尔维, 圣格雷戈里饭店的侦探长。

Warren Trent ['wɔrɪn trent] 沃伦·特伦特, 圣格雷戈里饭店老板。

The Duchess of Croydon ['krɔɪdn] 克罗伊登公爵夫人。

The Duke of Croydon 克罗伊登公爵。Simon [si'moun] 西蒙是他的名字。

Albert Wells ['ælbət welz] 艾伯特·韦尔斯, 加拿大人, 圣格雷戈里饭店的常客, 企业界的巨头。

Herbie Chandler ['hə:bi 'tʃɑ:ndlə] 赫比·钱德勒, 圣格雷戈里饭店的总领班, 即给旅客提行李的服务员班长。

Mark Preyscott [ma:k 'preiskɒt] 马克·普雷斯科特, 玛莎的父亲, 大百货公司的老板。

Curtis O'keefe ['kɔ:tɪs ou'ki:f] 柯蒂斯·奥基夫, 旅馆业中巨头。

Mrs. Quesnay ['kwi:zni] 奎斯内夫人, 圣格雷戈里饭店房间管理员。

Miss Dorothy Lash ['dɔrəθi læʃ] 多萝西·拉希小姐, 奥基夫的情妇。Dodo ['doudou] 是她的爱称。

Julius ['dʒu:ljəs] "Keycase" Milne [mɪln] 朱利叶斯·米尔恩, 惯窃。"Keycase" (破锁大王) 是他的绰号。

Byron Meader ['baɪərən 'mi:də] 米尔恩的假名。

Lord Selwyn ['selwɪn] 塞尔温勋爵，克罗伊登公爵夫人的哥哥。

Geoffrey ['dʒefri] 杰弗里是他的名字。

Ogden Bailey ['ɔ:gdn 'beɪli] 奥格登·贝利，奥基夫的业务经理。

Sean Hall [ʃɔ:n hɔ:l] 肖恩·霍尔，贝利的助手。

Tom Earlshore [tɒm 'ɔ:lʃɔ] 汤姆·厄尔肖，圣格雷戈里饭店酒吧间的服务员。

Stanley Kilbrick ['stænli 'kɪlbɪk] 斯坦利·基尔布里克，住在圣格雷戈里饭店的一位旅客。

Lyle Dumaire [laɪl duməʔ] 莱尔·杜迈耶，某银行行长的儿子，在圣格雷戈里饭店寻欢作乐的轻浮少年。

Stanley Dixon ['stænli 'dɪksn] 斯坦利·狄克逊，在圣格雷戈里寻欢作乐的轻浮少年。

Sol Natchez [sɒl 'nætʃɪz] 索尔·纳切兹，圣格雷戈里饭店的房间服务员。

Jimmy Duckworth ['dʒɪmi 'dʌkwəθ] 吉米·达克沃思，圣格雷戈里饭店提行李的服务员。

Dr. Aarons ['ɛərənɪz] 艾伦斯医生，圣格雷戈里饭店的医生。

Dr. Uxbridge ['ʌksbrɪdʒ] 厄克斯布里奇医生，圣格雷戈里饭店的旅客。

Doc Vickery [dɒk 'vɪkəri] 多克·维克里，圣格雷戈里饭店的总技师。

Marsha Preyscott ['mɑ:ʃə 'preɪskɒt] 玛莎·普雷斯科特，被狄克逊等四人侮辱的女青年。

Aloysius Royce [ə'lɔɪsɪs rɔɪs] 阿洛伊修斯·罗伊斯，饭店老板特伦特的亲信，随身佣人。

Gladwin ['glædwɪn] 格拉德温，在圣格雷戈里饭店寻欢作乐的轻浮少年。

Joe Waloski [dʒou 'wɒləski] 乔·沃洛斯基，在圣格雷戈里饭店寻欢作乐的轻浮少年。

Kulgmer ['kʊlgmə] 库尔默，圣格雷戈里饭店汽车房守门人。

Royall Edwards [rɔɪəl 'edwədʒ] 罗亚尔·爱德华兹，圣格雷戈里饭店的会计。

W. Finegan ['finigən] W. 法因根，奥基夫的助手。

Flora ['flɔ:rə] 弗洛拉，彼得的女秘书。

Emile Dumaire ['emil du'mæ] 埃米尔·杜迈耶，某银行行长，莱尔的父亲。

Captain Yolles [jɒlz] 约尔斯探长。

Hymie ['haimi] 海米，韦尔斯的合伙人。

Detective Sergeant Bannet ['benit] 贝内特侦探。

Booker Graham ['bukə 'greɪəm] 布克·格雷厄姆，圣格雷戈里饭店烧锅炉工人。

Mr. Dempster ['dempstə] 邓普斯特先生，韦尔斯的代表。



CHAPTER 1
MONDAY EVENING

"If I had my wish," Peter McDermott thought. "I would get rid of¹ the chief detective at once." Again, the fat former policeman was missing when he was needed.

McDermott struck the desk with his hand. "Fifteen things happen at the same time, and nobody can find the man," he told the girl who was standing by the window of his office.

Christine Francis looked at her watch and saw that the time was eleven o'clock. "He's probably drinking somewhere," she said.

Christine had left her own office in the St Gregory Hotel a few minutes earlier. She had been working late and she had dropped in to see the assistant manager before she went home. "Mr Ogilvie makes his own rules," Christine said. "Warren Trent has always given him complete freedom."

Peter McDermott spoke quickly into the telephone and waited. "You're right," he said. "I tried to reorganise our inefficient detective force, and W.T. was very angry with me."

Christine said quietly: "I don't know that." She was surprised. Christine was private secretary to Warren Trent, the proud owner of New Orleans³ largest hotel, and usually she knew everything that happened. She knew, for example, that Peter was almost running the busy hotel alone. His salary was small and his powers were limited. Christine knew the reasons: they concerned Peter's private life.

第一章 星期一的夜晚

“要是能按我的意思办，”彼得·麦克德莫特想，“我马上解雇这个侦探长。”这会儿正需要这个当过警察的胖子，可他又不见了。

麦克德莫特使劲地拍了一下写字台。“这么一会儿就出了十五件事，可是谁也找不到这家伙，”他对站在他办公室窗子旁边的那个姑娘说。克里斯婷·弗朗西斯看了看手表，时间是十一点。“他也许在哪儿喝酒呢，”她说。

克里斯婷几分钟前才离开圣格雷戈里饭店她自己的办公室。她下班已经很晚了，回家前顺便看望了一下副经理。“奥格维先生是爱怎么办就怎么办的，”克里斯婷说，“沃伦·特伦特总是由着他。”

彼得·麦克德莫特对着电话匆匆说了几句话，然后等着对方回话。“你说得对，”他说。“我尽量要把我们这个不得力的侦探班子整顿一下，可是沃·特却对我非常恼火。”

克里斯婷轻声说：“这事我还不知道呢。”她感到意外。克里斯婷是新奥尔良市最大饭店的那位得意扬扬的老板——沃伦·特伦特的私人秘书，一般说来，没有她不知道的事。例如，她就知道这家生意兴隆的饭店几乎是彼得单独一人在掌管。他的薪金低，权力又有限。克里斯婷知道其中的原因：这和彼得的私生活有关。

1. get rid of: 摆脱, 去掉。在这里是“解雇”的意思, 2. makes his own rules: 自行其是(爱怎么办就怎么办)。 3. New Orleans ['ɔ:liənz]: 新奥尔良(美国港市)。

"What's the trouble?" Christine asked.

McDermott gave a cheerful smile, "Someone has complained about a disturbance on the eleventh floor. The Duchess of Croydon says that a waiter insulted the Duke. And it is reported that somebody is making strange noises in Room 1439. Probably some man is having a bad dream!"

"Do you know the name of the man in that room?" Christine asked.

Peter shook his head. "I'll find out." He spoke into the telephone, wrote down a name and hung up the receiver. "The man is Albert Wells—a Canadian from Montreal," he told Christine.

"I know him," she said. "He's a nice little man. He stays here every year. If you wish, I'll go and see him."

McDermott hesitated and turned his eyes to Christine's neat figure.

The telephone rang and he answered it.

"I'm sorry, sir," said the man on the telephone exchange. "We can't find Mr Ogilvie."

"Never mind! Put me on to the head porter," said McDermott.

"Head porter," said the flat voice of Herbie Chandler. Like Ogilvie, Chandler had worked at the St Gregory for a long time and was very independent—a rude and deceitful man.

McDermott explained the troubles and asked Chandler to inquire into the cause of the disturbance on the eleventh floor.

Chandler objected. "That's not my job, Mr Mac."

"Don't argue. Deal with the complaint," McDermott ordered Chandler. "And send a porter with a key of Room 1439 to meet Miss Francis at the lift." He hung up before there could be any more argument.

“出了什么麻烦事？”克里斯婷问道。

麦克德莫特愉快地笑了笑。“有人提意见说十一楼闹了点乱子。克罗伊登公爵夫人说有个侍者冒犯了公爵。还有，有人报告1439号房间里发出奇怪的声音。可能有人在作噩梦。”

“你知道那个房间的客人叫什么名字吗？”克里斯婷问道。

彼得摇了摇头。“我来问问看。”他拿起电话，说了几句，写下一个名字就挂上了。“那个人叫艾伯特·韦尔斯——从蒙特利尔来的加拿大人，”他对克里斯婷说。

“我认识他，”她说。“他是个小矮个儿，人挺不错的。他每年都到这里来往。如果你愿意的话，我可以去看他。”

麦克德莫特有点犹豫，他对克里斯婷匀称的身材瞟了一眼。

电话铃响了，他接了电话。

“很抱歉，先生，”交换台的人说。“我们找不到奥格尔维先生。”

“算了！给我接总领班吧，”麦克德莫特说。

“我是总领班，”赫比·钱德勒阴阳怪气地说。钱德勒和奥格尔维一样，已经在圣格雷戈里干了不少年，非常难于驾驭，他既无礼貌，又不老实。

麦克德莫特说明了出事的情况并叫钱德勒调查一下十一楼闹乱子的原因。

钱德勒回驳说，“那不是我分内的事，麦克先生。”

“别争了。你去处理这件事吧，”麦克德莫特命令钱德勒说。

“再派一个侍者带着1439号房间的钥匙到电梯旁去等弗朗西斯小姐。”他不等对方再争辩就把电话挂上了。

1. Put me on to: 给我接……。这是一句打电话用语。 2. head porter: 总领班。porter 是专给旅客提行李的服务员。

"Let's go." Peter's hand lightly touched Christine's shoulders. "Take the porter with you and go and see your friend. Tell him to put the bedclothes over his head when he dreams!"

Herbie Chandler stood by his desk in the busy entrance hall and thought. Peter McDermott's telephone call worried him. McDermott had told him to look into the disturbance on the eleventh floor. But Herbie Chandler did not need to make inquiries. He knew what was happening.

Earlier in the evening two youths — two sons of wealthy citizens — had made a special request. "Listen, Herbie," one of them, Lyle Dumaire, said, "we're coming to the dance at the hotel tonight. We don't want to dance. Give us a room where we can take some girls and have some fun."

"It's too risky," Herbie thought. "Sorry, gentlemen," he said.

"Oh, don't talk nonsense!" said the second youth, whose name was Dixon.

"If you let us have a room, we'll pay you, Herbie."

The head porter, always greedy for money, hesitated.

Dixon said quickly: "How much money do you want?"

Herbie looked at the youths and remembered their rich fathers. "A hundred dollars."

"Right. We'll make a deal."

"Give me the money, then, gentlemen." Herbie wet his lips with his tongue.² "Be very quiet," he said. "If you make a noise, there may be trouble."

The youths had promised to make no noise.

Herbie had forgotten about the matter until McDermott reported the disturbance. He now cursed his own foolishness. He wondered whether he should go upstairs, but decided to stay away from the room.

“咱们走吧。”彼德轻轻地拍了一下克里斯婷的肩膀。“你带着侍者上去看你的朋友吧。告诉他做梦的时候用被单蒙上头！”

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赫比·钱德勒站在繁忙的前厅里自己的办公桌旁琢磨着。彼得·麦克德莫特打来的电话使他感到心慌意乱。麦克德莫特叫他调查十一层楼上的乱子。但是赫比·钱德勒用不着调查。他满清楚那是怎么回事。

傍晚前，两个小伙子——一对富家子弟——提出了一项特殊要求。“我说，赫比，”一个叫莱尔·杜迈耶的说。“我们今晚要来饭店参加舞会，可是我们不想跳舞。给我们开一个房间，好带几个姑娘来玩玩儿。”

“这太冒险了，”赫比想。“先生们，对不起，我办不到。”他说。

“嗨，别说废话了！”另一个叫狄克逊的青年说。

“赫比，你要是给我们开一个房间，我们给你钱。”

这个向来贪财的总领班犹豫了。

狄克逊赶紧说：“你要多少钱？”

赫比看着这两个小伙子，想起了他们有钱的父亲。“一百元。”

“行。咱们一言为定。”

“那么，拿钱来吧，先生们。”赫比贪婪地舔了舔嘴唇。“必须很安静，”他说。“你们要是闹出声音来，那可就麻烦了。”

青年们答应不闹出声音来。

直到麦克德莫特通知他出了乱子，赫比才想起了这件事。现在他暗暗叫苦，不知道是不是应该上楼去，但决定还是先躲开那间屋子为妙。

1. We'll make a deal: 咱们一言为定。make a deal 原是“达成交易”之意。 2. wet his lips with his tongue: 舔了舔嘴唇，常用来表示紧张或贪婪的神情。

Peter McDermott rode in the lift with Christine and the porter. At the ninth floor, he left Christine. She was going up to the fourteenth floor. Peter gave her a little smile. "Send for me-if there's any trouble," he said.

"I'll shout for help," Christine replied with a laugh. As the sliding doors of the lift were shutting, her eyes met Peter's.

McDermott walked quickly along to the Presidential Suite*. In these rooms — reserved for presidents, royalty and other distinguished guests — the Duke and Duchess of Croydon were living with a male secretary, a maid* and five dogs.

Outside the double doors of the suite, Peter McDermott pushed a button. As soon as the bell rang, there was a mad noise of excited dogs. While McDermott was waiting, he thought about the Croydons.

The Duke was descended from an ancient family, and the Duchess had some royal blood. The Duke had held various important political posts but his future was in doubt because he was now drinking heavily. Some people were saying that the Duke was not likely to get another post. Others said that the Duchess was using her influence and the Duke might soon be appointed British Ambassador* to Washington.

A voice behind Peter said: "Excuse me, Mr McDermott. Can I have a word with you?"

McDermott turned round and saw Sol Natchez, one of the room-service waiters. "What's the matter, Sol?" he asked.

The waiter rubbed his hands. "I expect you've come to see about the complaint — the complaint about me," he said.

McDermott looked quickly at the double doors. "What happened?" he asked.

彼得·麦克德莫特同克里斯婷和侍者一起乘上电梯。他到九楼就离开了克里斯婷，因为她还要往上到十四楼。彼得对她笑了笑，说：“如果出了什么事，就派人找我。”

“我就大声喊救命，”克里斯婷笑着说。电梯拉门正要关上的时候，她和彼得对看了一眼。

麦克德莫特快步走向贵宾套房。在这些房间里——专门接待总统、王族和其他贵宾的房间——住着克罗伊登公爵和夫人，带着一名男秘书，一名女仆和五只狗。

彼得·麦克德莫特来到这套房的双扇门前按了一下电铃按钮。铃声一响，立即从里面传出来群犬狂吠的声音。麦克德莫特在等待开门的时候，想着克罗伊登这一家子的情况。

公爵是一个古老世家的后裔，公爵夫人还带点王族血统。公爵曾在政界担任过各种要职，但现在由于酗酒，前程莫测。有些人说公爵不大可能再出任要职。可是也有人说公爵夫人正在施展她的影响，不久公爵可能出任英国驻华盛顿大使。

彼得听得背后有人说：“对不起，麦克德莫特先生。我可以跟您说句话吗？”

麦克德莫特转过身来，见是房间侍者索尔·纳切兹。“什么事，索尔？”他问道。

侍者不安地搓着手。“我料想你准是来了解人家提意见——给我提意见的那件事吧，”他说。

麦克德莫特迅速望了一眼双扇门。“是怎么一回事？”他问。

The waiter was an old man and he was afraid that he might lose his job. He was trembling with anxiety. "I always try to give good service, sir, but the Duke and Duchess are hard to please," he said. "They ordered a late dinner and I took it to their rooms. When I was serving the soup, the Duchess suddenly got up from the table. As she stepped back, she hit my arm. I think she did so on purpose."

"Oh nonsense!"

"Well, I don't know, sir. Anyhow," the waiter went on, "a small spot of soup dropped on to the Duke's clothes. The Duchess cursed me and lost her temper. You'd think that I had murdered the Duke. I apologised. I got some water and washed the spot, but the Duchess wasn't satisfied. She demanded to see Mr Trent."

"Mr Trent is not in the hotel," Peter said. "If you've finished your work, you had better go home. Come and see me tomorrow."

As the waiter disappeared, the door was opened by the Croydons' secretary, a young man with a round face who wore glasses.

McDermott introduced himself. "I understand there has been a complaint about our service," he said. "I have come to see if I can do anything."

"We were expecting Mr Trent," said the secretary.

"Mr Trent is away from the hotel this evening."

"Why can't you send for him?" The door of the living-room opened and the Duchess appeared, followed by three of her noisy dogs. She looked at Peter with unfriendly eyes. "Who are you?" she asked.

Peter reddened. "I am the assistant manager."

"You're very young for that post, aren't you? What is your age?" the Duchess asked.

"Thirty-two."

这个上了年纪的侍者，很怕丢掉饭碗。他忧心忡忡地哆嗦着。

“先生，我总是把服务工作尽量做好，但是公爵和公爵夫人很难侍候。”他说。“他们命令晚一点开晚餐，由我送到他们房间里，我正在上汤的时候，公爵夫人突然从桌旁站了起来，她往后一退，正撞了我的胳膊。我认为她是故意这样做的。”

“哦，胡说！”

“唉，难说呀，先生。不管怎样吧，”他继续说，“有一滴汤溅在公爵的衣服上了。公爵夫人就对我大发脾气，破口大骂，简直就象我把公爵杀了似的。我赶忙道歉，还拿水来把油渍洗掉，但是公爵夫人还不满意，扬言要去找特伦特先生。”

“特伦特先生现在不在饭店，”彼得说。“如果你活儿已经干完，还是回家去吧。明天来找我。”

侍者刚离开，克罗伊登的秘书就把门打开了，他是个年青人，圆圆的脸，戴着眼镜。

麦克德莫特作了自我介绍。“我听说你们对我们的服务有些意见，”他说。“我是来看看有什么事我可以办的。”

“我们在等着特伦特先生，”秘书说。

“特伦特先生今晚不在饭店。”

“你为什么不能派人去找他呢？”起居室的门开了，公爵夫人走了出来，后面跟着她的三只乱吠的狗。她以不屑的目光看看彼得。

“你是什么人？”她问道。

彼得脸涨得通红，“我是副经理。”

“你当副经理未免太年轻和这个职位不相称吧。你多大年纪了？”公爵夫人问道。

“三十二。”

1. What is your age? 根据英美习惯，问成年人的年龄是很不礼貌的，这里表示公爵夫人那种傲慢无礼、盛气凌人的神态。

The Duchess smiled. She could be charming if she wished.

"Have you any qualifications for hotel management?" she asked.

"I have a university degree. Before I came to this hotel I was an assistant manager at the Waldorf," Peter said. He did not tell the Duchess that he had been dismissed from the Waldorf.

"The Waldorf would not have allowed this behaviour," the Duchess said. "Do you know that your waiter poured soup over my husband?"

Peter tried to speak.

"Our evening has been ruined," the Duchess cried. "My husband and I wanted to enjoy a quiet evening alone in our rooms. We took a walk round the square and came back for dinner. Then this happened!"

"Perhaps I can see the Duke and give him our apologies," McDermott suggested.

The Duchess said firmly: "That will not be necessary."

At that moment the Duke of Croydon came out of the living-room. His clothes were old and untidy. Peter looked for the soup stain and he could just see a very faint spot.

The Duke was only in his forties, but he looked much older than his age. He held a glass in his hand. He was not very steady on his feet, his face was red; and he could not speak clearly. "Oh, beg pardon," he said when he saw McDermott. He turned to his wife. "I say, old girl,² I must have left my pipe in the car."

The Duchess gave him an angry look — and the Duke went back into the living-room.

The Duchess turned to Peter: "I order you to give a full report to Mr Trent," she said. "Inform him that I demand a personal apology."