



福尔摩斯与死亡剧场

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE THEATRE OF DEATH

[英] 瓦尔·安德鲁斯 著



北京大学出版社

英语注释读物·新福尔摩斯探案集⑤

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the Theater of Death**

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蔡庆年 注释

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内 容 简 介

1911年5月9日晚爱丁堡帝国剧院后台失火。“伟大的拉法叶特”——一位引人注目的魔术师和8名演员在火中丧生。死亡笼罩着剧院,神秘气氛伴随着恐怖事件。夏洛克·福尔摩斯被叫来调查此事,不久却演变成为另一桩棘手的疑案。是谁纵火?为什么?仅仅是一次可怕的意外吗?

这是福尔摩斯探案集中最引人入胜的一篇。它将读者带入一个神奇世界:在那里福尔摩斯不仅揭示了所有与拉法叶特的死亡相关的真相,而且发现了一个隐藏在剧院下的暗道和密室里的、似乎完全凝固了的时空。

又是一桩构思巧妙的福尔摩斯侦探案,它和最近出版的《福尔摩斯与圣诞节疑案》、《福尔摩斯与胡迪尼遗产案》以及《福尔摩斯与贝克街13桩疑案》等众多故事一道均出自瓦尔·安德鲁的生花妙笔。

新福尔摩斯探案集系列

柯南道尔去世了,但是夏洛克·福尔摩斯的探案活动并没有停止,请看三位著名侦探小说家瓦尔·安德鲁斯、约翰·豪尔和威廉·塞尔写的新福尔摩斯探案集系列:

福尔摩斯与泰坦尼克号悲剧	威廉·塞尔著
福尔摩斯与林阴大道谋杀案	约翰·豪尔著
福尔摩斯与电话谋杀案	约翰·豪尔著
福尔摩斯与恐怖的马戏团	瓦尔·安德鲁斯著
福尔摩斯与死亡剧场	瓦尔·安德鲁斯著
福尔摩斯与贝克街十三桩疑案	瓦尔·安德鲁斯著

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CHAPTER ONE

福尔摩斯和华生一起到苏格兰佩斯郡泰河支流钓鱼。律师格雷肖特突然雇船沿河来找福尔摩斯。他是魔术大师纽伯格的律师。不久前纽伯格在帝国剧院演出时和另外几名演员在意外大火中丧生。格雷肖特要求福尔摩斯进行调查,理由是他怀疑已被警方确认的一具烧焦尸体并不是纽伯格,因为它指上没有那些名贵钻戒;而且火灾损失也无法得到保险公司的确认和赔偿。退休已久的福尔摩斯兴致大发答应调查,立即与华生随格雷肖特返回爱丁堡。

At the time of which I will now speak, rather to my surprise I found myself sharing a fishing holiday in Scotland with my friend Mr Sherlock Holmes. The time was early in the April of 1911. The place Taybrook, a village near Perth^①, and the surprise due to my knowledge that Holmes was singularly uninterested in any sort of country pastime^②, especially where it entailed^③ the catching and killing of creatures. However, his exile in Sussex, tending his bees, had evidently reached that stage, as it did from time to time, when he craved^④ the company of his only friend.

① Perth *n.* 佩斯(苏格兰中部港市)

② pastime *n.* 消遣, 娱乐

③ entail *v.* 使成为必要; 需要

④ crave *v.* 渴望得到; 迫切需要

‘My dear Watson, I see that you are contemplating an expedition to Perthshire in pursuit of the poor unfortunate trout^①.’ We were in the study of my north London home and as the table bore the unmistakable preparation for an angling^② expedition—flies, line and reels^③—I was not open-mouthed with amazement at this statement.

I said, ‘A rather obvious deduction^④ for one of your skill, Holmes, except perhaps for my choice of locality.’

He said, ‘Come, Watson, you have a row of books upon angling subjects upon your shelf. I know from experience that you do not allow your domestics^⑤ into this room so naturally a film of dust has accumulated^⑥ upon the top edge of each, save for one which has obviously recently been removed, studied and replaced. Its title, *The Trout Streams of Perthshire*. I note also that you plan to complete the expedition before the last week of April.’

Now he had my attention, ‘How could you know that?’

He smiled and said, ‘Upon the table is your selection of flies for your jaunt^⑦.’ I agreed and he continued, ‘There is no mayfly^⑧ among your collection. That ephemeral^⑨ insect with its three tails is irresistible to the largest and finest trout but useless save when the

① trout *n.* [鱼] 鲑, 鲑鳟鱼

② angling *n.* 垂钓(术)

③ reel *n.* (钓竿上的) 钓丝螺旋轮

④ deduction *n.* 演绎, 推论

⑤ domestic *n.* 家仆, 用人

⑥ accumulate *v.* 堆积; 集聚

⑦ jaunt *n.* (短途) 旅行, 游览; 远足

⑧ mayfly *n.* [昆] 蜉蝣; 蜉蝣状钓饵

⑨ ephemeral *a.* (昆虫或植物) 短命的, 短生的; 只生存一天的; 短暂的

real insect is swarming^①. This phenomenon occurs only in May, so I need say no more upon the subject, this being the last week in March!'

I felt sure that Holmes must have composed a monograph upon the subject of fishing lures^② but I did not say so. Instead I showed him the map of the area where I intended to operate; where several tributaries^③ of the Tay^④ provided excellent trout fishing.

Then to my absolute amazement he asked, 'How would you like some company upon your trip, Watson? I need a change of scenery and whilst I do not fish I enjoy communing^⑤ with nature. I could find a locum^⑥ apiarist^⑦, just as you will have found some aged, partly-retired doctor to look after your patients. Just think, Watson, I can sit there upon the bank, smoking my pipe, observing the birds of the air and beasts of the field whilst you entice^⑧ the poor misguided trout to take your flies.'

However, our expedition into the wilds of Caledonia^⑨ was to be delayed by a mild epidemic^⑩ of scarlet fever and so I did take those mayfly after all. Indeed as I waded in a swift running stream I left Holmes, who sat upon the bank, with strict instructions to watch

① swarming *a. n.* 密集, 云集

② lure *n.* 鱼饵; 诱饵

③ tributary *n.* 支流

④ Tay *n.* 泰河(苏格兰中部)

⑤ commune *v.* 亲密交谈(with); (感情上)融为一体(with)

⑥ locum *n.* = locum tenens, [口] (英国牧师、医师等的)临时代理

⑦ apiarist *n.* 养蜂人; 养蜂家

⑧ entice *v.* 诱惑

⑨ Caledonia *n.* = Scotland [拉丁语诗歌用] 苏格兰

⑩ epidemic *n.* 流行病

for the first swarming of the ephemerids^①. It was already the 11th of May and I was a little surprised not to have spotted them yet. As it was I caught a few fair-sized trout with the more common imitation dry flies and Holmes would hurry over as each was unhooked and would give me a discourse^② on each.

Typical of these was, 'Ah yes, Watson, here is an extremely wily customer^③, more intelligent I think than the average trout.'

Dutifully I would ask, 'Pray how have you come to that conclusion, Holmes?'

He would chuckle^④ and say, 'Why there are three scars upon its mouth, suggesting that he has only partially taken the bait^⑤ before realizing his mistake and has not, you will note, taken the barb^⑥.'

Then suddenly such a post-mortem^⑦ was interrupted by the arrival of two men in a rowing boat. The man rowing interested us little being obviously just plying^⑧ his trade as a cab driver would in London. The other man, however—his fare—was standing and peering in our direction with a hawk-like stance^⑨. He wore town clothing despite the mildness of the day and the rural Scottish sur-

① ephemerid *n. a.* [昆] 蜉蝣(的)

② discourse *n.* 论文; 演讲; 谈话

③ customer *n.* [口] (由某种显著特性的) 家伙; 须与之打交道的人 (如 a queer customer 怪人)

④ chuckle *v.* 咯咯地轻声笑; 暗笑

⑤ take the bait (鱼) 吞饵

⑥ barb *n.* (箭头、鱼钩等的) 倒钩

⑦ post-mortem *a. n.* 验尸

⑧ ply *v.* (辛勤地) 从事

⑨ stance *n.* 姿态

roundings.

Holmes watched him with interest. ‘A legal person, Watson, so I hope you remembered to settle any outstanding^① accounts^② before you left London.’

His eyes had narrowed to slits and I knew that his eyesight was keener than my own as he continued, ‘Note the marks upon his neck above the collar caused by the long and regular wearing of the advocate’s^③ neckband^④. His briefcase^⑤ is typical of the lawyer too. Notice how he holds it as if his life depended upon its presence where you or I might have placed it in the bottom of the boat. A man who is anxious to pursue some quest^⑥. Let us hope that our holiday is not about to be interrupted.’

Yet I could see that eight years of retirement could not be depended upon to preclude^⑦ my friend’s involvement^⑧ should he become interested in a particular enigma^⑨. It had happened before and there was always a part of Sherlock Holmes which longed for the game to be afoot once more.

As the boat drew level with^⑩ us where we sat upon the bank

① outstanding *a.* 未解决的; 未偿付的

② settle an account 结账

③ advocate *n.* 律师

④ neckband *n.* 领圈; 衬衫领子

⑤ briefcase *n.* 公事包, 公文包

⑥ quest *v. n.* 寻求, 探求; 要求, 请求

⑦ preclude (from) *v.* 阻止, 妨碍

⑧ involvement (in, with) *n.* 卷入; 牵连

⑨ enigma *n.* 费解的事务; 谜语

⑩ draw level with 移动到与……齐平

the man in the dark grey greatcoat lifted his bowler^① hat and said, 'By any chance might one of you gentlemen be Mr Sherlock Holmes?'

My friend smiled politely and said, 'I am he and this is my friend and colleague Dr John H. Watson. Might I ask your name, sir?'

The sombrely-clad one said, 'I am Septimus Greyshot of the firm, Luckens, Wild, Luckens and Greyshot, solicitors^②. Please can you assist me to reach the bank?'

We hauled him up beside us and he gasped and wheezed^③, then all but collapsed onto a grassy hummock^④. I suspected a respiratory condition but Holmes probably came nearer in his diagnosis. 'I fear that you have swallowed a flying^⑤ ant, sir, for I see another adhering^⑥ to your lower lip. I noticed that you emerged through a cloud of^⑦ them in your boat. They only fly upon two or three days of each year, and would make a good item for your selection of lures, Watson; seldom used but most effective on those few days.'

The solicitor coughed up the insect and soon recovered. 'I, or should I say, my firm are most desirous^⑧ to obtain your services, Mr Holmes, upon a certain matter that has occurred in Edinburgh.'

① bowler hat [英]常礼帽;圆顶高帽

② solicitor *n.* [英](承办案件起诉、辩护及其他法律事务的)初级律师;诉讼律师

③ wheeze *v.* 喘息;气喘吁吁

④ hummock *n.* 小圆丘,冈

⑤ swallow *v.* 吞下

⑥ adhere (to) *v.* 粘附,附着

⑦ a cloud of (尤指运动着的密集的)一群

⑧ desirous *a.* [一般作表语用]渴望的;意欲的

I tried to trace you through a wire to your colleague Dr Watson and learned that you were somewhere hereabouts. I did quite a little detective work myself in locating you.'

Holmes explained that he was no longer in practice as a consulting detective and had not been for some years but I could see that he was loath^① to send the solicitor away without hearing him out. I said, 'We are staying at a local inn, sir, the White Hart. Perhaps you would join us there for luncheon and explain further.'

He thanked me, saying, 'I had to forgo^② my breakfast to journey here from Edinburgh, so I am as hungry as a hunter.'

We climbed into his boat and the good oarsman^③ took the three of us down river^④ to the village. Then we sat in the cool bar-room at a table made from stout Scottish ash^⑤ and demolished a good steak pie between the three of us. Then over pewter^⑥ tankards^⑦ of a local brew^⑧ our new friend got down to business. I will give the reader the solicitor's story just as we heard it.

'Mr Holmes, Doctor, you may or may not have heard of a theatrically-renowned^⑨ artiste who appears under the *nom de théâtre*^⑩ of the Great Lafayette.' (I made one of my only interruptions at

① loath *a.* [用作表语] 不愿意的; 厌恶的

② forgo *v.* 放弃

③ oarsman *n.* 桨手

④ downriver *ad.* 向下游地

⑤ ash *n.* [植] 白蜡树; 白蜡木

⑥ pewter *n. a.* [冶] 白镴或锡镴(一种以锡为主要成分的合金)

⑦ tankard *n.* (连盖单柄)大(啤)酒杯

⑧ brew *n.* 酿造的饮料, 酒, 啤酒

⑨ renowned *a.* 知名的

⑩ nom de théâtre 艺名

this early point in the narrative, telling him that I had myself seen the performer mentioned at a north London music-hall but that I believed that Holmes was rather less interested in vaudeville^① performances. Holmes waved me to silence so I said little more.)

‘Well, his real name was Sigmund Neuberger and he was of German and American origin^②. In America he had been a protean^③ artiste in vaudeville, after a theatrical apprenticeship^④ as a scene painter^⑤. Eventually he enlarged his act until it took in a number of magical illusions which when he combined them with his abilities in the quick-change line^⑥ made them sensational. Gradually he managed to create a very impressive show involving himself and sometimes as many as a score^⑦ or more of other performers. Billing himself as the Great Lafayette, he embarked upon a tour of Europe which most recently brought him to these shores^⑧.’

‘The theatrical troupe^⑨ and production which he headed was of such a scope that he needed to have legal representation which is where my firm and I became involved. He indulged in quite a bit of litigation^⑩ concerning the content of his performance. To put this

① vaudeville *n.* 杂耍(包括滑稽、歌唱、舞蹈、杂技等在内的演出)

② origin *n.* 血统;出身

③ protean *a.* 变化多端的;能扮演多种角色的

④ apprenticeship *n.* 学徒期;学徒身份,学徒资格

⑤ scene painter *n.* [戏] 绘景师

⑥ line *n.* [口] 欺骗性的话;(表演者经常使用因而具有个人特色的)笑话、妙语

⑦ score *n.* [单复同] 20 个

⑧ shore *n.* [常用复数] 国家

⑨ troupe *n.* (尤指巡回演出的演员、歌手等组成的)团,班,队

⑩ litigation *n.* 诉讼,讼争

into simple terms^①, other artistes were forever trying to copy his performance in various ways as^② usually happens when a success is made but, to be perfectly honest, Neuberger would have me take action for him at the drop of a hat, sometimes when it was scarcely justified.

‘This tendency to rush into court at the slightest provocation^③ made him far from popular with his fellow professionals. The result of this was that his many eccentricities^④—and I admit that he was an eccentric—became somewhat exaggerated in variety^⑤ and vaudeville circles. For example, legend has it that he drilled his assistants like soldiers and forced them to salute^⑥ him if they should meet in the street. He was certainly a disciplinarian^⑦. Then there was the story which would have Lafayette taking advertising posters everywhere and even sticking them on the walls of public wash houses. Here the origin is in his great ability with self-promotion^⑧ which, however, took more orthodox avenues^⑨. But there was one marked form of eccentricity which could hardly need exaggeration because it was truly strange. . . .’

He paused and I felt as if I ought to make some remark but Holmes’s steely eyes told me not to. So we waited for him to con-

① terms *n.* 措辞

② as [方][引导定语从句] = who/which

③ provocation *n.* 挑衅性的事; 激怒的原因; 惹人恼火的事

④ eccentricity *n.* 古怪; 怪癖

⑤ variety *n.* 杂耍表演

⑥ salute *v.* 向……行军礼; 向……致敬

⑦ disciplinarian *n.* 执行纪律者; 严格纪律信奉者

⑧ self-promotion *n.* 自我宣传; 自我推销

⑨ avenue *n.* 路线; [喻]途径, 渠道

tinue. ‘... It concerned his dog, Beauty. About ten years or so ago, in America, Neuberger was given the dog as a gift by his great friend Harry Houdini. It was mongrel^① dog, with a bit of greyhound^② in it, the sort that we would call a lurcher^③. Beauty was not the most attractive of dogs but for some reason Neuberger took to her at once and she very soon became his closest companion and he said that she was his only friend.

‘If you went to dinner with him you would be treated to the sight of the dog being seated at the table on a silk cushion and being served by waiters. The house which he recently purchased^④ in London has a plaque^⑤ over the door which states, “The more I see of men the more I love my dog”. On tour the dog had her own rooms at the best hotel, adjoining^⑥ that of her master’s suite. She wore a collar bearing precious^⑦ stones and her likeness^⑧ appeared upon all his headed^⑨ note-paper, contracts^⑩ and even upon his cheques^⑪.

‘Neuberger would accept minor discourtesies^⑫ shown toward himself by persons with whom he came into contact but anyone

① mongrel *n.* 杂种狗

② greyhound *n.* 一种身细腿长的猎犬

③ lurcher *n.* [英] 狩猎时默不出声的猎狗(偷猎者常使用的一种经训练后能悄悄地捕捉猎物的杂种猎狗)

④ purchase *n.* 购买, 购置

⑤ plaque *n.* (建筑物、家具等上的陶瓷、金属或木制的) 饰板, 匾

⑥ adjoin *a.* 毗连的

⑦ precious stone 宝石(钻石、红宝石、蓝宝石等)

⑧ likeness *n.* 肖像, 画像; 照片

⑨ headed *a.* 有标题的

⑩ contract *n.* 合同, 契约

⑪ cheque *n.* 支票; 空白支票

⑫ discourtesies *n.* 无礼, 失礼, 粗鲁; 无礼(或粗鲁)的举动

who, by word or deed^①, showed any such rudeness^② to his pet would have broken all contact with him forever. He had a fake pedigree^③ created for his dog, in which she was referred to as an Assyrian^④ Greyhound or some such non-existent breed. The dog even had a few brief appearances in his Great Lafayette act.’

At this point Holmes made his only interruption. He said, ‘Mr Greyshot, this is all very interesting but does this Mr Neuberger’s obsession with his dog have a bearing^⑤ on the matter in hand? We find your narrative interesting but I wish you would get to the point!’

He apologized for his long-winded^⑥ narration and in its continuance he tended to cut a few corners^⑦. ‘Mr Holmes, he was so besotted^⑧ with the animal that he was often heard to say that without her his life would be worthless. Imagine, therefore, how worried I became when on Monday of this week he wired me to the effect that his dog had died of apoplexy. He was just starting a second week at the Empire Theatre, Edinburgh, and so I journeyed to Scotland to see if I could be of some help in consoling him. He was quite distraught^⑨ and insisted that the dog should be buried locally at the

① by word or deed 用言辞或行为

② rudeness *n.* 粗暴; 无礼

③ pedigree *n.* 家谱, 系谱; (家畜的) 纯种系谱

④ Assyrian *a.* 亚述的; 亚述人的; 亚述语的

⑤ bearing *n.* 关系, 关联; 意义

⑥ long-winded *a.* 唠唠叨叨的, 喋喋不休的, 冗长的

⑦ cut corners 抄近路, 走捷径; 节省时间或金钱

⑧ besotted *a.* 沉醉的, 痴迷的

⑨ distraught *a.* 心烦意乱的; 几乎发狂的