





11

In the Enemy's Camp

Oh, how Pongo needed that drink!

'And now stroll down to the pond with me,' said the Colonel, gripping¹ the handle of a little tin bucket in his teeth. 'You won't feel like trying to sleep any more just at present.'

Pongo felt he would never be able to sleep again.

'I blame myself for letting you in for this shock,' said the Colonel, as they went out into the early morning sunlight. 'Because you can't blame the Lieutenant. She's not a trained observer. When she told me the place was "seething with Dalmatian puppies" I naturally thought she meant *your* puppies only. After all, fifteen puppies can do quite a bit of seething. It was only yesterday, after I'd made the Folly my headquarters and could see over the wall, that I found out the true facts. Of course I sent the news over yesterday's Twilight Barking but couldn't reach you.'

'How many puppies are there?' asked Pongo.

'Can't tell, exactly, because they never keep still. But I'd say—counting yours—getting on for a hundred.'

啊,庞果多么需要喝水啊!

"现在和我一起下楼慢慢走到池塘边去,"上校说,他用牙齿紧咬着一只小马口铁桶的把手。 "现在你像是一点不想再睡觉了。"

庞果觉得他再也不能睡觉了。

"我责怪自己让你们受到这样的惊吓,"上校说道,这时他们出外走到了清晨的阳光下。"因为你们不能责怪中尉。她不是一个训练有素的观察员。当她告诉我,这地方'乱哄哄的全是小花斑狗'时,我自然以为她说的只是你们的小狗。毕竟15条小狗可以闹得相当乱哄哄的。就在昨天,我把富利作为我的司令部,能够看到墙后面时,我才发现真实情况。当然我通过昨天的黄昏吠叫把这些消息传了出去,不过没能传给你们。"

"那里有多少小狗?" 庞果问。

"确切数字说不清,因为他们从来没有停下过。不过我可以告诉你们——算上你们的——将近有100条。"

① grip /grɪp/ v. 握住, 牢牢抓住



'A hundred?'

They had reached the pond. 'Have another drink,' suggested the Colonel.

Pongo gulped down some more water, then stared hopelessly at the Sheepdog.

'Colonel, what am I going to do?'

'Will your lady wife want just to rescue her own puppies?'

'She may at first,' said Pongo. 'But not when she realizes it would mean leaving all the others to certain death.'

'Anyway, your pups aren't old enough for the journey,' said the Colonel. 'I suppose you know that?'

Pongo did know it. His plan had been to let his puppies stay at Hell Hall until they were a little bigger, while he and Missis kept watch over them, ready to rescue them if danger **threatened**^①. He told the Colonel this.

'And that's exactly what you must do, ' said the Colonel.

'But what about the other puppies?'

'I shall spread the news of them throughout England. Other parents may come to the rescue.'

'I doubt it, after all this time,' said Pongo.

'If the worst comes to the worst, would your pets give them a home?'

Pongo couldn't imagine the Dearlys refusing to help any dog. But getting on for a hundred! Still, the **drawing-room**[®] was very large.

'I don't believe they'd **turn** them **away**[®]' he said. 'But Colonel, I could never get the whole lot of them to London.'

'Not as they are, of course. Every dog jack of them has to be trained. They must learn to march, to obey orders—I may teach the bigger ones how to **forage**[®].'

Y

"100条?"

他们到了池塘边。"再喝一点吧,"上校建议道。

庞果又喝了一些水,然后绝望地盯着牧羊狗。

- "上校,我该怎么办呢?"
- "你的太太是不是只想救自己的小狗?"
- "起先她会这样,"庞果说。"不过当她知道 这意味着留下的其他小狗难逃一死,就不会了。"
- "不管怎样,你们的小狗还没大到可以走长路,"上校说。"我想你知道这一点吧?"

庞果是知道的。他以前的计划是让他的小狗 留在汉尔宅邸,直到他们长大一点,他和密西斯 一直守护着,如有危险就随时准备救他们。他把 这计划告诉了上校。

- "你确实必须这样做,"上校说。
- "可是其他小狗怎么办?"
- "我把他们的消息传遍全英国。其他父母也会 来救的。"
 - "我怀疑,已经过了那么长时间了。"庞果说。
- "要是万一发生最坏的情况,你们的宠物会不 会让他们住在家里?"

庞果不能想象甜来夫妇会拒绝帮助哪一条狗。 可是将近 100 条! 尽管起居室很大。

"我不相信他们会拒绝,"他说。"不过上校, 我决不可能把他们这么一大批全带到伦敦。"

"当然不是像现在这样的狗。每一条狗必须经过训练。他们必须学会行军,服从命令——我可以教大一点的狗怎样找食。"

① threaten /' θretn/ v. 像要发生;快要来临

② drawing-room /droŋrum/ n. 客厅

3 turn away v.把……打发走

④ forage /'foridʒ/ v. 找食

'I wouldn't mind learning that myself, ' said Pongo.

'Splendid! Now how about trying your mouth at carrying this **pail** ^①? That's a trick you ought to learn. No, no—hold your head farther out. Then the pail won't bang into your chest. Excellent!'

Pongo found he could carry the bucket of water quite easily. His spirits were rising now. With this wonderful old Colonel to help him he would rescue *every* puppy. He set the bucket down in the Folly.

'You're looking better,' said the Colonel. 'You may be able to sleep now. There's nothing more you and your lady can do until it's dark. Then you shall meet your family. Meanwhile, I'll send in word that you've arrived.'

Something was puzzling Pongo. 'Colonel, why did Cruella steal so many Dalmatians? She can't want more than one Dalmatian fur coat?'

The Sheepdog looked astonished². 'Surely you know her husband's a furrier? I understand she only married him for his furs.'

So that was it! Pongo had forgotten. But if the de Vils planned to sell Dalmatian coats to the public, then Hell Hall was nothing less than a Dalmatian fur farm and no Dalmatian would ever be safe again unless Cruella's career came to an end. 'I must **cope with** that when I get back to London,' thought Pongo, grimly, as he mounted the stairs.

He found Missis stretched out[®] on the bare[®] boards by the window. She had watched until the puppies had all gone in, then toppled[®] into sleep. He pulled straw around her and lay down very close, to keep her warm. She did not stir. His last waking thoughts were humble[®] ones. He had expected the Sheepdog to be some doddering[®] old country gaffer[®]. How much now depended on this shrewd, kind old soldier!

It was dark when the Colonel woke them.

① pail /peɪl/ n. 桶,提桶

② astonished /ə'stonɪʃt/ a. 吃惊的,惊讶的

- ③ cope with v. 对付(应付,克服)
- ④ stretch out v. 伸展,伸出;展 开,铺开
- ⑤ bare /beə/ a. 光秃秃的
- ⑥ topple /'topl/ v. 摇摆, 摇摇 欲坠,倒塌:摇动
- ⑦ humble /'hʌmbl/ a. 恭顺的; 谦卑的,谦逊的
- ® doddering /'dodərɪŋ/ a. (因年老、中风等而)摇晃的,蹒跚的
- ⑨ gaffer /'gæfə/ n.(贬、谑) 老 头子[对乡下老人的称呼]

"我自己也愿意学学呢,"庞果说。

"好极了! 现在试试用你的嘴咬着这个桶怎么样? 这个把戏你应该学学。不,不——把你的脑袋再伸出一点。那么桶就不会撞到你的胸膛了。好极了!"

庞果觉得他能够很容易地提起这桶水。现在 他的精神来了。有这个神奇的老上校帮忙,他会 救出每一条小狗的。他到了富利把桶放下。

"你看上去好些了,"上校说。"你现在也许能睡觉了。天黑之前,你和你太太没什么可干的。 随后你们将要全家团聚。同时我将传话进去说你们到了。"

有些事使庞果感到迷惑。"上校,克鲁略·戴维尔干吗要偷那么多花斑狗呢?她想要的花斑狗皮衣服不会是不止一件吧?"

牧羊狗露出惊奇的神情。"你肯定知道她的 丈夫是个皮货商吧?我知道她只是为了他的皮货 才嫁给他的。"

正是这样! 庞果忘记了。要是戴维尔夫妇准备公开出售花斑狗皮衣服,那么汉尔宅邸就等于是一个花斑狗皮场,没有一条花斑狗再会安全无恙,除非克鲁略的事业完蛋。"等我回到伦敦,我必须了结这事,"庞果严肃地思忖着爬上楼梯。

他发现密西斯伸展四肢躺在靠窗的光秃秃的木板上。她一直看到所有小狗都进去,然后倒下睡着了。他把干草堆在她的身边,紧挨着她躺下,使她暖和。她一点没动。他还没睡着时最后的思绪是很谦逊的。他曾经以为这条牧羊狗是走路蹒跚的乡下老家伙。可现在却是多么依赖这个精明和善的老兵啊!



'All still well with the pups, but no news of any other parents over the Twilight Barking. I sent word of your safe arrival and good wishes to you came pouring in. All Dogdom awaits news from this quiet village. I've said you'll bark a few words yourself when you're fully rested.'

'Willingly,' said Pongo.

'Now down we go to dinner,' said the Colonel.

They went down and had an excellent meal of sausages[®] which the cat had collected during the day. She was away at the farm—the Colonel said there would be hurt feelings if she did not join her pets at tea, to drink a saucer of milk. 'And I must go back later, because my young pet, Tommy, likes me there while he has his bath. So let's be moving.'

He rose and pushed open a window. 'The **defences**² of Hell Hall are **childish**³,' he said. 'What's the use of **padlocked**⁴ gates at the front when one can get in at the back, through this Folly?'

Pongo then saw that the Folly had a door and a window opening on to the grounds of Hell Hall as well as the door and window opening on to the heath and was, indeed, a sort of gate-house. The Colonel had originally entered through the window on the heath side. The door into the grounds was bolted on the Hell Hall side, so the Colonel led Pongo and Missis through the window.

'Now we'll be **cautious**[®],' he said. 'That window might blow shut and there's no handle on the outside. And it might take some time to unbolt this door.' He drew back the bolt on the door into the Folly, pushed the door open and rolled a heavy stone against it. 'Now, if you should want to get out in a hurry—But I don't think you will. Shouldn't wonder if you couldn't spend the night with your pups.'

Missis gasped with delight and began to ask questions.

① sausage / spsid3/ n. 香肠, 腊肠

- ② defence /dr'fens/ n. 防务, 防御
- ③ childish /'tʃaɪldɪʃ/ a. 幼稚的,傻里傻气的
- ④ padlocked /'pædlokd/ a.
 用挂锁锁的;把…上锁的

⑤ cautious /ˈkɔ:ʃəs/ a. 谨慎的, 小心的



当上校叫醒他们时天已黑了。

"小狗们一切都好,不过黄昏吠叫时没有得到 其他父母的任何消息。我传话出去说你们已平安 到达,对你们的良好祝愿就不断传来。所有狗都 等着这个不起眼的村庄传出消息。我已经说了, 等你们完全休息好了,你们会亲自叫几声的。"

"很愿意," 庞果说。

"现在我们下去吃晚饭,"上校说。

他们下楼吃了一顿极好的香肠饭,那是猫在 白天收集来的。她出外到农场去了——上校说, 如果她在喝茶时不跟她的宠物在一起,喝上一碟 牛奶,会伤害他们的感情的。"我过会儿必须回 去,因为我的小宠物汤米,喜欢在洗澡时有我在 他身边。我这就走吧。"

他站起来推开一扇窗。"汉尔宅邸的防卫是幼稚的,"他说。"别人可以从后面通过这个富利进去,锁上前门又有什么用处呢?"

庞果这才看见富利有一扇门和一扇窗面向汉尔宅邸的场地,另有一扇门和一扇窗朝着石南丛生的地方,它确实有些像门楼。上校原先从石南丛生的地方那边穿窗进去。通往场地的门是在汉尔宅邸那边栓上的,所以上校领着庞果和密西斯穿窗户进去。

"现在我们要小心些,"他说。"那扇窗可能被风吹得关上,外面那边又没有把手。拉开这扇门的门闩又可能要花些时间。"他拉开通往富利的那扇门上的门栓,推开门,推来一块大石头顶住它。"现在你如果要急于出去也行了——不过我想你们不会。如果你们不能和小狗们一起过夜是

'I'll explain as we go,' said the Colonel, starting towards Hell Hall.

A full moon was rising above the black house.

'Colonel, what's that on the roof?' said Pongo. 'Surely it isn't television—here?'

'Oh, yes, it is,' said the Colonel. 'And there's scarcely[®] a Cottage in the village hasn't got it since the electricity came. Mostly on the Hire Purchase [®]—though there won't be much Purchase here. I'm told the Badduns haven't paid anything for months.'

He then **outlined** [®] his plans, and it soon appeared that television played an important part in them. The Baddun brothers were so fond of it that they could not bear any puppy to bark while it was on. And unless the puppies were warm, they barked like mad. The warmest room in the house was the kitchen—which was where the television set was—so that was where the pups now lived (unless they were taking exercise in the stable yard). Some pups liked watching the television, some just slept; anyway, none of them barked, so the Badduns could enjoy themselves in peace. All this the Colonel had heard from Lucky, during long, barked conversations.

'That lad of yours is as bright as a button[®],' said the Colonel. 'He's months ahead of his age.'

Pongo and Missis swelled with pride.

The plan was that Lucky should bring his brothers and sisters out to the stable yard while the Badduns were watching television.

'But it will be too cold for them to stay out long,' said the Colonel, 'and I don't see why you shouldn't go back into the kitchen with them. Lucky tells me there's no light except from the T. V. screen, so if you crouch bound you should be quite safe. Even if the Badduns do see you, they'll just think you're two of the larger pups. But there's hardly

- ① scarcely /'skeəsli/ ad. 简直不,几乎不
- ② Hire Purchase 分期付款
- ③ outline /'əutlaɪn/ v. 概括地 论述,略述

④ as bright as a button 聪明伶

⑤ crouch /kraut ʃ/ v. 蹲,蹲伏

并不奇怪的。"

密西斯兴奋得透不过气来, 开始问这问那。

"我边走边解说吧,"上校说着开始朝汉尔宅 邸走去。

- 一轮满月在黑房子上方升起。
- "上校,屋顶上是什么东西?" 庞果说。"这 总不是电视吧——在这种地方?"

"噢,是的,那是电视,"上校说。"自从通了电以后,村子里几乎家家都有。大多是分期付款买的——尽管这里买的人不太多。我听说巴腾兄弟已经好几个月没付一分钱了。"

接着他大致说了一下他的计划,很快发现电视在其中扮演着重要角色。巴腾兄弟那么喜欢看电视,以致在看电视时不能容忍任何小狗出声吠叫。可是小狗们除非很暖和,要不他们就发疯似的狂叫。这幢房子里最暖和的房间是厨房——电视机就放在那里——所以小狗们现在就住在那儿(除了他们在马厩场放风的时候)。有些小狗喜欢看电视,有些就是睡觉,不管怎样,他们没一个吠叫,所以巴腾兄弟可以安静地享受。所有这一些,上校都是在长时间的吠叫对话中从"幸运"那里听来的。

"你们的那个小伙子简直伶俐极了,"上校说。 "他像是比他的年龄要大上几个月。"

庞果和密西斯又自豪又得意。

计划是当巴腾兄弟看电视时, "幸运"应该 把他的兄弟姐妹们带到马厩场。

"不过天太冷,他们在外面呆不长,"上校说, "我不明白你们为什么不能和他们一起回厨房去。 '幸运'告诉我,那儿除了电视屏幕的亮光外没有 any chance you will be seen because Lucky tells me the Badduns stay **glued**^① to the T. V. until it ends and then **roll over**^② and go to sleep—they've got **mattresses**^③ on the kitchen floor. I see no reason why you shouldn't spend the night there. I'll call you at dawn and you can get out before the Badduns wake.'

Pongo and Missis thought this was a wonderful idea.

'Can we sleep there every night?' asked Missis.

The Colonel said he hoped so and that it was at night that the pups would have to be **drilled**⁴ and trained for their march to London.

'Lucky says nothing wakes the Badduns, so *I* plan to come into the kitchen. I shall hold classes there and drill ten pups at a time in the stable yard. But you two must spend a quiet night there first and report conditions to me.'

By now they were almost at the stable yard.

'Don't tell me any more now, Colonel,' said Pongo. 'I'm too excited to take it in. Are you all right, Missis?'

For Missis was trembling. 'I can't believe I'm really going to see them,' she said.

The Colonel opened the gate to the stable yard. Missis gave a soft moan and hurled⁵ herself across the yard. She had seen Lucky. There he stood, at the back door, waiting for them.

And behind him, in the long dark passage leading to the kitchen, were all his brothers and sisters. Who could describe what the mother and father felt during the next few minutes, as they tried to **cuddle**[®] fifteen wagging, **wriggling**[®], **licking**[®] puppies all at once? Everyone tried to be quiet but there were so many whimpers of bliss, so much happy snuffling, that the Sheepdog got nervous.

'Will they hear in there?' he asked Lucky.

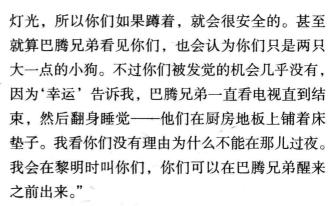
'What, the Badduns?' said Lucky—rather indistinctly⁹, because he

- ① glue /glu:/ v. 粘上;使粘牢
- ② roll over v. 翻滚
- ③ mattress /ˈmætrɪs/ n. (床用) 垫子

④ drill /drɪl/ v. (严格而有系统地)盘练,训练

⑤ hurl /h3:l/ v. 猛投,猛掷

- ⑥ cuddle /'kʌdl/ v. 拥抱,搂抱,怀抱
- ① wriggling /'rɪgl/ a. 蠕动的; 扭动的
- ® licking /'lɪkɪŋ/ a. 舔的
- ⑨ indistinctly /indis'tiŋktli/ ad.不清楚地,模糊地;朦胧地



庞果和密西斯觉得这个主意真棒。

"我们能不能每晚都睡在那儿?"密西斯问道。

上校说,他希望如此,为了他们到伦敦去的 艰苦旅程,那些小狗要在夜间操练和训练。

"'幸运'说巴腾兄弟怎么吵也不醒,所以我 计划到厨房去。我将在那里上课,在马厩场一次 训练10只小狗。不过你们俩必须在那里先安静地 呆一夜再向我报告情况。"

这时他们差不多走到马厩场了。

"现在不要告诉我别的了,上校,"庞果道。 "我太兴奋都听不进去了。你好吗,密西斯?"

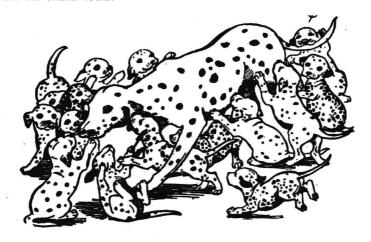
因为密西斯在浑身发抖。"我不能相信,我 真的要见到他们了,"她说道。

上校打开进马厩场的门。密西斯发出一下轻柔的呻吟,猛地一下窜过马厩场。她看到了"幸运"。他站在后门旁正等着他们呢。

在他的后面,在通向厨房的又长又黑的走廊里,都是他的兄弟和姐妹。谁能描绘得出,在以后几分钟里,当母亲和父亲想一下子拥抱所有 15 条摆动着尾巴、扭动着要挤进来、满怀渴望的小狗时,他们有些什么感受?大家都想要静些,可



had his mother's ear in his mouth. 'No, they've got their **precious** television on extra loud.'



Still, the Colonel was relieved when the first joy of the meeting was over.

'Quiet, now!' said Pongo.

'Quiet as mice!' said Missis.

But they were pleasantly surprised at how quiet the pups instantly were. The only sound came from some dead leaves stirred by fifteen lashing little tails.

'Now, still!' said Lucky.

All the tails stopped wagging.

'I'm teaching them to obey orders,' said Lucky to the Colonel.

'Good boy, good boy. Let's see, I made you a Corporal² this afternoon, didn't I? I now make you a Sergeant³. If all goes well, you shall have your Commission⁴ next week. Now I'm off to see my little pet, Tommy, have his bath.'

He told Pongo he would be back in a couple of hours. 'Slip⁽⁵⁾ out and tell me what you think of things—or send the Sergeant with a message.'

① precious /'preʃəs/ a. 宝贵的, 珍贵的



是有那么多狂喜的悲嗥,那么多欢乐的喷鼻子声,以致那只牧羊狗紧张不安起来。

"他们在那里会听见吗?"他问"幸运"。

"什么,巴腾兄弟吗?""幸运"含糊不清地说,因为他正咬着母亲的耳朵。"不,他们把喜爱的电视开得格外响。"

直到初次会面的欢乐情绪平静下去之后,上 校才感到松了一口气。

"现在,安静!"庞果说。

"像老鼠一样安静!"密西斯说。

小狗们一下子就那么安静,倒使得他们又惊 又喜。唯一的响声来自被15条摇动的小尾巴搅动 的枯叶。

"别动啦!""幸运"说。

所有尾巴都不摇了。

"我在教他们服从命令,""幸运"对上校说。

"好孩子,好孩子。让我们来看看,今天下午我任命你为下士,是不是?现在我任命你当中士。要是一切都好的话,下星期你会得到你的任命状。现在我要去看着我的小宠物汤米洗澡去了。"

他告诉庞果,他一两个小时之内就回来。 "请溜出来告诉我你认为情况怎么样——或者派中 士捎个信。"

⑤ slip /slip/ v. 溜,溜走



② corporal /'kɔ:pərəl/ n. 下士, 班长

③ sergeant /'sa:d3ənt/ n. 中士

④ commission /kə'mɪʃən/ n. (陆海军军官的)任命