

英语阅读丛书

The Red Badge of Courage

红色英勇勋章



上海译文出版社

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The Red Badge of Courage
红色英勇勋章
(简写本)

〔美〕斯蒂芬·克莱恩 原著

R·约翰·简写

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作者简介

斯蒂芬·克莱恩(Stephen Crane, 1871—1900), 美国十九世纪后期著名小说家和诗人, 生于新泽西州, 就学于纽约州的哈得孙河学院, 曾为《论坛报》和《先驱报》撰写文章。一八九三年, 他完成了第一部小说《街头女郎玛吉》(Maggie: A Girl of the Streets)。因小说取材于城市贫民窟, 揭露了美国社会的阴暗面, 出版商不敢接受, 斯蒂芬·克莱恩只得自己筹资出版。一八九五年, 他发表了《红色英勇勋章》(The Red Badge of Courage), 尽管他从未参加过战争, 也从未闻到过火药味, 但他在这本小说中细腻地描述了一个青年初次参加战斗的心理状态。该书使他一举成名, 他的《街头女郎玛吉》也得以在一八九六年再版。

其后他被派往希腊, 报道希土战争。一八九八年, 斯蒂芬·克莱恩在伦敦同比他年长的科拉·泰勒结婚。一九〇〇年, 克莱恩在德国患肺病逝世, 后被安葬在新泽西州的伊丽莎白市。他写作生涯短促, 但在英美文学中有一定的地位。人们称他为“当代的主要印象派作家”。他的作品受到广大读者的赞赏, 评价最高的是他二十三岁时所写的小说《红色英勇勋章》。

内 容 提 要

小说以美国南北战争(1861—1865)为历史背景。

主人公亨利是一个农妇的独子。他怀着对战争的奇妙幻想，渴望过军队生活，不顾母亲的劝阻，参加了北方军（即联盟军）。

经过几个月平静的军营生活，部队奉命开往前线去作战。亨利这个从未听说过枪炮声的青年，第一次面临战斗，心情紧张，惶恐不安。激烈的战斗场面虽然对他有刺激性的引诱，但死亡的威胁在他心里发生着强烈的动摇作用。战场上的炮火声解除了他的矛盾心理，亨利勇敢地投入了战斗，但当遭到敌人（南方军士兵）突然袭击时，他惊恐万状，扔下枪枝，从阵地上逃跑了。当他听到北方军重又获胜的消息时，他悔恨不已。为了弥补这一过错，他冒着危险打听前方部队的消息，但不幸被从火线上溃退下来的一个士兵用枪托打伤了脑袋。一个过路的战士见他可怜，就把他送回到原来的兵团。

伙伴们见亨利负了伤，以为他在战斗中挂了彩，不仅不怀疑他是逃兵，反而敬佩他那种负伤不下火线的勇敢精神。可是亨利并未因此在良心上得到宽慰。他万分羞愧，暗暗下决心寻找立功机会。

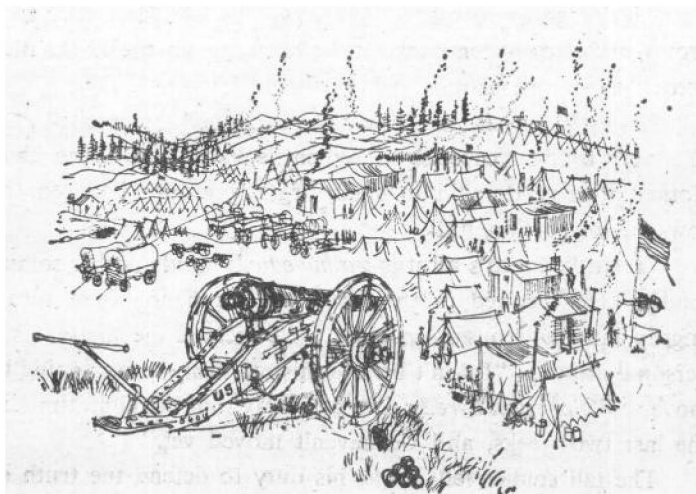
接着，部队转移阵地。当冲锋被击溃，战士们都停止射击的时候，亨利还在一个劲地射击。他那种近似于疯狂的勇敢，立即使他成为英雄。亨利克服了对战争的恐惧心理，忘却羞愧的往事，恢复了自信心。

以后，亨利又立了大功。一次在与敌人短兵相接的混战中，他突然看到炮火中的战旗，一种对战旗狂热的爱突然在

他心中油然升起。他奋不顾身地冲上去，从死者手中接过战旗，领着部队冲上去。亨利以他无畏的英雄气概受到了上级的赞赏。

此后，亨利还常被内疚的心理困扰。他虽然立了功，但始终未能摆脱那临阵逃跑的回忆。但他终于领悟到，自己的灵魂经过炮火的洗礼，已发生根本变化；他的精神得以解放，希望和憧憬又在心中复活了。

本书故事情节简单，着重心理描写，语言流畅，通俗易懂。全书约有 1200 个基本词汇，适合大学一年级学生及同等水平的社会读者阅读欣赏。



Chapter I

Dawn revealed the Northern Army¹ camped on the hillsides, resting. As the land changed from the brown of night to the green of morning² the army woke up, listening eagerly for the latest news.

A tall soldier went down to the stream in the valley to wash a shirt. He came flying back, waving the garment like a flag. He was full of a tale³ which he had heard from an honest friend, who had heard it from a truthful gunner, who had heard it from his worthy brother who was a clerk at the headquarters of the division. He had the important manner of an official herald.⁴

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1. 北方军。又称联盟军，是美国南北战争中美国北部各州组成的军队。 2. 当大地从黑黝黝的夜晚变为郁郁葱葱的早晨时。 3. 有一件事急于要告诉别人。 4. 他像个神气十足的正式传令官。

"We're going to move tomorrow," he said decidedly to a group of his own company. "We're going up the river, then across, and come around behind them."

His listeners were attentive as he explained the detailed plan of a very brilliant campaign. When he had finished, the blue-clothed men scattered into small arguing groups between the rows of low brown huts.

"It's a lie! that's all it is—a *huge lie*!" said another soldier loudly. He was red in the face, and his hands were thrust angrily into his trousers' pockets. He treated the matter as a personal attack. "I don't believe this old army is ever going to move. *We're stuck here.*² I've got ready to move eight times in the last two weeks, and we haven't moved yet."

The tall soldier felt it was his duty to defend the truth of the news which he himself had brought. He and *the loud one*³ came very near to fighting over it⁴.

There was *hot discussion*⁵ among the men. One gave a clear outline of all the plans of *the commanding general*⁶. Several disagreed, saying that there were different plans of campaign. They argued fiercely, and each group tried to gain the attention of the others. Meanwhile, the soldier who had begun the story moved about with much importance. Everyone wanted to question him.

"What's happening, Jim?"

"The army's going to move."

"Ah, what are you talking about? How do you know?"

"Well, you can believe me or not, just as you like. I don't care."

1. 弥天大谎。

2. 我们钉死在这里了。

3. 那个大声讲话的战士。

4. 几乎为此而打起来。

5. 热烈的讨论。

6. 指挥官。

The others were thoughtful when they heard this. They were almost convinced by his refusal to produce proof. The excitement increased.

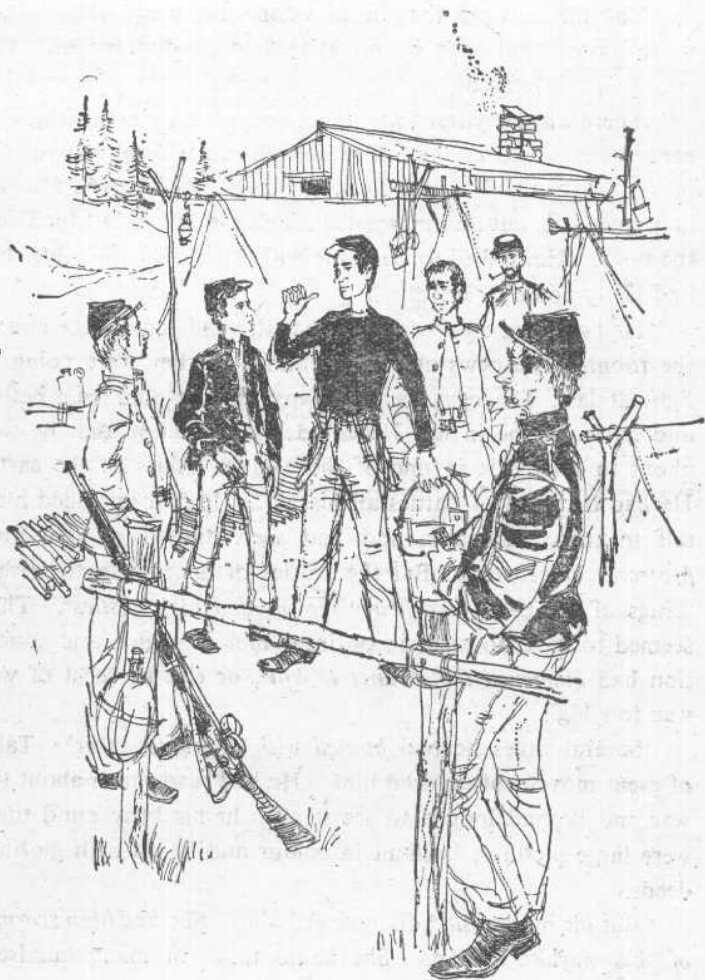
There was a *youthful private soldier*¹ who listened with eager ears to the words of the tall man and to the comments of the others. When he had heard enough about marches and attacks, he went to his hut and crawled through the low hole which was the door. He wished to be alone with some new thoughts that had lately come to his mind.

He lay down on a wide bed that stretched across the end of the room. The news astonished him. So they were going to fight at last. The next day, perhaps, there would be a battle, and he would be in it. He could hardly believe that he was about to take part in one of those great affairs of the earth. He had dreamed of battles all his life. He had imagined himself in many struggles, and had seen himself as the great *protector of peoples*². But the battles of his imagination were things of the past—*like heavy crowns and high castles*³. They seemed to have no place in ordinary life. Religion and education had *quietened the instinct to kill*⁴, or else the cost of war was too high.

Several times he had *burned with desire to enlist*⁵. Tales of great movements excited him. He had read much about the war and he had longed to see it all. In his busy mind there were large pictures, brilliant in colour and lit up with glorious deeds.

But his mother had discouraged him. She *had been scornful of*⁶ his warlike feelings. She could think of many hundreds

1. 年轻的士兵。 2. 人民的保护者。这里 *people* 后面加 “s” 指不同民族的人民。 3. 象沉甸甸的王冠和高高的城堡一样。喻指遥远而又玄虚的东西。 4. 抑制了杀人的本能。 5. 按捺不住地要想入伍。 6. 藐视。



The youthful private soldier listened with eager ears to the words of the tall soldier

of reasons why it was far more important that he should stay on the farm than go to the field of battle. He usually lost his arguments with her because she always seemed so sure that her opinions were right.

At last, however, his feelings grew stronger than his mother's persuasion. The army was in fact fighting very well down there towards the South. Almost every day the newspapers printed accounts of a decisive victory. One night, as he lay in bed, he heard the ringing of the church bell, which meant that there was news of a great battle. He had trembled with emotion. Later, he had gone to his mother's room and had said, "Ma, I'm going to enlist."

"Henry, don't be a fool," his mother had replied. She had then covered her face with a blanket, and that was the end of the matter for the night.

Nevertheless, the next morning he had gone to a town near the farm and had enlisted in a company that was forming there. When he had returned his mother was milking the brown cow. Four others stood waiting. "Ma, I've enlisted" he had said. There was a short silence. "It's God's will, Henry," she had finally replied, and had then continued to milk the brown cow. But he had seen two tears running down her rough cheeks.

Later, she had disappointed him by saying nothing about his returning as a hero, alive or dead. He had prepared certain sentences which he hoped would calm her fears, but he had no chance to say them. She had gone on with her work in the kitchen and addressed him as follows: "Take good care of yourself, Henry, in all this fighting business. Don't think that you can beat the whole *rebel army*¹, because you can't. You're just

1. 反叛军,指美国南北战争中美国南方各州组成的军队。

one little fellow among a whole lot of others, and you've got to keep quiet and do what they tell you. I know what you're like, Henry."

"Always be careful to choose your friends. There are lots of bad men in the army, Henry. The army *makes them wild*¹, and they *like nothing better than*² teaching a young fellow like you, who has never been away from home before, how to drink and swear. Keep away from that kind, Henry. I don't want you ever to do anything that you'd be ashamed to tell me about. Just think that I'm watching you. If you keep that in your mind, I'm sure you'll be all right."

"You must always remember your father, too, child, and remember that he *never drank a drop of liquor in his life and seldom used a bad word*³."

"I don't know what else to tell you, Henry, *except that*⁴ you must always do your duty. Don't worry about me. If the time come when you have to be killed or do an unpleasant thing, why, Henry, don't think of anything except what's right. Many women have to suffer such things these days, and the Lord will take care of us all. I've put a cup of blackberry jam with your things because I know you like it best of all. Goodbye, Henry. Take care, and be a good boy."

He had been impatient as he listened to this speech. It had not been quite what he expected, and he could not entirely conceal his annoyance. He had been glad to leave, but, when he had looked back from the gate and had seen his mother shaking with sorrow, he had felt suddenly ashamed of his thoughts.

1. 使他们变得野蛮。 2. 最喜欢…。 3. 一生中从没喝过酒，极少讲粗话。 4. *except* 是介词，后面跟 *that* 从句。

On the way to Washington his spirits had risen. The regiment was welcomed and fed generously at every station until the youth had believed that he must be a hero. As the smiles of the girls and the congratulations of the old men *were showered on him*¹, he felt that he had the strength to do mighty deeds in war.

After complicated journeys with many pauses², he had spent long, dull months in a military camp. He had believed that real war was a series of death struggles *with only a short time in between for sleep and meals*³; but since his regiment had come to the field the army had done little *but sit still and try to keep warm*⁴. He remembered his old ideas—that education and religion had *brought an end to*⁵ the old kind of war.

He felt then that *the army was just a show of force*⁶; the men in blue were not meant to fight; and his concern was only to make himself comfortable. Every day there were marching and exercises, and these were watched by important officers.

The only enemies he had seen were some guards along the river bank. They were pleasant, sunburnt fellows who sometimes shot thoughtfully at the blue guards. When they were scolded for this, they expressed sorrow and swore solemnly that *their guns had exploded without permission*⁷.

Old soldiers had told him tales about the enemy. Some talked of fierce, bearded warriors who fought with extraordinary bravery, advancing with tobacco in their mouths and curses on their lips. Others spoke of hungry, badly clothed men who would *go through the fires of hell*⁷ to win a meal. From the

1. …象阵雨般地落在他身上。 2. 其间只间隔着很短的睡眠和吃饭的时间。
3. 除了坐着不动和设法取暖。这里的 *but* 相当于 *except* 的意义。 4. 结束。
5. 仅是一支摆样子的军队。 6. (枪)走火。 7. 冒着枪林弹雨。
of hell 用在这里加强语气。

stories, the youth imagined the red, live bones sticking out through holes in the faded uniforms. He did not know what to believe.

But it did not matter what kind of soldiers he was going to fight, so long as they fought, and everyone agreed that they would. There was a more serious problem. He lay on his bed thinking about it. He was trying to prove to himself that he would not run away from a battle. He had never thought much about this before, but it could happen. He was forced to admit that *as far as war was concerned*¹ he did not know how he would act.

A little fear grew in his mind. As his imagination went forward to a fight, he saw terrible possibilities. He saw the fire, the blood and the bodies, but quite failed to see himself standing bravely in the midst of them. He remembered his *visions of glory*², but now that the battle was near he suspected that they were impossible pictures.

He sprang up from the bed, trembling. "Good Lord, what's the matter with me?" he said aloud.

He decided to watch himself closely in these new circumstances, and to gather as much information about himself as he could. In this way, perhaps, the personal qualities of which he knew nothing would not disgrace him in battle. "Good Lord!" he repeated in horror.

After a time the tall soldier came in, followed by the loud one. They shared the hut with the youth. They were still arguing.

"That's all right," said the tall soldier as he entered. "You can believe me or not, just as you like. All you've got to do is to

1. 就战争而言。 2. 对荣誉的憧憬(梦幻)。

sit down and wait. You'll pretty soon find out that I was right." He began to pack various articles into his knapsack.

The youth looked down at the *busy figure*¹. "*Going to be a battle is there*², Jim?" he asked.

"Of course there is," replied the tall soldier. "You just wait until tomorrow, and you'll see one of the biggest battles there ever was. You just wait."

"*Thunder!*"³ said the youth.

"Oh, you'll see fighting this time, my boy," the tall soldier added, with the air of a man who is about to arrange a battle *for the benefit of*⁴ his friends.

"Huh!" said the loud one from a corner.

"Well," said the youth, "this story will probably turn out just *like*⁵ the others did."

"Oh, no, it won't," replied the tall soldier. "You just wait."

The youth was silent for a time. Then he spoke to the tall soldier. "Jim!"

"What?"

"How do you think the regiment will fight?"

"Oh, they'll fight all right, after they get started," said the other with calm judgment. He made careful use of the third person "they". "They've been laughed at, of course, because they're new; but they'll fight all right, I think."

"Do you think any of the boys will run?"

"Oh, there may be a few who'll run. Every regiment has a few like that, especially when they first go *under fire*⁶. Of

1. 正在忙碌的人。 2. = Is there going to be a battle? 3. 真的! 表示惊讶的感叹词。 4. 为了…的利益。 5. 这里 like 用作连接词 as, 按正规语法应用 as, 用 like 代替 as 是美国用法。 6. 遇上战斗。

course it might happen that *the whole lot*¹ will run if they go into some big battle *straight away*², or they might stay and fight *like devils*³. You can't be sure, because they've never been under fire yet, and they're not likely to beat the whole rebel army the first time. I think they'll fight better than some, if worse than others."

"Did you ever think you might run yourself, Jim?" the youth asked. He laughed then, as if he had meant the question as a joke. The loud soldier also laughed.

The tall private waved his hand. "Well," he said solemnly, "I've thought *it might get too hot*⁴ for Jim Conklin, and if a whole lot of the boys started to run, why, I suppose I'd run too. And if I once started to run, I'd run like the devil, and no mistake. But if everybody stood and fought, why, I bet I'd stand and fight too."

The youth was grateful for these words of his companion. He had feared that all the men who had never fought before possessed a great and correct confidence. He was now reassured *to some extent*⁵.



1. (这里指)所有的士兵。 2. 直接。 3. 拼命地。 4. 战斗可能变得太激烈。 5. 在某种程度上。

Chapter 2

The next morning it was discovered that the story was not true; the army was not going to move. Those who had believed the tale *made great fun of*¹ the tall soldier. The youth, however, still had his problem. In fact, it was more annoying than before, because the answer would now be delayed again.

For days he puzzled over the question, but his ideas were all very unsatisfactory. He finally concluded that the only way to prove himself was to go into a battle and to watch his legs, and thus find out their merits and faults. To know the answer he needed blood and fire and danger, just as a doctor needed this, that and the other to make medicine. He must wait for an opportunity.

Meanwhile, he continued to measure himself secretly by his companions. The calmness of the tall soldier gave him confidence, but he would have liked to have found another who suspected himself. A comparison of feelings would have given him much pleasure. The problem did not seem to occupy the minds of the other soldiers at all. Sometimes they appeared to the youth to be great heroes by the eager way they talked of the coming battles; at other times he felt that they were all privately wondering and trembling like himself.

In his anxiety the youth was continuously troubled by the *slowness of the war*². The generals seemed content to wait peacefully on the river bank without any regard for the weight of his great problem. He *wanted the matter settled immediately*³.

1. 对...大开玩笑。 2. 战争的姗姗来迟。 3. 希望事情马上决定下来。
to want something done 指希望(某人)将(某事)做好; settled 是过去分词,
作宾语补足语。

He could not go on carrying such a load of trouble and doubt.

Before dawn one morning his regiment formed ranks ready to march away. In the darkness their blue uniforms looked a deep purple colour. From across the river they could see the camp fires of the enemy, like small red eyes. The colonel of the regiment, on a huge horse, stood silently in front. They waited patiently for a long time, but excitement was rising; for they could hear the sound of marching feet *in the distance*¹.

At last an officer arrived *on horseback*² and spoke briefly to the colonel, and a moment later the regiment *went swinging off into the darkness*³. The air was heavy and cold with dew. The wet grass under their feet sounded like silk. There was an occasional flash of steel from the rifles they carried, and, somewhere behind them, the wheel noises of heavy guns could be heard.

Presently they came on to a road and marched forward more easily. Another regiment was in front of them, and they could hear the small sounds of moving equipment on the bodies of marching men behind them.

When at last *the sun struck full on the earth*⁴, the youth saw two long, thin, black columns which disappeared over a hill in front and vanished into a wood behind. They were like two long snakes crawling out of the cave of night.

The arguments *as to*⁵ which plan was being followed began again, but the youth took no part in them. As he walked along, he *was engaged with his own problem*⁶. He could think of nothing else. He studied the faces of his companions, hoping for signs of similar doubts, but he was disappointed. The men

1. 在远处。 2. 骑着马。 3. 急速行军,消逝在黑暗中。 4. 阳光普照大地。 5. 至于。介词短语, 这里后面跟了一个名词从句。 6. 一心在想自己的问题。