

哈佛  蓝星双语名著导读

Today's Most Popular Study Guides


The English Patient

英国病人

原著 Michael Ondaatje〔加〕

导读 Sparknotes

翻译 袁鑫 王溪竹

 天津科技翻译出版公司



SMARTER BETTER FASTER

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致读者

CONTEXT

亲爱的读者,在这个多元文化的世界里,渴望知识、钟情文学、热爱英语的你是否希望站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢?

“哈佛蓝星双语名著导读”系列是全美最风行的经典名著导读笔记,由哈佛学生们融会名著阅读和文学学习精华,亲笔撰写而成。蓝星系列精选了来自世界各国的杰出经典著作,以经典性和流行性并重的名著为素材,以明晰的风格和地道的语言,解读名著精华和具有时代性的主题和思想。每一分册都包括名著的创作背景、人物分析、主题解析、篇章讲解、重要引文释义、作品档案,并且附有相关的思考题、推荐论题、小测验以及延伸阅读篇目。

如今“蓝星”漂洋过海,轻轻落在了国内英语学习读者的掌中,读者不需走出国门,即可轻松掌握哈佛课堂上的知识。蓝星系列丰富的内容编排,使我们不仅仅停留于对名著内容的了解,而且对著作的精华和内涵有更全面、深入的掌握,进而对英语语言和文化做更进一步的了解和研究。蓝星精辟、明晰的编写风格让“半天阅读一本名著”成为现实,使我们在有限的闲暇时间内阅读更多的书,同时迅速增强英语水平,提高文学修养,增加谈资。

天津科技翻译出版公司之前推出的“蓝星”系列78册,多为古典及经典题材,在图书市场上收到了很好的反响。本次推出的新品种20册均以现代及当代畅销书为首选,流行性和可读性更强,进一步丰富了该系列的内容。本次出版仍由天津外国语学院张滨江教授和青年教师负责翻译和审校,并严格按照原作的风格,提供原汁原味的英语环境,让读者自由地阅读、想象和发挥。

蓝星闪耀,伴你前行!

CONTEXT

Michael Ondaatje, poet, filmmaker, and editor, was born in Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in September 1943. He moved to England with his mother in 1954, and then relocated to Canada in 1962, receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto and a master's degree from Queen's University in Kingston. Originally a poet, Ondaatje's eventual career in fiction was boosted by the success of his book of poetry, *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid* (1970), an account of the factual and fictional life of the famous outlaw, for which Ondaatje won a Governor General's award. He won the coveted award again in 1979 for a second book of poetry entitled *There's a Trick with a Knife I'm Learning to Do*.

In the 1980s, Ondaatje turned his attention to novels, publishing *Running in the Family* (1982) about his family's life in Ceylon, and *In the Skin of the Lion* (1987), which is set in 1930s Toronto. Ondaatje is perhaps best known, however, for *The English Patient* (1992), a novel set in World War II Italy. Ondaatje won a Booker Prize for the novel, and the 1996 film adaptation went on to win widespread critical acclaim and nine Academy Awards. Alongside his writing, Ondaatje has taught at York University in Toronto since 1971. He and his wife, Linda Spalding, make their home in Toronto, and together edit the literary journal *Brick*.

来龙·去脉


迈克尔·翁达杰，集诗人、制片人、编剧于一身，他1943年9月出生在锡兰（现在的斯里兰卡）的科伦坡。1954年，他跟随母亲移居英国，又在1962年移居加拿大。他在那里获得了多伦多大学文学学士学位及金斯顿皇后大学的文学硕士学位。最初翁达杰是位诗人，而他最终从事小说创作的事业却得益于他的诗集《比利小子作品集》（1970）的成功，该书是一部描写臭名昭著的亡命之徒的真实与虚幻生活的作品，为翁达杰赢得了加拿大总督奖。1979年他的第二本诗集《我正在学习玩刀的诀窍》，再次为他赢得了他渴望的总督奖。

20世纪80年代，翁达杰转而集中精力进行小说的创作，出版了他在锡兰家庭生活的回忆录《追忆家史》，同时出版了以20世纪30年代的多伦多为背景的小说《狮皮之下》。不过，翁达杰或许还是因为以二战时期的意大利为背景的小说《英国病人》而闻名于世。翁达杰凭借这部作品一举摘得了英国小说的最高奖项——布克奖。1996年据此改编的电影更是赢得广泛的赞誉，并获得了奥斯卡金像奖的9项大奖。翁达杰除写作以外，还自1971年起担任多伦多约克大学的教学工作。他与妻子琳达·史伯丁定居在多伦多，共同主持文学杂志《砖》的编辑工作。

The English Patient is a work of historical fiction set in the hills of Tuscany during World War II. It intersperses the factual and the imaginary into a tale of tragedy and passion. Structurally, the novel resists chronological order, alternating between present action in the Italian villa and flashbacks to memories of a mysterious desert romance that is gradually revealed. The imagery is characterized by Ondaatje's "preoccupation with romantic exoticism and multiculturalism." Rather than offer a narrator telling a straightforward story, Ondaatje turns the romance into an unlikely mystery, revealing hidden facets of character and identity as the novel progresses. Ondaatje explores his characters by placing them in blank, secluded settings. Both the barren desert and the isolated Tuscan villa are insular and remote, enabling the author to study his characters intensely.

Innovative in narrative structure and complicated by numerous points of view, *The English Patient* resists easy classification into any particular literary genre. Yet Ondaatje uses the novel to renew themes that have been explored throughout the ages: national identity, the connection between body and mind, and love that transcends place and time. Perhaps most significant is the fact that Ondaatje blends the forms of prose and poetry, evoking images and emotions with highly lyrical language. His words translate "real experience into symbolic experience" by appealing to memories that involve all of the reader's senses. As Ondaatje once said in a radio interview, he uses his prose to "create a tactile landscape for his choreography." In *The English Patient* such a landscape augments the poetry and lyricism of the novel. 🌿

《英国病人》是一部以二战时期的托斯卡纳山为背景的历史小说。它把真实与虚构融入到一个悲剧与激情的故事中。从结构上讲,小说不以时间为顺序,而是在意大利别墅中实际发生的事情与对渐渐显露出的神秘沙漠浪漫史回忆的倒叙之间来回切换。翁达杰所创造的形象的特点映衬了他对“浪漫的异国风情以及多元文化的迷谜”。翁达杰没有让叙事者平铺直叙地讲故事,而是把那段浪漫史变成了不可思议的谜,并随着故事的发展渐渐揭示出人物与身份的隐藏面。翁达杰通过把他的人物置于空旷的、与世隔绝的环境中来探究他们。荒芜的沙漠和孤寂的托斯卡纳别墅都很遥远并且与世隔绝,从而使作者能够潜心研究他的人物。

由于叙事结构的创新性与多视角所造成的复杂性,《英国病人》并不想轻易地把自己归属于哪个专门的文学流派。然而翁达杰却要借这部小说来重新挖掘探讨了世世代代的主题:国民身份,肉体和精神之间的联系,超越时空的爱情。也许更重要的是翁达杰把散文与诗歌融为一体,以抒情诗般的语言唤起意象和情感。翁达杰以唤起读者所有感官记忆的手法,用他的语言把“真实体验转换成了象征性的体验”。正如翁达杰接受电台采访时所说,他运用散文“为他的舞蹈设计创造了一个可触知的舞台”。在《英国病人》中正是这个舞台加强了小说的诗意和抒情效果。

PLOT OVERVIEW

In *The English Patient*, the past and the present are continually intertwined. The narrative structure intersperses descriptions of present action with thoughts and conversations that offer glimpses of past events and occurrences. Though there is no single narrator, the story is alternatively seen from the point of view of each of the main characters.

The novel opens with Hana, a young nurse, gardening outside a villa in Italy in 1945. The European theater of the war has just ended with the Germans retreating up the Italian countryside. As the Germans retreated, they left hidden bombs and mines everywhere, so the landscape is particularly dangerous. Although the other nurses and patients have left the villa to escape to a safer place, Hana decides to stay in the villa with her patient.

Hana does not know much about the man for whom she cares. Found in the wreckage of a plane crash, he been burned beyond recognition, his whole body black and even the slightest touch painful to him. He talks about the Bedouin tribe who found him in the wreckage, cared for his wounds, and eventually returned him to a British camp in 1944. He does not know who they were, but he feels grateful to them nonetheless. To pass the time, Hana reads to the English patient—she assumes he is English by his manner and speech—and also gardens, fixes up the villa, and plays hopscotch. Sometimes she picks up the patient's notebook, a copy of Herodotus's *The Histories* marked throughout with his own notes, figures, and observa-

情节·览

《英国病人》中，过去与现在不断地交织在一起。叙事结构把回顾过去发生事情的思绪和对话融入到现实行为的描述中。虽然没有一个单独的叙事者，但是故事可以从每一个主要人物的观点中看到。

故事发生在 1945 年的意大利，以年轻护士哈娜在别墅外面的花园里干活开篇。欧洲战事刚刚以德国人撤退到意大利农村而宣告结束。德国人撤退时到处都秘密埋下炸弹和地雷，因此地形相当危险。虽然其他护士和病人都已经离开了别墅逃到更安全的地方，但是哈娜决定和她的病人留在别墅。

哈娜对她照顾的那个人不是很了解。他从飞机坠毁的残骸中被救出，已经被烧得面目全非，整个身体黝黑，轻轻一碰他就疼得要命。他谈到贝都部落，是他们在残骸中发现了他们，给他治伤，最终于 1944 年把他送回英军军营。他不知道他们是谁，但是他对他们充满感激。为了打发时间，哈娜为英国病人读书——通过他的言谈举止哈娜猜测他是英国人——同时也整理花园，修补别墅，玩跳房子。有时她随手拿起病人的笔记本，那是希罗多德《历史》的手抄本。他将自己的记录、描绘、观察在篇章中标注出来，而哈娜会读给他或者自己听。

tions, and reads to him or to herself.

One day, a man with bandaged hands named Caravaggio arrives at the villa. He is an old family friend of Hana's father, Patrick, and had heard about her location while he was recovering in a hospital a few miles away. In Canada, where Caravaggio knew Hana years ago, he was a thief. He tells her how his skills were legitimized in the war and how he put them to use working for British Intelligence in North Africa. He tells her that the Germans caught him after an attempt to steal a camera from a woman's room. They tortured him and cut off his thumbs, leaving his hands mutilated and nearly useless. Although he has recovered somewhat, he is still addicted to morphine. In the villa, he reminisces with Hana and mourns with her over the death of her father in the war.

As Hana plays the piano in the library, two soldiers come in and stand alongside while she plays. One of them is Kip, an Indian Sikh trained as a sapper, or bomb-defuser, in the British army. After hearing the piano, Kip has come to clear the villa of bombs, knowing that the Germans frequently booby-trapped musical instruments. Kip and the English patient get along very well, as they are both experts in guns and bombs and enjoy talking to each other and sharing stories. Kip makes camp in the garden of the villa and becomes a part of the "family" that now exists there. He goes off into town every day to clear more bombs from the area and to bury fellow sappers who have died. Kip's job is extremely dangerous. He feels a strong attraction to Hana, and soon they become lovers.

Asked about his past, the English patient begins to tell the others his story. His real name is Almásy, though this is not definitively confirmed until Chapter IX. He spent the years from

一天，一个手上缠着绷带叫卡拉瓦焦的人来到别墅。他是哈娜父亲帕特里克的老朋友，他在几英里外的医院里打听到她的地址。几年前在加拿大卡拉瓦焦和哈娜就认识，那时他是个小偷。他告诉她在战争中他的本领被合法化，还告诉她他是如何利用他的本事在北非为英国情报部门工作。他告诉她德国人在他试图从一个女人房间偷照相机时抓住了他。他们对他严刑拷问，还切掉了他的拇指，使他的手残废，几乎不能用。虽然他恢复了不少，但仍然得依赖吗啡。在别墅里，他和哈娜一起回忆了过去，为她父亲在战争中去世而感到悲伤。

当哈娜在图书室里弹钢琴时，两个士兵走进来，站在一旁听她演奏。其中一个印度锡克教工兵、拆除炸弹专家基普，他为英国军队服务。基普听完弹奏后，开始清除别墅里的炸弹，他知道德国人经常把炸弹放在乐器里。由于基普和英国病人都精通枪支炸弹，并且都喜欢相互交谈，分享故事，因此他们相处融洽。基普在别墅的花园里搭起了帐篷，成为那个“家庭”一分子。他每天要进城清除那个地区更多的炸弹，掩埋被炸死的工兵弟兄。基普的工作相当危险。他很喜欢哈娜，很快他们成为了情侣。

当英国病人被问及他的过去时，他便开始给其他人讲述他的故事。他真名叫奥尔马希，不过这一点到第9章才最后得到证实。他从1930年到二战

1930 to the start of World War II exploring the North African desert. His job was to make observations, draw maps, and search for ancient oases in the sands. Along with his fellow European counterparts, Almásy knew every inch of the desert and made many trips across it. In 1936, a young man from Oxford, Geoffrey Clifton, and his new wife Katharine, joined their party. Geoffrey owned a plane, which the party found especially useful in helping to map the desert. The explorers, Almásy, and the Cliftons got along very well. One night, after hearing Katharine read a passage from his book of Herodotus, Almásy realized he was in love with her. They soon began a torrid and tumultuous affair. Everywhere they stole glances and moments, and they were obsessed with each other. Finally, in 1938, Katharine broke off their affair, telling Almásy that Geoffrey would go mad if he ever found out. Although their affair was over, Almásy remained haunted by her, and he tried to punish her for hurting him by being particularly mean to her in public. At some point, Geoffrey somehow found out about the affair.

World War II broke out in 1939, and Almásy decided to close up their camp and arranged for Geoffrey to pick him up in the desert. Geoffrey arrived in his plane with Katharine. Geoffrey attempted to kill all three of them by crashing the plane into Almásy, who was standing on the ground. The plane missed Almásy, but the crash killed Geoffrey, left Katharine severely injured, and left them with no way to escape the desert. Almásy placed Katharine in a nearby cave, covering her with a parachute for warmth, and promised to come back for her. He walked across the desert for four days until he reached the nearest town, but when he got there, the English army would not help him get back to Katharine. Because Almásy had a foreign-

开始的这些年都在北非沙漠勘探。他的工作就是记录观察报告、绘制地图及搜寻沙漠中古老的绿洲。奥尔马希和其欧洲探险家同伴一起探险，他对沙漠了如指掌，多次穿越沙漠。1936年，一个来自牛津大学的年轻人杰弗里·克利夫顿和他的新婚妻子凯瑟琳加入了他们的组织。杰弗里有架飞机，他们觉得这对绘制沙漠地图很有帮助。探险家奥尔马希和克利夫顿夫妇相处得很好。一天晚上，奥尔马希听完凯瑟琳朗读希罗多德的书中的一段后，他意识到自己已经爱上了她。他们很快就开始了激情涌动的风流韵事。他们随时随地偷看对方，悄悄地寻找机会，相互迷恋而不能自拔。最终，在1938年，凯瑟琳提出分手，她告诉奥尔马希如果杰弗里知道他们的事他会发疯。尽管他们之间结束了，但她依旧让奥尔马希魂牵梦绕，他试图在公共场合让她极度难堪，以此来惩罚她。杰弗里不知怎地发现了他们的风流韵事。

二战爆发于1939年，奥尔马希决定结束他们的野外考察，安排杰弗里来沙漠接他。杰弗里和凯瑟琳一起乘飞机到达。杰弗里想用飞机撞向站在地面上的奥尔马希，试图三个人同归于尽。飞机没撞到奥尔马希，可是杰弗里却因撞击而死，凯瑟琳也伤得很重，他们没有办法逃出沙漠。奥尔马希把凯瑟琳安置在附近一个岩洞里，他用降落伞裹住她，为她保暖，并答应会回来接她。他在沙漠中走了四天才到达最近的城镇，但当他到那时，英军没有帮他回去接凯瑟琳。因为奥尔马希给了他们一个听上去像外国人的名字，英国人怀疑他，把他当

sounding name, the British were suspicious and locked him up as a spy, prevented him from saving Katharine.

Almásy was eventually released, but he knew it was too late to save her. He worked for the Germans, helping their spies make their way across the desert into Cairo. After he left Cairo, his truck broke down in the desert. Without transportation, he walked to the cave to get Katharine. He took her dead body and placed it in a plane that had been buried beneath the sand. The plane malfunctioned during their flight and caught fire. Almásy parachuted down from the plane, his body covered in flames. That was the point at which the Bedouins found him and cared for his burns.

Little by little, the English patient tells this whole story. Caravaggio, who has suspected the English patient was not really English, has his suspicions confirmed. He fills in gaps for the Almásy, telling him that Geoffrey Clifton was really an agent of British Intelligence and that Intelligence had known about Almásy and Katharine's affair the whole time. They knew Almásy had started helping the Germans and planned to kill him in the desert. They lost him between Cairo and the plane crash, and now, of course, he is unrecognizable.

The focus of the novel shifts to Kip, and we are told his entire story. Although Kip's brother always distrusted the west, Kip went willingly to serve in the British army. He was trained as a bomb defuser under Lord Suffolk, a true English gentleman, and was then virtually welcomed into an English family. Kip soon grew quite skillful at his job, able to figure out both the "joke" and the "character" of each bomb he tackled. Lord Suffolk and his group were blown up defusing a bomb, and Kip decided to leave England and become a sapper