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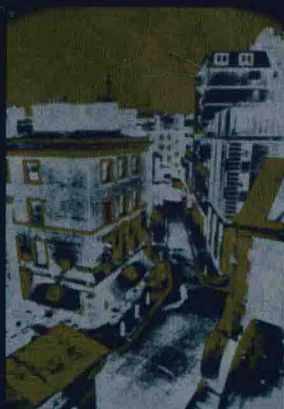
阿加莎·克里斯蒂
经典侦探作品集

Agatha Christie

国际学舍谋杀案

Hickory Dickory Dock

[英] 阿加莎·克里斯蒂 著



商务印书馆
The Commercial Press



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Agatha Christie

Hickory Dickory Dock

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阿加莎·克里斯蒂(Agatha Christie 1890 - 1976)是英国著名女侦探小说家、剧作家,三大推理文学宗师之一,被誉为举世公认的推理小说女王。其作品已被翻译成一百多种语言,曾多次被搬上银幕。代表作有《东方快车谋杀案》和《尼罗河谋杀案》等,在中国有大批爱好者,读者接受度很高。

这套“阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集”丛书,是英国柯林斯出版公司精选的阿加莎·克里斯蒂的经典作品,由英国语言和文学专家专门为世界各地母语非英语的读者改编设计,每篇小说经过适当删减,其中的词汇和语法也做了简化,是适合中等以上英语水平读者学习的英语读物。

为方便读者使用,中文注释本以脚注的形式给难词标注词性和释义;提供英汉对照的作者简介、出场人物表及文化注释;书后

所配的光盘由英国本土人士录制,声情并茂地再现精彩的故事内容。

希望这套“阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集”丛书,能够帮助读者在欣赏英文小说的同时学习英语、提高英语能力,成为读者英语阅读和学习的最佳选择。

商务印书馆编辑部

2015年5月

作者简介

Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie (1890-1976) is known throughout the world as the Queen of Crime. Her books have sold over a billion copies in English with another billion in over 100 foreign languages. She is the most widely published and translated author of all time and in any language; only the Bible and Shakespeare have sold more copies. She is the author of 80 crime novels and short story collections, 19 plays, and six other novels. *The Mousetrap*, her most famous play, was first staged in 1952 in London and is still performed there—it is the longest-running play in history.

Agatha Christie's first novel was published in 1920. It featured Hercule Poirot, the Belgian detective who has become the most popular detective in crime fiction since Sherlock Holmes. Collins has published Agatha Christie since 1926.

阿加莎·克里斯蒂

阿加莎·克里斯蒂(1890 - 1976)在世界各地被誉为“侦探小说女王”。她以英语出版的作品销量超过十亿册,而以一百多种外语出版的作品销量也达到了十亿册。她是迄今为止以各语种得到最广泛出版和译介的作家,其作品销量仅次于《圣经》和莎士比亚的作品。她著有 80 部侦探题材的长篇小说和短篇小说集、19 部剧作及其他 6 部小说。《捕鼠器》是她最有名的剧作,1952 年在伦敦被首次搬上舞台,直到今天还在上演——它也成为历史上演出时间最长的戏剧。

阿加莎·克里斯蒂的第一部小说出版于 1920 年,其中塑造了比利时大侦探赫尔克里·波洛这一人物——他已成为自夏洛克·福尔摩斯以来犯罪小说里最知名的侦探。柯林斯出版公司自 1926 年至今一直在出版阿加莎·克里斯蒂的作品。

人 物 表



Hercule Poirot 先生：著名的比利时侦探

Lemon 小姐：Hercule Poirot 的秘书

Hubbard 夫人(Ma 或 Mum)：Lemon 小姐的姐姐，在Hickory路 26 号照料学生公寓

Patricia Lane 小姐：学习历史的学生

Valerie Hobhouse：生活在学生公寓，但在美容院工作的年轻女子

Leonard Bateson：学习医药的学生

Colin McNabb：学习心理学的学生

Sally Finch：美国学生，学习自然科学

Nicoletis 夫人(Nick 夫人)：Hickory 路 26 号公寓和其他一些公寓的老板，有一半希腊血统

Nigel Chapman：学习意大利语的学生

Elizabeth Johnston：牙买加学生，学习法律

Celia Austin：在圣凯瑟琳医院(St Catherine's Hospital)药房工作

Geveviève Maricaud：学习英语的法国学生

Jean Tomlison：圣凯瑟琳医院的理疗师

Akibombo 先生：在伦敦大学(London University)学习的西非学生

Chandra Lal：在公寓居住的印度学生

Geronimo：Hickory 路 26 号公寓的意大利籍男佣人，其妻子 Maria 是那里的厨师

Sharpe 督察：苏格兰场(Scotland Yard)警官，侦办谋杀案件

Cobb 警长：侦办此案的苏格兰场警官

Wilding 警司：缉毒组的高级警官

Bell 警长：侦办此案的警官

McCrae 警员：侦办此案的警官

Lucas 夫人：美容院的老板

Endicott 先生：Arthur Stanley 爵士的律师

Arthur Stanley 爵士：学生的父亲

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Agatha Christie

Hickory Dickory Dock

Chapter 1



Hercule Poirot frowned^①.

‘Miss Lemon,’ he said.

‘Yes, Monsieur Poirot?’

‘There are three mistakes in this letter.’

He sounded shocked. Miss Lemon, a proud and professional woman, never made mistakes. She was never ill, never tired, never upset, never inaccurate. Order and method had been Hercule Poirot’s favourite words for many years. With George, his perfect manservant, and Miss Lemon, his perfect secretary, order and method shaped his life.

And yet, this morning, Miss Lemon had made three mistakes in typing a very simple letter. The world had stopped turning.

Hercule Poirot held out the offending^② document. He was not annoyed, he was just confused. This was something that just could not happen — but it had!

Miss Lemon took the letter. ‘Oh, dear, I can’t think how I did that — well, perhaps I can. It’s because of my sister.’

‘Your sister?’ Another shock. Poirot had never known that Miss Lemon had a sister.

Miss Lemon nodded^③. ‘Yes, most of her life she has lived in Singapore. Her husband was in the rubber business there, but he died four years ago. There were no children, so when she came back to England I found a very nice little flat for her but —’ Miss Lemon paused. ‘Well, she was lonely and she told me that she was thinking about taking a job.’

① frown *v.* 皱眉 ② offending *adj.* 不愉快的 ③ nod *v.* 点头

‘Job?’

‘Looking after a hostel^① for students. It is owned by a woman who is partly Greek and she wanted someone to manage it for her. It’s a big old house and my sister was going to have a very nice flat —’

Miss Lemon stopped and Poirot made an encouraging noise for her to continue.

‘I wasn’t sure about it, but my sister likes to be busy and she’s always been good with young people.’

‘So your sister took the job?’ Poirot asked.

‘Yes, she moved into 26 Hickory Road about six months ago and she liked her work there.’

Hercule Poirot listened. So far, the story of Miss Lemon’s sister had been disappointingly ordinary.

‘But for some time now she’s been very worried.’

‘Why?’

‘Well, Monsieur Poirot, she doesn’t like the things that are going on there.’

‘There are students there of both sexes?’ Poirot inquired delicately.

‘Oh no, I don’t mean *that*! One always expects difficulties of *that* kind! No, but things have been disappearing.’

‘Disappearing?’

‘Yes. And such odd^② things... And all in rather a strange way.’

‘When you say things have been disappearing, you mean things have been stolen?’

‘Yes.’

‘Have the police been called in?’

① hostel *n.* 公寓 ② odd *adj.* 奇怪的

‘No. My sister is fond of^① these young people — well, of some of them — and she would prefer to straighten things out by herself.’

‘Yes,’ said Poirot. ‘I can understand that. But that does not explain, if I may say so, your own anxiety.’

‘I cannot help feeling that something is going on which I do not understand. No ordinary explanation seems to fit with the facts.’

Poirot nodded. ‘Not an ordinary thief? A kleptomaniac^②, perhaps?’

‘I do not think so. I read about the subject, in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. But I was not persuaded.’

Hercule Poirot was silent for a minute and a half. Did he wish to involve himself in the troubles of Miss Lemon’s sister? But it was very inconvenient to have Miss Lemon making mistakes in his letters. He told himself that *if* he were to involve himself, that would be the reason. He did not admit to himself that he had been rather bored lately.

‘Supposing, Miss Lemon, you were to invite your sister here for afternoon tea? I might be able to be of some small help to her.’

‘That’s very kind of you, Monsieur Poirot.’

‘Then shall we say tomorrow?’

① fond of *adj.* 喜爱 ② kleptomaniac *n.* 盗窃狂



Chapter 2

Miss Lemon's sister, Mrs Hubbard, looked very like her. She was a little fatter, her hair was more stylish, and she was gentler in manner, but her eyes were the same sharp eyes that shone through Miss Lemon's glasses.

'This is very kind of you, Monsieur Poirot,' she said. 'Very kind. And such a wonderful tea, too.'

'First, we enjoy our tea — afterwards we talk business.' Poirot smiled at her and stroked his moustache^①. 'Can you explain to me exactly what worries you?'

'Yes, I can. It would be natural for money to be taken. And jewellery — that's natural too — well, I don't really mean natural — but it would make sense. So I'll just read you a list of the things that have been taken.' Mrs Hubbard opened her bag and took out a small notebook.

Evening shoe (one of a new pair)

Bracelet (cheap)

Diamond ring (found in a plate of soup)

Powder compact^②

Lipstick^③

Stethoscope^④

Old grey trousers

Electric light bulbs^⑤

Box of chocolates

① moustache *n.* 小胡子 ② powder compact *n.* 香粉盒 ③ lipstick *n.* 口红 ④ stethoscope *n.* 听诊器 ⑤ light bulb *n.* 灯泡