

野性的呼唤

(美) 杰克·伦敦
于世华 译



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世界经典名著节录丛书 野性的呼唤

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内容简介

杰克·伦敦(Jack London),生于1876年,卒于1916年。在作者短短40年的生命里,创作了大量作品,是位多产的作家,在美国文学史上占有重要地位。

杰克·伦敦的小说文笔简炼,故事情节集中,细节生动。

《野性的呼唤》讲述的是一条狗的故事。巴克本是一条养尊处优的狗,但被人拐卖,从此踏上了艰难的行程。

残酷的野外生活使巴克学到了如何保护自己,如何在激烈的竞争中处于不败之地。狼的野性在他身上逐渐恢复。

历经磨难的巴克被好心的桑托收留,正当他们开始过上平静生活的时候,桑托却不幸被印第安人杀害。愤怒的巴克闯进印第安人的营地,咬死了凶手。

孤独的巴克终于告别了人类,加入到狼群的行列。



1 INTO THE PRIMITIVE

Buck did not read the newspapers, or he would have known that trouble was brewing^①, not alone for himself, but for every tidewater dog, strong of muscle and with warm, long hair, from Puget Sound to San Diego. Because men, groping^② in the Arctic darkness, had found a yellow metal, and because steamship and transportation companies were booming^③ the find, thousands of men were rushing into the Northland. These men wanted dogs, and the dogs they wanted were heavy dogs, with strong muscles by which to toil, and furry coats to protect them from the frost.

Buck lived at a big house in the sun-kissed Santa Clara Valley. Judge Miller's place, it was called. It stood back from the road, half-hidden among the trees, through which glimpses could be caught of the wide cool veranda that ran around its four sides. The house was approached by graveled^④ driveways which wound about through wide-spreading lawns and under the interlacing^⑤ boughs of tall poplars. At the rear things were on even a more spacious scale than at the front. There were great stables, where a dozen grooms and boys held forth, rows of vine-clad servants' cottages, an endless and orderly array of outhouses, long grape arbors, green pastures, orchards, and berry patches. Then there was the



一、进入原始

巴克没看报，要不然他就知道麻烦正在逐步降临，不只他自己，而是从普吉桑德到圣迭戈，海边的每一条身强力壮，长着长毛的狗都有麻烦。因为人们在北极的黑暗中找到一种黄色金属，轮船和运输公司的人对这一发现大加吹捧，使得成千上万的人都加入到向北进军的狂潮之中。这些人需要狗，他们需要的狗应该是身体强壮，吃苦耐劳，并且有着能抵挡风霜的长毛。

巴克住在光照充足的圣克拉拉谷的一个大宅子里。人们称之为米勒法官住宅。宅子远离大路，在树丛的掩映之下，透过树丛人们的目光可以看到宅子四周的宽大凉亭。几条碎石车道蜿蜒穿过宽阔的草坪通向宅子，车道旁还有高高的白杨，枝桠交错，遮天蔽日。宅子后面更加宽敞，有几座大马厩坐落在那里，由十二个马夫、男仆负责清扫整理；一排佣人住的房子，条条青藤覆盖其外，外面的棚子整齐有序，一眼看不到头，棚子周围是长长的葡萄架；还有绿油油的草场，果园和草莓。在那眼深井上矗立着一座泵站，旁边还有一个大水泥池子，供那些男孩子早

① brew [bru:] 酝

酿，孕育

② grope [group] 摸

索

③ boom [bu:m] 大

事宣传，繁荣，兴

旺，鼓动

④ gravel [ˈgrævl] 砾

石

⑤ interlacing

[inˈtɜːleisɪŋ] 交织

在一起的



pumping plant for the artesian well, and the big cement tank where Judge Miler's boys took their morning plunge and kept cool in the hot afternoon.

And over this great demesne ^① Buck ruled. Here he was born, and here he had lived the four years of his life. It was true, there were other dogs. There could not but be other dogs on so vast a place, but they did not count. They came and went, resided in the populous ^② kennels, or lived obscurely in the recesses ^③ of the house after the fashion of Toots, the Japanese pug, or Ysabel, the Mexican hairless, strange creatures that rarely put nose out of doors or set foot to ground. On the other hand, there were the fox terriers, a score of them at least, who yelped fearful promises at Toots and Ysabel looking out of the windows at them and protected by a legion of housemaids armed with brooms and mops.

But Buck was neither house dog nor kennel dog. The whole realm was his. He plunged ^④ into the swimming tank or went hunting with the Judge's sons; he escorted ^⑤ Mollie and Alice, the Judge's daughters, on long twilight or early morning rambles; on wintry nights he lay at the Judge's feet before the roaring library fire; he carried the Judge's grandsons on his back, or rolled them in the grass, and guarded their footsteps through wild adventures down to the fountain in the stable yard, and even beyond, where the paddocks were, and the berry patches. Among the terriers he stalked



晨玩水,下午消暑。

这一大片地归巴克管,他已经四岁了,从出生起就一直呆在这。没错,这儿还有别的狗。这么一大片地不可能没有别的狗,可他们无足轻重。他们来来往往,不是住在狗满为患的狗窝里,就是悄没声息地呆在屋子角落里。就像日本哈叭狗图兹或墨西哥无毛狗伊莎贝尔一样——一帮足不出户,憋在屋里的怪东西。另外,还有一群猎狐狗,至少有二十多只,图兹和伊莎贝尔们每当女仆手持拖把扫帚保护着,向窗外探头探脑地张望他们的时候,他们就一阵狂吠,对他们发出恐怖的保证。

巴克可不是屋里狗和窝里狗。整个领地都是他的。他陪着法官的儿子们到池子里玩水,或出去打猎;还陪着莫莉和艾丽丝,法官的女儿,在黄昏或清晨散步;冬夜里,在书房,他依偎在法官的脚下,被壁炉烤得暖烘烘的;他把法官的孙子驮在背上,或和他们在草地上打滚;还保护他们,不让他们到马厩的水槽,或者远处驯马的围场或浆果丛里去冒险。在猎狐狗群面前,他总是高视阔步;对图兹和伊莎贝尔,他更是看都不看一眼,因为他是主宰——在米勒法官住宅,他

① demesne

[di'mi:n]土地之所
有,领地,私有地

② populous

[ˈpɒpjələs]人口多
的,人口稠密的

③ recess [ri'ses]凹

进处,陷窝

④ plunge [plʌndʒ]

投入,跳进,陷入

⑤ escort [ˈeskɔ:t]护

卫,护送,陪同



imperiously ^①, and Toots and Ysabel he utterly ignored, for he was king—king over all creeping, crawling, flying things of Judge Miller's place, humans included.

His father, Elmo, a huge St. Bernard, had been the Judge's inseparable ^② companion, and Buck bid fair to follow in the way of his father. He was not so large—he weighed only one hundred and forty pounds—for his mother, She, had been a Scotch shepherd dog. Nevertheless ^③, one hundred and forty pounds, to which was added the dignity ^④ that comes of good living and universal respect, enabled him to carry himself in right royal fashion. During the four years since his puppyhood he had lived the life of a sated aristocrat ^⑤; he had a fine pride in himself, was even a trifle egotistical ^⑥, as country gentlemen sometimes become because of their insular situation. But he had saved himself by not becoming a mere pampered ^⑦ house dog. Hunting and kindred outdoor delights had kept down the fat and hardened his muscles; and to him, as to the cold-tubbing races, the love of water had been a tonic and a health preserver.

And this was the manner of dog Buck was in the fall of 1897, when the Klondike strike dragged men from all the world into the frozen North. But Buck did not read the newspapers, and he did not know that Manuel, one of the gardener's helpers, was an undesirable acquaintance ^⑧. Manuel had one besetting sin. He loved to play Chinese



主宰着各种飞禽走兽,也包括人。

他的父亲艾尔默,是条大个圣伯纳狗,从前是米勒法官形影不离的伙伴,而巴克则以父亲为榜样,处处效仿。他个头不大——只有一百四十磅——因为他母亲谢普是一只苏格兰牧羊犬。尽管只有一百四十磅,由于长期以来的好吃好喝养尊处优,并处处受到尊重,巴克的一举一动自然有一派君临臣民的王者风范。四年以来,他一直过优越的贵族生活;他很骄傲,甚至有些自大,就像个没见过什么大世面坐井观天的土财主。幸好他不是一只光知道吃的屋里狗。打猎之类的户外活动消耗了体内脂肪,也锻炼了筋骨让肌肉更为健美;而且他特别喜欢在冷水里泡,洗冷水浴,玩水成为一副灵丹妙药也使他身强体健。

这就是 1897 年秋天巴克的真实写照。克隆代克大发现把全世界所有人的注意力都吸引到天寒地冻的北极。可是巴克没看报纸,而且他不知道园丁助手之一曼纽尔是个不能深交的人。曼纽尔有个臭习惯,就是特别爱玩中国式赌牌——他在玩赌牌时有个最坏的毛病:一条道跑

① imperiously

[im'piəriəsli] 专制地,妄自尊大地

② inseparable

[in'sepərəbl] 不能分的

③ nevertheless

[nevəðə'les] 然而,不过

④ dignity [ˈdigniti]

尊严,高贵

⑤ aristocrat

[ˈæristəkræt] 贵族

⑥ egotistical

[i:ɡə'tistikl] 自我本位的,任性的

⑦ pamper

[ˈpæmpə] 纵容

⑧ acquaintance

[ə'kweintəns] 相识,熟人



lottery. Also, in his gambling, he had one besetting ^① weakness—faith in a system; and this made his damnation ^② certain. For to play a system requires money, while the wages of a gardener's helper do not lap over the needs of a wife and numerous progeny ^③.

The Judge was at a meeting of the Raisin Growers' Association, and the boys were busy organizing an athletic club, on the memorable night of Manuel's treachery ^④. No one saw him and Buck go off through the orchard on what Buck imagined was merely a stroll. And with the exception of a solitary man, no one saw them arrive at the little flag station known as College Park. This man talked with Manuel, and money chinked between them.

"You might wrap up the goods before you deliver them," the stranger said gruffly ^⑤, and Manuel doubled a piece of stout rope around Buck's neck under the collar.

"Twist it, and you'll choke him plenty," said Manuel, and the stranger grunted a ready affirmative.

Buck had accepted the rope with quiet dignity. To be sure, it was an unwonted ^⑥ performance but he had learned to trust in men he knew, and to give them credit for a wisdom that outreached his own. But when the ends of the rope were placed in the stranger's hands, he growled menacingly ^⑦. He had merely intimated his displeasure, in his pride believing that to intimate was to command. But to his surprise the rope



到黑，这就注定他肯定没救了。要一条道跑到黑，要有赌本才行，可是一个园丁助手的那点工钱，却难以抚养一个老婆和大量出生的孩子。

巴克对那个晚上曼纽尔的背叛行径记忆犹新。那天法官外出参加葡萄种植者协会的一个会议，他儿子们在忙着组建运动俱乐部，谁也没注意曼纽尔和巴克穿过果园出去了，巴克以为只是出去散步。除了一个人，没人看见他们走到了一个叫学院公园的小站站旗的底下。这人和曼纽尔交谈，还有钱币叮当作响的声音。

“你怎么不包好就交货了，”陌生人粗鲁地说。曼纽尔用两股粗绳子套在巴克脖子后的项圈上。

“如果系紧了，就会憋死他，”曼纽尔说，陌生人哼了一声，总算答应了。

巴克没出声，不失尊严地接受了那根绳子。确切地讲，这似乎有点不大对劲：但他已学会相信熟人，相信他们比自己聪明。但是当曼纽尔把绳子交到陌生人的手里时，他发出了威胁的吼声。他只是想暗示一下不满情绪罢了，要在平时，他骄傲地相信，他的暗示就是命令。可出乎他意料的是，他脖子上的绳子给拽紧了，勒得

① beset[bi'set] 困扰

② damnation [dæm'neiʃn] 诅咒

③ progeny [ˈprɒdʒəni] 后裔

④ treachery [ˈtreɪʃəri] 背叛，背信弃义，变节，叛逆行为

⑤ gruffly[ˈgrʌfli] 粗暴地，粗声地

⑥ unwonted [An'wʌntɪd] 不寻常的，异常的，不习惯的，罕见的，少有的

⑦ menacingly [ˈmenəsiŋli] 胁迫地，险恶地



tightened around his neck, shutting off his breath. In a quick rage he sprang at the man, who met him halfway, grappled ^① him close by the throat, and with a deft twist threw him over on his back. Then the rope tightened mercilessly, while Buck struggled in a fury, his tongue lolling ^② out of his mouth and his great chest panting futilely ^③. Never in all his life had he been so vilely treated, and never in all his life had he been so angry. But his strength ebbed, his eyes glazed, and he knew nothing when the train was flagged and the two men threw him into the baggage car.

The next he knew, he was dimly aware that his tongue was hurting and that he was being jolted along in some kind of a conveyance ^④. The hoarse shriek of a locomotive ^⑤ whistling a crossing told him where he was. He had traveled too often with the Judge not to know the sensation of riding in a baggage car. He opened his eyes, and into them came the unbridled anger of a kidnaped ^⑥ king. The man sprang for his throat, but Buck was too quick for him. His jaws closed on the hand, nor did they relax till his senses were choked out of him once more.

"Yep, has fits," the man said, hiding his mangled ^⑦ hand from the baggage man, who had been attracted by the sounds of struggle. "I'm taking him up for the boss to 'Frisco. A crack dog doctor there thinks that he can cure him."

Concerning that night's ride, the man spoke most elo-



他喘不过气来。他勃然大怒，向那人扑过去，但还没碰着那人，就被掐住了脖子，接着那个家伙熟练地把他掀翻在地。然后毫不同情地把绳子勒紧了，巴克气愤地挣扎，舌头耷拉出来，他的巨大的胸部徒劳地起伏着。他长这么大还没受过这样的气，也从来没发过这么大的脾气。但他挣扎了一会逐渐没劲了，眼冒金星，不知道火车进站后，两人怎么把他扔上行李车的。

醒来之后，他隐约感到舌头发疼，自己在某种交通工具上颠簸前进。当听到火车过道口时发出的尖锐笛声时，他才知道自己身在何处。他过去曾频繁随法官外出旅行，当然知道坐行李车是什么滋味。他睁开双眼，冒出只有遭绑架的国王才有的怒火来。那人向他的咽喉扑过来，不过这次没有巴克快。他一口咬住那只手，直到再次被勒得失去知觉才松口。

“哼，犯病了，”那个人把血肉模糊的手藏起来，对那个被打斗声吸引过来的行李员说。“我替老板把他运到旧金山去，听说那有个高明的兽医能治好他。”

在旧金山海边一家酒馆后面的小屋里，凭

① grapple[ˈɡræpl]
格斗

② loll[lɒl] 懒洋洋地倚靠

③ futilely
[ˈfjuːtəli] 徒劳地，无效果地

④ conveyance
[kənˈveɪəns] 运输，财产让与，运输工具

⑤ locomotive
[ˈləʊkəmətiʋ] 运动的

⑥ kidnap[ˈkɪdnæp]
绑架，诱拐(小孩)

⑦ mangle[ˈmæŋɡl]
乱砍，撕裂，破坏，毁损



quently ^① for himself, in a little shed back of a saloon on the San Francisco water front.

"All I get is fifty for it," he grumbled ^②, "and I wouldn't do it over for a thousand, cold cash."

His hand was wrapped in a bloody handkerchief, and the right trouser leg was ripped from knee to ankle.

"How much did the other mug get?" the saloon-keeper demanded.

"A hundred," was the reply. "Wouldn't take a sou less, so help me."

"That makes a hundred and fifty," the saloon-keeper calculated, "and he's worth it, or I'm a squarehead ^③."

The kidnaper undid the bloody wrappings and looked at his lacerated ^④ hand. "If I don't get hydrophobia ^⑤ -"

"It'll be because you was born to hang," laughed the saloon-keeper. "Here, lend me a hand before you pull your freight," he added.

Dazed, suffering intolerable pain from throat and tongue, with the life half throttled out of him, Buck attempted to face his tormentors ^⑥. But he was thrown down and choked repeatedly, till they succeeded in filing the heavy brass collar from off his neck. Then the rope was removed, and he was flung into a cage-like crate.

There he lay for the remainder of the weary night, nursing his wrath and wounded pride. He could not understand what



着三寸不烂之舌那人把车上的危险经历神吹了一通。

“我才拿了五十块，”他埋怨说，“就是给我一千块，哪怕是现钱我都不干这事了。”

他手上裹着一块带血的手帕，右腿膝盖以下的裤腿都给扯坏了。

“那小子到底拿了多少钱？”酒馆老板问道。

“一百元，”他回答。“少一个子他都不肯，千真万确。”

“那总共是一百五十块，”酒馆老板计算着。“他值这个价，我可不是个冤大头。”

绑架者解下血手帕，看着伤手说：“要是不得狂犬病……”

“那是因为你天生就是上绞架的货，”酒馆老板笑着说，“过来先给我帮个忙，”他又加了一句。

巴克头晕眼花，嗓子和舌头一阵阵地疼，已被折磨得只剩半条命了，他还想反戈一击。却一次又一次地被打倒，掐晕。最后，他们成功地弄断了他脖子上的粗项圈，然后把绳子解开，接着把他扔进一只兽笼子似的板条箱里。

那无聊的夜晚他一直躺在那个箱子里，同时又为自己遭此奇耻大辱而愤愤不平。他无法

① eloquently
[ˈeləkwəntli] 善辩地，雄辩地

② grumble
[ˈgrʌmbəl] 喃喃地说

③ squarehead
[ˈskweəhed] 德国或荷兰或斯堪的纳维亚的移民

④ lacerate
[ˈlæsəreɪt] 割裂

⑤ hydrophobia
[haɪdrəʊˈfəʊbiə] 狂犬病，恐水病

⑥ tormentor
[ˈtɔːmentə] 使苦痛的人，使苦恼之物



it all meant. What did they want with him, these strange men? Why were they keeping him pent up in this narrow crate? He did not know why, but he felt oppressed ^① by the vague sense of impending ^② calamity ^③. Several times during the night he sprang to his feet when the shed door rattled open, expecting to see the Judge, or the boys at least. But each time it was the bulging face of the saloon-keeper that peered in at him by the sickly light of a tallow candle. And each time the joyful bark that trembled in Buck's throat was twisted into a savage growl.

But the saloon-keeper let him alone, and in the morning four men entered and picked up the crate. More tormentors, Buck decided, for they were evil-looking creatures, ragged and unkempt ^④; and he stormed and raged at them through the bars. They only laughed and poked sticks at him, which he promptly assailed ^⑤ with his teeth till he realized that was what they wanted. Whereupon he lay down sullenly and allowed the crate to be lifted into a wagon. Then he, and the crate in which he was imprisoned, began a passage through many hands. Clerks in the express office took charge of him; he was carted about in another wagon; a truck carried him, with an assortment ^⑥ of boxes and parcels, upon a ferry steamer; he was trucked off the steamer into a great railway depot, and finally he was deposited in an express car.

For two days and nights this express car was dragged along



理解这一切。这些陌生人，到底要把他怎么样？为什么把他关进这个小笼子？他不知道为什么这样，但隐约感到大祸临头，这念头使他很压抑。这天晚上，有好几次门一响，他就立刻站起来，以为是法官或那些男孩子们来救他。可是，每次看到的都是酒馆老板那张胖脸，借着昏暗的灯光，来窥探他。每一次，巴克的欢愉叫声一到嗓子眼儿就变成狂野的咆哮。

但酒馆老板根本不理他，第二天早上，四个人进来，抬起了箱子。巴克断定，这伙人一定更坏，因为他们穿着破烂不堪的衣服，一脸凶相。于是，他隔着围栏生气地对他们大吼大叫。他们只是笑笑还伸进棍子乱捅，巴克立即用尖牙利齿予以反击，却发现此举正中他们的下怀。他负气地躺下生着闷气，任凭他们把他抬到马车上。然后，他，连同那个囚禁他的箱子，反反复复几经易手不知道倒腾了多少回。先是由快运站的业务员看着；接着，他被一辆马车运走；卡车把他和一大堆包裹盒子之类的东西运上渡船；从渡船下来后，又被卡车拉到了火车站；最后被装上了一趟快车。

① oppress[ə'pres]

压迫，压抑

② impend

[im'pend]进行威胁，即将发生

③ calamity

[kə'læmɪti]灾难，不幸事件

④ unkempt

[ʌn'kempt]蓬乱的，粗野的，不整洁的

⑤ assail[ə'seɪl] 攻击，质问

⑥ assortment

[ə'sɔ:tmənt]分类

这趟快车汽笛轰鸣着走了两天两夜；在这