

英语注释读物·新福尔摩斯探案集①



# 福尔摩斯与泰坦尼克号悲剧

## SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TITANIC TRAGEDY

[英] 威廉·塞尔 著



北京大学出版社

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**Sherlock Holmes  
And the Titanic Tragedy**

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与泰坦尼克号悲剧**

〔英〕威廉·塞尔 著  
江素侠 注释

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## 内 容 简 介

作家威廉·塞尔终生致力于大侦探福尔摩斯的写作。在这个激动人心的福尔摩斯探案故事中,夏洛克·福尔摩斯的世界与伟大的“泰坦尼克号”轮船密切相关。1912年,他和华生乘“泰坦尼克号”前往美国去执行一项政府的机密任务。

假扮成海军准将的福尔摩斯另有一项照看秘密间谍克里斯汀·诺顿的任务。诺顿年轻,富有魅力,正负责将极度重要的潜艇计划送交海军。分手不久,悲剧旋即发生:计划被盗,而且就被藏匿在这个豪华巨轮上。嫌疑人的范围逐步缩小到几位奇特的顾客身上,包括一位毫无掩饰地倾慕华生的美丽寡妇。最引人注目的则是詹姆斯·摩里亚蒂上校,即那位过世的传奇教授摩里亚蒂的兄弟。

随着调查的深入,案情更加扑朔迷离,“泰坦尼克号”正在大西洋上向纽约快速驶去。远方天空灰暗,海水冰凉,一座巨形冰山正在准备迎接这人类向大自然力量发起的最新挑战。

## 新福尔摩斯探案集系列

柯南道尔去世了,但是夏洛克·福尔摩斯的探案活动并没有停止,请看三位著名侦探小说家瓦尔·安德鲁斯、约翰·豪尔和威廉·塞尔写的新福尔摩斯探案集系列:

福尔摩斯与泰坦尼克号悲剧	威廉·塞尔著
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福尔摩斯与贝克街十三桩疑案	瓦尔·安德鲁斯著

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## Chapter One

### The Evening of Tuesday

9 April 1912

60 岁的华生医生早已从写福尔摩斯的事迹而改向写历史小说,偶尔还为几个病人看病。而福尔摩斯也已告别侦探生涯,隐居在南唐斯的一个小农舍。华生常去看望福尔摩斯并带去近来犯罪的侦探情况。1912 年 4 月 9 日(星期二)雨夜,悉尼·来利前来拜访华生,带来福尔摩斯的信,信中装有第二天早上乘泰坦尼克号轮船去美国的船票。

In the spring of 1912, at the age of 60, I was leading a solitary<sup>①</sup> life<sup>②</sup> in rooms in Piccadilly<sup>③</sup>. While continuing to see a few regular<sup>④</sup> patients<sup>⑤</sup>, I had, for the most part, ended my medical practice. My working time was now devoted<sup>⑥</sup> almost

---

① solitary *a.* 孤独的

② lead *a...* life 过着……的生活

③ Piccadilly *n.* 皮卡迪利大街(在 Haymarket 和 Hyde Park Corner 之间的伦敦繁华街道)

④ regular *a.* 经常的, 定期的

⑤ patient *n.* 病人

⑥ devote to 致力于



entirely<sup>①</sup> to writing historical novels. This turn in my writing career<sup>②</sup> had come as quite a surprise – and I must say, disappointment<sup>③</sup> – to my publisher<sup>④</sup>, who would have preferred<sup>⑤</sup> that I did nothing but record past adventures<sup>⑥</sup> of my friend, Mr Sherlock Holmes. As a favour<sup>⑦</sup> to him, and many loyal<sup>⑧</sup> readers, I occasionally<sup>⑨</sup> sifted<sup>⑩</sup> through old notes on Holmes's cases and produced a new manuscript<sup>⑪</sup>. But I also was respectful of<sup>⑫</sup> Holmes's desire for solitude<sup>⑬</sup> and anonymity<sup>⑭</sup>.

Holmes had long since retired<sup>⑮</sup> from his illustrious<sup>⑯</sup> career as a detective and was now living on a smallholding<sup>⑰</sup> on the South Downs. He rarely came to the city, but several times a

- 
- ① entirely *ad.* 完全地
  - ② career *n.* 事业, 生涯
  - ③ disappointment *n.* 失望
  - ④ publisher *n.* 出版商
  - ⑤ prefer *v.* 宁愿, 更喜欢
  - ⑥ adventure *n.* 冒险的经历
  - ⑦ favour *n.* 宠爱
  - ⑧ loyal *a.* 忠诚的
  - ⑨ occasionally *ad.* 有时, 偶尔
  - ⑩ sift *v.* 详申
  - ⑪ manuscript *n.* 手稿
  - ⑫ be respectful of 对……尊重
  - ⑬ solitude *n.* 孤独
  - ⑭ anonymity *n.* 匿名, 隐姓埋名
  - ⑮ retire *v.* 退休
  - ⑯ illustrious *a.* 杰出的
  - ⑰ smallholding *n.* 小农场

year I would travel to his country retreat<sup>①</sup> and inform him of whatever news I had heard about recent<sup>③</sup> criminal<sup>④</sup> investigations<sup>⑤</sup>. I often called at Scotland Yard<sup>⑥</sup> to see young Inspector<sup>⑦</sup> Wiggins, who provided me with<sup>⑧</sup> detailed<sup>⑨</sup> accounts<sup>⑩</sup> of current<sup>⑪</sup> cases. There were times too when Wiggins, baffled<sup>⑫</sup> by a particularly<sup>⑬</sup> complex<sup>⑭</sup> case, would travel to Sussex to consult<sup>⑮</sup> his old mentor<sup>⑯</sup>.

My visits to Holmes seldom<sup>⑰</sup> involved<sup>⑱</sup> talking over<sup>⑲</sup> old

- 
- ① retreat *n.* 退却
  - ② inform sb of sth 告诉某人某事
  - ③ recent *a.* 近来的
  - ④ criminal *a.* 犯罪的
  - ⑤ investigation *n.* 调查, 研究
  - ⑥ Scotland Yard 苏格兰场(伦敦警察厅)
  - ⑦ inspector *n.* 巡视员
  - ⑧ provide sb with 给某人供应……
  - ⑨ detailed *a.* 详细的
  - ⑩ account *n.* 叙述, 陈述
  - ⑪ current *a.* 当前的
  - ⑫ baffle *v.* 困惑, 为难
  - ⑬ particularly *ad.* 尤其, 特别
  - ⑭ complex *a.* 复杂的
  - ⑮ consult *v.* 商议, 请教
  - ⑯ mentor *n.* 顾问, 导师
  - ⑰ seldom *ad.* 很少, 不常
  - ⑱ involve *v.* 潜心于
  - ⑲ talk over 讨论

times. He had little patience with<sup>①</sup> nostalgia<sup>②</sup>. Whenever my conversation<sup>③</sup> wandered to decades-old<sup>④</sup> memories of past cases, he would rise from his chair and draw me over to<sup>⑤</sup> one of the many scientific projects that were in progress in and around his home. I was always reluctant<sup>⑥</sup> to visit the beehives<sup>⑦</sup> he kept in his orchard<sup>⑧</sup>, even when I was fully covered by protective<sup>⑨</sup> clothing. But I was fascinated<sup>⑩</sup> by his promising<sup>⑪</sup> work in the scientific analysis of crime evidence. I recall<sup>⑫</sup> one day in particular<sup>⑬</sup> when we travelled to a local inn to purchase<sup>⑭</sup> drinking mugs – that is, unwashed drinking mugs, taken right off the bar. After giving the landlord a generous<sup>⑮</sup> payment, Holmes gathered up the mugs with a gloved hand and packed them into a

---

① have little patience with 对……没有耐心

② nostalgia *n.* 怀旧之情

③ conversation *n.* 会话, 交谈

④ decades-old *a.* 数十年前的

⑤ draw sb over to 把某人拉到……

⑥ reluctant *a.* 不情愿的

⑦ beehives *n.* 蜂窝

⑧ orchard *n.* 果园

⑨ protective *a.* 给与保护的

⑩ fascinate *v.* 着迷, 入迷

⑪ promising *a.* 有希望的

⑫ recall *v.* 回忆

⑬ in particular 尤其, 特别

⑭ purchase *v.* 购买

⑮ generous *a.* 慷慨大方的

box. At home, he applied<sup>①</sup> various<sup>②</sup> dry<sup>③</sup> chemical mixtures<sup>④</sup> to the glass, hoping to develop a method of bringing out<sup>⑤</sup> detail in smudged<sup>⑥</sup> fingerprints<sup>⑦</sup>.

I thought about Holmes as I sat at my dining room table late one night, researching the early battles of the Boer War. Outside, the wind howled<sup>⑧</sup> and heavy rains rattled<sup>⑨</sup> against the windows. I had just put another log on the fire, and it was engulfed<sup>⑩</sup> in crackling<sup>⑪</sup> flames. I welcomed these sounds. My rooms had been much too quiet since the death of my wife six months earlier. I thought back to other stormy nights at Baker Street, when there would be a knock on the door, and a rain-soaked stranger – speaking to us in frightened, confused or demanding tones – would ask our help in solving a problem. But those days were gone, like all the history that lined my bookshelves<sup>⑫</sup>.

As my mind wandered, I decided that it was time to

- 
- ① apply *v.* 运用
  - ② various *a.* 各种各样的
  - ③ dry *a.* 干的
  - ④ mixture *n.* 混合物
  - ⑤ bring out 使显示
  - ⑥ smudged *a.* 污迹的
  - ⑦ fingerprints *n.* 指纹, 手印
  - ⑧ howl *v.* 号叫, 怒号
  - ⑨ rattle *v.* 有节律地拍打
  - ⑩ engulf *v.* 卷入, 吞没
  - ⑪ crackle *v.* 劈劈啪啪地响
  - ⑫ bookshelf *n.* 书架

abandon<sup>①</sup> my research for the evening. Leaving my books on the table, I walked to the window and looked at the street below. In the glow of the street lamps, I watched as the rain poured on to the cobbled<sup>②</sup> street and rushed along the gutters<sup>③</sup>. Except for the fury<sup>④</sup> of Mother Nature, the streets were quiet. The only sign of life was a small pack of neighbourhood dogs conducting their nightly prowling<sup>⑤</sup> of the area. I was about to leave the window and retire<sup>⑥</sup> to my bedroom when I noticed the flash of headlamps approaching up the street. A large, black motor-car came to a stop directly in front of my rooms. The headlamps blinked off<sup>⑦</sup> and , for several minutes, it appeared that no one was going to leave the car. But then a man stepped out of<sup>⑧</sup> the driver's seat and rushed to the back to open the door for a passenger<sup>⑨</sup>. The man in the back seat, wearing a dark hat and raincoat, climbed out of the car and immediately<sup>⑩</sup> looked up to the window where I was standing. We watched each other for a few moments, before he lowered his head and walked in the direction of my door.

- 
- ① abandon *v.* 废除  
② cobble *v.* 用圆石砌路  
③ gutter *n.* 街道  
④ fury *n.* 狂怒, 狂暴  
⑤ prowl *n.* 巡游  
⑥ retire *v.* 离开  
⑦ blink off 闪烁着  
⑧ step out of 走出  
⑨ passenger *n.* 乘客  
⑩ immediately *ad.* 立刻, 马上

I heard his knock, just as I reached the foot of the stairs. I tightened<sup>①</sup> the collar<sup>②</sup> of my dressing gown<sup>③</sup> round my neck, slid back the bolt<sup>④</sup> and opened the door. The gust<sup>⑤</sup> of cold, wet, wind penetrated<sup>⑥</sup> my body, and I began to shiver<sup>⑦</sup>. But the stranger stood calmly, as though this were a casual<sup>⑧</sup> visit on a sunny afternoon.

‘Dr Watson?’

‘Yes.’

‘My name is Sidney Reilly. May I come in?’

‘It’s very late. Unless this is a medical emergency, I must ask you to come back in the morning.’

‘Doctor,’ he said with a half-smile. ‘I have an important message for you from Mr Sherlock Holmes. And by tomorrow morning, I suspect you’ll be on a ship bound for America.’

I froze for a moment, not knowing whether I should believe this extraordinary<sup>⑨</sup> statement<sup>⑩</sup>. But then, the appearance<sup>⑪</sup> of

- 
- ① tighten *v.* 绷紧, 拉紧
  - ② collar *n.* 领子
  - ③ gown *n.* 长袍, 睡袍
  - ④ bolt *n.* 门闩
  - ⑤ gust *n.* 一阵风
  - ⑥ penetrate *v.* 穿透, 看穿
  - ⑦ shiver *v.* 颤抖
  - ⑧ casual *a.* 临时的
  - ⑨ extraordinary *a.* 非凡的, 特别的
  - ⑩ statement *n.* 陈述
  - ⑪ appearance *n.* 外表

this stranger at night was worthy of Holmes's sense of drama<sup>①</sup>. Ten years earlier in Baker Street, I would not have been so fearful of admitting a mysterious<sup>②</sup> late-night caller. But then, ten years ago I would probably have remembered to slip<sup>③</sup> my service revolver<sup>④</sup> into my dressing gown before opening the door.

I pulled the door back and asked Reilly to follow me upstairs. As we entered the drawing room, I took his rain-soaked<sup>⑤</sup> hat and coat. Reilly was a dark, trim<sup>⑥</sup> man in his late thirties. When he spoke he had a trace of an accent, or mixture of accents. He had calm, piercing<sup>⑦</sup> eyes that seemed to gaze over<sup>⑧</sup> every feature<sup>⑨</sup> of the room as he walked towards the fire.

'Doctor, I have been told that you are aware of the high position Mr Holmes's brother, Mycroft, holds in our intelligence service. I too work for the government, and when Mycroft Holmes picks you up in the morning to take you to the railway station, he will verify<sup>⑩</sup> that. He would have accompanied<sup>⑪</sup> me

---

① drama *n.* 戏剧

② mysterious *a.* 神秘的

③ slip *v.* 塞

④ revolver *n.* 左轮手枪

⑤ rain-soaked *a.* 被雨水浸湿的

⑥ trim *a.* 整洁的

⑦ piercing *a.* 敏锐的

⑧ gaze over 凝视

⑨ feature *n.* 特征

⑩ verify *v.* 证实

⑪ accompany *v.* 陪伴, 伴随

this evening, only he had to make some last-minute<sup>①</sup> arrangements for his brother. '

'Forgive<sup>②</sup> me if I am sceptical<sup>③</sup>, Mr Reilly. But let us assume<sup>④</sup> for the moment that what you are saying is true. Why would you expect me to be boarding a ship for America in the morning? Is this something Holmes wishes me to do?'

Reilly reached into his pocket and handed me a small envelope<sup>⑤</sup>. It was addressed<sup>⑥</sup> to me in Holmes's handwriting. 'I haven't read it, but I believe that note will answer at least some of your questions,' he said.

I tore open<sup>⑦</sup> the envelope and read the note, which had been dated that same day:

My dear Watson,

I realize that this request comes at a particularly sad time for you, but once again, I am in need of your help. In the morning I will board a ship for America, and will not be seeing you again for some time. The government has asked me to conduct a secret investigation and, after some encouragement<sup>⑧</sup> from

---

① last-minute *a.* 最后时刻的

② forgive *v.* 原谅, 宽恕

③ sceptical *a.* 怀疑的

④ assume *v.* 假定, 设想

⑤ envelope *n.* 信封

⑥ address *v.* 写信给……

⑦ tear open 撕开

⑧ encouragement *n.* 鼓励, 奖励



persistent<sup>①</sup> senior<sup>②</sup> officials, I have accepted. I would appreciate it if you could find your way clear to join me on this voyage<sup>③</sup>. My investigation does not begin until I reach America, so the voyage will be relaxing and uneventful<sup>④</sup>. The trip would do you good and I would greatly enjoy seeing you at the start of this adventure. However, after we reach New York, I fear that my mission<sup>⑤</sup> will lead to our separation, so come at once if convenient<sup>⑥</sup> – if inconvenient, come all the same. Mr Reilly will provide you with a ticket.

Very sincerely yours<sup>⑦</sup>,

Sherlock Holmes.

‘I am convinced, Mr Reilly, I will have my cases packed and be ready to travel in the morning.’

‘Very, good, Doctor. That concludes<sup>⑧</sup> our business. You understand, of course, that everything you see and hear – including our meeting tonight – must be treated<sup>⑨</sup> in the strictest<sup>⑩</sup>

---

① persistent *a.* 持久稳定的

② senior *a.* 年长的, 资深的

③ voyage *n.* 航行, 旅行

④ uneventful *a.* 平静无事的

⑤ mission *n.* 使命, 任务

⑥ convenient *a.* 便利的, 方便的

⑦ sincerely yours/yours sincerely 您的忠诚的(给友人写信未署名前的客套话)

⑧ conclude *v.* 结束, 终止

⑨ treat *v.* 对待, 视为

⑩ strictest *a.* (strict 的最高级) 最严密的