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(又名: 控制者)

Peter Keane 著 基恩

方廷钰 注释

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内 容 提 要

本书原名《控制者》，是一个虚构的科学幻想故事。莱顿教授率领子女到“魔穴”探险，发现了一座阿玛特库人的地下城市。阿玛特库人妄想控制世界，他们能使俘获的地面居民丧失意志而完全俯首听命。莱顿一家设法逃出了“魔穴”并向政府作了报告。政府派军队和科学家进入该处，解救了被俘的居民，也改变了阿玛特库人的思想方法。

本书文字浅近，习语丰富，可供中等英语程度的大、中学生或自学者阅读。

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1. The Devil's Pot¹

Muff² and Roy³ didn't see their father often. He was Professor Paul Leyton⁴, the internationally famous scientist. He also had something to do with space rockets. He was always abroad making speeches or giving advice on space programmes and really only saw his children at weekends.

This weekend was special. Professor Leyton was home for four days, so the three of them had decided to get away from the city and enjoy their favourite sport. They were all enthusiastic pot-holers⁵ and had plenty of experience. For a long time they had planned to make a descent into the Devil's Pot, one of the most dangerous underground groups of caves in England. Now the time had arrived. Their preparations were complete.

Everyone knew the Devil's Pot. It started with a long narrow chimney at the bottom of which was a small chamber.⁶ Through the chamber flowed an

1. The Devil's Pot: 魔穴 (参见注5). 2. Muff [mʌf]: 莱夫.
3. Roy [rɔɪ]: 罗伊. 4. Paul Leyton [pɔ:l 'leɪtən]: 保罗·莱顿.
5. pot-holers: 甌穴探险者. pot-hole: 甌穴, 壑穴. 指水流涌动和下蚀作用所成的一种河床凹穴, 常见于瀑布、跌水的基脚地段. 6. It started...chamber. 它开始的地方是一根细长的烟囱状的管子, 其底部连接一个洞穴.

underground stream. It was possible, by swimming under water, to follow the stream out of the chamber through a low tunnel. At the end of the tunnel the ground fell away, and the stream became a roaring waterfall which dropped twenty metres into another chamber full of the noise of running water.¹ In the light of a flashlight the walls were red and the colours shining through the water looked like fire.²

From days long ago³ men had called this chamber the Devil's Pot because of the colours and the noise. There was also a second reason about which men did not talk so often.⁴ The local people said that many of the men who went down the Devil's Pot never came back. Certainly no-one from the nearby village of Ousby⁵ ever went there by day or by night.

The Leytons were not surprised, then, when the road stopped two kilometres short of the cave entrance⁶. They stopped the car by the roadside and unloaded their equipment. Then, when they had locked up the car they walked along the rough track

1. At the end of the tunnel ... water. 隧道尽头地势陡落, 河流从二十米的高处倾泻而下, 形成轰鸣的瀑布, 注入另一个急流奔腾、水声隆隆的洞穴。

2. In the light ... fire. 在手电筒的光线照耀下, 两壁呈红色, 映入水中, 如同火焰。 3. From days long ago: 很久以来。 4. There was ... often. 另外还有一个人们不常谈到的原因。 5. Ousby ['auzbi]: 村名。 6. two kilometres short of the cave entrance: 在离洞口两公里远的地方。 short of=away from.

to a spot fifty metres from the chimney where they put up their tent.

They spent the rest of the day planning the descent and checking their equipment¹. Their climb would begin in conditions of which other climbers already had experience.² For this they needed ropes, ladders, helmets and lamps. The second part of their climb would take them deeper than anyone had ever gone before/down into the pot itself and, with luck, still deeper underground. For this they were well prepared. They had brought wet-suits and aqualungs³ so that they could swim through the waters of the pot to look for a way out. If there was a way out they were determined to find it.

'Listen', said Muff. 'You can hear the sound of the stream from here. It must be coming up the chimney. I'm not surprised the local people don't like coming up here'. 'Yes', replied the professor. 'There must be tons of water moving through the first chamber. I don't know why they call it an underground stream. It sounds more like a river to me. We'll have to be careful not to drop any equipment or it'll go straight over the waterfall'.

1. checking their equipment: 检查他们的装备。 2. Their climb ... experience. 他们开始往下爬时和别人爬过的情况一样。 3. wet-suits and aqualungs: 保温游泳衣和水中呼吸器(指背的氧气瓶连同戴的面罩)。

'It's a good job we bought those new ropes¹,' said Roy. 'The water would make the old ones we had too heavy to use. At least this way we'll be able to examine the caves thoroughly.'

'And if there's anything there we'll find it', added Muff firmly.

They all sat and listened for a long while to the roaring of the water down inside the ground. They ate their evening meal without conversation. In the end the Professor said, 'Come on. Let's get a good night's sleep. We must start early in the morning and we'll need all our strength for the climb'.

It was only when they were in their sleeping bags that they knew how tired they were.² In a quarter of an hour everyone was asleep.

When the Professor woke up he found that Muff and Roy had already had breakfast and were busy moving the equipment to the mouth of the Devil's Pot. The Professor made himself some coffee and, with a buttered roll and jam in his hand, went over to see what the children were doing.

'Morning, Dad', said Muff with a smile. 'Can you

1. It's a good job ... ropes. 幸好咱们买了那些新绳子。a good job: 幸运事。

2. It was only when ... were. 他们一钻进睡袋才知道自己是多么的困倦。(这是一个以it开头的强调结构, 强调以 when 开头的状语从句。)

hear it?

'Can I hear what?'

'The water', said Muff. 'It's not as loud now as it was during the night.'¹

'Yes, but sound always travels further at night', Roy broke in.

'I think so', said the Professor. 'Let's wait and see when we get down there. There's plenty of time to find out.'

They all smiled at each other. It was good to be together as a family.² It would be nicer with mother—she was fond of pot-holing too—but she had died some years before in a car crash³.

'When do we start?' asked the Professor. 'You seem to have taken over!'⁴

'We've already started', said Roy. 'We were waiting for the old man!'

'Thank you very much!' said the Professor. 'I hope you'll both be ready to carry me down the chimney if my old bones fail'⁵.

Half an hour later Roy was well down⁶ the chimney. The rope hung away below him into the darkness.⁷

1. It's not ... night. 目前(水的)声音不如昨天夜里响。 2. It was good ... family. 一家人在一起真好。 3. car crash; 车祸。 4. You seem ... over: 你们好象已经代替我干起来了。 5. if my old bones fail: 万一我的身体支撑不住。 my old bones=my body. 6. well down: 下去好多。 7. The rope hung ... darkness. 在他下面绳索悬垂于黑暗之中。

There was a dreadful lot of noise. The round hole of light above grew smaller and smaller as he dropped into the blackness. The lamp on his helmet shone weakly on the wet walls. His legs were already tired from climbing in the dampness. It was cold, too. The roar of the waters of the stream came loudly to meet him. About fifty metres later his feet touched the bottom.

Roy looked up. He could not see the entrance at the top. The chimney must bend in some way.¹ With the noise of the water it was useless to shout so he pulled on the rope as a signal. All he could do then was to wait and look around.

He was standing on a shelf about two metres wide,² which was the bank of a powerful underground stream. Even this far from the waterfall the noise was very loud. To Roy the place looked more dangerous than he had imagined. In any case, they would have to make their camp here. The water was so deep they could not carry sleeping bags through without getting them wet.

Through the darkness appeared the equipment for the rest of their adventure.³ He untied it and ar-

1. The chimney must bend... way. 烟囱状的通道一定有些弯曲。2. He was standing... wide. 他站在一块大约两米宽突出的扁平岩石上。3. Through the darkness appeared... adventure. 他们今后从事冒险活动的器材从黑暗中显现出来。

anged it in a pile to one side of the narrow shelf. Next down the rope was Muff. She was a very able climber; she kept her mind on what she was doing and she wasn't afraid of anything. The Professor followed last. They left the rope hanging there, its top disappearing up the dark chimney.

They tried shouting at each other over the sound of roaring water but the noise of the water was too great. At last, by means of signs,¹ they arrived at an agreement². By the light of their lamps they put on their wet-suits. They put their equipment—clothes, boots, spare lights and ropes—into plastic bags and, with aqualungs on their backs, dropped one by one into the water.

The Professor led the way this time. The water only reached his chest but it had great force.³ Roy and Muff were almost as tall as he was and they were roped together⁴, but first one and then the other slipped and nearly fell. They advanced slowly through the water and along the tunnel which became lower and narrower as they went. Finally the Professor stopped and gave the signal to Muff and Roy

1. by means of signs: 用打手势的办法。 2. they arrived ... agreement: 他们取得一致的意见。 3. The water only reached ... force: 水只有齐胸深, 但是阻力甚大。 4. they were roped together: 他们用绳子相互系在一起。

to start using their aqualungs. When they had done this, the Professor dropped under the water. Muff and Roy did the same. They could just see his lamp through the water in front of them and feel the rope pulling as he moved on. The water was cold on their faces and hands.

Suddenly there was a hand on Muff's shoulder. She had been just behind the Professor and was pushing on through the water, bubbles flowing from her aqualung, when a hand seized her and the rope pulled her upwards out of the water. She felt with her feet but there was nothing to stand on.¹ The bed of the stream had disappeared. She looked down and was with a shock that she was hanging over a black hole.² Her father was trying to pull her up on to a shelf beside the head of the waterfall³.

Quickly she understood that she must get up to her father. Roy was close behind her. If he came out of the tunnel now he would drop over the edge in spite of anything they could do to stop him.⁴ The Professor would not be strong enough to hold both

1. She felt ... on: 她用脚试探一下, 下面空荡无物。 2. She looked down ... hole. 她朝下一看, 不禁大惊失色, 原来她悬挂在一个漆黑的洞穴上面。 3. beside the head of the waterfall: 在瀑布的水头边上。 4. If he came out ... him: 要是现在他一游出隧道, 就会顺着边缘掉下去的, 别人没法儿拉住他。

of them and the whole family might be killed. Muff had to think fast. Her arms were not strong enough to pull her up, but with her equipment she was too heavy for the Professor to pull up alone. Muff hung there unable to speak to her father because of the roaring waterfall.

It was Muff's quick thinking that saved them.¹ When the top of Roy's head rose out of the water, Muff swung her foot and kicked him on the head. Surprised, Roy looked up and saw his sister hanging in front of him. They could not speak because of the noise but, by signs, Roy got Muff to try swinging towards the rock-face.² She was soon hitting the rock and could see the tiny holes her father must have used to pull himself up. It was not easy for Muff to climb up the wet rock, even with the Professor helping with the rope. But, once she was on the shelf, Roy quickly followed.

Too tired to go on immediately, they paused for a while to shine their lights around. The red rock and the dancing water shone in thousands of colours.³ They were not the friendly colours of the rainbow

1. It was Muff's ... them. 幸好莱芙脑子动得快才救了他们。 2. Roy got ... rock-face. 罗伊明白莱芙的意思，她是想试试能不能悠到对面的石壁上去。 3. The red rock ... colours. 红色的岩石和翻滚的流水闪烁出光怪陆离的色泽。

—they looked more like the fires of the heart of the earth. With imagination the Leytons could well believe they were the fires of Hell¹.

The next part of the climb down would have to be by ladder. This meant hammering into the rock steel pegs² on which to hang the rope-ladders they had brought, and going down ladder by ladder. They knew the Pot was very deep but no one had ever been down to the bottom to find out what was really there. They were descending into the unknown.³

In fact it was an easy climb. The waterfall was as deep as the chimney they had first come down, but the ladders made it easier. They could stop and rest when they got tired and all three of them were soon standing on the edge of a lake at the foot of the waterfall. There was only one way now—through the rough water of the lake⁴. If there was any way to go deeper it must be underneath the lake.

They had planned this part of the descent before they started. Roy was the best swimmer. He would rope himself to the others⁵ and, with a powerful

1. fires of Hell: 地狱之火。 2. This meant ... pegs: 这就是说把钢钎打到岩石里去。 3. They were descending ... unknown. 他们正下降到一个从未探明过的地方去。 4. rough water of the lake: 汹涌的湖水。 5. He would rope himself to the others: 他先系上绳子, 把另一头交给另外两个人。

flashlight, examine the lake and its walls to find a way out. They were all a little anxious but could not speak above the noise of the water. Roy smiled at his father and sister before letting himself carefully down into the rough water. They could do nothing now except wait and watch.¹ The light shone brightly under the water at first but was soon swallowed up in the darkness.

Roy was in the water a long time. The underground stream had been icy cold and the Professor began to worry about his son. Maybe the water was too cold. They waited and waited. Just as they were going to pull on the rope to try and bring Roy back, he appeared again waving the flashlight on the other side of the lake. His face was one big smile.² He looked very excited.

1. They could do ... watch. 现在他们没有别的办法, 只好等待着, 注视着 (罗伊)。wait and see: 等着瞧。 2. His face was ... smile. 他笑容满面。

2. A Way to the Unknown

Once out of the water Roy had to draw a plan.¹ It was useless to shout. There was too much noise from the waterfall. What he drew made them all smile.² He had found what looked like a tunnel going out and down from the lake above which they stood.³ This was good news. The bad news, however, was that the tunnel, as Roy indicated, was steep, with no room to turn round.⁴ He showed the Professor and Muff how he had to push himself upwards and back to get out at all.

The Professor indicated that they should all rest before going on down and taking fresh risks.⁵ In spite of the cold, dampness and noise, Roy went to sleep almost at once. Muff and the Professor sat checking the equipment with a flashlight. All around them was the mist from the waterfall. It was not a good place to stay for long.

The dive began well.⁶ Roped together and following

1. Once out of ... plan. 罗伊钻出水面以后,他不得不画了一张图。 2. What he drew ... smile. 他画的东西使他们全笑了。 3. He had found ... stood. 他发现就在他们站立的地方的下面,有一条看上去象隧道似的通道,从湖边向下伸展开去。 4. with no room to turn round; 连转身的余地也没有。 5. The Professor indicated ... risks. 教授指出,在下去作新的冒险前,他们都该休息一下。 6. The dive began well. 潜水开始时很顺利。