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出版说明

英语学习是一个积累的过程,在这个过程中,大量的 阅读至关重要,而英语原著无疑是最好的阅读材料。通 过阅读英语原著,英语学习者能够巩固和增加词汇量,积 累足够的句式,吸收、内化语言规律,从而能够用英语自 由流畅地进行表达,还可获取文化背景方面的知识。

阅读英语文学原著既有益又有趣。但很多人在阅读 过程中都会遇到一个难题:原著中的生词、难词极大地影 响了阅读速度,查词典要花大量时间,且影响阅读的连贯 性,不查词典又无法读通、读懂。为了帮助广大英语爱好 者阅读原汁原味的英语文学作品,我们选择福尔摩斯探 案故事中四部精彩的中篇小说,对其中的阅读难点从语 言上或文化背景知识上详加注释,以期帮助读者在享受 阅读趣味的同时,提高语言能力,汲取一定的文化背景 知识。

福尔摩斯探案故事的作者柯南・道尔爵士由于成功 塑造了歇洛克・福尔摩斯这一侦探人物,成为侦探小说 历史上最重要的作家之一。柯南・道尔于 1859 年 5 月



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22日出生于爱丁堡,1876年至1881年间在爱丁堡大学 学习医学,毕业后作为一名随船医生前往西非海岸,1882 年回国后在普利茅斯开业行医,在此期间道尔开始写作。 柯南·道尔的第一部重要作品《血字研究》(A Study in Scarlet)发表在《1887年比顿圣诞年刊》(Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887)上,小说的主角歇洛克·福尔 摩斯由此名声大噪,家喻户晓。柯南·道尔一生一共创 作了五十六部短篇侦探小说和四部中篇侦探小说。他对 人物的塑造独具匠心,心理刻画细致入微,场景描写和气 氛营造都十分引人入胜,其作品具有较高的文学价值。

福尔摩斯探案故事布局严谨,伏笔巧妙,情节环环相 扣,令人爱不释手,读者往往要到结局真相大白的时候, 才能松一口气。《血字研究》、《四签名》、《巴斯克维尔庄 园的猎犬》以及《恐怖谷》是福尔摩斯探案故事中最著名 的四个故事。这四个故事不仅情节曲折、引人入胜,而且 短小精悍、难度适中,极适合英语学习者使用。通过阅读 这套丛书,英语学习者有望提高英语阅读、表达能力,并 增加对英国文化的了解。

愿这套丛书能够带领广大英语爱好者走入一个多彩的英语世界。

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2007年7月





Chapter 1	Mr. Sherlock Holmes ····· 1			
Chapter 2	The Curse of the Baskervilles 14			
Chapter 3	The Problem 32			
Chapter 4	Sir Henry Baskerville 49			
Chapter 5	Three Broken Threads 71			
Chapter 6	Baskerville Hall 90			
Chapter 7	The Stapletons of Merripit House 109			
Chapter 8	First Report of Dr. Watson 135			
Chapter 9	Second Report of Dr. Watson 149			
Chapter 10	Extract from the Diary of Dr.			
	Watson 181			
Chapter 11	The Man on the Tor 199			
Chapter 12	Death on the Moor 224			
Chapter 13	Fixing the Nets 246			
Chapter 14	The Hound of the Baskervilles 268			
Chapter 15	A Retrospection 290			



Mr. Sherlock Holmes

M r. Sherlock Holmes, who was usually very late in the mornings, save upon those not infrequent occasions when he was up all night, was seated at the breakfast table. I stood upon the hearth-rug^① and picked up the stick which our visitor had left behind him the night before. It was a fine, thick piece of wood, bulbous-headed^②, of the sort which is known as a "Penang lawyer^③." Just under the head was a broad silver band nearly an inch across. "To James Mortimer, M. R. C. S., from his friends of the C. C. H.," was engraved upon it, with the date "1884." It was just such a stick as the old-fashioned family practitioner^④ used to carry — dignified, solid, and reassuring.

"Well, Watson, what do you make of it?"

hearth-rug: 壁炉前的小地毯
bulbous-headed: 顶端有个疙瘩的
Penang lawyer: 槟榔子木
practitioner: 医生





Holmes was sitting with his back to me, and I had given him no sign of my occupation.

"How did you know what I was doing? I believe you have eyes in the back of your head."

"I have, at least, a well-polished, silver-plated coffeepot in front of me," said he. "But, tell me, Watson, what do you make of our visitor's stick? Since we have been so unfortunate as to miss him and have no notion of his errand, this accidental souvenir becomes of importance. Let me hear you reconstruct the man by an examination of it."

"I think," said I, following as far as I could the methods of my companion, "that Dr. Mortimer is a successful, elderly medical man, well-esteemed, since those who know him give him this mark of their appreciation."

"Good!" said Holmes. "Excellent!"

"I think also that the probability is in favour of his being a country practitioner who does a great deal of his visiting on foot."

"Why so?"

"Because this stick, though originally a very handsome one, has been so knocked about that I can hardly imagine a town practitioner carrying it. The thick-iron ferrule^① is

① ferrule: (手杖、伞、木柄等顶端的)金属箍,金属包头





worn down, so it is evident that he has done a great amount of walking with it."

"Perfectly sound!" said Holmes.

"And then again, there is the 'friends of the C. C. H. ' I should guess that to be the Something Hunt, the local hunt to whose members he has possibly given some surgical assistance, and which has made him a small presentation in return."

"Really, Watson, you excel yourself," said Holmes, pushing back his chair and lighting a cigarette. "I am bound to say that in all the accounts which you have been so good as to give of my own small achievements you have habitually underrated your own abilities. It may be that you are not yourself luminous^①, but you are a conductor of light. Some people without possessing genius have a remarkable power of stimulating it. I confess, my dear fellow, that I am very much in your debt."

He had never said as much before, and I must admit that his words gave me keen pleasure, for I had often been piqued² by his indifference to my admiration and to the attempts which I had made to give publicity to his methods.

- ① luminous:发光的;发亮的(此处为双关语,兼有"睿智的,有见识的"之
- 义) ② pique: 激怒;伤害……的自尊心





I was proud, too, to think that I had so far mastered his system as to apply it in a way which earned his approval. He now took the stick from my hands and examined it for a few minutes with his naked eyes. Then with an expression of interest he laid down his cigarette, and, carrying the cane to the window, he looked over it again with a convex lens^①.

"Interesting, though elementary," said he as he returned to his favourite corner of the settee. "There are certainly one or two indications upon the stick. It gives us the basis for several deductions."

"Has anything escaped me?" I asked with some selfimportance. "I trust that there is nothing of consequence which I have overlooked?"

"I am afraid, my dear Watson, that most of your conclusions were erroneous. When I said that you stimulated me I meant, to be frank, that in noting your fallacies² I was occasionally guided towards the truth. Not that you are entirely wrong in this instance. The man is certainly a country practitioner. And he walks a good deal."

"Then I was right."

① convex lens: 放大镜, 凸透镜 ② fallacy: 谬论;谬见;谬误



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"To that extent."

"But that was all."

"No, no, my dear Watson, not all — by no means all. I would suggest, for example, that a presentation to a doctor is more likely to come from a hospital than from a hunt, and that when the initials 'C. C. ' are placed before that hospital the words ' Charing Cross' very naturally suggest themselves."

"You may be right."

"The probability lies in that direction. And if we take this as a working hypothesis we have a fresh basis from which to start our construction of this unknown visitor."

"Well, then, supposing that 'C. C. H. ' does stand for 'Charing Cross Hospital,' what further inferences may we draw?"

"Do none suggest themselves? You know my methods. Apply them!"

"I can only think of the obvious conclusion that the man has practised in town before going to the country."

"I think that we might venture a little farther than this. Look at it in this light. On what occasion would it be most probable that such a presentation would be made? When would his friends unite to give him a pledge of their good will? Obviously at the moment when Dr. Mortimer





withdrew from the service of the hospital in order to start in practice for himself. We know there has been a presentation. We believe there has been a change from a town hospital to a country practice. Is it, then, stretching our inference too far to say that the presentation was on the occasion of the change?"

"It certainly seems probable."

"Now, you will observe that he could not have been on the staff of the hospital, since only a man well-established in a London practice could hold such a position, and such a one would not drift into the country. What was he, then? If he was in the hospital and yet not on the staff, he could only have been a house-surgeon or a house-physician little more than a senior student. And he left five years ago — the date is on the stick. So your grave, middle-aged family practitioner vanishes into thin air, my dear Watson, and there emerges a young fellow under thirty, amiable, unambitious, absent-minded, and the possessor of a favourite dog, which I should describe roughly as being larger than a terrier^① and smaller than a mastiff^②."

I laughed incredulously as Sherlock Holmes leaned back in his settee and blew little wavering rings of smoke up to

would his breads unite (or even him a pleded of their

① terrier: 㹴(gēng,一种小型猛犬) ② mastiff: 獒, 大驯犬



R

the ceiling.

"As to the latter part, I have no means of checking you," said I, "but at least it is not difficult to find out a few particulars about the man's age and professional career." From my small medical shelf I took down the Medical Directory and turned up the name. There were several Mortimers, but only one who could be our visitor. I read his record aloud.

"Mortimer, James, M. R. C. S., 1882, Grimpen, Dartmoor, Devon. House-surgeon, from 1882 to 1884, at Charing Cross Hospital. Winner of the Jackson prize for Comparative Pathology, with essay entitled 'Is Disease a Reversion?' Corresponding member of the Swedish Pathological Society. Author of 'Some Freaks^① of Atavism^②' (Lancet³, 1882), 'Do We Progress?' (Journal of Psychology, March, 1883). Medical Officer for the parishes^④ of Grimpen, Thorsley, and High Barrow."

"No mention of that local hunt, Watson," said Holmes with a mischievous smile, "but a country doctor, as you very astutely observed. I think that I am fairly justified in

① freak: 畸形;怪物 ② atavism: 返祖现象 ③ Lancet:《柳叶刀》(英 国著名的医学杂志) ④ parish: 行政堂区(英格兰乡村的基层行政单位)





my inferences. As to the adjectives, I said, if I remember right, amiable, unambitious, and absent-minded. It is my experience that it is only an amiable man in this world who receives testimonials^①, only an unambitious one who abandons a London career for the country, and only an absent-minded one who leaves his stick and not his visitingcard after waiting an hour in your room."

"And the dog?"

"Has been in the habit of carrying this stick behind his master. Being a heavy stick the dog has held it tightly by the middle, and the marks of his teeth are very plainly visible. The dog's jaw, as shown in the space between these marks, is too broad in my opinion for a terrier and not broad enough for a mastiff. It may have been — yes, by Jove, it is a curly-haired spaniel⁽²⁾."

He had risen and paced the room as he spoke. Now he halted in the recess³ of the window. There was such a ring of conviction in his voice that I glanced up in surprise.

"My dear fellow, how can you possibly be so sure of that?"

"For the very simple reason that I see the dog himself

① testimonial: 纪念品 ② spaniel: 獚(huáng,一种长毛垂耳短尾矮足 小犬) ③ recess: 深处,隐秘处





on our very door-step, and there is the ring of its owner. Don't move, I beg you, Watson. He is a professional brother of yours, and your presence may be of assistance to me. Now is the dramatic moment of fate, Watson, when you hear a step upon the stair which is walking into your life, and you know not whether for good or ill. What does Dr. James Mortimer, the man of science, ask of Sherlock Holmes, the specialist in crime? Come in!"

The appearance of our visitor was a surprise to me, since I had expected a typical country practitioner. He was a very tall, thin man, with a long nose like a beak^①, which jutted^② out between two keen, gray eyes, set closely together and sparkling brightly from behind a pair of goldrimmed glasses. He was clad in a professional but rather slovenly^③ fashion, for his frock-coat was dingy^④ and his trousers frayed^⑤. Though young, his long back was already bowed, and he walked with a forward thrust of his head and a general air of peering benevolence. As he entered his eyes fell upon the stick in Holmes's hand, and he ran towards it with an exclamation of joy. "I am so very glad," said he. "I was not sure whether I had left it here or

Deak: (鷹、鸚鵡等的)喙
jut: 使突出,使伸出
slovenly: 邋遢的,不修边幅的
fray: 廣損





in the Shipping Office. I would not lose that stick for the world."

"A presentation, I see," said Holmes.

"Yes, sir."

"From Charing Cross Hospital?"

"From one or two friends there on the occasion of my marriage."

"Dear, dear, that's bad!" said Holmes, shaking his head.

Dr. Mortimer blinked through his glasses in mild astonishment.

"Why was it bad?"

"Only that you have disarranged our little deductions. Your marriage, you say?"

"Yes, sir. I married, and so left the hospital, and with it all hopes of a consulting practice. It was necessary to make a home of my own."

"Come, come, we are not so far wrong, after all," said Holmes. "And now, Dr. James Mortimer ——"

"Mister, sir, Mister — a humble M. R. C. S."

"And a man of precise mind, evidently."

"A dabbler $^{\odot}$ in science, Mr. Holmes, a picker-up of shells on the shores of the great unknown ocean. I presume

① dabbler: 涉猎者



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