

英美文学名著导读详注本

Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson

金银岛



上海外语教育出版社

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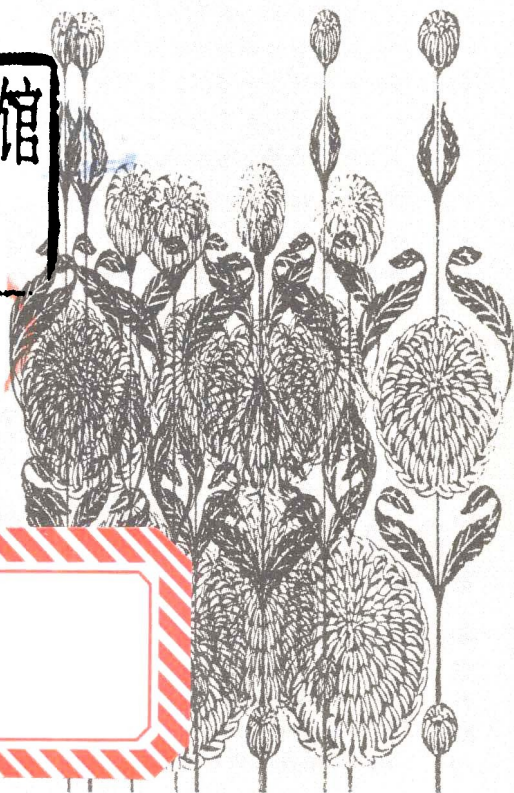
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孔庆华 注

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出版说明

为了继承人类精神文明的宝贵财富,培养青年学子的思想境界和道德情操,上海外语教育出版社从2001年起将陆续推出这套丛书。自林纾以降,经过几代译者的不断努力,西方文学经典已渐为国人接受。改革开放以来,原版文学作品更是源源不断进入我国的校园和课堂。时至今日,我们逐步认识到,那种原本刊行的简单的拿来主义难以满足学子发掘作品蕴涵的人文精神的需要,毕竟其中屡屡出现的外来语和各种典故妨碍了解读过程,而且文学语言本身的难度就不是仅靠一两套语言教材就能克服的阅读障碍,所以几经筹划,凭借学界大力襄助,将洋洋大观的英美文学名著汇编为一套导读详注丛书,奉献给广大热爱文学和学习英语的读者。

我社经过较长时间的酝酿和准备,先后充分听取了国内外专家的意见和建议,专门约请了国内知名学者和研究有素的青年教师参与其事。由他们精心撰写导读文字并加以详备的注释,通过导读和详注这种面貌一新的形式,我们希望读者可以“知人论世”而又含英咀华,了解历代文学大师的生平事迹和当时的社会及文化背景,窥测作家的心路历程和创作轨迹,读者同时可以吸收文学语言的养分,提高文化素养和文学欣赏水平,我们相信从更高的层次来说,语言习得与培养素质应该水乳交融,相得益彰,二者不可偏废,这也是我社推出这套丛书的初衷。

由于涉及作品的时间跨度逾三百年,而期间英语语言也在不断地沿革演化,从而在不同的历史时期呈现出了不同的特色。倘若根据历史阶段陆续推出,未必能够真正有益于青年读者学习英语和领略作品神韵。因此我们将通盘考虑,把不同时期、不同风格的作品放在一起推出,这样读者可以根据各自的喜好有所选择。我们初步计划总数刊行一百种,每年分辑推出十余种,逐年陆续完成这一规模宏大的出版项目。

我们希望在这套丛书问世之际,得到学界和读者热情关心和支持,给我们提出建议和批评,协助我们精益求精,将丛书出版得更好。

上海外语教育出版社

2001年3月

前言

罗 伯特·路易斯·史蒂文森是 19 世纪后期英国文坛上的一位著名散文家、小说家和诗人，新浪漫主义的主要代表之一。

史蒂文森 1850 年 11 月 13 日生于苏格兰首都爱丁堡。祖父和父亲都是颇有声望的灯塔建筑师。他自幼孱弱多病，幸得母亲和保姆坎宁安周到而入微的照顾才得以长大成人。在他的髫龄时代，坎宁安便成了他的良师益友，她经常给他读诗歌及各种故事，包括《旧约》和《天路历程》等书籍。坎宁安给他的启蒙教育，使他终生都受益良深。从少年时代起，史蒂文森便喜欢漫游四野，读书写诗，这成了他文学生涯的起点，并终生乐此不倦。

1867 年史蒂文森遵从父命，进爱丁堡大学学习建筑，但他对建筑学兴味索然，于是便广泛阅读文学作品。不久后，他又改学法律。

1873 年，他因病辍学，在这期间，他开始撰写书评及论文，并开始了短篇小说的创作。他的一系列童话和短篇小说的面世，显露出了其文学创作方面的才华。这时他的作品已能问鼎《谷山杂志》、《双周评论》等著名的刊物。

1875 年他取得了律师资格，当上了律师，但他的律师职业很快就结束了。

1876 年史蒂文森在巴黎东南的枫丹白露镇邂逅了奥斯本夫人，这时她已与丈夫感情破裂，痛苦寂寞，客居巴黎。此后三年，他们频频鸿雁传书，两人倾心爱慕，并于 1880 年结为连理。

在 1878 年和 1879 年，史蒂文森分别出版了《内陆航行记》和《骑驴旅行记》，前者描写连绵不断的山色，后者描写变化万千的水光，以及奇异的人情风俗等。这两本游记奠定了他作为著名作家的地位。

19 世纪 80 年代，史蒂文森完成了几部重要的小说，从而使他加入到英国文坛著名作家的行列。这一时期，他写竣的小说及诗歌有：《新天方夜谭》(1882)；《金银岛》(1883)；《儿童诗苑》(1885)；《续天方夜谭》(1885)；《化身博士》(1886)；《诱拐》(1886)；《快乐的人们》

(1887);《矮树丛》(1887);《黑箭》(1888);《错箱记》(史蒂文森同继子劳爱得·奥斯本合写 1889);《白兰垂子爵》(1889);《岛上夜宴》(1893)等。

小说《诱拐》描写了苏格兰少年大卫经历了许多冒险生活后和他心爱的姑娘终成眷属的故事。

《化身博士》是个精神探险故事。史蒂文森用科学幻想的方法,写一个医生用自己发明的药物创造出了他的第二个活体。在这部作品中,他提出了在一个人身上有善恶之间的斗争这样一个深刻的哲学与伦理问题。

这段时期,他同亨利·詹姆斯过从甚密。他们从 1885 年互相认识起,詹姆斯便成了他家的座上客。并且在以后的许多年里,都保持通信晤面。他们不仅互相评论作品,而且也一起评论他们同时代的作家及作品。

1890 年史蒂文森在南太平洋西萨摩亚的首府萨摩亚定居下来。岛上空气清新,山林叠翠,风景旖旎,这对他的身体及写作十分相宜。在该岛居住期间,他十分同情和支持萨摩亚人民为摆脱德国殖民主义者的统治、争取独立的斗争,因此赢得了岛上土著居民的尊敬及爱戴。他的散文集《历史的脚注》(1892)和《南太平洋》(1896)不仅展现了他对岛上居民的同情,而且也表明了他反对帝国主义和殖民主义者的立场。

1894 年 12 月 3 日,史蒂文森因脑溢血暴卒,时年仅四十四岁。

他离开人世前仍在握管创作《赫米斯顿村的魏尔》,有人认为,这是他最完美的一部小说。

19 世纪 70 年代以后,英国从自由资本主义过渡到了垄断资本主义,国内的政治和经济矛盾尖锐起来。文坛上有些作家感到苦闷彷徨。在法国唯美派的影响下,英国一些作家表现了强烈的唯美主义倾向。他们企图以艺术的“美”来消除社会的一些丑恶现象。

这一时期,英国文学流派纷呈。新浪漫主义就是这一时期出现的文学流派之一。该流派的作家虽对资本主义社会不满,也持一定的批判态度,却不能像批判现实主义作家那样,去揭露批判那些肮脏的社会现象,而是企图在其背后寻找出那些捉摸不定却在支配着人们命运的东西。他们常常通过想象及幻想创作出一些激奋人心的事件和充满浪漫情调的人物。作品中多涉及海上冒险、异国情调、侦探凶杀之类的题材,因此多带有奇异、神秘的色彩。

史蒂文森是新浪漫主义的杰出代表,《金银岛》是他的代表作。

《金银岛》1882年先是在少年刊物上连载,题目是《海上厨师》或《金银岛》。在1870年和1880年间的英国文坛上,作家及读者的价值标准都出现了新的变化。随着读者群的不断扩大,许多读者对长篇巨著感到乏味,史蒂文森敏锐地意识到了这种变化。1883年他同出版商商定,将《金银岛》以单行本的形式重新出版发行,于是大获成功。

故事起因于史蒂文森和继子劳爱德在苏格兰度假时共同绘制的一张藏宝地图。作家为取悦其继子,便展开了想象的翅膀,“按图索骥”,创作出了这个古往今来最为著名的海盗故事。

故事的主要叙述人是吉姆·霍金斯。他的母亲在英国西部的大海边开了一家小客栈,取名为本葆将军客栈。有一天,一位老海盗住进了这家客栈。在他的箱子里,有一张关于在某一海岛藏有大批金银财宝的地图。老海盗以前的同伙妄图得到这批财宝,他们要袭击这家小客栈,夺走藏宝图,但却被击败了。吉姆得到了那张图并将其献给了乡绅屈利劳尼。经过一番准备后,乡绅和他的朋友带着吉姆和其他一些船员乘船向藏宝的海岛进发,试图找到那些财宝。船上有些船员是乡绅的忠实朋友,但大多数却是混上船的海盗头子西尔弗招来的一帮海盗。他们妄图夺取那条船,并杀掉乡绅和他的朋友,这一阴谋被吉姆所发现。经过许多惊心动魄的战斗和历险后,乡绅和他的朋友在被放逐的海盗本·甘恩的协助下,获得了那批财宝。他们将成千上万磅金银币搬到船上,扬帆而去,将三名海盗抛弃在岛上。吉姆也得到了一份足够他终生享用的财宝。

《金银岛》在人物塑造、故事情节的构思以及语言表述方面都很有特色。

吉姆是《金银岛》的主要角色,他虽出身布衣,但却能读会算,而且十分喜欢历险。从比尔的箱子中得到了藏宝图后,他将其呈给乡绅,在航海途中,是他发现了西尔弗一伙的阴谋,也是他驾小舟夺取了帆船。当他落入了西尔弗的魔掌后,虽有李甫西搭救,但他为了诚实守信,却不愿逃逸。吉姆的聪颖、诚实、勇敢为乡绅最终获得那批财宝,立下了头功。

海盗魁首西尔弗是一个口蜜腹剑、心狠手毒的人物,但他却善于伪装,善于动脑,也很善于拉帮结伙,作者让他最终携一部分财宝逃之夭夭,在读者心目中产生了余音绕梁之效。

大夫李甫西虽然对海盗头子比尔十分憎恶,但他还是及时给他治

病。当他们同海盗真枪实刀厮杀一场后，他忙完了给自己人的包扎后，便冒着生命危险，去给海盗们治疗。他的这种良好的职业道德非常令人钦佩难忘。

史蒂文森有时只用寥寥数笔，便能勾勒出一个人物的鲜明特征，使人过目难忘。霍金斯太太这个人物就是一例。她是书中惟一一位女性形象。当她在数海盗比尔留下的钱币时，另一些海盗已步步逼近，她置生命于不顾，“却不同意在收回欠她的账之外多拿一个铜板，又顽固地不肯少拿一个子儿。”

另外，粗鲁直率的屈利劳尼乡绅，光明磊落又咄咄逼人的斯摩列特船长，诚实的雷德鲁斯和能力低下的本·甘恩等，也都是个性鲜明而又有血有肉的人物形象。

《金银岛》的故事情节纯属虚构，但却讲述得十分精彩动人。从故事一开始，比尔住进本葆客栈，作家便吊起了读者的胃口。接着故事以清晰的脉络，不蔓不枝，迅疾向前发展，真可谓起伏跌宕，惊心动魄，叫人非一口气将它读完不可。从航海、海盗、冒险，到神秘、阴谋、恐怖，再到凶杀、恶战、夺宝，冒险小说中常见的噱头，《金银岛》几乎都具备了。该小说一百多年来在全世界都拥有不少的读者，并被多次搬上银幕，其中引人入胜的故事情节是一个关键的因素。

新浪漫主义作家都很注意语言的优美流畅，他们试图使语汇达到超凡脱俗的境界，史蒂文森也不例外。《金银岛》中的语言介乎口语和书面语之间，文笔晓畅，读来朗朗上口，这种文体和所要讲述的故事可谓相得益彰。

《金银岛》并不具有十分深刻的教益，从这种意义上讲，它算不上是一部伟大的文学作品，但小说中活灵活现的人物形象，紧张刺激的故事情节，朴实顺畅的语言等特色，便足以使其成为一部熠熠生辉、历久弥新的经典之作。

孔庆华

2000年10月

CONTENTS

PART ONE

THE OLD BUCCANEER

I.	THE OLD SEA-DOG AT THE "ADMIRAL BENBOW"	1
II.	BLACK DOG APPEARS AND DISAPPEARS	6
III.	THE BLACK SPOT	11
IV.	THE SEA CHEST	16
V.	THE LAST OF THE BLIND MAN	20
VI.	THE CAPTAIN'S PAPERS	25

PART TWO

THE SEA COOK

VII.	I GO TO BRISTOL	30
VIII.	AT THE SIGN OF THE "SPY-GLASS"	34
IX.	POWDER AND ARMS	38
X.	THE VOYAGE	42
XI.	WHAT I HEARD IN THE APPLE BARREL	47
XII.	COUNCIL OF WAR	51

PART THREE

MY SHORE ADVENTURE

XIII.	HOW MY SHORE ADVENTURE BEGAN	56
XIV.	THE FIRST BLOW	60
XV.	THE MAN OF THE ISLAND	64

PART FOUR

THE STOCKADE

XVI.	NARRATIVE CONTINUED BY THE DOCTOR; HOW THE SHIP WAS ABANDONED	70
XVII.	NARRATIVE CONTINUED BY THE DOCTOR; THE JOLLY-BOAT'S LAST TRIP	74
XVIII.	NARRATIVE CONTINUED BY THE DOCTOR; END OF THE FIRST DAY'S FIGHTING	77
XIX.	NARRATIVE RESUMED BY JIM HAWKINS; THE GARRISON IN THE STOCKADE	81
XX.	SILVER'S EMBASSY	85
XXI.	THE ATTACK	90

PART FIVE

MY SEA ADVENTURE

XXII.	HOW MY SEA ADVENTURE BEGAN	95
XXIII.	THE EBB-TIDE RUNS	99
XXIV.	THE CRUISE OF THE CORACLE	103
XXV.	I STRIKE THE JOLLY ROGER	107
XXVI.	ISRAEL HANDS	111
XXVII.	"PIECES OF EIGHT"	117

PART SIX

CAPTAIN SILVER

XXVIII.	IN THE ENEMY'S CAMP	122
XXIX.	THE BLACK SPOT AGAIN	128
XXX.	ON PAROLE	133
XXXI.	THE TREASURE HUNT — FLINT'S POINTER	138
XXXII.	THE TREASURE HUNT — THE VOICE AMONG	

THE TREES	143
XXXIII. THE FALL OF A CHIEFTAIN	147
XXXIV. AND LAST	151

PART ONE

THE OLD BUCCANEER^①



The Old Sea-dog^② at the “Admiral Benbow”^③

SQUIRE^④ TRELAWNEY, Dr Livesey, and the rest of these gentlemen having asked me to write down the whole particulars about Treasure Island, from the beginning to the end, keeping nothing back^⑤ but the bearings^⑥ of the island, and that only because there is still treasure not yet lifted, I take up my pen in the year of grace^⑦ 17 —, and go back to the time when my father kept the “Admiral Benbow” inn, and the brown old seaman, with the sabre cut^⑧, first took up his lodging under our roof^⑨.

I remember him as if it were yesterday, as he came plodding^⑩ to the inn door, his sea-chest following behind him in a hand-barrow; a tall, strong, heavy, nut-brown man; his tarry pigtail falling over the shoulders of his soiled blue coat; his hands ragged and scarred, with black, broken nails; and the sabre cut across one cheek, a dirty, livid white. I remember him looking round the cove and whistling to himself as he did so, and then breaking out in^⑪ that old sea-song that he sang so often afterwards;—

“Fifteen men on the dead man’s chest —

① buccaneer: 海盗(尤指十七、十八世纪出没于中美洲、南美洲沿海一带的海盗)

② Sea-dog: 有经验的水手 ③ Admiral Benbow: 本葆将军(1653—1702), 英国海军中将, 曾率部下在牙买加附近的海面上与法国海军激战, 后因伤势过重, 以身殉国。本书主人公霍金斯一家经营的客店, 即以他的姓和称号命名 ④ squire: (在英国指某一地区)最大的地主, 也用作对这类人物的敬称 ⑤ keeping nothing back: 毫无保留

⑥ but the bearings: 除了方位 ⑦ the year of grace: 公元……年 ⑧ sabre cut: 被马刀砍的伤口(或伤疤) ⑨ took up ... our roof: 就在我们店里住下 ⑩ came plodding: 步履维艰 ⑪ breaking out in: 突然扯开嗓子唱起

Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!^①

in the high, old tottering voice that seemed to have been tuned and broken at the capstan bars. Then he rapped on the door with a bit of stick like a handspike that he carried, and when my father appeared, called roughly for a glass of rum. This, when it was brought to him, he drank slowly, like a connoisseur^②, lingering on the taste^③ and still looking about him at the cliffs and up at our signboard.

“This is a handy cove,” says he, at length^④; “and a pleasant sittytated grog-shop. Much company^⑤, mate?”

My father told him no, very little company, the more was the pity.

“Well, then,” said he, “this is the berth for me. Here you matey^⑥,” he cried to the man who trundled the barrow; “bring up alongside and help up my chest. I’ll stay here a bit,” he continued. “I’m a plain man; rum and bacon and eggs is what I want, and that head up there for to watch ships off. What you mought^⑦ call me? You mought call me captain. Oh, I see what you’re at^⑧— there;” and he threw down three or four gold pieces on the threshold. “You can tell me when I’ve worked through that,” says he, looking as fierce as a commander.

And, indeed, bad as his clothes were, and coarsely as he spoke, he had none of the appearance of a man who sailed before the mast; but seemed like a mate or skipper accustomed to be obeyed or to strike. The man who came with the barrow told us the mail had set him down^⑨ the morning before at the “Royal George;” that he had inquired what inns there were along the coast, and hearing ours well spoken of, I suppose, and described as lonely, had chosen it from the others for his place of residence. And that was all we could learn of our guest.

He was a very silent man by custom. All day he hung round^⑩ the cove, or upon the cliffs, with a brass telescope; all evening he sat in a corner of the parlour next the fire and drank rum and water very strong. Mostly he would not speak when spoken to^⑪; only look up sudden and fierce, and blow through his nose like a fog-horn; and we and the people who came about our house soon learned to let him be^⑫. Every day, when he came back from his stroll, he would ask if any seafaring men had gone by along the road. At first we thought it was the want of company of his own kind that made him ask this question; but at last we began to see he was desirous to avoid them. When a seaman did put up^⑬ at the “Admiral Benbow” (as now and then some did, making by the coast road for Bristol^⑭) he would look in at him through the

① rum: 朗姆酒, 一种用甘蔗汁酿造的甜酒 ② connoisseur: 鉴赏家, 行家 ③ lingering on the taste: 慢腾腾地品尝着滋味 ④ at length: 终于 ⑤ much company: 许多顾客
⑥ matey: [英口] 伙计 ⑦ mought: might 的讹音字 ⑧ what you're at: 你的意思 ⑨ set him down: 放他下车 ⑩ hung round: 闲荡 ⑪ when spoken to: 别人跟他说话时 ⑫ let him be: 不打扰他或由他去 ⑬ put up: 住宿
⑭ Bristol: 布里斯托尔, 英国西海岸一港口

curtained door before he entered the parlour; and he was always sure to be as silent as a mouse when any such was present. For me, at least, there was no secret about the matter; for I was, in a way, a sharer in his alarms. He had taken me aside one day, and promised me a silver fourpenny on the first of every month if I would only keep my “weather-eye open for a seafaring man with one leg,^①” and let him know the moment he appeared. Often enough, when the first of the month came round, and I applied to him^② for my wage, he would only blow through his nose at me, and stare me down; but before the week was out he was sure to think better of it, bring me my fourpenny piece, and repeat his orders to look out for “the seafaring man with one leg.”

How that personage haunted my dreams, I need scarcely tell you. On stormy nights, when the wind shook the four corners of the house, and the surf roared along the cove and up the cliffs, I would see him in a thousand forms, and with a thousand diabolical expressions^③. Now the leg would be cut off at the knee, now at the hip; now he was a monstrous kind of a creature who had never had but the one leg^④, and that in the middle of his body. To see him leap and run and pursue me over hedge and ditch was the worst of nightmares. And altogether I paid pretty dear for my monthly fourpenny piece, in the shape of these abominable fancies^⑤.

But though I was so terrified by the idea of the seafaring man with one leg, I was far less afraid of the captain himself than anybody else who knew him. There were nights when he took a deal more rum and water than his head would carry^⑥; and then he would sometimes sit and sing his wicked, old, wild sea-songs, minding nobody; but sometimes he would call for glasses round, and force all the trembling company to listen to his stories or bear a chorus to his singing. Often I have heard the house shaking with “Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum;” all the neighbours joining in for dear life, with the fear of death upon them, and each singing louder than the other, to avoid remark^⑦. For in these fits he was the most overriding companion ever known; he would slap his hand on the table for silence all round; he would fly up in a passion of anger at a question, or sometimes because none was put^⑧, and so he judged the company was not following his story. Nor would he allow anyone to leave the inn till he had drunk himself sleepy and reeled off to bed.

His stories were what frightened people worst of all^⑨. Dreadful stories^⑩

① if I ... one leg: 只要我“时刻警惕一位只有一条腿的水手”, keep one's eyes (或 one's weather eye) open 留心看着, 保持警惕 ② applied to him: 向他提出要求 ③ I would ... diabolical expressions.: 我常会看到那个人变化成一千种奇形怪状, 现出一千种狰狞的表情。 ④ had never ... one leg: 从来就只有一条腿 ⑤ abominable fancies: 可恶的梦魇 ⑥ than his head would carry: 超过了他的脑瓜所能承受的程度 ⑦ all the ... dear life, and each ... avoid remark: 两个并列的独立主格结构 ⑧ none was put: 没有提出问题 ⑨ what frightened ... of all: 表语从句 ⑩ Dreadful stories: 这是一个倒装句, Dreadful stories 是 were 后面的表语, 放在句首起强调作用

they were; about hanging, and walking the plank^①, and storms at sea; and the Dry Tortugas, and wild deeds and places on the Spanish Main. By his own account^② he must have lived his life among some of the wickedest men that God ever allowed upon the sea; and the language in which he told these stories shocked our plain country people almost as much as the crimes that he described. My father was always saying the inn would be ruined, for people would soon cease coming there to be tyrannised^③ over and put down, and sent shivering to their beds; but I really believe his presence did us good. People were frightened at the time, but on looking back they rather liked it; it was a fine excitement in a quiet country life; and there was even a party of the younger men who pretended to admire him, calling him a “true sea-dog,”^④ and a “real old salt,”^⑤ and suchlike names, and saying there was the sort of man that made England terrible at sea.

In one way, indeed, he bade fair to ruin us; for he kept on staying week after week, and at last month after month, so that all the money had been long exhausted^⑥, and still my father never plucked up the heart^⑦ to insist on having more. If ever he mentioned it, the captain blew through his nose so loudly that you might say he roared, and stared my poor father out of the room. I have seen him wringing his hands after such a rebuff, and I am sure the annoyance and the terror he lived in must have greatly hastened his early and unhappy death.

All the time he lived with us the captain made no change whatever in his dress but to buy some stockings from a hawker. One of the cocks of his hat having fallen down, he let it hang from that day forth, though it was a great annoyance when it blew. I remember the appearance of his coat, which he patched himself upstairs in his room, and which, before the end, was nothing but patches. He never wrote or received a letter, and he never spoke with any but the neighbours, and with these, for the most part, only when drunk on rum. The great sea-chest none of us had ever seen open.

He was only once crossed^⑧, and that was towards the end, when my poor father was far gone^⑨ in a decline that took him off^⑩. Dr Livesey came late one afternoon to see the patient, took a bit of dinner from my mother, and went into the parlour to smoke a pipe until his horse should come down from the hamlet, for we had no stabling at the old “Benbow”. I followed him in, and I remember observing the contrast the neat, bright doctor, with his powder as white as snow, and his bright, black eyes and pleasant manners, made with the coltish country folk, and above all, with that filthy, heavy, bleared scarecrow of a pirate of ours, sitting, far gone in rum, with his arms on the table. Suddenly he — the

① walking the plank: 走板子, 蒙着眼睛在突出舷外的木板上行走, 最后坠入海中(17世纪海盗用以残杀俘虏的一种方法) ② By his own account: 据他本人所述 ③ to be tyrannised: 受到横行霸道的对待 ④ true sea-dog: 一位真正的水手 ⑤ real old salt: 一位“不折不扣的老航海” ⑥ exhausted: 耗尽, 用完 ⑦ plucked up the heart: 鼓起勇气 ⑧ crossed: 受到挫折 ⑨ was far gone: 病入膏肓 ⑩ took him off: 夺去生命

captain, that is — began to pipe up his eternal^① song: —

“Fifteen men on the dead man’s chest

Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!

Drink and the devil had done for the rest —

Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!”

At first I had supposed “the dead man’s chest” to be that identical big box of his upstairs in the front room, and the thought had been mingled in my nightmares with that of the one-legged seafaring man. But by this time we had all long ceased to pay any particular notice to the song; it was new, that night, to nobody but Dr Livesey, and on him I observed^② it did not produce an agreeable effect, for he looked up for a moment quite angrily before he went on with his talk to old Taylor, the gardener, on a new cure for the rheumatics^③. In the meantime, the captain gradually brightened up at his own music, and at last flapped his hand upon the table before him in a way we all knew to mean — silence. The voices stopped at once, all but Dr Livesey’s; he went on as before, speaking clear and kind, and drawing briskly at his pipe between every word or two. The captain glared at him for a while, flapped his hand again, glared still harder, and at last broke out with a villainous, low oath: “Silence, there, between decks!”

“Were you addressing me, sir?” says the doctor; and when the ruffian had told him, with another oath, that this was so, “I have only one thing to say to you, sir,” replies the doctor, “that if you keep on drinking rum, the world will soon be quit of a very dirty scoundrel!”^④

The old fellow’s fury was awful. He sprang to his feet^⑤, drew and opened a sailor’s clasp-knife^⑥, and, balancing it open on the palm of his hand, threatened to pin the doctor to the wall.

The doctor never so much as moved.^⑦ He spoke to him, as before, over his shoulder, and in the same tone of voice; rather high, so that all the room might hear, but perfectly calm and steady:—

“If you do not put that knife this instant in your pocket, I promise, upon my honour^⑧, you shall hang at the next assizes.”

Then followed a battle of looks between them; but the captain soon knuckled under, put up his weapon, and resumed his seat, grumbling like a beaten dog.

“And now, sir,” continued the doctor, “since I now know there’s such a fellow in my district, you may count I’ll have an eye upon^⑨ you day and night. I’m not a doctor only; I’m a magistrate^⑩; and if I catch a breath of

① eternal: 永久的, 永恒的 ② on him I observed: 倒装句, on him 是 effect 要求的, 放在句首起强调作用 ③ rheumatics: 风湿病 ④ the world ... dirty scoundrel: 世上不久就会减少一个地地道道的坏坯子 ⑤ He sprang to his feet: 他跳了起来

⑥ clasp-knife: (打开时有扣环, 可以固定刀刃的) 弹簧折刀 ⑦ The doctor ... as moved: 大夫纹丝不动 ⑧ upon my honour: 以我的名誉担保 ⑨ have an eye upon: 留心瞧着, 注意 ⑩ magistrate: 地方法官

complaint against you^①, if it's only for a piece of incivility^② like to-night's, I'll take effectual means to have you hunted down and routed out of this^③. Let that suffice^④."

Soon after, Dr Livesey's horse came to the door, and he rode away; but the captain held his peace^⑤ that evening, and for many evenings to come.



Black Dog Appears and Disappears

IT was not very long after this that there occurred the first of the mysterious events that rid us at last of the captain^⑥, though not, as you will see, of his affairs^⑦. It was a bitter cold winter, with long, hard frosts and heavy gales; and it was plain from the first that my poor father was little likely to see the spring. He sank daily, and my mother and I had all the inn upon our hands, and were kept busy enough, without paying much regard to^⑧ our unpleasant guest.

It was one January morning, very early — a pinching, frosty morning — the cove all grey with hoar-frost, the ripple lapping softly on the stones^⑨, the sun still low and only touching the hilltops and shining far to seaward. The captain had risen earlier than usual, and set out down the beach, his cutlass swinging under the broad skirts of the old blue coat, his brass telescope under his arm, his hat tilted back upon his head. I remember his breath hanging like smoke in his wake as he strode off, and the last sound I heard of him, as he turned the big rock, was a loud snort of indignation, as though his mind was still running upon Dr Livesey.

Well, mother was upstairs with father; and I was laying the breakfast table against the captain's return^⑩, when the parlour door opened, and a man stepped in on whom I had never set my eyes before. He was a pale, tallowy

① if I ... against you: 要是我听到半句抱怨你的话…… ② incivility: 不礼貌的言行
③ to have ... of this: 让人把你抓起来从这里赶走 ④ suffice: 足够 ⑤ held his peace: 他闭口无言 hold (或 keep) one's peace 闭口无言 ⑥ rid us ... the captain: 使我们终于甩掉了那位船长 ⑦ though not ... of his affairs: 虽然没有摆脱掉他带来的麻烦 ⑧ paying much regard to: 注意 ⑨ stones: 复数, 指各种石头 ⑩ I was ... captain's return: 我在张罗船长回来要用的早餐