

TWO SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES

英美学精品译注丛书



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Arthur Conan Doyle



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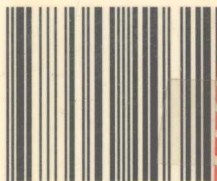
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《两篇福尔摩斯故事》

柯南道尔(1859—1930)在爱丁堡受教育,行医为业。他之所以扬名后世,主要是因为他在一系列故事(《福尔摩斯的冒险》(1891)、《福尔摩斯回忆录》(1894)、《巴斯克维尔猎犬》(1902)等等)中塑造了业余侦探歇洛克·福尔摩斯及其朋友和陪衬人物华生医生。

福尔摩斯深受读者喜爱,1893年,柯南道尔对他的这个人物已感到厌烦,想一劳永逸地摆脱他,结果读者表示强烈抗议,他只好又写了一系列的福尔摩斯侦探故事。

柯南道尔的第一部小说《血字的研究》(也是一篇福尔摩斯侦探故事)于1887年发表,此后半个世纪里又有一系列的历史小说和其它小说问世。

柯南道尔最优秀的作品包括《迈卡·克拉克》(1889)、《白人公司》(1891)、《陆军准将杰勒德的光辉业绩》(1896)、《罗德尼·斯通》(1896)和《失去的世界》(1912)。《失去的世界》是一系列以查林杰教授为主角的小说中的第一篇。查林杰教授是著名的生物学家和人类学家,精力旺盛,脾气暴躁。

柯南道尔晚年对招魂术非常感兴趣,1926年写了一本《招魂术史》。

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A Case of Identity

"My dear fellow," said Sherlock Holmes, as we sat on either side of the fire in his lodgings at Baker Street, "life is infinitely stranger than anything which the mind of man could invent. We would not dare to conceive the things which are really mere commonplaces of existence. If we could fly out of that window hand in hand, hover over this great city, gently remove the roofs, and peep in at the queer things which are going on, the strange coincidences, the plannings, the cross-purposes, the wonderful chains of events, working through generations, and leading to the most *outré* results, it would make all fiction with its conventionalities and foreseen conclusions most stale and unprofitable."

"And yet I am not convinced of it," I answered. "The cases which come to light in the papers are, as a rule, bald enough, and vulgar enough. We have in our police reports realism pushed to its extreme limits, and yet the result is, it must be confessed, neither fascinating nor artistic."

"A certain selection and discretion must be used in producing a realistic effect," remarked Holmes. "This is wanting

fellow: man, friend. **as:** when.

lodgings: flat; apartment.

would not dare: would not have the courage. **to conceive:** to imagine. **mere:** only. **commonplaces:** ordinary facts.

hover: be suspended in flight.

peep in: observe secretly. **queer:** strange.

going on: happening.

cross-purposes: contrary purposes. **chains:** series.

leading: taking.

outré: unusual; bizarre. **fiction:** novels; stories.

foreseen: predictable... **most:** very. **stale:** unexciting; uninteresting. **unprofitable:** not worth reading.

come to light: are reported. **papers:** newspapers. **as a rule:** generally. **bald:** frank.

pushed to: taken to.

neither ... nor ...: structure used to join together two negative ideas. **discretion:** judgement.

remarked: said; observed. **is wanting:** is not present.

in the police report, where more stress is laid perhaps upon the platitudes of the magistrate than upon the details, which to an observer contain the vital essence of the whole matter.

Depend upon it there is nothing so unnatural as the commonplace."

I smiled and shook my head. "I can quite understand you thinking so," I said. "Of course, in your position of unofficial adviser and helper to everybody who is absolutely puzzled, throughout three continents, you are brought in contact with all that is strange and bizarre. But here" – I picked up the morning paper from the ground – "let us put it to a practical test. Here is the first heading upon which I come. 'A husband's cruelty to his wife.' There is half a column of print, but I know without reading it that it is all perfectly familiar to me. There is, of course, the other woman, the drink, the push, the blow, the bruise, the sympathetic sister or landlady. The crudest of writers could invent nothing more crude."

"Indeed, your example is an unfortunate one for your argument," said Holmes, taking the paper, and glancing his eye down it. "This is the Dundas separation case, and, as it happens, I was engaged in clearing up some small points in connection with it. The husband was a teetotaller, there was no other woman, and the conduct complained of was that he had drifted into the habit of winding up every meal by taking out his false teeth and hurling them at his wife, which you will allow is not an action likely to occur to the imagination of the average story-teller. Take a pinch of snuff, Doctor, and acknowledge that I have scored over you in your example."

He held out his snuff-box of old gold, with a great amethyst in the centre of the lid. Its splendour was in such contrast to his homely ways and simple life that I could not help commenting upon it.

"Ah," said he, "I forgot that I had not seen you for some weeks. It is a little souvenir from the King of Bohemia in return for my assistance in the case of the Irene Adler

stress: importance. **perhaps**: maybe. **upon**: (archaic) on.
platitudes: dull observations. **upon**: on. **details**: facts.
to an observer: to the mind of an observer. **whole**: entire.
matter: affair.

Depend upon it: put your trust in it; believe it.

commonplace: ordinary facts.

shook my head: moved my head as to say "no".

Of course: certainly.

adviser: counsellor.

puzzled: confused. **throughout**: through the whole of.

paper: newspaper. **ground**: floor.

heading: headline; title. **upon**: (archaic) on.

print: printed words.

of course: obviously.

the push: the assault. **the blow**: the hit with the fist. **the bruise**: the wound; the injury. **sympathetic**: compassionate. **landlady**: owner of the house. **crudest**: grossest.

Indeed: certainly; actually.

paper: newspaper.

glancing his eye down it: looking quickly at it.

as it happens: coincidentally. **I was engaged**: I participated.

was a teetotaler: didn't drink at all.

conduct: behaviour. **complained of**: taken before justice.

had drifted into the habit: had started the habit. **winding up**: finishing; concluding. **taking out**: removing. **hurling**: throwing.

allow: admit. **likely**: probable.

occur to the imagination: come forth out of the imagination.

average: typical. **story-teller**: author. **snuff**: tobacco for smelling.

acknowledge: admit. **scored over you**: beaten you.

amethyst: precious stone.

lid: cover.

homely ways: simple manners. **help**: avoid.

I had not seen you: *duration form*.

in return: in exchange; in gratitude. **assistance**: help.

papers."

"And the ring?" I asked, glancing at a remarkable brilliant which sparkled upon his finger.

"It was from the reigning family of Holland, though the matter in which I served them was of such delicacy that I cannot confide it even to you, who have been good enough to chronicle one or two of my little problems."

"And have you any on hand just now?" I asked with interest.

"Some ten or twelve, but none which presents any feature of interest. They are important, you understand, without being interesting. Indeed, I have found that it is usually in unimportant matters that there is a field for observation, and for the quick analysis of cause and effect which gives the charm to an investigation. The larger crimes are apt to be the simpler, for the bigger the crime, the more obvious, as a rule, is the motive. In these cases, save for one rather intricate matter which has been referred to me from Marseilles, there is nothing which presents any features of interest. It is possible, however, that I may have something better before very many minutes are over, for this is one of my clients, or I am much mistaken."

He had risen from his chair, and was standing between the parted blinds, gazing down into the dull, neutral-tinted London street. Looking over his shoulder I saw that on the pavement opposite there stood a large woman with a heavy fur boa round her neck, and a large curling red feather in a broad-brimmed hat which was tilted in a coquettish Duchess-of-Devonshire fashion over her ear. From under this great panoply she peeped up in a nervous, hesitating fashion at our windows, while her body oscillated backwards and forwards, and her fingers fidgeted with her glove buttons. Suddenly, with a plunge, as of the swimmer who leaves the bank, she hurried across the road, and we heard the sharp clang of the bell.

"I have seen those symptoms before," said Holmes, throwing his cigarette into the fire. "Oscillation upon the pavement always means an *affaire du coeur*. She would like

papers: documents.

glancing: looking. **remarkable:** impressive. **brilliant:** diamond.

sparkled: reflected light. **upon:** (archaic) on.

though: even if.

the matter: the affair; the case.

confide: reveal.

to chronicle: to record.

on hand: at present; available.

Some: about. **feature:** aspect; characteristic.

indeed: actually.

matters: situations. **a field for observation:** anything worth looking into.

charm: interest. **are apt:** are likely.

as a rule: generally. **motive:** reason. **save for:** except for.

features: details; particulars.

however: anyway. **I may have:** *may* expresses possibility.

are over: are passed. **for:** because.

I am much mistaken: I am quite wrong.

He had risen: he had stood up.

parted: open. **blinds:** shades of the window. **gazing:** looking.

dull: grey.

pavement: walkway for pedestrians.

fur boa: feathery scarf. **curling:** twisting.

broad-brimmed: with a wide brim. **tilted:** inclined. **coquettish:**

intending to attract men's attention. **fashion:** way; manner.

panoply: magnificent covering. **peeped up:** looked up.

fashion: way.

fidgeted: played nervously.

plunge: jump.

bank: land edge by a river. **hurried:** moved quickly.

clang: ringing.

advice, but is not sure that the matter is not too delicate for communication. And yet even here we may discriminate. When a woman has been seriously wronged by a man she no longer oscillates, and the usual symptom is a broken bell wire. Here we may take it that there is a love matter, but that the maiden is not so much angry as perplexed, or grieved. But here she comes in person to resolve our doubts."

As he spoke there was a tap at the door, and the boy in buttons entered to announce Miss Mary Sutherland, while the lady herself loomed behind his small black figure like a full-sailed merchantman behind a tiny pilot boat. Sherlock Holmes welcomed her with the easy courtesy for which he was remarkable, and having closed the door, and bowed her into an arm-chair, he looked over her in the minute and yet abstracted fashion which was peculiar to him.

"Do you not find," he said, "that with your short sight it is a little trying to do so much typewriting?"

"I did at first," she answered, "but now I know where the letters are without looking." Then, suddenly realizing the full purport of his words, she gave a violent start, and looked up with fear and astonishment upon her broad, good-humoured face. "You've heard about me, Mr. Holmes," she cried, "else how could you know all that?"

"Never mind," said Holmes, laughing, "it is my business to know things. Perhaps I have trained myself to see what others overlook. If not, why should you come to consult me?"

"I came to you, sir, because I heard of you from Mrs. Etherege, whose husband you found so easy when the police and everyone had given him up for dead. Oh, Mr. Holmes, I wish you would do as much for me. I'm not rich, but still I have a hundred a year in my own right, besides the little that I make by the machine, and I would give it all to know what has become of Mr. Hosmer Angel."

"Why did you come away to consult me in such a hurry?" asked Sherlock Holmes, with his finger-tips together, and his eyes to the ceiling.

advice: counsel. **matter:** situation.
for communication: to be communicated.
wronged: treated wrongly.
no longer: no more.
bell wire: cord connected to the bell. **may take it:** may assume.
matter: question; problem. **maiden:** girl; unmarried woman.
grieved: sad. **resolve:** solve; clear.

As: while. **tap:** knock.
the boy in buttons: the page.
herself: in person. **loomed:** stood bigger than him.
full-sailed: with every sail set. **merchantman:** ship used in commerce. **tiny:** small. **pilot boat:** boat that takes ships in and out of the port. **easy:** nice. **remarkable:** especially known.
minute: accurate; precise.
fashion: way; manner.
find: think. **with your short sight:** being unable to see distant things. **a little trying:** somewhat difficult.
at first: initially.
realizing: understanding.
purport: implication. **start:** motion.
astonishment: great surprise. **upon:** on. **broad:** wide.
good-humoured: cheerful.
cried: shouted. **else:** otherwise.
Never mind: don't worry about that. **business:** profession.
trained: taught; educated.
overlook: pass over.

so easy: so easily; without much effort.
had given him up for dead: had considered him dead.
I wish you would do: note the tense after *to wish*.
in my own right: belonging personally to me. **besides:** in addition to this. **by the machine:** typewriting.
has become of: has happened to.
in such a hurry: so hastily.

ceiling: roof of the room.

Again a startled look came over the somewhat vacuous face of Miss Mary Sutherland. "Yes, I did bang out of the house," she said, "for it made me angry to see the easy way in which Mr. Windibank – that is, my father – took it all. He would not go to the police, and he would not go to you, and so at last, as he would do nothing, and kept on saying that there was no harm done, it made me mad, and I just on with my things and came right away to you."

"Your father?" said Holmes. "Your stepfather, surely, since the name is different?"

"Yes, my stepfather. I call him father, though it sounds funny, too, for he is only five years and two months older than myself."

"And your mother is alive?"

"Oh, yes, mother is alive and well. I wasn't best pleased, Mr. Holmes, when she married again so soon after father's death, and a man who was nearly fifteen years younger than herself. Father was a plumber in the Tottenham Court Road, and he left a tidy business behind him, which mother carried on with Mr. Hardy, the foreman, but when Mr. Windibank came he made her sell the business, for he was very superior, being a traveller in wines. They got four thousand seven hundred for the goodwill and interest, which wasn't near as much as father could have got if he had been alive."

I had expected to see Sherlock Holmes impatient under this rambling and inconsequential narrative, but, on the contrary, he had listened with the greatest concentration of attention.

"Your own little income," he asked, "does it come out of the business?"

"Oh, no, sir, it is quite separate, and was left me by my Uncle Ned in Auckland. It is in New Zealand Stock, paying 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Two thousand five hundred pounds was the amount, but I can only touch the interest."

"You interest me extremely," said Holmes. "And since you draw so large a sum as a hundred a year, with what you earn into the bargain, you no doubt travel a little and

startled: very surprised. **somewhat**: rather. **vacuous**: empty.
I did bang: *to do* is used emphatically. **bang out**: run out.
easy: not concerned.

took it all: was affected by it all.

He would not go: he did not intend to go.

at last: in the end. **would do**: wanted to do. **kept on saying**: said repeatedly. **no harm**: no damage. **mad**: very angry.

I just on with my things: I just got dressed. **right away**: immediately. **stepfather**: mother's second husband.

though: even if.

funny: strange. **for**: because.

And your mother is alive?: the structure is not interrogative because the question expects an affirmative answer. **well**: in good health. **I wasn't best pleased**: I wasn't very happy.
nearly: almost.

was a plumber: installed and repaired water pipes. **the Tottenham Court Road**: the use of the article is *dialectal*. **tidy**: good; successful. **behind him**: after his death. **carried on**: continued.
the foreman: the supervisor. **for**: because.

a traveller: commercial traveller; salesman. **they got**: they were paid. **goodwill**: reputation.

near: nearly.

rambling: unconnected. **inconsequential**: unimportant.

on the contrary: note the preposition *on*.

your own little income: the small amount of money you receive.

amount: total; sum.

draw: earn.

into the bargain: in addition to that.