

HAZARD RIVER 危机河

[澳] 朱莉·费森 (J.E. Fison) 著

朱银涛 译

TOADS' REVENGE!

蟾蜍的复仇!

(英汉对照版)



人民东方出版传媒
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导读

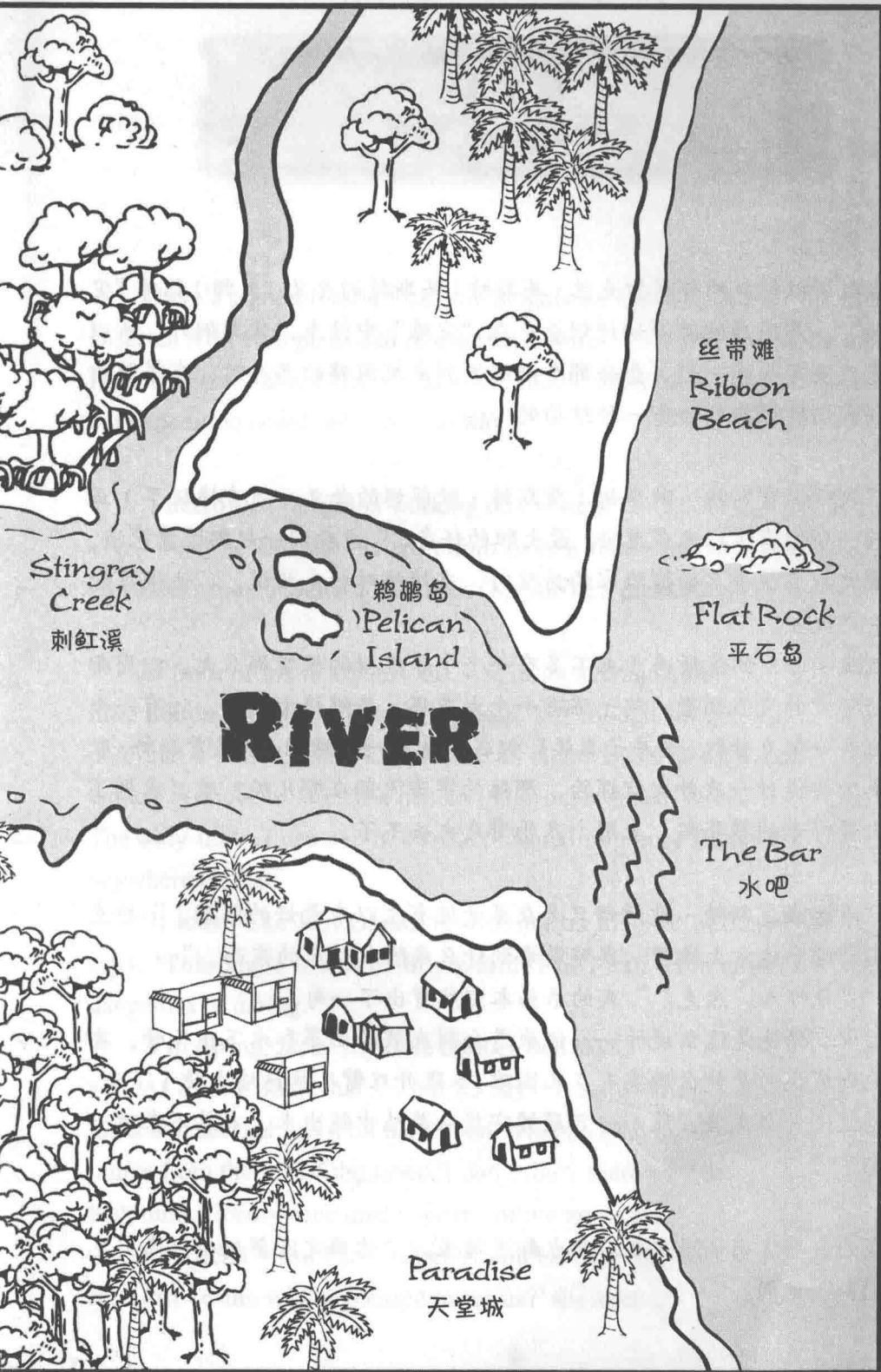
朱莉·费森绝不是个没有见识过危险的人……

首先我得承认，作为一名资深国际探险家，我也曾遇到棘手的时刻：例如，有一次在非洲大草原露营，半夜醒来时我发现两只巨大的公象就在我们的帐篷外打架——于是我大喊：嗨，你们这俩家伙，小心点，踩坏了我们的烘豆罐头要你们好看！还有一次是在夜间狩猎旅行的途中，我们的敞篷吉普车抛锚了，恰巧这时一群骄傲的狮子决定开始捕猎！

在婆罗洲的丛林里，我曾经和一只红毛猩猩握过手，不过我建议你可别学我，因为它们比你能想象到的还要强大得多——其实我也不是有意那么做的。我还吃过许多让我后悔莫及的东西，例如干煸蚱蜢，味道和它们的长相一样让人恶心；老鼠汤，听起来就让人倒胃口，吃起来更让人受不了。不过我并不是在抱怨什么，因为我真的热爱探险，哪怕接下来给我端上一道生拌水母的凉菜，我还是会欣然受用。

朱莉·费森





丝带滩
Ribbon
Beach

Flat Rock
平石岛

RIVER

The Bar
水吧

Paradise
天堂城

Stingray
Creek
刺魟溪

鸚鵡島
Pelican
Island

第1章 贾斯特·欧萨姆

我之所以把我的邻居拉克兰·马斯特（马斯特的含义：大师）称作“灾难大师”，是因为他的一切计划总是在“灾难”中结束，从无例外。所以当拉克兰决定和我一起去会会那个刚刚搬到危机河畔的名人时，我早就该预料到我们的探险只会有一种结局的……

“我听说贾斯特·欧萨姆（贾斯特·欧萨姆的含义：简直棒极了）正在进行一项他有生以来最危险、最大胆的任务，”当我们一起爬过篱笆墙，跳进澳大利亚最著名的探险家的后院时，我悄悄对拉克兰说，“他很可能计划去趟火星。”

在我们面前的这所房子差不多有一个中等规模的旅馆那么大，四周都是小巧可爱的度假别墅。院子里有一个大车库，足够停十辆车，还有一个游泳池和一架直升机。这房子真棒！但我还是有一点疑问：如果贾斯特·欧萨姆真的要进行一次外太空探险，那他的宇宙飞船在哪儿呢？我只看到了一个火箭样子的攀登架，坐那个东西哪儿也去不了。

“看起来贾斯特·欧萨姆只是在享受他有生以来最好的假期。”拉克兰说，“这个地方太棒了。我可没看到什么危险或吓人的东西。”

“我很吓人，杰克。”我的弟弟本突然冒出了一句。

至少我猜他是这么说的——他戴着全副武装的面罩和水下出气管，要听清他到底说的是什么确实有点儿困难。本张开双臂从篱笆墙上跳了下来。我知道这没什么危险，然而一只蔗蟾突然从草丛中跳出来，本落下来时一脚踩扁了它。

我的好朋友米米跟在本后面也翻进墙来。“你确定欧萨姆会很高兴见到我们？”她问。

CHAPTER 1 JUST ORSUM

There's a good reason I call my neighbour, Lachlan Master, the Master of Disaster. All of his plans end in disaster. Always. So when a celebrity moved to Hazard River and Lachlan decided we should meet him, I should have known our expedition could only end one way . . .

'I heard Just Orsum is working on his most dangerous and daring mission ever,' I say to Lachlan as we climb over a fence and into the backyard of Australia's most famous adventurer. 'Maybe he's planning a trip to Mars.'

In front of me is a house the size of an average hotel, surrounded by cute little holiday cottages. There's a garage big enough for ten cars, a swimming pool and a helicopter. It's awesome all right. But I'm a bit confused. If Just Orsum is about to launch a mission into outer space, where is his spaceship? The only thing I can see is a rocket-shaped climbing frame. No one's going anywhere on that.

'It looks like Just Orsum is working on his best holiday ever,' Lachlan says. 'This place is out of this world. But I can't see anything that looks dangerous or daring.'

'I'm daring, Jack,' my little brother Ben says.

At least I think that's what he says. He's wearing a ready-for-anything mask and snorkel. It's a bit hard to tell what he's saying. Ben flaps his arms and jumps from the top of the fence. I don't think there's anything dangerous about that, until a lonely cane toad hops out of the grass. Ben almost splatters it.

My friend Mimi Fairweather scrambles over the fence after Ben. 'Are you sure Just Orsum will be pleased to see us?' she asks.

“当然了。”拉克兰说，“你没在电视上看到过他吗？他总是面带微笑，他热爱每个人。他也会喜欢我们的，还会迫不及待地告诉我们他下一个任务是什么。没准他要到太阳上去。”

一个“热爱每个人”的家伙住在高墙大院里，似乎有点说不过去。我敢打赌这里还有看门狗。贾斯特·欧萨姆是澳大利亚最有钱的人之一，他肯定有什么安保系统。不过米米一点不在乎安保问题，她更担心拉克兰所说的“任务”。

“我认为欧萨姆是不会到太阳上去的。太阳的表面温度有6000摄氏度，他根本就没法靠近。”

接着大脑袋教授又说出了十件我们不知道的有关太阳的事，但我一点也没听进去。我只听见从房子附近传来一声短促刺耳的鸣叫声，然后又是一声，又一声！短短几秒，贾斯特·欧萨姆院子周围的空气中就充满了这种疯狂的嘶鸣声。

这只可能意味着一种情况。

“袭人鹅！”我大喊一声，“大家各自逃命啊！”

虽然还没看见鹅，但我可不想在这里傻等着挨咬。我们全都撒腿就跑，朝一所小别墅敞开的门冲过去。

我是最后一个跑进去的，转身想要关门，可门在哪儿呢？居然找不着门！只在原本应该是门的地方有一排闪烁的按钮。我砰砰地拍在上面，急着要把门关上，袭人鹅很可能就在附近。

终于让我拍对了，随着一阵呼呼的噪音，一扇沉重的金属门滑落下来，把鹅关在了外面，把我们隔在了里面。

“真是侥幸脱险啊！”我说。

“是吗？”米米坐在屋中一把扶手椅上问。

我这才注意到我们并不是在度假别墅里。这里更像是一个高科技的多媒体影院，形状像一个巨大的水桶，有大屏幕、扬声器和躺椅等，一应俱全。

“你们有没有看到外面的牌子？”米米问。

我们都茫然地摇了摇头。我只想着要快点逃命，甩掉袭人鹅，哪有时

'Of course he will,' Lachlan says. 'Haven't you seen him on TV? He's always smiling. He loves everyone. He'll love us. He'll be dying to tell us about his next mission. He's probably going to the sun.'

It seems strange for a guy who 'loves everyone' to live behind a large fence. I bet there are guard dogs around here, too. Just Orsum is one of Australia's richest men. He's bound to have some kind of security system. But Mimi is more worried about Lachlan getting his facts straight than security.

'I don't think Just Orsum will be going to the sun. It's 6,000 degrees on the surface. He'd never get anywhere near it.'

Professor Mimi Bigbrains works her way through a list of ten things we didn't know about the sun. But I don't hear any of them. All I hear is a 'honk', coming from somewhere near the house. Then there's another honk. And another. Within seconds the air around Just Orsum's yard is full of crazy honking.

It can only mean one thing.

'Attack geese!' I shout. 'Every kid for himself!'

I can't see the geese, but I'm not waiting for the attack. I just run. We all do, through the open door of a holiday cottage.

I'm the last one in. I turn round to close the door. But where is the door? I can't find it. There's just a panel of flashing buttons where a door should be. I pound them all. I need to get this place closed. The attack geese won't be far away.

Finally, I hit the jackpot. There's a whirring noise. A heavy metal door slides shut. It locks the geese out. It seals *us* in.

'That was a lucky escape,' I say.

'Was it?' Mimi asks from an armchair in the middle of the room.

I notice we're not in a holiday cottage. It's more like a high-tech media room, shaped like a giant barrel. There's a big screen, speakers, lounge chairs and everything.

'Did anyone see the sign outside?' Mimi asks.

We all shake our heads blankly. I was running away from geese. I didn't

间读标示牌啊。

“危险，勿入！”米米自问自答道。

“把鹅放进来才危险呢。”拉克兰说，“或者你抱着一大堆爆米花看电影才危险呢！别紧张，我们在这儿看会儿电影吧。”

拉克兰仰倒在了椅子上。“本，找找有什么好看的。那些鹅可能还得有一阵子才会离开呢。”

本转身来到控制面板前，琢磨着那些指示灯和按键。

“埃尼明尼米尼莫尼……”他一边唱着儿歌一边指着那些按钮点兵点将。

“这个看起来不错。”他说着随便选了一个按了下去，拉下控制杆调整好屏幕尺寸。

影院的灯光暗下来，一个漂亮的女人出现在屏幕上，像一个空姐。她开始讲解一些安全指示——就是那些有关安全带啊、紧急情况啊的一般知识。只是看场电影为什么需要知道这些有点让人搞不明白。

我完全没在意安全带警报，甚至在屏幕变黑之前我基本上就没听她讲。我等着电影开始，想知道接下来会演什么。

这时，倒计时开始了。

“十……九……八……”一个严肃的声音念道。

“我们必须得出去！”米米突然大叫着从椅子上跳起来，冲向出口，乒乒乓乓地敲着门口的控制面板。然而门一动也不动，倒计时仍旧继续着。

“别紧张。”拉克兰安慰道。

但我没法不紧张，而且越来越紧张。我真希望我没跟这个“灾难大师”参与这项愚蠢的行动。

我从椅子上跳起来去帮米米，对着按钮一阵乱拍。

可倒计时仍在继续，“三……二……一。”

房间开始旋转起来，开始是慢慢的，后来越来越快，快得我不得不紧紧扒着光溜溜的金属墙。米米紧挨着我贴在门上，拉克兰被从椅子上甩了起来。我找了找本，他正趴在电视屏幕上，四肢伸展着像一只飞翔的雄鹰，

have time to read signs.

'Danger. Do not enter,' Mimi says, answering her own question.

'It's only dangerous if you let in the geese,' Lachlan says. 'Or if you get a dodgy batch of popcorn with your movie. Relax. Let's enjoy a movie while we're here.'

Lachlan leans back in a chair. 'Ben, see what you can find. It could be a while before the geese leave us alone.'

Ben turns to the control panel. He assesses the bank of lights and buttons.

'Eenie, meenie, minie, mo . . .' Ben says, pointing at the buttons as he chants the rhyme.

'This one looks good,' he says. He makes a random selection and pulls down a lever for good measure.

The lights in the cinema go down and a nice woman, like a flight attendant, comes on the screen. She starts rattling off some safety instructions. It's the usual stuff about seatbelts and emergencies. Just why you'd need that stuff to watch a movie is anyone's guess.

I completely ignore the seatbelt warning. I'm hardly listening at all, until the screen goes black. I wait for the movie to start, wondering what will come up.

That's when a countdown begins.

'Ten . . . nine . . . eight . . .' a serious voice says.

'We have to get out!' Mimi shouts, jumping out of her chair. She runs for the exit, banging at the control panel. The door doesn't budge. The countdown continues.

'Relax,' Lachlan says.

But I'm not relaxed. I'm getting nervous. I wish I hadn't followed the Master of Disaster on another dumb mission.

I jump out of my chair and help Mimi, mindlessly pushing buttons.

The countdown goes on. 'Three . . . two . . . one.'

The room starts spinning. Slowly at first, then faster. So fast that I'm hurled against a bare metal wall. Mimi is flung against the door beside me. Lachlan is ripped from his chair. I look around and find Ben. He's spread-eagled against

被吓得目瞪口呆。

我们就像几只被困在一块蜂蜜吐司上的苍蝇，动弹不得。

“祝您飞行愉快。”倒计时的那个声音又响起来。

房间旋转得太快了，我什么东西都看不清，眼前一片模糊。一道白色的光闪过，我的双眼之间一阵剧痛，然后我就什么都不知道了。

the television screen. His face is frozen in terror.

We're all trapped like flies on a piece of honey toast.

'Enjoy your flight,' the countdown voice says.

The room is spinning so fast that I can't see a thing. It's all a blur. There's a flash of white light, a nasty pain between my eyes, then my mind goes blank.

第2章 奇怪的地方

我不知道我们到底转了五秒钟、五分钟还是五个小时，我只知道我们可能被困在这里好几天了！等到旋转终于慢下来的时候，我晕得都不知道哪儿是上哪儿是下了。

直到跌倒在地，我才找了哪儿是下。在我附近接连传来了另外三声沉重的闷响，拉克兰、米米还有本全都和我一样倒在了地上。

“呃，”米米呻吟着，“我的头好痛啊。”跟她的头发相比，她的头根本不算什么——她的头发正一根根地耸立在空中，就好像她刚刚把手指插进了电源插座一样。

“本，你真行，”拉克兰说，“我想你已经把我们发射到太空了。”

我感觉我们已经混入了贾斯特·欧萨姆“有生以来最危险最大胆的探险任务”——只是他本人却没在。我们没准已经到了一颗遥远的小行星甚至恒星上。我只是希望我们没在太阳上面，因为我就擦了一点防晒因子才30的防晒霜，如果走出去一定会被烤焦的。那样的话，妈妈以后就不会让我出门了。

“你觉得我们到哪儿了？”我问。

我们的宇宙飞船没有窗户。我们满脑袋想着的就是外面可能会有外星人，正等着吃掉我们。

“问得好，杰克，”拉克兰说，“你就出去看看我们在哪儿吧。顺便看看当地人是不是好相处。”

在我抗议之前，本举起了手，志愿去执行这个任务：“我去！我有氧气面罩。”

他戴着水下出气管向门口走去。他的面罩已经裂缝了，没用了。而且戴着通气管在飞船外面也不会有什么用，因为外面不会有氧气，这根本就不用我说。我就眼睁睁看着他向外面走去。

CHAPTER 2

A STRANGE PLACE

I don't know if it's five seconds, five minutes or five hours that we're spinning. We could have been in there for days for all I know. I'm so dizzy by the time the room slows down that I'm not even sure which way is up.

I'm not sure, that is, until I fall down. There are three other thumps around me as Lachlan, Mimi and Ben join me on the floor.

'Errr,' Mimi groans. 'My head is killing me.' Her head is nothing compared with her hair. It's standing straight up in the air, like she's had her finger in a power point.

'Great work, Ben,' Lachlan says, getting to his feet. 'I think you sent us into outer space.'

I get the feeling we've just been on Just Orsum's 'most dangerous and daring mission ever'-without Just Orsum. We could be on a faraway planet, or even a star. I just hope we're not on the sun. I'm only wearing factor 30 sunscreen. I'm going to get so scorched when we get outside. Mum will never let me out again.

'Where do you think we are?' I ask.

There are no windows in our spaceship. For all we know there could be aliens outside. They could be waiting to eat us.

'Great idea, Jack,' Lachlan says. 'You go and find out where we are. See if the locals are friendly, or not.'

Before I have a chance to protest, Ben raises his hand to volunteer for the mission. 'I'll go. I've got breathing gear.'

He strolls towards the door in his snorkelling gear. His mask is cracked. It won't be any use. And his snorkel won't work outside the ship. There won't be any oxygen. I don't even mention that. I just watch Ben go.

这时，一个可怕的想法突然出现在了我的脑海里，我想到了所有可能出现在我面前的苦难——如果本被金星上的有毒气体呛死了怎么办？如果我们现在是在冥王星上，而他淹死在了一堆外星狗的便便中怎么办？啊，我的余生将会在独自一个人洗车中度过！

我轻轻地把本推到一边，把手伸向大门的控制面板。

“我去。”我勇敢地说。本可以承担起一辈子洗车的责任，他还可以承担很多其他类似的脏活累活。不能因为他仅仅才六岁，又有着可爱的脸蛋，就可以把这些讨厌的工作留给我自己做。我要出去。

我的手在控制面板上徘徊着。我被困在生与死之间，在此地和一个我再也不需要洗车的地方之间。这时，门突然自己开了。

慢慢地，一个臭不可闻的可怕的星球出现了。我屏住呼吸，在耀眼的光芒下眨了眨眼睛，呈现在我面前的是奇形怪状的景象——巨大的、丑陋的、扭曲的，不过还好都静止不动。

我转过脸，外面的温度太高了，简直是在燃烧，太炎热了……几乎和澳大利亚的夏天一样。

米米从我身边经过，踏进了另一个世界。

我吸了一大口有毒的空气。“不要去！”我语无伦次地说，“你会被烧死的。”

米米走出飞船四处看了看。“我们哪儿也没去。”她宣布道。

我再次把脸转向炫目的日光，又吸了一口气。（但没有深呼吸。）

这次我知道了，这就是一个炎热的澳大利亚的夏日。我看到一个孩子的攀登架，一下认出了它那类似火箭的形状。但我还是不相信我的眼睛：我们竟然还在贾斯特·欧萨姆的院子里，根本就没动过地儿！

那为什么我的头感觉就像刚刚去了一趟月球，我的心感觉就像刚刚绕着银河系转了一百圈？

“我们一定是到了别的什么地方，”拉克兰说着用胳膊肘把我推开，走到外面去了。迎接他的是两只孔雀，在看着他朝他鸣叫着。