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Agatha Christie

魔手

The Moving Finger

[英] 阿加莎·克里斯蒂 著



商务印书馆
The Commercial Press



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〔英〕阿加莎·克里斯蒂 著

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Agatha Christie

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商务印书馆创立以来,始终以“昌明教育,开启民智”为己任,致力于移译西学、沟通中外,坚持以高质量的出版物促进文化交流,以传播先进思想推动社会进步。近年来更是加大了外语学习读物的出版,如推出了“莎翁戏剧经典”丛书等。此次引进“阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集”系列,是我馆开发英语学习读物的又一成果。

阿加莎·克里斯蒂(Agatha Christie 1890 - 1976)是英国著名女侦探小说家、剧作家,三大推理文学宗师之一,被誉为举世公认的推理小说女王。其作品已被翻译成一百多种语言,曾多次被搬上银幕。代表作有《东方快车谋杀案》和《尼罗河谋杀案》等,在中国有大批爱好者,读者接受度很高。

这套“阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集”丛书,是英国柯林斯出版公司精选的阿加莎·克里斯蒂的经典作品,由英国语言和文学专家专门为世界各地母语非英语的读者改编设计,每篇小说经过适当删减,其中的词汇和语法也做了简化,是适合中等以上英语水平读者学习的英语读物。

为方便读者使用,中文注释本以脚注的形式给难词标注词性和释义;提供英汉对照的作者简介、出场人物表及文化注释;书后


所配的光盘由英国本土人士录制,声情并茂地再现精彩的故事内容。

希望这套“阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集”丛书,能够帮助读者在欣赏英文小说的同时学习英语、提高英语能力,成为读者英语阅读和学习的最佳选择。

商务印书馆编辑部

2015年5月

作者简介



Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie (1890-1976) is known throughout the world as the Queen of Crime. Her books have sold over a billion copies in English with another billion in over 100 foreign languages. She is the most widely published and translated author of all time and in any language; only the Bible and Shakespeare have sold more copies. She is the author of 80 crime novels and short story collections, 19 plays, and six other novels. *The Mousetrap*, her most famous play, was first staged in 1952 in London and is still performed there—it is the longest-running play in history.

Agatha Christie's first novel was published in 1920. It featured Hercule Poirot, the Belgian detective who has become the most popular detective in crime fiction since Sherlock Holmes. Collins has published Agatha Christie since 1926.

阿加莎·克里斯蒂

阿加莎·克里斯蒂(1890-1976)在世界各地被誉为“侦探小说女王”。她以英语出版的作品销量超过十亿册,而以一百多种外语出版的作品销量也达到了十亿册。她是迄今为止以各语种得到最广泛出版和译介的作家,其作品销量仅次于《圣经》和莎士比亚的作品。她著有 80 部侦探题材的长篇小说和短篇小说集、19 部剧作及其他 6 部小说。《捕鼠器》是她最有名的剧作,1952 年在伦敦被首次搬上舞台,直到今天还在上演——它也成为历史上演出时间最长的戏剧。

阿加莎·克里斯蒂的第一部小说出版于 1920 年,其中塑造了比利时大侦探赫尔克里·波洛这一人物——他已成为自夏洛克·福尔摩斯以来犯罪小说里最知名的侦探。柯林斯出版公司自 1926 年至今一直在出版阿加莎·克里斯蒂的作品。

人 物 表



Jerry Burton: 在飞行事故中受了伤的年轻人,现租住在林姆斯托克的利特尔福尔兹大宅休养

Marcus Kent: Jerry Burton 在伦敦的医生

Joanna Burton: Jerry Burton 的妹妹

Emily Barton 小姐: 利特尔福尔兹大宅的主人,老年妇女

Partridge 小姐: 利特尔福尔兹大宅的中年女佣

Beatrice: 利特尔福尔兹大宅的年轻女佣

Owen Griffith 医生: 住在林姆斯托克的年轻医生

Megan Hunter 小姐: Symmington 夫人在第一次婚姻中所生的女儿,20 岁

Aimee Griffith 小姐: Griffith 医生的姐姐

Richard Symmington: 住在林姆斯托克的律师

Ginch 小姐: Symmington 先生的中年女秘书

Elsie Holland 小姐: 看护 Symmington 家两个男孩的家庭女教师

Pye 先生: 林姆斯托克的一所大宅子——Prior's End 的主人

Symmington 夫人: Symmington 先生的妻子

Appleton 上校: Symmington 先生的朋友,住在附近的村子里

Brian Symmington 和 Colin Symmington: Symmington 夫妇的两个儿子

Baker 夫人: Beatrice 的妈妈

George: Beatrice 的男朋友

Cleat 夫人: 被认为是乡村女巫的女人

Caleb Dane-Calthrop 牧师: 林姆斯托克的牧师

Maud Dane-Calthrop 夫人: 牧师的妻子

Nash 警司：负责调查死亡案件的警察

Graves 督察：研究匿名信的专家

Agnes Woddell：Symmington 家的年轻用人

Florence：Emily Barton 以前的用人，现住在 Emily 家里

Rose：Symmington 家的老用人

Jane Marple 小姐：Dane-Calthrop 夫人的老朋友

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Agatha Christie

The Moving Finger



Chapter 1



I

When at last my broken bones had mended^①, and the nurses had helped me to walk again, and I was tired of being treated like a child, my doctor, Marcus Kent told me I must go and live in the country. ‘Good air, quiet life, nothing to do — that’s what you need. Your sister will look after you.’

I didn’t ask him if I would ever be able to fly an aeroplane again. There are questions that you don’t ask because you are afraid you won’t like the answers. But Marcus Kent answered anyway. ‘You’re going to recover^② completely,’ he said. ‘But it’s going to take a long time. You’ve got to live slowly and easily. That’s why I am telling you to go to the country, rent a house, get interested in local people, local scandal^③, and local gossip^④. And go to a village where you haven’t got any friends living nearby.’

I agreed. ‘I had already thought of that.’ I did not want friends calling to give me sympathy, and then talking about themselves for hours.

So it happened that Joanna and I eventually decided to look at a house called Little Furze, in Lymstock, mainly because we had never been to Lymstock. And when Joanna saw Little Furze she decided at once that it was the house we wanted.

① mend *v.* 痊愈, 恢复 ② recover *v.* 康复, 痊愈

③ scandal *n.* 丑闻, 绯闻 ④ gossip *n.* 流言蜚语, 闲言碎语

It was a low white house, with a Victorian veranda^①. It was about half a mile out of the town and had a pleasant view over the countryside with the Lymstock church tower down below.

It had belonged to a family of unmarried ladies, but now there was only one still alive, the youngest, Miss Emily Barton. She told Joanna that she had never rented her house before, 'but you see, my dear, I do not have enough money to live in such a big house any more. And, now I have met you, I shall be very *happy* to know that you are here. I really did hate the idea of having *Men* in the house!'

At this point Joanna had to tell her about me.

And Miss Emily said, 'Oh, how sad! A flying accident? But your brother will be unable to move very much —' The thought seemed to cheer her. And she told Joanna that she was going to live with a woman who had once been her servant, 'Dear Florence' who had married a builder. 'They now have a nice house in the High Street and two beautiful rooms on the top floor where I shall be very comfortable.'

So Joanna and I agreed to rent Little Furze for six months, and we moved in. Miss Barton's servant, Partridge, a thin, humourless woman, who cooked very well, stayed to look after us. And she was helped by a girl who came in every morning.

When we had been at Little Furze for a week Mrs Symmington, the lawyer's wife; Miss Griffith, the doctor's sister; Mrs Dane-Calthrop, the vicar^②'s wife, and Mr Pye of Prior's End all came to visit us and leave us their address cards.

Joanna was very excited. 'I didn't know that people really called^③ with cards.'

'That is because you know nothing about the country,' I

① veranda *n.* 走廊, 游廊 ② vicar *n.* 教区牧师 ③ call *v.* 拜访, 访问

said.

‘Nonsense^①. I’ve stayed for lots of weekends with people in the country.’

‘That is not at all the same thing,’ I said.

Then I suddenly knew how selfish^② my accident had made me. For my younger sister is very pretty, and she likes dancing, and driving around in fast cars. ‘This is going to be awful^③ for you,’ I said to her. ‘You are going to miss London so much.’

Joanna laughed and said she didn’t mind at all. ‘In fact, I’m glad to get away from it all. I was really very upset about Paul and it will take me a long time to get over him.’

I didn’t believe this. Joanna’s love affairs are always the same. She falls madly in love with some weak young man who is really very clever, but no one understands him. She listens to all his complaints and works hard to get him respect. Then, when he is ungrateful, she says her heart is broken until the next weak young man comes along!

So I did not take Joanna’s pain very seriously. But I did understand that living in the country was like a new game to my beautiful sister.

‘This is a nice place, Jerry!’ she said. ‘So sweet and funny and old-fashioned. You just can’t think of anything awful happening here, can you?’

And I agreed with her. In a place like Lymstock nothing awful could happen. It is strange to think that it was just a week later that we got the first letter.

① nonsense *n.* 胡扯, 胡言乱语 ② selfish *adj.* 自私的

③ awful *adj.* 很坏的, 极讨厌的

II

The letter arrived while we were having breakfast. It was a local letter with a typewritten^① address. I opened it. Inside, words had been cut out from a book and stuck to a sheet of paper. For a minute or two I looked at the words without understanding them. Then I gasp^②.

Joanna looked up. 'What is it?'

The letter, using very unpleasant language, expressed the writer's opinion that Joanna and I were not brother and sister.

'It's a disgusting anonymous^③ letter,' I said, very shocked.

Joanna was immediately interested. 'What does it say?'

I handed the letter to her.

'What a piece of dirt!' She began to laugh. 'You were obviously right about my wearing too much make-up, Jerry. I suppose they think I'm an evil woman!'

'Perhaps,' I said. 'But, of course, our father was tall and dark-haired and our mother was fair-haired with blue eyes. And since I look like him and you look like her ...'

Joanna nodded. 'Nobody would think we were brother and sister. So what shall we do with the letter?'

'The correct thing, I believe, is to throw it into the fire.' I did so, and Joanna watched.

Then she got up and went to the window. 'I wonder who wrote it?'

'We will probably never know.'

Joanna was silent for a moment. 'When I think about it, I'm

① typewritten *adj.* (用打字机) 打字的 ② gasp *v.* (由于惊讶而) 倒抽气

③ anonymous *adj.* 匿名的, 不具名的