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野性的呼唤 The Call of the Wild

〔美〕 Jack London 原著 Debra Grossman

Ross Douthat

导读

曲莉 翻译

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哈佛蓝星双语名著导读 Today's Most Popular Study Guides

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致读者

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你手上这本蓝色小册子正是风行全美的哈佛蓝星笔记, 是哈佛学生们将名著阅读与文学学习融会贯通,编写而成的 名著导读本。它们以经典性和流行性并存的名著为素材,以 明晰的风格和地道的语言而著称。每一本都包括著作的创作 背景,人物分析,主题解析,篇章讲解,重要引文释义,作 品档案,并且附有相关的思考题,推荐的论文题,阅读后的 小测验,要点注释,以及推荐阅读篇目。

这样的编排使你不仅仅停留在对名著内容上的了解,更可迅速、全面、深入地掌握著作的全部资料,同时也满足了对文化做进一步了解和研究的需求。蓝星精辟、明晰的编写风格将"半天阅读一本名著"的想法变为现实,帮你在有限的闲暇内阅读更多的书,在地道的语言环境中迅速提高英语水平,丰富文学内涵、增加谈资。

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CONTEXT

ack London* was born in San Francisco on January 12, 1876, the illegitimate son of Flora Wellman, the rebellious daughter of an aristocratic family, and William Chaney, a traveling astrologer who abandoned Flora when she became pregnant. Eight months after her son was born, Flora married John London, a grocer and Civil War veteran whose last name the infant took. London grew up in Oakland, and his family was mired in poverty throughout his youth. He remained in school only through the eighth grade but was a voracious reader and a frequent visitor to the Oakland Public Library, where he went about educating himself and laying the groundwork for his impending literary career.

In his adolescent years, London led a rough life, spending time as a pirate in San Francisco Bay, traveling the Far East on sealing expeditions, and making his way across America as a tramp. Finally, temporarily tired of adventure, London returned to Oakland and graduated from high school. He was even admitted to the University of California at Berkeley, but he stayed only for a semester. The Klondike gold rush (in Canada's Yukon Territory) had begun, and in 1897 London left college to seek his fortune in the snowy North.

The gold rush did not make London rich, but it furnished him with plenty of material for his career as a writer, which began in the late 1890s and continued until his death in 1916. He worked as a reporter, covering the Russo-Japanese War of 1904 and the Mexican Revolution in the 1910s; meanwhile, he published over fifty books and became, at the time, America's most

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杰克·伦敦1876年1月12日生于旧金山,是浮劳罗·威尔曼的私生子。浮劳罗·威尔曼出身贵族家庭,有叛逆性格。她与一个四处漂泊的占星家——威廉·柴尼相爱,但是当浮劳罗怀孕后,威廉便抛弃了她。浮劳罗在儿子出生8个月后嫁给了内战退伍老兵——杂货商约翰·伦敦,杰克·伦敦的姓由此而来。杰克·伦敦在奥克兰长大,在青少年时期,他家一贫如洗。他只上到八年级,但他求知欲强,经常去奥克兰公共图书馆看书、自学,这为他开创文学事业奠定了坚实的基础。

在青少年时期,伦敦的生活很艰苦。他曾在旧金山湾做海盗,去远东探险,并浪迹北美大陆。后来,因一时厌倦探险,伦敦回到奥克兰,完成了高中学业。甚至被位于伯克利的加利福尼亚大学录取,而他在大学只读了一个学期。随着克朗代克(位于加拿大育空河地区)淘金热的兴起,1897年伦敦离开大学,来到了白雪皑皑的北方,寻找发财机会。

淘金并没有使伦敦变得富有,但却为他的写作事业(从19世纪90年代后期直至1916年他去世)积累了很多素材。他当过记者,报道过1904年的俄日战争和20世纪初的墨西哥革命。同时,他出版了50多本书,并且成为当时美国最著名的作家。一时,他的书



famous author. For a while, he was one of the most widely read authors in the world. He embodied, it was said, the spirit of the American West, and his portrayal of adventure and frontier life seemed like a breath of fresh air in comparison with nineteenth-century Victorian fiction, which was often overly concerned with what had begun to seem like trivial and irrelevant social norms.

The Call of the Wild, published in 1903, remains London's most famous work, blending his experiences as a gold prospector in the Canadian wilderness with his ideas about nature and the struggle for existence. He drew these ideas from various influential figures, including Charles Darwin*, an English naturalist credited with developing theories about biological evolution, and Friedrich Nietzsche*, a prominent German philosopher. Although The Call of the Wild is first and foremost a story about a dog, it displays a philosophical depth absent in most animal adventures.

London was married twice—once in 1900, to his math tutor and friend Bess Maddern, and again in 1905, to his secretary Charmian Kittedge, whom he considered his true love. As his works soared in popularity, he became a contradictory figure, arguing for socialist principles and women's rights even as he himself lived a materialist life of luxury, sailing the world in his boat, the *Snark*, and running a large ranch in northern California. Meanwhile, he preached equality and the brotherhood of man, even as novels like *The Call of the Wild* celebrated violence, power, and brute force.

London died young, on November 22, 1916. He had been plagued by stomach problems and failing kidneys for years, but many have suggested that his death was a suicide. Whatever the cause, it is clear that London, who played the various roles of journalist, novelist, prospector, sailor, pirate, husband, and father, lived life to the fullest.

在世界各地深受欢迎。据说,他代表了美国西部精神, 19世纪的维多利亚小说总是过多地关注琐碎的和无关 痛痒的社会规范,与之相比,杰克·伦敦对探险和边 疆生活的描写宛如一缕清新的空气注入心田。

《野性的呼唤》于1903年出版,是伦敦最著名的作品。在这篇小说中,伦敦把对自然和为生存而奋斗的描写与在加拿大荒野做淘金工的经历结合起来。他从有影响力的不同人物身上汲取这些观点,包括发展了生物进化论的英国博物学家查尔斯·达尔文和德国著名哲学家弗里德里希·尼采。虽然《野性的呼唤》是描写一只狗的故事,但是它所展示的哲学深度是大多数动物探险小说所匮乏的。

伦敦有两次婚姻。一次是1900年他与他的数学老师,也是朋友贝斯·麦德嫩结婚。另一次是1905年与秘书查尔曼·凯特瑞智完婚,伦敦把查尔曼看做是自己的真爱。随着作品日益受到大众的喜爱,伦敦逐渐成为一个集矛盾于一身的人。一方面,他大加称赞社会主义的行为规范,提倡妇女权利,另一方面,他驾驶着自己的"蛇鲎号"船,周游世界,并在加利福尼亚州的北部地区经营着一个大农场,过着豪华的生活。同时,他主张平等、博爱,而他的小说《野性的呼唤》却歌颂暴力、权力和蛮力。

伦敦于1916年11月22日英年早逝。他长期受到 胃痛和肾功能衰竭的折磨。但是很多人认为伦敦死于 自杀。不论其死因如何,有一点是大家公认的,即曾 作过记者、作家、勘探者、水手、海盗、丈夫和父亲 的伦敦,其一生是丰富充实的。 ≱

PLOT OVERVIEW

uck, a powerful dog, half St. Bernard and half sheep-dog, lives on Judge Miller's estate in California's Santa Clara Valley. He leads a comfortable life there, but it comes to an end when men discover gold in the Klondike region of Canada and a great demand arises for strong dogs to pull sleds. Buck is kidnapped by a gardener on the Miller estate and sold to dog traders, who teach Buck to obey by beating him with a club and, subsequently, ship him north to the Klondike

Arriving in the chilly North, Buck is amazed by the cruelty he sees around him. As soon as another dog from his ship, Curly, gets off the boat, a pack of huskies violently attacks and kills her. Watching her death, Buck vows never to let the same fate befall him. Buck becomes the property of Francois and Perrault, two mail carriers working for the Canadian government, and begins to adjust to life as a sled dog. He recovers the instincts of his wild ancestors: he learns to fight, scavenge for food, and sleep beneath the snow on winter nights. At the same time, he develops a fierce rivalry with Spitz, the lead dog in the team. One of their fights is broken up when a pack of wild dogs invades the camp, but Buck begins to undercut Spitz's authority, and eventually the two dogs become involved in a major fight. Buck kills spitz and takes his place as the lead dog.

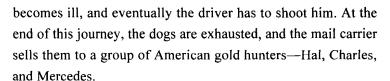
With Buck at the head of the team, Francois and Perrault's sled makes record time. However, the men soon turn the team over to a mail carrier who forces the dogs to carry much heavier loads. In the midst of a particularly arduous trip, one of the dogs

情节・览

巴克是一只高大强壮的狗,有一半圣贝尔纳德犬 血统和一半牧羊犬血统,巴克的家在加利福尼亚的桑 塔·克拉拉山谷米勒先生的大房子里。他过着安逸舒 适的生活。但是当人们在加拿大的克朗代克地区发现 金矿后,需要大量强壮的狗拉雪橇。因此巴克的舒适生 活就此结束了。米勒先生的一个园丁带走了巴克,把他 卖给了贩狗商。为了让巴克驯服,贩狗商用棍棒打他, 随后用船把他带到了北方的克朗代克地区。

到达寒冷的北方后,巴克看到的残忍景象令他惊诧不已。同船的另一只狗科莉刚刚下船,就遭到了一群爱斯基摩狗的猛烈攻击,顷刻就被咬死了。目睹这一切,巴克发誓,同样的厄运决不能发生在自己身上。巴克成为在加拿大政府工作的两名邮递员弗朗索瓦斯和佩诺特的个人财产,并开始适应雪橇狗的生活。巴克恢复了其祖先的野性,他学会了打架,在垃圾堆中寻找食物,冬夜里在雪下入睡。同时,他与头犬斯皮兹的较量也与日俱增。其中有一次争斗因一群野狗侵占他们的营地而结束,但巴克却开始暗中削弱斯皮兹的威望,最终这两只狗展开了一场恶战。巴克咬死了斯皮兹,并取而代之,成为头犬。

巴克成为头犬后,弗朗索瓦斯和佩诺特的雪橇队 伍的速度快得惊人,打破了以往的记录。然而,他们 又把这支队伍转给了另一个邮递员,雪橇上载满了更 沉重的信件。在一次极其艰苦的旅途中,其中一只狗



Buck's new masters are inexperienced and out of place in the wilderness. They overload the sled, beat the dogs, and plan poorly. Halfway through their journey, they begin to run out of food. While the humans bicker, the dogs begin to starve, and the weaker animals soon die. Of an original team of fourteen, only five are still alive when they limp into John Thornton's camp, still some distance from their destination. Thornton warns them that the ice over which they are traveling is melting and that they may fall through it. Hal dismisses these warnings and tries to get going immediately. The other dogs begin to move, but Buck refuses. When Hal begins to beat him, Thornton intervenes, knocking a knife from Hal's hand and cutting Buck loose. Hal curses Thornton and starts the sled again, but before they have gone a quarter of a mile, the ice breaks open, swallowing both the humans and the dogs.

Thornton becomes Buck's master, and Buck's devotion to him is total. He saves Thornton from drowning in a river, attacks a man who tries to start a fight with Thornton in a bar, and most remarkably, wins a \$1,600 wager for his new master by pulling a sled carrying a thousand-pound load. But Buck's love for Thornton is mixed with a growing attraction to the wild, and he feels as if he is being called away from civilization and into the wilderness. This feeling grows stronger when he accompanies Thornton and his friends in search of a lost mine hidden deep in the Canadian forest.

While the men search for gold, Buck ranges far afield, be-

染了病,最后赶车的人开枪打死了他。旅程结束时,每 只狗都已经筋疲力尽,邮递员把他们卖给了一群淘金 的美国人——哈尔、查尔斯和玛尔赛蒂。

巴克的新主人毫无经验,不适合荒野的生活。他们把雪橇装得满满的,不停地抽打着狗,而且毫无计划。在旅途过了一半时,食物已逐渐耗尽。淘金者们开始争吵不休,而狗群已饥饿难耐,其中体质较弱的狗很快就死去了。当他们蹒跚地到达离目的地还有一段距离的约翰·桑顿的营地时,狗的数量已由原来的14只降至5只。桑顿提醒他们,要过的那条河的冰层正在融化,他们可能会掉进去。哈尔不顾警告,想马上出发。其他的狗开始挪动,但巴克却没有起来。当哈尔开始抽打巴克时,桑顿出来阻止,他打落了哈尔手中的刀,劈开巴克身上的挽具。哈尔大骂桑顿,驾着雪橇驶去,但他们走了不到1/4英里,冰层便破裂了,人和狗一起没了踪影。

桑顿成了巴克的主人,巴克对他忠心耿耿。他曾从河中救出桑顿,在酒吧攻击一个试图与桑顿打架的人。更为卓越的是,通过拉一个装载1000磅重物的雪橇,巴克为新主人赢得了1600元美金。但是巴克对桑顿的爱是与他对荒野不断增长的爱恋交织在一起的。他觉得自己好像正远离文明而进入荒野的世界。当他陪伴桑顿及其朋友到加拿大的森林深处寻找一座下落不明的金矿时,这种感觉变得更加强烈。

当人们寻找金子时, 巴克就走到更远的地方, 与



friending wolves and hunting bears and moose. He always returns to Thronton in the end, until, one day, he comes back to camp to find that Yeehat Indians have attacked and killed his master. Buck attacks the Indians, killing several and scattering the rest, and then heads off into the wild, where he becomes the leader of a pack of wolves. He becomes a legendary figure, a Ghost Dog, fathering countless cubs and inspiring fear in the Yeehats—but every year he returns to the place where Thornton died, to mourn his master before returning to his life in the wild.