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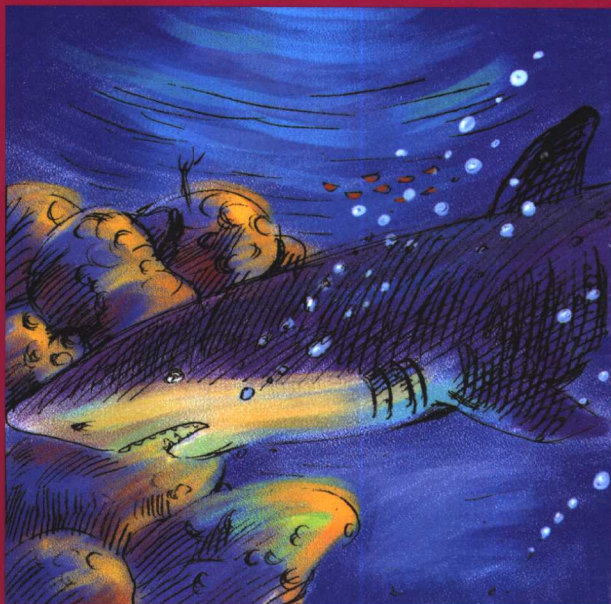
*Twenty Thousand Leagues
Under the Sea*

海底两万里

JULES VERNE

原著 儒勒·凡尔纳

是什么海怪威胁着水手的生命？深谙大洋秘密的尼摩船长是怎样一位神秘莫测的人物？



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Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

海底两万里

儒勒·凡尔纳

魏金枝 译

儒勒·凡尔纳是法国著名科幻小说家，被誉为“科幻小说之父”。他的作品想象力丰富，情节引人入胜，对后世科幻小说的发展产生了深远影响。



哈尔滨科学技术出版社

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JULES VERNE

Adapted by Mary Tomalin

Series Editor Dr Colin Swatridge

原著 儒勒·凡尔纳

注释 王 珏



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出版说明

为了促进我国中学生的英语学习,培养他们的文化素养和文学修养,上海外语教育出版社经过长时间的酝酿和市场调研,决定将英国麦克米伦出版公司的一套文学名著简写本引荐给我国的中学生。

麦克米伦出版公司是从20世纪初开始陆续出版这套文学名著简写本的。为了满足世界各地英语为非母语国家、也包括英语国家不同程度中学生的阅读需要,他们请专家对一些大家耳熟能详的世界文学名著进行了改写,在保留原著的故事情节和原著者的创作风格的同时,适当地降低了语言的难度,至今已经推出了200多本。若干年过去了,这些书仍然受到世界各地读者的欢迎。

外教社从麦克米伦出版公司的这套文学名著简写本中精心挑选了40本,汇成一套“轻松读经典丛书”,难易程度跨越“英语课程标准”的3级—8级。这套丛书选编了英、美、法等国文学大师的经典之作,包括莎士比亚、狄更斯、马克·吐温、哈代、大仲马等著名作家的作品。为了让中学生在阅读过程中更好地把握原书的精髓和作家的创作历程,外教社还特地对读物中的语言难点做了注释;并加入了一篇关于作家、作品的背景介绍。

我们衷心希望“轻松读经典丛书”能够有助于提高我国中学生的文学欣赏水平,陶冶他们的道德情操,增强他们的英语阅读能力,成为开启中学生英语文学名著阅读之门的金钥匙。

外教社编辑部

2002年11月

简介

儒勒·凡尔纳,1828年生于法国南特市。他当过律师,写过几部喜剧,最后意识到他的天赋在于我们今天所说的科幻小说创作。在他漫长、忙碌的一生中,他写了近百部小说,其中著名的有:《地心游记》、《海底两万里》和《环游地球80天》。

凡尔纳的小说惊险,充满奇遇,可读性强。作为开创科幻小说这一新文学类型的第一人,最能展现凡尔纳才华的是他将科学融入小说的写作手法。同样令人振奋的是,他的小说还精确地预见了未来科学领域的诸多发展。

在1869年出版的《海底两万里》中,凡尔纳预见性地描绘了潜水艇、深海潜水和电的众多用途。该书对海洋及其动植物的生动描写,颇具特色。在书中,他甚至预见到有必要保护动物,免受来自人类的威胁。

凡尔纳笔下的人物栩栩如生。他以喜剧笔法,塑造了性情冷漠的随从康塞尔、脾气暴躁的尼德·兰。他对神秘、亦正亦邪的尼摩船长的心理刻画,给人留下了深刻印象。全书以尼摩船长的复杂性格为基础,结构简练。小说以海底历险为背景,情节扣人心弦,使读者迫不及待地想要了解故事的发展。

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PART I

Chapter 1

IN the year 1866 a very strange event occurred. Sailors all over the world were interested, as were merchants, ship owners and ship captains. The governments of Europe and America were particularly interested.

The reason was as follows: for some time many ships had encountered 'an enormous thing'. It was long, oval¹, in shape and very much larger and faster than a whale². It was, in fact, unbelievably fast and was larger than anything science knew of. It was quite impossible to regard it just as an amusing story told by sailors.

On July 20, 1866, the steamer 'Governor Higginson', had encountered this moving object five miles to the east of Australia. Captain Baker at first believed he had met with an unknown rock, when two columns of water rose 150ft into the air.

1 oval: 椭圆形的 2 whale: 鲸鱼

A similar event was observed on July 23 in the same year, in the Pacific Ocean, by the ship, the 'Christopher Columbus¹'. On this occasion this extraordinary² creature must have moved from place to place with great speed, since the Governor Higginson and the Christopher Columbus had observed it at two places that were more than 2,000 miles apart. Fifteen days later, the 'Helvetia', and the 'Shannon', sailing between Europe and America, noticed the monster³. These two ships estimated the length of the creature at 350ft. Now the very largest whales have never been more than 180ft long.

These reports came one after another, and more followed. In a country that had some sense of humour, the subject would have been treated as a joke. But in serious and practical nations such as England, America and Germany, people were very much puzzled. In the large towns this monster became very fashionable. They sung about it in the cafes, were rude about it in the newspapers and joked about it in the theatres. There were long discussions in scientific societies and publications.

During the first months of the year 1867 the question remained unsolved. Then suddenly some new facts were discovered and the monster became not a problem to be solved but an actual danger to be avoided. For during the night of March 5, 1867, the 'Moravian' struck a rock no sailor knew about. If the

1 Christopher Columbus: 哥伦布(意大利航海家,新大陆发现者),此处为船名 2 extraordinary: 不同寻常的 3 monster: 怪物



Moravian had not been strongly built, she would have started to leak¹ and gone to the bottom of the sea with all her crew. This event would have been forgotten if, three weeks afterwards, it had not occurred again. On April 13 the sea was smooth and the wind light. About four o'clock in the afternoon, on the ship the 'Scotia', dinner was being served. A shock was suddenly felt, but not a very great one; the Scotia had been struck by some sharp or pointed thing. The Captain soon discovered that there was a large hole in the ship. The Scotia was put at half speed for the rest of the voyage.

When the Scotia was examined in port, the crew could hardly believe their eyes. About six feet below the water-line, there was a hole, in the shape of a perfectly even triangle. It must have been caused by an extremely hard instrument² and with an almost unimaginable force. From that time all disasters at sea which could not be explained were said to have been caused by the monster. The public demanded that the ocean should be cleared of this dangerous creature.

While these events were happening, I was returning from a scientific expedition³ in Nebraska⁴, U. S. A. I was assistant professor to the Natural History Museum in Paris and the French government had asked me to accompany the expedition. After six months in Nebraska, I arrived in New York at about the end of March. I had arranged to sail to France at

1 leak: 渗漏 2 instrument: 器械 3 expedition: 探险

4 Nebraska: 内布拉斯加州(美国州名)

the beginning of May. Like most people I knew all about the topic of the day. How could I not? I had read again and again the European and American newspapers and this mystery puzzled me. When I arrived in New York the subject was much discussed. It was agreed that it could not be a rock or a moving island, for how could it move at such tremendous speed? There remained two possible solutions to the problem; that it was a monster of enormous size or that it was a submarine¹ vessel. This last suggestion did not seem very probable. Who could have manufactured² it, and where and when? How had he kept the construction a secret? It was possible that one state, unknown to others, might have attempted to build such a machine. But all governments stated this was not true. And a state would not have been able to keep such a thing secret.

I had already published in France a work entitled *The Mysteries of the Great Ocean Depths*; so I knew a great deal about this branch of natural history. My opinion was asked by the newspaper, the *New York Herald*. I discussed the question fully and I give below an extract³ from the article I published in the issue of April 30.

‘The common narwhal⁴ often reaches a length of 60ft. Five or ten times this length would give enormous strength to this creature. The narwhal has a tooth the hardness of steel. Some of these teeth have

1 submarine: 海底的 2 manufacture: 制造 3 extract: 摘录
4 narwhal: 独角鲸



been removed from the bodies of whales and from ships. I am of the opinion that this monster is a narwhal of enormous size, armed with a spur¹, and with incredible strength and speed. '

My article was much discussed and this gave it popularity. But although one part of society saw in this only a scientific problem to be solved, others were anxious to rid the oceans of this monster. The United States decided to take action. Preparations were made at New York for an expedition to pursue² this narwhal. A ship of great speed—the ' Abraham Lincoln³ '—was prepared for sea.

But, as always happens, now that they had decided to pursue the monster, the monster did not appear. For two months nothing was heard about it. It seemed as if this monster knew of the trap that had been set for it. No one knew where the ship should sail to. Then it was announced that a steamer had seen the animal three weeks before in the South Pacific Ocean. The excitement this news caused was very great. The captain of the ship, Commander Farragut, was given only 24 hours to prepare to leave. He was, of course, anxious to depart. Three hours before the departure of the Abraham Lincoln, I received a letter which said:

Sir,

If you wish to accompany the expedition on board the Abraham Lincoln, the United States govern-

1 spur: 刺 2 pursue: 追捕 3 Abraham Lincoln: 林肯(美国第十六任总统), 此处为船名

ment will be pleased that France should be represented by you. Commander Farragut will have a cabin ready for you.

Yours very truly,
JB HOBSON,
Secretary to the Navy.

Three seconds before the arrival of Mr Hobson's letter, I had no more idea of going in search of the nar-whal than of trying to reach the North Pole¹. Three seconds after I had read the Secretary's letter, I quite believed that my only aim in life was to rid the world of this monster. I accepted, without hesitation, the offer of the American government.

'Conseil²!' I cried.

Conseil was my servant, a devoted fellow, who accompanied me everywhere. He is a brave man, one whom I like very much, and who serves me well. He is calm, reliable, unworried, clever, and despite his name, never gives advice, even when he is not asked for it. For the last ten years Conseil had followed me wherever science had taken me. He had never complained about the length of a journey. Whether I went to China or the Congo³, it was all the same to him. He would go to one or the other and ask no questions. He had excellent health, solid muscles and no nerves. He was 30 years of age. He had only one fault: he always addressed me in the third person⁴.

1 North Pole: 北极 2 Conseil: 康塞尔(人名) 3 Congo: 刚果
(非洲中西部国家) 4 address ... person: 用第三人称称呼



‘Conseil!’ I cried.

Conseil appeared.

‘Did Monsieur¹ call?’ he asked as he entered.

‘Yes, my lad. Get my things and your own ready. We start in two hours.’

‘Just as Monsieur pleases,’ replied Conseil calmly.

‘We have no time to lose. Pack my trunk quickly. We shall sail in the Abraham Lincoln. You know, my friend, of the question about this monster—this nar-whal. We are about to rid the sea of him. It is a glorious plan, but dangerous. We shall go all the same. We have a captain who has no fear.’

‘If Monsieur goes, I will go,’ said Conseil.

‘But Conseil, I have no wish to hide anything. This is one of those journeys from which one may not return.’

‘Just as Monsieur pleases.’

A quarter of an hour later our trunks were ready. Conseil had done everything and I was sure nothing was forgotten.

I descended² to the hall of the hotel where I was staying and paid my bill. Then followed by Conseil, I jumped into a carriage. Soon we reached the quay³, where the Abraham Lincoln was waiting. Our baggage was immediately put on board. I asked to see the commander. I was taken to meet an officer of pleasant appearance, who offered me

1 Monsieur: 〈法〉先生 2 descend: 下来 3 quay: 码头

his hand.

‘Monsieur Pierre Aronnax?’ said he.

‘The same,’ said I. ‘Have I the pleasure to address Commander Farragut?’

‘Yes, in person¹. You are welcome, sir, and your cabin is prepared.’

I saluted him and then descended to my cabin, which I was much pleased with. The Abraham Lincoln was a fast and well-equipped ship.

‘We shall be very comfortable here,’ said I to Conseil. I left Conseil to arrange the cabin and went up to the deck. At this moment Commander Farragut gave orders to depart, so if we had been a quarter of an hour later, I would have been left behind and missed this extraordinary expedition.

The engineers started the engines and the ship started to move through the water, surrounded by a crowd of small boats and cheered by half a million people standing on the quays. It was then three o’clock in the afternoon. At eight o’clock having sailed along the coast of New Jersey², the ship finally reached the Atlantic Ocean.

1 in person: 亲自, 本人 2 New Jersey: 新泽西州(美国州名)

Chapter 2

COMMANDER Farragut was an excellent sailor. His ship and he were one. He was the soul of it. On the question of the monster he had no doubt. He believed in it as a good woman believes in the Bible¹, by faith, not by reason. The monster existed and he was going to rid the seas of it.

The officers were of the same opinion as their commander. The whole of the ship's company wanted only to meet the narwhal, harpoon² him and cut him up. They watched the sea with great attention. Moreover, Commander Farragut had promised 2,000 dollars to whoever should first see the animal. So you can imagine whether they used their eyes on the Abraham Lincoln.

As for weapons with which to catch the animal, we possessed all known weapons. There was also Ned Land, the king of harpooners. Ned Land was a Canadian of about 40. He was large, and over six feet high, strong, serious, silent, and very angry when

1 the Bible: 基督教《圣经》 2 harpoon: 用鱼叉叉或捕杀, harpooner 捕鲸人