

英汉对照阅读丛书·童话篇

BABEL'S SERIES · FAIRY TALES

# 午夜骑士米德莱

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午夜骑士米德莱

罗克莉 译

湖南人民出版社

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## 午夜骑士米德莱

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## Contents

Chapter1	Captain Midnite's Gang 米德莱上尉的人马 .....	( 2 )
Chapter2	Captain Midnite Strikes 米德莱上尉出击 .....	( 24 )
Chapter3	The Queen Versus Midnite 女王向米德莱开战 .....	( 50 )
Chapter4	Midnite Rides Again 米德莱重获自由 .....	( 80 )
Chapter5	Midnite's Hairy Godmother 米德莱的长毛教母 .....	( 108 )
Chapter6	Miss Laura Wellborn's Adventure 劳拉·威尔 本小姐历险记 .....	( 128 )
Chapter7	Midnite the Explorer 探险者米德莱 .....	( 158 )
Chapter8	Mr. Daybrake, Millionaire 百万富翁德布雷 克先生 .....	( 200 )
Chapter9	Miss Laura's Visitors 劳拉小姐的客人 ...	( 226 )
Chapter10	What Happened Ever After 后事 .....	( 244 )

# MIDNITE

Randolph Stow



## *Chapter 1*

### **Captain Midnite's Gang**

Once upon a time, in Western Australia a hundred years ago, a young man lived with his father in a cottage in a forest. The young man was called Midnite. At least, that is what I am going to call him, because that is what he called himself, later on, when he was famous. I am not going to put his real name into a book, because there are some people in Australia who might not like it.

The cottage was very small, with a roof made of bark and a verandah all around it. It stood on the slope of a valley, in the middle of an orchard, which was all pink-and-white with fruit blossom in the spring, and all shiny green-and-gold with orange and lemon trees summer and winter. At the bottom of the valley was a pretty creek, running through bracken and wild palms. Except for the orchard, and the paddocks where the horse and cow lived, there was nothing around Midnite's house except tall forest.

Midnite's mother had died when he was quite young, and he and his father lived all alone. His father had once

## 第一章

### 米德莱上尉的人马

从前，一百年前吧，在澳大利亚西部的一座森林里有一间小农舍，那儿住着一个小伙子和他的父亲。这小伙子叫米德莱，至少我是打算这么叫他的，因为后来他出名了也这么称他自己。我不打算把他的真名写进本书，因为澳大利亚的一些人可能不喜欢这样。

农舍很小，房顶是树皮做的，四周是游廊。它坐落在一个峡谷斜坡上的一座果园中，春天果园里到处是红色和白色的果树花，而整个夏天和冬天则全是耀眼的柠檬的绿和甘橙的金黄。在峡谷的底部有一条漂亮的小溪流过，两旁是蕨草和野棕榈。除了果园和养有牛马的小牧场，米德莱的房子周围只有高大的森林，其它什么都没有。

米德莱的母亲在他还很小时便去世了，他和他的父亲相依为命地生活在一起。他的父亲



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been a sea-captain, and had brought home lots of shells and coral and carved boxes and little elephants and that sort of thing, as well as a very wise and handsome Siamese cat called Khat. Khat had blue eyes and mostly cream-coloured fur, with a coffee-coloured tail, and a coffee-coloured mask on his face, a bit like a bank-robber.

Besides Khat, there were four other animals living with Midnite and his father. There was a rather silly cow called Dora, who was not nearly so young as she thought she was. There was a very tall and noble-minded horse called Red Ned, with a strawberry-coloured body and a pale mane and tail. There was a cockatoo called Major, because he was a Major Mitchell cockatoo, which is hard to describe to anyone who has not seen a Major Mitchell cockatoo, but if you have seen what the clouds look like when the sun is coming up, then you can imagine the colour of Major's best feathers. Last of all, there was a young sheepdog called Gyp, who was always laughing and frowning at the same time, because he was never sure whether he was doing the right thing.

One day Midnite's father became ill, and soon afterwards he died. It is sad to have to begin a story like this, but that is what happened and this is a true book. So Midnite was left alone in the world with his five animals.

This made him very sorry and lonely, and for a long time he did nothing except sit on the verandah all day, whit-  
tling sticks with his pocket-knife and thinking sad thoughts. Sometimes a tear ran down his cheek, and when the young sheepdog, Gyp, saw this, he cried out loud. Day after day

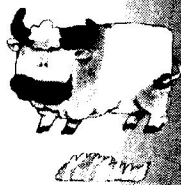


曾经是一名船长，把许多贝壳、珊瑚、雕花的箱子、幼象诸如此类的东西带回家来，还有一只很聪明漂亮的暹罗猫，名叫卡特。卡特有着蓝色的眼睛，大部分毛是乳白色的，但尾巴是咖啡色的，脸上也有面具似的咖啡色的毛，有点像抢劫银行的强盗。

除了卡特，还有其他四个动物与米德莱父子生活在一块儿。其中一个叫朵拉的很傻的母牛，她总是把自己想象得比实际要年轻；另一个是个头很高、思想高尚的叫红勒德的马，勒德的身体呈草莓色，鬃和尾呈苍白色；还有一只美冠鹦鹉叫少校，因为它是一只米切尔少校型鹦鹉，很难向没见过米切尔少校型鹦鹉的人描述这种鹦鹉的模样，但如果你看过太阳升起时云彩是什么样，你就能想象少校最漂亮的羽毛的颜色；最后一个是只很年轻的叫吉普的牧羊犬，他总在同一时刻既笑又皱眉，因为他总拿不准他是否做对了。

一天米德莱的父亲生了病，很快就去世了。这样开始一个故事是很令人悲伤的，但事情就是这样发生的，而这是一本真实的书。就这样米德莱被孤伶伶地留在世上，和他的五只动物呆在一起。

这一切使他感到悲伤而孤独，很长一段时间里他什么都不做，成天坐在游廊上，用他的小刀削小棍，想着伤心事。不时地一颗泪珠沿着他的脸颊滚落下来，年轻的牧羊犬吉普一看见，便大声地吠叫起来。一天又一天过去了，



Midnite sat there, whittling sticks and forgetting to cook his dinner.

One day a voice said to him: "Don't you think it is dinner-time?"

"I'm not hungry," said Midnite.

"Aren't you?" said the voice. "I am."

Midnite went on whittling as if he had not heard, but after a while he began to wonder who it was who had spoken to him, for he was sure that he had never known anyone with a Siamese accent. He looked round at Khat, who was sitting beside him.

"Did you speak to me?" Midnite asked.

"I did," said Khat.

"I didn't know you could talk," said Midnite. "You have never talked before."

"There was nothing to talk about," said Khat, yawning.

"How peculiar," said Midnite; and he went on whittling, frowning with thought.

This is the place to tell you some things about Midnite that make him different from most heroes in books. One of these things you may have guessed already. It is that Midnite was not very clever. In fact, he was rather stupid, though even Khat forgave him this, because he was so good-natured. Another thing is that he was not very handsome, not nearly so handsome as Khat or Major or Red Ned, and he always needed a haircut. But he had nice blue eyes, white teeth, and a brown smiling face. It is hard to decide whether to call him a young man or a boy, and he was not sure him-

米德莱总是坐在那儿削着小棍，忘记了做饭吃。

一天，一个声音对他说：“你不觉得该吃饭了吗？”

“我不饿。”米德莱说。

“你不饿？”这声音说，“我可饿了。”

米德莱继续削他的小棍，好像没听见一样，但不一会他便开始奇怪是谁在对他说话，因为他敢肯定他从来不认识有这种暹罗口音的人。他回过头，看到了坐在他身边的卡特。

“你和我说话了吗？”米德莱问。

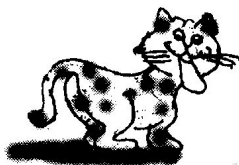
“是的。”卡特回答。

“我不知道你会说话，”米德莱说，“你以前从没说过话。”

“因为没什么好谈论的。”卡特说着打了个呵欠。

“多奇怪啊。”米德莱说，继续削他的小棍，沉思地皱着眉。

故事进行到这应该告诉你们米德莱与大多数书本里的主人公有什么不同了。有一点你可能已经猜到了，那就是米德莱不太聪明。事实上他挺笨的，但就是卡特也原谅了他这点，因为他脾气好。另一点就是他不太好看，甚至比不上卡特或红勒德，他的头发总是欠修理。但他有漂亮的蓝眼睛、雪白的牙齿和一张棕色的带笑的脸。该称他小男孩还是小伙子呢，这总让人为难，他自己对这点也不敢肯定，但他想



self which he was, but he thought that he was probably a young man. He was seventeen, and had begun to use his father's razor, though to tell the truth he had hardly any whiskers to shave off with it, and Khat used to laugh at him when he pretended. Khat was a rather superior person, and had splendid whiskers.

Well, Midnite went on whittling and thinking, and Khat went on looking at him. After a while, Khat said: "You are sad."

"Yes," said Midnite. "I am sad because I have no father and no money and nothing in the world except this house and this orchard."

"And me," said Khat.

"And you, of course," said Midnite.

"Let us have dinner," said Khat, "and then we will talk about money."

So Midnite went into the kitchen and cooked the dinner, and they ate it on the verandah, so that Gyp and Major and Red Ned and Dora could listen to the conversation.

"Now," said Khat, when he had finished his dinner and was enjoying a saucer of tea, "What are your plans?"

"I have no plans," said Midnite, looking sad.

"If I were you," said Khat, "I should be a bushranger."

"Would you, really?" said Midnite.

"I should call myself Captain Midnight," said Khat, "which is a fine name for a bushranger, but I should spell it M-I-D-N-I-T-E."

"Why?" asked Midnite.

也许他还算一个小伙子吧。他十七岁了，已经开始使用他父亲的剃刀，虽然说实话他没什么胡须可用剃刀剃的。每当他装模做样地剃胡子时卡特总嘲笑他，卡特要强多了，有着很漂亮的胡须。

好吧，米德莱继续边沉思边削木棍，卡特也继续盯着他看。过了一会儿，卡特说：“你很忧伤。”

“是的，”米德莱回答，“我忧伤，因为在这世上我没有父亲也没钱，除了这座房子和这片森林我一无所所有。”

“有我。”卡特说。

“当然，有你。”米德莱说。

“让我们先吃饭，”卡特说，“然后谈谈钱的事。”

于是米德莱走进厨房做好饭菜，他们在游廊上进餐，这样吉普、少校、红勒德和朵拉都能听见谈话了。

“好吧，”卡特说，这时他已吃完了饭，正品着一杯茶，“你打算怎么办？”

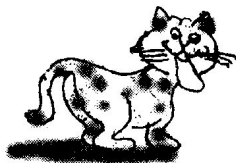
“我没什么打算。”米德莱说，他看上去很忧伤。

“如果我是你，”卡特说，“我就当一名强盗。”

“真的吗？”米德莱说。

“我将叫我自己午夜上尉，”卡特说，“这对强盗来说是个好名字，但我要把它拼写为舞夜。”

“为什么？”米德莱问。



"Because that is more fierce and romantic," said Khat. "There is nothing romantic about good spelling."

"Well," said Midnite, "that is an interesting plan, but what does a bushranger do?"

"He bushranges horses and cattle and sheep," said Khat, "and he holds up people's coaches and takes their money and their watches. Or their lives," Khat added, "but money and watches are more usual."

"If I bushrange horses and cattle and sheep," said Midnite, "where am I to put them? People would come looking for them."

"You must have a Secret Hideout," said Khat, "and I know the very place."

"Oh," said Midnite, "do you mean the Hidden Valley?"

"Of course," said Khat. "Nobody knows how to find it except us."

"That is a very interesting plan," said Midnite, looking much happier. "When shall we start being bushrangers?"

"Why not tomorrow?" said Khat. "We can take all the pots and pans and things that we need, and we can live in the caves of the Hidden Valley quite comfortably."

"Khat," said Midnite, "you are a very wise and handsome cat, and you can sleep in my bed for ever after, so long as you don't wash your face all night."

"Thank you," said Khat. "That is exactly what I was going to do."

The next day Midnite saddled Red Ned, and tied the pots and pans and food and blankets to the saddle, and they

“这样听起来更威严更浪漫，”卡特说，“没有什么比好的拼写更浪漫的了。”

“嗯，”米德莱说，“这是一个有趣的计划，但一名强盗该做些什么呢？”

“他抢夺马匹、牛羊，”卡特说，“他拦住人们的马车，拿走他们的钱财和怀表，或者夺去他们的性命，”卡特补充说，“但通常只拿钱和表。”

“如果我拦取了马匹和牛羊，”米德莱说，“我把它藏到哪儿呢？人们会来寻找它们的。”

“你必须有一个秘密的窝赃点，”卡特说，“我知道该找什么地方。”

“哦，”米德莱说，“你是指秘密峡谷吗？”

“当然，”卡特说，“除了我们谁也不知道怎样找到它。”

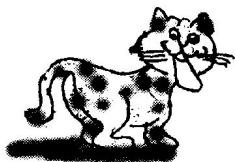
“这是一个非常有趣的计划，”米德莱说，他看起来已高兴多了，“我们什么时候开始做强盗呢？”

“为什么不在明天？”卡特说，“我们可以带上锅呀、盆呀所有有用的东西，很舒适地住在秘密峡谷的山洞里。”

“卡特，”米德莱说，“你是一只非常聪明漂亮的猫，从今以后只要你不整夜地洗脸你就可以睡在我的床上。”

“谢谢你，”卡特说，“这正是我想要的。”

第二天米德莱给红勒德装上鞍，将锅盆、食物和毯子都绑到马鞍上，大家就一齐向秘密谷



all set off for the Hidden Valley. Dora went first, and she was even sillier than usual, jumping around and running off into the bush and hiding, so that everyone got quite annoyed with her, and Gyp nipped her heels, and Major, who had a very bad temper sometimes, flew down and nipped her ear. In this fashion, chasing and scolding Dora all the way, they arrived at the Hidden Valley.

The Valley was like a great big paddock, and was a very secret place indeed. The steep rocky hills closed it in on three sides, and on the fourth side was a river, with red cliffs on the far bank of it. They were not cliffs of rock, but cliffs of red earth, and they looked very pretty when the sun shone on them. The only way into the Valley was through a gap in the hills so narrow that it only needed a gate across it to shut in the Valley completely and make it like a fenced field. In the side of the hills were big caves with rather clever paintings on the walls, made by the black people long ago. When Midnite had come to the biggest and most comfortable of these caves, Khat said: "Let us stop here, and make this cave our Hideout."

"Very well," said Midnite. And before long they had turned the cave into quite a nice sort of house.

"Now," said Khat, "you must make a gate across the track into the Hidden Valley. so that when we have bushranged our horses and cattle and sheep they will not be able to get out again."

All day Midnite laboured, building the gate, and when the sun was setting and the grass was glowing very green



出发了。朵拉走在最前面，她比平常更傻，四处乱跑乱跳，钻进灌木丛里躲了起来，每个人都生起她的气来，吉普咬她的脚跟，有时脾气很坏的上校则俯冲下来啄她的耳朵。就这样他们一路驱赶和责备着朵拉，到达了秘密谷。

秘密谷像一个非常大的牧场，而且的确是一个非常隐蔽的场所。峻峭的石山从三面把它包围起来，而在第四面是一条河流，河的对岸是红色的悬崖。这悬崖不是由石头而是由红土构成的，当太阳照射在上面时看了很美。进入峡谷的唯一途径是山的一个缺口，这缺口那么窄，以至于只需要在上面安个门就可以把峡谷完全封闭起来，就像一块栅栏围住的地。山的侧面有大岩洞，洞壁有很久以前黑人画的很出色的图画。当米德莱来到最大最舒适的一个岩洞时，卡特说：“停下来，把这个洞变成我们的窝脏处吧。”

“很好。”米德莱说。不一会儿他们就把这个洞穴改造成一个很好的住所。

“现在，”卡特说，“你必须在进入秘密谷的小道上做一道门，这样我们抢来马匹和牛羊后他们就再也跑不出去了。”

整整一天米德莱工作着，忙着建造大门，

