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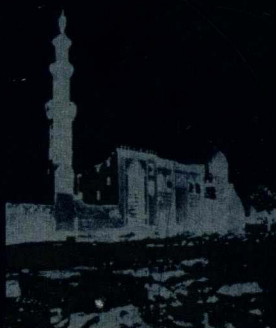
阿加莎·克里斯蒂  
经典侦探作品集

Agatha Christie

# 死亡约会

*Appointment with Death*

[英] 阿加莎·克里斯蒂 著



1897  
The Commercial Press  
商务印书馆



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Collins

经典侦探作品集

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2016年·北京

## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

死亡约会;英文/(英)克里斯蒂著.—北京:商务  
印书馆,2016

(阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集)

ISBN 978-7-100-11992-4

I.①死… II.①克… III.①英语—语言读物  
②侦探小说—英国—现代 IV.①H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2016)第 028468 号

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阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集

### 死亡约会

〔英〕阿加莎·克里斯蒂 著

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商务印书馆出版

(北京王府井大街 36 号 邮政编码 100710)

商务印书馆发行

北京中科印刷有限公司印刷

ISBN 978-7-100-11992-4

---

2016 年 8 月第 1 版 开本 850×1168 1/32

2016 年 8 月北京第 1 次印刷 印张 4 1/2

定价:31.80 元

Agatha Christie

## Appointment with Death

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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

billion + w.

**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



**Hercule Poirot**: 著名的比利时大侦探,目前正在休假

**Boynton 夫人**: 美国老太太,很有钱,正与家人在外旅行

**Lennox Boynton**: Boynton 夫人过继的大儿子,娶 Nadine 为妻

**Nadine Boynton**: Boynton 家族的远房亲戚,嫁 Lennox 为妻

**Raymond (Ray) Boynton**: Boynton 夫人过继的小儿子

**Carol Boynton**: Boynton 夫人过继的大女儿

**Ginevra Boynton**: Boynton 夫人的小女儿

**Sarah King**: 刚获得行医资格的年轻女士

**Theodore Gerard 医生**: 著名的法国医生

**Jefferson Cope**: Boynton 家的美国朋友,在 Nadine 结婚前便已认识她

**Westholme 夫人**: 知名的英国国会议员

**Amabel Pierce 小姐**: 中年女士,在有经济能力旅行之前曾给一些年幼的孩子当过老师

**Mahmoud**: 导游,负责照料前往佩特拉古城旅游和住宿的客人

**Carbury 上校**: 管理当地(包括佩特拉古城)的负责人

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Agatha Christie

*Appointment with Death*



# Part I



## Chapter 1

‘Don’t you agree that she’s got to be killed?’ The words seemed to hang in the still night air, before disappearing into the darkness.

It was Hercule Poirot’s first night in the city of Jerusalem, and he was shutting his hotel-room window – the night air was a danger to his health! – when he overheard<sup>①</sup> these words. He smiled. ‘Even on holiday, I am reminded of crime,’ he said to himself. ‘No doubt someone is talking about a play or a book.’

As he walked over to his bed, he thought about the voice he had heard. It was the voice of a man – or a boy – and had sounded nervous and excited. ‘I will remember that voice,’ said Hercule Poirot to himself, as he lay down to sleep. ‘Yes, I will remember.’

In the room next door, Raymond Boynton and his sister Carol looked out of their window into the dark-blue night sky. Raymond said again, ‘Don’t you agree that she’s got to be killed? It can’t go on<sup>②</sup> like this – it can’t. We must do something – and what else can we do?’

Carol said in a hopeless voice, ‘If only we could just leave somehow! But we can’t – we can’t.’

‘People would say we were crazy,’ said Raymond bitterly<sup>③</sup>. ‘They would wonder why we can’t just walk out –’

Carol said slowly, ‘Perhaps we are crazy!’

① overhear *v.* 无意中听到    ② go on 持续    ③ bitterly *adv.* 气愤地

‘Perhaps we are,’ agreed Raymond. ‘After all, we are calmly planning to kill our own mother!’

‘She isn’t our real mother!’ said Carol. ‘She’s our stepmother<sup>①</sup>!’

There was a pause<sup>②</sup>. ‘Do you still think she has to die?’ asked Raymond quietly.

‘Yes, I do,’ said Carol. ‘She’s mad — she must be. She — she wouldn’t treat us so badly, torture<sup>③</sup> us like this if she wasn’t mad. It’s lasted for years and years, and I don’t think it will ever stop. We keep saying, “She’ll die some time” — but she hasn’t died! I don’t think she will *ever* die, unless —’

‘Unless we kill her,’ said Raymond. ‘And you or I must do it — not our brother Lennox, or our sister Ginevra. They mustn’t be involved.’

‘And we must do it quickly,’ said Carol, ‘I’m really worried about Ginevra — she’s getting worse.’

‘And it’s not really wrong,’ said Raymond. ‘It’s just like killing a mad dog, before it hurts anyone else.’

Carol stood up suddenly, pushing back her red brown-hair from her face. ‘But we would still be sent to prison<sup>④</sup> if we were found out. How could we explain what mother is like? It would sound crazy — as if we were imagining it.’

‘Nobody will know,’ said Raymond. ‘I’ve got a plan. We’ll be safe.’

‘Ray,’ said Carol, ‘you’re different in some way. Something’s happened to you. Was it that girl you met on the train?’

‘No, of course not,’ said Raymond. ‘Carol, don’t talk non-

① stepmother *n.* 继母    ② pause *n.* 停顿    ③ torture *v.* 折磨

④ prison *n.* 监狱

sense<sup>①</sup>. Let's talk about my plan.'

'Are you sure it will work?' asked Carol.

'Yes, I am,' replied her brother. 'We must wait for the right opportunity, of course. And then — we'll all be free.'

'Free?' Carol looked up at the stars. Then suddenly she started to cry. 'It's such a lovely night, with the stars in the sky. If only we could be part of it all, like other people. But instead we are strange and twisted<sup>②</sup> and wrong. Even if mother dies — isn't it too late for us to change?'

'No, Carol, it's not too late,' said Raymond. 'But if you don't want to —'

'I do want to — we must do it,' said Carol. 'Because of the others — and especially Ginevra. We must save Ginevra!'

Raymond paused a moment. 'All right, we'll do it,' he said. 'I'll tell you my plan.'

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① nonsense *n.* 胡说八道    ② twisted *adj.* 扭曲的



## Chapter 2

Miss Sarah King was standing in the lounge<sup>①</sup> of the Solomon Hotel in Jerusalem, looking at the newspapers and magazines, when a tall middle-aged Frenchman entered the room and walked towards her. Sarah looked up and smiled, as she recognized the man who had helped her carry her suitcases at Cairo railway station. The Frenchman introduced himself as Dr Theodore Gerard.

‘Dr Theodore Gerard?’ Sarah’s eyes opened wide in surprise. ‘Oh! I’m so excited to meet you. I’ve just qualified as a doctor myself, and I’ve read all your books. Your opinions on mental illness and schizophrenia<sup>②</sup> are very interesting.’

‘I was just going to order some coffee,’ Dr Gerard smiled, amused at the girl’s enthusiasm. ‘Will you join me, Miss —?’

‘King. My name is Sarah King.’

They sat down in the lounge and Dr Gerard ordered some coffee. ‘Are you staying in Jerusalem long?’ he asked, admiring Sarah’s beautiful black hair and red lips.

‘Just for a few days,’ said Sarah. ‘Then I want to go to the famous rose-red city of Petra — it’s carved<sup>③</sup> into the rock, I believe, and I think it takes about a week to get there and back.’

‘Aha! I too was thinking of visiting Petra, if I have time,’ said Dr Gerard.

Just then a group of people entered the lounge and sat down. Sarah looked at them with interest. ‘Do you see that family of

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① lounge *n.* (宾馆等处的)大堂    ② schizophrenia *n.* 精神分裂症

③ carve *v.* 雕刻



Americans?’ she asked Dr Gerard quietly. ‘They were on the same train from Cairo as us.’

Dr Gerard looked at the family. First he saw a tall man of about thirty, with a pleasant-looking face. Then he saw a good-looking younger boy and girl – obviously brother and sister – who both looked nervous and excited. There was another girl who was even younger – she was beautiful, with red-gold hair – and another woman, who was young and calm, with dark hair and a pale face. But at the centre of the group there was an old woman – with a large, swollen<sup>①</sup> body. Dr Gerard thought she looked like a huge spider in the middle of a web<sup>②</sup>!

‘Who are they?’ Dr Gerard asked Sarah.

‘The family name is Boynton,’ Sarah replied. ‘There is the mother, married son, his wife, one younger son and two younger daughters. They all seem very strange. They don’t speak to anyone else, and they don’t do anything unless the old woman – the mother – says so. They look so scared – so afraid of her. It’s not right!’

‘Have you spoken to them?’ Dr Gerard asked.

‘I spoke to the younger son on the train,’ said Sarah. ‘It was peculiar. He was very excited to speak to me – but also afraid. He’s at least twenty three or four, but he seems very young. It isn’t normal.’

Dr Gerard smiled. ‘Is anyone really “normal”?’ he asked.

Just then the younger son, Raymond Boynton, passed Sarah’s chair as he fetched a magazine. Sarah looked up at him and asked, ‘Have you been sightseeing today?’

Raymond jumped nervously and his face went red. ‘Oh – oh, yes, certainly. I –’ Then suddenly – as if a needle had been

① swollen *adj.* 肿胀的    ② web *n.* (蜘蛛)网