

The Underground City

英汉
对照
全译本

[法] Jules Verne 儒勒·凡尔纳 / 著

地下之城

远方出版社

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导 读

《地下之城》又有译本名为《黑印度》。

读过儒勒·凡尔纳多部作品的人会有所了解，凡尔纳的科幻作品涉及范围极广：海洋、太空、天空，在各个空间都有他所构思的奇幻故事。这一次，我们的故事发生在地下。是的，地下1500尺，所以名字叫做《地下之城》。

“地下之城”其实是一个煤矿，我们知道矿工挖煤是在地道中进行的。这篇故事即在此基础上构思。一切发生在一个巨型的、天然形成的地下煤矿里。人们在里面居住、工作，恰如一个城市。至于它丰富的资源是一笔巨大的财富，如文中所说，简直比得上“东方的印度”，所以又称黑印度。

在黑暗的地下之城里，居住着一家矿工，他们不懈地努力寻找着新矿脉，尽管徒劳地找了十年，但他们从未放弃，并坚信总会找到。于是，这一天，奇迹发生了，他们真的找到了一个巨大的矿脉。但是，自从这一天起，神秘事件不断发生，从爱丁堡赶来的前任管理者卷入其中。飘摇的鬼火、荒废的古堡、会诅咒人的灯塔夫人，这一切使地下之城似乎变成了一座鬼城，而苏格兰乡间流传的神话更为这些神秘事件增添了几分灵异色彩。

地下之城的故事就是由一步步破解这些秘密逐渐展开，我们可以从中看到正义的史塔尔先生、勇敢的哈利、善良的西蒙夫妇、乐观的杰克、天使一般的奈尔和魔鬼一样的西尔法克斯，众多性格各异的人物，出人意料的情节安排。总之这篇小说不失为凡尔纳的一篇杰作。

另外，《地下之城》与凡尔纳的其它作品相比，在地理历史方面，虽然本篇亦有很多描写，但比之较为有名的几部会略为逊色，而故事可读性可能会更强一些，情节设计也更为吸引读者。

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Chapter 1

Contradictory Letters

"To Mr. J. R. Starr, Engineer, 30 Canongate, Edinburgh.

"If Mr. James Starr will come to-morrow to the Aberfoyle coal-mines, Dochart pit, Yarrow shaft, a communication of an interesting nature will be made to him.

"Mr. James Starr will be awaited for, the whole day, at the Callander station, by Harry Ford, son of the old overman Simon Ford.

"He is requested to keep this invitation secret. "

Such was the letter which James Starr received by the first post, on the 3rd December, 18-, the letter bearing the Aberfoyle postmark, county of Stirling, Scotland.

The engineer's curiosity was excited to the highest pitch. It never occurred to him to doubt whether this letter might not be a hoax. For many years he had known Simon Ford, one of the former foremen of the Aberfoyle mines, of which he, James Starr, had for twenty years, been the manager, or, as he would be termed in English coal-mines, the viewer. James Starr was a strongly-constituted-man, on whom his fifty-five years weighed no more heavily than if they had been forty. He belonged to an old Edinburgh family, and was one of its most distinguished members. His labors did credit to the body of engineers who are gradually devouring the carboniferous subsoil of the United Kingdom, as much at Cardiff and Newcastle, as in the southern counties of Scotland. However, it was more particularly in the depths of the mysterious mines of Aberfoyle, which border on the Alloa mines and occupy part of the county

第一章

两封矛盾的信

“爱丁堡，坎农门 30 号，工程师 J·R·史塔尔先生。

如果詹姆斯·史塔尔先生明天来到阿柏福伊尔煤矿多查特煤仓的耶鲁矿井，他将获悉一件令他本能地感兴趣的消息。

前任工头西蒙·福特之子哈利·福特明天将一整天在卡兰德火车站恭候詹姆斯·史塔尔先生的到来。

恳请他能对此邀请保密。”

这就是 18...年 12 月 3 日那天詹姆斯·史塔尔收到的由当天首次邮班带来的信，信封上盖着苏格兰斯特林郡阿柏福伊尔邮局的邮戳。

工程师的好奇心被激发到极点。他从未想过这封信可能是一场骗局。他已经认识西蒙·福特好多年了，他是阿柏福伊尔矿的前任工头之一。詹姆斯·史塔尔，则曾经当过 20 年该矿的管理者——在英国煤矿里人们将这职位称为“观众”二詹姆斯·史塔尔身体强壮，已经 55 岁了，但看上去只有 40 岁左右。他出身于一个古老的爱丁堡家庭并是该家庭的最杰出成员之一。他的业绩为这些蚕食着联合王国地下碳层的工程师们组成的可敬的同业工会带来了荣誉，他们不仅在卡迪夫和纽卡斯尔开采，同时也在苏格兰南部地区开采。然而，尤其使史塔尔的名字广为人知的是阿柏福伊尔

of Stirling, that the name of Starr had acquired the greatest renown. There, the greater part of his existence had been passed. Besides this, James Starr belonged to the Scottish Antiquarian Society, of which he had been made president. He was also included amongst the most active members of the Royal Institution; and the *«Edinburgh Review»* frequently published clever articles signed by him. He was in fact one of those practical men to whom is due the prosperity of England. He held a high rank in the old capital of Scotland, which not only from a physical but also from a moral point of view, well deserves the name of the Northern Athens.

We know that the English have given to their vast extent of coal-mines a very significant name. They very justly call them the "Black Indies," and these Indies have contributed perhaps even more than the Eastern Indies to swell the surprising wealth of the United Kingdom.

At this period, the limit of time assigned by professional men for the exhaustion of coalmines was far distant and there was no dread of scarcity. There were still extensive mines to be worked in the two Americas. The manu-factories, appropriated to so many different uses, locomotives, steamers, gas works, &c. , were not likely to fail for want of the mineral fuel; but the consumption had so increased during the last few years, that certain beds had been exhausted even to their smallest veins. Now deserted, these mines perforated the ground with their useless shafts and forsaken galleries. This was exactly the case with the pits of Aberfoyle.

Ten years before, the last butt had raised the last ton of coal from this colliery. The underground working stock, traction engines, trucks which run on rails along the galleries, subterranean tramways, frames to support the shaft, pipes - in

的那些神秘的煤矿的井下，这些煤矿和阿洛厄矿毗邻并占据着斯特林郡的一部分，他在那里生活了许多年。除此之外，詹姆斯·史塔尔还是苏格兰考古学家协会成员并担任该协会的主席。同时他也是“皇家协会”最活跃的成员中的一个，《爱丁堡印象》杂志经常发表由他署名的优秀文章。他的确是一个实践家。这些人对英国的繁荣做出了很大贡献。他在这个古老的苏格兰首府名列前茅，不仅从物质的角度看是如此，从道德的角度看，他更堪称“北方的雅典娜”。

我们知道，英国人为他们辽阔的煤田起了一个意义深长的称呼。他们称之为“黑印度”，而这个印度，对增长联合王国的惊人财富所作的贡献，甚至比东方的印度还大。

在这一时期，离那些专业人士所确定的煤矿采尽的时间界限还很远，所以不必担心煤炭短缺。新旧两个大陆仍有大量煤炭资源可供开采。用于各行各业的各种工厂，火车头、移动式内燃机、轮船、煤气等虽然消耗大量的煤，但还不会造成这种矿产资源的短缺。但是近些年来，消耗增加得如此之快，以至于某些矿床被采掘得只剩下贫瘠的矿脉了。这些如今已报废的矿，在地面上留下了毫无用处的坑坑沟沟。这正是阿帕福伊尔煤矿的现状。

十年前，最后的一个抓斗搬走了这个矿层的最后一吨煤。“井下”的工作设备，牵引机车，由矿车组成的地下列车，地下有轨电车，通向采掘井的楼梯井，管道——总而言之，

short, all that constituted the machinery of a mine had been brought up from its depths. The exhausted mine was like the body of a huge fantastically-shaped mastodon, from which all the organs of life have been taken, and only the skeleton remains.

Nothing was left but long wooden ladders, down the Yarrow shaft - the only one which now gave access to the lower galleries of the Dochart pit. Above ground, the sheds, formerly sheltering the outside works, still marked the spot where the shaft of that pit had been sunk, it being now abandoned, as were the other pits, of which the whole constituted the mines of Aberfoyle.

It was a sad day, when for the last time the workmen quitted the mine, in which they had lived for so many years. The engineer, James Starr, had collected the hundreds of workmen which composed the active and courageous population of the mine. Overmen, brakemen, putters, wastemen, barrowmen, masons, smiths, carpenters, outside and inside laborers, women, children, and old men, all were collected in the great yard of the Dochart pit, formerly heaped with coal from the mine.

Many of these families had existed for generations in the mine of old Aberfoyle; they were now driven to seek the means of subsistence elsewhere, and they waited sadly to bid farewell to the engineer.

James Starr stood upright, at the door of the vast shed in which he had for so many years superintended the powerful machines of the shaft. Simon Ford, the foreman of the Dochart pit, then fifty-five years of age, and other managers and overseers, surrounded him. James Starr took off his hat. The miners, cap in hand, kept a profound silence. This farewell

所有的采煤设备都被从煤仓的深处搬了出来并被丢弃在地面上。被挖空了的煤矿犹如一个体积巨大的庞然大物的尸体，被人们从体内取走了各种生命的器官，只剩下一副骨架了。

现在只留下一个长长的木梯，下到耶鲁井里，这是现在惟一能进入多查特煤仓下层平巷的通道。在外面，那些依然标示着上述煤仓挖掘地点的以前用于掩蔽“露天”工程的帐篷，此时已同别的煤仓以前曾有过的一样，也被抛弃了。这一切构成了阿柏福伊尔煤矿的全貌。

这是个凄凉的日子，当矿工们最后一次离开他们曾生活多年的煤矿时。工程师詹姆斯·史塔尔把几千名工人召集到了一起，这是一群勤劳勇敢充满活力的煤矿工人、采煤工、矿车推运工、司机、填土工、矿井坑道支架的装设工、养路工、售票员、卸车工、铁匠、木匠，所有的人，妇女、孩子、老人、井下工人和露天工人，都聚集到昔日装满了煤的多查特煤仓的巨大的院子里。

这些人中有许多家庭在老阿柏福伊尔煤矿已生活了好几代，他们现在又不得不去别的地方另谋生计了。在他们永远离开这里之前等着和工程师道别。

詹姆斯·史塔尔笔直地站在宽敞的单坡层顶门口，就是在这儿，他曾管理过多年采掘井的那些功率强大的蒸汽机。多查特煤仓的工头西蒙·福特那时 55 岁，他和另几个管理者和监工围在他的身边。詹姆斯·史塔尔摘下帽子。矿工们取下帽子，保持着深深的沉默。这道别的一幕十分感

scene was of a touching character, not wanting in grandeur.

"My friends, " said the engineer, "the time has come for us to separate. The Aberfoyle mines, which for so many years have united us in a common work, are now exhausted. All our researches have not led to the discovery of a new vein, and the last block of coal has just been extracted from the Dochart pit. " And in confirmation of his words, James Starr pointed to a lump of coal which had been kept at the bottom of a basket.

"This piece of coal, my friends, " resumed James Starr, "is like the last drop of blood which has flowed through the veins of the mine! We shall keep it, as the first fragment of coal is kept, which was extracted a hundred and fifty years ago from the bearings of Aberfoyle. Between these two pieces, how many generations of workmen have succeeded each other in our pits! Now, it is over! The last words which your engineer will address to you are a farewell. You have lived in this mine, which your hands have emptied. The work has been hard, but not without profit for you. Our great family must disperse, and it is not probable that the future will ever again unite the scattered members. But do not forget that we have lived together for a long time, and that it will be the duty of the miners of Aberfoyle to help each other. Your old masters will not forget you either.

When men have worked together, they must never be stranger to each other again.

We shall keep our eye on you, and wherever you go, our recommendations shall follow you. Farewell then, my friends, and may Heaven be with you! "

So saying, James Starr wrung the horny hand of the oldest miner, whose eyes were dim with tears. Then the overmen of the different pits came forward to shake hands with him, (whilst

人，又不失庄重。

“朋友们，”工程师说，“我们道别的时刻到了。阿柏福伊尔的煤矿，那么多年通过共同劳动把我们紧紧联系起来，现在它已被开采完了。我们还没找到新的矿脉，而最后的一块煤，刚刚从多查特煤仓挖下。”为了证实他的话，詹姆斯·史塔尔指给矿工们看留在一个抓斗底部的一堆煤。

“这片煤，朋友们，”詹姆斯·史塔尔接着说，“就像流动在煤矿的血管里的最后一滴血！我们将把它保存起来，就像我们保存着 150 年前从阿柏福伊尔的矿床挖下的第一块煤一样。在这两块煤之间，有多少代工人曾在我们的煤仓里交接啊！现在，结束了！你们的工程师对你们说的最后的话是道别的话。你们曾经靠矿生活，它在你们的手下被挖空了。工作曾很辛苦，但并非没有收益。我们这个大家庭必须解散。散开了的成员们今后永不可能再聚到一起。但是，请不要忘了我们曾长期生活在一起，不要忘了在阿柏福伊尔的矿工之间有义务相互帮助。你们以前的主人们也不会忘了你们的。

曾经一起工作过的人们是永远不会互相视为陌生人的。

我们将关注着你们，不管你们去哪里，我们的推荐都跟你们。再见吧，朋友们，愿上苍保信你们！”

这样说着，詹姆斯·史塔尔抱住了矿上最年长的工人，禁不住泪眼朦胧。接着，不同煤仓的工头们走上来和工程师

the miners waved their caps, shouting, "Farewell, James Starr, our master and our friend! "

This farewell would leave a lasting remembrance in all these honest hearts. Slowly and sadly the population quitted the yard. The black soil of the roads leading to the Dochart pit resounded for the last time to the tread of miners' feet, and silence succeeded to the bustling life which had till then filled the Aberfoyle mines.

One man alone remained by James Starr. This was the overman, Simon Ford. Near him stood a boy, about fifteen years of age, who for some years already had been employed down below.

James Starr and Simon Ford knew and esteemed each other well. "Good-by, Simon, " said the engineer.

"Good-by, Mr. Starr, " replied the overman, "let me add, till we meet again! "

"Yes, till we meet again. Ford! " answered James Starr. "You know that I shall be always glad to see you, and talk over old times. "

"I know that, Mr. Starr. "

"My house in Edinburgh is always open to you. "

"It's a long way off, is Edinburgh! " answered the man shaking his head. "Ay, a long way from the Dochart pit. "

"Along way, Simon? Where do you mean to live? "

"Even here, Mr. Starr! We're not going to leave the mine, our good old nurse, just because her milk is dried up! My wife, my boy, and myself, we mean to remain faithful to her! "

"Good-by then, Simon, " replied the engineer, whose voice, in spite of himself, betrayed some emotion.

"No, I tell you, it's till we meet again, Mr. Starr, and

握手，与此同时，矿工们挥舞着帽子喊着：“再见，詹姆斯·史塔尔，我们的主人和朋友！”

这一告别将在这一颗颗诚挚的心里留下永远的回忆。人群悲伤地渐渐离开院子。通向多查特煤仓的那些小路上的黑土在矿工们的脚下最后一次发出了声响，寂静接替了直到那时还充满着阿帕福伊尔煤矿的那种嘈杂的生活。

只有一个人留在詹姆斯·史塔尔身边。那是工头西蒙·福特。在他身边站着一个15岁的小伙子，他被雇用在井下工程已经好几年了。

詹姆斯·史塔尔和西蒙·福特相互十分了解，都很尊重对方。 “再见，西蒙，”工程师说。

“再见，詹姆斯先生，”工头说，“让我再补充一句：直到再次见面！”

“是的，直到再次见面，西蒙！”詹姆斯·史塔尔接着说，“您知道，我将一直乐于见到你并一起谈谈从前的日子！”

“我知道，詹姆斯先生。”

“我在爱丁堡的家永远向您敞开着！”

“太远了，爱丁堡！”工头摇着头答道，“哦！离多查特煤仓很长的路。”

“很长的路？西蒙，您打算住哪儿？”

“就这几，詹姆斯先生！我们不会离开煤矿，它就是我们的好心的老奶妈，就因为它的奶干了！我妻子，我儿子和我，我们会继续忠于它的！”

“那就别了，西蒙，”工程师答道，声音便咽了。

“不，我再对您说一遍，再见，直到再见面，詹姆斯先

not Just 'good-by,' " returned the foreman. "Mark my words, Aberfoyle will see you again! "

The engineer did not try to dispel¹¹² the man's illusion. He patted Harry's head, again wrung the father's hand, and left the mine.

All this had taken place ten years ago; but, notwithstanding the wish which the overman had expressed to see him again, during that time Starr had heard nothing of him. It was after ten years of separation that he got this letter from Simon Ford, requesting him to take without delay the road to the old Aberfoyle colliery.

A communication¹¹³ of an interesting nature, what could it be? Dochart pit. Yarrow shaft! What recollections of the past these names brought back to him! Yes, that was a fine time, that of work, of struggle, - the best part of the engineer's life. Starr re-read his letter. He pondered over¹¹⁴ it in all its bearings. He much regretted that just a line more had not been added by Ford. He wished he had not been quite so laconic.

Was it possible that the old foreman had discovered some new vein? No! Starr remembered with what minute care the mines had been explored before the definite cessation¹¹⁵ of the works. He had himself proceeded to the lowest soundings without finding the least trace in the soil, burrowed in every direction. They had even attempted to find coal under strata which are usually below it, such as the Devonian red sandstone, but without result. James Starr had therefore abandoned the mine with the absolute conviction that it did not contain another bit of coal.

"No, " he repeated, "no! How is it possible that anything which could have escaped my researches, should be revealed to those of Simon Ford. However, the old overman must well