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Agatha Christie

# 地狱之旅

*Destination Unknown*

[英] 阿加莎·克里斯蒂 著



商务印书馆  
The Commercial Press



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〔英〕阿加莎·克里斯蒂 著

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Agatha Christie

## Destination Unknown

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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。

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2015年5月

## 作者简介



Agatha Christie

**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



**Mr Jessop:** 为英国情报部门工作

**Colonel Wharton:** 为英国情报部门工作

**Thomas (Tom) Betterton:** 著名英国科学家,发现了 ZE 裂变。起初与 Elsa 结婚,后又与 Olive 结婚

**Dr Mannheim:** Thomas Betterton 的第一任妻子 Elsa 的父亲, Boris Glydr 的叔叔

**Olive Betterton:** 科学家 Thomas Betterton 的新任(第二任)妻子

**Walter Griffiths:** Thomas Betterton 的美国朋友

**Carol Speeder:** Thomas Betterton 的美国朋友

**Major Boris Glydr:** 来自波兰, Thomas Betterton 第一任妻子 Elsa 的堂弟

**Hilary Craven:** 在摩洛哥卡萨布兰卡旅行的女子(她的女儿 Brenda 刚刚去世,她的丈夫 Nigel 抛弃了她)

**Mrs Baker:** 在摩洛哥旅行的美国中年女子

**Miss Hetherington:** 在摩洛哥旅行的英国中年女子

**Henri Laurier:** 在摩洛哥工作的法国男子

**Mr Aristides:** 希腊老人,世界上最富有的人之一

**Andrew (Andy) Peters:** 美国科学家

**Torquil Ericsson:** 挪威科学家

**Dr Barron:** 法国科学家

**Helga Needheim:** 德国科学家

**Dr Van Heidem:** “单位”(the Unit)的副主管

**Dr Rubec:** 在“单位”工作的瑞士医生

**Miss Jenson:** 在“单位”为主管工作的女子

**Mademoiselle La Roche:** 在“单位”负责服装部门

**Dr Simon Murchison:** 与 Tom Betterton 共事的科学家, 是 Bianca 的丈夫

**Bianca Murchison:** Simon Murchison 的意大利妻子

**Monsieur Leblanc:** 为法国情报部门工作, 是 Jessop 的同事

**The Director:** 掌管“单位”的男子

**Mohammed:** 在“单位”工作的摩洛哥男子

**French Minister:** 法国政府内的要人

**American Ambassador:** 在摩洛哥代表美国的要人

**Journalist:** 为著名报纸撰稿的男子

**Lord Alverstoke:** 退休的英国最高法官

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**Agatha Christie**

***Destination Unknown***



## Chapter 1



Mr Jessop sat at his desk. He was a man who looked as if he lived indoors<sup>①</sup>— a man of desks and paper — and his office was at the end of a long underground corridor. Although Jessop's smooth, pale face had no expression, his eyes were tired.

Walking with nervous energy up and down Jessop's office was Colonel<sup>②</sup> Wharton. The Colonel had dark hair and a small moustache. 'Reports!' he exclaimed loudly, 'All we get is security reports and they're all useless!'

Jessop looked down at the papers and documents on his desk. They all read, 'Betterton, Thomas'.

'Reports — not just from Rome,' continued the Colonel, 'but from nearly every capital city in the world!' He sat down abruptly<sup>③</sup>. 'We've got to find Thomas Betterton,' he insisted. 'He's like all these other top scientists that have disappeared recently — we still don't know where they are. And we don't know how or why they disappear, either,' he added. 'Have you read the latest information on Betterton from America?'

Jessop nodded. 'Betterton worked in America before the war,' he said. 'His work was good, but ordinary. When the scientist Dr Mannheim escaped to America from Germany, Betterton worked as his assistant, and he later married Dr Mannheim's daughter, Elsa. After Dr Mannheim died, Betterton worked on his own, and became very famous when he discovered ZE Fission<sup>④</sup>— one of the most brilliant and important

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① indoors *adv.* 在室内    ② colonel *n.* 上校    ③ abruptly *adv.* 莽撞地

④ fission *n.* 裂变

discoveries about nuclear science<sup>①</sup> that's ever been made.'

'I don't understand ZE Fission at all,' said Colonel Wharton, 'or anything about atom bombs or nuclear science. All I know is that these scientists now have the power to destroy the world!'

'Betterton became one of the most important scientists in the world,' continued Jessop. 'But his wife Elsa died soon after their marriage and Betterton decided to come to England. He's been working at the nuclear laboratory<sup>②</sup> in Harwell for the last eighteen months. Just six months ago he married again.'

'What about Betterton's second wife?' asked Wharton. 'Anything of interest?'

Jessop shook his head. 'We can't find anything,' he said. 'She's the daughter of a local lawyer and worked in an office before her marriage.'

'What do the people at Harwell say about Betterton?' Wharton asked.

'They said that he was a pleasant man,' Jessop replied. 'He worked on the practical uses of ZE Fission — nothing new or original.'

Both men were silent for a moment, as they looked at the big pile of security reports on the desk. 'Was Betterton thoroughly investigated before he arrived in England?' asked Colonel Wharton.

'Yes, of course. Everything was satisfactory.'

'And Betterton's been here eighteen months,' said Wharton thoughtfully. 'Sometimes these scientists get nervous and upset because they're always watched so carefully — for security reasons, of course. They begin to dream of an ideal world — peace

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① nuclear science *n.* 核科学    ② laboratory *n.* 实验室

and freedom for everyone. They want to share their secrets and their work with all the world, for the good of humanity<sup>①</sup>! That's exactly the moment when someone can persuade them to sell their secrets and betray<sup>②</sup> their country.'

'It would help if I knew more about Betterton,' said Jessop, looking again at the papers on his desk. 'Not about his work, but about the everyday things — what made him laugh, the people he admired or what made him angry.'

'Can't his wife tell you that?' asked Wharton.

'She hasn't helped me much so far,' said Jessop. 'She says she doesn't know anything about her husband's disappearance — she says she thinks he's been kidnapped<sup>③</sup>.'

'What's she like?'

'She seems like a very ordinary woman,' said Jessop. 'She's waiting to see me now. I'll ask her the same questions again and see if she can tell me anything new.'

Wharton nodded. 'It's the only way,' he said. 'Let me know if you learn anything interesting.' He left the room as Jessop picked up the phone and told his assistant to send in Mrs Betterton.

Mrs Olive Betterton was a tall woman of about twenty-seven. The first thing you noticed about her was her beautiful red hair. Because her hair was so lovely, you didn't really notice what her face looked like. She had blue-green eyes and light eyelashes<sup>④</sup>.

'Oh, Mr Jessop,' she said breathlessly<sup>⑤</sup> as she sat down, 'is there any news?'

'No, I'm sorry,' said Jessop gently. 'There's no definite

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① humanity *n.* 人类 ② betray *v.* 背叛 ③ kidnap *v.* 绑架 ④ eyelash *n.* 睫毛 ⑤ breathlessly *adv.* (令人)屏息地

news. I just wanted to ask you the same questions in case you remember some small detail that could help.'

'Yes. Yes, I understand,' said Mrs Betterton. 'I don't mind. It's better than sitting at home — wondering. Ask me any questions you like.'

'So the last time you saw your husband was on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, when he left to go to a conference in Paris?'

'Yes.'

'He went to the first two days of the conference,' said Jessop, 'but on the third day he told a colleague that he was going on a boat trip on the river Seine. Does that seem likely?'

'It is a little strange that he missed the conference,' admitted Mrs Betterton.

'He didn't return to his hotel that evening,' continued Jessop, 'and he didn't travel to another country using his own passport. Do you know if he had a second passport — in another name, perhaps?'

'No, no, of course not. And he wouldn't just go away without telling me.'

'Was his health all right?' asked Jessop.

'Yes. He was working hard and sometimes felt tired, that's all,' said Mrs Betterton. 'He wasn't worried or unhappy about anything, if that's what you mean. Something must have happened to him.' She opened her handbag and took out a handkerchief<sup>①</sup>. 'It's all so awful,' she said, her voice shaking. 'Something's happened to Tom. He's been kidnapped or — or he's dead.'

'Now please, Mrs Betterton — there's no need to think that your husband is dead. We would have found his body by now.'

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① handkerchief *n.* 手帕