A for Andromeda

太空仙女

Fred Hoyle & John Elliot 原著　商　务　印　书　馆

科学文艺英语注释读物

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太 空 仙 女

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内 容 简 介

天体物理学家莱茵哈特领导的研究小组在波尔德肖山地研制了世界上最大的射电望远镜。他们在试验过程中收到来自 200 光年以外的信息。精通电子计算机的弗兰明博士发现,这是从仙女星座发射来的整套建造巨型计算机的设计方案、指令码和数据。经过大家的努力,一台特殊的计算机在桑尼森建成了。随后,生物化学家道尼教授也参加了这项科研工作,培养出了世界上第一个人造生命——一个独眼怪物。接着又培养出外表与人类几乎相同的一个姑娘,取名为安德洛墨达(意为"仙女")。这位"仙女"外貌端庄,才智过人,而且与计算机之间有一种神秘的联系。她接受了研制自控截击火箭的任务,一举成功地击落了在英国上空侦察的来历不明的飞行器。正当人们陶醉于这台计算机带来的种种奇迹般的成就时,头脑清醒的弗兰明博士却察觉到计算机和安德洛墨达都是外太空的高级智慧生物用以控制人类的工具。在关键时刻,他依靠大家的帮助,果断地击毁了整台巨型计算机,取得了反控制斗争的初步胜利。

苏联影片《Anatomia》剧照,图为几位受审讯者——译者。

译 注 说 明

《太空仙女》*最初是伦敦广播公司的电视连续剧。由于主题新颖，情节动人，不久即有小说问世。小说中的"仙女"——安德洛墨达是外太空的高级智慧生物创造出来的。他们在地球上创造这么一个外形与人类相似的生物，目的就是通过她以及一台特殊的巨型计算机来控制人类。故事情节沿着以弗兰明为代表的科学家进行的反控制斗争这一主线逐步展开。这一个控制与反控制的斗争，又与正直科学家与某些政客、商人的冲突交织在一起。

为了节省篇幅，译注本删去了原小说的第一章，其它各章也删除了一些与故事内容关系不大的细节，删节处用删节号表示。

原书第一章的主要情节如下：

在波尔德肖山地，设有世界上最大和最新的射电望远镜。它的分辨能力超过当时所有同类装置的15倍至20倍。这一奇迹般的装置是著名天体物理学家莱茵哈特教授及其助手——两位青年科学家弗兰明和布里奇共同努力创建的。正当射电望远镜进行接收试验时，通晓各种电码的弗兰明博士发现在收到的信息中，有一种奇特的信号。它象一条虚线，有间隔地持续着。原来这信号来自相距亿万英里以外的仙女星座——安德洛墨达。

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* 本书原名 A for Andromeda 的字面意思是"安德洛墨达——伏"。

CONTENTS

Chapter I Arrival (Abridged)

Chapter II Announcement

In the late nineteen-sixties, when these things[1] happened, the Ministry of Science had been moved into a new glasswalled building near Whitehall.[2]

The morning after the message had started to come through at Bouldershaw Fell,[3] the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Michael Osborne,[4] sat in his office talking to General Charles G. Vandenberg[5] of the U.S. Air Force.

They were speaking about Whelan.[6] A note about him hung from Osborne's hand.

'I can't do anything now.'

'There is a kind of priority......' Osborne called his secretary through the intercom[7].

'The Defence Committee are restless,' Vandenberg observed.

'You can tell them we'll manage.'

Osborne gave the note to the secretary as she came in.

'Get someone to look after that, will you?'

She took it and put a folder of papers on his desk.

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1. these things: 指在第一章中发生的事情。青年科学家弗兰明，利用在波尔德肖山地新建的世界上最强大的射电望远镜，接收到来自安德洛墨达星座 (Andromeda) 的无线电信号。   2. Whitehall: 白厅。伦敦的一条街道，英国政府机关所在地，常用于代表英国政府。   3. Bouldershaw Fell ['bəuldəʃɔ: fel]:波尔德肖山地(书中所说世界上最大一台射电望远镜的所在地)。fell 与专有名词连用，作为地名，表示 "...山"、"...岗" 等。   4. Michael Osborne ['maikl 'ɔzbən]: 迈克尔·奥斯本，英国国务常务次官。   5. Charles G. Vandenberg ['tʃɑ:lz dʒi: 'vændənbə:g]: 查尔斯·G. 范登堡,美国空军上将。 6. Whelan ['wi:lən]: 怀尔伦,青年科学家。第一章中说到,公开身份为新闻发布官的裴德·亚当曼森小姐来到波尔德肖山地工作时,被过去在澳大利亚相识的怀尔伦认出来了。裴德害怕暴露自己的保安官身份,向上级作了汇报，并要求将怀尔伦调走。   7. intercom ['intəkɔ.n]: intercommunication 之略。

'Your papers for Bouldershaw.'

'Thanks. Is my car here?'

'Yes, Mr. Osborne.'

He opened the folder and read:

'The Minister's party will arrive at Bouldershaw Fell at 3.15 p.m. and will be received by Professor Reinhart[1].'

'That's tomorrow,' remarked Vandenberg. 'Are you walking up?'

'I'm going a day early to meet Reinhart.' Osborne picked up the folder. 'Can I give you a lift?'

'Why[2], thank you.'

After they had gone, Fleming[3] phoned through from Bouldershaw Fell, but it was too late.

<p style="text-align:center">*   *   *</p>

Judy[4] arrived at the radio-telescope just before Osborne and Reinhart. She had a quiet talk with Harries in the hall.

'What about Bridger[5]?'

Harries[6] tried to look as though he were polishing a doorhandle.

'Two or three visits to a bookie[7] in Bradford. Apart from that, nothing.'

'We'd better watch him.'

'I'm watching him.'

When Osborne and Reinhart arrived, they took her into the

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1. Professor Reinhart ['rainhɑːt]: 莱茵哈特教授，60多岁的一位老科学家，波尔德肖射电望远镜研究小组的领导人。 2. Why:〔感叹词〕这里表示赞成，作"好的"解。 3. Fleming (Dr. John Fleming [dʒɔn 'flemin]): 约翰·弗兰明博士，青年科学家，精通计算机，深得其领导莱茵哈特教授的赏识。 4. Judy (Judy Adamson ['dʒuːdi 'ædəmsn]): 裘德·亚当曼森，英国科学部保安官，公开身份是新闻发布官。 5. Bridger (Dr.Dennis Bridger ['denis 'bridʒə]): 德尼斯·布里奇博士，青年科学家，莱茵哈特教授领导下的科研小组成员，弗兰明的好友和同事。 6. Harries ['hæris]: 哈里斯，英国军事情报局保安官，公开身份是清洁工。 7. bookie: 西方常有人以竞赛的胜负、特别是赛马的结果来打赌。 bookie 就是赛马场从登记赌注获利的人，又称 bookmaker 或 turf accountant。

control room with them. The place was quiet and almost empty; only Harvey[1] sat at the desk, surrounded by papers, cigarette ends, and empty drinking cups. Reinhart looked annoyed.

'You'll have to keep this place clean. You look as if you've been up all night[2], Harvey.'

'I have, sir. So have Dr. Fleming and Dr. Bridger[3].'

'Having trouble?'

'Not exactly,[4] sir. We've been tracking.'

'On whose instructions?'

'Dr. Fleming's.' Harvey was quite casual about it.

'Why wasn't I told?' Reinhart turned to Osborne and Judy. 'Did you know about this?'

Judy shook her head.

'Fleming appears to make his own rules[5],' observed Osborne.

'Where is he?' Reinhart demanded.

'In through there.' Harvey pointed to the equipment room. 'With Dr. Bridger.'

'Then ask him to spare me a minute[6].'

While Harvey spoke into the intercom, Reinhart walked to and fro on his small feet.

'What were you tracking?' he asked.

'A source in Andromeda[7].'

'M. 31[8]?'

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1. Harvey ['hɑ:vi]: 哈维,科学家,莱茵哈特教授领导下的科研小组成员。 2. be up all night: 通夜未睡。 3. So have Dr. Fleming and Dr. Bridger: so 此处用来代替 have been up ..., 即: Dr. Fleming and Dr. Bridger have been up all night, too. 4. not exactly: 也可以说 not really, 所表示的否定在语气上比较缓和。 5. make his own rules: 自作主张。 rules 这里是"决定"、"控制"、"支配"的意思。 6. to spare me a minute: 匀出时间（来跟我谈谈）。 7. Andromeda [æn'drɔmidə]: 在天文学中指"仙女座",在希腊神话中指埃塞俄比亚公主安德洛墨达（其母夸其美貌而得罪海神,致使全国遭受海怪骚扰）。书中使用此词是一语双关。 8. M. 31: 莱茵哈特教授和他的科研组人员给仙女座的大星云 (the Great Nebula in Andromeda) 所取的代号。

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'Not M. 31, sir.'

'What then?'

'Another signal near there.'

'Have you heard it before?'

'No, sir.'

When Fleming came in he was tired but quietly excited. He held in his hand some papers[1]. This time Reinhart made no allowances[2].

' I gather you've taken over the telescope.'

Fleming stopped and stared at them.

'I beg your pardon, gentlemen. I didn't have time to fill in the proper forms.' He turned to Osborne. 'I did[3] telephone your office, but you'd gone.'

'What have you been doing?' asked Reinhart.

Fleming told them, throwing the papers down on the desk in front of them.

'... And that's the message.'

Reinhart looked at him curiously.

'You mean signal.'

'I said message. Dots and dashes — wasn't it, Harvey?'

'It did sound like that.'

'It went on all night,' said Fleming. 'It's below the horizon now, but we can try again this evening.'

Judy looked at Osborne, but got no help from him. 'What about the opening?' she asked.

'Oh, to hell with[4] the opening!' Fleming turned on her. 'This is something[5]! This is a voice from a thousand million, mil-

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1. papers: 文件。这里是计算机的一个专用名词,指由若干相关的记录构成的集合: 若干项目构成一个记录,若干记录构成一个文件。"文件"还可以指磁盘、磁带或卡片存贮的内容。 2. make allowance(s): (考虑到...而)表示体谅。 3. did: 此处为助动词,用以加强 telephone 的语气,作"确实"解。 4. to hell with: 让...见鬼去吧! 5. This is something: something 这里表示某种重要的东西。

lion miles away.'

'A voice?' Her own voice sounded weak and unreal.

'It's taken two hundred light-years[1] to reach us. The Minister can wait a day, can't he?'

Reinhart seemed to have recovered himself[2]. He turned to Osborne.

'You haven't heard of anything new going up?'

'No.'

'Look,' said Fleming. 'If it were a satellite it wouldn't have stayed put[3] all night, in the middle of the Andromeda constellation.'

'It could have been pattern interference — anything.'

'I know a message when I meet one!' Fleming said. 'Besides, there's something about this message I've never seen before. Between the groups of dots and dashes there's a fantastic amount of fast, detailed information. We'll have to put up special receiving equipment to record that.'

He keyed down the intercom and called Bridger to come from the other room, then he picked up the papers and pushed them into Reinhart's hand. 'Have a look! Ten years or more people have been waiting for this.'

Bridger came in looking pale, but he seemed to calm Fleming and he confirmed Fleming's reports.

Reinhart handed the papers to Osborne.

'It certainly looks clear enough.'

'Then why has no-one else picked it up?'

'Because no-one else has got equipment like this,' Fleming said.

Osborne sat down on a corner of the control desk, looking at the papers in a dazed sort of way.

'If somebody is trying to communicate...... No, it doesn't make sense[4].'

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1. light-year: 光年（相当于光在真空中走一年的距离，约六千亿英里）。 2. recovered himself: (他)定下心来。 3. put: 这里是形容词,作"固定不动的"解。 4. make sense: 有道理; 讲得通。

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'It's possible.' Reinhart looked down at his small delicate hands. 'If there are other creatures......'

Fleming interrupted him: 'Not creatures... another intelligence. It doesn't have to be little green men[1]; just an intelligence.'

Judy shivered, then pulled herself together[2].

'Why do I shiver?'

'For the same reason I do[3],' said Fleming.

Osborne came out of his daze.

'For the same reason everyone will, if it is an astronomical source.'

They decided to listen for[4] it again that night. The message had not stopped, merely faded. The chances were that it would still be going on. Once he had accepted the possibility Professor Reinhart became calm and businesslike. He and Fleming and Bridger spread out the papers 'and examined them.

'We'd better put off the opening,' said Osborne.

'What do I tell the press?' Judy asked him.

'Nothing.'

'Nothing?'

'Are we a secret society or something[5]?' Fleming regarded him with disgust, but Osborne managed to sound both official and reasonable.

'You can't throw this kind of information about[6]. There are other people to consult, and besides, there might be a panic. Nothing must appear in the press, Miss Adamson.'

They left Fleming furious, went to the Professor's office to telephone the Ministry, and drove away to have dinner.

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1. little green men: 科幻小说中经常使用的一个词语，用以指可能存在于别的星球上的人。　　2. pulled herself together: （她）控制住自己的感情。 3. For the same reason I do: do 这里代替前面出现的 shiver, 以避免重复。　　4. listen for: 留神收听。　　5. secret society or something: secret society 指秘密结社、行动不能向外界透露的一伙人；or something 是非正式用语，表示说话人在斟酌词句，口气不很肯定。　　6. about: 此处为副词，作"到处"解。

The message was picked up again that evening. It went on all through the night and was recorded by Fleming and Bridger in turns. The next morning Dennis Bridger went down by himself to the town and Harries followed him. After leaving his car, Bridger walked down a side street. Harries followed him on foot at a distance, careful not to let Bridger see him. Harries himself did not notice two men standing on the opposite side of the road to a doorway marked JAS. OLDROYD, TURF ACCOUNTANT[1].

Bridger turned in at the doorway and entered a narrow dark passage. At the far end was a door with a frosted glass panel, bearing the same lettering for Jas. Oldroyd. It also said *Knock and Enter;* Bridger did so[2].

Inside, Jas. Oldroyd was having a late breakfast at his desk. There was no-one else in the office, yet the small room seemed full of papers, telephones, an adding machine and a teleprinter[3]. Mr. Oldroyd looked up and eyed Bridger for a moment.

'Oh, it's you.'

Bridger pointed at the teleprinter.

'O.K?'

Mr. Oldroyd nodded and Bridger set to work.

'How's business?' he asked as he switched it on and dialled a number.

'Chancy,' said Mr. Oldroyd. 'Horses have no sense of responsibility.'

Bridger typed: KAUFMAN[4] TELEX[5] 21303 GENEVA. Then he became aware of a noise in the passage outside. A single head could be seen for a moment through the panel of the door. Then there was a groan, and the head was pulled away by other figures.

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1. turf accountant: 见本书 p.3 注 7。　　2. did so: 代替前面出现的 knock and enter, 因为这里需要用过去时, 所以用 did, 不用 do。这句如 不用代动词 do, 应是: Bridger knocked and entered.　　3. teleprinter: 电 传打字电报机。　　4. Kaufmann ['kaufmæn]:考夫曼,英特尔(国际卡特尔) 的代表。　　5. telex: 用户电报,或称"电传",此处后接电传号码。

Bridger looked at Oldroyd, who appeared to have noticed nothing. He went back to the printer. When he had finished typing, he stepped cautiously out into the passage. It was empty. The street door was swinging open, but in the street outside there was no sign of anything unusual. There was no-one standing opposite, no-one watching from the corner. A car driving away might or might not have had something to do with it.

Dennis Bridger set off towards the car park, his legs shaking.

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News of the message came out in time for the evening papers. By the time General Vandenberg called on the Minister of Science to protest, a Government statement was being broadcast on television. The Minister was out. Osborne stood with Vandenberg in his office, watching the broadcast. The young man on the screen earnestly read out the official statement:

'The government this evening strongly denied rumours of a possible invasion from space. A Ministry of Science spokesman told reporters that, while it was true that what appeared to be a message had been picked up by the new radio-telescope, there was no reason to believe that it came from a space-ship or a nearby planet. If indeed the signal received was a message, it came from a very distant source.'

There was no explanation for the leak. Reinhart knew nothing about it and the Ministry of Defence's security man — Harries — was missing. The military, however, were after heads[1]. Vandenberg produced two folders which he opened on the Minister's table.

'"Fleming, Dr. John — 1960 onwards: anti-N.A.T.O.,[2] pro-African[3], Aldermaston marcher." Do you call that reliable?'

'He's a scientist, not a candidate for the police.'

'He's supposed to be responsible. Look at the other.' The

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1. were after heads: 作"追查"解，句中 heads 原意是人物的照片。 2. anti-N.A.T.O.: 前缀 anti- 作"反对"解；N.A.T.O. 亦作 NATO, 全称为 North Atlantic Treaty Organization （北大西洋公约组织）。 3. pro-African: 前缀 pro- 表示"赞成","亲"。

General opened the other folder. 'Bridger — Communist Party 1958 to '63'. Then he swung right round[1] and started doing jobs for one of the international cartels[2]. But one of the dirtiest: Intel[3]. You could lose him anyway.'

'Fleming won't work without him.'

'Naturally.' The General gathered up the folders. 'I'd say they're dangerous.'

'All right,' said Osborne, wearily, and picked up the Minister's telephone.

In the control room the message was coming through again. Harvey was out in the recording room and Fleming was alone at the control desk. They were shorthanded: Whelan had suddenly left and even Harries was absent. Bridger wandered about looking miserable. At last he turned to the other man.

'Look, John, this could go on for ever.'

'Perhaps.'

The sound from the stars went on over the loudspeaker.

'I'm going to leave.' Fleming looked up at him. 'There's nothing more for me to do here.'

'There's everything for you to do!'

'I'd rather move on.'

'What about that?'

They listened for a moment to the speaker. Bridger shrugged.

'Could be anything,' he said.

'But I've an idea what[4].'

'What?'

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1. swung right round: swing round 是 "突然转身"、"摇身一变" 的意思; right 是副词,作"向右"解。 2. cartel [kɑːˈtel]: 卡特尔,资本主义社会中生产同类商品的企业为垄断市场,获取高额利润,通过在商品价格、产量和销售等方面订立协定而形成的一种大型的经济联盟。 3. Intel [inˈtel]: 英特尔,虚构的国际卡特尔组织,是 "international cartel" 的混合词。 4. I've an idea what: 即 I've an idea what it could be. I've an idea 可作"我知道"解。

'It could be a set of instructions.'

'All right, you work on it.'

'We'll work on it together.'

At that moment Judy came in. She marched across from the door, her face set and furious[1]. She could hardly wait to get to them before[2] she spoke.

'Which of you told the press[3]?'

Fleming stared at her in surprise. She turned to Bridger. 'Someone has leaked the information — *all* the information — to the press. It wasn't Professor Reinhart and it wasn't me. It wasn't Harvey or the other boys — they don't know enough. So it must be one of you. How much did they pay you, Dr. Bridger?'

'I......'

Bridger stopped. Fleming got up and pushed his way between them.

'Is it your business?' he asked her.

'Yes. I......'

'Well, what are you[4]?'

'I......' she hesitated. 'I'm the Press Officer. I've just had the biggest row[5] of all time[6].'

'I'm very sorry,' said Bridger.

'Is that all you can say?' Her voice rose.

'Oh, leave him alone!' Fleming said.

'Why?'

'Because *I* told them.'

'You!' She stepped back as if she had been hit. 'Were you drunk?'

1. her face set and furious: 这是一种独立结构，用于表示裴德进门时伴随的状态。 2. ... hardly ... before ...: 相当于 "... hardly ... when ..." 的句型, 意为"刚...就...""还没有...就..."。 3. the press: 〔总称〕新闻界。 4. what are you: 问对方的职业、工作用 what。 5. row [rau]: n. 责备。 6. of all time: 用在最高级形容词后面加强语气, 有"空前"的意思。

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'Yes,' said Fleming and turned his back on her. He walked to the door and then looked round. 'It wouldn't have made any difference if I'd been sober[1].'

As he went out of the door he called back at her: 'And they didn't pay me!'

Judy stood for a moment without hearing or seeing. The loudspeaker hissed and crackled. Then she became aware of Bridger standing beside her, offering her a cigarette.

'Lost an idol, Miss Adamson?'

<div align="center">*　　　*　　　*</div>

Judy, as Press Officer, had to report to Osborne, and Osborne reported to his Minister. The press were persuaded that the whole thing was a mistake, and Fleming was called to London.

At first it seemed possible that Fleming was protecting Bridger but it was soon proved that he had, in fact, told the whole story to a reporter. Bridger was left in charge of Bouldershaw Fell while Fleming was absent. The message continued to come in.

Fleming himself seemed quite unmoved. He took all the printed sheets with him in the train to London and studied them hour after hour, making notes and calculations in the margin.

When he arrived at the Ministry of Science, Osborne was waiting for him with Reinhart and a stiff, middle-aged man with grey hair. Osborne rose and shook hands.

'Dr. Fleming.' He was very formal.

'Hi,' said Fleming.

'You don't know Air Commodore Watling[2], Security Section, Ministry of Defence.'

The stiff man bowed and looked at him without warmth. Fleming turned inquiringly to Reinhart.

'Hallo, John,' said Reinhart, quietly.

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1. It wouldn't have made any difference if I'd been sober: 这是虚拟语气，表示与过去事实相反。　2. Watling ['wɔtliŋ]: 瓦特灵，英国国防部保安处空军准将。