

朗文英汉对照世界文学丛书



The Invisible Man

隐身人

简写本

赫伯特·乔治·威尔斯原著 T.S.格雷戈里改写 赵圣骅翻译



上海译文出版社



LONGMAN 朗文

朗文英汉对照世界文学丛书



The Invisible Man

隐 身 人

简写本

赫伯特·乔治·威尔斯原著 T.S.格雷戈里改写 赵圣骅翻译



上海译文出版社



LONGMAN 朗文

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

隐身人:英汉对照/(英)威尔斯(Wells, H. G.)著;
赵圣骅译. —上海:上海译文出版社, 2001. 11
(朗文英汉对照世界文学丛书)
ISBN 7-5327-2537-5

I. 隐... II. ①威... ②赵... III. 英语-对照读
物, 小说-英、汉 IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2000)第 55782 号

图字: 09-1995-036 号

朗文英汉对照世界文学丛书

隐 身 人

(简写本)

赫伯特·乔治·威尔斯 原著 T. S. 格雷戈里 改写 赵圣骅 译

世纪出版集团

上海译文出版社出版、发行

上海市福建中路 193 号

培生教育出版中国有限公司

香港鲗鱼涌英皇道 979 号太古坊康和大厦 18 楼

全国新华书店经销

上海美术印刷厂印刷

开本 787×1092 1/32 印张 5.125 字数 133,000

2001 年 11 月第 1 版 2001 年 11 月第 1 次印刷

印数: 0,001-7,000 册

ISBN 7-5327-2537-5/H·444

定价: 6.70 元



The Invisible Man

隱 身 人

11A2/3/07

Introduction

The Invisible Man was first published in 1897. It is one of a number of “scientific romances”, early examples of science fiction, that Herbert George Wells (1866–1946) wrote as a young man.

The idea of human invisibility was not invented by H. G. Wells: it has fascinated storytellers for centuries. In a typical story the hero is given a magic cloak which has the power to make him invisible and also, when he puts it on, to become invisible itself. But Wells’s immediate source was a comic poem by a writer of the generation just before his, “The Perils of Invisibility” by W. S. Gilbert. From this Wells borrowed two basic ideas: that the hero’s clothes might fail to become invisible, and that invisibility might not be such a blessing after all. Gilbert’s poem tells of a fairy who invites a man named Peter to choose one of three gifts. Peter asks to be made invisible. But the fairy plays an unkind trick on him:

Old Peter vanished like a shot.

But then — *his suit of clothes did not.*

The story told by Wells, however, is very different from Gilbert’s little fairy story. Wells’s hero is a scientist who offers an elaborate explanation of the theory and practice of invisibility, and although there is a great deal of light comedy in the book there is also seriousness and food for thought. Wells’s *Invisible Man* develops ambitions that go far beyond science. Eventually he tries to become a bloody tyrant, threatening an entire district with death.

The Invisible Man, then, is a semi-realistic fantasy: that is, a story that takes just one impossibility and places it in the context of ordinary everyday experience. Apart from the central idea of invisibility, everything in the book is well within the limits of the possible. The physical setting, in particular, is very real: Iping is an actual village that was well known to Wells. Moreover the

前 言

《隐身人》一书于 1897 年首次出版。赫伯特·乔治·威尔斯 (1866—1946) 年轻时写了不少“科学传奇”，这些是科幻小说的早期范例，本书是其中的一部。

人的隐身之说并非 H·G·威尔斯首创，数百年来它一直深深地吸引着小说家。在一部具有代表性的作品中，主人翁获得了一件神奇的斗篷，它具有能使他隐身的魔力，而且一旦他披上它，斗篷本身也会变得看不见。但是，威尔斯的直接素材来源是他的前辈作家 W·S·吉尔伯特写的一首喜剧诗——《隐身的危险》。威尔斯从诗中借用了两个基本构思：主人翁的衣服可能不会隐形；隐身未必是一件幸事。吉尔伯特的这首诗写的是一位仙女，她邀请一位名叫彼得的人从三件礼物中挑选一件。彼得要求隐身，仙女却给他来了个恶作剧：

老彼得突然消失不见。

然而——他的那套衣衫依然可辨。

不过，威尔斯讲述的故事与吉尔伯特的那个小仙女的故事很不相同。威尔斯描写的主人翁是一位科学家，他对隐身术不仅在理论上而且在实践上作了详尽的解释。书中尽管颇有轻喜剧的意味，但也蕴含着严肃性和引人深思的问题。威尔斯笔下的隐身人抱有与科学格格不入的野心。最后他以死亡威胁整个地区，妄图成为一个残忍的暴君。

《隐身人》又是一部半现实主义的幻想小说，也就是说，它是这样一部作品，单写一件不可能的事，并以日常生活经历作为它的背景。除了隐身这一中心思想之外，书中的所有情节完全都在可能发生的范围之内。尤其是实际的背景十分真实：伊平是威尔斯熟悉的一个真实的村庄。此外，

characters all behave in entirely believable ways, in accordance with their different natures.

Wells begins his story in the middle. He shows us an Invisible Man who is already affected for the worse by his sufferings and disappointments, and who is obviously in an extremely nervous, excitable, bad-tempered state. This helps to prepare us for those later scenes in which he goes mad and has to be hunted down. It also has the advantage of allowing Wells to concentrate on the more comic aspects of his subject before developing the darker ones. And in the first part of the book we are shown the Invisible Man only as he appears to other people. Thus the elements of mystery and suspense are preserved, and a major theme of the novel, the conflict between a potential enemy of the people and society in general, is introduced straightaway.

It is certainly a very effective opening. A mysterious stranger, wrapped up from head to foot, arrives at a village inn and asks for a room. He seems eccentric, and is apparently either deformed or damaged in some way. There is something a little sinister in the empty black stare of his spectacles and the "black hole" at the bottom of his face. A lively clash of personalities and wills develops between him and the landlady. Mrs Hall is a strong-minded woman, capable of battling on almost equal terms against the stranger: her bullying of her maid and her husband, and her persistent and rather cunning attempts to satisfy her curiosity about her strange guest, demonstrate this.

Wells handles these early scenes very lightly and humorously. One of the best and most subtle moments occurs when Mrs Hall, though she is far from favourably disposed towards her new lodger, feels forced by her own pride to defend him to the extent of pretending that he has told her his name ("but I didn't hear it properly").

The reactions of the minor characters are equally well observed and natural. Mr Henfrey the clock-repairer feels a mixture of curiosity, suspicion and fear, and spins out his work on the clock in the most exasperating way. Mr Hall, after being thrown out of the stranger's bedroom, finds it impossible to

书中人物的言谈举止完全令人信服，都与他们各自不同的性格相符。

威尔斯以倒叙的手法从故事的中途开始讲起。他向我们展示的隐身人已经在遭受痛苦和失望的折磨，而且越来越严重，他显然正处于一种极度紧张、冲动和易怒的状态之中。这样的写法有助于我们对后面的场景作好准备，在那些场景中，隐身人丧心病狂，人们不得不对他穷追猛打。这样的写法还有别的好处，可以让威尔斯先集中描写其人物较为荒诞可笑的方面，然后再进一步揭示他的更为阴暗险恶的方面。在本书的开头部分，作者向我们展示的隐身人还仅仅是人们所看到的那副模样。于是，这种悬念和神秘的气氛一直保持下去，而小说的主题，也就是民众潜在的敌人与广大社会的冲突，却是开门见山。

这当然是一个引人入胜的开头。一位神秘的陌生人，从头到脚裹得严严实实，来到了一家乡村客栈，要求租用一个房间。他模样古怪，看上去不是畸形，就是受了什么创伤。他的那副眼镜直直的，在这茫然、可怕的凝视中，在他的脸庞底部的“黑洞”中，有几分不祥的兆头。在他与女房东之间，发生了一场性格和意志上的强烈冲突。霍尔太太是个个性很强的女人，堪与陌生人较量一番，而且难分伯仲。这一点可以得到证实：她对她的女仆和丈夫专横跋扈；为了满足自己对那位怪诞的客人的好奇心，她一意孤行，要尽了花招。

威尔斯处理开头的这些场景显得非常轻松和幽默。其中出现的最精彩、最微妙的时刻之一就是：尽管霍尔太太根本无意偏袒她的那位新来的房客，可是出于自尊，她不得不袒护他，以至于装出一副他已把他的名字告诉她的样子（“不过我没听清楚”）。

次要角色的反应同样勾画得细致入微，十分自然。钟表匠汉弗雷先生的心情错综复杂，他既感到好奇，又感到怀疑和恐惧，他用最使人恼火的方式拖延他的修钟的活儿。霍尔先生被撵出陌生人的卧室之后，觉得无法相信自己真的在那里看到或

believe that he has really seen or felt anything extraordinary up there; and Mr Fearenside, who is familiar with the oddities of horse-breeding, explains away the stranger's peculiar appearance with a pseudo-scientific theory of his own.

Wells has good fun in these early chapters, then, especially when the furniture "goes mad" and attacks the Halls. But this highly farcical scene contains a hint of a sinister meaning: the stranger is becoming more and more of a public enemy, and his moral deterioration will eventually lead to madness. Opinion in the village is turning more against him than ever, and Mrs Hall becomes so rebellious and intolerable in her flow of words that he is exasperated into revealing his condition. With the appearance of Policeman Jaffers to arrest him on suspicion of burglary he finds himself standing alone in battle against all the others. But those others seem perfectly ridiculous as they strike at the air and fall over one another. Our sympathies, I think, are with the Invisible Man still — as a brave underdog, surrounded and persecuted by an unintelligent crowd. But the last words of Chapter 7 ("Jaffers lay quite still, face upward and knees bent") suggest that he is becoming really dangerous to society, and so he begins to lose the reader's sympathy.

This scene is the turning point of the novel, both in our attitude to the hero and in the nature of the action. The first part of the book was mainly static: there was a clear physical centre to the action in Mrs Hall's inn. But now in his nakedness the wretched Invisible Man is even more of a homeless outlaw than Mr Marvel himself. Apart from Griffin's "flashback" conversation with Dr Kemp, the action of the remainder of the book is fast-moving and fluid as the Invisible Man goes about the neighbourhood robbing shops and inns and committing other, more serious crimes.

Wells does not neglect the humorous possibilities of this situation, especially in the scenes where the reluctant Marvel plays a prominent part, but terror is the dominant emotion now: "Fear came hurrying by, rushed ahead of him [Marvel], and in a moment had seized the town." Dr Kemp, the man of books and

者摸到了什么异乎寻常的东西；费伦赛德先生对繁殖马匹的种种奇特之处颇为熟悉，他用自己的的一套伪科学理论，对陌生人的怪异的外表作了辩解。

威尔斯在开头的这些章节里写得妙趣横生，尤其是在描写家具“发疯”并攻击霍尔夫妇的时候。但是这种十足的闹剧式的场景包含着不祥的意味：陌生人正变得越来越与公众为敌。他在道德上的堕落将最终导致发狂。村中反对他的呼声比任何时候都要高涨。霍尔太太说起话来喋喋不休，变得桀骜不驯，令人无法忍受，致使他恼羞成怒，露出了真相。当贾弗斯警官因他涉嫌上门抢劫罪而前来逮捕他的时候，他发现自己正在孤身一人地同众人交战。不过那些人盲目地当空乱打，一个个争先恐后，看上去极其荒唐可笑。我以为，我们对隐身人的同情心依然还在——他遭到一伙愚氓的围攻迫害，是一个身处劣势而斗志不减的人。然而第7章的最后一段话（“贾弗斯脸朝上，双膝弯曲，静静地躺着”）表明他确实正在对社会构成危险，于是他开始失去读者的同情。

就我们对主人翁的态度和这段故事情节的性质而言，这出场景是这本小说的转折点。本书的开头部分基本上是静态的：在霍尔太太的旅店里所发生的那段故事情节中，有一位明显具有形体的中心人物。但是眼下这位可怜的隐身人，赤身露体，比起马弗尔先生本人来，更像一个无家可归的亡命之徒。除了格里芬与肯普医生的那段“倒叙”的对话之外，书中余下的故事情节节奏明快、流畅，因为写的是隐身人流窜于街坊四处，抢劫商店和旅馆，还犯下了其他更为严重的罪行。

威尔斯没有忽略这段情节的潜在的幽默，特别是在那位受到胁迫的马弗尔充当主角的场景中。但此时此刻，恐怖才是占主导地位的情感：“恐惧匆匆而来，抢在了他[马弗尔]的前头，顷刻之间，占据了整座城镇。”肯普医生，这位习惯于独自思索的博

solitary reflection, watches the distant disturbance from his pleasant study on the hillside. The combination in Chapter 13 of Kemp's apparent security and the agitation of the town below is an example of Wells's skilful use of contrast and anticipation: before long Kemp's house will be turned into a battleground between civilisation and the jungle, and he in turn will be running for his life.

The Invisible Man, wounded in the battle of the Jolly Cricketers, takes refuge in the house, not realising that the owner is an acquaintance from his student days. In their conversation at the breakfast-table the purely scientific aspect of Griffin's character is uppermost, but his irresponsible, unbalanced side is also evident when he reveals that he has been the cause of his own father's death through dishonesty (he stole money to buy scientific equipment) and has also deliberately set fire to a lodging-house. And now he wants to rule over Burdock by mass terror and murder. He has become a madman who has "cut himself off from mankind", a murderer and a spreader of terror who must be captured or killed.

The Invisible Man is about the misuse of science for selfish purposes. Griffin sees his discovery only as an advantage to be used against his fellow men: he is not restrained by any moral code. As a result, he becomes more and more mad and inhuman and is finally destroyed.

H. G. Wells was a man of scientific training himself. His early life was hard, and he largely supported his own studies by teaching. For a time he was a student assistant at Midhurst Grammar School, in the district where *The Invisible Man* is set. His enormous output includes several works that are closely related in theme to *The Invisible Man*, among them the novel *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896) about the dangers of science and power when morality is absent and the short story "The Country of the Blind" (1904) about a sighted man who finds himself misunderstood and persecuted in a land of blind people which he had hoped to rule. In "The Country of the Blind" Wells paints a more sympathetic portrait of the clever outsider who is

学之士,从他的那间坐落在山坡上的舒适的书房里,注视着远处发生的骚动。威尔斯善于运用对比和预示的手法,第13章中将肯普表面上的安全和山下城镇的骚乱结合在一起便是一个例子:肯普的宅邸不久将变成文明与野蛮相互较量的战场,而且这一回该轮到他自己逃命了。

在“快乐的板球手”旅店的搏斗中受了伤的隐身人躲进这座宅邸避难,他不知道宅邸的主人是他学生时代的一位熟人。他们在早餐桌旁的那场对话中,格里芬的性格中那纯科学的一面最为突出,但是当他吐露自己采用不正当的手段(他偷钱购买科学仪器)致使亲生父亲死去以及故意放火烧租用的房屋的时候,他的不负责任、精神错乱的一面同样是显而易见的。现在他想用大搞恐怖活动和谋杀来统治伯多克。他已变成一个“自绝于人类”的疯子,一个必须加以逮捕或消灭的杀人犯和传播恐怖的人。

《隐身人》一书描写的是为了达到自私的目的而滥用科学的现象。格里芬将他的发现仅仅看作是可以用来对付自己同胞的一个优势:他不受任何道德准则的约束。结果他越变越疯狂,越变越丧失人性,最后终于遭到了毁灭。

H·G·威尔斯本人是个受过科学教育的人。他早年生活艰辛,主要靠教书维持自己的学业。他有一段时间在米德赫斯特文法学校当学生助理,《隐身人》一书就是以这个学校所在的地区为背景的。他的著述极其丰富,包括了几部与《隐身人》的主题密切有关的作品,其中有小说《莫洛医生的岛屿》(1896),描写了科学与权力在缺乏道德规范时的危害。还有短篇小说《盲人乡》(1904),写的是一位视力正常的人,发现自己在一个他曾希望统治的盲人之国里遭到了误解和虐待。在《盲人乡》一书中,威尔斯让那位聪明的外乡人同大多数人的愚昧作斗争,他对这

set against the stupidity of the majority than he does in *The Invisible Man*. For this reason the two stories make a very interesting pair, each filling in gaps in the other's argument.

——人物形象的描绘比他对《隐身人》中人物形象的描绘更具有同情心。鉴于这个原因,这两部作品相互弥补了各自内容上的不足,成了一对意趣盎然的姐妹篇。

Contents

Introduction	IV
1 The Strange Man's Arrival	2
2 Mr Henfrey is Startled	10
3 The Thousand and One Bottles	18
4 Mr Cuss Talks to the Stranger	26
5 The Robbery at the Vicarage	32
6 The Furniture That Went Mad	36
7 The Stranger Shows His Face	42
8 On the Road	52
9 In the Coach and Horses	62
10 The Invisible Man Loses His Temper	64
11 Mr Marvel Tries to Say No	70
12 At Port Stowe	72
13 The Man in a Hurry	78
14 In the Jolly Cricketers	80
15 Dr Kemp's Visitor	86
16 The Invisible Man Sleeps	96
17 How to Become Invisible	98
18 The Experiment	102
19 The Plan That Failed	108
20 The Hunting of the Invisible Man	114
21 The Wicksteed Murder	118
22 The Attack on Kemp's House	120
23 The Hunter Hunted	134
Glossary	140

目 录

前言	V
1 陌生的来客	3
2 汉弗雷先生大吃一惊	11
3 一千零一只瓶子	19
4 卡斯先生与陌生人交谈	27
5 牧师家的盗窃案	33
6 发疯的家具	37
7 陌生人显露真面目	43
8 在路上	53
9 在“车马”旅店	63
10 隐身人大发雷霆	65
11 马弗尔先生试图拒绝	71
12 在斯托港	73
13 匆匆奔跑的人	79
14 在“快乐的板球手”旅店	81
15 肯普医生的不速之客	87
16 隐身人就寝	97
17 如何变成隐身人	99
18 实验	103
19 失败的计划	109
20 搜捕隐身人	115
21 威克斯底谋杀案	119
22 进攻肯普的宅邸	121
23 咎由自取	135
词汇表	140

