

诛杀蛇发怪

THE GORGON SLAYER

(中英对照)

[美]加里·保尔森 著 陈章国 译

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出版说明

加里·保尔森(Gary Paulsen)是当今美国青少年读物畅销书作家,近年来创作了这套"冒险世界丛书",共 14 本。这些书思想内容健康,故事曲折离奇,情节惊险紧张,文笔简练流畅,寓知识性及趣味性于一体,对培养青少年勇敢精神和启迪青少年的智慧大有裨益。

我们采用中英对照形式,对较难理解的语言点和文化背景知识作简要的注释。为增强读者的参与意识,每章末附精心编写的思考题和参考答案,既可供读者作课外读物,亦可供课堂作泛读材料。本丛书适合中学生和大学生使用。

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内容简介

两名 11 岁的小孩沃伦和里克接受一项消灭蛇发怪的任务。蛇发怪不但头上蛇发咝咝作响,吐着蛇信,而且翅膀坚韧,双爪锋利。更为可怕的是,任何人只要看她一眼就会变成石头。此前,已有三人领命前去消灭蛇发怪,但都相继变成石头。沃伦和里克一手执盾一手持剑,两人相约要么将盾牌当做镜子去照看蛇发怪,要么就紧闭双目以避免变成石头,伺机将蛇发怪杀死。蛇发怪藏身在一户人家的地下储藏室,那儿阴暗潮湿,塞满了除草的器械。两人小心翼翼地闯进去后,同蛇发怪展开了殊死的搏斗。不幸的事发生了——里克一个疏忽睁开了眼睛结果成了石雕像。沃伦在搏斗中丢失了自己的盾和剑。沃伦奋力去找回自己的剑,却摸索到一台剪草机,他急中生智,就在蛇发怪诱他睁开眼睛的千钧一发之际,他发动了剪草机,与蛇发怪斗智斗勇,终于杀死了蛇发怪,不但使自己获得新生,而且也使其他已变成石头的伙伴们起死回生。



致 读 者

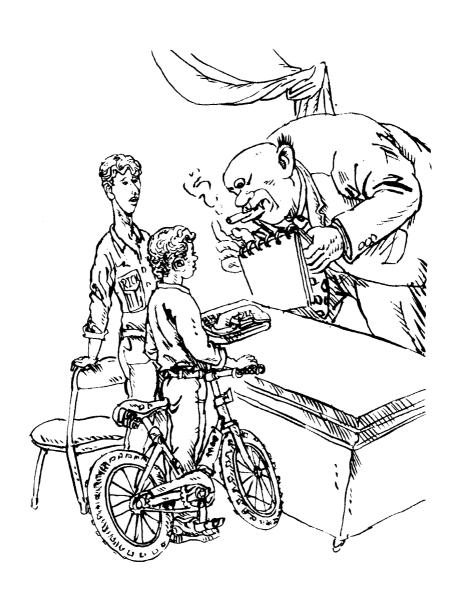
亲爱的读者:

真正的冒险故事包含很多方面——危险啦,勇敢啦,有时候甚至是生死搏斗。从狗拉雪橇横贯阿拉斯加的伊狄特洛越野大赛到在太平洋上航行,我都亲身经历了一些这样的冒险。在我的故事中,我努力体现这一精神。当我每次坐下来着手写作时,这种挑战本身便是一场历险。

你们同样是这场冒险中的一分子。在过去的岁月中,我有幸在学校中同你们中许多人交谈,本书便是在直接倾听了你们最想读什么之后产生的,你们最爱读的便是带劲的和刺激的故事。

既然您喜欢读,那么就请坚持读下去,同时让我们一起再跳进我的冒险世界中另一则动人心弦的故事中去吧。

加里・保尔森





CHAPTER 1

Warren Trumbull grunted as he pedaled up the hill. He didn't grunt because the hill was steep—after pedaling up it every weekday[©] since summer vacation had begun, he was used to it. He grunted because he was pedaling for speed. Along the hilltop ran a unicorn[©] crossing.

Warren didn't like anything mythological, and 'corns were the worst. All that stuff the MPS (Mythological Protection Society) put out about them—that they were noble and majestic and held the beauty of the universe in their horns — was garbage. What 'corns did was



第一章

沃伦·特朗布尔一路蹬车上山累得直打呼哧,这倒并不是因为山道太陡才骑得呼哧呼哧的——暑假开始以来,他平时每天都骑车上山,所以早已习惯了——他之所以累得直喘气,是因为想骑得更快些,山顶那儿横贯着一条由独角马把守着的十字岔路。

沃伦并不喜欢任何带有神话色彩的东西,对于独角马则尤为厌恶。神话保护学会关于独角马所说的那些劳什子——什么它们十分尊贵啦,气宇非凡啦,它们的独角富有宇宙之美啦——统统是废话一堆。独角马所做

注:

- ① weekday
- ['wi:kdei]指双休 日以外的日子。
- 2 unicom
- ['ju:niko:n]传说中身体似马的独角兽。
- ③ put out 意 为 "发 表"、"发 布"、"出版"等。



pop^① bike tires.

He reached the crossing and sped down the other side of the hill. A shrill whinny and galloping hoofbeats sent a chill up his spine, and he pushed down on the pedal as if he were trying to drive it three feet into the asphalt. Horn hissed on rubber just as he shot away.

"Not today, pinhead³!"

Warren laughed at the beautiful white stallion with the golden mane and silver horn as it pranced in frustration behind him. It was the first time in three days that his tire had escaped the 'corn. Today Princey wouldn't threaten to fire him for being late for work. The day was shaping up nicely.

Warren worked for Prince Charming's Damsel in Distress Rescue Agency, doing the assignments that no one else wanted—genuine damsel rescue went to the older guys. Warren was eleven, too young for a real job. He was stuck doing whatever work he could get. Working for Princey wasn't much, but twenty bucks⁴ a day out of princey's grimy pockets was better than nothing.



的工作就是弄爆自行车轮胎罢了。

他骑到了十字岔路,沿着山的另一侧飞快地下滑。一阵尖厉的马嘶声伴随着疾驰而来的马蹄声,使他的脊梁骨冒出一股寒气。他使劲地踩着脚踏板,简直要将踏板踩入到沥青路面3英尺深处似的。就在独角擦及轮胎咝咝做声的一瞬间,他刚好一窜而过。

"今天可不成啦,傻瓜!"

长着金鬃银角的那头雄健俊美的白马, 垂头丧气地被抛在了他的后面,沃伦冲着它 扬声大笑。这是3天以来,他的轮胎第一次 免遭独角马的毒手。今天,普林赛总不会因 他上班迟到再威胁要开除他了吧。这一天顺 顺利利过去了。

沃伦为白马王子的遭难闺秀救援社工作,干一些其他人不愿干的杂活,因为真正救援少女的工作都由年龄大一些的人去干,而沃伦今年才11岁,干真正的工作还太小,只能有啥活就干啥活,无从挑剔。给普林赛干活,活并不多,不过,从普林赛那脏兮兮的口袋里能每天拿到20元美金,总比分文不获要强吧。

注:

- ①动词不定式 短语作为表语, 在美语中往往 省略 to。
- ② whinny['wini] (马)轻声地嘶鸣。
- ③ pinhead ['pinhed] 笨蛋; 傻瓜;白痴。
- ④ buck[bʌk][美俚]美元。



Some of the guys were already waiting in the bleachers[®] when Warren pedaled up — Rank Frank Divine and his admirers, and a new guy Warren had never seen before. Rank Frank leered at him as he parked beside the garbage can.

"Hey, Piggy, where's the pinhead? You're supposed to show up in fifteen minutes with your tire flapping²!"

"Suck on a Hydra, Frank." Warren took a seat three rows up, close to the new guy and well away from Frank and his crowd. They didn't call him Rank Frank for nothing.

"Is Princey here yet?" he asked the new guy, who was wearing a shirt with "Rick" stitched over the pocket.

Rick something-or-other's $\ensuremath{^{\circlearrowleft}}$ long head shook slowly on its long neck . "Nope ."

"Wouldn't you know it? I'm finally on time, and Princey shows up late."

"That's the breaks, Piggy."

"Don't call me Piggy. My name is Warren."

"I didn't know that."



沃伦蹬着车上来的时候,有几个人已在露天看台上等着了——人称"臭狗屎"的神学士弗兰克和他的崇拜者们,还有一个沃伦以前从未见过面的新朋友。沃伦将车停在垃圾箱边,臭狗屎弗兰克斜着眼睛瞟了他一眼。

"嗨,小猪,那个傻瓜在哪儿啊?你本该再过15分钟才到,而且轮胎一路啪嗒啪嗒响着过来才是呢!"

"吃九头蛇的奶去吧,弗兰克。"沃伦往上 走过3排坐位挨着那个新朋友坐下,与弗兰 克那伙人保持相当一段距离。他们叫他臭狗 屎弗兰克可不是白叫的。

"普林赛来了吗?"他问那个新朋友,那人 穿着一件衬衣,口袋上绣着两个字:里克。

里克那长长的脖子上不知什么缘故长着一个长长的脑袋,那脑袋慢慢地摇了摇说: "还没有。"

"你还不知道吧?我终于按时到达了,而 普林赛反倒迟到了。"

- "那是运气,小猪。"
- "别叫我小猪,我叫沃伦。"
- "我事先又不知道。"

注:

- ① bleachers
- ['blixtfaz][美]常用复数形式,指运动场的霉天看台。
- ②flap[flæp]拍 打;拍击。此类 单音节词后后 加-ed或-ing 时, 必须先重写最 末一个辅音字
- ③原为 some...

or other 句型,表 可不肯定或不精 确之意,意为"某 个"、"某些"等, 如 somewhere or other(某个地方)。 本句接,后,修饰 连接,语,修饰后 面的名词。



Warren shrugged his soft, heavy shoulders.

"That's all right."

"Okay. My name is Rick Howell. Sorry about the piggy thing."

"Forget it." Warren wished he could forget it. The problem was that the nickname fit him so well. He had pink skin and a little piggy nose, turned up at the end so that his nostrils stared everyone he talked to right in the face. His ears stuck out and up — little piggy ears. He looked a little piggy all around.

"Hey, Piggy," Frank called, "why are you here so early? Did someone wake you up by huffing and puffing² and blowing your house down?"

Everyone laughed except Warren and Rick. That Divine, he was a real funny guy.

"You know what Neptune's³ trident is, Frank?" Warren asked.

"That big fork he carries around? I've seen him with it on TV. So?"

"So go sit on it." This time no one laughed but Rick.



沃伦耸了耸他那发沉的柔嫩的肩膀。 "那没关系。"

"好吧,我叫里克·豪威尔。小猪这件事, 很对不起啦。"

"别往心里去。"沃伦也真希望自己能忘掉这件事,问题在于这个外号再适合他不过了! 他长着粉红色的皮肤和一个有点像猪似的鼻子,鼻尖上翘,在同别人讲话时,鼻孔正好对冲着别人的脸,他的两只耳朵向上朝外竖起——有点像猪耳朵。他浑身上下看上去都有点儿像小猪。

"嗨,小猪,"弗兰克叫道,"你干吗这么早就到了?是不是有人呼呼吹气,把你房子吹倒了,才将你弄醒呢?"

除了沃伦和里克外,大伙儿都大笑起来。 那个神学士,真是个滑稽的家伙呢。

"你可知道海神尼普顿的三叉戟是个什么玩意儿吗,弗兰克?"沃伦问道。

"你是说他扛着到处转悠的那把大叉子么? 我在电视里看到过他拿着的,那又怎么啦?"

"那就过去一屁股坐在它上面就是啰。" 这次没有人发笑,只有里克一人例外。

注:

- ① wish 后接实 据从句表示意 为 "但愿",从句 用 过去时。
- ② huff [hʌf] 与 puff[pʌf] 是同义 词,均意为吹 (喷)气。
- ③ Neptune
 ['neptju:n] 罗马神话中的海神,
 亦可指天文学中的海王星。



It used to be that everyone called Warren Warren. That was before he learned that the old hag who lived next door to him was a witch—a real witch. She caught him late one night raiding her garden. She said that if he was determined to eat like a pig, she'd make it easy for him.

Warren ran around on all fours^①, squealing, for two whole months. Dr. Fileberg said he was lucky to have recovered as much as he had, but it would go beyond luck for him to recover any further. Warren's father said he hoped Warren had learned his lesson. Warren had.^②

"Ba-blee-ba-blee, that's all, folks!" Rank Frank whooped.

"Do you know where I live?" Warren asked him.

"Yeah, on Twelfth. Out back in a sty, right?" Frank honked $^{\textcircled{3}}$ a laugh.

Warren forced a smile. "Good one. Anyway, right next door lives this nice old lady. Growing in her garden are the best watermelons you've ever tasted."

Rank Frank sat forward, suddenly interested. "Really?"

"As soon as the sun goes down, they're yours for the taking."