

新课标必读英文原版名著

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梦飞 编

远方出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

四签名/梦飞等编. 一呼和浩特:远方出版社,2004.6(2007.11 重印) (新课标必读英文原版名著)

ISBN 978-7-80595-953-5

I.四··· Ⅲ.梦··· Ⅲ.①英语—语言读物②侦探小说—英国—现代 Ⅳ.H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2007) 第 466557 号

新课标必读英文原版名著 四签名

编 者 梦飞

出 版 远方出版社

社 址 呼和浩特市乌兰察布东路 666 号

邮 编 010010

发 行 新华书店

印 刷 廊坊市华北石油华星印务有限公司

版 次 2007年11月第2版

印 次 2007年11月第1次印刷

开 本 850×1168 1/32

印 张 57

字 数 456 千

印 数 3000

标准书号 ISBN 978-7-80595-953-5

总定价 142.00元(共8册)

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前言

提起大侦探福尔摩斯可谓是举世闻名,他和华生医生 一系列的冒险、探案故事经英国作家柯南·道尔的讲述早 已被世人奉为侦探推理小说的经典。

虽然福尔摩斯只是作家笔下一个虚构的人物,但他那机智又不乏深沉的双眼,传统英国式的大烟斗,思维敏捷、逻辑严密的大脑,被一代代"福迷"们狂热地崇拜着。就连作者虚构的福尔摩斯的家"贝克街 221 号 B",也被英国人原封不动地仿造了出来。由此可见福尔摩斯在世人眼中的地位。在国外,"福尔摩斯"已经成为智慧的代名词。

为了使广大读者朋友们更好地认识、了解这位伟大的 侦探,提高广大英语爱好者的阅读水平,我们特编写了本套 图书。本套图书中的故事均来自原版的《福尔摩斯全集》, 我们只是将原有的故事进行了精心地筛选与重新组合,所 以呈现在你面前的是一个原汁原味的惊险刺激的福尔摩斯 探案故事。

通过对本套图书的阅读,不仅可以提高你的英语阅读 水平,开阔你的眼界,你还可以跟随福尔摩斯一起去学习观察、学习推理,有助于你形成缜密的判断推理能力。

好了,让我们赶快进入神秘的侦探之旅吧!

编者

• 2 •



Chapter 2 The Statement of the Case (23) Chapter 3 In Quest of a Solution (36) Chapter 4 The Story of the Bald-Headed Man (47) Chapter 5 The Tragedy of Pondicherry Lodge (68) Chapter 6 Sherlock Holmes Gives a Demonstration (83)

Chapter 1 The Science of Deduction

| Chapter 7 The Episode of the Barrel | |
|---|----------------|
| | (101) |
| Chapter 8 The Baker Street Irregulars | |
| | (126) |
| Chapter 9 A Break in the Chain | |
| | (145) |
| Chapter 10 The End of the Islander | |
| | (166) |
| Chapter 11 The Great Agra Treasure | |
| | (184) |
| Chapter 12 The Strange Story of Jonatha | n Small |
| | (196) |



四签名

11 年前舒尔托少校从印度退役回到上伍尔德的别墅时带回大笔古玩钱财。在他回英国一年后,摩斯坦小姐的父亲摩斯坦上尉也回到英国,向少校索要他应得的一份。在两人争吵中,上尉心脏病发作而死。5 年后,少校收到一封印度来信后惊恐万分。少校临终前才将事实真相告诉两个儿子。他说他有50万英镑价值的珠宝应与上尉的女儿分享。就在他要讲出藏宝地点时,被窗外的一张恶脸吓死。父亲死后第二天,兄弟俩发现别墅被人仔细搜过,还留下一张四人签名条。

摩斯坦小姐想起父亲遗物中也有张四人签名条。几天以后,哥哥巴索洛厄终于在别墅屋顶的夹层中找到了装有珠宝的箱子,弟弟塞留厄斯约摩斯坦小姐一起去别墅取回她应得的那一半。

几人来到别墅时,发现巴索洛厄在楼上房中被一根涂 有剧毒的荆棘射死,门窗紧闭,房顶夹层中找到的珠宝箱却 失踪了。房中有小孩脚印与木棍印,尸体旁留下四人签名 条。报警后,警方把塞留厄斯作为嫌疑犯逮捕了。

福尔摩斯对此不以为然,他从现场迹象判断:罪犯是个单腿用木棍支撑的残疾人和一个印度土著矮人,而毒木刺是土著人的杀人工具。他还发现,闯入者无意间碰翻了气味强烈的木馏油,便用猎犬进行气味跟踪,狗把福尔摩斯和华生引到了泰晤士河边一个专供租船的小码头。

福尔摩斯从船主妻子口中得知:几个小时前有个单腿人租了大马力的"曙光"号,便发动众多孩子查遍上下游十几英里,但无"曙光"号的踪影。他估计狡猾的对手会把船藏在某个修船坞里。不久,化装成老水手的福尔摩斯果然在西敏士特码头的船坞里发现了"曙光"号。

当晚,福尔摩斯和华生会同警察乘一艘汽艇埋伏在码头边,"曙光"号一出码头便紧紧盯上它。两条快艇在河上疾驶,距离渐渐接近,只见前面艇上一个高大健壮的单腿人向后高声怒骂,脚边一个面目狞恶的矮个黑人掏出一根短木棒搁在唇边。福尔摩斯与华生见状双枪齐发,黑人中弹坠河而死。"曙光"号转而冲向沼泽,单腿人跳到岸上,却因木腿深陷泥淖无法动弹而束手就擒。

缴获的珠宝箱被打开,发现里面却空空如也。单腿人 斯茂仰天大笑:"宝物原属于我和另外 3 人,我们曾签名立 誓,绝不能让珠宝落入舒尔托和摩斯坦及其子女的手中,刚 才我已经将全部宝物撒落在数十里的河道上,你们是无法 打捞到的。"接着斯茂坦然地讲述了事情真相。

斯茂在印度服役期间不慎被鳄鱼咬掉小腿,只得装上一条木腿。在一次当地人的暴乱中,一个土著王派人把一箱珠宝带进白人城堡,3个印度兵与斯茂一起密谋杀死了携宝人,藏好了珠宝箱,他们共同庄严起誓,待局势平静后平分。几天后,携宝人的尸体被发现,4个人以谋杀罪被判终身监禁,押入安达曼岛囚犯营。此后,斯茂以珠宝6人均分为条件,要求舒尔托少校与摩斯坦上尉帮助他们逃出囚营。可是舒尔托得到藏宝地址后一去不复返,4人由此发誓要杀死舒尔托。几年后,斯茂救活了一个垂死的土著人,此人感恩不尽并帮他逃离囚营。

他们一起来到英国,但一直无法接近舒尔托。一天,听说他将死,斯茂赶去别墅从窗外向里探看,第二天还到房中搜寻宝物的踪迹。一直到几天前,听说巴索洛厄在屋顶内寻到了宝物,他便让土著人从屋顶小门进入。土著人自作聪明,杀死了主人,扔下悬绳让斯茂爬上来,斯茂留下四人签名表示物归原主。斯茂与宝箱顺绳滑下,土著人则收绳关窗后仍从原路退出。他们用重金雇快船,打算第二天晚上赶上大船离开英国,没想到会被捕。

Chapter 1 The Science of Deduction

Sherlock Holmes took his bottle from the corner of the mantelpiece^①, and his hypodermic syringe^② from its neat morocco case. With his long, white, nervous fingers he adjusted the delicate needle and rolled^③ back his left shirtcuff. For some little time his eyes rested thoughtfully upon the sinewy^④ forearm and wrist, all dotted and scarred with innumerable puncture-marks. Finally, he thrust the point home, pressed down the tiny piston, and sank back into the velvet-lined armchair with a long sigh of satisfaction.

Three times a day for many months I had witnessed this performance, but custom had not reconciled my mind to

① mantelpiece n. 壁炉架,壁炉的前饰

② hypodermic syringe n. 皮下注射器

③ roll vt. 卷,绕[(+up)]

④ sinewy adj. 强壮有力的

The Sign of Four

it. On the contrary, from day to day I had become more irritable at the sight, and my conscience welled nightly within me at the thought that I had lacked the courage to protest. Again and again I had registered a vow that I should deliver my soul upon the subject; but there was that in the cool, nonchalant air of my companion which made him the last man with whom one would care to take anything approaching to a liberty. His great powers, his masterly manner, and the experience which I had had of many extraordinary qualities, all made me diffident and backward in crossing him.

Yet upon that afternoon, whether it was the Beaune which I had taken with my lunch or the additional exasperation[®] produced by the extreme deliberation of his manner, I suddenly felt that I could bold out no longer.

"Which is it today," I asked, "morphine or cocaine?"

He raised his eyes languidly from the old black-letter volume which he had opened.

① conscience n. 良心,道德心

② extraordinary adj. 非常的,特别的,非凡的,特派的

③ exasperation n. 恼怒

④ languidly adv. 疲倦地, 无力地

"It is cocaine $^{\oplus}$," he said, "a seven-per-cent solution. Would you care to try it?"

"No, indeed," I answered brusquely^②. "My constitution has not got over the Afghan campaign yet. I cannot afford to throw any extra strain upon it."

He smiled at my vehemence[®]. "Perhaps you are right, Watson," he said. "I suppose that its influence is physically a bad one. I find it, however, so transcendently stimulating and clarifying to the mind that its secondary action is a matter of small moment."

"But consider!" I said earnestly. "Count the cost! Your brain may, as you say, be roused and excited, but it is a pathological and morbid process which involves increased tissue-change and may at least leave a permanent weakness. You know, too, what a black reaction comes upon you. Surely the game is hardly worth the candle. Why should you, for a mere passing pleasure, risk the loss of

① cocaine n. 古柯碱,可卡因

② brusquely adv. 唐突地,粗率地

③ vehemence n. 热烈,激烈,热心,强烈

④ pathological adj. 病理的,病态的

The Sign of Four

those great powers with which you have been endowed^①? Remember that I speak not only as one comrade to another but as a medical man to one for whose constitution he is to some extent answerable^②."

He did not seem offended. On the contrary, he put his finger-tips together, and leaned his elbows on the arms of his chair, like one who has a relish for conversation.

"My mind," he said, "rebels at stagnation. Give me problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse cryptogram, or the most intricate analysis, and I am in my own proper atmosphere. I can dispense then with artificial stimulants. But I abhor the dull routine of existence. I crave for mental exaltation. That is why I have chosen my own particular profession, or rather created it, for I am the only one in the world."

"The only unofficial detective?" I said, raising my eyebrows.

"The only unofficial consulting detective," he answered. "I am the last and highest court of appeal in

① endow v. 捐赠,赋予

② answerable adj. 有责任的,应负责的,可回答的

③ abstruse adj. 奥妙的,深奥的

detection. When Gregson, or Lestrade, or Athelney Jones are out of their depths—which, by the way, is their normal state—the matter is laid before me. I examine the data, as an expert, and pronounce a specialist's opinion. I claim no credit in such cases. My name figures in no newspaper. The work itself, the pleasure of finding a field for my peculiar powers, is my highest reward. But you have yourself had some experience of my methods of work in the Jefferson Hope case."

"Yes, indeed," said I cordially. "I was never so struck by anything in my life. I even embodied it in a small brochure, with the somewhat fantastic title of A Study in Scarlet."

He shook his head sadly.

"I glanced over it," said he. "Honestly, I cannot congratulate you upon it. Detection is, or ought to be, an exact science and should be treated in the same cold and unemotional manner. You have attempted to tinge it with

① peculiar adj. 奇特的,罕见的,特殊的 n. 特有财产,特权

② embody vt. 具体表达,使具体化,包含,收录

③ brochure n. 小册子

④ fantastic adj. 幻想的,奇异的,稀奇古怪的,荒谬的,空想的

romanticism, which produces much the same effect as if you worked a love-story or an elopement into the fifth proposition of Euclid."

"But the romance was there," I remonstrated. "I could not tamper with the facts."

"Some facts should be suppressed, or, at least, a just sense of proportion should be observed in treating them. The only point in the case which deserved mention was the curious analytical reasoning from effects to causes, by which I succeeded in unravelling it."

I was annoyed at this criticism of a work which had been specially designed to please him. I confess^①, too, that I was irritated by the egotism^② which seemed to demand that every line of my pamphlet should be devoted to his own special doings. More than once during the years that I had lived with him in Baker Street I had observed that a small vanity^③ underlay my companion's quiet and didactic manner. I made no remark, however, but sat nursing my wounded leg. I had had a jezail bullet through it some time

① confess v. 承认,坦白,忏悔

② egotism n. 自我中心,自尊自大

③ vanity n. 空虚