

[中英双语]

蛇石

# 拉恩的秘密

美国90后美少女魔幻之作

[美] 妮妮·阿什莱 著  
钱 晔 译

I

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Ryan's Secret

The Snake Rock

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"Some other sort of threat?" Sir Charles asked scoffing?

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America, don't you? 《Californian FB》 Hand me that  
detailed report she sent out!"

浙江文艺出版社

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# 蛇石 I

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## Prologue

**Strange**

Thought I saw the light

**Forbidden**

In the shadows of my night

**Pain**

Pain draws me near

**Fear**

can smell your fear

**A tomb**

You left me in a tomb

**I scream**

I'll die in this gloom

**Blood**

The lust I cannot sate

**Run**

For me it is too late

## 序 言

惊异

以为自己见到了光

杜绝

在暗夜的阴影里

痛苦

步步逼近我

恐惧

能嗅出它的气息

坟墓

你抛弃我之地

我尖叫

我将逝于阴沉

鲜血

我无法满足的欲念

逃亡

对我而言为时已晚

## Chapter One

THE LONE HUNTER SMILED to himself as he shot the rabbit. Finally he had some food so he could try and stop the pain in his stomach. Why had he ever come to these cursed mountains covered in forests of black trees? His brother's hunting party had been lost in these forests in 1442, and now he himself sought to search for some sign of them.

Now he was the one lost, and he knew his chances of survival depended on what he could eat. He picked up the rabbit and saw with sadness that it had been nearly dead anyway. Its thick white fur had helped to shield the fact that there was hardly any meat on it. This rabbit was the first living thing he had seen in this snow-covered forest.

He took it back to his makeshift camp and skinned it. He ate what little it could offer, and then curled up to sleep in his tent. The cold didn't bother him, he was used to such climates.

But he wasn't used to this forest.

This forest was full of death.

He awoke quickly in the middle of the night, hearing the sounds of howling.

Wolves!

He didn't fear. He had killed many wolves before. All he could think of was what meat it might offer. Smiling to himself he exited the tent and lit a lantern. The yellow light didn't penetrate far into the forest, but he lifted his weapons and listened to the sound of howling.

## 第 1 章

孤身子影的猎人射中了兔子，脸上泛起一丝欣慰的笑容。他终于有了食物，可以不再忍饥挨饿了。但是，他为什么要到这片阴森恐怖的林地来呢？为什么要到这个被人诅咒的山区来呢？他是来寻找他兄弟的踪迹的。他兄弟的狩猎队 1442 年时在这一带失踪，至今杳无音讯。现在他亲自来这里，就是想要寻觅有关那次事件的蛛丝马迹。

此时此刻，他迷路了。他知道，会不会绝处逢生将取决于他能获得怎样的食物。他捡起兔子，悲情地发现，兔子原来早已奄奄一息，快要死了。身上几乎没有什么肉，只是厚厚的白色兔毛掩盖了骨瘦如柴的事实。不过，在这片覆盖着皑皑白雪的树林里，这只兔子却是他第一次见到的活物。

他带着兔子回到临时营地，剥去兔皮，吃了兔子身上仅有的一点肉，然后便蜷身在帐篷里睡着了。寒冷并没对他产生不利的影响，因为他习惯于这种严寒的气候。

可是，他并不习惯这片林地。

这片树林，充斥着死亡。

深夜，他听到了嗥叫声，立即醒来了。

狼群！

他没有感到恐惧，因为他以前曾经猎杀过很多匹狼，他能想到的只是狼有多少肉可以吃。他点了个灯笼，微笑着离开了帐篷。灯笼黄色的灯光只能照亮近处的林地，但他仍然举起武器，同时聆听着嗥叫声。



Then he made way for it.

He trudged through the snow, marking trees as he went to make sure he wouldn't get lost. Though he always had taken such a precaution, it was rarely needed. It would be extremely extraordinary indeed if he ever were to get lost. He finally saw the shape of a wolf ahead of him.

The creature was majestic, yes, but still he considered it food.

He was the hunter, the strong.

Now you are the hunted.

The voice had echoed inside his head, and the hunter startled and stared around. The wolf was looking at him, and he realized it was a monstrous beast. It was larger than anything he had ever seen, the size of a small horse. It was covered in shining white fur, and its eyes were green. It was looking right at him.

This amazed the hunter. Had the wolf's voice been echoing in his head? The hunter wasn't sure, but he stared fearfully. He dropped his weapons and fell to his knees, that strange beautiful voice still echoing inside his mind. There were dim shadows taking form behind the wolf, and immediately four others of the same size came and joined it.

Then he heard spoken words, and they were a woman's. Her voice was educated, and lyrical. He fell under the spell of their beauty, and turning he saw there was a woman standing there. She had short blonde hair, gracing her shoulders and eyes were the same color as the wolves'. They also had the same expression.

She was dressed in a gown of red silk, it bunched at her waist and black lace trailed up and down her arms and enclosed her throat. Around it she wore a fire opal.

He then started concentrating on what this woman was actually saying to him, and the words struck fear in his heart.

"You dared to raise a weapon at my sacred children," she murmured softly. Her skin was bare and white in the moonlight, and it gleamed. The cold seemed to have no effect on her. "You have insulted them gravely."

接着，他朝嗥叫声走去。

他在雪地中跋涉，并在树上做记号，以免迷路。他总是小心翼翼，虽然这种谨慎通常是多余的；不过假如迷路，那就非常有用。终于，他见到前方出现了狼的身影。

那匹狼剽悍凶猛，形体高大。但他仍然把它看做自己的食物。

他是猎人，是强者。

然而他却成了捕杀的对象。

有一种声音在猎人的头脑里回响，他大吃一惊，四处张望。狼正在看着他，他意识到这是个怪异的巨兽。他没有见过比它更大的狼了，像小马一般，有一身闪闪发光的白色皮毛，一对绿色的眼睛。它正在目不转睛地注视着他。

这一切让猎人感到莫名其妙。曾经有狼的声音在他的头脑中回响过吗？猎人不敢肯定。他胆怯地凝视着它，丢下武器，跪倒在地，但那奇异而动听的声音仍然在他的头脑里回响。在狼的背后，渐渐地显现出一些模糊的身影。很快地又出现了另外四匹同样大小的狼，和刚才的那匹狼汇聚在一起。

接着，他听到了说话声，那是女人的声音。她的讲话既有教养又充满了感情；声音悦耳动听，富有魅力，他被深深地吸引住了。他转过身来，看见一个女子站在那里。她有一头金色短发，使她的双肩更显优美。她的眼睛，和狼的眼睛有着一样的颜色，也有同样的眼神。

她身着一件红色丝质长袍，腰间紧束，黑色蕾丝缠满手臂和颈间。她还佩戴着一条火蛋白石项链。

于是，他开始集中精神，全神贯注，想听清楚这个女人到底要对他说什么。而那些话，又让他心惊胆战。

“你竟敢对我神圣的孩子们举起武器。”她柔声低语地说。在月光下，她裸露的肌肤显得分外洁白，隐约地闪现微光。她好像丝毫不害怕寒冷，“你极大地侮辱了它们。”

He whimpered, no longer the strong and capable hunter.

“And you have insulted me.”

She motioned with her hand, a graceful otherworldly movement in the swirling snow and pitch-black trunks of the trees. In fact, the hunter reasoned he must be going mad for she couldn't exist. A woman like her could not exist, dressed like she was, out here in the wilderness. She was too beautiful to be real anyway.

The wolves came forward and surrounded him. They growled and snarled, and the hunter was even more afraid when he saw the woman growled as well.

And she had fangs.

He screamed and tried to flee, but a great wolf sprung into the air and locked its teeth into the man's leg as he tried to squirm away. The leg felt torn and bloody and he was pulled face down into the snow. Illena kicked his offending weapons out of her way, and the wolves parted for her. The largest wolf let go of the man and Illena bent over him.

“Who are you?” he cried fearfully.

She smiled. “My name is Illena,” she whispered.

“Illena,” he repeated fearfully, and sobbed. He had heard the name before, in childhood tales of horror. She was a demon.

“I am the mistress of the Black Forest who hunts its grounds restlessly with my pack.”

The man heard these words and mumbled them softly to himself, sobbing senselessly all the time. “Have mercy,” he pleaded.

“You would have killed one of my children. If you had not tried, your presence would have been irrelevant to me. I do not forgive,” she continued. “I never forgive.”

She bit into his neck and drank a little blood, but its taste was vile and nasty to her, so she threw the body to the wolves. Then she and her pack curled up together on the snow and slept. The wolves considered it an

他呜咽啜泣，仿佛成了另一个人，不再是那个强壮而能干的猎人了。

“而且，你也侮辱了我。”

她抬起手，面对着纷飞的白雪和漆黑的树干做了个手势。她的动作那么优雅，宛若来自另一个世界。事实上，猎人经过思考推论，认为自己一定快要疯了，因为她是不可能存在的。像她这样的女子，这般穿着，这样身处旷野，是不可能存在的。无论如何，她太美丽了，不可能是真的。

狼群向前移动，把他包围起来。它们嗥叫着，咆哮着。尤其当猎人看到那个女人也同样咆哮的时候，他更害怕了。

而且，她长着和狼一样的尖牙利齿。

他尖叫一声，打算逃跑。然而，一匹躯体庞大的狼凌空一跃，在他企图挪动脚步的时候咬住了他的腿，使他动弹不得。他感觉腿被咬破了，还流着血，而他又被拖得一头栽进雪堆里。伊莉娜迈步向前，一脚踢开他丢在地上的猎枪。狼群纷纷为她让路，那匹最大的狼也放弃了对他的撕咬。伊莉娜俯下身去。

“你是谁？”他惊恐地大喊。

她莞尔一笑。“我的名字叫伊莉娜。”她低声地说。

“伊莉娜。”他恐惧地重复了一遍，接着便开始哭泣。他以前曾经听说过这个名字，那是孩提时代恐怖传说里的人物。她是个魔鬼。

“我是黑森林的女主人，我和我的狼群不停地在这片土地上猎食。”

猎人听了后，轻声地自言自语，咕哝着这些话，同时始终无意识地哭泣着。“饶了我吧。”他恳求道。

“你差点杀了我的孩子。假如你没有试图杀它，你在这里和我无关。但是现在我不能原谅你，”她接着说，“绝不饶恕。”

她咬破他的脖子，喝了一点血，但对她来说，他的血口感极差而且气味难闻。于是她便把他扔给了群狼，然后她和她的狼群一起

honor to have her rest her head on their backs and curl her long limbs against theirs. They closed their eyes under the black trees, resting on white snow that was dotted red with blood.

“THE TRUTH IS, Ryan, I’m the most scared I’ve ever been of one of them.”

The words had more of an impact on Ryan than anything Nicola had said before on the graveness of the situation. When Nicola, the Head of the Order, had first announced the discovery of a new and stronger Immortal, Ryan had barely even thought of how serious the problem was. Now that she said she was afraid it made all the difference.

Because Nicola was never afraid.

Nicola smiled at him and said, “I want your help Ryan. You are by far the best seeker I have. I want you to find her. . .” She stopped him roughly. “Once you find her leave the Hunting for me and the others.”

He nodded, keeping his doubts to himself. “Find her,” Nicola had instructed. Would it be as easy as that? Ryan had no idea how to go about this daunting task. Finding random Vampires was easy enough, and he was good at it. Nicola had never required him to find a particular Vampire. Just any blood-sucking demon was fine. After he had located it, and most importantly where it slept, she and the others went on the Hunt to destroy it.

How was he to find a specific one?

Ryan knew he was such a good seeker was because he was the type Vampires liked. They would choose him to be their victim, and that’s how he could get close to them. Once upon a time he had been a hunter, but that had changed. He fingered the scar on his neck. He’d been careless before.

His best chance at finding this Vampire was to go to some seedy little bar downtown and try to dredge up information on anything out of the

在雪地上蜷身睡觉。那些狼认为，她能把头枕在它们的背上，把她修长的四肢与它们的四肢蜷曲在一起，是一种荣耀。她和狼群在阴森的树林下闭目休憩，而身下那洁白的雪却到处血迹斑斑。

“事实上，拉恩，我想我从来没有这样害怕过他们中的一员。”

尼古拉以往也提到过局势的严峻性，但她说过的任何话，都不及现在这番话对拉恩的触动大。当尼古拉，灭妖会的领导人初次宣布发现一个新近出现的更为强大而且永生不死的吸血鬼时，拉恩几乎没有想到问题会有多严重。可是，现在她说她也感到害怕，那就完全不一样了。

因为，尼古拉是从来也不会感到害怕的。

尼古拉朝她笑了笑，然后说，“拉恩，我需要你的帮助。你是我们组织最好的搜索员，我要你设法找到她……”她粗鲁地阻止他说话，“一旦发现她，就把猎杀的任务交给我和其他人来执行。”

他点点头，虽然心存疑虑，但是没有说出来。“设法找到她。”尼古拉下了指示。事情就那么简单吗？拉恩一点都不知道怎么去着手这项令人胆怯的任务。随便找个吸血鬼是极其容易的，而且他也谙于此道。以前尼古拉从来没有要他去找特定的吸血鬼，只要是吸血的魔鬼就可以了。他找到以后，最重要的是要明确吸血鬼睡在哪里，接着，她和灭妖会的其他成员就会去猎杀并消灭它。

可是，怎么找一个特定的吸血鬼呢？

拉恩知道自己是优秀的搜索员，那是因为他属于吸血鬼喜欢的一类人。它们会把他当做猎物对他下手，这样，他就能接近它们，发现它们。从前，他也是猎人，但是后来情况有所变化。他用手指摸了摸脖子上的疤痕。他曾经疏忽大意，犯过错误。

要找到这个特定的吸血鬼，最好是去闹市区那些充斥着淫秽与色情的低级酒吧，设法挖掘任何有关反常事物的信息。他会在酒吧找个地方坐下，要一杯酒，装出抑郁沮丧的表情，然后等待新近形

ordinary. He'd sit down at the bar, order a drink, look depressed and wait for one of the newer, stupider Vampires to come up to him.

The bar he chose was a popular haunt for Vampires. It seemed that most Vampires were unoriginal and would pick up their victims drunk at this place. You'd think that after the Order had so affectively Hunted down the Vampires that flocked at this place, they'd start getting new ideas. But Vampires were creatures of habit.

He sat down and ordered a drink. The first girl he saw in the bar made him smile to himself. Looking for the Undead these days was almost too easy.

He got her name from the waitress. It was Raven. He scoffed. It was so typical for the newer Vampires to name themselves lame, gothic titles. Raven noticed him watching her, and she swayed over to his table in the corner. "Bad day?" she asked seductively.

Yeah, she was a Vampire. He had no doubt about it.

He looked up at her. "Yeah," Ryan said. "Really bad day." He pretended to survey her with an appreciative glance. "Want a drink?"

"Yeah," she said, with a tinge of unwillingness.

He knew that even if he bought her a drink she wouldn't touch it. Vampires couldn't eat or drink anything other than blood. Ryan swallowed hard deliberately and she watched his throat. She was young. She was making her Vampiric mannerisms a bit too obvious, especially for someone who had been trained to spot her.

The bartender gave her a drink. Ryan watched her. She would not touch it. That was hardly surprising. "So," Ryan said, "do you want to go outside?"

Her amusement was stamped on her face. She thought he was an idiot. "Sure," she said. She thought she had a big surprise for him.

Raven led him outside and tugged him to a dark corner in the back of the bar. It was slightly chilly outside, and the sky was dark. Ryan could smell the grimy, greasy dirt that covered the walls. He knew that Raven

成而又比较愚蠢的吸血鬼上钩。

他选择的酒吧是吸血鬼喜欢出没的地方。绝大多数的吸血鬼似乎都缺乏创意，它们常会在这里结识一些喝得酩酊大醉的人，使它们成为自己的牺牲品。你可能会认为在灭妖会如此热衷于猎杀群集在这里的吸血鬼的情况下，它们应该改弦易辙，尝试新的花招了。然而，吸血鬼是墨守成规的家伙。

他坐下来，要了杯酒。他在酒吧里见到的第一个女孩就让他会心地笑了，如今要找这些不死鬼似乎也太容易了一些。

从女招待那里，他问出了她的名字，她叫蕾文。对这个名字，他嗤之以鼻，不屑一顾。因为在新近出现的吸血鬼群体中，给自己取个残缺粗野的称呼是时下非常典型的现象。蕾文注意到他在看她，于是，便摇摇摆摆地走到他在墙角边的餐桌前。“糟糕的一天？”她带着诱惑的口气问。

是啊，她是吸血鬼，他对此毫不怀疑。

他抬头看看她，“是啊，”拉恩说，“糟透了。”他假装很欣赏地打量着她，“喝一杯好吗？”

“好啊。”她说，脸上流露出一丝不情愿的神色。

他知道，即使给她买酒，她也不会去碰它的，因为吸血鬼除了吸血，是不可能吃喝其他任何食物或饮料的。拉恩故意费力地把酒咽下，而她则看着他的喉咙。她很年轻，她把自己吸血鬼的习性表现得太明显了，对受过训练、专事寻觅她的人来说，这种习性更是显而易见，暴露无遗了。

吧台服务员给了她一杯酒。拉恩站在旁边看着她。当然，她是不会喝的，这一点也不奇怪。“那么，”拉恩说，“你想出去走走吗？”

她立即笑逐颜开，乐呵呵的表情像戳记那样铭刻在她的脸上。她认为他是个白痴。“当然想啊。”她说，她觉得她会让他大吃一惊的。

蕾文带他出去，拖他去酒吧后面一个既黑暗又冷僻的地方。外



planned to dump him in this corner, torn apart and bleeding. She'd bet that they wouldn't find him for a while, at least until morning. Ryan could see that this was a good spot for the kill. It was dark, and if his body were dumped in the corner no one would discern it from anything else in the gloom.

She parted her lips, her mouth watering.

Ryan waited. He watched her jaw. He saw it flex as she widened her mouth and his fist sprung out. He got her square in the stomach. She yelled out in surprise and bent over. He watched her smiling. Raven glared up at him.

"What was that for?" she asked, playing innocent.

"Two words for you." Ryan said. "The Order."

Her reaction was immediate. She leapt up and clawed at him. Perhaps the knowledge that he was from the Order scared her, perhaps it didn't. Some Vampires knew that the Order existed, and others were oblivious until they were Hunted.

He used his right hand to grab her wrists and tear them to the left while his left fist got her cheek. She stumbled backwards, astounded that someone was actually capable of fighting her. Her gaze took all of him in, looking him up and down. He felt her eyes upon the scar on his neck. "So you've played with Vampires before," she purred.

"Yeah, I guess I have." Ryan removed the cross that was tucked under his shirt, laying it on his chest where she could see it. Raven winced and closed her eyes. Ryan took advantage of her stupor and pushed her against the wall. He reached up his sleeve for a stake with the practiced ease of someone who had done this a hundred times. He plunged it into her. She uttered no sound but just looked up at him with sad, surprised eyes.

She turned into dust, disappearing right beneath his fingers.

Her eyes were eerily familiar. The look in them was so human, almost too human.