

SMART
READING

芝麻悦读系列

梁红 编译
邹卫宁

伍角硬币



青岛出版社

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Fifty-cent piece



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学以致用是学习任何技能的最终目的。当外国人对中国人写出的英语感到不知所云、一头雾水时，往往是由于写作者对英语国家的人的思维和表达方式缺乏了解。在不少人抱怨英语难学的时候，殊不知体会和借鉴英语思维实际上有激活和提高智力的功效。

“芝麻悦读(Smart Reading)系列”的特点是英汉对照。通过精彩的英汉故事对照，读者不仅能充分领悟原文的内涵及其文化背景，而且可以在两种思维和句法的对比碰撞下，激发起英语学习和翻译的兴趣。


“芝麻悦读(Smart Reading)系列”的书名含有多重意义：以小见大，点点滴滴，启迪人生；魔力般地轻松开启英语学习的大门；轻松的阅读体验，几何级的智慧增长……

本套故事丛书适应现代社会的快节奏，适合以下群体阅读：

- ◎每天东奔西走、时间零碎的白领。
- ◎心情浮躁、无法坐下来安静读书的青少年。
- ◎想学英语又下不了决心的英语恐惧症候群。
- ◎好不容易下定决心学习英语，看到刻板的教材却又想打瞌睡的悠游族。

“芝麻悦读(Smart Reading)系列”将帮你开启心灵之窗，打通英语学习的任督二脉。它具有以下特点：

- ◎语言地道，通俗易懂，重建英语学习的信心和乐趣。
- ◎轻薄短小，方便实用，随手拿，随处读。

- 
- ◎丰富的学习内容，绝对物超所值。
 - ◎版面设计活泼清新，故事评论妙趣横生。
 - ◎生动有趣的插图，活跃视觉，拓展想象力。
 - ◎小书本，大道理，学以致用，回味无穷。

本套故事丛书取材广泛，亦庄亦谐，有的轻松愉快、催人向上，有的恐怖诡异、扑朔迷离。只要能看懂一篇文章或故事，并且其内容令人回味，我们的目的就达到了一半，因为兴趣和好奇心已经受到激发，正如爱因斯坦所说的：“兴趣是最好的老师。”每个故事后附有重点难点的词汇注释、对故事内容进行思维辩证的珠玑妙语“芝麻逗”，以及点拨人生的经典谚语“芝麻经”。在阅读故事后读者会对这些谚语有更深刻的体会，将之作为修身养性和为人处世之准绳。


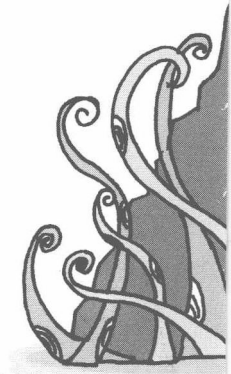
本册为悬疑推理篇，共有30个故事。情节神秘莫测，充满悬疑色彩。有些故事没有明显的主题，只是以悬念和出人意料的结局取胜，这也是西方文化的重要组成部分。

在本套丛书的编译过程中，作者力求谨慎客观、文字优美畅达，如有任何疏漏和不妥之处，还请读者不吝赐教。在此要特别感谢张璜、魏丹、田强、沈坤、张霞、杨林等为本书的编撰提供倾力相助，并对编辑、绘图者和设计制作人员的通力协作致以深深的谢意！

编者

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1. Fifty-cent piece

Mike and Paula, a young couple, were returning home from a trip to New England. As they were driving homeward in their carriage, they were somewhere near Spieglestown when daylight failed and they knew that they would have to seek shelter for the night.

Mike spied a light through the dense trees and turned their horse into a small lane leading up a hill. A pleasant little house stood at the crest. An old man and his wife met the young couple at the door. They were in nightclothes and were obviously about to turn in, but they welcomed the young travelers and offered them a room. The old woman bustled about making tea and offering freshly-baked cakes. Then the travelers were shown to their room. Mike wanted to pay the old couple for their lodgings, but the old lady shook her head and the old man refused any payment.

The travelers awoke early the next morning, and tiptoed out of the house, leaving a shiny fifty-cent coin in the center of the kitchen table where the old couple could not miss it. The husband hitched up the horse and they went a few miles before they stopped for breakfast at a little restaurant in Spieglestown.

Mike mentioned the nice old couple to the owner of the restaurant and the man turned pale.

“Where did you say that house was?” he asked. The husband described the location in detail.

“You must be mistaken,” the restaurant owner replied. “That house was destroyed three years ago by a fire that killed the Brown family.”

“I don’t believe it,” Mike said flatly. “Mr. and Mrs. Brown were alive and well last night.”

After debating for a few more minutes, the couple and the restaurant owner drove the carriage back out of town towards the old Brown place. They turned onto the lane, which was overgrown with weeds, and climbed the hill to the crest. There they found a burned out shell of a house that had obviously not sheltered anyone for a long time.

“I must have missed the track,” said Mike. And then his wife gave a terrified scream and fainted into his arms. As he held her, the husband looked into the ruin and saw a burnt table with a shiny fifty-cent piece lying in the center.



伍角硬币

一对年轻夫妇迈克和保拉刚刚结束新英格兰之旅，两人赶着马车正在回家的路上。快到斯皮格尔镇的时候，夜幕降临，他们只得找个地方过夜。

密密匝匝的树叶中恍惚透出一点亮光。迈克牵马调头，转向一条小路，向着有亮光的山顶走去。山顶上有一座温馨的小屋，屋子的主人是老两口，他们身着睡衣，显然是准备就寝了，但他们依然在门口热情相迎，并给客人提供了一个房间。老太太忙着泡茶，又拿出刚烤的蛋糕款待来客。到房间时，迈克掏出钱来想付房费，老太太摇了摇头，老先生也不肯接受他们的钱。

第二天迈克和保拉很早就醒了。他们蹑手蹑脚地走出房间，把一枚亮闪闪的伍角硬币放在厨房的桌子上，相信老两口一进厨房就能看到。迈克整理好鞍具，套上马，夫妇二人继续向几英里外的斯皮格尔镇进发。到镇上后，他们来到一家小饭馆吃饭。

迈克跟店主提起那对善良的老夫妇，店主突然吓得脸色煞白。

“你说的那房子在哪儿？”店主问道。迈克详细地描述了房子的位置。

“你肯定搞错了，”店主说道，“那座房子早在三年前就烧没了，布朗一家都被烧死了。”

“我才不信呢，”迈克坚决地说道，“布朗先生和布朗太太昨晚还好好的，身板壮实得很。”

双方又争论了几分钟，最后夫妇俩和店主一起坐上马车，驶出小镇，朝着老布朗家飞驰而去。他们来到那条从大路岔开的小路，小路上荒草丛生。他们沿着小路到了山顶。在那里，他们看到一座焦黑的房屋废墟，显然烧毁后已有些年头了，毫无人迹。

“肯定走错路了。”迈克话音未落，紧挨着他的保拉“啊”的一

声倒在迈克身上。迈克扶着保拉，向废墟里望去。只见一张烧成焦炭的桌子中央熠熠闪烁，正是迈克留下的那枚五角硬币。

词汇注释

1. carriage ['kærɪdʒ] n. 马车
2. shelter ['ʃeltə] n. 住处，栖身之地
3. spy [spaɪ] v. 暗中查明
4. lane [leɪn] n. 乡间小道
5. crest [krest] n. 山顶
6. bustle ['bʌsl] v. 忙忙碌碌
7. lodging ['lɒdʒɪŋ] n. 住宿，寄宿
8. mention ['menʃən] v. 提到
9. flatly ['flætli] adv. 断然地，坚决地
10. debate [dɪ'beɪt] v. 争论，辩论
11. overgrown [əʊvə'grəʊn] adj. (野生植物等)长满的
12. terrified ['terɪfaɪd] adj. 恐惧的，受惊吓的



芝麻逗 鬼亦有情啊！那个虚无的世界并不都是恐怖的哦！



芝麻经 Experience is the father of wisdom and memory, the mother.

经验是智慧之父，记忆是智慧之母。

2. Twist

Sophia was dead in her room.

John, Sophia's boyfriend, had gone to pick her up for their dinner and propose to her at Le Compagnon, the only top-of-the-line restaurant in their small town of Beaverton. He'd been planning this all week. However, the front door of Sophia's house had been unlocked and then John found her there, on her living room floor, the back of her head split open...

Throughout the year, slipping in and out of the darkness was John's specialty, bypassing most alarms and locks like a ghost, robbing the wealthier homes in the community almost at will.

Tonight on Halloween, his talent would shine. John, dressed in a flowing black cape and skillfully applied stage makeup, walked openly down the streets as he moved toward his target. It was the one night of the year he wasn't forced to skulk around in the edges of the shadows. Walking among the little ghosts, goblins and Disney-inspired characters, John felt the surreal tone of the night down to his bones. As a child, he'd always loved a good scare. It was too bad that the trappings of adulthood had taken that from him. He watched the little trick-or-treaters with more than a touch of envy.

Soon he found himself in front of his target for tonight. The house he'd originally picked was a modern three-story monstrosity that stuck out in the staid old neighborhood like a gold tooth on a nun. But what

the owners lacked in taste, they more than made up for in conspicuous consumption. He expected to make an excellent haul tonight.

The flashy home John had picked was in stark contrast to the residence next to it, a place he had long admired but regretfully passed up since it sported a state of the art burglar alarm system that even he couldn't touch.

Wait a minute, John thought. That was before the power failed. He'd checked several of the houses in the neighborhood out of habit the day before when he'd been snooping around dressed as a meter reader. He'd noted that the old house he'd seen had a system that didn't have a battery back up.

John didn't believe in changing plans abruptly, he'd always considered it bad luck, but this was an opportunity too good to pass up. The place was particularly suited to his Halloween mood. Built of brick a hundred years ago, the house sported turrets that rose high above the ground and wide dark buttresses that supported its own cast of gargoyles watching over all below. The original builder had obviously been in love with the castles of the old times, and had commissioned a home reminiscent of days long gone.

That suited John just fine. He was going to rob the castle tonight.

To his astonishment, the first room he entered was exactly the same as Sophia's at the time of her death. Suddenly he saw something shining in the corner – it was a diamond ring, none other than the one he intended to present to Sophia a year ago.

“No!” a scream was stifled in the merrymaking of Halloween and next morning John was found dead in the castle with the back of his head split open...

词汇注释

1. unlock [ʌn'lɒk] v. 开……的锁
2. split [split] v. 使分裂
3. bypass ['baɪpɑ:s] v. 避开
4. community [kə'mju:niti] n. 社区
5. skulk [skʌlk] v. 偷偷摸摸; 躲藏
6. goblin ['gɒblɪn] n. 小妖精
7. monstrosity [mɒn'strɒsɪti] n. 怪物, 巨大而丑陋的东西
8. staid [steɪd] adj. 沉静的
9. conspicuous [kən'spɪkjʊəs] adj. 显著的, 与众不同的
10. consumption [kən'sʌmpʃən] n. 消耗量
11. snoop [snu:p] v. 探听, 窥视
12. buttress ['bʌtrɪs] n. 扶壁
13. gargoyle ['gɑ:ɡɔɪl] n. 滴水嘴
14. commission [kə'mɪʃən] v. 委托, 委派
15. reminiscent [remɪ'nɪsənt] adj. 怀旧的
16. none other than 不是别的, 正是

怪异癖好

索菲亚死了。

在她死前，索菲亚的男朋友约翰开车打算接她到“同伴”饭店共进晚餐，并向她求婚。那儿是海狸小镇上最高级的饭店，整整一星期他都盼着这一天。索菲亚家房前大门并没上锁，进门之后他看到她倒在客厅的地板上，后脑都裂开了……

此后整整一年，在漆黑的夜里出没成了他的癖好，黑暗中他像幽灵一样神不知鬼不觉地越过警铃，避开门锁，在小镇上的有钱人家肆意地入室打劫。

万圣节之夜正好大显身手。约翰披上飘逸的黑色斗篷，娴熟地化了厚厚的舞台妆，然后他大摇大摆地走上街头，向目标踱去。一年中只有在这天夜里，他不用鬼鬼祟祟地在黑影里潜行。满大街尽是小鬼、小妖精和迪斯尼动画人物，跟他们走在一起，约翰真真切切地体会到万圣节的超现实感觉。小时候，他很喜欢吓唬别人。遗憾的是，成年后身份地位的约束让他不能再像儿时那样做了。看着身旁这些孩子叽叽喳喳地不断叫喊“要么款待，要么使坏”，约翰心里满是嫉妒。

很快约翰就来到当晚行动的地点。他早就觊觎着这户人家，这是一栋现代风格的三层楼房，兀自立着，与安静古朴的邻家建筑格格不入，就像在修女的嘴里镶了颗金牙。房子的主人在用钞票堆砌的俗艳中弥补品味的不足。约翰指望着今晚能大捞一笔。

约翰选中的这栋房子装饰浮华，与周围的建筑形成了鲜明的对比。尽管他对此垂涎已久，但是由于里面赫然装备着最先进的防盗报

警系统，自己也只能望洋兴叹。

“不对啊，那是以前，”约翰心想，“现在整个断了电。”原来，他已经在前一天踩点时扮成抄表工到周围的几户人家打探过了，这是他一贯的作风。他注意到他看中的老房子的报警系统根本就没有备用电池。

约翰的行动历来都是计划周密，不会临时变卦。他总觉得那样会倒霉，但今晚他不想错失良机。这栋老房子建了100多年了，高耸的塔楼十分扎眼，高高的深色扶墙上布满突出的怪兽水嘴，居高临下，面目狰狞，正符合今晚万圣节的气氛。不用说，最早建这栋房子的人对旧式城堡情有独钟，以它来缅怀那逝去的岁月。

这风格和气氛与约翰的怀旧心思不谋而合。万圣节之夜，就去这栋老房子碰碰运气吧。

令约翰惊讶的是，他闯入的第一个房间简直就跟索菲亚死时房间里的摆设一模一样。猛然间，他看到角落里有东西闪着寒光——是一枚钻戒！跟他一年前准备送给索菲亚的那枚毫无二致。

“天哪！”一声惊叫淹没在万圣节之夜的欢乐气氛中。第二天一大早，有人发现约翰死在了这幢老房子里，后脑都裂开了……



芝麻逼 索菲亚想把约翰也变成鬼，这样就可以实现未完成的约定了吧。



芝麻经 Greedy folks have long arms.
心贪手长。

3. Mystery presence

Originally from Mexico, but because of my father's work, my family and I had just moved into an apartment in Canada.

The first day after we moved in, I felt the presence of somebody following me down the hall, and a breath from behind. Whenever I turned around to see what happened, the presence would slowly fade. At night, I would hear footsteps going back and forth; sometimes I would hear crying and sobbing from a child. At other times, frozen from fear in bed, I would see shadows sweeping across and out of the room. I could not scream, or move. All I could do was to pull the sheets over my face. Things would sometimes get worse. Sometimes I would feel someone tapping on my shoulder while I was walking down the hall. Usually everything happened while I was either alone, or at night.

The phone rang at eight o'clock one morning. It was my friend Judy. She was also home alone; both of our parents had gone out so I invited her to stay over for the night. We went over to the local public library to do research on the apartment where we lived in. We found nothing out of the ordinary except for a fire. Back at the apartment we saw old Brown, our new neighbor, who told us that in that fire, the parents of a small child about 8 years old died. My parents still didn't believe me but as they got tired of my complaints, we later moved to another apartment.

As for my friend, we still visited each other, and whenever we went