

美国青少年 必读经典

中英对照

Grant Thornton's
Ambition

萨顿的愿望

下

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GRANT THORNTON'S
A. M. B. T. T. C. N.



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CHAPTER XXI

THE THIEF IS DISCOVERED

Willis Ford ascended the steps of the broker's residence with a jaunty step. The servant admitted him, but he met Grant in the hall.

"Won't you come upstairs, Mr. Ford?" he said.

"Your stay in the house will be short, young man," he thought. "You had better make the most of it."

He was ushered not into the housekeeper's room, but into a sitting-room on the second floor. He found Mr. Reynolds and his stepmother there already. Both greeted him, the broker gravely, but his stepmother cordially. Grant did not come in.

"I have come as you requested, Mr. Reynolds," he said. "I suppose it's about the bonds. May I ask if you have discovered anything new?"

"I think I have," answered the broker, slowly.

The housekeeper looked surprised. If anything new had been discovered, she at least had not heard it.

"May I ask what it is?" Ford inquired, carelessly.

"You shall know in good time. Let me, however, return the

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终于找到了小偷

威立斯·福特迈着轻快地步子沿着台阶来到了经纪人家里。仆人给他打开了门，他在大厅里遇见了格兰特。

“您不上楼吗，福特先生？”他说道。

“你在这房子里待不多长时间啦，年轻人。”他想道，“最好赶快享受一下吧。”

他被带进二楼的起居室，而不是管家的房间。他发现雷诺德先生和他继母已经坐在那里了。两个人都跟他打了招呼，经纪人看起来很严肃，可他继母却很高兴。格兰特没有进来。

“我已经按照您的要求来了，雷诺德先生，”他说道，“我想是关于债券的事情吧。我能问一下您有什么新发现了吗？”

“我想是的。”经纪人慢慢地回答道。

管家看起来非常吃惊。她至少还没听说真的有什么新发现。

“我能问一下您发现了什么吗？”福特随口问道。

“你很快就会知道的。让我先问你一个问题吧，你听说过有

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question. Have you heard anything calculated to throw light on the mystery?"

"No, sir, I can't say I have. To my mind there is no mystery at all about the affair."

"I presume I understand what you mean. Still I will ask you to explain yourself."

"Everything seems to throw suspicion upon that boy, Grant Thornton. Nobody saw him take the bonds, to be sure, but he has had every opportunity of doing so, living in the same house, as he does. Again, a key has been found in his pocket, which will open the bureau drawer in which the bonds were kept; and, thirdly, I can testify, and the boy admits, that he presented them at our office for sale, and received the money for them. I think, sir, that any jury would consider this accumulation of proof conclusive."

"It does seem rather strong," said the broker, gravely. "I compliment you on the way you have summed up, Mr. Ford."

Willis Ford looked much gratified. He was susceptible to flattery, and he was additionally pleased, because, as he thought, Mr. Reynolds was impressed by the weight of evidence.

"I have sometimes thought," he said, complacently, "that I ought to have become a lawyer. I always had a liking for the profession."

"Still," said the broker, deliberately, "we ought to consider Grant's explanation of the matter. He says that the bonds were entrusted to him for sale by a third party."

人计划着要帮我解开这个谜吗？”

“没有，先生，我想我没有。在我看来，这件事情没有什么神秘的。”

“我想我知道你的意思了。可我还是想让你自己解释一下。”

“一切都让人怀疑那孩子，格兰特·萨顿。当然，并没有人看见他偷债券，可他完全有机会这么做，因为他就住在这所房子里。而且我们从他身上找到了钥匙，他完全可以用那把钥匙打开放债券的抽屉；第三，我可以证明，而且那孩子也承认了，是他把债券拿到我们办公室出售的，然后又拿走了卖债券的钱。我想，先生，任何陪审团都会相信这些证据已经足够了。”

“这些证据听起来确实已经够了，”经纪人严肃地说道，“我觉得你总结得很好，福特先生。”

威立斯·福特看起来非常满足。他很容易接受别人的吹捧，而且他还很高兴，因为在他看来，雷诺德先生已经被这些证据说服了。

“我有时会想，”他得意地说道，“我觉得我应该去当律师。我很喜欢这个职业。”

“可是，”经纪人若有所思地说道，“我们应该考虑一下格兰特的解释。他说那些债券是第三方委托他出售的。”

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"Of course he would say something like that," returned Willis, shrugging his shoulders. "He can hardly expect anyone to be taken in by such a statement as that."

"You think, then, that he had no dealings with this Morrison?"

"I don't say that, sir," said Ford, remembering the story which he and Morrison had agreed upon. It may be stated here that he had been anxious to meet Morrison before meeting the coming appointment, in order to ascertain what had passed between him and Grant. With this object in view, he had gone to the usual haunts of the gambler, but had been unable to catch sight of him. However, as he had seen him the evening previous, and agreed upon the story to be told, he contented himself with that.

"You think, then, that Morrison may have given Grant the bonds?" said Mr. Reynolds.

"No, sir; that is not my idea."

"Have you any other notion?"

"I think the boy may have been owing him money, and took this method of raising it."

"But how should he owe him money?" asked the broker, curiously.

"I don't wish to say anything against Morrison, but I have been told that he is a gambler. Grant may have lost money to him at play."

“他当然会那么说，”威立斯耸了耸肩膀说道，“可没人会相信他这一套的。”

“那么你是说他跟莫里森先生没有任何交易了？”

“我不是这个意思，先生，”福特突然想起了他跟莫里森商量好的故事。值得一提的是，他很想在这里之前先见一下莫里森，这样他才能了解一下莫里森早晨跟格兰特见面的情形。为此他还去了赌徒们经常去的那些地方，但却没看见莫里森的影子。可由于他前一天晚上已经跟莫里森见了面，而且已经商量好了，所以他还是觉得非常满意。

“那么你觉得是莫里森把债券交给格兰特了？”雷诺德先生说道。

“不，先生，我觉得不是这样的。”

“你有其他想法吗？”

“我觉得那孩子可能欠了莫里森一笔钱，他是想通过这种方式弄些钱还他。”

“可他怎么会欠莫里森钱呢？”纪纪人不解地问道。

“我不想说莫里森的坏话，可有人告诉我他是个赌徒。格兰特可能是在赌钱的时候输给了他。”

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"Or you," thought the broker; but he said: "Your suggestion is worth considering, but I don't think Grant has had any opportunity to lose money in that way, as he spends his evenings usually at home."

"It wouldn't take long to lose a great deal of money, sir."

"That explains it," said the housekeeper, speaking for the first time. "I have no doubt Willis is right, and the boy gambles."

"I presume, Mr. Ford," said the broker, with a peculiar look, "that you do not approve of gambling?" *h. j. l. c.*

"Most certainly not, sir," said Ford, his face expressing the horror which a so-well-conducted young man must naturally feel for so pernicious a habit.

"I am glad to hear it. Will you excuse me a moment?"

After the broker had left the room, Mrs. Estabrook turned to Willis and said: "You are pretty sharp, Willis. You have found out this wretched boy, and now I think we shall get rid of him."

"I flatter myself, mother," said Willis, complacently, "that I have given the old man some new ideas as to the character of his favorite. I don't think we shall see him in the office again."

As he spoke, his ears caught the sound of ascending footsteps on the stairs without. He was rather puzzled. He conjectured that Grant had been summoned to confront his accuser, but there seemed, from the sound, to be more than two approaching. When the door opened, and the broker gravely ushered in Jim Morrison

“或者是你欠了别人钱。”经纪人心里想，不过他说道：“你的建议值得考虑，可我想格兰特没有机会输钱，因为他晚上通常都待在家里。”

“我想输钱并不需要花太多时间，先生。”

“这倒是！”管家第一次开口讲话，“毫无疑问，威立斯说得对，那孩子赌博。”

“我想，福特先生，”经纪人脸上的表情很奇怪，“你并不赞同赌博？”

“当然不赞同，先生。”福特一听到经纪人的话，脸上立刻流露出一副恐怖的表情，好像一个品行良好的年轻人在听到这种坏习惯时自然会流露出的表情那样。

“我很高兴听到这个。请原谅，我要出去一下。”

经纪人离开房间之后，艾斯塔布鲁克太太转向威立斯说道：“你真聪明，威立斯。你已经查出了这个坏小子，现在我想我们可以把他赶走了。”

“我都佩服我自己，妈妈。”威立斯得意地说道，“我能让老家伙重新认识他最喜欢的那个孩子。我想我以后不会在办公室看见他了。”

就在说这些话的时候，他突然听到有人从外面上楼梯的声音。他觉得很奇怪。因为他猜想格兰特已经被叫去对质了，可从脚步的声音判断，来到好像不止两个人。当门被打开的时候，经纪人一脸严肃地把吉姆·莫里森和汤姆·卡戴尔领了

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and Tom Calder, both looking ill at ease, followed by Grant Thornton, he looked amazed and perplexed.

"I believe you know these gentlemen," said Mr. Reynolds, gravely. "I have thought it best to make our present investigation thorough and complete."

"I have met the gentlemen before," said Ford, uncomfortably.

"You also have met them, Grant, have you not?"

"Yes, sir."

"Have you had any business transaction with either?"

"Yes, sir. Mr. Morrison met me on Wall Street and handed me two bonds, with a request that I would sell them for him, and hand him the money the next morning, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel."

"Were these the same bonds that you sold to Mr. Ford?"

"Yes, sir."

"I think the boy is lying, sir," burst out Ford.

"What have you to say to the boy's story, Mr. Morrison?" asked the broker.

"He's made a little mistake," answered Jim Morrison, who by this time was feeling more at his ease. "I didn't give him no bonds."

Willis Ford looked triumphant, and Grant amazed.

"How, then, could there be any business between you?"

"I may as well own up that I am a gambler," replied Morrison, with virtuous frankness. "The boy lost the money to me at play, and said he'd meet and pay me at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. I

进来，两个人看起来都不大自在，后面跟着格兰特·萨顿，他看起来一脸迷惑，又感觉非常惊讶。

“我相信你认识这两位先生，”雷诺德先生严肃地说道，“我想我们现在最好能够把这件事情彻底调查清楚。”

“我以前见过他们。”福特不安地说道。

“你也见过他们，格兰特，对吧？”

“是的，先生。”

“你跟他们当中的哪位有生意往来吗？”

“是的，先生。莫里森先生在华尔街见到了我，并给我两张债券，要我帮他卖掉，并在第二天把钱在第五大道酒店交给他。”

“这些债券就是你卖给福特先生的那些债券吗？”

“是的，先生。”

“我想那孩子在撒谎，先生。”福特大声说道。

“你对这孩子讲过的事情有什么可说的，莫里森先生？”经纪人问道。

“他犯了个小错误，”吉姆·莫里森回答道，此时他已经觉得比较自然了，“我并没有给他债券。”

威立斯·福特看起来好像获胜了一样，而格兰特却大吃一惊。

“那么你们两个之间怎么可能会有业务联系呢？”

“我承认，我是个赌徒，”莫里森坦然地回答道，“那孩子跟我赌博的时候输了钱，他说他会在第五大道酒店把钱还

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didn't know where he was going' to get the money, but I expect he must have stolen the bonds, and got it that way."

Considering the damaging nature of the revelation, Grant showed considerable self-command. He did not turn pale, nor did he look guilty and conscience-stricken.

"What have you to say to this charge, Grant?" asked the broker.

"It is not true, sir."

"What a hardened young villain!" said the housekeeper, in a low, but audible voice.

"Mr. Reynolds will hardly believe you," said Ford, turning upon our hero and speaking in a tone of virtuous indignation. "You see, sir," he continued, addressing the broker, "that I was right in my conjecture."

"I am not quite satisfied yet," said Mr. Reynolds. "Grant, call the boy."

Great was the perplexity of Willis Ford and his friends when Grant left the room, and almost immediately reappeared with a small boy in blue uniform. Not one of them recognized him.

"Have you ever seen any of these gentlemen before, my boy?" asked the broker.

"I've seed them all, sir," answered the boy.

"State where you saw them last."

"I seed him, and him, and him," said Johnny, pointing out

给我。我不知道他从哪里弄的钱，不过我想他肯定是偷了那些债券，然后才弄到钱的。”

虽然这件事情可能会给自己带来毁灭性的打击，可格兰特还是表现出了足够的自制。他并没有脸色发白，也没有看起来像是一副认罪或良心受到谴责的样子。

“你对这件事情有什么可说的，格兰特？”经纪人问道。

“这不是真的，先生。”

“这小混蛋嘴多硬啊！”管家压低了声音说道，不过人们还是能听到。

“雷诺德先生都快不相信你了。”福特转向我们的主人公，用一种忿忿不平的腔调说道，“你看，先生，”他接着对经纪人说道，“我的推断没错吧。”

“我还不是很满意，”雷诺德先生说道，“格兰特，把那孩子叫来。”

当格兰特离开房间，并很快带着一个穿着蓝色制服的孩子重新出现的时候，威立斯·福特和他的朋友们都摸不着头脑了。没有人认识这孩子。

“你见过这里面的人吗，孩子？”经纪人问道。

“我都见过，先生。”孩子回答道。

“说说你最后一次是在哪里见到他们的。”

“我见到了他，他，还有他，”约翰尼指着威立斯·福特，吉姆·莫里森还有汤姆·卡戴尔说道，“昨天早晨在中央酒店

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Willis Ford, Jim Morrison and Tom Calder, "at the Grand Central Hotel yesterday mornm'."

Ford started and became very pale.

"What passed between them?"

"He," indicating Ford, "gave some bonds to him," indicating Morrison, "and got back a bit of paper. I don't know what was on it."

"It is false!" ejaculated Willis Ford, hoarsely.

看到的。”

福特的脸色开始变白了。

“他们在干什么？”

“他，”孩子指着福特说道，“给了他一些债券，”他又指着莫里森说道，“然后又拿回了一些纸。我不知道纸上写的都是什么。”

“撒谎！”威立斯·福特粗鲁地叫道。