

插图·中文导读英文版



Hector's Inheritance

# 赢回继承权

[美] 霍瑞修·爱尔杰 著

王勋 纪飞 等 编译

美国有史以来销量最大、最具全球影响力的励志文学作品

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清华大学出版社



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北京

## 内 容 简 介

《赢回继承权》是世界上最伟大的青春励志小说之一。主人公赫可特是一个富家子弟，从小过着无忧无虑的生活。一天，灾难突然降临在他的身上，他的父亲不幸去世。不仅如此，在父亲去世后不久，他的叔叔通过证据证明赫可特不是他父亲的亲生儿子，从此失去了对父亲巨额财产的继承权。年少的赫可特不得不离家在一所寄宿学校读书。在校期间，正直的赫可特跟校长的侄子发生了冲突，不得已他离开了学校并开始了流浪生活。由于他的善良和勇敢，赫可特获得了别人的帮助，经过不懈的努力，叔叔的骗局被揭穿，赫可特重新赢回了对父亲财产的继承权。

书中所展现的励志故事伴随了一代又一代人的美丽童年、少年直至成年。无论作为语言学习的课本，还是作为通俗的文学读本，本书对当代中国的青少年都将产生积极的影响。为了使读者能够了解英文故事概况，进而提高阅读速度和阅读水平，在每章的开始部分增加了中文导读。同时，为了读者更好地理解故事内容，书中加入了大量插图。

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霍瑞修·爱尔杰 (Horatio Alger, 1832—1899), 美国著名教育家、小说家。一生共创作了一百多部以“奋斗、成功”为主题的励志小说, 其代表作有《苦尽甘来》、《小贩成功路》、《流浪儿成绅士》、《赢回继承权》、《乔伊历险记》、《生活的考验》、《壮志在心》和《愿望实现了》等, 这些小说被译成多种文字, 在世界上广为流传。

1832年1月13日, 霍瑞修·爱尔杰出生在美国马萨诸塞州的一个牧师家庭。自小受到良好的教育, 19岁毕业于哈佛大学。他做过家庭教师、记者, 1868年开始从事文学创作。在其作品中, 爱尔杰塑造了一系列出身卑微, 但依靠自身的勇气、信念和努力, 终于获得成功的少年形象。这些形象也是对“美国梦”的生动诠释, 激励着一代又一代人。正因为如此, 爱尔杰被数届美国总统赞誉为“美国精神之父”, 人们将他与马克·吐温并列为“对今日美国影响最深的两位作家”。在中国, 爱尔杰的作品也广受读者的欢迎。基于以上原因, 我们决定编译爱尔杰作品中的经典, 其中包括《苦尽甘来》、《小贩成功路》、《流浪儿成绅士》、《乔伊历险记》、《壮志在心》、《生活的考验》、《赢回继承权》和《愿望实现了》, 并采用中文导读英文版的形式出版。在中文导读中, 我们尽力使其贴近原作的精髓, 也尽可能保留原作的风格。我们希望能够编出为当代中国



读者所喜爱的经典读本。读者在阅读英文故事之前，可以先阅读中文导读，这样有利于了解故事背景，从而加快阅读速度。同时，为了读者更好地理解故事内容，书中加入了大量插图。我们相信，这些经典著作的引进对加强当代中国读者，特别是青少年读者的科学素养和人文修养是非常有帮助的。

本书主要内容由王勋、纪飞编译。参加本书故事素材搜集整理及编译工作的还有郑佳、刘乃亚、赵雪、左新杲、黄福成、冯洁、徐鑫、马启龙、王业伟、王旭敏、陈楠、王多多、邵舒丽、周丽萍、王晓旭、李永振、孟宪行、熊红华、胡国平、熊建国、徐平国、王小红等。限于我们的文学素养和英语水平，书中难免会有不当之处，衷心希望读者朋友批评指正。



第一章 罗斯克先生收到两封信/	
Chapter 1 Mr. Roscoe Receives Two Letters .....	1
第二章 令人愤慨的侮辱/	
Chapter 2 Resenting An Insult .....	9
第三章 赫可特知道的一个秘密/	
Chapter 3 Hector Learns A Secret .....	18
第四章 小争执/	
Chapter 4 A Skirmish .....	26
第五章 准备离家/	
Chapter 5 Preparing To Leave Home .....	34
第六章 史密斯学院/	
Chapter 6 Smith Institute .....	42
第七章 操场上的暴徒/	
Chapter 7 The Tyrant Of The Playground .....	50
第八章 在教室/	
Chapter 8 In The Schoolroom .....	58
第九章 维吉尔课程/	
Chapter 9 The Glass In Virgil .....	66
第十章 在史密斯学院吃午餐/	
Chapter 10 Dinner At Smith Institute .....	74
第十一章 赫可特受到威胁/	
Chapter 11 Hector Receives A Summon .....	82
第十二章 即将发生的冲突/	
Chapter 12 The Impending Conflict .....	91



第十三章 谁将是胜利者/	
Chapter 13 Who Shall Be Victor .....	99
第十四章 苏格拉底找赫可特算账/	
Chapter 14 Socrates Calls Hector to Account .....	107
第十五章 教导员向赫可特道出了秘密/	
Chapter 15 The Usher Confides in Hector .....	115
第十六章 被包在毯子里抛来扔去/	
Chapter 16 Tossed in a Blanket .....	123
第十七章 吉姆·史密斯复仇/	
Chapter 17 Jim Smith's Revenge .....	132
第十八章 找到了丢失的钱包/	
Chapter 18 The Missing Wallet is Found .....	140
第十九章 极具戏剧化的一幕/	
Chapter 19 A Dramatic Scene .....	148
第二十章 赫可特取得了胜利/	
Chapter 20 Hector Gains a Victory .....	157
第二十一章 教导员被解聘/	
Chapter 21 The Usher is Discharged .....	165
第二十二章 欢迎信/	
Chapter 22 The Welcome Letter .....	174
第二十三章 教导员的另外一个机会/	
Chapter 23 Another Chance for the Usher .....	183
第二十四章 年轻的侦探们/	
Chapter 24 The Young Detectives .....	192
第二十五章 史密斯学院渐渐变得不受欢迎/	
Chapter 25 Smith Institute Grows Unpopular .....	201



第二十六章 赫可特来到纽约/	
Chapter 26 Hector's Arrival in New York .....	210
第二十七章 拉里·狄恩/	
Chapter 27 Larry Deane .....	219
第二十八章 另外两位熟人/	
Chapter 28 Two More Acquaintances .....	228
第二十九章 吉姆·史密斯贷款/	
Chapter 29 Jim Smith Effects a Loan .....	237
第三十章 一次勇敢的行动/	
Chapter 30 A Brave Deed .....	246
第三十一章 一封重要的信/	
Chapter 31 An Important Letter .....	255
第三十二章 一个刚愎自用的年轻人/	
Chapter 32 A Wayward Youth .....	264
第三十三章 罗斯克先生有一个发现/	
Chapter 33 Mr. Roscoe Makes a Discovery .....	269
第三十四章 旧金山的第一印象/	
Chapter 34 The First Impression of San Francisco .....	274
第三十五章 浪荡子/	
Chapter 35 The Prodigal .....	282
第三十六章 在萨克拉门托赫可特是如何取得成功的/	
Chapter 36 How Hector Succeeds in Sacramento .....	291
第三十七章 侥幸逃脱/	
Chapter 37 A Narrow Escape .....	296
第三十八章 大结局/	
Chapter 38 Conclusion .....	301

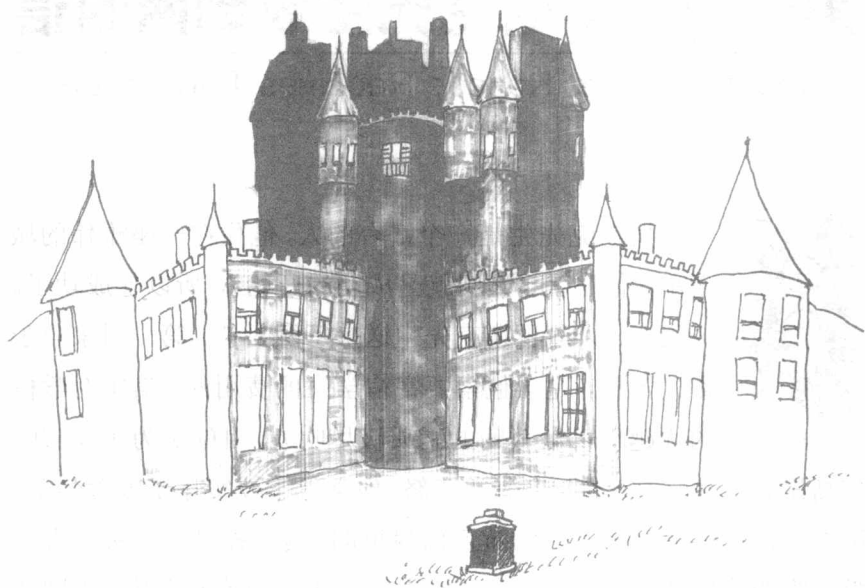


# 第一章 罗斯克先生收到两封信

## Chapter 1 Mr. Roscoe Receives Two Letters



罗斯克先生是一个富有的人，他住在一座雄伟的城堡里，他坚信“大胆就是成功的开始”，所以他成功了。一天，仆人给罗斯克先生送来了两封信，第一封来自于寄读学校，是向他索要寄宿学生的费用的，信中对学校的优越环境和教师的素质极尽吹嘘，目的是为了能够收到高昂的学费。这让罗斯克非常愤怒，他觉得学校实在是太贪婪了。第二封信是装在一个廉价的黄色信封里的，这同样是一封关于寄宿学生收费的信件，信中也对于学校进行了非常细致的宣传，力图让人觉得高额的学费并不过分。罗斯克对比了两所学校的情况，最后为自己的侄子选择了较便宜的那一所。心里打定主意之后，罗斯克坐下来写回信，第一封是回绝第一所学校的信，信中对于学校的高昂费用表达了由衷的不满，同时指出绝不会让自己的侄子去学校就读。在信中罗斯克还说出了一个惊人的事实，那就是他的侄子并不是他哥哥亲生的，罗斯克继承的遗产正是他哥哥的。第二封信的措辞就柔和多了，他同意让赫可特也就是他的侄子去学校就读，同时也再一次指出赫可特并非他兄长真正的孩子，只是养子。



罗斯克先生的城堡

Mr. Roscoe rang the bell, and, in answer, a servant entered the library, where he sat before a large and commodious desk.

“Has the mail yet arrived?” he asked.

“Yes, sir; John has just come back from the village.”

“Go at once and bring me the letters and papers, if there are any.”

John bowed and withdrew.

Mr. Roscoe walked to the window, and looked thoughtfully out upon a smooth, luxuriant lawn and an avenue of magnificent trees, through which carriages were driven to what was popularly known as Castle Roscoe. Everything, even to the luxuriously appointed room in which he sat, indicated wealth and the ease which comes from affluence.

Mr. Roscoe looked around him with exultation.

“And all this may be mine,” he said to himself, “if I am only bold. What is it old Pindar says? ‘Boldness is the beginning of victory.’ I have forgotten nearly all I learned in school, but I remember that. There is some risk, perhaps, but not much, and I owe something to my son...”

He was interrupted by the entrance of the servant with a small leather bag, which was used to hold mail matter, going from or coming to the house.

The servant unlocked the bag, and emptied the contents on the desk. There were three or four papers and two letters. It was the last which attracted Mr. Roscoe's attention.

We will take the liberty of looking over Mr. Roscoe's shoulder as he reads the first. It ran as follows:

"DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of your favor, asking my terms for boarding pupils. For pupils of fifteen or over, I charge five hundred dollars per year, which is not a large sum considering the exceptional advantages presented by Inglewood School. My pupils are from the best families, and enjoy a liberal table. Moreover, I employ competent teachers, and guarantee rapid progress, when the student is of good, natural capacity, and willing to work.

"I think you will agree with me that it is unwise to economize when the proper training of a youth is in question, and that a cheap school is little better than no school at all.

"I have only to add that I shall be most happy to receive your young nephew, if you decide to send him to me, and will take personal pains to promote his advancement.

"I remain, dear sir, your obedient servant,

"DIONYSIUS KADIX."

Mr. Roscoe threw the letter down upon the desk with an impatient gesture.

"Five hundred dollars a year!" he exclaimed, "What can the man be thinking of? Why, when I went to school, twenty-five years

since, less than half this sum was charged. The man is evidently rapacious. Let me see what this other letter says.”

The second letter was contained in a yellow envelope, of cheap texture, and was much more plebeian in appearance than the first.

Again we will look over Mr. Roscoe’s shoulder, and read what it contains. It was postmarked Smithville, and the envelope was disfigured by a blot. It commenced:

“DEAR SIR:—It gives me pleasure to answer your inquiries respecting my school. I have about fifty pupils, part of whom, say one-third, are boarders. Though I say it myself, it will be hard to find any school where more thorough instruction is given. I look upon my pupils as my children, and treat them as such. My system of government is, therefore, kind and parental, and my pupils are often homesick in vacation, longing for the time to come when they can return to their studies at Smith Institute. It is the dearest wish of Mrs. Smith and myself to make our young charges happy, and to advance them, by pleasant roads over flowery meads, to the inner courts of knowledge.”

“Humbug!” muttered Mr. Roscoe, “I understand what all that means.” He continued:

“I hope you will not consider three hundred dollars per annum too much for such parental care. Considering the present high price of provisions, it is really as low a price as we can afford to receive.”

“I shall be glad if you consider my letter favorable and decide

to place your nephew under my charge.

“Yours respectfully,

“SOCRATES SMITH, A. M.”

“That is more reasonable,” said Mr. Roscoe, to himself, as he laid down the letter, “Three hundred dollars I consider a fair price. At any rate, I do not propose to pay any more for Hector. I suppose the table is plain enough, but I don’t believe in pampering the appetites of boys. If he were the master of Roscoe Hall, as he thinks he is, there might be some propriety in it; but upon that head I shall soon undeceive him. I will let him understand that I am the proprietor of the estate, and that he is only a dependent on my bounty. I wonder how he will take it. I dare say he will make a fuss, but he shall soon be made to understand that it is of no use. Now to answer these letters.”

Mr. Roscoe sat down in a luxurious armchair, and, drawing pen and paper toward him, wrote first to Dr. Radix. I subjoin the letter, as it throws some light upon the character of the writer:

“ROSCOE HALL, Sept. 10th

“DR. DIONYSIUS RADIX

“MY DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, answering my inquiries in regard to your school. Let me say at once that I find your terms too high. Five hundred dollars a year for forty weeks’ board and schooling seems to

me an exorbitant price to ask. Really, at this rate, education will soon become a luxury open only to the wealthy.

"You are probably under a misapprehension in reference to my young ward. Nephew he is not, in a strict sense of the term. He was adopted—not legally, but practically—by my brother, when he was only a year old, and his origin has been concealed from him. My brother, being childless, has allowed him to suppose that he was his own son. Undoubtedly he meant to provide for him in his will, but, as often happens, put off will-making till it was too late. The estate, therefore, goes to me, and the boy is unprovided for. This does not so much matter, since I am willing to educate him, and give him a fair start in life, if he acts in a manner to suit me. I do not, however, feel called upon to pay an exorbitant price for his tuition, and, therefore, shall be obliged to forego placing him at Inglewood School.

"Yours, etc.,

"ALLAN ROSCOE."

"When this letter is sent, I shall have taken the decisive step," thought Mr. Roscoe, "I must then adhere to my story, at whatever cost. Now for the other."

His reply to the letter of Socrates Smith, A. M., was briefer, but likely to be more satisfactory to the recipient. It ran thus:

"SOCRATES SMITH, A. M.

"DEAR SIR:—Your letter is at hand, and I find it, on the whole, satisfactory. The price you charge—three hundred dollars per annum—is about right. I hope you are a firm disciplinarian. I do not want Hector too much indulged or pampered, though he may expect it, my poor brother having been indulgent to excess.

"Let me add, by the bye, that Hector is not my nephew, though I may inadvertently have mentioned him as such, and had no real claims upon my brother, though he has been brought up in that belief. He was adopted, in an informal way, by my brother, when he was but, an infant. Under the circumstances, I am willing to take care of him, and prepare him to earn his own living when his education is completed.

"You may expect to see me early next week. I will bring the boy with me, and enter him at once as a pupil in your school.

"Yours, etc.,

"ALLAN ROSCOE."

"There, that clinches it!" said Mr. Roscoe, in a tone of satisfaction, "Now for an interview with the boy."





## 第二章 令人愤慨的侮辱

### Chapter 2 Resenting An Insult



赫可特，本书的主人公，15岁，长得很结实，是一个沉静、果决、坚强的孩子，他不是逆来顺受的人，相反他会很好地保护自己的权益。这天他来到马房，发现属于他的那辆轻便马车被盖依驾出去了，而且罗斯克已经答应把马车给盖依了。这让赫可特十分生气，他觉得他的监护人也就是罗斯克先生对自己行使的权力太过分了。赫可特还发现他的叔叔要求仆人都要听自己的话而不是他的，这让赫可特觉得非常震惊，他察觉到侵犯自己权利的人是他的叔叔。当盖依回来的时候，赫可特非常明确地表达了自己对于盖依未经自己允许就驾车出去的愤怒，但是盖依并不在意，而且盖依说他父亲认为赫可特是养子，没有资格继承遗产，这让赫可特十分生气，他拿起马鞭狠狠地揍了盖依。

A stone's throw from the mansion was a neat and spacious carriage house. The late master of Castle Roscoe had been fond of driving, and kept three horses and two carriages. One of the latter