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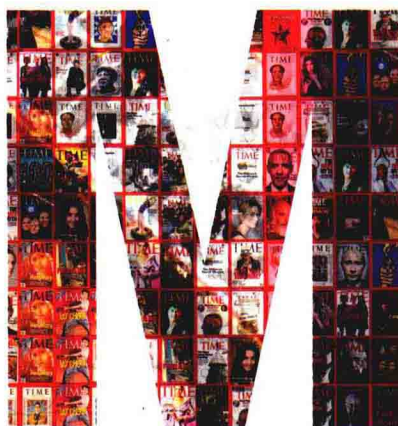
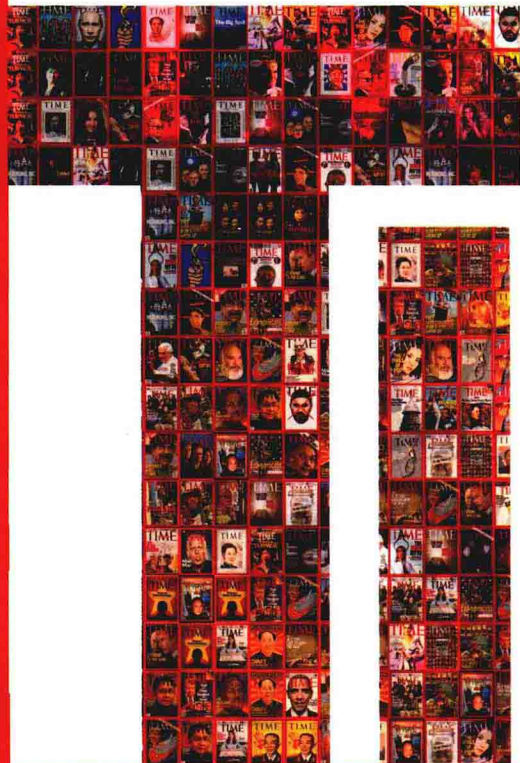
时代周刊

精选片段选读

第二辑

王巧平◎丛书主编

（科技）刘艳丽 （商业）刘莉 鲍婕◎本册主编



最具影响力的报刊尽收眼底
最地道的英文表达**脱口而出**

 天津大学出版社
TIANJIN UNIVERSITY PRESS

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科技 Technology



- 01 Food That Lasts Forever
食物永久“保鲜”不是梦 / 2
- 02 Your Best E-reader May Be No E-reader
电子阅读面面观 / 7
- 03 India's Online Shopping Spree
印度网购也疯狂 / 11
- 04 Can Warren Buffett Stop the Spread of Nuclear Weapons?
巴菲特参与构建“核”平世界 / 16
- 05 Stem Cell Miracle? New Therapies May Cure Chronic Conditions like Alzheimer's
干细胞新疗法, 慢性病大克星 / 20
- 06 The Best Universal Remote of All: Your Phone
手机: 最好的万能遥控器 / 24
- 07 Recovering Memory: Can a New Device Help Amnesia Patients?
感知相机: 健忘症患者的新福音 / 28
- 08 U. S. Men at War: BlackBerrys and iPads on the Afghan Front
黑莓手机和 iPad 现身驻阿美军前线阵地 / 33
- 09 Proven: Bears Hibernate (and Soon You Could Too)
熊冬眠获证实, 人冬眠亦可期 / 37
- 10 How to Classify a Million Galaxies in Three Weeks
全民科学: 3 周识别 100 万星系 / 41
- 11 Frankenfish: Is GM Salmon a Vital Part of Our Future?
“科学怪鱼” / 45
- 12 Wired for Distraction: Kids and Social Media
儿童和社交媒体: 孩子上网危害多 / 50
- 13 Why I Already Miss Physical Media
怀念传统媒体 / 54
- 14 Why the Collider Matters: In Search of the “God Particle”
寻找“上帝粒子” / 58

- 15 Google Steps Up Its Search-engine Game
谷歌再度升级搜索引擎业务 / 62
- 16 Amazon's Cloud Music and Storage: A Good Start
亚马逊正式推出云音乐和云存储服务 / 66
- 17 How Safe Is Your Cell Phone?
手机安全知多少 / 70
- 18 NASA Planning for Mars Mission in 2030s
美国 21 世纪 30 年代年火星探险计划之食物篇 / 74
- 19 Sweet Spot
滑出“甜蜜”好感觉 / 78
- 20 Magic Mirror: GM Brings OnStar to Non-GM Cars
有魔力的车载后视镜 / 82
- 21 Did Facebook Just Change Social Networking Forever?
脸谱网彻底改变了社交网络吗? / 86
- 22 How Safe Is Your Data? Lessons of the PlayStation Security Breach
索尼网游平台被黑 敲响信息安全警钟 / 90
- 23 Do We Need the iPad?
我们需要 iPad 吗? / 94
- 24 What a Patent War Means for South Korea's Samsung
苹果三星大打“专利战” / 99
- 25 Can James Cameron — Or Anyone — Really Mine Asteroids?
大富翁的太空梦 / 104
- 26 China's Great (Quantum) Leap Forward
中国量子技术的大跃进 / 108

商业 | Business

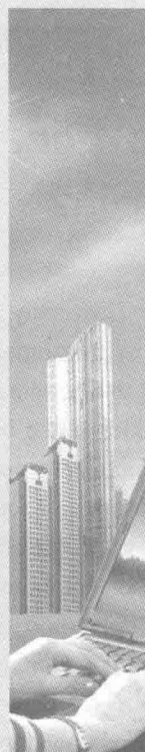


- 27 “Zombies” Are Costing Your Business
“僵尸”正在吃掉你的企业 / 114
- 28 A la Mode: France's Famed Luxury Hawker Takes on the U. S.
流行时尚：法国著名奢侈品风行美国 / 118
- 29 Boardroom Revolution

Contents

- 会议室革命 / 122
- 30 China Dreams
中国梦 / 126
- 31 European Bank Willing to Buy Bonds to Save Euro
欧洲银行愿意购买债券来拯救欧洲 / 130
- 32 From Chick-fil-A to Amazon, Why Companies Take a Stand on Social Issues
从福来鸡到亚马逊：为何企业要在社会问题上表明立场 / 134
- 33 Going Postal
邮政业何去何从 / 139
- 34 Hollywood's VFX Shops: Trouble in Boom Times
好莱坞的特效公司：繁荣时代的困境 / 143
- 35 How Forces That Drive the Mobile Industry's Growth Also Threaten Its Future
促进移动通信业发展的力量也威胁着它的未来 / 148
- 36 How Groupon Saved a Zoo and Ruined a Waffle Restaurant
Groupon 如何救了一个动物园，毁了一家华夫饼餐厅 / 153
- 37 How Holiday Inn Changed the Way We Travel
假日酒店如何改变我们的旅行方式 / 157
- 38 How Travelers Could Lose in American's Web Ticket War
在美航网票的战争中旅行者们怎么会失利 / 161
- 39 India's Leading Export: CEOs
印度最主要的出口品：首席执行官 / 165
- 40 Is Apple Losing Its Shine After Steve Jobs?
乔布斯辞世后苹果在失去它的光芒吗? / 170
- 41 Is the Dominance of the Dollar Bad for America?
美元的统治地位对美国有害吗? / 174
- 42 Self-serving Stewardship: How Manufacturers Help the Planet
谋求私利的环境管理：制造商如何帮助地球 / 178
- 43 Mortgage Defaults: Many Are Intentional, Study Finds
研究发现：许多抵押贷款者故意违约 / 183
- 44 Motorola's Binary Code
摩托罗拉的二元章程 / 187
- 45 Outsourcers Go Global
外包商开始走国际化道路 / 192
- 46 Personal Bankruptcies Hit a High and May Keep Rising

- 个人破产创新高并有可能继续上涨 / 197
- 47 Pod of Gold
赚钱的咖啡包 / 201
- 48 Promoting Nutrition, Disney to Restrict Junk-Food Ads
为提高食品营养, 迪斯尼将限制垃圾食品广告 / 206
- 49 The Loveless Marriage of Alibaba and Yahoo!
阿里巴巴和雅虎无爱的婚姻 / 211
- 50 The PC Isn't Dying — It's Just Evolving
个人电脑不是要死亡而是在进化 / 215
- 51 Will Amazon Take Over the World?
亚马逊会称霸世界吗? / 219



TIME
《时代》周刊精选片段选读 (第二辑)

科技 Technology

民以食为天。为了一日三餐，我们不得不经常出门采买各种生鲜食品。要是一次大采购能够吃上一个月，那该多好！别急，食物保鲜出新法，永久保存梦可期。

Food That Lasts Forever

食物永久“保鲜”不是梦

In his basement office at the University of Wisconsin, Rich Hartel lines up the failures. The 10-year-old jar of marshmallow cream in which the corn syrup settled into a thick amber pool at the bottom. The two-year-old petrified **Peeps**. “I have some one-year-old Twinkies at the back of my **cabinet**,” offers Hartel, a professor of food science. Contrary to popular belief that they’re immortal, Twinkies are designed for no more than a four-week shelf life, and they tend to become more chewy than soft after the first week. The fact is that most desserts — **barring**, famously (or infamously), fruitcake — devolve into a sticky wad of starch in a depressingly short time.

At least for now. Scientists like Hartel are working to change that, with some startling recent success. A new generation of food-preservation technologies is starting to transform how long we can keep food tasting fresh, **exponentially** increasing its life span. NASA recently reported that it has come up with bread pudding that can last a solid four years. Over at the Pentagon, there’s pound cake that stays **springy** for up to five years. And that’s just the desserts. Long-lasting **entrées** and side dishes are being **concocted**, with enormous implications: in the future we may have to go to the grocery store only once a month and will rarely, if ever, need to throw out food because it has gone bad. Further, if fruits and vegetables can be better preserved, food scientists hope they will become less expensive and more available for people on limited budgets.

A new generation of food-preservation technologies is starting to transform how long we can keep food tasting fresh, exponentially increasing its life span. 新一代食物保存技术正在改变食物的保鲜期限，成指数级地延长食物的寿命。

Sentence Translation

Peeps *n.* 一种可爱动物造型的棉花软糖
cabinet *n.* 橱柜，储藏柜
barring *prep.* 除……以外

exponentially *adv.* 以指数方式
springy *adj.* 有弹力的，有弹性的
entrée *n.* 主菜
concoct *vt.* 调制，泡制（汤、饮料等）

Consumers are already taking advantage. Tuna in those vacuum-sealed pouches that started popping up in stores a few years ago tastes fresher than canned **tuna** and has a similar shelf life, about two years. Food makers had conquered one part of the equation. Spam is famously **imperishable** — but palate-wise, it's practically in a category of its own and not a likely standard bearer for fresh-tasting, everyday meals. Though Spam is sold with an expiration date two years in the future, Phil Minerich, vice president of research at Hormel, says that actually underestimates its durability. “We really put that on there to help the consumer move it through,” he says. “We don't want it to be sitting on the shelf for 12, 15 years.” But, he adds, a well-sealed can of Spam would remain edible that long, if not longer.

tuna *n.* 金枪鱼
imperishable *adj.*
不朽的, 永久的

Spam is famously imperishable — but palate-wise, it's practically in a category of its own and not a likely standard bearer for fresh-tasting, everyday meals. 斯帕姆午餐肉以保存持久、口感稳定著称, 但它几乎自成一类, 很难体现日常生鲜食品保鲜的难度。

Sentence Translation

The new food preservationists aren't just after longevity; they're reaching for a different standard of **edibility**. “In the last decade, there's been an evolution in the way we think of long-lasting foods,” says Lauren Oleksyk, leader of the food-processing, engineering and technology team at the U. S. Department of Defense Combat Feeding Directorate.

edibility *n.* 可食性,
适食性

The new food preservationists aren't just after longevity; they're reaching for a different standard of edibility. 新一代食品保护主义者追求的不仅仅是延长食物的寿命, 他们还致力于提升食物的可食性。

Sentence Translation

Much of the new technology stems from the military's need for long-lasting food for troops, packaged as MREs (meals, ready to eat) — **rations** that have never been famous for tasting good. In 2002, Oleksyk and her colleagues introduced their first alternative option, an “indestructible” sandwich: a bread envelope stuffed with pepperoni or barbecued chicken, designed to last three to five years without refrigeration at standard room temperature.

ration *n.* 每日口粮;
军粮

There are three big challenges to make food with a long life span, and a sandwich presents all of them: controlling moisture, controlling atmosphere and

controlling microorganisms, from bacteria to mold. (Many traditional food-preservation techniques, such as drying and salting, work because they kill microorganisms or limit their growth.) Oleksyk's team members needed to keep liquids from the sandwich **filling** from seeping into the bread, so they mixed water-absorbing ingredients including glycerol and sorbitol into the filling. They also increased the use of fine, edible polymer films, which are undetectable in the mouth. (Hartel notes that in desserts, chocolate is often used as a moisture barrier. His favorite example is the Twix, designed so that chocolate separates the dry cookie from the moist peanut butter or caramel inside.)

filling *n.* 填料,
馅料

There are three big challenges to make food with a long life span, and a sandwich presents all of them: controlling moisture, controlling atmosphere and controlling microorganisms, from bacteria to mold. 想长久保存食物, 比如三明治, 要面临三大挑战: 对湿度的控制, 对气压的控制和对细菌、霉菌等各种微生物的控制。

Sentence Translation

The super sandwich also limits exposure to oxygen, which accelerates chemical changes in food, by tucking packets of oxygen-**scavenging** chemicals in the outer wrapping. And the packaging is as impervious as possible, with layers of heat-resistant polypropylene and metal foil.

scavenge *vt.*
清除, 排除

But the most important advance may be innovative ways of controlling bacteria, like a newly refined method of high-pressure processing (HPP), which greatly improves taste. The old method of **sterilization** requires 30 minutes of 250°F (121°C) heat, and as any cook knows, every hot minute changes the food. With HPP, food is sealed in a plastic pouch, placed in a chamber and subjected to 87,000 lb. of pressure per sq. in., effectively killing any bacteria. The makers of some commercially available lunch meats, like Hormel's Natural Choice line, already rely on high-pressure processing rather than chemical **preservatives**. Companies that handle delicate seafood products like raw oysters are also adopting the approach. Oleksyk says the technique may soon allow the military to offer sandwiches stuffed with ingredients like tuna salad and mayonnaise.

sterilization *n.*
消毒, 杀菌

preservative *n.*
防腐剂

With HPP, food is sealed in a plastic pouch, placed in a chamber and subjected to 87,000 lb. of pressure per sq. in., effectively killing any bacteria. 高压处理技术是将食物用塑料袋密封包装后, 置于超高压容器中, 通过每平方英寸 87 000 磅的加压处理, 来杀死所有细菌。

Sentence Translation

“It’s night and day compared to the old heating process,” Oleksyk says. “The foods taste like they’re freshly prepared.” The Defense Department hopes to introduce packaged HPP fruit that will retain its crispness for at least three years in a way that cannot be achieved by canning. Oleksyk’s goal is to eventually create meals that can last up to 10 years. “That would mean — especially if combat rations continue to be delivered on the standard three-to-five-year schedule — that there would never be a point when the food didn’t taste fresh,” she says. “They wouldn’t have any idea how old it actually was.”

Oleksyk admits that these are still mostly dreams of the future, but researchers at NASA have also been pushing the boundaries of old-time heat treatment. A report published in December in the *Journal of Food Science* offered a detailed portrait of the outer limits of shelf stability for heat-treated, or thermostabilized, foods. The report was based on a three-year study of 13 foods, including vegetable side dishes (carrot coins, three-bean salad), pork chops, vegetable omelettes and apricot **cobbler**. Once processed and packaged, the foods were stored at Johnson Space Center and taste-tested on a regular basis over the three years. They remained edible for a surprising length of time, although they had clearly aged, turning darker and changing in **texture**. “We tested a tuna-fish casserole,” says lead author Michele Perchonok, a food scientist at the center’s Habitability and Environmental Factors Division. “The pasta got soft, but the tuna held up very well.”

“The best results consistently came from meat products,” she says. For instance, **extrapolating** from its three-year study, the agency calculated that grilled pork chops could remain edible for nearly seven years and tuna or salmon for close to eight years (far longer than desserts, which had shelf lives of One to five years). She **attributes** the durability of meats mostly to their tough protein fibers.

Ultimately, long-lasting foods could have global impact. We rely on shelf-stable foods after disasters and when electricity fails. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, many Gulf Coast residents **subsisted** on MREs provided by the military; these and similar products feed victims of everything from earthquakes and blizzards to drought. What’s more, frozen- and chilled-food sections are expensive for grocers. In a future when energy supplies may be increasingly limited, researchers suggest, investment in food preservation looks like a smart move.

cobbler *n.* (美) 脆皮水果馅饼

texture *n.* 组织; 结构; 质地

extrapolate *vi.* 推断, 推测

attribute *vt.* 把……归因于

subsist *vi.* 生存; 活下去

That's one of the main messages in a recent analysis titled "Feeding the World Today and Tomorrow" from the Chicago-based Institute of Food Technologists. The lead author, John Floros, head of the food-science department at Penn State University, says that without good food preservation, we could fall short of meeting the needs of a global population expected to top 7 billion this year. The problem, he says, is that we lose too much food to rot and decay. In developing countries without sophisticated food-distribution and cooling systems, the loss is consistently 30% a year and in some places as high as 70%. He expects such challenges to increase, along with uncertainties in food production related to projected global climate change. Floros works with NASA on its food-stability projects, but "we're not just talking about long-term space missions", he says flatly. "We're talking about survival here on earth."

随着互联网的兴起，电子阅读蔚然成风。2007年亚马逊推出电子书阅读器“Kindle”，掀起了全球电子书阅读热潮。如今，手提电脑、智能手机和平板电脑的普及使单一的电子书阅读器面临着巨大的生存挑战。电子阅读已经进入终端多样化的新时代。与此同时，电子阅读本身也存在许多亟待解决的问题，如电子书资源不足、版权纠纷等。相信在谷歌等网络巨头和社会各界的共同努力下，电子阅读将日臻完善，成为继纸媒后爱读书的人又一良友佳伴。

Your Best E-reader May Be No E-reader

电子阅读面面观

I have a lifelong friend — let's call her Mom — who used to sneer at the very notion of e-books. Then she got an *Amazon.com* Kindle as a gift and **sheepishly** discovered that she adored it. But when her Kindle broke, she started reading the e-books she'd already bought from Amazon on her BlackBerry, using the Kindle **app** available for that phone. And she quickly realized that the phone that was already her constant companion was the ideal e-reader for her.

sheepishly *adv.*
羞怯地，不好意思地
app *n.* 应用程序

And she quickly realized that the phone that was already her constant companion was the ideal e-reader for her. 不久，她就意识到时刻带在身边的手机才是最理想的电子书阅读器。

Sentence Translation

She's got plenty of company. **Stand-alone** e-readers still have their place: I like the Kindle (which starts at \$139) and Barnes & Noble's Nookcolor (\$249), both of which pack nice screens into booklike form factors. (The Kindle's E-Ink technology has the additional benefit of letting you read for weeks on a battery charge.) Still, if you own a laptop and a smart phone — and maybe even a tablet such as Apple's iPad or Samsung's Galaxy Tab — one more portable device with a display may be one too many.

stand-alone *adj.*
单独的，独立的

A **well-rounded** e-bookstore should offer free applications that let you read the titles you buy on major computer, tablet and phone platforms. It should also be well stocked with the books you're most likely to want. For the moment, that **rules out** Apple's iBooks, which has a limited selection and is available only on the iPad and iPhone. It also eliminates the Windows-only Blio, founded by tech

well-rounded *adj.*
面面俱到的，全面的
rule out 把……排除在外

visionary Ray Kurzweil. And while Google's recently introduced eBookstore claims 3 million titles and has apps for iPhone, iPad and Android, along with a browser-based reader that works on Windows PCs and Macs, its selection of best-selling fiction was **skimpy** when I visited this week. (Just six of the *New York Times*' top 15 hardcover novels were available.)

skimpy *adj.*

短缺的, 不足的

Three companies are e-publishing's current powerhouses: Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Canada's Kobo, which operates its own site and powers the e-book offerings of U. S. retailer Borders. Each has almost all current hardcover best sellers — mostly for \$12.99 or \$9.99 a pop— and millions of other titles. And each provides apps for **a bevy of** devices: Windows, Mac, iPhone, Android, BlackBerry and iPad. (Kindle is also available for Windows Phone 7.)

a bevy of

一组, 一群

I do most of my e-book purchasing at Amazon's Kindle store, in part because I started frequenting it back when I used a Kindle more often. All my books are available on all my devices, with automatic **synching** that keeps track of my place even as I hop between Kindle apps. I can inhale a hundred pages of an e-book on my MacBook during a plane trip, then snack on a few pages at a time on my Verizon Fascinate phone as time permits; I even get a startling amount of reading done while waiting in line at Trader Joe's.

synch *vi.*

同时发生

Which is not to say that I'm giving up on dead-tree books just yet — actually, there's a stack of them on my nightstand waiting to be read. Plenty of e-books have pictures, but the formatting tends to be **crude**, and tiny phone screens don't help matters. Too much visual splendor is downright fatal: the sole *New York Times* nonfiction hardcover best seller that's unavailable from Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Kobo is Jon Stewart's *Earth*, a profusely illustrated volume that would fall apart if it lost its original layout and images.

crude *adj.* 粗

制的, 粗糙的

Which is not to say that I'm giving up on dead-tree books just yet — actually, there's a stack of them on my nightstand waiting to be read. 这并不表示我要放弃纸质书了——相反, 我的床头柜上还放着一摞书等着读呢。

Sentence Translation

Copy protection is another issue. Most e-books are locked up to discourage piracy, which means that if the seller **goes under** or simply loses interest in maintaining its servers, you could lose access to items you've paid for. (Several large companies have already left buyers of movies and music **in the lurch**.)

go under

破产; 失败

in the lurch

弃……于不顾

Nobody knows what sort of gadgets we'll be using to consume content 10 or 20 years from now, or whether e-books we purchase today will work with them. And while Amazon and Barnes & Noble's apps have lending features, they have a **hobbled**, joyless feel — you can only lend certain titles for a maximum of 14 days, and can't lend a specific title more than once.

hobbled *vi.*
摇晃不稳地行进;
不顺利地进行

Most e-books are locked up to discourage piracy, which means that if the seller goes under or simply loses interest in maintaining its servers, you could lose access to items you've paid for. 为了打击盗版, 大多数电子书都只能在线阅读, 这意味着如果服务商破产或者无意继续维护服务器的话, 你可能将无法读取你已经购买过的电子书。

Sentence Translation

For all these reasons, it's best to treat e-books as **ephemeral**, semi-disposable items — like paperbacks you could lose at the beach without too much **angst** — rather than heirlooms.

ephemeral *adj.* 短暂的; 暂时的
angst *n.* 担心, 焦虑

For all these reasons, it's best to treat e-books as ephemeral, semi-disposable items — like paperbacks you could lose at the beach without too much angst — rather than heirlooms. 因此, 千万别把电子书当成传家宝, 最好把它们看作是短时存在、用两次就可以淘汰的商品, 就像对待平装书那样, 即使你把它们遗忘在海边也不会太过焦虑。

Sentence Translation

For me, though, the single biggest downside of e-books is that there aren't enough of them. Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Kobo are in increasingly solid shape when it comes to new releases, and they have vast **repositories** of public-domain works available for little or no money. That leaves everything else — books still in copyright (and often still in print in wood-pulp form) that are more than a few years old. Amazon seems to have the best selection of such titles, but I'm still pleasantly surprised when I search for something and find it.

repository *n.* (知识等的) 宝库

John le Carré, for instance, has written 22 novels; only the most recent six are available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Kobo, and the Google eBookstore has just one. Onetime **blockbusters** such as *Lake Wobegon Days* and ... and *Ladies of the Club* are missing. Terry Southern, one of my favorite writers, died in 1995 and is therefore nearly invisible in the digital realm.

blockbuster *n.* 风靡一时的事物

But hope may be at hand. Since 2004, Google has been scanning printed

books by the truckload for its Google Books project — 15 million of them so far. Publishers and authors sued to **foil** the company's plans to put this massive trove online, but a settlement is **wending** its way through the legal system. It would cut copyright holders in on profits and permit Google to offer out-of-print books unless the owner expressly demanded otherwise.

Imagine having instant access to most of the books ever written on just about any Internet-connected gizmo you own. If **full-blown** Google Books gets the courts' blessing, that futuristic fantasy could turn into reality within the next few months, and **voracious** readers everywhere will have reason to rejoice. I'm already drawing up my reading list.

If full-blown Google Books gets the courts' blessing, that futuristic fantasy could turn into reality within the next few months, and voracious readers everywhere will have reason to rejoice. 如果网络巨头谷歌图书能够胜诉的话,那么对未来电子阅读的憧憬在接下来的几个月很快就会成为现实,全世界所有爱读书的人都要为之欢欣鼓舞啦。

Sentence Translation

foil vt. 阻止;

挫败

wend vt.

走; 去

full-blown adj.

充分发展的,

成熟的

voracious adj.

贪婪的

