

血字研究

(英) 阿瑟·柯南道尔
黄德远 译



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血字研究

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内容简介

柯南道尔(Arthur Conan Doyle),生于1859年,卒于1930年,英国作家。所著侦探小说《福尔摩斯探案》以错综复杂的情节和曲折离奇的侦探方法著称。

一个偶然的的机会,出身军医的华生大夫和世界上独一无二的侦探咨询顾问歇洛克·福尔摩斯成了合租别人房屋的伙伴,他发现福尔摩斯有着世人罕见的推理判断能力,身上充满了神秘感。又是一个偶然的的机会,华生参与了福尔摩斯接手的一个案子:一男子被杀,可是凶手是谁?自负无能而又虚荣自私的侦探们各有推测,并分头展开追捕,结果却发现一个怀疑对象被同一个凶手杀死,因而另一个怀疑对象也就无法再成为怀疑对象。那么凶手到底是谁呢?福尔摩斯如同成竹在胸、神秘莫测。直到福尔摩斯在华生和众侦探的面前抓住了凶手,大家仍是如坠五里云雾,不明所以。福尔摩斯到底是怎么发现凶手的呢?且听他对华生娓娓道来。



PART I

*BEING A REPRINT FROM THE REMINISCENCES ^① OF
JOHN H. WATSON, M. D., LATE OF THE ARMY MEDICAL
DEPARTMENT*

CHAPTER I

MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES

IN the year 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed ^② for surgeons ^③ in the army. Having completed my studies there, I was duly attached to the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers as Assistant Surgeon. The regiment ^④ was stationed in India at the time, and before I could join it, the second Afghan war had broken out. On landing at Bombay, I learned that my corps had advanced through the passes, and was already deep in the enemy's country. I followed, however, with many other officers who were in the same situation as myself, and succeeded in reaching Candahar in safety, where I found my regiment, and at once entered upon my new duties.

第一部

录自前陆军军医部医学博士约翰·H·
华生的回忆录

第一章

歇洛克·福尔摩斯先生

一八七八年，我在伦敦大学获得医学博士学位，接着就到内特黎进修军医的必修课程。在那里完成学业之后，我立即就被派往诺桑伯兰第五火枪团当一名军医助理。这个团当时驻扎在印度。我还没有赶到部队报到，第二次阿富汗战役就已经爆发了。在孟买上岸的时候，我听说我所属的那个部队已经穿过关口，深入敌境了。虽然如此，我还是跟着一群和我一样掉了队的军官们赶上前去，成功并且安全地到达了坎达哈。在那里，我找到了我所属的团，马上履行起我的新职责。



① reminiscence

[remiˈnɪsəns] 回
想，记忆力，怀旧

② prescribe

[priˈskraɪb] 规
定，命令

③ surgeon

[ˈsɜːdʒən] 外科
医生

④ regiment

[ˈredʒɪmənt] 团



...

Worn with pain, and weak from the prolonged hardships which I had undergone, I was removed, with a great train of wounded sufferers, to the base hospital at Peshawar. Here I rallied ^①, and had already improved so far as to be able to walk about the wards ^②, and even to bask a little upon the verandah ^③, when I was struck down by enteric fever, that curse of our Indian possessions. For months my life was despaired of, and when at last I came to myself and became convalescent ^④, I was so weak and emaciated ^⑤ that a medical board determined that not a day should be lost in sending me back to England. I was dispatched, accordingly, in the troopship "Orontes," and landed a month later on Portsmouth jetty, with my health irretrievably ^⑥ ruined, but with permission from a paternal government to spend the next nine months in attempting to improve it.

I had neither kith nor kin in England, and was therefore as free as air – or as free as an income of eleven shillings and sixpence a day will permit a man to be. Under such circumstances, I naturally gravitated to London, that great cesspool ^⑦ into which all the loungers ^⑧ and idlers of the Empire are irresistibly drained. There I stayed for some time at a private hotel in the Strand, leading a comfortless, meaningless existence, and spending such money as I had, considerably more freely than I ought. So alarming did the state



.....

疼痛把我折磨得死去活来，一直在遭受着的艰难困苦也让我身体虚弱不堪。于是，和一大批伤员一起，我被送到了波舒尔的后方医院。在这里，我恢复了一些元气，已经好到能够在病房中稍微走动，甚至还能在走廊上晒一会儿太阳了。就在这时候，我又被伤寒击倒了——那是我们印度属地的天谴病症。有好几个月，我的生命一起处于绝望之中。当我最后终于恢复了神智、开始康复起来的时候，我的身体如此虚弱、憔悴，以至于人们为此召开了一个医务会议，决定立即将我送回英国，一天也不许耽搁。于是，我就被发送到了运兵船“奥仑梯兹号”上，一个月后在普次茅斯的码头登岸。那时，我的健康状况已是糟糕透了，几乎达到难以恢复的地步。但是，慈父一般的政府给了我九个月的假期，让我休养身体。

我在英国无亲无故，所以就象空气一样的自由；或者打个比方说，就像是一个每天收入十一先令六便士的人那样自由自在。在这种情况下，我自然而然地就被吸引进伦敦这个大污水坑里去，大英帝国所有的游民懒汉都抗拒不了它的诱惑，全都汇聚到了这里。我在伦敦河滨马路上的一家公寓里住了一些时候，过着既不舒适又非常无聊的生活，花着我那样到手的钱——我远不该这么自由随便的。我的经济状

① rally ['ræli]

重整旗鼓，恢复健康、力量、决心，集结

② ward [wɔ:d]

病房，牢房

③ verandah

[vɔ:'rændə] 阳台，走廊

④ convalescent

[kɒnvə'lesnt] 逐渐恢复的

⑤ emaciate

[i'meɪfiət] 使憔悴，使消瘦

⑥ irretrievably

[iri'tri:vəbli] 不能挽回地，不能补救地

⑦ cesspool

['sespu:l] 污水坑，化粪池，污秽场所

⑧ lounge

['laundʒə] 漫步的人，懒人



of my finances become, that I soon realized that I must either leave the metropolis and rusticate ^① somewhere in the country, or that I must make a complete alteration in my style of living. Choosing the latter alternative, I began by making up my mind to leave the hotel, and to take up my quarters in some less pretentious ^② and less expensive domicile.

On the very day that I had come to this conclusion, I was standing at the Criterion Bar, when some one tapped me on the shoulder, and turning round I recognized young Stamford, who had been a dresser ^③ under me at Barts. The sight of a friendly face in the great wilderness of London is a pleasant thing indeed to a lonely man. In old days Stamford had never been a particular crony of mine, but now I hailed him with enthusiasm, and he, in his turn, appeared to be delighted to see me. In the exuberance ^④ of my joy, I asked him to lunch with me at the Holborn, and we started off together in a hansom ^⑤.

"Whatever have you been doing with yourself, Watson?" he asked in undisguised wonder, as we rattled through the crowded London streets. "You are as thin as a lath and as brown as a nut."

I gave him a short sketch of my adventures, and had hardly concluded it by the time that we reached our destination.

"Poor devil!" he said, commiseratingly ^⑥, after he had listened to my misfortunes. "What are you up to now?"



况变得如此恐慌，以至于我不久就意识到自己或者必须离开这个大都市，搬到乡下的什么地方去住，或者必须彻底改变自己的生活方式。我选择了后一个办法，开始下定决心要离开这家公寓，另找一个不太装腔作势而且化费也少一些的住处。

就在做出这个决定的那天，我正在克莱梯利安酒吧的门前站着，这时忽然有人拍了拍我的肩膀。我回头一看，原来是小斯坦弗。他是我在巴茨时的一个助手。在伦敦这个大荒漠里见到一张友善的脸，这对于一个孤独的人来说，确实是一件令人愉快的事情。斯坦弗从前根本算不上是我的好朋友，但是现在我热情地向他打着招呼，而他呢，他对于自己见到我好像也很高兴。由于喜不自禁，我邀请他到侯本餐厅和我一起吃饭，于是我们就一同乘车前往。

“你这到底是怎么了，华生？”我们的车子在辘辘声中穿过拥挤的伦敦街道，他带着毫不掩饰的惊奇问道。“看你面黄肌瘦的，只剩了一把骨头了。”

我向他简要地描述我的冒险经历，几乎还没有等我说完，我们就到了地方。

“可怜的家伙！”听到了我的不幸之后，他不无同情地说道，“你现在作何打算呢？”

① rusticate 是“到或在乡下住”。

② pertentious [pri'tenʃəs] 自命不凡的

③ dresser 在这里是“外科手术方面的助手”。

④ exuberance [ig'zju:bərəns] 茂盛，丰富，健康

⑤ hansom ['hænsəm] 一马二轮之有盖双座小马车

⑥ commiseratingly [kə'mizəreitɪŋli] 同情地，怜悯地



"Looking for lodgings." I answered. "Trying to solve the problem as to whether it is possible to get comfortable rooms at a reasonable price."

"That's a strange thing," remarked my companion; "you are the second man to-day that has used that expression to me."

"And who was the first?" I asked.

"A fellow who is working at the chemical laboratory up at the hospital. He was bemoaning^① himself this morning because he could not get someone to go halves with him in some nice rooms which he had found, and which were too much for his purse."

"By Jove^②!" I cried, "if he really wants someone to share the rooms and the expense, I am the very man for him. I should prefer having a partner to being alone."

Young Stamford looked rather strangely at me over his wine-glass. "You don't know Sherlock Holmes yet," he said; "perhaps you would not care for him as a constant companion."

"Why, what is there against him?"

"Oh, I didn't say there was anything against him. He is a little queer^③ in his ideas – an enthusiast in some branches of science. As far as I know he is a decent fellow enough."

"A medical student, I suppose?" said I.

"No – I have no idea what he intends to go in for. I believe he is well up in anatomy^④, and he is a first-class chemist;



“找个住处。”我回答道，“试着解决一个难题，看看是不是能租几间价钱合理住着又舒服的房子。”

“怪事儿。”我的同伴评论着，“今天你是第二个对我说这样的话的人了。”

“那么，头一个是谁？”我问道。

“是一个在医院化验室工作的伙计。今天早晨他还在唉声叹气，因为他找到了几间好房子，但是租金让他的钱包受不了，却又找不到人跟他合租。”

“天哪！”我叫道，“如果他真的要找个人跟他合租的话，我正是他要找的人。我应该是也喜欢有个伴儿，免得一个人呆着。”

小斯坦弗隔着面前的酒杯用奇怪的眼神看着我。“你还不了解歇洛克·福尔摩斯。”他说道，“或许你会不愿意和他长期相处哩。”

“为什么，对他有什么说辞？”

“哦，我不是说他有什么不好的地方。他只是想法上有些古怪——他老是孜孜不倦地在研究几门科学。据我所知，他倒是个很正派的人。”

“一个医科的学生吧，我猜着？”我这样说道。

“不是——我一点也摸不清他想钻研些什么。我相信他对解剖学很有造诣，还是个第一流

① bemoan

[bi'moun] 悲悼，
恸哭，惋惜

② Jove [dʒouv]

[罗神] 朱庇特
主神，〈诗〉木星

③ queer [kwɪə]

奇怪的，可疑的，不舒服的

④ anatomy

[ə'neɪtəmi] 剖析，解剖学



but, as far as I know, he has never taken out any systematic medical classes. His studies are very desultory ^① and eccentric ^②, but he has amassed a lot of out-of-the way knowledge which would astonish his professors."

"Did you never ask him what he was going in for?" I asked.

"No; he is not a man that it is easy to draw out, though he can be communicative enough when the fancy seizes him."

"I should like to meet him," I said. "If I am to lodge with anyone, I should prefer a man of studious ^③ and quiet habits. I am not strong enough yet to stand much noise or excitement. I had enough of both in Afghanistan to last me for the remainder of my natural existence. How could I meet this friend of yours?"

"He is sure to be at the laboratory," returned my companion. "He either avoids the place for weeks, or else he works there from morning to night. If you like, we shall drive round together after luncheon ^④."

"Certainly," I answered, and the conversation drifted away into other channels.

As we made our way to the hospital after leaving the Holborn, Stamford gave me a few more particulars about the gentleman whom I proposed to take as a fellow-lodger.

"You mustn't blame me if you don't get on with him," he said; "I know nothing more of him than I have learned from



的药剂师。但是,据我了解,他从来没有上过系统的医学课。他的研究非常杂乱,不成系统,并且也很离奇;但是他却积累了大量稀奇古怪的知识,足以让他的教授们感到惊讶。”

“你从来没有问过他他在钻研些什么吗?”

“没有。他不是一个能轻易套出心里话的人,虽然在高兴的时候他也能滔滔不绝地和人交流。”

“我倒愿意见见他。”我说道,“如果我要和谁合住,我倒宁愿跟一个好学而又沉静的人住在一起。我现在身体还不大结实,受不了很多的吵闹或者兴奋。这两种滋味我在阿富汗都已经尝够了,足够我这下半辈受用的。我怎样才能见到你的这位朋友呢?”

“他现在一定是在化验室里。”我的同伴回答道,“他要么几个星期不去那地方,要么就从早到晚在那里工作。如果你愿意的话,咱们随便吃顿午饭后就一块儿坐车去。”

“当然愿意啦!”我回答着,于是话题转到别的方面上去了。

在我们离开侯本前往医院去的路上,斯坦弗又给我讲了一些关于那位先生的特殊情况。

“如果和他处不好,你可不能怪我。除了在化验室里偶然见过他之外,我对他没有任何别的

① desultory

[ˈdesəltəri] 散漫的, 不连贯的, 断断续续的

② eccentric

[ɪkˈsentrɪk] 古怪的

③ studious

[ˈstjuːdiəs] 勤学的, 认真的, 慎重的, 热心的

④ luncheon

[ˈlʌntʃən] 正式午餐 (英式英语, 用来表式正式的 lunch)



meeting him occasionally in the laboratory. You proposed this arrangement, so you must not hold me responsible. ”

“If we don’ t get on it will be easy to part company, ” I answered. “It seems to me, Stamford, ” I added, looking hard at my companion, “that you have some reason for washing your hands of the matter. Is this fellow’ s temper so formidable ^①, or what is it? Don’ t be mealy-mouthed ^② about it. ”

“It is not easy to express the inexpressible, ” he answered with a laugh. “Holmes is a little too scientific for my tastes – it approaches to cold-bloodedness. I could imagine his giving a friend a little pinch of the latest vegetable alkaloid ^③, not out of malevolence ^④, you understand, but simply out of a spirit of inquiry in order to have an accurate idea of the effects. To do him justice, I think that he would take it himself with the same readiness. He appears to have a passion for definite and exact knowledge. ”

“Very right too. ”

“Yes, but it may be pushed to excess. When it comes to beating the subjects in the dissecting-rooms with a stick, it is certainly taking rather a bizarre ^⑤ shape. ”

“Beating the subjects! ”

“Yes, to verify how far bruises may be produced after death. I saw him at it with my own eyes. ”

“And yet you say he is not a medical student?”



了解。是你建议要见这一次面，所以你可不能让我负责。”

“如果我们不投缘，那么散伙也容易。”我回答道，一边用眼盯着我的同伴，一边又补充了一句：“斯坦弗，我觉得，你对这件事似乎要甩手不管了，这其中一定有缘故。是不是这个人的脾气真地那样难对付，还是有别的原因？不要这样吞吞吐吐的。”

“要把难以形容的事儿用言语表达出来可真不容易。”他大笑着回答我，“对于我的口味来说，福尔摩斯稍微有点太科学化了——几乎近于冷血的程度。我可以想象得到，他会拿一小撮最新的植物碱给他的朋友吃。他这样做并不是出于什么恶意，你知道，只不过是出于一种探求的精神，想要对它的效果有一个精确的概念。公正地说，我认为他自己也同样会心甘情愿地把它吞下去的。他对确凿无误的知识好像有着强烈的感情。”

“也是对的呀。”

“对是对，但是可能会过犹不及。到了他在解剖室里用棍子抽打尸体的时候，那肯定就是怪模怪样的了。”

“抽打尸体？！”

“是啊，为的是验证人死以后还能造成什么样的伤痕。我自己亲眼看见他干这件事儿的。”

“可是你还说他不是医科的学生？”

① formidable

[ˈfɔːmɪdəbl] 强大的，令人敬畏的，可怕的，艰难的

② mealy-mouthed

[ˈmiːlɪməʊθɪd] 转弯抹角的，不敢直说的

③ alkaloid

[ˈælkəloɪd] 生物碱

④ malevolence

[məˈlevələns] 恶毒，狠毒

⑤ bizarre [biˈzɑː]

奇异的（指态度、容貌、款式等）

"No. Heaven knows what the objects of his studies are. But here we are, and you must form your own impressions about him." As he spoke, we turned down a narrow lane and passed through a small side-door, which opened into a wing of the great hospital. It was familiar ground to me, and I needed no guiding as we ascended ^① the bleak stone staircase and made our way down the long corridor with its vista of whitewashed wall and dun-coloured doors. Near the further end a low arched passage branched away from it and led to the chemical laboratory.

This was a lofty chamber, lined and littered with countless bottles. Broad, low tables were scattered about, which bristled with retorts, test-tubes, and little Bunsen lamps, with their blue flickering ^② flames. There was only one student in the room, who was bending over a distant table absorbed in his work. At the sound of our steps he glanced round and sprang to his feet with a cry of pleasure. "I've found it! I've found it," he shouted to my companion, running towards us with a test-tube in his hand. "I have found a re-agent which is precipitated ^③ by hemoglobin ^④, and by nothing else." Had he discovered a gold mine, greater delight could not have shone upon his features.

"Dr. Watson, Mr. Sherlock Holmes," said Stamford, introducing us.



“不是。天知道他在研究些什么东西。不过，既然我们来了，你对他会有什么印象，你自己决定吧。”他说这话的时候，我们转过一个狭窄的巷子，穿过一个不大的偏门，这个偏门对着这家医院的一个侧翼。这是我所熟悉的地方，不需要任何人领路，我们就走上了白石台阶，穿过一条长长的走廊。走廊两壁刷得雪白，林荫路两旁有许多暗褐色的小门。走廊的那一头有一个低低的拱形过道，从那里一直通往化验室。

化验室是一间高大的屋子，里面放着无数的瓶子，有成排摆放的，也有乱扔的。宽大、低矮的桌子横七竖八地四散着，上边堆着许多蒸馏瓶、试管和几盏体积不大的本生灯，这些灯闪动着蓝色火焰，和蒸馏瓶与试管一起把桌面上弄得狼藉一片。屋子里只有一个学生，正弯着腰伏在较远的一张桌子，聚精会神地工作着。听到我们的脚步声，他四下里扫了一眼，接着就跳了起来，高兴地欢呼着：“我找到它了！我找到它了！”他一面对我的同伴大声嚷嚷着，一面手里拿支试管朝我们跑过来。“我发现了一种试剂，只能用血红蛋白质来沉淀，别的什么东西都不行。”即使他发现了金矿，他的脸上也不见得会比现在更显得高兴。

“华生医生，福尔摩斯先生。”斯坦福给我们做着介绍。

① ascend [ə'send]

攀登，上升

② flicker [ˈflikə]

闪动，闪烁，摇动，扑动翅膀

③ precipitate

[pri'sipitət] 使沉淀，使陷入，猛抛

④ hemoglobin

[hi'mou'gloubin]
血红蛋白