

HAZARD RIVER 危机河

[澳] 朱莉·费森 (J.E. Fison) 著

朱银涛 译

TIGER TERROR!

恐怖虎!

(英汉对照版)



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导读

朱莉·费森绝不是个没有见识过危险的人……

首先我得承认，作为一名资深国际探险家，我也曾遇到棘手的时刻：例如，有一次在非洲大草原露营，半夜醒来时我发现两只巨大的公象就在我们的帐篷外打架——于是我大喊：嗨，你们这俩家伙，小心点，踩坏了我们的烘豆罐头要你们好看！还有一次是在夜间狩猎旅行的途中，我们的敞篷吉普车抛锚了，恰巧这时一群骄傲的狮子决定开始捕猎！

在婆罗洲的丛林里，我曾经和一只红毛猩猩握过手，不过我建议你可别学我，因为它们比你能想象到的还要强大得多——其实我也不是有意那么做的。我还吃过许多让我后悔莫及的东西，例如干煸蚱蜢，味道和它们的长相一样让人恶心；老鼠汤，听起来就让人倒胃口，吃起来更让人受不了。不过我并不是在抱怨什么，因为我真的热爱探险，哪怕接下来给我端上一道生拌水母的凉菜，我还是会欣然受用。

朱莉·费森





Stingray
Creek
刺紅溪

鵜鶘島
Pelican
Island

丝带滩
Ribbon
Beach

Flat Rock
平石島

RIVER

The Bar
水吧

Paradise
天堂城

第1章 飞猫

可能是妈妈的尖叫声吓到那只猫了吧——但这只是猜测，因为没有人能说得清一只猫为什么会从一栋十层的建筑物上飞落下来，砸在了我的头上！这大概是我在夏日城之旅中最没有预料到的事了。我也没有预料到我会和老虎搅和在一起。我生活在澳大利亚，老虎原本是一种我完全不必担心的危险动物，但这只猫改变了一切……

我本来是想去看中国的马戏表演的，但事与愿违，我们一直在这条中国式的街头集市上浪费时间。空气中弥漫着烹调大蒜的味道，和谁家的厕所发出的臭味混在一起；劲爆的流行乐从一辆汽车的音响中奔涌而出，笼中的公鸡母鸡们烦人地咯咯咯地叫着，卖菜的正跟他们的顾客争吵——为了压倒周围人群越来越大的聒噪声，他们的叫嚷声也越来越大。

“我们现在可以去看马戏表演了吗？”我恳求道，“再晚点我们就要错过开场表演了。”

“不会错过的，”妈妈说，“表演还有一个小时才开始呢。这里的一切也很好玩啊，感觉就像真的在中国一样。”

我想指出的是，如果有一天我真的去了中国，我一定会去参观万里长城，那个曾经发生过伟大战争的地方。我会去寻找武士，还要走遍那里的每一寸土地去寻找古代墓葬和埋藏的宝藏。我才不会去参观臭烘烘、闹腾腾的集市。但跟妈妈说这些一点儿意义也没有，她会立马讲给我一千件我不知道的有关中国的事，那我可能真的就要错过马戏表演了。

为了看一场中国的马戏表演，我已经等了好几个星期了。我想看他们表演的杂技、小丑、杂耍，还有吞火，什么节目都不想错过。危机河附近很少有马戏团来。事实上，在我们所住的危机河的这一边，几乎从来就没

CHAPTER 1

CAT FLAP

It was probably my mother's screaming that frightened the cat. It's just a guess. No one knows for sure why a cat fell from a ten-storey building onto my head. It was about the last thing I was expecting on my visit to Summerville. I wasn't expecting to get mixed up with tigers, either. I live in Australia. A tiger is one dangerous animal I shouldn't have to worry about. But the cat changed all that.

I was hoping to see the Chinese Circus. Instead, we are wasting time in a Chinese-style street market. The smell of cooked garlic mingles with the stink of somebody's toilet. Pop music is pumping from a car stereo. Chickens are squawking in their cages. Vegetable sellers are arguing with their customers. They shout louder and louder to get over the noise of everyone around them shouting louder and louder.

'Can we go to the circus now?' I beg. 'We're going to miss the start.'

'We won't miss the circus,' Mum says. 'It doesn't start for another hour. This is all part of the fun. It's just like being in China.'

I would like to point out that if I ever go to China, I will be visiting the Great Wall, where great battles were held. I'll be looking out for warriors. I'll be scouring the place for buried tombs and hidden treasure. I will not be visiting smelly, noisy markets. But there's no point telling Mum that. She'll just tell me a thousand things I didn't know about China. I might miss the circus completely.

I have been waiting for weeks to see the Chinese Circus, to watch the acrobats, the clowns, the fire-eaters. I don't want to miss anything. It's not often a circus comes anywhere near Hazard River. In fact, almost nothing comes to

有什么热闹可看，消防站的那场除夕夜迪斯科晚会只是这里一年一度例行的社交活动。但是在河的另一边的夏日城里，总是有许多热闹的事情。只是与马戏相关的活动没有我想的那么多。

妈妈订票时承诺说这一定会是一次“激动人心的家庭短途旅行”。“家庭短途旅行”对我而言没有什么新鲜的，我只期待着“激动人心的”那部分。

“嘿，杰克，看看那些蜥蜴。”我的弟弟本指着一家商店的橱窗，柜台里陈列着一只巨大的瓶子，里面泡着好几只蜥蜴。我不知道这是用来吓跑顾客，还是吸引顾客的。反正对于我来说都没什么作用。

当本正在数着瓶子里的蜥蜴时，我注意到了店里的一个男人。我首先注意到的是他的伤疤——有几条深深的疤痕从他的额头往下一直抵到了下巴，无论是什么人或什么东西给他留下的，都一定是在极端愤怒的状态下才这么做的。那个男人用他的黑眼睛迅速地扫视了一遍整个屋子，然后从柜台下面取出了一只小袋子。另一个男人俯身上前，查看袋子里面装的东西。

我壮着胆子悄悄地靠近橱窗，疤脸人从袋子中取出了一只带斑纹的动物爪子。要辨认出这东西是什么有点困难，但它只可能是一样东西——一只老虎爪子。

他为什么会有一只老虎爪子？

我再次看了看那个人脸上的伤疤，那会是一只愤怒的老虎的杰作吗？也许他正是受到了长着这只爪子的老虎的攻击，才变成了这个样子。

难道疤脸人就是猎虎人？

一连串的事实和数字在我的大脑中快速运转着。老虎是地球上最濒危的动物之一——难道这不是人尽皆知的事情吗？如果像我今天早上一样读过可可泡芙包装袋背面的说明，他们就会知道了。这些知识都是用特大号黑体字印在那里的。

当这些问题正在我的脑海里打转儿时，妈妈开始尖叫起来。

“我的钱包！”她高声呼喊道，“我的钱包被人偷了！”市场上的每个人都继续做着他们自己的事，但妈妈非常惊慌，喊叫得比一只鸡还要吵。

our side of Hazard River. The New Year's Eve fire station disco is the social event of the year on our side. But over here, in Summercitey, there's a lot going on. There's just not enough circus-related stuff as far as I'm concerned.

Mum promised an 'exciting family outing' when she booked the tickets. I've seen the family outing bit. I'm just waiting for the exciting part to start.

'Oooh, look at the lizards, Jack,' my little brother Ben says, pointing to a shop window. An enormous bottle of pickled lizards is on display. I'm not quite sure if it's intended to scare customers off or attract them. It's not doing anything for me.

Ben is counting the lizards in the jar when I notice a man in the shop. The first thing I see is his scar. Deep lines run from his forehead right down to his chin. Someone or something was pretty angry when it left that mark on him. The man's black eyes dart around the room. He takes a small bag from under the counter. Another man leans over to see what he's got.

I edge as close to the shop window as I dare. Scarface pulls out a striped animal paw. It's a little hard to make out. But there is only one thing it can be-a tiger's paw.

Why does he have a tiger's paw?

I take another look at the scar on the man's face. Could that be the work of an angry tiger? Perhaps he was attacked by the tiger that used to be attached to that paw.

Is Scarface a tiger hunter?

A stream of facts and figures runs through my brain. Tigers are one of the most endangered animals on earth-doesn't everyone know that? They would if they read the back of the Coco Puffs packet, like I did this morning. It's all there in extra-bold print.

Questions are floating around my head when Mum starts screaming.

'My purse!' she shouts. 'Somebody has stolen my purse!' Everyone in the market carries on with their business. But Mum is flapping about, making more noise than one of the chickens.

疤脸人抬起头想看看发生了什么事，正好看到了我，把老虎爪子放回到了袋子中。我正准备逃跑，突然一个沉重的东西砸在了我的头上，我的脸向人行道上倒了下去，我的眼前闪过一道姜黄色的软毛，然后一切都变黑了。

Scarface looks up to see what's going on. He sees me. The tiger's paw goes back in the bag. I'm about to run, when a massive weight lands on my head. It pushes my face towards the footpath. There's a flash of ginger fur. Then everything goes black.

第2章 医院的探视者

我醒来时感觉头疼得厉害。我正躺在医院的病床上，头上绑着绷带。我弟弟本正坐在旁边的椅子上看一本图画书。我感觉自己好像是被卡车撞到了，但本解释说，我是被一只从空中飞落下来的猫砸中了。

“当时到处都是血和内脏，蛆虫从你的脑袋中爬出来，脑浆从你的耳朵中渗了出来。”本描绘道。

我弟弟喜欢编故事，他才不在乎这些故事的真假。

他把书放下，告诉我那些蛆虫是如何从我头部的伤口爬出来又钻进了我的眼睛和鼻子里，还有一些蠕动着白色小幼蛆甚至钻进了我的嘴巴。说完他把鼻子嘴巴挤成一团，做了个犯恶心的鬼脸，就好像他刚刚吃了一只腌鸡蛋一样。但真正犯恶心的人是，我吞下了蛆！

“当时我还以为你死了。”本接着说，“妈妈一直在尖叫，然后爸爸来了，他也大喊大叫，再后来救护车就把你带到了这里，他们的尖叫才算停止了。在爸爸妈妈回来之前，我负责管理你。他们去警察局报案了，妈妈的钱包被偷了。”

他又拿起书，像个小老师一样，大声地朗读着《圣乔治与龙》的冒险故事。

从什么时候起我的弟弟开始“管理”我了？我很好奇，但我的好奇很快就被打断了——我想起了在我与人行道亲密接触之前正要赶去哪儿。

“马戏团！”我大叫道，“我不能待在这里，我会错过马戏表演的！”

“你已经错过了，”本说，“马戏表演已经是昨天的事了。当时你在医院里。我们去了，没有带你，不过我给你带了一本节目单作为纪念。”

本从一堆书中抽出一本彩色的中国马戏表演节目单，递给我，然后微

CHAPTER 2

HOSPITAL VISITORS

I wake up with a terrible headache. I'm lying in a hospital bed with a bandage around my head. My brother Ben is sitting in a chair next to me, looking at a picture book. I feel like I've been hit by a truck. But, as Ben explains, I've been hit by a falling cat.

'There was blood and guts everywhere. Maggots were crawling out of your head and your brain was seeping out of your ears,' Ben says.

My brother likes telling stories. He doesn't care if they're true or not.

He puts his book down. He tells me how the maggots crawled out of the gash on my head, into my eyes and up my nose. Some of the wriggly white grubs went into my mouth. Ben scrunches up his face like he's just eaten a pickled egg. But I'm the one who feels sick. I'm the one who swallowed the maggots.

'I thought you were dead,' Ben says. 'Mum was screaming. Then Dad arrived and he was shouting. And then the ambulance brought you here. That's when the screaming stopped. I'm in charge of you until Mum and Dad get back. They've gone to the police station to report Mum's stolen purse.'

He picks up his book again. He reads aloud from the adventures of George and the Dragon, like a mini teacher.

Since when has my little brother been 'in charge' of me? I wonder. But my wondering is cut short. I remember where I was headed before my collision with the footpath.

'The circus!' I shout. 'I can't stay here. I'm going to miss the circus!'

'You did miss it,' Ben says. 'The circus was yesterday. You were in hospital. We went without you. I brought you a souvenir guide.'

Ben takes a coloured Chinese Circus program from the pile of books on

微笑了笑。

“表演真是太棒了，你真应该去看看的。”

“是的，我本来应该去的，但是我却在医院里！”

我用胳膊肘支撑着坐了起来，但我的头疼得实在太厉害了，只好又呻吟着重新倒回到了枕头上。

“你应该表现得坚强点儿！”一个声音从门口传来，“你是什么？澳大利亚最软弱的男孩吗？”

是拉克兰·马斯特（马斯特的含义：大师），我在危机河的邻居；我的另一个朋友米米·费尔韦瑟（费尔韦瑟的含义：可爱的天气）站在他身后。他们到这里来探望我，希望我能振作起来。有谁告诉过拉克兰这就是到医院探望病人应该要做的吗？

“该起床了，现在已经是上午10点了，”拉克兰说，“你怎么能懒成这个样子？”

“他起不了床，”本说，“因为一只猫砸在了他的头上。这是对他的惩罚，谁让他偷走了我的幸运币。”

拉克兰哈哈大笑，他还从来没有听过这么搞笑的事。

“这一点儿也不好笑。”我说，“再说我也没有偷过你的钱，你把它掉进马桶里了。想起来了吗？为了把它掏出来，你的那把夜光剑被你搞得糊满了便便。”

本又像吃了颗腌鸡蛋一样，做了个恶心的鬼脸。因为他想起了他那枚躺在马桶底下的幸运币还有躺在垃圾箱里糊满了便便的夜光剑。他现在看起来可不太像在“管理”我了。

拉克兰笑得更大声了。到医院来探望病人对他而言竟变成了这么有趣的事情，我真希望自己也能感到有趣。

“很遗憾你错过了马戏表演，”米米说，“真的非常精彩。”

“你怎么知道很‘精彩’？”我说，“你又没去看。”

米米低头看着自己的脚，说：“我去看了，你妈妈把你的那张票给我了，她觉得你不会介意的。”

“我非常介意！”我说，“本来要去看马戏的人是我，这是我的家庭短途旅行。我打算今晚再去，我可不想错过马戏表演。”

“昨晚是最后一场表演了。”米米遗憾地说，“真可惜你错过了。如

the floor and hands it to me. He gives me a smile.

‘It was really awesome. You should have been there.’

‘Yes. I should have been there! Instead I’m in hospital!’

I push myself onto my elbows, but the pain in my head is too much. I fall back onto the pillow and groan.

‘You can do better than that,’ comes a voice from the doorway. ‘What are you? The weakest boy in Australia?’

It’s Lachlan Master, my neighbour from Hazard River. My friend Mimi Fairweather is right behind him. They’re here to cheer me up. Did anyone tell Lachlan that’s what hospital visitors are *meant* to do?

‘Time to get out of bed, it’s already ten o’clock in the morning,’ Lachlan says. ‘Enough lazing around.’

‘He can’t,’ Ben says. ‘A cat fell on his head. It was Jack’s punishment for stealing my lucky coin.’

Lachlan laughs. He’s never heard anything so funny.

‘It’s not funny,’ I say. ‘And I didn’t steal your money. You dropped it down the toilet. Remember, you ended up with poo all over your glow-in-the-dark sword when you tried to get it out.’

Ben gives me one of his pickled-egg faces as he remembers his lucky money lying at the bottom of the toilet and his sword lying in the bin, covered in poo. He doesn’t look so ‘in charge’ of me now.

Lachlan laughs even louder. This hospital visit is turning out to be so much fun-for him. I wish I could say the same for me.

‘Sorry you missed the circus,’ Mimi says. ‘It was really spectacular.’

‘How do you know it was “spectacular”?’ I say. ‘You weren’t even there.’

Mimi looks down at her feet. ‘I was there. Your mother gave me your ticket. She didn’t think you’d mind.’

‘I do mind!’ I say. ‘I was meant to be at the circus. This is my family outing. I’m going tonight. I’m not going to miss the circus.’

‘Last night was the last night,’ Mimi says. ‘Shame you missed it. You

果你去了，你一定会非常喜欢那些老虎的。”

好辣的猪肉饺子！老虎！

我把那只老虎爪子忘得一干二净了，就是在那只猫把我砸扁之前我在药店看到的那只。

“昨天我看见了一只真正的老虎！”我说，“或者，至少可以说是一部分老虎，我在一家药店看到了一只老虎的爪子。”

米米摇了摇头。

“很多年以前老虎被应用于中药材——有些人认为老虎的骨头会使他们变得更强壮，可是现在已经没有这样的事儿了。因为老虎正濒临灭绝！你可能只是在做梦吧。看来那只猫把你的脑袋砸得不轻啊。”

米米怎么会知道那些有关中药的事情？哦，因为她已经周游了全世界，她什么都知道，她是大脑袋教授！

但是有一件事她说错了。

“这不是梦，”我说，“我真的看见了——药店里的两个男人和一只老虎爪子，我非常肯定。”

米米再次摇了摇头。

“杰克，我想你是要疯了，”拉克兰说，“一次严重的撞击可能永久性地改变你的大脑。当然，前提是如果你有大脑的话。”

“这就是你偷走我的幸运币的后果。”本又说话了。

我是个正在住院、需要鼓励和安慰的病人，但是现在他们却联合起来对付我；米米用了本该属于我的票而我错过了马戏表演；现在大家又都在侮辱我的智商，这太过分了！

“我没有疯，我没有梦见老虎爪子，我也没有偷过你的幸运币！”我大喊大叫着。

我必须要做一件事，就一件。

我吃力地慢慢从床上坐起来，下了地，无意中瞥见了镜中的自己——在我的前额正中间，绷带覆盖着一大片敷料，头发随着绷带边缘一撮撮向上竖立着，但一点也不酷——我看起来真的很糟。

然而，我缠满绷带的头跟身上所穿的衣服相比根本算不了什么——我居然穿着一套毛茸茸的托马斯坦克发动机睡衣！这是从哪儿搞来的？我并