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Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

上海辞书出版社

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

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The Valley

of Fear

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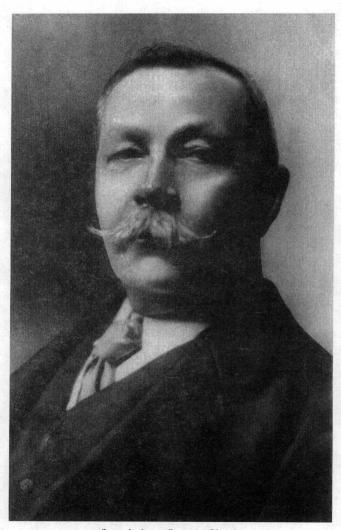
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Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

英语学习是一个积累的过程,在这个过程中,大量的 阅读至关重要,而英语原著无疑是最好的阅读材料。通 过阅读英语原著,英语学习者能够巩固和增加词汇量,积 累足够的句式,吸收、内化语言规律,从而能够用英语自 由流畅地进行表达,还可获取文化背景方面的知识。

阅读英语文学原著既有益又有趣。但很多人在阅读过程中都会遇到一个难题:原著中的生词、难词极大地影响了阅读速度,查词典要花大量时间,且影响阅读的连贯性,不查词典又无法读通、读懂。为了帮助广大英语爱好者阅读原汁原味的英语文学作品,我们选择福尔摩斯探案故事中四部精彩的中篇小说,对其中的阅读难点从语言上或文化背景知识上详加注释,以期帮助读者在享受阅读趣味的同时,提高语言能力,汲取一定的文化背景知识。

福尔摩斯探案故事的作者柯南·道尔爵士由于成功 塑造了歇洛克·福尔摩斯这一侦探人物,成为侦探小说 历史上最重要的作家之一。柯南·道尔于 1859 年 5 月



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22 日出生于爱丁堡,1876 年至 1881 年间在爱丁堡大学学习医学,毕业后作为一名随船医生前往西非海岸,1882 年回国后在普利茅斯开业行医,在此期间道尔开始写作。柯南·道尔的第一部重要作品《血字研究》(A Study in Scarlet)发表在《1887 年比顿圣诞年刊》(Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887)上,小说的主角歇洛克·福尔摩斯由此名声大噪,家喻户晓。柯南·道尔一生一共创作了五十六部短篇侦探小说和四部中篇侦探小说。他对人物的塑造独具匠心,心理刻画细致人微,场景描写和气氛营造都十分引人入胜,其作品具有较高的文学价值。

福尔摩斯探案故事布局严谨,伏笔巧妙,情节环环相扣,令人爱不释手,读者往往要到结局真相大白的时候,才能松一口气。《血字研究》、《四签名》、《巴斯克维尔庄园的猎犬》以及《恐怖谷》是福尔摩斯探案故事中最著名的四个故事。这四个故事不仅情节曲折、引人入胜,而且短小精悍、难度适中,极适合英语学习者使用。通过阅读这套丛书,英语学习者有望提高英语阅读、表达能力,并增加对英国文化的了解。

愿这套丛书能够带领广大英语爱好者走人一个多彩 的英语世界。

上海辞书出版社 日本中的第一人的 1980年7月





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PART 1

The Tragedy of Birlstone



The Warning

"I am inclined to think ——" said I.

"I should do so," Sherlock Holmes remarked impatiently.

I believe that I am one of the most long-suffering of mortals; but I'll admit that I was annoyed at the sardonic^① interruption.

"Really, Holmes," said I severely, "you are a little trying² at times."

He was too much absorbed with his own thoughts to give any immediate answer to my remonstrance³. He leaned upon his hand, with his untasted breakfast before him, and he stared at the slip of paper which he had just drawn from its envelope. Then he took the envelope itself, held it up to the light, and very carefully studied both the

① sardonic: 嘲笑的,讥讽的 ② trying: 令人厌烦的,令人难以忍受的 ③ remonstrance: 抗议,抗辨,反对





exterior and the flap.

"It is Porlock's writing," said he thoughtfully. "I can hardly doubt that it is Porlock's writing, though I have seen it only twice before. The Greek e with the peculiar top flourish is distinctive. But if it is Porlock, then it must be something of the very first importance."

He was speaking to himself rather than to me; but my vexation disappeared in the interest which the words awakened.

"Who then is Porlock?" I asked.

"Porlock, Watson, is a nom-de-plume², a mere identification mark; but behind it lies a shifty and evasive personality. In a former letter he frankly informed me that the name was not his own, and defied me ever to trace him among the teeming millions of this great city. Porlock is important, not for himself, but for the great man with whom he is in touch. Picture to yourself the pilot fish³ with the shark⁴, the jackal⁵ with the lion — anything that is insignificant in companionship with what is formidable: not only formidable, Watson, but sinister — in the highest degree sinister. That is where he comes within my

① vexation: 烦恼,恼火 ② nom-de-plume: <法> 笔名 ③ pilot fish: 引水鱼 ④ shark: 鲨鱼 ⑤ jackal: 豺



purview^①. You have heard me speak of Professor Moriarty?"

"The famous scientific criminal, as famous among crooks as ——"

"My blushes, Watson!" Holmes murmured in a deprecating[®] voice.

"I was about to say, as he is unknown to the public."

"A touch! A distinct touch!" cried Holmes. "You are developing a certain unexpected vein of pawky[®] humour, Watson, against which I must learn to guard myself. But in calling Moriarty a criminal you are uttering libel[®] in the eyes of the law[®]— and there lie the glory and the wonder of it! The greatest schemer of all time, the organizer of every deviltry[®], the controlling brain of the underworld, a brain which might have made or marred[®] the destiny of nations — that's the man! But so aloof is he from general suspicion, so immune from[®] criticism, so admirable in his management and self-effacement[®], that for those very words that you have uttered he could hale you to a court and emerge with your year's pension as a solatium[®] for his

① purview: 視野 ② deprecating: 不赞成的, 反对的 ③ pawky: 冷而幽默的 ④ libel: 诽谤 ⑤ in the eyes of the law: 从法律上看, 依照法律而言 ⑥ deviltry: 邪恶行径 ⑦ mar: 毁坏; 损坏 ⑧ immune from: 免除, 豁免 ⑨ self-effacement: 自谦 ⑩ solatium: 慰藉物, 补偿物



wounded character. Is he not the celebrated author of *The Dynamics of an Asteroid*, a book which ascends to such rarefied[®] heights of pure mathematics that it is said that there was no man in the scientific press capable of criticizing it? Is this a man to traduce[®]? Foulmouthed doctor and slandered professor — such would be your respective roles! That's genius, Watson. But if I am spared by lesser men, our day will surely come."

"May I be there to see!" I exclaimed devoutly³. "But you were speaking of this man Porlock."

"Ah, yes — the so-called Porlock is a link in the chain some little way from its great attachment. Porlock is not quite a sound link — between ourselves. He is the only flaw in that chain so far as I have been able to test it."

"But no chain is stronger than its weakest link."

"Exactly, my dear Watson! Hence the extreme importance of Porlock. Led on by some rudimentary® aspirations towards right, and encouraged by the judicious stimulation of an occasional ten-pound note sent to him by devious® methods, he has once or twice given me advance information which has been of value — that highest value

④ rudimentary: 残存的 ⑤ devious: 迂回的,曲折的



① rarefied: 深奥的

② traduce: 诽谤,诋毁 ③ devoutly: 诚恳地

which anticipates and prevents rather than avenges crime. I cannot doubt that, if we had the cipher, we should find that this communication is of the nature that I indicate."

Again Holmes flattened out the paper upon his unused plate. I rose and, leaning over him, stared down at the curious inscription, which ran as follows:

534 C2 13 127 36 31 4 17 21 41

DOUGLAS 109 293 5 37 BIRLSTONE

26 BIRLSTONE 9 47 171

"What do you make of it, Holmes?"

"It is obviously an attempt to convey secret information."

"But what is the use of a cipher message without the cipher?"

"In this instance, none at all."

"Why do you say 'in this instance'?"

"Because there are many ciphers which I would read as easily as I do the apocrypha^① of the agony column: such crude devices amuse the intelligence without fatiguing it. But this is different. It is clearly a reference to the words in a page of some book. Until I am told which page and which book I am powerless."

① apocrypha: 权威性可疑的著作





"But why 'Douglas' and 'Birlstone'?"

"Clearly because those are words which were not contained in the page in question."

"Then why has he not indicated the book?"

"Yow native shrewdness, my dear Watson, that innate cunning which is the delight of your friends, would surely prevent you from inclosing cipher and message in the same envelope. Should it miscarry, you are undone. As it is, both have to go wrong before any harm comes from it. Our second post is now overdue, and I shall be surprised if it does not bring us either a further letter of explanation, or, as is more probable, the very volume to which these figures refer."

Holmes's calculation was fulfilled within a very few minutes by the appearance of Billy, the page, with the very letter which we were expecting.

"The same writing," remarked Holmes, as he opened the envelope, "and actually signed," he added in an exultant² voice as he unfolded the epistle³. "Come, we are getting on, Watson." His brow clouded, however, as he glanced over the contents.

① undone: 毁灭的 ② exultant: 狂喜的,欢欣鼓舞的 ③ epistle: 书信(尤指谈论严肃话题的较长信件)



"Dear me, this is very disappointing! I fear, Watson, that all our expectations come to nothing. I trust that the man Porlock will come to no harm.

"DEAR MR. HOLMES [he says]:

"I will go no further in this matter. It is too dangerous — he suspects me. I can see that he suspects me. He came to me quite unexpectedly after I had actually addressed this envelope with the intention of sending you the key to the cipher. I was able to cover it up. If he had seen it, it would have gone hard with me. But I read suspicion in his eyes. Please burn the cipher message, which can now be of no use to you.

"FRED PORLOCK."

Holmes sat for some little time twisting this letter between his fingers, and frowning, as he stared into the fire.

"After all," he said at last, "there may be nothing in it. It may be only his guilty conscience. Knowing himself to be a traitor, he may have read the accusation in the other's eyes."

"The other being, I presume, Professor Moriarty."

"No less! When any of that party talk about 'He' you

① go hard with: (常用于 it 后)使……有麻烦





know whom they mean. There is one predominant 'He' for all of them."

"But what can he do?"

"Hum! That's a large question. When you have one of the first brains of Europe up against you, and all the powers of darkness at his back, there are infinite possibilities. Anyhow, Friend Porlock is evidently scared out of his senses — kindly compare the writing in the note to that upon its envelope; which was done, he tells us, before this ill-omened visit. The one is clear and firm. The other hardly legible."

"Why did he write at all? Why did he not simply drop it?"

"Because he feared I would make some inquiry after him in that case, and possibly bring trouble on him."

"No doubt," said I. "Of course." I had picked up the original cipher message and was bending my brows over it. "It's pretty maddening to think that an important secret may lie here on this slip of paper, and that it is beyond human power to penetrate it."

Sherlock Holmes had pushed away his untasted breakfast and lit the unsavoury pipe which was the

① legible:清晰的,容易辨认的



companion of his deepest meditations. "I wonder!" said he, leaning back and staring at the ceiling. "Perhaps there are points which have escaped your Machiavellian^① intellect. Let us consider the problem in the light of pure reason. This man's reference is to a book. That is our point of departure."

"A somewhat vague one."

"Let us see then if we can narrow it down². As I focus my mind upon it, it seems rather less impenetrable. What indications have we as to this book?"

"None."

"Well, well, it is surely not quite so bad as that. The cipher message begins with a large 534, does it not? We may take it as a working hypothesis[®] that 534 is the particular page to which the cipher refers. So our book has already become a large book which is surely something gained. What other indications have we as to the nature of this large book? The next sign is C2. What do you make of that, Watson?"

"Chapter the second, no doubt."

"Hardly that, Watson. You will, I am sure, agree with

breaking and In the unsavoury mae which was the



① Machiavellian: 马基雅弗利主义的;狡猾的 ② narrow down: 缩小,压缩 ③ working hypothesis: 工作假说;作业假说