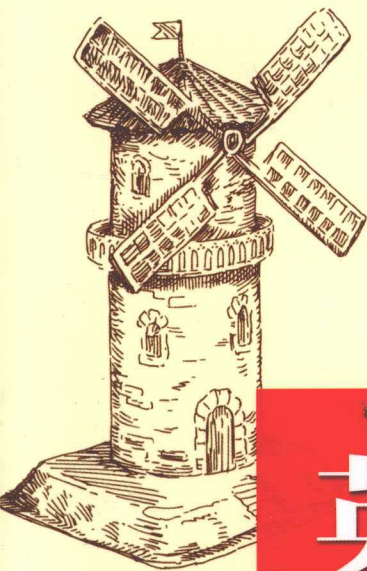
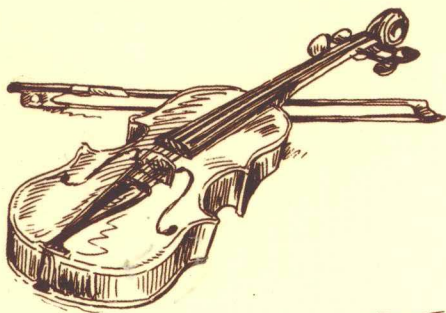


双语译林

英汉双语对照



# 英美故事会

Urban Legends,  
Conspiracy Theories &  
Old Wives' Tales



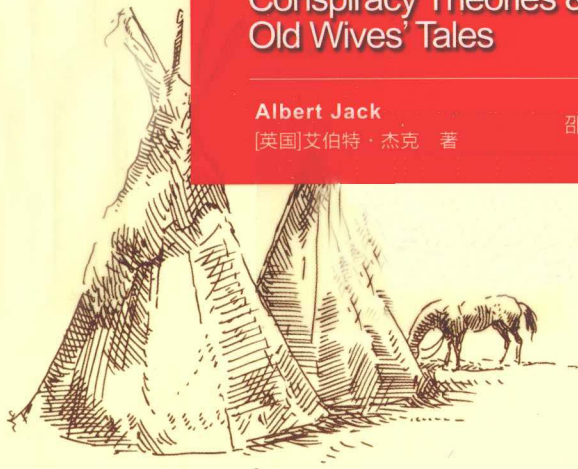
Season 2  
第2季

Albert Jack

[英国]艾伯特·杰克 著

邵志军 译

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Albert Jack  
[英国]艾伯特·杰克 著

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# 目 录

## CONTENTS

2	The Seafood Effect 海鲜效应
6	The Better Man 男倖相的故事
8	Dearly Departed 深情谢幕
12	The Guildford Gypsies 吉尔福德的吉卜赛人
16	Casino Fright 赌场惊魂
20	Star Heckler 拆台的明星
24	Moon the Loon 疯子摩恩
28	Hitler's Testicle 希特勒的蛋蛋
32	How to Do It Properly 如何钻法律的漏洞
34	Positive Drugs Test 毒品测试呈阳性
36	Life-Changing Moments 改变命运的时刻

38	Does It Get Worse Than This? 糟糕透顶
42	Come Out with Your Hands Up! 举手出来!
44	Lottery Prank Backfires 彩票恶作剧的意外结果
44	Ex-boyfriend 前男友
46	Blacks in America Lose the Right to Vote 美国黑人丧失选举权
50	The Beast of Bodmin Moor 博德明荒野之兽
58	Black Widows' Pique 黑寡妇惹不起
60	The Best-Dressed Kangaroo in the Bush 灌木丛中盛装的袋鼠
62	There's an Alligator in My Toilet 我家卫生间里有条鳄鱼
64	The Lemming Myth 旅鼠的神话
68	The Magic Rabbit 神奇的兔子
70	The Elephants' Graveyard 大象的坟地
74	No Smoke without Fire 无烟不起火
76	Electricity Meter Fraud 电表骗局
78	Ice Bullets 冰弹

80	Maximum High 巅峰状态
82	Drugs Surprise 大跌眼镜
84	TV Raid 抢劫片
86	Four by Four Runs over Four 四轮驱动车轧死了四个人
88	Drunken Decoy 醉了的媒鸟
90	Good Neighbours 好邻居
92	Bang to Rights 没法抵赖
94	Through the Porthole 扔出舷窗
96	No Smoking in the Toilets 厕所禁止吸烟
98	The Secret Message 密信
100	Dumped on from a Great Height 来自高空的垃圾
100	Naughty Photos 色情照片
102	Football Fanatic 足球发烧友
104	Half-time Relief 半场被替
106	Sky Diving 潜水? 跳伞?

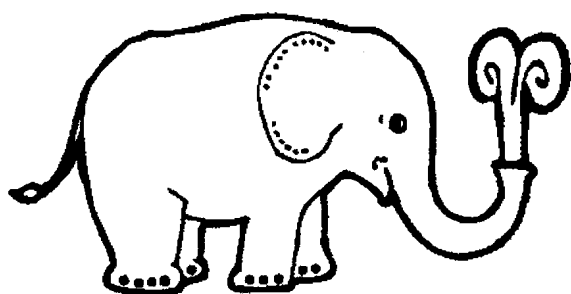
110	Golfers, Beware! 高尔夫球手们, 小心了!
112	Bad Loser 输不起的高尔夫球手
114	False Trail 误导猎狗
116	Free Tickets 免费门票
116	The Lottery Loser 彩票丢了
118	Unnecessary Rescue 就这么被救了
120	The Missing Kidney 丢失的肾脏
126	Vibrating Baggage 颤动的行李
128	Body in the Bed 床里的尸体
132	The Bride Who Disappeared 失踪的新娘
136	Caught with Her Pants Down 光屁股女士
138	The Biscuit Snatcher 饼干劫犯
140	Don't Touch that Button 勿摁按钮
142	The Clam Handcuffs 大蚌手铐
146	Things that Go Bump in the Night 半夜坠物

148	The Terminal Man 终点站人
152	Our President, the Idiot 我们的总统是白痴
156	The President's Brain Is Missing 总统的大脑不见了
166	Don't Turn the Light On 请勿开灯
168	Three Men and A Ghost 三人一鬼
172	The Ghost of Newstead Abbey 纽斯特德修道院的鬼魂
176	Clubbers, Beware! 混俱乐部的人们, 请注意!
180	The Legendary Hitch Hiker 传奇搭车人
184	The Missing Drivers 失踪的司机
186	Buried Alive 活埋
192	The Tsunami Bomb 海啸炸弹
196	Robin Hood 罗宾汉
202	Hotel Mystery 旅馆秘闻
206	The One-Man World War 一个人的世界大战
216	Captain Kidd the Pirate 基德船长, 海盗?



220	The Great Fire of London 伦敦的大火
226	Dough for Brains 面浆? 脑浆?
228	Rookie Robberies 菜鸟抢劫
232	Winnebago Whiner 起诉温内贝戈
234	Frozen Lips 冻住的嘴唇
236	The Drunken Sailor 喝醉的水手
240	Nobby's Nails 诺比牌钉子
242	Fatal Tan 致命的紫外线
244	The End of Life as We Know It 我们所知道的世界末日
248	One Thousand Miles Per Gallon 每加仑一千英里
250	Global Warming: We Are All Going to Drown 全球变暖: 我们都会被淹死
258	One Small Step for Man ... 人类的一小步
262	Duct Tape Suffocation 胶带窒息
266	The Benefits of Hindsight: Remarks Made and Regretted 后知之明的益处: 说了就后悔的话

Urban Legends, Conspiracy  
Theories & Old Wives' Tales  
英美故事会：第2季



## The Seafood Effect

June was not a happy lady. Just before Christmas in 1998, her husband Mike left her to start a new life with her closest friend. Having spent the whole winter on her own, June received a letter from a divorce lawyer, asking for possession of the house so that Mike and her old friend could move in. That was when she planned her revenge. She replied to the letter, offering vacant possession on condition the house was sold and the proceeds split between her and Mike. The evening before she was due to move out, June invited her real friends around for a lavish 'Last Supper'. The following afternoon, after the removal men had left, she carefully unscrewed the ends of the metal curtain poles in all the rooms and filled the cavities with spoonfuls of caviar and half-eaten prawns, along with the shells, after which she picked up the rest of her belongings and left the home she loved.

A few weeks later, Mike and his new lady noticed a lingering smell that became worse as the days passed. They paid to have the house professionally cleaned from top to bottom, the air vents and floorboards checked for dead rats and air purifiers installed in every room, but still the smell grew worse. Before long, the workmen looking for the source of the stench were refusing to enter the house and, as potential buyers were failing to make it past the front door before they fled, the estate agent suggested taking the property off the market until the cause of the smell had been located.

Eventually the couple had to retreat to a hotel before taking out a huge loan and buying another house. Soon afterwards, as chance would have it, June phoned Mike to inquire how the house sale was

## 海鲜效应

琼闷闷不乐的。1998年圣诞前，她丈夫麦克离她而去，同她最好的闺蜜开始了新的生活。做了一整个冬天的孤家寡人后，琼收到了离婚律师的来函，要求房子的产权归麦克，以便他和她的老朋友搬进来住。这个时候，琼就开始了她的报复计划。她回复了这封信，言明可以将房子腾空交出，但是房子必须出售，所得售款两人共同分割。交房那天的前夜，琼邀请她真正的好朋友过来，享受了一顿丰盛的“最后的晚餐”。翌日下午，当搬家工人都走了后，琼小心翼翼地卸下了所有房间里面金属窗帘杆的端部，在空杆子内部塞进了一勺勺的鱼子酱、吃了一半的对虾和海贝，然后收拾了剩下的个人物品离开了她心爱的家。

几个星期后，麦克和他的新欢发觉房子里面萦绕着越来越浓的臭味。他们请专人将房子从上到下打扫了一遍，检查了排气管道和地板，看里面有没有死老鼠，在每个房间里放置了空气净化器，但是臭味还是愈加浓烈。不久，来寻找臭味来源的工人都被熏得不敢进房间，来看房的购房者走到大门口就赶紧退避三舍，房地产经纪人建议这座房子暂不出售，等查明臭味来源再说。

最后，这对男女在借入大笔贷款另购房子之前不得不撤到了旅馆。后来不久事情有了转机。琼打电话给麦克问房子销售进展，她的前夫谎称房地产市场不景气，他还没有找到买家。琼说她愿意购买他那一半房

progressing and listened as her ex-husband made up a story about the depressed housing market and how he had been unable to find a buyer. He was amazed when his former wife offered to buy his share, for a substantially reduced amount. Seizing the chance to burden his ex with the mysteriously smelling property, he accepted a nominal payment for his half share, but not without one last act of meanness. On the day of the transfer, June pulled up with her removal men just in time to find Mike's team stripping the house of all the fixtures and fittings for installation in his new home—shelving, carpets and curtains, right down to door knobs, light bulbs and ... curtain poles. June's plan had worked to perfection.

In a similarly vengeful vein are the farmer who covered his local bank in slurry in response to needless bank charges, the wife of a cheat who cut one leg off all his trousers before delivering his prized, and expensive, vintage wine collection to the doorsteps of every house in their village with a note explaining his behaviour, and the jilted girlfriend who placed adverts of her former lover in a gay magazine before sending his new partner a copy. We have seen watercress scattered all over an apartment and the heating turned to full while an ex-lover was on holiday and a condom-wearing cucumber strategically left in a place it would easily be found. In fact there are so many such tales of revenge they could fill a book of their own.

产，但把价格压得很低。错愕之余，他赶紧抓住机会，把这个臭源不明的烫手山芋抛给他前妻。他接受了前妻对他那一半产权微不足道的开价，但最后也不忘再做恶人。在房子交接那天，琼带着搬家工人来到现场，正好赶上麦克的工人将房子里面的所有家具、所有装修搬了个精光——他准备把这些东西用在他的新家：从架子、地毯、窗帘到门把手、灯泡，还有……窗帘杆。琼的阴谋真是天衣无缝、完美无缺。

类似于此的复仇故事还有很多，比如有个农夫因为对地方银行不必要的收费不满，便将泥浆泼向这个银行；某位妻子把她不忠丈夫的所有裤腿都剪掉一条，然后把他最珍惜的、价格高昂的上等葡萄酒放到了村子里每家每户的门口台阶上，并附有说明，说他是如何花心；被情人抛弃的姑娘给她的前任男友在同性恋杂志上面做了广告，然后给他的新欢送了一本。还有人将水田芥撒满公寓房间，在旧情人出去度假时将其暖气开到最热，把套了避孕套的黄瓜巧妙地留在一个容易被人觉察的地方。事实上这些复仇故事太多了，以至于可以独立成书。

## **The Better Man**

There was a huge wedding with about three hundred guests. During the reception the groom stood up to deliver his speech. He said that he wanted to thank everyone for coming, many from far afield, to support him and his new bride on their big day. He especially wanted to thank the bride's family for all attending. The groom then announced that each guest would find, taped to the bottom of his or her chair, a manila envelope. He explained that the envelopes contained his gift to everyone, to convey the strength of his feelings on this occasion, and invited the guests to open them.

Inside each envelope was an 8×10 picture of his bride giving the best man oral sex in the latter's back garden. (He had become suspicious and hired a private detective to follow his wife-to-be.) As the wedding guests gasped in shock, the groom turned to his new bride and announced he was leaving her. The marriage was annulled the following day.

## 男宾相的故事

这个故事发生在一个有三百名左右宾客参加的盛大婚礼上。招待宴席上，新郎站起来致辞。他说他要感谢所有到场的嘉宾，感谢他们不辞路途遥远来参加婚礼，这对他和新娘是一种支持。他尤其要感谢新娘家人全体出席。然后新郎宣布每位客人的椅子下面贴着一个马尼拉纸<sup>①</sup>信封。他解释说信封里面是他给每一个人的礼物，来表达他在此时此刻的激动心情，随后他请宾客们打开这些信封。

在每个信封里面是一张8×10英寸大小的照片，照片里新娘正在男宾相家的后花园里给这个男宾相口淫。（他怀疑新娘不忠后便雇用了私人侦探跟踪了他的未婚妻。）当参加婚礼的宾客们吃惊得下巴都快掉下来时，新郎转身对新娘说他要和她分手。翌日他们便解除了婚姻关系。

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① 用马尼拉麻做成的结实的浅咖色纸张，一般用作档案袋和信封。



## Dearly Departed

Many people have been tempted to have cryptic messages carved on to either their own headstones or those of loved ones. Spike Milligan famously requested the line in his native Gaelic: 'Duir me leat go raibh me breoite.' In English this becomes: 'I told you I was ill.' His headstone was finally erected in 2004 at St Thomas's Church in Winchelsea, East Sussex, and the words are a typical example of the great man's humour. Some messages, however, are not so funny and while graveyard owners or the Church usually forbid acrimonious lines on headstones, there are ways of overcoming the rules. This was so in the case of John Laird McCaffery, who died on 14 August 1995. The stonemason carving the inscription claims he did not notice the hidden message when the deceased man's wife and mistress placed the order for the stone together. They claimed the meaning of the poem was just a personal matter between the three of them.

*Here Lies Buried  
John Laird McCaffery  
Free Your Body and Soul  
Unfold Your Powerful Wings  
Climb Up The Highest Mountains  
Kick Your Feet Up In The Air  
You May Now Live Forever  
Or Return To This Earth  
Unless You Feel Good  
Where You Are*