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小书架

插图版英语世界名著系列丛书

H. G. WELLS

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

星球大战



安徽科学技术出版社

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THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

H. G Wells

Adapted by Malvina G. Vogel

Illustrations by Brendan Lynch



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编辑的话

在当代,可以说“英语就是竞争力!”

阅读是英语学习最重要的基本功之一,是听、说、读、写四大技能的核心技能,也是各类英语考试中权重最大的项目。权威的语言专家指出,只有通过广泛大量的阅读,才能对英语有良好的理解和掌握,才能由量变达到质变。教育部最新颁布的《中学英语课程标准》明确规定:“阅读一般英文原著,抓住主要情节,了解主要人物。除教材外,课外阅读量应累计达到 36 万词以上。”由此可见,一定的阅读量以及合适的原著读本,对提高中学生的英语阅读技能极为重要。

众所周知,世界名著具有很高的语言文字水平、丰富深刻的人文内涵以及不凡的艺术审美价值。实践证明,大量阅读英文版世界名著对学好英语颇有助益。鉴于此,我们从美国 Playmore 出版公司引进了《插图版英语世界名著系列丛书》,以期给广大中学生及英语爱好者奉献一套英语阅读精品,为切实提高广大读者的竞争力做出我们真诚的贡献。

这套书是原著的插图简写本。各分册故事感

人、情节生动,具有极强的可读性;经过当代人改编简写后,语言现代,精练简约,浅显易懂,篇幅适中,非常适合中学生阅读;为了方便读者阅读,我们特请了一批经验丰富的中学教师,对书中较难的词汇、句子和语法给予注释,并在每幅图下给出部分难句的译文。书中惟妙惟肖的插图既可帮助读者理解内容,又可使阅读变得兴致盎然、轻松有趣。

本套书的各分册均为英美文学史上久负盛名的经典之作。读者朋友也许读过这些名著的中译本,但当您今天一举读懂了这些名著的英文版,相信您定会充满成就感——在阅读中不仅您的英语功力和素养会不断提高,而且您学习英语的兴趣和自信心也会与日俱增。另外,你还能从这些名著丰富的人文内涵中感悟人生、启迪智慧、拓展视野、陶冶情操,增加自身的文化底蕴。

亲爱的读者,如果您打算把这些精品读物自己收藏,或作为礼物送给您的同学和朋友,那将是一个体面而又实惠的选择。

本书由周璇译注。

About the Author

H. G. Wells was a famous English writer of novels, history and science books, and science-fiction stories. . But the Herbert George Wells who was born in a London suburb in 1866 didn't appear destined for such fame. His father, a poor shopkeeper, could not afford a proper education for his son, so the boy was apprenticed to a cloth-maker, and later to a chemist.

But Wells was not content with this work, and by studying hard, he won a scholarship to the The Royal College of Science, where he studied biology. His training as a scientist and his love of writing led him to produce such imaginative science-fiction works as *The Time Machine*, *The Invisible Man*, *The First Men in the Moon*, and *The War of the Worlds*.

The inspiration for *The War of the Worlds* came one day when Wells and his brother Frank were strolling through the peaceful countryside in Surrey, south of London. They were discussing the invasion of the Australian island of Tasmania in the early 1800's by European settlers, who hunted down and killed most of the primitive people who lived there. To emphasize the reaction of these people, Frank said, "Suppose some beings from another planet were to drop out of the sky suddenly and begin taking over Surrey and then all of England!"

Wells was inspired by that "Suppose..." and went on to study the Surrey countryside, its towns and its people. From this, came the Martian invasion of Surrey in *The War of the Worlds*.

H. G. Wells died at the age of 80, in 1946, but of all of his scientific and historical works, it is for his science-fiction stories that he is best remembered by millions of readers today.

作者简介

H. G. 韦尔斯是英国著名的小说家、历史读物和科学读物作家，他还擅长写科幻小说。但出生于 1886 年伦敦郊区的 H·G·韦尔斯并非命中注定就有此声望的。他的父亲是一名穷店员，供不起儿子接受正常教育，因此，这个小男孩只得给裁缝做学徒，后来又当了药剂师的学徒。

可韦尔斯并不喜欢这份工作，他通过刻苦学习获得了皇家科学院的奖学金，在那儿学习生物。他受过生物科学的专业培训并且热爱写作，因此写出了像《时间机器》、《隐形人》、《登月第一人》以及《星球大战》这样富有想像力的科幻作品。

韦尔斯和弟弟弗兰克有一天在英国南部宁静的萨里郡乡村漫步，他就是在那天获得了创作《星球大战》的灵感。他们当时在讨论 19 世纪早期欧洲殖民者入侵澳大利亚岛屿塔斯梅尼亚的事情。殖民者驱赶并杀死了大部分土著人。为了向韦尔斯强调被侵土著人的反应，弗兰克说道，“假想是外星人突然从天而降，开始强占萨里然后是整个英国！”

韦尔斯受到那个“假想……”的启发，并继续研究了萨里乡村、萨里的小镇和萨里的居民，由此而写出了《星球大战》中萨里郡被火星入侵的故事。

韦尔斯死于 1946 年，享年 80 岁。在他所有的科学和历史作品中，人们最喜欢的是他的科幻小说。这些科幻小说至今仍为数以百万计的读者所喜爱。



Unnoticed by Most Readers
大部分读者未注意到(这则消息)

这团燃烧的气体看起来正快速向地球飞来,但不到 15 分钟就不见了。

Contents

About the Author	I
作者简介	III
CHAPTER 1. Mysterious Bursts of Flame	
神秘的火焰喷发	1
CHAPTER 2. The Landing of the Martians	
火星登陆地球	11
CHAPTER 3. The Heat-Ray	
热光	29
CHAPTER 4. The Second Cylinder Falls	
第二个圆柱降落	43
CHAPTER 5. Fighting Begins	
战争开始	47
CHAPTER 6. A Battle in the Thames	
泰晤士河之战	75
CHAPTER 7. The Curate	
助理牧师	93
CHAPTER 8. News Reaches London	
消息抵达伦敦	101
CHAPTER 9. The Attack of the Black Smoke	
黑烟的袭击	109
CHAPTER 10. A Terrible Stampede	
可怕的大溃逃	121

CHAPTER 11. The Martians Reach London	
火星人的到达伦敦	133
CHAPTER 12. A Warship Attacks the Martians	
一艘战舰袭击火星人的	137
CHAPTER 13. Imprisoned at a Martian Pit	
受困	149
CHAPTER 14. A Terrible Human Yell	
可怕的人类喊叫	169
CHAPTER 15. The Death of the Curate	
牧师的死亡	175
CHAPTER 16. Escape!	
逃脱!	187
CHAPTER 17. The Martians' Destruction	
火星人的毁灭	209
CHAPTER 18. Returning Home	
重返家园	221
CHAPTER 19. The Future of Man	
人类的未来	231

CHAPTER 1

Mysterious Bursts of Flame

神秘的火焰喷发

The little note in the London *Daily Telegraph*¹ on the 13th of August, 1894, went almost unnoticed by most readers:

*Flaming Gas Bursts From Mars*² Reports from the island of Java³ indicate the sighting of a mass of flaming hydrogen⁴ gas bursting out from the surface⁵ of Mars about midnight on the 12th. This flaming gas appeared to be moving with enormous⁶ speed towards Earth, but within fifteen minutes, it became invisible⁷.

1. Daily Telegraph (报纸名)《每日电讯》

2. [mas] n. 火星

3. ['dʒɑ:və] n. (地名)爪哇

4. ['haɪdrədʒən] n. 氢气; 氢

5. ['sə:fɪs] n. 表面

6. [i'nɔ:məs] a. 巨大的 7. [in'vɪzɪbl] a. 看不见的

I myself had missed the article, so I was completely ignorant¹ of what would soon become one of the greatest dangers to the human race. And I might have stayed ignorant until it was too late had I not met my old friend Ogilvy², a well-known astronomer³, while out for a stroll⁴.

“I say there, Wells,” he exclaimed upon seeing me, “what do you think of the news from Mars?”

“News?” I asked, puzzled. “What news could there be from a planet 40 million miles from here?”

“An exciting and unusual happening⁵,” cried Ogilvy. “A great light—a blaze almost—has burst from the surface of Mars.”

I looked at him quizzically⁶, not quite certain that I could share his excitement.

Guessing my thoughts, Ogilvy suggested, “Why not come up to my observatory⁷ tonight? We can study the heavens together.”

“Why not?” I thought, so I agreed to go.

That night at midnight, I was taking my turn

1. ignorant of 不知;消息不灵通的

2. ...had I not met my old friend, Ogilvy... 这一句是省略了“if”的条件从句,用的是虚拟语气。

3. [ə'strɒnəmə] *n.* 天文学家

4. [strəʊl] *vi.* 散步;闲逛

5. ['hæpənɪŋ] *n.* 事件;偶然事件

6. ['kwɪzɪkəli] *ad.* 疑惑地

7. [əb'zə:vətəri] *n.* 天文台



Wells Meets His Old Friend, Ogilvy.
韦尔斯遇见老朋友奥格尔维。

“消息？”我惊讶地问道。“一个远在4 000万英里外的星球会有什么消息传过来？”

我奇怪地看着他，不太确定我是否会分享他的激动。

奥格尔维看出了我的心思，建议道：“今晚为什么不去我的天文台看一看呢？我们可以一起研究一下。”

at the telescope¹ when I saw a reddish² flash around the edge of Mars. "Come quickly, Ogilvy!" I cried.

I never dreamed then that the flash was the launching of an accurately aimed missile³ from Mars, following the same path to Earth taken by the first one only 24 hours before. Yes, the Things they were sending to us were flying swiftly⁴ and steadily across 40 million miles to bring much death and destruction to Earth.

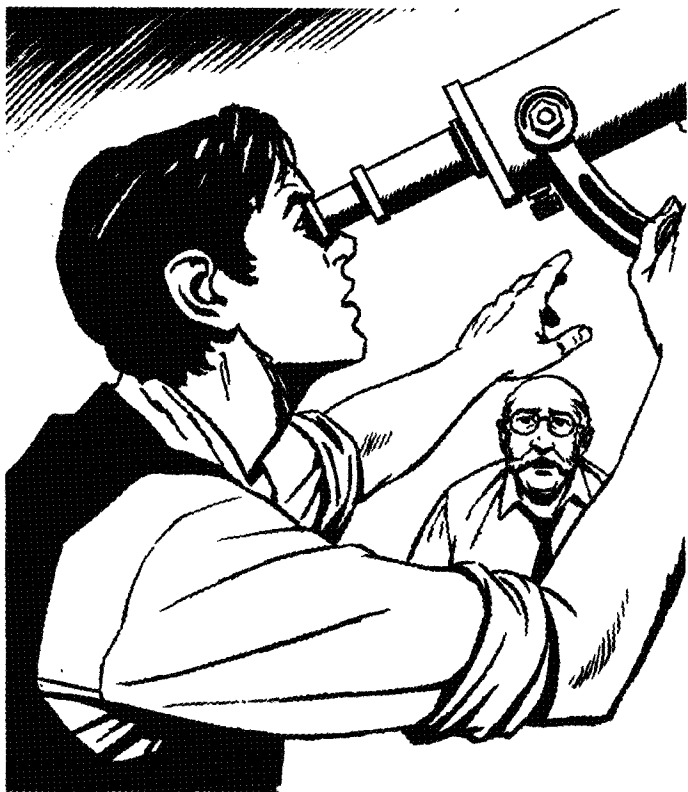
"Well, Ogilvy," I said, as he turned away from the telescope an hour later, "are the Martians⁵ signaling us?" In the darkness of the observatory, he couldn't see the mocking⁶ smile on my face.

"Ridiculous⁷!" he cried. "It is probably some meteorites⁸ falling in a heavy shower on Mars, or perhaps a huge volcano⁹ exploding."

"But why do you doubt the existence of life on Mars?" I asked.

"The chances of any sort of human life there are a million to one," he replied. "Remember, man,

-
1. ['teliskəʊp] *n.* 望远镜 2. ['rediʃ] *a.* 淡红色的;微红色的
3. ['misail] *n.* 导弹;发射物 4. swiftly and steadily 轻快而平稳地
5. Martian 火星入 6. ['məkiŋ] *a.* 取笑的;愚弄的
7. [ri'dikjʊləs] *a.* 可笑的;荒谬的
8. ['mitʃərəit] *n.* 流星;陨石 9. [vɒl'keɪnəʊ] *n.* 火山



“Come Quickly, Ogilvy!”

“快来，奥格尔维！”

那时，我绝没想过，那团火焰竟然是火星上发射的精确定位过的导弹，它正沿着 24 小时前发射的第一枚导弹飞过的轨迹飞行。

“荒谬！”他喊道。“有可能是一些陨星大量落在火星上，或者，也可能是一座巨大的火山在喷发。”

“任何形式的生命生活在那儿的可能性是一百万分之一。”他答道。

Mars is 140 million miles from the sun, and the light and heat it gets is barely half of what we get on Earth. Human life could not survive¹, for Mars is getting colder and colder.”

“But there is air and water on Mars,” I argued. “Wouldn’t that support life?”

“Perhaps ... perhaps,” he replied, deep in thought, “but surely not life as advanced² as ours.”

Little did I know³ that night that our planet was being watched closely by beings⁴ with greater intelligence⁵ than man, beings who were just as mortal⁶ as man, beings who had created instruments and weapons man has scarcely dreamed of, beings who watched Earth enviously⁷, and slowly made their plans to leave their dying planet and take over their only hope for survival—a green, fertile⁸ planet crowded with what they considered inferior⁹ animals.

Other observers on Earth saw the flame burst forth from Mars that night, the night after, and again each night after that, for a total of ten nights.

1. [sə'vaiv] *vi.* 生存;存活 2. [əd'vɑ:nst] *a.* 先进的;高级的
3. Little did I know that... little 放句首修饰谓语时要主谓倒装。
4. [bi:ŋ] *n.* 生命;本质;人 5. [in'telidʒəns] *n.* 智慧
6. ['mɔ:tl] *a.* 不能免死的 7. ['enviəsli] *ad.* 妒忌地;羡慕地
8. ['fɛtail] *a.* 肥沃的;富饶的 9. [in'fiəriə] *a.* 低级的