

福尔摩斯

—— 经典探案集 ——

最后的致意

HIS LAST BOW

中英对照全译本

[英] 阿瑟·柯南道尔 著

Arthur Conan Doyle

盛世教育西方名著翻译委员会 译

世界图书出版公司

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前言

通过阅读文学名著学语言，是掌握英语的绝佳方法。既可接触原汁原味的英语，又能享受文学之美，一举两得，何乐不为？

对于喜欢阅读名著的读者，这是一个最好的时代，因为有成千上万的书可以选择；这又是一个不好的时代，因为在浩繁的卷帙中，很难找到适合自己的好书。

然而，你手中的这套丛书，值得你来信赖。

这套精选的中英对照名著全译丛书，未改编改写、未删节削减，且配有权威注释、部分书中还添加了精美插图。

要学语言、读好书，当读名著原文。如习武者切磋交流，同高手过招方能渐明其间奥妙，若一味在低端徘徊，终难登堂入室。积年流传的名著，就是书中“高手”。然而这个“高手”，却有真假之分。初读书时，常遇到一些挂了名著名家之名改写改编的版本，虽有助于了解基本情节，然而所得只是皮毛，你何曾真的就读过了那名著呢？一边是窖藏了50年的女儿红，一边是贴了女儿红标签的薄酒，那滋味，怎能一样？“朝闻道，夕死可矣。”人生短如朝露，当努力追求真正的美。

本套丛书的英文版本，是根据外文原版书精心挑选而来；对应的中文译文以直译为主，以方便中英文对照学习，译文经反复推敲，对忠实理解原著极有助益；在涉及到重要文化习俗之处，添加了精当的注释，以解疑惑。

读过本套丛书的原文全译，相信你会得书之真意、语言之精髓。

送君“开卷有益”之书，愿成文采斐然之人。



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1. Wisteria Lodge

一. 威斯特里亚寓所

The Singular Experience of Mr. John Scott Eccles

I find it recorded in my notebook that it was a bleak and windy day towards the end of March in the year 1892. Holmes had received a telegram while we sat at our lunch, and he had scribbled a reply. He made no remark, but the matter remained in his thoughts, for he stood in front of the fire afterwards with a thoughtful face, smoking his pipe, and casting an occasional glance at the message. Suddenly he turned upon me with a mischievous twinkle in his eyes.

“I suppose, Watson, we must look upon you as a man of letters,” said he. “How do you define the word ‘grotesque’?”

“Strange – remarkable,” I suggested.

He shook his head at my definition.

“There is surely something more than that,” said he; “some underlying suggestion of the tragic and the terrible. If you cast your mind back to some of those narratives with which you have afflicted a long-suffering public, you will recognize how often the grotesque has deepened into

约翰·斯科特·艾克尔斯先生 的离奇经历

根据笔记本的记录,我发现那是在 1982 年 3 月底的一个寒风凛冽的日子。我们坐享午餐时,福尔摩斯接到了一封电报,并草草做了回电。他未加评论,但却把此事放在心上,因为他随后站在炉火前面,一副若有所思的样子,抽着烟斗,不时瞥向电文。突然他向我转过身来,眼里闪着淘气的光。

“我假设,华生,我们可以把你看做是一位文学家,”他说,“你怎么定义‘怪诞’这个词?”

“奇怪——异常。”我回答。

他对我的定义摇了摇头。

“肯定还有更多的含义,”他说,“还暗含有某些悲剧性和糟糕的意义。如果你抛出思绪回想一下你叙述的那些饱受折磨的公众的故事,你就能看出怪诞之人是以怎样的频率逐渐恶化成了罪犯。想一想‘红发会’那桩小案件吧,开

the criminal. Think of that little affair of the red-headed men. That was grotesque enough in the outset, and yet it ended in a desperate attempt at robbery. Or, again, there was that most grotesque affair of the five orange pips, which let straight to a murderous conspiracy. The word puts me on the alert.”

“Have you it there?” I asked.

He read the telegram aloud.

“Have just had most incredible and grotesque experience. May I consult you? — Scott Eccles, Post Office, Charing Cross.”

“Man or woman?” I asked.

“Oh, man, of course. No woman would ever send a reply-paid telegram. He would have come.”

“Will you see him?”

“My dear Watson, you know how bored I have been since we locked up Colonel Carruthers. My mind is like a racing engine, tearing itself to pieces because it is not connected up with the work for which it was built. Life is commonplace, the papers are sterile; audacity and romance seem to have passed forever from the criminal world. Can you ask me, then, whether I am ready to look into any new problem, however trivial it may prove? But here, unless I am mistaken, is our client.”

A measured step was heard upon the stairs, and a moment later a stout, tall,

头是怪诞有余,结果却穷途末路般地企图抢劫。或者,再有就是,那件再怪诞不过的‘5个橘核’事件,直接引出一起杀人阴谋。所以,‘怪诞’这个词总是引起我的警惕。”

“电报里有这个词?”我问。

他大声地读起电文来。

“适历极惊人且怪诞之事。可否求教于您?——斯科特·艾克斯尔斯,查令十字街邮局。”

“男的还是女的?”我问。

“噢,男的,当然是。没有女人会拍这种垫付回电费的电报。他会亲自来。”

“你会见他吗?”

“我亲爱的华生,自从我们关押了卡鲁塞斯上校以来,你知道我有多么无聊。我的脑子就像一部空转发动机,由于没有被为它而造的工活衔接上,它都把自己撕成碎片了。生活平淡无奇,报纸枯燥乏味;勇猛无畏和浪漫传奇似乎已经从犯罪世界中永远消失。你还能问我,在这样的情况下,我是否准备好探究任何新的问题,不管它被证明是多么无关紧要吗?不过现在,除非我搞错了,否则我们的委托人已经来了。”

我们听到有节奏的脚步声从

gray-whiskered and solemnly respectable person was ushered into the room. His life history was written in his heavy features and pompous manner. From his spats to his gold-rimmed spectacles he was a Conservative, a churchman, a good citizen, orthodox and conventional to the last degree. But some amazing experience had disturbed his native composure and left its traces in his bristling hair, his flushed, angry cheeks, and his flurried, excited manner. He plunged instantly into his business.

"I have had a most singular and unpleasant experience, Mr. Holmes," said he. "Never in my life have I been placed in such a situation. It is most improper – most outrageous. I must insist upon some explanation." He swelled and puffed in his anger.

"Pray sit down, Mr. Scott Eccles," said Holmes in a soothing voice. "May I ask, in the first place, why you came to me at all?"

"Well, sir, it did not appear to be a matter which concerned the police, and yet, when you have heard the facts, you must admit that I could not leave it where it was. Private detectives are a class with whom I have absolutely no sympathy, but none the less, having heard your name –"

"Quite so. But, in the second place, why did you not come at once?"

"What do you mean?"

楼梯上传来。片刻之后，一个身材魁梧、体形高大、胡子灰白而威严可敬的人被带进了房间。他的生活史被写在他那粗犷的轮廓和自命不凡的态度上。从他的鞋罩到金边眼镜，可以看出他是个保守党人、教士、好市民，传统且死板到了极点。但是某种惊人的体验扰乱了他与生俱来的镇定从容，并在他竖起的头发、通红而带愠色的脸颊，以及悸动而兴奋的举止上都留有痕迹。他即刻奔入主题，谈他的事情。

"我经历了一件最奇特且最令人感到不快的事，福尔摩斯先生，"他说，"我有生以来从未被置于如此窘境。这是最不成体统——最令人无法容忍的了。我坚决要求得到一些解释。"他怒气冲冲地说。

"请坐，斯科特·艾克尔斯先生，"福尔摩斯用安慰的声调说，"我是否可以请问，首先，你究竟为什么来找我？"

"这个嘛，先生，在我看来，这件事和警察无关，而且，当您听完事实真相，您必须得承认我不可能丢下这件事不管。私人侦探是一类我绝对无法与之意气相投的人，但尽管如此，久仰您的大名……"

"的确如此。但是，其次，你为什么不一立刻就来呢？"

"这是什么意思？"

Holmes glanced at his watch.

"It is a quarter-past two," he said. "Your telegram was dispatched about one. But no one can glance at your toilet and attire without seeing that your disturbance dates from the moment of your waking."

Our client smoothed down his unbrushed hair and felt his unshaven chin.

"You are right, Mr. Holmes. I never gave a thought to my toilet. I was only too glad to get out of such a house. But I have been running round making inquiries before I came to you. I went to the house agents, you know, and they said that Mr. Garcia's rent was paid up all right and that everything was in order at Wisteria Lodge."

"Come, come, sir," said Holmes, laughing. "You are like my friend, Dr. Watson, who has a bad habit of telling his stories wrong end foremost. Please arrange your thoughts and let me know, in their due sequence, exactly what those events are which have sent you out unbrushed and unkempt, with dress boots and waistcoat buttoned awry, in search of advice and assistance."

Our client looked down with a rueful face at his own unconventional appearance.

"I'm sure it must look very bad, Mr. Holmes, and I am not aware that in my whole life such a thing has ever happened before. But will tell you the whole queer

福尔摩斯瞥了一下手表。

"现在是两点一刻，"他说，"你的电报是在一点左右拍的。不过，任何人只要略微看一下你的梳洗和着装，就会知道你自醒来那一刻起就开始焦躁不安。"

我们的委托人把他未梳理的头发捋平，还摸了摸他没刮的下巴。

"您说得没错，福尔摩斯先生。我想都没想过要梳洗，能离开那样一座房子我就已经很高兴了。但在我来找您之前，我已经到处奔走探听过情况了。我找过房产中介，您知道，他们说加西亚先生的房租支付情况良好，还说威斯特里亚寓所里的一切秩序井然。"

"好了，好了，先生，"福尔摩斯笑着说道，"你真像我的朋友，华生医生有一个坏习惯，老是错误地把细枝末节放到最重要的部分来讲他的故事。请整理一下你的思路，然后按它们本来的顺序告诉我。到底发生了什么事，能让你蓬头垢面地就跑出来寻求建议和帮助，连套靴和马甲的扣子都扣歪了。"

我们的委托人低头看着自己不合体统的装束，满脸歉意。

"我相信我这副模样一定很糟糕，福尔摩斯先生，我之前并没有意识到，在我一生当中，此等怪事居然会发生。但是我会告诉您这

business, and when I have done so you will admit, I am sure, that there has been enough to excuse me.”

But his narrative was nipped in the bud. There was a bustle outside, and Mrs. Hudson opened the door to usher in two robust and official-looking individuals, one of whom was well known to us as Inspector Gregson of Scotland Yard, an energetic, gallant, and, within his limitations, a capable officer. He shook hands with Holmes and introduced his comrade as Inspector Baynes, of the Surrey Constabulary.

“We are hunting together, Mr. Holmes, and our trail lay in this direction.” He turned his bulldog eyes upon our visitor. “Are you Mr. John Scott Eccles, of Popham House, Lee?”

“I am.”

“We have been following you about all the morning.”

“You traced him through the telegram, no doubt,” said Holmes.

“Exactly, Mr. Holmes. We picked up the scent at Charing Cross Post-Office and came on here.”

“But why do you follow me? What do you want?”

“We wish a statement, Mr. Scott Eccles, as to the events which let up to the death last night of Mr. Aloysius Garcia, of Wisteria Lodge, near Esher.”

件古怪之事的全部经过，当我讲完后您就会承认，我敢说，有足够的理由来宽恕我的狼狽了。”

但他的叙述被扼杀在摇篮里了。外面传来一阵嘈杂声，随后哈德森太太打开门领进来两个健壮、官员模样的人，他们中的一位是我们所熟知的伦敦警察局的葛莱森警长，他精力充沛，英勇无畏，在他的职责范围内是名得力干将。他同福尔摩斯握了握手，随后介绍了他的同事，萨里警察局的贝恩斯警长。

“我们是一起进行跟踪的，福尔摩斯先生，然后就尾随到这个方向来了。”他那双斗牛犬般圆溜溜的眼睛转向我们的来访者，“你是李街波汉公馆的约翰·斯科特·艾克尔斯先生吧？”

“我是。”

“我们跟了你快一个上午啦。”

“你们是通过电报跟踪他的，毫无疑问。”福尔摩斯说。

“的确如此，福尔摩斯先生。我们在查令十字街的邮局收集到了线索，然后前来至此。”

“但你们为什么要跟踪我？你们想干什么？”

“我们想录一份口供，斯科特·艾克尔斯先生，是关于昨晚导致住在伊雪尔住宅区附近的威斯特里亚寓所的阿洛伊修斯·加西

Our client had sat up with staring eyes and every tinge of colour struck from his astonished face.

“Dead? Did you say he was dead?”

“Yes, sir, he is dead.”

“But how? An accident?”

“Murder, if ever there was one upon earth.”

“Good God! This is awful! You don’t mean – you don’t mean that I am suspected?”

“A letter of yours was found in the dead man’s pocket, and we know by it that you had planned to pass last night at his house.”

“So I did.”

“Oh, you did, did you?”

Out came the official notebook.

“Wait a bit, Gregson,” said Sherlock Holmes. “All you desire is a plain statement, is it not?”

“And it is my duty to warn Mr. Scott Eccles that it may be used against him.”

“Mr. Eccles was going to tell us about it when you entered the room. I think, Watson, a brandy and soda would do him no harm. Now, sir, I suggest that you take no notice of this addition to your audience, and that you proceed with your narrative exactly as you would have done had you never been interrupted.”

Our visitor had gulped off the brandy and the colour had returned to his face.

亚先生死亡的事情。”

我们的委托人瞪着两眼坐直起来，惊慌得脸上没有一丝血色。

“死了？你是说他死了？”

“是的，先生，他死了。”

“可是怎么死的？一起意外吗？”

“谋杀，如果地球上有过谋杀的话。”

“天哪！太可怕了！你不会认为——你不会认为我有嫌疑吧？”

“在死者的口袋里找到了你的一封信，通过这封信，我们知道你曾打算昨晚在他家里过夜。”

“我是这样打算的。”

“哦，你过夜了，是吗？”

他们掏出公务记录本。

“等一下，葛莱森，”夏洛克·福尔摩斯说道，“你们要的全部东西就是一份清楚的口供，不是吗？”

“并且我有责任提醒斯科特·艾克尔斯先生，这份供词可以用来控告他。”

“艾克尔斯先生正准备告诉我们这件事，你们就进屋了。我想，华生，一杯苏打白兰地会对他有好处的。现在，先生，你的听众有所增加，我建议你不必在意，继续你的讲述，就像你刚才要做的那样，就像你从没被打断过。”

我们的来访者把白兰地一饮而尽，脸上恢复了血色。他用犹豫

With a dubious glance at the inspector's notebook, he plunged at once into his extraordinary statement.

"I am a bachelor," said he, "and being of a sociable turn I cultivate a large number of friends. Among these are the family of a retired brewer called Melville, living at Abermarle Mansion, Kensington. It was at his table that I met some weeks ago a young fellow named Garcia. He was, I understood, of Spanish descent and connected in some way with the embassy. He spoke perfect English, was pleasing in his manners, and as good-looking a man as ever I saw in my life.

"In some way we struck up quite a friendship, this young fellow and I. He seemed to take a fancy to me from the first, and within two days of our meeting he came to see me at Lee. One thing led to another, and it ended in his inviting me out to spend a few days at his house, Wisteria Lodge, between Esher and Oxshott. Yesterday evening I went to Esher to fulfil this engagement.

"He had described his household to me before I went there. He lived with a faithful servant, a countryman of his own, who looked after all his needs. This fellow could speak English and did his housekeeping for him. Then there was a wonderful cook, he said, a half-breed whom he had picked up in his travels, who

不决的眼神瞥了一下警长的记录本，随即开始了他那离奇的叙述。

“我是个单身汉，”他说，“由于天性爱好交际，我结识了许多朋友。其中有一家姓梅尔维尔的退休酿酒商，住在肯辛顿的阿伯玛尔公寓。几个星期之前，我在他们家吃饭时遇见了一个名叫加西亚的年轻人。我听说他是西班牙血统，还和大使馆有某种联系。他讲得一口地道的英语，举止惹人喜爱，在我一生中所见过的男子中算相貌英俊的了。

“从某种程度上，这个年轻小伙子和我，我们建立起了匪浅的友谊。他好像一开始就很喜欢我。在随后两天我们的见面里，他到李街来看望我。有了这一次就有下一次，我们的见面终止于他邀我到他家小住几天，他家位于伊雪尔和奥克斯肖特之间的威斯特里亚寓所。昨天晚上我就应约前去了伊雪尔。

“在我去到他家之前，他曾向我描述过他的家庭。他和一个忠实的仆人住在一起，仆人是他的西班牙同乡，照料他的一切所需。这个人会说英语，为他管理家务。他家还有一个出色的厨师，他说他是个混血儿，是在旅途上结识的，能做出一顿精妙绝伦的正餐。我记得他

could serve an excellent dinner. I remember that he remarked what a queer household it was to find in the heart of Surrey, and that I agreed with him, though it has proved a good deal queerer than I thought.

"I drove to the place – about two miles on the south side of Esher. The house was a fair-sized one, standing back from the road, with a curving drive which was banked with high evergreen shrubs. It was an old, tumbledown building in a crazy state of disrepair. When the trap pulled up on the grass-grown drive in front of the blotched and weather-stained door, I had doubts as to my wisdom in visiting a man whom I knew so slightly. He opened the door himself, however, and greeted me with a great show of cordiality. I was handed over to the manservant, a melancholy, swarthy individual, who led the way, my bag in his hand, to my bedroom. The whole place was depressing. Our dinner was tête-à-tête, and though my host did his best to be entertaining, his thoughts seemed to continually wander, and he talked so vaguely and wildly that I could hardly understand him. He continually drummed his fingers on the table, gnawed his nails, and gave other signs of nervous impatience. The dinner itself was neither well served nor well cooked, and the gloomy presence of the taciturn servant did

曾评论说,在萨里的中心地带能找到这么一家人是件多么奇怪的事情。我同意他的说法,尽管它已被事实证明,它比我想象的还要奇怪许多。

“我驱车来到那个地方——距伊雪尔南边约两英里。房子的尺寸相当大,背朝大路挺立。房子有一条弯弯曲曲的车道,路边围着高高的常青灌木丛。这是一座又老又摇摇欲坠的建筑,处于年久失修的危险状态。当马车停在那斑斑点点、布满污痕、久经日晒雨淋而褪色的大门前的那条杂草丛生的车道上时,我曾怀疑过拜访这样一个我知之甚少的人是否明智。他亲自为我开门,还表现出极大的热诚来欢迎、问候我。他把我交付给男仆,一个神色忧郁、皮肤黝黑的人。仆人领着路,手里帮我拿着包,来到了为我准备的卧室。这个地方的气氛都很压抑。这次晚餐是我们的二人晚餐,我的主人尽管竭尽其所能地来殷勤款待我,但是他的思维似乎一直恍恍惚惚,讲话含含糊糊,乱说一气,让我很难听明白他在说什么。他不停地用他的手指敲击桌子,啃着自己的指甲。还显示出其他的一些迹象,表明他的心神不宁。那顿饭本身也是,既没有周到的服务,菜也没被良好地烹调,那个沉默寡言的仆人的忧郁表情

not help to enliven us. I can assure you that many times in the course of the evening I wished that I could invent some excuse which would take me back to Lee.

“One thing comes back to my memory which may have a bearing upon the business that you two gentlemen are investigating. I thought nothing of it at the time. Near the end of dinner a note was handed in by the servant. I noticed that after my host had read it he seemed even more distraught and strange than before. He gave up all pretence at conversation and sat, smoking endless cigarettes, lost in his own thoughts, but he made no remark as to the contents. About eleven I was glad to go to bed. Some time later Garcia looked in at my door — the room was dark at the time — and asked me if I had rung. I said that I had not. He apologized for having disturbed me so late, saying that it was nearly one o'clock. I dropped off after this and slept soundly all night.

“And now I come to the amazing part of my tale. When I woke it was broad daylight. I glanced at my watch, and the time was nearly nine. I had particularly asked to be called at eight, so I was very much astonished at this forgetfulness. I sprang up and rang for the servant. There was no response. I rang again and again, with the same result. Then I came to the conclusion that the bell was out of order. I

更没有为帮助我们活跃气氛起到任何作用。我可以向您保证，那天晚上有好几次我都希望我能找些带我回李街的借口。

“我想起来一件事，可能会和你们两位先生正在进行调查的案情有所关系。我当时并没有在意。在临近晚餐结束时，一张字条被仆人呈了上来。我注意到，我的主人看过字条后，似乎比刚才更加心不在焉，并且更加行为反常了。他卸下了谈话时的所有伪装，呆坐着，不住地抽烟，迷失在他自己的沉思当中，但是他并没有谈及便条上的内容。到 11 点钟左右，我很高兴我可以走开去睡觉了。过了不知多长时间，加西亚在门口探头看我——当时房间里漆黑一片——他问我是不是按过铃。我说我没按过。他为如此晚来打扰我而表示抱歉，并且说已经快到 1 点钟了。我在此之后就睡着了，整晚都睡得非常好。

“现在，我要讲到故事中最令人惊诧的部分了。当我醒来，天已大亮。我瞥了一眼表，时间接近 9 点了。我曾专门要求过他们要在 8 点钟叫醒我，所以我非常诧异他们居然会忘记这件事。我从床上一跃而起，按铃叫仆人。没有任何反应。我一次又一次地按铃，结果还是一样。然后我得出这样的结论——肯定是铃出了毛病。我心情糟糕透

huddled on my clothes and hurried downstairs in an exceedingly bad temper to order some hot water. You can imagine my surprise when I found that there was no one there. I shouted in the hall. There was no answer. Then I ran from room to room. All were deserted. My host had shown me which was his bedroom the night before, so I knocked at the door. No reply. I turned the handle and walked in. The room was empty, and the bed had never been slept in. He had gone with the rest. The foreign host, the foreign footman, the foreign cook, all had vanished in the night! That was the end of my visit to Wisteria Lodge."

Sherlock Holmes was rubbing his hands and chuckling as he added this bizarre incident to his collection of strange episodes.

"Your experience is, so far as I know, perfectly unique," said he. "May I ask, sir, what you did then?"

"I was furious. My first idea was that I had been the victim of some absurd practical joke. I packed my things, banged the hall door behind me, and set off for Esher, with my bag in my hand. I called at Allan Brothers', the chief land agents in the village, and found that it was from this firm that the villa had been rented. It struck me that the whole proceeding could hardly be for the purpose of making a fool of me, and that the main object must be to get out

顶, 胡乱穿上衣服, 便匆忙下楼去叫人送些热水来。当我发现楼下一个人都没有时, 您能想象我有多诧异。我在门厅里面大声喊叫。无人应答。然后我又从一个房间跑到另一个房间。全部空无一人。我的主人在前一天晚上把他的卧室指给我看过, 于是我去敲他的房门。没人答应。我扭动把手, 走进房间。房间空空如也, 而且床上从来就没人睡过。他连同其余的人都走掉了。外国主人, 外国男仆, 外国厨师, 一夜之间都消失不见了! 这就是我到威斯特里亚寓所拜访的最终结局。"

夏洛克·福尔摩斯一边摩拳擦掌, 一边低声轻笑, 同时他把这件怪异之事添加进他的奇闻逸事收藏手册当中。

"你的经历真是, 就我所知, 绝无仅有," 他说, "我可不可以问一下, 先生, 然后你是怎么做的?"

"我恼羞成怒。我起初认为我成了某种荒唐的恶作剧的受害者。我收拾好我的东西, 砰的一声摔门而出, 手里提着我的包动身回伊雪尔去了。我登门造访了艾伦兄弟房产中介公司——镇上的首席房产中介公司, 发现那座城郊小屋是这家公司租出去的。这给我当头一棒, 整件事情绝不可能意在拿我开涮, 主要目的肯定是避免交租。现在正是3月末, 也就是说四季结账

of the rent. It is late in March, so quarter-day is at hand. But this theory would not work. The agent was obliged to me for my warning, but told me that the rent had been paid in advance. Then I made my way to town and called at the Spanish embassy. The man was unknown there. After this I went to see Melville, at whose house I had first met Garcia, but I found that he really knew rather less about him than I did. Finally when I got your reply to my wire I came out to you, since I gather that you are a person who gives advice in difficult cases. But now, Mr. Inspector, I understand, from what you said when you entered the room, that you can carry the story on, and that some tragedy had occurred. I can assure you that every word I have said is the truth, and that, outside of what I have told you, I know absolutely nothing about the fate of this man. My only desire is to help the law in every possible way.”

“I am sure of it, Mr. Scott Eccles – I am sure of it,” said Inspector Gregson in a very amiable tone. “I am bound to say that everything which you have said agrees very closely with the facts as they have come to our notice. For example, there was that note which arrived during dinner. Did you chance to observe what became of it?”

“Yes, I did. Garcia rolled it up and threw it into the fire.”

日即将到来。可是，这个理论也将要说不通了。代理商很感谢我的提醒，不过他告诉我房租已经预先付过了。后来我前往市镇，拜访了西班牙大使馆。加西亚并不为那儿的人所知。在此之后，我又去见了梅尔维尔，就是在他家里，我第一次遇见加西亚，但是我发现他对加西亚知之甚少，还不如我。最后，当我收到您给我电报的回复时，就出来找您了，因为我听说您是一个喜欢为疑难怪案提供解决建议的人。不过现在，警长先生，我了解到，从您进屋时说的话来看，您可以接着讲这个故事了，一些悲剧还出现在这个故事里。我可以向您保证，我说的每一个字都是事实，并且，除了我已经告诉您的以外，我对这个人的死是绝对地一无所知。我唯一的心愿就是尽一切可能为法律效劳。”

“这个我相信，斯科特·艾克斯先生——这个我相信，”葛莱森警长以亲切的语调说道，“我必须要说，你上述的每件事情都和我们所注意到的事实非常吻合。比如说，的确有那张吃饭的时候送来的字条。你是否恰巧注意到这张字条后来怎么样了？”

“是的，我注意到了。加西亚把它团成一团扔到火里去了。”

“What do you say to that, Mr. Baynes?”

The country detective was a stout, puffy, red man, whose face was only redeemed from grossness by two extraordinarily bright eyes, almost hidden behind the heavy creases of cheek and brow. With a slow smile he drew a folded and discoloured scrap of paper from his pocket.

“It was a dog-grate, Mr. Holmes, and he overpitched it. I picked this out unburned from the back of it.”

Holmes smiled his appreciation.

“You must have examined the house very carefully to find a single pellet of paper.”

“I did, Mr. Holmes. It’s my way. Shall I read it, Mr. Gregson?”

The Londoner nodded.

“The note is written upon ordinary cream-laid paper without watermark. It is a quarter-sheet. The paper is cut off in two snips with a short-bladed scissors. It has been folded over three times and sealed with purple wax, put on hurriedly and pressed down with some flat oval object. It is addressed to Mr. Garcia, Wisteria Lodge. It says: ‘Our own colours, green and white. Green open, white shut. Main stair, first corridor, seventh right, green baize. Godspeed. D.’”

“It is a woman’s writing, done with a sharp-pointed pen, but the address is either done with another pen or by someone else.

“对此你怎么看，贝恩斯先生？”

这位乡下侦探是一个身材魁梧、体形肥胖、皮肤发红人，也就只有他那两只炯炯有神的眼睛才能弥补他面庞的肥满，它们差不多躲到布满皱纹的脸颊和额头的后面去了。他浅浅一笑，从口袋里掏出了一小片折着的、褪了色的纸。

“是炉外的爪形炉栅，福尔摩斯先生，他把纸片扔过了炉栅。我在它后面捡起了这片没烧到的部分。”

福尔摩斯微笑着以示欣赏。

“你一定是把房子检查得非常仔细才会找到这么一个小小的纸团。”

“是的，福尔摩斯先生，这是我的作风。我可以把它念出来吗，葛莱森先生？”

那位伦敦佬点了点头。

“短笺是写在普通的没有水印的白条纸上的。字条有 1/4 页纸大。纸片是用短刃剪刀两剪子剪下来的。它被折了 3 次以上，以紫色蜡密封，匆忙装好，还被某种扁平的椭圆形的物体压过。它是写给威斯特里亚寓所的加西亚先生的。上面写着：‘我们特有的色彩，草绿与雪白。草绿敞开，雪白封塞。主要楼梯，首道回廊，右数第七，草绿粗呢。谨祝平安。D。’”

“这是女人的笔迹，用尖头钢笔写的，但地址却要么是另一支笔，要么是另一个人写的。字体更