



SHERLOCK  
HOLMES

# 福尔摩斯

## 探案精华本

四签名

[英] 柯南·道尔 著

雷鸣 译



天津人民出版社

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# CONTENTS

## 目 录

THE SIGN OF FOUR .....	2
四 签名	
1. THE SCIENCE OF DEDUCTION .....	2
一 演绎法的研究	
2. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE .....	24
二 案情的陈述	
3. IN QUEST OF A SOLUTION .....	38
三 寻求解答	
4. THE STORY OF THE BALD-HEADED MAN .....	50
四 秃头人的故事	
5. THE TRAGEDY OF PONDICHERRY LODGE .....	76
五 蓬迪彻里别墅的惨案	
6. SHERLOCK HOLMES GIVES A DEMONSTRATION .....	96
六 歇洛克·福尔摩斯做出判断	

7. THE EPISODE OF THE BARREL .....	118
七 木桶的插曲	
8. THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS .....	148
八 贝克街的侦探小队	
9. A BREAK IN THE CHAIN .....	174
九 线索的中断	
10. THE END OF THE ISLANDER .....	200
十 凶手的末日	
11. THE GREAT AGRA TREASURE .....	222
十一 大宗阿格拉宝物	
12. THE STRANGE STORY OF JONATHAN SMALL .....	238
十二 乔纳森·斯莫尔的奇异故事	

# The Sign of Four

## I. THE SCIENCE OF DETECTION

Sheepock Holmes took his place from the corner of the mantelpiece, and his pyrodynamic system from its near-morocco case. With his long, white, nervous fingers he adjusted the delicate needle and pushed back the left shirt cuff. For some little time he stood thus, looking up on the snowy forehead and the dark, gleaming eyes, and with immemorial precision pressed the point of the velvet-lined back into the velvet-lined cushion.



# SHERLOCK HOLMES

The first of the three witnesses to this performance was not my mind. On the contrary, it became more irritable at the sight and my conscience swelled mightily within me at the thought that I had lacked the courage to protest. Again and again I had registered a vow that I should deliver my soul upon the subject, but there was that in the cool, nonchalant air of my companion which made him the last man with whom one would care to take anything approaching to a liberty. His great powers, his masterly manner, and the experience which I had had of his many extraordinary qualities all made me diffident and backward in crossing him.

Yet upon that afternoon, whether it was the Benne which I had taken with my lunch or the additional exasperation produced by the extreme deliberation of his manner, I suddenly felt that I could hold out no longer. "Which is it to-day," I asked, "morphine or co-

# *The Sign of Four*

## 1. THE SCIENCE OF DEDUCTION

Sherlock Holmes took his bottle from the corner of the mantelpiece, and his hypodermic syringe from its neat morocco case. With his long, white, nervous fingers he adjusted the delicate needle and rolled back his left shirt cuff. For some little time his eyes rested thoughtfully upon the sinewy forearm and wrist, all dotted and scarred with innumerable puncture-marks. Finally, he thrust the sharppoint home, pressed down the tiny piston, and sank back into the velvet-lined armchair with a long sigh of satisfaction.

Three times a day for many months I had witnessed this performance, but custom had not reconciled my mind to it. On the contrary, from day to day I had become more irritable at the sight, and my conscience swelled nightly within me at the thought that I had lacked the courage to protest. Again and again I had registered a vow that I should deliver my soul upon the subject; but there was that in the cool, nonchalant air of my companion which made him the last man with whom one would care to take anything approaching to a liberty. His great powers, his masterly manner, and the experience which I had had of his many extraordinary qualities, all made me diffident and backward in crossing him.

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## 四 签名

### 一 演绎法的研究

歇洛克·福尔摩斯从壁炉台的角上取下一瓶药水，再从一只整洁的山羊皮匣里拿出皮下注射器。他用白而有劲的细长手指装好了精致的针头，然后卷起了他左臂的衬衫袖口。他若有所思地对自己的肌肉发达、留有很多针孔痕迹的胳膊注视了一会儿，终于把针尖扎入肉中，推动小小的针芯，然后倚在绒面的安乐椅里，满足地喘了一大口气。

他这个动作每天三次，几个月来我已经看惯了，但是我心里却不这样想。相反，日复一日，这种情景让我变得愈来愈恼怒。因为我没有勇气阻止他，每到夜深人静，想起此事，就感觉良心不安。我不止一次地想把我的心愿告诉他，就是把我所有关于此事的想法说给他听。但是，由于我的朋友性情冷漠、孤僻，而且不肯接受意见，所以我一直未向他表明。他的毅力，他自以为是的态度和我所体验过的他那许多非同寻常的性格，都使我胆怯而不愿招惹他。

这一天下午，也许是我在午饭时喝了葡萄酒，也许是因为他那满不在乎的态度激怒了我，我觉得再不能容忍下去了。

我问道：“今天注射的是什么？吗啡，还是





caine?"

He raised his eyes languidly from the old black-letter volume which he had opened.

"It is cocaine," he said, "a seven-per-cent solution. Would you care to try it?"

"No, indeed," I answered brusquely. "My constitution has not got over the Afghan campaign yet. I cannot afford to throw any extra strain upon it."

He smiled at my vehemence. "Perhaps you are right, Watson," he said. "I suppose that its influence is physically a bad one. I find it, however, so transcendently stimulating and clarifying to the mind that its secondary action is a matter of small moment."

"But consider!" I said earnestly. "Count the cost! Your brain may, as you say, be roused and excited, but it is a pathological and morbid process which involves increased tissue-change and may at least leave a permanent weakness. You know, too, what a black reaction comes upon you. Surely the game is hardly worth the candle. Why should you, for a mere passing pleasure, risk the loss of those great powers with which you have been endowed? Remember that I speak not only as one comrade to another but as a medical man to one for whose constitution he is to some extent answerable."

He did not seem offended. On the contrary, he put his finger-tips together, and leaned his elbows on the arms of his chair, like one who has a relish for conversation.

"My mind," he said, "rebels at stagnation. Give me

可卡因？”

他的眼睛从一本刚打开的用黑体字印刷的旧书上离开。

NOTE

他说：“这是可卡因，百分之七的溶液。你想试试吗？”

“我不要试。”我毫不客气地答道，“阿富汗的战役害得我的体质至今没有恢复。我再不能摧残它了。”

对于我的恼怒，他只笑了笑。他说：“华生，也许你是对的。我也知道这对身体是有害的，不过我发觉它有着超凡的刺激和醒脑的能力，所以，它的副作用就不重要了。”

“但是，想一想！”我诚恳地说，“你得考虑利害得失吧！你的大脑也许像你所说的那样，能够因刺激而兴奋起来，然而这些是病态的、不健康的做法。它会引起不断加剧的器官组织变化，至少也会导致长期衰弱，你也知道这种药所能引起的不良反应，实在是得不偿失。你为什么只顾一时的快感，甘愿冒险失去你那天赋的卓越过人的精力呢？请记住，我现在不仅是作为朋友与你说话，而且还是作为一个对你的健康负责的医生在说话。”

他似乎不仅没有生气，反而把十指对顶在一起，把两肘安放在椅子的扶手上，像是对谈话颇感兴趣的样子。

他说：“无事可做的时候，我就心烦意乱。

problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse cryptogram, or the most intricate analysis, and I am in my own proper atmosphere. I can dispense then with artificial stimulants. But I abhor the dull routine of existence. I crave for mental exaltation. That is why I have chosen my own particular profession, or rather created it, for I am the only one in the world. ”

“The only unofficial detective?” I said, raising my eyebrows.

“The only unofficial consulting detective,” he answered. “I am the last and highest court of appeal in detection. When Cregson, or Lestrade, or Athelney Jones are out of their depths—which, by the way, is their normal state—the matter is laid before me. I examine the data, as an expert, and pronounce a specialist’s opinion. I claim no credit in such cases. My name figures in no newspaper. The work itself, the pleasure of finding a field for my peculiar powers, is my highest reward. But you have yourself had some experience of my methods of work in the Jefferson Hope case. ”

“Yes, indeed,” said I cordially. “I was never so struck by anything in my life. I even embodied it in a small brochure, with the somewhat fantastic title of ‘*A Study in Scarlet*. ’”

He shook his head sadly.

“I glanced over it,” said he. “Honestly, I cannot congratulate you upon it. Detection is, or ought to be, an exact science and should be treated in the same cold and unemotional manner. You have attempted to tinge it with romanticism, which produces much the same effect as if

给我难题，给我工作，给我最深奥的密码，给我最复杂的分析工作，这样我才觉得处于最适合我的状态，这时我才不需要人为的刺激。我对平淡的生活深恶痛绝，我渴望精神上的兴奋，这就是为什么我选择了自己的特殊职业——可以说是我创造了这个职业，因为我是世界上唯一从事这种职业的人。”

我挑了一下眼眉说：“唯一的私人侦探？”

他回答道：“唯一的私家咨询侦探。我是侦探这个行业的最高裁决机关。当葛莱森、雷斯垂德或阿瑟尔尼·琼斯遇到困难时——顺便提一下，这倒是他们常有的事——他们就来向我请教。我以专家的资格审查材料，提供一个专家的看法。我不居功，我的名字也不上报纸。工作本身使我的特殊精力得到发挥的这种快乐，就是给我的最高报酬。你总还记得在杰弗逊·霍普案里我的工作方法所给你的一些经验吧？”

“不错，记得。”我热诚地说，“那是我平生从未遇过的奇案。我把始末写成一本书，用了——一个新颖的标题：《血字的研究》。”

他不满意地摇了摇头。

他说：“我粗略地看了一遍，实在不敢恭维。要知道，侦探术是——或者应当是一种精确的科学，应当用同样冷静而不是感情用事的方法来研究它。你把它渲染上一层传奇色彩，结果就弄得像是在欧几米德的第五定理中掺进

you worked a love-story or an elopement into the fifth proposition of Euclid. ”

“But the romance was there,” I remonstrated. “I could not tamper with the facts. ”

“Some facts should be suppressed, or, at least, a just sense of proportion should be observed in treating them. The only point in the case which deserved mention was the curious analytical reasoning from effects to causes, by which I succeeded in unravelling it. ”

I was annoyed at this criticism of a work which had been specially designed to please him. I confess, too, that I was irritated by the egotism which seemed to demand that every line of my pamphlet should be devoted to his own special doings. More than once during the years that I had lived with him in Baker Street I had observed that a small vanity underlay my companion's quiet and didactic manner. I made no remark, however, but sat nursing my wounded leg. I had had a Jezail bullet through it some time before, and though it did not prevent me from walking it ached wearily at every change of the weather.

“My practice has extended recently to the Continent,” said Holmes after a while, filling up his old brier-root pipe. “I was consulted last week by Francois le Villard, who, as you probably know, has come rather to the front lately in the French detective service. He has all the Celtic power of quick intuition, but he is deficient in the wide range of exact knowledge which is essential to the higher developments of his art. The case was concerned with a will and possessed some features of interest. I was able to refer him to two parallel cases, the one

了恋爱故事或情侣私奔一样。”

我反驳道：“但是，书中确有些离奇的情节，我不能歪曲事实。”

NOTE

“有些事实可以不写，可在处理事实的过程中至少要把重点所在显示出来。这个案件里唯一值得提出的一点，就是我怎样从事实的结果中找出原因的、令人好奇的分析推理过程，而恰恰就是这一过程才使我破获此案。”

他对那本书的批评让我生气，我写那本书本来是想要得到他的欢心。我承认，正是他的自负激怒了我，他的要求似乎是：我的著作的每一行都必须完全用来描写他个人的特殊行为。在我和他同住在贝克街的几年里，我不止一次地发觉我那伙伴在静默和说教的态度里，总隐藏着一些自负。我不愿多说了，只是坐着抚摩我的伤腿，我的腿以前曾被阿富汗长滑膛枪弹打穿过，虽然不妨碍走路，但一遇天气变化就感到痛楚难堪。

“最近我的业务已经发展到欧洲大陆了。”停了一会儿，福尔摩斯装满了他那用欧石南根制成的烟斗，慢慢地说，“上星期就有一个叫做福朗斯瓦·勒·维亚尔的人来向我请教，你也许知道，在法国侦探界里，这个人最近已崭露头角。他具有凯尔特民族的敏感性，但缺乏提高他的技术所必需的广泛学识。他所请教的是有关一件遗嘱的案子，很有趣味。我介绍了两

at Riga in 1857, and the other at St. Louis in 1871, which have suggested to him the true solution. Here is the letter which I had this morning acknowledging my assistance. ”

He tossed over, as he spoke, a crumpled sheet of foreign notepaper. I glanced my eyes down it, catching a profusion of notes of admiration, with stray magnifiques, coup-de-maitres and tours-de-force, all testifying to the ardent admiration of the Frenchman.

“He speaks as a pupil to his master, ” said I.

“Oh, he rates my assistance too highly, ” said Sherlock Holmes lightly. “He has considerable gifts himself. He possesses two out of the three qualities necessary for the ideal detective. He has the power of observation and that of deduction. He is only wanting in knowledge, and that may come in time. He is now translating my small works into French. ”

“Your works?”

“Oh, didn ’ t you know?” he cried, laughing. “Yes, I have been guilty of several monographs. They are all upon technical subjects. Here, for example, is one ’ Upon the Distinction between the Ashes of the Various Tobaccos. ’ In it I enumerate a hundred and forty forms of cigar, cigarette, and pipe tobacco, with coloured plates illustrating the difference in the ash. It is a point which is continually turning up in criminal trials, and which is sometimes of supreme importance as a clue. If you can say definitely, for example, that some murder had been done by a man who was smoking an Indian lunkah, it obviously narrows your field of search. To the trained eye there is as much difference between the black ash of a Trichinopoly

个相似的案情给他作参考：一件是 1857 年里加城的案件，另一件是 1871 年圣路易城的那个案子。这两个案情给他指明了破案的途径。这就是今天早晨接到的他的致谢信。”

他说着，就把一张弄皱的外国信纸递给了我。我看了看，信里夹杂着许多恭维话，充满了“伟大的”、“高超的手段”、“有力的行动”等字眼，这一切都表示了这位法国人发自内心的景仰。

我说：“他像一个和老师讲话的小学生。”

“啊，他把我所给他的帮助估价过高了，”歇洛克·福尔摩斯轻轻地说，“他自己也有相当的才能呢。他具备一个理想的侦探所必备的大半条件。他有观察和推断的能力，只是缺乏学识，这个，他将来还是可以得到的。他目前正在把我的几篇短作译成法文。”

“你的作品？”

“你不知道吗？”他笑道，“很惭愧，我写过几篇专论，全是技术方面的。比如，有一篇是：《论各种烟灰的辨认》。在这篇文章里，我列举了一百四十种雪茄烟、纸烟、烟斗丝的烟灰，还用彩色的插图说明各种烟灰的区别。这是在刑事案件审判中常常出现的证据，有时甚至是全案最重要的线索。譬如说你能确定一个谋杀案里的凶手是吸印度雪茄烟的，这样，显然就把你的侦查范围缩小了。在训练有素的人的眼中，印度的特里其雪茄烟的黑灰和‘鸟眼’牌香





and the white fluff of bird's-eye as there is between a cabbage and a potato. ”

“You have an extraordinary genius for minutiae, ” I remarked.

“I appreciate their importance. Here is my monograph upon the tracing of footsteps, with some remarks upon the uses of plaster of Paris as a preserver of impresses. Here, too, is a curious little work upon the influence of a trade upon the form of the hand, with lithotypes of the hands of slaters, sailors, cork-cutters, compositors, weavers, and diamond-polishers. That is a matter of great practical interest to the scientific detective—especially in cases of unclaimed bodies, or in discovering the antecedents of criminals. But I weary you with my hobby. ”

“Not at all, ” I answered earnestly. “It is of the greatest interest to me, especially since I have had the opportunity of observing your practical application of it. But you spoke just now of observation and deduction. Surely the one to some extent implies the other. ”

“Why, hardly, ” he answered, leaning back luxuriously in his armchair and sending up thick blue wreaths from his pipe. “For example, observation shows me that you have been to the Wigmore Street Post-Office this morning, but deduction lets me know that when there you dispatched a telegram. ”

“Right! ” said I. “Right on both points! But I confess that I don't see how you arrived at it. It was a sudden impulse upon my part, and I have mentioned it to no one. ”