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■ Peter Foreman (英) 著

# The Mystery of Allegra

## 阿利格拉之谜



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## 内容简介

她5岁零3个月，穿着白色的长睡裙，有一头金发，大大的眼睛像意大利夏日的天空一样湛蓝，声音温柔而甜美。她想要阿德里安带她去找远方的妈妈。

阿德里安放假了，正与父母一同在意大利旅行。一天晚上，他们来到亨德森庄园，决定在此过夜。深夜醒来，阿德里安发现房间里有一个小女孩，她叫阿利格拉，长着蓝色的大眼睛，小手冰凉。阿德里安先是大吃一惊，然后他记起来女主人基娅拉·亨德森说过自己有一个小女儿。可阿利格拉为什么说她妈妈在很远的地方呢？而且阿德里安卧室的门是锁着的，阿利格拉是怎么进来的呢？

阿德里安疑惑不解，决定第二天一早去向阿利格拉的母亲问个究竟，可是，等待他的却是更大的谜团……

## THE MYSTERY OF ALLEGRA

She is five years and three months old. She wears a long white nightdress and she has blond hair and big eyes, as blue as an Italian sky in summer. Her voice is soft and sweet, and she wants Adrian to take her to her Mamà, who is a long way away.

Adrian is on holiday, travelling in Italy with his parents. Late one evening they find the Villa Henderson and decide to take rooms there for the night. But Adrian wakes in the middle of the night to find Allegra in his room, with her big blue eyes and cold little hands. At first Adrian is very surprised, then he remembers that Chiara Henderson said she had a little daughter. But why does Allegra say that her mother is a long way away? And Adrian's bedroom door is locked, so how did Allegra get into his room?

Adrian does not understand. He decides to ask Allegra's mother in the morning. But in the morning he has a very big surprise. . .

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1**Allegra One**

**I** met Allegra one night in April twelve years ago. I was sixteen years old and she was only five.

I remember that it rained a lot that night and we arrived late at the house. We were driving along a dark road when my mother saw a sign, which said in big letters: *Villa Henderson — Bed and Breakfast.*

‘It’s in English!’ my mother said. She was surprised because we were on holiday in Italy.

My father turned right and drove along an old road. When we arrived, we saw a big villa with tall black trees around it. There was a light in one of the windows, and on the wall above the door were the words *Villa Henderson.*

My father knocked at the door and a small woman opened it. She was about sixty and wore strange clothes.

‘Are you English?’ my father asked.

‘Yes, I am,’ she answered in a quiet voice.

‘We’re looking for rooms for the night. Can we stay here?’

‘Please come in.’

We went into a long, comfortable room. There was a bright fire in the old fireplace, which gave a beautiful, warm light.

‘The weather is very bad,’ said the woman. ‘It’s cold



## 1. 阿利格拉一

初遇阿利格拉是12年前4月的一个晚上，那时我16岁，她只有5岁。

记得那天晚上下着大雨，我们很晚才到达住宿的地方。我们的车沿着漆黑的路行驶，妈妈看见一块标牌，上面写着大大的字：亨德森庄园——住宿加早餐。

“是英语！”妈妈惊喜地说。要知道那时我们可是在意大利度假啊。

爸爸开车右转，将车开到了一条旧路上。到了门前，我们看到一座很大的乡村别墅，四周环绕着高大阴森的树木。有一个窗口还亮着灯，正门上方的墙上刻着“亨德森庄园”。

爸爸敲了敲门，开门的是一位瘦小的妇人，60岁上下，穿着怪异。

“您是英国人吗？”爸爸问道。

“是的。”她平静地回答道。

“我们正在找住宿的地方。今晚我们能在这儿过夜吗？”

“请进吧。”

我们走进一间长长的、舒适的房间。古旧的壁炉里火烧得很旺，发出美丽、温暖的光。

“天气太糟了，”老妇人说，“4月份可

*villa* n. a big country house with large gardens 别墅  
*bed and breakfast* (a private house or small hotel that provides) a place to sleep for the night and breakfast the next morning 提供住宿和次日早餐(的私人住家)  
*fireplace* n. the opening in the wall of a room, used for a wood or coal fire to heat the room 壁炉

for April. I'll make some tea for you. '

When she went out, we looked around the room. There were lots of English tables and chairs in dark wood, and the walls and floor were of stone. There were two big armchairs in front of the fire and a large black dog was sleeping in one of them.

'I like this room,' said my mother. 'It looks comfortable, but it's beautiful too.'

Just then the woman returned with the tea. Behind her came a woman in a long black dress.

'My name is Margaret Henderson,' said the old woman, 'and this is my daughter Chiara. She has a daughter too, so I'm a grandmother.'

'My daughter is in bed,' smiled Chiara.

She was a tall woman, with long, fair hair and blue eyes. She was perhaps about thirty-five.

'Have you come far today?' she asked.

'Yes,' my father replied. 'We're very tired.'

'Your rooms are ready for you. I'll take you up when you've had your tea.'

So, after tea, we went up some stairs and followed Chiara along a corridor. She stopped at a door and told my parents that it was their room. Then she looked at me.

'Your room is round the corner. Come this way, please.'

We turned right and walked along another corridor. My room was at the end.

不该这么冷。我这就去给你们沏些茶。”

她离开后，我们开始打量这房间。房间里摆放了许多深色的英式木制桌椅，墙壁和地面都是石头的。壁炉前有两张大扶手椅，其中一张椅子上睡着一条黑色的大狗。

“我喜欢这房间，”妈妈说，“看上去既舒适又漂亮。”

这时老妇人端着茶回来了，后面还跟着一位身着黑色长裙的女士。

“我叫玛格丽特·亨德森，”老妇人说，“这是我的女儿基娅拉，她也有个女儿，所以我已经做外婆了。”

“我女儿已经睡了。”基娅拉微笑着说。

基娅拉身材高挑，有一头金色的长发和一双蓝色的眼睛，大概 35 岁上下。

“你们今天走了很远的路吧？”她问道。

“是啊，”爸爸回答说，“我们现在都精疲力尽了。”

“你们的房间已经准备好了。喝过茶后我就带你们上去。”

我们喝完了茶，便跟随基娅拉上楼，来到走廊里。她在一扇门前来停下来，告诉我的父母那是他们的房间。然后，她看着我说道：“你的房间在拐角处，请这边走。”

我们向右拐进另一条走廊。我的房间在走廊的尽头。



**armchair** *n.* a comfortable chair with sides that you can rest your arms on 扶手椅 **tired** *adj.* feeling that you want to sleep or rest 疲倦的 **corridor** *n.* a long, narrow passage between two rows of rooms in a building 通道；走廊

‘Good night and sleep well,’ said Chiara with a smile.  
But I didn’t sleep well.

I locked the door and after five minutes I was in bed. The house was silent, but I could hear the rain on the window and the strong wind in the trees outside. I slept a little, woke up, then slept again. And then I woke up suddenly. The window shutters were making a loud noise against the wall. I could see that the window was open because the long white curtains were moving in the wind. I got up and closed both the shutters and the window. Now the room was very dark, so I walked with my hands out in front of me, to try and find the light on the table by the bed. My left hand touched the table — and then something took hold of my right arm.

It was a cold little hand. The hair on my neck stood up and my legs began to shake.

‘Who is it?’ I cried.

At the same time I found the light on the table and turned it on. A little girl in a long white nightdress stood in front of me near the bed. She was looking at me with big eyes, as blue as an Italian sky in summer. Her blond hair was as bright as sunlight round her pale face.

‘What a beautiful child!’ I thought.

‘Hallo. My name’s Allegra,’ she said.

Her voice was soft and sweet and she spoke English beautifully. But she couldn’t say the letter ‘r’.

基娅拉微笑着说：“晚安，睡个好觉。”

可是那一夜我却无法安睡……

我锁好了房门，5分钟后便上床休息了。房子里很安静，但是我能听到打在窗上的雨声和窗外树木在风中摇曳的声音。我睡了一小会儿，醒了，然后又睡着了。突然，我被惊醒了。百叶窗正撞击着墙面，发出很大的声响。我看见窗户开了，长长的白色窗帘被风吹得舞动起来。我起身关上了窗户和百叶窗。此时，屋子里一片漆黑，我只能伸出双手试探着移动，想要找到床边桌上的台灯。我的左手摸到了桌子——可就在这一刻我的右臂被什么东西抓住了。

那是一只冰冷的小手。我吓得毛骨悚然，双腿战栗。

“是谁？”我叫出声来。

这时我摸到了桌上的台灯，立刻打开了灯。在床边，一个穿着长长的白色睡裙的小女孩正站在我面前。她看着我，大大的眼睛像意大利夏日的天空一样湛蓝，金色的头发披散在苍白的面孔旁，如阳光般灿烂。

“多漂亮的孩子啊！”我暗自感叹。

“你好，我叫阿利格拉。”她说。

她的声音甜美、轻柔，英语说得很好听。但是她不会发字母“r”的音。

**shutter** *n.* [usu. *pl.*] one of a pair of wood or metal covers that can be unfolded in front of the outside of a window to block the view or keep out the light 百叶窗 **curtain** *n.* a piece of hanging cloth that can be pulled across to cover a window or door 窗帘 **touch** *v.* to put your hand or another part of your body on something or someone so that you can feel them 触到，摸到 **nightdress** *n.* a piece of clothing, like a thin dress, that women wear in bed 女睡裙 **pale** *adj.* (of a person's face or skin) having less than the usual amount of colour (人的脸色或皮肤) 苍白的 **sweet** *adj.* (of sound) pleasant to listen to 悦耳的，甜美的

‘Did you come in through the window?’ I asked.

But she answered me with a question. ‘What’s your name?’

‘Adrian.’

‘I’m five years and three months old,’ she said. ‘How old are you?’

‘Sixteen. How did you get in here?’

‘Don’t be angry with me, Adrian,’ she said.

‘I’m not angry with you. Don’t cry. Tell me your name again.’

‘Allegra. It means happy in Italian.’

‘What are you doing here, Allegra? What do you want?’

‘Will you take me to my Mamà?’ she asked suddenly.

I looked at her in surprise. ‘But you know where your mother is,’ I said.

‘Yes, but she’s a long way from here.’

‘No, she isn’t, Allegra. She’s in this house.’

‘I want to see Mamà. Will you take me, please?’

‘No, Allegra. She’ll be angry with you because you aren’t in bed.’

‘Oh no, Mamà was never angry with me,’ she said with a little smile. ‘But sometimes Papà was angry and I was afraid of him.’

For a while I didn’t speak, and I just looked at her. Why did she say ‘was’ and not ‘is’ when she spoke about

“你是从窗户进来的吗？”我问道。

她没有回答，而是反问我：“你叫什么名字？”

“阿德里安。”

“我5岁零3个月，”她说，“你多大？”

“16岁。你是怎么进来的？”

“不要生我的气，阿德里安。”她说。

“我没有生你的气，别哭。再告诉我一遍你的名字好吗？”

“阿利格拉，在意大利语中是‘快乐’的意思。”

“阿利格拉，你为什么到这儿来？你想要干什么呢？”

“你能带我去找妈妈吗？”她突然问道。

我惊讶地看着她说：“可是你知道你妈妈在哪儿呀。”

“是的，但是她在很远的地方。”

“不对，阿利格拉，她就在这座房子里。”

“我想见妈妈。求求你，带我去行吗。”

“不行，阿利格拉。如果你不回到床上睡觉，她会生气的。”

“噢，不会的，妈妈以前从不生我的气，”她说，脸上露出了一丝笑容，“可爸爸有时会生气，那时我很怕他。”

那一刻我没有说话，只是不解地看着她。为什么她讲到父母的时候要讲“以前”，



her parents? She was a very strange little girl.

‘You must go back to bed now, Allegra,’ I said. ‘I’m not going to take you to your mother.’

She looked at me, and now her blue eyes were sad.

‘Will you take me to Mamà tomorrow then?’

‘Yes.’

‘Oh, thank you!’ she cried happily.

‘Now, where is your room?’

‘It’s next to this one.’

‘Okay, let’s go.’

And I took her hand, her cold little hand. Just then the window opened again and the wind and rain came in. I went to the window to close it but the curtains flew up in my face and I couldn’t see anything. I closed the window. And when I turned round, Allegra wasn’t there.

For a minute I just stood still. Then I unlocked my door and went along the corridor. There was a door on the left. I opened it slowly. The room was dark but I could see that it was a child’s room. Somebody was sleeping in a bed near the window.

‘Good!’ I thought. ‘She’s in bed now.’ And I closed the door.

Next morning, after breakfast, we went into the garden. There were beautiful hills and woods around it. I walked round to the back of the house because I wanted to



而不是“现在”？真是奇怪的小女孩。

“阿利格拉，现在你该回去睡觉了，”我说，“我不能带你去找妈妈。”

她望着我，蓝色的眼睛里流露出忧伤的神色。

“那你明天带我去好吗？”

“好的。”

“啊，谢谢你！”她高兴地叫起来。

“现在告诉我，你的房间在哪儿？”

“就在隔壁。”

“好，我们走吧。”

我牵起她冰冷的小手。就在这时，窗户又被吹开了，瞬时间大风夹着雨点刮了进来。我走过去关窗，可是窗帘被风吹起来罩在我的脸上，遮住了视线。当我把窗子关好后，转过身来，发现阿利格拉已经不见了。

我呆呆地站了一会，然后打开房门，来到走廊里。左侧有一扇门，我慢慢地将它打开。房间里很黑，但看得出那是一间儿童房。在窗子旁边的床上睡着一个人。

“太好了！”我心想，“她已经睡了。”我关上了门。

第二天早晨，吃过早餐，我们来到花园里。花园被青山碧树环绕着，景色优美。我绕到房子的后面，想去察看我的房

**unlock** *v.* to unfasten the lock on a door, box etc.  
开……的锁