



SHERLOCK
HOLMES

福尔摩斯

探案精华本

跳舞的人 蓝宝石案
六座拿破仑像 修道院公学

[英] 柯南·道尔 著

林军 雷鸣 张雅丽 译



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(2)

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The Blue Carbuncle



SHERLOCK HOLMES

The Blue Carbuncle

I had called upon my friend Sherlock Holmes upon the second morning after Christmas, with the intention of wishing him the compliments of the season. He was lounging upon the sofa in a purple dressing-gown, a pipe-rack within his reach upon the right, and a pile of crumpled morning papers, evidently newly studied, near at hand. Beside the couch was a wooden chair, and on the angle of the back hung a very seedy and disreputable hard-felt hat, much the worse for wear, and cracked in several places. A lens and a forceps lying upon the seat of the chair suggested that the hat had been suspended in this manner for the purpose of examination.

“You are engaged,” said I; “perhaps I interrupt you.”

“Not at all. I am glad to have a friend with whom I can discuss my results. The matter is a perfectly trivial one” — he jerked his thumb in the direction of the old hat — “but there are points in connection with it which are not entirely devoid of interest and even of instruction.”

I seated myself in his armchair and warmed my hands before his crackling fire, for a sharp frost had set in, and the windows were thick with the ice crystals. “I suppose,” I remarked, “that, homely as it looks, this thing has some deadly story linked on to it — that it is the clue which will guide you in the solution of some mystery and the pun-

蓝宝石案



圣诞节后的第二个早晨，我怀着祝贺佳节的心情，前往探望我的朋友歇洛克·福尔摩斯。他身穿一件紫红色睡衣懒散地斜靠在一张长沙发上，右手边放着一个烟斗架，眼前还有一堆折皱了的晨报，显然是刚刚翻阅过的。沙发旁是一把木椅，椅子靠背上挂着一顶肮脏的破烂不堪的硬胎毡帽。帽子简直糟得不能再戴了，有好几处都裂了缝。椅垫上放着一个放大镜和一把镊子，这说明那顶帽子之所以用这样的方式挂着，目的是为了便于检查。

我说：“你正忙着呢，也许我打搅你了。”

“没有的话，我很高兴有一位朋友能来和我一起讨论我的研究所得的结果。这完全是一件毫无价值的东西。”说着，他竖起大拇指指了一下那顶帽子。“不过，同它有关联的几个问题却不是索然无味的，甚至还能给我们一些启示。”

我坐在他那张扶手椅上，就着木柴劈啪作响的炉火暖暖自己的双手，因为严寒已经降临，窗户上的玻璃都结了晶莹的冰凌。我说：“我猜想，尽管这顶帽子很不雅观，但它却和某桩性命攸关的事故有所牵连，就是这条线索能引导你解开某个疑团，并且指导你去惩罚某种

ishment of some crime. ”

“No, no. No crime, ” said Sherlock Holmes, laughing. “Only one of those whimsical little incidents which will happen when you have four million human beings all jostling each other within the space of a few square miles. Amid the action and reaction of so dense a swarm of humanity, every possible combination of events may be expected to take place, and many a little problem will be presented which may be striking and bizarre without being criminal. We have already had experience of such. ”

“So much so, ” I remarked, “that of the last six cases which I have added to my notes, three have been entirely free of any legal crime. ”

“Precisely. You allude to my attempt to recover the Irene Adler papers, to the singular case of Miss Mary Sutherland, and to the adventure of the man with the twisted lip. Well, I have no doubt that this small matter will fall into the same innocent category. You know Peterson, the commissioner?”

“Yes. ”

“It is to him that this trophy belongs. ”

“It is his hat. ”

“No, no, he found it. Its owner is unknown. I beg that you will look upon it not as a battered billycock but as an intellectual problem. And, first, as to how it came here. It arrived upon Christmas morning, in company with a good

犯罪行为。”

“不，不，并非犯罪行为。这只不过是许多离奇的小事中的一件罢了。”歇洛克·福尔摩斯笑着说，“在一块仅有几平方英里的弹丸之地，拥挤不堪地住着四百万人口，这类小事是少不了的。在如此稠密的人群尔虞我诈的争逐中，各种错综复杂的事件都是可能发生的；有些疑难问题看起来很惊人和稀奇古怪，但并非就是犯罪行为。我们对于诸如此类的事件是早有经验的了。”

NOTE

我说：“是的，甚至到了这样的程度，那就是我记录上最近增添的六个案件中，已经发现有三个完全与法律上的犯罪行为无关。”

“确切地说，你指的是我找回艾琳·阿德勒相片的尝试、玛丽·萨瑟兰小姐奇案和歪唇男人这几个案件吧。我确信这件小事也属于法律上无罪的范畴。你认识看门人彼得森吗？”

“认识。”

“这就是他的战利品。”

“这是他的帽子？”

“不，不是。是他拣来的。帽主是谁尚未知晓。但是，请不要因为它不过是一顶破毡帽而等闲视之，而应当把它当作一个需要智力才能解决的疑难问题来看待。首先说说这顶帽子的来历。它是连同一只大肥鹅一起在圣诞节早晨送到这里来的。我相信，此鹅现时正在彼得森

fat goose, which is, I have no doubt, roasting at this moment in front of Peterson's fire. The facts are these: about four o'clock on Christmas morning, Peterson, who, as you know, is a very honest fellow, was returning from some small jollification and was making his way homeward down Tottenham Court Road. In front of him he saw, in the gaslight, a tallish man, walking with a slight stagger, and carrying a white goose slung over his shoulder. As he reached the corner of Goodge Street, a row broke out between this stranger and a little knot of roughs. One of the latter knocked off the man's hat, on which he raised his stick to defend himself and, swinging it over his head, smashed the shop window behind him. Peterson had rushed forward to protect the stranger from his assailants; but the man, shocked at having broken the window, and seeing an official-looking person in uniform rushing towards him, dropped his goose, took to his heels, and vanished amid the labyrinth of small streets which lie at the back of Tottenham Court Road. The roughs had also fled at the appearance of Peterson, so that he was left in possession of the field of battle, and also of the spoils of victory in the shape of this battered hat and a most unimpeachable Christmas goose."

"Which surely he restored to their owner?"

"My dear fellow, there lies the problem. It is true that 'For Mrs. Henry Baker' was printed upon a small card which was tied to the bird's left leg, and it is also true that

的炉前烧烤着。事情是这样的：圣诞节破晓，大约四点钟的时候，彼得森，正如你所知道的，为人淳朴诚实，在某处参加了一个小小的欢宴之后正在归家途中，他是取道托特纳姆法院路走回家去的。在煤气灯下，他看见一个身材颇高的人在他前面走着，步伐有些蹒跚，肩上背着一只白鹅。当彼得森走到古治街拐角时，这个陌生人忽然和几个流氓发生了一场争吵。一个流氓把他的帽子打落在地，为此他抡起棍子进行自卫，他高举棍子四处挥舞，一下子把身后商店的玻璃橱窗打得粉碎。彼得森正想挺身而出，助这个陌生人一臂之力以对付这帮无赖，但那个人却因打碎玻璃而感到惊慌，同时又瞧见一个身穿制服、貌似警官的人冲他而来，于是把鹅丢下，拔腿就跑，很快地消失在托特纳姆法院路后面弯弯曲曲的小巷里。那帮流氓看见彼得森出现也逃之夭夭了。这样，只留下了彼得森在事发现场，而且获得了这两样战利品：一顶破旧的毡帽和一只上等的圣诞大肥鹅。”

“他无疑是想把这些东西归还原主的吧？”

“我亲爱的伙伴，难题就出在这里。的确，这只鹅的左腿上系着一张写着‘献给亨利·贝
克夫人’的小卡片，而且这顶帽子的衬里也的确清楚地写着姓名缩写‘H. B.’的字样，但是，在我们这个城市里，姓贝克的人数以千计，而

the initials 'H. B. ' are legible upon the lining of this hat, but as there are some thousands of Bakers, and some hundreds of Henry Bakers in this city of ours, it is not easy to restore lost property to any one of them. "

"What, then, did Peterson do?"

"He brought round both hat and goose to me on Christmas morning, knowing that even the smallest problems are of interest to me. The goose we retained until this morning, when there were signs that, in spite of the slight frost, it would be well that it should be eaten without unnecessary delay. Its finder has carried it off, therefore, to fulfil the ultimate destiny of a goose, while I continue to retain the hat of the unknown gentleman who lost his Christmas dinner. "

"Did he not advertise?"

"No. "

"Then, what clue could you have as to his identity?"

"Only as much as we can deduce. "

"From his hat?"

"Precisely. "

"But you are joking. What can you gather from this old battered felt?"

"Here is my lens. You know my methods. What can you gather yourself as to the individuality of the man who has worn this article?"

I took the tattered object in my hands and turned it over rather ruefully. It was a very ordinary black hat of the

名叫亨利·贝克的人又何止数百，所以要在这许多人中间找到失主，把东西归还给他，决不是一件容易的事。”

“那么，后来彼得森怎么办呢？”

“因为他知道我对那些即使是最细微的问题也是很感兴趣的，所以就在圣诞节早晨带着帽子和鹅到我这里来了。这只鹅我们一直留到今天早晨。尽管天气较冷，但有些迹象表明最好还是把它吃掉，没有必要再拖延了。因此彼得森带走它，去完成一只鹅的最终命运，而我则继续保留着这位失去了圣诞节美食的素未谋面的先生的帽子。”

“他没有刊登寻物启示吗？”

“没有。”

“那么，关于这个人的身份你有什么线索吗？”

“只有尽我们所能去推测。”

“从他的帽子上？”

“对。”

“你真是会开玩笑，从这顶又破又旧的毡帽上你能推测出什么来？”

“这是我的放大镜，你素来知道我的方法。对于戴这顶帽子的那个人的个性，你能够推测出什么来吗？”

我把这顶破烂帽子拿在手里，无可奈何地把它翻过来看看，这是一顶极其普通的圆形黑毡帽，硬邦邦的而且破旧得不堪再戴了。原来



usual round shape, hard and much the worse for wear. The lining had been of red silk, but was a good deal discoloured. There was no maker's name; but, as Holmes had remarked, the initials "H. B." were scrawled upon one side. It was pierced in the brim for a hat-securer, but the elastic was missing. For the rest, it was cracked, exceedingly dusty, and spotted in several places, although there seemed to have been some attempt to hide the discoloured patches by smearing them with ink.

"I can see nothing," said I, handing it back to my friend.

"On the contrary, Watson, you can see everything. You fail, however, to reason from what you see. You are too timid in drawing your inferences."

"Then, pray tell me what it is that you can infer from this hat?"

He picked it up and gazed at it in the peculiar introspective fashion which was characteristic of him. "It is perhaps less suggestive than it might have been," he remarked, "and yet there are a few inferences which are very distinct, and a few others which represent at least a strong balance of probability. That the man was highly intellectual is of course obvious upon the face of it, and also that he was fairly well-to-do within the last three years, although he has now fallen upon evil days. He had foresight, but has less now than formerly, pointing to a moral retrogression,

的红色丝绸衬里已经大大褪色，上面没有制帽商的商标，但是正像福尔摩斯说过的，在帽子的一侧，却有潦草涂写的姓名缩写字母“H. B. ”。为了防止被风刮跑，帽檐曾穿有小孔，但上面的松紧带已经没有了。至于其他情况，尽管似乎是为了掩盖帽子上几块褪了色的补丁而用墨水把它们涂黑了，但还是到处开裂，布满灰尘，有好几个地方污点斑斑。

NOTE

“我看不出什么来。”我一面说着，一面把帽子递还给我的朋友。

“恰恰相反，华生，你什么都能看出来，可是，你没有从所看到的東西做出推论。你对做出推论太缺乏信心了。”

“那么，请你告诉我你能够从这顶帽子做出什么推论呢？”

他拿起帽子，并用他那独特的、足以表示他性格的思考方式凝视着它。“这顶帽子可能提供的引人联想的东西也许要少一些，”他说道，“不过，还是有几点推论是很明显的，而其他几点推论至少可能性是很大的。从帽子的外观来看，很明显这个人是个学问渊博的人，而且在最近三年里，生活相当富裕，尽管他目前已处于窘境。他过去很有远见，可是，已今非昔比，再加上家道中落，因此，精神日趋颓废，这仿佛说明了他受到某种有害的影响，也许染上了酗酒的恶习，恐怕这也是他妻子已不再爱他

which, when taken with the decline of his fortunes, seems to indicate some evil influence, probably drink, at work upon him. This may account also for the obvious fact that his wife has ceased to love him. ”

“My dear Holmes! ”

“ He has, however, retained some degree of self-respect, ” he continued, disregarding my remonstrance. “He is a man who leads a sedentary life, goes out little, is out of training entirely, is middle-aged, has grizzled hair which he has had cut within the last few days, and which he anoints with lime-cream. These are the more patent facts which are to be deduced from his hat. Also, by the way, that it is extremely improbable that he has gas laid on in his house. ”

“You are certainly joking, Holmes. ”

“Not in the least. Is it possible that even now, when I give you these results, you are unable to see how they are attained?”

“I have no doubt that I am very stupid, but I must confess that I am unable to follow you. For example, how did you deduce that this man was intellectual?”

For answer Holmes clapped the hat upon his head. It came right over the forehead and settled upon the bridge of his nose. “It is a question of cubic capacity, ” said he; “a man with so large a brain must have something in it. ”

“The decline of his fortunes, then?”

“This hat is three years old. These flat brims curled at the edge came in then. It is a hat of the very best quali-

这一明显事实的原因。”

“我亲爱的福尔摩斯!”

“可是不管怎么样,他还保持着一定程度的自尊。”他没有理睬我的反对而继续说道,“他这个人一向深居简出,根本不锻炼身体,是一个中年人,头发灰白,而且是最近几天刚刚理过的,头发上涂着柠檬膏,这些就是根据这顶帽子所推断出来的比较明显的事实。还有,顺便再提一下,他家里是绝对不可能安装煤气灯的。”

NOTE

“你肯定是在开玩笑,福尔摩斯。”

“一点儿都不是开玩笑。难道现在当我把研究结果都告诉了你,你还看不出它们是怎样得出来的吗?”

“我并不怀疑我自己是很迟钝的,但是我必须承认我不能领会你说的话。举个例子说吧,你是怎样推断出这个人是很有学问的?”

福尔摩斯啪的一下把帽子扣在头上来作为回答。帽子正好把整个前额罩住,并且压到了鼻梁上。他说:“这是一个容积的问题。有这么大脑袋的人,头脑里必定有些东西吧!”

“那么他家道中落又是怎么推断出来的呢?”

“这顶帽子已买了三年,这种平檐、帽边向上卷起的帽子当时是很流行的。它是一顶第一流的帽子。你瞧瞧这条罗纹丝绸箍带儿和那华贵的衬里。如果这个人三年前买得起这么昂贵