

LEARNING ENGLISH BY LISTENING TO FAMOUS WORKS

听名著学英语

中英文对照随身听



「美」
馬克·吐溫
原著

百万英镑

THE MILLION — POUND NOTE



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内 容 简 介

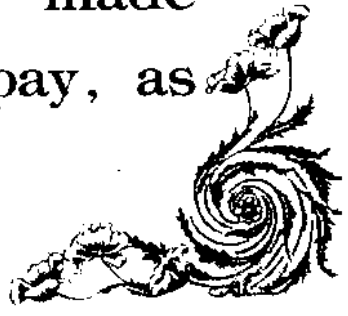
《百万英镑》是美国十九世纪优秀的现实主义作家马克·吐温早期创作的短篇小说之一。作者正好经历了美国从资本主义自由竞争到垄断的发展时期，擅长揭露金钱在资本主义世界的作用。

《百万英镑》就是这样一个代表作。作者采取喜剧的形式，生动地描述了一个名叫亨利的美国青年漂泊到英国伦敦的一段奇异的流浪生活。小说是虚构的，作者运用了艺术夸张的手法，淋漓尽致地揭示了资本主义制度下的金钱万能的丑恶社会现象。



When I was twenty-seven years old, I was a mining-broker's clerk in San Francisco, and an expert in all the details of stock exchange. I was alone in the world, and had nothing to depend upon but my wits and a clean reputation; but these were setting my feet in the road to eventual fortune, and I was content with the prospect.

My time was my own after the afternoon board, Saturdays, and I was used to kill it on a little sailboat on the bay. One day I ventured too far, and was carried out to sea. Just at nightfall, when hope was about gone, I was picked up by a small ship that was bound for London. It was a long and stormy voyage, and they made me work my passage without pay, as






我27岁时在旧金山一位矿业经纪人手下当过雇员，对股票交易的每一个细节都了如指掌。当时我在世上无亲无故，除了聪明的头脑和清白的名声，我简直一无指靠；可是，就凭这点条件，我就能最终走上一条发迹的康庄大道，对这一前景我感到十分满意。

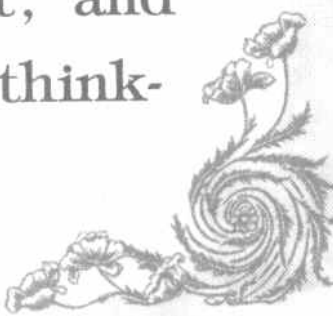
每周六下午收盘后的时间就由我自己支配，我习惯的休闲方式是在海湾里驾驶小帆船。一天，我冒失地把船驶出去太远，结果漂到大海里去了。黄昏时分，在我几乎绝望之时，被一艘开往伦敦的小轮船救了起来。旅途漫长，风涛险恶，船上管事的叫我当水手，用






a common sailor. When I stepped ashore in London, my clothes were ragged and shabby, and I had only one dollar in my pocket. This money fed and sheltered me twenty-four hours. During the next twenty-four hours I went without food and shelter.

About ten o'clock on the following morning, seedy and hungry, I was dragging myself along Portland Place, when a child that was passing, pulled by a babysitter, tossed a sweet big pear—minus one bite—into the gutter. I stopped, of course, and fastened my desiring eye on that muddy treasure. My mouth watered for it, my stomach craved it, my whole being begged for it. But every time I made a move to get it, some passing eye detected my purpose, and of course I straightened up then, and looked indifferent, and pretended that I hadn't been think-





做工代替旅途的船费。当我在伦敦上岸时，身上穿的是一堆破烂，口袋里也只要一美元。就靠这一块钱我勉强维持了一天的食宿。到了第二天，我就既无果腹之粮又无栖身之所了。

第二天上午十点左右，衣衫褴褛、饥肠辘辘的我步履蹒跚地在波特兰大街上徘徊。这时有一个小孩子由保姆牵着从我身边经过，把一只甘甜的大鸭梨只咬过一口就扔进了沟里。我自然站住了，充满饥渴的目光死死盯住那沾满污泥的宝贝。我嘴里满是口水，胃里着实需要它，我的整个生命都在渴求它。然而，每当我挪动身子想把它拣起来时，总会有过路人的目光窥透我的意图，我当然只好挺直腰板，装出一副毫不在意的样子，好像自己对那只鸭梨根本没有在意过。如此反复多次，但




ing about the pear at all. This same thing kept happening and happening, and I couldn't get the pear. I was just getting desperate enough to brave all the shame, and to seize it, when a window behind me was raised, and a gentleman spoke out of it, saying:

“Step in here, please.”

I was admitted by a gorgeous flunkey, and shown into a grand room where a couple of elderly gentlemen were sitting. They sent away the servant, and made me sit down. They had just finished their breakfast, and the sight of the remains of it almost overpowered me. I could hardly keep my wits together in the presence of that food, but as I was not asked to sample it, I had to bear my trouble as best I could.

Now, something had been happen-






始终未能把那只梨子弄到手。当我终于下定决心，准备不顾一切羞耻把梨一把抓起来时，我身后的一扇窗子向上推开了，一位绅士向外喊道：

“请你进屋来。”

一位穿得很神气的仆人把我领进一个豪华的房间，屋里坐着两位上了些年纪的绅士。他们把仆人支走后，请我坐下。他俩刚刚用完早餐，看到吃剩下来的食物，我几乎无法自持，差点失去理智，但由于主人没有请我品尝，我只好忍住那股馋劲了。





当时，我对不久前发生在那里的事情还



ing there a little before, which I did not know anything about until a good many days afterward, but I will tell you about it now. Those two old brothers had been having a pretty hot argument a couple of days before, and had ended by agreeing to decide it by a bet, which is the English way of settling everything.


You will remember that the Bank of England once issued two notes of a million pounds each, to be used for a special purpose connected with some public transaction with a foreign country. For some reason or other only one of these had been used and canceled; the other still lay in the vaults of the Bank. Well, the brothers, chatting along, happened to get to wondering what might be the fate of a perfectly honest and intelligent stranger who should be turned adrift in






一无所知，我是好多天以后才知悉内中原委的。我这就给你如实道来吧。几天前，老哥儿俩曾进行过一场激烈的争辩，最后双方决定采用英国人解决问题的方式——打赌——来一决胜负。


想必各位还记得，出于与外国进行某项公共交易的特殊需要，英格兰银行曾发行过两张面值各为百万英镑的大钞。不知什么原因，只有一张曾使用过且已注销，而另一张依然存放在银行的保险库里。原来，老哥儿俩在闲谈中突发奇想：如果一个既诚实又聪明的



London without a friend, and with no money but that million-pound banknote, and no way to account for his being in possession of it. Brother A said he would starve to death; Brother B said he wouldn't. Brother A said he couldn't offer it at a bank or anywhere else, because he would be arrested on the spot. So they went on disputing till Brother B said he would bet twenty thousand pounds that the man would live thirty days, anyway, on that million, and keep out of jail, too. Brother A took him up. Brother B went down to the Bank and bought that note.

Just like an Englishman, you see; pluck to the backbone. Then he dictated a letter, which one of his clerks wrote out in a beautiful round hand, and then the two brothers sat at the window a whole day watching for the





外地人流落到伦敦，没有一个朋友，除了一张百万英镑的大钞，身上分文皆无，并且无法证明他就是这张钞票的所有者，那么他的命运又将是怎样的呢？一个说，这人会饿死；另一个说，不会。一个说，这人无法把钞票拿到银行或其他地方用，因为他会当场被逮。俩人一直争论不休，直到一个愿拿两万英镑来打赌，他认为这个外地人靠那张支票不管怎样都可以活三十天，而且不会蹲监狱。他的兄弟同意打赌，于是到银行买回了那张钞票。

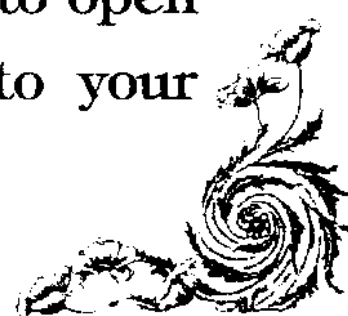
你瞧，他就像个真正的英国人，浑身是胆。接着他口授了一封信，由秘书用漂亮的正楷写了下来，然后兄弟俩坐在窗前坐了一整天，以便物色一名适当的人选，把信交给他。




right man to give it to.

They saw many honest faces go by that were not intelligent enough; many that were intelligent, but not honest enough; many that were both, the possessors were not poor enough, or if poor enough, were not strangers. There was always a defect, until I came along; but they agreed that I filled the bill all around; so they elected me unanimously, and there I was now waiting to know why I was called in. They began to ask me questions about myself, and pretty soon they had my story. Finally they told me I would answer their purpose. I said I was sincerely glad, and asked what it was.

Then one of them handed me an envelope, and said I would find the explanation inside. I was going to open it, but he said no; take it to your





他们看见许多人打这儿经过：有的诚实有余却聪明不够，有的聪明有余却诚实不够，有的诚实聪明，却贫穷不够，有的虽然三者具备，但又不是外乡人。在我走过之前，他俩看到的每个人都有欠缺，但他们认为我符合全部条件，并一致选定了我。于是我就等着想知道他们把我叫进屋里来的原因。他们开始询问有关我个人的问题，很快就弄清了我的来龙去脉。最后，他们告诉我，我完全符合他们的意图。我说，我真的很高兴，并打听他们的意图究竟是什么。

哥俩之一递给我一个信封，并说答案就在其中。我刚要拆开时，他说：别拆。他要我带

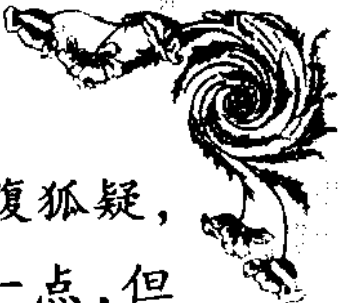


lodgings, and look it over carefully, and not be hasty or rash. I was puzzled, and wanted to discuss the matter a little further, but they didn't; so I took my leave, feeling hurt and insulted to be made the butt of what was apparently some kind of a practical joke, and yet obliged to put up with it, not being in circumstances to resent insults from rich and strong folk.

I would have picked up the pear now and eaten it before all the world, but it was gone; so I had lost that by this unlucky business, and the thought of it did not soften my feeling toward those men. As soon as I was out of sight of that house I opened my envelope, and saw that it contained money!


My opinion of those people changed, I can tell you! I lost not a moment,





回住处之后再不慌不忙地细看。我满腹狐疑，要求他们把这件事解释得稍微详细一点，但却遭到了拒绝；于是我只得告辞，心里感到很是屈辱。这明明是个恶作剧之类，而自己成了他们取笑的对象，然而自己必须忍受，因为按照自己目前的处境，我是不可对有钱有势之人加于我的侮辱表示愤恨的。

现在我真想把那只梨子拣起来当着全世界的人把它吃掉，但是那只梨子已不见踪影；就为了这桩倒霉的买卖把梨子丢失了，想到这一点，我对这两个人，顿时气儿不打一处来。我刚走到看不见那座房子的地方，就把信封拆开，看见里面装着钱！



我要告诉你，我对这两个人的看法改变了！我一秒钟都不耽误，把信和钱往背心口袋