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# 破解世纪悬疑

“烧脑族”  
必看书

Beyond Belief

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[美]Henry Billings [美]Melissa Billings ◎主编

杨挺扬◎译

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# I 前言

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英语思想家培根说过：阅读使人深刻。阅读的真正目的是获取信息，开拓视野和陶冶情操。从语言学习的角度来说，学习语言若没有大量阅读就如隔靴搔痒，因为阅读中的语言是最丰富、最灵活、最具表现力、最符合生活情景的，同时读物中的情节、故事引人入胜，进而能充分调动读者的阅读兴趣，培养读者的文学修养，至此，语言的学习水到渠成。

“麦格希中英双语阅读文库”在世界范围内选材，涉及科普、社会文化、文学名著、传奇故事、成长励志等多个系列，充分满足英语学习者课外阅读之所需，在阅读中学习英语、提高能力。

## ◎难度适中

本套图书充分照顾读者的英语学习阶段和水平，从读者的阅读兴趣出发，以难易适中的英语语言为立足点，选材精心、编排合理。

### ◎精品荟萃

本套图书注重经典阅读与实用阅读并举。既包含国内外脍炙人口、耳熟能详的美文，又包含科普、人文、故事、励志类等多学科的精彩文章。

### ◎功能实用

本套图书充分体现了双语阅读的功能和优势，充分考虑到读者课外阅读的方便，超出核心词表的词汇均出现在使其意义明显的语境之中，并标注释义。

鉴于编者水平有限，凡不周之处，谬误之处，皆欢迎批评教正。

我们真心地希望本套图书承载的文化知识和英语阅读的策略对提高读者的英语著作欣赏水平和英语运用能力有所裨益。

**丛书编委会**

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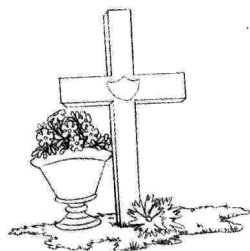
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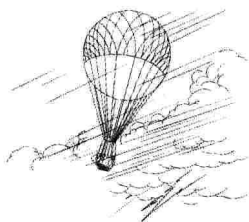
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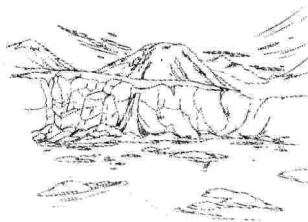
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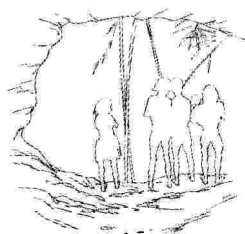
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## 1

# Death in the Tunnel

**F**alling Rocks!

Anyone who has driven through a mountain *region* has read a road sign like this one. Most people don't even notice such signs. If they do, they don't give them much thought. After all, what are the *odds* of being killed by a rock as it falls down a mountain?



*Japanese media gather in front of the entrance to the Toyohama Tunnel shortly after the boulder fell.*

## 飞来横祸

——隧道里的天灾

日本记者在砾石跌落不久聚集到了丰滨隧道入口前。

“小心落石！”

在山区驾驶过车的人都一定看到过这样的路标，但大多数都熟视无睹。即使他们看到了，也不会太在意。被山上滚落下来的石头砸死也未免太“幸运”了吧？

region *n.* 地区

odds *n.* 可能性；几率

If you think those odds are long, what would you say are the chances of being killed by a falling rock while driving through a *tunnel*? Believe it or not, it has happened. On February 10, 1996, a huge rock broke free from a mountain on the Japanese island of Hokkaido. It fell right onto the Toyohama Tunnel.

The rock that fell wasn't just a rock. It was a *boulder*. It weighed close to 50,000 tons. It was 210 feet tall and 120 feet wide. That made it as big as a 20-story building.

The falling boulder hit the top of the Toyohama Tunnel and crashed right through. At that exact moment, a car was passing through the tunnel. So was a bus carrying 19 people. About half of the people on the bus were *teenagers*. They came from the nearby fishing village of Furubira. They were on their way to a winter *carnival*. Both the bus and the car were pinned underneath the huge

如果你觉得这种可能性还是存在的话,那么驱车穿过隧道时被落石所伤的几率又有多大呢?信不信由你,这种事情的确发生过——1996年2月10日,位于日本北海道的一座山上,一块巨石跌落下来,正好砸在丰滨隧道上。

那不是一块普通的石头,而是重达5万吨、高210英尺、宽120英尺的砾岩磐石,它足有20层楼那么高大。

落下来的巨石掉到了丰滨隧道顶部并且直接砸穿隧道。恰在此时,一辆小汽车、还有一辆载有19人的公共汽车从隧道中经过。公共汽车里有一半是青少年,他们来自附近的古平町渔村,正打算去度冬季狂欢节。两辆车被死死地砸在了巨石的下面。

tunnel *n.* 隧道  
teenager *n.* 青少年

boulder *n.* 巨石  
carnival *n.* 狂欢节

boulder.

No one knows for sure why the boulder broke free. Perhaps a small earthquake had loosened it. There are many earthquakes in that part of Japan. Or perhaps the weather was to blame. It often snows in Hokkaido. When the snow *melts*, the water runs into cracks in the mountains. Then cold weather comes again, turning the water to ice. As the water becomes ice, it expands. It does so with enough force to crack a rock. Over many years, the ice could have opened a bigger and bigger *crack* in the mountain. In time, the ice could have loosened a boulder.

This was not the first massive boulder to fall in Hokkaido. Eighteen months earlier a boulder had fallen. It hit the ground not far from the Toyohama Tunnel. That boulder was twice as big as this one. Luckily, though, that one did not fall on anyone.

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没有人能确定这块石头为什么会碎裂。可能是一次小规模的地震使它已经松动，日本的这个地带地震很频繁。或许应该归咎于天气——北海道经常下雪，雪融化成水以后就会流进山的裂缝里面。冷气再一次袭来的时候，裂缝里面的水又会结成冰。水结成冰，体积膨胀，这样它就有足够的力量使岩石碎裂。年复一年，冰在山上胀开了一条越来越大的裂缝，那时候冰就已经使这块巨石松动了。

巨大的山石已经不是第一次落到北海道了。18个月以前就掉过一块，那块石头有这块的两倍大，当时砸在距离丰滨隧道不远的地上，万幸的是它没有伤到任何人。

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melt *v.* 融化

crack *n.* 裂缝

This time, 20 people were trapped under the boulder. Were any of them still alive? Rescuers managed to slip a tiny camera down through the *debris* into the tunnel. The camera showed parts of the crushed car and bus. It picked up no signs of life. But there was still the possibility that someone had survived. They had to get into the tunnel to find out. Everyone agreed it had to be done, but no one knew quite how to do it.

For 11 long hours, rescuers talked about what to do. At last, they decided not to dig straight through the tunnel. That would weaken the land above the tunnel's roof. Then they might have a second rockfall on their hands. Instead, they decided they would try to move the huge boulder. Then they could dig in through the top of the tunnel.

Meanwhile, friends and family members of the *victims* rushed to

这一次，20个人被困到了巨石之下，还能有生还者么？营救人员设法将一个小的摄像头穿过碎石滑入隧道之中，摄像机中显示了被压瘪的小汽车和公共汽车的一部分，却没有探测到生命存在的迹象。但是依然存在着有人还活着的可能性。他们必须进入到隧道里面去弄清楚，每个人都知道应该这样做，但是没人确切知道如何去做。

11个小时过去了，工作人员仍然在讨论如何开展营救。最后他们决定不直接挖通隧道，因为担心隧道顶上的土层变薄，会引起再一次的落石。相反，他们决定设法挪走那块巨石，这样他们可以从隧道顶上挖进去。

与此同时，遇难者的亲友们飞快地赶到了现场，在那里等候消息。不

the site. There they waited for news. Soon it began to snow. The temperature fell quickly. “Hurry up! Please hurry up!” cried some of the people to the rescuers. They knew that if the rescuers didn’t get into the tunnel soon, anyone still alive would freeze to death.

The rescuers decided to blast the boulder off the roof. With enough force, they could blow it into the sea below the tunnel. So they set off 550 pounds of *dynamite*. It was not enough. Only a tiny piece of the boulder broke off.

The rescuers could have used more dynamite. But they feared that too big a blast would cause a second rockfall. “We did not achieve our aim of removing the boulder because we cut the amount [of dynamite] for safety reasons,” said one rescuer.

The next day, rescuers tried another *blast*. But again, only a small piece of the boulder broke off. The following day they tried a third

久，天开始下起雪来，气温迅速下降。“快点！求求你们了，快点吧！”亲友们带着哭腔向营救人员请求着。他们清楚如果不能及时进入隧道的話，即使里面的人没有被压死也会被冻死。

营救人员决定从顶上炸碎巨石。如果力量够大的話，就可以掀入到隧道下面的海里去，因此他们动用了550磅的炸药。但是这远远不够，只炸掉了一小片石头而已。

救援人员本可以加大药量的，但是他们担心爆炸太猛烈会导致再一次的岩体崩裂。“我们没有爆破成功的原因是出于考虑安全我们减少了炸药释放的剂量。”一名营救队员说。

第二天救援人员又进行了一次爆破，但又是只炸掉了一小块。接下来

dynamite *n.* 炸药

blast *n.* 爆炸

car. It had taken a direct hit. The force of the falling boulder was so *enormous* it drove the car into the ground. The driver, a 20-year-old clerk, was found dead at the wheel.

The day after that, rescuers finally reached the bus. It, too, had taken a direct hit. The bus had been crushed to a height of just three feet. No one inside was alive. Family members took some comfort in learning that the passengers had died right away. In that sense, the delay in digging out the tunnel had not mattered.

Villagers from Furubira later put up an altar at the tunnel. It was meant to honor the dead. But it also served as a warning. A sign that reads Falling Rocks should be taken seriously. While the odds against it are great, rocks *perched* high above the road can break loose and kill people.

车。落石直接砸在了它上面，巨大的力量竟然把小汽车砸进了地里。而那位司机，一位20岁左右的职员，就死在了方向盘上。

又过了一天，营救人员才清理到公共汽车。它也受到了直接的冲击，被砸得只有三英尺高了，而车里面的人也是无一生还。遇难者的家属得知自己的亲人一定是当场身亡的，他们多少还是得到了少许的安慰——由此看来，挖隧道耽搁时间已经是无关紧要的了。

古平町的村民后来在隧道那里建了一座祭坛，用来纪念死者，同时也是对后来人的警告。隧道边上还设立了一块路标：小心落石。看来被落石砸中的几率还是很大的，公路上方的岩石随时会破土而出然后伤及到下面的行人。

enormous *adj.* 巨大的

perch *v.* 置于（顶上或边上）

happened that summer that made everyone remember him. It made them think perhaps there was more to the little boy than met the eye.

Harry Spitz was born in 1909. He lived with his parents in Morgantown, West Virginia. There his father worked in a glass factory. The family did not have a lot of money. Still, by all accounts, Harry was a happy child. When he was three years old, though, tragedy struck. Harry came down with *cholera*, a deadly disease. Eight days after catching the disease, he died.

Harry's parents were crushed. With heavy hearts they made arrangements for the funeral. His body was dressed in a blue and white *outfit*. Flowers were placed in his hands. His favorite toy—a little stuffed lion—was put into the *casket* with him. The Spitzes had two engraved *plaques* made for the casket. Each read Our Darling.

---

重新想起了他，人们觉得在这个小男孩身上还有许多不为人知的秘密。

哈里·斯皮茨生于1909年，和他父母一起生活在西弗吉尼亚的摩根城。他的爸爸在一家玻璃厂工作，尽管家境不是很富裕，但是据说哈里是一个快乐的孩子。然而当他三岁的时候悲剧降临了，哈里染上霍乱——一种致命的疾病，患病八天以后，他就死掉了。

哈里的父母都要崩溃了。他们怀着沉痛的心情筹办了葬礼，哈里的遗体穿上了一身蓝白相间的外套；手里握着花；他最喜欢的玩具——一只填充的玩具狮子——也被随身放进了棺材里。斯皮茨夫妇又让人为棺材刻上了两块饰板，每块上面都写着“我们亲爱的孩子”。一块放在了棺材里

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*cholera* *n.* 霍乱

*casket* *n.* 棺材

*outfit* *n.* 全套服装

*plaque* *n.* 饰板

One went inside the casket. The second one was set on top.

Many of Harry's playmates came to the funeral. Afterwards a horse-drawn carriage took the casket to Oak Grove Cemetery. There an open grave lay waiting. Several feet down was a concrete *vault*. The casket was lowered into the vault. The *engraved* plaque was placed on top of the casket. Someone laid a single flower on it. Then workers *sealed* the vault with a three-inch-thick concrete lid. They shoveled several feet of dirt on top of the vault to fill up the grave.

Everyone thought that was the end of Harry Spitz. And for 63 years, it was. But on July 2, 1975, Harry was back in the news. That morning the caretaker of Oak Grove Cemetery saw a small pile of dirt near Harry's tombstone. Walking closer, he saw a *bizarre* sight.

---

面，一块放在了棺材上面。

哈里的很多玩伴都来参加了葬礼，之后，一辆四轮马车把棺材运送到了橡树林公墓。那里已经给小哈里准备好了一穴打开的墓地——一座位于地下几英尺混凝土制成的墓室。棺材就下放到墓室里，雕刻好的金属饰板被安置到了棺材上面，还有人在上面放了一支花。然后工人们用三英尺厚的混凝土封住了墓室，并且在顶上铲上了几英尺厚的土来填满墓地。

每个人都以为哈里·斯皮茨的一生就这样结束了。但是63年后的1975年7月2日，哈里又回到了公众的视线当中。那天早晨橡树林墓地的看守人发现哈里的墓碑附近出现一小堆土。他走到近前发现了怪异的一幕——哈里墓室上方的土层已经被推到一边，而本来埋在地下的墓室穿透

---

vault *n.* (坟地的) 墓穴

seal *v.* 封盖……的表面

engrave *v.* 在……上雕刻(字或图案)

bizarre *adj.* 怪诞的



The ground over Harry's grave had *buckled*. The burial vault was poking up through the grass. The caretaker could see that a corner of the vault had split open, and the lid was resting at an angle. It didn't look like someone had dug up the vault. All the earth had been pushed up from underneath the ground.

The caretaker wasn't sure what to think. He wondered if some kids had set off fireworks near the grave. Perhaps one backfired and *ruptured* the grave. In any case, he called the police. Chief Bennie Palmer and Officer Ralph Chapman took the call. Before seeing the grave, Palmer thought he knew what had happened. From time to time a strange group of people gathered in the cemetery. They tried to make contact with the spirits of dead people. He figured the

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草坪露了出来。看守人还发现墓室的一角已经裂开，墓室的盖子错开了一定的角度搭在上面。看起来并不像是有人挖出了墓室，整个土堆是从地下被推上来的。

看守人对自己的考虑没有把握。他想知道是否是孩子在墓地附近放了烟花爆竹，也许是一枚爆竹炸裂了哈里的墓室。但是不管怎样，他还是给警察打了电话。警长本尼·帕尔默和警官拉尔夫·查普曼接的电话。审查墓地之前，帕尔默认为他知道是怎么回事，有一群陌生人不时地聚集在公墓附近，他们试图和死人的灵魂进行接触。所以帕尔默警官猜测他们那

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buckle *v.* (被)压垮；压弯

rupture *v.* (使容器或管道等)破裂