

CONTENTS 目 录

前言	(1)
1. <i>The Golden Key</i>	(2)
金钥匙	(3)
2. <i>The Necklace of Princess Fiorimonde</i> ...	(106)
菲奥瑞蒙德公主的项链	(107)
3. <i>The Reluctant Dragon</i>	(180)
不好战的龙	(181)

The Golden Key

GEORGE MACDONALD

There was a boy who used to sit in the twilight and listen to his great-aunt's stories.

She told him that if he could reach the place where the end of the rainbow stands he would find there a golden key.

"And what is the key for?" the boy would ask. "What is it the key of? What will it open?"

"That nobody knows," his aunt would reply. "He has to find that out."

"I suppose, being gold," the boy once said, thoughtfully, "that I could get a good deal of money for it if I sold it."

"Better never find it than sell it," returned his aunt.

And then the boy went to bed and dreamed about

金 钥 匙

——乔治·麦克唐纳

从前有个男孩儿，他经常坐在傍晚余晖中听姨婆讲故事。

一次，姨婆告诉他，如果他能看到彩虹末端，他就能在那儿发现一把金钥匙。

“那把金钥匙是用来做什么的呢？男孩问姨婆；那金钥匙是什么样子呢？它用来开什么锁呢？”

“这没有人知道，”姨婆回答说，“你必须自己去寻找答案。”

“我想，”那男孩儿有一次若有所思地说，“既然是金质的，那么，如果我把它卖掉就可以得到一大笔钱啦。”

the golden key.

Now all that his great-aunt told the boy about the golden key would have been nonsense, had it not been that their little house stood on the borders of Fairyland. For it is perfectly well known that out of Fairyland nobody ever can find where the rainbow stands. The creature takes such good care of its golden key, always flitting from place to place, lest any one should find it! But in Fairyland it is quite different. Things that look real in this country look very thin indeed in Fairyland, while some of the things that here cannot stand still for a moment, will not move there. So it was not in the least absurd of the old lady to tell her nephew such things about the golden key.

“Did you ever know anybody find it?” he asked, one evening,

“Yes. Your father, I believe, found it.”

“And what did he do with it, can you tell me?”

“He never told me.”

“What was it like?”

“He never showed it to me.”

“How does a new key come there always?”

“I don’t know. There it is.”



“要是卖掉它的话，那就跟根本就没有找到它一样。”姨婆回答说。

然后，那男孩睡觉去了，并做起了有关金钥匙的梦。

如果不是他们的小房子坐落在仙境的边缘的话，他姨婆讲的所有有关金钥匙的事都将是胡编乱造，因为大家都知道，在仙境以外的地方，绝对会有人能发现彩虹的末端。造物主非常精心地照管着他的金钥匙，总是悄悄地把金钥匙从一个地方移到另一个地方，以免任何人发现它。造物主可真够细心的！但是，在仙境里，情况就不同了。在平凡的国土上看似非常真实的东西，在仙境里看起来就虚无缥缈了；而另一些在平凡的世界里也许只是一瞬即逝的东西，但在仙境那里却稳固永存。所以，这位老妇人给外甥讲的关于金钥匙的事也就一点儿也不荒唐了。

“你知道是否有人曾经见过那把钥匙吗？”有一天晚上他问姨婆。

“有的，我相信你父亲见过它。”

“你能告诉我他拿那把钥匙干什么了吗，姨婆？”

“他从没有告诉过我。”

“那把金钥匙是什么样子呢？”

“他从没有让我看过。”

“那新的金钥匙是怎样来到彩虹末端的呢？”

“我不知道，反正它就在那里了。”

“Perhaps it is the rainbow’s egg.”

“Perhaps it is. You will be a happy boy if you find the nest.”

“Perhaps it comes tumbling down the rainbow from the sky.”

“Perhaps it does.”

One evening, in summer, he went into his own room, and stood at the lattice-window, and gazed into the forest which fringed the outskirts of Fairyland. It came close up to his great-aunt’s garden, and, indeed, sent some straggling trees into it. The forest lay to the east, and the sun, which was setting behind the cottage, looked straight into the dark wood with his level red eye. The trees were all old, and had few branches below, so that the sun could see a great way into the forest, and the boy, being keen-sighted, could see almost as far as the sun. The trunks stood like rows of red columns in the shine of the red sun, and he could see down aisle after aisle in the vanishing distance. And as he gazed into the forest he began to feel as if the trees were all waiting for him, and had something they could not go on with till he came to them. But he was hungry, and wanted his supper. So he lingered.

“也许是彩虹下的蛋吧？”

“也许。如果你能发现它的巢的话，你将成为一个非常快乐的孩子。”

“也许它是顺着天上的彩虹滚落下来的。”

“或许是的。”

夏日的一天晚上，这个男孩儿走进自己的房间里，站在花格窗前，出神地凝视着窗外的那片森林。这森林正是凡境与仙境的边界。森林离他姨婆的花园很近，实际上，有一些蔓生的树枝还伸进了花园里。森林位于花园的东面，在小屋的后面。太阳正缓缓落山，太阳的红光平射进幽暗的森林。森林里都是些老树，树枝都在上部，很少有下垂的，所以，太阳光能够畅通无阻地照射到森林的极深处。这位目光敏锐的小男孩儿，顺着阳光能看到森林的深处，在红色的阳光中，众多的树干像一排排红柱子一样。他看到树干间一条条通道渐渐消失在森林的远处。他极目凝视森林，开始产生了一种奇怪的感觉，好像这些树都在急切地等待着他，仿佛它们遇到了某种棘手的事，只有等他来了以后，它们才能继续做那件事情。但是，这时他感觉饿了，需要吃饭，所以他有些犹豫。

Suddenly, far among the trees, as far as the sun could shine, he saw a glorious thing. It was the end of a rainbow, large and brilliant. He could count all the seven colours, and could see shade after shade beyond the violet, while before the red stood a colour more gorgeous and mysterious still. It was a colour he had never seen before. Only the spring of the rainbow-arch was visible. He could see nothing of it above the trees.

“The golden key!” he said to himself, and darted out of the house, and into the wood.

He had not gone far before the sun set. But the rainbow only glowed the brighter. For the rainbow of Fairyland is not dependent upon the sun as ours is. The trees welcomed him. The bushes made way for him. The rainbow grew larger and brighter, and at length he found himself within two trees of it.

It was a grand sight, burning away there in silence, with its gorgeous, its lovely, its delicate colours, each distinct, all combining. He could now see a great deal more of it. It rose high into the blue heavens, but bent so little that he could not tell how high the crown of the arch must reach. It was still only a small portion of a huge bow.

突然，在树丛中阳光所能照得到的最远的地方，他看到了一种七彩灿烂的东西，那是一条巨大彩虹的末端，光芒四射，绚丽夺目。彩虹的七种颜色他可以一一数清，紫色之后的一道道阴影他能看得一清二楚。红色前面还有一种颜色，这颜色更加灿烂，也更加神秘，以前他从来没有见过。他只能看到彩虹的拱底部分，树冠以上的部分他就一点儿也看不见了。

“金钥匙！”他心里十分激动，然后，飞快地从屋子里冲了出来，跑进了树林，向彩虹末端奔去。

他还没跑多远，太阳就落山了，但彩虹并没有因此而消失，而是变得更亮更美了，因为仙境中的彩虹不像我们凡世间的彩虹，仙境中的彩虹并不依靠阳光。树木在两旁欢迎着他，灌木丛赶忙为他让路，他跑得离彩虹末端越来越近了，彩虹也变得越来越大了。最后，他和彩虹之间只有两棵树的距离了。

这是一种多么绚丽的景色啊！七色光照亮了幽静的树林，每种颜色都那么绚烂，那么迷人，那么柔美，那么鲜亮，七种颜色又那么巧妙地并排着交合在一起。他现在能看到这条彩虹更多的部分了。彩虹弯曲度很小，几乎是拔地而起，直入蓝天，所以，他无法知道彩虹的拱顶会有多高。他所能看到的只不过是一道巨大彩虹拱的一小部分。

He stood gazing at it till he forgot himself with delight—even forgot the key which he had come to seek. And as he stood it grew more wonderful still. For in each of the colours, which was as large as the column of a church, he could faintly see beautiful forms slowly ascending as if by the steps of a winding stair. The forms appeared irregularly—now one, now many, now several, now none—men and women and children—all different, all beautiful.

He drew nearer to the rainbow. It vanished. He started back a step in dismay. It was there again, as beautiful as ever. So he contented himself with standing as near it as he might, and watching the forms that ascended the glorious colours towards the unknown height of the arch, which did not end abruptly, but faded away in the blue air, so gradually that he could not say where it ceased.

When the thought of the golden key returned, the boy very wisely proceeded to mark out in his mind the space covered by the foundation of the rainbow, in order that he might know where to search, should the rainbow disappear. It was based chiefly upon a bed of moss.

Meantime it had grown quite dark in the wood.

他站在那里凝视着彩虹，高兴得几乎忘记了一切——甚至忘记了他要寻找的金钥匙。他目不转睛地盯着那道彩虹，这时，彩虹变得更加神奇了：每种颜色的光柱都像教堂里的柱子那样粗大，从每道光柱里，他都能隐隐约约地看到有许多美丽的形体在慢慢地向上攀登，就像有许多人正沿着蜿蜒上升的台阶向上攀登一样；这些形体出现得并无规律——有时一个，有时许多，有时几个，有时一个也没有——有男有女，有老有少，虽然千差万别，但都很美丽。

他又向彩虹走近了几步，结果发现彩虹消失了，他惊讶地向后退了一步，发现彩虹还在原处，而且和刚才一样美丽。于是，他只能满足于站在离彩虹尽可能近的地方，观看各种各样的人影沿着绚丽的光柱向着不知有多高的彩虹拱顶攀去，看上去，彩虹并不是突然就到了终点，而是渐渐消失在蔚蓝的天空中，他几乎无法说出彩虹具体是在哪个地方终止的。

这时，寻找金钥匙的事又回到了他的脑海中。这个小男孩儿很聪明地在脑子里记下了彩虹末端与地面的交界面，以便等彩虹消失以后他可以确定应该到哪片儿地方去寻找金钥匙。彩虹的末端主要落在了一片青苔上。

这时，树林里已经变得非常黑暗了，这个小男孩

The rainbow alone was visible by its own light. But the moment the moon rose the rainbow vanished. Nor could any change of place restore the vision to the boy's eyes. So he threw himself down upon the mossy bed, to wait till the sunlight would give him a chance of finding the key. There he fell fast asleep.

When he woke in the morning the sun was looking straight into his eyes. He turned away from it, and the same moment saw a brilliant little thing lying on the moss within a foot of his face. It was the golden key. The pipe of it was plain gold, as bright as gold could be. The handle was curiously wrought and set with sapphires. In a terror of delight he put out his hand and took it, and had it.

He lay for a while, turning over and over, and feeding his eyes upon its beauty. Then he jumped to his feet, remembering that the pretty thing was of no use to him yet. Where was the lock to which the key belonged? It must be somewhere, for how could anybody be so silly as make a key for which there was no lock? Where should he go to look for it? He gazed about him, up into the air, down to the earth, but saw no keyhole in the clouds, in the grass, or in the trees.

儿是凭着彩虹自身的光才得以看清彩虹的。可是，月亮一露面儿，彩虹就顿时消失了。不管这个小男孩儿怎样变换观察位置，彩虹刚才那壮观的景象再也回不到他的眼中了。于是，他一下子躺在了那片长满苔藓的地方，以便等天亮后可以凭借着阳光找到那把金钥匙。很快他就在那里睡着了。

第二天早晨，当他醒来的时候，强烈的阳光正直射进他的眼睛里。他让眼睛躲开阳光的直射，与此同时，他发现眼前一英尺处有一个金光灿灿的小东西，这小东西就躺在那片青苔上。这正是他要找的那把金钥匙！钥匙的全身都是纯金色的，光亮极了；钥匙柄制作得很奇特，也很精美，上面还嵌着美丽的蓝宝石。这是个多么好玩又好看的东西啊！这把奇特的金钥匙简直使他欣喜若狂，他扑过去一下子抓住了它。钥匙终于属于他了。

他高兴得在青苔地上滚来滚去，美丽的金钥匙使他大饱眼福。他如获至宝，欣赏了好一阵子，然后，他好像想起了什么，一下子从地上跳了起来。对于他来说，这个美丽的小东西到底有什么用呢？这把钥匙是用来开哪把锁的呢？在某个地方一定有这么一把锁和这把钥匙相配，否则，怎么会有人制造这么一把钥匙呢？制造一把没有配锁的钥匙不是太傻了吗？那么，他应该去哪里寻找这把锁呢？他仔细地看了看四周，看了看空中，看了看地上，但不论是在云朵上，还是草丛中，或者是树木上，他都没有看到任何钥匙孔的痕迹。

Just as he began to grow disconsolate, however, he saw something glimmering in the wood. It was a mere glimmer that he saw, but he took it for a glimmer of rainbow, and went towards it. —And now I will go back to the borders of the forest.

Not far from the house where the boy had lived, there was another house, the owner of which was a merchant, who was much away from home. He had lost his wife some years before, and had only one child, a little girl, whom he left to the charge of two servants, who were very idle and careless. So she was neglected and left untidy, and was sometimes ill-used besides.

Now it is well known that the little creatures commonly called fairies, though there are many different kinds of fairies in Fairyland, have an exceeding dislike to untidiness. Indeed, they are quite spiteful to slovenly people. Being used to all the lovely ways of the trees and flowers, and to the neatness of the birds and all woodland creatures, it makes them feel miserable, even in their deep woods and on their grassy carpets, to think that within the same moonlight lies a dirty, uncomfortable, slovenly house. And this makes them angry with the people that live in it, and they would gladly drive

可是，正当他郁郁不乐的时候，他突然看见树林中有个东西在闪光。他以为是彩虹在闪光，所以，他带着强烈的好奇心，向闪光的地方走去。——现在，我要反过来告诉你们一些发生在森林边界的事情。

离那位小男孩居住的房子不远处，还有另一座房子，这房子的主人是一位商人。这人现在不在家，实际上在离家很远的地方。几年前，这商人失去了亲爱的妻子，妻子留给他一个孩子，是个小女孩儿。他把自己的小女儿留给两个仆人照看。不幸的是，这两个仆人都非常懒散，非常粗心。所以，可想而知，这个小女孩儿就像没人照管的孩子一样，又瘦小又不整洁，有时还要忍受虐待。

这片森林仙境里居住着一些小精灵，人们通常称他们为仙子。仙境里有各种各样的仙子，但他们都有一种同样的习性，那就是非常讨厌不整洁的人。的确，对于那些邋邋遢遢、蓬头垢面、衣冠不整、不修边幅、不讲卫生的人，他们十分厌恶。这些精灵们已经习惯了舒心的林中生活，林中那些清新美丽的花草树木，干净整洁的飞鸟走兽，让他们感觉赏心悦目。可是，他们知道，在同一轮明月下面，在幽静美丽的仙境边界，还坐落着一个脏乱不堪的房子。一想到这一点儿，他们就感觉深恶痛绝，即使他们远离这座房

them out of the world if they could. They want the whole earth nice and clean. So they pinch the maids black and blue, and play them all manner of uncomfortable tricks.

But this house was quite a shame, and the fairies in the forest could not endure it. They tried everything on the maids without effect, and at last resolved upon making a clean riddance, beginning with the child. They ought to have known that it was not her fault, but they have little principle and much mischief in them, and they thought that if they got rid of her the maids would be sure to be turned away.

So one evening, the poor little girl having been put to bed early, before the sun was down, the servants went off to the village, locking the door behind them. The child did not know she was alone, and lay contentedly looking out of her window towards the forest, of which, however, she could not see much, because of the ivy and other creeping plants which had straggled across her window. All at once she saw an ape making faces at her out of the mirror, and the heads carved upon a great old wardrobe grinning fearfully. Then two old spider-legged chairs came forward into the middle of the room,