

<<气球上的五星期>>

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### 前言

儒勒·凡尔纳（Jules Verne，1828-1905），法国著名作家，现代科幻小说的奠基人，被誉为“科幻小说之父”。

一生共创作了六十多部充满神奇与浪漫的科幻小说，其代表作有《气球上的五星期》、《地心游记》、《从地球到月球》、《海底两万里》、《八十天周游世界》、《格兰特船长的儿女》和《神秘岛》等，这些小说被译成世界上几十种文字，并多次被搬上银幕，在世界上广为流传。

儒勒·凡尔纳于1828年2月8日出生在法国西部海港南特。

自幼热爱海洋，向往远航探险。

他的父亲是一位事业成功的律师，并希望凡尔纳日后也以律师作为职业。

18岁时，他遵从父训到首都巴黎攻读法律。

可是他对法律毫无兴趣，却爱上了文学和戏剧。

1863年，他发表第一部科幻小说《气球上的五星期》，之后又出版了使他获得巨大声誉的科幻三部曲：《格兰特船长的儿女》、《海底两万里》和《神秘岛》。

凡尔纳的科幻小说是真实性与大胆幻想的结合：奇幻故事情节、鲜明的人物形象、丰富而奇妙的想象、浓郁的浪漫主义风格和生活情趣，使之产生了巨大的艺术魅力，赢得了全世界各国读者，特别是青少年读者的喜爱。

他的作品中所表现的自然科学方面的许多预言和假设，在他去世之后得以印证和实现，至今仍然启发着人们的想象力和创造力。

总的说来，凡尔纳的小说有两大特点。

第一，他的作品是丰富幻想和科学知识的结合。

虽然凡尔纳笔下的幻想极为奇特、大胆，但其中有着坚实的科学基础，这些作品既是科学精神的幻想曲，也是富有幻想色彩的科学预言，他的许多科幻猜想最后都变成了现实。

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### 内容概要

《气球上的五星期（中文导读英文版）》是一部充满传奇、冒险与幻想的科幻巨著，是法国著名作家、&ldquo;现代科幻小说之父&rdquo;儒勒&middot;凡尔纳的第一部科幻小说，也是他的成名之作。

19世纪上半叶，许多探险家、地理学家、旅行家对非洲这片广袤的大陆进行了艰苦的探险，留下了许多珍贵的资料和地图。

根据前人探险的成果，英国探险家弗格森博士决定对非洲地区的未知地带再次进行探险考察。

他与朋友肯尼迪以及仆人乔一起从非洲的桑给巴尔出发，乘坐他们自己设计的热气球，向北一路旅行。

他们经历了无数艰难险阻，最后终于到达了法国驻塞内加尔河的属地，从而完成了前人未竟的探险行程。

书中对非洲大陆的风景描写十分生动细腻，既有对大自然的敬畏与向往，也有与非洲土著人斗智斗勇的场面。

《气球上的五星期（中文导读英文版）》一经出版，很快就成为当时最受关注和最畅销的科幻作品，被译成世界上多种文字，并曾经先后多次被改编成电影。

书中所展现的神奇故事伴随了一代又一代人的美丽童年、少年直至成年。

无论作为语言学习的课本，还是作为通俗的文学读本，《气球上的五星期（中文导读英文版）》对当代中国的青少年都将产生积极的影响。

为了使读者能够了解英文故事概况，进而提高阅读速度和阅读水平，在每章的开始部分增加了中文导读。

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### 作者简介

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## 章节摘录

Kennedys Dreams. -Articles and Pronouns in the Plural. -Dicks Insinuations. -A Promenade over the Map of Africa. -What is contained between two Points of the Compass. Expeditions now on foot. -Speke and Grant. -Krapf, De Decken, and De Heuglin. Dr. Ferguson energetically pushed the preparations for his departure, and in person superintended the construction of his balloon, with certain modifications; in regard to which he observed the most absolute silence. For along time past he had been applying himself to the study of the Arab language and the various Mandingoe idioms, and, thanks to his talents as a polyglot, he had made rapid progress.

In the mean while his friend, the sportsman, never let him out of his sight-afraid, no doubt, that the doctor might take his departure, without saying a word to anybody. On this subject, he regaled him with the most persuasive arguments, which, however, did NOT persuade Samuel Ferguson, and wasted his breath in pathetic entreaties, by which the latter seemed to be but slightly moved. In fine, Dick felt that the doctor was slipping through his fingers.

The poor Scot was really to be pitied. He could not look upon the azure vault without a sombre terror: when asleep, he felt oscillations that made his head reel; and every night he had visions of being swung aloft at immeasurable heights. We must add that, during these fearful nightmares, he once or twice fell out of bed. His first care then was to show Ferguson a severe contusion that he had received on the cranium. "And yet," he would add, with warmth, "that was at the height of only three feet-not an inch more-and such a bump as this! Only think, then!" This insinuation, full of sad meaning as it was, did not seem to touch the doctors heart. "Well not fall," was his invariable reply. "But, still, suppose that we WERE to fall!" "We will NOT fall!" This was decisive, and Kennedy had nothing more to say.

What particularly exasperated Dick was, that the doctor seemed completely to lose sight of his personality-of his-Kennedys-and to look upon him as irrevocably destined to become his aerial companion. Not even the shadow of a doubt was ever suggested; and Samuel made an intolerable misuse of the first person plural.

"We are getting along; we shall be ready on the-; we shall start on the-," etc., etc. And then there was the singular possessive adjective: "Our balloon; our car; our expedition."

"Our preparations; our discoveries; our ascensions." Dick shuddered at them, although he was determined not to go; but he did not want to annoy his friend. Let us also disclose the fact that, without knowing exactly why himself, he had sent to Edinburgh for a certain selection of heavy clothing, and his best hunting-gear and fire-arms. One day, after having admitted that, with an overwhelming run of good-luck, there MIGHT be one chance of success in a thousand, he pretended to yield entirely to the doctors wishes; but, in order to still put off the journey, he opened the most varied series of subterfuges. He threw himself back upon questioning the utility of the expedition-its opportuneness, etc. This discovery of the sources of the Nile, was it likely to be of any use?-Would one have really labored for the welfare of humanity? -When, after all, the African tribes should have been civilized, would they be any happier? -Were folks certain that civilization had not its chosen abode there rather than in Europe? -Perhaps! -And then, couldnt one wait a little longer? -The trip across Africa would certainly be accomplished some day, and in a less hazardous manner. -In another month, or in six months before the year was over, some explorer would undoubtedly come in-etc., etc. These hints produced an effect exactly opposite to what was desired or intended, and the doctor trembled with impatience.

"Are you willing, then, wretched Dirk-are you willing, false friend-that this glory should belong to another? Must I then be untrue to my past history; recoil before obstacles that are not serious; requite with cowardly hesitation what both the English Government and the Royal Society of London have done for me?"

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