

<<毛格街谋杀案>>

图书基本信息

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书籍目录

Introduction简介 The Murders in the Rue Morgue 毛格街谋杀案 Ligeia 丽姬娅 The Cask of Amontillado 一桶
蒙特亚白葡萄酒 The Masque of the Red Death 红死魔的假面具

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章节摘录

书摘The Murders in the Rue Morgue What song the Syrens sang, or what name Achilles assumed when he hid himself among women, although puzzling questions are not beyond all conjecture. SIR THOMAS BROWNE, Urn Burial The mental features discoursed of as the analytical, are, in themselves, but little susceptible of analysis. We appreciate them only in their effects. We know of them, among other things, that they are always to their possessor, when inordinately possessed, a source of the liveliest enjoyment. As the strong man exults in his physical ability, delighting in such exercises as call his muscles into action so glories the analyst in that moral activity which disentangles. He derives pleasure from even the most trivial occupations bringing his talents into play. He is fond of enigmas, of conundrums, of hieroglyphics; exhibiting in his solutions of each a degree of acumen which appears to the ordinary apprehension preternatural. His results, brought about by the very soul and essence of method, have, in truth, the whole air of intuition. The faculty of resolution is possibly much invigorated by mathematical study, and especially by that highest branch of it which, unjustly, and merely on account of its retrograde operations, has been called, as if par excellence, analysis. Yet to calculate is not in itself to analyze. A chess-player, for example, does the one without effort at the other. P2 毛格街谋杀案 塞壬女妖唱的是什么歌，阿喀琉斯用什么名字混在女人堆里——这些都是令人费解的问题；尽管如此，它们却并非揣摩不透。

托马斯·布朗爵士：《骨灰冢》 那些被推崇为具有条分缕析功力的心智特质。

其实本身就是很难加以分析的。

我们为之拍手称奇只不过依据由此产生的效果而已。

先不说其他，我们很清楚，一个人如果具备这些特质并且表现得很突出的话，那么这种分析能力往往将成为他最为乐此不疲的源泉。

正如体格强健者洋洋得意于其过人的体能，而且以热衷于锻炼肌肉之类的体力运动为荣一样，善于分析的人则热衷于破解盘根错节的谜团的脑力活动。

即使是最不起眼的琐事，只要他的天份能派得上用场，他就能感到乐从中来。

他爱好解谜拆字，破译符文，并在结论生成的过程中展示出那常人不可思议的睿智；说实在的，凭借这种分析方法殚精竭虑所得出的结论似乎有着全然直觉感悟的气度。

或许这种释疑解难的能力可以通过数学研究来加以彰显，尤其是那最高级的一支——仅仅因为不合常规地使用了逆推方法而似乎无与伦比地被称为“解析法”，然而计算本身并不就是分析。

P3 It follows that the game of chess, in its effects upon mental character, is greatly misunderstood. I am not now writing a treatise, but simply prefacing a somewhat peculiar narrative by observations very much at random, I will, therefore, take occasion to assert that the higher powers of the reflective intellect are more decidedly and more usefully tasked by the unostentatious game of draughts than by all the elaborate frivolity of chess. In this latter, where the pieces have different and bizarre motions, with various and variable values, what is only complex is mistaken (a not unusual error) for what is profound. The attention is here called powerfully into play. If it flag for an instant, an oversight is committed, resulting in injury or defeat. The possible moves being not only manifold but involute, the chances of such oversights are multiplied; and in nine cases out of ten it is the more concentrative rather than the more acute player who conquers. In draughts, on the contrary, where the moves are unique and have but little variation, the probabilities of inadvertence are diminished, and the mere attention being left comparatively unemployed, what advantages are obtained by either party are obtained by superior acumen. To be less abstract--Let us suppose a game of draughts where the pieces are reduced to four kings, and where, of course, no oversight is to be expected. It is obvious that here the victory can be decided (the players being at all equal) only by some research movement, the result of some strong exertion of the intellect. P4 这就好比下棋的人只需去算计棋步不需要作分析。

因而把象棋这门游戏的成败归为心智特质的高下，其实是一种误解。

我现在可不是在写一篇论文，只不过是用我平时在很大程度上属随意观察悟得的一点感想作为一篇多少有些离奇的实录的引子而已：因此，我得先趁此机会说上一句，在反映智力水平方面，朴实无华的跳棋游戏要比处心积虑却尽显无聊的象棋游戏更加起着决定作用，更显出其作用昭著的功效。

<<毛格街谋杀案>>

在象棋中，每个棋子都有不同的形形色色的走法，都有变幻莫测的作用，其中所反映出来的复杂表象，却被人们看成是玄机深奥，这种误解并非罕见。

下象棋的时候必须打起十分的精神；瞬间的疏忽，必致手出错招，那就会损兵折将甚至满盘皆输。

象棋的棋路多种多样且错综复杂，这就大大增加了出错招的可能性。

十局棋中九局的胜者都是赢在比对手精神更加集中，而非比对手更加敏锐。

而在跳棋游戏中却正好相反，跳棋的走法单调，鲜有变化，因而疏漏的可能性也就减小了，相对而言单纯的全神贯注也就发挥不了那样大的作用——对局的双方谁的才智更高一筹谁也就更占优势。

为了说得不那么抽象——让我们假设一局跳棋里只剩下四只王棋，当然也就可以料想不会有什么疏漏了。

.....P5

<<毛格街谋杀案>>

编辑推荐

本书是《阅读空间·新课标英语分级读物》系列之一，该系列是一套针对英语为外语的学生而出版的世界文学名著分级读物。

编写紧密结合新《英语课程标准》的要求，按难易程度分为6个级别，适合3至8级(即初一至高三)学生的阅读需求，帮助学生在语言技能、语言知识、学习策略和文化意识等方面达到新课标的培养目标。语言浅显、生动、地道，以英汉对照的形式出版，左页英文，右页中文，由中国教育学会外语教学专业委员会推荐，各地中小学英语教研员和教师正积极参与课题实验。

相信该书会成为各层次读者英语学习的首选。

本书为第八级，适合于高三年级读者。

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