

<<红字>>

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### 内容概要

《红字》围绕四个人物讲述了一个情感的悲剧。

身体畸形的英国老学究齐灵窝斯送年轻的妻子海斯特定居于波士顿，两年后回到此地，却发现妻子正立在该镇的刑台上，怀里抱着一个私生子。

海斯特因拒绝说出通奸同犯，被判胸前带红色“A”字终生受辱…… 七年后，年轻的牧师齐姆斯太尔终于坦白了自己的罪恶，随之猝然而死。

一直暗中侦查妻子的情夫的齐灵窝斯也因心力交瘁，一年后死去。

女主人海斯特因其勤劳、善良，最终获得了人们的谅解，但她美好的年华也在痛苦的等待中耗尽了。只有活泼可爱的珍珠健康地成长起来，后来嫁给一位英国贵族，获得美满结局。

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### 作者简介

霍桑（1804 - 1864），美国文艺复兴时期著名作家，超验主义作家群中的主将之一。

霍桑的祖上有两人曾参与对异教徒的迫害，即所谓塞勒姆巫师案。

霍桑的童年即在古镇林荫遮蔽的“凄凉城堡”中度过的，大学毕业后又在老屋度过十二年的隐居生活，磨练文笔。

但早年的创作并不成功，而且终生贫困。

后来在民主党朋友的帮助下到海关任职，又曾受做了总统的同学皮尔斯的提携出任驻利物浦的领事。

《红字》即是霍桑丢掉海关职务，在贫困的逼迫中夜以继日地工作，仅用五个月的时间写成的，从此奠定了在文学中的地位。

其后又完成《带七个尖顶的房子》、《玉石雕像》等。

霍桑注意探索美国本土题材，反映新英格兰时期清教徒们复杂的情感及心理活动，具有神秘色彩，语言凝练，意象丰富，至今仍具有震撼人心的艺术力量。

书籍目录

THE CUSTOM-HOUSE INTRODUCTORY TO THE SCARLET LETTER THE SCARLET LETTER I. THE PRISON DOOR II. THE MARKET-PLACE III. THE RECOGNITION IV. THE INTERVIEW V. HESTER AT HER NEEDLE VI. PEARL VII. THE GOVERNOR'S HALL VIII. THE ELF-CHILD AND THE MINISTER IX. THE LEECH X. THE LEECH AND HIS PATIENT XI. THE INTERIOR OF A HEART XII. THE MINISTER'S VIGIL XIII. ANOTHER VIEW OF HESTER XIV. HESTER AND THE PHYSICIAN XV. HESTER AND PEARL XVI. A FOREST WALK XVII. THE PASTOR AND HIS PARISHIONER XVIII. A FLOOD OF SUNSHINE XIX. THE CHILD AT THE BROOKSIDE XX. THE MINISTER IN A MAZE XXI. THE NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY XXII. THE PROCESSION XXIII. THE REVELATION OF THE SCARLET LETTER XXIV. CONCLUSION

## 章节摘录

often overflows and along which, at the base and in the rear of the row of buildings, the track of many languid years is seen in a border of unthrifty grass——here, with a view from its front windows adown this not very enlivening prospect, and thence across the harbours, stands a spacious edifice of brick. From the loftiest point of its roof, during precisely three and a half hours of each forenoon, floats or droops, in breeze or calm, the banner of the republic; but with the thirteen stripes turned vertically, instead of horizontally, and thus indicating that a civil, and not a military, post of Uncle Sam's government is here established. Its front is ornamented with a portico of half-a-dozen wooden pillars, supporting a balcony, beneath which a flight of wide granite steps descends towards the street. Over the entrance hovers an enormous specimen of the American eagle, with outspread wings, a shield before her breast, and, if I recollect aright, a bunch of intermingled thunderbolts and barbed arrows in each claw. With the customary infirmity of temper that characterizes this unhappy fowl, she appears by the fierceness of her beak and eye, and the general truculency of her attitude, to threaten mischief to the inoffensive community; and especially to warn all citizens careful of their safety against intruding on the premises which she overshadows with her wings. Nevertheless, vixenly as she looks, many people are seeking at this very moment to shelter themselves under the wing of the federal eagle; imagining, I presume, that her bosom has all the softness and snugness of an eiderdown pillow. But she has no great tenderness even in her best of moods, and. ....

### 编辑推荐

1. 霍桑出身于一个宗教气氛浓烈的传统家庭，美国东部早期移民的生活场景及神秘倾向一直在他的作品表现得十分突出，这也正是霍桑的许多文学作品的诱人之处，人们力求探寻到这种神秘力量背后蕴含的东西，而这种神秘倾向又为他的作品平添了朦胧之美。
2. 霍桑在未成名之前曾勤勤恳恳地练笔十余年，因而，他的作品大都以精美的构思和准确的人物、景物描写见长，文采灿然，是研习英语文学的绝佳的典范文本。
3. 《红字(英文版)》出现于美国本土文学的初创期，也就是所谓美国的文艺复兴时期，霍桑与爱默生、麦尔维尔、梭罗等都是这一时期的代表人物，标志了美国在精神上的独立及文学上的成熟，学习美国文学史的人此书当然不可不读。

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