

In the darkness of a February night, a stranger dressed in a wide-brimmed hat and very long coat got off a train at Bramblehurst. It was bitterly cold, but there were no carriages. The man had to carry his suitcase for several hours through a snow-storm to reach the small town of Iping. When he arrived, he went to the Coach and Horses Inn. The people in the inn saw a dark figure stumble in.

"I want a room and a fire. Quickly, please!" the stranger demanded.8

- 1. mysterious [mɪ`stɪriəs] (a.) 神秘的
- 2. wide-brimmed 闊緣的; 寬邊的
- 3. bitterly [`bɪtəli] (adv.) 非常地
- 4. carriage [`kerɪdʒ] (n.) 四輪馬車

- 5. coach [kout∫] (n.)
 四輪大馬車;公共馬車
- 6. figure [`fɪjʊr] (n.) 人影
- 7. **stumble** [`stʌmbl] (v.) 踉蹌;蹒跚而行
- 8. demand [dɪ\mænd] (v.) 要求
- 9. snap [snæp] (v.) 厲聲說

The owner of the inn said, "I'm Mrs. Hall. Please come this way."

The woman showed the stranger to his room. She left and soon returned with some food. The room was very warm now, but the man was still wearing his hat, coat and gloves.

"I can take your coat for you," Mrs. Hall said. "No!" snapped 9 the stranger.

"Alright," said the woman as she left the room.



One Point Lesson

 A stranger dressed in a wide-brimmed hat and very long coat got off a train at Bramblehurst.

一名陌生人穿戴著闊邊帽和一件很長的大衣,他在布蘭堡 赫斯特的火車站下車。

dressed in:穿戴著(衣物)

In the kitchen, Mrs. Hall realized she had forgotten the mustard ¹, so she took it up to the man. She knocked on the door and opened it. She stood in the doorway ², stunned ³. The strange man had large bulky ⁴ bandages ⁵ around his head. All she could see were his blue glasses, a shiny pink nose and some hair poking ⁶ through the bandages.

"I... I will take your things now, sir," she stammered 7 .

"Leave the hat," he demanded.

Mrs. Hall noticed that the stranger was still wearing his gloves and he was holding a napkin over his face. He was wearing a dark dressing gown⁸ of which he had the collar⁹ turned up¹⁰ high. Around his neck, he had tied a scarf. Every part of his body was completely covered.

"Y . . . y es, sir," said the shocked Mrs. Hall.

"He must have had a terrible accident," Mrs.

Hall thought.

- 1. mustard [`mʌstərd] (n.) 芥末
- 2. doorway [`dɔːrweɪ] (n.) 門口
- 3. **stun** [stʌn] (v.) 使大吃一驚; 使目瞪口呆
- 4. bulky [`bʌlki] (a.) 笨重的
- 5. bandage [`bændɪdʒ] (n.) 繃帶
- 6. poke [pouk] (v.) 突出;伸出
- 7. **stammer** [`stæmər] (v.) 结结巴巴地說

- 8. dressing gown 浴袍
- 9. collar [`kɑːlər] (n.) 衣領
- 10. turn up 朝上
- 11. tray [treɪ] (n.) 托盤
- 12. mood [mu:d] (n.) 心情;情緒
- 13. baggage [`bægɪdʒ] (n.) 行李



Some time later, she returned for the tray¹¹. After eating and becoming warm, the stranger's mood ¹² had much improved and he now said, "I left some baggage ¹³ at Bramblehurst Station, Mrs. Hall. Is there some way to bring it here?"

One Point Lesson

- 1. He was wearing a dark dressing gown of which he had the collar turned up high.
 - 他穿著一件深色的浴袍,浴袍的領子被往上拉高。
 - → 句中 of which 的 which 為關係代名詞 dressing gown。
- 2. He must have had a terrible accident.
 - 他一定遭遇過可怕的意外。
 - → must have + 過去分詞:推斷過去曾經發生過某事



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"The roads are bad tonight, so my husband will get it for you in the morning. It is too easy to have an accident in all this snow," she replied.

"Yes, an accident. I, too, had an accident."

"What kind of acci-?" Mrs. Hall started to ask.

"Never mind about that," said the stranger.

"You only need to know that I am a scientist, and all of my equipment² is in my bags. I need them all as soon as possible. I'm working on³ a very important experiment⁴."

Mrs. Hall left and thought, "He is a mysterious man."

She quickly returned to the bar⁵ to tell her customers⁶ about the mysterious man. One customer, Teddy Henfrey, said, "Hah! I bet he's hiding from the police. He hasn't had any accident!"

"Who's hiding from the police?" said a voice behind them. It was Mr. Hall.

"A stranger who just arrived tonight. He has bags at the station. You should take a good look?" at them in the morning," warned Teddy.

"Cut it out⁸ now all of you," snapped Mrs. Hall. "You'll all mind your own business."

But Mrs. Hall was very suspicious of the stranger.

- 1. mind [maind] (v.) 介意;注意
- 2. equipment [ɪ`kwɪpmənt] (n.) 設備;用具
- 3. work on 進行(計畫等)
- 4. experiment [ɪk`sperɪmənt] (n.) 實驗
- 5. bar [baxr] (n.) 酒吧;酒館
- 6. customer [`kʌstəmər] (n.) 顧客
- 7. take a good look 仔細看看
- 8. cut it out 别再說了;停止
- 9. **suspicious** [sə`spɪ∫əs] (a.) 猜疑的; 起疑心的

One Point Lesson

◆ I bet he's hiding from the police.
 我敢打賭他一定是在躲警察。

I bet (that) . . . :表示篤定的説法

作者簡介

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維爾斯 (Herbert George Wells, 1866–1946)

赫伯特 喬治 維爾斯 1866 年生於英國布羅 姆利,父親是個失敗的工匠,母親則當過女傭。 13 歲時他離開學校,成為布店的學徒。家人們認

為這會是個適合他的工作,但他並不喜歡,這段在布店的不快經歷也成為日後創作小說 Kipps 的靈感。維爾斯年幼時會閱讀任何手邊找得到的讀物,讓思緒漫遊在遙遠虛構的時空裡。

1883 年,他在米德赫斯特文法學校得到助教職位。1884 年,他贏得獎學金進入英國皇家科學院。當時最好的生物學家 湯瑪斯 亨利 赫胥黎是他的生物老師,並對他的人生起了極其 強烈的影響。大學時代,維爾斯創立並編輯學校科學書刊。

1888 年畢業後,維爾斯在接下來幾年從事教學與寫作。 1891 年,他在科學上的重要論文 The Rediscovery of the Unique 出版。1895 年,維爾斯以《時間機器》(*Time Machine*)奠定其科幻小説家的定位。故事講述一個沈迷於時空旅行的夢想家,替自己建造一座時間機器,並穿越八百萬年到達未來世界。由於小説大獲成功,自那開始維爾斯便不用再教書或為錢財煩惱。

《時間機器》出版不久後,維爾斯又創作其他成功的小說,如《莫洛博士島》(The Island of Doctor Moreau, 1896)、《隱形人》(The Invisible Man, 1897)與《世界大戰》(The War of the Worlds, 1898),維爾斯建立了現代科幻小説的原型,更因此被視為現代科幻小説之父,有時也被叫做時空機器旅人。維爾斯也有關於政治、科技、未來的非虛構著作,以支持他對人性與社會的論點,與對世界走向的看法。

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赫伯特 喬治 維爾斯 1946 年去世,享壽 80 歲,當時手頭上正研究著核戰相關的危險。

赫伯特 喬治 維爾斯作為科幻小説的先驅,夢想著人 類文明的進化,值得世人的尊敬與欽佩。

故事簡介

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《隱形人》的故事開頭是個寒冷的暴風雪冬日,有位 陌生人來到了英國鄉間的小旅館。在那時,冬天旅行並不 尋常,但更可疑的是,陌生人的臉被繃帶纏繞著。整個村 莊都因其人的到來而騷動,接著開始發生前所未聞的事 件,像是身份不明的搶匪闖入教士的住處等。

終於,在旅館房東與房東太太試圖追趕下,陌生人解開他的繃帶。他在眾人面前展露他隱形人的身份,便立即消失了。經過長途漫步,隱形人進入凱普博士的住所。

凱普博士不想忍受隱形人莽撞的行為。然而不幸地, 隱形人已喪失清晰思考的能力。

1897 年維爾斯出版此書,成為他科幻小説的經典著作。內容講述一個男人發明可將人隱形的藥劑,但這位隱形人卻做了許多錯事。維爾斯描繪一個精妙的科學性發現,也描述出一個格格不入的人,處於絕望深淵的孤獨生活,他的筆法值得讀者認知賞識。

人物簡介

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The Invisible Man 隱形人

我是個既冷酷又急躁的人,任何人 想阻礙我,我都會殺了他。很不幸的, 隱形並不如我想像中那麼輕鬆,我需要 錢和衣服來維持溫飽;然而,每次我試 圖要得到這兩樣東西時,卻總是給自己帶 來許多麻煩。我試著要其他人幫助我,但是他們害怕我的能力。 我不能相信任何人。

Dr. Kemp 凱普博士

我是個老實的研究科學家,居住在一座海邊的小鎮上。有一天,一位大學的老同學意外來訪;而你看,這位老朋友竟然就是隱形人!我必須決定到底要幫助他,還是將他交給警察。 他似乎相當危險,能為了得到他想要的東西,而殺害無辜的人。

Marvel 馬佛

我是個住在鄉下的窮乞丐,人們忽視我的存在,我到哪裡 都找不到工作。我想,這就是隱形人選上我幫助他的原因吧! 但是,我並不想幫助他,他真的嚇壞我了!在幫他搶劫銀行之 後,我帶著那筆錢和他的研究書籍逃跑了。我好怕他會找到我 並且把我殺了!

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Mr. Hall and Mrs. Hall 霍爾夫婦

我們在伊坪這座鄉間小鎮裡,經營一間寧靜的小旅館。我們想要過平靜的生活,但這一切卻在那個陌生人來臨的夜晚破滅了。在他待在我們這裡的幾個星期中,我們經常可以聽到他在發脾氣,還砸壞瓶子和家具。他總是從頭到腳都用衣物蓋住,即使在溫暖的房間裡也不例外。這個人真的很奇怪。

[第一章]神祕的陌生人

p. 14-15 二月裡的某個夜晚,黑暗中,一名頭戴 緣帽、穿著長大衣的陌生人,在布蘭堡赫斯特的火車站下車。天氣十分酷寒,卻沒有馬車可以搭;這人得帶著他的手提箱穿越暴風雪,走好幾個小時到伊坪這座小鎮。當他抵達時,他前往車棧旅館。旅館裡的人看到一個黑色的身影跌跌撞撞地走進來。

「我要一間房間,還要生火,請快一點!」陌生人要求道。 旅館的所有人説:「我是霍爾太太,這邊請。」 這位婦人帶著陌生人到他的房間。

婦人離開後,很快帶了一些食物回來。房間現在已經很溫 暖了,但這名男子仍然穿戴著他的帽子、大衣和手套。

「我可以幫你拿外套。」霍爾太太說。

「不要!」陌生人厲聲喊。

「好的。」她説著離開房間。

p. 16-17 回到廚房後,霍爾太太發現她忘了拿芥末給他,便拿著芥末要去給這名男子。她敲敲門,把門打開,卻在門口看得目瞪口呆:她看到陌生人的頭包著笨重的繃帶,只見得到他藍色的眼鏡,發亮的粉紅色鼻子,還有些從繃帶之間露出來的頭髮。