第3期:盐 Salt

Three: Salt

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Now that Billy's parents were a little more affluent, the family had agreed that they could afford better accommodation, so they moved to a cottage on the outskirts of town.

当比利的父母比以前富裕些的时候，全家人都认为他们能够供得起更好的房子了，于是他们搬进了郊区的小别墅。

Although the cottage was somewhat old-fashioned, the agent who rent the place to them was keen to advocate that they should not install air-conditioning

尽管别墅样式有些过时，但租房子给他们的代理商贴心地提议不要安装空调，

as they could air-condition the place by opening the skylights.

因为打开天窗就可以调节这里的空气。

The day that they moved, the air was heavy with the advent of spring, a sense of renewal accompanied them along the way.

搬家那天，格外潮湿，由于春天的到来，一路上都感到空气格外的清新；

Billy and the old dog Rufus watched the amazing aerial gymnastics of the swallows out of the car window, browsing through the family album every now and then.

比利和他的老狗鲁弗斯一边看着车窗外燕子在空中优美地飞来飞去，一边不时地翻看家庭相册。

When they arrived, a group of men were unloading the van.

他们到达时，一群男人正从火车上往下卸货。

Billy thought looking around the new surroundings should be placed high on their agenda, so he whistled to Rufus and they set off on an adventure.

比利认为，来到新环境首先要做的就是到四处看看，于是他朝鲁弗斯吹了声口哨，他们就踏上了探索之旅。

They found a small footpath, Rufus showing his excitement and his affection for Billy by panting and wagging his tail.

他们发现了一条小路，鲁弗斯兴奋不已，摇着尾巴对主人示好；

Billy was at an age when he could still fell a sense of aesthetic excitement at the beauty of nature.

而比利也仍然处在仅仅欣赏自然美景就能兴奋不已的年纪。

The adverse effects of those years in the city seemed to vanish as he walked, and with Rufus as his affiliate he felt invincible.

漫步小路，这些年来城市生活的负面影响似乎突然消失了。有鲁弗斯的陪伴，让比利觉得无往不胜。

However, he had reckoned without Rufus. They rounded a bend in the path and suddenly, in the next field, they saw sheep.

然而他没有料到鲁弗斯接下来的举动。他们转过一个弯，突然在前面的田野上看到一群羊。

Rufus knew a good game when he saw one, he ran straight into the field, barking aggressively.

这下鲁弗斯觉得有好玩的了，他直接跑进田里，朝着羊群挑衅地叫起来。

Just then, a man in green boot stepped out and in an equally aggressive manner started to shout at Rufus to get out of the field.

正在这时，一个穿绿靴子的男人迅速跑过来，同样挑衅地朝鲁弗斯大喊，要他离开这里。

With a sense of alarm, Billy realized that the man was carrying a shotgun and he saw him level it and take aim at Rufus.

比利惊慌起来，他发现那个男人带着猎枪，并瞄准了鲁弗斯。

"Please don't shoot," yelled Billy, but this seemed to aggravate the man still more.

“请别开枪！”比利大喊。但这似乎使那个男人更加恼火。

The gun went off and Rufus howled in agony. He ran helter-skelter back to Billy with his tail between his legs.

枪响了，鲁弗斯痛苦地嚎叫着，夹着尾巴慌慌张张地跑了回来。

The man strode over to Billy.

那个男人大步流星走到比利前面。

"Those sheep are pregnant," the man said, angrily.

“那些羊已经怀孕了，”男人生气地说，

"If you agitate them they can lose their lambs. I will affirm my right to kill any dog that chases them."

“如果惊扰了它们，就保不住肚子里的小羊了。我申明我有权消灭任何威胁羊群的狗。”

"I agree," said Billy. "And I'm sorry, please, help me get Rufus to a vet!"

“我同意，”比利说，“真的很抱歉，但请帮我把鲁弗斯送往动物诊所。”

"I don't think your dog will need a vet this time," said the man, "the gun was only loaded with salt. But next time, keep him on a lead, okay?"

“我想你的狗这次并不需要去看兽医，”男人说，“枪里装的只不过是盐而已，但下次要用皮带把它拴好，记住了吗？”