

A ROGUE'S LIFE 一个无赖的一生

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I am going to try if I can't write something about myself. My life has been rather a strange one. It may not seem particularly useful or respectable; but it has been, in some respects, adventurous; and that may give it claims to be read, even in the most prejudiced circles. I am an example of some of the workings of the social system of this illustrious country on the individual native, during the early part of the present century; and, if I may say so without unbecoming vanity, I should like to quote myself for the edification of my countrymen. Who am I. I am remarkably well connected, I can tell you. I came into this world with the great advantage of having Lady Malkinshaw for a grandmother, her ladyship's daughter for a mother, and Francis James Softly, Esq., M. D. (commonly called Doctor Softly), for a father. I put my father last, because he was not so well connected as my mother, and my grandmother first, because she was the most nobly-born person of the three. I have been, am still, and may continue to be, a Rogue; but I hope I am not abandoned enough yet to forget the respect that is due to rank. On this account, I trust, nobody will show such want of regard for my feelings as to expect me to say much about my mother's brother. That inhuman person committed an outrage on his family by making a fortune in the soap and candle trade. I apologize for mentioning him, even in an accidental way.

The fact is, he left my sister, Annabella, a legacy of rather a peculiar kind, saddled with certain conditions which indirectly affected me; but this passage of family history need not be produced just yet. I apologize a second time for alluding to money matters before it was absolutely

我想试着写写我的故事。我的生活相当奇怪。可能会让人看起来不是特别有意义或者体面;在某些方面,我的生活充满冒险精神。即使是在最苛刻的人眼里,他也会推荐你读一读这本书。本世纪初,我的生活是我们这个国家社会制度影响个人的一个例子;同时,原谅我的虚荣心,我想引用我自己的故事来给我的同胞们一些启示。我是谁,我可以告诉你,我的出身非常优越。我来到这个世界上,具有一个很大的优势,那就是有马尔金肖夫人做祖母,有夫人的女儿做母亲,有弗朗西斯·詹姆斯·索菲利医生(俗称索菲利医生)做父亲。我曾经是,现在仍然是,而且还可能继续是一个无赖;但我希望我还没有被世界抛弃以至于忘记了应有的尊重。我相信谁也不会因为这个缘故,不体谅我的感情,指望我多说我母亲的弟弟。那个没有人性的人,做肥皂和蜡烛的生意中发了大财,对他的家庭却造成了极大的侮辱。我为提到他而道歉,哪怕只是偶然。

事实是,他给我妹妹安娜贝拉留下了一笔相当特殊的遗产,其中一些条款给我带来了一些间接影响。这段家族史不需要写出来。再次道歉,

necessary. Let me get back to a pleasing and reputable subject, by saying a word or two more about my father. I am rather afraid that Doctor Softly was not a clever medical man; for in spite of his great connections, he did not get a very magnificent practice as a physician. As a general practitioner, he might have bought a comfortable business, with a house and snug surgery-shop attached; but the son-in-law of Lady Malkinshaw was obliged to hold up his head, and set up his carriage, and live in a street near a fashionable square, and keep an expensive and clumsy footman to answer the door, instead of a cheap and tidy housemaid. How he managed to "maintain his position" (that is the right phrase, I think), I never could tell. His wife did not bring him a farthing. When the honorable and gallant baronet, her father, died, he left the widowed Lady Malkinshaw with her worldly affairs in a curiously involved state.

Her son (of whom I feel truly ashamed to be obliged to speak again so soon) made an effort to extricate his mother-involved himself in a series of pecuniary disasters, which commercial people call, I believe, transactions--struggled for a little while to get out of them in the character of an independent gentleman--failed--and then spiritlessly availed himself of the oleaginous refuge of the soap and candle trade. His mother always looked down upon him after this; but borrowed money of him also--in order to show, I suppose, that her maternal interest in her son was not quite extinct. My father tried to follow her example--in his wife's interests, of course; but the soap-boiler brutally buttoned up his pockets, and told my father to go into business for himself. Thus it happened that we were certainly a poor family, in spite of the fine appearance we made, the fashionable street we lived in, the neat brougham we kept, and the clumsy and expensive footman who answered our door. What was to be done with me in the way of education?

If my father had consulted his means, I should have been sent to a cheap commercial academy; but he had to consult his relationship to Lady Malkinshaw; so I was sent to one of the most fashionable and famous of the great public schools. I will not mention it by name, because I don't think the masters would be proud of my connection with it. I ran away three times, and was flogged three times. I made four aristocratic connections, and had four pitched battles with

因为在绝对必要之前就暗示了钱的问题。让我回到一个愉快而体面的话题上来，再谈谈我父亲。我颇为担心的是，索菲利医生不是一个聪明的医生；因为尽管他的人脉很广，但作为一个医生，他的行医成绩并不理想。作为一个全科医生，他本可以做个舒适的生意，附带买一栋房子和舒适的外科商店；但马尔金肖夫人的女婿却不得不抬起头来，坐马车出行，住在一条出名的广场的街道附近，雇一个又贵又笨的男仆来开门，而不是一个又便宜又整洁的女仆。他是怎么设法“维持自己的地位”（我想，这句话是正确的），我始终无从得知。他的妻子没有给他带来一毛钱。当可敬而英勇的男爵，也就是我母亲的父亲去世后，留下寡居的马尔金肖夫人处理她那错综复杂的世俗事务。

她的儿子（这么快就不得不再谈这个人，我真的感到很惭愧）竭力想摆脱母亲的纠缠，使自己陷入了一系列金钱上的困境，我相信这就是商人们所说的交易——他挣扎了一会儿，想以一个独立的绅士的身份摆脱困境——失败了——然后又无力地将肥皂和蜡烛行业当作避难所。此后，他的母亲一直看不起他，但也向他借钱，我想，是为了表明她对儿子的母爱还没有完全消失。我父亲试图效仿她的做法——当然是为了他妻子的利益；但那个肥皂锅炉工总是拿走所有的钱，让我父亲自己去做生意。尽管我们的外表光鲜亮丽，住的街道很时髦，坐的是整洁的四轮马车，还有为我们开门的笨拙而昂贵的脚夫，但我们确实是一户穷人家。在教育方面，我又该怎么办呢？

如果我父亲考虑一下他的经济情况，他会把送到一所廉价的商业学校去了。但是他不得不考虑他和马尔金肖夫人的关系；所以我被送到一所最时髦、最著名的公立学校。我就不提它的名字了，因为我认为大师们不会为我与它的联系而感到骄傲。我跑了三次，挨了三次打。我结交了四位贵族，

them: three thrashed me, and one I thrashed. I learned to play at cricket, to hate rich people, to cure warts, to write Latin verses, to swim, to recite speeches, to cook kidneys on toast, to draw caricatures of the masters, to construe Greek plays, to black boots, and to receive kicks and serious advice resignedly. Who will say that the fashionable public school was of no use to me after that? After I left school, I had the narrowest escape possible of intruding myself into another place of accommodation for distinguished people; in other words, I was very nearly being sent to college.

Fortunately for me, my father lost a lawsuit just in the nick of time, and was obliged to scrape together every farthing of available money that he possessed to pay for the luxury of going to law. If he could have saved his seven shillings, he would certainly have sent me to scramble for a place in the pit of the great university theater; but his purse was empty, and his son was not eligible therefore for admission, in a gentlemanly capacity, at the doors. The next thing was to choose a profession. Here the Doctor was liberality itself, in leaving me to my own devices. I was of a roving adventurous temperament, and I should have liked to go into the army. But where was the money to come from, to pay for my commission? As to enlisting in the ranks, and working my way up, the social institutions of my country obliged the grandson of Lady Malkinshaw to begin military life as an officer and gentleman, or not to begin it at all. The army, therefore, was out of the question. The Church? Equally out of the question: since I could not pay for admission to the prepared place of accommodation for distinguished people, and could not accept a charitable free pass, in consequence of my high connections. The Bar? I should be five years getting to it, and should have to spend two hundred a year in going circuit before I had earned a farthing. Physic? This really seemed the only gentlemanly refuge left; and yet, with the knowledge of my father's experience before me, I was ungrateful enough to feel a secret dislike for it. It is a degrading confession to make; but I remember wishing I was not so highly connected, and absolutely thinking that the life of a commercial traveler would have suited me exactly, if I had not been a poor gentleman. Driving about from place to place, living jovially at inns, seeing fresh faces constantly, and getting money by

同他们进行了四场激战：三人打了我，一人被我打了。我学会了打板球，学会了憎恨富人，学会了医治疣子，学会了写拉丁诗句，学会了游泳，学会了背诵演讲，学会了在吐司上煮腰花，学会了讽刺大师，学会了解释希腊戏剧，学会了穿黑靴子，学会了顺从地接受严肃的建议。从那以后，谁会说时髦的公学对我毫无用处呢？离开学校后，我经历了最惊险的一段时间，只身闯入另一个专为名流居住的地方。换句话说，我几乎就要被送进大学了。

对我来说，幸运的是，我的父亲在紧要关头输掉了一场官司，不得不凑齐他所拥有的每一分钱来支付上法庭的奢侈费用。如果他省下他的七先令，他一定会让我去争夺大学大剧院的位置；但他的钱包空空如也，他的儿子因此没有资格以绅士的身份进门。接下来的事情是选择职业。在这件事上，索菲利医生让我自行决定。我是一个爱冒险的人，我本想去参军的。钱从哪里来，来支付我的报名费？至于应征入伍，一步步往上爬，我国的社会制度要求马尔金肖夫人的孙子要么以军官和绅士的身份开始军人生活，要么就根本不开始。因此，军队是不可能的。教会？同样是不可能的：因为我无力支付为贵族预先安排的住宿费用，也不能接受慈善机构的资助，因为我有一些显赫的亲戚。律师？我得花五年时间去考，而且在我赚到一毛钱之前，每年得花两百块钱去观摩。物理？这似乎真的是唯一的绅士避难所了；然而，由于知道我父亲经历，我不甘心，对此感到暗暗的厌恶。承认是可耻的；我还记得，我多么希望自己的人际关系不是那么密切，如果我不是一个穷绅士，商业旅行者的生活就完全适合我。从一个地方开车到另一个地方，在旅馆里愉快地生活，不断地看到新鲜的面孔，通过所有这些享受来获得金钱，而不是花钱——如果我是一个鞋匠的儿子和一个新郎的遗孀的孙子，那是多么适合我的生活啊！

all this enjoyment, instead of spending it--what a life for me, if I had been the son of a haberdasher and the grandson of a groom's widow! While my father was uncertain what to do with me, a new profession was suggested by a friend, which I shall repent not having been allowed to adopt, to the last day of my life. This friend was an eccentric old gentleman of large property, much respected in our family.

One day, my father, in my presence, asked his advice about the best manner of starting me in life, with due credit to my connections and sufficient advantage to myself. "Listen to my experience," said our eccentric friend, "and, if you are a wise man, you will make up your mind as soon as you have heard me. I have three sons. I brought my eldest son up to the Church; he is said to be getting on admirably, and he costs me three hundred a year. I brought my second son up to the Bar; he is said to be getting on admirably, and he costs me four hundred a year. I brought my third son up to _Quadrilles_--he has married an heiress, and he costs me nothing." Ah, me! if that worthy sage's advice had only been followed--if I had been brought up to Quadrilles!--if I had only been cast loose on the ballrooms of London, to qualify under Hymen, for a golden degree! Oh! you young ladies with money, I was five feet ten in my stockings; I was great at small-talk and dancing; I had glossy whiskers, curling locks, and a rich voice! Ye girls with golden guineas, ye nymphs with crisp bank-notes, mourn over the husband you have lost among you--over the Rogue who has broken the laws which, as the partner of a landed or fund-holding woman, he might have helped to make on the benches of the British Parliament! Oh! ye hearths and homes sung about in so many songs--written about in so many books--shouted about in so many speeches, with accompaniment of so much loud cheering: what a settler on the hearth-rug; what a possessor of property; what a bringer-up of a family, was snatched away from you, when the son of Dr. Softly was lost to the profession of Quadrilles! It ended in my resigning myself to the misfortune of being a doctor. If I was a very good boy and took pains, and carefully mixed in the best society, I might hope in the course of years to succeed to my father's brougham, fashionably-situated house, and clumsy and expensive footman. There was a prospect for a lad of spirit, with the blood of the early Malkinshaws

当我父亲还不知道该如何处置我的时候，一位朋友提出了一个新的职业，直到我生命的最后一天，我都在后悔没有从事这个职业。这位朋友是一位古怪的老先生，他有很多财产，在我们家很受尊敬。

一天，父亲当着我的面，问他怎样才能让我的生活起步，使我有足够的优势。“听听我的经验吧，”我们这位古怪的朋友说，

“如果你是个聪明人，你一听完我的话就会作出决定的。我有三个儿子。我把我的大儿子带到教会去了，据说他的日子过得很不错，他每年要花我三百英镑。我把我的二儿子带到了律师协会；据说他的发展很不错，每年要花我四百英镑。我把我的第三个儿子带到了方阵舞上——他娶了一个女继承人，他不花我什么钱。”啊，天哪！要是那位可敬的贤人的忠告能被采纳——要是我被带进了方阵舞会就好了！要是我被扔在伦敦的舞厅里，能遇见一个有钱的女人就好了！哦！你们这些有钱的年轻姑娘们，我穿袜子时身高五英尺十英寸；我很擅长闲聊和跳舞；我有光滑的胡须，卷曲的卷发，还有洪亮的嗓音！诸位拿着金币的姑娘们，诸位拿着大把的钞票的仙女们，为你们中间失去的丈夫的人而哀悼吧——为这个违反了法律的流氓而哀悼，他作为一个有地或有钱女人的合伙人，你本可以帮助他成为英国议会议员的！炉灶和家园——你们唱过的在那么多歌中都存唱过的——在那么多书中写过的——在那么多演说中喊过的，伴随着那么多热烈的欢呼声；当索菲利医生的儿子被丢到方阵舞会上，他本能成为炉灶上的定居者，财产的拥有者，或者家庭的带头人，然而这种可能就这样被你们夺走了！最后，我不幸地放弃了做医生的工作。如果我是一个非常听话的孩子，不怕苦，小心翼翼地混在最上流的社会里，我就有望在几年之内继承我父亲的四轮马车，时髦的房子和笨拙而昂贵的脚夫。

(who were Rogues of great capacity and distinction in the feudal times) coursing adventurous through every vein! I look back on my career, and when I remember the patience with which I accepted a medical destiny, I appear to myself in the light of a hero. Nay, I even went beyond the passive virtue of accepting my destiny--I actually studied, I made the acquaintance of the skeleton, I was on friendly terms with the muscular system, and the mysteries of Physiology dropped in on me in the kindest manner whenever they had an evening to spare. Even this was not the worst of it. I disliked the abstruse studies of my new profession; but I absolutely hated the diurnal slavery of qualifying myself, in a social point of view, for future success in it. My fond medical parent insisted on introducing me to his whole connection. I went round visiting in the neat brougham--with a stethoscope and medical review in the front-pocket, with Doctor Softly by my side, keeping his face well in view at the window--to canvass for patients, in the character of my father's hopeful successor. Never have I been so ill at ease in prison, as I was in that carriage. I have felt more at home in the dock (such is the natural depravity and perversity of my disposition) than ever I felt in the drawingrooms of my father's distinguished patrons and respectable friends. Nor did my miseries end with the morning calls. I was commanded to attend all dinner-parties, and to make myself agreeable at all balls. The dinners were the worst trial. Sometimes, indeed, we contrived to get ourselves asked to the houses of high and mighty entertainers, where we ate the finest French dishes and drank the oldest vintages, and fortified ourselves sensibly and snugly in that way against the frigidity of the company

一个有前途的小伙子，早期马尔金肖家族的（在封建时代，马尔金肖家族是一群极有能力、极有名望的盗贼）血液在每一条血管里都流淌着冒险的气息！回顾我的职业生涯，当我回忆起接受医生命运的耐心时，我觉得自己就像一个英雄。不，我甚至超越了被动地接受我的命运——我真的在学习，我认识了骨骼，我仔细研究肌肉系统，每当有一个晚上空闲的时候，生理学的奥秘就会以最亲切的方式降临在我的身上。这还不是最糟的。我不喜欢对职业深奥研究；但我绝对讨厌从社会的角度来看，为了将来在这个职业上取得成功而每天束缚自己。我那热爱医学的父母坚持要向我介绍他们的全部关系。我坐在整洁的四轮马车里——前面的口袋里放着听诊器和医学检查报告，医生父亲温柔地坐在我身旁，靠窗时能看着他的脸——作为我父亲最有希望的继任者的身份招揽顾客。我在监狱里从来没有像在那辆马车里一样，感到如此的不自在。我在被告席上的感觉比在我父亲那些杰出的赞助人和可敬的朋友们的客厅里的感觉更自在（这就是我天生的堕落和反常的性格）。我的痛苦也没有随着早晨的召唤而结束。我奉命参加所有的宴会，并在所有的舞会上摆摆样子。晚餐是最糟糕的审判。事实上，有时我们设法让自己被邀请到有权势的款待者的家里去，在那里我们吃最好的法国菜，喝最古老的葡萄酒，这样我们就能在淡漠的推杯换盏中保持自己的清醒和舒适。

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