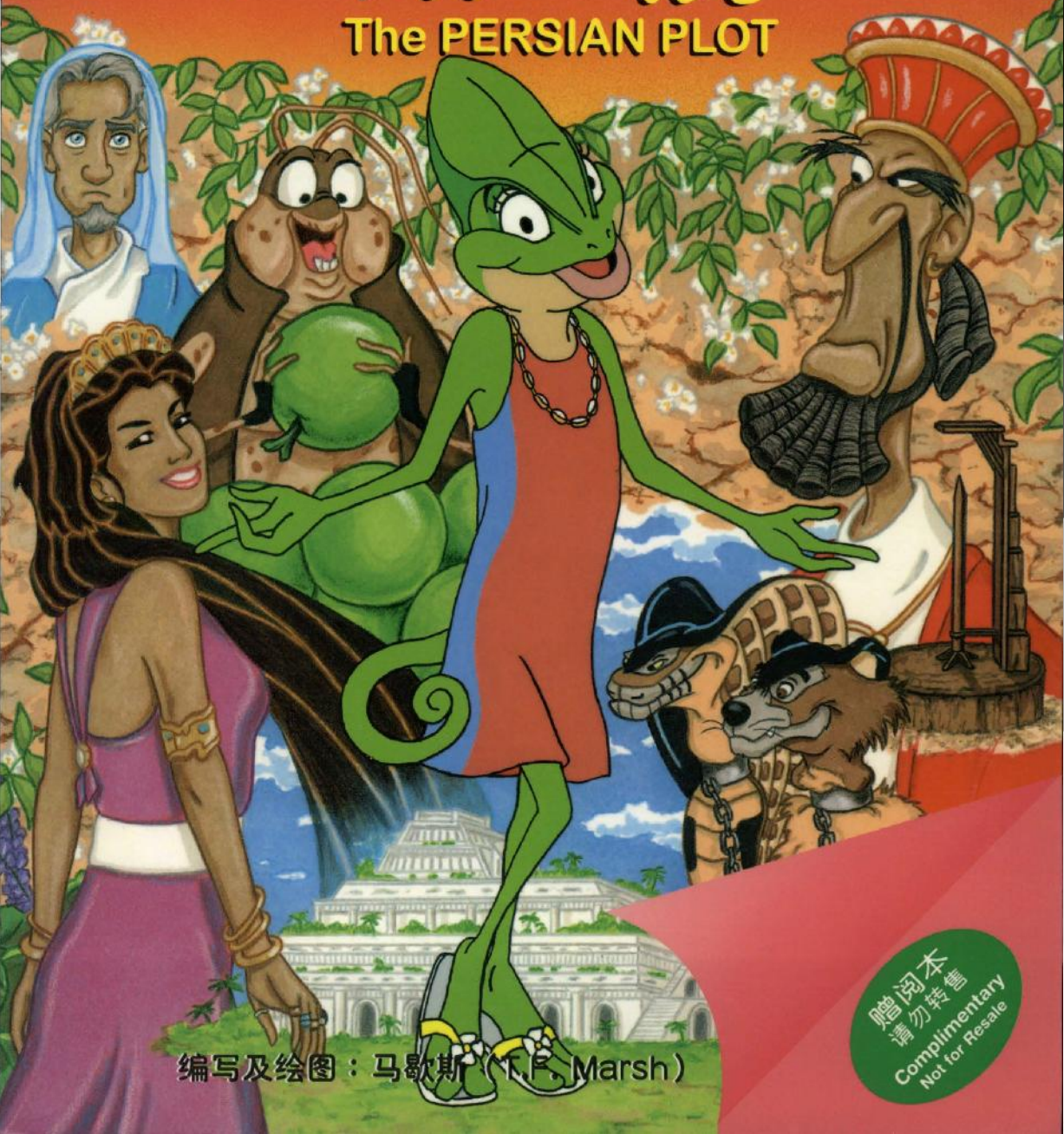


来听动物讲故事系列
THE TALE TELLERS

波斯大阴谋

The PERSIAN PLOT



编写及绘图：马歇斯 (M.F. Marsh)

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波斯 大阴谋

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福音證主協會
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The Persian Plot

Chinese/English Edition

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当你必须作出一个非常重要的决定时，你会怎么做呢？我幸运地认识一位在选美大赛中获得冠军的皇后，她不但长得漂亮，而且很有智慧，她还教会我什么是明智的选择。啊！我忘了自我介绍，我叫佳美颜，是一条年轻漂亮的变色龙。以下是我要给你讲的故事！

在我十六岁生日那天，爸爸陪着我在王宫的花园中漫步。它郑重地宣布了一个重要决定：“佳美颜，你已经长大成‘龙’，以后可以独自在园中自由地行走了。但你要注意言行，不然就会吃苦头。”

“我会小心的。”我一边搂住爸爸，一边高呼：“哗，这是我最好的礼物。自由万岁！”

Have you ever wondered, really wondered, what you would do if you had to make the most important choice ever? Well, a beauty queen taught me the difference between a good choice and a bad choice. Oh, yeah, my name's Chamelia, your Tale Teller. A color-changing chameleon, I might add. Here's my groovy tale, just for you!

On my sixteenth birthday, my dad and I were walking through the palace garden. He had made an important decision. "Chamelia," he said, "you're free to walk through this entire garden alone. But be careful what you say and do, or it may come back to harm you."

"Oh, I will, I will!" I shouted as I gave him a big hug. "Wow, this is the best present ever. Freedom!"





第二天早晨，我特别早早起床，细心打扮一番后，就迫不及待地独自在花园中漫步。

我想像着我的朋友会多么羡慕我，忽然不知是什么东西把我拉进石墙中的小洞里。

在黑暗中，前面有一个慌张的声音说：“快跑！快跑！要不然就来不及了！”

“你是谁？你要带我去哪里？”我问那位拉着我的手穿过黑暗迷宫的陌生者。

但对方只是含糊地应付，只管拉着我急跑。最后我眼前一亮，发现自己身在灯光明亮的大厅中，而把我绑架到这里来的，竟是王宫里一只闻名已久的大蟑螂！

The next morning, I woke up especially early and slipped on my flip-flops. I couldn't wait to walk through the garden alone.

As I daydreamed about how my friends would envy me, suddenly something pulled me through a hole in the stone wall!

“We've got to hurry!” whispered a garbled voice just ahead of me in the darkness.

“Hey, who are you?” I asked the stranger who was pulling me through a dark maze. “And where are you taking me?”

There was just more of that muddled talk. Something about being late. Finally, the stranger pulled me into a brightly lit room. And there I met my kidnapper. Yuck ... one of those gross palace roaches I'd heard tales about.



选美大赛就要开始啦！”大蟑螂着急地叫嚷着：“我是甘士比伯爵，决定提名你去参加选美。我连参赛的服装都为你预备好了，希望你能为我们取胜。”

我心花怒放，全身立刻变成粉红色。“等一等！”我说：“这是个什么选美大赛呀？”

“啊！当然是波斯国亚哈随鲁王的选美大赛！”甘士比说。

甘士比一边拉着我穿过蟑螂地道，一边向我解释：“波斯王本来有个美丽的皇后瓦实提。有一次，王想让他的来宾看看皇后的美貌，就在宴席上召皇后马上来见；不料皇后竟不肯来，王一怒之下，便把皇后废掉了。但现在王感到寂寞，所以下令在王宫举行选美大赛，另选新的皇后。”

“Please, my dear, the beauty contest will be starting soon,” he stuttered. “I am Sir Crumsby, and you’re a beautiful girl. Now, quickly, I’ve brought your gown. I’m counting on you to win!”

I was flattered. I blushed a radical shade of pink. “Wait a minute!” I said. “Who’s putting on this beauty contest?”

“Why, King Xerxes, of course!” he warbled.

As we zoomed through more roach tunnels, Crumsby explained. “King Xerxes called for Vashti, his beautiful queen, to come show herself to his palace guests. But she refused. So, angry and embarrassed, he sent her away. Now he’s lonely and wants another queen. That is why he’s holding a beauty contest!”



甘士比拉我进入一个大厅，只见里面全是美女！甘士比清清喉咙说：“王要从这群美女中选出一位新皇后。我最希望你能被选上，因为皇后能给予自己喜欢的人特权，甚至照顾我们这些饥饿的蟑螂。”

“你真是疯了！”我不由大叫起来：“我只是一条美丽的变色龙，不是皇后！我不能参加这选美大赛。”

但甘士比根本听不进去，它目瞪口呆地望着一位参赛者，惊叹道：“啊！她就是新来的以斯帖，实在闻名已久。她是这里最美丽的女子，连负责管理美女的希该也特别照顾她。但你不必怕她，她是犹太人，波斯王是不会选犹太女子作皇后的！”

Crumsby led me to a large room filled with beautiful young ladies. Why, this place was really hip. Crumsby cleared his throat. “The king will choose one lady to be his new queen. And I need you to win. You see, queens give special privileges to whomever they please – even to us hungry roaches.”

“That’s crazy!” I shouted. I’m a chameleon, not a queen! I’m out of this contest.”

But Crumsby wasn’t listening. He was staring at one of the contestants. He squirmed. “Oh, no. It’s Esther, the new arrival. I’ve heard plenty about her. She’s the most beautiful woman here. And she’s already gained special privileges from Hegai, keeper of the women. But don’t fear, my dear. A Persian king would never choose a Jewish woman for his queen.”



他为什么不可以选犹太女子为皇后呢？”我连忙追问。甘士比说：“因为波斯人和犹太人有不同的法律，犹太女子作波斯国的皇后，会惹来不少麻烦。所以，我看你会取胜呢！”

我才不会参加什么选美呢！但我倒不在意穿上漂亮的衣裳，留在宫里看热闹。

每一位美女都有一年时间准备参加选美，然后她们一个一个地被带到波斯王面前……接着又被带回寝室里。终于轮到以斯帖进宫了。

我们焦急地等待。突然传来消息：以斯帖获选为新皇后！波斯王竟然不知道她是犹太人！

“Why wouldn't he choose Jewish woman?” I asked. Crumbsby shuddered. “Because the Jews and Persians follow different laws, a Jewish queen would be trouble. But don't worry. With you entered, we can't lose.”

Well, I wasn't entering any beauty contest, but I would dress up and stick around to see what would happen.

Each lady prepared herself for twelve months. Then, one by one, each contestant was taken to the king ... then brought back. Finally, it was Esther's turn to go to the king's palace.

The hours passed slowly as we waited. Suddenly, the news was sounded. The king had chosen his new queen. Hey, it was Esther – she'd won! And the king didn't even know she was Jewish.



我 每天早上都进宫看望以斯帖皇后，到了傍晚便回家将所看到听到的告诉我的父母。

有一天早上，我看见以斯帖在发愁，原来她的堂兄末底改在王宫里负责守门，他听见有两个人密谋要杀害波斯王，就马上告诉以斯帖。

以斯帖把这阴谋报告给波斯王，于是，那两个人便受到了处罚。而且，那天所发生的事全都记在历史册上。末底改救了王的命。

我还以为那天的所有麻烦都过去了——直到我撞上可怕的大蟒蛇，才知道麻烦还在后头！“我的主人哈曼恨透了末底改！”大蛇嘶嘶地说：“他专惹麻烦！”

Every morning I went to the palace to watch Esther. Every evening I returned home and told my parents the latest news.

Then, one morning Esther was troubled. Her cousin Mordecai, the gatekeeper, had overheard two men planning to kill the king!

Esther went to the king and told him everything Mordecai had overheard. Immediately, the two men were punished. That day, everything was written in a book of records to be remembered. Mordecai had saved the king.

Whew! All troubles seemed to be over for that day – until I bumped into the palace snake. “My master Haman doesn’t like that Mordecai,” he hissed. “Mordecai’s a troublemaker!”



“**谁**是哈曼大人？”我胆小地问。

蛇狡猾地笑着说：“他帮助王治理国家。人人都向他下拜，只有守门的末底改不肯这样做……所以哈曼大人非常愤怒。但不要担心，哈曼大人知道该怎么做！”

我好不容易才挣脱那条大蛇，却又撞上王宫的另一只宠物，就是疯子阿蒙。

“哈曼大人正与王在一起。他讨厌那个末底改。哈！我包管末底改会吃不了兜着走呢！”

“哈曼要做什么？”我气得满身通红。

“Who’s Master Haman?” I asked timidly.

He grinned slyly. “Why, he helps the king rule over the land, of course. Everyone bows down to him. Everyone except that Jewish gatekeeper, Mordecai. He won’t bow down ... and that makes my master mad! But don’t worry, my dear. Master Haman knows what to say and do.”

Well, I managed to wiggle away from that creepy snake’s coils. But no sooner was he out of sight that I bumped into the other palace pet – the crazy mongoose.

“Looky! Looky!” he chattered. “Master Haman is with the king. And is he angry with that Mordecai! I’ll bet he’s gonna get him, and get him good.”

“Oh, yeah, what’s he gonna do?” I asked, turning red with rage.



等着瞧吧！我家主人哈曼知道该怎么做！”

恶毒的哈曼设下一个阴谋，他不但要谋害末底改，还要消灭整个犹太民族！哈曼憎恨犹太人，因为他们跟其他人不一样，坚持保留自己的法律，不肯随从波斯王国的法律。哈曼甚至说，除了犹太人的钱之外，他们对波斯王毫无价值，所以必须消灭他们！

波斯王竟然听信了哈曼的话，给他一枚戒指，表示准许他任意处置犹太人及他们的财产。哈曼便下令：到了犹太历的12月13日，所有犹太人都要死。哼，我一点也不喜欢那个哈曼。

“Watch! Watch!” he chattered. “Master Haman knows what to say and do!”

He was right. Haman had hatched a wicked Persian plot to destroy Mordecai and the Jewish people! Haman said that the Jewish people were different from all others in the kingdom. They followed their own laws, and they didn't keep the king's laws. He even said that they didn't have any worth to the king, except for their money. They must all be destroyed!

Then the king gave Haman his ring as permission to do whatever he chose with the Jewish people and their money. So Haman gave the order: On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, all of the Jews would die! Ugh, that Haman. I didn't like him at all.



这可怕的消息很快便传遍各地，犹太人都悲哀痛哭。我想起以斯帖也是犹太人啊！她会不会一同遭到杀害呢？我一定要把这不幸的消息告诉她。

当我到达她的寝宫时，看见她正跪在那里，十分忧伤。突然，我身旁响起一个熟悉的声音，原来是蟑螂甘士比！

“你听到那个消息了吗？”我十分难过地问它。

甘士比点点头，说：“以斯帖今天身为皇后，可能是上天的安排。末底改托人送信来，要求她向波斯王求情，拯救她的同胞；不然她的性命也难保。不论结果怎样，她都要请求王挽救他们的性命。”

以斯帖会怎么说、怎么做呢？

The terrible news spread throughout the land. The Jews were in mourning. Then I had a terrible thought. Esther was a Jew! Would she be destroyed too? I had to find her.

When I reached her chambers, I found her bowed down and troubled. Suddenly, I heard a familiar voice. Hey, it was Crumbsby!

“Have you heard the news?” I asked, filled with the blues.

“Yes,” he answered, twitching. “But maybe Esther became queen for such a time as this. Mordecai just sent her some wise counsel. She is to ask the king to save her people’s lives. Besides, her life is in trouble too. No matter what the consequence, she must ask the king for their deliverance.”

What would Esther say and do?



以斯帖很快便给末底改回信，说她会去见波斯王，但所有犹太人首先都要为她三天三夜不吃不喝，向神祈祷。她和她的宫女也会这样做。按波斯王宫的规定，假如王没有召见，人却去求见王，这人就要被处死。但以斯帖愿意为同胞而死。

“她这样做是会丧命的！”甘士比对我说。

但我却有信心。“甘士比，别担心，她知道该怎么说、怎么做。”

三天禁食祷告后，以斯帖便去见王。结果怎么样？王看见美丽的以斯帖，就喜爱她，还问她有什么要求。于是，以斯帖邀请王出席一个特别的宴会——还邀请哈曼一同出席呢！什么？她也邀请哈曼？

Quickly, she sent Mordecai her reply. She would see the king. But first, all of the Jews were to fast on her behalf for three days. She and her palace maids would do the same. Then she would go to the king. Interrupting the king could mean death. But if she perished, she perished.

Crumsby gulped. “This choice could come back to harm her.”

But I had a little more faith. “Don’t worry, Crumsby. I think she knows what to say and do.”

Well, after the three days of fasting, Esther went to see the king. She found favor with him. The king asked her to state her request. She asked him to attend a special banquet – and Haman was invited. Wait! Haman was invited too?



真难以相信，为什么邀请他？”我不禁叫嚷起来。甘士比扭着它的触须，竟笑起来：“我想我们那天晚上必须去侦察一下！反正我们在那里肯定会找到很多吃的！”

哈曼与王一同出席以斯帖的宴会。王吃饱后，问以斯帖：“你有什么请求？无论你想要什么，我都会送给你。”

以斯帖静静地转身思索，她似乎心事重重。终于，她转过身来，邀请王和哈曼明天再来赴宴，到时候她会向王说出她的请求。

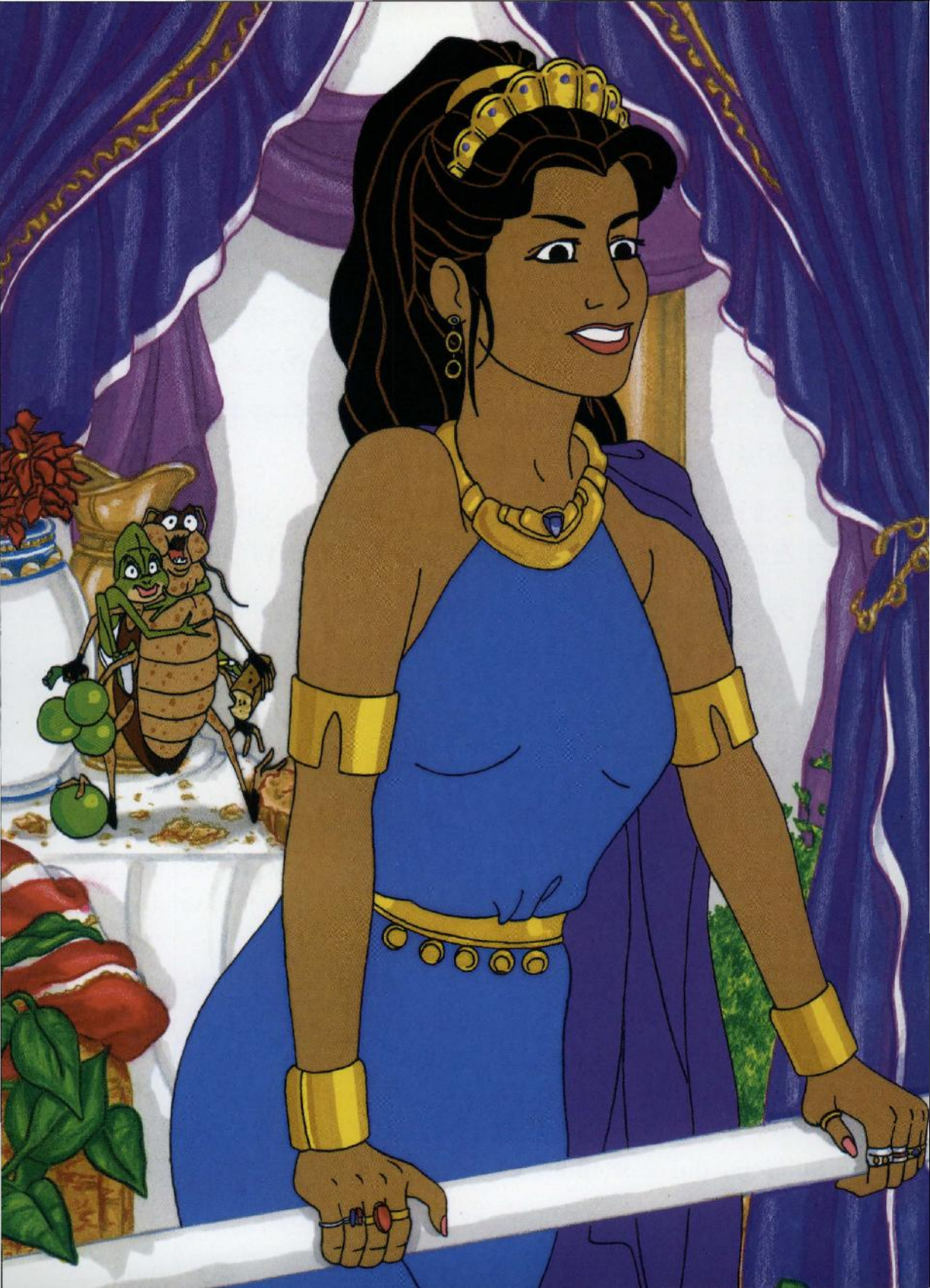
“我们明天再来吧。”甘士比一边嘎吱嘎吱地走着，一边说：“再赴一次宴会更好！”

“I can't believe it!” I blurted. “Why is he invited?” Crumbsby twisted his antennae and grinned. “I guess we'll just have to go find out for ourselves. And while we're there, lots of food for us!”

Haman joined the king at Esther's banquet. After the king had eaten, he asked Esther to state her request. Whatever she wanted, he would give to her.

Esther silently turned away to think. She seemed very concerned. Finally, she turned back and invited the king and Haman to return the next day to a second banquet. Then she would give her request to the king.

“I guess we'll meet back here tomorrow,” Crumbsby crunched away. “The only thing better than one banquet is two!”



半夜正当我做好梦时，忽然窗外传来一阵嘎吱声，吓得我几乎大叫起来，这才发现原来是甘士比在窗外叫我。

“你来干什么？你不知道现在是深夜吗？”我低声说。

甘士比颤抖地说：“末底改大难临头了。我今天晚上跟着哈曼回家，发觉他立了一座绞刑架，他要吊死末底改！”

我和甘士比连忙悄悄进入王的寝宫。只有王能制止哈曼的阴谋。

我们看见王睡不着觉，命人把历史册念给他听。这时，王才发觉末底改曾救过他一命，可是还没有得到他的赏赐。

突然寝宫的门开了。我大叫：“是哈曼啊！”

In the middle of the night, I heard rustling outside my window. I panicked until I heard crunching. Yep, it was Crumbsy.

“What are you doing here?” I whispered. “Do you know what time it is?”

“Mordecai is in big trouble. I followed Haman home earlier tonight. Haman has built a giant gallows – to hang Mordecai!” He trembled.

As fast as we could, we scurried to the king’s chamber. Only he could stop Haman’s ghoulish plot.

We found the king restless. The book of records was being read to him. He was being told that Mordecai had never been rewarded for saving his life.

Suddenly the door opened. “Oh, no!” I shouted. “It’s Haman!”



王笑着问哈曼：“我该怎样奖赏我喜欢的一个人？”
骄傲的哈曼以为王要奖赏自己，便说：“给他穿上王的衣服和王冠，并骑在王的马上。”

王说这主意不错，就下令这样奖赏末底改，而且由哈曼去侍候末底改！哈曼只好忍气吞声。末底改整天在城内巡游，得到无上的尊荣。

第二天，我们又来到以斯帖的宴会上。这次连大蛇和阿蒙也跟着哈曼来了。我们吃饱后，王又问以斯帖有什么请求。以斯帖便求王拯救她和她同胞的性命，不让哈曼杀害所有犹太人的诡计得逞，因为她也是犹太人！

波斯王听后大怒。哈曼竟敢设计杀害皇后以斯帖！

Smiling, the king asked Haman what he should do to reward someone who pleased him. Haman thought the king was talking about him! He replied that the person should receive majestic clothes, a crown, and a ride on the king's horse.

The king agreed. Mordecai deserved all of those things. And Haman was chosen to serve him! Haman gulped. All that day, Mordecai was exalted throughout the city.

We soon found ourselves at Esther's second banquet. The snake and mongoose had followed Haman in too. After we had eaten, the king once again asked Esther to tell him her request. Esther asked for her people's lives, and hers, to be spared from Haman's plot to destroy all Jews. For she was Jewish also!

The king became angry. How dare Haman plot to destroy his Esther!



我打赌，王一定知道该怎么说、怎么做。”甘士比一边用力地嚼着，一边说。它说得没错。波斯王决定今天便把哈曼吊在绞刑架上，就是哈曼昨夜为末底改立的绞刑架！卫兵把哈曼带走了。他终于自食其果！连他的宠物大蛇和阿蒙也逃不过被制成标本的下场。

王把哈曼的官职赏赐给末底改。现在，末底改凭着他的权柄，可以下令让犹太人保卫自己。以斯帖拯救了她的同胞，也为自己带来许多福气。

我不禁舒了一口气。“从此，以斯帖可以和王快快乐乐地生活了。我真高兴这个故事有个好结局！”

“I’ll bet the king knows what to say and do,” smiled Crumbsby as he crunched and munched. He was right. The king made his decision. Today, not Mordecai, but Haman would be hanged on the gallows! The guards led Haman away. Next, the palace taxidermist came and took the snake and mongoose away.

Mordecai was then given Haman’s old position. With his new authority, he could make rules allowing the Jews to defend themselves. Esther had saved her people and brought blessing to herself.

I sighed in relief. “Now Esther and the king will live happily ever after. I’m really into happy endings.”



这故事差不多说完了。犹太人在犹太历12月13日得到拯救。为了纪念这件大事，他们订立了“普珥节”。当然，甘士比每年都可以参加普珥节的庆祝活动啦！

我现在常常跟爸爸在园中散步。（我发现有伴同行实在比独来独往有趣得多。）爸爸说得对，我们要注意言行，这决定我们吃苦头，还是得好处。至于我，我会选择每天都蒙福。

Well, that just about wraps up my tale. On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the Jewish people were saved. They even made a feast to remember everything that had happened – the Feast of Purim. And, yes, Crumsby shows up for it every year!

My dad and I walk through the garden together these days. (It's much more fun walking with someone, I found out.) And he was right. It is important what you say and do. Consequences can either harm you or bless you. I'll take the blessing any day.

各位小朋友，你是不是想对这个故事有更多的认识呢？请翻开圣经中的以斯帖记，慢慢从第一章1节读到十章3节。如果有什么不明白的地方，可以问父母或老师。



** 亲子阅读指南 **

(适合6至10岁儿童阅读，较年幼者可由父母或师长颂读及解说)

胡适博士说得好，要读书明理，最好从“读书四到”入手，就是：眼到（用心阅读）、口到（叙述或讨论）、心到（分析及反覆思量）及手到（付出行动）。编者建议家长或老师用类似的方法使用本书，务求深入浅出，不仅让孩子能掌握文义，且能效法好榜样，以便对孩子的德育及智育发展大有帮助。

家长的疑问：孩子害怕面对困难，怎么办？

本故事的学习重点：勇敢地面对和解决困难。

眼到：

翻到本书最后一页，请孩子读出“普珥节”的来源。

口到：

请孩子说出以斯帖有什么美德。

引导孩子明白以斯帖是个勇敢、聪明、敬畏神，又关心同胞的人。

心到：

问孩子以下的问题：

1. 如果波斯王没有召见以斯帖，而以斯帖却去求见王，会有什么后果？以斯帖的行为显出她哪些美德？
2. 如果你也落在像以斯帖那样危险的处境里，你会怎样做？

手到：

鼓励并协助孩子将所学到的教训，写成一句座右铭，或制作一张图文并茂的海报，贴在显眼处，常常提醒自己。

责任编辑：李秀芳

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波斯大阴谋（简体字版）

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The Persian Plot (Simplified Chinese Version)

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本系列故事由著名的圣经故事改编，每个故事均由一种动物叙述，生动有趣。故事极富教育意义，最适合父母或师长陪同孩子阅读，从旁指导。

犹太人亡国后，被掳到波斯国居住，多年来都平静无事。但波斯大臣哈曼痛恨犹太人未底改，他不但要谋害未底改，还要乘机消灭犹太人。波斯皇后以斯帖不但美丽端庄，而且有勇有谋，她不惜冒着生命的危险，拯救她的犹太同胞脱离灾祸。

波斯王宫中还有另一位美女，她就是天天换上不同颜色的佳美颜——年方十六的变色龙。她目睹了整个事件的经过，要向各位读者娓娓道来。

内附亲子阅读指南

学习重点：勇于面对困难

中英文对照



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