

<<我的心灵藏书馆 红字 英文版>>

图书基本信息

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### 内容概要

《红字》的情节并不复杂，其精华在于对人物的分析。霍桑认为“人心的真实重于情节和细节的真实”。小说中的三个主人公都身负罪恶，但是他们的结局却是不同。海斯特坦白地面对罪恶，甘愿受辱接受惩罚，以德行之美洗刷罪恶，终获新生。迪梅斯戴尔暗中负罪，备受良心煎熬，但在最后关头忏悔，依然得到了人们的谅解和宽容。齐林沃斯一心复仇，丧心病狂地从别人的痛苦中得到满足，是十足的魔鬼化身。小说的结构、主人公的名字和出场都有精心的安排，在这里就不一一赘述了，请读者带着好奇之心，细细阅读吧!

## 作者简介

纳撒尼尔·霍桑（Nathaniel Hawthorne，1804-1864），美国19世纪著名浪漫主义小说家。霍桑出生于美国马萨诸塞州塞勒姆镇，其家族是当地移民望族的后裔，第一代祖先威廉·哈桑（John Hathorne）是当地地方官员，为著名的1682年塞勒姆“驱巫案”的三名主审法官之一。霍桑的父亲是位船长，在霍桑4岁时死于海上，霍桑在母亲的抚养下长大。霍桑全家信奉新教，故其童年经历使他深受清教道德观念的影响。也正是由于霍桑对其祖先的清教徒做法感到不满，所以在他大学毕业以后不久，在其姓氏Hathorne中加入“w”，成为Hawthorne。

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## 章节摘录

"It were well , " muttered the most iron-visaged of the old dames , "if we stripped Madame Hester's rich gown off her dainty shoulders; and as for the red letter , which she hath stitched so curiously , I'll bestow a rag of mine own theumatic flannel , to make a fitter one! " "Oh , peace , neighbours , peace!" whispered their youngest companion; "do not let her hear you! Not a stitch in that embroidered letter , but she has felt it in her heart." The grim beadle now made a gesture with his staff. " Make way , good people , make way , in the King's name!" cried he. " Open a passage; and I promise ye , Mistress Prynne shall be set where man , woman , and child may have a fair sight of her brave apparel , from this time till an hour past meridian. A blessing on the righteous Colony of the Massachusetts , where iniquity is dragged out into the sunshine! Come along , Madame Hester , and show your scarlet letter in the market-place!" A lane was forthwith opened through the crowd of spectators. Preceded by the beadle , and attended by an irregular procession of stern-browed men and unkindly-visaged women , Hester Prynne set forth towards the place appointed for her punishment. A crowd of eager and curious schoolboys , understanding little of the matter in hand , except that it gave them a half-holiday , ran before her progress , turning their heads continually to stare into her face , and at the winking baby in her arms , and at the ignominious letter on her breast. It was no great distance , in those days , from the prison-door to the market-place. Measured by the prisoner's experience , however , it might be reckoned a journey of some length; for , haughty as her demeanor was , she perchance underwent an agony from every footstep of those that thronged to see her , as if her heart had been flung into the street for them all to spurn and trample upon. In our nature , however , there is a provision , alike marvellous and merciful that the sufferer should never know the intensity of what he endures by its present torture , but chiefly by the pang that rankles after it. With almost a serene deportment , therefore , Hester Prynne passed through this portion of her ordeal , and came to a sort of scaffold , at the western extremity of the market-place. It stood nearly beneath the eaves of Boston's earliest church , and appeared to be a fixture there. In fact , this scaffold constituted a portion of a penal machine , which now , for two or three generations past , has been merely historical and traditionary among us , but was held , in the old time , to be as effectual an agent , in the promotion of good citizenship , as ever was the guillotine among the terrorists of France. It was , in short , the platform of the pillory; and above it rose the framework of that instrument of discipline , so fashioned as to confine the human head in its tight grasp , and thus hold it up to the public gaze. The very ideal of ignominy was embodied and made manifest in this contrivance of wood and iron. There can be no outrage , methinks , against our common nature- whatever be the delinquencies of the individual- no outrage more flagrant than to forbid the culprit to hide his face for shame; as it was the essence of this punishment to do. In Hester Prynne's instance , however , as not unfrequently in other cases , her sentence bore , that she should stand a certain time upon the platform , but without undergoing that gripe about the neck and confinement of the head , the proneness to which was the most devilish characteristic of this ugly engine. Knowing well her part , she ascended a flight of wooden steps , and was thus displayed to the surrounding multitude , at about the height of a man's shoulders above the street. Had there been a Papist among the crowd of Puritans , he might have seen in this beautiful woman , so picturesque in her attire and mien , and with the infant at her bosom , an object to remind him of the image of Divine Maternity , which so many illustrious painters have vied with one another to represent; something which should remind him , indeed , but only by contrast , of that sacred image of sinless motherhood , whose infant was to redeem the world. Here , there was the taint of deepest sin in the most sacred quality of human life , working such effect , that the world was only the darker for this woman's beauty , and the more lost for the infant that she had borne. The scene was not without a mixture of awe , such as must always invest the spectacle of guilt and shame in a fellow-creature , before society shall have grown corrupt enough to smile , instead of shuddering , at it. The witnesses of Hester Prynne's disgrace had not yet passed beyond their simplicity. They were stern enough to look upon her death , had that been the sentence , without a murmur at its severity , but had none of the heartlessness of another social state , which would find only a theme for jest in an exhibition like the present. Even had there been a disposition to turn the matter into

ridicule , it must have been repressed and overpowered by the solemn presence of men no less dignified than the Governor , and several of his counsellors , a judge , a general , and the ministers of the town. ....

媒体关注与评论

在用英语写作的小说家中，很少有人能用如此少的文字表达出像《红字》所表达的那么多的内容……象征寓意的手法在散文中很少有人能像霍桑那样运用得如此挥洒自如。

——美国学者（乔治·珀金斯） 光是批评家的铅线是量不出他的深浅的。

检验这样一位作家仅仅用脑是不够的，还必须用你的心灵。

单靠观摩考察，你不能了解何为伟大，除了用直觉之外，你从他那里看不出什么东西；你无需叮当敲它，只要用手触碰一下，你就可以知道它是真金了。

——美国小说家、散文家、诗人（赫尔曼·麦尔维尔）

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