

30. The Murders in the Rue Morgue (part 2 of 4) – by Edgar Allen Poe

【三十】墨街謀殺案（四之二）-- 愛倫坡著

“Of Madame L’Espanaye no traces were here seen; but an unusual quantity of soot being observed in the fireplace, a search was made in the chimney, and (horrible to relate!) the corpse of the daughter, head downward, was dragged therefrom; it having been thus forced up the narrow aperture for a considerable distance. The body was quite warm. Upon examining it, many excoriations were perceived no doubt occasioned by the violence with which it had been thrust up and disengaged. Upon the face were many severe scratches, and, upon the throat, dark bruises, and deep indentations of fingernails, as of the deceased had been throttled to death.

“利斯班女士無蹤跡可尋；但是由於在壁爐的地方發現有比尋常多的烟灰，他們於是尋找烟囱裏面，然後呢（真正可怖的情景！）女兒的屍體，頭朝下，從那裏被硬拉下來；這個屍體被那麼硬塞上去有一段距離。身體猶溫。在注意檢視之後，看見有許多皮膚剝落的地方，無疑地是因為被強勁的力量硬擠上烟囱的時候以及被硬拉下來的時候所造成的。臉上有許多嚴重的刮傷，脖子上有黑青的淤血，深深的手指甲留下來的痕跡，顯然是死者被掐死的時候留下來的。

“After a thorough investigation of every portion of the house, without farther discovery, the party made its way into a small paved yard in the rear of the building, where lay the corpse of the old lady, with her throat so entirely cut that, upon an attempt to raise her, the head fell off. The body, as well as the head, was fearfully mutilated – the former so much so as scarcely to retain any semblance of humanity.

“房子每一處被徹底檢查之後，沒有任何其他的發現，這些人於是來到房子後面的一小片鋪了水泥的院子，老女士的屍體躺在那裏，她的脖子被幾乎完全割斷，以至於在他們試圖把她擡起來的時候，頭掉了下來。軀幹和頭都被嚴重地割損 – 尤其是軀幹被割損到不成人形的地步。

“To this horrible mystery there is not as yet, we believe, the slightest clew.”

“就這起恐怖的疑團，到目前為止，我們相信，沒有任何人有任何的概念。”

The next day’s paper had these additional particulars.

隔天的報紙添加了以下這些要點。

“THE TRAGEDY IN THE RUE MORGUE. – Many individuals have been examined in relation to this most extraordinary and frightful affair [The word ‘affaire’ has not yet, in France, that levity of import which it conveys with us], “but nothing whatever has transpired to throw light upon it. We give below all the material testimony elicited.

“墨街大悲劇。-- 有關這場異常而恐怖的謀殺事件，有幾位人士被審問【‘事件’這個字在法文裏面還沒有包含那個輕狂的意味】，“然而，沒有任何其他的事情發生以至於能提出任何的解釋的。我們把所有的具體證言刊載如下。

“Pauline Dubourg, laundress, deposed that she has known both the deceased for three years, having washed for them during that period. The old lady and her daughter seemed on good terms – very affectionate towards each other. They were excellent pay. Could not speak in regard to their mode or means of living. Believed that Madame L. told fortunes for a living. Was reputed to have money put by.

Never met any persons in the house when she called for the clothes or took them home. Was sure that they has no servant in employ. There appeared to be no furniture in any part of the building except in the fourth story.

“杜寶琳，洗衣婦，表白她和死者相識三年，也就是替她們洗衣的三年。老女士和他女兒關係看來良好 – 彼此很相愛。他們付給她的洗衣費很好。她們如何生活以及生活來源，她不知道。只是相信老女士靠相命為生。據說有存了一些錢。她去拿衣服回家去洗的時候，沒有遇見過任何人。她也確定她們沒有僱傭任何傭人。房子除了四樓之外，顯然沒有家具。

“Pierre Moreau, tobacconist, deposes that he has been in the habit of selling small quantities of tobacco and snuff to Madame L’Espanaye for nearly four years. Was born in the neighborhood, and has always resided there. The deceased and her daughter had occupied the house in which the corpses were found for more than six years. It was formerly occupied by a jeweler, who underlet the upper rooms to various persons. The house was the property of Madame L. She became dissatisfied with the abuse of the premises by her tenant, and moved into them herself, refusing to let any portion. The old lady was childish. Witness had seen the daughter some five or six times during the six years. The two lived an exceedingly retired life – were reputed to have money. Had heard it said among the neighbors that Madame L. told fortunes – did not believe it. Had never seen any person enter the door except the old lady and her daughter, a porter once or twice, and a physician some eight or ten times.

“莫畢磊，烟草商，表明過去四年他慣常賣小量烟草和鼻烟給利斯班女士。他在附近出生長大，一直住在那裏。死者和女兒住在那棟她們屍體被發現的房子有六年以上。之前是位珠寶商住，他又把上層的房間分租別人。房子由利女士所擁有。她看不過自己的房子被房客這麼濫用，於是自己住進來，拒絕分租任何部分。老女士心情幼稚。六年之間，證人看過那女兒五，六次。母女倆過著極其隱居的生活，據說有錢。聽鄰居說利女士靠相命為生 – 但是自己不相信。從沒有看過其他人進入，除了母女倆本人之外，以及一，兩次抬東西進去的人，或者醫生，他倒是進去八九次左右。

“Many other persons, neighbors, gave evidence to the same effect. No one was spoken of as frequenting the house. It was not known whether there were any living connexions of Madame L. and her daughter. The shutters of the front windows were seldom opened. Those in the rear were always closed, with the exception of the large back room, fourth story. The house was a good house – not very old.

“其他許多人，或者鄰居，都是這麼作見證。沒有任何據稱常來造訪的。沒有人知道母女倆有沒有任何活著的親人。房子前方的百葉窗簾幾乎不曾打開。後頭的一直關著，除了四樓後頭那個大房間的。房子很好 – 不舊。

“Insidore Muset, gendarme, deposed that he was called to the house about three o’clock in the morning, and found some twenty or thirty persons at the gateway, endeavoring to gain admittance. Forced it open, at length, with a bayonet – not with a crowbar. Had but little difficulty in getting it open, on account of its being a double or folding gate, and bolted neither at bottom nor top. The shrieks were continued until the gate was forced – and then suddenly ceased. They seemed to be screams of some person (or persons) in great agony – were loud and drawn out, not short and quick. Witness led the way upstairs. Upon reaching the first landing, heard two voices in loud and angry contention – the one a gruff voice, the other much shriller – a very strange voice. Could distinguish some words of the former, which

was that of a Frenchman. Was positive that it was not a woman's voice. Could distinguish the words 'sacre' and 'diable.' The shrill voice was that of a foreigner. Could not be sure whether it was the voice of a man or of a woman. Could not make out what was said, but believed the language to be Spanish. The state of the room and of the bodies was described by this witness as we described them yesterday.

“憲兵穆因襲表明他凌晨三點左右被叫道這房子的地方，到達的時候看到二三十個人在門口的地方想要開門而入。終於用一隻刺刀強行打開，而不是用十字鎬。強行開門並不很難，因為只是雙邊的門，或者是摺疊的門，門上方或者門下方並沒有扣住。大門被強行打開的時候尖叫聲還繼續，——之後突然停止。聽起來是某個人（或者某些人）十分痛苦的尖叫聲——很大聲而且拉長的聲音，不是短暫而快速的。證人帶領群眾上樓，到達第一層樓梯頂端的時候，聽到兩個生氣大聲爭吵的聲音——一個聲音粗暴，另一個比較似尖叫——很奇怪的聲音。第一個聲音所講的字能夠辨識幾個，是法國男人的聲音。能確定不是女人的聲音。可以聽見'sacre'和'diable'兩字。尖叫聲是個外國人的聲音。不確定是男是女。也不確定說的是什麼，但是相信是西班牙文。房間和尸體的狀況如我們昨天所述。

“Henry Duval, a neighbor, and by trade a silversmith, deposes that he was one of the party who first entered the house. Corroborates the testimony of Muset in general. As soon as they forced an entrance, they reclosed the door, to keep out the crowd, which collected very fast, notwithstanding the lateness of the hour. The shrill voice, this witness thinks, was that of an Italian. Was certain it was not French. Could not be sure that it was a man's voice. It might have been a woman's. Was not acquainted with the Italian language. Could not distinguish the words, but was convinced by the intonation that the speaker was an Italian. Knew Madame L. and her daughter. Had conversed with both frequently. Was sure that the shrill was not that of either of the deceased.

“杜亨利，一位鄰居，銀匠，表明他是首先進入房子的其中之一。和穆所述相同。他們一強行入門，把門又關起來阻擋人群，人眾聚集的很快，儘管時候這麼早。那個尖聲的聲音，他認為是意大利人。確定不是發文。不確定是男人的聲音。可能是女人的。自己不熟悉意大利文。不能分辨單子，但是由抑揚頓挫，判斷講話的人是意大利人。認識利女士和她女兒。常和她們講話。確定尖叫聲不是她們。

“— Odenheimer; restaurateur. This witness volunteered his testimony. Not speaking French, was examined through an interpreter. Is native of Amsterdam. Was passing the house at the time of the shrieks. They lasted for several minutes — probably ten. They were long and loud — very awful and distressing. Was one of those who entered the building. Corroborated the previous evidence in every respect but one. Was sure that the shrill voice was that of a man — of a Frenchman. Could not distinguish the words uttered. They were loud and quick — unequal — spoken apparently in fear as well as in anger. The voice was harsh — not too much shrill as harsh. Could not call it a shrill voice. The gruff voice said repeatedly 'sacre,' 'diable,' and once 'mon Dieu.'

“— 歐鼎和；餐館生意人。這位證人自願作證。不懂法文，經由翻譯作證。阿姆斯特丹人。尖叫聲發出的時候正好經過。尖叫聲有數分鐘之久——大約十分鐘。聲音長而且大聲——很恐怖而且沮喪。他也是進入房子的一員。與前述證人證詞幾乎完全一致，唯有以下一件不同。他確定發出尖聲者為男人——一位法國人。不能分辨所講的字。講話聲大聲而且快速——音量與速度不均——是害怕而且

生氣時所講的話。聲音粗糙刺耳 – 與其說尖銳，還不如說刺耳。不能說是刺耳的聲音。粗糙的聲音重複地說 ‘sacre,’ ‘diable,’ 也講了一次 ‘mon Dieu.’

“Jules Mignaud, banker, of the firm of Mignaud et Fils, Rue Deloraine. Is the elder Mignaud. Madame L’Espanaye had some property. Had opened an account with his banking house in the spring of the year – (eight years previously). Made frequent deposits in small sums. Had checked for nothing until the third day before her death, when she took in person the sum of 4000 francs. This sum was paid in gold, and a clerk went home with the money.

“米久立，銀行家，蒂洛街費民奧銀行。該行父子老闆其中的父老闆。利斯班女士有些財產。在他的銀行開有戶頭，今年春季開的戶頭（前次是八年之前）。常常小額存款。一直沒有查她的賬戶，一直到死前三天才來提出四萬法郎。該款是由金幣付的，銀行有個行員幫她把錢拿回家。

“Adolphe le Bon, clerk to Mignaud et Fils, deposes that on the day in question, about noon, he accompanied Madame L’Espanaye to her residence with the 4000 francs, put up in two bags. Upon the door being opened, Mademoiselle L. appeared and took from his hands one of the bags, while the old lady relieved him of the other. He then bowed and departed. Did not see any person in the street at the time. It is a bye-street – very lonely.

“彭阿斗，費民奧銀行行員，表明那天大約中午時分，她陪伴利斯班女士替她把四萬法郎拿回住所，那是分成兩個袋子裝的。門開起來的時候，利小姐從他手中拿過一支袋子，老女士拿去另外那支。他隨後敬禮候離去。在街上沒看到任何人。那是一條旁街，很寂寞。

“William Bird, tailor, deposes that he was one of the party who entered the house. Is an Englishman. Has lived in Paris two years. Was one of the first to ascend the stairs. Heard the voices in contention. The gruff voice was that of a Frenchman. Could make out several words, but cannot now remember all. Heard distinctly ‘sacre’ and ‘mon Dieu.’ There was a sound at the moment as if of several persons struggling – a scraping and scuffling sound. The shrill voice was very loud – louder than the gruff one. Is sure that it was not the voice of an Englishman. Appeared to be that of a German. Might have been a woman’s voice. Does not understand German.

“勃威廉，裁縫，表明他是進入房子者其中之一。英國人。住在巴黎兩年。第一個上了樓梯者之一。聽到爭論之聲。粗糙的聲音是法國人的聲音。可以聽出幾個字，但是不全記得了。清楚聽到 ‘sacre’ 和 ‘mon Dieu.’ 那首有一個聲音好像是幾個人在掙扎 – 刮去什麼和扭打的聲音。尖叫聲很大聲 – 比粗糙聲大聲許多。可以確定尖叫聲不是那個英國人的聲音。好像是德國人。有可能是女人的聲音。他自己不懂德文。

“Four of the above-named witnesses, being recalled, deposed that the door of the chamber in which was found the body of Mademoiselle L. was locked on the inside when the party reached it. Everything was perfectly silent – no groans or noises of any kind. Upon forcing the door no person was seen. The windows, both of the back and the front room, were down and firmly fastened from within. A door between the two rooms was closed, but not locked. The door leading from the front room into the passage was locked, with the key on the inside. A small room in the front of the house, on the fourth story, at the head of the passage was open, the door being ajar. This room was crowded with olde beds, boxes and so forth. These were carefully removed and searched. There was not an inch of any portion of the house which was not carefully searched. Sweeps were sent up and down the chimneys. The house

was a four-story one, with garrets (mansards.) A trap-door on the roof was nailed down very securely – did not appear to have been opened for years. The time elapsing between the hearing of the voices in contention and the breaking open of the room door, was variously stated by the witnesses. Some made it as short as three minutes – some as long as five. The door was opened with difficulty.

“上述四位證人在再次作證時，皆表發現利小姐的屍體那間房間他們到達時是從裏面鎖著的。一切完全沉寂 – 也沒有痛苦哽咽之聲，也沒有任何其他聲音。他們硬行打開門時，沒看到任何人。所有的窗子，不論是前面房間或者後面房間的，都是從裏面牢牢鎖住的。兩個房間之間的門則是關著的，但是沒有鎖。從前面的房間到走道的門鎖著，鑰匙在裏面。房子前面四樓最前方的一個小房子開著一個縫隙。房子裏面擠滿了舊床，箱子，盒子等等。所有這些都被仔細移開搜尋。房子每一吋地方都被仔細搜尋過。烟囪也是拿掃帚上下搜刮了好幾次。屋子為四層，有閣樓。屋頂的一個活動門牢牢地釘住 – 看起來有好幾年沒被打開過。從吵架結束的時間開始一直到門被強行打開為止到底多久，每個證人的口述不一。有些說三分鐘 – 有些說五分鐘。門非常困難地才被打開。

“Alfonzo Garcio, undertaker, deposes that he resides in the Rue Morgue. Is a native of Spain. Was one of the party who entered the house. Did not proceed upstairs. Is nervous and was apprehensive of the consequences of agitation. Heard the voices in contention. The gruff voice was that of a Frenchman. Could not distinguish what was said. The shrill voice was that of an Englishman – is sure of this. Does not understand the English language, but judges by the intonation.

“賈豐實，殯儀館工作，表明他住墨街。西班牙人。進入房子者之一。沒有上樓。緊張，而且擔心自己受刺激的結果。他聽到爭論之聲。粗糙聲屬於法國人。不知道說的是什麼。尖聲則是英國人的聲音 – 他很確定。不懂英文，但是由抑揚頓挫確定的。

“Alberto Montani, confectioner, deposes that he was among the first to ascend the stairs. Heard the voices in question. The gruff voice was that of a Frenchman. Distinguished several words. The speaker appeared to be expostulating. Could not make out the words of the shrill voice. Spoke quick and unevenly. Thinks it the voice of a Russian. Corroborates the general testimony. Is an Italian. Never conversed with a native of Russia.

“蒙伯特，點心廚子，表明自己是上樓者之一。聽到爭論之聲。粗糙聲屬於法國人。聽得出幾個字。講話的人顯然在告誡什麼。尖聲說的是什麼則沒有概念。講話快速而遲緩不一。認為是俄國人。對一般證詞表示贊同。意大利人。沒有和俄國人交談過。

“Several witnesses, recalled, here testified that the chimneys of all the rooms on the fourth story were too narrow to admit the passage of a human being. By ‘sweeps’ were meant cylindrical sweeping brushes, such as are employed by those who clean chimneys. These brushes were passed up and down every flue in the house. There is no back passage by which any one could have descended while the party proceeded upstairs. The body of Mademoiselle L’Espanaye was so firmly wedged in the chimney that it could not be got down until four or five of the party united their strength.

“幾位證人再度作證之時，都證言四樓所有烟囪都太小，不能容下一個人。他們說‘掃’是指用清理烟囪者所使用的圓柱形刷子。這種刷子被人用來清潔房子的每一個排烟管。他們上樓的時候，沒

有後面的通道能夠讓任何人走下去的。利斯班小姐的屍體牢牢地被擠在煙囪裏面，必須他們四，五位來到樓上的人一起出力才拉得下來。

“Paul Dumas, physician, deposes that he was called to view the bodies about daybreak. They were both then lying on the sacking of the bedstead in the chamber where Mademoiselle L. was found. The corpse of the young lady was much bruised and excoriated. The fact that it had been thrust up the chimney would sufficiently account of these appearances. The throat was greatly chafed. There were several deep scratches just below the chin, together with a series of livid spots which were evidently the impression of fingers. The face was fearfully discolored, and the eye-balls protruded. The tongue has been partially bitten through. A large bruise was discovered upon the pit of the stomach, produced, apparently, by the pressure of a knee. In the opinion of M. Dumas, Mademoiselle L’Espanaye had been throttled to death by some person or persons unknown. The corpse of the mother was horrible mutilated. All the bones of the right leg and arm were more or less shattered. The left tibia much splintered, as well as all the ribs of the left side. Whole body dreadfully bruised and discolored. It was not possible to say how the injuries had been inflicted. A heavy club of wood, or a broad bar of iron -- a chair -- any large, heavy, and obtuse weapon would have produced such results, if wielded by the hands of a very powerful man. No woman could have inflicted the blows with any weapon. The head of the deceased, when seen by witness, was entirely separated from the body, and was also greatly shattered. The throat had evidently been cut with some very sharp instrument -- probably with a razor.

“杜保羅，醫生，表明他大約凌晨的時候被叫去驗尸。兩個屍體都在利小姐被發現的那個房間的床架上所放置的袋子上。小姐的屍體有許多瘀傷以及剝傷。由她被硬擠上煙囪這件事實可以解釋這些這些所看見的傷害。喉嚨嚴重磨擦。臉頰往下的地方有幾道很深的傷口，也有幾處土色地方顯然是手指頭留下來的印子。臉色慘白得恐怖，眼球突出。舌頭有一半被咬穿了。肚子凹下的地方有一處嚴重的瘀傷，顯然是膝蓋的壓力造成的。根據杜醫師的意見，李小姐是被一個人或者幾個人掐死的。母親的屍體被恐怖地亂割。右邊上下肢大致上都碎斷了。左脛骨大致上碎了，左邊所有的肋骨也都如此。整個身體瘀傷而慘白。無法描述這些傷害如何造成。木製的大棍子，或者寬鐵棒－椅子－任何夠大，夠重，鈍的東西，只要是由一個有力的人的手都可能造成這樣的結果。女人不肯能用任何上述的武器造成這些損害的。證人看到的時候，死者的頭是完全和身體分離的，也是摔爛了似的。喉嚨顯然是由非常銳利的工具割的－可能是刀片。

“Alexandre Etienne, surgeon, was called with M. Dumas to view the bodies. Corroborated the testimony, and the opinions of M. Dumas.

“田歷山，外科醫師，和杜醫師一同被叫去驗尸。同意這證詞，也同意杜醫師的意見。

“Nothing farther of importance was elicited, although several other persons were examined. A murder so mysterious, and so perplexing in all its particulars, was never before committed in Paris -- if indeed a murder has been committed at all. The police are entirely at fault -- an unusual occurrence in affairs of this nature. There is not, however, the shadow of the clew apparent.”

“除了以上所述，儘管又叫了數位證人，但是沒有提出任何其他細節。如此神秘而且令人困惑的謀殺案在巴黎從來沒有過－假如我們真的認為這是一場謀殺的話。因為這是屬於這種特殊性質的非常事件，警局要負完全責任。但是到底是為什麼發生的，連半點影子都沒有。”

The evening edition of the paper stated that the greatest excitement still continued in the Quartier St. Roch – that the premises in question had been carefully re-searched, and fresh examination of witnesses instituted, but all to no purpose. A postscript, however, mentioned that Adolphe Le Bon had been arrested and imprisoned – although nothing appeared to criminate him, beyond the facts already detailed.

晚報報導聖茹區神秘謀殺命案仍然極其令人不解 – 案發地點再度被仔細搜尋，再度找證人來從新作證，但是都沒有結果。報導之後有個附記，是說彭阿斗被逮捕下獄 – 儘管並沒有任何蹟象能證明他有罪，事實已如前述。

Dupin seemed singularly interested in the progress of this affair – at least so I judged from his manner, for he made no comments. It was only after the announcement that Le Bon had been imprisoned, that he asked me my opinion respecting the murders.

從我觀察他的態度，老杜只是對案情的發展感興趣，因為他沒說什麼。是彭阿斗被關起來之後，他才問我對這起案件有什麼看法。

I could merely agree with all Paris in considering them an insoluble mystery. I saw no means by which it would be possible to trace the murderer.

我嘛，就像所有巴黎人一樣，只好認為這個案件是個沒法解釋的謎。我看不出有什麼辦法能追溯這起案件的謀殺者。

“We must not judge of the means,” said Dupin, “by this shell of an examination. The Parisian police, so much extolled for acumen, are cunning, but no more. There is no method in their proceedings, beyond the method of the moment. They make a vast parade of measures; but, not unfrequently, these are so ill adapted to the objects proposed, as to put us in mind of Monsieur Jourdain’s calling for his robe-de-chambre – pour mieux entendre la musique. The results attained by them are not unfrequently surprising, but, for the most part, are brought about by simple diligence and activity. When these qualities are unavailing, their schemes fail. Vidocq, for example, was a good guesser and a persevering man. But, without educated thought, he erred continually by the very intensity of his investigations. He impaired his vision by holding the object too close. He might see, perhaps, one or two points with unusual clearness, but in so doing he, necessarily, lost sight of the matter as a whole. Thus there is such a thing as being too profound. Truth is not always in a well. In fact, as regards the more important knowledge, I do believe that she is invariably superficial. The depth lies in the valleys where we seek her, and not upon the mountain tops where she is found. The modes and sources of this kind of error are well typified in the contemplation of the heavenly bodies. To look at a star by glances – to view it in a side-long way, by turning toward it in the exterior portions of the retina (more susceptible of feeble impressions of light than the interior), is to behold the star distinctly – is to have the best appreciation of its luster – a luster which grows dim just in proportion as we turn our vision fully upon it. A greater number of rays actually fall upon the eye in the latter case, but, in the former, there is the more refined capacity for comprehension. By undue profundity we perplex and enfeeble thought; and it is possible to make even Venus herself vanish from the firmament by scrutiny too sustained, too concentrated, or too direct.

“我們不能只憑方法來判斷，”老杜說，“只憑這麼調查一下做出的空殼子。巴黎的警察局，人家稱譽他們能幹，是很奸猾，沒錯，但是也不過如此。他們除了眼前所見，無所謂循循漸進的方法。他們倒是很會大肆炫耀他們的做法；但是呢，完全沒有針對實際情況來調整，以便成就實效，這個令人想起約旦先生要他的袍子這個寓言了一來聽音樂。他們得到的結果往往也令人驚訝，但是，話說回來，只是他們一分耕耘一份收穫，不多不少。也就是說，假如他們沒有辦法耕耘，就沒有辦法收穫什麼。維多，舉個例說，猜測能力很好，而且意志堅決。從另一個角度來看，他的思考沒有高層次的訓練，反而因為在專心調查，卻一再地犯錯。他是怎麼呢，你知道，把觀察的事務放的太近了，反而把視線搞砸了。他可能把片面的一，兩點看得格外清楚，卻沒想到就是因為這樣子，反而把全局忽視了。這也就是說，是有‘太過深奧’這回事。真理並非永遠在井裏。說真的，就一個偵探者較高層次的知識而論，真理是永遠在顯而易見的表面上。我們為了找尋她，到峽谷深處去找她，卻不到她能被我們找到的山頂上。人們對天體的觀察也是如此，犯錯的模式和來源也都如此。殊不知隨便一瞟－用餘光來看，用我們眼睛的網膜邊沿來對準它（這裏比起網膜中心部分能更容易接受暗淡的光綫），就能看清一顆星星－最能觀察出它的色澤－這個色澤呢，假如我們慢慢把眼光轉成正面看它的話，就慢慢地變成暗淡。以上的兩個觀察模式，第二種有比較多的光綫到達眼睛，但是呢，第一種模式裏，能令人理解的細緻特性反而凸顯出來。我們都犯了過分深入而忽略了細微思路的毛病；不相信你看看，你牢牢盯著她，非常專注，非常直接，水星反而從天空消失掉了。

“As for these murders, let us enter into some examinations for ourselves, before we make up an opinion respecting them. An inquiry will afford us amusement,” [I thought this an old term, so applied, but said nothing] “and, besides, Le Bon once rendered me a service for which I am not ungrateful. We will go and see the premises with our own eyes. I know G--, the Prefect of Police, and shall have no difficulty in obtaining the necessary permission.”

“至於這起謀殺案的幾件謀殺，我們親自去檢視一下才來發表意見。調查一下對我們有好處，”
【我想這是一句老生常談，但是沒作聲】“再說，老彭曾經替我做了件事，我很感激。我們一同去那房子親眼觀察一下。我認識 G-- 警察局長，要得到許可應該不難。”

The permission was obtained, and we proceeded at once to the Rue Morgue. This is one of those miserable thoroughfares which intervene between the Rue Richelieu and the Rue St. Roch. It was late in the afternoon when we reached it; as this quarter is at a great distance from that in which we resided. The house was readily found; for there were still many persons gazing up at the closed shutters, with an objectless curiosity, from the opposite of the way. It was an ordinary Parisian house, with a gateway, on one side of which was a glazed watch-box, with a sliding panel in the window, indicating a loge de concierge. Before going in we walked up the street, turned down an alley, and then, again turning, passed in the rear of the building – Dupin, meanwhile examining the whole neighborhood, as well as the house, with a minuteness of attention for which I could see no possible object. Retracing our steps, we came again to the front of the dwelling, rang, and, having shown our credentials, were admitted by the agents in charge. We went upstairs – into the chamber where the body of Mademoiselle L’Espanaye had been found, and where both the deceased still lay. The disorders of the room had, as usual, been suffered to exist. I saw nothing beyond what had been stated in the Gazette des Tribunaux. Dupin scrutinized everything – not excepting the bodies of the victims. We then went into the other rooms, and into the yard; a gendarme accompanying us throughout. The examination occupied us until dark, when

we took our departure. On our way home my companion stepped in for a moment at the office of one of the daily papers.

“我們拿到了許可，馬上前往墨街。這條街是那種連接立傑留街與聖勞克街之間的那種可憐兮兮的街道。我們到達的時候是向晚時刻；這是因為此地距離我們住的地區有一大段距離。房子一下子就找到了；有許多人在外面由對面出於漫無目的的好奇心往上看關閉的窗簾。這是一棟普通巴黎房子，大門裏有個通道，通道一邊有個裝了玻璃窗的看守亭子，窗子上面有個滑門。我們進入之前，先走上街，走進一條小巷子，又轉了一個彎，走過房子後面－老杜一面仔細觀察整個臨近地區，以及房子本身；他十分地專注，我卻什麼都不覺得有什麼好注意的。我們原路走回來，到達這住所前面，按門鈴；在出示許可證之後，被當值警察允許進入。我們走上樓，到達他們發現利小姐屍體的那個房間，兩具屍體還擺在那裏。房間裏亂七八糟的依照慣例被保持下來。我看到的跟箴言報所報導的一樣。老杜則仔細觀察，巨細不遺。之後我們到其他的房間，然後進入院子；這同時一個警察一直伴著我們。我們一直調查到天黑，然後我們離去。回家的路上，我的同伴稍稍在一家日報報社停了腳。

I have said that the whims of my friend were manifold, and that *Je les menageais*; -- for this phrase there is no English equivalent. It was his humor, now, to decline all conversation on the subject of the murder, until about noon the next day. He then asked me, suddenly, if I had observed anything peculiar at the scene of the atrocity.

“我曾經說過我的朋友心血來潮的時候，花樣十足，高深莫測；-- 這個語句在英文是找不到相當的字句的。真個是只可意會不可言傳。現在嘛，他可是靜悄悄地，對這起謀殺案隻字不提，一直到隔一天中午時分。他突然間出其不意地問我在犯罪現場我注意到什麼特別的事物沒有。

There was something in his manner of emphasizing the word “peculiar,” which caused me to shudder, without knowing why.

“他說話的時候由他的言行可以看出他在強調“特別”這個字，我一聽莫名其妙地打了個冷顫。

“No, nothing peculiar,” I said; “nothing more, at least, than we both saw stated in the paper.”

“不，沒什麼特別的，”我回答說；“至少可以這麼說，除了報紙上的報導，再也沒有什麼特別的了。”

“The Gazette,” he replied, “has not entered, I fear, into the unusual horror of the thing. But dismiss the idle opinions of this print. It appears to me that this mystery is considered insoluble, for the very reason which should cause it to be regarded as easy of solution – I mean for the outre character of its features. The police are confounded by the seeming absence of motive – not for the murder itself – but for the atrocity of the murder. They are puzzled, too, by the seeming impossibility of reconciling the voices heard in contention, with the facts that no one was discovered upstairs but the assassinated Mademoiselle L’Espanaye, and that there were no means of egress without the notice of the party ascending. The wild disorder of the room; the corpse thrust, with the head downward, up the chimney;

the frightful mutilation of the body of the old lady; these considerations, with those just mentioned, and others which I need not mention, have sufficed to paralyze the powers, by putting completely at fault the boasted acumen, of the government agents. They have fallen into the gross but common error of confounding the unusual with the abstruse. But it is by these deviations from the plane of the ordinary,

that reason feels its way, if at all, in its search for the true. In investigations such as we are now pursuing, it should not be so much asked 'what has occurred,' as 'what has occurred that has never occurred before.' In fact, the facility with which I shall arrive, or have arrived, at the solution of this mystery, is in the direct ratio of its apparent insolubility in the eyes of the police."

“公報，”他回答，“在我看，沒有談到這起案件的非同小可的恐怖性。不要去管這家報紙放的屁。在我看來，這起案件被認為不能解決的理由，事實上我們就應該認為容易解決－我是說由超越的層面去想。警局不瞭解謀殺似乎沒有動機－不是說謀殺本身－而是說謀殺的殘忍性。他們也很困惑，為什麼爭吵的時候有幾個聲音，卻又發現只有利小姐的屍體在樓上，又沒有其他下樓的通道，以至於任何人下樓的時候能躲過他們的注意力的。房間亂成一團，屍體頭下脚上地被硬行塞進烟囪裏；老女士慘不忍睹的殘傷；這個事實，加上上述，再加上我不必再講的，就足足有餘地麻痹了警察局的偵察能力，往日為人讚揚的睿智就不管用了。他們把不尋常和深奧這兩碼子事搞混了。殊不知道理就是一個人在超越尋常層面的時候摸索出來的。難怪中國人說：踏破鐵鞋無覓處，得來全不費工夫。我們面對目前這檔案件，與其探討‘發生了什麼’，還不如來探討‘發生了什麼，而從前沒有發生過的。’換句話說，對這起懸疑案件我以我的把握將下的結論，或者已經下的結論，正好跟警局認為顯然不能解決的程度構成百分之百的比例。”

I stared at the speaker in mute astonishment.

我還能怎麼樣呢，除了目瞪口呆看著老杜之外。

"I am now awaiting," continued he, looking toward the door of our apartment – "I am now awaiting a person who, although perhaps not the perpetrator of these butcheries, must have been in some measure implicated in their perpetration. Of the worst portion of the crimes committed, it is probable that he is innocent. I hope that I am right in this supposition; for upon it I build my expectation of reading the entire riddle. I look for the man here – in this room – every moment. It is true that he may not arrive; but the probability is that he will. Should he come, it will be necessary to detain him. Here are pistols; and we both know how to use them when occasion demands their use."

“我在等，”他繼續說道，一面眼光轉向公寓的門－“我在等一個人，這個人嘛，雖然不一定是謀殺者，也在某個層面上有關聯。在這起謀殺案最殘忍的部分，他可能無辜。但願我做的這個假設是正確的；我解決這個懸疑的關鍵就是以上這項假設。我預料這個人隨時會來到這個房間－就是這個房間。當然，他也可能真的不來；不過以機遇率來算他會來。他來的話，必須抓住他。這是手槍；情況必要時，我們都知道怎麼用。

I took the pistols, scarcely knowing what I did, or believing what I heard, while Dupin went on, very much as if a soliloquy. I have already spoken of his abstract manner at such times. His discourse was addressed to myself; but his voice, although by no means loud, had that intonation which is commonly employed in speaking to someone at a great distance. His eyes, vacant in expression, regarded only the wall.

我拿了手槍，不由自主地，自己在做什麼都不知道，自己聽到的是虛是幻，也不很清楚，老杜一邊好比自言自語地說話。我前面已經提過他在這種情況之下表現出來的好比是個‘杜半仙’一樣。他是跟我講話；但是他說話的聲音雖然不很大聲，卻用那種跟很遠距離的人講話一般的聲調。眼光變成虛幻，只看著牆。