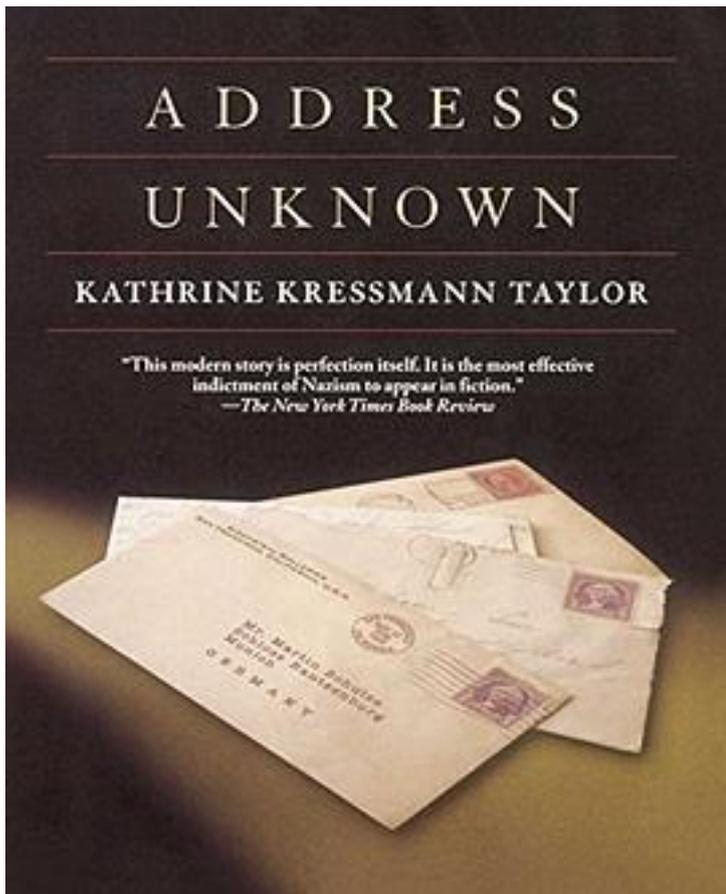


# Address Unknown



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著者:Kathrine Kressmann Taylor

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Address Unknown (1938)

(The title is actually a mistranslation of the term "Adressat unbekannt," which is marked on the last envelope. The correct translation of "Adressat" is "addressee," not

"address"; which is much more in keeping with the plot of the story.) It is the story of two German friends and business partners, art dealers in San Francisco. Martin, a gentile, returns with his family to Germany, exhilarated by the advances in the old country since the humiliation of the Great War. The Jewish partner, Max, remains in the States to keep the business going. The story is told entirely in letters between them, from 1932 to 1934, the technique used in 84 Charing Cross Road.

Martin writes about the wonderful Third Reich and this fellow Hitler. At first Max is covetous: "How I envy you! ... You go to a democratic Germany, a land with a deep culture and the beginnings of a fine political freedom."

But Max soon doubts his friend's enthusiasm, having heard from eyewitnesses who got out of Berlin that Jews were being beaten and their businesses boycotted. Martin responds, telling Max that, while they may be good friends, everybody knows that Jews have been the universal scapegoats, and "a few must suffer for the millions to be saved."

"This Jew trouble is only an incident," Martin says. "Something bigger is happening." Nonetheless, he asks Max to stop writing to him. If a letter were intercepted, he (Martin) would lose his official position and he and his family would be endangered.

Max writes anyhow when his own sister, an actress in Berlin, goes missing. He becomes frantic to learn her fate. Martin responds on bank stationery (less likely to be inspected) and tells Max his sister is dead. He admits that he turned Griselle away when she came to him, her brother's dearest friend, for sanctuary.

There is a gap of about a month. After that, Max starts writing letters to Martin at home, carrying only what looks like business and remarks about the weather, but written as though they have a hidden encoded meaning, with strange references to exact dimensions of pictures and so on. The letters refer to "our grandmother" and imply that Martin is also Jewish. The letters from Munich to San Francisco get shorter and more panicky, begging Max to stop: "My God, Max, do you know what you do? ... These letters you have sent ... are not delivered, but they bring me in and ... demand I give them the code ... I beg you, Max, no more, no more! Stop while I can be saved."

But Max continues: "Prepare these for distribution by March 24th: Rubens 12 by 77, blue; Giotto 1 by 317, green and white; Poussin 20 by 90, red and white."

At last a letter is returned to Max, stamped: Adressat unbekannt. Addressee Unknown.

The book's "Afterword," lovingly written by Mrs. Taylor's son, says that the idea for her story came from a small news article: American students in Germany wrote home with the truth about the Nazi atrocities, a truth most Americans, including Charles Lindbergh, would not accept. Fraternity brothers thought it would be funny to send them letters making fun of Hitler, and they wrote back, "Stop it. We're in danger. These people don't fool around. You could murder [someone] by writing letters to him." Thus emerged the idea of "letter as weapon" or "murder by mail."

Address Unknown was performed as a stage play in France, 2001, in Israel from 2002 (still running) and at the Promenade Theater, New York, 2004. It has also been performed in Germany, Italy, Turkey, Argentina, South Africa and in various cities of the USA.

Address Unknown (Cimzett Ismeretlen) premieres on the stage of Spinoza Haz in

Budapest, Hungary on September 6, 2008.

作者介绍:

凯瑟琳·克雷斯曼·泰勒 (Kathrine Kressmann Taylor, 1903—1996)

被誉为“撼动美国文坛的女作家”。泰勒是美国宾夕法尼亚州盖茨堡大学第一位获得终身教职的女性。她一生完成了三部小说和十余篇短篇小说。

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## 标签

English

小说

fiction

史

英文原版

文艺

KatherineKressmannTaylor

Fiction

## 评论

1938年一位女性作者用男人名字发表，可惜当时并没有引起很大关注。强推。内容就

不介绍了；篇幅极短，少刷会儿票圈就读完了。可下电子版，有中译本，BBC有有声书，还有stage play。

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一边听Peter Anders

的Winterreise一边看真是太应景了。censor.ship。同样的体裁，想起查令街84号，想起波伏瓦的《越洋情书》。想起茨维塔耶娃写给里尔克：如果我们一同被人梦见，那便是我们的相逢。——上面这句话，今天用于表达未曾谋面的情意似乎过于肤浅了

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結局很震撼，超難忘……世界真黑暗……

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結局……我還想太多了。

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《查无此人》。我觉得这并不是体现什么人性的善恶，全都是被历史的洪流裹挟的渺小的个体。对今天的意义是，生在和平年代应该珍惜自己的幸福；为保留住和平做些什么；look beyond what you see and protect your family from harm。

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的确很短，也很精彩。马丁为什么在间接害死老友妹妹（曾经的恋人）后，还奢求老友能放过他？答案只能是，他相信自己没做错，相信曾经的恋人该死。对比看路西法实验，人本质上大概真的是从众也爱权威的。

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還以為是為了避免censorship才寫了歌頌hitler的話 沒想到. 後續發展也很是厲害. 1938年第一次發表 80年後看還是很讓人警醒.

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非常精彩

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## 书评

五十多页一波三折，只是几封短短的通信，但却能让人从中看出玄机，看出一身冷汗。全书的两次查无此人，丝丝入扣。压抑的政治环境、友情的微妙变化、为爱情牺牲的少女、出人意料的结局，错综复杂的人性.....

“人性就是在一定社会制度和一定历史条件下形成的人的本性。” 人性...

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故事很短，但沉重得让人窒息，真实得让人落泪。

只是几封短短的通信，但却能让人从中看出玄机，看出一身冷汗。

一波三折，马丁和麦克斯都发生了改变。马丁被纳粹洗脑，被生活逼迫到冷血无情；麦克斯因格里塞尔的死激发出内心最恐怖的恶魔，变成了他最反对的施暴的样子。两次...

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某个晚上从一电台聆听到这本书的1分钟介绍。内容十分吸引，于是自助图书馆借回来。很薄的一本，这个版本豆瓣找不到，也没有看其他版本，不知道翻译如何。但由于仅仅约20封信，可能翻译好坏没有起到很关键的因素。【为何马丁会如此转变？】

作者说她之所以写这部小说正是因为...

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与《查令十字街84号》形式相似，都是以书信组成全文，但是两者风格截然不同，《查令》读完，让我感觉到温暖，而这本书读完，则是噬骨的寒意，从头到脚的寒毛竖起来了，紧接着就是悲伤，再然后就是对那段历史的思考。

故事发生的背景是在一战之后，德国损伤惨重，纳粹分子趁虚而...

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短短40分钟，认真读完。当翻到“查无此人”页面时。

犹如一扇厚厚的铁门！哐当！关上了所有未来。

不得不仔细再次推敲一封封书信，闭上眼设身处地地幻想，惶恐、绝望、渴求……纸上依稀浮现。

真实的书信，黑色的邮戳，如此真实的反应，对二位主人公的心里变化确实感到震撼，

...

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1.为结束绝望，我们常常被带往疯狂的方向。

2.如果未来结果是对的，这些事就会过去，并且被遗忘，历史会书写崭新的一页。

3.我的朋友，也许我们正在成为伟大事件的一部分，也许只是为我的小家庭寻找出路，但永远别忘记友谊。4.也许在将来的某一天，我们会在一种更好的互相谅...

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生在和平年代真心是祖国给我最好的礼物，这是我看完这本书当即最大的感受，薄薄的一本，看完还用不到一个小时，但是合上书之后却带给了我久久的震撼。

书中两次查无此人完美诠释了在大灾大难面前人性是多么经不起考验，无论是曾经的爱情还是现在的友情，在生命受到威胁的时候都...

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搬家的时候清理旧物，翻出了小学到初中的信件与贺卡。信封微黄，贺卡褪色，写信人已杳无音讯，收件人已物是人非。只是重读的时候便在感慨，曾经单纯而真挚的你我何时才能重现？

寄过信件的我们知晓，当收件人错误或者无法联系时，便会退回然后写上“查无此人”之类的话语。时...

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故事很短，只是用身在德国的马丁和居住在美国的犹太人麦克斯之间的19封书信凑成了一个短篇故事，结果却让人一惊——一封来自德国的退信，信封上有着“查无此人”的戳印。马丁被纳粹洗脑成为了冷血无情的人，麦克斯因妹妹格里塞尔的死激发了内心的恶，用曾经反对的方式替妹...

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看完书的第一感受是“我看完了？竟然查无此人了”，然后突然恍然大悟，果然，马丁已经被害死了吧……亲如兄弟的两人，在严峻的政治背景下开始出现分歧，尤其是马丁在短短的时间内真的像变了一个人一样，从一个善良的人变成了一个狂热的爱国主义者，是否真的狂热不知道，但是真...

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不到两万字的内容。模拟出了我心中的对某种“不久可能”的恐惧；甚至部分的，是对某些“已经/正在发生”的困惑。写法当然很讨巧，不过节奏上感觉多少有点过快（也许是主观上不愿意接受），未免有“上帝视角”。不过也说不定，所谓“心路历程”，并不是什么匀速运动，许多转向/...

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此书成书于1938年9月，以书信体的方式讲述了两个人由亲如一家到决裂到一方要致一方于死地的故事。通过两人互通的信件，我们知道麦克斯和马丁原来共同在美国经营一家画廊。他们是多年的老友，经常聚在一起品美酒佳肴，在炉边促膝谈心，能相互理解。即便是马丁放弃了麦克斯妹妹...

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