

简易英语注释读物



A CRACK IN THE DAM

大坝上的裂缝

外语教学与研究出版社

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内 容 提 要

英国威尔士某地新建水坝，工程由威尔士建筑业巨头 乔治·克隆比承包。他通过向政府官员行贿等手段，违法使用被政府宣布禁用的 DG₄ 型号水泥。

青年建筑师约翰·法兴发现了这个秘密后，对此进行了调查。有一天英籍波兰人伊伐尔·扬柯夫斯基发现大坝出现裂缝，及时报警，全体村民在约翰、小学教师理查德和村警埃德温的协助下安全脱险。

事后，约翰向警方揭露此事真相，乔治等资本家被捕判刑，与本案有牵连的政府要员也被迫辞职。

本书故事生动紧张，文字明白浅显，可供具有初等或中等英语程度的学生或自学者阅读。本书除每页酌加注释外，另附有词汇表 中华人民共和国教育部编《一九八〇年全国高等学校招生考试复习大纲英语常用词汇表》上所没有的词均已列入。

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1 Ivor's dream

Ivor Jankowski⁽¹⁾ had been a Welshman at heart for more than thirty years. Although born in Poland, in a small village outside Warsaw, he had lived in the valleys of Wales since the War⁽²⁾. He had come to love the people⁽³⁾ for their kindness, their friendliness and, above all, their sense of independence. A Welshman was proud of being Welsh, and Ivor felt proud too, for he was now one of them. His real name was Stefan⁽⁴⁾ Jankowski but—after the day when he tried to speak a few words of the Welsh language in the local pub⁽⁵⁾—everyone called him Ivor.

One thing which had remained with Ivor from his early days in Poland was a sense of doom. He had been forced to run away from his native country

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1. Ivor Jankowski [aɪvə ʒɑŋ'kɒvski]; 伊伐尔·扬柯夫斯基。
 2. the War, 指第二次世界大战。
 3. He had come...people, 他终于爱上了当地的人民。
 4. Stefan ['stefən], 斯坦芬。
 5. pub, 小酒馆; 是public house 的口语形式。

during the war and had arrived in England, a penniless young man of eighteen.

Even now, as he worked happily in his tiny garden among his bean and tomato plants, he could not help thinking that his present life was all a dream.⁽¹⁾ One day some disaster would again threaten to strike him down⁽²⁾. He did not often mention his fears to the friends he had made in the Welsh mining village where he lived. But every now and again he would start to discuss his past life in Poland,⁽³⁾ and the memories of all that he had suffered would make him stop suddenly and tremble.

Ivor lived in a row of cottages near the bakery, in a village that lay at the foot of steep hills on the eastern side of the valley. High above, as a reminder of the progress that man had made since the days when Ivor was a child, was a huge dam.⁽⁴⁾ It had been built with the sweat of Welsh working

1. he could not help...dream: 他禁不住把目前的生活也看作完全是一场梦。can (或 could) not help 意为“不可避免”，“禁不住”。
2. to strike him down: 把他搞垮。
3. But every now...Poland. 他常常一谈就谈到自己在波兰的生活。would 表示过去的习惯，有“回想的心情”的意味。
4. High above...dam. 居高临下的是一个巨大的水坝，它是从伊伐尔孩提时候起直到目前人类所取得的进步的标志。

men from that same valley, while young, well-dressed architects and engineers came from the big towns to watch their planning dreams come true.

Unlike the buildings which were put up when mining was the main industry of the village, and were now no longer used, the dam was a thing of beauty⁽¹⁾. It looked strong. It had been built a year before and was no longer the main subject of conversation in the sitting-rooms of the houses hundreds of feet below. Like most people, Ivor had got used to it⁽²⁾ and continued his quiet life, living alone with his cat, Tobias⁽³⁾, and earning money from doing odd jobs for people⁽⁴⁾. He had always been good with his hands.

Only the local school teacher, Richard Jones⁽⁵⁾, hated the dam. He loved the natural beauty of the valley and wanted to keep it as it was⁽⁶⁾. He was so keen on defending it from the bulldozers and lor-

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1. a thing of beauty, 此处指宏伟壮观的建筑物。
 2. Ivor had got...it, 伊伐尔对它也已经习以为常了。get (或 be) used to 意为“习惯于...”。这里的 to 是介词。
 3. Tobias [to'baɪəs], 托拜厄斯 (猫名)。
 4. earning...people, 靠帮人家干点另活挣钱。
 5. Richard Jones [ri'tʃəd dʒəʊnz], 理查德·琼斯。
 6. to keep it as it was, 保持原来的样子。

ries⁽¹⁾ that every day, while the dam was being built, he used to ride his bicycle up to where the men were working and ask them please to go away and leave his valley alone.

The workers called him 'that madman' and laughed at him. They had no intention of stopping their work. After all, they were all earning plenty of money.

Like Ivor, Richard Jones was unmarried and lived alone. He was a very good teacher. The children were very fond of him. They loved it when he took them out on his famous 'nature walks'.⁽²⁾ He could tell them anything they wanted to know about wild animals, insects, trees and birds.

Ivor enjoyed talking to him. He liked to listen as Richard described the habits of insects. Although the school teacher was a much younger man than himself, Ivor had a great respect for him.

One day, at noon, Ivor walked into the local pub, The Horse and Dragon⁽³⁾, looking very worried. Richard was sitting at the bar having a drink before

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1. He...lorries, 他热衷于保护河谷的天然美景, 使之不受到推土机和卡车的骚扰。
 2. They... 'nature walks'. 小学生们喜欢他带他们去作愉快的“在大自然中的散步”。it 指的是后面整个的意思。
 3. The Horse and Dragon, 龙马酒馆。

the children returned to school from their lunch. Ivor sat down next to him without saying a word.

'Good morning,' said Richard.

Ivor made no reply. The publican's wife, Maisy Price⁽¹⁾, asked, 'Are you feeling ill, Ivor? You are so silent today.'

Ivor shook his head, but still made no attempt to speak⁽²⁾. He just stared down at his hands.

'My dear Ivor,' said Richard, placing a hand on his shoulder. 'What is wrong? You look terrible.'⁽³⁾

'I have had a dream,' said Ivor in a quiet voice.

'Have a drink and tell us about it,' said the publican, Stan Price.⁽⁴⁾ 'It can't be as bad as all that.'⁽⁵⁾

Ivor sighed. 'We're all doomed,'⁽⁶⁾ he said.

Maisy looked up. 'It must have been a bad dream,'⁽⁷⁾ she said. 'Come on, Ivor, tell us what happened.'

The other people in the pub gathered round Ivor.

'It was the dam,' he said, turning to Richard, 'I saw a huge hole in the middle. Water was pouring

1. Maisy Price ['meizi prais]; 美茜·普赖斯。

2. but still made no attempt to speak; 但仍不想说话。

3. You look terrible. 你的气色很不好。

4. Stan [stæn] Price; 斯坦·普赖斯。

5. It can't be...that. 不至于会那么糟吧。

6. We're all doomed. 咱们都要完蛋了。

7. It...dream. 准是个恶梦。

out, tons and tons of it, and rushing down the valley towards me.'

'I hope your dreams don't come true,'⁽¹⁾ said Maisy. She looked out of the window quickly to make sure they were not about to be drowned⁽²⁾ in a mountain of water.

'Well,' said Richard, 'I shouldn't worry about it.'⁽³⁾ I often dream about the dam.'

Ivor gave him a strange look. 'You must always pay attention to a dream,' he said. 'We must do something.'

'Now don't be silly'⁽⁴⁾ said the publican. 'That dam is as safe as this pub. It won't fall down in a hundred years. The trouble with you, Ivor, is that you worry too much. I expect one or two people here have thought that they have seen the dam falling apart, after an evening's drinking, but it's still there in the morning!'⁽⁵⁾

1. I hope...true. 我希望你的梦不会变成真事。在 hope 后面的从句中, 用现在时表示将来。
2. they...drowned. 他们不会被淹死。be about to 表示将来的动作, 仅用于不带感情色彩的描写。
3. I...it. 我才不操这份心呢。
4. Now don't be silly. 别发傻。这里的 now 表示说话者的语气, 含有祈使的意思。
5. I expect...morning! 我倒真希望这儿有个把人, 喝了一晚上酒以后, 想入非非, 以为他看到大坝垮了, 可第二天早晨, 大坝还在那儿。

Everyone laughed except Ivor. He got up and walked towards the door. Richard tried to persuade him to have a drink, but Ivor refused. He was in no mood for human company.⁽¹⁾ He was sure that the dream had been a warning and that something had to be done.

Ivor walked straight home. He sat down in the armchair covered by an old bedspread, that he had brought over from Poland, and bowed his head. His cat, Tobias, jumped down from the window-sill where he had been lying in the sun and curled up on his knees.

On a low table across from him, on the other side of the room, was a photograph of his mother and father. It was in a leather frame. They were standing together, holding hands, beside an oak tree which Ivor used to climb when he was a child. Both of his parents had been killed during the war. He had no brothers or sisters. He was all alone. He had not heard from anyone in Poland for about ten years.⁽²⁾ Probably everyone he knew was dead by now.⁽³⁾

Suddenly Ivor got up. The cat, taken by surprise,⁽⁴⁾

1. He was...company. 他没有心思跟别人在一起。

2. He...years. 十年来他没有收到过来自波兰的信。

3. by now; 此刻; 现在。

4. taken by surprise; 吃了一惊; 吓了一跳。

jumped to the floor and watched his master through half-closed eyes. Ivor stood by the window looking out at his winter cabbages for a moment. Then he hurried out of the house, looking neither right nor left. It seemed that he had made up his mind about something.

A couple of people⁽¹⁾ said a friendly 'Hello!' as he hurried down the street, but Ivor did not seem to hear them. The sun shone on his face and he pulled his cap down over his eyes.⁽²⁾ At the end of the village street he turned right and knocked on the door of a small red-brick house. It was the home of the local policeman, Constable Edwin Evans.⁽³⁾

Constable Evans was a family man.⁽⁴⁾ He had three daughters and two sons, and no one in the village imagined that Constable Evans would stop at only five children. He liked to boast of wanting a family of equal numbers of sons and daughters.⁽⁵⁾ So his wife Meg's main ambition in life was to produce

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1. a couple of people, 几个人, of 后名词用复数。在当代英语中 of 可省, couple 当形容词用, 如: a couple cups of coffee.
2. he pulled...eyes, 他把帽沿往下拉了拉, 压在眉毛上。
3. Edwin Evans ['edwin 'evənz], 埃德温·伊文思。
4. a family man, 有家累的人; 喜好家庭生活的人。
5. He like...daughters, 他喜欢夸口, 说要建立一个子女同数的家庭。

such a family. ⁽¹⁾

Constable Evans was a large, friendly man, keen on his job. ⁽²⁾ However, nothing in the nature of real crime ⁽³⁾ ever happened in the village. Once in a while there were drunks who tried to start a fight but, at the sight of the solid form of Evans ⁽⁴⁾ standing over them, even the most violent men soon began to apologise.

'Meg,' he would say to his wife, 'all is quiet in the village. No one wants to fight with someone like me.'

While Ivor was hurrying towards his house, Constable Evans was sorting through his files. ⁽⁵⁾ He had kept a list of everything that had happened during his time in the village over a period of ten years. It was not a particularly long list but Constable Evans was still proud of his work. He liked, every now and again, to think over past victories and crimes which had been successfully solved. ^(附)

1. So his wife...family. 所以他妻子美琪平生最大的抱负就是建立这样一个家庭。was to produce 即 be + 动词不定式, 表示计划、安排或约定将要进行的动作。
2. keen on his job: 热爱本职工作。
3. in the nature of real crime: 真正的犯罪行为。
4. at the sight...Evans: 一见伊文思那结实的体格。
5. Constable Evans...files. 村警伊文思正在查阅档案材料。

There was the time⁽¹⁾ when the minister of the local church had seen a school boy creeping into the church late one evening. Constable Evans had followed him and found the boy smoking a cigarette in the corner.

'It wasn't against the law to smoke cigarettes in church,' he said to his wife afterwards, 'but it needed a man in my position to know what to do.'⁽²⁾

He was just about to read the file on the local butcher who had reported a missing leg of pork when there was a loud knocking on the front door.⁽³⁾

'People never learn to ring bells,' he said to himself. Ivor kept knocking.

'All right, I'm coming! I'm coming! Stop that knocking!' shouted Constable Evans.

He opened the door to find Ivor looking badly upset.⁽⁴⁾

'Well now, Mr Jankowski,' said Constable Evans. He always spoke to people in a formal manner when he was in uniform and he was hardly ever out of it.⁽⁵⁾ 'What's all this knocking about? Anyone would

1. There was the time, 也有过这样的時候。
2. but it needed...do. 但是需要有一个象我这样地位的人, 懂得怎样去处理这类事件。
3. when there was...door, 忽然前门传来很响的敲门声, when 后置是为了强调动作的突然性。
4. he was hardly...it, 他不穿制服的时候很少。

think the world was coming to an end.'⁽¹⁾

Ivor opened his mouth and the words came rushing out.⁽²⁾ It was as if he had suddenly learnt to speak and he wanted to say everything at once.

Poor Constable Evans was totally confused. He could not understand a word Ivor was saying, for it was all in Polish.

'Mr Jankowski, slow down. You're talking in some foreign language,' said the patient constable. He took Ivor's arm and led him into the hall. Ivor was shaking all over.

'Meg,' shouted Constable Evans, 'bring Mr Jankowski a cup of tea.'

He then invited Ivor to sit down in an armchair next to the fire.

'Now then,⁽³⁾ what's it all about?' he asked.

Ivor took a deep breath, apologised for his bad manners, and told the policeman about his dream.

'A dream?' cried Constable Evans, looking astonished.⁽⁴⁾ 'You've come to see me about a dream?'

Ivor explained that the dream had seemed so real. 'It was a terrible warning,' said Ivor. 'I thought

-
1. Anyone would think...end. 人家都以为世界的末日来了呢。
 2. Ivor...out. 伊伐尔张口滔滔不绝地说。
 3. Now then; 喂。(用于句首引起对方的注意)。
 4. looking astonished; 显出惊讶的样子。

you might be able to do something. The dam will break if you don't. Someone must prevent it happening.'

Constable Evans stood up as straight as he could. Then he said to Ivor: 'I am an officer of the law, Mr Jankowski. I cannot arrest your dream and put it behind bars,⁽¹⁾ or accuse anyone of sending it.⁽²⁾ I am afraid you have come to the wrong man. Perhaps you should see the minister of our church, Mr Griffiths.'⁽³⁾

His wife Meg brought in the tea. 'Now, why don't you drink your tea and forget all about it?'⁽⁴⁾ he finished. 'That's what I'd do if I were you.'

Constable Evans thought he had handled an awkward situation very well.⁽⁵⁾ But Ivor was not satisfied. No one seemed able to take his dream seriously. He drank his tea quickly and said goodbye to the policeman.

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1. put it behind bars, 把梦关在牢里。
 2. accuse anyone of sending it, 控告那个托梦的人。
 3. Griffiths ['grifiθs], 格里菲斯。
 4. why don't...it? 你干吗不喝口茶, 把它全忘了呢?
 5. Constable Evans...well, 村警伊文思认为, 他把这样尴尬的场面处理得非常得当。