

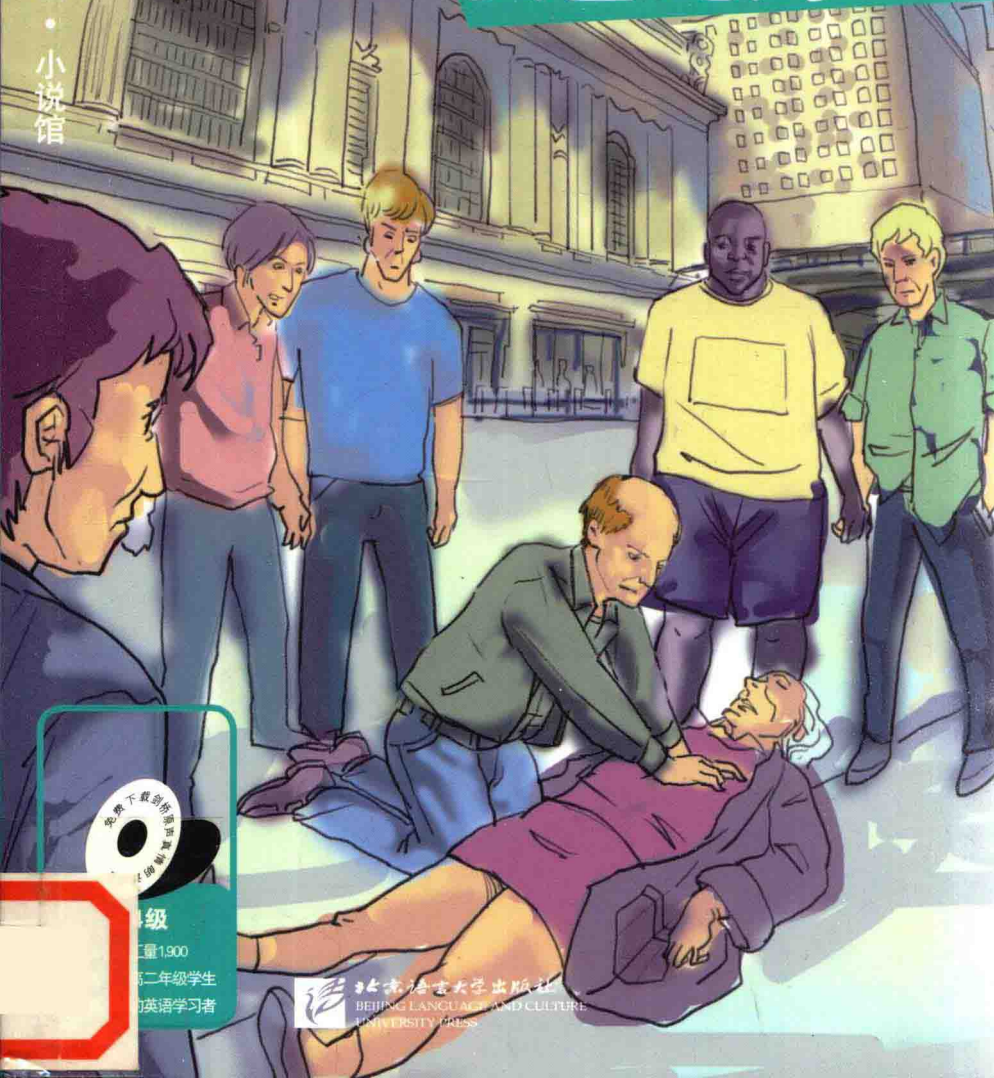
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剑桥双语分级阅读 · 小说馆

# High Life, Low Life

Alan Battersby 著

## 贫富之间



分级  
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第二级学生  
的英语学习者

北京语言大学出版社  
BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE  
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原版系列编辑

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李琳琳      编译



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## 作者简介

Alan Battersby (艾伦·巴特斯比), 英语语言教育专家, 研究生毕业于第二语言材料开发专业, 曾任教于意大利和英国剑桥的语言学校, 一直致力于语言学习材料的编写和开发工作。作者现为自由职业者, 除日常创作外, 同时执教于英国安格利亚鲁斯金大学。作者爱好十分广泛, 特别对美国的生活、文化、语言有深入研究, 这些也都体现在了他的作品中。在“剑桥双语分级阅读·小说馆”系列中, 他创作了《十年》《都市暗波》《贫富之间》等读本。

## 编译者简介

李琳琳, 北京大学附属中学高中英语教师, 中学一级职称。毕业于首都师范大学英语语言文学系, 获英美文学硕士, 在国家留学基金委资助下赴新加坡南洋理工大学国立教育学院访学一年。2013—2014 学年任北大附中高一行知学院英语课程首席, 主管行知学院高一英语课程建设。教学风格严谨, 思辨能力强, 课堂气氛活跃, 为学生所喜爱。所撰写的高考英语写作专题指导曾多次发表于报刊, 合作编写的普通高中英语课程标准泛读教材已出版。

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## Preface 前言

“剑桥双语分级阅读·小说馆”是一套从剑桥大学出版社引进的面向非英语国家英语学习者的分级系列读物，由英语语言教学专家及小说作家合力创作。创作过程历时二十余年，出版后受到世界各地英语教师和英语学习者的喜爱，许多读本再版十余次，二十余年来畅销不衰，成为全球英语学习者首选的优秀读本。

本系列读物具有以下突出的特色：

1. 它是原创英语读物，而非改编自普通作品的读物。因此，阅读本系列读物，我们读到的是原汁原味的原创英语，而非人为改编过的二手英语。

2. 它是当代优秀短篇小说，而非上个或上上个世纪的小说。因此，阅读本系列读物，我们读到的是当今活的、学了就能用的英语，而非穿越时空的、学了难以用的英语；了解的是与我们同时代英语国家人们的、而非隔代人的生活、文化、风土人情和价值观。

3. 它是专为非英语国家的英语学习者量身定制的读物，而非为英语母语者而写的大众读物。因此，本系列读物是最适合英语学习的读物。

4. 它是英美知名小说家和英语语言教学专家合力创作的读物，小说家保障了读物的可读性与可欣赏性，英语语言教学专家保障了读物语言作为英语学习得材料的科学性与可学性。本系列中的很多小说都曾获得国际广泛阅读教育学会颁发的“语言学习者文学奖 (Language Learner Literature Award)”。因此，阅读本系列读物，我们会在欣赏小说的同时，自然而然地、有效地提高自己的英语水平。

5. 它的故事题材丰富多样，包括侦探、情感、历险、悬疑、人文、科幻、喜剧等，读者可以随心选择自己喜欢的类别进行阅读；它的故事内容生动有趣，故事情节引人入胜、扣人心弦，一旦开始阅读，就想一口气读完，使阅读真正升华到“悦读”。

6. 随书附赠的音频材料内容精彩——它不是普通英语母语者的朗读录音，而是专业配音员的演绎再创作。听着它，我们犹如在听广播剧、听评书，又仿佛是在听电影、听话剧……这种聆听英语的享受将彻底扫除学生对英语听力的畏难心理。

7. 读本中所使用的语言，既有英式英语，也有美式英语，对应的音频材料也相应分为英音和美音。读者可根据自己的喜好来选择。



8. 本系列一百多本读物根据“欧洲共同语言参考框架 (CEF)”和“剑桥大学外语考试部 (ESOL)”的标准来确定级别划分,是建立在科学研究和实践基础之上的分级。全套共分七个级别 (与中国学生英语基础水平的大致对应关系,请参见图书封底表格),读者可根据自己的英语基础选择相应级别的读本来学习。

为了更好地帮助中国学生学习和欣赏,“剑桥双语分级阅读·小说馆”从剑桥大学出版社原版引进后又增加了以下内容:

1. 增加了适量的辅助学习内容,包括“读前思考”“读后活动”“学习指导”三个板块,其中“学习指导”板块又包括生词、短语和表达、文化点滴、阅读练习四项内容。增加这些板块的宗旨是全方位帮助学生提升英语阅读能力,扩充词汇量,扫除阅读中的文化障碍,提高对英语小说的鉴赏能力。

2. 增加了小说全文的参考译文。出于语言学习的考虑,译文尽量采用直译,保证两种语言句子的基本对应,避免文学式意译。值得一提的是,所增加的辅助学习内容和参考译文,均由来自全国不同省市著名中学 (包括人大附中、北大附中、清华附中、黄冈中学、上海中学等三十余所中学) 的一线英语教师完成,从而确保了所加内容与中国学生的英语学习特点和学习需求相吻合,为学生阅读和欣赏读物、提高英语水平给予恰到好处的助力。目前,本系列中的读本在上海市教育委员会中小学图书馆工作委员会组织的第23届上海市中小学、幼儿园优秀图书评选活动中获得三等奖,并已纳入中国教育装备行业协会发布的《中小学图书馆 (室) 配备核心书目》。

3. 提供配套网络资源。本系列读物配有专题网页,读者可以在网页上了解读物的基本信息、故事梗概、作者和编译者;可以通过“在线测试” ([http://cdextras.cambridge.org/Readers/RPT\\_last.swf](http://cdextras.cambridge.org/Readers/RPT_last.swf)) 帮助确定适合自己的阅读级别,再结合自己对题材和英式或美式英语的偏好,来选择具体的读本;还可以进行故事预览和试听,下载录音和拓展习题,与其他读者分享、交流读书心得。教师还可以分享教学经验并下载教案等相关资源 (<http://www.bicup.com> 和 <http://www.camstory.cn>)。

英语阅读是英语课堂的延伸和补充,也是培养英语语感、提高英语水平的有效途径。选择好的英语读物,收获的将不仅仅是语言的进步。欢迎年轻朋友们来到“剑桥双语分级阅读·小说馆”,打开一本本好书,品味一个个好故事,为实现梦想搭建桥梁。

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## 故事中的人物

**Nat Marley:** New York private investigator

**Stella Delgado:** Nat Marley's personal assistant

**Annie Clayton:** a homeless woman

**Mrs. Joanna Whittaker:** a rich widow

**Martha Bianchi:** Mrs. Whittaker's maid

**Charlie Whittaker:** Mrs. Whittaker's son

**Betty Osborne:** Mrs. Whittaker's daughter

**Wilma Patterson:** a lawyer

**Jackie Robinson Clayton:** Annie Clayton's son

**Ernie Wiseman (Ernst Weissmann):** a criminal

**Captain Oldenberg:** detective with the New York Police  
Department (NYPD)

**Joe Blaney:** colleague of Nat Marley, ex-NYPD

**Dr. Fischer:** a doctor at Bellevue Hospital

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纳特·马利：纽约私家侦探

斯特拉·德尔加多：纳特·马利的私人助理

安妮·克莱顿：一个无家可归的女人

乔安娜·惠特克夫人：一个有钱的寡妇

玛莎·比安奇：惠特克夫人的女佣

查利·惠特克：惠特克夫人的儿子

贝蒂·奥斯本：惠特克夫人的女儿

威尔玛·帕特森：一名律师

杰基·罗宾森·克莱顿：安妮·克莱顿的儿子

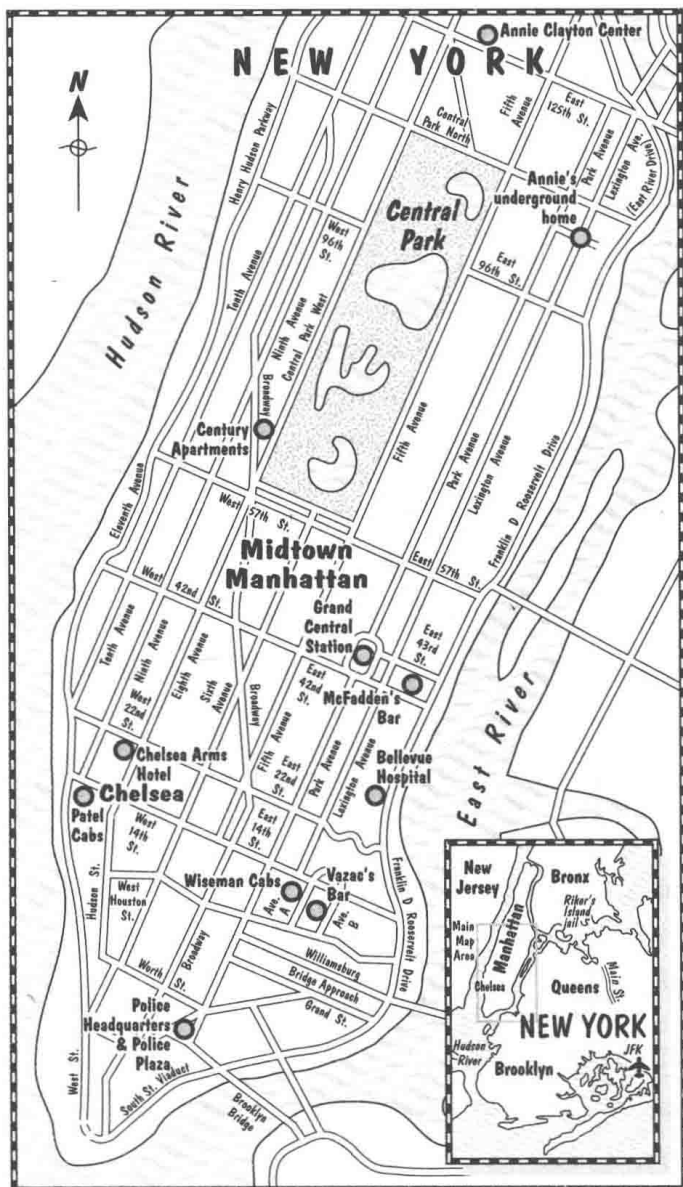
厄尼·怀斯曼（厄恩斯特·韦斯曼）：一名罪犯

奥尔登伯格警监：纽约市警察局侦探

乔·布兰尼：纳特·马利的同事，纽约市警察局前警员

费希尔医生：贝尔维尤医院的一名医生

故事中的地点



读前思考

1. Look at the title and picture on the front cover. What do you think *High Life, Low Life* means?
2. Look at the map of New York on page 7. What do you know about this city?
3. Are there parts of your town or city you have never visited? Why? Where are they?
4. Match the chapter titles and sentences from each chapter.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter 1 Summer in the city  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter 2 Central Park West  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter 3 The will  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter 4 Beneath the city streets  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter 5 Inside information
  - a) I'd heard of people living underground in New York, but I'd never seen it for myself.
  - b) It was going to be another one of those hot, uncomfortable days.
  - c) That's one expensive address.
  - d) "I'd like to ask you a few questions about Mrs. Whittaker."
  - e) "Nat, we have a problem," she said. "Mrs. Whittaker wants to make you rich."
5. If you have the recording, listen to Chapter 1.

# Chapter 1 Summer in the city

They say if you don't like the heat, get out of the kitchen. New York, mid-July, if you don't like the heat, get out of the city. Anyone who could take a vacation was in the mountains or on Long Island. Anywhere cooler than the city. But me, I had work to do and dollars to earn. As I left my apartment building in Queens, the heat hit me. The temperature was already up in the eighties. Only seven o'clock in the morning and I was sweating. It was going to be another one of those hot, uncomfortable days. Time to catch the number seven train to Manhattan.

The name's Marley, Nat Marley. I know the city of New York like the back of my hand. New York is part of me; it's in my blood. During my fifteen years' service with the New York Police Department, I saw the best and worst of life in the city. After leaving the NYPD, I became a private investigator. Although I don't make that much money, I'm my own boss and I don't have to take orders from anybody. I prefer it that way.

At Grand Central Station, crowds of office workers hurried out to 42nd Street. There were usually a few homeless people in the station trying to make a few dollars before the police moved them along. When you make the same trip every day, you get to know people's faces. But today, I couldn't see any homeless people. Maybe they were out in the sunshine on 42nd Street.

Suddenly a voice called out, "Hey, Nat, don't you

recognize me?"

I turned around. There was an old woman in an expensive-looking coat and skirt. It was Annie, a real New York character: one of the homeless people I'd known since I was a patrolman with the NYPD.

"Do you like my coat, Nat? I found it in the trash."

"A winter coat in July? You must be boiling. I like the coat, but you don't look too great, Annie."

"I'm OK, Nat. Anyway, a winter coat's valuable so it stays with me, sunshine or snow."

I looked at her closely. There was something different about her. I couldn't say what exactly. But she had changed.

"Sure you're feeling all right, Annie?"

"Me, Nat? Never felt better."

Maybe she was just exhausted from trying to earn a living on the streets at her age. But something told me I should stay around.

"I'll buy you breakfast. Coffee and doughnuts?" I offered.

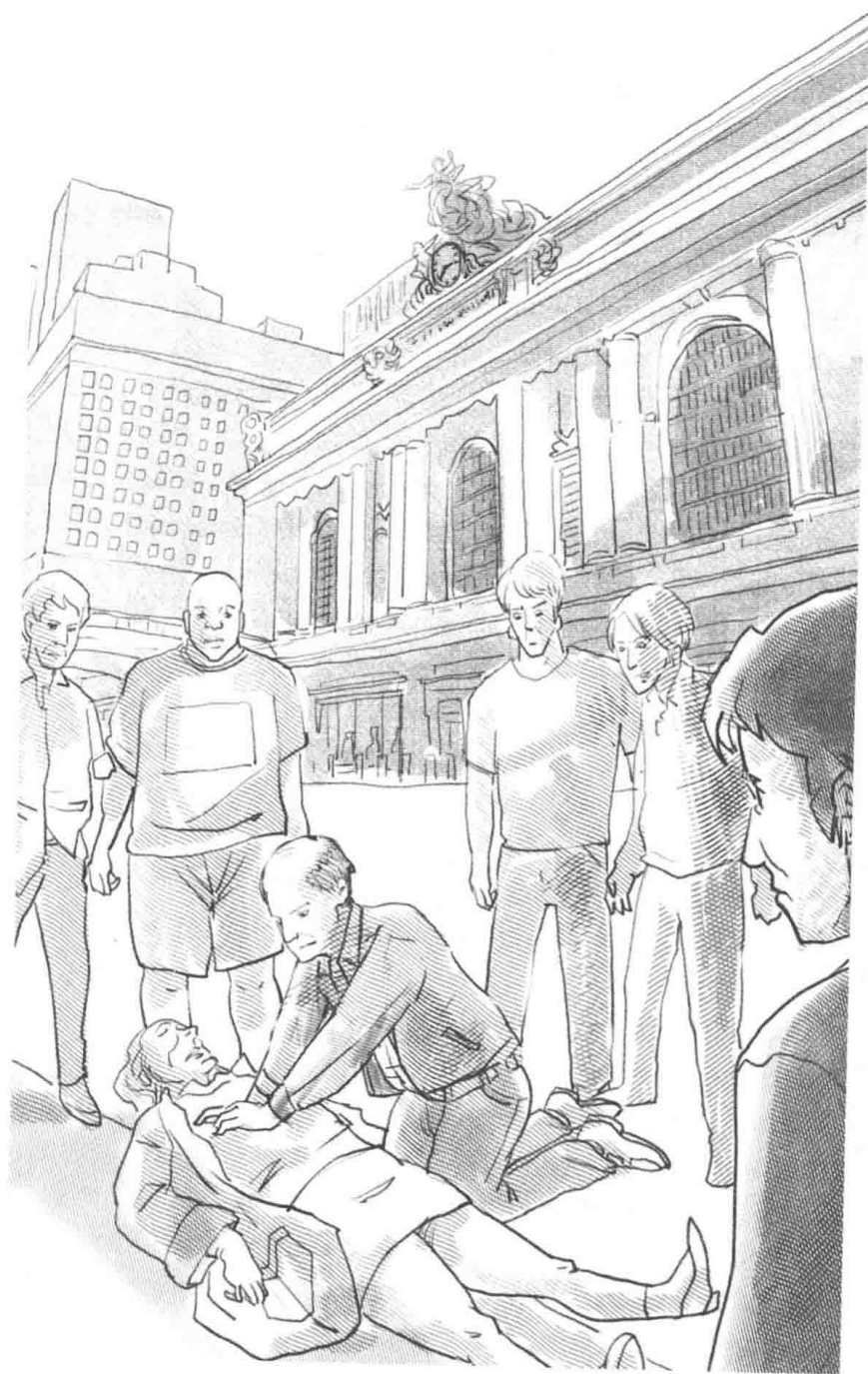
Annie took my arm as we made our way toward the main entrance. Suddenly she pulled at my jacket.

"Hey, not so fast, Nat. Just give me a minute. It's this pain in my chest."

I looked at her closely. The sweat was pouring off her face. We hadn't walked far, but she was out of breath. She held my hand tightly. Her skin felt cold.

"Oh my God!" she cried.

She reached for her chest, her eyes and mouth wide open in pain. Then she fell at my feet, unconscious. A heart attack. I felt her wrist. There was no pulse. There was no movement from her chest either. She wasn't





breathing. I didn't have time to think. All that NYPD training came back to me. First the breathing. Head back, hold the nose, open mouth, check the airway. Close my lips over the mouth. Breathe out, pause, and again. Then both hands on her chest. Push down. Again, fifteen times. I looked up at the circle of people around us.

"Someone call 911. Get an ambulance! Anyone here done first aid training?" I asked.

A guy stepped forward nervously. "I've just taken a first aid course," he said.

"Start with the breathing, then we'll change over."

We worked on her for five long minutes. I felt Annie's wrist again. This time there was a pulse. And then some movement in her chest. At last, I heard the sound of the ambulance siren.

The ambulance men took over and put Annie in the ambulance waiting on 42nd Street. I knew someone like her wouldn't have health insurance.

"You taking her to Bellevue Hospital?" I asked.

"Yeah."

"Here's my card. Any questions about hospital bills, tell them to call me."

How I would actually pay any hospital bills was another matter.

A police officer came over to interview me. As soon as he left me, a reporter from the *Daily News* ran up to me.

"Can I ask a few questions, sir? This is going to be a great story."

I didn't mind. The story might be good for business.

From Grand Central, it was five minutes' walk to my office at 220 East 43rd Street. Most offices in the building had their own air conditioning. Mine didn't, so it