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# Mosquito Town

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## 蚊子城



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中学生英语读物

# Mosquito Town

# 蚊子城

李泽鹏 注释

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## 内 容 简 介

本书选自英国出版的简易读物。作者以拟人的手法描写了在“蚊子城”内一只母蚊及其子女的经历。故事情节生动有趣，语言流畅易懂。适合初中三年级学生和具有同等程度的读者阅读。

本书中的生词和语言难点都加了汉语注释，并配有插图。

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第二辑

蚊 子 城

李泽鹏 注释

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## Chapter 1

It was six o'clock, and the sun was appearing<sup>1</sup> in the east. All the mosquitoes<sup>2</sup> were leaving Bamboko<sup>3</sup>. They were flying to their homes in Mosquito Town.

Mosquito Town was half a mile<sup>4</sup> from Bamboko and it was beside a lake. It was a beautiful place, and the mosquitoes loved it. They loved the wet grass. They loved the dark corners among the trees. They loved it because it was quiet. The only sound was their own song.

One old mosquito was already at home. She had a thin body<sup>5</sup> and very long feelers<sup>6</sup>. Her name was Zambra<sup>7</sup>.

Zambra was sitting in front of her house and waiting for her children. She washed her feelers while she was waiting. 'They'll soon

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1. appear [ə'piə] *vi.* 出现, 露出。 2. mosquito [mə'ski:təu]  
*n.* 蚊子。 3. Bamboko 班博库(虚拟的城镇名) 4. mile  
*n.* 英里。 5. a thin body 瘦弱的躯体。 6. feeler *n.*  
触角, 触须。 7. Zambra ['zæmbərə] 赞布拉(老蚊子的名字)。

be here,' she said to herself. 'Then I can go to sleep.'

She had two hundred children, and they all lived with her. Her husband was dead, so she had to look after them by herself<sup>1</sup>. It was hard work.

Zambra's house was the best house in Mosquito Town. It was big enough for all her family.<sup>2</sup> Her friends lived in small holes under the trees, but Zambra lived in a snake's<sup>3</sup> hole. The snake lived there too, but he did not trouble them.

Zambra always reached<sup>4</sup> home before her daughters. They had to find their food in Bamboko, and they flew there every night. She was old and she did not want to go far for her food. She had her own supply<sup>5</sup>.

One old man did not live in Bamboko. He lived alone<sup>6</sup> beside the lake. His blood was thin<sup>7</sup>, but it was good enough for Zam-

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1. by herself 靠她自己; 独自。 2. It was ... family. 房子挺大, 足以容纳下她全家。 3. snake *n.* 蛇。 4. reach [ri:tʃ] *vt. & vi.* 到, 到达。 5. supply [sə'plai] *n.* 供应, 补充。 6. alone [ə'ləun] *adv.* 单独。 7. His blood was thin, ... 他的血液稀薄, ……

bra. She went to him every night and had a good drink of blood. Then she came home early.

Some young mosquitoes arrived now and sat down beside her. She counted<sup>1</sup> them. She always counted her children in the morning and listened to their news. This morning they sat quietly and did not talk. They looked tired.

‘What is the news today, children?’ Zambra asked. ‘You’re looking very thin.’

‘The news is bad, mother,’ they all cried. ‘We couldn’t get any food.’

‘If you all talk at the same time, I shan’t be able to hear you properly.<sup>2</sup> Now, Mitsi<sup>3</sup>,’ she pointed a feeler at one,<sup>4</sup> ‘you’re the oldest. Tell me quickly. What happened?’

Mitsi was not a pretty child. She had only five legs. The sixth one came off in a fight

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1. count [kaunt] *vt.* 数; 计算。 2. If you all ... properly. 如果你们都同时一起说,我就根本没法听清楚你们说些什么。 properly [ˈprɒpəli] *adv.* 适当地,正确地;完全地。 3. Mitsi 米茨(小蚊子的名字)。 4. She pointed a feeler at one, ... 她用一根触须指着一只蚊子……

when she was quite small. She was always ready to fight for her food.

‘We told you yesterday, mother,’ she answered. ‘We’ve told you many times<sup>1</sup>, but you never listen. Strange things are happening in Bamboko.’ She was tired and hungry, but she tried hard to be patient<sup>2</sup>.

‘Strange things? I don’t understand you, Mitsi.<sup>3</sup> What happened last night?’

‘We couldn’t get near the people. It becomes harder every day.’

‘That’s your fault,’ Zambra answered angrily<sup>4</sup>. She still did not understand their trouble. ‘It isn’t easy, but you have to be patient and wait for your chance. You haven’t learnt the tricks<sup>5</sup> properly. I try to teach you, but you don’t listen.’

‘It’s *not* our fault —’ Mitsi began. Mother’s tricks were old. They needed new ones<sup>6</sup>,

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1. many times 多次。 2. patient [ˈpeɪfənt] *adj.* 耐心的, 耐烦的。 *n.* 病人。 3. I don’t understand you, Mitsi. 米茨, 我不明白你的话。 4. angrily [ˈæŋgrɪli] *adv.* 生气地, 忿怒地。 5. trick [trɪk] *n.* 窍门, 诀窍; 计策。 6. new ones = new tricks.

clever ones.



At that moment Buzu<sup>1</sup> arrived with thirty or forty sisters. They too were tired and hungry. Some of them looked ill.

‘Did you find any food?’ Zambra asked them in a worried voice.

‘No, mother,’ Buzu replied. She was a pretty mosquito and she was Zambra’s favourite child. Some were fat and some were thin, but Buzu’s body was the right shape<sup>2</sup> and she had beautiful legs. She was clever too, but this morning she was in trouble<sup>3</sup>. Zambra was

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1. Buzu 布朱(小蚊子的名字)。      2. shape *n.* 形态, 体形。

3. ...she was in trouble. ....她遇到了麻烦。



counting again.

‘I’m sorry, mother,’ Buzu continued<sup>1</sup>. ‘Twelve haven’t come back. I think that they are dead.’

‘Dead!’ Zambra was really worried now. ‘It’s your fault, Buzu. You’re the leader.<sup>2</sup> You didn’t look after them properly. Leaders must take care of the young ones. Now come inside and sit down, children. I want to talk to you.’

They sat round her in a circle.<sup>3</sup> Some listened. Some soon went to sleep because they were tired. Buzu washed her back legs<sup>4</sup> while she was listening.

‘Why can’t you find food?’ Zambra continued. ‘I’ve told you before and I’ll tell you again. You must *work* for it.<sup>5</sup> You must work hard. It’s different for your brothers. They don’t drink blood. They can get their plant-

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1. continue [kən'tɪnju(:)] *vt.* 继续(说)。 2. You're the leader. 你是领头的(带队的)。 3. They sat ... circle. 她们围着她坐成一圈。 round *prep.* 围着, 在……周围。 4. back legs 后腿。 5. You must *work* for it. 为了食物你们得干才行。 it 指 food。

juices<sup>1</sup> without trouble.'

'Why can't *we* drink plant-juices too?' a very young mosquito asked. 'Why must we drink blood?'

'It's for your eggs, my dear. Your eggs need blood. You want to have your own children, don't you? Now, listen carefully and remember my words<sup>2</sup>, please. Find a person when he is asleep. Look for a soft part of his



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1. plant-juice 植物液汁。juice [dʒu:s] n. (水果, 蔬菜, 肉等的)液汁。 2. remember my words 记住我的话。

body and sit on it carefully. *Don't* sit on his face<sup>1</sup>. If you do, he'll wake up and kill you. I've told you this often, but you—'

'Mother,' Buzu cried, 'we know all this. We can't *reach* their bodies at night. It's not our fault. Have you never seen a mosquito-net<sup>2</sup>?'

'Yes, Buzu. I have. They're dangerous things, but only a few people use them. They're not cheap, you know.'<sup>3</sup>

'All the people use them now, mother. I saw some cheap ones in a shop ten days ago.'

'You surprise me,' Zambra said. Then she had an idea. 'Get into the net when the person gets in. That's quite easy.'

'It's easy but it's dangerous, mother. If you can't get out again, they'll catch you and kill you. They will!'<sup>4</sup>

'Don't shout, dear. The snake is asleep and we mustn't wake him.' She was not afraid of

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1. *Don't* sit on his face. 千万别落在他的脸上。      2. mosquito-net *n.* 蚊帐。  
3. They're not cheap, you know. 你们知道, 那东西可不便宜。  
4. They will! 他们准会的!

the snake but she did not want to give him trouble. 'If it's dangerous in the nets,' she continued, 'you will have to feed<sup>1</sup> early in the evening. Bite<sup>2</sup> the people when they're not in their nets. Bite them while they sit in their chairs<sup>3</sup> in the house.'



- 
1. feed *vi.* 吃东西; 用餐。
  2. bite (*bit, bitten*) *vt.* 咬; 叮。
  3. sit in their chairs 坐在(扶手)椅子上。

‘That’s a different trouble,’ said Buzu. ‘We can’t feed in their houses. Some strange men have come to Bamboko. They are visiting all the houses and spraying<sup>1</sup> the rooms. If you touch<sup>2</sup> the spray, you will die. If you breathe it, you will die. It killed my twelve sisters last night. No. We can’t go into the houses. It isn’t safe.’

Zambra was feeling tired now. She was old and she could not understand these new tricks of the Bamboko people. What is ‘spray’? How do people ‘spray’ a room? Poor Zambra did not know. It was a new word for her. She shut her eyes and tried to think. In a few moments<sup>3</sup> she was asleep.

## Chapter 2

Zambra was dreaming<sup>4</sup>. In her dream she was leading her children to the farms round

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1. spray *vt.* 喷, 向……喷洒。 *n.* 喷雾; 喷雾器。      2. touch [tʌtʃ] *vt.* 触摸; 接触, 碰到。      3. in a few moments 几分钟后, 不一会儿。      4. dream (dreamt [dreɪmt], dreamt) 或 (dreamed [dreɪmd], dreamed) *vi.* 做梦。 *n.* 梦。

Bamboko. It was the middle of the day<sup>1</sup> and it was hot.

The people were all asleep under the trees on their farms. Zambra's family sat down on them, but they did not wake. She watched happily while the young mosquitoes filled their hungry little bodies with warm blood.

'Mother,' they called, 'come and drink! Mother!'

Zambra opened her eyes. She was not dreaming now. She was in her own home and Mitsi was calling her. 'Mother! Wake up!'

She was properly awake now.<sup>2</sup> 'What is it,<sup>3</sup> Mitsi?'

'Look at these children. They arrived while you were sleeping. They are all very sick.<sup>4</sup>

Zambra looked at them. Their little faces were white and sad.<sup>5</sup> They could not breathe

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1. the middle of the day 中午。 2. She was ... now. 这时她完全醒了。awake [ə'weɪk] *adj.* 醒着的。 3. What is it? 怎么回事(什么事)? 4. They are all very sick. 她们都病得很厉害。 5. Their little faces ... sad. 她们脸色苍白, 满面愁容。

properly.

'Mother,' one cried, 'half my sisters<sup>1</sup> are dead. They will never come home again. I think that I am dying too!'<sup>2</sup>

'What happened?' Zambra asked, while Buzu was looking for some medicine.

'Last night we found some girls. They were putting something on their legs. It smelled very strong<sup>3</sup> so we couldn't sit down on



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1. half my sisters 姐妹中有一半。2. ...I am dying too! ..... 我也要死了! 3. It smelled very strong ... 闻起来很呛……  
strong *adj.* 冲鼻(难闻)的; 烈性的。

them. Then we were tired and rested on the wall. We sat down carefully, but there was poison<sup>1</sup> on the wall. My sisters fell on the ground and died. And I—' The little mosquito fell down. She tried to get up but she could not. Zambra put some medicine in her mouth, but the poison was very strong. After a few minutes she died.

Zambra was afraid now. How could she save her family? Why were the Bamboko people killing them? They only asked for a little blood every night.<sup>2</sup> They were not dangerous like snakes. Why did people kill them? Why?

Zambra called all her daughters together. 'Come here. I want to count you.' She counted twice. Forty-six were not there. She had to think and act quickly. What could she do?

'Listen, children. I'm making plans, but first we must find out the reason for all this trouble. How can we do that? I'll tell you. First you must rest. Then you can go back to

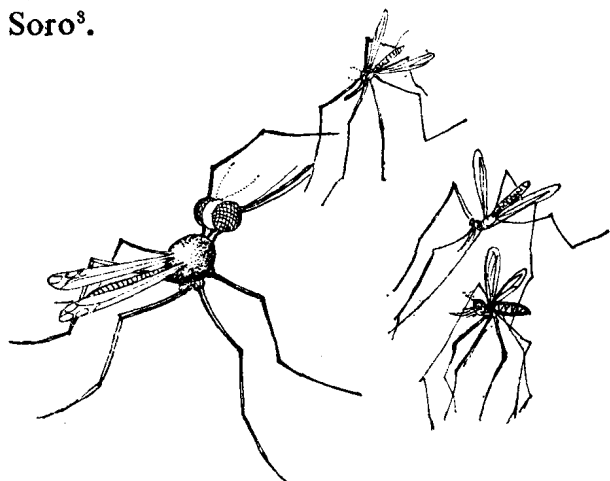
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1. poison ['pɔɪzn] *n.* 毒, 毒药。  
她们每晚只不过要一点点血罢了。

2. They only ... night.



Bamboko and listen to the people. You usually go by night<sup>1</sup>, so they will not notice you by day. Go carefully. If you keep quiet, they won't see you. Listen while they're talking, and you'll learn their secrets<sup>2</sup>.' She pointed her feelers at the three leaders, Mitsi and Buzu and Soro<sup>3</sup>.



'Mitsi, take one group<sup>4</sup> to the hospital. Buzu, take the second group to the old school. Soro take the third group to the market<sup>5</sup>. What are people saying about us?<sup>6</sup> Why have mos-

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1. by night 在夜间。      2. secret ['si:krit] n. 秘密。      3. Soro 索罗(小蚊子的名字)。  
4. group [gru:p] n. 小组。  
5. market ['ma:kit] n. 市场, 集市      6. What are ... us? 人们说我们些什么?