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FICTION FACTORY

万花筒

系列读物

Angela Wright
Jane Scott

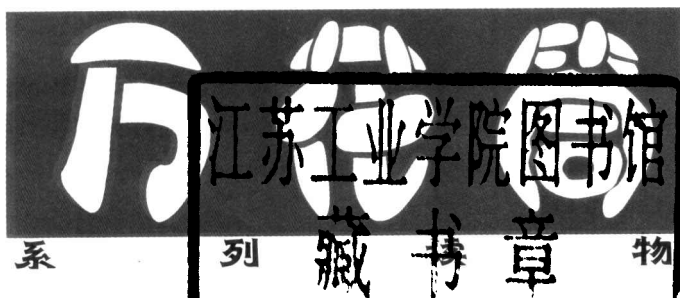
畅销世界百万册的英语读物



上海外语教育出版社

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FACTORY
C2
FANTASY



● Angela Wright - Jane Scott

● 注释 韩天霖

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前 言

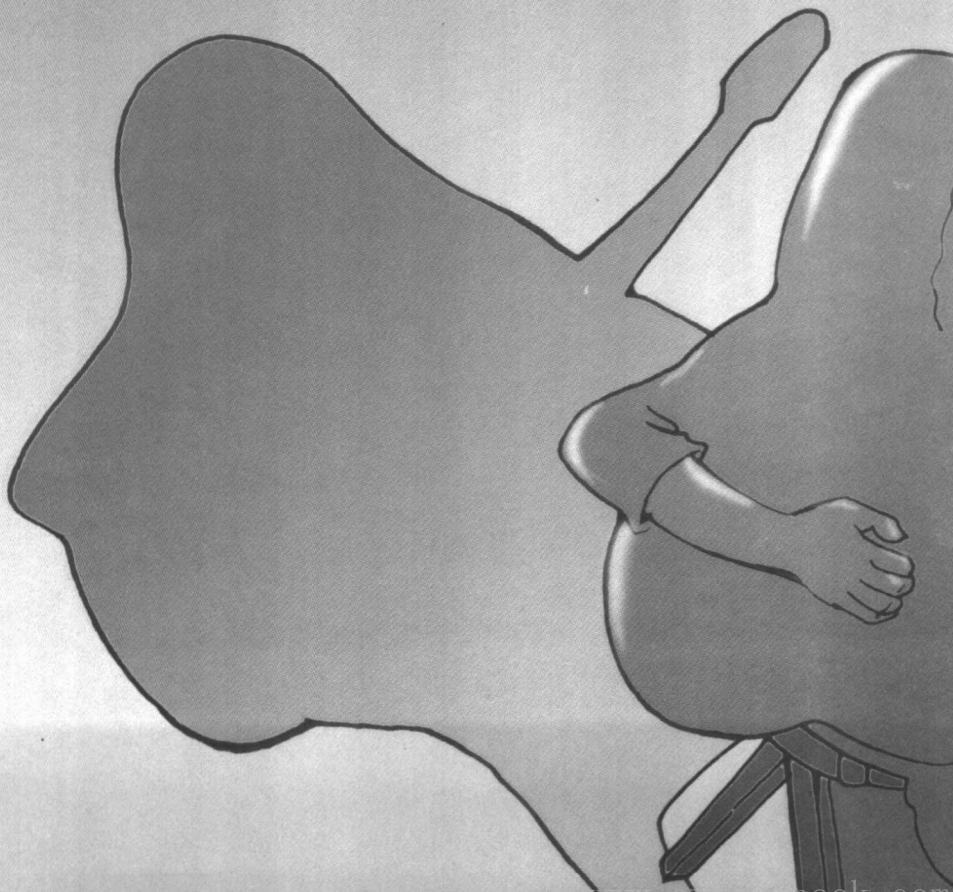
万花筒出版社出版的英语微型小说 *Fiction Factory* 系列,畅销世界百余万册,上海外语教育出版社从中精选引进出版《万花筒系列读物》。本系列读物由英美语言专家用浅显易懂的英语撰写,供以英语为外国语的学生阅读,增长知识,开阔视野,提高用英语直接获取信息的能力。故事题材丰富,内容生动有趣,情节跌宕起伏,让人手不释卷。另配有故事内容精选录音,不但有助于全面感受故事的魅力,而且能提高听力水平。

全套读物按文字难度分 A、B、C、D 4 个级别,每级 2 本;A 级适合初二、初三学生阅读,B 级适合高一学生阅读,C 级适合高二学生阅读,D 级适合高三及更高水平的学生阅读。本书为系列中的 C2,由《阴影》(Shadowlands)和《核工厂》(Cragscar)两个分册组成。

SHADOWLANDS

阴影

Angela Wright



内容简介

简离开她在加州阳光明媚的家乡,到苏格兰找了一份工作,以此来逃出人见人爱的姐姐带给她的心理阴影。在苏格兰的一座古堡中,她发现了一位当年的摇滚乐巨星司考特——一个真正需要走出心理阴影的人。她和这位明星的故事会怎样发展呢? 请看《阴影》(Shadowlands)。

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Sunshine Forever?

The sun was baking hot^①. There was a terrible heat wave^② in Southern California^③ and it showed no sign of ever ending. Down in Los Angeles there had been no rain for more than a year. Everywhere gardens, fields and parks were burning up. Even the trees were beginning to die.

Jain was glad she lived in a small town in the mountains. A town where there was still plenty of water. A town where the trees were tall and strong. A town where the heat didn't drive people crazy like it did in L. A.^④. Pristine Falls was beautiful, clean and very peaceful. A good place to live and grow up. Sometimes she thought that life was too good in Pristine Falls. In some ways it was almost unreal.

Jain and her sister Belinda had just finished high school. One period of their lives was over, and another was about to begin. Both of them thought a great deal about what they were going to do with the rest of their lives. Jain wasn't sure what she wanted. Half of her wanted to go to college in San Francisco^⑤ and study history or psychology^⑥. The other half wanted to do something totally crazy. Maybe go and become an artist in New York, or play the guitar in an

① baking hot 灼热的, 炎热的 ② heat wave 热浪 ③ California (美国) 加利福尼亚州 ④ L. A. = Los Angeles 洛杉矶 ⑤ San Francisco 旧金山 ⑥ psychology 心理学

all-girl rock 'n' roll band^①. Anyway, Jain had made up her mind to take a year off^② and go overseas. It would give her time to think properly about her future.

In contrast, her sister, Belinda, had everything planned down to the smallest detail. Jain could hear music coming from Belinda's room. Belinda had tuned into the 'Love Station' on her radio. The 'Love Station' played love songs twenty-four hours a day, and not much else. Jain pulled her pillow^③ over her head and tried to sleep. It was hopeless, so she got out of bed and went to the bathroom.

Jain met Belinda out in the hallway. Belinda was smiling, and humming^④ the tune of a hit^⑤ record. She looked amazingly^⑥ happy. Jain was sure Belinda was thinking about her boyfriend, Brad San-some.

"Hi," Belinda said in a soft, dreamy^⑦ voice, "isn't it just a wonderful morning, Jain? Don't you feel glad to be alive?"

"Ummm... yeah, I guess so. It's... it's a nice day. I just wish it would rain down on the coast. They really need some rain in L. A."

"Oh, we don't want rain, Jain. Look outside. It's a perfect^⑧ day today."

"Yeah, sure, Belinda. I was just thinking about the people down on the coast and the farmers. You know they've started to ration^⑨ drinking water in Los Angeles and San Diego."

"Oh, who cares about them? Everything's wonderful up here in

① rock 'n' roll band 摇滚乐队 ② take a year off 休假一年 ③ pillow 枕头
④ to hum 哼曲子 ⑤ hit 风行一时的歌曲 ⑥ amazingly 惊人地 ⑦ dreamy 安谧
悦耳的, 轻柔的 ⑧ perfect 极好的 ⑨ to ration 定量供应, 配给

Pristine Falls.”

“Yeah, I know. Everything is still wonderful here. As long as it all lasts.”

Belinda looked puzzled.

“As long as what lasts? Are you talking about the water, or what?”

“Yeah, the water, the air, the food, the way we live up here — everything. We’re so comfortable, privileged^① and protected here. We live in a... in a kind of dream, Belinda. Just think about what life’s like in the rest of the world.” She still wasn’t sure Belinda understood.

“Oh, don’t be so miserable^② and gloomy^③, Jain. It’s so typical^④ of you. We’re going to have a wonderful day and you start on about how the world’s falling apart, and we have to change everything from top to bottom. I don’t want to think about all that now. I’m getting married soon. Try and be a bit more positive, Jain. Look out of the window — the sun’s still shining!”

“I know that. It’s just that sometimes I think that none of it’s real.”

“Oh, God, I just give up on you, Jain!”

Belinda’s cheeks were red now, and Jain could see she was angry. Jain liked it when Belinda was angry. When she was angry she seemed to be really alive. Normally, she looked like a Barbie doll^⑤. Belinda shook her head, turned and walked off towards the bathroom. Jain watched her. She seemed almost to float^⑥ above the

① to privilege 给予……特权 ② miserable 悲惨的, 可怜的 ③ gloomy 阴郁的, 悲观的 ④ typical 典型的 ⑤ Barbie doll 芭比娃娃 ⑥ to float 漂浮, 飘动

floor when she moved. She was so elegant^① and so lovely. Belinda already looked fantastic^② and she hadn't even combed her hair, washed or put on her make-up^③. Belinda was easily the most beautiful girl in Pristine Falls. She heard Belinda turn on the shower and start to sing.

Sometimes Jain thought that Belinda sounded so selfish. She only thought about herself and Brad and their glowing^④ future. The rest of the world didn't matter. Belinda really didn't care about how people lived in Bangladesh^⑤ or Africa. The rest of the world was almost like another planet far, far away. It hadn't always been like this. When they were younger they'd always been together and agreed about almost everything. Now it was different. It was like they were on two different roads, marching to the beat^⑥ of two different drums. And Jain didn't know why.

Jain went back to her room and sat on the bed. She looked into the big mirror hanging on the wall. Some days she felt like she was in a beauty contest^⑦ with Belinda. A contest that would never end. A contest she had no hope of winning. Belinda was so beautiful and Jain sometimes felt so... so ordinary.

The radio was still on in Belinda's room. It started to play the song Belinda had just been singing. Everyone in America knew it. It was from the smash-hit^⑧ movie, 'Love and the Roses'. Jain had heard the song 'My Heart Still Beats for You' a thousand times or more.

① elegant 雅致的, 优美的 ② fantastic 极好的 ③ make-up 化妆 ④ glowing 明亮的 ⑤ Bangladesh 孟加拉国 ⑥ beat 节拍 ⑦ beauty contest 选美比赛 ⑧ smash-hit 非常受欢迎的电影

It was a country-rock ballad^①, dripping with strings and a heavenly choir^②. The song had been Number One in the charts^③ for six solid^④ weeks. It was impossible to escape from it. Jain thought it was a melody^⑤ made in Hell.

Jain looked at herself again in the mirror. Jain knew there was more to life than being attractive or beautiful. The surface of her body couldn't be the only important part of her. She had intelligent eyes and a good, kind face. But the world, America, California, and Pristine Falls didn't seem to be interested in these qualities. No, the ideal^⑥ woman looked like Belinda, more beautiful than Barbie. Switch on the television, go to a movie^⑦, or watch a rock video. It was all the same. There were no ugly plain^⑧ people there. It was a fact. Jain didn't like it, but she couldn't do anything about it on her own. Living so close to beauty and perfection^⑨ made everything worse. It was like standing close to the sun. Everyone was blinded by the brilliant^⑩ light and Jain felt that nobody could see her. Only the sun was visible^⑪. That was the main reason she wanted to get away from Pristine Falls. It would be good to get out from under the sun.

① country-rock ballad 乡村摇滚民谣 ② choir 唱诗班 ③ chart 流行歌曲排行榜
④ solid 连续的 ⑤ melody 歌曲, 旋律 ⑥ ideal 理想的, 完美的 ⑦ go to a movie
看电影 ⑧ plain 普通的 ⑨ perfection 完美 ⑩ brilliant 辉煌的 ⑪ visible 看得
见的



Soap Bubble^① World

Jain had a shower and went downstairs. In the kitchen her mother was baking little pancakes^② and watching an episode^③ of her favourite morning soap^④ on the TV. Jain said 'hi', sat down and started to eat her corn flakes. She looked up at the television which stood next to the oven.

All the people in 'Love Carrousel' were absolutely perfect. None looked like Jain. They were all dressed in beautiful clothes. Had wonderful hair, great personalities^⑤ and looked like gods and goddesses. It was a fairy-tale world. The people in 'Love Carrousel' were always in love. Week after week, month after month, year after year, they were always in love. Jain thought they were mostly in love with themselves and their mirrors. Their 'lives' went up and down, but nothing really bad happened to them. They always survived^⑥ to live and love again and again...

"Mom, I wonder..."

"SSSSh... just let me hear this bit, Jain. Byron is going to ask Camilla to forgive him. He's sorry about all his affairs^⑦ with Roxanne, Lynette and Chelsea. He wants Camilla to marry him again. I think he really means it this time, don't you, Jain?"

"Sure, Mom. They always mean it. Round and round^⑧ they

① soap bubble 肥皂泡 ② pancake 薄煎饼 ③ episode (文艺作品中的)一段情节 ④ soap 肥皂剧 ⑤ personality 个性 ⑥ to survive 活下来 ⑦ affair 不正当的恋爱事件 ⑧ round and round (围绕着……)旋转不息地

go.”

Jain watched her mother standing like a statue^① in front of the oven. The wooden spoon she was holding dripped pancake mix onto the pink marble^② floor. Splat, splat, splat.

Suddenly, there was a commercial^③ break. Jain's mother immediately returned to the real world. Jain's mother had brought up two girls on her own, and it had not been easy. After her marriage had ended, she had been forced to get a job in a bookstore in town. She was still only forty and looked almost as lovely as Belinda. Jain knew that she had always tried to be a good mother and give them everything she could. They didn't have a lot of money, but she had always given them all her love.

“What were you saying, Jain dear?”

“Nothing important, I forgot, Mom.”

“Have you seen Belinda this morning?”

“Yeah, she'll be down soon, Mom.”

“Brad called a little while ago. He's going to be a little bit late.”

“Really?”

“Yeah. I really like him, Jain. He's so polite and respectful. He's got a great future. The Sansome bank is solid as a rock.”

“Yeah, Brad's a truly wonderful human being, just beneath^④ the President of the United State of America. The man who stands at God's right hand.”

① statue 雕像 ② marble 大理石 ③ commercial 商业广告 ④ beneath 在……之下

“That’s not very funny, Jain. I . . .”

“Sorry, I was only joking, Mom.”

“One day Brad will be your sister’s husband. I wish you could find yourself a nice young man like Brad Sansome, Jain.”

“Please, Mom, don’t start all that again. I’m not Belinda. I don’t look like her. I don’t dress like her. I don’t think like her. I want to do something with my life. Belinda’s your ‘princess^①’ and she’s found her prince^②.”

“Jain, sometimes you talk like you’re crazy. I don’t understand what’s happening to you. You’re wrong . . .”

“Mom, let’s just drop it, shall we?”

“No, I want to get to the bottom of this thing with you!”

“You’re missing ‘Love Carrousel’, Mom.”

Jain’s mother turned back to the television and stopped speaking. On ‘Love Carrousel’ Camilla Montana brushed a tear from the corner of her eye and looked up into Byron’s strong, handsome face. She told him about her discovery in New York. She clearly didn’t want to tell him, but she had no choice. Camilla had discovered she was really Byron’s sister. It would, therefore, be absolutely impossible for her to marry him again. Byron looked like all his dreams had been smashed to pieces^③.

Jain shook her head and looked away from the TV. Her mother worked in a bookstore, but she never read a book all the way through^④. Jain knew that her mom was almost addicted to ^⑤ soaps.

① princess 公主 ② prince 王子 ③ be smashed to pieces 被撞得粉碎

④ all the way through 自始至终地 ⑤ be addicted to 沉溺于