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FICTION FACTORY

万花筒

系列读物

Angela Wright
Sally Drewe

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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◆ Angela Wright · Sally Dene

◆ 注释 廖红雁

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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。

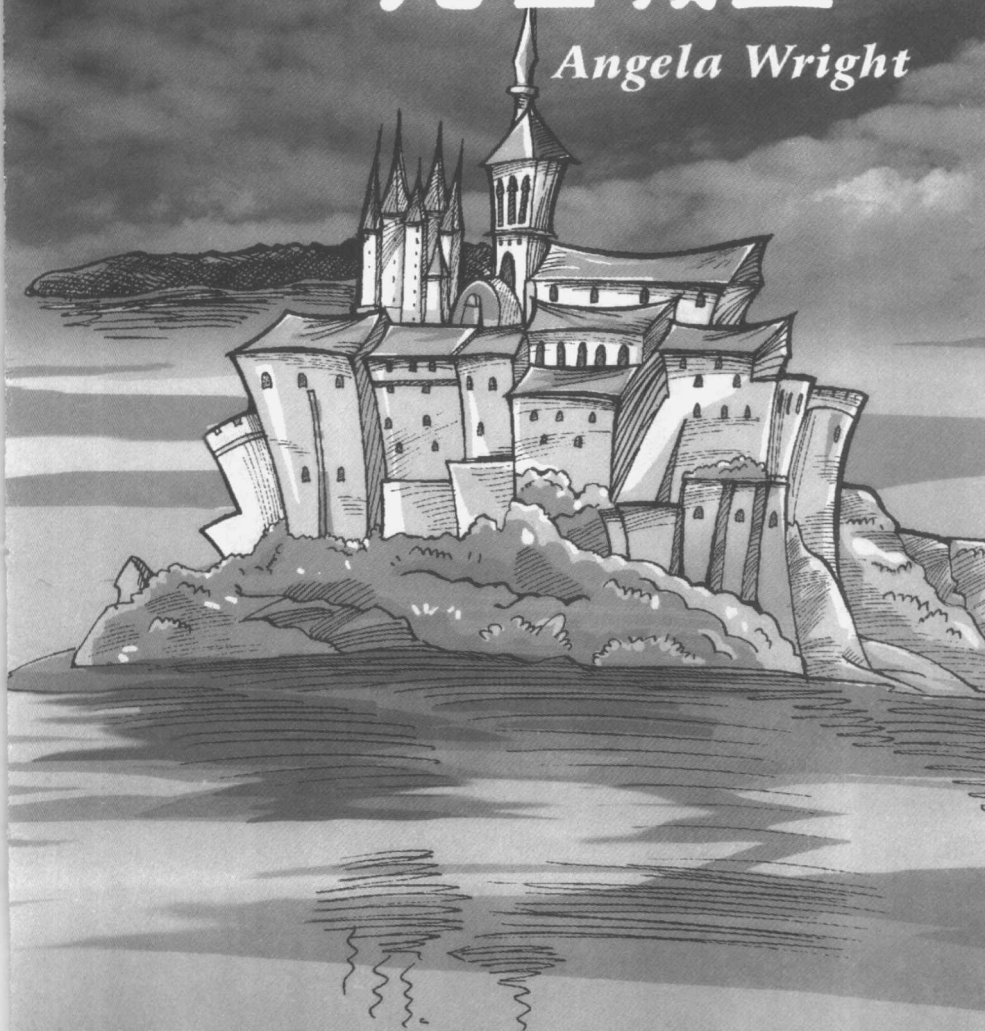
全套读物按文字难度分为 A、B、C、D 4 个级别,每级 2 本;A 级适合初二、初三学生阅读,B 级适合高一学生阅读,C 级适合高二学生阅读,D 级适合高三及更高水平的学生阅读。本书为系列中的 A2,由《龙岩城堡》(*Dragon Rock*)和《陷入困境》(*Trapped*)2 个分册组成。

DRAGON ROCK



龙岩城堡

Angela Wright



内容简介

朱迪·马歇尔是一位前途无量的生物学家,但她总觉得生活太平淡乏味,她渴望着有一件不同寻常的、令人兴奋的事情发生。有一天,她的愿望终于实现了。她被国防部派往神秘的龙岩城堡,去见一位危险的疯子科学家,保护他的研究成果不被破坏。朱迪能否顺利完成任务?她的命运又将如何?短篇故事《龙岩城堡》(*Dragon Rock*)将告诉你答案。

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The Mysterious^① Stranger

Judy Marshall sat in her office. Judy was twenty-six years old. She had short fair hair. Her eyes were big and blue. She was pretty. Dr. Judy Marshall was also a brilliant^② biologist. ^③“The most gifted^④ young biologist in the country,” was what people called her.

Judy stood up. She walked over to the small window. She looked out of the window. Outside there were green fields. They were full of cows. The River Thames^⑤ looked beautiful. It flowed slowly through the fields. There were little boats on the river. The sky was clear and blue. The sun was shining. The University of Oxford^⑥ was very nice in the springtime.

Judy yawned,^⑦ she was bored. When Judy was bored, she got tired. Judy wanted something *exciting* to happen. Nothing really exciting had ever happened to her. Judy liked her work. She loved teaching at the university. But she wanted something else; something totally different, something you couldn't find in Oxford.

Judy yawned again. She looked at her watch. It was nearly twelve o'clock. It was lunchtime.

“Please, let something exciting happen to me. Just once in my life. Then I can become old and grey, and a professor. Then I will

① mysterious 神秘的 ② brilliant 杰出的; 才华横溢的 ③ biologist 生物学家
④ gifted 有天才的, 有天赋的 ⑤ River Thames 泰晤士河 ⑥ Oxford 牛津 ⑦ to yawn 打呵欠

have something exciting to remember!" Judy said out loud.

Nobody answered Judy, but the telephone did ring. Judy went over to her big wooden desk. Her desk was covered with books and papers. Judy moved some of the papers. She found the telephone. She picked it up. In a bored, tired voice she said:

"Judy Marshall here."

A man with a deep voice said:

"My name is Rupert Davenport, Miss Marshall. I'd very much like to talk with you."

Rupert Davenport sounded *very* important. His voice was very serious. He sounded like he was used to^① giving orders. ^② Giving orders, and being obeyed. ^③ Judy smiled to herself. She thought:

"A lot of men are like that. Important voices, and always very busy."

"Are you there? Did you hear what I said, Miss Marshall?"

"I'm sorry, Mr. Davenport. I was thinking of something else. We academics^④ are like that," Judy said. "Why do you want to talk to me? What is it about? Are you a student at the university?"

Judy heard a deep laugh. Then Rupert Davenport said:

"I'm afraid I can't tell you over the telephone. I can say that it is a matter of *great importance*. A matter of national security."^⑤

There was a short silence. Then Judy said:

"Very well, Mr. Davenport. I will see you. It's lunchtime now. Perhaps we could meet at the pub. Do you know where 'The King's Head' is?"

① be used to 习惯于 ② order 命令 ③ to obey 服从; 听从 ④ academic 学者 ⑤ security 安全

"Yes, I know where 'The King's Head' is. I look forward to^① meeting you. *We* are very grateful. I'll meet you in half an hour."

"Yes, that will be fine. Goodbye, Mr. Davenport." Judy said. She started to put the phone down. Suddenly she realized, she didn't know what Rupert Davenport looked like. How would she find him in the crowded pub?

"Mr. Davenport," she said. "How will I know you? How will you recognize^② me? We've never met."

Rupert Davenport sounded amused;^③ he replied:

"Don't worry, Miss Marshall. *I* know exactly^④ what *you* look like. I've studied your file. ^⑤ That's part of my job. I'll see you in half an hour." Rupert Davenport put the phone down. He did not wait to hear if Judy had anything else to say.

Judy put her phone down. Rupert Davenport sounded very mysterious. She thought:

"I didn't like the sound of his voice. I didn't like his laugh. I don't like men who laugh at me. It usually means they are not very intelligent. How does he know what I look like? He talked about a 'file'. Somewhere there is a file. It has my picture and information about me in it! It all sounds very interesting and exciting. I wonder who Rupert Davenport is?"

① look forward to 盼望,期待 ② to recognize 认出,识别 ③ amused 被逗乐的
④ exactly 确切地;准确地 ⑤ file 档案

Rupert Davenport

Judy walked along the crowded street. Oxford was full of tourists. ① They came from all over the world. They came to look at the famous university. One of the oldest universities in the world. A town which bored Judy to death.

“The King’s Head” was around the corner. Judy turned the corner. She walked into the pub. It was full of cigarette smoke. It was full of noisy people. Judy looked around. There were lots of men. Which one was Rupert Davenport?

“He also said, ‘We are grateful,’ who *are* we?” Judy asked herself.

Suddenly a large man appeared. He walked towards Judy. He had very short black hair. His eyes were large and dark. He wore a black suit. He stood in front of Judy. He looked down at her and smiled.

“I am Rupert Davenport. I’m very pleased to meet you, Miss Marshall. I’ve reserved② a table upstairs. It’ll be more private. ③ Come this way.”

Judy followed Rupert Davenport upstairs. They went and sat by the window. Davenport ordered④ food and some drinks. He drank beer. Judy drank a Martini with lemon.

① tourist 旅行者 ② to reserve 预订 ③ private 隐藏的;幽僻的 ④ to order 点(菜、饭等)

Davenport put his beerglass down. He looked Judy in the eye. He took a deep breath, and said,

"I won't waste time. We haven't *got* a lot of time. We need your help. . . ."

Before Davenport could go on, Judy said,

"I want to know who '*we*' are. I also want to know who *you* are. Then we can talk some more. Have I made myself clear?"

Davenport looked surprised. He looked irritated. ① He forced himself to smile. He said,

"I work for the Ministry of Defence. ② When I say '*we*', I mean the Ministry of Defence."

"Good," Judy said. "Now I understand. Now I want to know about my '*file*'. Where is it? Why do you keep a file on me?"

Rupert Davenport kept smiling. It was a plastic^③ smile, it was not a real smile. His eyes looked angry. He was not used to *answering* questions. He was used to *giving* orders. He was used to *asking* questions and getting answers.

"You don't have a '*file*', Dr. Marshall. They're old-fashioned. They take up too much space. Thousands and thousands of files. Tons and tons of paper. We didn't have room for them. The basement^④ looked like a library. It was pure chaos. ⑤ Finding a file took a long time. It was like looking for a needle in a haystack!" ⑥ Rupert Davenport smiled. He drank some more beer.

"If I don't have a file, how do you know me?" Judy asked.

① irritated 恼怒的,生气的 ② Ministry of Defence 国防部 ③ plastic 不真实的;做作的 ④ basement 地下室 ⑤ chaos 混乱,杂乱 ⑥ look for a needle in a haystack 大海捞针



“You are in our new computer. Your code^① number is M. J. 1277 U. B. I put your code number in the computer, and it told me all about you. It also gave me a copy of your photograph. Now are you satisfied?”

① code 密码;代码

Your Country Needs You!

Judy didn't like being in the computer. She felt like a piece of her had been stolen. As if a part of her was in prison,^① and no one had told her! Judy was irritated.

"Why am I in your computer? I want to know."

"My dear, Miss Marshall," Rupert Davenport said. "All important people are in our computer. You are an important person. You are very important, because of your brilliance.^② We need your brilliant brain now. We need your help. *Your country needs you!*"

Judy didn't like Davenport, but she loved her country. She smiled at Rupert Davenport, and said:

"I understand, Mr. Davenport. Please tell me how I can help."

"This is the problem, Dr. Marshall. We want to send you to a dangerous place. It is called Dragon Rock. It is in Scotland.^③ That is where Lord Glencoe lives. That is where he has his laboratory. That is where he does his experiments."

"Who is Lord Glencoe?" Judy asked.

"Lord Glencoe is very rich. He is a biologist, like you are. He is eccentric. He works alone. He never leaves his castle. He won't share his discoveries. He is a genius,^④ he is also mad. Mad and

① prison 监狱 ② brilliance (卓越的) 才华 ③ Scotland 苏格兰 ④ genius 天才, 高智商者

dangerous. I've lost two men on Dragon Rock. ”

“You mean he is a ‘*real*’ mad scientist, like in films?”

Judy started to laugh. Rupert Davenport did not laugh. His face was like a piece of granite. ①

“Don’t laugh, Miss Marshall. I am *serious*. Glencoe is mad!”

“Send the police. Send the army. Send the commandos. ② Why send me?” Judy asked.

“Because Lord Glencoe’s work is important. His laboratory is in his castle. Lord Glencoe’s castle is a *real* castle. It is guarded all the time. Of course we could attack the castle. We have the men. But an attack would take time. Lord Glencoe would have time. Time enough to destroy his laboratory. Time to destroy his work. A *whole lifetime’s work*! We can’t risk that. The country needs his knowledge. The defence of Britain depends on ③ it!”

“I see,” Judy said. Now she, too, was serious. “What do I have to do?”

“That’s what I wanted to hear. I knew you’d say that. I want you to stop Lord Glencoe destroying his laboratory. You will pretend ④ to be a journalist. ⑤ Spies ⑥ usually pretend to be journalists! We have already contacted ⑦ Lord Glencoe. He has agreed to give you an interview. ⑧ He will see you this afternoon at four o’clock. We will attack Dragon Rock Castle as soon as it gets dark.”

“I don’t have much time. How did you know I would say ‘yes’?”

Davenport smiled at Judy,

① granite 花岗岩 ② commando 突击队 ③ depend on 依靠; 依赖
④ to pretend 假装 ⑤ journalist 新闻记者 ⑥ spy 间谍 ⑦ to contact 与……接
触, 与……联系 ⑧ interview 采访