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B2

# FICTION FACTORY

## 万花筒

系列读物

*Jim King  
Mark Randolph*

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  
B2  
FICTION



◆ *Jim King Mark Randall*

◆ 注释 施苗

上海外语教育出版社

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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 B2,由《针街》(Needle Street)和《黄金国》(Eldorado)2 个分册组成。

NEEDLE

STREET

针街

*Jim King*



## 内容简介

一位高大的、神秘的陌生人来到了英国某地的一个街区。他为什么天天打扫当地旧教堂的院子？他似乎在寻找着什么。可他到底是谁？他为什么总是缠绕在往事中？神秘的陌生人认识了当地的一个女孩。女孩的哥哥对一种毒品上了瘾，他觉得有责任帮助她，可他能成功吗？自己走进《针街》(Needle Street)看一看就知道了！

## **Contents**

“The Jungle” .....	5
The Mysterious Stranger .....	7
Family Loyalty .....	12
Needles in the Grass .....	17
A Soldier’s Story .....	20
Peter’s Plan .....	28
Dreamland .....	30
Drug Business .....	34
The Fallen Star .....	36
Truth .....	38
Ends and Beginnings .....	43





## “The Jungle<sup>①</sup>”

It was hot as hell in “the Jungle”. The stranger lifted the old, rusty bucket above his head and poured<sup>②</sup> cold water over his body. Afterwards he opened his eyes and looked around the wild, overgrown churchyard. The big man was glad he was working again. After four days he had made a small clearing in “the jungle”. Outside this cleared area, the grass was well over four feet high. There were weeds, red poppies<sup>③</sup>, wild flowers, and thorn<sup>④</sup> bushes everywhere. At the back of the churchyard there was a line of old, dark trees. Many of the old gravestones had fallen over, and the rest had almost disappeared in “the Jungle”.

He noticed a half-buried statue<sup>⑤</sup>. It was of a sad angel, holding a mighty<sup>⑥</sup> sword. Her wings hung heavy with poison ivy<sup>⑦</sup>. It was wrapped<sup>⑧</sup> around her neck, slowly strangling<sup>⑨</sup> her. Big, red poppies grew tall around her feet. The stranger took out his knife and started to cut the poison ivy away. He worked carefully because he didn't want to damage the white stone underneath. When he had finished he stepped back and smiled.

“There,” he said, “now you're free, and you can fly again — if you can and still want to.”

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① jungle 丛林 ② to pour 倒 ③ poppy 罂粟花 ④ thorn (植物的)刺  
⑤ statue 雕像 ⑥ mighty 巨大的 ⑦ ivy [植] 毒漆; 常春藤 ⑧ to wrap 缠绕  
⑨ to strangle 使窒息

For a second he imagined<sup>①</sup> he saw the angel smiling back at him. But he knew he was stupid and closed his eyes quickly. When he opened them again, the angel wasn't smiling. He was thankful. The stranger thought about the doctors back at the hospital. They would not like these fantasies<sup>②</sup>. He had not come to Barton to look for smiling angels. No, he was looking for something else.

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① to imagine 想象 ② fantasy 幻想

## The Mysterious Stranger

Barton was an ordinary town. St. George's Street was an ordinary street. There was nothing special about the little corner shop. Sweets, newspapers, magazines, tobacco... normal things. Inside the shop, the nervous girl looked ordinary, too. Shirley was like millions of other English girls. She wasn't very tall, her skin was extremely<sup>①</sup> white, her hair was dark, her eyes were brown, and her lips<sup>②</sup> were red. Shirley was waiting, waiting. She was waiting for the stranger to come in again. For the last four days he'd come into the shop. Every time he'd buy a newspaper, a Mars Bar, a packet<sup>③</sup> of crisps<sup>④</sup>. He said almost nothing to her. Shirley had a strange feeling about him. A feeling she didn't really recognize or properly understand.

The stranger didn't look, or walk, or talk like the other men in St. George's Street. The first morning she'd looked out of the window to see where he went. To her great surprise, the stranger had walked down the street and then suddenly disappeared behind the old church. He'd done the same thing every morning. This was unusual, for the church had been closed for many years. Only cats and dogs went there now. Parents warned their children to stay away. Shirley wondered<sup>⑤</sup> about him. Who was he, why was he here, and what was he

---

① extremely 极其; 非常    ② lip 嘴唇    ③ packet 小盒; 小袋    ④ crisp(s)  
油炸土豆片; 松脆物    ⑤ to wonder 对……感到奇怪; 想知道

doing?

Suddenly Shirley's thoughts were interrupted<sup>①</sup> by a loud voice behind her. It was Mrs. Williams, the owner of the little shop, "Why don't you go out into the street, and wait for your prince<sup>②</sup> to come by? Why don't you put out the red carpet for him, Shirley?"

The girl went red, and turned away<sup>③</sup> from the window. Mrs. Williams was smiling broadly<sup>④</sup> to herself. This was what she liked, what she lived for. "You can't hide it from me, Shirley. I was married three times, and I had four sisters. I know that look on your face. I've seen it a million times. You're interested in that big bloke<sup>⑤</sup>, aren't you?"

There was no stopping her now. Once Mrs. Williams had an idea in her head, that was it. She never changed her mind about anything.

"There's something I don't understand. What's he doing down at the church? Don't you find that a bit strange, Shirley? I said so to old Mrs. Browne yesterday..."

Shirley did think it was strange, but she didn't say so. She had to keep some of her thoughts private<sup>⑥</sup>.

"I don't know, Mrs. Williams. I thought about going down for a look, but I don't want to poke my nose in<sup>⑦</sup>. He's got a nice suntan<sup>⑧</sup>, hasn't he?"

"... Oh, my God, Shirley! I think you're in love, poor girl. Looks like I'll have to start looking around for a new girl soon."

---

① to interrupt 打断 ② prince 王子 ③ turn away 转过脸去 ④ broadly 无约束地 ⑤ bloke (英俚)家伙 ⑥ private 私下的,保密的 ⑦ poke one's nose in 探听 ⑧ suntan (皮肤的)晒黑

Shirley closed her eyes, and wished she could close her ears as well. It was then she heard the door open behind her. Shirley started to tremble<sup>①</sup> like a leaf. She opened her eyes slowly. Mrs. Williams looked triumphant<sup>②</sup>. Shirley guessed who it was. She turned around and looked up. It was the stranger. He smiled down at her. This was the first time he had smiled at her.

He was very tall with large, muscular<sup>③</sup> arms. His blond<sup>④</sup> hair was very short, almost like a skinhead<sup>⑤</sup>. He looked like a hard, tough<sup>⑥</sup> man. No one would call him handsome. But his voice was low and gentle, and he seemed so... so shy. Shirley looked into his eyes and knew that deep inside him something was missing.

"Morning," he said, and nothing more.

"Oh hello love, Shirley and I were just having a little chat<sup>⑦</sup> about you," said Mrs Williams cheerfully<sup>⑧</sup>. Shirley wished she could escape into a hole in the ground. "You're new to Barton, aren't you, dear?"

Shirley watched him carefully. For a second she thought he was going to turn around and run out of the shop. But he didn't run. Instead he took a deep breath, lifted his head, and said in a low voice,

"I... suppose you ladies want to know what I'm doing here, and ... and who I am?"

"No," said Shirley. She felt he really did not want to tell them anything.

"Yes, please!" said Mrs. Williams and moved closer.

"Well ... well, it's not a secret. I came to Barton because I

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① to tremble 发抖 ② triumphant 得意洋洋的 ③ muscular 强壮的 ④ blond (头发)金黄色的 ⑤ skinhead (美俚)秃头(的人) ⑥ tough 能吃苦耐劳的 ⑦ chat 聊天 ⑧ cheerfully 高兴地

needed work. A friend of mine, the new priest<sup>①</sup>, plans to modernize St. George's Church and have it re-opened. I've been clearing the churchyard for the last four days... That's about it... Nothing special... or mysterious. My... my... name is Michael... Michael Victor. There, now you know everything."

"We don't go to church much around here, son," said Mrs. Williams. Shirley turned and looked at her. She could tell<sup>②</sup> Mrs. Williams didn't believe him. "St. George's Church has been empty for years. There's just no demand for it anymore."

"I think it's a good idea!" Shirley said in the loudest voice she had. "This street has been going downhill<sup>③</sup> for years. It's about time somebody tried to stop the rot<sup>④</sup>."

The stranger looked down at the girl. She looked so sweet, and he knew he liked her. She had kind, good eyes. It felt good to have contact with normal people again. He was glad he was no longer in the hospital. Coming to Barton was a good idea. He continued, "My friend plans to build a new community<sup>⑤</sup> centre at the back of the church. He's a very energetic<sup>⑥</sup>, active kind of man. He's especially interested in young people and their problems. Maybe he can do some good."

"Dreams, your friend is dreaming," said Mrs. Williams. "It'll take a lot more than a few prayers<sup>⑦</sup> to put Barton right again. The unemployment around here is terrible. Crime around here is terrible. I blame<sup>⑧</sup> it all on the bloody drug addicts<sup>⑨</sup>. I say, bring back hanging..."

---

① priest 神父, 牧师 ② to tell 断定 ③ downhill 走下坡路的 ④ rot 堕落  
⑤ community 社区 ⑥ energetic 精力旺盛的 ⑦ prayer 祈祷 ⑧ to blame 责备, 怪罪 ⑨ drug addict 吸毒者

Michael noticed the expression on the girl's face change when the big woman mentioned drugs. It was only for a second, but Michael saw it.

Mrs. Williams looked like she was really warming up. Shirley knew that once she started on hanging<sup>①</sup>, there was absolutely<sup>②</sup> no chance of stopping her. So Shirley stepped in to rescue<sup>③</sup> Michael from Mrs. Williams before it was too late.

"Was it *the Daily Mirror*<sup>④</sup>, a Mars, and some crisps you wanted?"

"Oh, yes, yes, thanks. That's all I want."

Michael smiled, grabbed<sup>⑤</sup> his things, paid, and almost ran out of the shop. He even forgot to shut the door behind him. Shirley went over and shut it and turned back to Mrs. Williams.

"Shirley, really I was going to have a nice talk with him. Now I'll have to wait till tomorrow..."

"I'm sorry, Mrs. Williams."

"There you go again! Cutting me off in the middle of a sentence! Now go and wash the windows at the front. People have to see inside, and I have to see out. Go on girl, don't just stand there. Go and make yourself useful!"

---

① to hang 紧紧缠住,持续不停 ② absolutely 绝对地 ③ to rescue 援救

④ *the Daily Mirror* 《镜报》 ⑤ to grab 抓取

## Family Loyalty

Shirley was sitting on her brother's bed. She had been sitting there all night holding his hand. She looked at him and felt helpless. Danny was thin, and getting thinner. His skin was a strange, yellow colour. Many of his teeth were gone. Sometimes he reminded<sup>①</sup> her of a little bird without feathers. Sometimes, in the mornings, he looked more dead than alive. Danny started to wake up.

"Where am I?" Danny asked and half opened his eyes.

"You're home, Danny. I am so glad you woke up. I was really worried about you last night. I nearly telephoned for an ambulance<sup>②</sup>. Do you remember anything about last night?"

"Not really, it's all a bit of a blank<sup>③</sup>. Was I bad?"

"No, but you were really out of it<sup>④</sup>. It's got to stop, Danny. You can't keep on taking drugs<sup>⑤</sup> like this. One day you'll take too much, and you won't wake up."

"It's not easy, Shirley. When I take drugs, I... I feel good. I can escape ... for a few hours ... from Barton ... It's like a ... holiday, a holiday from ... everything."

But Shirley knew about the other side of the coin<sup>⑥</sup>. She'd heard Danny crawling<sup>⑦</sup> around on the carpet looking for drugs. She'd seen him shouting about the giant mosquitoes<sup>⑧</sup> on his arms, and scream-

---

① remind 使想起 ② ambulance 救护车 ③ blank 空白 ④ out of it 头脑不清楚 ⑤ drug 毒品 ⑥ the other side of the coin (喻)问题的另一方面 ⑦ to crawl 爬 ⑧ giant mosquito 巨大的蚊子(这里比喻注射毒品用的针筒)



ing when they came back for more blood.

"I talked to Dr. Singh, Danny. He said he'll try and get you into the new drug clinic<sup>①</sup>. There's a long waiting list, but he says there's a chance. But you really have to want to get off drugs first. He says that's the most important thing. Only you can kick drugs out of your life."

"Yeah, that sounds very interesting, Shirley. I'll think about it seriously. I will, I promise."

Danny was silent for a few moments. Then he pointed over at his leather jacket in the corner.

"There's a . . . a package in the left pocket. Will you get it for me, Shirley?"

Shirley didn't know what to say to him. How could she tell him? Danny noticed the look on her face. Shirley could see the suspicious<sup>②</sup> look in her brother's eyes. When she didn't move or answer, he became angry. Not the usual anger when she did something wrong. No, this time his anger was mixed with fear. Shirley was suddenly afraid of him. Danny grabbed her wrist and twisted it.

"Where did you put it?" he demanded angrily.

"No, Danny, please, you're hurting me," she cried.

He twisted her wrist again.

"Don't, Danny. Please, it hurts."

"I want my stuff<sup>③</sup>, and I want it — now!" he shouted.

"I flushed<sup>④</sup> it down the toilet, Danny, like you told me to!"

"What did you do that for, Shirley?"

---

① drug clinic 戒毒诊所    ② suspicious (表示)怀疑的    ③ stuff 东西;物品

④ to flush 冲洗