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FICTION FACTORY

万花筒

系列读物

Jeff Starre
Gillian Lambert

畅销世界百万册的英语读物

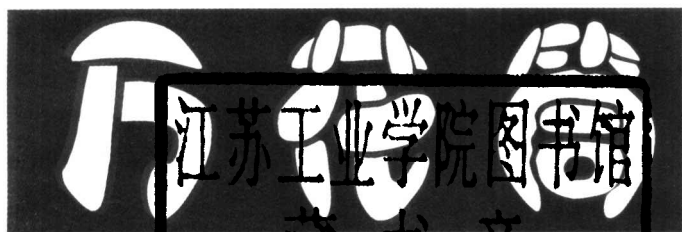


上海外语教育出版社

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藏书章

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◆ Jeff Starre Gillian Lambert

◆ 注释 施苗

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

万花筒系列读物. B1 = Fiction Factory/斯塔尔(Starre, J.), 兰伯特(Lambert G.)编;施茵注释.

—上海:上海外语教育出版社,2003

ISBN 7-81080-782-X

I. 万... II. ①斯...②兰...③施... III. 英语—语言读物
IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2003)第 056908 号

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出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-65425300 (总机), 35051812 (发行部)

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责任编辑: 韩天霖

印 刷: 江苏省丹阳教育印刷厂

经 销: 新华书店上海发行所

开 本: 850×1168 1/32 印张 3.625 字数 83 千字

版 次: 2004 年 2 月 第 1 版 2004 年 2 月 第 1 次印刷

印 数: 10 000 册

书 号: ISBN 7-81080-782-X / C · 395

定 价: 11.00 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题,可向本社调换

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。

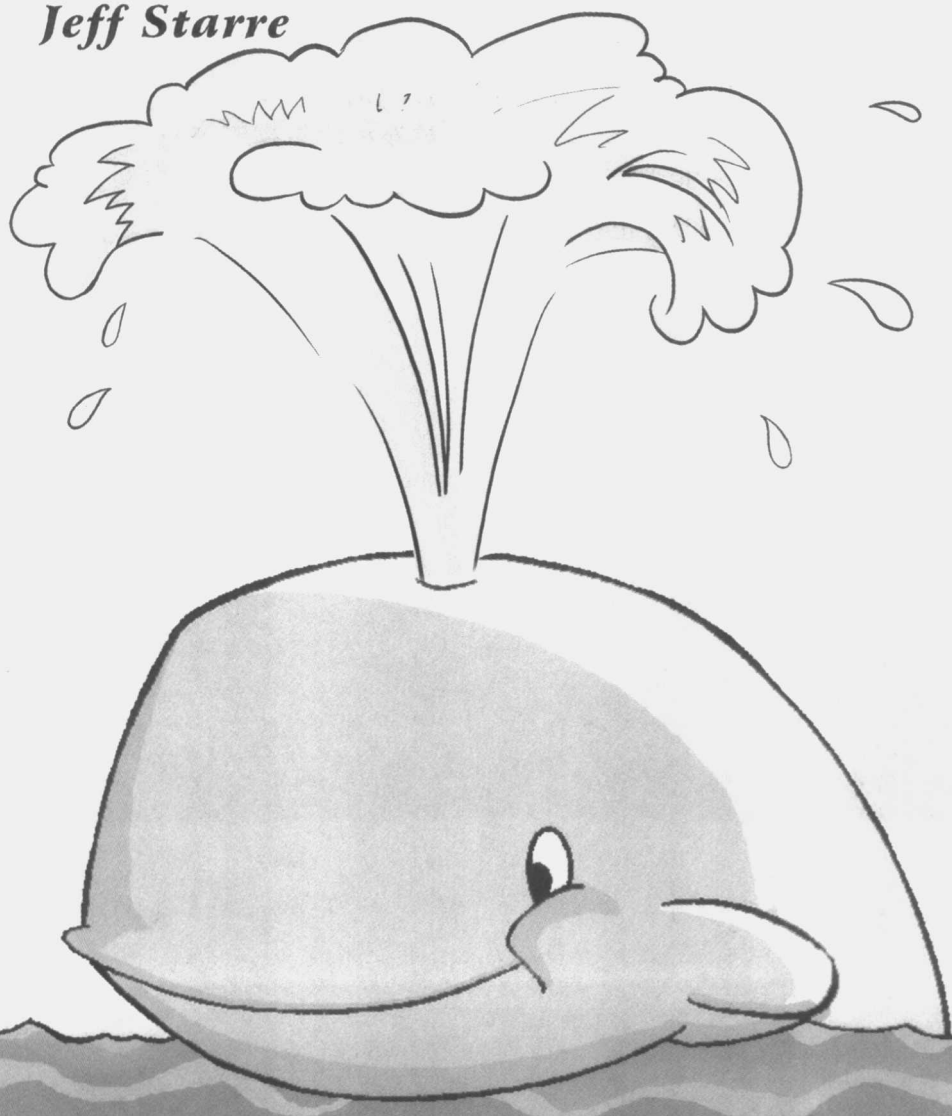
全套读物按文字难度分 A、B、C、D 4 个级别,每级 2 本;A 级适合初二、初三学生阅读,B 级适合高一学生阅读,C 级适合高二学生阅读,D 级适合高三及更高水平的学生阅读。本书为系列中的 B1,由《白鲸》(White Whales)和《死海》(The Dead Sea)2 个分册组成。

WHITE

WHALES

白鯨

Jeff Starre



内容简介

由于人类的滥捕乱杀,在地球上继续狩猎几乎是不可能的事了,因为在这个星球上野生动物已经遭到了彻底的灭绝。于是,宇宙星际导游吉姆·斯通带着超级富翁查尔斯·科拉尔及其家人到遥远而美丽的海洋星球 Aqua Nova去旅游、打猎。但是,他们对外星球生物的恣意杀戮把他们带入非常可怕的危险境地之中……小心!《白鲸》(White Whales)正在向你冲来!

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Space Safari^①

I knew my way around this part of space as I knew the back of my hand. Finally, it looked like I was going to make some real money for a change. I was already dreaming about how I was going to spend it.

First, I would be going to get the ship's engines seen to, and second, I was going to go back to earth and visit my family. It had been years, and now it was time for the 'black sheep^②' to return.

I hoped they still remembered me.

It all started when I stopped off at an isolated^③ spacestation for emergency repairs^④ to the ship's left engine. There I met an old girlfriend.

Lola was working as a stewardess on one of those big, deep-space cruisers^⑤. She told me about a wealthy^⑥ family who were looking for some real excitement. They were bored of the usual charter-tour stuff^⑦. She thought I might be able to show them something 'different'.

When I met Charles Coral, I didn't know much about him. I should have recognized^⑧ his name, but I didn't. He was one of the

① safari 旅游; 游猎 ② black sheep 害群之马 ③ isolated 孤零零的 ④ emergency repair(s) 紧急修理 ⑤ cruiser (能提供膳食、住宿的) 游艇 ⑥ wealthy 富裕的 ⑦ charter-tour stuff 包租旅游之类的活动 ⑧ recognize 认出; 识别

richest men in Europe and one of the most powerful^①. Later on I found out a lot more about him.

He told me to call him 'Charlie'. His wife was called May, and she liked gold jewelry^② and big diamond rings. They also had a daughter. She was about eighteen, and she was cool, distant as a star, all dressed in black and too beautiful for comfort.

I had a long conversation with Charlie and found out that he was a great sportsman and loved hunting. Luck was on my side for a change.

Two months earlier I had found this fantastic^③ planet which wasn't too far away. It was ninety-nine per cent water, and there were beautiful tropical^④ islands spread^⑤ out all over the place. Most important, the seas were full of fish. Fish that had never seen a hook^⑥ before! All you had to do was throw a hook in the water and, two minutes later, you had a bite. It was almost too easy.

But I didn't tell Charlie that. So we agreed on a price, and they left the tour and came with me. "How long before we arrive?" Berlina Coral asked. "My father's getting tired of waiting."

"I can't make this ship go any faster. Tell him to read a book. It'll be good for him. He looks like he could do with some culture."

She gave me one of her cool, beautiful smiles, and I wanted her to keep on smiling at me forever. I liked her smile and everything else about Berlina Coral. The only thing I didn't like about her was her money.

① powerful 强有力的;有影响的 ② jewelry 珠宝 ③ fantastic 奇异的 ④ tropical 热带的 ⑤ to spread 展开;散布 ⑥ hook 鱼钩

She told me that her family had invested^① heavily in Eastern Europe after the revolutions^② way back in 1989 and had made millions. Her father had used his share of the profits and invested in cosmetics^③ and make-up^④. He had been very successful and now controlled one of the largest cosmetic firms in the galaxy^⑤— ‘Coralina’.

The real reason I was being nasty^⑥ to Berlina was, because I knew I could never have her. It was hard being so close to her and so far away at the same time. My ship wasn't very large and I kept meeting her, so it was difficult not to see her and think about her. She had no right to be so beautiful.

Berlina understood nothing about my ‘problem’. I think she thought I was just a star sailor gone space-crazy^⑦.

“Why are you doing this if you hate us so much?” she asked.

“You ask a lot of questions for a little girl!” I snapped^⑧.

“I'm not a little girl. I know it, and you know it, too. So let's stop this nonsense^⑨. I stopped being a ‘little girl’ years ago. I'm eighteen and my brain is much older. My father sent me to the best schools in Europe. You shouldn't treat^⑩ me like a fool just because I'm rich.”

“I treat you like a fool, because you're beautiful, not because you're rich.”

“You're a pig. You should get out of space before you fly into a black hole^⑪.”

① to invest 投资 ② revolution 剧变 ③ cosmetic 美容品;装饰品 ④ make-up 化妆品 ⑤ galaxy 银河系 ⑥ nasty 不友好的,恶意的 ⑦ space-crazy 太空狂 ⑧ to snap 厉声说话 ⑨ nonsense 废话 ⑩ to treat 把……看作 ⑪ black hole 黑洞

“All right, Berlina. Let's make peace, shall we? I'm sorry for being so . . . so . . .”

“So stupid, bad-mannered, chauvinistic^① and . . . blind^②!”

“Look, Berlina. I'm sorry. Let's start all over again. We're going to be together for some time so we should try to be civilised.”

“Why do you hate us?”

“I don't hate you. Your father is paying me a lot of money to take you hunting. That's why I'm with you. There's nothing in my contract^③ that says I have to like you or your family.”

“My mother thinks you're space-sexy. My mother likes your type, rugged^④, not too intelligent^⑤ and brutally^⑥ handsome.”

“Thanks for the compliment^⑦. I'll try to remember it.”

“There's no need to thank me.”

“I never get involved with^⑧ customers, Berlina. I'm a professional^⑨. I have . . .”

“Ha, maybe you should ‘get involved’ with them, you'd probably earn more money that way!”

I looked at the sarcastic^⑩ expression on Berlina's beautiful face. She was grinning^⑪ directly into my face. I felt like I was the most unimportant man in the whole universe. Berlina was just too intelligent for my usual ‘smart’ talk.

“Look Berlina, this isn't the first time I've been a guide for rich tourists from earth. Space tourism is big business nowadays. Every

① chauvinistic 沙文主义的 ② blind 盲目的 ③ contract 合同 ④ rugged 粗犷的 ⑤ intelligent 有才智的 ⑥ brutally 蛮横地 ⑦ compliment 赞美(话)
⑧ get involved with 与……发生关系,(婉)有男女关系 ⑨ professional 专业人员
⑩ sarcastic 嘲笑的 ⑪ to grin 露齿而笑

time a new, unspoiled planet is found, the tourists and hunters move in like packs^① of wolves. In a few years the planet is destroyed. If the tourists don't do the job, the mining companies take over and finish it off. They tear the place apart looking for gold, oil, coal, diamonds, etc. "

"I know all about that. Tell me something new!"

"Berlina, I'm trying to explain something to you. About why I do this kind of work. Give me a chance, will you?"

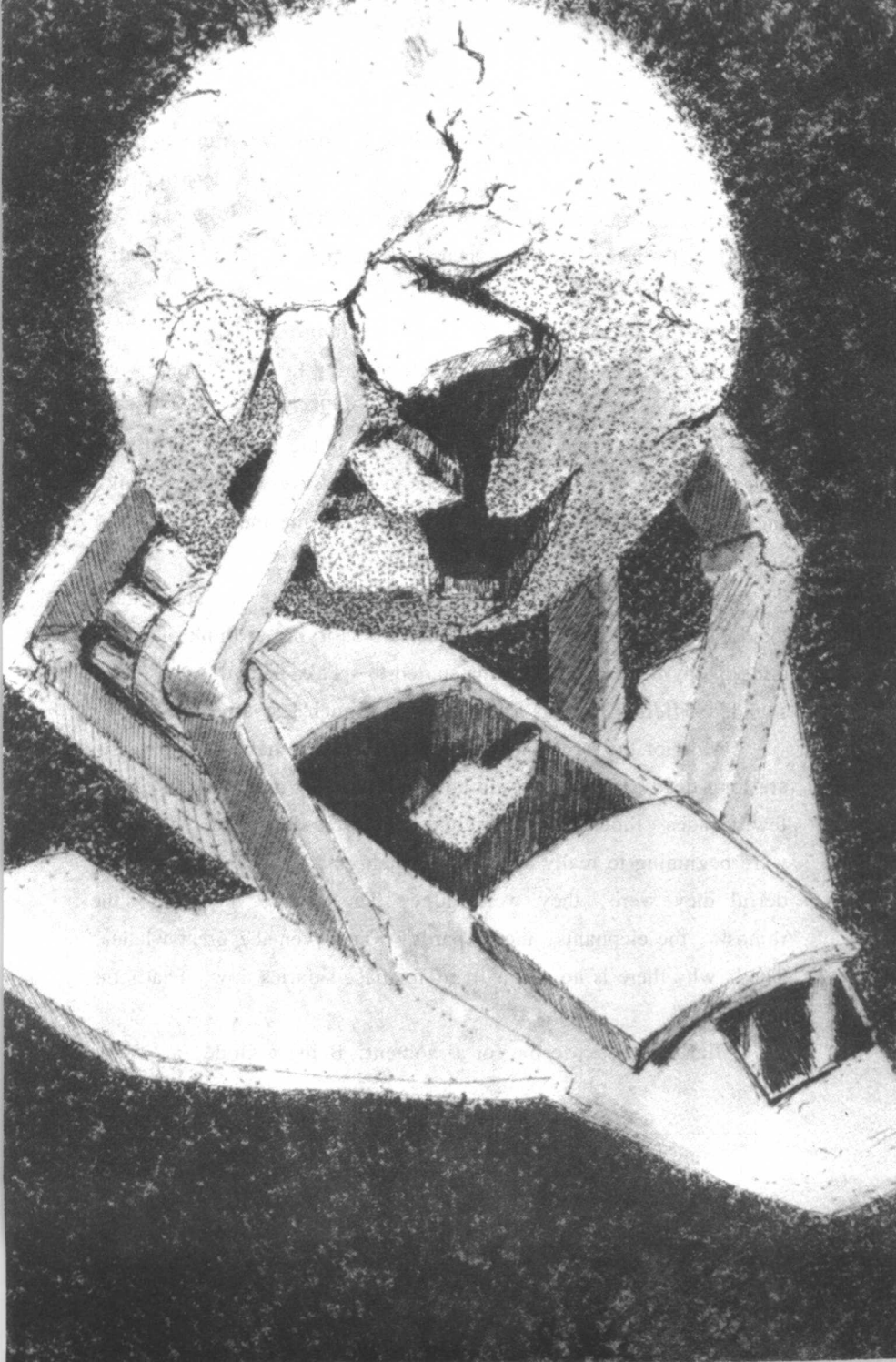
"I know why you do it. You do it for the money. That's all you care about. You don't have to lie to me. Save your 'smart talk' and lies for women like my mother. Just tell me the truth. Maybe you've forgotten how to speak the truth?"

We stood in total silence for a long time. We just stood there looking out at the stars all around us. I was trying to think of something to say to her when Berlina started to speak. This time her voice sounded different. It was a lot softer and much less arrogant^②.

"Most of the large, wild animals we used to have back on earth are long dead. It was fantastic how quickly they died out. In only a few decades^③ thousands of different types were destroyed. Just as we were beginning to really appreciate^④ them and understand how wonderful they were, they were gone. The tigers, the lions, the rhinos^⑤, the elephants, the leopards^⑥, and even the great whales. That's why there is no alternative^⑦ to space safaries now. That's the real truth. "

"Berlina, listen to me for a moment. Being a guide, a 'White

① pack 一群 ② arrogant 傲慢的 ③ decade 十年 ④ to appreciate 欣赏
⑤ rhino = rhinoceros 犀牛 ⑥ leopard 豹, 美洲豹 ⑦ alternative 替换物



Hunter' ① is in my blood. One of my forefathers ②—Albert Stone, was a famous guide in Africa. He was one of the first so-called 'White Hunters'. He worked in central Africa in the 1890's and the early part of the twentieth century. I once read some of his old diaries. They are really interesting. It's difficult to believe how many animals there were in Africa in those days. When the first Europeans moved into the centre of the so-called 'Dark Continent' they couldn't believe their eyes. There were so many different kinds of animals they had never seen before. And there were millions and millions of them. Old Albert Stone once led a great safari for Teddy Roosevelt when he was President of the United States. During the six months it lasted he personally shot 87 elephants, 90 lions, 60 rhinos, 200 hundred buffalos ③, 46 leopards, 33 giraffes ④ and literally ⑤ hundreds of other animals. For men like him Africa was an endless storehouse of things to kill. Albert led safaris for men like him for years and years . . . ”

“You know that happened in Africa and you still do this dirty work. I don't understand people like you!”

“Berlina, this is how I live. Don't you see, I'm good at my job. I don't know any other type of work . . . ”

Berlina didn't seem impressed with my 'life story'. She looked at me like I was the lowest of the low ⑥. The coldness in her voice returned once more.

“I know all about the killing in Africa. Albert Stone and men

① White Hunter (受雇为游猎队当向导的)白人职业猎手 ② forefather 祖先
③ buffalo 水牛 ④ giraffe 长颈鹿 ⑤ literally 不加夸张地 ⑥ the lowest of the low 最无耻卑鄙的

like him helped to kill millions of animals. They were armed to the teeth, and they killed everything that moved. They liked to call it 'sport', too! The slaughter^① went on for decades until nearly all the great animals were almost wiped out. The lucky ones ended up as prisoners in zoos all over the world. You know the thing I hate most of all? The worst part was the illegal^② hunters, the poachers^③. The poachers killed animals for their skins and elephants for their ivory^④. The swine^⑤ started to get really desperate^⑥ as the elephant numbers went down, down, down. They killed so many elephants that they ended up having to kill baby elephants for their tiny, ivory tusks. Just think about it. Killing baby elephants for tusks which were only as big as your finger. It was so stupid and so sick. They butchered the rhinos as well for their horns. Afterwards they ground^⑦ the horns into powder. The powder was then sold to idiots^⑧ who thought it helped make them better lovers. Jesus, men can be so stupid!"

"Berlina, I'm not a killer or a murderer. I don't slaughter animals for fun. A man has to make a living, doesn't he? Not everyone is as rich as you are. Not everyone can choose what to do with their lives. Not everyone has the money to be as idealistic^⑨ as you are. Berlina, don't you understand how privileged^⑩ you are!"

Berlina stopped smiling at me for just a second. Something I had said seemed to have gone through to her. Then her cool smile returned once more to her white marble^⑪ face. She turned away from

① slaughter 屠杀 ② illegal 非法的 ③ poacher 偷猎者 ④ ivory 象牙
⑤ swine 猪猡, 坏蛋 ⑥ desperate 不顾一切的 ⑦ to grind 碾(碎) ⑧ idiot 极端愚蠢的人 ⑨ idealistic 理想主义的 ⑩ privileged 享有特权的 ⑪ marble 大理石般的

me and walked quickly out of the control-room. I watched her all the way. I felt irritated^① and so stupid. Why wasn't I rich? Was it just bad luck or something worse? But this time I was not going to make any mistakes. This time was going to be different.

① irritated 生气的