

**MARILYN MONROE**

Collins English Library Level 3

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Collins ELT

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# Collins English Library

Series editors: K R Cripwell and Lewis Jones

A library of graded readers for students of English as a second or foreign language, and for reluctant native readers. The books are graded in six levels of difficulty. Structure, vocabulary, idiom and sentence length are all controlled according to principles laid down in detail in *A Guide to Collins English Library*. A list of the books follows. Numbers after each title indicate the level at which the book is written: 1 has a basic vocabulary of 300 words and appropriate structures, 2 : 600 words, 3 : 1000 words, 4 : 1500 words, 5 : 2000 words and 6 : 2500 words.

- Inspector Holt and the Fur Van* John Tully 1  
*Where is Bill Ojo?* John Tully 1  
*Crocodile!* K R Cripwell 1  
*Four Short Stories* Margery Morris 1  
*The Story of Macbeth* from Shakespeare 1  
*Fast Money* K R Cripwell 1  
*It's a Trick!* Lewis Jones 1  
*Taxi!* Jane Homeshaw 1  
*Tin Lizzie* Jane Homeshaw 1  
*Dead in the Morning* Jane Homeshaw 1  
*Letters from the Dead* Jane Homeshaw 1  
*The Pathfinders* Jane Homeshaw 1  
*Cats in the Dark* John Tully 1  
*Journey to Universe City* Leslie Dunkling 1  
*Cats in the Dark* John Tully 1  
*Inspector Holt and the Chinese Necklace* John Tully 1  
*Inspector Holt Gets His Man* John Tully 2  
*The Bridge* John Tully 2  
*Muhammad Ali: King of the Ring* John Tully 2  
*The Magic Garden* K R Cripwell 2  
*The Wrestler* K R Cripwell 2  
*The Titanic is Sinking* K R Cripwell 2  
*The Canterville Ghost* Oscar Wilde 2  
*The Prince and the Poor Boy* Mark Twain 2  
*Two Roman Stories* from Shakespeare 2  
*Oliver Twist* Charles Dickens 2  
*The Story of Madame Tussaud's* Lewis Jones 2  
*Three Sherlock Holmes Adventures* Sir A Conan Doyle 2  
*The Story of Scotland Yard* Lewis Jones 2  
*Charles and Diana* Margery Morris 2  
*The Charlie Chaplin Story* Jane Homeshaw 2  
*A King's Love Story* K R Cripwell 2  
*Dangerous Earth* Jane Homeshaw 2  
*Chariots of Fire* W J Weatherby 2  
*Shark Attack!* Jan Keane 2  
*The Complete Robot: Selected Stories* Isaac Asimov 2  
*Five Ghost Stories* Viola Huggins 3  
*Brainbox and Bull* Michael Kenyon 3  
*Climb a Lonely Hill* Lilith Norman 3



*Custer's Gold* Kenneth Ulyatt 3  
*The Gunshot Grand Prix* Douglas Rutherford 3  
*Born Free* Joy Adamson 3  
*Cinema Stunts* K R Oripwell 3  
*David Copperfield* Charles Dickens 3  
*Three English Kings* from Shakespeare 3  
*An American Tragedy* Theodore Dreiser 3  
*Six American Stories* Norman Wymer 3  
*Emma and I* Sheila Hocken 3  
*Maimunah* David Hill 3  
*Little Women* Louisa M Alcott 3  
*Marilyn Monroe* Peter Dainty 3  
*Bruce Springsteen* Toni Murphy 3  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* Oscar Wilde 3  
*The White South* Hammond Innes 4  
*Landslide* Desmond Bagley 4  
*Nothing is the Number when you Die* Joan Fleming 4  
*The Lovely Lady and Other Stories* D H Lawrence 4  
*King Solomon's Mines* H Rider Haggard 4  
*A Christmas Carol* Charles Dickens 4  
*Jane Eyre* Charlotte Bronte 4  
*Pride and Prejudice* Jane Austen 4  
*Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* R L Stevenson 4  
*Huckleberry Finn* Mark Twain 4  
*The African Child* Camara Laye 4  
*Tiger Kailash* Sankhala 4  
*Airport International* Brian Moynahan 4  
*The Secret Sharer and Other Sea Stories* Joseph Conrad 4  
*Death in Vienna?* K E Rowlands 4  
*Hostage Tower* Alistair MacLean/John Denis 4  
*The Guns of Navarone* Alistair MacLean 5  
*Where Eagles Dare* Alistair MacLean 5  
*I Know my Love* Catherine Gaskin 5  
*The Wreck of the Mary Deare* Hammond Innes 5  
*The Eagle has Landed* Jack Higgins 5  
*Geordie* David Walker 5  
*Among the Elephants* Iain and Oria Douglas-Hamilton 5  
*The Mayor of Casterbridge* Thomas Hardy 5  
*Wuthering Heights* Emily Bronte 5  
*Sense and Sensibility* Jane Austen 5  
*Middlemarch* George Eliot 5  
*Victory* Joseph Conrad 5  
*Experiences of Terror* Roland John 5  
*Japan: Islands in the Mist* Peter Milward 5  
*House of a Thousand Lanterns* Victoria Holt 6  
*The Glory Boys* Gerald Seymour 6  
*Harry's Game* Gerald Seymour 6  
*Inspector Ghote Breaks an Egg* H R F Keating 6  
*Hard Times* Charles Dickens 6  
*In the Shadow of Man* Jane Goodall 6  
*Doctor Zhivago* Boris Pasternak 6  
*Sons and Lovers* D H Lawrence 6  
*The Dark Frontier* Eric Ambler 6  
*Vanity Fair* William Thackeray 6



## The Dates

- 1926** Born Norma Jean Baker in Los Angeles. Her father doesn't want to see her. Her mother is taken to hospital. Her grandmother tries to kill her. Lives with many different families.
- 1935** Taken to a school for girls without parents.
- 1942** Marries Jim Dougherty.
- 1944** Jim Dougherty leaves for Australia to fight in the Second World War.
- 1945** Begins work painting fighter planes. A photographer starts taking pictures of her.
- 1946** Ends her marriage with Jim Dougherty. Meets Ben Lyon and starts work for 20th Century Fox. Changes her name to Marilyn Monroe.
- 1947** Dropped by 20th Century Fox.
- 1949** Meets Johnny Hyde, a famous Hollywood manager. Meets Darryl Zanuck, head of 20th Century Fox.
- 1950** Johnny Hyde dies. Films *The Asphalt Jungle* and *All About Eve*.
- 1951** Tries to find her father. He doesn't want to speak to her.

- 1953** Meets Joe DiMaggio, a well-known baseball star.
- 1954** Marries Joe DiMaggio. Visits American soldiers fighting in Korea. Films *The Seven Year Itch*. Ends her marriage with Joe DiMaggio.
- 1956** Films *Bus Stop*. Marries Arthur Miller.
- 1959** Films *Some Like It Hot* with Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis.
- 1960** Films *Let's Make Love*. Arthur Miller leaves the house. Marilyn falls in love with French actor Yves Montand.
- 1961** Films *The Misfits* with Clark Gable. Long delays in the filming. Marilyn is very ill. Clark Gable dies. "Monroe killed my husband," says Mrs Gable. Marilyn tries to kill herself. Marilyn goes into hospital in New York.
- 1962** Found dead. Was it murder or did she kill herself?



## Norma Jean

Marilyn Monroe was born on 1 June 1926. Her real name was Norma Jean Baker. Her mother was Gladys Baker (a film cutter for the RKO company in Hollywood), and her father was a salesman called C. Stanley Gifford.

Gifford was a strange man. When Gladys told him, "I'm going to have a baby," he became very angry. "Go away," he cried out, "and take your baby with you. I'm not interested in you or the child. Don't talk to me again. Just leave me alone."

He didn't visit the hospital where Norma Jean was born, and he never sent Gladys any money.

Gladys now went to live with her mother, Della, but there was trouble. Della was very ill, and sometimes she lost her mind. Sometimes she ran out into the street and started screaming. She attacked people and threw chairs at them. She was very sad. But she loved Gladys, and the child always felt welcome in the house.

"My mother was very kind," said Gladys. "She gave me everything she had. I needed her love very much at that time. But I was afraid to go out of the house. I couldn't leave her alone

with Norma Jean. If she was unhappy, she often hit the baby. So I stayed at home and watched my mother very carefully."

One night in 1927, Della tried to kill Norma Jean. She went into the bedroom, and pushed a pillow against Norma Jean's mouth. Suddenly, the baby woke up, screaming. Della ran out of the room. Norma Jean did not sleep again that night.

Why did Della want to kill Norma Jean? Nobody knows. A few months later, Della became very ill. She started crying and hitting the bedroom wall. She was taken to the hospital, and a few days later she died.

Gladys was very afraid. "Why did my mother lose her mind?" she wondered. "It happened to my father and brother too. "What's wrong with our family? Will it happen to me?"

Gladys went back to her job as a film cutter, and she left Norma Jean with a family called the Bolenders. She paid them 25 dollars a month to look after the child. But in 1928, Gladys became very tired. She didn't want to get up in the morning. She stopped work and stayed at home all day. She didn't want to talk to anyone. She often cried. She didn't want to eat, and she started hitting the wall. It was happening again.

The doctor came to see her. A few hours later, they took her away to hospital. For the next five years Norma Jean was alone.

## Dirty Water

There was no one to look after Norma Jean. Her mother was in hospital. Her father didn't want to see her. Her grandmother was dead. The Bolenders hadn't enough money to keep her.

In the United States, families were given money to look after children with no parents. So Norma Jean was sent to live with different families who received money for her food and clothes. "These families did not love me," said Norma Jean. "They were only interested in the money. My life was full of strangers who didn't care for me. I remember one family who were very heartless. There were six people in the house, and there was no bathroom. We all washed in a large bowl. The mother and the father washed first. Then the children washed in the same water. After they finished, the water was always very dirty. I asked for some fresh water, but they just laughed at me. I became very angry. They thought I was an animal. "Why am I always last?" I asked. "Because you don't belong here," they answered. I hated these early years. Nobody wanted me and I cried every night."





## The White House

When Norma Jean was seven, her life changed again. Gladys was now feeling much better, and the doctors let her go home. She left the hospital, and bought a small house in north Hollywood. "It was a very beautiful place," she said. "I painted everything white, and I felt very happy there."

Norma Jean went to live with her mother. It was their first time together for five years. "When I moved into that white house, I was really pleased," said Norma Jean. "My mother was a stranger to me, but I loved her very much. At night she told me stories about her life. She sat on my bed, and we talked for hours. She was a very pretty lady. She was always laughing, and she often brought me sweets. Sometimes I asked her about my father. She never answered my questions. She became quiet. "He's gone away," she said. "He'll be back soon. He loves you too."

Every Saturday, Gladys took Norma Jean to the cinema. But they never saw a film together. Gladys bought Norma Jean a ticket and some chocolates, and then said: "I'm going out to see my friends. I'll be busy all day. I want you to



stay here until the cinema closes."

Norma Jean spent the whole day in the cinema. She often saw the same film four or five times. Then, late at night, she walked home along the dark streets. "As I went back to the house," she said, "I thought about all the people in the films. They were my friends, and I was living in their world. I was a queen or a hunter. I had a house in the desert. I sailed to China on a big brown boat. I was very happy then."

One night in January 1934, Norma Jean was walking home from the cinema. The streets were empty and she was all alone. She was singing to herself. When she arrived at the house, the front door was open. All the lights were off, and she could hear her mother crying in the darkness. Norma Jean ran up the stairs. Gladys was sitting on the edge of the bed. "Who's there?" she called. "It's me, Norma Jean." There was a silence. Then Gladys said "Who's Norma Jean? I don't know anyone called Norma Jean. Please go away and leave me in peace. I don't want to see you."

Norma Jean put her arms around her mother. But Gladys pushed her away. "Go away! Go away! I told you to go away." That night the doctors came to the house. They put Gladys in a big white car and took her to the hospital. Norma Jean began to cry. "That's my mommy," she called out. "You can't do this to me. Bring

her back! Bring her back!"

But Gladys never came back. She spent the rest of her life in hospital.

## School

At the age of nine, Norma Jean was sent to a school for girls with no parents. "I learnt a lot of things there," she said. "All the girls were like me in lots of ways. They had no family and no love. They were all alone in the world. We all lived together in a big room, and I made my first real friends."

Norma Jean stayed here for the next two years. She got up at 6 o'clock every morning, and worked very hard during the day. The girls were given jobs in the school, and Norma Jean learned how to clean and cook. "It was like being a housewife," she said. "We washed floors, cleaned shoes, and made soup all day long. But we were very happy there."

Then, in the summer of 1935, Norma Jean was taken away, and put into a new school and a new house.

"I couldn't understand what was happening," said Norma Jean. "I was happy with my friends and I didn't want to change everything again. I

asked a lot of questions, but I never got any answers. Nobody seemed to listen to me. I decided that adults were very strange people. I hated my new teachers too. I sat at the back of the class and never opened my mouth. When they asked questions, I never understood them. Everybody laughed at me."

When Norma Jean got home after school, she went straight to her bedroom and shut the door. Then she stood in front of a mirror for two or three hours. She became more and more interested in her looks. She washed her face 15 times a day, and tried different colours on her lips and round her eyes. "I fell in love with my body," she said. "I was growing up very quickly, and I was taller and stronger than most girls of my age. When I was 12, I looked like a girl of 17 and all the boys liked me. For the first time in my life, I was the centre for all eyes. People looked at me and said my name. I was different and important. I wasn't lonely any more."

"From the age of 13 or 14, I felt I could manage my own life. I could decide what I wanted to do. I was strong enough to say 'yes' or 'no'. Then I fell in love with a boy called Jim Dougherty. He was three years older than me. He had a good job in a garage. When he asked me to marry him, I didn't think twice. It was now 1941 and I was very happy. In fact there was only one dark cloud in the sky – the war in

Europe was getting worse. Everyone said America was going to fight in the Pacific. That made me feel afraid. I loved Jim. I didn't want the war to take him away from me."

