

A New English Reading Course 1

# 新编英语泛读教程 第

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解放军外国语学院

2003 年 9 月

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试用版

## 前 言

解放军外国语学院英语系一贯重视基础阶段的泛读教学,在泛读教材的编写上有着良好的传统,取得了丰硕的成果。1989年,曾肯干等教授编写的《英语泛读教程》由上海外语教育出版社出版,在我国英语教学界受到热烈欢迎,被众多英语教学单位选作泛读教材。

十余年过后,该系在系主任程工教授的策划和组织下,决定对原有教材进行更新,由长期从事英语专业泛读教学和英文报刊选读的资深教授唐慧心牵头,带领一批在泛读教学上已积累了丰富经验的教授、副教授、博士,经过一年多的紧张努力,编写出了这套《新编英语泛读教程》。

本教程是根据《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》的要求而编写的英语基础阶段泛读教材,供英语专业一、二年级学生使用。全书四册针对四个学期,本着循序渐进的精神,难度也跟着逐步加大。每册分为20个单元,足以满足一个学期的教学量。

本教材除尽量采取《英语泛读教程》中一些行之有效的做法之外,还具有以下几个特点:

一、所选文章都出自于当代英语刊物、英语小说以及因特网,具有鲜明的时代感。文章题材广泛,语言流畅,文字规范,内容健康,溶知识性和趣味性于一身,反映出当代西方社会的方方面面,如大学新生谈入学后的感受,儿提时代对父母亲的看法,奥林匹克运动的由来,美英两国的人文地理,西方人如何看中国,美国人的价值观,伟人们的成功之路等。另外,还有少量的简易评论性文字。

二、每篇文章都配有适量的注释和针对性较强的练习。练习有四种类型:阅读理解,翻译,与课文相关的问答题,以及开放性讨论题。前三种练习题旨在培养学生细微观察语言的能力,引导学生深入理解作者的思路与企图,提高学生综合理解和分析归纳的能力。第四种练习题不局限于课文范围,学生可利用所掌握知识自由开展讨论,提高英语组织和口头表达的能力。

三、全套教材每四单元后都配有一个以多项选择为形式的自我检测阅读理解试题,不仅可以直接帮助学生熟悉多项选择测试形式,掌握做多项选择题的技能,而且可以引导学生对前一阶段的泛读学习做一小结,通过不断的实践,逐渐养成良好的阅读习惯和技巧。

最后,由于这样那样的原因,教材中难免有疏漏谬误之处,希望广大读者批评指正。

孙致礼

2003年九月于洛阳

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# Unit 1

## Web ( I )

*John Wyndham*

### Text

#### CHAPTER ONE

'But how did you become involved in such a crazy business?'

That is the question I am always asked when the subject is mentioned, and it is the one I find most difficult to answer.

There is only one way I can explain it, even to myself. That is  
5 that I must have been suffering from delayed shock—a shock that  
upset<sup>1</sup> my judgment. I think that may have been the cause.

Almost a year before I met Tirrie<sup>2</sup> and so became 'involved in  
the crazy business', I had a nasty<sup>3</sup> accident.

My daughter, Mary, was driving. I was beside her and my wife  
10 was in the back. We were going along the A272<sup>4</sup> towards Etchingham<sup>5</sup>  
at about thirty-five miles an hour, when a lorry<sup>6</sup> traveling at about fifty  
overtake<sup>7</sup> us. I remember two sights quite clearly. The first was the  
wheels of the lorry sliding<sup>8</sup> away from the side of our car; the second  
was the lorry falling towards us.

1. upset /ʌp'set/ v. 扰乱, 颠覆,  
推翻

2. Walter Tirrie /'wɒltə'tɪrɪ/ 沃  
尔特·提瑞(人名)

3. nasty /'næsti/adj. 凶险的, 严  
重的, 激烈的

4. A <英>表示“干线道路”的  
代号

5. Etchingham /'etʃɪŋhəm/ 艾  
钦翰(地名)

6. lorry /'lɒri/ 卡车

7. overtake /'əʊvə'teɪk/ vt. 追  
上, 超过(车)

8. slide /slaid/ v. (使)滑动, (使)  
滑行



15 I woke up in a hospital bed a week later. Two more weeks passed before I was well enough to be told that my wife and Marry were both dead.

They let me out of hospital two months later. I felt empty and confused, and my life seemed to have little purpose. I left my job. I  
20 realize now that giving up work was the worst possible thing to do because it would perhaps have helped me to recover; at the time, though, work seemed so meaningless. I went to stay with my sister in Tonbridge<sup>9</sup>, but continued to feel empty in both heart and mind.

That is the only way I can explain the enthusiasm<sup>10</sup> I felt when I  
25 first heard of Lord Foxfield's<sup>11</sup> Project<sup>12</sup>. It felt as if I was waking from a long sleep, and I welcomed his dream of the future without thinking about any of the practical difficulties that it involved. But now it is gone, the dream destroyed.

The original<sup>13</sup> idea for the Project seems to have come at the  
30 same time to both Lord Foxfield and Walter Tirrie, and it grew in eager conversation between the two of them. Walter was an architect<sup>14</sup> but was better known for his writings as a journalist<sup>15</sup>; in these he often suggested bold<sup>16</sup> solutions to social problems. Lord Foxfield had the necessary money and power, and Tirrie's friendship with him  
35 allowed him to develop these ideas into an actual plan.

But why was Lord Foxfield willing to support such a Project? The answer was simple. Like all rich men who have had power and position during their lives, he wanted people to remember him after his death, and he had spent more than two years searching for a  
40 special cause. He was an individualist<sup>17</sup> who wished to be remembered for leading important social change, so he refused to become involved

9. Tonbridge /'tɒnbɪdʒ/ 特恩布里奇(地名)

10. enthusiasm /ɪn'tʃu:ziæzəm/ n. 热情, 热心, 巨大兴趣

11. Lord Foxfield /'lɔ:d'fɒksfi:ld/ 福克斯菲尔德爵士(头衔)

12. project /'prɒdʒekt/ n. 计划, 方案, 工程

13. original /ə'ridʒɪnəl/ adj. 起初的, 原来的, 原先的

14. architect /'ɑ:kitekt/ n. 建筑师

15. journalist /'ʒɜ:nəlist/ n. 新闻记者, 从事新闻杂志业的人

16. bold /bəʊld/ adj. 大胆的

17. individualist /ɪndɪ'vɪdʒuəlɪst/ n. 个人主义者, 利己主义者

in anything that looked back to the past, and particularly avoided any Project which concerned animals.

It is quite certain that Walter Tirrie was not one of the many who  
45 approached<sup>18</sup> him for money. It is likely that it was Foxfield who made  
contact with<sup>19</sup> Tirrie after reading his angry words about social ills<sup>20</sup> in  
the national press.

18. approach /ə'prəʊtʃ/ vt. 向...  
接洽, 同...联系

19. make contact with 和...接触,  
取得联系

20. social ills 社会弊端

As the two men got to know each other better, and the plan  
developed, Lord Foxfield lost all interest in other people's ideas for  
50 his money; he had invented, or discovered, a special Project of his  
own.

The idea was very simple—although not original. Foxfield,  
however, had the power and the money to take it from the minds of  
dreamers and make it real. It was to build a free, politically  
55 independent society in which people were able to create a new way of  
life.

'The principles of the new society will be Knowledge and  
Reason,' said Lord F, to anyone who would listen. 'We would like to  
start from the beginning again and encourage people to question  
60 beliefs they have always held—principles which tie them to the world  
as it *is* rather than to the world as it *could be*. The aim will be to  
throw off the past and look to the future.

He went on to describe the society growing and developing,  
becoming well known as a place where talented people of all races  
65 could think and work without worrying about financial<sup>21</sup>, political or  
other problems. From small beginnings a city and later a nation would  
grow. Brilliant men and women would be tempted to the new nation  
by the opportunities for thinking and working; in would come the

21. financial /faɪ'nænʃəl/ adj. 财  
政的, 金融的

future Einsteins, Newtons and Curies. One day, perhaps, it could  
70 become the place in which all great ideas were born... and of course  
Frederick<sup>22</sup>, First Baron Foxfield<sup>23</sup> would have succeeded in his goal of  
being remembered.

\* \* \* \*

It was my sister who invited me to dinner to meet Walter. By  
this time he was already trying to find suitable men and women to be  
75 involved in the Project. Looking back now, I am not greatly surprised  
that he was finding this difficult. In 'normal' circumstances<sup>24</sup> I would  
almost certainly see someone like him as crazy. But when he spoke  
that evening, I felt myself beginning to share his enthusiasm. During  
the night I realized that I was excited at the thought of leaving behind  
80 the problems and worries of the present and helping to build a clean  
new world in a clean new place.

The next day I rang Walter and arranged to meet him again.  
From that moment I was a member of the Project team. Very soon  
afterwards, Walter took me to meet Lord Foxfield.

85 'Walter here has explained the main parts of the plan, so you'll  
know that the idea is to begin with a small group of people who will  
be joined by others later. I have been finding out about you, Mr.  
Delgrange<sup>25</sup>,' Foxfield went on. 'I found your two books interesting.  
As a social historian you are trained to observe changes in society.  
90 This training will be very useful to the Project; we hope you will be  
able to help make decisions about the best ways of organizing our  
society and prevent the development of less satisfactory forms of  
organization.'

He continued in this way for some time, and I realized by the

22. Frederick /'fredrik/ 弗雷德里克(人名)

23. First Baron Foxfield /'bærən/  
一等福克斯菲尔德男爵

24. circumstance /'sə:kəmstəns/  
n. 环境, 详情, 境况

25. Arnold Delgrange  
/'a:nəld'delgreindʒ/  
阿诺德·德尔格兰奇(人名)

95 end of the evening that I now had the job of preparing a document  
that listed the laws of the new society and the rights of its citizens! It  
kept me busy for months.

As the weeks passed, Walter had great difficulty finding suitable  
people for the original group. He was disappointed by those who  
100 wanted to go, and began to feel that he was expecting too much. I did  
my best to interest some of my friends in the Project but, although  
they were sympathetic<sup>26</sup> to the idea, none of them wished actually to  
be part of it. Soon after that, Walter disappeared for some time in  
search of a home for the Project. When he returned, he refused to say  
105 anything about the areas that he had been looking at except that one  
of them seemed just right. It was clear that things were beginning to  
happen. Lord Foxfield had opened a Project office, and a number of  
staff<sup>27</sup> were working on the preparations.

26. sympathetic /sɪmpə'tetɪk/  
adj. 赞同的, 支持的

27. staff /stɑ:f/ n. 全体职员

I was left almost alone to develop my plans for the organization of  
110 the new society, and I was surprised and pleased to discover that Lord  
Foxfield allowed me considerable<sup>28</sup> freedom in this.

28. considerable /kən'sɪdərəbl/  
adj. 相当大的, 相当可观的

\* \* \* \*

Then came the evening when Lord Foxfield told me: 'It's  
happened. We've got the place. It was all signed today.'

We drank to the long, successful life of the Project.

115 'And now, at last, may I know where it is?' I asked.

'It is an island called Tanakuatua<sup>29</sup>,' he said. It was the first  
time I heard the name, and he said it as Tanner-kooer-tooer instead of

29. Tanakuatua /tə'nə'kwatwa/ 塔  
那库阿图阿(地名)



Tanna-kwah-twah as we came to know it.

'Oh,' I said, 'Where is it?'

120 'It's just south-east of the Midsummers<sup>30</sup>,' he explained.

30. the Midsummers /mid'sʌməz/  
仲夏群岛 (岛名)

The Midsummers meant nothing to me at the time—except that I had an idea they were somewhere on the other side of the world.

After that meeting, the Project became real in a new sense. The speed of preparation increased. I found myself becoming involved in  
125 meeting those who wished to be part of the group. Neither Walter nor I was happy about the quality of person—and we came to realize that the Project was attractive to those who found it difficult to fit into the society they wanted to leave. They saw themselves as escaping from their past lives rather than creating something new. At  
130 last, however, we were able to choose forty-six people to form the original group.

The newspapers began writing about the Project. At first they wanted to know how the British government was able to sell a British-owned island to private interests. In the end, though, Lord Foxfield's  
135 power, and in particular his friendship with other newspaper owners prevented any embarrassing<sup>31</sup> public discussions about the sale. Instead, the papers wrote about the Project itself as the rather foolish idea of an old man, and about those involved as people who were not responsible enough to live in a normal, ordered society. We all found  
140 this time rather difficult, and five of our group changed their minds and decided not to go.

31. embarrassing /im'berəsɪŋ/  
adj. 令人尴尬的

## CHAPTER TWO

On the evening before we left for the island, we gathered for dinner in a hotel in Bloomsbury<sup>32</sup>. Most of us had never met before, and people looked at each other rather cautiously<sup>33</sup>. Walter and I did  
145 our best to introduce everyone, but the atmosphere<sup>34</sup> remained uncomfortable for some time.

Dinner and drinks helped a little, and at the end of the meal Lord Foxfield stood up to make a short speech.

'God,' began Lord Foxfield, rather surprisingly for him, 'God  
150 created man to be like him. He gave us the power to be the strongest of all living things on this earth. If God made us to be like him, it follows that he wanted men to become like God. This view is not new. Throughout history, leaders of nations have seen themselves as gods. Unfortunately, they have understood this to mean that they should  
155 separate themselves from other people. They were mistaken. We must all share the responsibility of organizing ourselves, and use our power to create a world that is sane<sup>35</sup> and healthy. We can change society to meet our needs. We have become able to order society so that we can live side by side with nature without destroying it. We must control  
160 our future. If we are afraid to become men like gods, we will be destroyed!'

'You are leaving to plant a seed in a brave new world—to care for it until it produces fresh crops that can feed a new society which is free of the evil<sup>36</sup> and foolishness that have been part of life since the  
165 beginning of time.'

There was a lot more of this, and Lord F spoke with great

32. Bloomsbury /'blu:msbəri:/ 布  
鲁姆兹伯利 (地名)

33. cautiously /'kɔ:ʃəsli/ adv. 谨  
慎地, 小心地

34. atmosphere /'ætməsfiə/ n. 气  
氛; 大气

35. sane /sein/ adj. 心智健全的;  
合情合理的

36. evil /'i:vl/ n. 邪恶, 罪恶

confidence. To many people his words were slightly confusing, but by the end of the speech his message was clear:

170 'The knowledge and power to create a sane society exist. Here is your opportunity to use them. Now go out and do it. Good luck to you! '

\* \* \* \*

A colour photograph exists of our party gathered the next day on the Susannah Dingly<sup>37</sup>. It was taken just before she sailed. By then our  
175 number had fallen to thirty-eight, and we were a strange collection of people<sup>38</sup>. Nobody looking at the photograph would imagine that this group was going to plant the seeds of a new tomorrow on the other side of the world. And if luck had been with us, perhaps... Mrs. Brinkley is immediately noticeable<sup>39</sup> on the left because she is holding  
180 a huge travel bag. Even without this bag you would notice her first because of her broad figure<sup>40</sup>. One feels that, whatever the hopes of the rest of us may be, Deborah Brinkley<sup>41</sup> knows exactly what she wants: it is more babies, and she is ready to go on having them in Tanakuatua or wherever else life may take her. This, and the sight of  
185 her strong, capable husband beside her, makes her the most confident-looking person in the group. Alicia Hardy<sup>42</sup> stands next to them, talking to one of the Brinkley children.

But there can be no doubt that it is Marilyn Slaight<sup>43</sup> (Mrs. Slaight) who thinks she is the center of attention. She looks like a  
190 model from a fashion magazine, dressed in the most unsuitable clothes imaginable for such a trip and with a great big smile for all the world. She stands next to Horace Tuppel<sup>44</sup>, his fat, babyish face looking out from above a beach shirt<sup>45</sup>. Horace was the life of any party—and perhaps he found one in Panama<sup>46</sup>, for that is where he decided to

37. Susannah Dingly  
/su:'zænə'digli/ n.  
苏珊娜·汀丽(船名)

38. a collection of people:  
a group of people 一群人

39. noticeable /'nəʊtɪsəbl/ adj.  
显而易见的, 值得注意的

40. broad figure 胖大的身体  
41. Deborah Brinkley  
/'debərə'brɪŋkli/ 黛博拉·布林科利(人名)

42. Alicia Hardy /ə'liʃə'hɑ:di/  
艾丽西亚·哈代(人名)

43. Marilyn Slaight  
/'mærilin'sleit/ 玛丽琳·施莱  
特(人名)

44. Horace Tuppel /'hɒrəs'tʌpəl/  
霍勒斯·特普尔(人名)

45. beach shirt 沙滩衬衣

46. Panama /'pænəmə/ n. 巴拿马  
(位于中美洲的国家)

195 leave the ship and make his way home two weeks later. Sometimes it is surprising how wise a fool can be.

The small man in the front wearing the hat and looking terribly serious is Joe Shuttleshaw<sup>47</sup>, a useful carpenter<sup>48</sup> but by nature a rather angry man. Beside him is his wife Diane<sup>49</sup> and beyond her 200 Jennifer Felling<sup>50</sup>, the nurse. The other Jennifer, Jennifer Deeds<sup>51</sup>, looks calm and happy.

Walter Tirrie is there, of course. He is standing at a little distance from the rest of us. He is clearly the leader, and looks at the camera with great confidence.

205 James McIngoe<sup>52</sup>, the engineer, is smiling on the right of the picture. Camilla Cogent<sup>53</sup> stands next to him. She seems a lonely figure—there, but not with us. Her eyes are not on the camera, and she looks lost in thought.

I. Arnold Delgrange, am at the back, looking into the distance 210 with an excited expression on my face. Even now I can remember my feelings at the time. I was about to sail, not on the Susannah Dingly but on a new Argo<sup>54</sup>. As I look thoughtfully<sup>55</sup> into the waters of the Thames<sup>56</sup>, it is not London's dirty river that I see but the shining waters of the Aegean<sup>57</sup>—and a distant island in which a lost world 215 will be born again. How little I knew!

There we stand: Tom Conning<sup>58</sup>, Jeremy Brandon<sup>59</sup>, David Kamp<sup>60</sup> and all the rest. All kinds of us, from Arnold Delgrange, the dreamer, to Charles Brinkley, the farmer. It is a sad photograph. We may not look much, but each of us was then filled with high hopes. And the 220 idea that had brought us together was much greater than ourselves.

47. Joe Shuttleshaw  
/'dʒəʊ 'ʃʌtʃəʊ/ 乔·沙特肖 (人名)  
48. carpenter /'ka:pɪntə/ n. 木匠  
49. Diane /daɪ'æn/ 黛安 (人名)  
50. Jennifer Felling  
/'dʒenɪfə 'felɪŋ/ 詹尼弗·菲琳 (人名)  
51. Jennifer Deeds  
/'dʒenɪfə 'di:dz/ 詹尼弗·蒂兹 (人名)

52. James McIngoe  
/'dʒeɪmz 'mæɪŋɡəʊ/ 詹姆斯·麦金古 (人名)  
53. Camilla Cogent  
/'kæmɪlə 'kɒdʒənt/ 卡米拉·科金特 (人名)

54. Argo /'aɪɡəʊ/ 阿尔戈号, 希腊神话中 Jason 乘坐的寻找金羊毛的船  
55. thoughtfully /'θɔ:tʃʊli/ adv. 思虑地, 仔细地  
56. the Thames /temz/ 泰晤士河 (流经牛津, 伦敦等)  
57. the Aegean /i:'dʒi:ən/ n. 爱琴海 (地中海的一部分, 在希腊同土耳其之间)

58. Tom Conning /'tɒm 'kɒnɪŋ/ 汤姆·康宁 (人名)  
59. Jeremy Brandon  
/'dʒerɪni 'brændən/ 杰里米·布兰登 (人名)  
60. David Kamp /'deɪvɪd 'kæmp/ 大卫·坎普 (人名)

Ah, well, it will be tried again, I suppose. Men have been searching for freedom for thousands of years... Yes, they will try again—and the next time hope luck will be with them.

### CHAPTER THREE

So we sailed for Tanakuatua.

225 When the Susannah Dingly left, I knew nothing of Tanakuatua except that it was a small island in the middle of Pacific Ocean with nobody living on it. We had seen a few pictures in old books, but these always showed the same view: a line of curving<sup>61</sup> white beach in front of thick greenery<sup>62</sup> and trees. Only the twin hills, Monu<sup>63</sup> and 230 Rana<sup>64</sup>, rising behind the beach, make these pictures of Tanakuatua different from those of a thousand other islands. Both of the hills are, in fact, volcanoes<sup>65</sup>—but neither appeared to have shown life for thousands of years.

We knew so little about the island before we left. Since then, I 235 have been able to find out more about the history of the place, and my new knowledge allows me to understand only too well why this beautiful green island had nobody living on it, and how it came to be available<sup>66</sup> to a private buyer. But more of that later.

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Our journey went smoothly. The only unexpected event was 240 Horace Tupples departure<sup>67</sup> from the ship at Panama. The group showed very little interest in his attempts to lighten our spirits<sup>68</sup> by organizing games and competitions, and by the time we were in the

61. curving /'kə:viŋ/ adj. 弯曲的

62. greenery /'grinəri/ n. 草木

63. Monu /'mɒnu/ 毛鲁(山名)

64. Rana /'ranu/ 拉鲁(山名)

65. volcano /vɒl'keɪnɔ:/ n. 火山

66. available /ə'veɪləbl/ adj. 可获得的, 可得到的, 可利用的

67. departure /di'pɑ:tʃən/ n. 启程, 出发, 离开

68. lighten one's spirit: cheer one up 使人高兴起来

middle of the Atlantic, he was quite sure he had made a mistake in coming. The night before we reached Colón<sup>69</sup>, he got drunk and told  
245 us all what he thought of us and the Project. The next day he walked off.

Poor Horace. Lucky Horace!

I tried to get to know my companions<sup>70</sup> during the journey. For the first time since the accident I began to see people as individuals  
250 again. I had a sense of slowly waking—of coming back to life—and I began to see the Project as real. But together with this waking came a feeling of alarm similar to that which I imagine to follow a loss of memory.

I felt my companions changing little by little from shadowy  
255 figures into living people—and into different people from those I had expected them to be. And, perhaps, now we were on our way, they did change in certain ways ... All I can be sure of is that I changed and that I saw them differently. The journey cleared my mind, but with effects that were in some ways a little worrying.

260 For example, I came to realize that although we shared an idea about the aims of the Project, we had very different views on how these aims would be reached. Perhaps the building of this society would not be as smooth as I had thought. As I came back to the real world, my judgment began to return. It became clear to me that our  
265 intentions were very general, and we had not given much thought to how we would handle problems and disagreements<sup>71</sup>. I recognized the need for the group to agree on how such matters would be managed.

My attempts to talk to Walter about this were not helpful. His

69. Colón /kə'lɒn/ 科隆(巴拿马港口城市)

70. companion /kəm'pænjən/ n.  
同伴, 旅伴

71. disagreement /disə'grɪmənt/  
n. 意见不同, 争执, 不和

view was that the developing society would create its rules when they  
 270 became necessary and not before. He refused to listen to my  
 arguments, and after a few more attempts I gave up. As the journey  
 continued, I felt Walter becoming a different person. He was difficult  
 to talk to and spent a lot of time away from the rest of us. The only  
 person who could get close to him was Alicia Hardy; she seemed to be  
 275 taking on the position of his private secretary.

I found it easier to get to know my other companions and their  
 reasons for being part of the Project. Charles Brinkley wanted to be  
 left alone to farm as he thought best, without the rules and resulting  
 paperwork<sup>72</sup> which made farming at home so difficult. Joe Shuttleshaw  
 280 wanted his children to grow up in a free society away from the  
 damaging class system at home. Others had their reasons—some  
 caused by romanticism<sup>73</sup>, some by unhappiness with their past lives. In  
 fact, by the end of our journey I understood why most of our group  
 had decided to join the Project. It was only Camilla Cogent who I  
 285 found difficult to understand. She was not easy to talk to and always  
 had a distant<sup>74</sup> look in her eyes.

‘I wanted to be useful.’ She replied to my question. ‘And as a  
 biologist<sup>75</sup>, I am naturally interested in the idea of an island that has  
 had no people living on it for the last twenty years.’

290 Later in our journey I did succeed in having a deeper  
 conversation with her. I learned that she was a doctor of biology and  
 was a specialist in the study of insects—particularly those that cause  
 damage to plants. She had worked in West Africa and on an island in  
 the Indian Ocean, but had spent the last year at home. She did not  
 295 speak about this last year and I suspected that something had  
 happened—perhaps in her emotional<sup>76</sup> life—which was causing her  
 pain. I began to understand why Walter had chosen her, though; when  
 she talked about her subject, she seemed to come to life, and there

72. paperwork /'peipəwɜ:k/ n. 文  
书工作

73. romanticism /rə'mæntisizəm/  
n. 浪漫精神, 浪漫主义

74. distant /'distənt/ adj. 远的, 疏  
远的, 冷漠的

75. biologist /baɪ'ɒlədʒist/ n. 生  
物学家

76. emotional /i'məʊʃənl/ adj. 情  
感的, 情绪的



was no question that she was knowledgeable and capable.

300 Our last stop before Tanakuatua was Uijanji<sup>77</sup> (We-yan-ye), the capital and the only port of the Midsummers. We stayed there for two days and left with a party of some twenty islanders to help with the landing of our luggage on Tanakuatua. Camilla was surprised that we managed to get any islanders to come with us. She had spent the time  
305 on Uijanji talking to people, trying to find out as much as she could about Tanakuatua. The stories they told gave her plenty to think about. 'From what I have heard, there is a curse on the place' she told me. 'Any local person who is willing to go there is taking a great risk—especially if they refuse to believe in the curse.'

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310 Two days later we arrived.

Photographs had prepared me for the shape of Tanakuatua, but not for its colour. The bright blue of the sky was divided from the clear blues and greens of the sea by the island itself. Above the white beach there was a line of green, and beyond that the two hills, green  
315 below and blue-brown at the top. At first it seemed to me impossible that such a beautiful island had no people living on it. My second thought, though, was that it looked too good to be true.

As we approached the island, a few birds rose into the air with loud cries. Camilla looked at them, obviously puzzled<sup>78</sup> and said, more  
320 to herself than to me:

'Strange, so few birds... I expected far more birds ...'

77. Uijanji /'wi:tjænje/ 维延耶(地名)

78. puzzled /'pʌzld/ adj. 迷惑不解的

The islanders, following an idea of Walter's, made a raft<sup>79</sup> from our larger containers<sup>80</sup> and floated<sup>81</sup> all our bags and boxes to the shore. When they arrived on the beach, the islanders ran to the edge  
325 of the trees, taking no notice of Walter's attempts to call them back. Following their leader, they went down on their knees and lowered their faces to the sand.

'What are they doing that for?' Charles's son Peter asked Jennifer Deeds.

330 'I don't know,' she admitted. 'People have different ways in different places. Perhaps they think it's the polite thing to do when you arrive on an island. Or it's possible that they are praying to the spirits of the island, asking them not to be annoyed with us for coming here uninvited—and perhaps asking their permission to stay  
335 for a day or two. Some people take things like that more seriously than we do.'

The leader now appeared to be making a speech.

'You may well be right,' I agreed. 'I hope they're satisfied that they've got permission, or we'll have to do all the heavy work  
340 ourselves.'

They did indeed seem to be satisfied, because after twenty minutes the islanders returned to take the bags off the raft. Charles Brinkley arranged for some of the larger boxes to be piled up and covered as a temporary sleeping area. Mrs. Brinkley organized the  
345 building of a field kitchen<sup>82</sup>. Jamie McIngoe found places for the heavy equipment, including the tractor, and the rest of us did what we

79. raft /ra:ft/ n. 筏, 救生艇, 橡皮船

80. container /ken'teɪnə/ n. 容器 (箱, 盒, 罐, 壶, 桶, 坛子)

81. float /flaʊt/ vi. 漂浮, 浮动

82. field kitchen 野外临时厨房