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Level 6

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He Knows Too Much

孤身复仇记

Alan Maley (英) 著

温向东 译

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温向东 译

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外研社·剑桥英语分级读物

亲爱的老师们、同学们,由外语教学与研究出版社和英国剑桥大学出版社联合出版的这套《外研社·剑桥英语分级读物》终于与国内读者见面了。它集原创性、针对性、时代性和多样性于一体,是一套理想的英语学习读物。

本套读物是我国目前引进的第一套专为非英语国家读者撰写的英语故事性读物,作者全部是经验丰富的英语教学专家。读物依据难易程度共分六级,每级四本,每本独立成篇。题材涉及广泛,包括喜剧、历险记、侦探小说、浪漫爱情故事和短篇故事等。内容涉及东西方多种地域和文化,情节扣人心弦,极富吸引力。读者在提高自身英语水平的同时,还会享受到阅读的巨大乐趣。

本套读物分为英汉对照版和英文注释版两种版本,以适应不同读者的不同需要。其中,英文注释版附有练习及配套音带,为不同程度的英语学习者在阅读中提供了及时而必要的帮助。

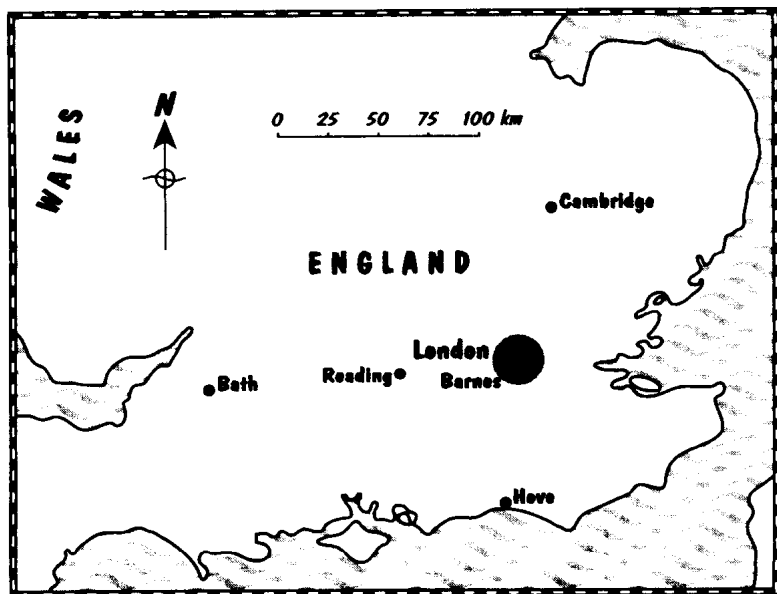
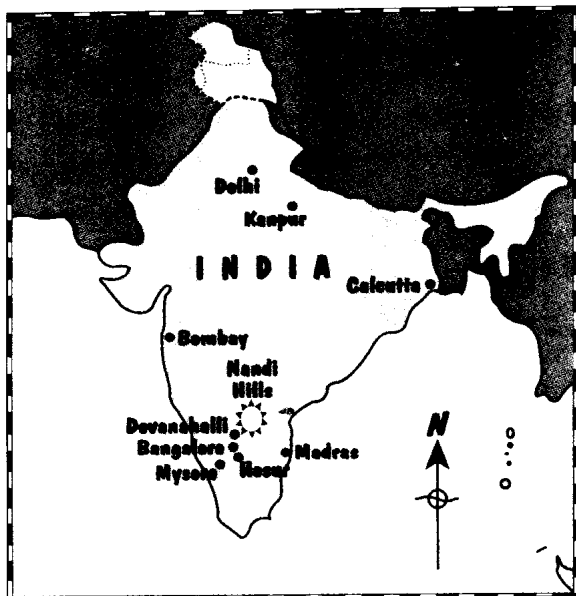
如果你们喜欢这套读物,请把它推荐给你们的朋友。如果你们对这套读物有什么意见和建议,也请告诉我们。

在此,我们谨向那些为这套读物的出版给予帮助和关切的老师们表示衷心的感谢!

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Maps (地图)



Characters

Dick Sterling: general manager in Madras, India of Trakton, a multinational manufacturing company.

Sally Sterling: Dick's wife.

Keith Lennox: Dick's boss at Trakton. Works in Delhi.

Barbara Lennox: Keith's wife.

Visvanathan (Vish): office manager at Trakton.

Molly: Vish's wife. She also works at Trakton.

Ramanathan (Ramu): Dick's personal assistant at Trakton.

Nagarajan: in Accounts at Trakton.

Lakshmi: Nagarajan's daughter.

Ned Outram: a former employee at Trakton.

Sir Percy Hancock: former chief executive of Trakton, once head of the Delhi office.

Sir Jeremy Jackson (Jacko): retired professor of comparative philology at Cambridge.

John Verghese.

书中人物

迪克·斯特林：(英国)特拉克顿跨国(制造)公司,印度马德拉斯工厂总经理

萨莉·斯特林：迪克的妻子

基思·伦诺克斯：迪克在特拉克顿公司的顶头上司,在德里工作

巴巴拉·伦诺克斯：基思的妻子

维斯瓦内森(又称维希)：特拉克顿马德拉斯工厂办公室经理

莫利：维希的妻子,也在特拉克顿马德拉斯工厂工作

拉马纳坦(又称拉穆)：迪克在特克拉顿马德拉斯工厂的私人助理

纳加拉贾：供职于特拉克顿马德拉斯工厂会计部

拉克希米：纳加拉贾的女儿

内德·乌特勒姆：特拉克顿公司前雇员

珀西·汉考克爵士：特克拉顿总公司前总裁,曾任德里公司负责人

杰里米·杰克逊爵士(又称杰科)：剑桥大学比较语言学退休教授

约翰·弗吉斯

Chapter 1 *Madras 1986*

‘He knows too much. I must ask you to do nothing.’

‘But this time I caught him in the act. I have proof, witnesses, everything. There is no possible doubt. Surely . . .’

‘I said he knows too much! The company can’t afford to have any problems. Our position is very sensitive in this country. We can’t afford to take risks. I am telling you once again – you will do nothing. And if there is any trouble, I’m afraid I shall have to hold you personally responsible. So be sensible for once in your life.’

‘I see. So you are telling me to close my eyes to corruption and behave as if nothing has happened. Is that right?’

‘I didn’t put it quite like that. But, if you insist, yes. What Vish does or doesn’t do is a minor matter compared with the company’s global strategy. Just try to get things in perspective. After all, you won’t be stuck in Madras for ever – I’ll make sure that you’re not. So just go with the flow for a bit longer. When you’re in your next post this will all seem a very long way away, I can assure you. But meantime, no trouble. I hope I’ve made myself clear. Oh, and, by the way, I advise you to forget that we have had this conversation. Goodbye.’

Dick Sterling put the phone down. His hands were trembling. He was furious with himself for failing to persuade his boss in Delhi, Keith Lennox, to support him,

第一章

1986 年, 马德拉斯

“他知道的东西太多了。我要你什么都别做。”

“但这次我可是当场逮着他的。我有证据, 证人, 所有的东西。毫无疑问。一定可以……”

“我说过, 他知道的东西太多了! 公司不能出任何问题。我们在这个国家的地位非常敏感, 绝不能冒险。我再跟你说一次——你什么都别做。一旦有什么麻烦, 恐怕我就不得不拿你是问了。你在生活中还是理智一次吧。”

“我明白了。你的意思是, 让我对腐败视而不见, 就好像什么事也没发生过。那对吗?”

“我没那么说。但如果你坚持的话, 就算是吧。维希做了什么或没做什么, 和公司的全球战略相比, 是微不足道的。你眼光要放远一些。毕竟, 你不会在马德拉斯混一辈子——我可以肯定你不会的。所以就再随波逐流一段时间吧。我敢肯定, 当你升到另一个职位再回头看这件事时, 它就显得很遥远了。但是, 在此期间, 你不要给我惹什么麻烦。希望我已说得很清楚。哦, 顺便说一下, 你还是忘了我们有过这段对话吧。再见。”

迪克·斯特林放下电话, 双手在颤抖。还是没能说服德里的顶头上司基思·伦诺克斯支持他, 迪克心里暗自恼火。

In the act: 在有所行动时
sensible: *adj.* 切合实际的
corruption: *n.* 腐败
In perspective: 用透视法的
be stuck in: 陷在; 困在

NOTES

and was disgusted at the mixture of veiled threats and vague promises Lennox had made. 'He knows too much' – the words still rang in his ears. He wondered, not for the last time, just what it was that Vish, the office manager of the factory, knew. How could it be so important that the company's position in India could be threatened by it? It simply didn't make sense.

Dick glanced at his watch. Four o'clock. He called for his driver, Gopal, and asked to be driven home. He'd had enough for the day. On his way out he passed Vish in the corridor. Vish was a small, fat man who waddled slightly when he walked. His ugly smile revealed two large teeth and his small eyes reminded Dick of a snake. Was it his imagination, or was the man smiling to himself? His snake eyes glinted with self satisfaction, almost as if he knew he was safe, protected.

Dick's car left the Trakton office and made its way slowly along the dusty, bumpy road leading south into the centre of Madras, towards his home. Even though Dick passed these buildings every day, they never lost their fascination for him. No one style dominated this city of contrasts where majestic but neglected colonial buildings stood next to modern glass and concrete banks, slum huts built from mud and roofed with coconut palms, ramshackle groups of shops selling everything from used car tyres to Indian-made foreign liquor¹ ... And where the traffic was a chaos of vehicles competing anarchically for the few overcrowded spaces on the roads. The journey home would take a long time.

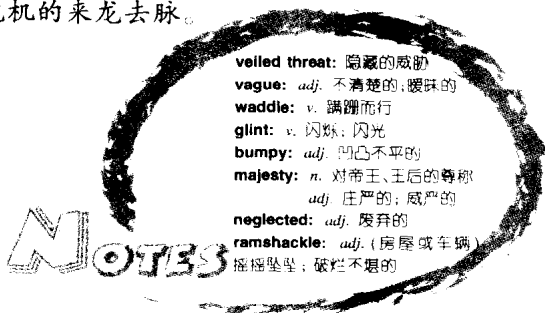
Dick sat gloomily in the back of the car, going over in his mind the events which had led up to the present crisis.

他对伦诺克斯刚才话语中掺杂着隐约的威胁和蒙眬的许诺感到厌恶。“他知道的东西太多了”——这句话还在他的耳边回响着。他禁不住想搞明白,到底工厂办公室经理维希都知道些什么?这个念头在他脑子里已经不是第一次了。它怎么可能重要到公司在印度的地位都会受到威胁呢?这显然不可理喻。

迪克看了看表,四点钟。他打电话给司机戈帕尔,让他开车送自己回家。他这一天已经受够了。出门的时候他在走廊里碰到了维希。维希身材矮胖,走路有点摇摇摆摆的样子。他笑起来很难看,露出两颗大门牙,眼睛小小的,让迪克不禁联想到了蛇。是迪克自己的想像呢,还是维希正在微笑?他那蛇一样的眼睛正闪烁着自我满足的光,似乎他知道自己有保护伞,很安全。

迪克的车驶离特拉克顿工厂办公室,沿着一条灰尘弥漫、凹凸不平的公路缓慢前行。公路朝南通向马德拉斯市中心,通向他的家。虽然迪克每天上下班都要经过路边的这些楼群,但他依然兴趣不减。这座城市充满了反差,任何风格的建筑都不占据主导地位,辉煌而被遗忘的仿殖民地时期式样的楼房与玻璃混凝土的现代银行毗邻而立,泥巴墙和椰树枝屋顶的贫民窟,辉映着破旧不堪的销售旧轮胎和印度酿制的欧洲烈性酒等五花八门物品的商家店铺……这里,公路拥挤不堪,汽车驾驶无序,交通一片混乱。回家的路要走好长一段时间。

迪克闷闷不乐地坐在汽车后座上,回忆着这场危机的来龙去脉。



How had he got himself into this impossible situation? It should never have happened, yet somehow, looking back, it seemed inevitable. Perhaps he was beginning to believe in fate?

He had arrived three years earlier to take over as general manager of Trakton's factory in Madras. Trakton had been in India since before Independence. It had started out manufacturing military vehicles during the war and switched to commercial vehicles and earth-moving equipment when the war ended. Because of its key importance in helping to build the country's industrial base, it had not been completely taken over following Independence.

Though the Indian operation was technically independent, Trakton's corporate headquarters in London still had overall control. India was, of course, only one of the many countries in which Trakton operated. Dick had been transferred to Madras from Nigeria in fact, after a series of other overseas appointments. Each of the overseas factories had a general manager appointed from headquarters to oversee the management of the local workforce. In India this had worked particularly well. The Indian staff was highly-trained and efficient. They were also generally easy to work with; the company's enlightened industrial relations policy had made sure of that. Salaries were higher than the average, there was a good pensions scheme and generous health insurance benefits. Trakton boasted that it had not lost a day in strikes for over fifteen years.

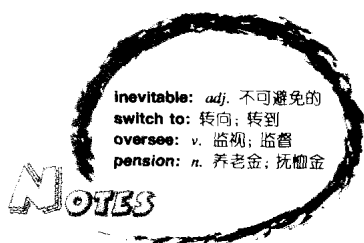
Dick had found his senior Indian colleagues particularly good to work with. They knew their jobs inside out and

他是如何让自己陷入目前这种几乎不可能的局面的呢？本来就不该发生的事情，但回过头来看，不知怎么的，它又似乎不可避免。也许他从现在开始应该相信命运？

迪克三年前接任特拉克顿公司马德拉斯工厂总经理一职。特拉克顿公司早在独立以前就已经涉足印度了。公司在战时生产军用车辆，战后就转型生产商用车辆与挖土机等设备。由于它在帮助印度建设国家工业基础方面具有极其重要的作用，因此印度独立后它没有被完全收归国有。

虽然公司在印度的运作技术上来说是独立的，但特拉克顿公司伦敦总部对此仍是全面控制。特拉克顿公司在世界上许多国家都有业务运作，印度当然只是其中一个。实际上，迪克此前曾被派往海外多个地方任职，他这次被从尼日利亚调来马德拉斯。公司在海外每一个工厂的总经理都由总部委派，负责监督管理当地工厂和员工队伍。在印度，这方面运作得尤其不错。印度的员工训练有素，效率很高，他们通常也容易相处。公司开明的劳资关系政策更在这方面发挥了作用。员工薪水比全国平均工资要高，此外还享有丰厚的退休金和慷慨的健康保险福利。特拉克顿公司曾夸口说，它 15 年来从未因罢工而损失过一天工作时间。

迪克发现，工厂高级管理层中，印度籍同事非常容易相处共事。他们熟谙各自业务，



were clearly committed to the company. Many of them had been with Trakton for the whole of their working lives, starting in the factory and working their way up to become managers. They were a good team.

The only exceptions had been Visvanathan, or 'Vish' as he was known, the office manager, and his wife Molly. Molly was in charge of the Personnel Department. For reasons Dick had only gradually understood, Vish and Molly were regarded by the rest of the senior staff as somehow 'special'. They behaved as if they had special privileges and expected other staff to defer to them. Dick slowly realised that they controlled other staff members through a combination of threats and promises. Given their positions, they could make life very difficult for anyone who opposed them. Likewise, they could make life easy for those who did what they wanted.

Dick knew that this sort of behaviour happened to varying degrees in every culture and didn't think much of it. Indeed, in the first few weeks after his arrival, both Vish and Molly had been all smiles and helpfulness.

'You'll need a driving licence. Don't worry. I know someone in the police. We'll fix it for you. There's no need for you to worry about any of these things. Just let me know and I'll take care of it,' Vish had said.

They had invited Dick and his wife Sally to dinner too. Their newly-built house was in the fashionable, up-and-coming Kalakshetra Colony,² close to the sea. Dick had been suitably impressed by the expensively-furnished house, which was full of the most modern household equipment. He had half-wondered, innocently, whether Vish had had to borrow money to pay for it all. Molly was

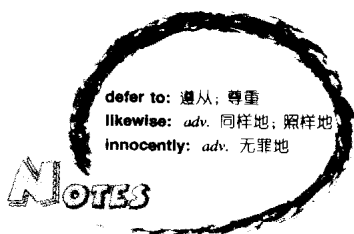
对公司忠诚、投入。他们中的许多人，自打参加工作起，就一直和特拉克顿风雨同舟，先是从工厂底层干起，经过奋斗然后走上经理级岗位。这是一支很好的队伍。

惟一的例外是维斯瓦内森夫妇。维斯瓦内森也叫维希，工厂办公室经理，妻子莫利掌管人事部。不知为何，维希和莫利被厂里的其他高级职员视为“特殊人物”，迪克直到后来才逐渐明白其中缘由。他们的做派就好像他们拥有特权，其他员工必须毕恭毕敬似的。迪克慢慢认识到，维希夫妇是通过威逼利诱等手段控制了工厂里的其他员工。就他们所处的位置，他们可以让那些反对他们的员工日子不好过，同样，也可以让那些迎合他们的人日子好过。

迪克明白，这种事情在每一种文化里都程度不同地存在着，所以并没有想太多。实际上，在他到任的头几个星期里，维希和莫利对他都是满脸堆笑，非常迎合的。

维希说过：“你会需要一本驾照的。不用着急，我认识警察局里的人，我们会帮你办好的。你不用为这些事情费力，只要说一声，我会办好的。”

他们也曾邀请迪克和他的妻子萨莉共赴家宴。他们新建的房子位于上流社会和成功人士云集的卡拉克什特拉区，离海很近。房子装修豪华，摆满了众多的现代家庭用品，给迪克留下相当深的印象。他曾天真地想过，维希总得借钱买这些东西吧。



justifiably proud of her collection of Indian temple carvings, southern Indian bronze statues and contemporary paintings.

They had invited a selection of their 'closest friends': a High Court judge, a police inspector, an IAS³ officer, an architect, an ex-Minister of Finance in the State Government, the owner of a shipping company, a couple from the British High Commission, a Tamil⁴ film director and a well-known local painter. Dick felt slightly uneasily, that these people had been invited to prove to him how well-connected the Visvanathans were. It had been a pleasant evening nonetheless. It was only later that Dick recalled seeing two members of the office staff helping to serve the meal. He also noted that there had been no shortage of genuine Scotch whisky, a drink not easily available on the local market.

It was not long, however, before Dick began experiencing another side to the Visvanathans. One morning he had gone into Vish's office unexpectedly for an informal chat. He found his office manager stamping his feet with rage, screaming abuse at one of the junior drivers. Papers and files had been thrown on the floor. Dick asked Vish to follow him to his office. There he had suggested that perhaps less dramatic personnel management techniques should be used in future. Vish had not liked the criticism. His small snake-like eyes had almost disappeared in the fat folds of his face. He had continued to clench and unclench his hands throughout the brief interview. Sweat ran in streams down his neck. He had left the office soon after the interview and remained away on 'sick leave' for two more days.

莫利对她收集的印度寺庙的雕刻、南印度铜像以及当代的绘画非常自豪,这也在情理之中。

他们邀请了一班“最亲近的朋友”:一位高等法院的法官、一位警督、一位“印度管理当局”的官员、一位建筑师、一位邦政府前财政部长、轮船公司船东、英国驻印高专署一对夫妇、一个泰米尔族电影导演和一位当地著名的画家。迪克略微有些不安。他知道,维斯瓦内森夫妇邀请这些人来,是想向他们表明他们俩在当地神通广大,人脉活络。当然,所有人都度过了一个愉快的晚上。只是在后来,迪克才想起来,他在晚会上看到过有两名厂办的员工帮着送餐。他同时还注意到,晚会上并不缺少供应货真价实的苏格兰威士忌——一种在当地市场上不容易买到的酒。

然而,没过多久,迪克开始感受到维斯瓦内森夫妇的另一面了。有一天上午,他事先没打招呼就来到了维希的办公室,想和他闲聊一下。他看见,他的办公室经理正在疯狂地跺着脚,使劲地谩骂一名资历较浅的司机,文件和档案卷宗被扔了一地。迪克让维希跟着到他的办公室去。在办公室里,他建议维希以后或许该运用较为平和的人事管理技巧。维希不喜欢迪克对他的批评。他小小的蛇一样的眼睛隐藏在脸部鼓起的横肉里,几乎就要看不见了。在整个短暂的谈话过程中,他不断地把手攥紧,又松开,汗不断地流进脖子里。谈话结束后不久他就离开了办公室,以后的两天以“病假”为由躲着不再露面。

justifiably: *adv.* 正当地;
有理由地
stamping his feet with
rage, screaming abuse at
sb.: 怒气冲冲地跺着脚,
大声地辱骂某人

NOTES