

外研社·剑桥英语分级读物 (英汉对照)

EAST 43rd STREET

ALAN BATTERSBY (英) 著

赵世人 译

东43号大街

外语教学与研究出版社
剑桥大学出版社

RED
ZONE

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Level 5

Series editor: Philip Prowse

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Alan Battersby (英) 著

赵世人 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。本套读物涉及题材广泛,包括喜剧、历险记、侦探小说和浪漫爱情故事等,其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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Characters

Nat Marley: New York private investigator.

Stella Delgado: Nat Marley's personal assistant.

Captain Oldenberg: detective with the New York Police Department (NYPD).

Joe Blaney: colleague of Nat Marley, ex-NYPD.

Ed Winchester: journalist on the *Daily News*.

Lena Rosenthal: Nat Marley's lawyer.

Robert Lake: President of Lake Software.

Angela Lake: Robert Lake's wife.

Tommy Lam: professional criminal.

Gloria: receptionist in Marley's building.

人物:

纳特·马利: 纽约市私人侦探

斯特拉·迪尔伽多: 马利的私人助理

奥尔登伯格副巡官: 纽约市警总局侦探

乔·布拉尼: 马利同事, 前纽约市警总局警察

埃德·温切斯特: (纽约)《每日新闻报》记者

莉娜·罗森塔尔: 纳特·马利的律师

罗伯特·莱克: 莱克软件公司总裁

安杰拉·莱克: 罗伯特·莱克的夫人

汤米·拉姆: 职业罪犯

格洛丽亚: 马利办公大楼的接待员

Chapter 1 *The client*

It was seven-thirty on a cold wet December evening, six days before Christmas. As usual, I was in McFadden's Bar, on the corner of East 42nd Street and Second Avenue. Most of the early evening Christmas shoppers had gone home, and the people left in the bar weren't the types who had nice homes and families to go to. Maybe that was why they were still drinking. But I liked it there. It was somewhere to relax with a few beers after a long day in the office doing nothing in particular.

My office is just around the corner from McFadden's Bar on East 43rd Street and just a block away from the Chrysler Building. If I ever make a success of my business, that's where I'd like to have an office. Seventy-seven stories of the most beautiful skyscraper in New York City. New York isn't all skyscrapers, though. 220 East 43rd Street is just eight floors and nothing much to look at.

The sign on the door looks important: "Nathan Marley – Licensed Private Investigator," but it didn't make me feel any more important right then in McFadden's Bar.

I didn't feel like talking to people that evening and nobody tried to talk to me. That suited me fine. I looked around. There was a new face in the bar. Someone very different from the usual tired office workers. An expensive-looking woman. People turned and stared as she walked to the bar. She ordered a bourbon, then took off her coat. She was wearing a short black dress which showed a lot of leg.

第一章

客户

12 月的一个寒冷、潮湿的夜晚，离圣诞节还有六天，晚上 7:30。和往常一样，我坐在东 42 号大街和第 2 大道拐角处的麦法登酒吧里喝酒。大多数在傍晚时分忙着圣诞购物的人们都已回家去了，在酒吧里逗留的都不是那种有着温暖舒适的家或漂亮的房子可去的主儿。也许这就是为什么他们还在喝个不停的原因吧。但是我很喜欢酒吧。在办公室里待了一整天，没做什么特别的事情，酒吧是一个可以喝几杯啤酒、放松放松的好去处。

我的办公室就在东 43 号大街上，从麦法登酒吧拐过街角就是，与克莱斯勒大厦只有一个街区之隔。如果哪天我事业有成，首先就会想到那儿弄上一个办公室。克莱斯勒大厦有 77 层高，可以说是纽约市最漂亮的摩天大楼了。当然，纽约的建筑并不全都是摩天大楼。这不，东 43 街 220 号就只有八层楼高，而且没什么可看的。

220 号这幢楼的门上，有一个看起来很显要的牌子：内森·马利——特许私人侦探所。但此刻在麦法登酒吧里，我没有因此而感到自己高人一等。

那天晚上，我没有兴致和别人聊天，也没人想跟我说话，这对我来说很合适。我往四周看了看，发现酒吧里多了一张新面孔，那是一个与寻常疲惫不堪的办公室职员截然不同的人，是一个衣着华贵的女人。她走向吧台的时候，酒吧里的人都转过头来盯着她看。她要了一杯波旁威士忌，然后脱掉了大衣。她穿着一条露出大腿的黑色短裙。在麦



Not the legs you normally see in McFadden's. Thirty-something, with long wavy blonde hair and cold blue eyes. Around her neck was a diamond necklace – the diamonds looked like the real thing. So did the matching earrings. She was dressed as if she was going to a party. But this lady wasn't enjoying herself.

She ordered another bourbon and took out a pack of Marlboro Lites. I could feel the coldness in her voice from where I was sitting. Nobody offered to light her cigarette. She looked in my direction. I thought for a moment that she was trying to catch my eye. But then she turned away with a bored expression on her face. Why should a woman like her give a second look to an overweight bald guy in his mid-forties?

McFadden's Bar was quiet now. I stayed and watched from the corner. I didn't have anything better to do that evening. For a change, something interesting was happening. I was curious and watched every move she made. She took an envelope out of her purse and opened it. I could see a short note and a couple of photographs. As she read, her expression changed. That hard look was gone. Now she looked like someone who really did have problems. Suddenly she threw a bill on the bar and rushed out. The bartender called out, "Hey, Miss, don't you want your change? This is a hundred bucks!" She ignored him and kept walking. Now I was very curious. I followed her.

Outside, the rain was turning to snow. On Second Avenue, the signal had changed to "Don't Walk," but she ran across just before the lights changed. The street was suddenly a sea of yellow cabs racing downtown.

When I finally reached Grand Central I saw her for a

法登酒吧里平时见不到这样美丽的大腿。这个女人三十岁左右，一头金黄色的波浪长发，一双冷冰冰的蓝眼睛，颈上戴一条钻石项链——那钻石看起来是真货，与项链配套的耳环似乎也是真钻石的。她打扮得仿佛是要赴什么社交聚会的样子。但这个女人看起来并不开心。

她又要了一杯波旁威士忌，还掏出一盒淡万宝路香烟。从我坐着的地方，能感觉得到她声音里含着的冷意。没有人起来给她点烟。她朝我这儿看了看。有一瞬间，我认为她是想引起我的注意。但接着，她把目光转向别处，脸上带有一种百无聊赖的神情。像她这样的女人，凭什么要朝我这个四十五六岁、秃顶又超重的家伙再瞧上一眼呢？

这时，麦法登酒吧安静下来了。我坐在角落里向外望着。那天晚上，我没有什么更好的事儿可做。为了某种变化，有趣的事情正在发生。我很好奇，盯着那个女人的每一个动作。她从手包里拿出一个信封，并把它打开，我看见信封里面有一张短短的便条和几张照片。读着便条，她的神色变了。刚才那冷冰冰的目光消失了，现在她看起来更像一个真正遇到了麻烦的人。突然，她往吧台上扔下一张钞票，就匆匆离去。服务生叫了起来：“嘿，小姐，你不要找钱了？这可是一张百元大钞啊！”她听而不闻，继续往外走。我的好奇心更重了，于是我跟着她出了酒吧。

外面，雨开始变成了雪。第二大道上，交通灯已变成“行人勿过”的信号。可是就在信号灯改变之前，她跑着穿过了马路。刹那间，整条大街就成了一片开往商业区方向的黄色出租车的海洋。

我终于到达了中央大车站，
有一瞬间我看见了，她正往问



moment – disappearing behind the information center – but then I lost her in the crowd. I waited and watched for a while, but it was no good. My excitement for that evening was over.

* * *

The next morning I woke up late, as usual, and walked to the subway. If someone gave me a dollar for every morning I'd taken the number seven train from Queens to Manhattan, I'd be a rich guy now. As usual, I looked through the *Daily News* on the subway. A woman had been mugged on 42nd Street just around the corner from my office. All her money and valuables had been taken. There were no names, no details. I didn't think anything of it. These things happen in a big city.

When I got to the office on East 43rd Street, Stella Delgado, my receptionist and secretary, had already arrived. She knows how tough life can be in this city. From a Puerto Rican family, she grew up in East Harlem. I've told her she should move on and get a better job. The strange thing is, she wants to work for me. The truth is I depend on her. She knows how to use all the new office equipment and she speaks Spanish, a useful skill in this city.

"Nat! It's nearly ten o'clock and you look awful. What happened to you?" Stella asked.

"Too many beers in McFadden's Bar last night," I replied. "Anything in the mail?"

"The usual. Bills."

"Guess I'd better earn a few bucks," I said.

"You could start right now. There's a client waiting. She looks interesting, but wouldn't give me her name."

询处后边走去,可是,后来我就在人海里找不到她了。我等候观望了一会儿,无济于事。我那天晚上的兴奋到此结束。

* * *

第二天早上,我醒得很晚,和往常一样徒步走向地铁。如果有人每天早晨给我一美元,我会乘从皇后区到曼哈顿的七号火车,那么,我现在早就成富翁了。同以往一样,我在地铁里翻阅《每日新闻报》。报上登的一条消息说,就在我办公大楼拐角处的第42号大街上,一位妇女被抢劫了。身上所有现金和值钱的东西被洗劫一空。报纸没提姓名和案情细节。我也不去多想。在大城市里,这种事情时有发生。

我来到位于东43号大街的办公室,我的秘书兼接待员斯特拉·迪尔伽多已经到了。她知道在这个城市里生活有多么艰辛。她来自一个波多黎各移民家庭,在东哈莱姆区长大的。我曾告诉她应该继续努力,找一个更好的工作。奇怪的是,她就想为我工作。事实是我依赖她。她知道怎么使用所有的新式办公设备,还会讲一口西班牙语。在纽约会说西班牙语是一种很有用的技能。

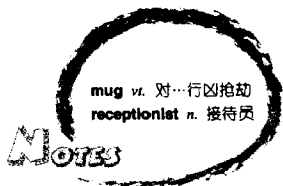
“纳特!都快10点了,你看上去真吓人。发生什么事儿了?”斯特拉问我。

“昨晚在麦法登酒吧啤酒喝太多了。”我回答道,“信箱里有东西吗?”

“和往常一样,只有账单。”

“我想我最好挣点儿钱。”我说道。

“你可以马上开始工作。有个客户正在等你,她看起来挺有意思的,但不肯告诉我她的名字。”



I went through to my office. There she was, sitting in the client's chair. Beside her was a large black bag. Through a cloud of cigarette smoke, I could make out long wavy blonde hair and cold blue eyes. She crossed her legs. I'd seen those legs before, the previous night in McFadden's Bar. Legs like those are hard to forget. Then she looked straight at me. I could feel the ice in her eyes. I was getting very curious.

"Good morning, Mr. Marley. I've already been waiting half an hour. You don't believe in starting your day early," she said.

"I start work when I'm good and ready," I replied.

She looked around her. "This office looks like something out of the 1950s."

The office computer, fax and photocopier were in reception with Stella. I just had my old-fashioned desk, a reading lamp with a green shade, an ancient typewriter, and a couple of filing cabinets. On the wall, a 1990 calendar. A good year for me: that was when I left the NYPD, the New York Police Department.

"So I'm old-fashioned. I like it that way," I said.

"Don't you have any manners, Mr. Marley?" she asked.

"I lost them a long time ago."

"Don't you take your hat off in front of a lady?"

"I'm going bald so the hat stays on. Keeps my head warm. I'm a very busy man," I lied. "Let's get down to business. Who are you and what can I do for you?"

I've seen a lot of life in my time. Often the wrong sort. Fifteen years with the NYPD doesn't make you feel very positive about people. Then another ten years trying to make a success of being a private investigator. This woman

我往自己的办公室走去。她就在那里，坐在客户椅上，身边放着一个黑色的大包。透过缭绕的烟雾，我可以分辨出金色的波浪长发和冷冰冰的蓝眼睛。她双腿交叉坐着。前一个晚上，我在麦法登酒吧里见过这双腿。这样的大腿是让人难以忘记的。当时，她直勾勾地看着我。我可以感觉到她眼睛里的冰冷。我的好奇心越发重了。

“早安，马利先生。我已经恭候半个小时了。你不相信早开始一天的工作对你有益处。”

“我在状态良好，准备就绪后才开始工作。”我回应道。

她环顾了一下四周说：“这间办公室看起来像是建于 50 年代。”

办公用的电脑、传真机和影印机都放在接待处斯特拉那里，我这儿只有老式办公桌、一个绿罩子台灯、一台老式打字机和几个档案柜。墙上还挂着 1990 年的挂历。1990 年对我来说是个好年头：就在这一年，我离开了纽约市警察局。

“这么说我是跟不上时代了。我喜欢这个样子。”我说。

“你懂不懂礼节，马利先生？”她问。

“我很久以前就把礼节丢失了。”

“你在女士面前也不脱帽子吗？”

“我都快秃顶了，所以得戴着帽子。戴帽子让我脑袋暖和些。我是个大忙人，”我撒了个谎说，“我们来谈正事吧。你是谁？我能帮你做什么？”

到我这把年纪，经历的世面可就多了，但尽是些不太好的事情。在纽约市警察局 15 年的工作生涯，使你对人的感觉不可能非常积极。而接下来的 10 年私家侦探生涯，又一直都在努力着使事业有成。眼前的这个女人

