



了结

回报

小城警长

雪封



# 英语小小说丛书



上海教育出版社



LONGMAN 朗文

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## 英语小小说丛书⑤

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## 编者的话

手边这套从海外引进的《英语小小说丛书》(英汉对照)即将付梓,作为她的第一读者——编者,想对后来的读者说几句话:

这些小说的用语非常生活化,阅读时,你会惊奇地发现,原来,许多叙说和描述竟可以用如此简单的语汇来表达?体悟到这种轻快简捷的语感后,你对自己的听说能力会陡然信心大增,而这种自信心又最能激活你的语言记忆能力。

这套丛书内容涉及了当代美国社会各个层面的生活现状,其中不乏历史、人文、科技等综合信息,这是一种更深层次的“语感”。

但愿你能获得这两种语感,那对我们编读双方将都是可喜可贺的。

另外,英汉对照这一形式既能使读者品味到语言的“原汁原味”,又能降低或消除阅读障碍,帮助读者提高英语的阅读理解水平,领略中英文两种语言的不同的魅力。

这套丛书和《英语短篇小说丛书》(英汉对照)相比,篇幅要短些,文字稍浅些,表达更直接些,但选取的仍是科幻、刑侦、玄秘、情感、运动等方面的题材,相信广大读者特别是年轻的读者们一定会喜欢的。

## 英语小小说丛书(英汉对照)第5辑

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# No Loose Ends

Geraldine Morgan seated herself beside the desk. Bill Adams nodded to her and continued speaking on the phone. Geraldine nodded in return and tried to get comfortable in the wooden chair. She was wearing a pants suit and a white blouse.

She looked around the office. The desk was bare except for the telephone and one yellow folder. She knew that in Adams's

## 了 结

杰拉尔德·摩根在桌旁坐下。比尔向她点了点头继续打电话。杰拉尔德也点了下头，换了个坐姿，使自己在那把木椅上坐得舒服点。她穿着裤套装和白色罩衫。

她环视了一下办公室。办公桌上除了电话机和一个黄色文件夹外什么都没有。她知道，对亚当斯来说，

case, this was more a sign of good organization than not working hard. "Good to see you again, Geri," he said to her after hanging up. "How have you been?"

"Fine. But I'm sure you didn't call me to your office to make small talk, Willie," she said. "So can we get to it?"

"Lieutenant Stevens down at police headquarters says you're still one of the best and most honest private detectives in town."

"Nice of him to say so," Geri replied. "You feel you need an honest private detective?"

Adams scowled. "What I really need is a hit man." He tried to smile. "No, Geri, but I do need a good private eye."

"I can't help, Willie. I'm too busy right now."

这意味着井然有序而非工作不勤奋。“很高兴又见到你，嘉丽。”他挂了电话说，“近来可好？”

“不错。我想你叫我来决不会是拉家常的，威利。”她说，“那么咱们谈正事吧？”

“警察总部的史蒂文斯中尉说你依然是城里一箇且诚实可信的私人侦探。”

“承他夸奖。”嘉丽答道。“你要一个可靠的私家侦探？”

亚当斯皱眉头说：“其实我真正需要的是一个职业杀手。”他想挤出个笑容。“不，嘉丽，但是我真的需要一个好侦探。”

“我没法帮你，威利。眼下我太忙了。”

“Stop calling me Willie, will you? We’re not still in the sixth grade. This thing I’m asking you to do wouldn’t be the longest job in the world. Or the most difficult.”

“I really am too busy.”

“A couple of my people are stealing from me,” Adams went on stubbornly. “Four Friday afternoons in a row now. Merchandise, not cash. I’ve checked everything I can think of, and I still can’t figure out how they’re doing it.”

“I told you when you set up the business that your security was weak.”

“I know, I know, but it’s not like I’m handling diamonds,” he said. “You’d almost need a truck to cart off enough stuff to really hurt me. After all, we’re only making costume jewelry here. But someone’s taking

“别叫我威利。我们不再是六年级的学生了。我让你做的这件事不会是世上花费时间最长、最难的。”

“我真的很忙。”

“我手下几个人吃里扒外。”亚当斯自顾自地说下去。“至今接连四个周五下午了。产品，不是现金。凡是能想到的，我都核实了。但就是弄不明白他们是怎么得手的。”

“你开业时我就提醒过你保安措施不行。”

“知道，知道。可我又不是做钻石生意。这种东西要是一卡车一卡车地运走，才能伤我的元气。我们这儿毕竟只生产人造珠宝首饰物。但是，他们也太不像话了。”



enough to make it more than just a small annoyance.”

Adams shook his head and continued. “I haven’t even put in any claims for the stolen goods with my insurance company. They’d pay them, but I’m afraid then they’d drop my policy. They warned me to improve my security, or something like this would happen. But I can’t keep taking these losses.”

“Well, what do you want done?” Geri asked.

“My accountant says that the way it’s being managed, one of my supervisors must be involved. I’ve figured out who it must be. But I want you to catch her at it. How tough can it be?”

“You know who it is?” Geri asked.

“I’m almost positive.”

亚当斯摇摇头继续说：“我甚至还没有就被盗物品向保险公司索赔。他们会赔的，但我怕他们撤销我的保单。他们警告过我要改进保安措施，否则会发生这类事情的。可是，老承担这些损失我也受不了。”

“那么，你想怎么办？”嘉丽问。

“会计说从作案手法来看，肯定牵涉到某个管理员。我已经知道是谁了。但我想让你当场抓住她。难办吗？”

“你知道是谁干的？”嘉丽问。

“几乎可以肯定。”



“Stealing merchandise,” Geraldine said. She glanced at her calendar wristwatch. “On Fridays, and today is Friday. Did you discuss all this with Lieutenant Stevens when you talked to him?”

“No, I didn’t.” Adams looked sheepish.

“The police wouldn’t charge you for catching your thief, Willie.”

He wouldn’t look at her directly. “I have reasons for not calling in the police.”

“If I caught her, you’d press charges?”

“I didn’t say that,” Adams replied. “We’re not talking about a million dollars. Right now I want to know how she’s doing it to me.”

“Is it more than stealing?” Geri asked. “Have you been ‘involved’ outside of work with this supervisor?” Bill Adams said nothing. “Is she blackmailing you, too?”

“偷产品。”杰拉尔丁说。她瞥了手上的日历表。“每逢周五。今天是星期五。你跟史蒂文斯中尉谈的时候说过这事吗？”

“没有。”亚当斯显得有点局促不安。

“警察不会因为你抓住了偷你东西的贼而指控你的，威利。”

他不敢直视她。“我不叫警察来是有苦衷的。”

“要是我抓到了她，你会起诉吗？”

“我没说过要起诉。”亚当斯回答。“又不是一百万美元。现在我想知道的是她想拿我怎样。”

“不只是偷盗吧？”葛丽问。“你是不是与这个管理员‘牵涉’到了工作外的事？”比尔·亚当斯一声不响。“她还敲诈你，是吗？”

“You’ve known me a long time, Geri. Am I the kind of man who can be blackmailed?” Adams said.

“Then what is it? Why not let the law handle it?”

“C’mon, Geri, give me a break,” he said. “I don’t want to bring the police in. They’ll ask a lot of questions. And then they’ll take their sweet time doing something about this. You can catch her at it quickly. Do that, and then I can get rid of her.”

“I’m flying up north tonight on an insurance case,” Geraldine said. “I won’t be back until the middle of next week.”

“嘉丽，你认识我很久了。我是那种被敲诈的人吗？”亚当斯说。

“那么是什么？为什么不让法律来制裁？”

“算了，嘉丽。帮帮我吧。”他说，“我不想让警察插手。他们会问许多问题，然后才慢吞吞地处理这件事。你能很快抓住她。抓住她后我就可以摆脱她了。”

“我今晚要飞往北方调查一件保险案。”杰拉尔丁说。“我要到下周中期才能回来。”

“We’ve known each other a long time, Geri,” Adams pleaded. “For old times’ sake, help me out.”

Geraldine sighed. “Willie, I can give you . . .” She looked at her watch again. “. . . three hours right now. But then not another minute until the middle of next week.”

“It’s a deal,” Adams agreed quickly.

“You took me through your place here a couple of years ago, back when you were getting started. Do your employees still work in that big bare room under all those bright lights?”

Adams nodded. “Except that the room is three times as big now. I had to knock out a couple of walls. Who would have ever thought that cheap jewelry would have caught on the way it has?”

“我们认识很久了，嘉丽。”亚当斯恳求道。“念老交情，帮帮我。”

杰拉尔丁叹了口气。“威利，我现在可以给你……”她又看了下表。“……三个小时。但之后直到下周中期我一分钟都没空。”

“就这么定了。”亚当斯马上同意。

“几年前你带我看你的工厂。那时你即将开业。你的那些工人还在那间毫无遮蔽的大房间里明亮的灯光下干活吗？”

亚当斯点点头。“不同的是房间大了三倍。我拆掉了二堵墙。谁会料到廉价的珠宝饰物会这么畅销呢？”

There was no place in that wide open workroom where two women could get their heads together to plot mischief, Geraldine thought. But there was another possibility.

"Where are you going to start?" Adams asked.

"I'll tell you later. Right now take me to your maintenance chief. And remember, you won't see me again for almost a week."

"Okay," Adams said. "I'd rather have it done before then, but the main thing is I want it done, period. No loose ends, Geri. None at all."

He led her out into the hallway and took her to the maintenance office. Geraldine made a shooing movement with her hands to show Adams that he was no longer

杰拉尔丁思忖，在那敞开的车间里，两个女人想头凑一块儿密谋干坏事是根本不可能的。不过，还有一种可能性。

"你从哪儿着手？"亚当斯问。

"以后告诉你。现在就带我去见你的门卫长。记住，你将有近一个星期见不到我。"

"好吧。"亚当斯说。"但愿到时你能五个水落石出。主要是将它彻底了结，嘉丽。不留任何尾巴。"

他领她到外面的过道，接着把她带到门卫处。杰拉尔丁向亚当斯打手势示意他离开。

needed. He left, although he looked as if he wanted to ask questions.

Geraldine spoke briefly to the maintenance chief. Then she went outside to her van, put on a white coverall, and loaded its pockets with equipment. Five minutes later, she unlocked an unmarked door across the hall from the women's rest room. It led to a storeroom not much larger than a closet.

She removed a printed white card that said OUT OF ORDER from a pocket of the coverall. Then she crossed the hall and hung the sign by its cord on the women's bathroom doorknob. She went inside and noisily clanked a small toolbox down on one of the sinks. Neither of the two women in the room gave her a second glance. She

他走了，但脸上露出一副欲言又止的样子。

杰拉拉丁同门卫长简单交谈了几句后出来，从车里拿了件白罩衫穿上，往兜里塞了不少用具。五分钟后，她打开了过道里女盥洗室对面的一扇不为人注意的门。这扇门通往一个比盥洗室还小的贮藏室。

她从罩衫的一个口袋里拿出一张印有“故障”的白色卡片，穿过走廊，用一根细绳串着，把它挂在女盥洗室的门把手上。她进了女盥洗室，丁丁当当地把一只小工具箱拆下来放在一个水斗上。盥洗室里的两个女人谁也没朝她再多看一眼。

took out a wrench and pretended to work on a faucet.

After the women left, she removed a small metal box from another coverall pocket. She fastened it to the wall above her head with clear, heavy tape. The box looked like a thermostat. Geraldine went outside, removed her sign, and returned to the small room across the hall. She left its door open about six inches.

Inside the cramped space, she prepared a few more things. She dragged two boxes near the door and stacked them, making a work desk. On the desk top, she placed a lined pad of paper, a small 35-mm camera, and her wristwatch. Although she was hidden, she commanded a clear view of the hallway leading to the bathroom.

她取出扳手，假装修龙头。

等那两个女人一走，她从罩衫的另一只口袋里拿出一只小金属盒，用很牢的透明胶带将它固定在她头顶上方的墙上。小盒子看上去像一只恒温器。杰拉尔丁走出盥洗室，拿掉挂在门把手上的牌子，回到对面的小房间。她把门虚掩着，留有约6英寸的缝。

在里面狭窄的地方，她又干了几件事。她把两只箱子拖到门边，把它们叠起来，使其成为一只工作台。她把一本刻有线条的拍纸簿、一只小型的35毫米的照相机和她的手表都放在台上。虽然她躲了起来，别人看不见她，但她可以清楚地看到通往浴室的过道。

As she looked out, a woman walked down the hallway. Geraldine picked up her camera, stood close to the slightly open door, and took the woman's picture. On the pad, she jotted down *Number 1*, then entered the time, *2:14 P.M.*

A blonde and a brunette came down the hallway together. Geraldine took their pictures and marked down on the pad *Number 2 (Br)* and *Number 3 (Bl)*. She had reached *Number 5* on her pad when the first woman exited. She wrote the time beside *Number 1*—*2:21 P.M.*

It was hot in the small space. Geri could feel the collar of her blouse sticking to her neck. But she kept taking pictures and making notes. The pictures and the “thermostat” box on the wall inside would

一个女的沿着过道走来。杰拉尔丁拿起相机，靠近虚掩的门，拍下了她的照片。她在拍纸簿上草草记下“1号”并记录下时间：2:14 下午。

一个会发碧眼的白肤女人和一个黑头发浅黑皮肤的女人一起走过来。杰拉尔丁拍下了她们的照片并在拍纸簿上记下“2号”（黑肤）和“3号”（白肤）。当第一个女人离开时，杰拉尔丁已在拍纸簿上记到“5号”。她在“1号”的旁边写下时间——2:21 下午。

小房间里热得要命。嘉丽只觉得衬衣领子粘着颈脖。但是她仍不停地拍照、记录。一旦有谁泄露了天机，



identify anyone who said something revealing. The box was really a small tape recorder.

She continued to check women in and out. Sometimes she had to write down dress colors to further identify them. She thought it was a good thing that Bill Adams's business hadn't become any more successful. If it had, she would have had a hard time keeping up with the flow of traffic. As it was, she was glad she was using her 35-mm camera. One roll of film held 36 shots. If this pace continued, she was going to need the entire roll.

Geraldine watched the bathroom for more than two and a half hours. At five minutes to five, she got ready to leave. It was almost closing time. And she still had to stop at her apartment before heading to

那么从这些照片和里面墙上的“恒温器”里就会查出来。那只盒子其实是一台小型录音机。

她继续核对着进进出出的女人们。有时她不得不记下衣服的颜色以便进一步确认。她想，亏得比尔·亚当斯的生意仅此规模，否则，要盯上这进出的人流，她就惨了。实际上，她庆幸自己用了架35毫米的相机。一卷胶卷可以拍36张。照此节奏，她要拍完整整一卷。

杰拉尔丁对浴室监视了两个半小时。四点五十五分时她准备离开，因为将近下班时间，况且她在去机场之前还得回住所一次。

the airport for her trip. She waited for her note pad to tell her when the bathroom was empty. She frowned down at the pad. It showed that one woman had been inside for 40 minutes. Had she missed checking one out?

That must have been it. She placed a question mark in the exit column on her pad after Number 22. Then she crossed the hall with her sign and again hung it on the doorknob. She went inside and saw that no one was there. She removed the tape recorder from the wall. Then taking the sign off the doorknob, she returned to the closet.

Geraldine quickly stepped out of the coverall and wrapped the note pad, recorder, and camera in it. She left the building without speaking to anyone. Back at

她想从拍纸簿上得知浴室里何时没人了。她不禁对着拍纸簿皱起了眉头：有一个女人已经在里面呆了40分钟。难道她漏记了？

对啦，肯定是漏了。她在“22号”离开一栏打了个问号。然后她拿着牌子穿过走廊又把它挂在门把手上。她走进去。里面没人。她从墙上取下录音机，将门把手上的牌子拿掉，然后回到壁橱里。

杰拉尔丁快速脱下罩衫把笔记本、录音机和照相机包起来。她没跟任何人打招呼就走了。