

外研社·剑桥英语原创读物 (4级)

【英汉双语】

High Life, Low Life

★★★★

坎坷人生

ALAN BATTERSBY (英) 著

王静 译



外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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Cambridge English Readers series 是特别为非英语国家的青少年学习者撰写的小说类读物。它不同于屡见不鲜的名著简写本，这套读物的作者都是英国具有多年教学经验的 TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) 教师，或者作者本人就是小说家。他们精心选用词汇和语法要点，按照由低到高、循序渐进的等级水平，用地道的英语，创作了这些引人入胜的作品。这套小说题材广泛，包括历险记、探案、科幻、浪漫、喜剧等等；而且主题现代，贴近生活，并涉及到东西方不同的地域文化，读来仿佛身临其境、兴致盎然。

泛读一直是英语学习的最大秘密，它使学习者可以利用自己的时间，掌握自己的进度，而成功的关键就是——阅读的乐趣！外语教学与研究出版社从英国剑桥大学出版社引进了这套新型的原创小说类读物，并针对国内读者的不同需求，以英汉双语及英文注释两种形式出版。衷心希望读者朋友们在享受阅读乐趣的同时，进一步提高英语水平！

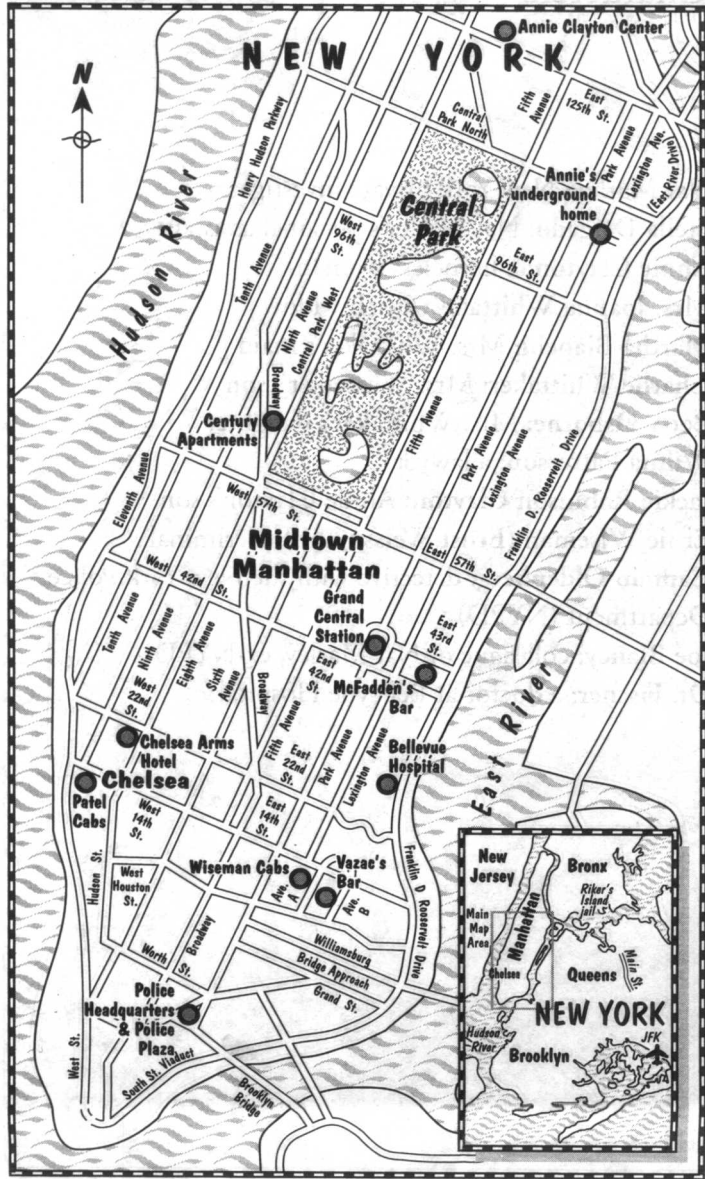
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Maps(地图)



Characters

Nat Marley: New York private investigator

Stella Delgado: Nat Marley's personal assistant

Annie Clayton: a homeless woman

Mrs. Joanna Whittaker: a rich widow

Martha Bianchi: Mrs. Whittaker's maid

Charlie Whittaker: Mrs. Whittaker's son

Betty Osborne: Mrs. Whittaker's daughter

Wilma Patterson: a lawyer

Jackie Robinson Clayton: Annie Clayton's son

Ernie Wiseman (Ernst Weissmann): a criminal

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

Joe Blaney: colleague of Nat Marley, ex-NYPD

Dr. Fischer: a doctor at Bellevue Hospital

书中人物

纳特·马利：纽约私家侦探

斯特拉·德尔加多：纳特·马利的私人助理

安妮·克莱顿：一个无家可归的女人

乔安娜·惠特克夫人：一位富有的寡妇

玛莎·比安基：惠特克夫人的女仆

查利·惠特克：惠特克夫人的儿子

贝蒂·奥斯本：惠特克夫人的女儿

威尔玛·帕特森：一位律师

杰基·鲁宾逊·克莱顿：安妮·克莱顿的儿子

厄尼·怀斯曼(厄恩斯特·韦斯曼)：一名罪犯

奥尔登伯格副巡官：纽约警局侦探

乔·布兰尼：纳特·马利的前纽约警局同事

费希尔医生：贝尔维尤医院的一名医生

Chapter 1 *Summer in the city*

They say if you don't like the heat, get out of the kitchen. New York, mid-July, if you don't like the heat, get out of the city. Anyone who could take a vacation was in the mountains or on Long Island. Anywhere cooler than the city. But me, I had work to do and dollars to earn. As I left my apartment building in Queens, the heat hit me. The temperature was already up in the eighties. Only seven o'clock in the morning and I was sweating. It was going to be another one of those hot, uncomfortable days. Time to catch the number seven train to Manhattan.

The name's Marley, Nat Marley. I know the city of New York like the back of my hand. New York is part of me, it's in my blood. During my fifteen years' service with the New York Police Department, I saw the best and worst of life in the city. After leaving the NYPD, I became a private investigator. Although I don't make that much money, I'm my own boss and I don't have to take orders from anybody. I prefer it that way.

At Grand Central Station, crowds of office workers hurried out to 42nd Street. There were usually a few homeless people in the station trying to make a few dollars before the police moved them along. When you make the same trip every day, you get to know people's faces. But today, I couldn't see any homeless people. Maybe they were out in the sunshine on 42nd Street.

第一章

城市的夏天

有人说，如果你讨厌高温，就远离厨房好了。在7月中旬的纽约，你不能忍受热浪扑面，就只有离开这座城市。此时此刻，只要能休假的人，都在山里或长岛躲避炎热。任何地方，只要比这儿凉快就行。而我，要工作，要挣钱养家糊口。刚一离开我在皇后区的公寓，一阵热浪袭来。气温足足有80华氏度。才早上7点钟，我已经汗津津的了。看来还是一个炎热难捱的日子。哦，到点了，我该赶7号地铁去曼哈顿了。

在下马利，纳特·马利。我对纽约这座城市了如指掌。纽约已经是我身体的一部分，融入我的血脉之中。在纽约警局工作的那15年，我目睹了这座城市最美好的一面和最丑陋的一面。离开纽约警局，我做了一名私家侦探。虽然挣得没那么多，但毕竟自己当老板，不用听命于任何人。我宁愿这样。

在中央车站，拥挤的上班族涌向42号街。通常有几个流浪的人在这儿乞讨，希望在被警察轰走之前能多赚几个钱。当你每天都重复同样的交通路线时，会渐渐熟悉那一张张脸。但今天我没有看见，他们大概正在42号大街享受阳光吧。

temperature *n.* 温度；气温 uncomfortable *adj.* 不舒服的
private investigator 私人侦探

Suddenly a voice called out, "Hey, Nat, don't you recognize me?"

I turned around. There was an old woman in an expensive-looking coat and skirt. It was Annie, a real New York character: one of the homeless people I'd known since I was a patrolman with the NYPD.

"Do you like my coat, Nat? I found it in the trash."

"A winter coat in July? You must be boiling. I like the coat, but you don't look too great, Annie."

"I'm OK, Nat. Anyway, a winter coat's valuable so it stays with me, sunshine or snow."

I looked at her closely. There was something different about her. I couldn't say what exactly. But she had changed.

"Sure you're feeling all right, Annie?"

"Me, Nat? Never felt better."

Maybe she was just exhausted from trying to earn a living on the streets at her age. But something told me I should stay around.

"I'll buy you breakfast. Coffee and doughnuts?" I offered.

Annie took my arm as we made our way toward the main entrance. Suddenly she pulled at my jacket.

"Hey, not so fast, Nat. Just give me a minute. It's this pain in my chest."

I looked at her closely. The sweat was pouring off her face. We hadn't walked far, but she was out of breath. She held my hand tightly. Her skin felt cold.

"Oh my God!" she cried.

She reached for her chest, her eyes and mouth wide open in pain. Then she fell at my feet, unconscious. A heart

突然有个声音叫道：“嗨，纳特。你没认出我吗？”

我转过身。一位年老女士站在那儿，身穿看似昂贵的大衣和裙子。那是安妮，真正的纽约人士：我在纽约警局当巡警时就认识的一个无家可归的人。

“喜欢我的大衣吗，纳特？垃圾里拣的。”

“7月天穿大衣？你会被煮熟的。这大衣不错，但你的气色不好，安妮。”

“还行，纳特。不管怎么说，一件冬季大衣很宝贵的，所以它得跟着我，无论晴天还是下雪。”

我仔细看了看她。她好像不太对劲，但我说不上到底是怎么回事。她还是有些变化。

“安妮，你确定没事吧？”

“我，纳特？从来没有感觉这么好。”

也许以她这个年纪在街上乞讨为生，是累坏了。可直觉告诉我还是应该跟她再呆会儿。

“我去给你买早餐。咖啡加油炸圈饼怎么样？”我提议。

安妮挽着我的胳膊向主入口走去。突然，她拽住我的外衣。

“我说，别走得太快了，纳特。缓两分钟。我的胸口痛。”

我仔细一瞧，她的脸上在冒汗。我们还没走几步，可她已经气喘吁吁了。她紧紧地抓住我的手，皮肤冰凉。

“噢，上帝！”她喊了起来。

她捂着胸口，痛苦地睁着眼睛、张着嘴，接着倒在我脚下，失

attack. I felt her wrist. There was no pulse. There was no movement from her chest either. She wasn't breathing. I didn't have time to think. All that NYPD training came back to me. First the breathing. Head back, hold the nose, open mouth, check the airway. Close my lips over the mouth. Breathe out, pause, and again. Then both hands on her chest. Push down. Again, fifteen times. I looked up at the circle of people around us.

"Someone call 911. Get an ambulance! Anyone here done first aid training?" I asked.

A guy stepped forward nervously. "I've just taken a first aid course," he said.

"Start with the breathing, then we'll change over."

We worked on her for five long minutes. I felt Annie's wrist again. This time there was a pulse. And then some movement in her chest. At last, I heard the sound of the ambulance siren.

The ambulance men took over and put Annie in the ambulance waiting on 42nd Street. I knew someone like her wouldn't have health insurance.

"You taking her to Bellevue Hospital?" I asked.

"Yeah."

"Here's my card. Any questions about hospital bills, tell them to call me."

How I would actually pay any hospital bills was another matter.

A police officer came over to interview me. As soon as he left me, a reporter from the *Daily News* ran up to me.

"Can I ask a few questions, sir? This is going to be a great story."

I didn't mind. The story might be good for business.

去了知觉。是心脏病突发。我摸了摸她的手腕，脉搏停止，心跳也停止了，没有了呼吸。没有时间思考，警局的训练技能重现在我脑海中。首先要恢复呼吸，使她的头后仰，捏住鼻子，打开口腔，检查气管。我的双唇靠近她的嘴，呼气、停、再来。两手放在她的胸口，下压、再来、15次。我抬头看了看，四周围了一群人。

“有谁打一下 911。叫辆救护车！谁接受过急救训练？”我问道。

一位小伙子走上前，看起来很紧张。“我刚刚学过。”他说。

“先对付呼吸，我们再轮换。”

我们抢救了漫长的五分钟。我又摸了摸安妮的手腕，这次有脉搏了，心脏也开始跳动。终于，听到了救护车的警报声。

车停在 42 号街上，救护人员接过安妮，把她运上车。我知道，像她这样的人是没有健康保险的。

“你们送她去贝尔维尤医院？”我问。

“是的。”

“这是我的名片。如果有任何医疗费用上的问题，让他们打电话给我。”

至于我如何支付医院的账单，那就再说了。

一位警官来问了我一些问题。他刚离开，一位《每日新闻报》的记者便向我跑来。

“先生，我可以问几个问题吗？这会是一篇精彩的报道。”

我不介意。也许这段报道会带来几笔生意的。

ambulance *n.* 救护车 siren *n.* 警报器

health insurance 健康保险 interview *v.* 对……进行面谈

From Grand Central, it was five minutes' walk to my office at 220 East 43rd Street. Most offices in the building had their own air conditioning. Mine didn't, so it was hot and uncomfortable.

It was very quiet in the office when I arrived. No surprises there. Business is usually quiet in July. Even bad guys take vacations.

Stella Delgado, my personal assistant, was already at her desk. She looked tired and annoyed.

"Nat, when are we going to get air conditioning?" she asked. "It's impossible to work. And look at the sweat on your shirt!"

"I've been on my knees at Grand Central," I said, "saving an old lady's life. That's hard work in this heat."

I told Stella what had just happened. She stopped complaining about the heat.

"Let's go and see how she is," she suggested.

New York private investigators don't normally use public transportation. But I'm different. Stella and I took a number 15 bus downtown on Second Avenue then walked one block east to the hospital on First Avenue. I introduced myself to the receptionist.

"The name's Nat Marley. I'm a close friend of Annie Clayton's. She's just been admitted to the emergency room. We have to see her, miss. You see . . ."

"Sorry. Family only in the emergency room," the receptionist said.

"Look, miss. She's more like family to me than my own wife," I said.

That was true. I hadn't seen much of Mrs. Marley since the divorce.

从中央车站到我的办公室——东 43 大街 220 号，步行五分钟就到了。那幢楼里的多数办公室都有空调。我的办公室没有装，所以炎热无比，极不舒服。

走进办公室，安静极了。没有什么令人精神振奋的事。通常在 7 月里生意惨淡，连那些坏蛋都休假去了。

我的私人助理斯特拉·德尔加多已经开始工作了。她看上去疲惫而烦躁。

“纳特，我们什么时候买空调？”她问，“简直工作不下去了。看看你衬衫上的那些汗！”

“我一直跪在中央车站那儿。”我说，“挽救一位年老女士的生命。在这么热的天这可是件辛苦活儿。”

我告诉斯特拉事情的来龙去脉。她不再抱怨热了。

“我们去看看她怎么样了。”她提议。

纽约私家侦探通常不使用公共交通工具，但我是个特例。斯特拉和我乘坐 15 路公共汽车来到市区的第二大道，然后往东走过一个街区，来到位于第一大道的医院。我向前台接待做了自我介绍。

“在下纳特·马利，是安妮·克莱顿的好朋友。她刚被送进急救室。我们想看看她，小姐。你看……”

“抱歉，只有亲属可以进急救室探望。”接待员告诉我们。

“您瞧，小姐，她比我的妻子还像我的家人。”我说。

的确如此。离婚后，我和前妻很少见面。

air conditioning 空调设备 transportation n. 交通车辆
receptionist n. 接待员 divorce n. 离婚