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■ Reg Wright (英) 著

# Ear-Rings from Frankfurt

## 法兰克福的耳环



外语教学与研究出版社  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



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- Reg Wright (英) 著
- 于晓皖 译

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## 内容简介

你有兄弟或姐妹吗？他们有时会给你的生活带来很多烦心事。要是他们比你年纪小的话，他们就总是会惹麻烦，要你来帮忙。

如果你知道了一个人的缺点，便会难以忘掉。俗话说：“一日为贼，终生为贼”。但真的是这样吗？一次错误会使一个人永远是一个坏人吗？人们就不能有所改变吗？

珍妮弗·沃尔顿是一名护士，她是个文静、细心而又通情达理的人，却有一个既不细心也不通情达理的弟弟，名叫理查德。他总是向人借钱，干任何工作都没有长性，并且和警方扯上了麻烦。珍妮弗对他非常担心。一天，当警察前来询问有关他的情况时，珍妮弗想到了最坏的可能。

## EAR-RINGS FROM FRANKFURT

Do you have any brothers or sisters? They can sometimes make your life very difficult. If they are younger than you, then they are always getting into trouble and needing your help.

And if you know something bad about a person, it is difficult to forget it. 'Once a thief, always a thief,' people say. But is that true? Does one mistake make a person bad for ever? Can't people change?

Jennifer Walton is a nurse. She is quiet and careful and sensible, but she has a young brother, Richard. Richard is not careful or sensible. He is always borrowing money, he never keeps a job for long, he's been in trouble with the police. Jennifer worries about him a lot. And when one day the police come asking questions about him, Jennifer fears the worst.

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1

## A night out at Maxim's

Jennifer looked at the clock on the waiting-room wall. Nearly half-past eight. The light was still on in Doctor Gibson's room. I'm going to be late, she said to herself, why doesn't he hurry up? The evening surgery was always busy on Thursdays but tonight was worse than usual.

She quickly put the newspapers in a cupboard. Then she took off her white coat and locked it in the cupboard too. She was turning off the lights when someone rang the front doorbell. Oh no, not another patient, not at this hour. She ran to the door and opened it. Outside it was dark but she could see a man, his hands deep in his pockets. He moved his head and the light fell on his face.

'Richard!' she cried in surprise. 'What are you doing here?'

'Can I come in for a minute?'

He did not wait for an answer but pushed past her and went inside. Jennifer turned to him. She was usually pleased when Richard called, but this was the wrong time. 'I'm sorry, but you can't stay. I must hurry. I'm meeting my friend Claire for dinner and ...' She stopped. It was Richard's eyes — they looked tired and worried.

'What's the matter?' she asked.



# 1. 马克西姆餐厅之夜

珍妮弗看了看候诊室墙上的钟。快 8 点半了，吉布森大夫房间里的灯依然亮着。我要迟到了，她自言自语道，为什么他不能快点儿呢？虽然星期四的夜间门诊总是很忙碌，但今晚的情况比通常更糟。

她迅速将报纸放进柜橱，随后脱下白大褂，也锁了进去。她正准备关灯，前门铃响了起来。噢，不，别再有病人了，别在这个时候。她跑过去，打开了门。外面漆黑一片，但她依稀能分辨出是一个男人，两手深深地插在口袋里。他的头动了一下，灯光映照在他的脸上。

“理查德！”她惊呼道，“你跑到这儿来做什么？”

“我能进去呆一会儿吗？”

不等回答，他便从她身旁挤了进去。珍妮弗转向他。每当理查德来访，她都会很高兴，但这次他却来得不是时候。“很抱歉你不能呆在这儿。我必须立即动身，和好朋友克莱尔共进晚餐，然后……”她停了下来，因为理查德的眼神看上去既疲惫又焦虑。

“出什么事了？”她问道。

**surgery** *n.* a place where a doctor or dentist gives treatment 诊所；牙医诊所；门诊（时间）  
**patient** *n.* a person receiving or registered to receive medical treatment 病人  
**tired** *a.* bored with something because it is no longer interesting, or has become annoying 厌倦的；厌烦的



Just then Dr Gibson called from his room. 'Did I hear the doorbell, Nurse? Was it another patient?'

'No, it's only my brother Richard,' she called back.

She turned back to Richard. 'Is something wrong?' she asked again.

He shook his head. 'I'm fine,' he said. 'It's just ... well, I had some trouble at work.'

'Trouble?'

'It was nothing, really. I said something to my boss and he didn't like it. He got angry with me and ... and in the end he told me to go. So I've lost my job.'

'Oh Richard, not again! Why do you do these things?' Jennifer was beginning to feel cross with him. 'And now you have no money, is that it?'

'Take it easy, Jenny. I don't need very much. Only twenty pounds. I'll pay you back next week — really I will.' He put his hand on her arm. 'You can do that for me, can't you? Just twenty pounds. It's for a present.'

'Yes, I know, I know. A present for a very special girl — like the last one. And the one before.' Jennifer knew her young brother well and she was often angry with him, but she could never say no to him. She opened her bag, took out some money and gave it to him. 'But remember, I want it back next week.'

Richard smiled and put his arm around his sister. 'Thanks, Jenny. This is different. Really! She's very,

就在这时，吉布森大夫从房间里喊道：“护士小姐，我是不是听到门铃响了？是又来病人了吗？”

“不是，只是我弟弟理查德，”她回应道。

她又回身问理查德，“出什么事儿了？”

他摇了摇头说：“我很好，只是……唉，我在工作上遇到了点儿麻烦。”

“麻烦？”

“也没什么，真的。我对老板说了些他不爱听的话，他因此对我大发脾气，最后叫我走人。就这样，我丢了工作。”

“噢，理查德，你以后别再这样了。你为什么要这么做？”珍妮弗开始对他感到生气，“你现在又没钱了，对吧？”

“别紧张，珍妮。我不要太。20 镑就够了，下周我就还你，说到做到。”他把一只手搭在她的胳膊上说，“你可以帮我这个忙的，对吧？只要 20 镑，我要买件礼物。”

“是的，我知道，我知道。要给一个特别的女孩儿买件礼物，就像上次和上上次一样。”珍妮弗很了解她的弟弟，也经常生他的气，但从未拒绝过他。她打开包，拿出钱递给了理查德。“但记住，下周就要还我。”

理查德笑着，搂着他的姐姐说：“谢谢，珍妮。这次真的不同！她是个非同一般



**shake** *v.* move forcefully or quickly up and down or to and fro 摇；（猛力）摇动  
**cross** *adj.* especially angry or annoyed 生气的；恼怒的

very special. But you're in a hurry so I'll go now.'

'Don't forget,' she called after him. 'Next week. Twenty pounds.'

Maxim's restaurant was busy — young men and women from offices, several older people, a group of students, and a few theatre people. Jennifer looked around for her friend. Claire usually sat near the window but tonight she was not there. Somebody was having a party and all the tables on that side were full. Then Jennifer heard Claire's voice behind her. 'Did you get lost? I've been here for hours.'

'I know I'm late,' Jennifer said, 'and I *am* sorry. Today has been really busy. The last patient didn't leave until eight-thirty. And then I had a visit from Richard. He wanted to borrow some money. He always wants to borrow money.'

They went to an empty table. A waiter came up to them and took their orders. At that moment there was a cheer from the party beside the window. An older man in a light grey suit was standing up. He spoke for a few minutes and then held up his glass. All the others stood up, and looked at a young girl with large gold ear-rings, who was sitting in the chair next to him. Everyone was laughing, and then they began to sing 'Happy birthday to you'. They were all looking at the girl, but she herself just sat there without a smile on her face. The song came to an end, and

般的女孩儿。不过，既然你着急出门，我现在就走。”

“别忘了，”她在他身后喊道，“下星期，20 英镑。”

马克西姆餐厅里异常热闹，有一些在办公室里工作的青年男女、一些年纪较大的人、一群学生和几个剧团的人。珍妮弗环视了一下四周，想找到她的朋友。克莱尔通常坐在靠近窗户的座位上，但是今晚她并不在那儿。有人正举办宴会，那一侧的餐桌已是座无虚席。这时珍妮弗听到背后传来克莱尔的声音，“迷路了吗？我已经到这儿好半天了。”

“我知道我来晚了，”珍妮弗说，“我很抱歉。今天确实很忙。最后一个病人直到8点半才离开，之后理查德又跑来找我，他是来借钱的。他总想向我借钱。”

她们走到一张空桌子旁，一名服务员走了过来，为她们点菜。正在这时，窗户旁聚会的人群中响起一片欢呼声，一位身穿浅灰色西装的年长男士站了起来。几分钟的简短致词后，他举起了酒杯。其他人也都站起身，向一位佩戴着大大的金耳环的年轻女孩儿看过去，她就坐在这位男士身边的椅子上。所有人都笑着唱起了“祝你生日快乐”。他们都看着她，而她却独自坐在那儿，脸上没有一丝笑容。唱完生日



**lost** *adj.* become unable to find 迷失的; 迷路的 **cheer**  
*n.* a shout of happiness, praise, approval, or encouragement 欢呼; 喝彩; 赞美声

there was another loud cheer and more laughing and shouting. Someone called out 'Twenty-one today, twenty-one today ...', and this time everyone in the restaurant sang too.

Suddenly there was a loud crash. Then someone screamed and a voice shouted, 'Bring a towel — quickly.' The man in the grey suit was lying across the table. He was holding his face, which was red with blood. On the table there was broken glass.

Someone said in a loud voice, 'What happened — did he fall?' Several people were speaking at the same time. 'It's his heart, you know ...' 'Joe's been in and out of hospital for years ...' '... his head hit those glasses'.

The man was still lying across the table. Jennifer jumped up, and both she and Claire ran over to him.

'We're nurses,' said Jennifer. 'Can we help?'

There was a cut on the side of the man's face. It was deep and he was losing a lot of blood. A waiter ran up with a towel. Jennifer took it and held it to the cut. The man's mouth was open and he was making strange noises.

'He needs a doctor. We'll have to get him to hospital,' Jennifer said. She turned to Claire. 'You came here in your car, didn't you?'

'Yes, come on — we'll take him,' Claire replied.

They helped the man outside and put him in Claire's car. Jennifer jumped in beside him and they drove off. She

歌，大家又兴高采烈地欢呼起来。有人大声喊道：“今天 21 啦，今天 21……”，这一次餐厅里的每个人都跟着唱了起来。

忽然，轰隆一声巨响，有人尖叫起来，一个声音大喊道：“拿毛巾来，快！”身穿灰色西服的男士倒在了桌子上，他用手捂住已经被血染红了的脸。桌子上到处都是打碎的玻璃杯。

有人大声喊道：“出什么事了？他摔倒了么？”与此同时，另一些人在一旁议论纷纷，“要知道，他的心脏……”“乔这些年已经变成医院的常客了……”“……他的头撞在了那些杯子上。”

那位男士仍然躺在桌子上。珍妮弗匆忙站起身，和克莱尔一起朝他跑了过去。

“我们是护士，”珍妮弗说，“能帮上忙吗？”

那位男士的脸有侧被划伤了，伤口很深，他失血很多。一位服务员手拿毛巾跑过来，珍妮弗接过毛巾，按住伤口。那位男士张着嘴，发出了奇怪的声音。

“他需要看大夫，我们必须把他送到医院去，”珍妮弗说。她转向克莱尔：“你开车来的，对吗？”

“没错。来吧，我们送他去医院，”克莱尔回答道。

她们把这位男士扶到了屋外克莱尔的汽车上，珍妮弗跳上车，坐在他的旁边，然



come to an end be completed or finished 完结；  
 终了；结束 crash n. a sudden loud noise made by something falling, breaking etc. 突然发出的巨响；（掉落、断裂等时发出的）碰撞声  
 scream v. to make a loud high noise with your voice because you are hurt, frightened, excited etc. （因疼痛、惊恐、兴奋等）尖声大叫  
 towel n. a piece of cloth that you use for drying your skin or for drying things such as dishes 毛巾；抹布  
 cut n. a wound that is caused when something sharp cuts your skin 切口；伤口；裂口

was still holding the towel to the man's face. The blood was not coming so fast now and he was beginning to feel a little better.

'Where . . . where are we going?' he asked. 'Are you taking me home?'

'Just stay there and don't speak,' Jennifer told him. 'You fell and hurt yourself. You'll be all right, but you must see a doctor. We'll be at the hospital in a few minutes.'

At the word 'hospital' the man immediately tried to sit up. 'No, no,' he said angrily, 'I don't need to go to hospital. I'm feeling better now. Just take me home. And who are you?'

'I'm a nurse,' Jennifer told him. 'And you need to see a doctor. We're nearly there now. Just sit still — and stop talking.'

But the man was feeling stronger now and he would not be quiet. He pulled at Jennifer's arm and said loudly, 'I don't need a doctor. It's just a small cut on my face. I'm all right now. Take me home!' When Jennifer did not answer him, he said in a quieter voice. 'Come on now — listen to me. I'm feeling fine, really I am. There's no need to take me to hospital. They'll want to keep me there — they always do, because of my bad heart. You see, I have to meet some business people the day after tomorrow — it's very important. So just stop the car and I can get a taxi home.'

后就出发了。珍妮弗仍旧用毛巾捂着他的脸，这时血已经流得不那么猛了，他开始觉得稍好一些。

“这是哪里……我们这是去哪里？”他问道，“你们是要送我回家吗？”

“呆在那儿了，别说话，”珍妮弗对他说，“你摔倒后伤到了自己。你很快就会没事的，不过你必须去看医生。再过一会儿我们就到医院了。”

一听到“医院”这个词，这位男士立刻就要起身。“不，不，”他生气地说，“我不需要去医院。我现在感觉好多了。请把我送回家。另外，你是谁？”

“我是护士，”珍妮弗告诉他，“你必须去看医生。我们马上就到了。静静地坐着，别说话。”

然而此时这位男士感觉恢复了一些，便不肯安静下来。他拽着珍妮弗的胳膊大喊道：“我不需要什么医生。我脸上不过是划了个小口子，现在已经没事了。送我回家！”见珍妮弗对他置之不理，他便轻声说：“拜托，听我说。我感觉很好，真的。根本没必要送我去医院。医生们会把我留下来的。因为我心脏不好，他们总想让我住院治疗。你要知道，后天我还要去见一些客户，而且事关重大。请把车停下来，我可以打车回家。”



still adj. without moving

静止的；不动的



By now the car was at the door of the hospital. A nurse came to meet them and while Claire told her about the accident, Jennifer helped the man out of the car. He said something angrily to the nurse, but after a few seconds he went with her into the hospital. Jennifer and Claire drove away.

‘What a difficult man!’ said Claire crossly. ‘No “Thank you for your help” or “You’re very kind”.’

‘Some people never say thank you,’ Jennifer said. ‘Don’t worry about it.’

When they got back to Maxim’s, a police car was standing outside, with its blue light on. There was a small group of people around the door. Jennifer pushed through them, Claire behind her. They tried to go inside. A policeman moved forward and put up his arm. ‘You’ll have to wait here,’ he told them.

‘But we ordered dinner . . . and we haven’t eaten yet,’ said Claire.

But the policeman was not listening to them. He was looking through the glass door. Something was happening inside and people were moving about. Then one of Maxim’s waiters opened the door and two policemen came out. They were holding a young girl between them. It was the girl from the birthday party, the girl with the unhappy face and the expensive gold ear-rings. The police pushed her into the back of their car and drove away quickly.