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The Ring

戒指

Bernard Smith (英) 著
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ISBN 7-5600-2739-3



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責任編輯: 王 禹 封面設計: 王 珣
版式設計: 牛茜茜

The Ring

戒指

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

(京)新登字 155 号

京权图字: 01 - 2000 - 2941

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

戒指/(英)史密斯(Smith, B.)著;雷鸣注.

—北京:外语教学与研究出版社,2003

(外研社·企鹅英语分级有声读物)

ISBN 7-5600-2739-3

I. 戒… II. ①史… ②雷… III. 英语—语言读物,故事

IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2003)第 028499 号

This edition of *The Ring*, first edition is published by arrangement with Pearson Education Limited. Authorized adaptation from the UK edition, entitled *The Ring* © Penguin Books Ltd. 2000.

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出版发行:外语教学与研究出版社

社 址:北京市西三环北路 19 号(100089)

网 址:http://www.fltrp.com

印 刷:北京瑞宝画中画印刷有限公司

开 本:889×1194 1/32

印 张:2

版 次:2003 年 12 月第 1 版 2003 年 12 月第 1 次印刷

书 号:ISBN 7-5600-2739-3/H·1417

定 价:19.00 元(书配磁带两盘)

* * *

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前言

亲爱的老师们，同学们，“外研社·企鹅英语分级有声读物”丛书是由外语教学与研究出版社和培生教育出版集团(Pearson Education)联合推出的又一力作。本丛书为广大学生提供了充分享受阅读乐趣的大平台！

我们出版此套分级读物的宗旨是为了给学习者提供大量的、不同题材的阅读材料。材料不仅要适合读者的语言能力水平，更要能够激发阅读兴趣——让读者感到自己是在读故事，听故事，而不是在学(study)英语，从而卸去教材课本中枯燥的语法知识的沉重负担，真正做到寓教于乐。更重要的一点是，读完一本小册子后你会很有成就感，觉得学习英语就是这么轻松、愉快！

本套丛书内容丰富，由易渐难，主要突出了以下特色：

分级明确 结合最新颁布的国家《英语课程标准》(实验稿)的精神划分适用年级，遵循语言学习的规律，充分考虑到不同年龄段学生生理和心理发展的特点和需求；

配有磁带 有助于提高听力水平，加强学生对语言的理解力；

插图生动 带你进入“读图时代”，意向直观、准确；

题材丰富 涵盖现代流行、经典名著和精彩原创三大类别，内容还涉及名人、名著、电影、戏剧等不同的领域；

注释简洁 帮助减少阅读过程中可能遇到的阻力，并激发学习者的自信心；

配有练习 理解题目按照阅读图式认知理论精心设计，为阅读提供了方向性指导与检测手段。

如果你们喜欢这套读物，请把它推荐给朋友们。如果你们对这套读物有什么意见和建议，也请告诉我们。愿这套读物让广大的读者受益匪浅，成为大家课外的良师益友！

很多具有丰富教学经验的中小学老师为这套读物做了注释和相关练习，我们在此表示衷心的感谢！

Introduction

The people in the village told me what they knew. Their stories were all true. Every word. My uncle, his wife, Rodrigo the shopkeeper – nobody lied to me. Nobody. Not even poor Clara, Rafael's mother. And she was already dead when I went back to the village. Their stories were all true. But they didn't know what really happened.

Rafael is a poor, crazy man who lives in an old boat-house on the beach in a small fishing village. What happened to him all those years ago? One day Rafael was well; the next day he was completely mad.

The writer is a doctor. He tries to find out what happened to Rafael. What made him mad? What happened to the beautiful Anita, the girl that he loved? What happened to the soldier, the stranger who came to the village? The people of the village all try to help. They tell the doctor everything they know. But only Rafael knows what really happened that night. And Rafael is mad.

Bernard Smith and his wife, Christine, teach adult foreign students in their own home near Eastbourne. Bernard has written a lot of books. Most of these are teaching books for the Arab World. He has also written about 100 examinations for Oxford-ARELS.

内容简介

村子里的人们告诉我他们所知道的一切，他们所说的都是真实的。我的叔叔、他的妻子、商店老板罗德里格，他们所说的每一字都是真的，没有一个人对我撒谎。绝对没有。甚至可怜的克拉拉——拉菲尔的母亲——都没有对我撒谎。当我返回那个村庄的时候，她已过世。他们讲述的一切都是真实的，但是他们却不知道究竟发生了什么事情。

拉菲尔是一个贫困潦倒且精神错乱的男人，住在小渔村里靠近海边的旧船屋里。许多年前他究竟遇到了什么不幸？前一天拉菲尔还好好的，第二天却疯了。

本书的作者是一位医生，他试图找出在拉菲尔身上究竟发生了什么事情。是什么使他发疯？他所爱的姑娘——美丽的安妮塔——发生了什么事？还有那个士兵，也就是来这个村里的那个陌生人，什么事情降临到他的头上？村里的人们都想帮忙，他们把所知道的一切都告诉了医生，但是只有拉菲尔一个人知道那天夜里所发生的一切，可是他却疯了。

伯纳德·史密斯和他的妻子克里斯汀在伊斯特本附近自己的家里教一些成年的留学生。伯纳德撰写了许多书，其中大部分是为阿拉伯世界所撰写的英文教科书。他还为牛津大学与ARELS机构(Association of Recognised English Language Services)编写了一百多套测试题。

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Chapter 1 The Madman on the Beach

When I saw Rafael for the first time, I was twelve years old.

My family lived in a big town, far away from the sea. But my Uncle Miguel and his family lived in a little village on the coast.* He had a café and a small farm there, and sometimes my family visited him.

There in that village I met poor, mad Rafael. I didn't know then who he was. I didn't know why he was mad. I knew nothing of his strange and terrible story. Now, fourteen years later, I know exactly what happened. But Rafael is dead. Why should I tell people his terrible secret? Only I know what happened to Rafael. Only I know what happened to the young and beautiful Anita. And to the soldier. Only I.

The people in the village told me what they knew. Their stories were all true. Every word. My uncle, his wife, Rodrigo the shopkeeper – nobody lied to me. Nobody. Not even poor Clara, Rafael's mother. And she was already dead when I went back to the village. Their stories were all true. But they didn't know what really happened.

The first time I saw Rafael, I was walking along the beach* with my younger brother Pablo. Our parents were talking with my uncle and his family. We boys went along the beach to look around.

At the end of the beach there were high black rocks, where the mountains behind the village came down into the sea.* Near them was an old wooden boat-house. It had no doors. The roof was broken at one end, and open to the sky.* Inside there was an old wooden fishing boat.

My brother and I looked inside. The sand was deep and soft on the floor. Suddenly, in a corner behind the boat, something

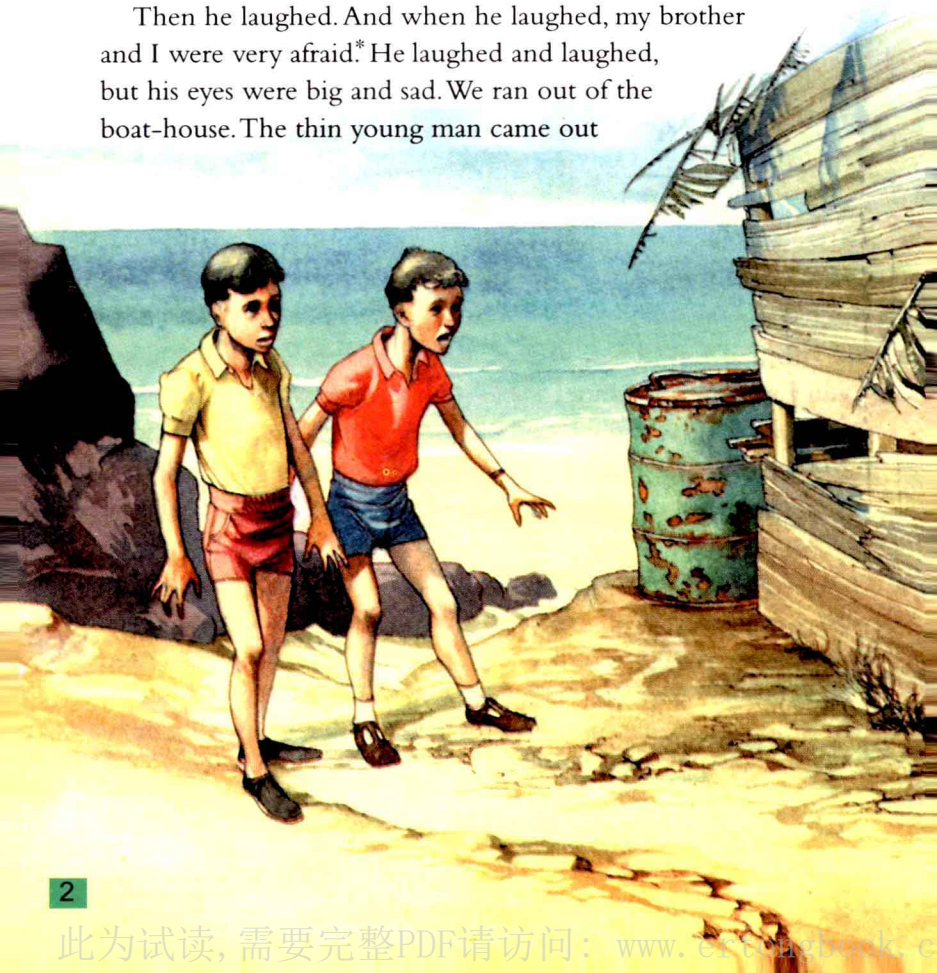
moved in the shadows.* It was a dirty young man with long hair and a beard.* He stood up and looked at us. His eyes were open, but empty. He looked at us, but he didn't see us. He was very thin.

He put one hand to his neck. I saw something shining under the dark beard. There was something small and bright on a thin fishing line round his neck. He pulled it out to show us. It was a small gold ring in the shape* of a fish.

Suddenly he spoke. His voice was clear, but thin and high. He spoke words, but they didn't mean anything.

"She gave me the golden fish," he said. "She gave it back to me."

Then he laughed. And when he laughed, my brother and I were very afraid.* He laughed and laughed, but his eyes were big and sad. We ran out of the boat-house. The thin young man came out



behind us. He stood in the sunshine and laughed.

"She gave me the ring," he shouted. "I still have it."

Some little boys from the village came running. Some of them threw stones at the thin, dirty man.

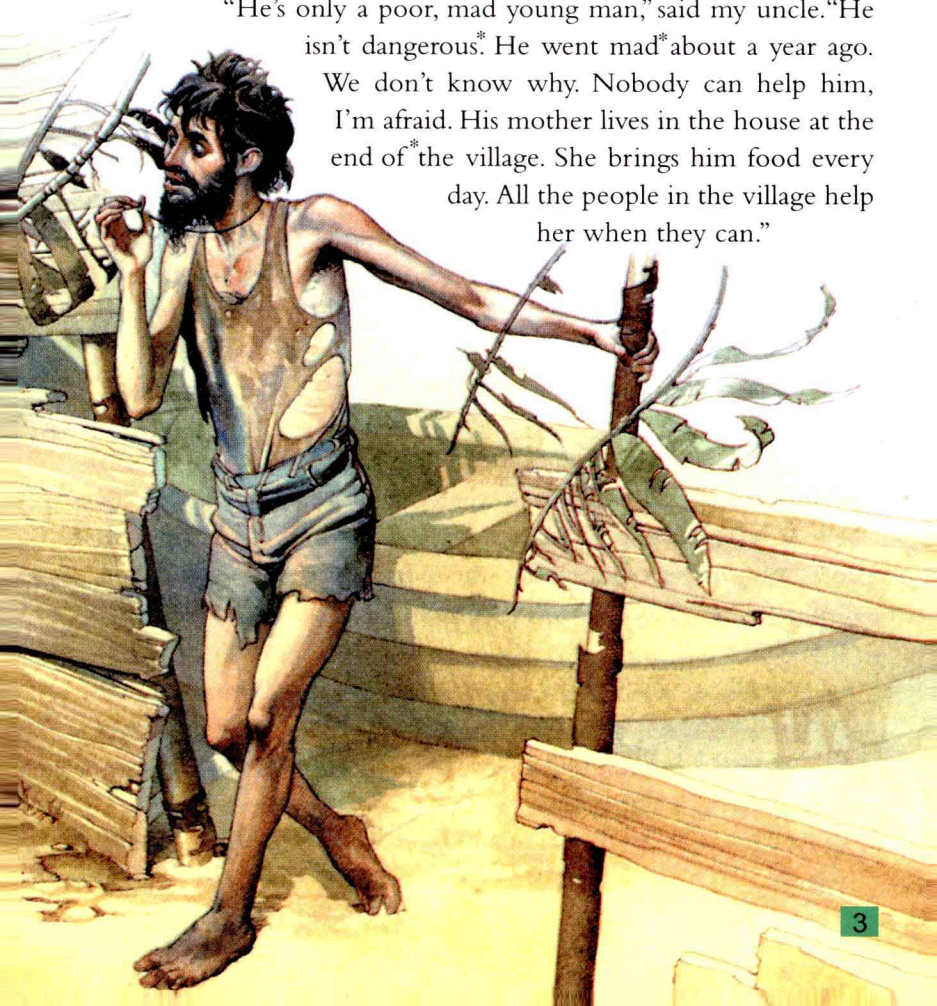
"Crazy* Rafael!" they shouted. "Crazy Rafael!"

He stopped laughing and screamed at* them. Then he went back inside the boat-house. The children laughed and ran away.

We went back to my uncle's house.

"Who is that crazy man on the beach?" we asked. "The children called him Rafael."

"He's only a poor, mad young man," said my uncle. "He isn't dangerous*. He went mad* about a year ago. We don't know why. Nobody can help him, I'm afraid. His mother lives in the house at the end of* the village. She brings him food every day. All the people in the village help her when they can."



Soon the adults* began to talk about other things. But I never forgot poor, mad Rafael. Every time I thought about the village, I remembered the poor, mad man in the boat-house on the beach. Sometimes I saw him in my dreams. He looked at me with his big, empty, mad eyes. He called to me. He had the gold ring round his neck, and he held it out to me. He called for me to help him.



My family went back to the town. After I left school, I went to university* in the capital. I studied to be a doctor. I spent two years in the USA. Finally, I came back to my home town and I found work in a big, new hospital there.

In all those years, I never went back to the village. But then one of my uncle's sons got married and all my family went there for a few days.

There were many changes in the village. Twelve years of change. There were new stone houses. There were new, brightly-painted* fishing boats along the beach, a lot of them with engines*. My uncle had a big, clean, new café with tables and chairs, and a television in the corner. It was all very different from the village that I saw as a boy.

I went down to the beach on my first afternoon in the village. I wanted to see again the place where I first saw Rafael. I couldn't believe it. The old boat-house and the boat were still there. The boat was in pieces* now, but the boat-house was bigger and stronger*. There was some new wood on the walls and a new roof on it.

I walked along the beach and felt the soft sand under my town shoes. There was a man sitting near the old boat-house. He was looking at the sea. He had long hair and long, thin legs. I came closer and he suddenly looked round at me. It was Rafael. I saw again those same wide, crazy, sad eyes, the eyes from my dreams.

He was twelve years older. His hair and beard were beginning to go grey, but they weren't as long and dirty as before. His face was very thin and he looked ill. His clothes were old, but clean.

"How are you, Rafael?" I called, smiling.

He put his head on one side and looked at me. His mouth opened and he smiled. A thin brown hand moved up to his neck.

"She gave me the golden fish," he said. His voice was flat* and empty. He coughed* suddenly – a deep, dry cough. Then he looked with sad yellow eyes at the bright, empty sea.

I went back across the soft white sand to my uncle's house. I had an idea in my head. I was a doctor now. Perhaps I could find out what was the matter with this poor man. I could give him the best help that modern* medicine* could give him.

I told my uncle what I wanted to do. "There are special* hospitals now in the capital for people like Rafael. I can take him there. If I can make him well, I will. If not, he can stay in a hospital there. He will have a bed, good food, nurses* all the time. It's not good for him to sleep on the beach. He looks ill."

I asked him to tell me about Rafael. He told me everything that he knew. It was a long and strange story. I wrote it all in a notebook. I wanted to help the poor madman to get well*. For this, I had to know everything about him.

Chapter 2 Rafael's Father and the Sharks

Told by my uncle

Rafael was born in the village (my uncle said).

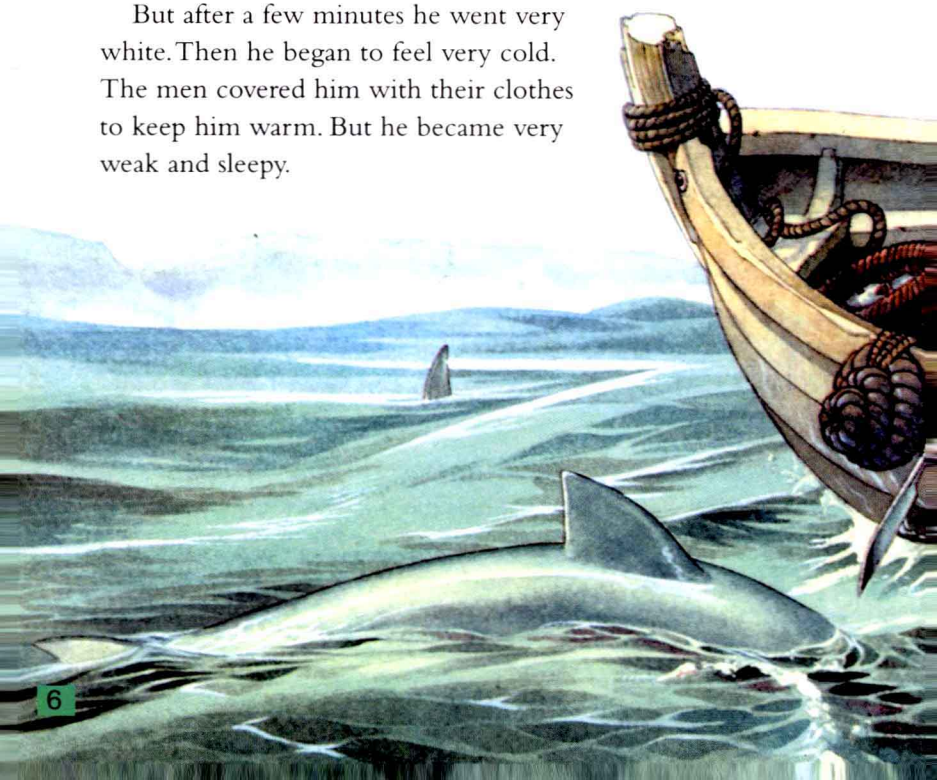
His father was called Manuel and he was a fisherman. His mother, Clara, is also dead now. She was the sister of my own wife, Rosa. Rafael was their only child. He was a fine boy, never ill, good-looking*, healthy and strong.

When he was about eight years old, his father was killed. It was a terrible thing for the young boy. He was there and saw his father die. They were out in their boat, fishing with some other men from the village. I don't know what happened exactly. Something happened to the fishing nets; perhaps they were caught under the boat. Manuel went into the water to do something with them.

Suddenly a shark *attacked* him. It was a complete surprise*. The other fishermen could do nothing to help him. It was a big white shark. It came up from deep water and bit off* one of Manuel's legs – a clean bite* above the knee.

The other men pulled him into the boat. The blood from his leg ran deep in the bottom of the boat. The men put a shirt round the top of his leg. They tried to stop the blood, but it was impossible. They say that Manuel was calm* at first. He felt no pain. He smoked a cigarette* and he talked to little Rafael, in the boat next to him.

But after a few minutes he went very white. Then he began to feel very cold. The men covered him with their clothes to keep him warm. But he became very weak and sleepy.



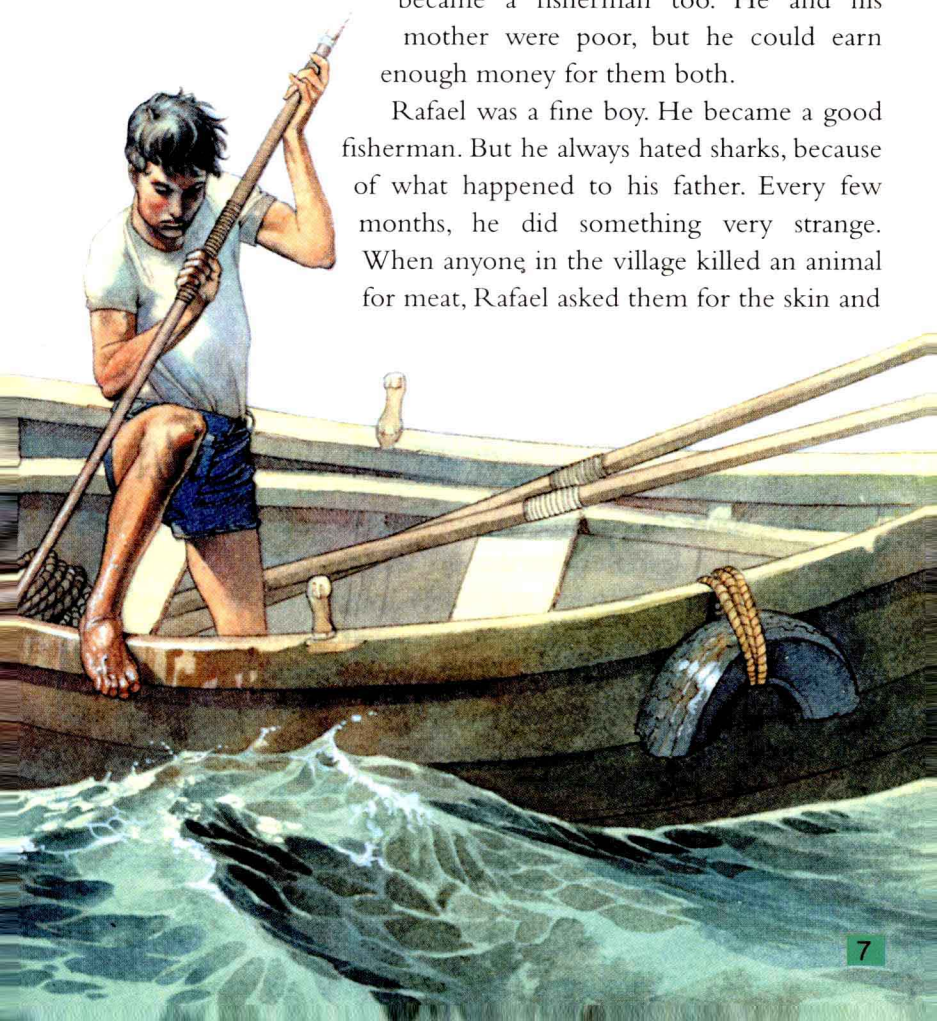
Suddenly he put his hand on Rafael's head.

"Be a good son," he said. His voice was terribly tired. "Help your mother." Then he fell asleep, and in a few minutes his heart stopped.

After that, Rafael and his mother, Clara, lived alone in their house at the end of the village. Manuel's brother, Ricardo, helped Clara with money. All the people in the village helped her. Manuel was a good man. We always help our people when they need it. In a few years Rafael was older and started to work. He

became a fisherman too. He and his mother were poor, but he could earn enough money for them both.

Rafael was a fine boy. He became a good fisherman. But he always hated sharks, because of what happened to his father. Every few months, he did something very strange. When anyone in the village killed an animal for meat, Rafael asked them for the skin and



the stomach.* He took the insides of the animal that nobody wanted. Then he went out in his boat alone, far from the land. There he threw the pieces of the animal into the sea and waited for the sharks to come. A shark can smell blood* in the water when it is many kilometres away. Soon a lot of sharks arrived in the water round his boat. Then Rafael took his fishing spear.* He stood up in his boat and killed one or two of them.

When he killed a shark, the other sharks tasted the blood. They began to bite and eat the shark. So then there was more blood in the water and more sharks came. Rafael killed more and more. After an hour he was almost too tired to* stand. It was a really dangerous thing to do in a small boat.

But he was smiling when he told me about it. He was really happy about the dead sharks, because a shark killed his father.

So Rafael grew up, tall, strong and good-looking. And, of course, he fell in love with* Anita, the shopkeeper's daughter. So now, (said my uncle) I have to tell you about Anita, too.

Chapter 3 Anita, the Shopkeeper's Daughter

Told by my uncle

Anita was a beautiful child (my uncle continued*). I know, most children are beautiful. But she was the most beautiful child that I've ever seen. Everyone loved her. Little children, old people, men and women, they all loved Anita. They smiled when they saw her. And year after year she grew up, and year after year she grew more beautiful.

Her father, Rodrigo, the shopkeeper, loved her most. He tried to keep her close to him, always. She could never go out and talk with the village boys. But this is a small village. It was impossible* to keep her at home all the time. She was a good girl, but all the