## INSPECTOR HOLT AND THE CHINESE NECKLACE

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#### Series editors: K R Cripwell and Lewis Jones

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Inspector Holt and the Fur Van John Tully 1
Where is Bill Ojo? John Tully 1
Crocodile! K R Cripwell
Four Short Stories Margery Morris
The Story of Macbeth from Shakespeare 1
Fast Money K R Cripwell 1
It's a Trick! Lewis Jones 1
Taxi! Jame Homeshaw
Tin Lizzie Jane Homeshaw
Dead in the Morning Jane Homeshaw 1
Letters from the Dead Jane Homeshaw 1
The Pathfinders Jane Homeshaw
Cats in the Dark John Tully
Inspector Holt and the Chinese Necklace John Tully 1
Inspector Holt Gets His Man John Tully 2
The Bridge John Tully 2
Muhammad Ali: King of the Ring John Tully 2
The Magic Garden K R Cripwell 2
The Wrestler K R Cripwell
The Titanic is Sinking KR Cripwell 2
The Canterville Ghost Oscar Wilde 2
The Prince and the Poor Boy Mark Twain 2
Two Roman Stories from Shakespeare 2
Oliver Twist Charles Dickens 2
The Story of Madame Tussaud's Lewis Jones 2
Three Sherlock Holmes Adventures Sir A Conan Doyle 2
The Story of Scotland Yard Lewis Jones 2
Charles and Diana Margery Morris 2
The Charlie Chaplin Story Jane Homeshaw 2
A King's Love Story K R Cripwell 2
Dangerous Earth Jane Homeshaw 2
Chariots of Fire WJ Weatherby 2
Five Chost Stories Viola Huggins 3
Brainbox and Bull Michael Kenyon 3
Climb a Lonely Hill Lilith Norman 3
Custer's Gold Kenneth Ulyatt 3
The Gunshot Grand Prix Douglas Rutherford 3
Born Free Joy Adamson 3
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Cinema Stunts K R Cripwell David Copperfield Charles Dickens 3 Three English Kings from Shakespeare An American Tragedy Theodore Dreiser 3 Six American Stories Norman Wymer 3 Emma and 1 Sheila Hocken 3 Maimunah David Hill 3 Little Women Louisa M Alcott 3 The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde 3 The White South Hammond Innes 4 Landslide Desmond Bagley 4 Nothing is the Number when you Die Joan Fleming The Lovely Lady and Other Stories DH Lawrence 4 King Solomon's Mines H Rider Haggard 4 A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens 4 Jane Eyre Charlotte Bronte 4 Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde R L Stevenson 4 Huckleberry Finn Mark Twain 4 The African Child Camara Laye 4 Tiger Kailash Sankhala Airport International Brian Moynahan 4 The Secret Sharer and Other Sea Stories Joseph Conrad 4 Death in Vienna? K E Rowlands 4 Hostage Tower Alistair MacLean/John Denis 4 The Guns of Navarone Alistair MacLean Where Eagles Dare Alistair MacLean 5 I Know my Love Catherine Gaskin 5 The Wreck of the Mary Deare Hammond Innes 5 The Eagle has Landed Jack Higgins 5 Geordie David Walker 5 Among the Elephants I ain and Oria Douglas-Hamilton 5 The Mayor of Casterbridge Thomas Hardy 5 Wuthering Heights Emily Bronte 5 Sense and Sensibility Jane Austen Middlemarch George Eliot Victory Joseph Conrad 5 Experiences of Terror Roland John 5 Japan: Islands in the Mist Peter Milward House of a Thousand Lanterns Victoria Holt 6 The Glory Boys Gerald Seymour 6 Harry's Game Gerald Seymour 6 Inspector Ghote Breaks an Egg HRF Keating 6 Hard Times Charles Dickens 6 In the Shadow of Man Jane Goodall Doctor Zhivago Boris Pasternak 6 Sons and Lovers DH Lawrence The Dark Frontier Eric Ambler 6 Vanity Fair William Thackeray 6

### Collins English Library Level 1

## Inspector Holt

AND THE

JOHN TULLY

# CHINESE NECKLACE

Illustrations by David Eiron Chang

Collins ELT

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## Chapter One

Inspector Holt looked at the Chinese necklace in his hand. "It's like the real thing," he said.

"It's like it," said James Parker, "but it's not the same. The real one is 300 years old. It was the necklace of the Empress Wu."

"Where is the real one?" asked Holt.

"Kiang Li has the real one. You must find him, Inspector, and get it back."

"Who is Kiang Li? Tell me all about it."

"Of course. Please sit down."

They were in a big room with many beautiful things in it. James Parker was very rich.

"A man came here on Monday morning," said Parker. "He said, 'My name is Kiang Li'. I know that name. Kiang Li is a buyer in Hong Kong."

"What was he like?" asked Holt.

"He was a tall man in Chinese clothes. He said, 'Please can I see the necklace of the Empress Wu?'. I said, 'Of course'. He looked at it for some time. 'It's very beautiful,' he said, 'Can I buy it?'. I said, 'I'm sorry. I don't want to sell it'.



"It's very beautiful," he said. "Can I buy it?"

He was sad about that. He put the necklace back in its box. Then he went away."

"And the necklace?"

"This morning I opened the box and looked at the necklace again. It was not the real one!"

"Do you think Kiang Li changed this necklace for the real one?" asked Holt.

"Perhaps," said Parker. "But how can that be? A man like Kiang Li? People say he is a very good man."

"But was it the real Kiang Li?" asked Holt. "How do you know?"

"That's a good question!" said Parker. "I don't know!"

That afternoon Holt telephoned to London airport, and he asked about Kiang Li.

"I see the name here," said the man at the airport. "He went to Hong Kong on Monday."

"Which plane?"

"BA 003."

"Thank you," said Holt.

He telephoned the police in Hong Kong.

"Inspector Chan," said the man in Hong Kong.

Holt went through the story of the necklace, then he asked, "Can you find Kiang Li?"

In the morning Inspector Chan telephoned Holt.

"Kiang Li came into Hong Kong on the BA

003 on Tuesday," he said, "but we can't find him now. He has a daughter, Mei Ling. And a man called Ah Fong works at his house, but they're not there now. Not one of them."

"What are you going to do now?" asked Holt's friend, Bill Ojo.

"I'm going to Hong Kong," said Holt.

"That's a long way from England! Do you speak Chinese?"

"No, I don't. But I must find the necklace of the Empress Wu."

"There are lots of Chinese necklaces in Hong Kong," said Bill. "How can you find that one?"

"It's like this one!" said Holt. He handed Bill a green necklace. "The man changed this necklace for the real one."

## Chapter Two

A plane from London landed at Hong Kong airport. Holt was one of the people on it. He went to a hotel that night.

In the morning a young policeman came to the hotel. "Are you Inspector Holt?" he asked.

"That's me," said Holt.

"How do you do," said the young man. "I'm Inspector Chan."

Chan was small for a policeman, but Holt was happy to see him. "How do you do," he said.

"Where do you want to go?" asked Chan.

"To Kiang Li's house."

They went in a police car to a big house on a hill.

"There were no people here yesterday," said Chan.

They went to the front door – and it opened. A man in a white coat was there.

"Who are you? What do you want?" he asked in English.

"We're police," said Chan. "We want to talk to Kiang Li."

"He's not at home. He went away last week with his daughter."

"Where are they now?" asked Holt.

"I don't know."

"What is your name?"

"Ah Fong."

"You weren't here yesterday," said Chan, "or the day before."

"I went away too," said Ah Fong. "I went to my family's house. I came back last night."

"When is Kiang Li coming back?"

"I don't know."

Holt and Chan asked more questions but they

learned nothing. They went back to their car.

"Not much help from him, " said Chan.

"I don't like Ah Fong," said Holt. "Perhaps he knows more about this. Drive down the road and then stop the car."

Chan stopped the car half a mile away. Then they walked back to Kiang Li's house.

"Go slowly," said Holt. "Ah Fong must not see us. We're going to look and listen."

It was 10 o'clock. At 11 o'clock a big black car came down the road. It stopped by the house.

"That car comes from the Chinese Embassy," said Chan.

A small man in blue clothes went to the house. Ah Fong opened the door and they talked in Chinese.

"What are they saying?" asked Holt.

"The small man asks, 'Is Klang Li at home?'. Ah Fong says, 'Yes, he is'."

"Ah!" said Holt.

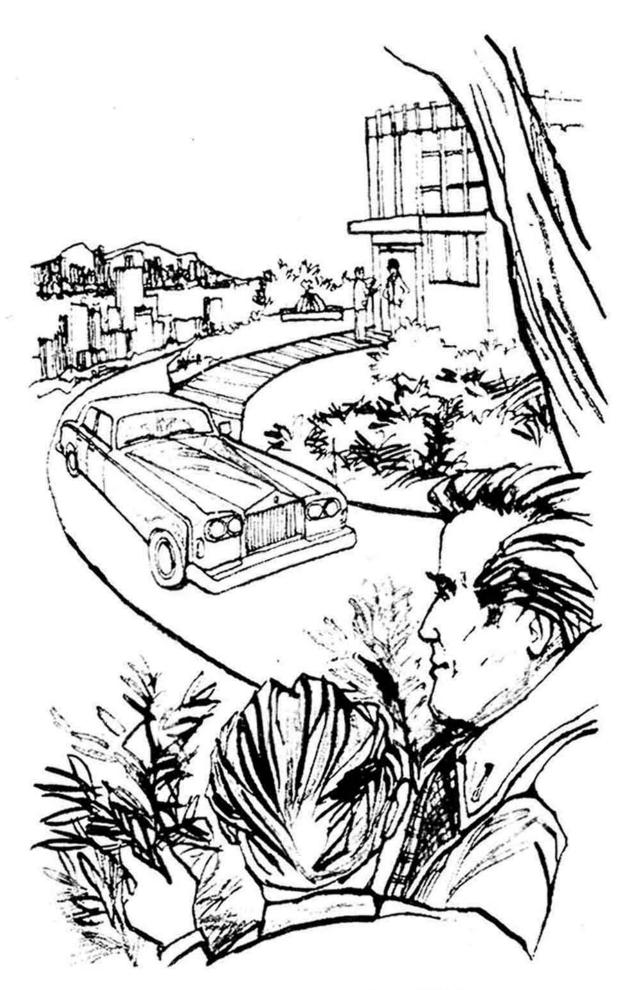
"The small man says, 'I am Ho Sung, from Peking. Tell Kiang Li"."

Ho Sung went into the house and the door closed.

"This way, Chan," said Holt.

They went round to the back of the house. One of the windows was open, and Holt and Chan looked into the room.

Ho Sung was in the room. With him was a tall man in rich clothes.



"What are they saying," asked Holt.

"That tall man is like an old-time Chinese Mandarin," said Holt. "Is he Kiang Li?"

"No, he isn't," said Chan. "Kiang Li is a short man."

"Look at that!" said Holt.

The Mandarin had a green necklace in his hand. It was the necklace of the Empress Wu.

## Chapter Three

The two men in the room talked Chinese. Chan listened.

"Ho Sung thinks the Mandarin is Kiang Li," said Chan. "Ho Sung wants to buy the necklace. The Mandarin says, 'You can have it for \$1,000,000'. Ho says, 'I can give you half a million'."

There was a lot more talk.

"Now the Mandarin says \$750,000," said Chan. "Ho Sung says 'Yes. I can come here tomorrow with the money'. The Mandarin says, 'All right'."

Holt looked through the window again. Ho Sung and the Mandarin went out of the room.

The necklace was in a box on a table.

"Go round to the front of the house," said Holt. "Perhaps Ho is going back to his car."

Chan went round the house.

After a short time the Mandarin came back into the room. Holt was by the table with the necklace in his hand.

"Give me that necklace!" said the Mandarin.

"No," said Holt. "I'm taking it back." He put the necklace in its box.

"Ah Fong! Su Wing!" said the Mandarin.

The two men came into the room. Holt backed away but they came after him. The fight was short. One man had Holt's arms and one had his legs. Then he was on the floor with the two men on top of him. Ah Fong had a knife in his hand.

The Mandarin said something to Ah Fong in Chinese. Then he went out of the room with the necklace in its box.

"Goodbye, Inspector," said Ah Fong. "Now you are going to die!"

The knife was under Holt's nose.

Then a small man came into the room very fast. It was Chan. He put an arm round Ah Fong. The knife went up in the air. Ah Fong went up after it, and his feet went over his head. He landed on the floor on his back.

Su Wing jumped to his feet but Chan was ready for him. Su Wing went over Chan's head and he landed on his back too.



"Goodbye Inspector," said Ah Fong. "Now you are going to die!"



The knife went up in the air. Ah Fong went up after it.

Then Ah Fong went out of the door fast, with Su Wing after him.

Chan helped Holt to his feet. "Are you all right?" he asked.

Holt looked at the little policeman. "How do you fight like that?"

"That's the Chinese way," said Chan. "Do you like it?"

"I love it!" said Holt.

They went out of the house. A white car was on its way down the road. The Mandarin and his men were in it.

## Chapter Four

That afternoon Holt and Chan went to the Chinese Embassy. They asked for Ho Sung.

He was in his room. "Good morning," he said in English.

"This is Inspector Holt," said Chan. "He is from England. I am Inspector Chan."

"Please sit down," said Ho. "Why do you want to see me?"

"Tell us about the necklace of the Empress