外研社·剑桥英语分级读物(英文注释



The Man

BERNARD SMITH

Nowhere

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徐琤 注

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外研社・剑桥英语分级读物

亲爱的老师们、同学们,由外语教学与研究出版社和英国 剑桥大学出版社联合出版的这套《外研社·剑桥英语分级读 物》终于与国内读者见面了。它集原创性、针对性、时代性和多 样性于一体,是一套理想的英语学习读物。

本套读物是我国目前引进的第一套专为非英语国家读者 撰写的英语故事性读物,作者全部是经验丰富的英语教学专家。读物依据难易程度共分六级,每级四本,每本独立成篇。题 材涉及广泛,包括喜剧、历险记、侦探小说、浪漫爱情故事和短篇故事等。内容涉及东西方多种地域和文化,情节扣人心弦,极富吸引力。读者在提高自身英语水平的同时,还会享受到阅读的巨大乐趣。

本套读物分为英汉对照版和英文注释版两种版本,以适应不同读者的不同需要。其中,英文注释版附有练习,为不同程度的英语学习者在阅读中提供了及时而必要的帮助。

如果你们喜欢这套读物,请把它推荐给你们的朋友。如果你们对这套读物有什么意见和建议,也请告诉我们。

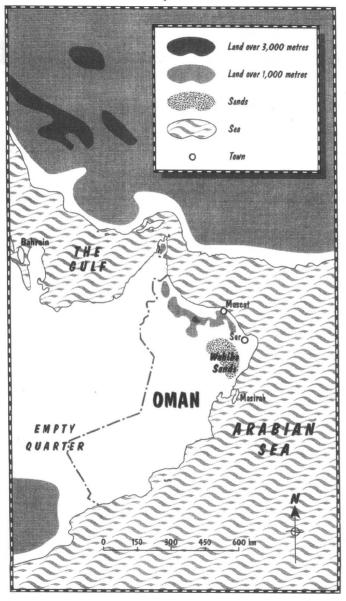
在此,我们谨向那些为这套读物的出版给予帮助和关切的老师们表示衷心的感谢!

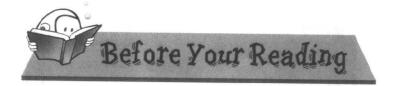
People in the Story

A pilot and his wife and son Inspector Ibrahim Nurse Imelda Dr Singh

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Places in the Story





Answer the following questions:

- Look at the front cover and read the blurb on the back cover.
 What sort of story is this?
- 2. Find the map on page v. What do you know about this part of the world?
- 3. Look at the pictures on pages 2, 5, 10, 15 and 17. What do you think will happen in Chapters 1–4?

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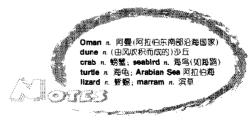
Chapter 1 Wahiba

The Wahiba Sands – a soft sand desert in north east Oman. Two hundred kilometres from north to south; a hundred from east to west. Long dunes run north to south, long lines of sand, always changing, always moving in the wind.

On its west side, Wahiba is a long wall of red sand, fifty or sixty metres high. It runs slowly down on to the empty desert, which is the centre of Oman. Hard, stony and flat as a table, this desert is the eastern side of the great *rub* 'al-khali, the Empty Quarter.

In the east, the dunes of sand run down on to long, empty beaches. Crabs and seabirds live there by day, and green turtles often come out of the sea to lay their eggs by night. After the beaches, there is only the deep blue-green water of the Arabian Sea for fifteen hundred kilometres to Gujarat in northern India.

The sands of Wahiba are empty and quiet. There is no sound. Nothing bigger than a lizard can live in the great sea of soft, red-gold sand; nothing bigger than marram grass can grow there. You hear nothing but the blood in your



ears, and the hot dry air going in and out of your mouth.

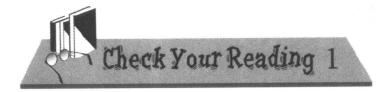
To walk in the soft sand is difficult. It pulls your feet as you walk. Your legs soon hurt and you get tired very quickly. To move at all is hard work.

And, of course, in the day the hot sun is always there. The air is hot, the sand is hot. There is nowhere you can go away from the sun, no tree as far as you can see.

In the sky above the blue-green Indian Ocean, a small plane is coming from the east. Red and white, two engines, the only sound in the quiet sky.



2



Give the best answer to each question:

- 1. Match the numbers to the phrases about the Wahiba Desert.
 - 1) 200

- a kilometres from east to west
- 2) 100
- b metres wall of sand
- 3) 50 to 60
- c kilometres to India
- 4) 1500
- d kilometres from north to south

Chapter 2 Red snow

'Are you OK? Would you like some coffee?'

The man looked back and smiled.

'Good idea,' he said. 'I'm feeling all right, but coffee would be good.'

The woman came and sat in the seat next to the man. She had two cups of coffee in her hand.

'Where are we?' she asked, looking out at the clear blue sky outside the plane.

'Can you see that thin brown line where the sky meets the sea?' said the man. 'Well, that's the coast of Oman. We're going north now along the coast.'

'That's good,' said the woman, giving the man a cup. 'When do you think we'll get to Tehran?'

'How's Andy?' asked the man.

'He's fine. He's asleep on the back seat. We got up very early this morning. He was very tired.'

'Good,' said the man. 'I want to talk to you and I don't want Andy to hear.'

'Is there a problem?' asked the woman.

'Not really. I've just talked to our friend Parvis in Tehran on the radio. He says the weather in Tehran is terrible. It's not a good time to go there.'





'Oh dear, and I wanted to see it,' said the woman.

'We can go next year, when the weather's better,' said the man. 'I told Parvis we won't come this time. It's no good if the weather is wet and cold.'

'What do we want to do then? Are we going straight home?' asked the woman.

'No,' said the man. 'We're free until next Wednesday and we haven't had a holiday together for a long time. I thought we could go to Bahrain tonight. We could see our friends Neil and Rosie there. Then I thought we could go to Paris for a few days. It's Andy's birthday on Saturday. We could go to EuroDisney in Paris with him.'



Chapter 2 Red snow

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'OK,' said the man, and the small plane turned slowly in the hot clean air.

The woman put some more coffee into the man's cup. The man turned in his seat and took the cup.

Later he remembered seeing the cup full of coffee in his hand, brown and hot. Then everything began to happen very slowly.

First there was a light to his left – a quick, white light. And a noise, first a bang, then a loud noise that went on and on.

Something hit his face, hard, on the left side between his left eye and his ear. Then, suddenly, he was half sitting and half lying on the floor of the plane. The noise was terrible. He could not think. He could not move.

The air in the plane was full of snow, white and flying about slowly in the air. Then the snow was red – red snow everywhere in the air.

The woman looked slowly down at him. Her face and body were red with the thick snow. Her eyes and mouth were wide open but he could not hear anything.

'That's blood on her face,' he thought. 'Why is there blood on her face? And she is shouting at me, but I can't hear what she is saying. I can't hear anything over the terrible noise.'

There was another noise now, *Beep! Beep! Beep!* Like a car. He knew it meant danger of some kind, but he could not think.

full of 满的 happen v. 出现, 友生 bang n. 突然巨响 hit v. 打, 击中 beep n. 哗哗声 'Why not? Good idea,' said the woman. 'We won't tell Andy until we get there. It'll be a nice surprise for him.'

'OK. I'll call Bahrain on the radio and tell them we're coming. I talked to the people on Masirah a few minutes ago. We're OK to fly north along the coast. I'll radio Bahrain when I've had my coffee.'

The woman put her face against the plane window and half closed her eyes. There was nothing but clear blue sky and deep green-blue sea. Then she saw the thin line of sandy brown to the left.

'That's the coast of Oman, you say,' she said.

The man looked to the left. The brown sandy line of the desert coast of Oman was now quite clear.

'That's the Wahiba Sands,' he said. 'I don't think you've ever seen it. It's beautiful. It's a great soft sand desert. I was there about ten years ago when I worked in Oman.'

The man turned the plane to the west and took it slowly down.

'We're too high to see it well,' he said. 'I'll take us down to about three hundred metres. Then you can see the coast and the dunes.'

The plane flew low over the coast, a wide empty beach, a few small houses next to the sea. Then only the long gold lines of the dunes.

'Beautiful!' said the woman. 'You're right. So clean. So empty. I've never seen anything like it. But don't go too far. Turn round now.'

radio v. 用无线电发送 Masirah n. 马西拉岛(阿曼) against prep. 何,罪 half close 半げ着 turn round (把飞机)往回开