

英语简易读物



银象

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尹忠孝 注释
马秉恭 审校

陕西人民出版社

THE SILVER ELEPHANT
(据美国 THE MACMILLAN COMPANY 1964版)

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前 言

本书是一本供高中或大学英语专业低年级学生阅读的较为浅显的英语课外读物，由“银象”等七个短篇故事组成。故事情节生动，饶有趣味，文字流畅。通过对书中难点的注释，可以帮助学生培养阅读简易读物的能力，扩大对英语的感性知识，增加学习兴趣。

我们对书中语法结构较为复杂的句子、人名、地名、习惯用法、著名人物的简历等都作了注释。使读者在阅读、欣赏故事的同时加深一些语法等方面的知识，达到一举两得的目的。

为便于读者查阅生词，本书末还附有词汇表。

由于我们的水平有限，书中的某些注释难免有不妥之处，衷心希望读者能给我们提出宝贵意见，以便订正。

注释者 一九八二年二月

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THE SILVER ELEPHANT

From the first time he saw her in the office where they both worked, Eric Warren^① liked Janet West.^② Eric rarely went out with girls from his office, but Janet was different. She was not only pretty, but extremely interesting to talk to.^③ They had lunch together several times and Eric was pleased to learn that Janet liked the same things he did. Before very long, they were having dinner together, and going to the movies and to the theater. After a few months Eric knew he wanted Janet to be his wife, but he wasn't sure how she felt about him. There was another man in their office, George Perkins, ^④who went out with Janet once in a while.^⑤ Eric hoped in time^⑥he, not George, would be Janet's choice as her husband.

Eric wanted a very unusual gift for Janet's birthday. He walked into a department store not knowing what to get for her.^⑦ After going from one part of the store to another, he finally came to the jewelry department. At first, he didn't see anything he liked here either, and he was about to leave when he saw a little silver pin in the shape of an elephant.^⑧ Eric knew immediately that the pin was exactly what he wanted for Janet.

"May I see that?" Eric asked the salesman.

"The little silver elephant?" the salesman asked.

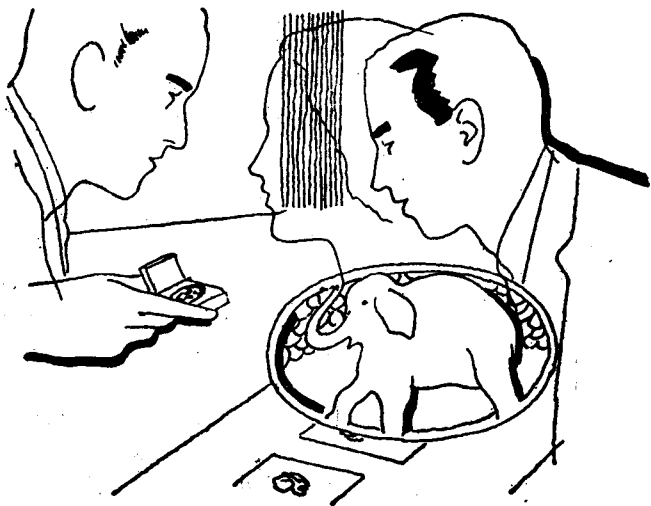
"Yes, that's the one. It's just what I've been looking for."

"You've made a good choice. This piece of jewelry is very unusual. It was made in Mexico^⑨ by a man who is well-known for his fine work in silver. There are only a few others like it. Would you like me to put it in a box? This small square box looks about the right size."^⑩

"Yes, please put it in a gift box."

"I'm certain Janet's going to be very pleased," Eric thought that evening as he got dressed to go to Janet's birthday party.^⑪ "She likes fine jewelry and this pin is very unusual."

On the way to Janet's house, Eric thought about George Perkins. He knew that Janet's family and a



few friends would be at the party. He didn't know if George was one of the "few friends." He was fairly sure George's gift wouldn't be anything as unusual as the silver elephant.¹²

Eric was happy as he walked to Janet's house. When she opened the door he said, "Happy..." and then stopped talking for a moment before going on, "...birthday, Janet." He just couldn't believe what he saw. There on Janet's green dress was a little silver elephant pin.¹³ It was exactly the same as the one in his gift box. He couldn't give it to her now. He put the little square box away before Janet could see it and went in the house to say hello to Janet's mother and father.

"You're early, Eric," Mrs. West said. "None of the others are here yet. Please sit down. Can I get you something to drink?"

"Not now, thanks, Mrs. West," Eric answered. All he could think about was the little silver elephant. He had to know where Janet had gotten it. Could George Perkins possibly have given it to her? At the office perhaps? Eric didn't want to believe this, but he wasn't the only one who knew Janet liked jewelry. George knew it, too.

Janet's mother was still talking and Eric knew he should be listening to her. He had to forget about the little pin for a moment.¹⁴

"How are things at the office, Eric?"¹⁵ Mrs. West was saying. "I understand you've been very busy during the last few months."¹⁶

"Fine—just fine—not too busy, no," Eric said.

"That's good," Mrs. West answered. "Would

you excuse us for a few minutes.?¹⁷ I have to help Janet prepare a few things in the kitchen."

"Oh—yes." Eric was glad to see Mr. West and Janet leave the room¹⁸. He really didn't want to talk to anyone—not about the office or about anything else. But Janet's father was still there, and now he was talking.

"Have you seen this evening's newspaper yet, Eric?" Mr. West asked. "There is a good story about..."

Janet's father went on talking, but most of the time Eric wasn't listening. Occasionally he would say, "You're right, Mr. West," or "I think so, too," but he really wasn't sure what Janet's father was talking about. He couldn't forget the elephant pin. Eric was positive he would be the only person at the party who wouldn't have a gift for Janet. But he couldn't give her something that she already had. How could he ask Janet to be his wife now? He didn't know what to do.

"What do you think about television?" Mr. West was talking about a different subject now. "Don't you think the programs could be better?"

"You're absolutely right, Mr. West," Eric answered, Janet came back in the room and Eric was glad he didn't have to say any more about television. He started to tell Janet he liked the pin on her dress, thinking that he might learn where it came from. But just at this moment someone came to the door.

"It must be my aunt and uncle,"¹⁹ Janet told Eric. "My friend, Marie,²⁰ who lives next door, will be with us, too."

"Isn't anyone else from the office coming?" Eric asked.

"No," she answered, then went to meet her aunt and uncle at the door.

Now Eric was almost certain the pin was from George. He must have given it to Janet in the office during the day. ② What should he do? Should he say he had left his gift at home? Should he say he was getting something in New York and would give it to her later in the week?

Marie came in a few minutes later, and everyone sat down to have dinner.

The only good thing Eric could think about was that he was at the family dinner party and George was not.

Finally Janet asked him why he wasn't talking very much.

"I'm too busy eating this very good dinner," he answered. He couldn't think of anything else to say.

"Thank you, Eric," Mrs. West said. "I'm very glad you like it. Won't you have some more?" ②

Eric didn't really want to eat anything, but he wasn't able to say no. He wished he could leave the table and go home, ③ but he couldn't do that, either.

Finally it was time for the birthday cake. "There are twenty-one candles on the cake, Janet," Mrs. West said as she brought the cake in and put it on the dinner table. "Do you think you can blow them all out?"

"Make a wish first," ④ Marie said to Janet. "Wish for something that you want very much be-

fore you blow out the candles. If all the candles go out^② you will get your wish. If not, then you won't. Let's see if you'll get your wish."

"I wish I had a silver elephant pin," Janet said and she blew out all the candles.

"What?" said Eric. "What did you say?"

"The pin on my dress isn't mine. It's Marie's. She thought it looked good on this dress and she said I could have it for this evening. It's a very unusual piece of jewelry.^② Marie's mother got it when she was in Mexico last year."

Eric quickly put his little square box with the other gifts. He couldn't wait for Janet to open it.

"It's time to open your gifts now, Janet," Mrs. West said.

"Yes," said her father. "Let's see if you get your wish."

Janet opened all her gifts. She got a box of writing paper from George. He had given it to her at the office. Her parents gave her a typewriter, her aunt and uncle gave her some phonograph records,^② and Marie gave her a book. Then Janet opened the little square box. When she saw the pin, she said, "Eric, how could you possibly have known? It's exactly what I want. You've made me very happy. I knew that your gift would be very unusual."

Janet got her wish, and now Eric was sure he would get his wish, too. Tonight he would ask Janet to be his wife.



NOTES

- ① Erik Warren ['erik 'wɔrɪn]——(人名)埃里克·沃伦。
 ② Janet West ['dʒænit west]——(人名)珍妮特·韦斯特。 ③ She was not only pretty, but extremely interesting to talk to.——她不但长的漂亮,而且和她谈话也使人感到非常有趣。 ④ George Perkins [dʒɔːdʒ 'pɜːkɪnz]——(人名)乔治·珀金斯。
 ⑤ once in a while——偶尔; 间或。 ⑥ in time——最终; 总有一天。 ⑦ not knowing what to get for her——不知道该给她买些什么好。 ⑧ and he was about to leave when he saw a little silver pin in the shape of an elephant——他正要离开的时候,突然看到一个象形的银别针。 to be about to do something——正要做……的时候。这里的 when 不作“当……的时候”解,而作“忽然”解。 ⑨ Mexico ['meksɪkəʊ]——墨西哥。 ⑩ This small square box looks about the right size.——这个小方盒子的大小看来正合适。 ⑪ as he got dressed to go to Janet's birthday party——当他换好衣服要去参加珍妮特的生日晚会时。 ⑫ He was fairly sure George's gift wouldn't be anything as unusual

as the silver elephant. ——他相当肯定，乔治的礼物绝不会像银象那样别致。 ⑬There on Janet's green dress was a little silver elephant pin. ——这里的倒装语序是用来加强语气的，被强调前的句子应为：There was a little silver elephant pin on Janet's green dress. ⑭for a moment ——暂时。 ⑮How are things at the office, Eric? ——埃里克，近来工作怎样？ ⑯during the last few months ——这几个月以来。 ⑰Would you excuse us for a few minutes? ——对不起，我们能离开几分钟吗？ ⑱Eric was glad to see Mrs. West and Janet leave the room. ——埃里克很高兴地看到韦斯特夫人和珍妮特离开了那间屋子。在 to see somebody do something 的结构中，do 前面的动词不定式符号 to 必须省去。 ⑲It must be my aunt and uncle ——一定是我叔母和叔父来了。这里的 must 表示一种对现在情况的揣测，只用于肯定句中。 ⑳Marie ['mɑ:ri:, mæ'ri:] ——(人名) 玛丽。 ㉑He must have given it to Janet in the office during the day. ——他一定是白天在办公室里就把它(指银象别针) 送给珍妮特了。must + have + 过去分词。表示一种对过去情况的推测。 ㉒Won't you have some more? ——再吃点好吗？ ㉓He wished he could leave the table and go home ——他但愿能离开这个宴会回家。wish 后面的动词要用虚拟语气，表示不可能实现的愿望。 ㉔Make a wish first ——先告诉我你希望得到什么。 ㉕go out ——熄灭。 ㉖It's a very unusual piece of jewelry. ——这是件不寻常的珠宝首饰。 ㉗phonograph record ——留声机唱片。

AN EXTREMELY GOOD DAY

Gregory Allen^① was a tall, thin boy about fourteen years old. Like most boys in their teens^②, he was either very happy or extremely unhappy,^③ he either talked too much or he didn't talk at all. One day he would do everything right^④ and on another day he would do nothing right. Gregory had trouble with his family, too. No matter what he did, his parents were never pleased with him.^⑤ They argued with him about the way he dressed,^⑥ the way he talked, the way he forgot to do things. They argued about everything. They were always telling him what to do and when to do it. They reminded him to put on his coat,^⑦ take off his coat, hang up his coat. His mother and father didn't understand that he was a young man now and not a child. They said that when he was able to do things without being reminded several times^⑧ they would believe he wasn't a child any longer^⑨. They told him that when he stopped thinking^⑩ about himself and began thinking about helping other people, then they would know that he was a young man.

Greg^⑪ didn't know that many young people think their parents don't understand them. He believed he was the only boy who wasn't able to please his family.

Greg was usually glad to be out of the house

where no one could bother him. One Saturday morning, he told his parents he was going for a walk before breakfast, and they gave him money to get milk at the store. A few minutes after he left the house he couldn't remember what he was supposed to buy¹². If he went home without it, his family would have something else to argue with him about.

As he went down the street thinking about what he should do, he saw an old man standing on the corner.¹³ The man looked very sick, and without thinking about it Greg went right over to him.

"Are you all right, sir?" he asked.

The old man answered slowly. "I think so—but I need a glass of water. I don't want to bother you, but would you mind helping me..."¹⁴

"Oh, you're not bothering me," Greg answered quickly. "I'd be glad to help you. Let's go into the restaurant across the street where you can sit down."

Greg helped the old man into the restaurant. They sat down at a table not far from the door.¹⁵ When the waiter asked them what they wanted, the old man said, "Just a glass of water, please. I don't feel well."

"Wouldn't you like something to eat?" the waiter asked.

The old man didn't answer and Greg asked him, "Have you had breakfast yet, sir? Perhaps if you eat something, you'll feel a little better."

"Well, truthfully I haven't had breakfast," the old man said. "I haven't eaten anything since yes-

terday morning, but I don't have any money for..."

Greg interrupted him saying, ⑩ "Please don't talk now. You can tell me all about it later."

Then the boy turned to the waiter and said, "My friend would like some orange juice, hot cereal, buttered toast, ⑪ and coffee."

The old man started to say something and Greg asked him, "Would you rather have something else? ⑫ That's what we usually have for breakfast..."

"Oh, no. It's fine," the man answered, "but I'm giving you too much trouble. I'll just drink the water and leave. I'm sure I'll be all right. You've helped me enough already."

"Please, sir," Greg said. "I'd like to do it."

"And what would you like to eat?" the waiter asked Greg.

"Nothing for me," Greg said. "I've already eaten my breakfast." Greg wanted to eat, too, but knew he didn't have enough money for both of them. He actually didn't have enough for the old man's breakfast. He was really going to be in trouble ⑬ when the waiter asked for money, and this time it wouldn't be with his parents. "Oh, well," he said to himself, "I'll think about that later."

The waiter brought the breakfast and the old man ate quickly. "I feel fine now," he said as he drank his coffee. "I'll never forget how you helped me today. You're a very unusual young man. Most people your age are too busy to think about helping an old man." ⑭

Greg felt very good. The old man thought of him as ⑮ a young man, not a child. He wished his

parents felt this way.

"I must tell you how I happened to be in trouble," the man said. "I'm on my way to visit my daughter in California. Yesterday I lost my money and I'm waiting for my daughter to mail me some more. I slept in the railroad station last night and didn't have anything to eat. I don't know what I would have done without your help."

At this moment, the waiter came to the table and Greg didn't know what he was going to say. He didn't want the old man to know he didn't have enough money.

The waiter spoke to the old man. "Was everything all right?"

"Oh, everything was just fine," the old man told him.

"You know, sir," the waiter said to the old man, "our restaurant is ten years old today. Since

