

高等学校文科英语泛读教材

三十九级台阶

Thirty-nine
Steps

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THIRTY-NINE STEPS

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Cambridge

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中国人民大学英语教研室注释

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内 容 简 介

第一次世界大战前夕，英国人理查德·汉内得到了德国间谍将暗杀希腊总理、窃取英国作战方案、以挑起世界大战的重要情报。他不顾个人安危，机智勇敢地同德国间谍周旋，历经千辛万苦，终于把情报及时送到英国外交大臣手中。接着他又协助伦敦警察厅将德国间谍一网打尽。

本书由罗兰·约翰根据约翰·巴琴同名原著简写。故事情节紧张生动，文字浅显通顺，可供英语初学者阅读。

CONTENTS

Chapter 1	THE MAN WHO DIED	(1)
Chapter 2	THE MILKMAN	(6)
Chapter 3	THE INN-KEEPER	(10)
Chapter 4	THE ADVENTURE WITH SIR HARRY	(22)
Chapter 5	THE ROADMAN WHO WORE SPECTACLES	(33)
Chapter 6	MY ADVENTURE WITH A BALD GENTLEMAN	(42)
Chapter 7	THE FISHERMAN	(54)
Chapter 8	THE BLACK STONE	(66)
Chapter 9	THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS	(73)
Chapter 10	THE HOUSE BY THE SEA	(84)

Chapter 1 THE MAN WHO DIED

My name is Richard Hannay and I am thirty-seven years old

I was born in Scotland, but in 1883 my family moved to Rhodesia.¹ I grew up there and worked hard for twenty years. Then in March 1914 I returned to Britain. That was five months before the First World War began. I brought plenty of² money with me and I wanted a good holiday. Indeed, Britain was the centre of all my dreams and plans, and I hoped to stay there for the rest of my life.

In May I was living in London in a flat which I had taken. One evening I was reading the newspaper there alone. There was some trouble in the East,³ and I also read a story about Karolides, the Greek Prime Minister.⁴

'He's a good man,' I said to myself, 'and he's honest too. He may be the strongest Prime Minister in Europe, but the Germans hate him.'

Suddenly I heard a quiet knock on the door. I put

1. Rhodesia [rou'di:zjə]: 罗得西亚 (即现在非洲的赞比亚和津巴布韦)

2. plenty of: 充裕的 3. the East: 东方 (英国把地中海以东统称为 the East.) 4. Karolides ['kærə'laidəs], the Greek Prime Minister: 希腊首相。

down the newspaper and opened the door. A man was standing outside, and I recognized him at once. I did not know his name, but he had a flat on the top floor. He was a thin fellow with small bright blue eyes.

'I live on the top floor,' he said. 'Can I speak to you? May I come in?'

I invited him in and shut the door.

'I'm very sorry,' he said. 'But I'm in trouble. Will you help me?'

'Well, I'll listen to you,' I said. 'But I'd rather not promise more than that.'¹

I could see that he was nervous. He could not stand still, so I mixed a strong drink for him.² He drank it at once. When he put down the glass, he broke it.

'Excuse me,' he said. 'I'm rather nervous tonight and there's a good reason for it. Now you seem honest, sir, and you look brave too. Well, I'm in great trouble and I need a friend.'

'Tell me about it,' I said, 'and then I'll give you my answer.'

'I'm an American,' he said. 'A few years ago I came to Europe to work for an American newspaper. I learned several languages and discovered quite a lot about European politics. I also found out the German plans for war and I know a group of German spies. Well, these spies are

1. But I'd...than that. 但其它我就不能答应了。 2. so I...for him: 于是我给他对了一杯烈性酒。

‘hunting me now, and that’s the trouble. If you know anything about politics, sir, you’ll know this. Europe is very near to war, and there’s only one man who can stop it.’

‘Who is he?’ I asked.

‘Karolides, the Greek Prime Minister.’

‘Oh, I’ve just been reading about him,’ I said. ‘There’s a story in the evening paper.’

‘Yes. Well, the Germans want to kill him,’ he said. ‘They would kill me too if they could. Karolides will be coming to London next month. He has been invited to the Foreign Office on June 15th,¹ and they’ve chosen that date to kill him. I’m the only man who can save him.’

‘And how can I help you, Mr.——?’

‘Scudder,’ he said. ‘Franklin P. Scudder.² I’ve just told you, sir, that these spies want to kill me. I thought that I was quite safe in London. I was sure that my enemies hadn’t followed me here. But yesterday evening I found a card in my letter-box, and there was a man’s name on it. It was the name of my worst enemy.’

‘You ought to tell the Foreign Office,’ I said. ‘They’ll help you and they may save Karolides too.’

‘There’s no time for that. My enemies know that I’m in this building. They may be waiting outside to catch me. Do you think that I can hide in your flat, sir?’

1. He has...June 15th. 他已应邀于六月十五日赴英国外交部。 2. Franklin Scudder ['fræŋklin 'skʌdə]: 弗兰克林·司卡德(这位美国人的名字)

‘Well, I’d better prove your story first,’ I said. ‘I’ll go outside and look around. If I see anything suspicious, I’ll agree to help you. Is that all right?’

I left the flat and went out into the street. A man was standing outside the building. He raised his hand as soon as he saw me. I looked around quickly and noticed a face at a window across the street. The man’s signal was answered immediately, and the face disappeared. I bought another newspaper at the corner of the street and then went back to the flat.

‘All right, Mr. Scudder,’ I said. ‘You can stay here tonight. I’ve proved your story. There’s a fellow outside who looks rather suspicious. Your enemies may be staying in the house across the street. I saw a face at the window but it soon disappeared.’

Scudder stayed quietly in my flat for several days. When I went out, he was very nervous. I noticed that someone was always standing outside the building. I saw the face at the window a few times, but no one came to the flat.

Scudder wrote a lot of short notes in a little black book. He counted the days to June 15th and marked them off in the book.²

One day he said, ‘The time is going quickly, Hannay.

1. ‘Well, I’d...story first.’ 那我得先证实一下你的话。 2. He counted ...the book. 他在本子上算了算到六月十五日还有多少天，並把这些日期都标了出来。

If they're still watching the house, I won't be able to escape. If anything happens to me, will you continue the fight?'

I liked Scudder's adventures, and his story was exciting. But I had no interest in politics, and I did not listen to him carefully. He continued to talk.

He told me about a woman named Julia Czechenyi¹ who was one of the spies. 'She's a terrible enemy, Hannay,' he said, 'but the old man is worse.'

This old man was Scudder's chief enemy, and he described him very carefully. 'It's strange,' he said, 'but he has the voice of a young man. And his eyes, Hannay! If you see his eyes, you'll never forget them. They're small and bright, like a bird's eyes.'

He talked for a long time that day. I cannot remember everything that he said. But I noticed that he was more nervous than usual.

In the evening I went out to dinner with a friend. It was half-past ten when I returned. I opened the door of the flat and went in. The lights were not lit and this seemed rather strange. I put them on and looked around. There was nobody there and I thought that Scudder had gone to bed early.

I walked into the next room and saw something in the corner. For a moment I did not recognize it, but then I

1. Julia Czechenyi ['dʒu:lʒə 'tʃekni]: 朱立叶·柴肯尼 (人名)

suddenly felt very cold and weak. I wanted to open my mouth and cry out. But I could not move or say anything.

Scudder was lying on his back¹ in the corner. There was a long knife through his heart. Its handle stood up above his clothes, and the poor man was fixed to the floor.

Chapter 2 THE MILKMAN

At last I sat down feeling very sick. I sat there for perhaps five minutes and then I felt afraid. I was so nervous that I had to cover Scudder's body with a tablecloth. But I could still see the form of the handle of the knife. It was pointing at me like a finger. I got a drink for myself and sat down again to think.

Scudder was dead and his body proved his story. His enemies had killed him because he knew their plans.

'They'll kill me next,' I thought. 'They know that he lived on the top floor. They know that he has been in my flat for three or four days. And they'll guess that he told me their plans.'

What could I do? Well, I could go to the police at once and tell them the story. But they would be suspicious

1. Scudder was lying on his back. 司卡德仰面躺着。

if I told them about Scudder's death. 'They'll guess that I killed him,' I thought. 'They may blame me for his death.'

I thought about the matter for a long time and then I made a plan. I had not known Scudder very well but I had liked him. I enjoyed an adventure too, and I wanted to continue his work.

'I may write to the Prime Minister,' I thought, 'or to the Foreign Office. But perhaps that won't be necessary. I'll disappear for a few weeks. Then I'll come back to London and go to the police.'

I went over to Scudder's body and took off the cloth. I had seen him writing in a little book and I searched his pockets. But the book was gone, and he had no papers at all.

I opened my desk and took out a map of Britain. I thought that Scotland was the best place for my plan. I was born there and I still speak like a Scotsman. In Rhodesia I had learned German very well too, and I thought about going to Germany. But perhaps Scotland was the better idea.²

I chose Galloway,³ which was a wild part of the country.⁴ There were few big towns there, and it was not

1. They may...for his death. 他们说不定会把他的死归罪于我。 2. But perhaps...better idea. 但可能还是去苏格兰好。 3. Galloway ['gæləwei]: 加勒韦 (地区名) 4. which...country. 这是非限制性定语从句, which 指 Galloway. 意思是加勒韦是国内偏僻的地区。

too far to travel. I knew that there was a train to Scotland in the morning. It left London at ten minutes past seven. But how could I get out of the flat? I should not be able to escape if Scudder's enemies were outside the building.

Then suddenly I had a wonderful idea. Every morning at half-past six the milkman delivered my milk. He was a young man and we were the same size¹ He had a short black moustache and wore a white hat and coat. My idea was to borrow his clothes and the can of milk. Then I could escape from the building as the milkman.

I went to bed then and slept for a few hours. In the morning I had a bath and carefully cut my moustache. It was long and dark and I cut it short. I counted my money and put fifty pounds in my pocket. While I was getting ready, I remembered my tobacco. When I put my fingers into the large tobacco-box, I felt something hard under the tobacco. It was Scudder's little black book, and I put it in my pocket.

It was a good sign, I thought. Scudder had hidden it there, and his enemies had not found it.

It was twenty minutes to seven now, and the milkman was late. But suddenly I heard the noise of the milk-can on the stairs, and I opened the door.

'Come in, please,' I said. 'I want to speak to you.'

He came into the flat, and I shut the door.

1. we were the same size: 我们的身材一样。

'Listen,' I said, 'you're a good fellow, and I want you to help me.' I took a sovereign¹ out of my pocket and added, 'If you agree, I'll give you this.'

When he saw the sovereign, his eyes opened wide. 'What do you want me to do?' he asked.

'I want to borrow your clothes and your milk-can for a few minutes,' I said.

He laughed and said, 'What do you want them for?'

'Well, I've just remembered something, but I can't explain it now. Let me borrow the things, and I'll be back in ten minutes.' I put the sovereign into his hand.

'All right,' he said. 'I like a bit of fun too.'²

I put on his clothes and we went out of the flat. I shut the door behind me.

'Don't follow me,' I said. 'I'll soon be back.'

I went down the stairs and into the street. I made a noise with the milk-can and began to sing. A man who was standing outside looked at me, but he did not say anything. I looked at the house across the street and noticed the face at the window again. I turned into another street and began to run. Then I took off the milkman's clothes and threw them, and the milk-can, over a wall.

When I arrived at the railway station, it was ten minutes past seven. The train was moving slowly out of the station, and I had no time to buy a ticket. I ran

1. a sovereign: 一英镑硬币(英国货币, 现不通用。) 2. I like a bit of fun too. 我也喜欢开点玩笑。

forward and caught the handle of a door. I got it open and climbed into the train.

The ticket-collector soon came along. He was rather angry with me, and I had to invent some excuses.¹ But he accepted these and wrote a ticket to Newton-Stewart in Galloway.²

Chapter 3 THE INN-KEEPER

All that day I travelled to the north. The train stopped at Leeds³ station where I bought a basket of food and the morning newspapers. Another ticket-collector came on and told me that I had to change trains at Dumfries.⁴

I read the papers, but of course there was nothing in them about Scudder's death. It was too early for that.⁵ Then I took out Scudder's little book. It was full of figures but there were also a few strange names. I noticed the words 'Hofgaard', 'Luneville', 'Avocado' and 'Pavia'. 'Pavia' appeared several times.

It was clearly some kind of code⁶ and I have always

1. invent some excuses: 编造一点理由 2. But...Newton-Stewart
['nju:tn-'stju:t] in Galloway. 他认可了这些理由,开了一张去加勒韦的纽
顿·斯图尔特 (地名) 的车票。 3. Leads [li:dz]: 利兹 (地名)
4. Dumfries [dʌm'fri:s]: 邓费里斯(地名) 5. It...that. (报纸)还未及报
道司卡德之死。 6. It was...of code. 这显然是件密码。

been interested in codes. I looked carefully at this one. Scudder had written numbers instead of letters. But what did the names mean? I knew that some of them were towns. But had he used them instead of people's names?¹ There is usually a key-word in codes like this,² and I tried to guess it. 'Hofgaard' was clearly not the key-word because it did not suit the rest of the code. I tried the other words too but none suited the code.

I slept for an hour or two, and then the ticket-collector's voice woke me up.

'Be quick, sir. I mean that you have to change here.'

I looked out of the window. We were at Dumfries, and the train had stopped. I got out and crossed the station to the Galloway train.

The train was quite full, and I had an interesting conversation with a farmer. He thought that I was a farmer too! We talked about cattle and crops and prices. Many people got out at different stations, but I continued. At five o'clock the train stopped at a small place which suited me very well. I cannot remember its name, but it was quiet. And it was a long way from London.³

I got out and a child took my ticket. It was such a fine evening that I felt quite happy. I followed the road for a mile perhaps and then took a path along a valley.

1. But had...names? 但是,他是不是用城市的名字代替人名呢? 2. There is usually...like? this. 在密码中一般有一个诀字? 3. And...London: 这个地方离伦敦很远。

It was not long before I reached a cottage. There was a woman at the door of the cottage and I spoke to her. She answered me very politely, and I said, 'May I stay here tonight?'

'You're welcome,' she replied. 'Please come in.'

Very soon she laid a fine meal in front of me, and I drank several glasses of thick sweet milk.

When it grew dark, her husband came home. He was a big man with a thick black moustache. We talked politely for an hour or more, and smoked some of my tobacco. They did not ask me any questions but guessed perhaps that I was a farmer.

In the morning I enjoyed a large breakfast. But when I offered half a sovereign to the woman, she would not take it. It was a warm day, so she gave me a small can of milk to take with me. It was nine o'clock when I left the cottage.

I walked a few miles to the south because I wanted to return to the railway. But of course I could not go back to the same little station. The railway men and the child would recognize me if they saw me again. And then they would remember me.

So I went towards the next station and on my way there made a plan. The safest way was to return to Dumfries. The police might be searching for me, and I should be safer in a big town.

When I reached the station, I bought a ticket to