

英语阅读丛书

Arctic Oil Strike

北极风云



上海译文出版社

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注 释 者 的 话

故事发生在加拿大北部城市埃努维克。以希拉利为代表的石油公司打算开发北极地区的石油,并已竖起井架,敷设油管,但遭到以杜迪克·沃森为首的一群“自然资源保护论者”的激烈反对。沃森是白种人,幼年时,因飞机失事,父母双亡,为爱斯基摩人抚养,后在温宁佩格上了大学,并认识了女友庇斯蒂奥腊克。女友和她的哥哥耶恩是爱斯基摩人,从小失去父母,由加拿大人家庭养大。

沃森是具有激进思想的青年,他认为在北极地区开发石油将污染环境,破坏当地的生态平衡,破坏爱斯基摩人千百年来赖以生存繁衍的冰原。他在报上发表文章,宣扬自己的观点,并与希拉利多次辩论。

此时,英国《每日时报》的记者乔·布鲁克来到这里进行采访,故事情节也就进一步展开……

原书由英国朗曼出版公司一九七五年出版,作者是英国的理查德·默斯曼(Richard Musman)。全书语言规范,通俗流畅。现在对书中一些习惯用语和语法现象加以注释,作为注释读物出版,供广大的学习英语的读者阅读。

Chapter 1

Joe hurried along the gravel road to the meeting hall. His plane had arrived late and he was determined to get there before the meeting ended. It was the middle of July. The sun shone in a cloudless sky. The snow had all gone.

He pushed open the door. The hall was full. He recognised one or two newspapermen. There were a few Eskimos. He guessed that the rest were students. Some were waving flags, 'Protect the Arctic', 'Oil Spoils Soil', 'Tundroil¹ Out'. Everyone was shouting at once. 'What about the caribou?' 'When are you going to tell us, Mr Hillary?' The meeting was out of control.²

'Are you a Tundroil man?' a voice said in Joe's ear.

Joe turned. A young man with long, fair hair was staring at him. His nose was sharp and his eyes were hollow. His chin fell away beneath a wide mouth. He was tall and thin, but he looked strong. He was wearing an Eskimo coat, and stood apart from the other students. While he stared at Joe, he swung his arms³ from side to side.

'I'm doing my exercises,' he explained. 'Conservationists have to keep healthy.'

'Why?' asked Joe.

1. Tundroil: 这是一个杜撰词, 由 tundra (北极冻土带) 和 oil (石油) 组成, 意即“蕴藏石油的北极冻土带”。2. The meeting was out of control.: 会议失去了控制。 3. swung his arms: 挥动手臂。

'You never know. They might have to run away from polar bears¹ —or oilmen! Who are you?'

'Brook. Joe Brook². And you?'

'Tudik Watson³.'

'I thought Tudik was an Eskimo name?'

'That's right,' Tudik replied. 'I'm a white Eskimo. I was born a Yankee and brought up in an igloo!'

The noise in the hall was growing louder. Two students were struggling with a little man who was holding on tightly to a camera⁴. It was then that Joe noticed Hillary⁵. He was standing, with his feet wide apart,⁶ on a low platform. He was solid and his chin was square. His red hair was very short, and he wore glasses with thin steel frames⁷. He did not try to hide his scorn of the students. The camera crashed to the ground. There were cheers.

'You call yourselves conservationists?' Hillary shouted from the platform.

He had a strong Yorkshire accent.⁸ He spoke like a man who is used to giving orders⁹.

1. polar bears: 北极熊。 2. Joe Brook [dʒəu-bru:k]: 乔·布鲁克(英国《每日时报》记者)。 3. Tudik Watson ['tju:dik-'wɒtsn]: 杜迪克·沃森(自然资源保护论者)。 4. holding on tightly to a camera: 紧紧抓住照相机。 5. Hillary ['hiləri]: 希拉利(石油企业家)。 6. with his feet wide apart: 两脚叉开。 7. glasses with thin steel frames: 配有细金属架的眼镜。 8. He had a strong Yorkshire accent.: 他带有很重的约克郡口音。 9. ... is used to giving orders: 惯于发号施令。

Tudik jumped on to a chair. 'Which is worse, Mr Hillary—breaking a camera, or causing an oil spill¹?'

Joe noticed how mocking his voice was. Tudik Watson treated Hillary like a child.

'The camera's been broken,' Hillary replied. 'But no one has caused an oil spill yet.'

There was a short silence, while Tudik and the Yorkshireman stared at one another.

'O. K., Mr Hillary,' Tudik went on in his mocking voice. 'So what would happen if a pipeline burst in the middle of the tundra? The oil might stay there for ever. You'd be damaging the environment, Mr Hillary.'

'Pipelines don't burst,' Hillary snapped. 'Anyway, it's a risk we have to take. We need more oil today than ever before.' He was getting angrier. 'You think the environment is more important than oil, do you? All right, then you'd better all get rid of your cars and motor bikes².' He did not take his eyes off Tudik.³ 'Why have you got a plane, Mr Watson?'

Tudik smiled his mocking smile⁴. 'Planes have their

1. oil spill: 溢油。 2. ... you'd better all get rid of your cars and motor bikes: 你们大家最好还是丢弃你们的汽车和摩托车吧。 you'd better: = you had better 你最好(表示劝告或婉转命令)。 get rid of: 摆脱, 除去。 3. He did not take his eyes off Tudik.: 他的眼光没有离开杜迪克。 4. smiled his mocking smile: 嘲笑了一下(smile 是 smiled 的同源宾语)。

uses, Mr Hillary. One sometimes has to use a dog to catch a dog.¹

‘Are you threatening me?’

Hillary was sweating. He took off his glasses and rubbed his nose. The students pressed forward. Tudik did not get down from his chair.

‘You read too many books,’ Hillary went on. ‘You don’t know what life is.’

‘And what is life, Mr Hillary?’

‘People, Mr Watson,’ Hillary snapped. ‘Like the Eskimos you write about in your newspaper articles. Eskimos are people, you know, not caribou.’

Joe watched the mocking smile disappear from Tudik’s face.

‘You want to send them back to the wilderness, isn’t that right?’ Hillary went on.

Tudik unwrapped a strip of chewing gum² and put it in his mouth. He raised his arms above his head and took three deep breaths³.

‘Yeah,⁴’ he said, beginning to chew. ‘The wilderness is where they belong.⁵ Anyway, they’d be happier there — like the caribou.’

1. One sometimes has to use a dog to catch a dog.: 此句说明杜迪克在暗示——他的飞机可能会用来对付石油公司。 2. unwrapped a strip of chewing gum: 剥开一块口香糖。 3. took three deep breaths: 作了三次深呼吸。 4. Yeah [jeə]: [俚] Yes。 5. The wilderness is where they belong.: 他们本是属于荒原的。

There were angry cries from the students. 'Nonsense!' 'They don't want to go back!' 'We didn't come here to talk about that!'¹ But Tudik did not listen. He went on chewing his gum.

'What has oil given the Eskimos of Invalik², Mr Hillary? A supermarket, a dance hall, a school, a church and two drinking saloons—but no work. What can the Eskimos do here, except sit in the drinking saloons? They're not Eskimos any more. They're not Canadians. They're nothing.'

Hillary put his glasses back on his nose and roared. 'Take them back to the wilderness, Mr Watson, and spend the winter with them in an igloo. Then let us know how you enjoyed yourself—if you're still alive! The meeting's over!'

He jumped from the platform and disappeared through a side door. There were cries of 'Coward!' 'We'll be back!' A young man with a beard went on shouting, 'What about the caribou?' The students began to push towards the main door. They were angry. Two college boys seized the little cameraman, who was now holding a second camera. They twisted his arm until he cried with pain. Joe dragged them away. When they started to fight, he knocked their heads together. Then he went outside.

1. We didn't come here to talk about that!: 这句中的否定是一种常见的错位否定, 意即: We came here not to talk about that. (我们到这里来并非要谈那件事.) 2. Invalik [in'vælik]: 地名.

He was glad to breathe in the cold, clean air. Hillary was sitting in his Land Rover¹. A group of students were shouting insults at him, but he paid no attention to them. A newspaper reporter came over to Joe.

‘Are you staying?’

‘Perhaps.’

‘Well, you’ll be wasting your time. These kids aren’t dangerous. They won’t attack the rig!’

As the reporter hurried off, Tudik Watson came out of the hall. Hillary had been waiting for him.

‘I’m warning you,’ he shouted. ‘Tundroil land is private property. Don’t you come near it.’

‘And if I do, what will happen?’

‘Don’t try to find out,’ Hillary said. Then he drove off, sending a shower of gravel over Tudik².

‘Are you really threatening Hillary?’ Joe said. He smiled. ‘Perhaps you’re going to blow up his rig³?’

Tudik unwrapped another strip of gum. ‘Are you a cop? I saw how you rescued that cameraman.’

Joe did not answer. A party of students went by. They gave Tudik an angry look.

‘They’re not your friends either,’ Joe said.

‘Nope⁴! They’re just soft kids. They’re no use to me.’

1. Land Rover: (指在崎岖路面行驶的)越野汽车。 2. sending a shower of gravel over Tudik: 扬起一阵砂砾,蒙在杜迪克身上。
3. blow up his rig: 炸毁他的井架。 4. Nope [nəup]: [俚] No.

‘Wouldn't you have helped that little cameraman?’

‘Nope! They only wanted to smash his camera. He's from the *Toronto Times*¹ — and the *Times* is for Tundroil.’

‘You're a fanatic!’ Joe said.

‘Sure, I'm a fanatic. Say, if you're not a cop, who are you?’

‘I'm a newspaperman.’

Tudik grinned. ‘A newspaperman! So am I. What do you want to know?’

‘I'd like to know about your wilderness. Is it really worth preserving?² From the air it didn't look very interesting.’

Tudik bent down³ and touched his toes. ‘Maybe I'll show you the wilderness one day.’ He touched his toes again. ‘If you stay long enough, maybe I'll give you a story — a good story.’

Some Eskimo women were standing outside the supermarket opposite. They carried shopping baskets and wore clothes from the local store. One of them was unusually pretty and was dressed like a city girl. She was leaning against the wall⁴ and was staring at Tudik. She smiled in a strange way. Joe was sure she was sending Tudik a message.⁵ Out of the corner of his eye, he saw Tudik raise his thumbs. The girl turned her thumbs down

1. Toronto Times: 《多伦多时报》。 2. Is it really worth preserving?: 荒原真的值得保护吗? 3. bent down: 弯下身子。
4. leaning against the wall: 倚靠在墙上。 5. Joe was sure she was sending Tudik a message.: 乔确信她(的笑容)在向杜迪克示意。

and then walked away.

'Is she just a girlfriend?' Joe said. 'Or is she part of the story you're going to give me one day?'

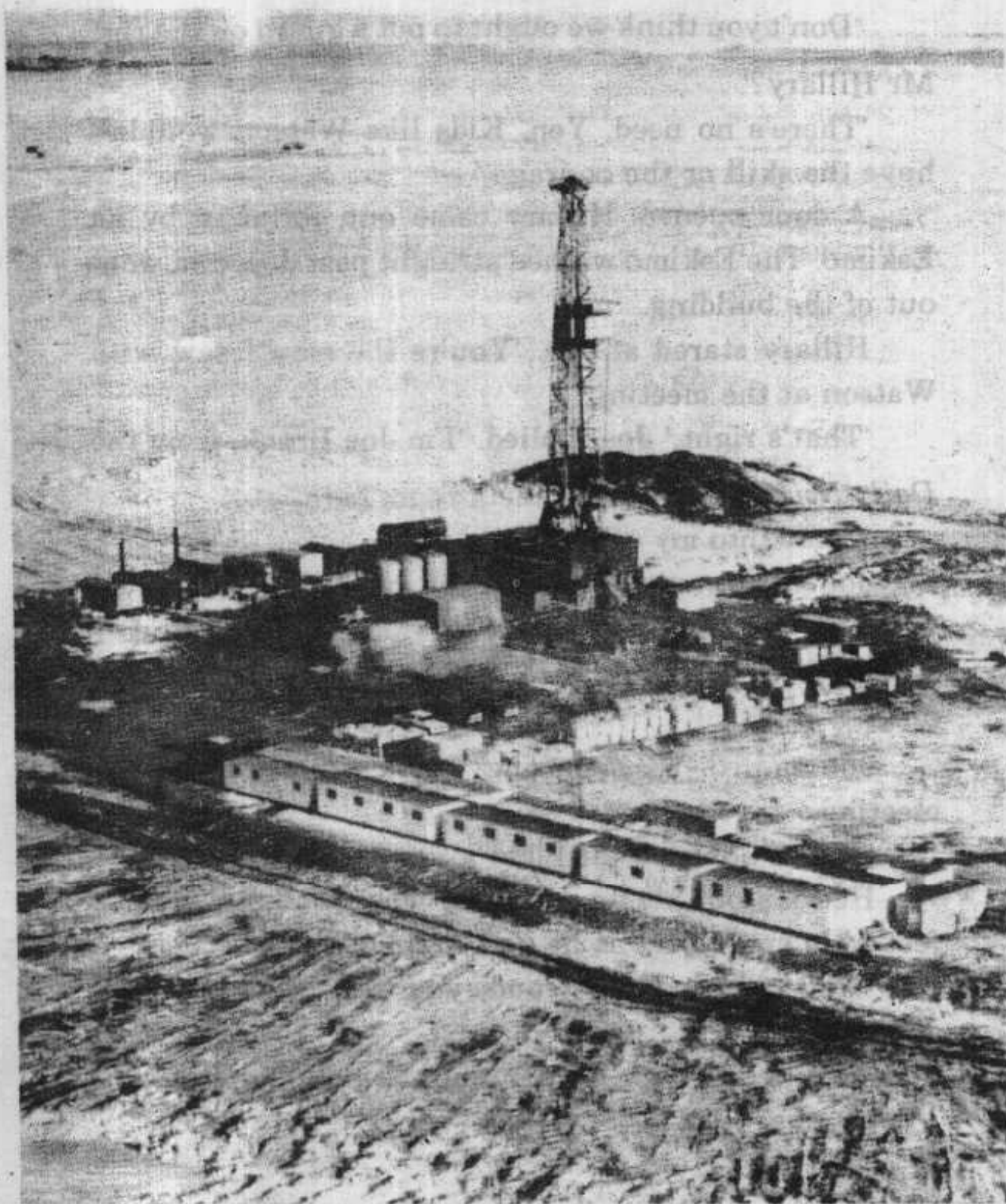
Tudik swung round. 'Take care,' he said, 'or you'll be in trouble.'¹

Chapter 2

Joe walked down the gravel road to the Base Camp². The wind was blowing off the sea. It stung his face,³ and his hands were cold in spite of his gloves⁴. The Camp was the last building between Invalik and the sea, but the road went on, broad and straight. It connected the Camp with Tundroil's Arctic rig, which stood a mile away on the shore. He stopped and looked across the tundra. The ice had all melted and the sun shone on the pools. Grasses stood in the shallow water and low plants grew among the rocks. Otherwise the flat land was bare. The rig rose out of it like an immense dead tree which had lost its branches. Joe thought of Tudik Watson.

He entered the Camp. It had been built on legs, so that its heat would not melt the frozen ground. It was warm inside and looked comfortable. He could hear voices.

1. 'Take care,' he said, 'or you'll be in trouble.': "留点神,"他说,"否则你会遇到麻烦的。" 2. Base Camp: 基地营(地名)。 3. It stung his face: 海风把他的脸吹得发痛。 4. in spite of his gloves: 虽然他戴了手套。



An Arctic oil rig from the air.

‘Don’t you think we ought to put a guard on the rig¹, Mr Hillary?’

‘There’s no need, Yen. Kids like Watson wouldn’t have the skill or the courage.’

A door opened. Hillary came out, followed by an Eskimo. The Eskimo walked straight past Joe, and went out of the building.

Hillary stared at Joe. ‘You’re the man I saw with Watson at the meeting.’

‘That’s right,’ Joe replied. ‘I’m Joe Brook, from the *Daily News*². You offered me a room here.’

‘Come into my office.’

Joe sat down opposite the desk, but Hillary remained standing. ‘I’ll be honest with you,³ Mr Brook,’ he said. ‘I suspect anyone who talks to Watson. Whose side are you on?⁴’

Joe smiled, remembering Tudik’s question at the meeting.

‘I’m on nobody’s side. I’m a newspaper reporter.’

He took out his pipe. Hillary was standing with his feet wide apart, just as he had stood at the meeting.

‘That kid tried to persuade you with his clever talk, didn’t he?’

Joe filled his pipe. ‘No. But he offered to take me on a

1. put a guard on the rig: 给井架配备一名值班警卫。 2. Daily News: 《每日新闻》。 3. I’ll be honest with you: 我坦率地对你说。
4. Whose side are you on?: 你站在谁的一边?

tour of his wilderness.¹ I'm going to accept.'

'Do accept, Mr Brook! I'm not against conservationists. I just don't believe that a few wild plants and animals should stop progress.'

'It depends what you mean by progress.² Some scientists say that wildernesses are more important than oil.'

Hillary sat down on the other side of the desk. His short red hair stood up, thick as a brush. He was excited.

'I'm no fool,³ Mr Brook. I don't go out and damage the environment on purpose⁴. But I don't take orders from kids like Watson.⁵'

'I can understand that, Mr Hillary. But many people feel strongly about the pollution of the Arctic. These people might feel sympathy for⁶ Watson.'

Hillary pushed his glasses firmly on his nose and leaned forward.

'Did your paper send you here to write about pollution, Mr Brook, or about the oil strike⁷?'

Joe lit his pipe. 'I was sent nere to get a good story,' he

1. But he offered to take me on a tour of his wilderness.: 但是他表示愿意带我到他的荒原各处去看看。 2. It depends what you mean by progress.: 这要看你指的进步是什么意思。depend 后面省略了 on。
3. I'm no fool: 我可不是傻瓜(即:我很精明)。 4. on purpose: 故意地。
5. But I don't take orders from kids like Watson.: 我可不听象沃森那种小子的使唤。 6. feel sympathy for: 对...抱有同情。
7. the oil strike: 发现石油。这来自同义动词词组 to strike oil。

said. “‘Conservationists fight oilmen”, “Tundroil rig blown up by fanatics.” That’s the sort of story my editor would like.’

Hillary took off his glasses and tapped them on the desk.

‘So you’re expecting violence, are you? You think those students will blow up my rig?’

‘I’m not thinking of the students. It’s Watson that’s dangerous.¹ I believe he works alone, or perhaps his girlfriend helps him.’

Hillary got up and walked to the window. He stared for a moment at the distant rig.

‘You’re telling me a kid like Watson could blow up my rig?’

‘Some of the most dangerous terrorists are younger than Watson,’ Joe said.

‘But Watson doesn’t look like a terrorist! You’ve seen him. No chin! Hair like a girl’s! He wouldn’t know how to begin. He’s just full of talk!² It was he who wrote me all those threatening notes³. I’m sure of it.’

He sat down. The sweat was pouring from his face.

‘I think he’s tough,’ Joe said, ‘and I think he’s clever.’

‘Rubbish! Anyway I don’t believe his Eskimo

1. It’s Watson that’s dangerous.: 沃森才是个危险人物。It is ... that (who) ... 是一个表示强调的结构。 2. He’s just full of talk!: 他这个人只会空谈而已! 3. threatening notes: (简短的)恐吓信。

girlfriend works with him. She's a pretty girl, and everyone here likes her. She's a conservationist, I know. But she could only have a good influence on¹ him.'

'Well, I saw them signalling to one another today — immediately after the meeting.'

Hillary said nothing. He got up and went to a cupboard. He took out a bottle and two glasses.

'Root beer²!' he said. 'It's got no alcohol in it, but it's the best I can offer you. Alcohol's forbidden up here.³ Too dangerous. A man might drink too much and walk out into a snowstorm.'

He filled the glasses and sat down. 'I've a prejudice against Watson. He tries to make a fool of me.⁴ I don't like people who do that.'

'Watson told me he's a newspaperman,' Joe said.

Hillary pushed a newspaper across the desk to Joe.

'He's a newspaperman all right!⁵ He's got rich writing articles like this. Have a look at page 6.'

Joe found the page. There was a picture of Hillary, drawn by a not very good artist. He was standing up to his knees in oil. He had the face of a grinning devil⁶. There

1. have a good influence on: 对…有好的影响。 2. root beer: 淡啤酒 (一种不含酒精的稍带甜味的饮料)。 3. Alcohol's forbidden up here.: 酒精在这里是禁止的。up 在此是“北方”的意思(加拿大在北半球)。 4. I've a prejudice against Watson. He tries to make a fool of me.: 我对沃森抱有偏见,他竭力愚弄我。 5. He's a newspaperman all right!: 不错,他是一个新闻记者! all right 用于句末以表示强调。6. the face of a grinning devil: 龇牙咧嘴的魔鬼的狰狞面目。