

英语阅读丛书

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第七把钥匙



上海译文出版社

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内 容 简 介

《第七把钥匙》为五幕短剧。老叔父爱德华临死前，将他仅有的亲属——两个侄子尼古拉和艾伦叫到床前，由他的律师给两个侄子每人一把钥匙。老叔父叮嘱说，他们两人中谁能够在一星期内找到七把钥匙，谁就可以得到遗产。尼古拉同艾伦正想进一步问明详情时，老叔父却断了气。于是他们只好懊丧地各自回家去。他们刚一到家，便有送货人给他们各送上一架录音机，根据录音机磁带的提示，尼古拉和艾伦开始了紧张寻找钥匙的工作。老叔父如此煞费苦心，巧妙安排，主要是考验侄子们的智力和毅力，因此线索往往隐晦，而钥匙大部分藏在名胜古迹之中，必须考古探今才能找到。艾伦和他女友不怕艰难，各处走访，终于取得成功。艾伦得到遗产，并获得在报馆工作的职业。最后与女友幸福地结了婚。而尼古拉和妻子玛莎，却不想下工夫找，采用偷懒取巧的办法，结果一无所获。

剧本教育人们凡要获得成功，一定要付出艰巨的努力，不动脑筋，不花力气，跟在别人后面享现成，必将一事无成。但同时也暴露了资本主义社会中金钱第一，人情淡薄的社会风气；为了争夺遗产，兄弟不和，互相猜疑。

本书语言浅易，可供大专院校低年级学生课外阅读使用。

Characters

人 物 表

Martha	玛莎, 尼古拉的妻子, 爱德华的侄媳妇
Nicholas	尼古拉, 爱德华的大侄子
Twigg	特维格, 爱德华的律师
Edward	爱德华, 尼古拉和艾伦的叔父
Alan	艾伦, 爱德华的第二个侄子
Betty	贝蒂, 艾伦的女朋友
Tradesman	商人
Man drinking	喝酒(或咖啡等饮料)的人
Penny	彭尼, 小酒店的售货员
Director	博物馆馆长
Shopkeeper	店老板
Seaman	海员
Zoo Keeper	动物园管理员
Doorman	看门人
Bailey	贝利, 报馆负责人

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PART ONE: Search for a Dead Soldier¹

Scene 1

Martha /ma:θə/

(Uncle Edward is an old man. He lies in bed with his eyes closed.²

Nicholas and his wife Martha are sitting on chairs at the end of the bed.)

Martha: Nicholas. Do you hear? Nicholas. Wake up.

Nicholas: Mm? Pardon?³

Martha: I said, wake up. You were asleep, weren't you.

Nicholas: Me? No, Martha. Of course not.

Martha: Yes you were. You were asleep.

Nicholas: I was thinking.

Martha: Your eyes were shut

Nicholas: I often think with my eyes shut.

Martha: Don't tell lies.

Nicholas: Sh. You'll wake up Uncle Edward

Martha: I don't care. We've been here for half an hour, and he hasn't moved.

Nicholas: He's an old man. He needs his sleep.

Martha: I didn't come here to watch people sleeping. Where's that lawyer?

Nicholas: Mr Twigg?

Martha: Yes. He asked us to come here. Four o'clock, he said. What time is it now?

Nicholas: Half past four.

Martha: Why isn't he here?

Nicholas: He's late. *(stupid)*

Martha: Don't be stupid. I know that. Where is

(A knock at the door)

Nicholas: Come in.

(Mr Twigg comes in)

1. 寻找已故的士兵。这里指威灵顿公爵。 2. 他躺在床上闭着眼睛。 with his eyes closed 为状语短语，修饰动词 lies。 3. 你说什么?

Twigg: Ah.
Nicholas: Ah.
Twigg: You are Nicholas?
Nicholas: You are Mr Twigg?
Twigg: You are Martha?
Martha: You are late.
Twigg: I'm sorry. I'm a lawyer.
Martha: *That is no excuse.*⁴
Twigg: I had other things to do.
Martha: And we have other things to do. But we weren't late.
Nicholas: All right, Martha. He said he's sorry
Twigg: How is your Uncle Edward?
Nicholas: Asleep.
Twigg: Are you sure?
Martha: Perhaps he's dead.
Twigg: *My goodness,*⁵ you shouldn't make jokes about these things.
Martha: Jokes? Look at him. He hasn't moved for half an hour.
Twigg: My goodness. Stand aside, my dear. Let me see. Yes.
 He's very quiet, isn't he.
Nicholas: Do you think he's all right?
Twigg: Well, I'm not a doctor, you know. Perhaps I should listen
 to his chest. Isn't that the right thing to do?
Nicholas: *Go on then.*⁶
Twigg: Well now. That's *a bit*⁷ difficult.
Martha: Why?
Twigg: It's under the sheets.
Nicholas: Open one of his eyes.
Twigg: Yes. That's a good idea. Which one?
Martha: *For heaven's sake!*⁸ *Here.*⁹ Let me do it
Twigg: Do be careful.
Martha: There!
Edward: Hey!
Martha: Oh.
Twigg: My goodness.

} (together)

4. 不能以此为借口。 5. 我的天哪! 表示惊讶。 6. 你就听一听吧。 7. 有点儿。 a bit 作副词。 8. 老天爷! 9. 这是语气词, 无实际意义。

Nicholas: Uncle Edward.

Edward: What are you doing?

Nicholas: We thought you were asleep.

Edward: *Fiddle-faddle.*¹⁰ You weren't very careful, were you.
Why did you wake me up?

Nicholas: Well—

Edward: You thought I was dead.

Nicholas: No. }
Martha: Yes. } (*together*)

Edward: Quiet. Where's that lawyer?

Twigg: Over here, *Sir Edward.*¹¹

Edward: Mr Twigg, what was I saying?

Twigg: You said "Fiddle-faddle".

Edward: No, no, no. Before that. What did I say before that?

Martha: You were asleep.

Edward: For heaven's sake! I was not asleep.

Nicholas: Your eyes were shut.

Edward: I'll shut my eyes now. Look. Are they shut?

Nicholas: Yes.

Edward: Am I asleep?

Nicholas: No.

Edward: All right then. *That's that.*¹² Where's my pillow?

Twigg: Sir Edward, you mustn't sit up.

Edward: *Will you stop interfering.*¹³

Twigg: You really must be careful. Remember the doctor's orders.

Edward: Mr Twigg. I pay you to be my lawyer. Right?

Twigg: Of course, Sir Edward.

Edward: Right. That's that. Lawyers write things, and read things, and sign things. They do not stop people sitting up in bed. Is that clear?

Twigg: I was only trying to help.

Martha: For heaven's sake, let him sit up if he wants to.

10. 胡说八道。 11. 爱德华爵士。这里 Sir 是一种贵族称号。 12. 就是这么回事。 13. 你别打扰。 interfering 是动词 stop 的宾语。 stop 后接动名词表示停止某一动作。



Why did you wake me up?

Edward: *Give me a hand.*¹⁴ Careful!

Martha: Here. Nicholas. Take his other arm.

Nicholas: Right. *Up you come.*¹⁵

Edward: Ha. That's better. Now then, what was I saying?

Twigg: You were saying—

Edward: Hello. Where have they gone?

Nicholas: Who?

Edward: That other young nephew of mine. What's his name.

Twigg: Alan.

Edward: That's right. Alan. And his girl friend. What's her name.

Nicholas: Betty.

Edward: Where did they go?

Martha: They haven't come in yet.

Edward: What? Mr Twigg, what time is it?

Twigg: About twenty to five.

Edward: What? Were they not here at four o'clock?

Nicholas: No, Uncle Edward.

Martha: I was here at four o'clock. And that wasn't much use. You were asleep.

Edward: I was not asleep.

Martha: You were.

Edward: *Quiet.*¹⁶

Martha: Don't shout at me.

Edward: I will shout if I like. It's my house.

Nicholas: Please, Uncle Edward. Don't get excited.

Edward: I will get excited.

Twigg: Sir Edward—
(*A knock at the door*)

Twigg: }
Edward: } Come in.
Martha: }
Nicholas: }

14. 拉我一把。 15. 你这就坐起来了。 16. 不许响。 不许回嘴的意思。这是命令句，原句应是“Be quiet”。

(Alan and Betty come in)

Alan: Uncle Edward?

Edward: You're late.

Alan: I'm very sorry. *We got lost.*¹⁷

Edward: You've been here before.

Alan: Well, *not for a few years*¹⁸.

Edward: Yes. You were at school then. You've changed, Alan.

Alan: I hope so. This is Betty.

Betty: Good evening.

Edward: Ah. That's the first polite word today. Sit down, my dear.

Betty: Thank you.

Edward: Alan—that chair's for you.

Alan: Thanks. Betty, *I'd better introduce you to everybody*¹⁹.

Edward: Never mind all that. That's Mr Twigg over there. The lawyer. This is my nephew Nicholas.

Nicholas: Hello.

Edward: And his wife Martha. *I wouldn't have her for a wife. But there you are.*²⁰

Martha: You are a rude old man.

Edward: Fiddle-faddle. Anyway, she's one of the family now. Alan.

Alan: Uncle Edward?

Edward: Why aren't you married?

Alan: Well—I don't know really.

Edward: Pardon? *Speak up.*²¹

Alan: I said, I don't know.

Edward: Betty my dear. *Has he asked you?*²²

Betty: No, Sir Edward.

17. 我们走错路了。 18. 有好多年没来了。 这是省略句，完整句应是 We have not been here for a few years. 19. 最好我把你给大家介绍一下。 I'd better = I had better; had better 为短语，可用于各种人称，后面跟原形动词。 20. 我可不愿娶她为妻。但还是嫁过来了。 21. 说得响一些。 22. 他向你求婚了吗？

Edward: Why not ?

Alan: *Now look here.*²³

Edward: You're going to ask her, aren't you ?

Alan: Well—I suppose so.

Edward: And you, my dear. You'll say yes, won't you ?

Betty: Well—I suppose so.

Edward: Right. That's that. You'll soon be one of the family.
That's why I asked you.

Martha: She's not one of the family yet.

Edward: Quiet.

Martha: *And don't talk to me like that.*²⁴

Edward: Twigg. If this young woman interrupts me again, throw her out.

Twigg: My goodness, I can't do that, Sir Edward.

Edward: Then get me a lawyer who can.

Nicholas: Uncle Edward—

Edward: Stop it. Quiet. Silence. Not one more word.

Twigg: Can I—

Edward: Sh. That's better. Now then. What was I saying ?

Martha: You were going to throw me out.

Edward: No, no, no. Not that. Mr Twigg—*I pay you to listen*²⁵.
What was I saying ?

Twigg: You were going to tell them about the keys.

Edward: Ah. Yes. That's it. The keys. Haven't I told them yet ?

Twigg: No, Sir Edward.

Edward: Very well. Where are the keys, Twigg ?

Twigg: Here in my pocket, Sir Edward.

Edward: Right. Give them the keys, Mr Twigg. Give them the keys.

Twigg: Certainly. Nicholas—a key for you.

Nicholas: Thank you.

Twigg: And Alan—a key for you.

23. 你听我说。 24. 不要用这种态度跟我讲话。 25. 我聘请你，就是为了要你听我讲。

Alan: Thanks.

Edward: Now then. What about it? Eh?

Alan: What are the keys for?

Edward: Wait and see. Wait and see.

Martha: That's just stupid: You have to tell us what they're for.

Edward: *Have to?*²⁶ Have to? I do not. *I can please myself.*²⁷

You understand?

Nicholas: All right, Uncle Edward. *Keep calm.*²⁸

Alan: My key looks the same as yours, Nicholas.

Betty: Are the two keys the same?

Twigg: Yes. They are. Exactly the same.

Martha: Why?

Edward: Wait and see.

Nicholas: Do they both open the same thing?

Edward: Perhaps, perhaps.

Alan: Aren't you going to tell us?

Edward: No.

Betty: It's all very mysterious.

Edward: Good, good.

Alan: What's it all about?

Nicholas: Aren't you going to tell us anything?

Edward: I'll tell you this. I'm going to die.

Alan: No.

Nicholas: Nonsense. } (together)

Betty: Oh no.

Edward: Be quiet, and listen. I'm a very old man. I'm going to die. I know that. And I'm going to leave something. To you. All of you. You're the only part of the family that's left.

Martha: Is that all? A key?

Edward: No, that's not all. These are not the only keys.

Betty: There are more of them?

Nicholas: All the same?

26. 我一定得告诉你们吗? 这是省略句, 完整句应是 Do I have to tell you?

27. 我爱怎样就怎样。 28. 镇静些。

Edward: There are more. But they're not all the same.

Martha: How many keys are there?

Edward: Seven.

Alan: Seven keys?

Edward: That's right. The seventh key is the one you want.

Alan: Where do we find it?

Edward: *You have to work for it.*²⁹

Nicholas: What do we have to do?

Edward: You must find the seventh key in one week. One week.

Martha: And if we don't find it?

Edward: If you don't find it, you get nothing.

Betty: And if we do find it?

Edward: You get something. Something.

Martha: What does this key open?

Betty: Where are the other keys?

Alan: How do we begin?

Nicholas: Where do we look?

Twigg: My goodness. Look at the time. I really must go, Sir Edward. I'm sorry ... Sir Edward?

Martha: Oh no. He's fallen asleep again.

Twigg: He gets tired very easily. Don't wake him up. I'll just leave quietly.

Martha: Come on, Nicholas. We're going too. This has all been a waste of time.

Nicholas: Goodbye Alan. If you find a lock for that key, let me know.

Alan: Goodbye.

(Mr Twigg and Nicholas and Martha leave)

Betty: *We'd better go as well,*³⁰ Alan. Don't wake him up.

Alan: All right. I'll just pull the blanket up and make him comfortable.

Betty: Alan.

Alan: What?

29. 你们得下工夫去找。 30. 我们最好也走吧。 as well = too.

Betty: I don't think he's breathing.
Alan: Let me see. You're right. What are you doing?
Betty: Listening to his chest.
Alan: Hear anything?
Betty: No. Nothing.
Alan: He's not sleeping at all.
Betty: Well, he said he was going to die.
Alan: Still, I think he enjoyed all that. Look. *He's got a big smile on his face.*³¹
Betty: Now he'll never answer all those questions.
Alan: Goodbye, Uncle Edward.
Betty: And we'll never find the seventh key.
Alan: You know what Uncle Edward would say to that.
Betty: what?
Alan: Fiddle-faddle.

Scene 2

(Alan's flat. The doorbell rings. Alan goes to the door. A man is waiting, holding a box)

Tradesman: Mr Brown?
Alan: Yes.
Tradesman: Alan Brown?
Alan: That's right.
Tradesman: Ah. Got a pencil, mate?
Alan: I think so. Yes. Here you are.
Tradesman: No. Not for me, mate. For you. Here. *Just sign for this,*³² will you?
Alan: What is it?
Tradesman: A box, mate.
Alan: I can see that. What's inside it?
Tradesman: Don't ask me.
Alan: Where do I sign?
Tradesman: I need three hands for this job. See that bit of paper in my top pocket?

31. 他笑得很开心。 32. 签个名就可收下这东西。

Alan: Yes.

Tradesman: Pull it out, will you?

Alan: There you are.

Tradesman: That's it. Just sign.

Alan: "Alan Brown". OK?

Tradesman: That's it mate. Now this thing's yours.

Alan: Are you sure this is right?

Tradesman: *How d'you mean?*³³

Alan: I haven't bought anything.

Tradesman: Have a look at that paper. That's your address, isn't it?

Alan: Yes, it is.

Tradesman: It's your name, isn't it?

Alan: Yes.

Tradesman: Right then. Your name. Your address. Your box, mate.

Alan: Who sent it?

Tradesman: *No idea.*³⁴ I just carry them.

(Betty comes along)

Betty: Hello.

Alan: Betty—take a look at this.

Betty: What is it?

Alan: I don't know.

Betty: Who sent it?

Tradesman: Oh, don't start all that again, lady. This thing *weighs a ton*³⁵. Which one of you two wants it?

Alan: Give it to me.

Tradesman: A pleasure.

Alan: Right. Careful.

Tradesman: Got it?

Alan: Yes, thanks very much.

Tradesman: You're welcome.

Alan: Hey. This is heavy.

33. = what do you mean? 34. 不知道。完整句应是 I have no idea.

35. 这家伙有一吨重。意指相当重。