

# 秘密 間諜

The  
Secret Agent






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## ABOUT THIS BOOK

### For the Student

-  Listen to the story and do some activities on your Audio CD.
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-  Prepare for Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) for schools.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Joseph Conrad** was born in 1857 in Berdychiv (Ukraine). At the time the city was part of the Russian Empire, but before that it was part of Poland. He came from a Polish family of intellectuals<sup>1</sup> and political activists who fought for the reunification<sup>2</sup> and independence of Poland. So he was Russian, but he considered himself Polish.

He wasn't a good student at school, but he read a lot of novels, poems and Shakespeare, and he spoke French perfectly. He showed a great talent as a storyteller<sup>3</sup> from a very early age. At 16 he joined the French merchant navy<sup>3</sup> first, and later the British one. Over 19 years he worked on many ships, traveled the world and reached the rank of captain.



He suffered from<sup>4</sup> bad health and from clinical depression<sup>5</sup> all his life. At 20 he even tried to kill himself. In 1886 he became a British citizen. In 1894 he left the merchant navy and became a writer. Two years later he married an English woman, Jessie George, and they had two sons.

Although English was Conrad's third language and he only learnt it from the age of 20, he became one of the most famous and influential<sup>6</sup> British writers. His stories are about people's reactions to extreme<sup>7</sup> situations, and for many of them he used his experiences at sea.

He died in 1924 at his house in Kent, probably of a heart attack<sup>8</sup>.

- 1 intellectual [ˌɪntelɪktʃʊəl] (n.) 知識分子
- 2 reunification [ˌjuːnəfəˈkeɪʃən] (n.) 統一
- 3 merchant navy 商船
- 4 suffer from ... 飽受……之苦
- 5 clinical depression 臨床憂鬱症
- 6 influential [ˌɪnfluːəntʃəl] (a.) 有影響力的
- 7 extreme [ɪkˈstriːm] (a.) 極端的
- 8 heart attack 心臟衰竭



## ABOUT THE BOOK

*The Secret Agent* is set in London. It tells the story of Mr. Verloc, a man who lives a double life: one as the owner of a shop where he sells all sorts of junk<sup>1</sup>, and the other as a spy for a foreign government. He lives in a house above his shop with his young wife Winnie, her mother and her brother Stevie, a young man in his early twenties who has a learning disability<sup>2</sup>. There are also a group of anarchists<sup>3</sup>, at least one terrorist<sup>4</sup>, two police officials and some government officials in the plot.

The idea for this story came from a real event: in 1894 a French anarchist, Martial Bourdin, blew himself up<sup>5</sup> in Greenwich Park, near the Greenwich Royal Observatory<sup>6</sup>,

when the bomb he was carrying exploded<sup>7</sup>. Everything about this event remained a mystery: it was impossible to discover the reason for the attack, the aim, or even what happened exactly. But although he had very little information, Conrad managed to base a whole novel on this unexplained and violent death.

*The Secret Agent* was published in 1907, but its themes are so modern that they are often in today's news: terrorism, espionage<sup>8</sup> and power. Conrad shows us the thinking behind terrorism and what terrorists and people in power want to achieve through it. *The Secret Agent* is a spy story, a detective<sup>9</sup> story and a psychological<sup>10</sup> drama.



- 1 junk [dʒʌŋk] (n.) 廢棄的舊物
- 2 disability [disəˈbɪləti] (n.) 殘障；失能
- 3 anarchist [ˈænəˌsɪst] (n.) 無政府主義者
- 4 terrorist [ˈterərɪst] (n.) 恐怖分子
- 5 blow up 炸毀
- 6 Greenwich Royal Observatory 格林威治皇家天文台
- 7 explode [ɪkˈsplɒd] (v.) 爆炸
- 8 espionage [ˌespɪəˈnɪʒ] (n.) 間諜活動
- 9 detective [dɪˈtektɪv] (a.) 偵探的
- 10 psychological [ˌsaɪkəˈlɒdʒɪkəl] (a.) 心理的

# REAL LIFE SECRET AGENTS

## Oliver "the Spy" and the Pentrich Revolution

Britain became a parliamentary democracy<sup>1</sup> in 1215, but in 1817 less than 3% of the people had the right to vote<sup>2</sup>. In 1775 thirteen American colonies<sup>3</sup> started a War of Independence from Britain with the idea of creating the first truly democratic country. And in 1789 the French Revolution abolished<sup>4</sup> the monarchy and created a republic. The British workers read about this in newspapers and were not happy.

This situation was made worse by a series of poor crops<sup>5</sup> and a new tax on imported<sup>6</sup> grains<sup>7</sup> that made food very expensive.



In order to vote in 1817 you needed to tick these 3 boxes:

- Male
- ver 21
- wn property of value

The government knew that political groups were forming and asking for a change in the law to give workers the right to vote. So it created a network of spies and informers to infiltrate<sup>8</sup> these groups and give the government information. The government needed an excuse to stop these groups and they were going to make sure they had one.

- 1 parliamentary democracy 議會民主制
- 2 vote [vot] (v.) 投票
- 3 colony ['kɒləni] (n.) 殖民地
- 4 abolish [ə'bɒlɪʃ] (v.) 廢除
- 5 crops [krops] (n.) (複) 作物
- 6 imported [ɪm'pɔ:tɪd] (a.) 進口的
- 7 grain [ɡreɪn] (n.) 穀物
- 8 infiltrate [ɪn'fɪltreɪt] (v.) 滲透





### Oliver the Spy

William J. Oliver, known as “Oliver the Spy”, infiltrated a group of workers in Derbyshire, in the north of England. He gave information to the government, and he created the excuse that the government needed. He told the men that people in larger cities like Manchester were angry, and that armed workers were getting ready to march<sup>1</sup> to London to force the government to give them the right to vote.

On 9th June 1817 about 300 men left the village of Pentrich, 14 miles north of Nottingham. They marched south towards London. When they reached the village of Eastwood they realized it was a trap<sup>2</sup>: the soldiers were

#### When you read *The Secret Agent*

Are there any similarities between the story and the Pentrich Revolution?

#### Find out more

What was the Peterloo Massacre?

What was the Chartist Movement?

When did women get the right to vote at 21?

When did all men and women get the right to vote at 18?

waiting for them. The men tried to escape but 46 of them were arrested for High Treason<sup>3</sup>.

The government wanted to teach the workers a lesson, so the sentences<sup>4</sup> were very hard: death for three men and deportation<sup>5</sup> to Australia and prison for 23 others. None of them ever came back. Their families were forced to leave their homes. Oliver ‘the Spy’ went to work in South Africa.

In 1918, after many small reforms, all men above the age of 21 and all women above the age of 30 got the right to vote.

- 1 march [mɜ:rtʃ] (v.) 遊行示威
- 2 trap [træp] (n.) 陷阱; 圈套
- 3 High Treason 叛國罪; 叛逆罪
- 4 sentence [ˈsentəns] (n.) 判決
- 5 deportation [ˌdɪpɔːrˈteɪʃən] (n.) 驅逐出境



# REAL LIFE SECRET AGENTS

## The Cambridge Spies

The Cambridge Spies were a group of four men who met at Cambridge University in the 1930s and became secret agents for the Soviet Union during World War II and the Cold War period, which followed the war. Their story is the subject of many books and films.

Anthony Blunt, who was a little older than the other three, was teaching at Cambridge and he recruited<sup>1</sup> Harold 'Kim' Philby, Donald Maclean and Guy Burgess. A Russian spy who later defected<sup>2</sup> to the UK said there was at least one more spy in the group, but he has never been found.



Anthony Blunt

Donald Maclean



Guy Burgess

Harold 'Kim' Philby

The four spies were not discovered for a long time. One of the reasons for this was that they came from privileged<sup>3</sup> backgrounds: the British establishment<sup>4</sup> could

not even imagine that men from rich families and with a Cambridge University degree could betray<sup>5</sup> their country and be secret agents for the Soviet Union.

After they left Cambridge, they all had important jobs: Anthony Blunt worked for MI5 during WWII, then became an important art historian, worked for the queen and was knighted<sup>6</sup> in 1956. Guy Burgess became a journalist, worked for the BBC and then for MI6. Donald Maclean worked at the Foreign Office. Philby worked in Vienna during the war, helping refugees<sup>7</sup> from Nazi Germany; then he became a journalist, working for various papers including *The Times*, and joined MI6.

- 1 recruit [rɪˈkrut] (v.) 招收新成員
- 2 defect [ˈdɪfekt] (v.) 叛逃
- 3 privileged [ˈprɪvɪlɪdʒd] (a.) 特權的
- 4 establishment [ɪsˈæblɪʃmənt] (n.) 當局
- 5 betray [brɪˈtreɪ] (v.) 背叛；出賣
- 6 knight [naɪt] (v.) 封為爵士
- 7 refugee [ˌrefʒjuˈdʒi] (n.) 難民；流亡者



At MI6 Philby, a Soviet agent, became the head of the anti-Soviet section, and later chief British intelligence<sup>1</sup> officer in the United States. His position at MI6 meant that he could not only pass information to the KGB (the Soviet secret services), but he could also make sure that he and the other Cambridge Spies were not discovered. So when MI6 realized there could be a spy inside the Foreign Office, Philby was one of the first to know that Burgess and Maclean were suspects<sup>2</sup>. He told them, and helped them defect to the Soviet Union.

However, after this he also became a suspect and had to resign. Not long after that he, too, defected to the Soviet Union. All three lived there until the end of their lives.

In 1963 the British government discovered that Anthony Blunt was a spy. They offered him immunity<sup>3</sup> in exchange for information. He gave them very little, but he didn't go to prison and kept living in London.



### THE BRITISH SECRET SERVICES

MI5 is the domestic<sup>4</sup> intelligence agency<sup>5</sup> that tries to stop possible terrorist attacks and espionage within the UK. It is controlled by the Home Secretary.

MI6 is the foreign intelligence agency. It is controlled by the Foreign Secretary. All MI6 directors since 1909 have signed documents simply with the letter C, to hide their name.

1 intelligence [ɪnˈtelədʒəns] (n.) 情報機關

2 suspect [səˈspekt] (n.) 可疑分子

3 immunity [ɪˈmjunəti] (n.) 豁免

4 domestic [dəˈmestɪk] (a.) 國家的

5 agency [ˈedʒənsi] (n.) 機構





# The Secret Agent



Mr. Verlock



Winnie Verloc



Stevie



Winnie's Mother



Wurmt



Vladimir



Sir Ethel



Chief Inspector Heat



The Assistant Commissioner



The Professor



Ossipon



Michaelis



Karl Yundt

**BEFORE READING**

**1** Match the pictures to the characters.



- \_\_\_ ① Mrs. Winnie Verloc was young and attractive and looked after her brother.
- \_\_\_ ② Stevie had fair hair, loved his sister very much and got easily lost.
- \_\_\_ ③ Winnie's mother's husband was dead and her health wasn't very good.
- \_\_\_ ④ Mr. Verloc was lazy and fat and had dark hair.

**2** Who do you think is most important?  
Talk with a friend and decide.



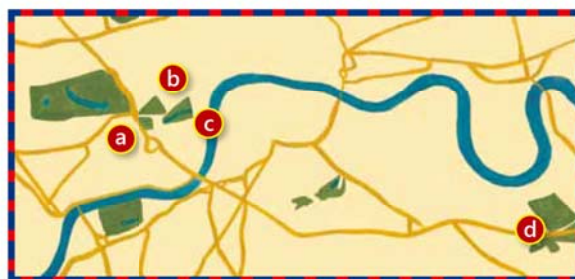
Assistant Commissioner



Police Officer



**3** Match the places on the map A–D with the pictures. Use the internet to help you. How many other places can you add to the map?



- \_\_\_ ① The Royal Observatory is in Greenwich Park.
- \_\_\_ ② Mr. Verloc's house is in Brett Street, in Soho.
- \_\_\_ ③ There's an important Embassy in Belgravia.
- \_\_\_ ④ The British Parliament is in the Palace of Westminster on the River Thames.

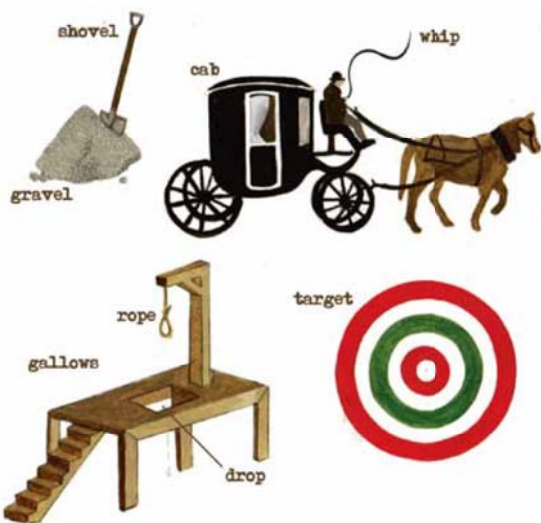
**4** Match the following elements of the story with the places in Exercise 3.

- \_\_\_ ① the Home Secretary
- \_\_\_ ② the First Secretary of the Ambassador
- \_\_\_ ③ the First Meridian
- \_\_\_ ④ Mrs. Winnie Verloc



5 Look at the pictures and complete the definitions.

- a In the past, a \_\_\_\_\_ was a vehicle pulled by a horse and used as a taxi. The driver sat on the box and hit the horse with a \_\_\_\_\_ to make it start moving.
- b The thing you aim at is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- c In the past in England, criminals were hanged from the \_\_\_\_\_, with a \_\_\_\_\_ around their neck. A door opened under their feet, and the \_\_\_\_\_ was fourteen feet.
- d A \_\_\_\_\_ is a thing used to move \_\_\_\_\_, snow, sand, earth, etc.



6 Read the text and match the words in bold to their definition.

When there is a crime, the police need to **investigate** and discover who **committed** it. If they have a **suspect**, they need to find **evidence** that **incriminates** him or her. Sometimes if the suspect feels **guilt**, he or she **confesses**, which usually makes things easier for the police. If there is enough evidence, they arrest the person and they put him or her on **trial**. If it is clear during the trial that the suspect is guilty, the judge decides the **sentence**. In Britain the law says that the sentence cannot be death, so if the crime is serious, the sentence is usually a certain amount of time in prison. But in the past the death penalty was **legal**. **Executions** were carried out in prisons, often by hanging from the **gallows** with a **rope** around their neck. Today if a prisoner behaves well in prison, he or she can be **released** before the end of their sentence on **parole**, and live out of prison. However, if they commit even a small crime, they have to go back to prison and finish their sentence.

- a \_\_\_\_\_ allowed by the law.
- b \_\_\_\_\_ the legal process to decide if someone committed a crime.
- c \_\_\_\_\_ something that proves something else.
- d \_\_\_\_\_ allowed to leave prison.
- e \_\_\_\_\_ did something that is considered wrong.
- f \_\_\_\_\_ a wooden construction for hanging people in executions.
- g \_\_\_\_\_ someone the police think has committed a crime.
- h \_\_\_\_\_ try to prove what happened and who did something.
- i \_\_\_\_\_ when someone feels very bad for something they have done.
- j \_\_\_\_\_ permission to leave prison if the prisoner promises to behave well.
- k \_\_\_\_\_ admits they have done something wrong.
- l \_\_\_\_\_ the way the criminal will be punished.
- m \_\_\_\_\_ killings of people sentenced to death .
- n \_\_\_\_\_ makes someone seem like they have committed a crime.
- o \_\_\_\_\_ a very thick string.



## 1. Mr. Verloc

① When Mr. Verloc went out, he often left Stevie, his brother-in-law<sup>1</sup>, to look after his shop. And his wife, Mrs. Verloc, to look after Stevie. The shop was small, and so was the house above it. It was like a square box in Brett Street. The shop window showed cheap dusty items. The customers looked generally as if they didn't have much money.

There was a bell above the door and when it rang, Mr. Verloc came from the sitting room at the back of the shop. He was overweight<sup>2</sup>, had dark hair, heavy eyelids and an air of<sup>3</sup> having spent the day fully dressed<sup>4</sup> on an unmade bed. He then sold his customer some object at a price that was clearly too high.

Sometimes it was Mrs. Verloc who appeared when the shop bell rang. Mrs. Winnie Verloc was a young, attractive woman who seemed very uninterested in the customers in the shop and the special visitors who went into the sitting room at the back. The door of the shop was the only entrance<sup>5</sup> to the house.

Winnie's mother also lived with them. She was a heavy woman, with swollen<sup>6</sup> legs that made her disabled, and she was a widow<sup>7</sup>. In the past she had a lodging house<sup>8</sup> where Winnie helped her look after the lodgers<sup>9</sup>, and that's where she met Mr. Verloc. He stayed there every time he returned from his frequent mysterious trips to Europe.

1 brother-in-law 小舅子

2 overweight ['ovə,wet] (a.) 體重超重的

3 an air of 帶著……樣子

4 fully dressed 穿戴整齊

5 entrance ['entrəns] (n.) 入口

6 swollen ['swolən] (a.) 浮腫的

7 widow ['wɪdɔ] (n.) 寡婦

8 lodging house 供臨時住宿的租屋

9 lodger ['lɒdʒə] (n.) 租宿者



2 When they got married, Winnie's mother sold the lodging house because it wasn't convenient<sup>1</sup> for Mr. Verloc's other business. What his business was he did not say. His work was in a way political, he told Winnie once. It was impossible for Winnie's mother to discover anything more.

The couple took Winnie's mother and brother to their new home. Winnie was very fond of her delicate<sup>2</sup> brother, and Mr. Verloc was kind and generous, so Winnie's mother felt that the poor boy was safe in this hard world.

Winnie's brother, Stevie, was 23 years old, of slight<sup>3</sup> build<sup>4</sup>, with fair hair, and difficult to look after. He could read and write, but as an errand<sup>5</sup> boy he was not a great success. He forgot his messages; he was easily distracted<sup>6</sup> by street cats and dogs and he got lost. When something confused him, he stuttered<sup>7</sup>. He helped his sister with blind love in her household<sup>8</sup> work. Winnie looked after him like a mother.

Such was the house, the household, and the business that Mr. Verloc left behind him on his way towards Hyde Park at half-past ten on that particular morning.

### Mr. Verloc

- Who is in Mr. Verloc's household?
- What jobs does Mr. Verloc do?

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 convenient [kən'veinjənt] (a.) 方便的 | 5 errand ['erənd] (n.) 差事         |
| 2 delicate ['deləkət] (a.) 棘手的       | 6 distract [di'strækt] (v.) 使分心   |
| 3 slight [slait] (a.) 瘦小的            | 7 stutter ['stʌtə] (v.) 結巴；口吃     |
| 4 build [bild] (n.) 體格               | 8 household ['haus,həld] (a.) 家庭的 |



## 2. The Embassy

3 Half-past ten in the morning was unusually early for Mr. Verloc. He watched the busy streets, pleased to notice the signs of the city's wealth and luxury<sup>1</sup>. All these people needed to be protected. Protection is the first necessity of wealth and luxury.

He was a lazy man. Or maybe he believed that nothing people do, has ever any effect. He also had an air which people who work never have. The air that is common to men who make money from the weaknesses, the stupidity or the lowest fears of people.

He had some business with an Embassy<sup>2</sup>. A letter ordering him to be there that morning was in his pocket. When he arrived, he was taken into a small room with a heavy writing-table and a few chairs. Mr. Wurm, an official from the Embassy, walked in holding some papers. Mr. Verloc recognized his own handwriting.

"I have here some of your reports," said Mr. Wurm. "We are not very satisfied with the attitude<sup>3</sup> of the police in this country. They are too soft. We need an event which will attract the attention of the police and make judges give harder sentences. Something that will increase the tension<sup>4</sup> which undoubtedly exists . . ."



## 2. The Embassy



4 "There's a dangerous level of tension," said Mr. Verloc interrupting him. "My reports for the last twelve months make that very clear."

"I have read your reports," Mr. Wurm said. "They are useless."

There was silence. Then Mr. Wurm spoke.

"You are too fat," he said. "I think that you should see Mr. Vladimir. Please wait here," and he left the room.

Some small drops of sweat appeared on Mr. Verloc's forehead. He didn't move. He was afraid to move.

A servant came and took him to the first floor, opened a door and let him in. The room was large, with three windows. A young man with a big face was sitting in a large armchair in front of a large wooden writing table. He spoke in French to Mr. Wurm, who was leaving, and said: "You're quite right, my dear. He's fat—the animal."

Mr. Vladimir, First Secretary of the Ambassador<sup>5</sup>, was a favorite in high society. "You understand French, I suppose?" he said.



- 1 luxury ['lʌkʃəri] (n.) 奢華
- 2 Embassy ['embəsi] (n.) 大使館
- 3 attitude ['ætəʃjəd] (n.) 態度
- 4 tension ['tɛnʃən] (n.) 緊張局勢
- 5 ambassador [æm'bæsədə] (n.) 大使；使節



5 Mr. Verloc said that he did and muttered<sup>1</sup> something about his service in the French army. Suddenly Mr. Vladimir began to speak in English with no sign of a foreign accent<sup>2</sup>. "How long have you worked for the Embassy here?" he asked.

"Eleven years, ever since the time of the late<sup>3</sup> Baron Stott-Wartenheim," Mr. Verloc answered.

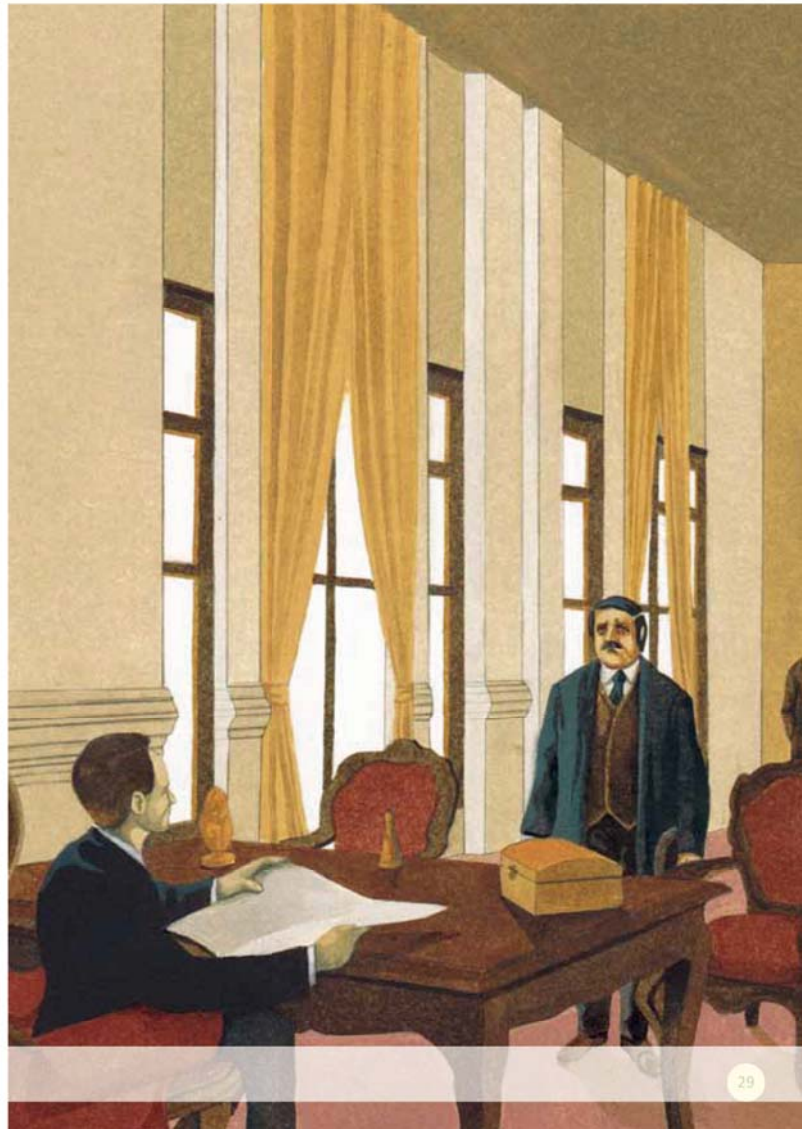
"Baron Stott-Wartenheim was a gullible<sup>4</sup> old man. Things are different now. So, tell me, why did you let yourself get out of condition like this? Look at yourself. You—a member of the hungry proletariat<sup>5</sup>? You—a desperate socialist<sup>6</sup> or anarchist . . . which is it?"

"Anarchist," said Mr. Verloc.

"Do you really think anybody will believe you?" continued Mr. Vladimir. "Not even the stupid will, and they are all stupid. You are simply ridiculous, not very smart, and lazy. As far as I can judge from our documents, you have done nothing to earn your money for the last three years."

"Nothing?" exclaimed<sup>7</sup> Verloc. "I have several times prevented . . ."

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 mutter ['mʌtə] (v.) 低聲囁咕      | 5 proletariat [ˌprɒlə'teəriət] (n.) 無產階級；勞工階級 |
| 2 accent ['æksənt] (n.) 口音；腔調   | 6 socialist ['sɒʃəlɪst] (n.) 社會主義者            |
| 3 late [leɪ] (a.) 已故的           | 7 exclaim [ɪks'kleɪm] (v.) 叫喊著說出              |
| 4 gullible ['gʌləbl̩] (a.) 易受騙的 |   |





6 "The idea that preventing<sup>1</sup> is better than curing<sup>2</sup>," interrupted Mr. Vladimir, "is stupid in a general way, but in this particular case it's more than stupid. The evil is already here. We don't want to prevent—we want to cure. I'm in charge now, and I tell you clearly that you will have to earn your money. No work, no pay."

Mr. Verloc was surprised and started to feel afraid.

"We want something that will cause repression<sup>3</sup>," said Mr. Vladimir. "England is silly with its respect for individual freedom. I have an idea."

Mr. Vladimir explained his idea showing himself to know very little about the revolutionary world, which shocked the silent Mr. Verloc.

"We want the middle class to feel fear, and we need a series of outrages<sup>4</sup> to do that," Mr. Vladimir said. "These outrages don't need to be especially violent, but they must be very worrying. They should be directed against buildings. What is the latest fashion in middle class beliefs<sup>5</sup>, Mr. Verloc?"

Mr. Verloc moved his shoulders slightly<sup>6</sup>.

"You are too lazy to think," said Mr. Vladimir. "Listen carefully. These days the middle class believes neither in royalty<sup>7</sup> nor religion. Therefore the Palace and the Church should not be targeted<sup>8</sup>. The latest fashion is science. To be successful, an attack should make it clear that you are determined to destroy society. Anyone with a good job believes in learning and science. What do you think of an attack on astronomy<sup>9</sup>?"

7 Mr. Verloc thought this idea was stupid.

"The whole civilized world has heard of Greenwich," continued Mr. Vladimir, very proud of himself. "The first meridian<sup>10</sup> is the perfect target."

Mr. Verloc didn't know what to say.

"You may go now," said Mr. Vladimir. "We want a dynamite<sup>11</sup> outrage. I give you a month, or your connection with us will end."

### Mr. Vladimir

- What do you think of his ideas?
- What kind of person do you think he is?
- Can you think of any people like this today in your country?



1 prevent [pri'vent] (v.) 預防

2 cure [kjʊə] (v.) 治療

3 repression [ri'preʃən] (n.) 鎮壓

4 outrage ['aʊt,reitʒ] (n.) 憤慨

5 belief [bi'li:f] (n.) 信仰；信念

6 slightly ['slaitli] (adv.) 稍微

7 royalty ['rɔɪəlti] (n.) (總稱) 皇族

8 target ['tɑ:ɡɪt] (v.) 以……為目標

9 astronomy [æs'trɒnəmi] (n.) 天文學

10 first meridian 西經一度線  
(指格林威治皇家天文台)

11 dynamite ['daɪnə,matt] (a.) 具爆炸性的