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Class-X

English

First Flight

Chapter-6



Gavin Maxwell

Mijbil the Otter

Part - 2

Neha Rajvanshi

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Characteristic : विशेषता





down the length of the bathtub underwater, and making enough slosh and splash for a hippo. This, I was to learn, is a characteristic of otters; every drop of water must be, so to speak, extended and spread about the place; a bowl must at once be overturned, or,

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Static : स्थिर
Provoking : गुस्सा होना

if it will not be overturned, be sat in and sploshed in until it overflows. Water must be kept on the move and made to do things; when static it is wasted and provoking.

Two days later, Mijbil escaped from my bedroom as I entered it,

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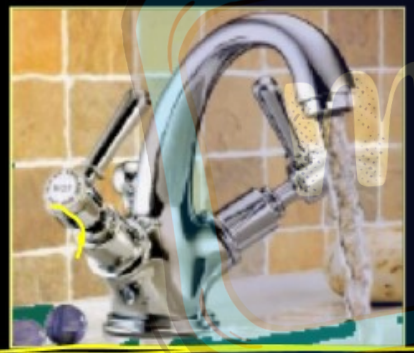
Fumbling : पकड़ना





and I turned to see his tail disappearing round the bend of the corridor that led to the bathroom.

By the time I got there he was up on the end of the bathtub and fumbling at the chromium taps with his paws. I watched, amazed;

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in less than a minute he had turned the tap far enough to produce a trickle of water, and after a moment or two achieved the full flow. (He had been lucky to turn the tap the right way; on later occasions he would sometimes screw it up still tighter,



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Chittering : ऊदबिलाव की आवाज

chittering with irritation and disappointment at the tap's failure to cooperate.)

Very soon Mij would follow me without a lead and come to me when I called his name. He spent most of his time in play.

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Flick : तेज हलचल



He spent hours shuffling a rubber ball round the room like a four-footed soccer player using all four feet to dribble the ball, and he could also throw it, with a powerful flick of the neck, to a surprising height and distance. But the real play of an otter is when he lies on his back

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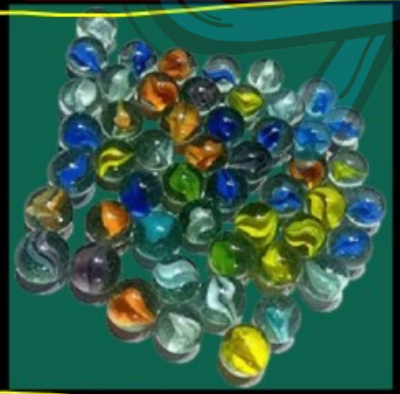
Belly : पेट





and juggles with small objects between his paws. Marbles were Mij's favourite toys for this pastime: he would lie on his back rolling two or more of them up and down his wide, flat belly without ever dropping one to the floor.

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Dreaded : डर
Prospect : संभावना



The days passed peacefully at Basra, but I dreaded the prospect of transporting Mij to England, and to Camusfearna. The British airline to London would not fly animals, so I booked a flight to Paris on another airline, and from there to London.

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Insist : जोर देना

Accustomed : आदि होना

The airline insisted that Mij should be packed into a box not more than eighteen inches square, to be carried on the floor at my feet. I had a box made, and an hour before we started, I put Mij into the box so that he would become accustomed to it, and left for a hurried meal.

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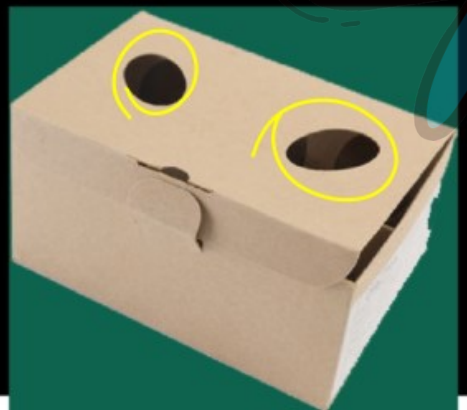
Appalling : आश्चर्य चकित
Spectacle : दृश्य
Trickled : वहना
Whipped off : तेजी से बाहर निकालना



When I returned, there was an appalling spectacle. There was complete silence from the box, but from its airholes and chinks around the lid, blood had trickled and dried. I whipped off the lock and tore open the lid, and Mij, exhausted and bloodspattered,

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Whimpered : डर में रोना
Shreds : टुकड़े

whimpered and caught at my leg. He had torn the lining of the box to shreds; when I removed the last of it so that there were no cutting edges left, it was just ten minutes until the time of the flight, and the airport was five miles distant.