SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Class-X

English

Footprints without Feet

Chapter-2

The Thief's Story

Part - 1



Ruskin Bond

Neha Rajvanshi

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

BEFORE YOU READ



- A young boy makes friends with Anil. Anil trusts him completely and employs him. Does the boy betray his trust?

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Approached : निकट जाना
Lean : पतला



I WAS still a thief when I met Anil. And though only 15, I was an experienced and fairly successful hand.

Anil was watching a wrestling match when I approached him. He was about 25 — a tall, lean fellow — and he looked easy-going,

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Flattery : चापलूसी

kind and simple enough for my purpose. I hadn't had much luck of late and thought I might be able to get into the young man's confidence.

"You look a bit of a wrestler yourself," I said. A little flattery helps in making friends.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Put me off : रूची खो देना

Modestly : विन्रमता से

"So do you," he replied, which put me off for a moment because at that time I was rather thin.

"Well," I said modestly, "I do wrestle a bit."

"What's your name?"

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Grunting : गुस्से से धीरे बोलना

"Hari Singh," I lied. I took a new name every month. That kept me ahead of the police and my former employers.

After this introduction, Anil talked about the well-oiled wrestlers who were grunting, lifting and throwing each other about. I didn't have much to say.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Followed : पीछे जाना
Appealing : आकर्षक

Anil walked away. I followed casually.

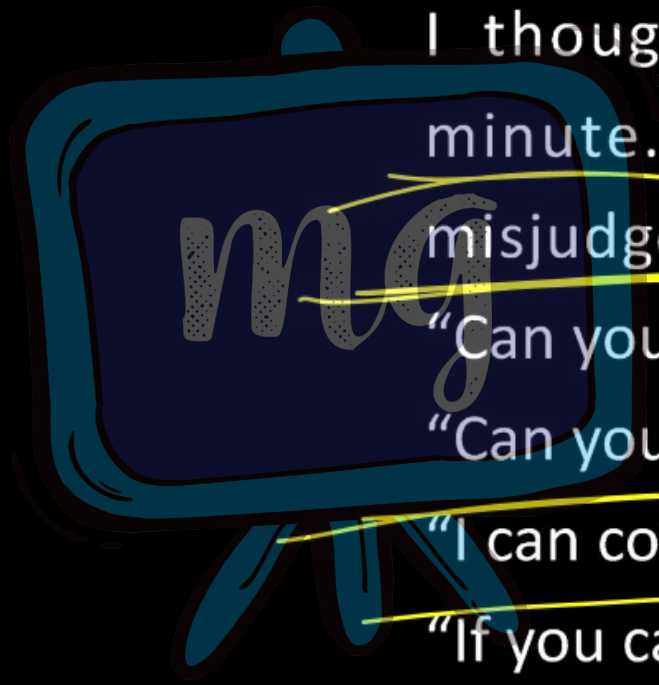
"Hello again," he said.

I gave him my most appealing smile. "I want to work for you," I said.

"But I can't pay you."

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



I thought that over for a minute. Perhaps I had misjudged my man. I asked,

"Can you feed me?"

"Can you cook?"

"I can cook," I lied again.

"If you can cook, then may be I can feed you."

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



He took me to his room over the Jumna Sweet Shop and told me I could sleep on the balcony. But the meal I cooked that night must have been terrible because Anil gave it to a stray dog and told me to be off. But I just hung around, smiling in my most appealing way, and he couldn't help laughing.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

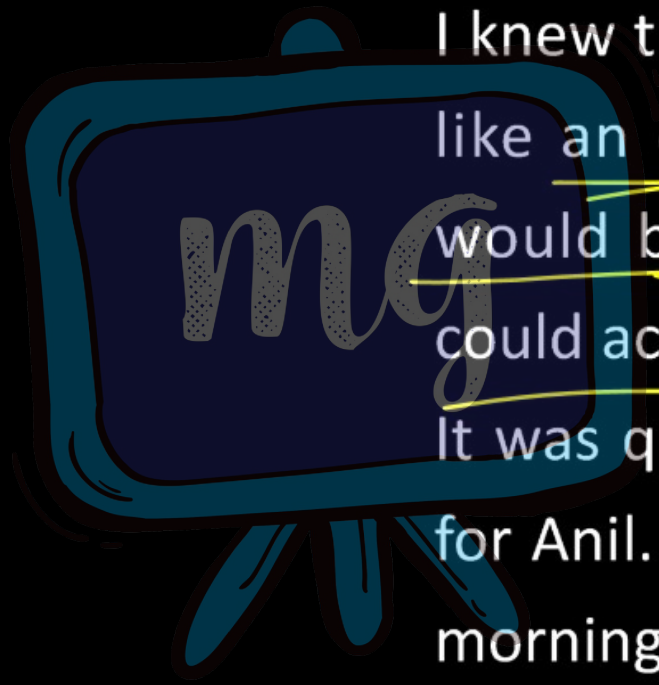
missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Patted : प्यार से हाथ लगाना

Later, he patted me on the head and said never mind, he'd teach me to cook. He also taught me to write my name and said he would soon teach me to write whole sentences and to add numbers. I was grateful.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve.

It was quite pleasant working for Anil. I made the tea in the morning and then would take my time buying the day's supplies,

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Fits and starts : अनियमित

usually making a profit of about a rupee a day. I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind.

Anil made money by fits and starts. He would borrow one week, lend the next.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Queer : अजीब

He kept worrying about his next cheque, but as soon as it arrived he would go out and celebrate. It seems he wrote for magazines — a queer way to make a living!

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

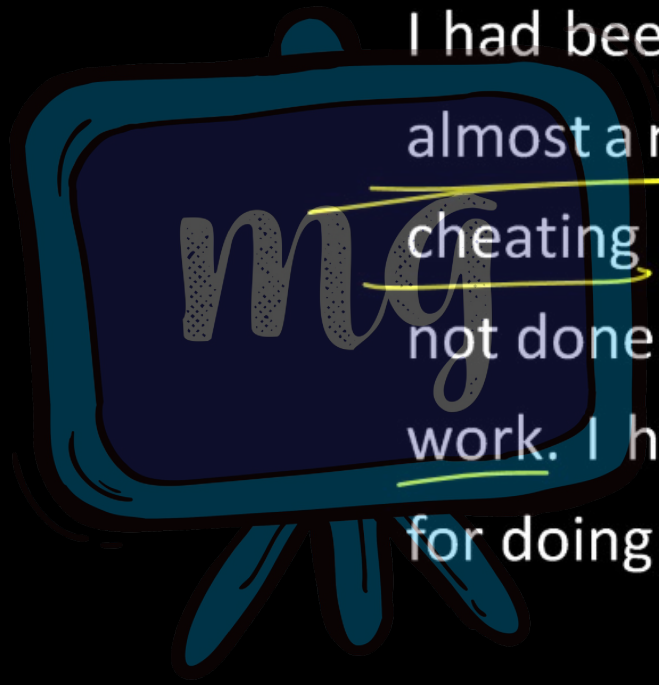
Tuck : छिपाकर रखना

One evening he came home with a small bundle of notes, saying he had just sold a book to a publisher.

At night, I saw him tuck the money under the mattress.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

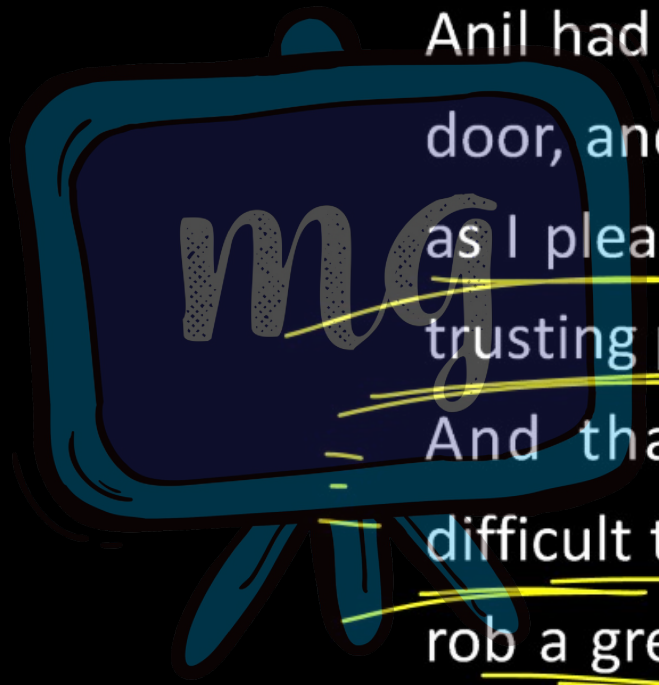
missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



I had been working for Anil for almost a month and, apart from cheating on the shopping, had not done anything in my line of work. I had every opportunity for doing so.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



Anil had given me a key to the door, and I could come and go as I pleased. He was the most trusting person I had ever met. And that is why it was so difficult to rob him. It's easy to rob a greedy man, because he can afford to be robbed;

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Rob : चोरी करना

but it's difficult to rob a careless man — sometimes he doesn't even notice he's been robbed and that takes all the pleasure out of the work.

Well, it's time I did some real work, I told myself; I'm out of practice. And if I don't take the money, he'll only waste it on his friends.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Beam : चमक

After all, he doesn't even pay me.

Anil was asleep. A beam of moonlight stepped over the balcony and fell on the bed. I sat up on the floor, considering the situation. If I took the money, I could catch the 10.30 Express to Lucknow.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Scars : चोट के निशान



Slipping out of the blanket, I crept up to the bed. Anil was sleeping peacefully. His face was clear and unlined; even I had more marks on my face, though mine were mostly scars.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

missiongyan®
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Startled : आश्चर्यचकित

My hand slid under the mattress, searching for the notes.

When I found them, I drew them out without a sound. Anil sighed in his sleep and turned on his side, towards me. I was startled and quickly crawled out of the room.