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Class-X

English

Footprints without Feet

Chapter-3



Robert Arthur

The Midnight Visitor

Part - 1

Neha Rajvanshi

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BEFORE YOU READ

- Ausable, a secret agent, is expecting to get a very important report. Another secret agent, Max, threatens him with a pistol, demanding the report. Does Ausable outwit him?

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Description : वर्णन
Musty : सीलन भरा
Gloomy : अंधेरा
Let down : निराशा
Scarcely : मुश्किल से
Romantic : काल्पनिक

AUSABLE did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure.

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Passably : ठीक ठाक

Accent : उच्चारण का तरीका

Ausable was, for one thing, fat. Very fat. And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago.

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Wheezily : तेज सांस की आवाज

Espionage : गुप्तचरी

"You are disappointed," Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder. "You were told that I was a secret agent, a spy, dealing in espionage and danger. You wished to meet me because you are a writer, young and romantic.

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Envisioned : कल्पना करना

Mysterious : रहस्यमयी

Sloppy : लापरवाह / बेढंगा

You envisioned mysterious figures in the night, the crack of pistols, drugs in the wine." "Instead, you have spent a dull evening in a French music hall with a sloppy fat man who, instead of having messages slipped into his hand by dark-eyed beauties,

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Prosaic : साधारण
Chuckled : हंसना
Frustrated : निराश / नाराज

gets only a prosaic telephone call making an appointment in his room. You have been bored!" The fat man chuckled to himself as he unlocked the door of his room and stood aside to let his frustrated guest enter.

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Disillusioned : विश्वास टुटने से निराशा

"You are disillusioned," Ausable told him. "But take cheer, my young friend. Presently you will see a paper, a quite important paper for which several men and women have risked their lives, come to me. Some day soon that paper may well affect the course of history.

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Authentic : वास्तविक

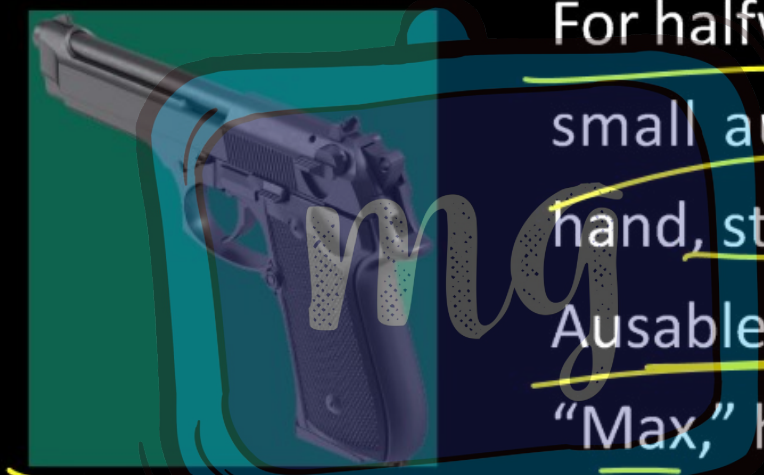
In that thought is drama, is there not?"

As he spoke, Ausable closed the door behind him. Then he switched on the light.

And as the light came on, Fowler had his first authentic thrill of the day.

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For halfway across the room, a small automatic pistol in his hand, stood a man.

Ausable blinked a few times.

"Max," he wheezed, "you gave me quite a start. I thought you were in Berlin. What are you doing here in my room?"

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Slender : पतला
Crafty : चालाक / बेईमान
Pointed : तीखा
Countenance : चेहरे का भाव
Menacing : धमकी भरा / खतरनाक

Max was slender, a little less than tall, with features that suggested slightly the crafty, pointed countenance of a fox. There was about him — aside from the gun — nothing especially menacing.

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"The report," he murmured. "The report that is being brought to you tonight concerning some new missiles. I thought I would take it from you. It will be safer in my hands than in yours."

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Grimly : गंभीरता से

Nuisance : परेशानी

Ausable moved to an armchair and sat down heavily. "I'm going to raise the devil with the management this time, and you can bet on it," he said grimly. "This is the second time in a month that somebody has got into my room through that nuisance of a balcony!"

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Inflection : बोलने का भाव

Fowler's eyes went to the single window of the room. It was an ordinary window, against which now the night was pressing blackly. "Balcony?" Max said, with a rising inflection. "No, a passkey. I did not know about the balcony.

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Explanatorily : समझाते हुए

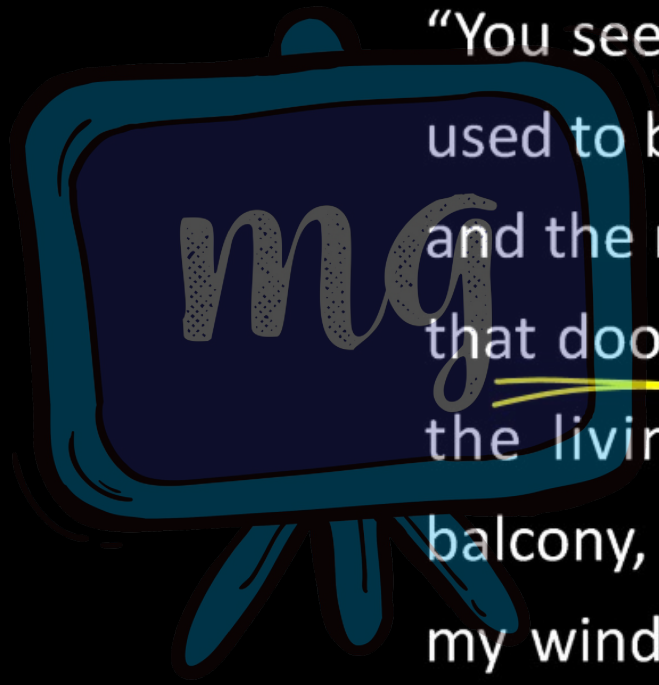
It might have saved me some trouble had I known."

"It's not my balcony," Ausable said with extreme irritation. "It belongs to the next apartment."

He glanced explanatorily at Fowler.

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"You see," he said, "this room used to be part of a large unit, and the next room — through that door there — used to be the living room. It had the balcony, which extends under my window now. You can get onto it from the empty room two doors down — and

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Stiffly : बिना हिले
Gesture : हाव भाव

somebody did, last month. The management promised to block it off. But they haven't."

Max glanced at Fowler, who was standing stiffly not far from Ausable, and waved the gun with a commanding gesture.

"Please sit down," he said.

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Moodily : निराशा से

"We have a wait of half an hour, I think."

"Thirty-one minutes," Ausable said moodily. "The appointment was for twelve-thirty. I wish I knew how you learned about the report, Max."

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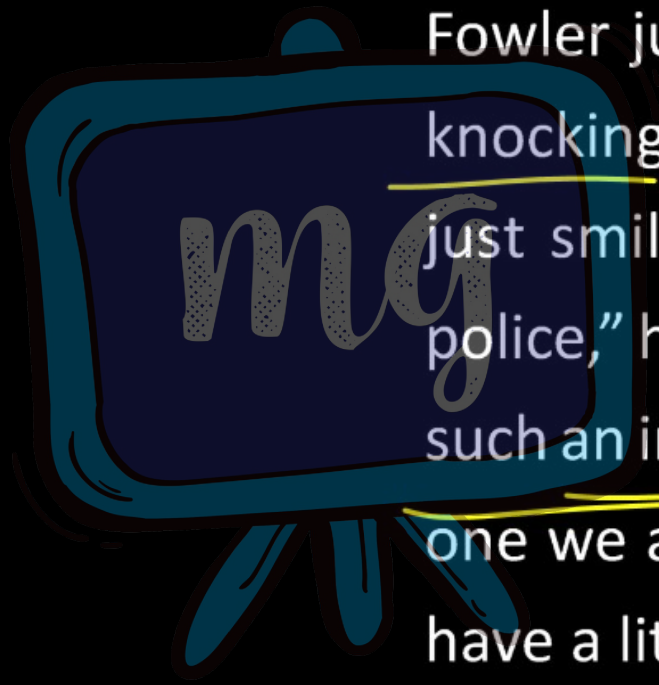
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The little spy smiled evilly. "And we wish we knew how your people got the report. But no harm has been done. I will get it back tonight.

What is that? Who is at the door?"

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Fowler jumped at the sudden knocking at the door. Ausable just smiled. “That will be the police,” he said. “I thought that such an important paper as the one we are waiting for should have a little extra protection.