

CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

CH-6 : Mijbil the Otter

Part – 3

Mijbil in the Plane

KOMAL JETWANI



OVERVIEW

1. Introduction

2. Author's Yearning For A Pet

3. His Unusual Decision

4. Mijbil : A Hesitant Creature

5. Its Hidden Talents

6. The Everlasting Bond

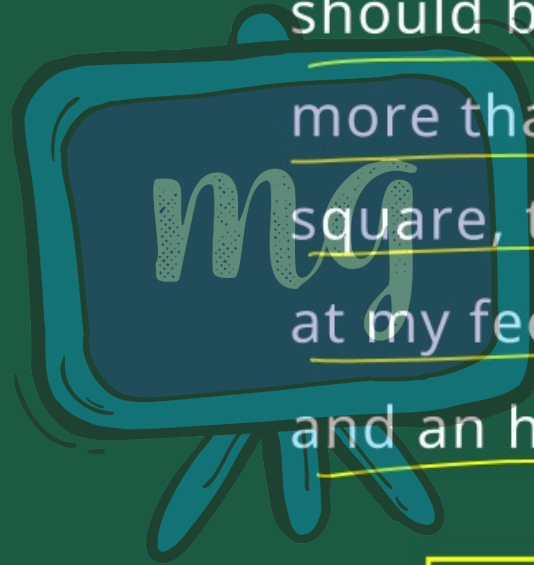
III

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.

Dreaded : scared

Prospect : possibility

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,



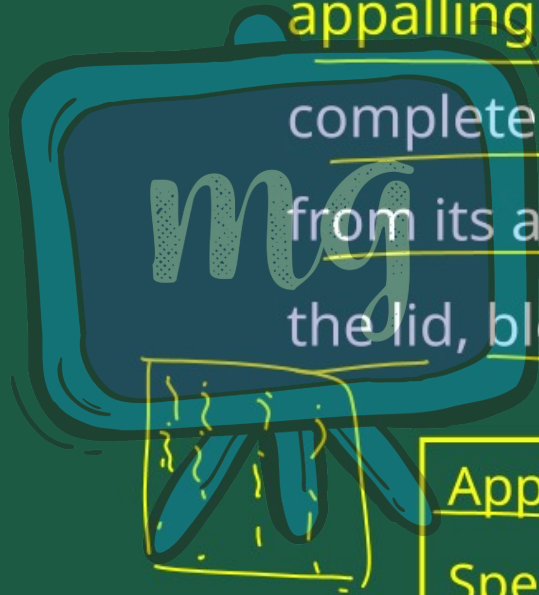
Insisted : to request
insistent

I put Mij into the box so that he
would become **accustomed** to it,
and left for a hurried meal.



Accustomed : to get habitual of

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.



<u>Appalling</u>	:	surprising
<u>Spectacle</u>	:	a scene
<u>Trickled</u>	:	to flow out

I whipped off the lock and tore open the lid, and Mij, exhausted and blood spattered, whimpered and caught at my leg. He had torn the lining of the box to shreds;

Whipped off : to pull out

Whimpered : to cry out of pa

Shreds : pieces

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.

I put the miserable Mij back into the box, holding down the lid with my hand. I sat in the back of the car with the box beside me as the driver tore through the streets of Basra like a ricocheting bullet.

The aircraft was waiting to take off;
I was rushed through to it by
infuriated officials. Luckily, the seat
booked for me was at the extreme
front. I covered the floor around my
feet with newspapers, rang for the
air hostess, and gave her a parcel of
fish (for Mij) to keep in a cool place.

^

Infuriated : extremely angry

I took her into my confidence

about the events of the last half

hour. I have retained the most

profound admiration for that air

hostess; she was the very queen of

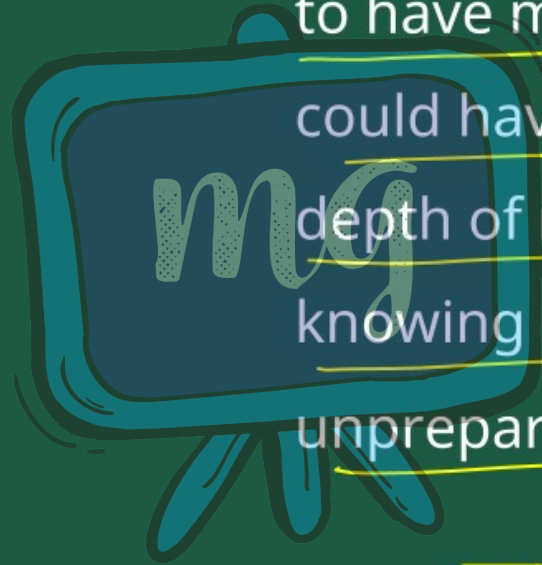
her kind.

*generous
kind, Compassion*

Profound : intense

Admiration : to look up to someone

She suggested that I might prefer
to have my pet on my knee, and I
could have kissed her hand in the
depth of my gratitude. But, not
knowing otters, I was quite
unprepared for what followed.



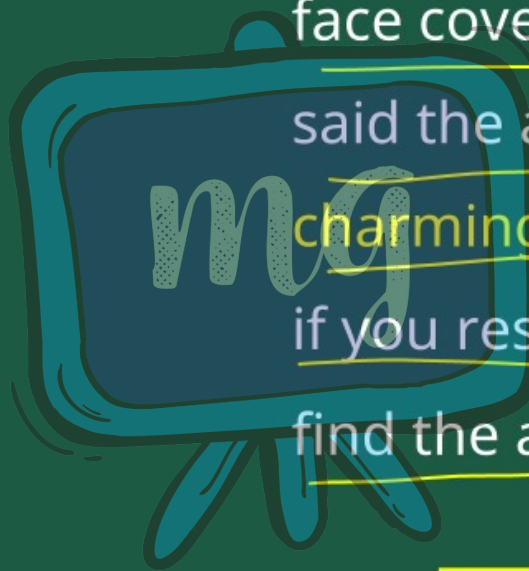
Gratitude : to thank

Mij was out of the box in a flash. He disappeared at high speed down the aircraft. There were squawks and shrieks, and a woman stood up on her seat screaming out, "A rat! A rat!" I caught sight of Mij's tail disappearing beneath the legs of a portly white turbaned Indian.

- ✓ Squawks : scouting and screaming
- ✓ Shrieks : to scream
- ✓ Portly : fat man



Diving for it, I missed, but found my
face covered in curry. "Perhaps,"
said the air hostess with the most
charming smile, "it would be better
if you resumed your seat, and I will
find the animal and bring it to you."



Charming : attractive

I returned to my seat. I was craning
my neck trying to follow the hunt
when suddenly I heard from my
feet a distressed chitter of
recognition and welcome, and Mij
bounded on to my knee and began
to nuzzle my face and my neck.

Bounded on : to climb up fast

Nuzzle : to peck

LEARNING OUTCOMES



1 | Stronger Bond between the author and the otter

2 | The value of effective communication

ASSESSMENT



1 What did the woman in the aeroplane think that the otter was?

- A A dog
- B An otter
- C A rat
- D A seal

ASSESSMENT

2

How did the airline wanted the author to carry Mijbil?

A

In a separate compartment

B

In a box

C

In his bag

D

None of the above

ASSESSMENT



3

What is the meaning of “an appalling spectacle”?

Surprising
Scene

A

A safe space

B

A funny scene

C

A mysterious situation

~~D~~

~~A shocking scene~~