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CLASS - X

ENGLISH

Footprints without Feet

CHAPTER - 2

A QUESTION OF TRUST

Part – 2

The Clever Trick and the Consequences

Nipa Das

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"Down, Sherry," she said. "Anyone would think I'd been away for a month!" She smiled at Horace, and went on, "However, I came back just in time, though I didn't expect to meet a burglar." Horace had some hope because she seemed to be amused at meeting him. He might avoid trouble if he treated her the right way.

Amused : আনন্দ

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He replied, “I didn’t expect to meet one of the family.”

She nodded. “I see what an inconvenience it is for you to meet me.

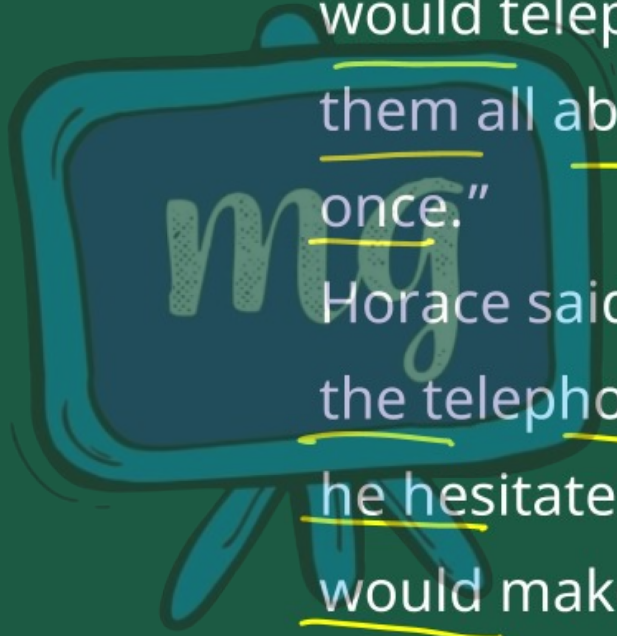
What are you going to do?”

Horace said, “My first thought was to run.”

Inconvenience : অসুবিধা

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"Of course, you could do that. But I would telephone the police and tell them all about you. They'd get you at once."

Horace said, "I would, of course, cut the telephone wires first and then...," he hesitated, a smile on his face, "I would make sure that you could do nothing for some time. A few hours would be enough."

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She looked at him seriously. “You’d hurt me?”

Horace paused, and then said, “I think I was trying to frighten you when I said that.”

“You didn’t frighten me.”

Horace suggested, “It would be nice if you would forget you ever saw me. Let me go.”

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The voice was suddenly sharp. “Why should I? You were going to rob me. If I let you go, you’ll only rob someone else. Society must be protected from men like you.”

Horace smiled. “I’m not a man who threatens society. I steal only from those who have a lot of money. I steal for a very good reason. And I hate the thought of prison.”

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She laughed, and he begged, thinking that he had persuaded her, “Look, I have no right to ask you for anything, but I’m desperate. Let me go and I promise never to do this kind of thing again. I really mean it.”

Persuaded	:	পতিয়ন নিয়াব
Desperate	:	নিৰাশ

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She was silent, watching him closely. Then she said, “You are really afraid of going to prison, aren’t you?” She came over to him shaking her head. “I have always liked the wrong kind of people.”

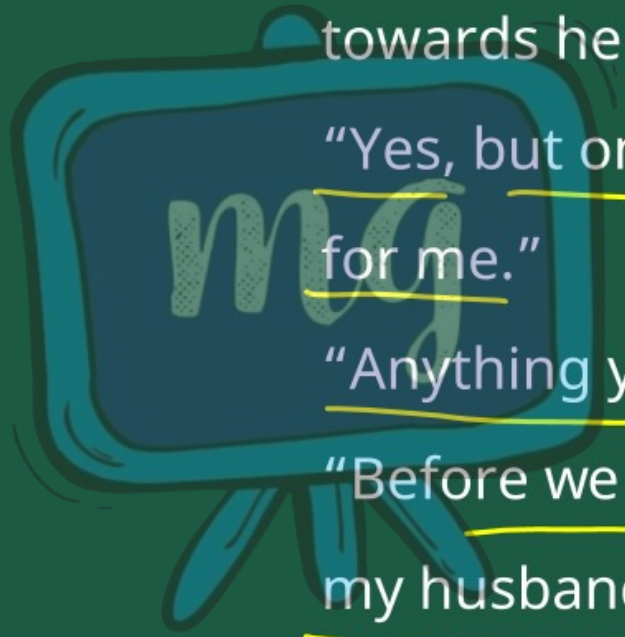
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She picked up a silver box from the table and took a cigarette from it. Horace, eager to please her and seeing that she might help him, took off his gloves and gave her his cigarette lighter.

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"You'll let me go?" He held the lighter towards her.

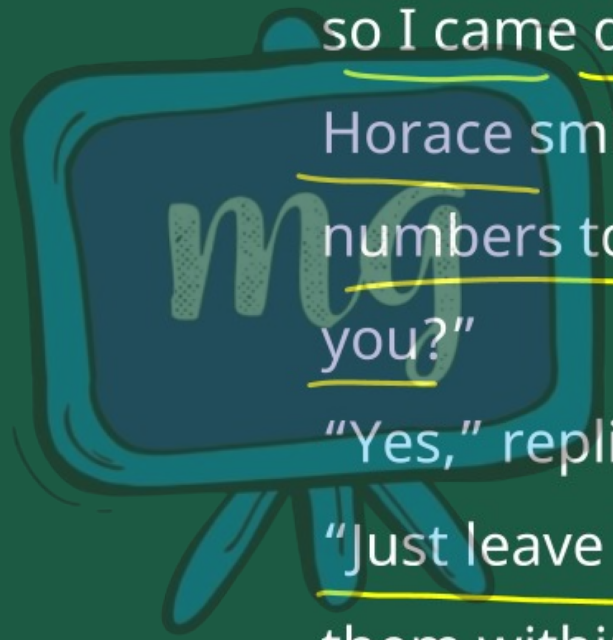
"Yes, but only if you'll do something for me."

"Anything you say."

"Before we left for London, I promised my husband to take my jewels to our bank; but I left them here in the safe.

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I want to wear them to a party tonight, so I came down to get them, but...”

Horace smiled. “You’ve forgotten the numbers to open the safe, haven’t you?”

“Yes,” replied the young lady.

“Just leave it to me and you’ll have them within an hour.

But I’ll have to break your safe.”

"Don't worry about that. My husband won't be here for a month, and I'll have the safe mended by that time."

And within an hour Horace had opened the safe, given her the jewels, and gone happily away.

For two days he kept his promise to the kind young lady.

Mended : মেৰামতি

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On the morning of the third day, however, he thought of the books he wanted and he knew he would have to look for another safe. But he never got the chance to begin his plan. By noon a policeman had arrested him for the jewel robbery at Shotover Grange.

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His fingerprints, for he had opened the safe without gloves, were all over the room, and no one believed him when he said that the wife of the owner of the house had asked him to open the safe for her.

The wife herself, a gray-haired, sharp-tongued woman of sixty, said that the story was nonsense.

Nonsense : মিছা বা বাজে কথা

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Horace is now the assistant librarian in the prison. He often thinks of the charming, clever young lady who was in the same profession as he was, and who tricked him.

He gets very angry when anyone talks about ‘honour among thieves’.

Profession	:	পেছা
Tricked	:	প্ৰতাৰণা

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1 What did the young woman at Shotover Grange ask Horace to do?

A Open the safe for her.

B Call the police.

C Leave the house.

D Take the jewels to the bank.

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2 The woman had tricked Horace by pretending to be the ___ of the house.

A servant

B guest

C wife

D neighbor

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3 The police arrested Horace because his ___ were found all over the room.

A fingerprints

B shoes

C tools

D money

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4 What was Horace's mistake that led to his arrest?

A He forgot to hide the jewels.

B He didn't wear gloves when opening the safe.

C He left a note for the woman.

D He told the police about the robbery.

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5 Who was the actual culprit in the story?

A Horace Danby

B The woman at Shotover Grange

C The police

D The servants