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Samagra Shiksha
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CLASS - X

ENGLISH

Footprints without Feet

CHAPTER - 4

THE HACK DRIVER

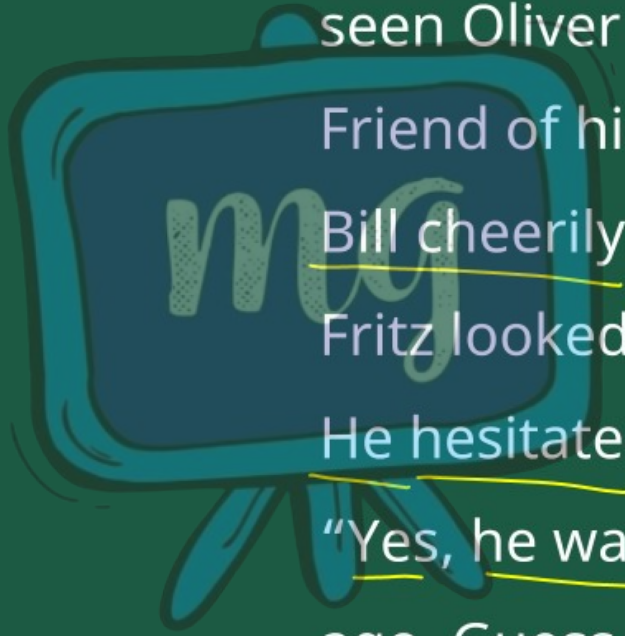
Part – 2

Country Boy

Nipa Das

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Bill led me into Fritz's. "Have you seen Oliver Lutkins around today? Friend of his looking for him," said Bill cheerily.

Fritz looked at me, hiding behind Bill. He hesitated, and then admitted, "Yes, he was in here a little while ago. Guess he's gone over to Gustaff's to get a shave."

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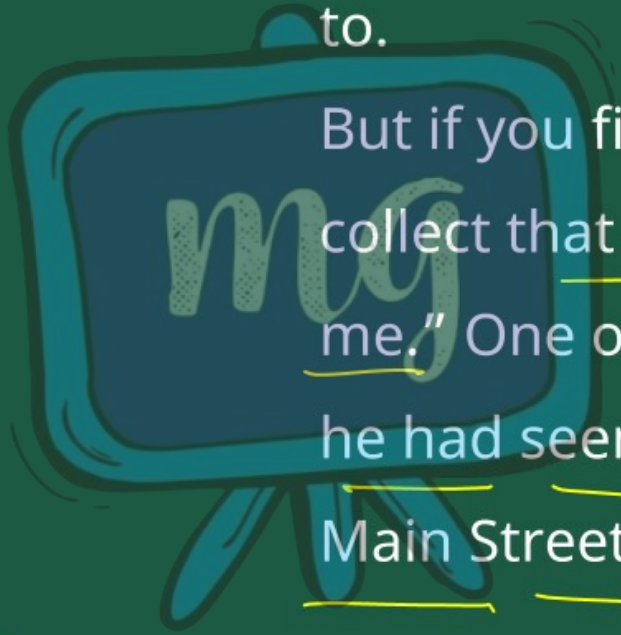
"Well, if he comes in, tell him I'm looking for him."

We drove to Gustaff's barber shop. Again Bill went in first, and I lingered at the door. He asked not only the Swede but two customers if they had seen Lutkins. The Swede had not. He said angrily,

Lingered : ৰৈ থকা

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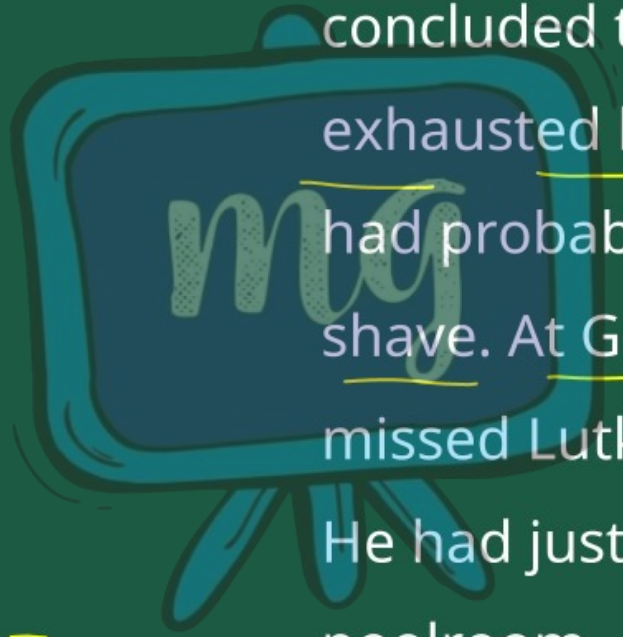


"I haven't seen him, and don't care to.

But if you find him you can just collect that dollar thirty-five he owes me." One of the customers thought he had seen Lutkins walking down Main Street, this side of the hotel.

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As we climbed back into the hack, Bill concluded that since Lutkins had exhausted his credit at Gustaff's he had probably gone to Gray's for a shave. At Gray's barber shop we missed Lutkins by only five minutes. He had just left — probably for the poolroom.

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At the poolroom it appeared that he had just bought a pack of cigarettes and gone out. So we pursued him, just behind him but never catching him, for an hour till it was past one o'clock. I was hungry.

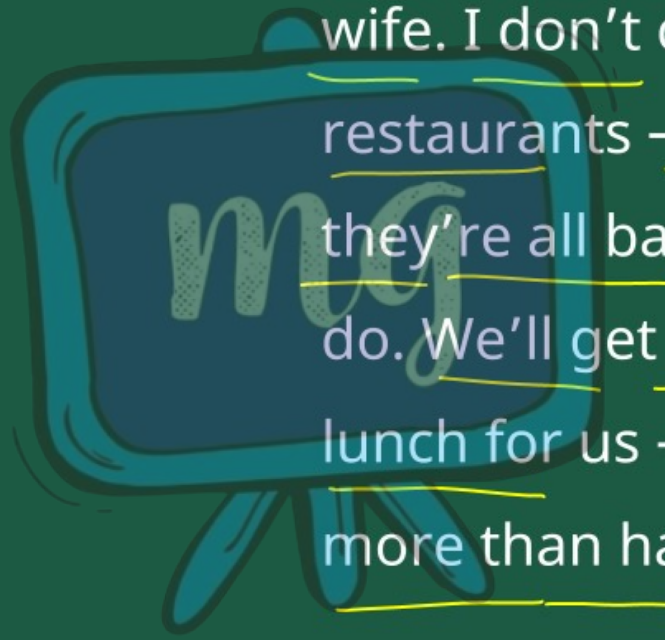
Pursued : সন্ধান

But I had so enjoyed Bill's rough country opinions about his neighbours that I scarcely cared whether I found Lutkins or not. "How about something to eat?" I suggested. "Let's go to a restaurant and I'll buy you lunch."

Country : গ্রাম্যঅঞ্চল

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"Well, I ought to go home to the wife. I don't care much for these restaurants — only four of them and they're all bad. Tell you what we'll do. We'll get the wife to pack up a lunch for us — she won't charge you more than half a dollar,

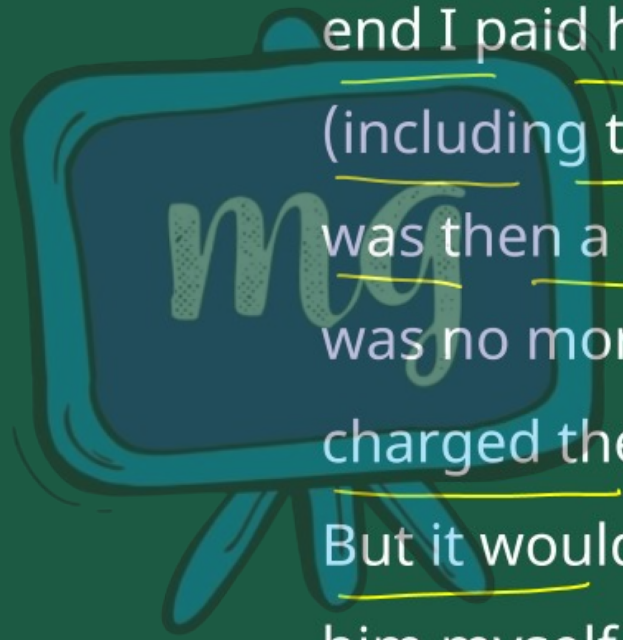
and it would cost you more for a greasy meal in a restaurant — and we'll go up to Wade's Hill and enjoy the view while we eat."

I know that Bill's helpfulness to the Young Fellow from the City was not entirely a matter of brotherly love.

Greasy : তেল লাগি পিছল হোৱা ।

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I was paying him for his time; in the end I paid him for six hours (including the lunch hour) at what was then a very high price. But he was no more dishonest than I. I charged the whole thing to the firm. But it would have been worth paying him myself to have his presence.

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His cheerful country wisdom was very refreshing to a country boy like myself who was sick of the city. As we sat on the hilltop, looking over the pastures and creek which slipped among the trees, he talked of New Mullion,

Pastures	:	চৰণীয়া পথাৰ
Creek	:	সৰু পানী যোৱা লোৰ

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and painted a picture in words of all the people in it.

He noticed everything, but no matter how much he might laugh at people, he also understood and forgave their foolishness. He described the minister's wife who sang the loudest in church when she was most in debt.

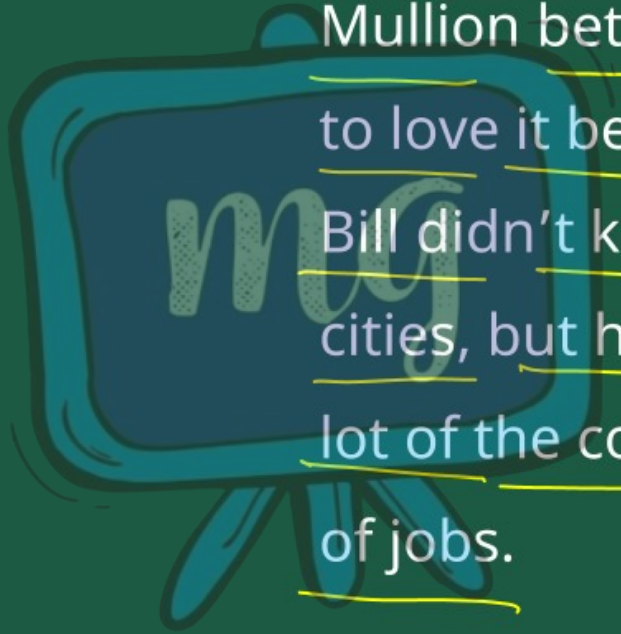
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He commented on the boys who came back from college in fancy clothes. He told about the lawyer whose wife could never succeed in getting him to put on both a collar and a tie on the same day. He made them all live.

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On that day I came to know New Mullion better than I did the city, and to love it better.

Bill didn't know about colleges and cities, but he had travelled around a lot of the country, and had had a lot of jobs.

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From his adventures he had brought back a philosophy of simplicity and laugher. He strengthened me.



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ASSESSMENT

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1 At Gray's barber shop we missed Lutkins by only five minutes. He had just left — probably for the poolroom.

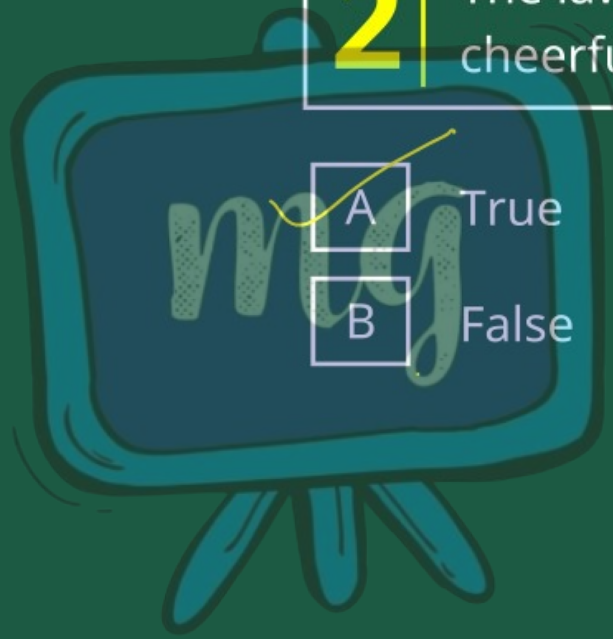
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2 The lawyer found Bill to be a cheerful and nice person



A True

B False