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CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

Footprints without Feet

CH-3 : The Midnight Visitor

Part – 2

Ausable outsmarts Max

ARPITA SHARMA

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OVERVIEW

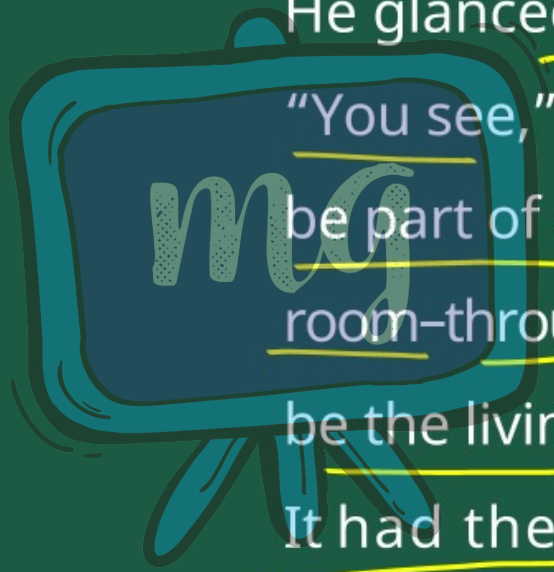
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1. Ausable's Encounter with Max
2. Ausable outsmarts Max



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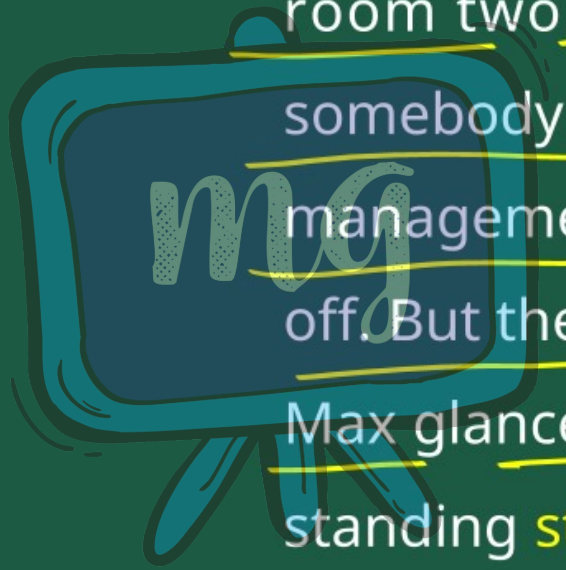


"It belongs to the next apartment."
He glanced explanatorily at Fowler.
"You see," he said, "this room used to be part of a large unit, and the next room–through that door there– used to be the living room.
It had the balcony, which extends under my window now.

Explanatorily : समझाते हुए

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You can get onto it from the empty room two doors down — and 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,

Stiffly : बिना हिले

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and waved the gun with a commanding gesture. "Please sit down," he said. "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."

Gesture	:	हाव–भाव
Moodily	:	उदासीनता से

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Max

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?” 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.

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I told them to check on me to make sure everything was all right."

Max bit his lip nervously. The knocking was repeated.

"What will you do now, Max?" Ausable asked. "If I do not answer the door, they will enter anyway. The door is unlocked. And they will not hesitate to shoot."

Nervously : घबराहट से

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Max's face was black with anger as he backed swiftly towards the window. He swung a leg over the sill. "Send them away!" he warned. "I will wait on the balcony.

Send them away or I'll shoot and take my chances!"

Swiftly	:	तेजी से
Swung	:	मोड़ना
Sill	:	पटरा

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The knocking at the door became louder and a voice was raised. “Mr Ausable! Mr Ausable!”

Keeping his body twisted so that his gun still covered the fat man and his guest, the man at the window grasped the frame with his free hand to support himself. Then he swung his other leg up and over the window-sill.

Grasped : पकड़ना

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The doorknob turned. Swiftly Max pushed with his left hand to free himself from the sill and drop to the balcony. And then, as he dropped, he screamed once, shrilly.

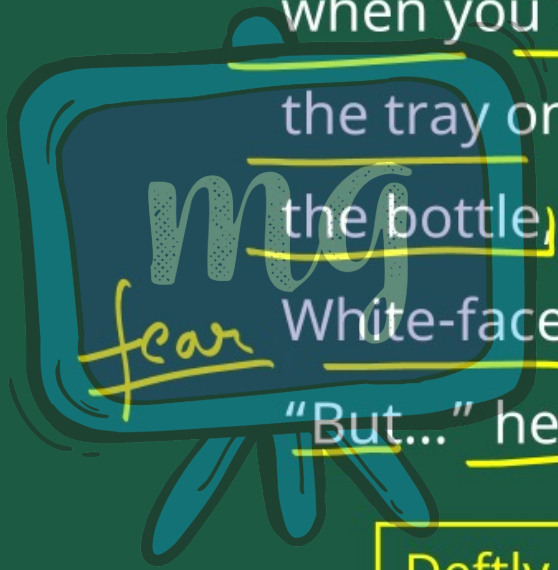
The door opened and a waiter stood there with a tray, a bottle and two glasses.

Swiftly	:	तेजी से
Shrilly	:	कर्कश आवाज में

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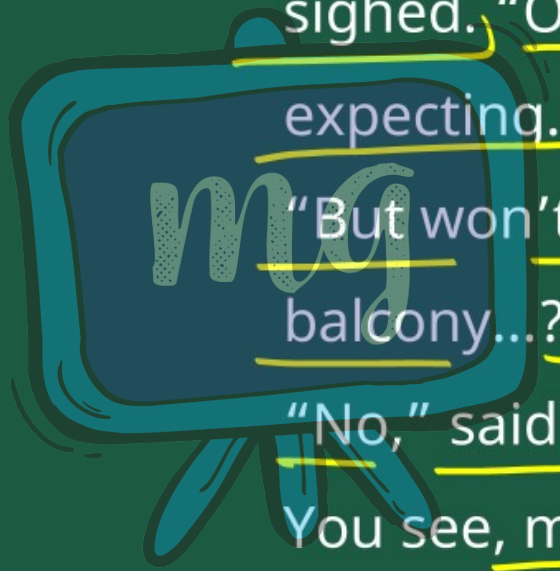
"Here is the drink you ordered for when you returned," he said, and set the tray on the table, deftly uncorked the bottle, and left the room. White-faced, Fowler stared after him. "But..." he stammered, "the police..."



Deftly	:	तेजी से/सावधानी से
Uncorked	:	खोलना
Stammered	:	हकलाना

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"There were no police." Ausable sighed. "Only Henry, whom I was expecting."

"But won't that man out on the balcony...?" Fowler began.

"No," said Ausable, "he won't return. You see, my young friend, there is no balcony."

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Importance and Power of Intelligence in Difficult Situations
2. The Use of Suspense and Surprise in the Story

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ASSESSMENT

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1 Why does Ausable say "It's not my balcony"?

A To explain the ownership of the balcony.

B To express irritation.

C To point out a mistake.

D To show the view from the balcony.

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ASSESSMENT

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2 Why did Ausable feel irritated with the situation?

A The balcony had been taken away from him.

B The management had failed to block off the balcony.

C The spy, Max, was rude to him.

D Fowler was too nervous.

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ASSESSMENT

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3 What does Max do after speaking to Fowler?

A He makes a threatening gesture.

B He orders Fowler to leave.

C He waves the gun with a commanding gesture.

D He smiles at Fowler.

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4 When Ausable hears the knocking at the door, he believes it is ___.

A a delivery person

B the police

C a reporter

D a friend

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5 | Ausable was a smart agent.

- True
- False