

CHAPTER 1

WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN, IN MY EARLY TWENTIES, I FELL in love with a girl named Gladys Hungerton. Gladys was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen – she had dark hair, large brown eyes, and delicate ivory skin. Unfortunately, Gladys was not in love with me; though we spent many hours together talking and laughing, she regarded me as a friend and nothing more. Despite this, I made the decision to propose to Gladys. I knew there was a chance she would reject my proposal, but I had to try. And so, one cold October evening, I visited Gladys at her house and asked her to marry me.

‘Oh, Edward,’ said Gladys after a long pause, ‘we have such a beautiful friendship, why can’t we simply remain friends?’

‘Because I love you, Gladys!’ I exclaimed. ‘I want to spend the rest of my life with you!’

Gladys gave me a look of pity. ‘But I don’t love you, Edward, and I have never loved you.’

‘Why can’t you love me, Gladys?’ I cried. ‘Is it my appearance?’

Gladys squeezed my hand gently. ‘No, of course not,’ she said.

‘Is it my character?’ I asked. ‘Tell me what you want me to change!’

Gladys sighed. ‘Edward, let me explain to you what kind of man I want: I want a man who has no fear of death; a man who has travelled the world and who has had many exciting adventures. I want to marry a man who’s brave, heroic and famous!’

‘All right,’ I said. ‘If you want a brave and heroic man, I will do something that will make you proud.’

Gladys laughed at my enthusiasm. ‘What are you going to do?’ she asked.

‘I don’t know,’ I replied. ‘But if I do something great, will you marry me then?’

‘We’ll see,’ said Gladys with a smile. ‘Now, you’re working the night shift at the paper and you’re running late.’

I said goodnight to Gladys and walked briskly to the offices of the *Daily Gazette*, where I worked as a journalist. When I arrived, I immediately made my way to the News Editor’s office.



'Good evening, Mr McArdle,' I said, knocking on the door.

'Hello, Mr Malone,' replied McArdle. 'I must say, I really enjoyed your latest article; you've done some excellent work for us.'

'Why, thank you,' I said.

'What did you want to see me about?'

'I'd like you to send me on a mission for the paper.'

'What sort of mission did you have in mind, Mr Malone?'

'An adventure,' I replied. 'A dangerous adventure!'

McArdle raised an eyebrow. 'You seem very eager to lose your life,' he said.

'I need to do something heroic,' I explained, 'My future depends on it.'

McArdle looked at me curiously. 'I'm afraid we only send very experienced journalists on important missions,' he said. 'Wait a minute, I have an idea – would you be interested in interviewing Professor George Challenger?'

'Professor Challenger?' I repeated. 'The famous zoologist? Didn't he punch a journalist from *The Telegraph* the other day?'

McArdle nodded. 'Two years ago, Professor Challenger went on an expedition to South America. When he came back last year, he told everyone that he'd seen dinosaurs and other strange beasts. Most people think he's lying about what he saw. The journalist from *The Telegraph* called him a liar too – that's why he punched him. After that encounter, Challenger stopped doing interviews. Perhaps you can convince him to do one last interview; I'm sure our readers would be interested to find out more about his adventures.'

McArdle handed me a thick file. 'Here's some information on the professor; you might need it.'

I took the file and looked through the notes. 'Do you think he's telling the truth?' I asked.

McArdle shook his head. 'I doubt it very much,' he said.

'All right,' I said. 'I'll pay professor Challenger a visit.'

I returned to my office and wrote a letter to the Professor asking him to meet me the following Wednesday. Then, I spent the rest of my shift reading through McArdle's notes. I had no idea then that my interview with Professor Challenger was about to change my life forever.



CHAPTER 1

Reading Comprehension

1 Answer the following questions.

- Why did Edward visit Gladys one cold October evening?

- What kind of man does Gladys want to marry?

- Where does Edward go when he leaves Gladys' home?

- Who does Mr McArdle suggest that Edward interview?

- Why did Professor Challenger punch a journalist from *The Telegraph*?

- When does Edward want to meet the professor?

2 Read the sentences and decide if they are True or False. Write T or F in the boxes.

- Gladys just wanted to stay friends with Edward. ☐
- Mr McArdle wanted to send Mr Malone on a mission. ☐
- Edward works for *The Telegraph*. ☐
- Professor Challenger went on an expedition to North America. ☐
- Many people think that the professor is a liar. ☐
- Edward spent the rest of the night reading about Professor Challenger. ☐

Vocabulary

3 Complete the following sentences using the words in the box.

information change immediately proud latest
explain knocked

- Last night Laura spent many hours looking for _____ about dinosaurs for her school project.
- Susan is very _____ of her sons; they are both doing very well at school and want to become doctors.

- Our new maths teacher is very good and can _____ difficult maths problems very well to us.
- The children came home from school and _____ went to wash their hands for lunch.
- She _____ on the door and then waited a few moments before she entered the office.
- My father reads the _____ news in the newspaper every morning.
- I need to go to the shoe shop on Saturday and _____ these shoes, because they are too small.

4 Match the two columns to make expressions.

- | | |
|----------|--------------------|
| 1. pay | a. my life |
| 2. lose | b. the truth |
| 3. tell | c. an eyebrow |
| 4. shake | d. someone a visit |
| 5. raise | e. in mind |
| 6. have | f. my head |

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- Do you think that it was a good idea for Gladys to ask Edward to change? Do you think that Edward will change? Why / Why not?
- Edward works for a newspaper. Do you think that he has an easy job? Would you like to do this kind of job? Why / Why not?
- Do you think it is a good idea for Edward to go on a dangerous adventure? Where do you think he will go? What kind of adventures would you like to go on?
- Professor Challenger is a zoologist. What do zoologists do? What qualities would a good zoologist need? Would you like to become one?
- Do you think that the professor will agree to meet Edward? What do you think Edward will ask him if they meet? What questions would you ask Professor Challenger if you were interviewing him?

6 Imagine you are Edward. Write a short letter to Professor Challenger. Tell him who you are and ask him politely to meet with you next Wednesday. (100-120 words)