

MACMILLAN READERS

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

JOHN MILNE

The Black Cat



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education

Macmillan Readers is a series of engaging narrative texts designed to stimulate learners while enhancing their language skills, building literacy and boosting reading confidence. Through captivating stories and fascinating cultural themes, learners will explore a diversity of scenarios that foster vocabulary expansion, comprehension skills and a lifelong love of reading.

The right reader at every stage

Tailored to each learner's stage of language proficiency, our six levels feature text adapted to match the skill level. With controlled vocabulary and grammar, learners can read freely and immerse themselves in the story. When more challenging words are introduced, either the text will provide sufficient context to aid understanding or a full explanation will be provided in the Glossary.

Readers for all, anywhere, anytime

Macmillan Readers are perfect for shared, guided and independent reading. Whether in traditional print, immersive audio or the convenient eBook, Macmillan Readers are equally effective for in-class activities, paired discussions or solo reading at home or on the move.

Reading for pleasure, knowledge and well-being

Regular reading and reading for pleasure:

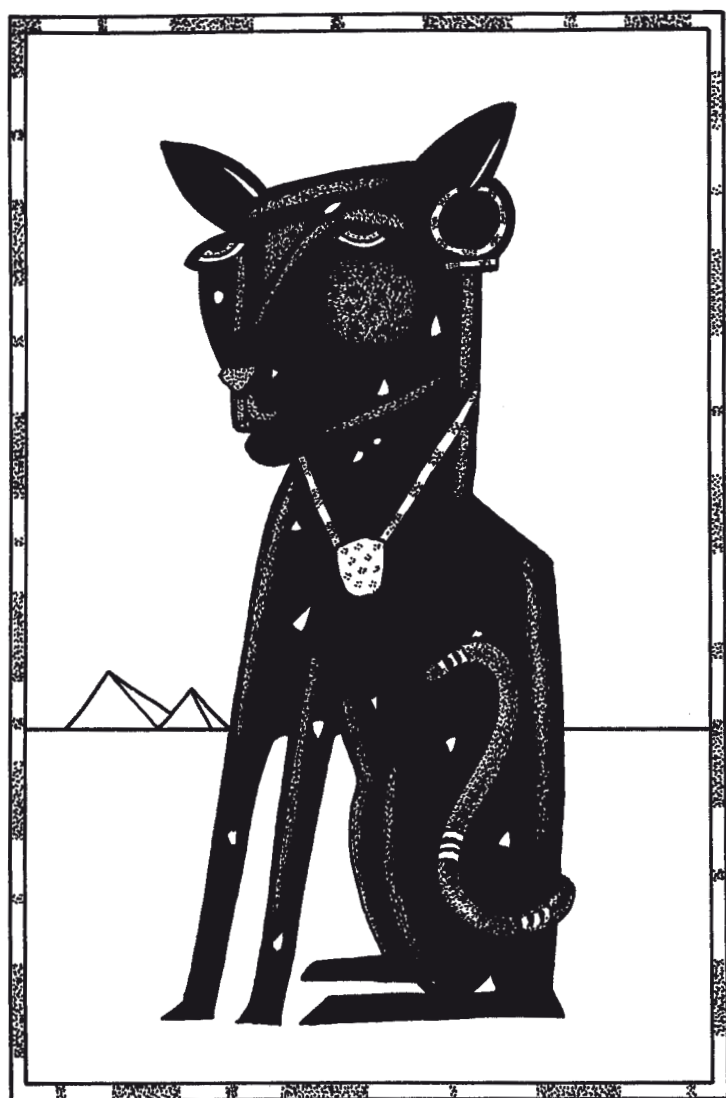
- increases reading confidence, benefiting all literacy skills, not just reading.
- reinforces and enriches vocabulary, providing a variety of contexts.
- expands general knowledge.
- supports concentration, inner reflection and well-being.

Macmillan Readers will inspire a love for reading in English while nurturing essential language skills. Unlock new worlds, expand horizons and embark on an adventure in English!

(NOTE: While the content of Macmillan Readers is evaluated for age suitability, we kindly remind parents and teachers that they are ultimately responsible for determining whether a particular book is appropriate for their child or student.)

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The Black Cat

Introductory Note

The main character in this story is called Salahadin. He is an inspector in the Egyptian police. His job is to protect Egyptian antiquities. An antiquity is something which is very old.

There are many antiquities in Egypt. Most of them are valuable. Many of them are in museums in Cairo or in Europe. But there are many others which have not yet been found. These antiquities are buried under the sands, in tombs or in pyramids.

There are many archeologists working in Egypt. Archeologists study ancient cities and tombs. Sometimes they find antiquities. They must give all these antiquities to the Egyptian Government. But some archeologists try to keep them. Salahadin's job is to stop this happening.

Salahadin has studied history at Cairo University and at the University of London. He has visited many museums in Cairo and in Europe.

The People in This Story



Salahadin



Ahmed



Taxi driver



Fuad



Leila



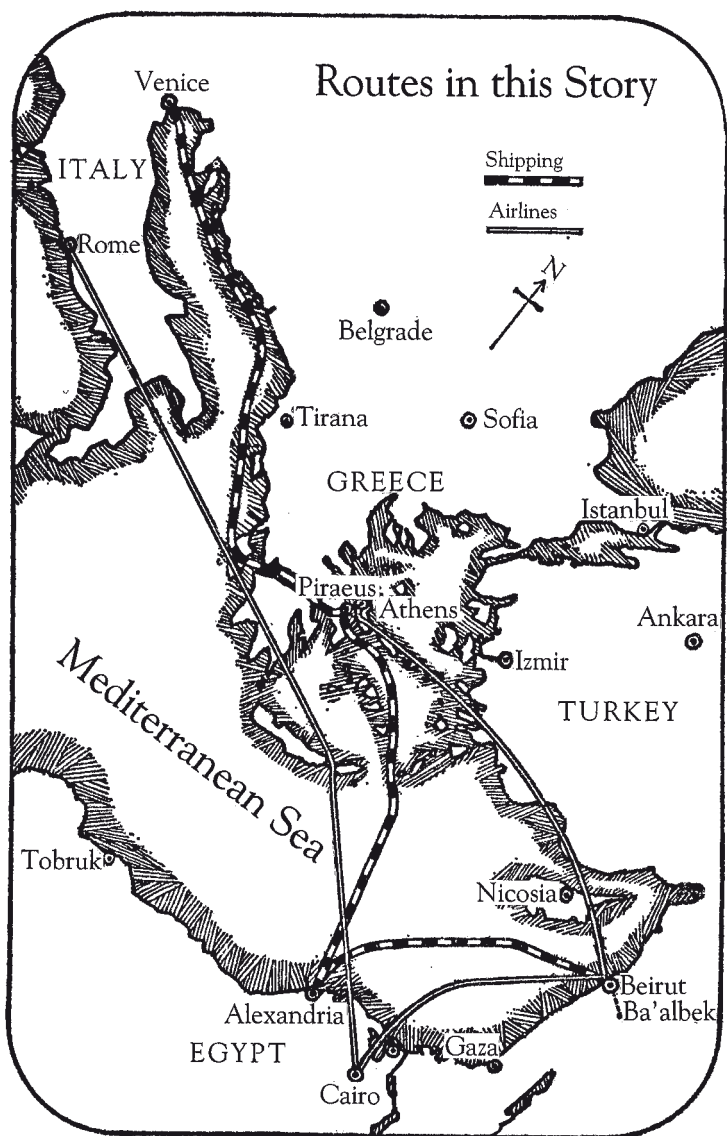
Borkman

ARCHEOLOGIST MURDERED

Yesterday morning, an archeologist was found dead in a Cairo hotel.

The archeologist was called Pearson.

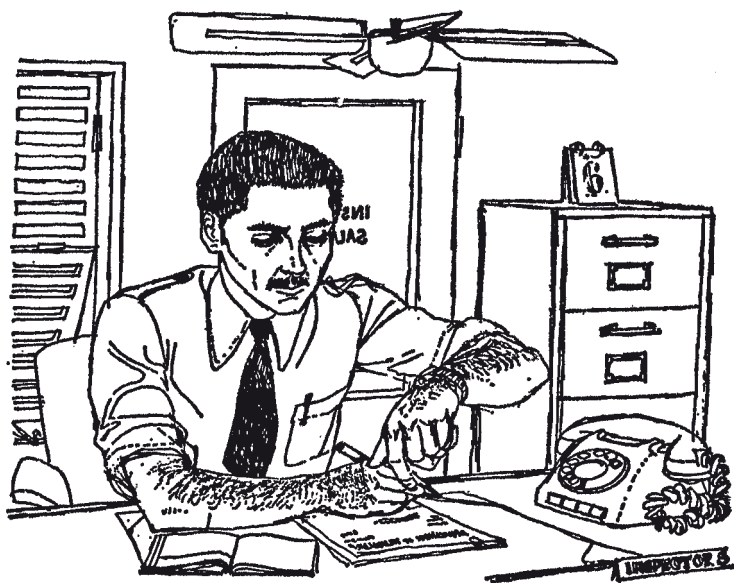
The police are making enquiries.



Salahadin is Worried

Salahadin was sitting in his office with his coat off. It was the month of May in Cairo and it was very hot. Salahadin stood up and turned on the fan. He was a young man, only twenty-eight years old. He was not very tall and quite thin. His black hair was cut very short.

Salahadin's office was in the centre of Cairo. It was in a large building behind the Nile Hotel. It was a small office and Salahadin's name was not on the door. Not many people knew that he was a detective. But he was not an ordinary detective. Inspector Salahadin protected all the antiquities of Egypt.



Salahadin was waiting for an archeologist called Mr Pearson. Pearson had been in Egypt for six months. He had been working in a valley in the south of Egypt. Pearson had been looking for antiquities. He had come back to Cairo a few days ago and was leaving Egypt soon.

But Mr Pearson had not come to Salahadin's office. Every archeologist had to see Salahadin before they left Egypt. Salahadin was worried. Pearson had not come yet.

Salahadin picked up the telephone and rang the number of Pearson's hotel.

'Nile Hotel,' said a voice. 'Can I help you?'

'Can I speak to the manager, please,' said Salahadin.

Salahadin waited for a few moments. Then he heard the manager's voice.

'Can I help you?' said the manager.

'Yes,' replied Salahadin. 'My name's Salahadin El Nur. I'm a police inspector. I want to speak to Mr Pearson.'

'Do you mean Mr Pearson, the archeologist?' asked the manager.

'Yes,' replied Salahadin.

'I'm sorry. You can't speak to Mr Pearson, sir,' said the manager.

'Oh,' said Salahadin in surprise. 'Why not?'

'Mr Pearson is dead,' replied the manager. 'He was found dead in his room this morning. Mr Pearson was murdered.'