

# STRANGE STORIES: British and American

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**SANSHUSHA**

## まえがき

ここに選んだ6篇は、英米の名手たちによる短編小説集である。何らかの意味で特異な世界を描いたものであり、サマセット・モームの、「小説とは、読んでストーリーの面白いものでなくてはならない」という言葉とびったりあてはまるものばかりである。

**I Spy** は少年がある日突然父親の本当の姿をかいまみることにより、子供から大人の世界へ羽化する、いわゆる「通過儀礼」(Initiation)を扱ったものである。

**The Story of an Hour** は一種ブラック・ユーモアで、人間には潜在的に Mallard 夫人のような願望があることも教えてくれるであろう。

**The Dark Glasses** は一見ミステリーの絵解き物語の裏から、主人公 Joan の色眼鏡を通して大人の恥部をえぐり出そうとする‘恐るべき子ら’の不気味な姿も浮かび上がる。作者の鋭利な風刺の矢は語り手の少女にも向けられているのである。以上の3点は現実世界のなかで描かれ、別に‘特異’でないかも知れない。

**The Porcelain Man** はファンタジーである。一風変わったシンデレラ物語とも読めるであろう。しかし現代風なメッセージも盛り込まれていそうである。

**The Demon Lover** はいわゆるゴシック(恐怖)小説の系譜を引くものである。同名の英国古バラッドの不気味な世界を2つの大戦によって引き裂かれた男女の悲劇に重ね合わせた趣向になっているが、映画『かくも長き不在』と同じく、反戦の静かな叫びととるのは、うがちすぎであろうか。

**The Wife's Story** については、今は何も語らぬほうがよさそうだ。現代の人間からある種の野性が失われたらどうなるのかという、文明批評を突きつけられているのかも知れないとだけ言っておく。

なお、このテキストはどの作品から読んでいただいてもかまわない。英語の難易度という点では **The Porcelain Man** と **The Wife's Story** が他よりも読み易い文体で書かれており、**The Demon Lover** はかなり手応えがあると思われる。それぞれのストーリーのあとには理解確認の簡単な設問を設け、また、巻末には注を用意したので、必要に応じてご利用いただければ幸いである。

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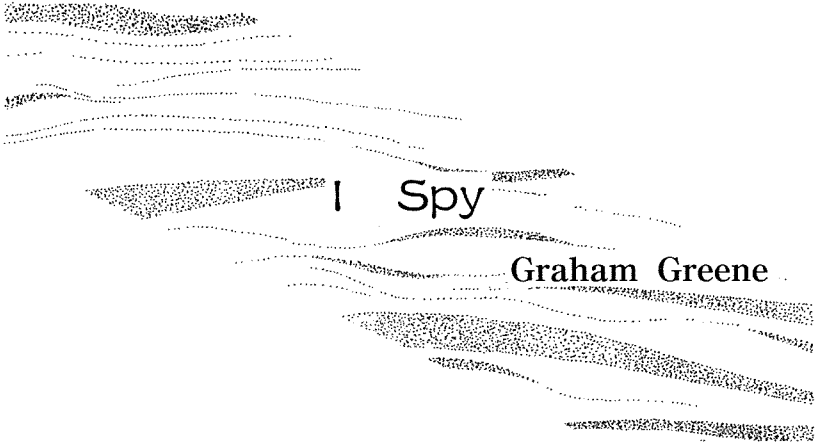
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# I Spy

Graham Greene

Charlie Stowe waited until he heard his mother snore before he got out of bed. Even then he moved with caution and tiptoed to the window. The front of the house was irregular, so that it was possible to see a light burning in his mother's room. But now all the windows were dark. A searchlight passed across the sky, lighting the banks of cloud and probing the dark deep spaces between, seeking enemy airships. The wind blew from the sea, and Charlie Stowe could hear behind his mother's snores the beating of the waves. A draught through the cracks in the window-frame stirred his nightshirt. Charlie Stowe was frightened.

But the thought of the tobacconist's shop which his father kept down a dozen wooden stairs drew him on. He was twelve years old, and already boys at the County School mocked him because he had never smoked a cigarette. The packets were piled twelve deep below, Gold

Flake and Players, De Reszke, Abdulla, Woodbines, and the little shop lay under a thin haze of stale smoke which would completely disguise his crime. That it was a crime to steal some of his father's stock Charlie Stowe had no  
5 doubt, but he did not love his father; his father was unreal to him, a wraith, pale, thin, indefinite, who noticed him only spasmodically and left even punishment to his mother. For his mother he felt a passionate demonstrative love; her large boisterous presence and her noisy charity  
10 filled the world for him; from her speech he judged her the friend of everyone, from the rector's wife to the "dear Queen", except the "Huns", the monsters who lurked in Zeppelins in the clouds. But his father's affection and dislike were as indefinite as his movements. To-night he  
15 had said he would be in Norwich, and yet you never knew. Charlie Stowe had no sense of safety as he crept down the wooden stairs. When they creaked he clenched his fingers on the collar of his nightshirt.

At the bottom of the stairs he came out quite suddenly  
20 into the little shop. It was too dark to see his way, and he did not dare touch the switch. For half a minute he sat in despair on the bottom step with his chin cupped in his hands. Then the regular movement of the searchlight was reflected through an upper window and the boy had  
25 time to fix in memory the pile of cigarettes, the counter, and the small hole under it. The footsteps of a policeman on the pavement made him grab the first packet to his hand and dive for the hole. A light shone along the floor

and a hand tried the door, then the footsteps passed on, and Charlie cowered in the darkness.

At last he got his courage back by telling himself in his curiously adult way that if he were caught now there was nothing to be done about it, and he might as well 5 have his smoke. He put a cigarette in his mouth and then remembered that he had no matches. For a while he dared not move. Three times the searchlight lit the shop, while he muttered taunts and encouragements. "May as well be hung for a sheep," "Cowardy, cowardy custard," 10 grown-up and childish exhortations oddly mixed.

But as he moved he heard footfalls in the street, the sound of several men walking rapidly. Charlie Stowe was old enough to feel surprise that anybody was about. The footsteps came nearer, stopped; a key was turned in the 15 shop door, a voice said: "Let him in," and then he heard his father, "If you wouldn't mind being quiet, gentlemen. I don't want to wake up the family." There was a note unfamiliar to Charlie in the undecided voice. A torch flashed and the electric globe burst into blue light. The 20 boy held his breath; he wondered whether his father would hear his heart beating, and he clutched his night-shirt tightly and prayed, "O God, don't let me be caught." Through a crack in the counter he could see his father where he stood, one hand held to his high stiff collar, 25 between two men in bowler hats and belted mackintoshes. They were strangers.

"Have a cigarette," his father said in a voice dry as a

biscuit. One of the men shook his head. "It wouldn't do, not when we are on duty. Thank you all the same." He spoke gently, but without kindness: Charlie Stowe thought his father must be ill.

5 "Mind if I put a few in my pocket?" Mr. Stowe asked, and when the man nodded he lifted a pile of Gold Flake and Players from a shelf and caressed the packets with the tips of his fingers.

"Well," he said, "there's nothing to be done about it, 10 and I may as well have my smokes." For a moment Charlie Stowe feared discovery, his father stared round the shop so thoroughly; he might have been seeing it for the first time. "It's a good little business," he said, "for those that like it. The wife will sell out, I suppose. Else 15 the neighbours'll be wrecking it. Well, you want to be off. A stitch in time. I'll get my coat."

"One of us'll come with you, if you don't mind," said the stranger gently.

"You needn't trouble. It's on the peg here. There, I'm 20 all ready."

The other man said in an embarrassed way, "Don't you want to speak to your wife?" The thin voice was decided, "Not me. Never do to-day what you can put off till to-morrow. She'll have her chance later, won't she?"

25 "Yes, yes," one of the strangers said and he became very cheerful and encouraging. "Don't you worry too much. While there's life..." and suddenly his father tried to laugh.

When the door had closed Charlie Stowe tiptoed upstairs and got into bed. He wondered why his father had left the house again so late at night and who the strangers were. Surprise and awe kept him for a little while awake. It was as if a familiar photograph had stepped 5 from the frame to reproach him with neglect. He remembered how his father had held tight to his collar and fortified himself with proverbs, and he thought for the first time that, while his mother was boisterous and 10 kindly, his father was very like himself, doing things in the dark which frightened him. It would have pleased him to go down to his father and tell him that he loved him, but he could hear through the window the quick steps going away. He was alone in the house with his mother, and he fell asleep.

15



## Exercises

I 本文中に出てきた次の形容詞を説明するものとして適当なものを選びなさい。

- (1) indefinite (2) boisterous (3) irregular (4) stale (5) grown-up  
(a) old and no longer fresh  
(b) physically and mentally mature  
(c) noisy, lively and full of energy  
(d) uneven, not smooth  
(e) not exact, clear or obvious

II 本文中に出てくる以下の文を、指示に従って書き変えなさい。

- (1) "Have a cigarette," his father said in a voice dry as a biscuit. (p. 9 l. 28-) → ask または offer を使って、同じ内容を伝える直接話法以外の表現に。  
(2) Charlie Stowe thought his father must be ill. (p. 10 l. 3-) → 直接話法に。  
(3) "Mind if I put a few in my pocket?" Mr. Stowe asked. (p. 10 l. 5) → 間接話法に。  
(4) "One of us'll come with you, if you don't mind," said the stranger gently. (p. 10 l. 17-) → 間接話法に。  
(5) He wondered why his father had left the house again so late at night and who the strangers were. (p. 11 l. 2-) → 直接話法に。

III 本文の内容と合致していたらT、異なっていたらFと記しなさい。

- (1) Charlie Stowe woke up because his mother was snoring. ( )  
(2) Charlie Stowe doubted if it was a crime to steal some of his father's stock of tobacco. ( )  
(3) Charlie's father did not notice that he was hiding in the shop. ( )  
(4) Charlie Stowe started to think about his father in a different way towards the end of the story. ( )  
(5) Charlie Stowe fully understood why the two men visited his father so late at night. ( )

# NOTES

## — 辞書 —

<i>ACD</i>	<i>THE AMERICAN COLLEGE DICTIONARY</i>
<i>COBUILD</i>	<i>COLLINS COBUILD ENGLISH LANGUAGE DICTIONARY</i>
<i>COD</i>	<i>THE CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY</i>
<i>JONES</i>	<i>EVERYMAN'S ENGLISH PRONOUNCING DICTIONARY</i>
研究社	新英和大辞典
<i>LONGMAN</i>	<i>LONGMAN DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE</i>
<i>OALD</i>	<i>THE OXFORD ADVANCED LEARNER'S DICTIONARY</i>
<i>ODA</i>	<i>THE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF ABBREVIATIONS</i>
<i>OED</i>	<i>THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY</i>
<i>PESD</i>	<i>PENGUIN ENGLISH STUDENT'S DICTIONARY</i>
<i>POD</i>	<i>THE POCKET OXFORD DICTIONARY</i>
<i>RANDOM</i>	<i>THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE</i>
<i>RH</i>	<i>RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S COLLEGE DICTIONARY</i>
<i>WNWD</i>	<i>WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY OF THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE</i>
<i>W3</i>	<i>WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE</i>

## — 凡例 —

*cf.* 参照    *e.g.* 例    *esp.* 特に    *ex.* 例文    *i.e.* 即ち    *n.* 名詞

— I Spy —

by Graham Greene

I SPY hide and seek 「かくれんぼ」でかくれていた子を見つけたときに言う言葉。父親のスパイの嫌疑にもかける。

Graham Greene [gréiəm grin] (1904-1991) イギリスの作家。

映画『第三の男』の原作, *The Third Man* (1949) の作者で日本では特に有名。カトリック教徒であるが, 作品は教義とは無縁。現代人の虚無と不安を描き, 作風はサスペンスに富みストーリー・テラーとしての力量に定評がある。I Spy は1930年発表。

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- 7 1 **Charlie Stowe** [tʃá:li: stou] チャーリー・ストウ  
4 **irregular** [irégjulə] = not even 「凹凸のある」  
6 **searchlight** [sá:tʃlait] 「サーチライト」夜間, 敵機を探索するための回転式強力照明。cf. enemy airships l. 8  
7 **banks** < bank = a long high row or mass of something (COBUILD) ここでは(雲の厚い)「かさなり, 層」  
**probing** < probe [proub] = search into thoroughly (RH) 「探索する」  
8 **airships** < airship [éəʃip] = a large aircraft without wings, containing gas to make it lighter than air and engine to make it move. (LONGMAN) 「飛行船」cf. Zeppelins p. 8 l. 13  
11 **nightshirt** [náitʃæt] = long loose shirt for wearing in bed (PESD) 「夜着」  
14 **drew ~ on** < draw ~ on = lead 「かりたてる」  
15- **County School** 「公立学校」特権階級の子弟は私立の学校を志望する。  
17 **twelve deep below** 「上から下へ12個ずつ (積んである)」  
17- **Gold Flake, Players, De Reszke** [də réski], **Abdulla** [æbdá:lə] **Woodbines** [wúdbainz] それぞれ, たばこの銘柄。  
8 2 **a thin haze of stale smoke** 「薄いもやのように不快なたばこの煙」煙が狭い店内によどんでいる様子。父はよほどの愛煙家。cf. p. 10 l. 5, 10  
3- **That...stock** は Charlie Stowe had no doubt の目的。  
6 **wraith** [reiθ] = person's double seen shortly before or after death (POD) 「生(死)霊」まるでお化けのような存在。his father と同格。pale, thin, indefinite [indéfinit] は wraith を修飾する。  
7 **spasmodically** [spæzmɔ́dikəli] = not regularly 「ほんのたまさかに」  
8 **demonstrative** [dimɔ́nstrətiv] = showing feelings openly 「手放しの」  
9 **boisterous** [bɔ́istərəs] = noisily cheerful (POD) 「にぎやかな」  
**presence** = personal appearance 「態度」esp. when imposing (POD)  
**noisy** = self-assertive (POD) 「いささかおしつけがましい」  
10 **fill the world for him** 「彼(Charlie)にはこの世のすべてに見えた」  
11 **rector** [réktə] 「英国国教(新教)の教区牧師」

- 8 11- **dear Queen** = Mary I (1518-58) カトリック(旧教)に改革しようとした女王で、新教徒を迫害したので Bloody Mary (おそらく Blessed Mary 聖母マリアのもじり) の異名をとった。ここでは敵も味方も区別なくつきあうという気持ち。
- 12 **Huns** < Hun [hʌn] (軽蔑的) 「ドイツ兵」 monsters はその同格。
- 13 **Zeppelins** < Zeppelin [zɛpəlɪn] = type of large airship used by the Germans in the First World War (OALD) 「ツェッペリン型飛行船」
- 15 **Norwich** [nɔːrɪdʒ] イングランドの東部, Norfolk [nɔːfək] 州の首都。
- 15- **yet you never knew** 「しかしそんな話あてになるもんか」
- 22- **with his chin cupped in his hands** 「ほおづえをついて」
- 25 **fix in memory** 「頭に焼きつける」 目的語は, pile, counter, hole.
- 26 **The footsteps of a policeman** 「警官の足音が聞こえたので」
- 28 **light** 警官の torch (懐中電灯) の「明かり」
- 9 1 **tried the door** 「戸締まりを確認した」
- 4- **there was nothing...it** 「万事休す。ええままよ」
- 5- **he might as well have his smoke** 「ここらで一服したほうがよさそうだ」 might as well = had better
- 9 **taunts** [tɔːnts] = things said to anger or wound a person (POD) 「冷やかしことば」 encouragements はその反対。
- 9- **May as well be hung for a sheep** < One may as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb. (諺) 「毒をくらわばさらまで」
- 10 **Cowardy, cowardy custard** 「よーわ虫」 子供のはやしことば。
- 11 **exhortations** [ɛgzɔːtɛɪʃənz] = encouragements 「勧め」  
この諺やきまり文句を連発する癖に注意。
- 12 **footfalls** = the sound of footsteps 「足音」
- 14 **was about** = was present e.g. Is there anyone about? 「だれかいるのかい」
- 16 **Let him in.** 「中へ入れてやれ」
- 17 **If you...quiet** = Please be quiet. 卑屈なほど丁寧ないまわし。Charlie は、そこになにか unfamiliar なものを感じた。
- 19 **undecided** [ʌndɪsáɪdɪd] = wavering (W3) 「どことなく弱気な」
- 20 **electric globe** [ɪlɛktrɪk glɔʊb] = electric bulb [bʌlb] 「電球」  
警官の懐中電灯の光で店内の電球が反射したのであろう。
- 25 **one hand...collar** 「手を堅くて、高いシャツの襟にあてて」 cf. p. 8 l. 17-, p. 9 l. 22-
- 26 **bowler hats** 「山高帽」  
**mackintoshes** [mækɪntɔʃɪz] = raincoats mac と略すこともある。  
考案者の名前に由来する。 e.g. Honda = a motorcycle or car made by the Japanese company Honda (LONGMAN), Zeppelin も同様。
- 28- **dry as a biscuit** 「クッキーのように(ばさばさにかわいた) アメリカでは普通の小さなパン。 a quick bread baked in small pieces (WNWD)
- 10 1 **It wouldn't do** do = be suitable (PESD) 「そりゃだめだ」  
2 **on duty** 「勤務中は」 cf. off duty