

# A Town Like Alice

Nevil Shute



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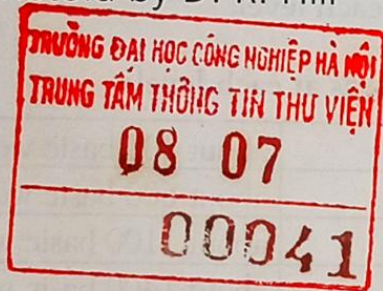
MACMILLAN READERS

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

NEVIL SHUTE

# A Town Like Alice

Retold by D. R. Hill



MACMILLAN



*Founding Editor: John Milne*

The Macmillan Readers provide a choice of enjoyable reading materials for learners of English. The series is published at six levels – Starter, Beginner, Elementary, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate and Upper.

### **Level control**

Information, structure and vocabulary are controlled to suit the students' ability at each level.

### **The number of words at each level:**

Starter	about 300 basic words
Beginner	about 600 basic words
Elementary	about 1100 basic words
Pre-intermediate	about 1400 basic words
Intermediate	about 1600 basic words
Upper	about 2200 basic words

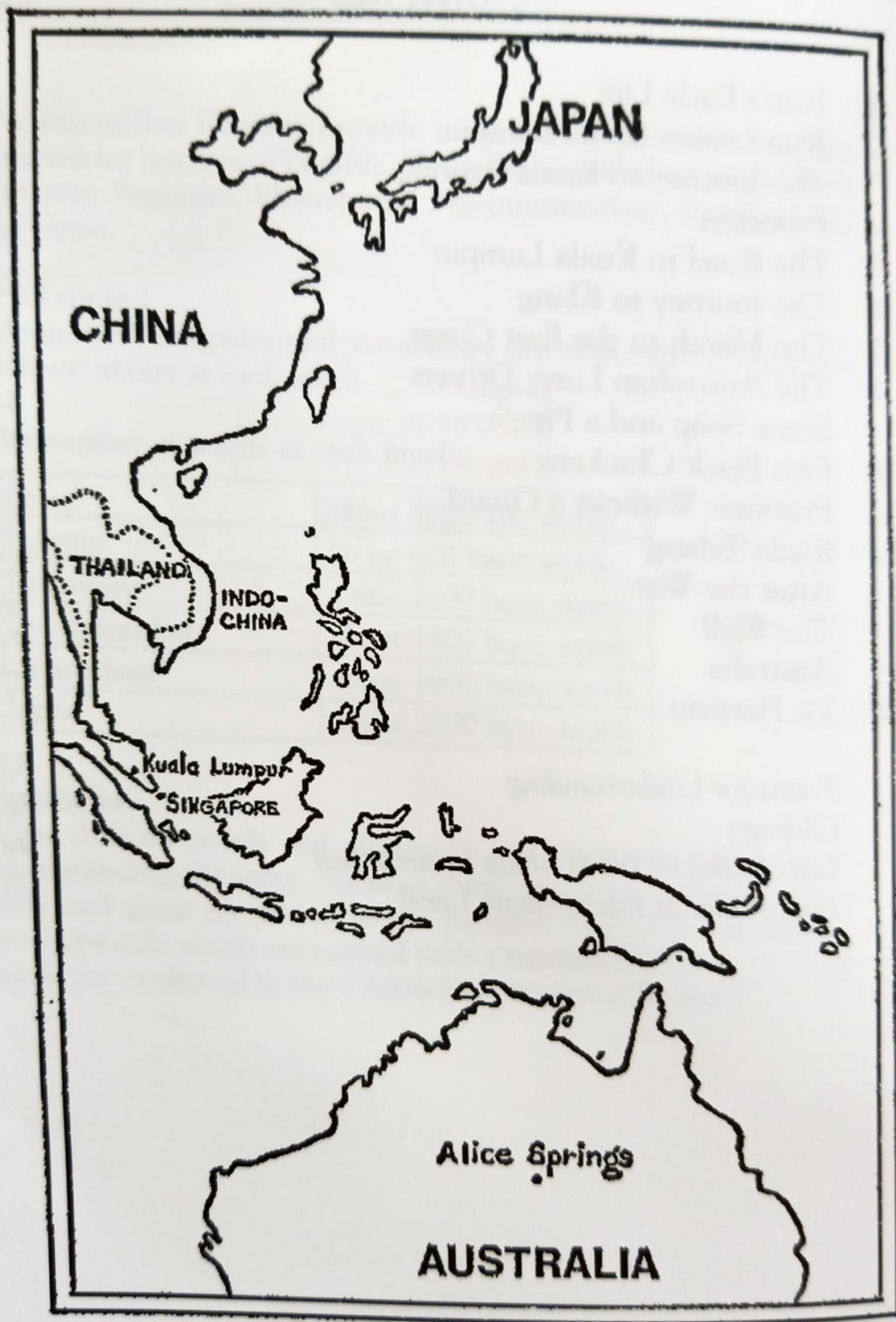
### **Vocabulary**

Some difficult words and phrases in this book are important for understanding the story. Some of these words are explained in the story and some are shown in the pictures. From Pre-intermediate level upwards, words are marked with a number like this: ...<sup>3</sup>. These words are explained in the Glossary at the end of the book.

# Contents

1	Jean's Early Life	5
2	Jean Leaves Kuala Lumpur	7
3	The Journey to Kuala Panong	12
4	Prisoners	17
5	The Road to Kuala Lumpur	24
6	The Journey to Klang	28
7	The March to the East Coast	32
8	The Australian Lorry Drivers	38
9	Some Soap and a Pig	44
10	Five Black Chickens	50
11	Prisoners Without a Guard	55
12	Kuala Telang	60
13	After the War	65
14	The Well	68
15	Australia	71
16	Joe Harman	77
	<i>Points for Understanding</i>	82
	<i>Glossary</i>	88
	<i>List of titles by Nevil Shute unsimplified</i>	94
	<i>List of titles at Intermediate Level</i>	95





## *Jean's Early Life*

Jean Paget was born in Malaya, in 1921. At that time Malaya was ruled by the British and many people from Britain lived and worked in Malaya. Some of them were government officers, others were in the army and the police force, and others worked in schools and hospitals. But most British people in Malaya worked in trade and industry. The most important industries were mining tin and growing rubber.

Jean Paget's father was the manager of a large rubber estate<sup>1</sup>. The estate was in the State of Perak, about 100 miles north of the capital city, Kuala Lumpur.

Mr Paget lived on the rubber estate with his wife and family. There were two children, a boy called Donald and a girl called Jean. Donald was three years older than Jean.

When the children were very small, they were looked after by an amah<sup>2</sup>. This amah was a Malay woman and she spoke to them in Malay. And so the children learned to speak both Malay and English.

At first, Mrs Paget taught the children herself. But when Donald was thirteen, he had to go to school in England. Jean was only ten at that time, but she went back to England as well. The two children went to stay with their grandparents near Southampton, a large town about eighty miles from London.

Two years later, the grandparents became ill and Mrs Paget had to go back to England. She bought a small house in Southampton and lived there with the children.

When Jean was thirteen, her father was killed in a car accident. He had gone to Kuala Lumpur to do some business and it was late at night when he set out on his journey home.



## INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

- Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens  
The Bonetti Inheritance by Richard Prescott  
No Comebacks by Frederick Forsyth  
The Enchanted April by Elizabeth Von Arnim  
The Three Strangers by Thomas Hardy  
Shane by Jack Schaefer  
Old Mali and the Boy by D. R. Sherman  
Bristol Murder by Philip Prowse  
Tales of Goha by Leslie Caplan  
The Smuggler by Piers Plowright  
The Pearl by John Steinbeck  
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe  
The Woman Who Disappeared by Philip Prowse  
The Moon is Down by John Steinbeck  
A Town Like Alice by Nevil Shute  
The Queen of Death by John Milne  
Walkabout by James Vance Marshall  
Meet Me in Istanbul by Richard Chisholm  
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald  
The Space Invaders by Geoffrey Matthews  
My Cousin Rachel by Daphne du Maurier  
I'm the King of the Castle by Susan Hill  
Dracula by Bram Stoker  
The Sign of Four by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
The Speckled Band and Other Stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
The Eye of the Tiger by Wilbur Smith  
The Queen of Spades and Other Stories by Aleksandr Pushkin  
The Diamond Hunters by Wilbur Smith  
When Rain Clouds Gather by Bessie Head  
Banker by Dick Francis  
No Longer at Ease by Chinua Achebe  
The Franchise Affair by Josephine Tey  
The Case of the Lonely Lady by John Milne

For further information on the full selection of Readers at all five levels in the series, please refer to the Macmillan Readers catalogue.

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