



No Comebacks *and Other Stories*

Frederick Forsyth



MACMILLAN READERS

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INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

FREDERICK FORSYTH

No Comebacks *and Other Stories*

Retold by Stephen Colbourn



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: ...³. These words are explained in the Glossary at the end of the book.

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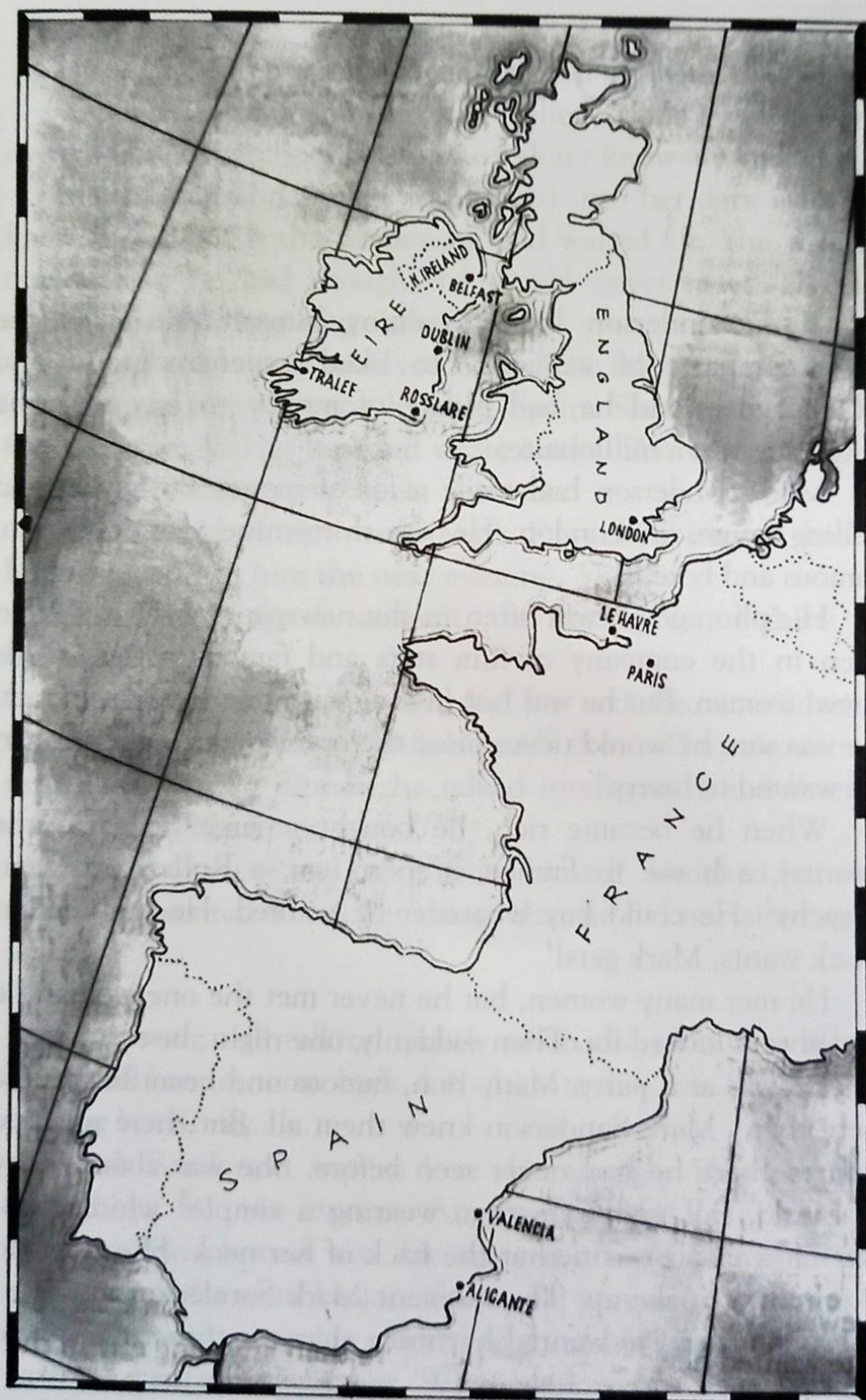
A Note About These Stories

The stories in this book take place in many different places. *No Comebacks* takes place in London and in Alicante, on the coast of Spain. *There Are Some Days . . .* and *Sharp Practice* are set in Southern Ireland.

The island of Ireland is to the west of Britain and is divided into two. The Republic of Ireland is in the south and is often called Eire. Eire was once part of the United Kingdom. It is now independent. The capital of Eire is Dublin. Northern Ireland is often called Ulster. Ulster is part of the United Kingdom and the capital city is called Belfast. There has been fighting for many years in Northern Ireland; some people do not want Northern Ireland to be part of the United Kingdom.

Ferry-boats cross the sea between Ireland, Britain and Europe every day. As well as passengers, the ferries carry many lorries taking goods to and from Ireland.

A Careful Man is about a millionaire – Timothy Hanson. He owns an apartment in the West End of London and a large office building in the City. The City of London is the centre of business and banking in London. Timothy Hanson lives most of the time in a large country house in the county of Kent, in the south-east of England. He travels by car to his house in Kent. The journey takes him through the East End of London. This is a poorer part of London.



NO COMEBACKS

Mark Sanderson liked to enjoy himself. He liked the company of women. He liked expensive food and champagne. And he had plenty of money to buy what he liked. He was a millionaire.

Mark Sanderson had made a lot of money by buying and selling houses in London. He was thirty-nine years old, rich, famous and bored¹!

His photograph was often in the newspapers. He was often seen in the company of film stars and famous actresses. He loved women. But he was not in love with one woman. In fact, he was sure he would never meet the one woman – the woman he wanted to marry.

When he became rich, he bought a large house in the country, a house in France, a sports car, a Rolls Royce and a yacht². He could buy whatever he wanted. He said, 'What Mark wants, Mark gets!'

He met many women, but he never met the one woman he had always looked for. Then suddenly, one night, he saw her.

He was at a party. Many rich, famous and beautiful people were there. Mark Sanderson knew them all. But there was one woman there he had never seen before. She was about thirty years old, tall and attractive, wearing a simple³ white dress. Her brown hair was tied at the back of her neck. She wore no jewellery or make-up. The moment Mark Sanderson saw her he wanted her. He wanted her more than anything else in the world!

No Comebacks

He went up to her and asked, 'Are you enjoying the party?'

The woman smiled at him and replied, 'I don't like it. I was invited here by a school friend, but I don't know anybody.'

Mark Sanderson smiled and looked into her dark eyes. He knew that she was the woman he had waited for. She was the one woman he had thought he would never meet. He also noticed the wedding-ring on her finger.

'Why have I never seen you before?' he asked.

She told him that she lived in Spain. She was in England for only a week. Her husband wrote books. She was an English teacher. Her name was Angela Summers.

At the end of the party, Mark Sanderson invited her to have dinner with him the next evening.

She thought for a moment, then said, 'Yes, I think I'd like that.'

The next evening, he called for⁴ her and she came down to the car wearing a long, old-fashioned⁵ dress. They drove to a restaurant. During dinner she talked intelligently and listened carefully to what Mark said.

He talked more and more about himself. He liked her very much and wanted to tell her things that he did not often speak about.

They were still talking quietly when the restaurant closed. He asked her to come back with him to his flat. She refused, politely but firmly.

Mark Sanderson was in love. He thought about nothing and about no one except Angela Summers. He sent her presents. He phoned her. He wanted to see her again and again before she went back to Spain. He wanted to show her his house in the country. He wanted to show her his yacht and his cars. He wanted to keep her. 'What Mark wants, Mark gets!'



He wanted to tell her things that he did not often speak about.

On their last evening, he told Angela that he wanted her to stay with him. 'Divorce⁶ your husband and marry me,' he said.

She looked at him and saw he was serious. She shook her head and replied, 'I couldn't divorce my husband.'

'I love you,' he said. 'I'll do anything for you.'

'It's my fault,' she said. 'I should have stopped seeing you before now. But you must understand – I could never leave my husband. He needs me.'

'But don't you love me at all?' he asked.

'I don't know,' she said slowly.

'I want you!' Mark said fiercely⁷.

'Yes,' she replied. 'But you don't need me. You don't need me the way my husband needs me.'

'So, you'll stay together – you and your husband?' Mark said angrily.

'Yes, for the rest of our lives,' she said quietly. She stood up, kissed him quickly and left.

Mark Sanderson was alone again and still in love. His love was now an obsession⁸. 'What Mark wants, Mark gets,' he said. 'Always.'

Mark Sanderson had decided he wanted Angela Summers and he was going to have her. Angela Summers was different from other women. Other women wanted Mark Sanderson's money. But Angela Summers was not interested in money. So, Mark decided to use his money to get her in a different way.

He told his business managers that he was going to have a holiday. He told them he would telephone every day, but he

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

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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
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The Speckled Band and Other Stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
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The Queen of Spades and Other Stories by Aleksandr Pushkin
The Diamond Hunters by Wilbur Smith
When Rain Clouds Gather by Bessie Head
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The Case of the Lonely Lady by John Milne

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