



# The Silent World of Nicholas Quinn

Colin Dexter



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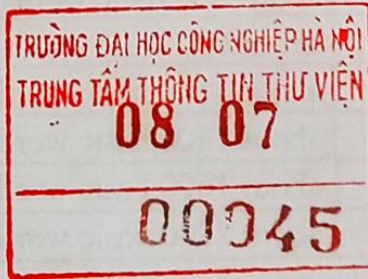
MACMILLAN READERS

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

COLIN DEXTER

# The Silent World of Nicholas Quinn

Retold by Anne Collins



 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.

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## *A Note About This Story*

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At the age of fifteen or sixteen, students at schools in the UK take examinations in all the subjects which they are studying. These are called 'public examinations'. Many students stay at school until they are eighteen. At that age, they take more difficult public examinations. Their grades in these examinations help them to get into universities.

Public examinations in the UK are not set<sup>1</sup> by the schools, or by the government. The examinations are set by groups of experts<sup>2</sup> in each subject from the universities. Several different groups, or syndicates, from different universities, set these exams. The heads of schools can choose which syndicate's examinations their students take.

These syndicates also set examinations for students outside the UK whose first or second foreign language is English. These students write their examination answers in English.

This story is about a syndicate in Oxford – the Foreign Examinations Syndicate – which sets examinations for foreign students. It is not a real syndicate. There has never been a real syndicate called this. A country called Al-jamara is part of this story. This is not a real country.

In the UK, there are many different police forces. Each one works in a large area of the country. The Thames Valley Police is a real police force, and its headquarters is in the northern part of Oxford. But the policemen in this story are not real people, and the things which happen in this story never really happened.

Colin Dexter has written many novels about Chief Inspector Morse and his assistant, Sergeant Lewis.



## The Foreign Examinations Syndicate

It was a fine summer afternoon in the south of England. A meeting was taking place in a large, comfortable room in Oxford. It was a meeting of the members of the Foreign Examinations Syndicate.

The members of the Foreign Examinations Syndicate were twelve people from different colleges of Oxford University. Each person had an important job in their own college and each of them was an expert in a different subject. Six times every year, they met together to discuss the Syndicate's examination policy – the way that the examination system should work. The meetings were always held at the Syndicate's headquarters, a large old building in a quiet road in the northern part of Oxford.

The members of the Syndicate were called Syndics. All twelve of them were at the meeting that afternoon. And, as usual, a thirteenth person was there too – Dr Tom Bartlett, the Administrator<sup>3</sup> of the Syndicate.

Dr Bartlett was not a Syndic. He was a member of the Syndicate's permanent staff. He had a different kind of job from the other people in the room. *Their* work for the Syndicate was only a small part of their lives. Most of the time, they taught students in the colleges of Oxford University. Bartlett worked for the Syndicate all the time – that was his only job.

There were other permanent members of the Syndicate's staff. They worked for Dr Bartlett and, like him, they had offices in the Syndicate building. But only Dr Bartlett took part in the meetings of the Syndics.

The reason for the meeting, that fine summer afternoon, was to appoint<sup>4</sup> a new member of the permanent staff. This person would work for Dr Bartlett at the Syndicate's headquarters. He or she would be someone who had studied at a



university – a graduate. The new member of staff would replace a man called George Bland. Bland had left his job a few months earlier and had gone to work in the Government Education Department of Al-jamara, a small country in the Middle East.

That afternoon, the twelve Syndics and Dr Bartlett had interviewed<sup>5</sup> five people. The interviews had taken three hours, and now the thirteen people in the large, comfortable room had to decide who was going to get the job.

The Dean of the Syndicate – the most important member – turned to the Administrator. ‘Dr Bartlett, the person who we choose will work for you,’ he said. ‘What did you think about the people who we interviewed?’

Bartlett was a small, plump man of about fifty-seven. His eyes were bright behind his round spectacles.

‘Well, Dean,’ he replied, ‘I think that two of the interviewees – Quinn and Fielding – were very good. They both





know a lot of things which would help them to do this job well.

‘But I must say this – Quinn does have a problem,’ Bartlett went on. ‘He’s very deaf. And in this job, you need to hear well. You have to hear everything that is said in meetings, and you have to use the phone a lot. Perhaps Quinn’s deafness would stop him doing the job well. I think that the other man – Fielding – would be the best person for the job.’

Several of the other Syndics were nodding their heads, agreeing with Bartlett. The Dean was nodding his head too. He didn’t really care which of the two men got the job. But he wanted the meeting to finish quickly. He was thinking of the work that he still had to do in his own college. And he had another meeting at six o’clock!

‘Good,’ he said, writing a few notes on a piece of paper. ‘Then, if everybody agrees with Dr Bartlett, we’ll give the job to Fielding. Now —’





- 33 **security** (page 38)  
the way that the exam papers are kept safe so that no one can read them or steal them before the students take the exams.
- 34 **wallet** (page 42)  
a small leather case for carrying banknotes.
- 35 **local** (page 43)  
local things are made for and by people living in a small area. A local newspaper is read by people who live in a town or city. National newspapers are read by everybody in the country.
- 36 **lose its good reputation** (page 44)  
if everyone knows that a company behaves honestly, it has a *good reputation*. If a company starts to behave dishonestly, it *loses this good reputation*. A person can also have or lose a good reputation.
- 37 **mental illness** (page 56)  
sickness of the mind.
- 38 **fainted** (page 58)  
Monica saw Ogleby's dead body and she was very frightened and upset. A few minutes later, she fell onto the ground and was unable to see or hear for a short time. She had *fainted*.
- 39 **passenger door** (page 61)  
a passenger may sit in a passenger seat which is in the front of a car, beside the driver. They can get in and out of the car through the *passenger door* which is next to them.
- 40 **inquest** (page 66)  
when a person dies alone, or if they are killed by someone or something, a special meeting about the dead person takes place in a courtroom. This meeting is called an *inquest*. A doctor, police officers, and members of the dead person's family go to the court and tell a *coroner* (see below) what they know about that person.
- 41 **coroner** (page 67)  
the official at an inquest who listens to reports from a doctor, police officers, and members of a dead person's family about the dead person. The *coroner* then decides if the person was murdered, or if their death was an accident.
- 42 **suspicious** (page 75)  
because of the things that Roope has done, Morse thinks that he and someone else murdered Quinn. These thoughts are Morse's *suspicious*.
- 43 **boot** (page 78)  
the place behind the seats in a car where you can put things. The *boot* of a car has a lid with a lock.

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