



The Smuggler

Piers Plowright



MACMILLAN READERS

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MACMILLAN READERS

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

PIERS PLOWRIGHT

The Smuggler



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: ...¹. These words are explained in the Glossary at the end of the book.

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A Note About This Story

When you drive from one country to another, you have to cross a frontier. The frontier is the place where two countries meet.

At the frontier you have to show your passport and go through customs. There are many things which you cannot take from one country to another without paying money. The people who work in customs are called customs officers. Their job is to stop people taking things into their country without paying money. The customs officers ask you, 'Have you anything to declare?' And then you must tell them if you have anything for which you should pay money.

Some people try to take things across frontiers without paying money. Such people are called smugglers. A smuggler can make a lot of money by smuggling things into another country and selling them there.

The People In This Story

In this story you will meet:

Harker's Gang¹

Harker

Fame

Zara

Don

Ezra's Gang

Ezra

Guido

Robert

Skull

Customs Officers

Rank and Silver

Police

Inspector Roland

The Places In This Story



A Man in a Hurry

Emil Harker was a rich man. But this particular Tuesday evening, he was a worried man. He was more worried than he had ever been in his life. Harker was sitting at a desk in his office. His office was in a small forest hut.

Harker sat at his desk and looked at the piece of paper in front of him. There was something written on the piece of paper – a short poem.

Harker had written the poem himself. It was not a very good poem, but then Harker was not a poet, and he had written the poem in a hurry. He hadn't got much time left.

About an hour earlier, the phone had rung in the hut. Harker had answered it.

'Harker?' said a voice. Harker recognized the voice.

'Ezra,' said Harker. 'What do you want?'

'Where is it?' asked Ezra.

'Where is what?' asked Harker.

'You know,' said Ezra.

'I don't know,' said Harker.

'Stop playing games,' said Ezra.

'I'm not playing games,' said Harker.

'Oh yes you are,' said the voice. 'I'm coming to see you.'

'Now look,' began Harker. But Ezra had put the phone down. It was then that Harker wrote the poem. He sat at his desk and wrote fast. He tore up two or three pieces of paper before he was satisfied. At last the poem was finished. Harker folded the paper and wrote across the front:

To John Samuel Fame – please read carefully.

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