

УДК 811.111(075)
ББК 81.2 Англ-9
У98

Дизайн обложки А.И. Орловой

Уэллс, Герберт.

У98 Человек-Невидимка = The invisible man / Герберт Уэллс ; адаптация текста, словарь Е.В. Глушенковой. — Москва: Издательство АСТ, 2019. — 320 с. — (Карманное чтение на английском языке).

ISBN 978-5-17-116890-2

В книгу вошел сокращенный и незначительно адаптированный текст научно-фантастического романа Г.Дж. Уэллса «Человек-невидимка». В данном романе описывается судьба британского учёного-физика, который изобрёл способ сделать человека невидимым.

Текст произведения адаптирован и сопровождается словарем. Предназначается для продолжающих изучать английский язык средней ступени (уровень Intermediate).

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THE INVISIBLE MAN
by Herbert Wells

Chapter I

THE STRANGE MAN'S ARRIVAL

The stranger came in February, as it was snowing heavily, walking from Bramblehurst Railway Station, and carrying a little black bag. He came into the **“Coach and Horses”**¹

¹ **“Coach and Horses”** — «Экипаж и лошади», название сельской гостиницы

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more dead than alive. "A fire!" he cried, "A room and a fire!" He shook the snow off himself, and followed Mrs. Hall into her guest room, where he put some sovereigns on the table.

Mrs. Hall lit the fire and left him there while she went to prepare him a meal. A guest to stop at Iping in the winter time was an **unheard-of piece of luck**¹, especially a guest who paid in cash.

¹ **an unheard-of piece of luck** — неслыханная удача

When lunch was ready, she carried plates, and glasses into the room. She was surprised to see that her visitor still wore his hat and coat, and stood with his back to her and looking out of the window at the falling snow, with his gloved hands behind him.

“Can I take your hat and coat, sir,” she said, “and dry them in the kitchen?”

“No,” he said.

He turned his head and looked at her over his shoulder. “I’ll keep them on,” he said;

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and she noticed that he wore big blue spectacles and had whiskers. The spectacles, the whiskers, and his coat collar completely hid his face.

“Very well, sir,” she said. “As you like. In a moment the room will be warmer.”

He made no answer, and Mrs. Hall, feeling that it was a bad time for a conversation, quickly laid the table and left the room. When she returned he was still standing there, his collar turned up, his hat hiding his face completely.

She put down the eggs and bacon, and said to him:

“Your lunch is served, sir.”

“Thank you,” he said, and did not turn round until she closed the door.

As she went to the kitchen she saw her help Millie still making mustard. “That girl!” she said. “She’s so long!” And she herself finished mixing the mustard. She had cooked the ham and eggs, laid the table, and done everything, while Millie had not mixed the mustard! And a new guest wanted to

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stay! Then she filled the mustard-pot, and carried it into the guest room.

She knocked and entered at once. She put down the mustard-pot on the table, and then she noticed the coat and hat on a chair in front of the fire. She wanted to take these things to the kitchen. "May take them to dry now?" she asked.

"Leave the hat," said her visitor in a muffled voice, and turning, she saw he had raised

his head and was looking at her.

For a moment she stood looking at him, too surprised to speak.

He held a white napkin, which she had given him, over the lower part of his face, so that his mouth was completely hidden, and that was the reason of his muffled voice. But what surprised Mrs. Hall most was the fact that all the forehead above his blue glasses was covered by a white bandage, and that another bandage

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covered his ears, so that only his pink nose could be seen. It was bright pink. He wore a jacket with a high collar turned up about his neck. The thick black hair could be seen between the bandages. This muffled and bandaged head was so strange that for a moment she stood speechless. He remained holding the napkin, as she saw now, with a gloved hand. "Leave the hat," he said, speaking through the napkin.

She began to recover from the shock she had received.

She placed the hat on the chair again by the fire. "I didn't know, sir," she began, "that —" And she stopped, not knowing what to say.

"Thank you," he said dryly, looking from her to the door, and then at her again.

"I'll have them nicely dried, sir, at once," she said, and carried his clothes out of the room. She shivered a little as she closed the door behind her, and her face showed her surprise.

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The visitor sat and listened to the sound of her feet. He looked at the window before he took away the napkin; then rose and pulled the blind down. He returned to the table and his lunch.

“The poor man had an accident, or an operation or something,” said Mrs. Hall. “And he held that napkin over his mouth all the time. Talked through it!... Perhaps his mouth was hurt too.”

When Mrs. Hall went to clear away the stranger’s lunch

her idea that **his mouth must also have been cut**¹ in the accident was confirmed, for he was smoking a pipe, and all the time that she was in the room he held a muffler over the lower part of his face. He sat in an armchair with his back to the window, and spoke now, **having eaten and drunk**², less aggressively than before.

¹ **his mouth must also have been cut** — его рот, должно быть, тоже порезан

² **having eaten and drunk** — наевшись и напившись