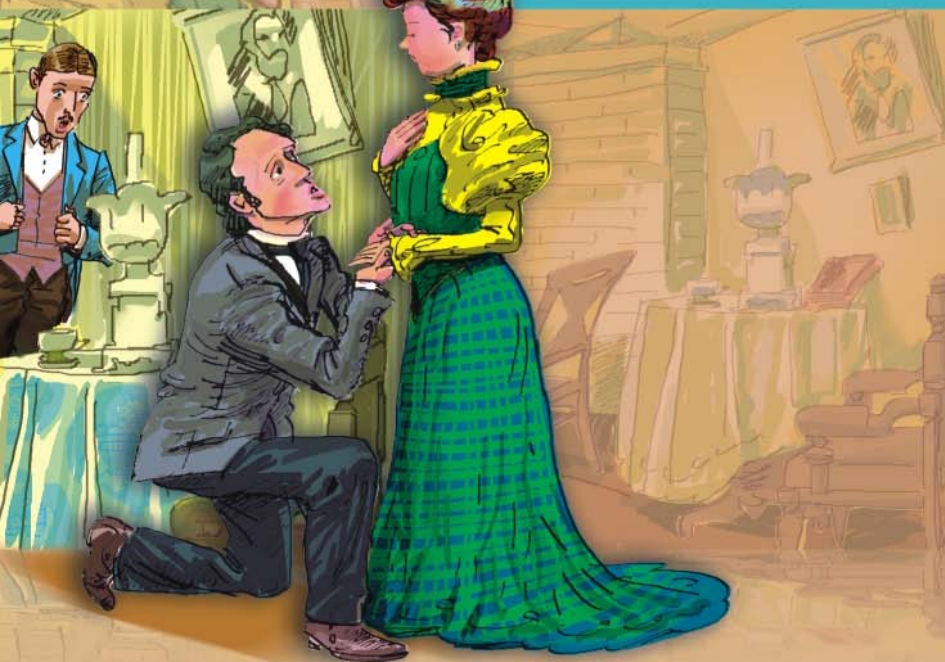




**О. ГЕНРИ**  
**РАССКАЗЫ**



- *упражнения на совершенствование произношения*
- *упражнения на понимание текста*
- *упражнения на закрепление новых слов*
- *творческие задания*

**O. HENRY**

**STORIES**

**О. ГЕНРИ**

# РАССКАЗЫ

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**O. HENRY**

# STORIES

Адаптация, комментарии,  
словарь, упражнения  
*Ю. Б. Голицынского*

УДК 373.167.1:820/89  
ББК 81.2 Англ-922  
0 36

Художник  
*С. И. Ващенко*

**О.Генри**  
0 36      Рассказы: Книга для чтения на английском языке / Адаптация, комментарии, словарь, упражнения Ю.Б. Голицынского. – СПб.: КАРО, 2010. – 160 с.: ил. – (Серия «Reading with exercises»).

ISBN 978-5-9925-0553-5.

В книгу вошли рассказы О.Генри «Комната на чердаке», «Купидон à la Carte», «Из любви к искусству», «Бабье лето Джонсона Сухого Лога» и др. Рассказы снабжены упражнениями на понимание текста, перевод и совершенствование произношения.

Книга предназначена для учащихся старших классов школ, студентов и всех самостоятельно изучающих английский язык.

**УДК 373.167.1:820/89**  
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**ISBN 978-5-9925-0553-5**

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## THE SKYLIGHT ROOM

First Mrs. Parker<sup>1</sup> will show you the double parlours. You will not dare to interrupt her description of their advantages and of the merits of the gentleman who had occupied them for eight years. Then, when you manage to stammer the confession that you are neither a doctor nor a dentist, Mrs. Parker's reaction will be such that you will never afterwards forgive your parents, who did not train you up in one of the professions that fitted Mrs. Parker's parlours.

Next you will ascend one flight of stairs and look at the second-floor apartment at \$8 a week, which has a double front room with a private bath. Then you will manage to babble that you want something still cheaper, and if you survive Mrs. Parker's scorn, you will be taken to look at Mr. Skidder's<sup>2</sup> large room on the third floor. Mr. Skidder's room is not vacant. He writes plays and smokes cigarettes in it all day long. But every room-hunter is made to visit his room to admire the curtains on the windows. After each visit, Mr. Skidder, afraid to be turned out, raises his rent.

Then — oh, then — if you still stand on your feet, with your hot hand clutching the three moist dol-

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<sup>1</sup> **Mrs. Parker** ['pɑ:kə] — миссис Паркер

<sup>2</sup> **Mr. Skidder** ['skidə] — мистер Скиддер

lars in your pocket, and hoarsely proclaim your hideous and culpable poverty, Mrs. Parker will no longer be your guide. She will shout loudly the word “Clara<sup>1</sup>,” she will show you her back, and march downstairs. Then Clara, the coloured maid, will escort you up the carpeted ladder that leads to the fourth floor, and show you the Skylight Room. It occupies 7 by 8 feet of floor-space in the middle of the hall. On each side of it there is a dark closet and a store-room.

Inside the room there is an iron bed, a washstand and a chair. A shelf serves for a dressing-table. The four bare walls seem to close in upon you like the sides of a coffin. Your hand will creep to your throat, you will gasp, you will look up as from a well — and breathe once more. Through the glass of the little skylight you will see a square of blue sky.

“Two dollars, sir,” Clara will say in a contemptuous tone.

One day Miss Leeson<sup>2</sup> came looking for a room. She carried a big typewriter, too big for her little figure. She was a very little girl, with large blue eyes and long and thick hair.

Mrs. Parker showed her the double parlours. “In this closet,” she said, “one could keep a skeleton or anaesthetic or —”

“But I am neither a doctor nor a dentist,” said Miss Leeson with a shiver.

Mrs. Parker gave her the pitying, sneering, icy stare that she kept for those who were not doctors

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<sup>1</sup> **Clara** [ˈkleərə] — Клара

<sup>2</sup> **Miss Leeson** [li:sn] — мисс Лисон

or dentists, and led the way to the second-floor apartment.

“Eight dollars?” said Miss Leeson. “Dear me! I am not so rich. I am just a poor working girl. Show me something cheaper.”

When Mrs. Parker knocked at the door on the third floor, Mr. Skidder jumped and dropped cigarette stubs on the floor.

“Excuse me, Mr. Skidder,” said Mrs. Parker, with her demon’s smile. “I didn’t know you were in. I asked the lady to have a look at your window curtains.”

“They are wonderful,” said Miss Leeson, smiling like an angel.

After they had gone, Mr. Skidder quickly erased the tall, black-haired heroine from his latest (unproduced) play and inserted a small one with heavy bright hair and large blue eyes.

Mrs. Parker called Clara and turned her back on<sup>1</sup> Miss Leeson. Clara took her upstairs to the Skylight Room and said, “Two dollars.”

“I’ll take it,” sighed Miss Leeson, sitting down upon the squeaky iron bed.

Every day Miss Leeson went out to work. In the evening she brought home papers with handwriting on them and made copies with her typewriter. Sometimes she had no work in the evening, and then she would sit on the steps of the high porch with the other tenants. Miss Leeson was gay-hearted and full of tender, whimsical fancies. Once she let Mr. Skidder read to her three acts of his great (unpublished) comedy.

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<sup>1</sup> **turned her back on** — (разг.) повернулась спиной к

The gentlemen tenants rejoiced whenever Miss Leeson had time to sit on the steps for an hour or two. But Miss Longnecker<sup>1</sup>, the tall blonde who taught in a public school and said “Well, really!” to everything you said, sat on the top step and sniffed. And Miss Dorn<sup>2</sup>, who worked in a department store, sat on the bottom step and sniffed. Miss Leeson sat on the middle step, and the men would quickly group around her.

Especially Mr. Skidder, who was in love with her and hoped to marry her. And especially Mr. Hoover<sup>3</sup>, who was forty-five, fat and foolish. And especially very young Mr. Evans<sup>4</sup>, who deliberately coughed to induce her to ask him to give up smoking. The men declared that she was the best creature in the world, but the sniffs on the top step and the lower step were implacable.

As Mrs. Parker’s tenants were sitting thus one summer evening, Miss Leeson looked up into the sky and cried with delight:

“Why, there’s Billy Jackson<sup>5</sup>! I can see him from down here, too!”

All looked up — some at the windows of skyscrapers, some at the sky, looking for a plane piloted by a man whose name was Billy Jackson.

“It’s that star,” explained Miss Leeson, pointing with a tiny finger. “Not the big one that twinkles —

---

<sup>1</sup> **Miss Longnecker** [ˈlɒŋnekə] — мисс Лонгнекер

<sup>2</sup> **Miss Dorn** [dɔːn] — мисс Дорн

<sup>3</sup> **Mr. Hoover** [ˈhuːvə] — мистер Гувер

<sup>4</sup> **Mr. Evans** [ˈiːvənz] — мистер Ивенс

<sup>5</sup> **Billy Jackson** [ˈbɪli ˈdʒæksn] — Билли Джексон





the little blue one near it. I can see it every night through my skylight. I named it Billy Jackson.”

“Well, really!” said Miss Longnecker. “I didn’t know you were an astronomer, Miss Leeson.”

“Oh yes,” said the small star-gazer, laughing, “I know as much as any of them about the style of sleeves they are going to wear next fall in Mars<sup>1</sup>.”

“Well, really,” said Miss Longnecker. “The star you speak about is Gamma, of the constellation Cassiopeia<sup>2</sup>. It is nearly of the second magnitude, and its meridian passage is — <sup>3</sup>”

“Oh,” said the very young Mr. Evans, “I think Billy Jackson is a much better name for it.”

“I agree,” said Mr. Hoover, loudly breathing. “I think Miss Leeson has just as much right to name stars as any of those old astrologers had.”

“Well, really!” said Miss Longnecker.

“I wonder whether it’s a shooting star,” remarked Miss Dorn.

“He doesn’t look very bright from down here,” said Miss Leeson. “You ought to see him from my room. You know you can see stars even in the daytime from the bottom of a well. At night my room is like the shaft of a coal-mine, and it makes Billy Jackson look like the big diamond pin that Night fastens her kimono with.”

There came a time after that when Miss Leeson brought no papers home to copy. And when she went

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<sup>1</sup> **Mars** [ma:z] — Марс

<sup>2</sup> **Gamma** [ˈgæmə] **of the constellation Cassiopeia** [ˌkæsiəˈpi:ə] — Гамма из созвездия Кассиопея

<sup>3</sup> **its meridian passage** — она проходит через меридиан

in the morning, instead of working, she went from office to office, asking if they needed a typist and getting cold refusals. This went on for some time.

There came an evening when she wearily climbed Mrs. Parker's porch at the hour when she always returned from her dinner at the restaurant. But this time she had had no dinner.

As she stepped into the hall, Mr. Hoover met her and seized his chance. He asked her to marry him, and his fat figure hovered above her like an avalanche. She dodged, and caught the railing. He tried to take her hand, and she raised it and slapped him weakly in the face. Step by step she went up, dragging herself by the railing. She passed Mr. Skidder's door, crawled up the carpeted ladder, then at last she opened the door of the skylight room.

She was too weak to light the lamp or to undress. She fell upon the iron bed, and then she slowly raised her heavy eyelids, and smiled.

For Billy Jackson was shining down on her, calm and bright and constant through the skylight. There was no world about her. She was sunk in a pit of blackness, with only that small square of pallid light around the star which she had so whimsically and oh, so ineffectually, named. Miss Longnecker must be right: it was Gamma, of the constellation Cassiopeia, and not Billy Jackson. And yet she could not let it be Gamma.

As she lay on her back, she tried twice to raise her arm. The third time she put two thin fingers to her lips and blew a kiss<sup>1</sup> out of the black pit to Billy Jackson. Her arm fell back limply.

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<sup>1</sup> **blew a kiss** — (разг.) послала воздушный поцелуй

“Good-bye, Billy,” she murmured faintly. “You are millions of miles away. But you kept where I could see you most of the time, up there, when there wasn’t anything else but darkness to look at, didn’t you?... Millions of miles... Good-bye, Billy Jackson.”

Clara, the coloured maid, found the door locked at ten the next day, and they forced it open. Vinegar, and the slapping of wrists produced no effect. Then some one ran to phone for an ambulance.

In due time<sup>1</sup> an ambulance came up to the door, and the capable young doctor, in his white linen coat, ready, active, confident, with his smooth face half debonair, half grim, ran up the steps.

“Ambulance call to 49<sup>2</sup>,” he said briefly. “What’s the trouble?”

“Oh yes, doctor,” sniffed Mrs. Parker, as though her own trouble was the greatest. I can’t think what can be the matter with her. She is unconscious, and nothing that we did could help. It’s a young woman, a Miss Elsie<sup>3</sup> — yes, a Miss Elsie Leeson. Never before in my house —”

“What room?” cried the doctor in a terrible voice, which shocked Mrs. Parker.

“The skylight room. It —”

Evidently the ambulance doctor was familiar with the location of skylight rooms. He ran up the stairs, four at a time<sup>4</sup>. Mrs. Parker followed slowly, as her dignity demanded. When she reached the first land-

---

<sup>1</sup> **In due time** — В надлежащее время

<sup>2</sup> **Ambulance** [ˈæmbjʊləns] **call to 49** — Вызов скорой помощи в дом номер 49

<sup>3</sup> **Elsie** [ˈelsi] — Элси

<sup>4</sup> **four at a time** — (зд.) перепрыгивая через четыре ступеньки за раз

ing, the young doctor was already coming back carrying the unconscious astronomer in his arms. He stopped and let loose the practiced scalpel of his tongue<sup>1</sup>, not loudly. Gradually Mrs. Parker crumpled as a stiff garment that slips down from a nail<sup>2</sup>. Ever afterwards, when her curious tenants asked her what the doctor had said to her, she would answer, "Let that be. If I can be forgiven for having heard it<sup>3</sup>, I will be satisfied."

The ambulance doctor went out of the house and strode with his burden through the crowd of curious people who had gathered around the porch. They noticed that he did not lay down upon the bed in the ambulance the girl that he carried, and all he said to the driver was: "Drive like hell, Wilson<sup>4</sup>."

In the next morning's paper there was a little news item, which said that a young woman had been brought to Bellevue Hospital<sup>5</sup> from No.49 East Street. The woman was suffering from asthenia caused by starvation. The item concluded with these words:

"Dr. William Jackson<sup>6</sup>, the ambulance doctor who attended the case, says that the patient will recover."

---

<sup>1</sup> **let loose the practiced scalpel of his tongue** [tʌŋ] — дал волю своему острому, как скальпель, языку

<sup>2</sup> **crumpled as a stiff garment that slips from a nail** — осела подобно одежде из суровой ткани, соскользнувшей с гвоздя

<sup>3</sup> **If I can be forgiven for having heard it** — Если я смогу получить прощение за то, что слышала это

<sup>4</sup> **Wilson** [wɪlsn] — Уилсон

<sup>5</sup> **Bellevue** ['belvju:] **Hospital** — больница Бельвью

<sup>6</sup> **Dr. William** ['wɪljəm] **Jackson** — доктор Уильям Джексон

## EXERCISES

### 1. Practice the pronunciation of the following words.

advantages [əd'vɑ:ntədʒɪz]

ascend [ə'send]

private ['praɪvɪt]

survive [sə'vaɪv]

vacant [veɪknt]

admire [əd'maɪə]

curtains [kə:teɪnz]

hideous ['hɪdɪəs]

culpable ['kʌlpəbl]

guide [gaɪd]

demon ['di:mən]

contemptuous [kən'temptjuəs]

typewriter ['taɪpraɪtə]

stare [stɛə]

angel ['eɪndʒəl]

sighed [saɪd]

whimsical ['wɪmzɪkl]

gay-hearted ['geɪ'hɑ:tɪd]

deliberately [də'lɪbərɪtli]

coughed [kɒft]

declared [dɪ'kleɪəd]

creature ['kri:tʃə]

implacable [ɪm'plækəbl]

skyscrapers ['skɑɪskreɪpəz]

astronomer [ə'strɒnəmə]

astrologer [ə'strɒlədʒə]

constellation [ˌkɒnstə'leɪʃn]

fastens [fɑ:snz]

wearily ['wɪərɪli]

climbed [klaɪmd]

seized [si:zd]

hovered ['hɒvəd]

avalanche [ə'velɑ:nʃ]

dodged [dɒdʒd]

pallid ['pælid]

ineffectually [ɪnə'fektjuəli]

murmured ['mɜ:məd]

vinegar ['vɪnɪgə]

ambulance [æm'bju:ləns]

linen ['lɪnən]

debonair [ˌdebə'neɪ]

unconscious [ˌʌn'kɒnʃəs]

curious ['kjʊəriəs]

patient [peɪʃnt]

### 2. Fill in the blanks with the following words and word-combinations.

*Stammer a confession; flight of stairs; survive; be turned out; washstand; turned her back on; porch; rejoiced; deliberately; forced it open; unconscious; starvation.*

1. Very young Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_ coughed to induce Miss Leeson to ask him to give up smoking.

2. Sometimes she had no work in the evening, and then she would sit on the steps of the high \_\_\_\_\_ with the other tenants.
3. The woman was suffering from asthenia caused by \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Then you will manage to \_\_\_\_\_ that you are neither a doctor nor a dentist.
5. The gentlemen tenants \_\_\_\_\_ whenever Miss Leeson had time to sit on the steps for an hour or two.
6. After each visit Mr. Skidder, afraid to \_\_\_\_\_, raised his rent.
7. She is \_\_\_\_\_, and nothing that we did could help.
8. If you \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Parker's scorn, you will be taken to look at Mr. Skidder's room.
9. Next you will ascend one \_\_\_\_\_ and look at the second-floor apartment.
10. Clara, the coloured maid, found the door locked at ten the next day, and they \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Mrs. Parker called Clara and \_\_\_\_\_ Miss Leeson.
12. Inside the room there is an iron bed, a \_\_\_\_\_ and a chair.

**3. The following are sentences paraphrased from the text. Look through the text to find the original sentences.**

1. She was so weak that she could not light the lamp or undress.
2. Miss Leeson sat on the middle step, and the men always came and sat down around her.
3. Sometimes she had no work in the evening, and then she usually sat on the steps of the high porch with the other tenants.
4. The doctor stopped and attacked Mrs. Parker with sharp words.

5. Excuse me, Mr. Skidder. I did not know you were at home.
6. The gentlemen tenants were glad when Miss Leeson had time to sit on the steps.
7. Mr. Evans deliberately coughed because he wanted Miss Leeson to ask him to give up smoking.
8. Mrs. Parker called Clara and turned away from Miss Leeson.

**4. Fill in the blanks with prepositions or adverbs where necessary.**

1. Then, if you still stand \_\_\_ you feet, \_\_\_ your hot hand clutching the three moist dollars \_\_\_ you pocket, and hoarsely proclaim your poverty, Mrs. Parker will no longer be your guide.
2. The Skylight Room occupies 7 \_\_\_ 8 feet of floor space \_\_\_ the middle \_\_\_ the hall.
3. One day Miss Leeson came looking \_\_\_ a room.
4. "But I am neither a doctor nor a dentist," said Miss Leeson \_\_\_ a shiver.
5. When Mrs. Parker knocked \_\_\_ the door \_\_\_ the third floor, Mr. Skidder jumped and dropped cigarette stubs \_\_\_ the floor.
6. \_\_\_ the evening Miss Leeson brought home papers \_\_\_ handwriting \_\_\_ them and made copies \_\_\_ her typewriter.
7. Sometimes she had no work \_\_\_ the evening, and then she would sit \_\_\_ the steps \_\_\_ the high porch \_\_\_ the other tenants.
8. Miss Leeson sat \_\_\_ the middle step, and the men would quickly group \_\_\_ her.
9. Mr. Skidder was \_\_\_ love \_\_\_ her and hoped to marry \_\_\_ her.
10. One summer evening Miss Leeson looked \_\_\_ \_\_\_ the sky and cried \_\_\_ delight: "Why, there's Billy Jackson! I can see him \_\_\_ down here, too."

## CONTENTS

The Skylight Room . . . . .	3
Cupid à la Carte . . . . .	18
The Complete Life of John Hopkins. . . . .	36
A Service of Love. . . . .	48
The Indian Summer of Dry Valley Johnson . . . . .	61
The Purple Dress . . . . .	76
An Unusual Story . . . . .	89
Vocabulary. . . . .	104



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**РАССКАЗЫ**

*Адаптация, комментарии, словарь, упражнения*

*Ю. Б. Голицынского*

Ответственный редактор *В. А. Шачнева*

Технический редактор *Я. В. Попова*

Корректор *Е. Г. Тигонен*

Иллюстрация на обложке *О. В. Маркиной*

Издательство «КАРО», ЛР № 065644

195027, Санкт-Петербург, Свердловская наб., д. 60, (812) 570-54-97

**WWW.KARO.SPB.RU**

Гигиенический сертификат

№ 78.01.07.953.П.004020.03.07 от 22.03.2007

Подписано в печать 01.09.2010. Формат 84 x 108 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>32</sub>. Бумага офсетная.

Печать офсетная. Усл. печ. л. 8,4. Тираж 3000 экз. Заказ №

Отпечатано по технологии СтР

в ОАО «Печатный двор» им. А.М. Горького  
197110, Санкт-Петербург, Чкаловский пр., 15.