**Lecture : 2**

**Reading and analysis**

**The Man Who Escaped**

**Episode 1**

Edward Coke used to be an army officer, but he is in prison now. Every day is exactly the same for him. It is winter now and Coke and all the other men get up at six, when it is still cold and dark. They have breakfast at six thirty. Work begins at seven thirty.

Some of the men work in the prison factory, where they make mail-bags, but Coke often works in the fields outside.

The men have lunch at twelve. Lunch lasts an hour and then the men go back to work again. Dinner is at six. Coke usually goes to the prison library after dinner and reads until 9.30. The lights go out at ten.

The day is long, hard, and boring and every man has a lot of time to think. They

usually think about why they are there. Coke does. He always thinks about two men. One of the men is called Eric Masters. He used to be an army officer, just like Coke.

Coke knows that Masters has a lot of money now. The second man's name is Hugo. That is all Coke knows about him. Masters knows where and who Hugo is. but Coke doesn't.

Every night Coke lies in bed and thinks about Eric Masters and Hugo. There is another thing he thinks about, too. Escaping. He wants to escape and find Masters, and then the other man. Coke is in prison for something he did not do.

It is six o'clock on a very cold winter evening. All over England people are sitting

down in their living-rooms and are watching the news on television or are listening to it on the radio. There is one very important piece of news this evening. It is this.

"In the West of England this evening, hundreds of policemen are looking for a man

who escaped from Princeville Prison early this morning. The man's name is Edward Coke. He is 30 years old. six feet tall, and has black hair and blue eyes. He is wearing a dark blue prison uniform. The police do not think he can stay free very long. It is only a few degrees above zero and it is snowing."

The radio is on in an expensive pub in Soho. in the centre of London. Most of the

people there are not very interested in the news programme, but one man is. His name is Eric Masters. He is about 45 and is wearing very expensive clothes. He is looking very afraid of something. There is another man standing next to him at the bar. Masters is asking him a question. "Did they say the man's name was Coke?"

"Yes. That’s right. Coke.. . Edward Coke. Why? Do you know him?" "Pardon?"

"Do you know him?" "No . . . no. I don't know him ... I ... I just wanted to know the man's name, that's all."

In another part of London, a young detective is standing in the office of his chief at

Scotland Yard. The young detective's name is Richard Baxter.

"You knew Coke, didn't you. Baxter?" "Yes. sir. I arrested him four years ago."

Baxter's chief is nodding his head. "Yes. I know that. Baxter. That's why I'm giving you this order, now. Find Coke again! You must find him immediately!"