



The Truth

真的我

一个美国

女孩的成长记录

[美]芭芭拉·霍尔斯坦(B.B.Holstein)

著

陈立凯



"All grownups were children first. (But few of them remember it.)"

"Grownups never understand anything by themselves, and it is exhausting for children to provide explanations over and over again."

From The Little Prince

"所有的大人都曾经是孩子。(可是，只有少数大人还记得这一点。)"

"这些大人们，自己什么也搞不明白。得不断地给他们解释，这真叫人烦。"

摘自《小王子》



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My Secret Diary.

*I'm a smart girl. And I know
everything!*

我的秘密日记。

我是个聪明的女孩，我什么都知道！

"All grownups were children first. (But few of them remember it.)"

"Grownups never understand anything by themselves, and it is exhausting for children to provide explanations over and over again."

From The Little Prince

“所有的大人都曾经是孩子。(可是,只有少数大人还记得这一点。)”

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摘自《小王子》

This is my secret diary. Not the one that says "Girl Scout Diary". I leave that around just to fool grown-ups. This is the real truth. This is where I will write everything I don't want to forget, starting tomorrow!

这是我的秘密日记，不是那个“女童军日记”。我把那个“女童军日记”放在明处，只是为了糊弄大人们。这里面写的可都是真事。我要把我不想忘记的事都写在这里面，明天就开始写！

Preface

Dear Reader, you are about to read a young girl's adventures growing up in the United States. She comes from a small town of perhaps 20,000 people. In the story her father considers a job in a somewhat bigger place, actually a small city of about 60,000 people. I thought I would tell you a little bit about what these places are typically like.

Usually children start going to nursery school at around three or four years of age. Most are private. That means the parents pay a fee. Some meet in churches, some have their own buildings. In these





schools children learn to play together, sing, do art and learn reading readiness skills. At five, public school is available. It is free. Children will usually enter a school that goes from kindergarten to sixth grade, or a school that goes from kindergarten to eighth grade. The schools are run by paid educators. However, each town or city has an elected Board of Education that oversees what happens in the schools and has to listen to the public's wishes. For example, the school system may want to build a new school but the citizens can vote that down and it won't be built.

In towns or cities where the youngsters go to a K-6 school, then they move on to a Junior High or Middle School for grades seven through nine. Then they will go to a high school for grades ten through twelve. Those children who stay in the elementary school until eighth grade then move right into high school which for them will be ninth grade through twelfth. Some small cities may have a community college that provides two years of almost free education past high school.

Of course, most towns and cities do offer some private schools for tuition. Often, they are



sponsored by a religious group.

Small towns and cities have some two and three family homes, some apartment buildings which have many families in one building, and many single-family homes. Single-family homes come in all sizes, from trailers to mansions. Because there is so much choice, it is not unusual to live in a single-family home, even if the parents are not highly paid. Homes usually have yards and people make an effort to keep the lawns mowed and everything looking nice.

What is in these towns and small cities? Of course the school system, and the local government, including an administrator to run the city facilities, such as the water supply, roads, etc. There will be an assortment of churches, perhaps some synagogues and mosques. There will be a shopping area, either downtown or in a mall. The town or city will probably have some public parks, maybe a lake. There will be at least one hospital, a library, sometimes a small court of law, a police department, and a fire department. Sometimes the fire department is made up of volunteers.

Who will live there? We have people from all over the world who have settled here. In both the town and city mentioned in this book, you could expect to find people of many backgrounds, including those who came from Europe, Africa, South America, the





Middle East, China, Japan, etc. These people would have different religions and customs but would all speak English, at least when out of the home.

I hope this background is helpful to you and will help you see more clearly the girl in your mind's eye as you read.

尊敬的读者,你即将读到的是一本在美国长大的小姑娘的新奇经历故事。她来自美国一个约两万人口的小镇子。本书的故事提到了她爸爸在认真考虑争取一份在一个稍大些的地方的工作。那里实际上是一个人口大约六万的小城市。我会告诉你这些地方有些什么特点。

美国的儿童通常在三四岁进入托儿所。这些托儿所大多是私立的,家长们需缴纳费用。这些托儿所有的开办在教堂里,有的有自己的场地。在托儿所里,孩子们一起玩耍,学习唱歌、画画,以及阅读技能,为今后上学做准备。五岁时,孩子们就可以进入公立学校读书,这是免费的。孩子们通常会上一所从幼儿园直到小学六年级的学校,或者上一所从幼儿园直到八年级的学校。这些学校由聘任的教育工作者管理。不过,每个镇子或城市都有选举产生的校董会来监督学校事务,听取市民的要求。比如,某个地方的教育系统需要建一所新学校,而市民们否决了这个计划,新学校就无法开建。

在一些城镇里，孩子们可以从幼儿园一直上到小学六年级，然后进入初中，从七年级读到九年级。接着，他们升入高中从十年级读到十二年级。而在有些学校，孩子们从小学一直读到八年级，然后直接升入高中，从九年级读到十二年级。有些小城市也会有社区学院，给高中毕业生提供两年几乎是免费的教育。

当然，多数城镇确实有收费的私立学校。这类学校常常由某个宗教团体主办。

小城镇里有一些两个或三个家庭共住一栋楼房的住所，以及一些公寓楼。一栋公寓楼里居住着多户家庭。另外还有许多单户的住宅。单户的住宅各式各样的都有，像房车、豪华住宅等。由于种类繁多，即使父母薪水很低，一个家庭单独住在一处住宅里也很常见。这些住宅里通常都有院子。住户们经常修剪草坪，把院子收拾得整齐洁净。

这些镇子和小城市里都有什么？当然会有学校和当地政府，包括一名管理公共设施（如供水系统、城市道路等）的行政官员，还有各种教堂，也许还有犹太教堂和清真寺，市中心或商业街的购物中心。城镇里一般还有一些公园，也可能是湖泊。至少还有一所医院、一座图书馆。有的还有法庭，警察局和消防局。有的消防队由志愿者们组成。

都有哪些人在城镇里生活呢？来自世界各地的人们在这些地方定居下来。在本书中提及的城镇里，你将看到各种不同背景的





人们,他们来自欧洲、非洲、南美洲、中东、中国及日本等地区和国家。这些人的宗教和生活习惯各不相同,但都讲英语,至少是出了家门就讲英语。

希望这些背景介绍有助于你在读这本书时可以对这位小姑娘有更清晰的了解。



1

I hate carrying my briefcase home from school everyday. It is so heavy and it hurts my back. I have to keep changing sides. First I carry it in my right hand, and then in my left. Sometimes I just stop and

put it down and rest awhile.

I have so many big books that I have to bring home. This is the first year that we have a Social Studies book, a Science book, a Reading book, a Spelling book and a Music book. The music book I can leave in school because we don't have homework in singing. We just sing on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

I love singing. It is one of the times when Miss Shannon smiles a lot. She has this little pitch pipe that she hits with a metal stick, and then we warm up our singing voices by humming to the pitch the pitch pipe makes. Then we start singing. My favorite song is "She Will Be Coming Around The Mountain When She Comes". Miss Shannon said it is an old cowboy song from when the settlers first moved out west.

There are about 100 songs in our music book, so we all get turns picking favorites.

Tomorrow is our first science test. My Mom said that if I bring her my list of words she will test me now. I am so tired. This year we get to study the Earth and next year the planets. Oh no, I forgot my list of words in school. I'll call Angela. She will have them. Bye!





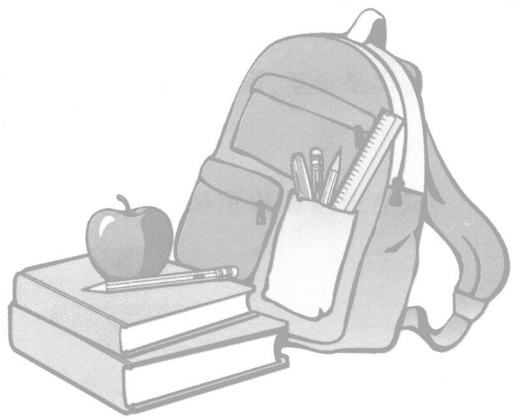
我真不愿意每天都把书包从学校背回家。书包太沉了，压得我背疼。我得一个劲儿地把书包从左肩换到右肩。然后我又换成用手提。开始时我用右手提着，然后换成用左手。有时候我还把书包放下休息一会儿。

我有那么多厚厚的书要带回家。我们第一年有社会研究课程的课本，还有一本科学课本，一本阅读课本，一本拼写课本和一本音乐课本。我可以把音乐课本放在学校，因为音乐课没有家庭作业。我们只在星期一、星期三和星期五有音乐课。

我喜欢音乐课。因为只有上音乐课时香农老师才经常面带笑容。香农老师有个定调管。她用一个金属棒敲着这个定调管，接着我们就跟着定调管发出的音调哼哼呀呀地开始练唱，然后就开始唱起来。我最喜欢的歌是“她会来的”。香农老师说，这是一首古老的牛仔歌曲。这首歌从先辈们第一次向西部进发的时候就传唱开了。

我们的音乐课本里有大约一百首歌曲，我们轮流挑选出自己最喜欢的歌。

明天是我们的第一次科学课测验。妈妈说如果我把词汇表拿给她，她现在就要对我进行测验。我太累了。今年，我们要学习关于地球的知识，明年还要学习有关其他行星的知识。哎呀！我把词汇表忘在学校里了。我得给安吉拉打个电话，让她把词汇表带回来。再见！



2

I am in love. I thought I would fall in love when I was much older, maybe 15 or 16. Not today.

I was sitting in class, reading a social studies chapter, trying to answer an awful question at the end of the chapter, "Which state has the most coal mines?" when the door opened and a new kid walked in.

There he was! I knew I liked him as soon as I saw him. He was wearing a cute plaid shirt and he had brown hair and brown eyes.

My heart felt like it turned over in my body. My pulse started to race. I couldn't concentrate. I felt excited, like I suddenly had a big secret.

I wanted him to sit near me so badly I could have died. But he sat in the row in front of me, a little to the right. Not too bad. Now I can look at him all day. My best friend, Angela, sits beside him, to his right. I hope she doesn't fall in love with him too. He's mine! His name is Paul.

How will I ever be able to think about schoolwork again with all these funny feelings in my belly and my heart beating so fast I can't breathe?

I can't wait to go to school tomorrow. And that's the truth.





我恋爱啦！我还以为我再长大一些时才爱上一个人的，大概 15 岁或 16 岁吧，可不是现在。

当时，我正坐在教室里，阅读课本上关于“社会研究”的那一章，并试图回答那一章末尾令人讨厌的问题：“哪个州的煤矿数量最多？”突然，教室的门开了，走进来一位新同学。

就是他！我刚一看到他就喜欢上他了。他穿着一件漂亮的格子花呢衬衫，褐色的头发，褐色的眼睛。

我觉得我的心好像在胸膛里打滚，脉搏也开始急速跳动。我没法集中精力听课。我觉得很兴奋，好像突然有了一个重大的秘密似的。

我是那样强烈地渴望他坐在我旁边。如果他不坐在我旁边，我简直就没法活下去了。可是他却坐在了我旁边一排有点靠右边的座位上。还可以。现在，我可以整天看着他了。我最好的朋友安吉拉就挨着他坐在他右边。

我真希望她不会也爱上他。他可是我的！他叫保罗。

脑子里有这些古怪的想法，而且心跳是那样快，快得连喘气都觉得困难，我怎么还能够静心思考正在学的课程呢？

明天我肯定会迫不及待地来上学。我说的可全是实话呀。



今天的拼写测验我得了
一百分。保罗也得了一百
分。我能够看到他的试卷。
安吉拉给他的试卷打分，因
为他们的座位挨着。老师把
词汇写在黑板上以后，蒂米
就给我的试卷打分，而我给
蒂米的试卷打分。蒂米总是
有两处错误，而他似乎也并
不在意。可是我却在意。我
想都答对。

每个星期四晚上妈妈都
和我共同度过一段特殊的时
间。我把词汇表拿给她，她
就对我进行测验。如果我写
错了一个或者一个也没有写
错，我们就在厨房里一起吃
咖啡冰淇淋。如果我写错了
两个以上，我就得重新学
习，然后回来再进行测验。
我最得意的是，我总是会得
到咖啡冰淇淋，只不过是早
一会儿吃到或者晚一会儿吃
到而已。

这个星期我碰到了最难
写的词，就是“instrumental”
这个词。我现在仍然不知道

I got 100 on my spelling
test today. So did Paul. I
could see his paper. Angela got
to mark his 'cause they sit
next to each other. Timmy
marks mine and I mark Timmy's
after the teacher puts the
words on the board. Timmy
always gets 2 wrong. He
doesn't seem to care. I care.
I want to get all of them right.

Every Thursday night my
Mom and I have a special time
together. I bring her my words
and she tests me. If I get one
wrong or no wrong at all, then
we have coffee ice-cream
together in the kitchen. If I get
more than one wrong I have to
go study again and come back
to get retested. The best part