



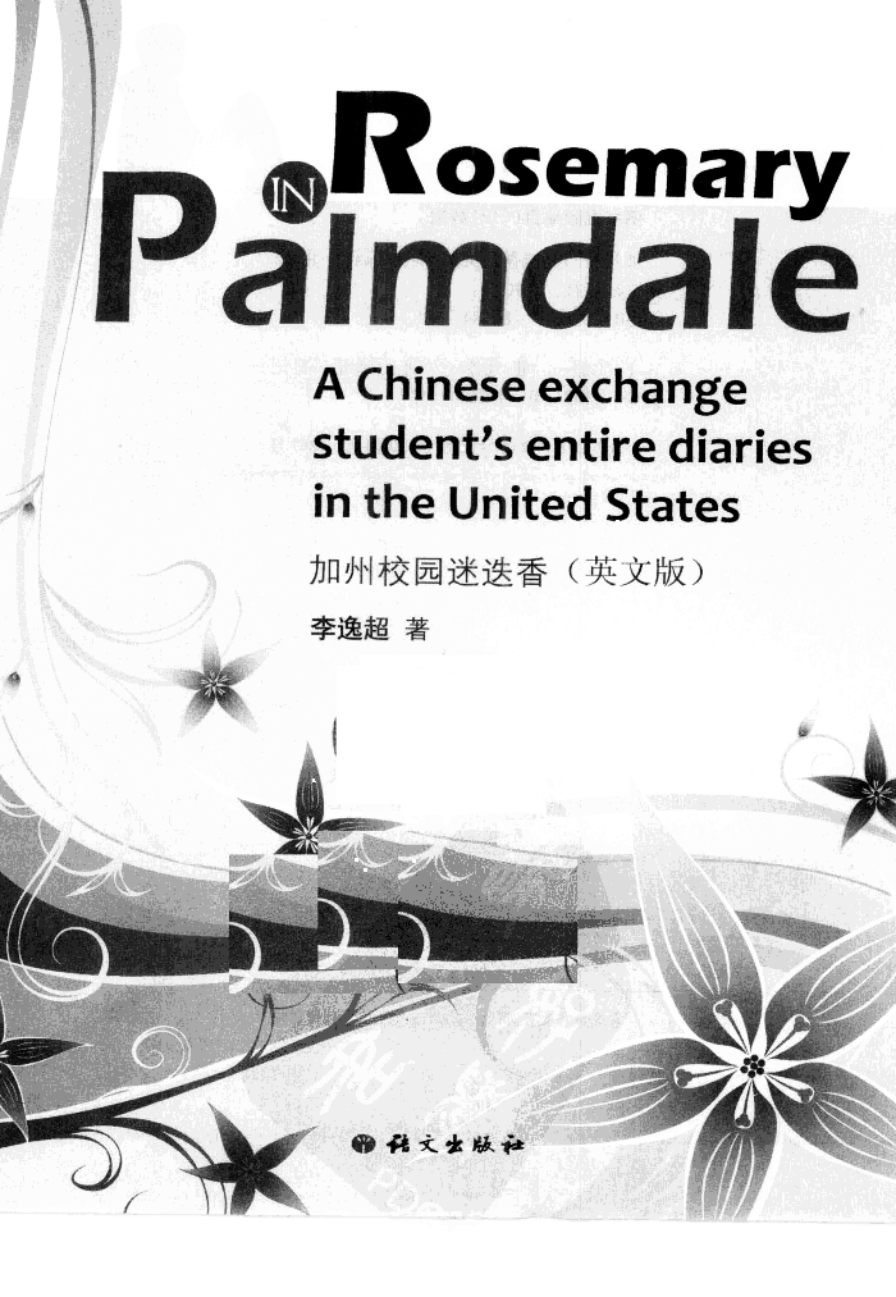
# IN Rosemary Palmdale

A Chinese exchange  
student's entire diaries  
in the United States

加州校园迷迭香（英文版）

李逸超 著

语文出版社



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## Reviews

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**<http://www.kdnet.net>**

People think little kids or even teenagers learn bad stuff when they're put in some other places without their parents' protections. Joe's experience indeed enlightens me. A kid who lives in an easy family with hopes and dreams is definitely able to survive on his own in whatever countries and is able to discipline himself. He is great!



Net pal—Zhi He Dou Jiang

I used to live in a village since 17 years old; and now, I am almost sixty. I can tell you are a very special child from your peers. You are rare! Your sweet personality and outstanding aptitude make your future brilliant. You were a very lucky kid to be born in Shanghai in such wonderful decades. There are few significant steps during a man's entire life. Wish you all the best!

Net pal—w138359hx

Having good grades at school is only one of the premises to be successful in the future. A fine culture, an optimistic attitude and a well capability to deal with stuff are actually more important. They make your future more glorious than other students. I believe you will have a fairly good promise when you grow up! A high EQ is another treasure for you, Joe.

Net pal—Xian Zuo Hong Qun



**<http://joe-lyc.blog.163.com>**

Here comes a new challenge, Joe! Exert your intelligence and talents. Try to let your new host family like you within one week. If you do, then staying in America by yourself is not a problem anymore.

Net pal, from Taizhou, Zhejiang Province, China

I always appreciate your blog every day and night. I can feel your goodness, your enjoyments, your adherence and your dreams from every word of your every diary. I have recommended your blog to many of my friends. We admire your exchange life in America together. We like the school cultures in the United States; we like Americans' generosity. I appreciate you for sharing your perfect experience with us. And I thank your mother too, genuinely.

Net pal—Feng Zhong Ye Zi



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## *Preface*

### *The Perfect Journey*

My parents have regarded me as an adult since I was little. I truly appreciate their respect to me. Not like other children, I grew up in this extremely enlightened family and my mind started having something else except scholastic learning. I have hobbies. I have my own points of view on many fields. I admire how America develops kids diversely by multiple ways. I decided to strive for an opportunity to be an exchange student after knowing the program.

The days in America went excitingly and swiftly. Although I experienced a lot of abrupt emergencies which were sometimes confusing and unpleasant, I love America. I like the way how everything in that country works and I believe the advancement of the United States is not a coincidence or lottery. It has to be turned out that way. Some of my classmates satirized me that Americans have discrimination against Chinese. I had ignored them because I believe it will never happen. The other way round; all my American teachers and friends are very kind and friendly to me. I even become a little celebrity in my local school on account of my intelligence on math, nice personality and optimistic attitude. I started having more self-assurance and friends. My English has been improving wondrously during the exchange year. The study environment in America made me eager to learn and kind of inquisitive about everything the teacher instructed. Since then, I had a big temptation to study English all the time. And by the time I was almost leaving my lovely school, I could barely imagine my English skills had been stepping up so much. Through all my best tries, I had achieved the diploma in my local school—Palmdale High School.

Meanwhile my exchange student school year, I wrote everyday diaries.

People are fond of them. A lot of net pals were getting attracted and amazed by American various teaching methods. The number of readers of my diaries enlarged, including students, parents and even grandparents. They appreciate and admire how the American education system works. They believe the way most American teachers are pioneering---to teach students in accordance with their aptitude is the best idea carrying through its federal education system. They sigh for American students' viability and freedom. They start taking into account to have their children to go to America for some new and practical knowledge. They realize how crucial it is to make their kids learn and study enjoyably.

There are always several Chinese students attending American schools each year. However, few of them write their experience to share with other people. I write diary every day to take notes in relation to my emotions, feelings and wonderments. Many net pals reviewed on my diaries, saying they are infrequent and valuable materials to get to know about American school life and host life from my exquisite observations. They prefigure and foresight their children's comportment and notions from my visual angle. I extend my genuine thankfulness to my loving parents who have been putting premiums on my cultivation stringing along with the entire manhood. My dedications and contributions have received best supports and passions from countless net pals.

I had begun my diaries by Chinese ones but after three months, I started writing them bilingually. I'm thrilled of getting this chance to publish it now. To many people, my progresses on English are striking. But I see it normal. I get improved because I pay out and devote. A language is enhanced by speaking it and applying it, which were the exactly two things I had been always doing during the year in America.

I am glad and honorable to share this interesting diary with you. I went back to my hometown Shanghai from America on Jun. 14, 2009. Since then, I started working on the book. I review it over and over in almost three months just want to make sure it is going to reveal my highest English writing level to you. I believe however I try; I'll never look like a native from my articles because after all, English is not my primary language. So please excuse my

English-expression lapse if it happens. I appreciate my adult friend Jerry Micham who has been a proof-reader on this book. He helped me to correct some subtle grammar errors and had been assisting me to make my exchange year more colorful and impressive.

I didn't ask anybody to re-construct my sentences because I want to keep it in my own appeals.

Rosemary is a special plant. It is also called *the mystical rose* stands for love, friendship and loyalty, which symbolized *sweet memories* in Victorian Times in Britain. I officially entitle my diaries during the exchange year *Rosemary in Palmdale*, hoping to commemorate the indelible days in America evermore.

I want to cherish this perfect journey by this book forever. I will never forget how I was going through that especial and memorable period. I will never forget Palmdale, California and many other places in the United States.

God bless America!

Yichao Li  
10.22.2009





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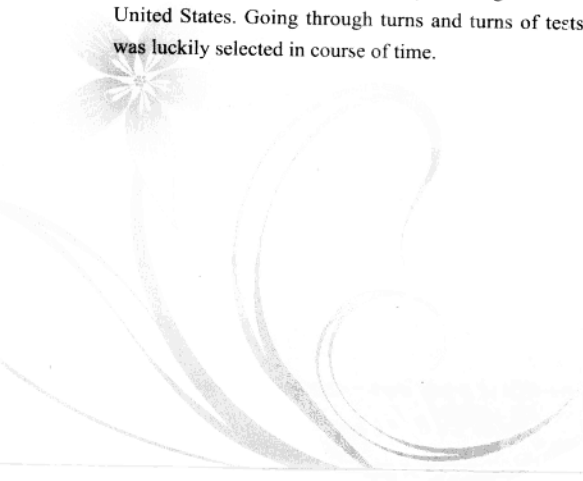
## *Introduction*

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Somehow, even unknown to me, I have reached the age of seventeen. Most of my classmates are still endeavoring to their ideal colleges hard as before. I am delusive of my current study. I don't want to be a test machine or a robot, consuming the majority of my senior year working on those boring and alleged reviews and summaries.

I appreciate my parents' guidance which makes me realize I'm welcome to pursue my own yearning life. After taking a look at the pictures my mother photographed in America, I am overwhelmed by the clean and beautiful streets, trees and gorgeous flowers everywhere. Maybe I do need to learn more about the outside world on the crossroad of deciding the direction to my future.

I resolve to earn an opportunity of being an exchange student to the United States. Going through turns and turns of tests and interviews, I was luckily selected in course of time.



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## The Visa to U.S.A.

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Jun. 25. 2008

I was going to American Visa Office at around 9:00 on June 25th, 2008. Several other peers and I became a small group of teenagers in which all of us were grabbing a bunch of documents for the official interview. We leaned against the marble wall quietly and waited for the indications by the security.

The first step was the security check after having been told we were authorized to access. The machine didn't look like it agreed to me that much because it had been warming me by odd beeps three times before I transited. Nothing serious though; here's a saying: the road to happiness is always strewn with setbacks. That makes sense.

Waiting for more than two hours in the lobby, I was prepared to be face-to-face interviewed. He was a friendly aged guy in pink. I was asked questions such as where will be the school located; who will be my host parents and why I want to go to the U.S.A, etc. I gratefully said thank you to him several times after being suggested I had got the visa.

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## Say Goodbye to Shanghai

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Jul. 26. 2008

My parents helped me to load up all the stuff I might need in America last night, including personal and daily articles and souvenirs for my host family. That actually filled up two big cases. A mixture of emotions was dancing around in my head when viewing my laptop, passport and cash were put in the luggage orderly and bethinking of my leaving from my good friends and folks, feeling like my breath went heavier. Nobody could even imagine how that homesickness was affecting me at that moment.

Tilting from side to side in the big bed, I eventually fell into asleep at around

2:00 and was awoken by a lyric song, *Say Goodbye* by Chris Brown at 6:00 the next morning. I was on to the departure.

We successfully reached Shanghai Pudong Airport in an hour. Eyeing my parents hurrying around, I knew I would be taking a specific airplane several hours later in which I would be moving from a city to another city, a country to another country and a continent to another continent.

Time fledted especially now. It was the hardest time for me to ever say bye-bye to my parents. I was sad. I bet everybody would be at this particular second. Well, a man is supposed to be brave. I emboldened myself, "Everybody has to get away from parents some day; no one is sponged off forever. I have to be independent." A piece of smile emerged on my cheeks.

We had lunch in the airport before I left. Beholding delicious courses in front of my eyes, I didn't have any appetite. Listening to father and mother's expectations and hopes, my heart possessed a strong sense of misgiving and uneasiness.

I said goodbye to my lovely parents and Shanghai—my adorable city, waving my hands mechanically right and left, "I promise I'll take care of myself. Dear mom and dad; please don't worry about me. I'll be fine. Make sure you're safe and happy every day. I am going back soon—one year later." I thought aloud. Farewell.

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### Long for the Tomorrow

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Jul. 26. 2008

After issuing my valediction to parents and finishing the Border Security Check, I found the Boarding Gate. At the moment I was about to sit down, I noticed a boy at my age was standing opposite to me and having chips. He might be another exchange student like me? I could tell there was a blurry word on his upset face: L-O-S-T. Was he missing his family too?

Before the airbus had taken off, airhostesses started talking about methods to get out of the plane in case some emergencies happen. My heart suspended





and I pondered in my deep soul with oppressive trepidations. The aviation would last more than thirteen hours after it was all set. However, there was no need to worry about anything like a real air crash. It is most likely God's call if that does take place.

I arrived in San Francisco after a lengthy flight. I was afterwards requested to do another Custom Check. *I've safely landed in America now, awesome!*

Everything was in English. I was thrilled when I found a sign that said *baggage claim*. Leastwise I would know where accurately to go. But nothing appeared while walking to that direction. I scrutinized everybody walking by attentively. No one was carrying anything. I was driven anxious. The last ditch was to appeal to somebody around me but honestly, I was pretty scared.

I walked until I headed one of those nice Americans, "Excuse me..." he swiftly turned over, gazing at me like I was a little baby. He was tall. I appreciated his gentle patience. In a split second, he figured out that I was not a native. He began slowing down his speed of English speaking, echoing the pre-words through to he was sure I in faith knew what to do. I thanked him for a few times verbally and physically.

According to his hints, I passed the Custom in a short time.

I drew out two suitcases on the baggage U-assembly. But then nobody instructed me where the connecting flight was located, which was confusing. Suddenly, I heard someone was speaking Mandarin. That was incredible. It might be the greatest help to me in this huge maze. I tended towards where he informed me but the orientation was an exit! I fooled around again in this giant labyrinth choicelessly.

I fell across a lady from Shanghai before long who told me where the flight connection was. First of all, I had to walk out of the exit and then try to reach the next airline afterwards. This was the first time taking such a complicated flight. I suppose I should have been excused.

The Boarding Gate was found in another half an hour. I double-checked the flight information from the counter to assure everything would be under presupposition. I was browsing in the airport casually and intended to buy