

为时秋天

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办 天津教育出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

岁月的秋千/刘 英,李小娟编 一天津:天津教育 出版社,2005.1

(心情点点)

ISBN 7-5309-4028-7

Ⅰ.岁... Ⅱ.①刘....②李... Ⅲ.英语--对照读物, 散文--汉、英 Ⅳ.H319.4: Ⅰ

中国版本图书馆 CIP数据核字(2004)第 118177 号

心情点点

岁月的秋千

213	10.3.17							
出版	ō 人	肖占鹏						
编	译	刘英李小娟						
选题策划		到而到上						
责任编辑		田、町						
装帧设计		郭亚非						
出版发行								
		天津市和平区西東路 35 号						
		邮政编码 300051						
经	销	新华书店						
EΠ	刷	山东新华印刷厂德州厂						
版	次	2005年1月第1版						
ED	次	2005年1月第1次印刷						
规	格	32 开(880×1230 毫米)						
字	数	26千字						
插	页	2						
ED .	张	3.5						
书	뮹	ISBN 7-5309-4028-7 / G·3448						
定	价	10.00 元						







●《岁月的秋千》 《温柔的痕迹》 《美丽的邂逅》 《窗外的风景》



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■ 发行服务电话: 022-23332312

目 录

Almie Rose / 002 艾尔米·罗斯 An Open Heart / 006 人间真情 A Love Story / 010 爱情的故事 Companionship of Books / 014 以书为伴 Human Life a Poem / 018 人生如诗 Live All the Days of Your Life / 022 把握生命的每一天 Never Too Old to Live Your Dream / 026 实现梦想永远都不会迟

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Push Back / 034 回击生活 Sand and Stone / 036 沙子与石头 The Stages of Friendship / 040 友情面面观 The Art of Living / 048 生活的艺术 Words' Miracles / 054 言语的力量 Breaking the Silence / 058 打破沉寂 Heart Song / 062 心灵的歌唱

So Much to Learn 1 068 学海无涯 A Brother Like That 1 072 手足情 Dream Weaver / 078 编织梦想 Follow Your Dream / 084 追逐梦想 A Boy and His Tree / 092 男孩与树 Feeling in Snow / 098 雪天随想 Family / 102 家

岁月的秋千

Almie Rose 、、、艾尔米·罗斯

It was at least two months before Christmas when nine-year-old Almie Rose told her father and me that she wanted a new bicycle.As Christmas drew nearer, her desire for a bicycle seemed to fade, or so we thought. We purchased the latest rage, Baby-Sitter's Club dolls, and a doll house. Then, much to our surprise, on December 23rd, she said that she "really wanted a bike more than anything else".

It was just too late, what with all the details of preparing Christmas dinner and buying last-minute gifts, to take the time to select the "right bike" for our little girl.

002 + 003 「岁_{月的}秋千」

So, here we were -Christmas Eve around 9:00p.m., with Almie Rose and her six-year-old brother, Dylan, nestled snug in their beds. We could now think only of the bicycle, the guilt, and being parents who would disappoint their child.

"What if I make a little bicycle out of clay and write a note that she could trade the clay model in for a real bike? "Her dad asked. The theory being that since this is a high-ticket item and she is "such a big girl", it would be much better for her to pick it out. So he spent the next four hours painstakingly working with clay to create a miniature bike.

On Christmas morning, we were excited for Almie Rose to open the little heart-shaped package with the beautiful red and white clay bike and the note. Finally, she opened it and read the note aloud.

"Does this mean that I trade in this bike that Daddy made me for a real one?"

Beaming, I said, "Yes."

Almie Rose had tears in her eyes when she replied, "I could never trade in this beautiful bicycle that Daddy made me. I'd rather keep this than get a real bike."

At that moment, we would have moved heaven and earth to buy her every bicycle on the planet! 圣诞节前两个月的时候,9岁的艾尔米·罗斯告诉她爸 答和我说,她想要一辆新自行车,随着圣诞节的临近,她的 愿望似乎不那么强烈了,或者这只是我们自己的想法。我们 购买了最时髦的贝比—赛特尔公司的玩具娃娃和玩具娃娃 屋。然而让我们吃惊的是,到了12月23日,艾尔米说她 "真的非常想要一辆自行车,胜过任何东西"。



但是时间来不及了,我们还要准备圣诞晚宴,购买必需 的圣诞礼物,我们怎么可能抽出时间来为我们的小女儿挑 这一辆合适的自行车呢?圣诞节首夜9点钟,当艾尔米和她 6岁的小弟弟戴伦舒舒服服睡在床上的时候,我们感到左 右为难。现在我们所想的就只有自行车以及让孩子失望的 为人父母的愧疚。

"如果我用黏土做一个小自行车,附上字条说她可以

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用这架黏土模型换一辆真的自行车,你说怎么样?"她爸爸问。我们要告诉她之所以这样做是因为买自行车是件大事, 而她已经是一个大姑娘了,由她自己做决定会比较妥当。于 是她爸爸花了4个小时的时间, 尽心尽力地用黏土做了一 个小自行车模型。

圣诞节早晨,我们兴奋地看着艾尔米打开心形包装盒, 从里面拿出那架漂亮的红白黏土做的自行丰以及字条。她 大声地读起来。

"也就是说我可以拿爸爸为我做的这个自行车去换一 辆真的自行车?"她问。

我兴高采烈地回答"是"。

艾尔米的眼里满是泪水,她回答说:"我不会挨掉爸爸 谷我做的这么漂亮的自行车。我不要真的自行车了,我宁愿 留着这个。"

在那一刻,我们真想为她买尽这世上所有的自行车。





My aunt Edith was a widow of 50, working as a secretary, when doctors discovered what was then thought to be a very serious heart ailment.

Aunt Edith doesn't accept defeat easily.She began studying medical reports in the library and found an article in a magazine about a well-known heart surgeon, Dr. Michael DeBakey, of Houston, Texas. He had saved the life of someone with the same ailment. The article said Dr. DeBakey's fees were very high; Aunt Edith couldn't possibly pay them.

So Aunt Edith wrote to him.She simply listed her reasons for wanting live:her three children who would be on their own in three or four more years,her little-girl dream of traveling and seeing the world.There wasn't word of self-pity —only warmth and humor and the joy of living.She mailed the letter, not really expecting an answer.

A few days later, my doorbell rang. Aunt Edith didn't wait to come in; she stood in the hall and read aloud: "Your beautiful letter moved me very deeply. If you can come to Houston, there will be no charge for either the hospital or the operation. Signed—Michael DeBakey."

That was seven years ago.Since then, Aunt Edith has been around the world.Her three children are happily married.For her age, she is one of the youngest, most alive people I know all because of an open heart surgeon who knew how to honor of his profession, and how to open his own heart. 我那当秘书的伊迪斯姨妈是个寡妇。 在她 50 岁那年, 她被医生告知她患有一种严重的心脏病。

伊迪斯姨妈不是一个轻易被击倒的人。她翻遍图书馆 中相关的医学文章,终于在一本杂志上发现了一篇介绍著



名 心脏外科医生米歇尔·蒂贝克的文章, 他现在得克萨斯州 的休斯顿。文章上说, 他曾经救治了一个与伊迪斯姨妈患有 同祥病症的病人, 同时也表示蒂贝克医生的诊费相当高。伊 迪斯姨妈很本付不起这样高的诊费。

于是,伊迪斯姨妈给蒂贝克医生写了封信。她简单列举

008 + 009 -----「岁_{月的}秋千」 了她想活下去的理由:她有三个几年后才能自立的孩子,她 儿时的梦想是环游世界。信中没有一句自怜的词语,只有热 情、幽默和对生活的热爱。她寄出了这封信,但并不指望能 有回复。

几天后,我家的门铃响了,伊迪斯姨妈没等进屋就站在 门厅里大声读起了信:"你的信深深地打动了我。如果你能 来休斯顿,我们将向你提供免费的手术和护理。落款:米歇 尔·蒂贝克。"

事情已经过去了7年。自那以后,伊迪斯姨妈开始了环 游世界的旅行。她的三个孩子都结了婚,非常幸福。对于她 这个年龄来讲,她是我所知道的最年轻、最具活力的人之 一——这全都是因为一位好心的胸外科医生知道如何维护 自己蒙高的职业和怎样表达人间的真情。



Once upon a time, there was an island where all the feelings lived : Happiness , Sadness , Knowledge , and all of the others including Love. One day it was announced to the feelings that the island would sink, so all repaired their boats and left.

Love wanted to persevere until the last possible moment. When the island was almost sinking, Love decided to ask for help. Richness was passing by Love in a grand boat.Love said, "Richness, can you take me with you? "Richness answered, "no, I

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