



世纪风铃

阅读文库

(英汉对照)

范红 主编

当代名人趣闻

Contemporary Who's Who



刘宁 编译 刘世生 审校



清华大学出版社

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内 容 提 要

本书是《世纪风铃阅读文库》英汉对照系列读物之一。《当代名人趣闻》这本书共收录当今世界各国名人18位，涉及政治、经济、文化、科学、教育、影视、歌坛、体育等各领域。

每篇文章都摘自近两年美国主要新闻刊物，如《时代周刊》、《美国新闻与世界报道》，除个别几篇外，绝大部分是1999年出版的。有介绍性文章，也有报社采访，有正面介绍，也有侧面评价。文章风格或严肃，或诙谐，或讽刺，或颂扬。行文流畅、用词新颖，在勾画当代社会人物百态的同时，又以其清新的文字、最新流行的用语成为您学习英语的好选择。

文章编排由易到难，从口语化的访谈，到专业化的介绍性文字，循序渐进。每篇文章均有脚注，对文中生词和文化背景解释详尽，让您轻松阅读。文后的思考题助您加深理解。更有全文翻译，供您参考，也可用做您翻译练笔的对照。

本书适用于中高级英语水平读者阅读。对在校大学生、研究生以及社会上具有相应水平的读者了解异域文化、提高英语阅读能力、扩大词汇量、掌握最新英语表达有极大帮助。

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Due to the inconvenience of communication, we are unable to get in touch with the authors of the articles selected in this book. Please contact the publisher who has reserved the remuneration for them.

编者的话

阅读是一种语言领受能力,也是一种语言学习的方法。它是学生掌握语言知识,打好语言基础,获取信息的重要途径。阅读技能是大部分学生今后工作中最需要的语言技能,注重阅读能力的培养与提高是语言学习者必不可少的任务。从语言学习的规律来看,语言应用能力的提高是建立在大量的语言输入,尤其是大量的阅读的基础之上的。阅读能力的培养仅靠少量的精读材料是不够的,更重要的是要靠大量的泛读材料。学习者通过大量阅读趣味性强的读物,培养自己阅读兴趣与自学能力,既可更有效地获取书面信息,扩大词汇量,丰富语言知识,也可更深刻地了解英语国家的社会文化背景,开阔视野,扩大知识面,提高自身文化素养。

《世纪风铃阅读文库》就是一套专门为大学英语四级水平以上学生编写的高级趣味阅读丛书。此套丛书的编者均是清华大学长期从事一线教学、经验极为丰富的英语教师。在教学过程中,他们发现虽然许多学生能够通过全国大学英语四级考试,但其英语语言基础知识仍然不够扎实,主要表现在词汇量较小、阅读速度慢、阅读理解不够准确、翻译能力较差等方面,其阅读与翻译能力迫切需要进一步提高。据了解,目前很难从市面上找到适合此类学生自学提高阅读能力的英文读物。为了满足此类学习者的实际需要,本套丛书的编者确定了培养学生阅读兴趣、提供当代最新信息的选材定位原则,在满足学习者的文章题材及内容的取向要求的同时,努力为他们营造一个寓



阅读于乐的课外自学环境,为保证大学英语学习四年不断线创造有利条件。因此,从某种程度上来说,该套丛书填补了此类图书市场的空白。

全套丛书共分为五册,分别是《科学的奥秘》、《电脑大观园》、《当代名人趣闻》、《新闻聚焦》和《美好生活点拨》。全部文章内容选自 20 世纪 90 年代末的国外权威性报刊与英特网,涉及社会、人文、科技等诸方面内容。所选文章内容新颖、题材广泛,有强烈的时代气息,不愧为一套融知识性、科学性、实用性、趣味性为一体的优秀阅读丛书。

全套丛书各册编写体例一致,语言规范。每册书均由 20 个单元组成,每个单元包括正文、难词脚注、阅读理解检测题及正文译文。书后附有阅读理解检测题参考答案。选文中出现的文化背景及语言难点均有脚注,目的在于节约读者查词典的时间,帮助读者理解此类难点在文章中的准确含义。阅读理解检测题紧扣语言素材主题,意在帮助读者归纳文章中心思想及把握关键细节。书后所提供的译文文体优美、文字准确,是读者阅读遇到问题时的可靠参考。此外,在每课正文之前,编者还提供了阅读文章长度,并根据 1999 年新修订的《大学英语教学大纲》对大学英语应用提高阶段阅读速度每分钟 100 字的规定,计算出每课所需阅读时间,是读者衡量自己阅读速度的参考标准。

本套丛书适合大学英语基础阶段结束后的英语提高阶段使用,是一套值得推荐的适合本科生及研究生阅读提高课使用的教材,也适合具有相当水平的英语爱好者课外阅读使用,衷心希望本套丛书的读者能从中有所收益。



由于所选文章来源广泛,同原文作者及有关出版单位联系有些不便。在此,谨向他们表示诚挚的谢意。

编 者

2000年1月于清华园

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No Turning Back

Suzanne Chazin

(Reader's Digest, September, 1999)

Jewel Kilcher was just 18, fresh out of high school and completely unsure of what to do with her life. She had moved from Michigan to be with her divorced mother and was working at a series of disappointing, low-paying jobs — waiting tables and punching *cash registers*¹. There was little time or money for exploring careers. In fact, she was barely *scraping by*².

Things only worsened when a *burning*³ began in the willowy teenager's back and traveled all the way down her *groin*⁴. Her long blond hair was damp with fever on the day she mutely followed her mother into a hospital emergency room.

It was the eighth medical *facility*⁵ mother and daughter visited that *hazy*⁶ spring afternoon in 1993. Three hospitals and four clinics had already refused to treat the girl's *raging*⁷ kidney *infection*⁸ because she was broke and lacked medical insurance.

1. 现金出纳机 2. 勉强过日子 3. 发热 4. 腹股沟 5. 机构 6. 雾濛濛的
7. 使极痛苦的 8. 感染

Finally they found a doctor who would attend to her, but it was a physical and spiritual low point. In the weeks that followed, Jewel poured out her anxieties to her mother, Nedra Carroll. What should she do? She loved the arts — literature, drawing, dance, music. But how could she possibly pursue any of these demanding careers when just surviving was claiming so much of her energy?

Nedra, in tough financial *straits*¹ herself, came up with a novel solution: they'd give up their shared apartment and move into vans near the beach. Without the pressure to meet their rent, Jewel could focus on her life goal and make it happen.

After searching her soul, Jewel decided that singing and songwriting meant the most to her. But Nedra probed further, asking why.

Jewel thought about her reasons. Money? She'd always had so little; she'd even grown accustomed to living on what she could carry in a *knapsack*². Fame? She'd always felt like an outsider, so that didn't matter. The one thing that she really cared about was her songs — inspiring people with her words and voice. 'I want to sing to remind people to live their dreams,' she told her mother.

Still, she couldn't help feeling a flicker of fear. Friends were skeptical of her plans, and their doubts were *contagious*³. What if she failed at the one thing she wanted to do? Perhaps she should look for a safer way to use her talent — singing on tour boats, for instance, or teaching *grade school*⁴ music, like her dad in Alaska.

'Maybe I should have a *fallback*⁵ plan,' she suggested to her

1. 困境 2. (帆布) 背包 3. 传染的 4. (美) 小学 5. 退一步的

mother.

Nedra shook her head. 'If you have a fallback plan, you will *fall back*¹. You are young. Be brave. Have faith in yourself.'

So the decision was made: the two would live like frontier women on the beach with the sound of the Pacific surf rolling in their ears. And Jewel would put her talents and ambitions to the test.

It was not the first time either had such a *spartan*² life. Nedra and Jewel's father, Atz Kilcher, a social worker, were raised on the Alaskan frontier. Though the Kilchers moved often when Jewel and her two brothers were small, she spent a good part of her most formative years on her Swiss grandparents' 650 acre *homestead*³, 225 miles southwest of *Anchorage*⁴.

The homestead was a place of rugged beauty, surrounded by soaring tree-covered canyons and snowcapped mountains. But it was also isolated and harsh, with only a coal stove for warmth.

There, learning to do tough, physically demanding work, Jewel *honed*⁵ a spirit of determination. In third grade, for instance, she was diagnosed with *dyslexia*⁶, a disability that affected her reading and coordination. Later that year she was rejected from an after-school gymnastics program she desperately wanted to join, because she couldn't do *somersaults*⁷ and *cartwheels*⁸.

'That doesn't mean you can't do gymnastics,' her mother told her. 'It just means you'll have to work harder.'

1. 后退 2. 艰苦的 3. (包括房屋在内的)农庄 4. 安克雷奇(美阿拉斯加南部港口城市) 5. 磨练 6. 诵读困难 7. 翻跟斗 8. 侧手翻



So Jewel began practicing three hours a night until she could do the *maneuvers*¹ as well as the natural athletes in her grade. She was accepted into the program.

Jewel showed the same determination singing. Watching her folksinging parents perform, Jewel delighted in her father's *yodeling*² and wanted to learn how to do it herself. But her parents, fearing it would strain her six-year-old vocal cords, were reluctant to teach her. So she *practiced relentlessly*³ on her own until she could do it with ease.

She and her father became a singing *duo*⁴. Singing to the *clink*⁵ of *shot glasses*⁶ and the chatter of bar crowds taught Jewel something she might never have learned any other way. One night, shortly before one of their performances, she and her father got into an argument. Already upset, Jewel broke into tears when her father reminded her to leave her personal life behind when she went onstage. What did it matter, she thought, since the audience consisted of just a few *grizzled*⁷, drunken *veterans*⁸?

Then a man in the crowd scolded her. 'Stop looking so depressed,' he called out. The words had a humbling effect. Jewel suddenly understood that her job was to please the audience, not herself. She stopped crying and finished the *set*⁹ flawlessly. And she determined never to take an audience for granted again.

Jewel's life took another turn when a teacher from the

1. 动作 2. 用真假嗓音反复地唱 3. 不间断地 4. 一对二重唱表演者 5. 叮当声 6. (盛威士忌等烈酒的)小杯 7. 头发花白的 8. 退伍军人 9. (连续演奏的)流行乐组

Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan heard her sing at a summer music festival. Impressed by her voice, he encouraged her to apply to the prestigious arts school. Jewel did, and won a voice scholarship. Interlochen gave Jewel formal training in dance, writing and theater and broadened her artistic horizons.

Growing up without running water turned out to be good preparation for living in a van beside the Pacific. Used to quick *scrubdowns*¹ in Alaska's subzero temperatures, Jewel was expert at washing her hair efficiently in public bathrooms at Kmart and Denny's. She was comfortable with *thrift-shop*² clothes and could get by on little more than carrots and peanut butter while looking for work.

Eventually she found a regular *spot*³ performing at a Pacific Beach coffeehouse called the Inner Change. While there, she wrote a song titled 'Who Will Save Your Soul?' about those who lead lives of physical comfort but spiritual emptiness.

By the middle of 1993 Jewel was attracting overflowing crowds to the coffeehouse and drawing the attention of record-industry *talent scouts*⁴. Then in December 1993 her *shimmering*⁵ voice and folk-style *acoustic*⁶ songs *landed*⁷ her a recording contract with Atlantic Records.

Jewel might have hoped that the worst of her struggles were behind her. But yet another round was just beginning. When her

1. 擦洗 2. (尤指为慈善目的而开设主要出售衣服的) 廉价旧货店 3. (定期演出的) 短小节目 4. 星探, (为电影、戏剧等) 发掘专业人才者 5. 闪光的
6. (乐器等) 不用电传声的 7. 赢得



first album, 'Pieces of You', was released in February 1995, it sold fewer than 500 copies a week. Her sweetly innocent voice and *up-lifting*¹ songs were met with derision by the often-cynical entertainment industry.

Radio stations refused to play her. Music critics scoffed at her lack of *hipness*². She was derided for everything from her crooked teeth to her constant encouragement that fans follow their dreams. But Jewel stayed on the road, playing coffeehouses, signing CDs in suburban stores and thanking everyone who came to her performances.

Despite the *carping*³ of critics, more and more people took note of her talent and *charisma*⁴, and word spread about her *riveting*⁵ live performances. As her fan base grew by word of mouth, the critics counted for less. By appealing directly to those who mattered to her — those for whom she wrote the music — Jewel ignited her career.

The decisive breakthrough came in mid-1996, when 'Pieces of You' went gold more than a year after its release, selling 500,000 copies. With radio stations responding at last to her fans, the *single*⁶ 'Who Will Save Your Soul?' climbed the charts until it was a top-ten hit.

By the time her second CD, 'Spirit', was released in late 1998, Jewel had an international following. 'Spirit' went on to sell three million copies, and her admirers still couldn't get enough. Soon

1. 令人振奋的 2. 时髦 3. 挑剔 4. 神秘的个人魅力 5. 引人注目的
6. 单曲

Jewel will appear in her first movie, a Civil War drama called 'Ride With the Devil'. Film can only extend her reach as a star.

All of which is a stunning journey for a young woman who was virtually homeless just six years ago. But Jewel Kilcher understands how it happened. In fact, she *relives*¹ the conversation with her mother that made all the difference.

'If she'd encouraged me to have a fallback plan, I'd have made one. I was scared. But being safe didn't mean being happy.' Nedra understood this, and so eventually did Jewel. Happiness came instead from following her passion — and realizing there could be no turning back.

Your Reading Time:

Comprehension Check:

1. What are the two incidents that show Jewel's spirit of determination?
2. What does singing with her father at the bars teach her?
3. What kind of life was Jewel living before she got her first recording contract?
4. How was her first CD received?
5. How did Jewel react to the criticism and derision?

1. (尤指在想像中)再经历