

英语学习

Educating

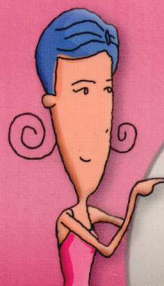
Melissa

# 女生玛丽莎 I

——求学篇

(美) Lisa Pollman 著  
高瑾玉 吕铭学 夏 天 左云慧 译  
张泰平 注释

外语教学与研究出版社  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



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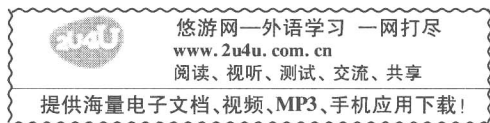
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*In memory of my dear friend in faith, Melissa Braff*

1967—1998

谨以此书纪念我亲密的挚友玛丽莎·布拉夫

1967—1998

# Preface

This book came about as a culmination of various personal experiences and the desire to help other people learn English and hopefully better understand American culture and peoples. As an English language teacher, I am very aware of the difficulties of learning and mastering English. As a student of Chinese and Sanskrit, I am also aware of the advantage of becoming familiar with a foreign language and how that knowledge can help a person communicate and dialogue with another human being thousands of miles away. Our ability to communicate is truly a wonderful gift!

As stated above, the material for this book has been taken from my own personal experiences as an undergraduate. In order to remain effective and useful for each reader, I have tried to choose contemporary ideas and phrases to help the reader grasp both the language and the important themes of life in America in the 21st century. I hope that I have written this book in such a way that each reader will find enjoyable, entertaining, and enriching.

I would also like to note that this book has been written in the memory of a very dear friend, Melissa Braff, who died suddenly after a hang-gliding accident in 1998. It was Melissa's great dream to teach English abroad and I sincerely wish that her dream would have been realized. In her memory, I would like to offer this book to you, in the hope that your desire to learn English will provide you with many wonderful opportunities to learn more about yourself and others during your lifetime.

In closing, I would like to offer my most sincere appreciation to my agent and long time friend, Dr. Taiping Chang, whose tireless support encouraged me to make the impossible dream possible and to the Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press for publishing this book that you are now holding in your hands. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Lisa Pollman  
Seattle

本书取材于种种亲身经历,其产生实出于一种愿望,即帮助他人学习英语,同时更好地了解美国人民及其文化。作为一名英语教师,我十分了解学习和掌握英语的种种困难;而同时作为一名学习汉语和梵语的学生,我也知道熟悉一门外语的益处,了解这种知识能如何帮助一个人与远在千里之外的人进行交流和对话。我们的交流能力实为一份奇妙的礼物!

如前所述,这本书取材于我大学时代的亲身经历。为了使本书适用于读者,我尽量选用了现代的概念和用语,以帮助读者在掌握语言的同时,领会美国21世纪生活的重要主题。我希望这本书能让每位读者都从中享受到乐趣,并增长见识。

我还想说的是,写作本书,是为纪念一位挚友玛丽莎·布拉夫,她在1998年的一场悬挂式滑翔事故中突然丧生。去国外教授英语是玛丽莎的夙愿,我真诚地希望她的这一梦想能够成真。我想将这本书作为对她的纪念,并将此书献给您,希望您学习英语的热情能给您在有生之年带来一些更好地了解自己和他人的好机会。

最后,我想向我的代理人,也是我的老朋友张泰平博士表达最真诚的谢意,是她不倦的支持鼓舞了我,让我将这虚渺之梦变为现实,同时也感谢外语教学与研究出版社出版此书。衷心地感谢你们!

莉萨·波尔曼  
西雅图

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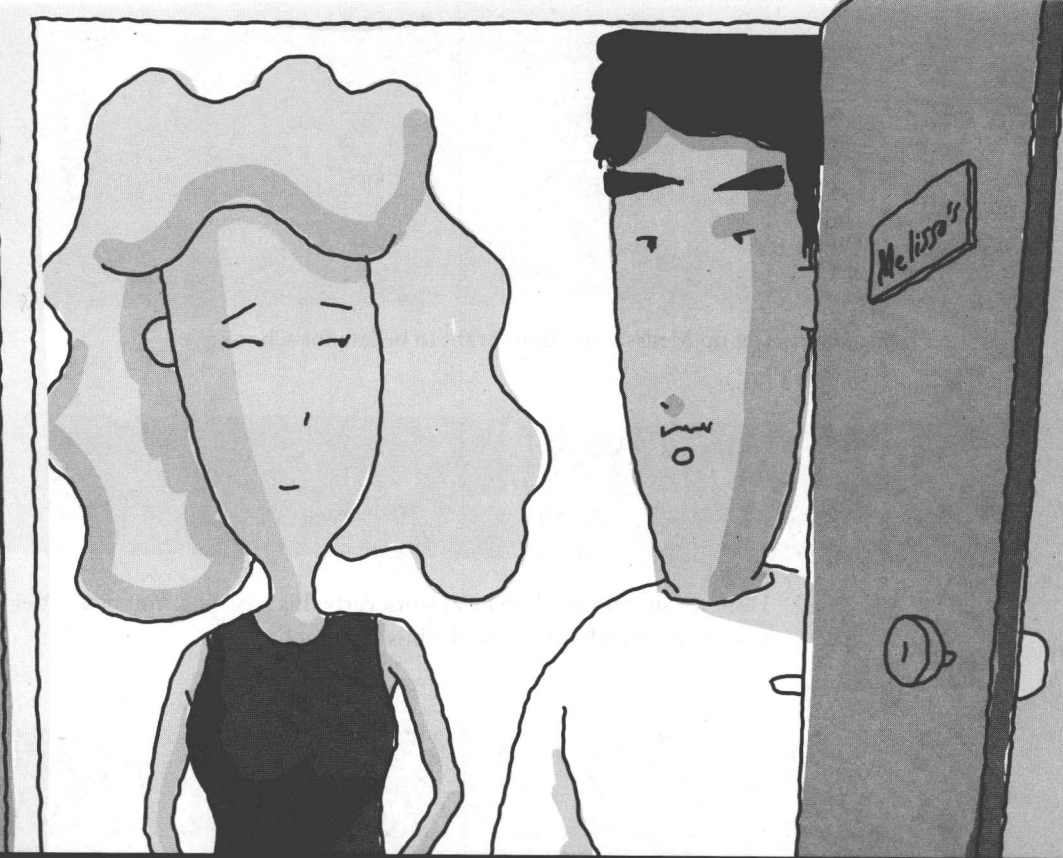
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# Chapter 1

## Meeting Melissa and Her Family

玛丽莎和她的家人

# Educating Melissa<sup>+</sup>

女生玛丽莎<sup>1</sup>——求学篇

*Setting: A small town in rural Washington State<sup>1</sup>. The Jones family is getting up and preparing for their day.*

**Mrs. Jones:** Get up Melissa; you don't want to be late for school.

**Melissa:** OK, just a minute.

*Ten minutes pass. Followed by another 5 minutes.*

*Mrs. Jones lets the dog in the house.<sup>2</sup> The dog is heard running up the stairs.*

**Mrs. Jones:** Honey, your father has to be at work early this morning. You had better get up, or you'll have to ride the bus to school<sup>3</sup>.

**Melissa:** All right! I'm up already!

*Seconds later, Judd, the dog jumps onto Melissa's bed. Melissa jumps up and out of bed.*

**Melissa:** Gross! Judd needs a bath, and he has bad breath! Ugh!

**Mrs. Jones:** Well, princess, if you had been regularly brushing Judd's teeth like the vet suggested, he would undoubtedly have better breath. And what about all those long morning walks<sup>4</sup> you promised when we got him as a puppy?

**Mr. Jones:** What do you want for breakfast, honey? The usual?

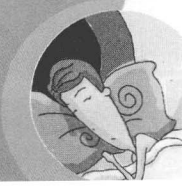
**Melissa:** No, thanks. Since you're taking me to school, I'll grab a latte<sup>5</sup> on the way.

**Mrs. Jones:** Melissa, the bathroom's all yours. You'd better step on it<sup>6</sup>!

*Melissa arrives at high school with her father.*

**Melissa:** Bye, daddy, see you tonight. Have a good day at work!

**Mr. Jones:** OK. Have a great day at school. I'll be home for dinner. See you tonight.





场景：华盛顿州乡下的一座小镇。琼斯一家已经起床，准备开始一天的生活了。

**琼斯太太：** 玛丽莎，快起床吧；不然就迟到了。

**玛丽莎：** 好的，马上就起来。

10分钟过去了。然后又过了5分钟。

琼斯太太把门打开，让狗进了屋。然后就听到狗跑上楼梯的声音。

**琼斯太太：** 宝贝儿，你爸爸今天要提早一点儿上班。你要是再不起来就只有坐学校的校车了。

**玛丽莎：** 好的！我已经起来了。

又过了一会儿，小狗贾德跳到玛丽莎的床上，玛丽莎赶快跳下床。

**玛丽莎：** 真讨厌！贾德得好好洗个澡了，它呼出的气味儿好难闻！啊呀！

**琼斯太太：** 好了，大小姐，你要是早按照兽医的建议，经常给贾德刷牙，它也肯定不会有这么难闻的气味儿。还有，我们刚收养贾德的时候，你还保证过早上要带它去散步，这些都兑现了吗？

**琼斯先生：** 宝贝儿，早饭想吃什么？和往常一样吗？

**玛丽莎：** 不用了，谢谢。你送我的话，我在路上买杯拿铁咖啡好了。

**琼斯太太：** 玛丽莎，现在你可以独自一人享用浴室了。你最好快点儿！

玛丽莎和她父亲一起到了学校。

**玛丽莎：** 再见，爸爸，晚上见。祝你工作愉快！

**琼斯先生：** 好的。也祝你在学校度过愉快的一天。我会回家吃晚饭。晚上见。

① Washington State: 华盛顿州，别名“常青州”(the Evergreen State)，位于美国西北部，首府奥林匹亚(Olympia)，主要城市还有西雅图(Seattle)等。而美国首都华盛顿(Washington, D. C.)则位于马里兰州西南部与弗吉尼亚州的交界处，波多马克河东岸。注意不要混淆这两处地名。

② 狗需要大小解时，家人总是让狗到后院去解决，完事后再开门让狗回屋。

③ ride the bus to school: 坐校车上学。这里的bus专指学校的校车。

④ long morning walks: 早上出去散一会儿步。这里的“散步”指遛狗。

⑤ latte: 牛奶咖啡，即拿铁咖啡，其成分主要是滚烫的热牛奶加上意大利式的浓咖啡。

⑥ step on it: 〈口〉加快，赶快。

Melissa walks into the high school building.

**Melissa:** Hi Jessica! Did you get the homework done for Mr. Haddock's class? I had trouble with the third question. What did you put?

**Jessica:** Hey, can I have a sip of that? I didn't get much sleep last night, and I haven't had any caffeine today.

**Melissa:** Sure, be careful. It's really super hot.

**Jessica:** Thanks! I had problems with the homework too! I had to ask my older sister to help me with it. Andrea's home from college and she was able to explain the solution to me.

**Melissa:** Hey, what college is she going to? Isn't it in California?

**Jessica:** Yes, she is going to the University of Asia Pacific<sup>7</sup>, in Southern California.

**Melissa:** I thought that she wanted to go to Stanford. Didn't they offer her a scholarship?

**Jessica:** She was accepted at Stanford but fell in love with this other school. She was telling me yesterday how cool it was. She loves it and the great weather, of course!

**Melissa:** Hmm. Maybe I could talk with her while she is home on break. I have been looking at several colleges but just haven't found the right thing for me. I would love to move down to California and see the sun more often. I am so tired of the gray skies and the rain in Washington! Oh, by the way, can I see that homework before school starts?

One week later at Jessica's house. The doorbell rings.

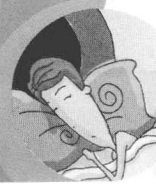
**Jessica:** Hey Melissa! Come on in. Hang on<sup>8</sup> while I go get Andrea.

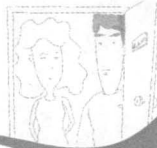
Jessica comes into the room with her sister. They all sit down. Jessica brings out a huge bag of tortilla chips and guacamole dip.<sup>9</sup>

**Melissa:** Hmm, thanks Jess<sup>10</sup>. I am starving!

**Jessica:** Andrea, this is Melissa. She is interested in learning about the University of Asia Pacific. Do you have any materials from the school sitting around<sup>11</sup> or could you answer some of her questions?

**Andrea:** Hi Melissa. Didn't I meet you once? At a volleyball game?





玛丽莎走进教学楼。

**玛丽莎:** 嗨, 杰茜卡! 你做哈多克老师留的作业了吗? 我在第三个问题上遇到了一些麻烦。你是怎么做的?

**杰茜卡:** 嘿, 我能喝一口咖啡吗? 我昨晚没睡好, 今天也还没喝咖啡呢。

**玛丽莎:** 当然可以了, 不过当心啊, 特别烫。

**杰茜卡:** 谢谢! 我的作业也有不少问题! 我只好请我姐姐安德烈娅帮忙, 她刚从大学放假回来, 正好能帮我讲解这些问题。

**玛丽莎:** 嘿, 她读的是哪所大学? 是不是在加州?

**杰茜卡:** 是, 她读的是亚洲太平洋大学, 位于南加州。

**玛丽莎:** 我以为她要去斯坦福大学的。他们没给她提供奖学金吗?

**杰茜卡:** 她被斯坦福大学录取了, 可是却喜欢上了这所学校。昨天她一直都在跟我说它有多棒, 她很喜欢那里, 当然了, 还有那儿的好天气!

**玛丽莎:** 嗯。或许趁着她现在放假在家, 我能和她聊聊。我正在了解几所大学, 但还没有找到一所适合我的。我想南下去加州, 更多地享受那里的阳光。我真是烦透了华盛顿州灰暗的天空, 还有下雨! 噢, 对了, 上课前能让我看看你的作业吗?

一个星期后, 杰茜卡的家里。门铃响了。

**杰茜卡:** 嘿, 玛丽莎! 快进来。稍等一会儿, 我去叫安德烈娅。

杰茜卡和她的姐姐一起进了屋。她们都坐了下来。杰茜卡拿出一大包玉米片和鳄梨酱。

**玛丽莎:** 唔, 谢谢你, 杰茜。我都快饿死了!

**杰茜卡:** 安德烈娅, 这就是玛丽莎。她很了解一下亚洲太平洋大学的情况, 你手头有关于这所学校的材料吗? 或者能不能回答她的一些问题?

**安德烈娅:** 嗨, 玛丽莎。我以前是不是见过你? 在一次排球比赛中?

⑦ University of Asia Pacific: 亚洲太平洋大学。此为本书虚构的一所大学。后文提到的UAP是其简称。

⑧ hang on: 〈美俚〉等一等, 等一下。

⑨ tortilla chips: 墨西哥人食用的小玉米片, 又硬又脆又香, 通常呈小三角形; guacamole dip: 鳄梨蘸酱, 主要的材料是捣碎的鳄梨, 配上切碎的洋葱和一点儿茼蒿调制的蘸酱, 通常配合墨西哥玉米片来吃。

⑩ Jess: Jessica的昵称。

⑪ sit around: = at hand, 容易找到, 并近在手边可供使用。

**Melissa:** Yes, I think it was the night we made it to the state play-offs<sup>12</sup>.

**Andrea:** Ah, right. So, how can I help you? What questions can I answer for you about UAP? You know, I'm afraid I don't have any school materials with me right now, but I can give you their Web address. That way you can see what the college is like for yourself and apply if you'd like.

**Melissa:** I don't think I've heard about UAP before. Is it new?

**Andrea:** Yeah, it just opened. I'm a member of UAP's first class! It is so great! I will be getting my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts with a specialization in International Studies.<sup>13</sup> The four-year program permits everyone to study abroad for one semester. I'm already planning my time abroad. I can't wait!

**Melissa:** Oh, that's great! I've been thinking about getting a degree that will kind of like help me learn more about different cultures and people. I want to do what I can to make this world a better place, you know. But, how's the campus, anyway? I don't think I know anything about the university. What part of California is it in?

**Andrea:** The campus is brand-new and it's modeled after an Asian village. Everything on campus is really state-of-the-art<sup>14</sup>. Each student gets a laptop computer. You can plug it into the Internet all throughout campus.

**Jessica:** Don't forget to tell her about the beach!

**Andrea:** Well, if we have time away from our studies—which doesn't happen very often—we can go to one of Southern California's beautiful beaches just down the street. The University is also very easy to access via LAX<sup>15</sup> or the San Diego airport.

**Melissa:** Is the school difficult to get into?

**Andrea:** Yeah, there's some pretty tough competition out there. And because the school wants to keep the teacher-to-student ratio small, there's a limited amount of students who will be accepted each year. How's your GPA<sup>16</sup>? Have you received your SAT<sup>17</sup> scores yet?





**玛丽莎:** 噢, 对, 我想是我们闯入州总决赛的那天晚上吧。

**安德烈娅:** 啊, 没错。那么, 我怎么帮你呢? 你了解亚洲太平洋大学的哪些方面? 要知道, 我现在手头恐怕没有学校的资料, 但我可以给你学校的网址。这样, 你就可以自己上网看看这是所什么样的大学, 如果愿意的话, 也可以在网上申请。

**玛丽莎:** 我以前好像从没听说过亚洲太平洋大学。是新成立的吗?

**安德烈娅:** 对, 刚刚创建。我是这所大学的第一批学生! 真是太棒了! 我就要获得文科的文学士学位了, 专攻国际研究专业。在四年的学习中, 每个学生都可以到国外学习一学期。我已经开始计划到国外的时间了。我都等不及了!

**玛丽莎:** 噢, 太好了! 我一直都想拿到一个能帮我更多地了解不同文化和人群学位。你知道, 我想尽自己所能使这个世界变得更美好。不过亚洲太平洋大学的校园怎么样啊? 我对这所大学一无所知。它在加州的什么地方?

**安德烈娅:** 校园是全新的, 是模仿亚洲的村落设计建造的。校园里的一切都是最先进的。每个学生都拥有一台笔记本电脑, 在校园里你可以随处用它上网。

**杰茜卡:** 别忘了给她讲讲海滩!

**安德烈娅:** 喔, 如果我们有课余时间——但这种情况并不多——我们就可以去南加州的一处美丽海滩, 沿街一直往前走就到了。从洛杉矶国际机场或圣地亚哥国际机场也很容易就能到达学校。

**玛丽莎:** 上这个学校很难吗?

**安德烈娅:** 对, 竞争很激烈。由于学校想保持教师和学生的低比率, 每年接收学生的数量是有限的。你的平均积分点是多少? 你拿到SAT分数了吗?

⑫ play-off: 总决赛。

⑬ Bachelor of Arts: 文(科)学士, 简称BA; Liberal Arts: 大学的文科专业, 如文学、语言、历史、哲学等。

⑭ state-of-the-art: 最先进的, 最新型的。

⑮ LAX: 美国加州洛杉矶国际机场Los Angeles International Airport的代称。

⑯ GPA: 〈美〉平均积分点, 即Grade Point Average, 又称GPR (Grade Point Ratio), 是成绩的积点与学分相乘后的加权平均值。美国大学一般采用的评分标准是“4分制”, 满分为4.0, 相当于98—100分, 3.9 相当于96—97.99, 依此类推, 及格分数为0.7, 相当于60—60.99。Grade Point为计算学生学业成绩的积分点, 由每门学科的学分数乘以该科成绩的积点就可得出。

⑰ SAT: 学业能力倾向评估测验, 原为Scholastic Aptitude Test的缩写, 现为the Scholastic Assessment Test的缩写。SAT是美国大学入学的标准考试, 由大学入学考试委员会 (the College Board) 主持。

**Melissa:** Hmm, I've got a 3.3 GPA, and I should be receiving my SAT scores sometime soon.

**Andrea:** How about extracurricular activities<sup>18</sup>?

**Melissa:** I've been on the volleyball team for two years, and I'm the student leader of the chess club. I also volunteered as an English teacher while my family was in Costa Rica last summer.<sup>19</sup> Do you think I have a chance of getting into UAP?

**Andrea:** Well, your extracurricular activities sound good. Honestly, it would be much more promising if your GPA was higher. Hopefully, your SAT scores will be strong. You know, let me know how I can help, if you decide really to go to UAP. The application process is pretty rigorous, but I'm sure that you can handle it if you really want to get in!

**Melissa:** Thanks Andrea! I'll let you know what I decide. Can I have your e-mail address at UAP? See you at school, Jessica.

**Jessica:** Bye! I'll call you tonight. I have some questions about our chemistry homework.

