

英语

温馨夜读

美丽的失误

(英汉对照)

主编 青 闰



西安交通大学出版社

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内容简介

本书是“英语温馨夜读系列”之一,共 23 篇,英汉对照,详加注解。本书选材广泛,视角独特,新颖精彩,原汁原味,时代感强,具有浓烈的青春气息。《一束铃兰》、《爱的丁香》、《天赐良缘》、《想说爱你不容易》、《美丽的失误》……缠绵悱恻,风情动人;《爱的力量》、《夜幕下的追踪》、《生命回归》、《在生命的最后 25 分钟》……引人入胜,伴君入梦。这里既是你消遣娱乐、陶冶情操的精神家园,也是你领略英语风采、了解英语世界的一道美丽风景线。

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编者的话

“英语温馨夜读系列”是我们继去年的“英语晨读系列”之后，策划推出的又一个精品系列。我们之所以称为“英语温馨夜读系列”，一方面是和“英语晨读系列”遥相呼应、互为补充，另一方面是让读者朋友在夜晚熄灯之前这个非常时段既消遣娱乐，又增加对英语的感悟，在我们营造的浓郁、浪漫、温馨而又惊险的故事情调中潜移默化、融会贯通，增加对英语的兴趣和阅读品味。

“英语温馨夜读系列”首批包括《美丽的失误》、《把爱留住》、《冰人行动》和《爱情传真》四本。在编写原则上，我们遵循故事性、娱乐性和科学性的相对统一，既适合青年读者的阅读品位，又可以为广大英语工作者提供良好的范文作为参照。

在编写特点上，我们将生词置于原文之中进行解释，选文之后还设有难句解析、阅读理解和问题简答，同目前的四、六级考试有着密不可分的渊源关系，但又不囿于其刻板的限制，能使读者在不知不觉中领悟到知识带给我们的精髓和动感。

在每本书的最后，我们给读者提供有参考答案和译文。译文力求准确到位，一方面便于读者正确理解英语原文，另一方面可以帮助读者锤炼汉语言的驾驭能力和表达能力，达到一箭双雕的良好效果。

在选材上，我们披沙拣金，精心配制。这里既有纯情浪漫的校园风采，又有缠绵悱恻的爱情故事，还有人与自然的水乳交融；这里既有同学情、友情，又有父子情、母女情，还有恋人情、夫妻情

……生花妙笔、精彩纷呈,让你百读不厌。

本套丛书由青闰担任主编,负责选文、翻译、导语、生词注释、难句解析和最后统稿等。参加编写的还有:李丽君、邱敏、张卫红、丁兰婷、李玉莲等同志;张卫红、张玲、和冬梅等同志参与了部分文章的翻译,李玉莲、张英杰两位同志为本套丛书提供了部分图片,在此一并致谢。

由于能力有限和各方面条件的制约,本套丛书肯定会存在这样或那样的缺憾,恳请读者不吝赐教,以便我们精益求精,进一步修订,得到更多读者朋友的青睐。

编 者

1999 年 1 月

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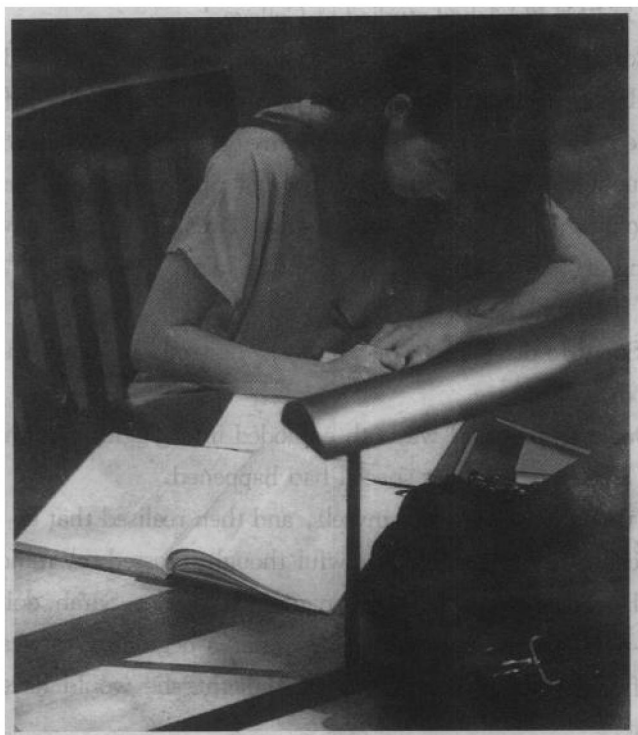
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1. *Made in Heaven*

天赐良缘

“什么时候下班，詹妮？”他说，“你在情人咖啡屋和我会面，好吗？”我一下子不知所措……



met Gabe one day at the bus stop. I was feeling kind of(口语:有点儿) low. It had been a long week of disappointments and misadventures(不幸遭遇) in all directions.

“You look as if you have the weight of the world on your shoulders, babe,” he said casually.

“How rude,” I thought, until I looked up into the most glorious blue eyes I had ever seen. It didn’t stop there. His physique(体格) rivalled that of any of Greek gods whose antics(滑稽动作或姿态, 常用复数) I had studied at College.¹

Normally, I’m not the type to go in for romance novel descriptions, but the sun-streaked, wavy blond hair set off(衬托;使更明显) the perfect body standing before my eyes. He was dressed in casual blue jeans and a white silk shirt that rippled in the breeze.

Coming back to earth with a start, I realised I must have been gawking at(呆呆地盯着) him. I felt an idiot. “Oh God, I’m sorry...” I began.

“Sorry to disappoint you, Jenny,” he smiled. “but I’m Gabe, not God.”

Our eyes met and we both exploded into giggles. At that moment, I knew something special had happened.

I thought to introduce myself, and then realised that he had already called me by name. An awful thought crossed my mind.

“How did you know my name? It’s not Sarah doing her match-made-in-heaven trick again?”² That’s beginning to wear a bit thin after seven failed attempts. I thought she would have given up!”

Gabe pulled a comically thoughtful face. “I don’t think I know

Sarah," he said, pulling out a very tattered(破烂的) black book. I noticed the silver wings emblem(标志;图案) on the cover. He was an airline pilot! Lucky me!

He made a rather elaborate(精心的;费力的) show of checking the "S" index. "Nope, not one of mine," he grinned. 翻书的人

I grinned, too, when I followed his eyes to the bronze name tag pinned to my blouse. It was part of the uniform at the perfumery counter of the large department store where I worked.

"Jenny was my first guess after Estee." He had such an engaging(迷人的) smile!

At that moment, my bus made an illtimed arrival. Throwing caution to the wind, I scribbled my phone number on the back of a perfume sample card with a lipstick. "Call me, Gabe, that's if... of course... if you don't..."

But there was no more time. Jumping on the departing bus, I looked for him through the window, but he was gone.

Why did I get on that bus? What an idiot I was! There would always be another bus. But another Gabe?

And, of course, I was not at all sure that he would call me. The rest of the morning dragged on as I tormented myself with what I should have done. Wondering what could have happened if...

"Jenny! Get your head down out of the clouds, please. There's a customer to serve." It was my supervisor(监督者;管理者) bringing me back to reality with jolt(震惊).

And my heart leapt. 跳

"Excuse me, I was given a sample of 'Angel Mist' by a beautiful young lady this morning..."

It was him. It was Gabe.

"What time do you finish, Jenny," he asked. "Will you meet

me at Valentino(情人节)'s? Do you know it?"

I was overwhelmed and stumbled embarrassingly over my words. It didn't help(改变) when the supervisor suddenly appeared again beside me.

"Jenny. We are not here to socialise(社交)," she admonished(告诫) sternly.

But Gabe's charm worked on her, too. "Dear lady," he said. "dear lady, I would like to purchase your largest bottle of 'Angel Mist'."

And she scuttled(急跑;匆忙撤离) off delightedly to the stock room.

There was that grin again. How could I refuse this man anything?

"Gabe, you don't have to buy it..." It was a shockingly expensive purchase.

"But I do, Jenny. Please gift-wrap(用花纸或缎带包装商品) it and bring it to Valentino's tonight. I have an appointment with the boss so I have to dash."

He paid for the perfume, blew me a kiss and was gone.

Five o'clock couldn't come quickly enough. All afternoon my stomach danced with nervous anticipation. At last, outside Valentino's, I hesitated, worried that he might not be there. Pushing through the revolving doors, I searched the crowded tables for the white-blond mane of hair.

He was there.

But he was deep in conversation with another man! My heart sank. I had honestly thought that we would be alone!

He looked up and I quickly hid my disappointment with a smile. He strode over and ushered me to the table. The perfect gen-

tleman to match the looks, I thought, as he held the chair for me while I sat down.

"Jenny, this is Nathan. Nathan, Jenny." He introduced me to his friend with easy charm.

Nathan was apologetic. "I'm sorry to intrude here," were his first words.

"No, no. I don't mind at all," I lied as graciously as I could.

The waiter came to take our order, shaking out the crisp linen napkins as he explained the specials.

Nathan began to stand up, perhaps realising the potential awkwardness of his presence. "Thank for the advice, Gabe. It makes sense looking at it from that angle. Nice to have met you, Jenny, have a lovely evening."

Even his friends were perfect!

"You don't have to leave, Nathan. Jenny won't mind. After all, we've got a whole lifetime ahead of us to get to know each other."

There was that grin again. How could I refuse this man anything? And his last comment sounded promising!

"Yes, Nathan. Please stay." I managed to sound quite genuine.

Nathan was uncertain, but Gabe was insistent. He gave in and settled back in his chair. "Well, I am rather famished."

"I can recommend the fish platter(大浅圆盘) served with the most delicious damper(饭菜;硬面包) you have ever tasted. A bottle of Monte Vicarto Chardonnay to accompany." Gabe's beautiful blue eyes were bright with happiness.

The meal was superb. And Nathan proved to be good company. I had thought that Nathan must be one of Gabe's work col-

leagues, but it soon emerged that they had only met in the restaurant while Gabe was waiting for me.

Nathan had been having a difficult week—just like me! —and welcomed his conversation with the friendly stranger. We all had a good laugh over the chance encounters that had brought us all to have dinner together.³

Over dinner, Nathan and I uncovered our mutual interest in Greek mythology(神话). I was amazed to find that he had been in the same class as myself at college. What a coincidence!

We talked and laughed together for hours and my infatuation(迷恋) with Gabe faded as I noticed how much Nathan and I had in common. There was a depth and sensitivity to him that I found as attractive as Gabe's physical beauty.

Later on during the evening, our conversation was interrupted by the waiter hovering discreetly(周到地;慎重地) at Gabe's side.

"Excuse me, Mr Gabriel, there is a telephone call for you."

Nathan and I chatted easily during Gabe's absence. I felt very relaxed with him, quite unlike the nervous anticipation I felt with Gabe.

I was almost disappointed when Gabe returned after a few minutes. His grin, which seemed to be permanent in one form or another, was apologetic.

"That was the boss. Something important has come up, so I'm afraid I'll have to leave you to it. I've paid the bill." He turned to go.

"Gabe, wait! Your 'Angel Mist'," I called to him, rummaging(摸索) in my bag for the package.

"Oh, yes, it's for you of course, Jenny. If you'll accept it."

I hadn't even suspected. "I couldn't. No, it's too much."

“Yes, you could,” he said firmly. And then he said something very strange. “Wear it at your wedding, Jenny.”

Then he was gone.

Nathan and I lingered over coffee. He asked, rather shyly, if I would like to come on a tour of historic churches at the weekend.

“I don’t want you to think I’m a stuffed shirt(自命不凡的人) or anything, Jen, but I really love architecture(建筑). St Pat’s has a new stained glass(彩色玻璃) window which I’m dying to see. Apparently there is quite a story attached to it.”

I was intrigued. “What’s the story?”

“Well, the local parishioners(教区居民) paid for it themselves. A few of them believed they had received angelic help in their troubled lives—you know, people a bit down on their luck, feeling a bit low. They had the window made as a sort of tribute to the angle who helped them.”

“What a great story, Nathan! I’ll come. It might be fun.”

On Saturday morning, Nathan arrived at my door armed with a picnic basket and a bottle of champagne. “To celebrate our meeting,” he said.

In the car, he asked if I had heard from Gabe. I had to say no, adding, “I feel a fraud(骗子), accepting that perfume. It was so expensive. But I don’t have his number so I can’t even thank him.”

The church was beautiful. As we drove up the long driveway, I couldn’t help exclaiming, “This is just the sort of church I dreamed of getting married in!”

I blushed immediately, but Nathan didn’t seem perturbed. 10 31

Entering through the great carved doors, we marvelled at the ancient grace of the building. It had been faithfully restored and was 10 31

very ornate(装饰华美的).

Stone cherubim(天使) kept a peaceful watch from atop the mighty columns, but it was the stained glass window that truly took my breath away(大吃一惊).

Nathan and I stood together beneath the glorious coloured glass and looked up at the familiar features. The silk shirt and jeans had been replaced by flowing white robes and huge sweeping wings.

But, unmistakably, it was Gabe. Mr Gabriel, holding his little black book with the silver wings on the cover.

Notes

1. His physique...at college. whose...college 是 gods 的后置定语。
2. It's not Sarah...trick again? 该句用陈述语序来表示疑问,意在强调,亦表示明知故问之意,同时这也是一个省略句,doing 前省略了 who is。
3. We all had...have dinner together. that 从句修饰 encounters, 作定语, chance 在这里是形容词,意为“偶然的,不期的,意外的”。

Exercises

1. Comprehension:

- 1) According to the text, who was the “angel”?

A. ~~Gabe~~ B. Jenny
C. Nathan D. all of them

- 2) Nathan was a _____ to Gabe.

A. boss B. ~~friend~~
C. colleague D. stranger

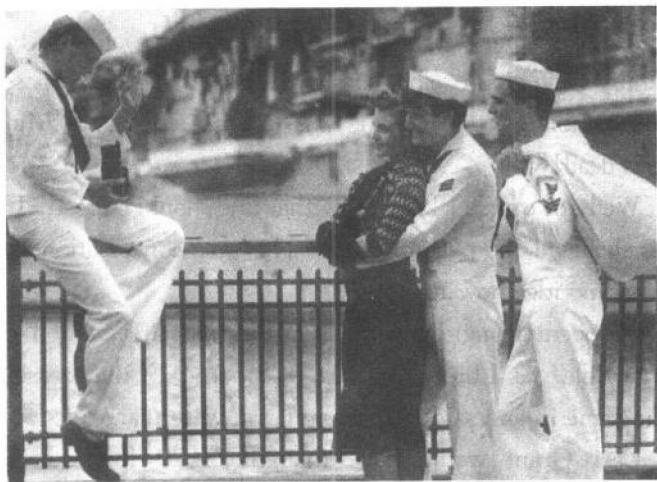
2. Questions:

- 1) Why did Gabe make Nathan and Jenny know each other?
- 2) How did Nathan and Jenny fall in love?

2. *My Girl, My Wife*

爱的了香

在去咖啡馆的路上,我突然意识到我囊空如洗,甚至连一个蹦子儿都拿不出来。我可不能告诉身边这位美若天仙的女孩。我只有暗暗祈祷:如果能碰上一个好友解一下燃眉之急该多好啊……



entered Northwestern University in the fall of 1941—a shy, skinny, ill-dressed boy on a \$ 300 scholarship from the Winnetka Community Theater. For the first two or three days in my theater course, I sat behind a girl named Lydia Clarke. All I saw was her tumbling(蓬松的) mane of black

Irish hair, which made me tremble. She bent over her desk, taking notes. I sat bemused(神思恍惚), taking notes only of her.

Between classes I made terse(简短的) offhand(唐突的) remarks—"Hithere. How ya doin'?" But I couldn't figure out how to advance the relationship. I'd never even been on a date. Girls expected to be taken out and bought hamburgers and Cokes and taken home in cars. I didn't have any money. I didn't drive a car or know how to dance. Girls? I didn't have a clue(一无所知).

Fate, as they say, took a hand: Lydia and I were cast in the same bill of plays(节目单). I was in *Francesca da Rimini*, playing a medieval(中世纪的) lover, all tights and curled hair and daggers at the belt. Lydia was in a moody(多愁善感的) English piece called *The Madras House*. During dress rehearsal—could she have been nudging(接近) fate along? —Lydia asked me how to speak her opening line. She told me she was to enter and say, "Minnie, my frog is dead!"

Well, of course I knew how that line should be read. I had firm ideas about all the performances. This was conversation I knew. I just had no idea how to stop.

On opening night my medieval bit was first, and I decided I was terrible. As I brooded(沉思) in a corner of the dressing room, Lydia came in and said, "I thought you were marvelous!"

Cary Grant would have thought of 20 funny or engaging replies. I stuck out my tongue.

In an infinity(无穷大) of female wisdom, Lydia neither walked out nor hit me. Finally I said in a strangled voice(噤声噤气地), "What I mean is, ah, I would like to talk to you about it. Could we go and, ah, have some coffee?"

Yes, she would like that (this to the music of the spheres 凡人