

高等学校 文科
英语泛读 教材

THE
JIM
MICK

幸运的吉姆

(简缩本)

外语教学与研究出版社

高等学校文科英语泛读教材

LUCKY JIM

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2579/19

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北京外语学院出版社出版

(北京外国语学院 23 号信箱)

中国图书进出口总公司上海印刷厂 排版

冶金工业印刷厂印刷

新华书店北京发行所发行

全国各地新华书店经售

开本 787×1092 1/32 6.5 印张 138 千字
1984 年 2 月第 1 版 1986 年 6 月北京第三次印刷

印数 66001~97000 册

书号: 9215·196 定价: 1.10 元

内 容 简 介

Lucky Jim 是现代英国诗人、小说家 Kingsley Amis (1922—) 的第一部小说, 发表于 1954 年。作者曾在英国高等学校任教多年, 在这部小说里描写了他所熟悉的人物和环境。小说以英国某地的一所大学为背景, 以讽刺的手法真实生动地表现了英国一部分知识分子的生活侧面。语言幽默诙谐, 人物性格鲜明。出版后即受到好评, 1957 年被拍成电影。

这个简缩本是经过 D.K.Swan 节略和改写的, 现加汉语注释出版, 可作为高等学校文科高年级英语泛读教材。本书也适合于具有同等英语水平的其他读者阅读。

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CHAPTER 1

Dixon had found his professor in the College Library and they were now moving across a small lawn towards the front of the main building of the College. They looked, but only looked, like some kind of funny stage act:¹ Welch tall and weedy, with limp whitening hair,² Dixon rather short, fair and round-faced, with an unusual breadth of shoulder that had never been matched by any special physical strength or skill. In spite of this over-evident contrast between them, Dixon realised that their progress, steady and by appearance thoughtful,³ must seem rather donnish to passing students. He and Welch might well be talking about history,⁴ and in the way history might be talked about on Oxford and Cambridge college lawns.

In fact Welch was talking rather childishly about music. How had he become Professor of History, even at a place like this? By published work? No. By extra good teaching?

1 like some kind of funny stage act:象是在演一出什么滑稽剧。 2 Welch tall and weedy, with limp whitening hair: Welch 是个瘦弱的高个儿, 柔软的头发表开始花白。这是一个独立结构, 作状语。下文 Dixon rather short...同。 3 steady and by appearance thoughtful(=which was steady and...):稳重的、若有所思的。此为定语, 修饰上文 progress。 4 He and Welch might well be talking about history: 他和 Welch 很可能是在谈论历史。

No underlined.¹ Then how? As usual Dixon left this question aside, telling himself that what mattered was that this man had decisive power over his future, at least until the next four or five weeks were passed. Until then he must try to make Welch like him, and one way of doing this was, he supposed, to be present and conscious while Welch talked about music. But did Welch notice who else was there while he talked, and if he noticed did he remember, and if he remembered would it affect such thoughts as he had already?² Then suddenly, with no warning, the second of Dixon's two worries snapped into consciousness.³ Fighting desperately against a yawn of nervousness, he asked in his flat northern voice: 'How's Margaret these days?'

The other's face showed a very gradual change of expression as his attention began to swing round to this new situation, and in a moment or two he was able to say: 'Margaret?'

'Yes; I've not seen her for a week or two.' Or three, Dixon added uneasily to himself.

'Oh. She's recovering very quickly, I think, all things considered.'⁴ She took a very hard knock, of course, over

1 No underlined: 决不是。underlined(底下划线的)为 No 的定语,表示这个否定词是加着重号的。 2 such thoughts as he had already: 他已有的想法(指要使 Welch 喜欢他的想法)。as he had already 为定语从句,其中as为关系代词。 3 the second of Dixon's two worries snapped into consciousness; Dixon 所担心两件事情中的第二件突然使他不安起来。snap into consciousness: 这里作“突然被意识到”。 4 all things considered: 从各方面看来。

that Catchpole fellow.¹ It's her mind that's suffering now, you see, not her body; physically she's absolutely fit again, I should say. In fact, the sooner she can get back to some sort of work the better. It would help to take her mind off ...off...'

Dixon knew all this, and very much better than Welch could hope to, but he felt obliged to say: 'Yes, I see. I think living with you, Professor, and Mrs. Welch, must have helped her a lot.'

'Yes, I think there must be something about the atmosphere of the place, you know, that has some sort of healing effect.' And the healing atmosphere led him back once more to the subject of music.

Dixon considered how, without causing Welch to turn on him a long-lived puzzled frown, he could remind him of his invitation to come to tea at the Welches' house outside the city. They'd arranged to leave at four o'clock in Welch's car, and it was now ten past.² Dixon felt nervousness hitting out at his stomach³ as he thought of seeing Margaret, whom he was to take out that evening for the first time since she'd broken down. He forced his attention away on to Welch's habits as a car-driver, and began trying to feed his anger⁴ to cover his nervousness. It worked for five seconds

1 She took a very hard knock, of course, over that Catchpole fellow. 当然啦, 由于那个名叫 Catchpole 的家伙, 她受到了很大打击。 2 it was now ten past (=it was now ten past four): 现在(四点)十分了。 3 Dixon felt nervousness hitting out at his stomach: Dixon 的心里感到十分紧张不安。 hit out at: 向……猛击。 4 trying to feed his anger: 设法让自己发怒。

or less.¹

How would she behave when they were alone together? Would she be gay, pretending she'd forgotten, or had never noticed, the length of time since he last saw her, gaining height before she dipped to the attack?² Or would she be silent and dull, apparently quite inattentive, forcing him to drag painfully from small-talk through expression of anxiety to defeat in humble promises and excuses?³ However it began, it would go on in the same way: with one of those questions which could be neither answered nor avoided, with some frightening confession, some statement about herself which, whether 'said for effect' or not, got its effect just the same. He'd been drawn into the Margaret business by a combination of virtues he hadn't known he possessed: politeness, friendly interest, a good-natured willingness to be taken advantage of, a desire for simple friendship. It had seemed natural for a female lecturer to invite a junior, though older, newcomer to the staff to coffee, and no more than polite to accept.⁴ Then suddenly he'd become the man who was 'going round' with Margaret, and somehow competing with this Catchpole, a

1 It worked for five seconds or less. 这方法只奏效了五秒钟或者还不到。
2 gaining height before she dipped to the attack: 居高临下然后发动进攻。
3 forcing him to drag...humble promises and excuses: 迫使他痛苦地寻话搭讪, 表示出焦虑不安的样子, 最后认输屈服, 低声下气地道歉许愿, drag 表示吃力地、慢吞吞地从事。from, through 和 to 三个介词用来表示动作的过程。defeat 为名词, 作介词 to 的宾语。4 and no more than polite to accept (=and it had seemed no more than polite to accept): 而接受这一邀请也不过是出于礼貌而已。no more than: 仅仅, 只不过。

background figure of varying importance.¹ He'd thought a couple of months earlier that Catchpole was progressing nicely, taking the strain off him. And then Catchpole had thrown her over and left Dixon to receive alone the full attack of those terrible questions and confessions.

Those questions.... Although he wasn't allowed to smoke another cigarette until five o'clock, Dixon lit one now as he remembered the earliest of them, six months or more ago; about the beginning of last December it had been,² seven or eight weeks after he took up his appointment. 'Do you like coming to see me?' was the first he could remember, and it had been easy as well as truthful to answer 'Yes'. Then there'd been ones like 'Do you think we get along well together?' and 'Am I the only girl you know in this place?' and once, when he'd asked her out for the third evening running, 'Are we going to go on seeing so much of each other?' His first fears had attacked him then, but before that and for some time after he'd thought how much simpler this kind of honesty made the awful business of dealing with women. And the same had seemed true of the confessions:³ 'I do enjoy being with you', 'I don't get along well with men as a rule', 'Don't laugh at me if I say I think the

1 a background figure of varying importance: 一个时而重要时而又并不重要的幕后人物。 2 about the beginning of last December it had been(=it had been about the beginning of last December): 这里把表语提到句前,使它和前面的 six months or more ago 联系更紧。 3 And the same had seemed true of the confessions: 而下面的这类表白也有相同的作用。 be true of: 对……适用,符合于。

Board did a better job than they knew when they appointed you'. He hadn't wanted to laugh then, nor did he want to now. What would she be wearing this evening? He thought he would just be able to praise anything except the green Paisley dress in combination with the low-heeled velvet shoes.

Where was Welch? Dixon found him in one of the passages.

'Thought you'd gone without me,' Professor,' he said.

The other turned, his face twisted with wonder.² 'Gone?' he asked. 'You're...'

'You're taking me home for tea,' Dixon informed him. 'We arranged it on Monday, at coffee-time, in the Common Room.'³

'Coffee-time?'

'Yes, on Monday,' Dixon answered him, putting his hands into his pockets and tightening them as fists.⁴

'Oh,' Welch said. 'Oh. Did we say this afternoon?'

'That's right, Professor. Hope it's still convenient.'

Welch was recovering quickly. He managed to put his fishing-hat on his head. 'We'll go down in my car,' he offered.

'That'll be nice.'

1 Thought you'd gone without me (=I thought you'd gone without me): (我)还以为你没等我就走了呢。 2 his face twisted with wonder: 他惊奇得脸都扭歪了。这是一个分词独立结构,作状语。 3 the Common Room:(教师的)公共休息室。 4 tightening them as fists: 把手攥成拳头。

Outside the building they walked to the car where it stood with a few others. Dixon stared around him while Welch looked thoroughly for his keys.

A minute later he was sitting listening to a sound like the ringing of a cracked door-bell as Welch pulled at the starter. This died away into a high-pitched humming that seemed to involve every part of the car.¹ Welch tried again; this time the effect was of beer-bottles being struck unevenly.² Before Dixon could do more than close his eyes³ he was pressed firmly back against the seat, and with a tearing sound from underneath the wheels the car burst forward towards the grass, which Welch ran over briefly before turning into the road.

They climbed College Road, keeping to the middle of the highway. The despairing horn of a lorry behind them made Dixon take a secret look at Welch, whose face, he saw with passion, held an expression of calm assurance like an old seaman's in rough weather. Dixon shut his eyes again. He was hoping that when Welch had reached the top of the hill the conversation would turn in some other direction than History Department matters.⁴ He even thought he'd rather hear some more about music or about Welch's sons,

1 a high-pitched humming that seemed to involve every part of the car: 仿佛整个汽车都发出了尖锐的嗡嗡声。 2 this time the effect was of beer-bottles being struck unevenly: 这一次发出的声音就象是胡乱敲打着许多啤酒瓶发出的声音。 3 Before Dixon could do more than close his eyes: Dixon 刚刚把眼睛闭上就…… 4 the conversation would...History Department matters: 话题会转到历史系以外的事情上去。 other than: 不同于,……以外的。

the unmanly writing Michel¹ and the bearded pacifist painting Bertrand whom Margaret had described to him. But whatever the subject for discussion might be, Dixon knew that before the journey ended he'd find his face becoming shapeless, like an old bag, with the strain of making it smile and show interest and speak its few permitted words, of steering it between breaking down in utter weariness and tightening with murderous rage.²

At last Welch said in a far-away half-shout, 'Oh, by the way, Dixon.'

'Yes, Professor?'

'I've been wondering if you'd care to come over next week-end for the...week-end. I think it should be quite good fun. We're having a few people from London, you know, friends of ours and of my son Bertrand's. Bertrand's going to try and come himself, of course, but he doesn't know yet if he can get away. I expect we shall put on one or two little shows, little bits of music and so on.³ We'll probably ask you to join in something.'

The car was running along a clear road. 'Thank you

1 the unmanly writing Michel: 那个婆婆妈妈的摇笔杆子的 Michel, Michel 自诩为作家,故这么说,这里带有讽刺的意味。下文 the bearded pacifist painting Bertrand (那个大胡子和和平主义者,画画的 Bertrand) 同。 2 with the strain of making it smile...murderous rage: 由于一路上须得强颜欢笑,不时又要插上几句得体的话,而且还得小心翼翼,既不要在脸上流露极端无聊的神色,又不能因为怒不可遏而紧绷着脸。文中 it, its 都指 Dixon 的脸。steer 原作“驾驶”、“掌舵”解, steer it between...指他要小心控制自己的脸部表情,就象在二块险礁之间驾船前进那样。 3 I expect we shall put on...and so on. 我希望我们能演出一、二个小节目,演奏几小段音乐什么的。

very much, I should love to come,' Dixon said, thinking he must get Margaret to do some spying to find out what he'd probably be asked to join in.

Welch seemed quite glad at this ready acceptance. 'That's fine,' he said, apparently with feeling. 'Now there's a Department matter I'd like to discuss with you. I've been talking to the Principal about the College Open Week¹ at the end of term. He wants the History Department to contribute something, you see, and I've been wondering about you.² I thought you might like to give the evening lecture the Department is to provide, if you could.'

'Well, I would rather like to have a go at a public lecture,³ if you think I'm capable of it,' Dixon managed to say.

'I thought something like "Merrie England"⁴ might do as a subject. Not too donnish, and not too...not too...Do you think you could prepare something of that sort?'

1 the College Open Week: 学院开放周。(指这一周内学校将邀请社会人士参加各项活动。) 2 I've been wondering about you: 我一直在琢磨不知你行不行。
3 I would rather like to have a go at a public lecture: 我倒很愿意试试公开讲演。
4 Merrie England: 可爱的英格兰, 尤指中世纪时的英格兰。merrie=merry.

CHAPTER 2

'And then, just before I became unconscious, I suddenly stopped caring. I'd been desperately holding on to the empty bottle, I remember, as if I were holding on to life, in a way.¹ But quite soon I didn't in the least mind going: I felt too tired somehow. And yet if someone had shaken me and said, "Come on, you're not going, you're coming back," I really believe I should have started trying to make the effort, trying to get back. But nobody did and so I just thought, Oh well, here we go, it doesn't matter so very much.² A curious sensation.' Margaret Peel, small, thin, wearing glasses and bright make-up,³ glanced at Dixon with a half-smile. Around them was the low noise of half a dozen conversations.

'It's a good sign that you're able to talk about it like this,' he said. She made no reply, so he went on: 'What happened afterwards, or can't you remember? Don't tell me if you'd rather not, of course.'

¹ in a way: 在某种意义上说:有点像是。 ² so I just thought, Oh well, ...so very much: 于是我就想: 唉,这就要死去啦,不过也没有什么大不了的。 Oh well, here we go,... 为 Margaret 当时的思想活动,虽不用引号,仍相当于一个直接引语,故句子的开始用大写,动词用现在时。 ³ wearing glasses and bright make-up: 戴着一副眼镜,脸上浓妆艳抹。 wear make-up: 涂脂抹粉。

She pulled her cardigan up over the shoulders of the green Paisley dress and told him.

There was a last question which Dixon knew he was compelled to ask. He said in a low voice, having first drunk freely from his glass: 'You needn't say anything if you don't want to, but...you are over this business, aren't you? You wouldn't think of trying again, I mean?'

She glanced up quickly as if she'd been expecting to be asked this, but he couldn't be sure whether she was glad or sorry when it came. Then she turned her head away and he could see how thin the flesh was over her jawbone. 'No, I wouldn't try again,' she said. 'I don't care about him any more; I don't feel anything at all about him. In fact I feel now it was rather silly to have tried at all.'¹

This made Dixon decide that his fears about this evening had been foolish. 'Good,' he said cheerfully. 'Has he tried to get in touch with you or anything?'²

'Nothing, not even so much as a telephone message.'³ Vanished without a trace. He might never have existed—as far as we are concerned. I suppose he's too busy with his popsy these days, as he said he'd be.'

'Oh, he said that, did he?'

'Oh yes, our Mr Catchpole never made any secret about

1 it was rather silly to have tried at all: (我)竟干了那种事真够傻的。at all 用于肯定句时,意指本来不该做的,但却做了。 2 Has he tried to get in touch with you or anything? 他有没有设法与你联系什么的? 3 not even so much as a telephone message: 甚至连一个电话也没有打来。

things. What were his words? "I'm taking her away to North Wales with me for a couple of weeks. I thought I ought to tell you before I went off." Oh, he was charmingly frank about it, James; quite charming in every way.'

Again she turned away from him, and this time he found himself noticing the thinness of her neck. He felt for his cigarettes, but before he could offer them to her, she turned back with a little smile which he recognised, with self-dislike, as consciously brave.

She emptied her glass with a quick gay movement. 'Beer,' she said. 'Bring me beer. The night is young.'

While he was getting the drinks, Dixon wondered first how many more he might be expected to pay for, and then why Margaret, with her full lecturer's salary uninterrupted by her absence from work,² so seldom offered to buy him a drink. Finally, though this was no more welcome, he thought of the morning before Margaret had taken a whole bottleful of sleeping-pills. He'd had nothing to do at College that day before a lecture in the afternoon, and she'd been free after seeing some students at ten. After coffee at sevenpence a cup in a recently-opened restaurant, they'd gone to a chemist's³ where she'd wanted to buy a few things. One of the things had been a new bottle of the

1 The night is young. 时间还早呢 (指夜晚还刚开始不久). 2 with her full lecturer's salary...from work: 在她不工作期间仍领取着讲师的全薪. "介词 with + 名词 (短语) + 分词 (短语)" 作用相当于一独立结构, 作状语. 3 a chemist's (= a chemist's shop): 药房.