

美国悲剧

American Tragedy

Mary Wayne

折 鸿 雁 编

当今美国热门话题丛书之一

西安交通大学出版社

当今美国热门话题丛书之一

美国悲剧

American Tragedy

Mary Wayne

编

拆 灣 應

西安交通大学出版社

内容简介

六年前落井获救的美国女孩杰西卡今天怎样?写下“波黑日记”的女孩斯拉塔命运又有何改观?电磁场会致癌吗?增高有没有妙药?保罗·西蒙如何创作歌曲?……您会发现这本英语读物中有形形色色诱人的文章。而人生感悟、家庭离合以及肯尼迪遇刺等美国故事又构成此书悲剧性的整体气氛,相信将带给您感情上的洗礼。

阅读的乐趣不外如此吧!

为了帮助顺利阅读,引导正确理解,书中每篇文章之后附有难点注释及阅读理解选择练习,书后给出答案。大学生和有中等英语水平的读者可以通过阅读本书求知冶情,同时自然而然会提高英语水平。

(陕)新登字 007 号

当今美国热门话题丛书之一

美国悲剧

American Tragedy

Mary Wayne 编
折 鸿 雁

*

西安交通大学出版社出版发行

(西安市咸宁西路 28 号 邮政编码:710049 电话:3268316)

空军西安印刷厂印装

各地新华书店经销

*

开本:850×1168 1/32 印张:11.375 字数:284 千字

1995 年 1 月第 1 版 1997 年 2 月第 6 次印刷

印数:43001—53000

ISBN7-5605-0704-2/H·63 定价:10.00 元

若发现本社图书有倒页、白页、少页及影响阅读的质量问题,请去当地销售部门调换或与我社发行科联系调换。发行科电话:(029)3268357,3267874

“当今美国热门话题丛书”总序

学习语言的真正目的是求知和交流。然而同许多其它事情一样,这简单的道理被许许多多社会因素搅扰,以致很多教与学者误入迷途。看到一些学外语的朋友备受煎熬,而另一些通过考试后如释重负的样子,总叫人觉得可怜又可惜。学习另一个民族的语言,犹如打开一扇天窗,能看到另一个精彩纷呈的世界,这本是一件其乐无穷的事,为什么把大家搞得这么苦?

对大多数朋友而言,您也许没有机会体验与一位美国的管子工聊天之乐,但假如您是位歌手或歌迷,找一篇关于保罗·西蒙如何写歌的文章,从中得一二旁人罕知的要诀,其中乐趣是无与伦比的。

我们编这套“当今美国热门话题丛书”,最基本的出发点也就是要提醒和展示给朋友们外语阅读的乐趣。希望您选购这本书完全是出于对某些文章的内容感兴趣。如果您读到了非常

想知道的东西,或者最后您觉得读过的东西索然无味,那么您要学的语言的最重要部分应该说就已经学到了。不必刻意追求学习语言的效率,智者如陶渊明,阅读起来也满足于“不求甚解”,不是吗?

话说回来,要引起大家的阅读兴趣是件非常难做到的事情。因为对于多数中国读者,英语阅读能力差和知识志趣成熟的矛盾是一个大问题,很难兼顾。多数阅读书籍着重迁就语言水平,这难免使文章内容流于浅泛。而我们尝试对语言难度较少控制(多属原文照录,难者多加注释)的办法,这样可使文章内容的选择从容自如。

说到内容选择,大家都知道要注意情趣,但这谈何容易。为此我们将选择文章的原则确定为,着意选那些能称之为文化的内容,也就是那些能代表时代和社会的事件、人物和作品,而摒弃轶闻奇谈之类。民族文化的差异经常是引人入胜的话题,也是语言学习中重要的部分。然而西方文化同样浩如烟海,如何掌握轻重缓急又是一个棘手的问题。我们最后采取请外籍专家参与的做法,通过座谈议题、定文章,最后确定一本书。再说兴趣,要引起读者兴趣文章自然得有一定的深度和专门性。但我们显然不可能选一篇关于“湿蒸汽两相流”之类的专业文章,这里的专门性也还是在广泛性的话题基础上,更具体和深入一些。

孔子曰:“能之不如好之。”做任何事,从中发现乐趣是至关重要的。您若不能从外语阅读中找到乐趣,即便在考试的压力下外语能达到一定水平,这一水平也会因无法保持而衰退。这种例子我们周围并不少见。

应当说编这套书是一次新鲜的尝试,因此我们真诚地欢迎读者朋友们及时反馈给我们您的想法、建议和批评。

西安交通大学出版社编辑部

1994年9月

前言

从事外语教学与研究工作的十年以来，有一个问题一直困扰着我们：语言，作为一种交流的工具，是如此令人着迷地吸引着千千万万的人们，然而绝大多数人们为什么总是学得那么累，进展得那么慢，以致失去信心，甚至半途而废？

为何不能有一种能够持续地激励人们去接近、去触摸并体验语言的东西呢？正如孩子们不需施予过多的语法、听力等训练即可灵活地运用其母语一样，语言的进步，关键在于不断有新的需求，接受新的挑战 and 刺激，否则语言就仅仅是一门考试的科目，一种沉重的负担。

在一次交谈中，我发现西安交通大学出版社的编辑们在英语学习方面与我们有着一致的看法，正是这种共识使我们得以在很短的时间里完成这本《美国悲剧》。

本书自始至终贯彻了我们对语言学习的共识。我们耐心地期待着愿意从英文中获取信息，找到乐趣，同时在愉悦的心境下学习英语的人

们,能够在这有限的 40 篇文章中搜寻到一些(哪怕只有一两篇)使您感动,并能长久存留于您记忆中的东西。因此,我们想方设法使您感到新鲜、感到心灵的震撼:从单身父亲到女人的内心世界;从总统遇刺到女孩被绑架;从家庭主妇搞股票到黑手党;从信息高速公路到同性恋、爱滋病等。文章题材跨度大,内容深刻。在选择当中,有意无意集中了美国这片物质文明高度发达的土地上存在的虐待、暴力,绑架、谋杀,早恋、早孕,家庭畸形等社会问题,因而构成了全书悲剧性的格调。

在展现美国这个光怪陆离的社会的同时,不可避免地要暴露这个西方文明社会中的一些丑恶之处。通过这类文章,我们得以窥视到美国人的生活方式、思想感情、价值观念和道德观念,看到这个社会中堕落的一面。相信广大读者对此会有自己的鉴别能力,不会盲目崇尚西方的所有东西,包括一些颓废的观念和行为准则。当然您一定也能从另一些文章中感受到积极进取的人生哲学。如“摆脱不幸”一文通过一名普普通通的家庭主妇在儿子已被医学界权威判处死刑之后,以伟大的母爱使身患不治之症的孩子重获新生的故事,揭示了爱的力量。

因此,这本书中所展示的美国,既非天堂,也非地狱。我们只希望您能从中获得一系列客观的美国画面,同时获得英文水平的提高。

西安交通大学人文学院教授潘能对本书提出了宝贵意见,在此深表感谢。

鉴于编写时间的仓促以及水平的局限,如有不当之处,望读者朋友不吝赐教。

编者

1994 年 9 月

Contents

1. *The Little Girl in the Well*
落井获救的小女孩..... (1)
2. *Single Dads*
单身父亲..... (10)
3. *"Casablanca" at 50*
犹记《卡萨布兰卡》..... (18)

《卡萨布兰卡》
——这部美国华纳兄弟影片公司 1942 年的杰作，在 50 年后的今天依然蜚声全球，令无数有情人泪湿青衫。这里有该片鲜为人知的拍摄内幕：男女主角的恩怨，感情纠葛。



4. *Hollywood Stars' Dark Secrets*

好莱坞明星隐私曝光 (27)

5. *An American Tragedy*

美国悲剧 (35)

美国第35任总统
(1961—1963)约翰·F·
肯尼迪是美国历史上第4
位遇刺身亡的总统。30多
年来,人们对肯尼迪遇刺
事件一直众说纷纭,莫衷
一是。“谁是凶手?”更是
困扰着无数的历史学家。
本篇回顾了这一重大历史
事件,对以上疑问,相信您
会得到满意的答案。



6. *Bill Clinton's Love Story*

比尔·克林顿的爱情故事 (50)

7. *Beyond Bruce Lee*

超越李小龙 (60)

8. *Athletes—Open to Attack*

运动员——袭击对象 (67)

9. *"When I See My Ex-husband, I Have This Secret Trick I Play on Him..."*

傲视前夫 (75)

10. *Dear Diary*

来自波黑的日记 (83)

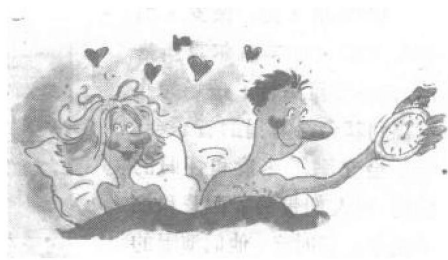
11. *"How I Turned \$ 300 into \$ 100,000"*

300元变10万元 (91)

12. "My Husband Left Me for the Town Tramp"

丈夫有外遇 (103)

15 年的婚姻竟弱不禁风,丈夫的新欢是自己的好友。这是一个非常普通的美国故事,然而这位妻子每一句生动的叙述和她离异后的遭遇却读来生动、亲切。



13. *A Return to Tenderness*

重归温柔 (112)

14. *Lesbian's Kid*

同性恋者的孩子 (118)

15. *Runaway Husbands*

离家出走的丈夫 (124)

16. *Parents: What You Must Know about Your Teenager's Sex Life*

注意孩子们的早恋 (135)

17. *What Phase Are You in?*

你的状态如何? (147)

18. *Life, Liberty—And Lots of Guns*

生活,自由——充满暴力 (153)

19. *The Craft Behind the Sounds of Simon*

保罗·西蒙谈创作 (161)

1993年3月,保罗·西蒙与阿特·加丰凯尔重新搭档,在洛杉矶举行了一场为儿童福利基金会募捐的音乐会。音乐会充满了热情和怀旧的情绪,把人们带回了西蒙和加丰凯尔的好时光。他们演唱的歌曲不仅是对往日的重温,也显示了近30年之后西蒙对自己旧作的评价。



20. *Highly Charged Suspicious*

疑云笼罩 (170)

21. *My Stepfather, My Friend*

继父,朋友 (176)

22. *Cure Yourself of Unhappiness*

摆脱不幸 (182)

23. *Love Plus 20 Years*

20年后的爱 (190)

24. *Lateral Thinking for Kids*

迂回思维术 (198)

25. *Global Mafia* (1)

黑手党遍布全球(1) (204)

26. *Global Mafia* (2)

黑手党遍布全球(2) (216)

27. *Why Is the West Scared?*

西方为何害怕? (229)

28. *Taken in the Night*
被黑夜吞噬 (237)
29. *Pillow Power*
汽车安全气囊 (246)
30. *Advertising's Fifteen Basic Appeals*
广告的 15 项魅力 (252)

随着市场经济的竞争日趋激烈,广告的竞争也将白热化。高品位的广告不单单是广而告之,而且具有唤起人潜在欲求的功效。在这篇深入探讨的文章中,你会对此有所了解。



31. *A Marriage of Inconvenience*
婚姻,没那么随便 (261)
32. *And a Drug to Grow on*
增高妙法 (268)
33. *Inside NBA*
美国全国篮球协会内幕 (273)

美国全国篮球协会云集了全美国最优秀的职业运动员。他们人高马大,个个身怀绝技。球场上他们奋力拼杀,球场之外他们又干些什么呢?



34. *The Soul of a Business*
生意的灵魂 (282)
35. *Lost on the Information Highway*
迷失在信息高速公路上 (291)
36. *Sandwich Generation*
上有老, 下有小 (299)
37. *Violences in Movies*
影片中的暴力 (310)
38. *AIDS without Needles or Sex*
爱滋病, 并非来自针头或性 (317)
39. *Boxing—Legalized Murder?*
拳击——合法谋杀? (322)
40. *Boy Meets Girl And Boy Beats Girl*
男孩追女孩, 男孩揍女孩 (337)

在美国, 在丈夫殴打妻子现象日益增多的同时, 十五六岁的男孩打女朋友这一现象严重到要颁布法令制止。这些男孩心态如何? 他们想通过暴力显示什么? 少女们对此又作何感想呢?



Answer Keys (347)

1

The Little Girl in the Well

Kathryn Casey

落井获救的小女孩

1987年,在美国得克萨斯州,18个月的小女孩杰西卡不慎坠入一枯井。持续48小时的营救工作牵动着亿万人们的心。根据这一事件拍成的电视剧在全球引起轰动。5年过去了,杰西卡能否记得当时的情景?心灵上的创伤愈合了吗?



Come watch me," says Jessica McClure, grabbing a visitor by the hand and leading her into her kingdom, a pink and white bedroom filled with clowns, stuffed animals and a bed decorated with hearts. Dressed in a lavender top and raspberry leggings, she slides onto the back of her wooden horse, and with all the confidence of a precocious six-year-old, rocks and counts by fives. "Five, ten, fifteen...one hundred! I can count by tens, too," she says, her grin revealing a gap where she's just lost her first teeth. "Wanna hear me?"

Not long ago, in the years following her rescue from a well in which she was trapped twenty-two feet beneath the surface, Jessica found it difficult to stay in this room. On a typical night, haunted by frightening memories, she cried herself to sleep. Then she suffered nightmares, calling out "No!" and "Don't!" Finally, she sought refuge in her parents' bed.

That terrified little child bears no resemblance to the lively and self-assured first grader Jessica is today. "It took a couple of years before she didn't need me quite so much," says Jessica's mother, Cissy, twenty-three, curled up on the sofa in their home outside Midland, Texas. "Now she wants to be Little Miss Independent. She's a normal six-year-old, and she thinks she can do it all."

Nevertheless, the five years since her rescue have not been without turmoil. Jessica has endured her parents' divorce, as well as continued surgeries to repair the physical injuries of her fall. And for Cissy, the pain has been more than skin deep. Although happily remarried, she is haunted by the sorrow, grief and guilt any mother would feel when she leaves her child unattended, even briefly, and in the blink of an eye a tragic accident changes their lives forever.

On October 14, 1987, the little girl, then eighteen months old,

left alone for a few minutes by her mother in her aunt's backyard, dangled her feet over a small, eight-inch-wide well. As she tried to stand up again, she plunged into the darkness.

All of Midland pulled together to free Jessica from what could have been a premature grave. Rescuers drilled a twenty-nine-foot vertical shaft parallel to the well and then bored a five-foot-long horizontal tunnel through solid rock to reach her. The story was so dramatic, and Jessica's cries from the depth of the well so heartbreaking, that the rescue drew international attention.

Possibly due to her age at the time of the accident, Jessica appears emotionally unhurt by those long hours alone in the well, when she cried and sang "Winnie-the-Pooh" and "Jesus Loves Me" for comfort. In fact, the little girl says she has no memory of her accident: When the family watched a 1989 TV movie depicting the rescue, Cissy says she had to convince Jessica the story was about her. "She kept saying, 'Are they going to get that little girl out, Mama?'" she says. "I had to keep explaining, 'Yes, honey, that little girl is you, and they did get you out.'"

And although Jessica has occasional nightmares, she says they're strictly the monster-in-the-closet variety.

Painful reminders

The physical signs of the accident are still in evidence. Thanks to continued surgeries, the scar on Jessica's forehead, caused by rubbing her head against the well's rocky wall, has become less noticeable. But another scar, a half-dollar-size bald spot just above the back of her neck, remains sharply visible.

Surgeons eventually had to amputate the little toe on her right foot, which had been crushed in the well; the skin grafts they used

saved the rest of her foot from gangrene.

But though Jessica's injuries have healed, Cissy has found it difficult to forget the pain and uncertainty of the ordeal and its hurtful aftermath. She and her husband, Chip, were just eighteen at the time, little more than children themselves. And though Midland supported the young couple, since then there has been something of a reaction against them.

The McClures, it was rumored, were spending money sent by well-wishers that was meant for their daughter. In fact, the bulk of Jessica's money, at the time an estimated \$ 700,000, is in a trust fund governed by a board of directors and will not be available to her until she is twenty-five. Neither of the McClures can withdraw from the account except to pay for their daughter's medical and school expenses.

It is true, however, that Cissy and Chip managed to work their way through money that came directly to them. Although she won't comment on the total they received, Cissy admits it was substantial.

Another rumor—that the McClures had a troubled marriage—proved true also: The couple filed for divorce in March 1990. Although Cissy refuses to talk about what led to the breakup, court records reflect the family's turmoil. Each party cited irreconcilable differences and filed petitions asking the court to bar the other from communicating in a vulgar and indecent manner, and from kidnapping Jessica.

Cissy admits that the divorce was more painful because it was so public, but she rejects any suggestion that the breakup was caused by the pressures of fame. "I think the reason we got divorced is because we married so young," she says. Though their relationship was intense at first, Chip and Cissy are trying to get along for Jessica's sake: "We can still talk," Cissy says.