



奇趣园

英语读物

Collections of Marvelous Anecdotes

读奇闻趣事，学地道英语

英汉对照

English-Chinese Bilingual

(美) George Y. Tang 编著

本书收集的故事正如生活的多棱镜，映射出不同的人生轨迹，有的绚丽多彩，有的厄运缠身。不同的境遇演绎别样的人生，而真正的强者是那些在厄运降临的时候仍然自强不息的人，真正精彩的人生属于在自己那个舞台上演得有声有色的人。

五光十色的世界

A Colorful World



机械工业出版社
CHINA MACHINE PRESS

五光十色的世界

A Colorful World

(美) George Y. Tang 编著



“奇趣园英语读物”系列图书收集的短篇故事以世界各地近年来报导的奇闻趣事为基础,经过筛选、改编、翻译、标注而成,以英汉对照的形式出版。丛书主要特点是“奇、趣”,适合有一定英语水平的读者,包括高等院校各年级学生和研究生、英语教师和从事英语翻译工作的人员阅读。读者在阅读流畅易懂、引人入胜的故事的同时,还可以吸收许多当前英美国家最新的英语词汇和表达方式。

《五光十色的世界》是本系列读物的第四册。本书收集的故事正如生活的多棱镜,映射出不同的人生轨迹,有的绚丽多彩,有的厄运缠身。不同的境遇演绎别样的人生,而真正的强者是那些在厄运降临的时候仍然自强不息的人。真正精彩的人生属于在自己那个舞台上演得有声有色的人。书中内容也可以供科学、技术、教育、医学、生物、体育、保安、急救人员等参考。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

五光十色的世界:英汉对照/(美)汤乔治(Tang, George Y.)编著. —北京:机械工业出版社, 2009. 1

(奇趣园英语读物)

ISBN 978-7-111-25959-6

I. 五… II. 汤… III. ①英语-汉语-对照读物②故事-作品集-世界 IV. H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2008)第 208604 号

机械工业出版社(北京市百万庄大街 22 号 邮政编码 100037)

责任编辑:孙铁军

版式设计:张文贵 插图制作:老 春

责任印制:杨 曦

三河市宏达印刷有限公司印刷

2009 年 3 月第 1 版·第 1 次印刷

160mm×240mm·19.25 印张·311 千字

0 001-6 000 册

标准书号:ISBN 978-7-111-25959-6

定价:29.80 元

凡购本书,如有缺页,倒页,脱页,由本社发行部调换

销售服务热线:(010) 68326294

购书热线:(010) 88379639 88379641 88379643

编辑热线:(010) 88379710

封面无防伪标均为盗版

前言

Preface



《五光十色的世界》是“奇趣园英语读物”丛书的第四册。这套丛书收集的短篇故事都是根据世界各地近年来报导的奇闻趣事，经过筛选、改编、翻译、标注而成，以英汉对照的形式出版。在加工中增删了一些故事情节，纠正了一些明显的错误，替换了一些生僻的词汇，并且标注了一些建议读者记忆的生词和词组，以帮助中等英语程度的读者，包括高等院校高年级学生和研究生、英语教师和从事英语翻译工作的人员。读者在阅读流畅易懂、引人入胜的故事的同时可以学到许多新的英语词汇和表达方式。

目前市场上的英语辅助读物偏重名家的经典著作。这些作品已经有至少一百年历史，许多用词行文的方式和现代英语已相去甚远，因此在美国的学校中只是用作学习古英语的教材。而本丛书收集的素材全部是近年发表的，目的是让读者学到现代的人使用的“活”英语。

记不得是谁说过（因为谁说的并不重要），“人生在世，不如意事十之八九”。这句话道出了人生的真实光景。而本书收集的故事，十之八九也印证了这句话。

我们周围的世界，看似绚丽多彩，实际上却充满了天灾人祸。有的孩子刚出世就带有先天疾病，有的人正值似锦年华却因事故成了终身残疾。有的人出身卑微，有的人家境贫寒，有的人身患重病，有的人厄运缠身。用一句时髦的话来说，这些人“在起跑线上就输了”。

其实世上从来就没有公平的竞争。每个人的起点不同，人生舞台不同，表演的时间长短也不同。有的人一生过得轰轰烈烈，而绝大多数人



则活得默默无闻。但是，轰轰烈烈的人生未必就比默默无闻的人生精彩，正如在起跑线上就输了的人未必就输在终点线一样。真正的强者是那些在厄运降临的时候仍然自强不息的人，真正精彩的人生属于在自己的舞台上演得有声有色的人。

任何人都离不开别人的帮助，尤其是身处逆境的人。有时候几句鼓励的话或者一点物质上的帮助可能改变人的一生。这就是我们崇尚见义勇为的英雄、宣扬不谋私利的爱心的原因。在力所能及的范围给别人一点帮助，你所得到的会比付出的更多。

本书收集的故事都以真实的生活为基础，因此书中内容也可以供科学、技术、教育、医学、生物、体育、保安、急救人员等参考。

我的女儿 **Nina Tang** 审阅了全书并且提出了许多修改意见，特此致谢。

George Y. Tang

2009 年于美国加州 San Jose

目录 Contents



前言

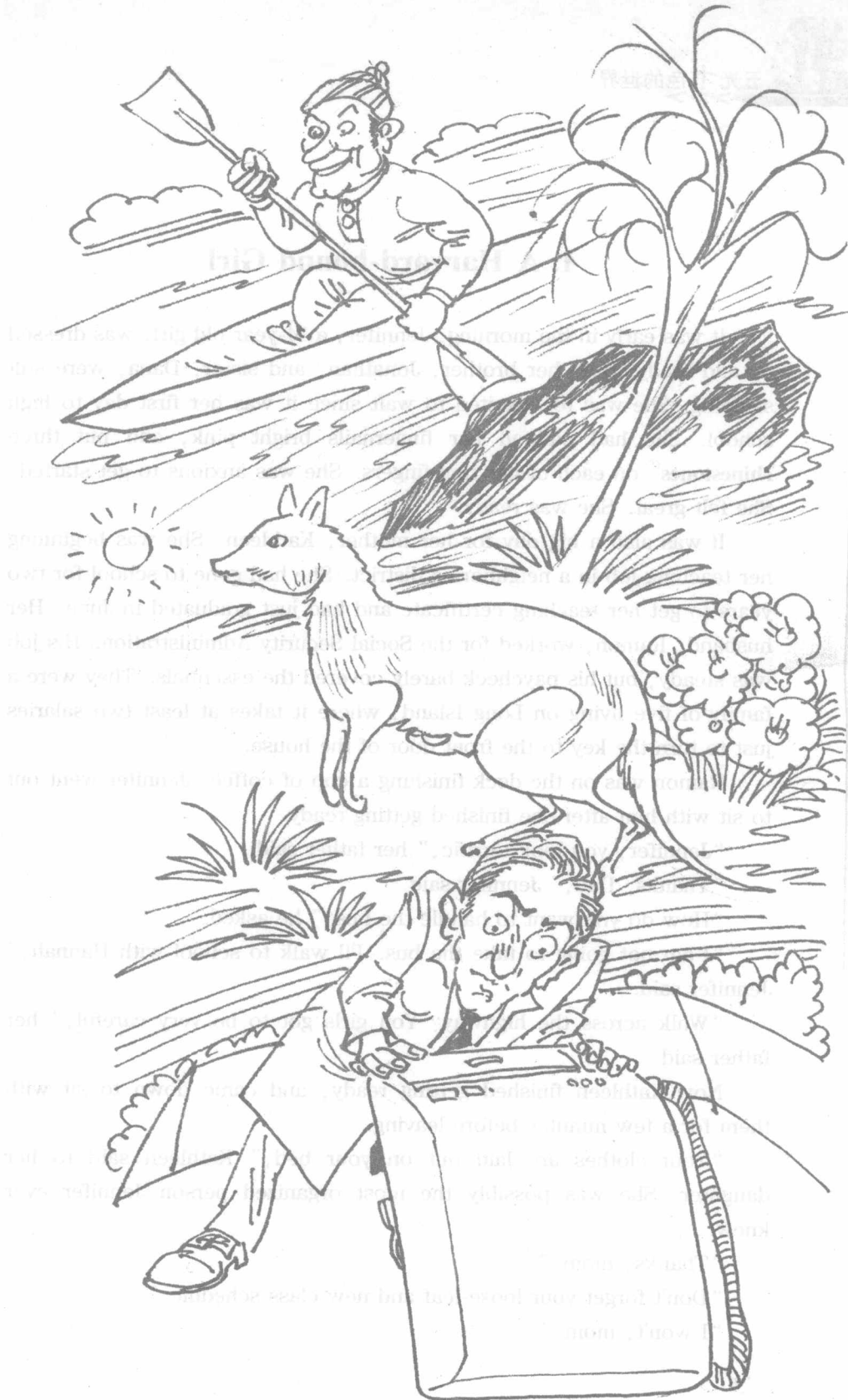
1. 真正的强者 A Harvard-bound Girl / 2
因救人而四肢瘫痪的 14 岁少女克服难以想象的困难考上了哈佛……
2. 艰难的历程 A Tough Way Through / 26
他成了第一位坐轮椅治疗截瘫病人的医生……
3. 一个 911 的受害者 A Victim of September 11 / 36
她的烧伤面积超过 82%，她的生存率只有 15%……
4. 独臂漂流大峡谷 Kayaking with One Arm / 46
他用一只胳膊 20 天内在美国最湍急的水流漂流了 227 英里……
5. 传奇式的女子 A Legendary Woman / 58
她曾经浪迹江湖，现在是失踪人员服务中心的创始人和主任……
6. 不同凡响的教育家 An Extraordinary Educator / 76
这位获得殊荣的边缘儿童教育家有一段不堪回首的过去……
7. 山洪飞泻 A Runaway Downpour / 86
筋疲力尽的约翰从水里爬出来，一边咳嗽，一边吐出黑色的污泥……
8. 高速公路上的英雄 A Hero on Highway / 96
司机心脏病发作，汽车以时速 60 英里继续行驶……
9. 出身卑微的律师 A Lawyer for Adopted Children / 106
那个警察突然袭击我的妈妈，把她脸朝下按倒在人行道上……



10. 比死神跑得快的人 Running for Life / 124
他从窗口跳出去。他的背部在着火，他的腿在冒烟，……
11. 惊人的爱心 Enormous Love / 136
一个有两个男孩的白人家庭要领养六个非洲孩子……
12. 穷人的医生 A Doctor for the Poor / 148
她委身于治疗流浪者，被评选为全美杰出家庭内科医生……
13. 教练 The Coach / 158
戈登不但训练布莱恩长跑，还要教他做人……
14. 全新的承诺 A Renewed Vow / 168
爸爸和妈妈彼此相爱，但是他们好像很不喜欢对方……
15. 心脏肝脏双移植 A Dual Transplant / 182
等候器官移植的病人每天大约有 18 个死亡……
16. 两个陌生人的礼物 Gifts from Two Strangers / 194
发生的一系列巧合被认为是一个奇迹……
17. 困难的决定 A Difficult Decision / 204
孕妇罹患乳腺癌，是否保留胎儿就成了一个困难的决定……
18. 创造医学奇迹 A Medical Miracle / 216
花了毕生精力研究胃癌的专家被诊断患有最坏类型的胃癌……



19. 莫尼卡和她的狗 Monica and Her Dog / 224
三天前, 12 岁的童子军迈克尔从他的军营里消失了……
20. 动物的智慧 Animal Intelligence / 236
一只非洲灰鹦鹉据说具有三岁孩子的认知能力……
21. 营救座头鲸 Rescue the Humpback / 248
50 吨重的座头鲸被缠在绳子里, 快要溺毙了……
22. 运气不好的时候 Bad Luck / 258
很多时候不能怨天怨地, 只能怨自己运气不好……
23. 可笑的悲剧 Ridiculous Tragedies / 268
有些悲剧从旁观者来看还是挺有趣、挺好笑的……
24. 五光十色的世界 A Colorful World / 282
他打算像养宠物一样养这只蜘蛛和它未来的宝宝……



1. A Harvard-bound Girl

It was early in the morning, Jennifer, a 14-year-old girl, was dressed up and ready while her brother, Jonathan, and sister, Dana, were still sleeping. She was too excited to wait since it was her first day to high school. She had painted her fingernails bright pink, and put three rhinestones^① on each of her ring fingers. She was anxious to get started. She felt great. She was ready.

It was also a big day for her mother, Kathleen. She was beginning her teaching job in a neighboring district. She had gone to school for two years to get her teaching certificate and had just graduated in June. Her husband, Ramon, worked for the Social Security Administration. His job was steady, but his paycheck barely covered the essentials. They were a family of five living on Long Island, where it takes at least two salaries just to turn the key to the front door of the house.

Ramon was on the deck finishing a cup of coffee. Jennifer went out to sit with him after she finished getting ready.

"Jennifer, you look terrific," her father said.

"Thanks, Dad," Jennifer said.

"How do you want to handle the bus?" he asked.

"I am not going to take the bus. I'll walk to school with Hannah," Jennifer said.

"Walk across the highway? You girls got to be very careful," her father said.

Now Kathleen finished getting ready, and came down to sit with them for a few minutes before leaving.

"Your clothes are laid out on your bed," Kathleen said to her daughter. She was possibly the most organized person Jennifer ever knew.

"Thanks, mom."

"Don't forget your loose-leaf and new class schedule."

"I won't, mom."

1. 真正的强者

珍妮弗是一个14岁的女孩，她一大早就穿戴整齐，做好了准备，而她的弟弟乔纳森和妹妹达纳还在睡觉。她兴奋得马上就想出发，因为这是她上高中的第一天。她把手指甲涂成了明亮的粉红色，在三个戴戒指的手指上都戴上了人造钻石戒指。她热切地渴望开始。她感觉很棒。她已经准备好了。

① rhinestone

/ˈraɪnstəʊn/ n. 莱茵水晶石，假钻石

对于她的妈妈凯瑟琳来说，这也是重要的一天。她要在附近的一个学区开始当教师了。为了获得教师资格证她专门学习了两年，6月份刚刚毕业。她的丈夫雷蒙在社会安全局工作。工作很稳定，但是他的薪水刚够解决生活必需品。他们是一个五口之家，住在长岛。在那里至少要有两个人工作才能住得起房子。

雷蒙坐在房后的平台上喝咖啡。珍妮弗收拾好以后就出去和他坐在一起。

她的爸爸说：“珍妮弗，你看起来挺不错。”

珍妮弗说：“谢谢爸爸。”

他问：“你打算怎样去坐公共汽车？”

珍妮弗说：“我不准备坐公共汽车。我要和汉娜一起步行上学。”

她的爸爸说：“要走着穿过高速公路？你们两个女孩可得小心。”

这时候凯瑟琳已经做完了准备，走下楼来，她要和他们一起坐几分钟再出门。

凯瑟琳对珍妮弗说：“你的衣服放在你的床上了。”她可能是珍妮弗认识的人中最有条理的了。

“谢谢妈妈。”

“不要忘记带你的活页夹和新的课程表。”

“忘不了，妈妈。”



"It's hard for me to believe that you're starting your high school, and look at you," She stopped, put her hand on her shoulder and kissed her on her cheek. "Don't forget to find out about **orchestra**^② and **cello**^③ lessons, and dancing school starts this week, so you'll have to work out how and when you're going to get your homework done."

"I know, mom. I'll take care of it."

Kathleen left for work driving their old green car, which was fondly called as "the mean green machine" by their neighbors. Kathleen and Ramon hoped that with her new job, they would be able to replace it. They didn't want anything **extravagant**^④. Just a car with heat and a radio would work.

Despite her apprehensions about leaving the kids, Kathleen was able to put the normal routines of home behind her once she got to work. As she was walking with her colleagues in the corridor, a woman stopped her.

"You must be Kathleen, there's an emergency phone call for you from the police."

"For me?" Kathleen asked. "from the police?"

"It's about your daughter, Jennifer. She had an accident."

To Kathleen, it was as if she had gotten a call at two in the morning waking her out of a sound sleep. First, she was confused and then felt an overwhelming sense of panic. Her fellow teacher, Barbara grabbed her hand and drove her to the scene.

It was a major four-lane highway that ran from the north shore of Long Island to the south shore. It also separated the high school from their neighborhood. When Barbara's car approached, they didn't see anything out of the ordinary.

About a quarter mile up the road to the left Kathleen saw parked police cars and an ambulance. "Jennifer wouldn't be up there," Kathleen said. "Why would she be there?" As they got closer, Kathleen saw loose-leaf papers and colored folders **strewn**^⑤ all over the highway. Things began to move in slow motion, dreamlike, and she couldn't catch her breath.



“我真不敢相信你要上高中了。你瞧瞧。”她停下来把手放在她的肩膀上，亲吻她的脸颊。“不要忘记问管弦乐队和大提琴课的时间。舞蹈学校这个星期开始上课，所以你必须得把你的家庭作业安排好。”

② orchestra

/ˈɔːkɪstrə, -kes-/

n. 管弦乐队

“我知道，妈妈。我会安排好的。”

③ cello /ˈtʃeləʊ/

n. 大提琴

凯瑟琳开着他们那辆绿色的旧汽车上班去了。那部汽车被他们的邻居们戏称为“凶猛的绿色机器”。凯瑟琳和雷蒙希望，在她有了新的工作以后，他们能换辆新车。他们并不想要多奢侈，只要一辆有暖气、有收音机的汽车就成。

④ extravagant

/ɪksˈtrævəɡənt/

a. 奢侈的，浪费的

尽管凯瑟琳对离开孩子们有点不安，但是她一旦开始工作，就能把家里的事情放在脑后。到达单位后，她正跟同事们一起走在走廊的时候，一个女士把她叫住了。

“你就是凯瑟琳吧，有警察给你打来一个紧急电话。”

凯瑟琳问：“给我的？警察打来的？”

“是关于你女儿珍妮弗。她出事了。”

这样的消息对于凯瑟琳来讲就如同凌晨2点在睡梦中被电话惊醒，她先是感到困惑，然后是极度恐慌。同事芭芭拉抓住她的手，开车把她送到了出事现场。

这是一条四车道的主干公路，从长岛的北岸通往南岸。这条路也把这所高中与他们的邻近地区分开。当芭芭拉的汽车靠近的时候，她们并没有看到任何不寻常的东西。

凯瑟琳看见沿路向前大约0.25英里的地方，在路左侧停了几辆警车和一辆救护车。凯瑟琳说：“珍妮弗不会在那里。”当她们离得更近的时候，凯瑟琳看见高速公路上到处散落的活页纸和彩色的文件夹，眼前的一切跟做梦一样慢慢飘过，她透不过气来了。

⑤ strew /struː/

v. 撒（沙、花等）

在……上；播；散播



"Oh, my God! Oh, my God!" Like an **incantation**[®], she repeated the words over and over. Kathleen could see Jennifer lying on the highway median. The car's impact had thrown her nearly 100 feet. She was bleeding, had lost consciousness, and her body was completely limp. Two men were administering CPR.

The car that had hit her was on the side of the road. The front end and radiator were pushed in and the windshield was broken. Police officers were looking for mechanical problems. Detectives measured the tire skid marks to calculate how fast the car was going. The driver was telling the detectives what had happened and what he had seen.

It seemed that Jennifer and her best friend, Hannah, decided to walk to school to save their bus fares. They were both A-plus students living in moderate families. They had cut across the playing fields and then followed a path through the woods. There was a break in the highway guardrail that made it possible to cross.

When Hannah was halfway to cross the highway, she saw a vehicle coming toward her at a very high speed. She was so scared that she stood still there shaking. The car was no more than 50 feet away, when Jennifer rushed up and pulled Hannah to safe. But she was hit by the car.

Kathleen and Ramon were waiting outside the operation room for seven **grueling**^⑦ hours before they were finally allowed to go in and see Jennifer. Dr. White led them through two large swinging doors into a big room. Jennifer was the only patient in the room.

They could see the outline of a tiny body covered in white sheets. Jennifer was barely recognizable. The only part of her could be seen was her face. It was swollen from the impact of hitting the windshield of the car and scratched from sliding across the pavement.

"She's in a coma and is not aware of what's going on," Dr. White told them. "She's had a nasty gash to her forehead. That's why her head is bandaged. The tube going into her mouth is connected to a **respirator**[®], and that's what's keeping her alive right now."

"Jennifer... honey... can you hear me? ... It's mommy. I love you," Kathleen said. She moved closer and tried to touch her and hug her, but she couldn't because of all the tubes and probes. At about 2 a. m. they were ready to take Jennifer to the unit for acute brain-trauma patients.

“啊，我的上帝！啊，我的天！”凯瑟琳一次又一次像念咒语一样重复着。她看见珍妮弗躺在高速公路中间。汽车把她撞出去近 100 英尺。她在流血，没有知觉，她的身体完全瘫软了。有两个人在给她做人工呼吸。

撞了珍妮弗的汽车停在高速公路的旁边。它的前端和散热器都被撞瘪了，挡风玻璃也碎了。警官们在检查有没有机械故障。侦探们丈量了轮胎刹车拖印长度，以换算汽车当时的速度。司机正在向侦探说明事情的经过。

看来是珍妮弗和她的最好的朋友汉娜为了省下她们买公共汽车票的钱，决定步行上学。她们俩都是家境不太好的优等学生。她们穿过了运动场，然后沿着一条小路穿过树林。高速公路的护栏上有一段空缺，那里可以穿过去。

当时汉娜穿越高速公路刚走到一半，她看见一辆汽车朝她猛冲过来。她被吓坏了，站在那里，浑身发抖。汽车离汉娜不到 50 英尺的时候，珍妮弗冲上去一把将汉娜拉到了安全的地方。但是她自己却被汽车撞了。



凯瑟琳和雷蒙在手术室外面，极度紧张地等了七个小时后，终于可以进去见珍妮弗了。怀特医生带领他们穿过两扇弹簧大门，来到一个很大的房间。珍妮弗是那个房间里唯一的病人。

他们可以看到白色床单下那一个微小身躯的轮廓。珍妮弗几乎让人辨认不出来了。只能看到她的脸。她的脸因为撞上汽车的挡风玻璃后，又在路面上摩擦，已经肿了。

怀特医生说：“她处在昏迷中，自己并不知道发生了什么事。她的前额上有一条很深的裂缝，所以得用绷带把她的头包扎起来。嘴里的管子连的是呼吸机。她现在就是靠呼吸机维持生命。”

凯瑟琳说：“珍妮弗……宝贝儿……你能听见我说话吗？……我是妈妈呀。我爱你。”她靠近一些，想要摸她、拥抱她，但是她做不到，因为有那么管子探头。大约凌晨 2 点，珍妮弗被送到严重脑创伤病人病房。

⑥ incantation /ˌɪnkæn'teɪʃən/ n. 咒语，咒文

⑦ grueling /ˈɡruːlɪŋ/ a. 使极度疲劳的，激烈的

⑧ respirator /respə'reɪtə/ n. 人工呼吸装置

Three days later, Jennifer was awakened by a sound of a persistent alarm when she was dreaming about her dancing school. Her biggest passion was music. She played the cello in the school orchestra and sang in the junior choir at church. And she had been going to dancing school since she was two years old.

That alarm didn't sound like her clock radio. Her eyes opened not to the pink walls and rainbow canopy bed of her room, but rather to white, **sterile**^⑨ walls and a railed bed that she had never seen before. The hazy world around her was mysteriously on its side. An IV pole stood before her, suspending bags of liquids like a tree bearing fruit.

Next to the bed was another IV pole that was dressed with so many stuffed animals that they spilled onto the floor. Hundreds of cards and signs saying "Get well soon" covered the walls.

Terror ran through her mind as Jennifer tried to identify the faces of people who hovered over her. "What is this horrible place? Who are these people?"

Her eyes opened again. Jennifer didn't remember falling back to sleep but she must have, because most of the strange people were gone. As she stared out into the mess, Jennifer slowly became aware of herself. She tasted the blood that was **plastered**^⑩ in her mouth. Her head was **throbbing**^⑪, and the alarms and noises in the room made the pain almost intolerable.

Jennifer tried to concentrate on what was going on. Her life had changed. She tried to speak to get some answers. But when she opened her mouth, no words came out. "My brain was talking, but my body wasn't listening. My body ... wait, where is my body?" Jennifer thought. "Why couldn't I feel anything? It seemed as though my body was asleep."

"Call the doctor. I think she's awake," Jennifer heard her father saying.

Jennifer was lying flat on an object that seemed more like a **medieval**^⑫ **torture**^⑬ device than a bed, and she couldn't see her parents sitting in the corner of the room.

"Speak slowly," a white-coated man was telling them. "We still don't know how much she will understand."



三天以后，珍妮弗正梦见自己在舞蹈学校的时候，被一阵长长的报警声音唤醒了。她最大的爱好就是音乐。她在学校的管弦乐队拉大提琴，还在教会的少年唱诗班唱歌。而且她从两岁开始就一直在上舞蹈学校。

那个报警器的声音不像是她的钟控收音机发出来的。她睁开眼睛，没有看到她卧房里的粉红色墙壁和彩虹天篷的床，却看到白色单调的墙和她以前从来没有看见过的装着围栏的床。她被一片模糊的世界神秘地包围着。一个静脉输液架子立在她的前面，上面悬挂着一袋袋的液体，就像树上结的水果。

床边是另外一个静脉输液架子，上面挂满了绒布动物，多得直往地板上掉。几百张写着“祝你早日康复”的慰问卡贴满了几面墙壁。

珍妮弗想要认出凑到她面前的那些人的脸，继而，她突然感到一阵恐怖，她想知道：“这个可怕的地方是什么地方？这些人是谁？”

珍妮弗的眼睛再一次睁开了。她不记得自己又睡着过，但是她肯定是又睡着了，因为大部分陌生人都走了。当珍妮弗看着那一片混乱的场景时，她开始慢慢回过神来。她尝到了嘴边粘的血。她的头在阵阵抽痛，而房间里的报警音和噪音则使疼痛变得几乎无法忍受。

珍妮弗想要集中精力想想是怎么回事。她的生活已经改变了。她想要得到一些答案。但是当她张开嘴的时候，却说不出话来。珍妮弗想：“我的脑子在说话，但是我的身体不听话了。我的身体……等一下，我的身体在哪里？我为什么感觉不到任何东西？好像我的身体是在睡觉似的。”

珍妮弗听她的爸爸说：“找医生来。我想她是醒了。”

珍妮弗躺在床上，但她觉得自己更像躺在中世纪的一种折磨设备上。她看不见坐在房间角落里的爸爸妈妈。

一个身穿白色衣服的人告诉他们说：“讲话要慢。我们还不知道她现在能理解多少。”

⑨ sterile /'sterail/

a. 枯燥无味的

⑩ plaster /'plɑ:stə/

vt. 黏贴；使紧贴

⑪ throbbing /'θrɒbɪŋ/

a. 跳动的；抽动的；震动的

⑫ medieval /,medi'i:vəl/

a. 中世纪的；中古（式）的

⑬ torture /'tɔ:tʃə/

n. 折磨；痛苦