

# 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

常言道，“天有不测风云，人有旦夕祸福”，我们每时每刻都处在各种各样危险的包围之中。本书收集的二十五个死里逃生的故事内容惊险，情节生动。诸位主人公死里逃生的经历可让我们学到许多在危难中求生的经验和技巧。故事中有许多人在急难中挺身而出，救助别人，成为众人学习的榜样。

# 死里逃生的故事

## Escape from Death



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“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。

《死里逃生的故事》是“奇趣园英语读物”系列的第一册。本书收集的25个死里逃生的故事内容惊险,情节生动。诸位主人公死里逃生的经历可让我们学到许多在危难中求生的经验和技巧。故事中有许多人在急难中挺身而出,救助别人,成为众人学习的榜样。本书也可以供救灾、防暴、保安、急救人员参考。

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# 前言

## Preface



《死里逃生的故事》是“奇趣园英语读物”的第一册。这套丛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。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阅读。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大多偏重名家的经典著作。这些不朽的作品至少有一百年历史，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人使用的“活”英语。

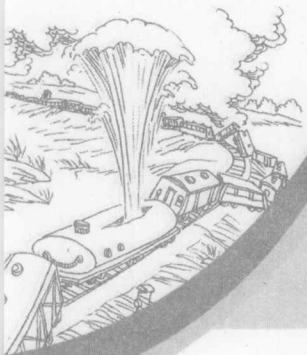
常言道：“天有不测风云，人有旦夕祸福。”我们每时每刻都处在各种各样危险的包围之中。除了战争与疾病以外，我们通常所见的人身危险大致可以分为三种：

自然灾害——海啸、龙卷风、洪水、雷电等等。

意外事故——空难、海难、交通事故、火灾、凶禽猛兽的袭击等。

犯罪——绑架、抢劫、凶杀等。

本书收集的 25 个死里逃生的故事内容惊险、情节生动，书中的诸位主人公都很幸运地从危险的环境中逃脱。从他们脱险的经历中，我们



可以学习到许多求生的经验和技巧，也可以获知如何作好充分准备，才能避免不必要的危险和麻烦。这些故事中还有许多人在急难中挺身而出，救助别人，成为众人学习的榜样。本书也可以供救灾、防暴、保安、急救人员参考。

很多年以前，在我身处逆境的时候，一位素昧平生的人对我说：“什么人都可能打败你，除了你自己。”这句话使我受益匪浅，终身受用。现在我把这句话转赠给尊敬的读者。不论你的境遇如何，哪怕是像书中 25 个故事中的主人公那样身陷绝境，也决不能轻言放弃。

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

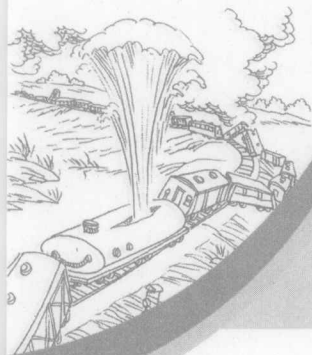
## Contents



### 前 言

1. Escape from Death 死里逃生 / 2  
印度洋海底发生的9级地震造成了一种最可怕的自然现象……
2. Biggest Tornado Outbreak in History 狂龙施虐 / 18  
艾伦尽他所能紧紧地抱着妈妈。突然，他们飞起来了……
3. Indoor Lightning Striking 惨遭雷击 / 34  
突然，一道令人目眩的蓝色闪光，空气里充满了彩虹般的火花……
4. Barely a Few Seconds to Act 临危不惧 / 44  
在航空表演中，飞行员犯了致命的错误，飞机正朝着观众冲过去……
5. The Honeymoon Horror 蜜月惊魂 / 54  
他抬起头来，看见一个橙色的火球在他前面爆炸……
6. Two Hours of Anxiety 心系悬丝 / 70  
一架客机上的小机械故障吸引了全世界上百万人的注意力……
7. Left behind in Ocean 糊涂铸错 / 80  
保罗冒出海面的时候，看到的只是灰色水面上一层厚厚的雾……
8. Running Aground in French Polynesia 大洋沉船 / 90  
听到本杰明大喊：“暗礁！”一瞬间两侧船体就猛撞到珊瑚礁上……
9. United We Survive 同心求生 / 108  
一股强风把船完全掀翻过来，三个人都掉进了严寒彻骨的冰水中……





10. Wrestle against Flood 龙口夺人 / 120

一个少年被洪水吸到马路下面的下水道，卡在那里拔不出来了……

11. Sucked beneath Icy Water 冰河熊踪 / 130

父子俩在冰河上翻船，被河水吸到冰层下面去了……

12. A Series of Coincidences 争分夺秒 / 142

那个被救上船的女人回头看着海面尖叫：“我的儿子！”……

13. It's Up to Myself to Save 坠车深谷 / 152

汽车就像云霄飞车那样，一圈一圈地翻滚，跌到一个 10 米深的谷底……

14. A Series of Mistakes 身陷毒雾 / 162

两列货车相撞，泄出的液态氯喷到 100 米高的空中，到处都在滴着酸液……

15. Hit Right in Neck 正中要害 / 174

这是一个大钩子，就像你用来把一辆卡车拉出水沟的那种钩子……

16. Bloodcurdling Threatening 飞来横祸 / 184

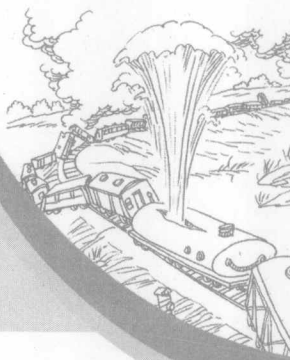
这只红褐色的鹰发出那样一种令人毛骨悚然的尖叫……

17. Chasing Down Deadly Reptiles 人鳄大战 / 194

短吻鳄开始把他拖入水下，他最多只有 90 秒的时间逃脱……

18. A Lifetime Adventure 与鲸共舞 / 202

宝宝座头鲸就在她的手下面移动，她伸出手温和地抚摸它，然后……



19. A Pretty Cool Hostage 处变不惊 / 214

玛利亚到便利店买一箱可乐，却被扣作人质 20 多个小时……

20. We Are Trapped 十万火急 / 228

调度员命令撤退，彼得队长回答：“太迟了，我们中了埋伏。”……

21. There Are Kids in the Car 束手就擒 / 240

刹那间，这个男子的态度改变了。他打开车门命令说：“滚下来！”……

22. Intruder in Bedroom 夜半惊梦 / 250

半夜里达娜睁开眼睛，看见一个入侵者用散弹猎枪对着她的脸……

23. Bank Stickup 银行劫匪 / 266

抢来的钱不到一个月就花光了。两个人决定重返银行再“提一点款”……

24. The Differences a Minute Made 忙乱出错 / 278

一个偷车贼把他们的车开走了，车上有两个孩子……

25. Highway Rage 有惊无险 / 288

一个狂怒的司机一心要把另一个无辜的人置于死地……





## 1. Escape from Death

My brother, Terry lived in a small island off the coast of Sri Lanka in Asia. For two or three years he had been inviting my daughter, Linda and I to visit his family. We had long intended to take his offer, but Sri Lanka was far from our home. Besides, Linda was busy taking her swimming training.

Last summer, some tragedy happened to Linda. During a routing training, she dived to the swimming pool and accidentally crashed her head against the bottom of the pool. She was rushed to the hospital and brought back to life. But, her neck was so badly injured that her body below her waist was **paralyzed**<sup>①</sup>. Her Olympic dream was totally broken. She couldn't accept such a cruel fact that she had to live with her wheelchair for the rest of her life. She fell into a deep depression. Her doctor suggested that we take a long vacation during the Christmas season in order to bring her back to normal. So I quickly made all the arrangements and flew off to Sri Lanka for a three-week vacation.

We flew to Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka first. Then we took another flight from Colombo down to Sri Lanka's southern tip. Finally, a **ferry**<sup>②</sup> brought us to the island where my brother lived.

It was a small community of brick and tile homes, along with a few shops. A Buddhist temple was on top of a little hill. Most islanders lived together on tiny lots inland from the coastal road. On the other side of the road, fronting the bay, were the even more modest homes of fishermen and their families.

In contrast, my brother's home is a huge **octagonal**<sup>③</sup> house. About 100 curving steps lead to its entrance. The porch overlooks the coastal bay. There are multiple terraces, a swimming pool, and the lush garden that wreathes it all. All together like a frame setting off a painting.

We were warmly welcome by Terry and his three children. Linda and I quickly settled into a life of total relaxation. It was like being on a luxury cruise ship just offshore. Household staff took care of our every



## 1. 死里逃生

**我**的弟弟特里住在亚洲斯里兰卡沿岸的一个小岛上。最近几年他一直邀请我和我的女儿琳达到他们家作客，但是斯里兰卡路途遥远，再加上琳达需要坚持游泳训练，我们一直未能应邀前往。

去年夏天，一场不幸降临到琳达身上。在一次日常跳水训练中，她的头部意外地撞到游泳池的底部。虽然经抢救脱离了生命危险，但是琳达的颈椎受到严重损伤，致使她腰部以下的身体瘫痪，下半生必须依靠轮椅生活。她的奥林匹克梦完全破灭了！她无法接受这样一个残酷的事实，患上了严重的忧郁症。琳达的医生建议我们在圣诞节期间度一个长假，这将有助于她的心理康复。于是，我迅速安排好所有事宜，带着琳达飞往斯里兰卡度假三周。

我们先飞到斯里兰卡的首都科伦坡，然后搭另一架飞机从科伦坡飞往斯里兰卡的最南端，最后乘坐渡船前往我弟弟居住的小岛。

这是一个很小的社区，只有一些砖瓦房和几家商店以及在小山顶上的一座佛庙，大多数岛民居住在沿海岸的马路内侧的小块土地上。而在沿马路朝海湾一侧，则是居住条件更差的渔夫家庭的房子。

相比之下，我弟弟的家是一栋八边形的巨大别墅，入口处有大约 100 级弧形的台阶。可以眺望到海湾的平台和多个露台及一个游泳池被一个豪华的花园所环绕。整个别墅就像被一个画框衬托着的一幅油画。

我们受到特里和他的三个孩子的热烈欢迎。我和琳达很快就在完全放松的生活中安顿下来。我们就像生活在一艘离岸不远的豪华游轮上一样。当我们在平台上聊天、

① paralyze /'pærəlaiz/  
vt. 使瘫痪

② ferry /'feri/ n. 渡船，  
轮渡

③ octagonal /ɒk'tæɡənəl/  
a. 八角形的

need as we talked and read books on the porch. We were aware of the vibrating engines of fishing boats heading out to sea and the steady rumble of buses and vans along the road on the mainland, yet isolated in our own little world. This soon made us feel like the vacation of a lifetime.

Before long, our routine was fixed. Every morning I settled Linda down in the shallow water next to the beach for a sunbathing, then I took my morning swim in the sea. Terry would join me as I stroked through the calm waters, going clear around the island. During those swims, **gliding**<sup>④</sup> through the gorgeous greenish-blue sea under a cloudless sky, it was impossible to imagine that life could get any more peaceful. Or, troubles of any sort could find us here.

In the fourth day morning in the island, I was in the middle of my morning swim, about a quarter-way around the island, when I heard Terry shouting to me.

“George, come back! There’s something strange happening with the ocean!”

I glanced across the sparkling waters to where Terry was waving his arms. At first, I couldn’t understand why he sounded so anxious. It was another perfect day with barely a **ripple**<sup>⑤</sup> disturbing the surface of the sea.

Then I felt a powerful **tug**<sup>⑥</sup> as a surge of current began pushing me toward the shore. I felt myself rising, buoyed by a sudden rush of water. At the same time, I noticed there was a commotion along the shore in front of the harbor. Children were running from the beach in terror and screaming for their parents. Fishermen were rushing about, trying to control their boats and lash them more tightly to trees and stumps. Already it was too late. Pushed by the sea, the brightly painted catamarans were crashing across the coastal road, slamming into the fragile homes.

My own situation quickly became alarming. It was as if I was in an elevator in a tall building. I rose several feet, then several feet more, and kept rising... 30 feet in just two minutes. The current swept Terry and me toward a beach farther down the bay, away from my brother’s home. I had to stop myself somehow and searched for something to grab onto. As



看书的时候，仆人们会照料我们的一切需要。我们虽然可以听见不远处出海渔船的引擎声和马路上川流不息的喧闹声，而我们却像生活在一个与世隔绝的小天地里。这很快就让我们觉得这是我们一生中最悠闲的假期。

不久，我们每天的日程就固定了下来。每天早晨我把琳达安顿在靠海滩的浅水里做日光浴，然后我就下海去游泳。特里会和我一起在水域里环岛而游。每当我们在万里无云的晴空下，在优美的蓝绿色海水中缓缓而游时，就想象不出还有什么生活能比这更安定，也想象不出还有什么事情会在这里找我们的麻烦。

④ glide /glaid/ vi. 滑动，滑翔，轻轻地进行

在我们上岛后的第四天早晨，大约在我环岛晨泳四分之一路程的时候，我听到特里对我喊叫：“乔治，回来！这海有点作怪！”


我透过闪闪发光的水面朝挥舞双臂的特里那边看了一眼。起初，我不明白他为什么会这样紧张。这明明又是一个完美的日子，海面上只有一点点荡漾的微波。

然后，当涌流开始推着我朝着海岸方向前进的时候，我感受到了一股巨大的力量。我感到自己突然被水流向上推升。与此同时，我也注意到在码头前面的岸边出现了骚乱。惊恐的孩子们一边奔跑着逃离海滩，一边尖声喊叫自己的父母。渔夫们在匆匆忙忙地把自己的渔船紧紧地绑到树干或树桩上。可是这已经太晚了，几艘油漆明亮的双体船已经被海水冲过沿海的马路，撞进脆弱的房子里。

⑤ ripple /'ripl/ n. 涟漪

⑥ tug /tʌg/ n. 拖，拉，曳引

我自己的处境也迅速地变得很危险。我好像是在一座高楼中的电梯里，先上升几英尺，然后又上升几英尺，而且在持续上升。在短短的两分钟里就上升了30英尺。水流把我和特里冲往海湾下面的离他家更远的海滩，我必须设法抓住什么东西才能使自己停下来。我朝几艘锚链还没有被撕断的渔船猛扑过去，抓住其中一艘船的外壳，把自己



I hurtled past one of the few fishing boats that had not yet been ripped from its moorings<sup>⑦</sup>, I managed to grasp its hull and hang on. So did Terry. It was pure luck: The only reason that boat held fast was because it was wedged between a palm tree and the barely visible roof of a submerged fish market, a solid concrete building. Nearby, we could hear the shouts of women and children trapped inside fishermen's huts that were fast filling up with water.

As the sea level continued to rise, the cries receded into the distance, replaced by a frightening quiet. Clinging to the boat, I had frantic thoughts of my daughter. "Where's Linda?" I asked my brother, feeling a growing sense of dread. He pointed toward the flooded houses. "She must be over there," he said.

I looked to the west and could hardly believe what I saw. The harbor was getting smaller and smaller, steadily swallowed by the water. The beach Linda was taking sunbath was totally under deep water. I scanned all about, but she was nowhere in sight. My heart sank. Although I was not a religious person, I suddenly found myself praying, "Please, God, let her be alive." As the massive current swirled<sup>⑧</sup> around me, I felt small and helpless.

As Terry and I hung onto the catamaran's hull, we finally figured we were safe. The water level had fallen to the point where we could both feel the sandy bottom. He let go of the boat first, and waded<sup>⑨</sup> along the shore. Hesitated for a short while, I started to follow. However, it turned out that my hesitation was a huge mistake. The water, now sweeping back out of the bay, picked up force and took me along with it. I was sucked toward the sea, as wrecked fishing boats flowed past me on all sides. From the safety of the shoreline, Terry watched me disappearing beneath the torrent.

My instinct told me that I wouldn't survive unless I found something to hold onto. I tried to swim toward one of the fishing boats, but the current pushed me back. I had visions of being swept out to open ocean. Keep calm, don't panic, I told myself.

Seemingly out of nowhere, another little catamaran appeared behind me, around 30 yards to my left. I put my head down and raced for it.





挂上面，特里也这样做了。这完全是侥幸！这艘渔船被牢牢地夹在一棵棕榈树和鱼市场的屋顶之间而未被大水冲走，而这座水泥结构的鱼市场已经被海水淹没，只能勉强看见屋顶。附近的渔夫的小木屋迅速被水淹没。那里传来被围困的女人和孩子们的呼喊声。

⑦ mooring /'muərɪŋ/  
n. 系泊用具，缆绳

随着海面继续上涨，叫喊声逐渐向远处后退，最后被可怕的寂静所代替。我一边抓住船，一边开始担心我的女儿。“琳达在哪里？”我问泰瑞，感觉到恐惧在增长。他指着那些被淹没的房子说：“她肯定在那儿。”

我向西看去，简直不敢相信我所看到的。码头被逐渐上涨的海水吞噬，变得越来越小。琳达晒日光浴的海滩已经完全淹没在深水下面。我的目光到处搜索，但是到处都没看见她。我的心在下坠。虽然我对神没有任何信仰，但我却突然不由自主地向神祷告：“上帝啊，求你不要让她死。”被大水围困的时候，我觉得自己是那么渺小和无助。

我和特里紧紧抓住双体船的外壳，直到意识到我们已经安全了。水位已经下降到我们俩能够踩到沙底的程度了。特里首先离开了船，沿着海岸线跋涉。我犹豫了一下，也开始跟着他走。但是我的短暂犹豫却酿成了一个巨大的错误。已经到达海岸那边又回扫过来的海水积聚了力量，把我一起卷走了。我被吸向大海的方向，损坏的渔船在我四周后退。特里站在海岸线的安全处，眼睁睁地看着我消失在洪流下面。

⑧ swirl /swɜːl/ vi. 打转

我本能地感觉我快要死了，除非我能抓住什么救命的东西。我想朝一艘渔船游过去，但是水流把我推了回来，我感觉到有被快速卷到大洋的可能。我告诉自己要保持镇静，不要惊慌。

⑨ wade /weɪd/ vi. 蹚，蹚过

另一艘小型双体船不知道从什么地方出现在我的后面，在我的左面大约 30 码的距离。我把头埋进水里，用我仅剩的一点力气拼命朝它游过去，设法抓住固定在它外壳上的舷

Swimming with my remaining energy, I managed to grab the outrigger log that was fixed to the hull, and pull myself onto it, gasping. My weight must have slowed the boat because I soon found myself in shallow water, then stranded in the sand.

I looked up to see a fisherman wading out toward me. Taking my hand, he silently guided me to my brother, who had just guided Linda down from a tree. The waters had never reached her, and she had waited there, clinging to the treetop, until the current drew back. We hugged tightly and tried our best to console<sup>⑩</sup> each other. I could see cuts and bruises on her, but she shrugged them off.

As I could imagine that Linda had been in real trouble. When she was taking sunbath in the shallow water next to the beach, the water suddenly grew very deep. As she tried swimming to Terry's home by her arms, the strange sudden current beat her back. The harder she swam, the more it receded into the distance. Panicked, she turned to swim back to the beach, and realized the entire shore had disappeared. Seconds later, a rush of water carried her off toward the harbor. All around, Linda could hear a great crackling sound, like a million pencils being snapped at once, as boats were torn off their moorings. Somewhere nearby people were screaming.

Gasping for breath, she saw that the raging waves were now carrying her through the village. To one side, a man clinging to a tree reached out to grab her, but just then the water sucked her beneath the surface. She missed his hand by inches.

Linda began tumbling underwater helplessly, as bits of wood and other debris **bashed**<sup>⑪</sup> into her from all sides. She knew she had to somehow get her head above water, but had no idea anymore which way was up and which was down. Suddenly, she felt a taut rope against her body and promptly seized it. Pulling herself along its length, she broke through the water's surface and saw that the rope was attached to a tree which is entirely underwater.

Her body was now stretched out horizontally, in the direction of the surging water. For the first time, she started worrying about her life. She told herself, "Just hold tight and stay in this position. You'll be okay."



外支架，抓紧，大口喘着粗气。一定是因为我的重量使船慢了下来，我很快发现自己已经在浅水里，然后搁浅在沙滩上。

我抬头看见朝我跋涉过来的一个渔夫，他扶着我的手，一声不响地把我带到我弟弟面前。特里刚刚保护琳达从一棵树上下来。水没有涨到她的高度，她一直在树顶上等候，直到水退。我们紧紧地拥抱在一起，尽力互相安慰。我可以看到她身上的割伤和碰伤，但是她对这些并不在意。

正如我所能想象的，琳达确实曾经处在极度的危险之中。当她在海边的浅水中做日光浴的时候，突然涨潮。她尝试用双臂游往特里的家，但突如其来的怪流又把她打回来。她越努力往前游，却越往远处退。她很惊恐，开始往回游向海滩，却看到整个海岸都消失了。几秒钟之后，一股激流卷着她离开码头。她听到附近一个巨大的断裂声，就像无数支铅笔同时被折断一样，这是许多艘渔船的锚从地里被拔出来的声音。附近某处有人在尖叫。

琳达深吸了一口气，看到狂波巨浪正卷着她穿越村庄。旁边，一个紧紧抓住一棵树的男人伸出手来要救她。但是就在这时候，海水把她吸到水面以下，她只差几英寸就能抓到那个男人的手了。

琳达开始无能为力地在水下翻滚，许多木头和其他碎片从各个方向朝她猛击。她知道她必须让头浮出水面，却分不清哪边是上，哪边是下。突然，她感觉碰到了一根儿绷紧的绳子，就赶紧抓住它。她沿着绳子拉，冲出水面，才看清绳子是绑在一棵树上，但是这棵树完全被淹没在水下。

现在，她的身体水平地沿着海水汹涌的方向伸展。她头一次开始为她的生命担心。她告诉自己：“紧紧地抓住，停在这个位置，你会没事的。”



⑩ console /kən'səul/ vt. 安慰，慰问

⑪ bash /bæʃ/ vi. 猛撞