

Read It Love It

爱上英文



史上最感人的英文故事

The Most Moving Stories In History

许小凡 编著

爱上这优美的英文
爱上这经典的篇章

轻松的阅读，愉悦的享受

一席话一段经历，改变人生的轨迹

这感人的故事中蕴含着大智慧，为自己点亮一盏温馨的心灯

民主与建设出版社

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An Open Gate

开敞的心灵之门

By Marion Bond West
玛丽安·邦德·维斯特

“**T**he Lady with the White Paling” taught me to leave the gate to life open...

When my husband died of a brain tumor, I became very angry. Life was not fair. I hated being alone. After three years as a widow, I walked around with a face like a stiff mask.

One day, as I was driving down a busy street in town, I suddenly noticed a new paling, or picket fence, that was being erected around a house that I had always admired.

The more than 100-year-old house was a faded color of white and had a large veranda. It once lay secluded from the quiet road. But then the road was widened, traffic lights were put up, and the small town began to resemble a large city. Now the house had almost no front garden left.

But the garden down to the road was always neat and clean, and the flowerbeds were teeming with flowers in all the colors of the rainbow. I also noticed a little lady with an apron who raked, swept, and mowed the lawn in there. She even picked up the litter people threw out when they hurried by in their cars.

Every time I drove past the house, I watched the fast progress with the paling. The elderly carpenter also made a trellis for the roses and a small summerhouse. He painted it all bright white, and afterwards he painted the house in the same color.

One day I pulled off to the side to really admire the paling. The carpenter had done such a good job that my eyes almost welled up with tears. I could not tear myself away. I stopped the engine and went over and touched the paling. It still smelled of fresh paint. I could hear the lady was trying to start the lawn mover in the back garden.

“Hello!” I shouted and waved at her. “Well, hello!” She stood up and wiped her hands in the apron. “I – I – came to see the paling. It is beautiful.”

She smiled. “Come and sit down on the veranda, and I will tell you about it.”

We went up the back stairs, and she opened the door; it squeaked like the door in my childhood home. In the kitchen were some leftovers from a meal that had been cooked with fresh vegetables from the garden. We walked across the worn linoleum and the wooden floor to the veranda in front of the house.

“Sit down in the rocking chair,” she said smilingly. I was filled with joy from sitting here on the veranda, drinking ice tea, with the beautiful white paling around me.

“The paling is not there for my sake,” the lady explained me in a matter-of-fact voice. “I live alone. But so many people drive by every day, and I thought they might be glad to see something really nice. People see my paling and wave. A few stop like you and come up to the veranda to have a chat.”

“But weren’t you sad when they expanded the road and everything changed so much?” I boldly asked.

Her reply changed my life: “Change is a part of life and takes part in making us who we are. When something we do not like happens to us, we have two options: to become a bitter person or to become a better person.”

When I said goodbye, she said, “Drop in again any time. And leave the gate open. It looks more friendly.”

I carefully left the gate open and drove on with a new sensation inside me. I



could not tell what it was, but I could feel the thick stone wall around my angry heart crumbling away. And instead a pretty white paling was built. I decided that I would keep the gate open for everything and everyone that came my way.

那位女主人用她的白色围篱告诉我，生命的大门需要敞开……

丈夫患脑瘤而去世让我感到了生活的不公，也让我的脾性变得焦躁易怒起来。我厌恶独处。在做了三年寡妇后，我仍然出入面如冰霜。

而那一天，当我开着车穿过城里嘈杂的街市时，我忽然注意到在那座我一直都很欣赏的房子周围新竖起一段崭新的围篱，更确切地说是一段尖桩篱棚。

那是座有一百多年历史的老房子，颜色是微微褪色的白，还有条很宽的半敞走廊。以前这条路很安静，而这房子也远离道路而坐落。自从道路拓宽了，红绿灯也出现了，这小镇慢慢有了大城市的模样，这房子就基本连前花园也没有了。

但这通向公路的花园总是干净整洁，花床里也总是五颜六色，花团锦簇。我也总是看到一位带着围裙的娇小女子在花园草坪里耙地、清扫、除草——她甚至也捡起疾驰而过的车里扔出的垃圾。

每次我路过这房子时，我都能看到这白色围篱的修建正快速进展着。一位上了岁数的老花匠为玫瑰花搭了个单独的棚架，也建了一个小凉亭。他把围篱全涂上明快的白色，然后把房子也漆成一样的颜色。

有一天我把车停靠在这路边，细细欣赏这围篱——老花匠完美的工作让我挪不开脚步，几乎感动得热泪盈眶。我熄了火，下车走了过去，轻轻摸了摸这仍然散发着新鲜油漆味的围篱，听到女主人正把除草机开往后花园。

“嗨！”我大声向她挥手打招呼。“嗨，你好！”她站起身，在围裙上擦了擦手。“我……我来看看你的围篱，实在太漂亮了。”我对她说。

她微微笑着。“来在这走廊里坐坐吧，我跟你说说这围篱的事。”她说。

我们沿后楼梯上楼去，她把门打开，那门吱呀一响，唤起我童年家的记忆。在厨房里有些吃剩的用花园里的新鲜蔬菜做的菜。我们走过破旧的油毡和木地板，来到房子前面的半敞走廊。

“坐到摇椅上吧。”她微笑着对我说。能在这个长廊里悠闲地坐着，喝着冰镇的茶饮，环绕着美丽的白色围篱，让我的心中充满喜悦。

“这个围篱并不是为我自己建造的。”女主人用很平实的声音娓娓道来。“我一个人住在这儿，但有好多人开车路过这儿，我就想也许让他们看到些漂亮的东西会让他们心情愉快。果真是这样。人们常常看见我的围篱就向我挥手致意，还有一些人像你一样停下车来这儿坐坐，和我聊天。”

“但路拓宽了，所有的事情都变化了，你就不觉得难过吗？”我斗胆问道。

她的回答改变了我的一生。“变化是生活的一部分，也塑造了我们。当我们不愿接受的事情发生，我们只有两个选择：要么做个痛苦的人，要么做个更好的人。”

在告别的时候，她又说：“欢迎你随时再来。不要关大门，开着门会显得更友好些。”

我小心地让门敞开着。重新上路，我的心中充满着一种新的情绪。我无法确切描述那是什么，但我能感觉到我愤怒的心灵四周厚厚的石墙在这一刻轰然倒塌，取而代之的是漂亮的白色围篱。我决心从此将我生命的大门为所有我遇见的人和事敞开。



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An Open Gate

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An Open Gate

开启心灵的窗口

I'm still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be, for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances.

——Martha Washington(1732-1802)

无论境遇如何,我仍然选择愉快地生活,因为从经历中我已得知大多欢愉与痛苦并不取决于客观环境。境由心生。

——玛莎·华盛顿(1732-1802)





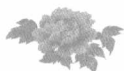
The Dreamer

追梦人

When I was nine years old living in a small town in North Carolina, I found an ad for selling greeting cards in the back of a children's magazine. I thought to myself I can do this. I begged my mother to let me send for the kit. Two weeks later when the kit arrived, I ripped off the brown paper wrapper, grabbed the cards and dashed from the house. Three hours later, I returned home with no card and a pocket full of money proclaiming, "Mama, all the people couldn't wait to buy my cards! "A salesperson was born.

When I was twelve years old, my father took me to see Zig Zigler. I remember sitting in that dark auditorium listening to Mr. Zigler raise everyone's spirits up to the ceiling, I left there feeling like I could do anything. When we got to the car, I turned to my father and said. "Dad, I want to make people feel like that." My father asked me what I meant. "I want to be a motivational speaker just like Mr. Zigler," I replied. A dream was born.

Recently, I began pursuing my dream of motivating others. After a four-year relationship with a major fortune 100 company beginning as a sales trainer and ending as a regional sales manager, I left the company at the height of my career. Many people were astounded that I would leave after earning a six-figure income. And they asked why I would risk everything for a dream.





I made my decision to start my own company and leave my secure position after attending a regional sales meeting. The vice-president of our company delivered a speech that changed my life. He asked us, "If a genie would grant you three wishes what would they be?" After giving us a moment to write down the three wishes. He then asked us, "why do you need a genie?" I would never forget the empowerment I felt at that moment.


I realized that everything I had accomplished—the graduate degree, the successful sales career, speaking engagements, training and managing for a fortune 100 company had prepared me for this moment. I was ready and did not need a genie's help to become a motivational speaker.

When I tearfully told my boss my plans this incredible leader whom I respect so much replied, "Precede with reckless abandon and you will be successful."

Having made that decision, I was immediately tested. One week after I gave notice, my husband was laid off from his job. We had recently bought a new home and needed both incomes to make the monthly mortgage payment and now we were done to no income. It was tempting to turn back to my former company, knowing they wanted me to stay but I was certain that if I went back, I would never leave. I decided I still wanted to move forward rather than end up with a mouth full of "if onlys", "later on". A motivational speaker was born.

When I held fast to my dream, even during the tough times, the miracles really began to happen. In a short time period my husband found a better job. We didn't miss a mortgage payment. And I was able to book several speaking engagements with new clients. I discovered the incredible power of dreams. I loved my old job, my peers and the company I left, but it was time to get on with my dream. To celebrate my success I had a local artist paint my new office as a garden. At the top of one wall she stenciled, "The world always makes way for the dreamer."

我9岁的时候住在北卡罗莱纳州的一个小镇上。一次我在一本儿童杂志的背面发现了一则招聘明信片推销员的广告。我对自己说,我能干这事。我恳求妈妈让我去送卡片。两个星期后,卡片送来了,我一把撕下明信片上



棕色的包装纸,冲出了家门,三个小时后,我的卡片已一张不剩,倒是装着满满一口袋钱回到了家,大叫:“妈妈,所有的人部迫不及待地想要买我的卡片!”一个推销员诞生了。

我 12 岁的时候,父亲带我去见齐格·齐格勒先生,我还记得当时坐在昏暗的礼堂里听着齐格勒先生的演说,他把每个人都说得热情高涨、跃跃欲试,离开的时候我觉得自己可以做任何事情。我们上了车,我转向父亲对他说道:“爸爸,我也想让人们这样。”爸爸问我的话是什么意思。“我想当一个像齐格勒先生这样的动员演说者。”我回答道。一个梦想诞生了。

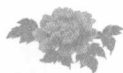
最近,我开始鼓舞他人,努力实现自己的梦想。在此之前的四年里,我在一家财富排行榜前 100 名的公司做事,从一个销售培训者做到地区销售经理,在我事业达到巅峰时我离开了这家公司。许多人都十分惊讶,在收入达到 6 位数时我却选择了离开。他们问我为什么要为了梦想而去冒险。

我是在参加了一次地区销售会议后,才拿定主意离开自己的安全港湾,去开自己的公司。在那次会议上,我们公司的副总裁做了一次演说,从而改变了我的命运。他问我们:“如果一个神仙会满足你的三个愿望,那么你将会希望得到什么?”他让我们写下自己的愿望,然后问我们:“为什么你们会需要神仙呢?”在那一刻,我永远也忘不了这句话对我的震撼。

我意识到,我有了毕业证书、成功的销售经验、做过无数演讲,为一家财富排行榜前 100 名的公司做过销售培训和管理工作——所有这一切都使我为这一刻做好了准备。我准备好了去成为一名动员演说者,不需要神仙的帮助。

当我眼泪汪汪地告诉老板我的计划时,这个我十分尊重的领导,令人难以置信地答道:“勇往直前吧!你一定能够成功。”

我决意刚定,就遭受了考验,我辞职的一个星期后,丈夫也失业了。我们





刚刚买了一座新房子，需要双方的工资来付清每个月的抵押贷款，但现在我们却一分收入也没有了。这时我想回公司去，知道他们仍想要我，可是我知道一旦回去就再也出不来了，我决定继续前进，绝不做一个满口“如果”、“只说不做的人”。一个动员演说者诞生了。

我紧紧追随着我的梦想。甚至在最艰苦的时期也不放弃，然后奇迹果真开始出现。短短的时间内，我丈夫找到了一份更好的工作，我们没有拖欠任何一个月的抵押贷款，我也开始有新客户预约演说。我发现了梦想不可思议的力量。我热爱我过去的工作、我的同事和我离开的那家公司，但是，我实现梦想的时机已经成熟了。为了庆祝我的成功，我请当地一位艺术家将我的新办公室漆成了一座花园，在一面墙的顶端，她刷下了这样一句话：“这个世界永远属于追梦的人。”

