

当今美国热门话题丛书之三

# 爱的教训

*Lesson of Love*

西安交通大学出版社

## 内容简介

本书不想对“爱”做出一个明确的定义。在这里,您会发现当今美国人的情感与生活:O. J. 辛普森的内心困惑,杰奎琳·肯尼迪的从容一生,艺术家们的执着追求,美国的流氓才子,父子深情,西方男女的内心伤痛,华裔姑娘的奋斗历程……这些真人真事远在大洋彼岸,近在您的眼前。它们定会带您进入多彩的情感世界,感悟西方的现代文化,理解大千世界的名流百姓,真正体验阅读的乐趣。

文章的导言会帮助您找到您最感兴趣的,注释对您的阅读理解会有帮助,每篇文章后的选择练习及书后给出的答案可以让您检查一下自己的阅读效果。大学生和有中等水平的读者能够通过本书这个窗口求知冶情,提高英语水平。

本丛书已被多所高校选定作大学生和研究生英语泛读教材。

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当今美国热门话题丛书之三

爱的教训

*Lesson of Love*

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\*

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如果你是一名即将毕业离校的大学生，你一定是既踌躇满志，又恐惧迷惘。你厌倦了同窗的海阔天空，又不屑于家人的好心嘱咐，在你心里感到不大踏实的时候，请看一看这位朋友有何秘笈。



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Nicole 被残暴地杀害了，她的前夫 Simpson 曾被指控有犯罪嫌疑，随之一片哗然。在美国公众眼中，Simpson 这位大明星拿着巨额年薪，整日出入豪华场所，结交名流雅士，而另一个真实的 Simpson 却生活在黑暗中，沉溺于毒品和女人。目前的 Simpson 似乎平静了许多，然而他是否能获得一生的安宁呢？



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节目主持人凯茜·李已是功成名就。人们对她羡慕不已，可她也有自己的烦恼，她甚至想放弃辉煌的事业。



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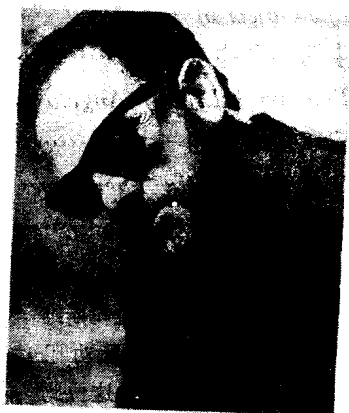
天下乌鸦一般黑，每个社会都有着许多极其相似的阴暗面。提起美国挪用救济金的官僚，醉酒开车后又堂而皇之地踱出法院大门的司机，你也许不会感到惊讶，但是你可曾听说过将人类生殖器拿来构图的广告，以及奋不顾身拯救落沟人的两位工人却险些使其所在公司遭受巨额罚款的咄咄怪事。



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老话说, 唯女子与小人难养也。本文描述了女人为男人们带来的烦恼。由于男人们对女人的观念来不及更新, 令他们与女性交往中频频失利。男人们赶紧好好反省, 把自己保护好, 这种日子大概还得持续一阵子。



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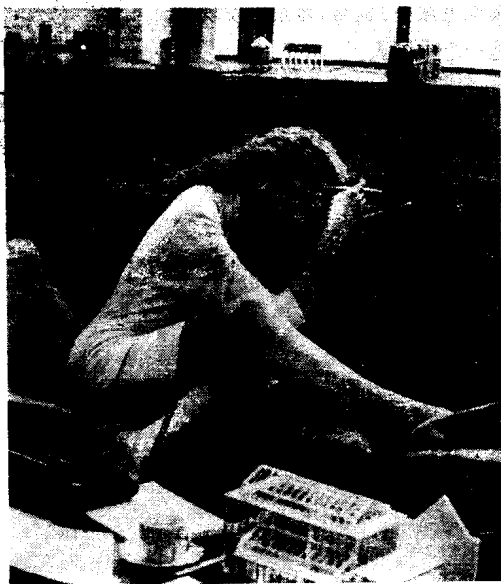
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这幅照片中，一位拉斯维加斯牧师正在试图劝阻 Broussard 不要自杀，这位此刻心神错乱的警察已经杀死了自己的妻子。遗憾的是，牧师也没能使他拒绝死神，在一家电视台现场直播下，他一枪击中了自己的头部。



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您是如何选定自己的事业呢？一旦决定了，你会从何处着手？本文作者为正在设计自己未来前程的年青人指出了几个最关键的问题。



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一位根在中国的姑娘曾经是那样的蔑视中国的一切，她讨厌外婆的一口中国话，嘲笑母亲的洋泾浜英语，把中文学校贬得一钱不值，甚至认为美国国旗也更漂亮。但是，她最终发现自己还是一个中国人。



*Answer Keys* ..... (386)

# 1

## *Lesson of Love*

by Gordon Fitchett

### 爱的教训

我为什么非要生活在怀疑、痛苦和恐惧中？我为什么没能早一点作出自己的抉择？



was only 19 years old and had just returned from travelling half around the world. My whole life lay ahead of me; who would have guessed that I'd become one of the growing army of battered wives?

I started work at the local hotel until I planned exactly what I wanted to do, and that's where I met him—the man I was going to fall in love with. A move I would regret for the rest of my life. He was strong, good-looking and macho and everyone liked him. I thought that a man like that would protect me from all life's evils—I was very wrong.

We became engaged and, at 20, I found I was pregnant. He had bashed me before that, but after we had broken up for a month, he promised me he had changed and would cut off his right arm before hitting me again. Of course, I believed him. They say love is blind, and it's so true.

We married in August, and all was rosy even though we had very little money; what was left over after paying bills, he would spend at the hotel. It became necessary for me to work part-time in the office of a local auto mechanic. It really annoyed him that I worked with men, and he was very jealous. The fact that I was six months pregnant and not at my most appealing didn't make him realise that the men wouldn't be automatically trying to crack onto me.

He started asking me for minute-by-minute reports of each day's events, and if I couldn't remember something, he would hit me. I wore long-sleeved blouses to cover up my bruises, and in the heat of the summer months it was very uncomfortable.

After the baby was born, I thought things would change. I nearly died having our child, but the night before I was due to re-

turn home, he came into the hospital, drunk, and started squeezing my arms, shaking me fiercely and was about to strangle me. Then someone came in and he ran from my room.

The next morning, he was at the hospital at 5 am, with flowers, looking like a small child, crying, begging my forgiveness and confessing his undying love for me, our baby girl and the great life we would have together. He was so sorry I put the incident down to drink. That night we all went home together.

I didn't see much of my family, which hurt me a lot. My father had had three heart attacks and was very sick. We had been a very close family, but my husband didn't seem to like them. I think he was jealous of the love I had for them.

We lived with his mother and, as the months went by, I became very thin and homely looking as I wore his mother's hand-me-down clothes and cut my own hair to save money. I often felt he wanted me to look plain so no-one else would look at me, yet sometimes he would hit me because I didn't look like the girl he first met.

I never spoke back to him, I was too scared to, and I worked tirelessly to make sure the house was spotless—trying not to give him anything to get angry about. I loved my child very much, having her was something I have never regretted but, after a while, I realised no-one should have to spend their lives in fear and that true love certainly isn't trying to hurt someone all the time.

My husband seemed to get pleasure from his weekly beatings and, as the bruises became bigger and the black eyes and cut lips became more difficult to disguise, I would dream of ways I could escape this imprisonment. .

His mother knew what was happening to me, but I think that she was scared of him—and I always suspected that perhaps her husband, when he was alive, had beaten her as her son beat me.

One night, when my husband started pushing me about trying to pick a fight, my mother and sister arrived for a surprise visit—and that was my ticket to freedom. The fact that someone had witnessed him in the act of physical violence seemed to stun him.

I left that night, never to return.

My daughter still sees her father, and they have a fairly good relationship.

He has never hurt her, so I see no reason to spoil what they have. But I will never forgive him for the torment he put me through, and I just thank God that with my family's support I was able to start a new life for myself.

It is now 12 years since we parted. I have a good job with a leading building society. It has taken a lot of hard work and determination, but I have gone from being a battered wife with no self-respect, to a self-sufficient mother and career woman with her whole life in front of her, full of promise.

And this story also has a happy ending. After a few meaningless relationships, I finally met a man who has shown me the true meaning of the word love. Men like my first husband are mentally sick, and I now know that the only reason I stayed so long was because I was convinced I must have done something wrong and wasn't being a good wife. I felt it my duty to stay with him, because marriage was a commitment.

It saddens me to think of the many women still in situations

similar to mine. I know that it is never easy to start a new life, but I also know it can be done. When you give yourself to a man in love and marriage, it doesn't mean he has the right to abuse the gift. You are a human being and, take it from me, it is better to live by yourself than with a man who beats you.

Sure, it gets lonely sometimes, but even people with partners get lonely. It was a very long time before I met a man I truly wanted to marry and spend the rest of my life with, but in that time I got to know myself—and to like who I was.

My only regret is that my father died two years after I left my first husband, so did not live to see his daughter right all the wrongs in her life and achieve the happiness she now has.

## Notes

1. batter 打
2. macho [西班牙语] 强壮男子
3. bash 猛击
4. bruise 伤痕
5. strangle 勒死
6. torment 折磨
7. stun 使大吃一惊

## Reading Comprehension

1. The author's first husband was  
A. weak.    B. ugly.    C. kind.    D. mentally sick.
2. "Love is blind" means  
A. a person in love is jealous.  
B. a person in love does not really know what kind of person

- his or her lover is.
- C. a person in love often hurts his or her lover's feelings.
- D. Both A and C
3. After the author got married, she was
- A. very happy because she and her husband had a lot of money.
- B. very happy even though she and her husband had very little money.
- C. very sad because she and her husband had very little money.
- D. very sad even though she and her husband had a lot of money.
4. In paragraph 7, "I put the incident down to drink" means
- A. I consider the incident to be the result of his being drunk.
- B. I forgave him.
- C. I punished him and felt better.
- D. I had a drink and felt better.
5. In paragraph 8, "which" refers to
- A. my family.
- B. my father had had three heart attacks and was very sick.
- C. I didn't see much of my family.
- D. my husband didn't like my family.
6. Although the author's first husband often beat her, she did not divorce him at the beginning because she thought
- A. she must have done something wrong.
- B. she was not being a good wife.
- C. her husband loved her.
- D. All of the above
7. After the author divorced her first husband, she finally met a

man who

A. loved her very much.

B. often beat her.

C. was very jealous.

D. was very good looking.

8. Which of the following is false according to the article?

A. It is better to live by yourself than with a man who beats you.

B. It is better to live with a man who beats you than live by yourself.

C. It is better to be lonely than live with a man who beats you.

D. Even people with partners get lonely.

9. The author's father died

A. 8 years ago.

C. 10 years ago.

B. 12 years ago.

D. 14 years ago.