

# 天涯知音

*The Listener*

张政 钟庆伦 编

当今美国热门话题丛书



西安交通大学出版社

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## 内容简介

本书由 30 个英文故事构成。它们简练、优美的文字,富有哲理的内涵,定会使您领悟人生的真谛,得到情感的陶冶。

为帮助读者顺利阅读,每篇故事后附有文化及语言难点注释,编有相应的选择、正误判断、英译汉等练习及思考讨论题,以检查读者对文章重点和难点的理解。书后给出了答案。

本书能使大学生和具有中等英语水平读者耳目一新,为您提供难得的阅读材料。

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张政 钟庆伦 编

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## “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打字工聊天之乐,但假如您是位歌手,从罗·西蒙如何写歌的要诀中得一二窍,其中乐趣是无与伦比的。

我编辑这套“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,通过座谈议话题、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。

孔夫子曰:“能者不如好之。”做任何事,从中发现乐趣是至关重要的。若您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

# 序

## ——好故事没人能拒绝

我们似乎正处在一个浮躁时期的社会。人人都急着加入潮流，说含蓄点是急着体现个人价值，说白一点，人人希望自己一夜爆富。于是乎，跟致富、跟挣钱有关的事就干，有关的人就交，有关的知识才学，有关的书才读。即便休闲娱乐也和挣钱有关，要体现消费档次。一个大款如果闲在家里读书，~~那书~~都会觉得不协调而且可笑。

总有一天大款又会觉得这个时期的社会才可笑呢！

人们似乎都头脑发热了，~~就像~~当年参加运动一样热过了头。也许正因为当年运动过热后的懊悔，才把人们又推向另一种过热。

其实大款永远是少数，没有成为大款的我们大可不必红了眼而放弃本属于自己“穷人”的许多乐趣。当我们辛苦一夜回到家里，无忧无虑

地看着电视；或者更自在点，一个周末尽情地读着有趣的故事，其乐融融，绝不亚于大款们玩高尔夫或保龄球。

好故事人们无法拒绝，也许您不愿读书，不愿看电视，但即便与朋友闲聊，好故事也是最受欢迎的。然而听别人说故事，看别人演故事，都不如自己读故事，因为您是在享受属于自己阶层的乐趣。跷着腿缩在沙发里读故事，其乐趣远远超出读书本身，它是一种情调，它是对人生的品味，远离社会潮流，远离烦扰，尤其在今天潮流汹涌、烦扰澎湃的日子里。

好故事人们无法拒绝，尤其当我们离开一堆旧故事，发现另一堆新故事时；更尤其当我们有了一点发掘新故事堆的简单工具。在我离开学校之后，便开始学着用英语找异邦文化中的好故事。当我发现自己已经走得远了的时候，我常觉得自己也像个大款，我在自己的泳池里休闲娱乐。

钟庆伦和张政两位老师现在带给我们的就是30个精致的英文故事。这30个故事是他们几年以前由美国之音节目中摘录下来的，对我们绝大多数人来说它们新鲜，又富有时代感，不会像读英文版的《简爱》或《苔丝》，明明知道故事偏偏还要在那儿读。正因为如此，我们将这本《天涯知音》也列入“当今美国热门话题丛书”之中，您可以先不管语言而倾心于故事内容。钟老师和张老师对所有30篇文章做了大量的工作，除搜集整理故事外，又给所有故事后配了阅读理解练习和读后讨论题。这些材料他们用作学生泛读课材料，五、六年来反应良好，这促使他们下决心将这些好故事介绍给更多的读者。

美籍专家埃夫雷斯特·梅茨勒(Everest Metzler)夫妇在成书的过程中给编者以热情帮助，梅茨勒先生还审阅了全部书稿并提出了宝贵意见。申平先生则为本书绘制了绝大部分插图。在此编者钟庆伦和张政老师特别提出感谢。

我们这些编辑也借此对编者和帮助带来这些好故事的朋友们表示感谢。希望我们也代表了你们，读者朋友们，如果你们喜欢这

些故事。

好故事永远没人能拒绝,我坚信这一点。

刘 影

1996年3月28日

于西安交通大学出版社



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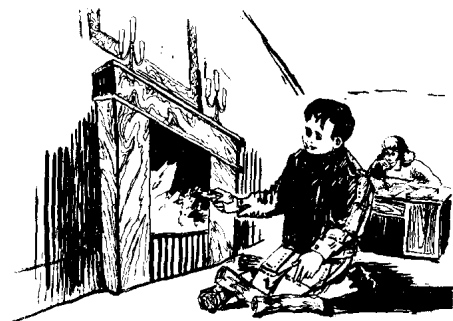
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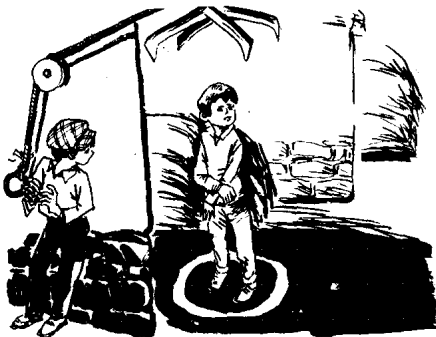
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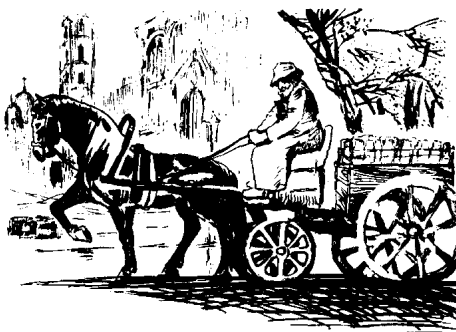
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*Upset*

by Frank Bennett

翻 船



父女水上翻船险些酿成大祸。但它引起了父亲对往事的回忆。怎样生活才能无愧于“父亲”这个称号呢？……

John stood on the steps of the summer house watching his wife climb into the car and drive off along the lake road. She was going to the village to get some boxes for his manuscripts and books.

He looked unhappy. He'd done little work on his book and the summer was now gone. "A wasted summer," he had said to his wife. "Not wasted, John," she said gently. "It has been good for all of us." "But not good for my work," he had answered bitterly.

He put his pipe down and smiled weakly as his old dog, Bingo, came up to sniff it<sup>1</sup>. The dog did this to be awarded and he patted it on the head. Then he remembered his unfinished book and he asked his child hopefully, "Isn't there something else you would like to do instead of going sailing on our last day here?"

The child stopped wiggling her toes<sup>2</sup> in the hot dust and turned up her face and said with an unhappy look, "Do we have to go home tomorrow, Daddy?"

"Yes," he answered. "School begins Monday, you know."

She moaned. She looked small in her swim-shirt and frail.

Bingo pushed against his hand and he thought about a number of things, that he had had the dog longer than his child who was almost nine. And he remembered that Bingo had been his dog even before he met his wife, Doris. She had been 18 then and was now 29. For 11 years she had tried to be as old as himself and he had tried to be as young as she. Now in anger, he wondered if their love was worth the years' trying and so often fail-



ing.

The child said, "Daddy, I can't think of anything else I would rather do than go sailing."

This made him more angry. He was a poor sailor and had already upset the boat once. His wife was probably right, he thought. She said he was always thinking so much about his book on early Greek art that he let the wind and the boat get the better of him.

And so after he agreed to take out the boat, it happened again today. He was so troubled with the loss of his time that he let a gust of wind turn his light boat over. He went under and was terrified, not because of his own safety but that of the child. Usually she swam well. But it was different today. In panic he broke through the surface of the water and looked wildly about for her. He saw the boat first. It had swung to the right, its red painted side glistening in the sun. Then to his left, he saw her bright hair. In her terror, she was fighting the water, gasping and screaming. He called out to calm her and swam to her. She came up sobbing. He put an arm around her and held her close. She clung to him like a thin frightened animal. He could feel her terror. It was like something alive and insane. Suddenly he wanted to shout for help though he knew there was no one to hear. And he wanted to fight against the water with all his strength. But he forced himself to keep calm. "Don't cry, angel," he said gently. "You are all right."

He stayed in the same spot moving his legs up and down in the water to keep afloat<sup>3</sup>. He held her close, talking quietly. At last she heard him. When her arms loosened, he laughed and said, "We'll never hear the last of this from Mother."