

# 聚焦克林顿

Focusing on Clinton

《英语活页文选》编辑组

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(以上文章选自近期《时代周刊》、《新闻周刊》等国外有关资料)

# You Didn't Reveal Your Pain

谁能看到,在他笑容背后的童年不幸的阴影?

Bill Clinton's father, William Blythe III, after whom he was named, died in a car accident before he was born. He was raised by his grandparents from age 2 until 7 when his mother, with whom he is still close, married Roger Clinton Sr. Bill loved his stepfather and took his name, but Roger Clinton was an alcoholic<sup>①</sup> prone to<sup>②</sup> violence. After one ugly incident young Bill, still in his early teens, pointed to his mother and young half brother and warned his stepfather: "You will never hit either of them again. If you want them, you'll have to go through me." His stepfather backed down<sup>③</sup>. In recent weeks Clinton has paused at various times along the campaign trail to talk with NEWSWEEK's Eleanor Clift and Jonathan Alter about the influence of those early years on him. Excerpts:

**On his upbringing<sup>④</sup>:** When people are criticizing me, they get to the old "Slick<sup>⑤</sup> Willie" business. Part of it is that I'm always smiling and try to make it look easy and all that. And part of it is the way I was raised. I had such difficulties in my childhood. And I didn't have anybody I could talk to about it. I didn't know I

①alcoholic: 酒鬼

②be prone to: 倾向于

③back down: 改变原先主意, 退缩

④upbringing: 抚育, 成长

⑤slick: 陈腐的, 陈旧的

was supposed to talk about it. I was raised in that sort of culture where you put on a happy face, and you didn't reveal your pain and agony<sup>⑥</sup>. Those were not things you shared with people. In some ways, while I'm gregarious, I may be more solitary than I appear.

It was the same thing with [anguish<sup>⑦</sup> over] the [Vietnam] War. I was raised in a time and with a culture where I was never supposed to talk about myself or my own problems—my own pain or my own ambivalence<sup>⑧</sup>. I was also raised to believe that no matter how tough it gets for you, there are always a whole lot of people worse off. I struggle now for ways to reveal my true feelings that don't seem self-indulgent<sup>⑨</sup>. It's a real hard thing for me to do, I confess<sup>⑩</sup>.

**On his stepfather:** He genuinely<sup>⑪</sup> did love me, and I genuinely did love him. It was himself that he didn't love. Like a lot of men of his age and time, he didn't have a lot of open and candid<sup>⑫</sup> conversations until he began to die. If you asked me to make a list of the 10 most vivid times of my life when I was really alive, I would say those six weeks when he was being treated for cancer at the Duke Medical Center—it was 266 miles from Georgetown [where Clinton was studying] to his hospital room—and I went there every weekend. And we had the kind of conversations that I wish my brother had had. [His half brother is a recovering drug addict<sup>⑬</sup>.] I just have to say—and a lot of people like me who grew

⑥ agony: 极度的痛苦

⑦ anguish: 极度的痛苦

⑧ ambivalence: 矛盾的情绪

⑨ self-indulgent: 放纵的, 任性的

⑩ confess: 承认

⑪ genuinely: 真心地

⑫ candid: 坦诚的

⑬ addict: 上瘾的人

up in alcoholic families would say the same thing—the times were not all bad. People don't stay in hell—it's intermittent<sup>⑭</sup> hell that we all put up with... I never regret changing my name.

In an interview, my brother told a story about another incidence of domestic violence that I had interrupted. I didn't even remember it until I read the story, and then I remembered it. I guess I suppressed<sup>⑮</sup> a lot of that stuff. But the truth is that there were also a lot of very good times. Like a lot of addicts, [my stepfather] could never appreciate the good things in his life for being consumed by the gnawing<sup>⑯</sup> fears and failures and insecurities, even though he was attractive and intelligent.

### On charges<sup>⑰</sup> that he's too eager to please:

The only thing they ought to do is look at the whole record of my public life. Again, I was a peacemaker, and I hated overt<sup>⑱</sup> conflicts. It was a source of great pain in my childhood. One of the biggest problems I had in fully maturing<sup>⑲</sup> was learning how to deal with conflict, and express conflict and express disagreement without being disagreeable<sup>⑳</sup>, without thinking the world would come to an end, without feeling I would kind of lose my footing<sup>㉑</sup> in life. Because I grew up in an environment in which either nothing happened or all hell broke loose, so that the ordinary expression of disagreement and the ordinary confrontation and conflict of daily life was not contained<sup>㉒</sup>. It was either repressed<sup>㉓</sup> or it ex-

⑭ intermittent: 间歇的, 断断续续的

⑮ suppress: 禁止, 抑制

⑯ gnawing: 令人苦恼的

⑰ charge: 指责, 指控

⑱ overt: 明显的, 公然的

⑲ maturing: 成熟的过程

⑳ disagreeable: 令人不快的, 不合意的

㉑ footing: 立足点

㉒ contain: 包容, 姑息

㉓ repress: 镇压, 抑制

ploded, but it was not contained—it wasn't part of the day-to-day workings of life.

I do think it was one of my weaknesses. As a young man in politics I was trying to figure out how to reconcile<sup>②④</sup> my natural desire to have people be civilized<sup>②⑤</sup> and be on good terms with one another and really respect each other and the need to stake out<sup>②⑥</sup> your ground and be in opposition to people who disagree with you.

On the other hand, I think entirely too much has been made of it. I went back and began a political career with a history in two issues that weren't exactly the basis for successful white politicians in the South—race and Vietnam. In my first campaign, my opponent<sup>②⑦</sup> had a 70 percent approval rating<sup>②⑧</sup> and I almost beat him. So I think my critics can overplay<sup>②⑨</sup> this desire to please. I've never run from a tough fight and I still think I've been more of a change agent than most governors have. I don't believe you have to make permanent enemies to stake out a position. When we had the opportunity to be bold, we were very, very bold. I fought with the AFL-CIO because they didn't want me to raise any money for education. I fought with the chamber of commerce. I had this big confrontation with the NRA, where [they] said if I ran for president they would cream<sup>③⑩</sup> me because I vetoed their bill. I do not mind taking on<sup>③⑪</sup> vested interests<sup>③⑫</sup> and fighting them.

②④ reconcile: 使……  
和解, 使……和  
谐

②⑤ civilized: 文明的,  
有礼貌的

②⑥ stake out: 监视

②⑦ opponent: 对手,  
敌人

②⑧ approval rating:  
支持率

②⑨ overplay: 夸大

③⑩ cream: 啪啪地  
打, 击败

③⑪ take on: 挑战

③⑫ vested interest:  
既得利益者

(Source: Newsweek, March 30, 1992)

## The Meeting with John. F. Kennedy

1963 年夏, 肯尼迪接见克林顿。在白宫, 少年克林顿“见”到了梦想中的将来。

The boys rode down to the White House in two air-conditioned<sup>①</sup> buses, fifty scrubbed faces per coach, hair clipped, shoes polished, slacks<sup>②</sup> creased, young chests fairly busting from white short-sleeve knit shirts inscribed<sup>③</sup> over the left breast with the seal of the American Legion. They were high school seniors-to-be<sup>④</sup>, a proud collection of eager-beaver<sup>⑤</sup> class leaders born in the first year of the postwar boom<sup>⑥</sup>, groomed for<sup>⑦</sup> success in the backwater<sup>⑧</sup> redoubts<sup>⑨</sup> of service club America, towns named Hardaway and Sylvester and Midland and Lititz and Westfield and Hot Springs. Some of these boys were so provincial<sup>⑩</sup> that they had never before traveled by overnight train or flown by commercial airliner. Now, for five days in Washington as senators at Boys Nation, they had been playing the roles of powerful actors on the political stage, their schedules crammed with mock<sup>⑪</sup> debates, speeches, and elections, as well as lunches in the Senate Dining Room and briefings at the Department of State. Boys Nation was an educational exercise, mostly, and partly a reward for academic achievement, but it also offered a hint<sup>⑫</sup> of something grander. Hour after hour the boys

① air-conditioned:

空调的

② slacks: 宽松的裤子, 便裤

③ inscribed: 刻有或印有某种字样或图案的

④ senior-to-be: 次高年级学生

⑤ eager-beaver: 做事特卖力的人

⑥ boom: 即 baby boom, 生育高峰期

⑦ be groomed for: 被推荐为

⑧ backwater: 死气沉沉的气氛

⑨ redoubt: 据点

⑩ provincial: 偏狭的, 没见世面的

⑪ mock: 模拟的

⑫ hint: 暗示

heard older men call them the future leaders of the free world, and while some only dimly<sup>⑬</sup> envisioned<sup>⑭</sup> such a prospect<sup>⑮</sup>, others accepted it as their fate. For them this week was a coming-out party and dress rehearsal<sup>⑯</sup>.

The capital region was caught in a midsummer snare of high heat and humidity<sup>⑰</sup> that July of 1963, particularly stifling<sup>⑱</sup> to the one hundred teenage senators each night out at the University of Maryland campus where their closet-sized dormitory rooms lacked not only air conditioners<sup>⑲</sup> but even electric fans. But on Wednesday the 24th as the buses rolled south from College Park toward the White House, the morning sky opened blue and gentle, graced by a soft breeze, as though the weather acknowledged<sup>⑳</sup> its own assignment<sup>㉑</sup> for an event that, decades later, would resurface<sup>㉒</sup> as a national icon<sup>㉓</sup> of political fate and ambition.

The boys were on their way to meet President John F. Kennedy in the Rose Garden. Though young, stylish, and witty<sup>㉔</sup>, Kennedy was hardly a mythic figure two and a half years into his term. Many in the Boys Nation enclave<sup>㉕</sup> looked upon him with ideological<sup>㉖</sup> caution, reflecting the conservative<sup>㉗</sup> views of their sponsors<sup>㉘</sup> in the American Legion's division of National Americanism<sup>㉙</sup>. They made no secret of their admiration for Republican Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, an apostle<sup>㉚</sup> of antifederalism<sup>㉛</sup> then building a national movement that made Kennedy nervous about a second term. Still,

- ⑬ dimly: 模糊地
- ⑭ envision: 想像, 预想
- ⑮ prospect: 前景
- ⑯ rehearsal: 预演, 排练
- ⑰ humidity: 潮湿
- ⑱ stifling: 令人窒息的
- ⑲ air conditioner: 空调
- ㉑ acknowledge: 承认
- ㉒ assignment: 任务
- ㉓ resurface: 重现
- ㉔ icon: 偶像, 标志
- ㉕ witty: 诙谐而富有机智的
- ㉖ enclave: 飞地, 国境内的别国领土
- ㉗ ideological: 幻想的
- ㉘ conservative: 保守的
- ㉙ sponsor: 发起人, 赞助人
- ㉚ Americanism: 崇美主义
- ㉛ apostle: 传教士, 倡导者
- ㉜ antifederalism: 反联邦主义

JFK was a war hero and the leader of the free world. He represented the archetype<sup>㉔</sup> of what Boys Nation alumni<sup>㉕</sup> were supposed to become. The boys were excited to meet him. For most of the half-hour trip down from the Maryland campus, their buses resounded<sup>㉖</sup> with nervous, anticipatory<sup>㉗</sup> chatter.

Daniel J. O'Connor, a New York lawyer and director of National Americanism for the Legion, led the contingent<sup>㉘</sup> on the first bus. He and his staff assistants, veterans<sup>㉙</sup> of World War II or Korea, carefully briefed their charges on proper behavior in the Rose Garden: *Security will be tight. If you wander off, the Secret Service will stop you. Stay together. Stay in rows. If the president comes down to greet you, do not crowd around. If you do, he'll withdraw.* O'Connor knew that his boys were well mannered. He had encountered little trouble from them in Washington beyond a few curfew<sup>㉚</sup> violations and the time when some of them disturbed Secretary Rusk by snapping flashbulb<sup>㉛</sup> cameras as he delivered a solemn address on world affairs at the State Department auditorium. Minor stuff.

On the bus, O'Connor chatted with several boys. He asked each one where he was from and what he thought of Washington so far. One lad lingered<sup>㉜</sup> in his presence longer than the others, leaving an impression that O'Connor could call to mind years later. It was Bill Clinton of Hot Springs, Arkansas. He was only sixteen, but

㉔archetype: 原型

㉕alumni: (男)毕业生, 校友

㉖resound: 回响

㉗anticipatory: 预期的

㉘contingent: 分队

㉙veteran: 老兵

㉚curfew: 宵禁

㉛flashbulb: 闪光灯

㉜linger: 逗留, 徘徊

one of the bigger boys physically at six foot three and two hundred pounds, with a wave of brown hair and a good-natured<sup>④①</sup> manner. Clinton was curious about what lay in store for the boys that morning. His own intentions were clear. He asked O'Connor whether he could have his picture taken with President Kennedy. "Sure," O'Connor said. "But I'm not sure what the Secret Service regulations are. We'll have to see when we get there." Clinton pressed the issue. It sure would be great, he said, if he could get his picture taken with the president.

④① good-natured: 温厚的

It got quiet inside the Boys Nation buses as they pulled through the White House gate from the south. You could hear the motors idling<sup>④②</sup> and the pneumatic<sup>④③</sup> whoosh<sup>④④</sup> when the driver opened the door to talk to a guard. In his seat, Richard Stratton, a bundle of nerves<sup>④⑤</sup>, whispered to himself the words he would say to President Kennedy: "... Mr. President, we're all grateful to you for having us here." Bill Clinton was at the front of the first bus. He wanted a prime spot in the Rose Garden. Stay in lines, the counselors reminded them. Walk directly to the lawn below the speaker's podium<sup>④⑥</sup>. Do not throw elbows. Don't run. You represent your states and Boys Nation and the American Legion. Do us proud.

④② idle: 空转, 闲散

④③ pneumatic: 充气轮胎

④④ whoosh: 飞快移动

④⑤ a bundle of nerves: (容易)紧张不安的人

④⑥ podium: 指挥台

With that the buses unloaded<sup>④⑦</sup> and a most awkward, comic sort of race began. Without running, without pushing, several of the boys moved

④⑦ unload: (车)卸货, 下乘客

as quickly as they could to outpace<sup>④⑧</sup> the others, speed-walking while attempting to go unnoticed. "There was a barely controlled eagerness," according to Larry Taunton. "You don't want to push and shove<sup>④⑨</sup>, yet move with extreme rapidity to get to the front." With his long strides, Clinton took the lead and placed himself in the front row, just to the right of the outdoor podium, perhaps fifteen feet or so from where the president would stand. Only a few dignitaries<sup>⑤①</sup>, counselors, and protective agents would get between him and President Kennedy.

At quarter to ten, Kennedy stepped out from the back portico<sup>⑤②</sup>. Behind him were the four chiefs of staff of the uniformed services, in the middle of an Oval Office discussion with the president, who was trying to persuade them to support a nuclear test ban treaty. Kennedy strode to the podium, looked out at the boys in a semicircle below him, and introduced General Curtis LeMay of the Air Force, Admiral George Anderson of the Navy, General Earle Wheeler of the Army, and General David Shoup of the Marine Corps<sup>⑤③</sup>. (Decades later, one of the most vivid memories of many of the boys would be that of Curtis LeMay standing behind Kennedy with an unlit stogie<sup>⑤④</sup> in his mouth.)

"I read about your meeting last night," Kennedy said—referring to an article in *The Washington Post* that put the boys' treatment of the civil rights issue in the most positive light, taking note only of their statement that

④⑧ outpace: 赶上

④⑨ push and shove: 推挤

⑤① dignitary: 高官, 要人

⑤② portico: 门廊

⑤③ Marine Corps: 海军陆战队

⑤④ stogie: 廉价的细长雪茄

“racism<sup>⑤④</sup> is a cancerous<sup>⑤⑤</sup> disease” and must be eliminated. “It seemed to me that you showed more initiative<sup>⑤⑥</sup> in some ways than the Governors’ Conference down in Miami, and we are impressed by it.”

⑤④ racism: 种族主义

⑤⑤ cancerous: 癌的,  
(病、问题)严重的

⑤⑥ initiative: 主动,  
首创精神

Richard Stratton was still whispering his lines to himself when the president said something that cleared his mind and put him at ease. “And I want to congratulate Mr. Stratton on his overwhelming majority,” Kennedy said, smiling. “Those of us who just skim by are properly admiring.”

The White House and its grounds, Kennedy told the boys, were constant reminders<sup>⑤⑦</sup> of the best in American history. Eyes turned as he pointed south. “These trees which are just behind you were planted by Andrew Jackson when he was here in the White House. The tallest tree over there was planted by the first President who came to the White House, John Adams. So all around you is the story of the United States and I think all of us have a pride in our country.” He had recently returned from a trip to Europe, the president went on, “and was impressed once again by the strong feelings most people have, even though they may on occasions be critical of our policies... that without the United States they would not be free and with the United States they are free, and it is the United States which stands guard all the way from Berlin to Saigon.” Kennedy concluded by praising the American Legion for looking to the future as well

⑤⑦ reminder: 提醒的  
人或物, 暗示

as the past, a future represented by the boys, of whom he said: "No group could be more appropriately visiting here now. We want you to feel very much at home."

When the applause<sup>58</sup> receded<sup>59</sup>, Stratton approached the podium, uttered his few lines of thanks from the boys, and handed Kennedy a Boys Nation polo shirt<sup>60</sup>, which the president said he would wear that weekend at Hyannis Port. Kennedy shook hands with a few Legion officials at his side and turned as though he might head back to the Oval Office, but he did not. As the president walked toward them, the boys surged<sup>61</sup> forward. Clinton was the first to shake his hand. The sixteen-year-old from Hot Springs lost his breath, his face contorted<sup>62</sup> in what he would later call "my arthritis<sup>63</sup> of the face." The Boys Nation photographer was nearby, snapping away. Kennedy suddenly retreated, smiling, and headed back to the White House, his cuff links and tie clasp intact<sup>64</sup>.

Most of the boys were riding an adrenaline<sup>65</sup> high when they left the Rose Garden. After an early lunch at American Legion headquarters, they visited the Pentagon, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Washington Monument. Visitors were still allowed to climb the stairs to the top of the monument in those days, and the boys took to the stairwell<sup>66</sup> with glee<sup>67</sup>—running all the way to the top in a wild, noisy race. Benny Galloway, an all-state football player from South Carolina,

⑤⑧ applause: 掌声

⑤⑨ recede: 消退

⑥⑩ polo shirt: 开领式衬衫

⑥⑪ surge: 猛冲

⑥⑫ contorted: 扭曲的

⑥⑬ arthritis: 关节炎

⑥⑭ intact: 未被碰过的

⑥⑮ adrenaline: 肾上腺素, 这里指士气

⑥⑯ stairwell: 楼梯井

⑥⑰ glee: 欢乐

easily outran the field on the way up. On the ride back to the Maryland campus, the boys joked about the race and boasted about the morning at the Rose Garden. Where were you? Did you get to shake his hand? I touched his suit! He looked right at me! They spent the rest of the evening calling collect to their folks<sup>⑥</sup> back home.

⑥folk:亲友

The next morning, their last in Washington, they returned from a day at the FBI and the Capitol to find a bulletin board at Harford Hall cluttered<sup>⑦</sup> with photographs taken during the week by a Legion photographer. Each picture was numbered so that the boys could order copies. They mobbed<sup>⑧</sup> the board, writing down their selections. Along with an overwhelming<sup>⑨</sup> feeling that in Washington he had seen the career he longed for, Bill Clinton brought home a captured moment bonding his joyous present with his imagined future, a photograph he had been bound and determined to get—the picture that his mother wanted.

⑦cluttered:乱糟糟的

⑧mob:大举包围

⑨overwhelming:压倒性的,无法抵抗的

(Source: Maraniss, David, *First in His Class*,  
Simon and Schuster, 1996)