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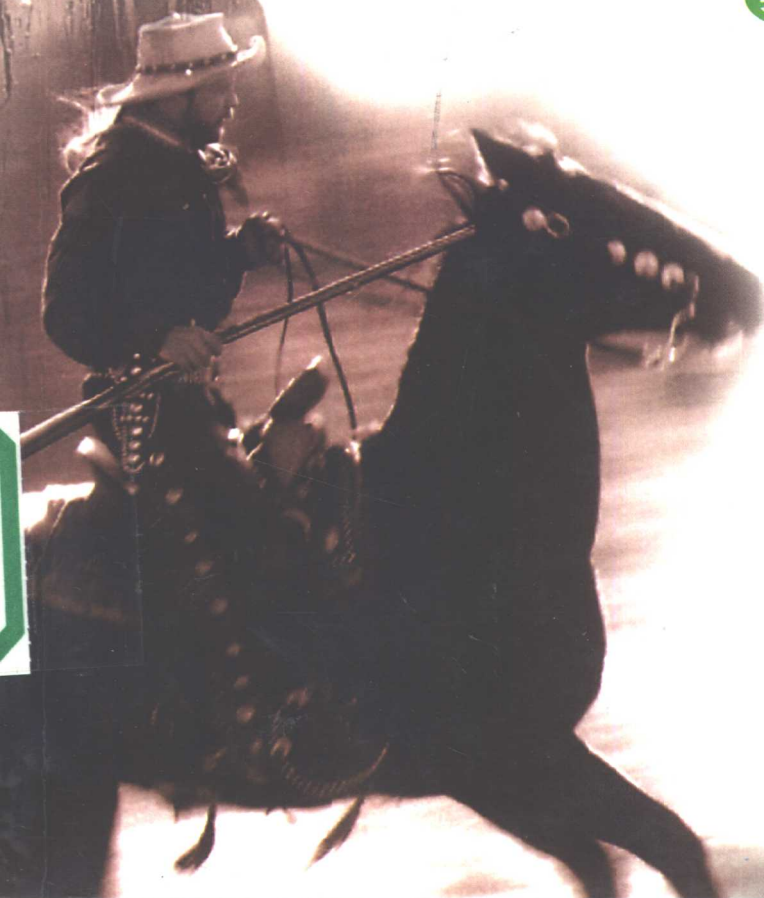
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# 悬崖上的牛仔

与 自 然 系 列

*The Cowboys on the Bluff*

英汉对照



红叶英语工作室  
青闰 张玲 译注

华中科技大学出版社

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人 与 自 然 系 列

*The Cowboys on the Bluff*

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英汉对照

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# 常青藤寄语



“英语常青藤”系列图书自 1998 年推出以来,受到了广大读者的热烈欢迎和喜爱,虽一再重印仍供不应求,单本累计印数最高已达近十万册。在此谨向支持我们的读者致以衷心的感谢。

我们收到了许多热心读者的来信,他们对“英语常青藤”图书给予了充分的肯定和赞誉,这对于我们出版者来说,真是莫大的欣慰和鼓励,同时也鞭策我们向更高的目标迈进,为读者提供更多更好的英语轻松阅读类的图书。

时值人类迈入又一个新千年之际,我们对“英语常青藤”读物进行了重大改版和扩充,不仅内容更精彩、更可读了,而且版式更好看、装帧更精美了;呈现在读者面前的也不再是仅有的两个辑子,而是包括“精品回味”、“名家名篇”、“名人小传”、“开心草莓”、“人与自然”、“心动驿站”、“象牙塔”、“咖啡屋”等近十个子系列的大型系列丛书。读者朋友在这里不仅能接触到纯正、地道的英语,增强综合运用英语的能力,而且能领略到国外生活的方方面面,扩大与外部世界的沟通,成为新世纪的新型人才。

新版“英语常青藤”图书具有以下几个特点:

(1) **内容丰富,表达地道。**读物所选的英文材料绝大多数直接取自国外原版,内容广泛,涉及语言、文化、风俗、习惯、历史、传统等许多方面。

115 16 / 15

**(2) 形式活泼,易学易用。**编排方式新颖活泼,所配插图清新高雅,使读书学习变得轻松愉快,给读者以美的享受。读物多采用英汉对照形式,必要处还加有注释,方便读者学习。

**(3) 装帧精美,适于收藏。**装帧设计力求精美大方,加之内容实用可读,因此颇具收藏价值;若将其作为礼品,馈赠亲友,则更显得温馨高雅,意义非凡。

最后依然是我们出版人的宗旨:愿“英语常青藤”带给您的,不仅是常青的英语,更是常青的人生。

出版者

## 前言

我们策划推出的《悬崖上的牛仔》、《落雪初恋》、《一路天使》、《蓝鸟的承诺》和《木筏上的男孩》，是“英语常青藤”之“人与自然”系列中的五本。

我们之所以把这个系列称为“人与自然”，顾名思义是想在我们设定的特殊背景下充分展现人与自然的融融亲情和相互间千丝万缕的种种联系，让读者朋友从中领略到一种源于自然、归于自然的感召力和神秘感。

这里有人与飞禽走兽、花草虫鱼的亲情友爱，也有人与山川湖泊、日月星辰的心灵共鸣，还有人类征服自然的勇敢果决，具有极强的亲和力和包容性。

我们这里所选的文章长短适中、难易结合，或优美隽永，或汪洋恣肆，或科学严谨，或撼人心魄，或催人泪下……可谓色彩缤纷，尽收其中。

为了帮助读者准确快捷地把握原文、最大限度地汲取英语精华，我们以英汉对照的形式编排，并对疑难词加以注解。在翻译上，我们力求准确到位，再现原作神韵，使读者既能学到地道纯正的英语，又能管窥到汉语的博大精深。同时，我们还配制了精美贴切的情景图片，使读者朋友能赏心悦目、乐在其中。

本书除标有译者姓名的文章外，均为青闰、张玲合译并注解。由于译者能力有限和各方面条件制约，书中肯定会存在不少缺憾和纰漏，因此恳请读者朋友不吝赐教，以便我们精益求精进一步修订，将更加精彩的内容奉献给更多的读者朋友。

最后，让我们在英语常青藤的牵引下，走进大自然，感受大自然，融化在它宽广的怀抱里吧。

青闰

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# 人狐情缘





## The Little Vixen Vicky

When my daughter, Jan, was 12, our family got *devastating*<sup>1</sup> news. Jan had a *malignant*<sup>2</sup> *growth*<sup>3</sup> that would require a leg *amputation*<sup>4</sup>. She would have to *undergo*<sup>5</sup> surgery and long months of *rehabilitation*<sup>6</sup>.

As any mother would, I worried about my young daughter's spirits. Then one night in the hospital, when sleep *evaded*<sup>7</sup> her, Jan surprised me by asking, "Mom, remember Vicky?"

Our family lived on a farm along an old logging road near Fairbanks, Alaska. Wildlife *abounded*<sup>8</sup> in the quiet countryside. One winter night while out walking, my husband, Joe, and I heard a distant cry.

A young fox, the color of autumn maples against the snow, was twisting in an *illegal*<sup>9</sup> trap. *Arching*<sup>10</sup> her back to spring into the air, she smashed back to the ground and *collapsed*<sup>11</sup>.

"Look at that leg," Joe said. "It's destroyed."

Removing his jacket, he gently placed it over the animal. I released her torn leg from the trap, expecting her to *lunge*<sup>12</sup> to bite me. But under Joe's coat she did not struggle. Her yellow eyes, bright with pain and fear, stared at us *unflinchingly*<sup>13</sup>. On the way home we named the little *vixen*<sup>14</sup> Vicky.

As a *veterinary*<sup>15</sup> assistant with a background in animal *husbandry*<sup>16</sup>, I was qualified to *rehabilitate*<sup>17</sup> injured wildlife for the state of Alaska. When we brought Vicky into the kitchen, she was

## 人狐情缘

儿珍 12 岁那年,我们家听到了一个令人心碎的消息。珍的腿部长了一个恶性肿瘤,需要截肢。她必须进行外科手术,而且要经过好几个月的恢复期。

像所有母亲一样,我担心小女儿的精神状况。后来有一天晚上,珍在医院里毫无睡意,突然出乎意料地向我问道:“妈妈,还记得维奇吗?”

我们一家人住在阿拉斯加州凡尔班克斯附近一条伐木古道边的一个农场上。在这幽静的乡村有大量野生动物出没。一个冬天的夜晚,我和丈夫乔外出正走着,听见远处有什么东西在哀叫。

在雪的映照下,只见一只毛皮呈秋季枫树颜色的小狐狸,在一个非法设置的诱捕器里奋力挣扎着:她拱背跃向空中,又重重地摔回地上。

“看她那条腿,”乔说,“已经给毁了。”

乔脱掉夹克,轻轻地盖在她身上。我把她的伤腿从诱捕器上松开,想着她会蹿上来咬我一口。但她在乔的上衣下面没有挣扎。她的黄眼睛因疼痛和惊恐而熠熠闪光,无所畏惧地盯着我们。在回家的路上,我们给这只小雌狐狸取名叫维奇。

因为我在牧畜领域做过兽医助理,所以有资格给阿拉斯加州受伤的野生生物做恢复性治疗。我们将维奇一带进厨房,鸟笼里的两只冻伤了爪子、挂在

1. a. 毁灭性的

2. a. 恶性的

3. n. 肿瘤

4. n. 截肢

5. n. 进行

6. n. 康复

7. vt. 回避

8. 大量存在

9. a. 非法的

10. vt. 使成弓形

11. vi. 倒下

12. vi. 突然向前冲

13. ad. 无所畏惧地

14. n. 雌狐

15. = veterinarian,  
n. 兽医

16. n. 饲养业

17. vt. 使康复



watched by two owls with frozen feet, hanging in *slings*<sup>18</sup> inside their cages. A bald eagle with a broken wing clung to the back of the couch, staring. A caged mink we'd found almost frozen to death *struck*<sup>19</sup> its nose through the wire and hissed, while our family cat, hair on end, eyed the newcomer warily.

Joe sat at the table *gripping*<sup>20</sup> Vicky's head securely while I prepared to fix her leg. Our three children gathered around. "Try not to hurt her," whispered seven-year-old Jan, her blond head bent close to the *delicate*<sup>21</sup> little fox.

Using cotton balls *soaked with*<sup>22</sup> *ether*<sup>23</sup>, Joe *administered*<sup>24</sup> *anesthetic*<sup>25</sup>. As soon as Vicky was out, I cleaned and *disinfected*<sup>26</sup> her wound. With *tweezers*<sup>27</sup> I removed *splinters*<sup>28</sup> of bone, then *scissored*<sup>29</sup> away the surrounding fur to expose the shattered bones.

There were four breaks in all. I matched the bones as closely as possible while Joe *monitored*<sup>30</sup> Vicky's heartbeat. Finally, tying the bones in place with *suture*<sup>31</sup>, I sewed the skin together, bandaged the entire leg, then strapped on a splint.

Hours after surgery Vicky's eyes *fluttered*<sup>32</sup> open. She raised her head to look around, but made no move to stand. I draped a blanket over her cage for privacy and left her door *ajar*<sup>33</sup>.

The next morning Vicky lay on her side breathing evenly. To my astonishment her head rested on a pink, fluffy rug she'd managed to pull into her cage from the living room sometime during the night.

Two mornings later, though, something was very wrong. During the night Vicky had tried to chew off the splint. Now she was trapped by a *shaft*<sup>34</sup> of broken bone caught on a bar at the bottom of her cage. The tattered, infected limb was *beyond repair*<sup>35</sup>. There was no choice—later that day I *amputated*<sup>36</sup> Vicky's leg.



吊带上的猫头鹰便注意到了她。那只折断了一个翅膀的白头鹰也紧紧地贴向长沙发背目不转睛地盯着她。我们发现时几乎快冻死的貂将鼻子探出金属丝网嘶嘶直叫,而我们家的猫则毛发倒竖,警惕地瞅着这个新来者。

我准备给维奇治疗腿伤,乔坐到桌边紧紧地抓住维奇的头。我们的三个孩子围在一边。“尽量别弄疼了她。”年仅7岁的珍低声说道,她长满金发的脑袋趴得离身体娇弱的小狐狸很近。

乔用带乙醚的棉球实施麻醉。维奇一昏过去,我就赶忙为她清洗伤口、进行消毒。我拿着镊子取出碎骨片,然后剪去周围的软毛,露出受伤的骨头。

腿骨共断了四节。我将它们尽可能地接紧,乔监听维奇的心跳。最后,我用缝线将骨头维系到位,把皮缝合起来,用绷带将整条腿缠上,绑上夹板。

手术后过了几个小时,维奇的眼睛扑扇了几下睁开了。她抬头望了望四周,却丝毫没有站起来的意思。我在她的笼子上覆盖了一块毛毯,好让她安心静养不受打扰,而且把她的门半开着。

第二天早上,只见维奇侧身而卧,呼吸均匀。让我惊讶的是,夜间不知什么时候,她从起居室将一块粉红色毛毯拽进笼子作了她的枕头。

然而,两个早上过后,情况发生了恶变。夜里,维奇试图咬掉她的夹板。现在,她已动弹不得:她的一根折断的骨头被笼底的一根铁条钩住了。那条被撕得破烂不堪的伤口感染的肢体已经不可救药。别无选择——那天晚些时候,我将维奇的那条腿截了下来。

18. n. 吊带

19. vt. 把…刺入

20. vt. 夹牢; 握紧

21. a. 纤弱的

22. 用…浸湿

23. n. 乙醚

24. vt. 实施; 施行

25. n. 麻醉(法)

26. vt. 为…消毒  
或杀菌

27. n. 镊子

28. n. 碎片

29. vt. (用剪刀)  
剪

30. vt. 监听

31. n. 缝线

32. vi. 颤动

33. a. 半开着的

34. n. (一)条

35. 无法恢复

36. vt. 截(肢)

Long, anxious hours passed before the little fox stirred. I *squeezed*<sup>37</sup> cold water from a washcloth into her mouth. Joe and I took turns staying close to her the remainder of that day and all through the night. Jan and her brother, Mark and Scott, only left her side long enough to eat and run to the bathroom.

Within days, however, Vicky began to eat, lap water and be more alert. I noticed her staring into the living room. Finally it dawned on me that what she wanted: the pink rug, which I'd removed from her cage to wash. When I moved it closer, Vicky struck her face through the bars and pulled it in with her.

We decided to open the cage door again and give her the run of the house. Vicky stood, lost her balance, fell and tried again. "Oh, Mom," Jan whispered. "She's so brave, and she keeps trying." My own heart ached.

After a few more attempts Vicky managed to stand. From the safety of her cage, she gazed about the room but showed no desire to walk. But late that night I awoke to hear her soft *pads*<sup>38</sup> cross our bedroom floor. A cool nose brushed against my hand. Then I heard her moving down the hall to the children's rooms.

Soon it seemed that the cage had become her den, the place she returned to for *security*<sup>39</sup>. She *groomed*<sup>40</sup> herself there and buried food under her pink rug. No doubt about it, she considered the rug hers. Sometimes she'd take it to sleep with behind the fireplace grate. All we would see was a glimpse of pink.

Vicky now moved about freely, *scurrying*<sup>41</sup> away if we got too close. Stalking her favorite toy, an old glove, she'd *pounce*<sup>42</sup>, throw it in the air and catch it. Then one night I watched *fascinated*<sup>43</sup> as she padded to the door, stood with her nose to the crack and *sniffed*<sup>44</sup> the outside air.



令人心焦的好几个小时过去,小狐狸才有了动静。我从洗脸巾拧出几滴冷水滴进她嘴里。那天,我和乔通宵达旦轮流守候在她的身边。珍和她的兄弟马克与斯科特除了吃饭、上厕所也一直没离左右。

不过,不出几天,维奇已渐渐开始吃东西、舔水喝,变得活跃起来。我注意到她总往起居室里瞅。最终,我才明白过来她想要什么,就是我早先从她的笼子里拿走去洗的那个粉红色小毛毯。我把毛毯拽到近前,维奇探出头来,将毛毯衔了进去。

我们决定再次打开她的笼门,让她在屋里跑跑。维奇刚站起来,身子一歪,倒在了地上。她又试了一次。“噢,妈妈,”珍低声叫道,“她是多么勇敢,一直在努力。”我自己的心在一阵阵发疼。

又试了几次后,维奇终于努力站了起来。她在安全的笼子里环顾了一下房间,但一点也没有想走动的欲望。那天后半夜,我从睡梦中醒来,听到她在我们的卧室轻轻地来回走着。一只凉凉的鼻子从我的手上擦过。随后,我听到她穿过门厅,向孩子们的房间走去。

不久,那只笼子似乎成了她的窝——她寻求安全的地方。她在里面清洗自己的皮毛,将吃的东西藏在她的粉红色小毛毯下面。毫无疑问,她准是将小毛毯据为己有了。有时,她会将小毛毯扯到壁炉棚的后面睡进去。我们所能看到的只是一团粉红色。

维奇现在自由自在地随意四处走动,如果我们接近她,她就会撒腿跑开。她最喜欢的玩具是一只旧手套,她常常是慢慢潜近,然后猛扑上去,将手套抛起来再接住。后来有一天夜里,她轻轻地走到门边,站住,鼻子抵着门缝,嗅着外面的空气。望着这情景,我不禁入了迷。

37. vt. 挤

38. n. 肉掌

39. n. 安全

40. vt. 打扮;使整洁

41. vi. 急匆匆地走

42. vt. 猛扑

43. a. 入迷的

44. vt. 嗅;闻

More than seven weeks had slipped by. With *breeding*<sup>45</sup> season only months away, Vicky needed her freedom to find a new mate and a new den. But before she could be released back into the wild, Joe and I had to know if she could kill *prey*<sup>46</sup> for herself.

One night Joe released a *sacrificial*<sup>47</sup> chicken in the kitchen. Vicky didn't make a move. Disappointed, I went to bed. But in the morning Vicky lay in her cage, the *partially*<sup>48</sup> eaten chicken forming a *mound*<sup>49</sup> beneath her pink rug.

Almost daily now her *restlessness*<sup>50</sup> increased. At night she paced the house and looked out the window. In the light of day, fox, *ermine*<sup>51</sup> and hare tracks told us what she'd seen.

I had no more excuses. Hadn't I told our children that wild animals should never be considered pets? Though I wanted her to live the life she was born for, I hated the idea of giving her up.

Finally we decided Vicky should go. Dreading the moment, I slowly opened the door, fully expecting her to rush out and vanish. Instead, Vicky stood in the doorway, then went back to her cage and *curled up*<sup>52</sup> on her rug. "See, Mom," said our son Scott. "She doesn't want to go."

The next evening I opened the door again. Vicky rushed to look. She smelled the night air, reading all it carried. Again she returned to her cage.

Five nights later our fox finally *ventured*<sup>53</sup> out and disappeared into the trees. Torn by happiness and sadness, Joe and I carried her cage outside in case she returned during the night. Jan and her brothers followed with Vicky's pink rug, her favorite glove and bone, and some food *scraps*<sup>54</sup>.

Eagerly the next morning we checked the cage. Some of the scraps had been eaten. The rest were buried under her rug. In the





不知不觉,七个多星期过去了。距离繁殖季节只有几个月光景了。维奇需要获得自由,去寻找一个新的伴侣和一处新窝。但在放她回荒野之前,我和乔必须知道她是不是会自己捕杀猎物。

一天夜里,乔故意在厨房里放了一只小鸡。维奇一动不动。我感到失望,就上床睡觉去了。但第二天早上,只见维奇躺在她的笼子里,她粉红色的小毛毯下面是那只尚未吃完的鸡。

日子一天天过去,她变得越发魂不守舍。她常常夜间在屋里走来走去,不时地望向窗外。等天一亮,从外面地上狐狸、白鼬、野兔留下的足迹,我们可以得知她都看到了些什么。

我没有什么借口可找。我不是曾告诉过孩子们野兽绝对不该当做宠物吗?尽管我想让她过她一生下来就过的那种生活,但我怎么也不情愿放她走。

最后,我们还是认为维奇应该走。因为害怕这一时刻到来,所以我慢慢地打开房门,满心以为她会呼地冲出来跑得无影无踪。相反地,维奇却站在门口,然后又回到了笼子里,蜷缩在小毛毯上。“瞧,妈妈,“我们的儿子斯科特说,“她不想走。”

第二天傍晚,我再次打开屋门。维奇冲过来看了看。她嗅着夜晚的空气,解读者它所带来的一切。她再度返回了自己的笼子里。

又过了五个晚上,我们的狐狸终于大胆地走了出去,消失在树林里。我和乔既高兴又难过,我们将她的笼子挪到外面,以便她夜里返回。珍和她的兄弟们跟着一起将维奇的粉红色小毛毯、她最喜欢的手套、骨头以及一些食物残渣弄了出来。

第二天早上,我们急不可待地去察看笼子:只见一些食物碎渣已经被吃掉,剩余的埋在她的小毛毯

45. n. 繁殖

46. n. 猎物

47. a. 献祭的

48. ad. 不完全地

49. n. (一)堆

50. n. 焦躁不安

51. n. 白鼬

52. 蜷曲

53. vi. 冒险

54. n. 零屑