

亲情、友情、博爱之情，感受温情、涤荡心灵。

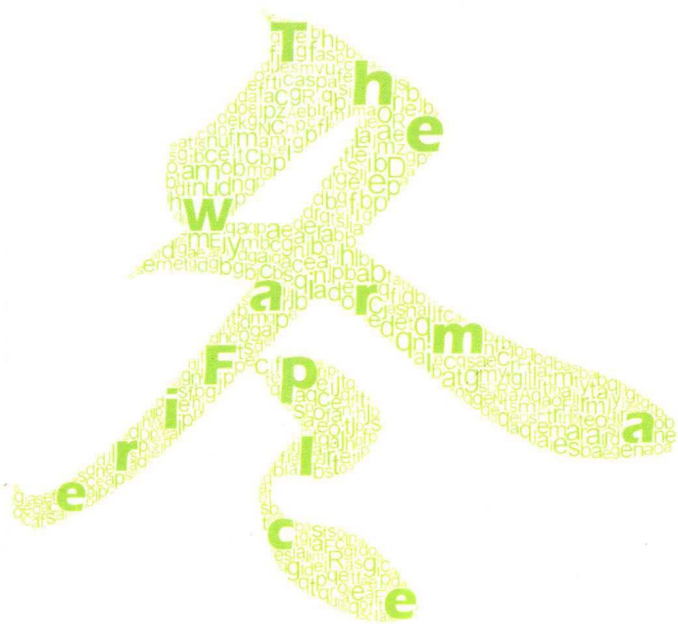
The Warm Fireplace

英语沙龙经典文选



英语心境
Spa for Mind

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世界知识出版社

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冬

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前言

每一种语言都是一种文化、一种思想、一种美，而英语这么一种优美的语言，更因英美文化的源远流长、博大精深、影响深远而受到人们的喜爱。我们学习英语，便是走进一个世界，迈进英美文化的壮丽殿堂，在培根深邃的思想里、在梭罗诗意的隐居里、在惠特曼“长着草”的诗句里、在一个个感人悔人的故事里，体味英语的美丽，体味一种心境……

这套丛书的缘起是英语沙龙杂志社 2005-2006 年出版的一本连续刊物——《英语心境》(Spa for Mind)。《英语心境》2005 年 1 月创刊，以传播理想、美化生活、缔造心境为己任，每期大量刊登感人的生活故事、感悟的哲理小品、励志的成功美文、名家的隽永散文和诗歌等，受到了广大热爱英语的读者的喜爱。尽管由于各种原因，这本杂志只走过了短短的两个春秋，但《英语心境》这个名字却留在了很多忠实读者的心中，他们为它感到惋惜，也希望能够有一个精选的产品面市，可以永久收藏与品读，让这份“心境”可以时时伴随他们的生活。

于是英语沙龙杂志社将这个�项目纳入了策划，从《英语心境》两年历程的精华文章和《英语沙龙》杂志十年资源中再度浓缩精选，经过编辑精心的加工，才有了现在《英语心境系列丛书》一套 5 本。

其中 4 本分别是：《春》(Love Never Dies)，感人浪漫的爱情故事和关于爱情的优美散文，诠释爱的真谛；《夏》(Way to Success)，励志美文、成功故事，传授成功之道、塑造成功人生；《秋》(Wisdom of Life)，生活感悟、人生智慧，超出得失之上、缔造笃定

心境；《冬》(The Warm Fireplace)，亲情、友情、博爱之情，感受温情、涤荡心灵。另外，我们还将一些短小、适于诵读和记忆的著名演讲片断、名家散文和诗歌、哲理小品集成一册，名为《诵》(Just Recite It)，让读者可以在茶余饭后，随时都可读上一段。这样，我们这个系列一共就有 5 本。

感谢为《英语心境》这本杂志付出过辛勤劳动的专家、作译者，因为他们曾经的努力才有了我们今天这套珍藏精选丛书。愿这套书能给你带来阅读的快乐、智慧的快乐和美好的“心境”。

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My father, who used to share in the chores around the house, gradually started becoming despondent. From the time he came home from his job at the factory, to the time he went to bed, he hardly spoke a word to my Mom or us kids. The strain on my Mom and Dad's relationship was very evident. However, I was not prepared for the day that Mom sat my siblings and me down and told us that Dad had decided to leave.

All that I could think of was that I was going to become a product of a divorced family. It was something I never thought possible and it grieved me greatly. I kept telling myself that it wasn't going to happen, and I went totally numb when I knew my Dad was really leaving. The night before he left I stayed up in my room for a long time. I prayed and I cried -- and I wrote a long letter to my Dad. I told him how much I loved him and how much I would miss him. I told him that I was praying for him and wanted him to know that, no matter what, I loved him. I told him that I would always and forever be his Krissie...

As I folded my note I stuck in a picture of me with a saying I had always heard. "Anyone can be a father but it takes someone special to be called a Daddy."

Early, the next morning as my Dad left our house, I went to the car and slipped my letter into one of his bags. Two weeks went by with hardly a word from my father.

Then, one afternoon, I came home from school to find my Mom sitting at the dining room table waiting to talk to me. I could see in her eyes that she had been crying. She told me that Dad had been there and that they had had a very long talk. They decided that there were things that the both of them could, and would change -- and that their marriage was worth saving.

Mom then turned her focus to my eyes. "Kristi, Dad told me that you wrote him a letter. Can I ask what you wrote to him?"

I found it hard to share with my Mom what I wrote from my heart to my Dad. I mumbled a few words and shrugged. My mom



replied, “Well, Dad said that when he read your letter, it made him cry. It meant a lot to him and I have hardly ever seen your Dad cry. After he read your letter, he called to ask if he could come over to talk. Whatever you said really made a difference to your Dad.”

A few days later, my Dad was back. This time to stay. We never talked about the letter, my Dad and I. I guess I always figured that it was something that was a secret between us.

My parents went on to be married a total of 36 years before my Dad’s early death, at the age of 53, cut short their lives together. In the last 16 years of my parents’ marriage, I and all those who knew my Mom and Dad, witnessed one of the truly “great” marriages. When Mom and Dad received the news from the doctor that his heart was deteriorating rapidly, they took it hand in hand, side by side, all the way.

After Dad’s death we had the most unpleasant task of going through his things. I have never liked this task and opted to run errands so I did not have to be there while most of the things were divided and boxed up. When I got back from my errands, my brother said, “Kristi, Mom said to give this to you. She said you would know what it meant.”

As I looked down into his outstretched hand it was then that I knew the impact of my letter that day so long ago. In my brother’s hand was my picture that I gave my Dad that day. My unsentimental Dad, who never let his emotions get the best of him. My Dad, who almost never outwardly showed his love for me, had kept the one thing that meant so much to him and me.

I sat down and the tears began to flow. Tears that I thought had dried up from the grief of his death, but that had now found new life as I realized what I meant to him. Mom told me that Dad kept both the picture and that letter his whole life.

I have a box in my home that I call the “Dad box.” In it are so many things that remind me of my Dad. I pull that picture out every once in a while and remember. I remember a promise that was



made many years ago between a young man and his bride on their wedding day. And I remember the unspoken promise that was made between a father and his daughter...

A promise kept.

Vocabulary

- sentimental [ˌsentɪ'mentl] *a.* 情深的, 多情的; 充满柔情的
 mushy [ˈmʌʃi] *a.* [口] 多愁善感的, 感伤多情的; (小说等) 谈情说爱的, 软绵绵的
 sorely [ˈsɔ:li] *ad.* 疼痛地, 痛苦地, 悲伤地
 chore [tʃɔ:(r)] *n.* [~s] 家庭杂务, 农庄杂务
 despondent [dɪˈspɒndənt] *a.* 沮丧的, 泄气的, 失望的
 sibling [ˈsɪblɪŋ] *n.* 兄弟(或姊妹), 同胞
 stick in 把...放入, 伸入
 slip [slɪp] *vt.* (不惹人注意地) 迅速放置, 偷偷塞
 mumble [ˈmʌmbəl] *vt.* 含糊地说, 咕哝着说
 shrug [ʃrʌg] *vi.* (为表示冷漠、蔑视、怀疑、厌烦等) 耸肩
 cut short 使停止, 中断; 打断, 制止
 deteriorate [dɪ'tɪəriəreɪt] *vi.* 恶化, 退化, 衰退
 all the way 无保留地, 完全地; 自始至终, 一直
 errand [ˈerənd] *n.* (短程的) 差事, 差使(如送信、买东西等)
 box up 把...装入箱(或盒等)
 get the best of 战胜, 使屈服

中文翻译

信守承诺

我父亲不是个易动感情的人。我不记得, 他曾对我小时候做的任何事表示过什么惊奇或赞叹之情。但别误会我, 我知道爸爸是爱我的, 但含情脉脉可不是他的特点。我知道他以别的方式表达对我的爱。这一点在一个特殊时刻真的发生在我身上了。

我一直以为我的父母婚姻幸福, 但就在我(父母4个孩子中最小的一个)即将16岁时, 我的信念遭到了痛苦的质疑。

曾是分担屋里屋外家务活的父亲, 渐渐地开始变得沮丧消沉。



从工厂下班回家到上床睡觉，他对妈妈和我们几个孩子几乎不说一句话。爸妈之间关系的紧张是显而易见的。但是，当有一天妈妈让我们兄弟姐妹几个坐下，告诉我们爸爸已决定离开这个家时，我还是没有足够的心理准备。

我唯一能想到的就是我将成为一个破裂家庭的牺牲品。这是我从未想过会发生的，让我无比痛心。我不停地告诉自己这是不会发生的，而当我知道爸爸真的要走时，我变得知觉全无，天塌下来一般。他走的头天晚上，我在自己的房间很久没睡，我祈祷，我哭泣，我给爸爸写了一封长长的信。我告诉他我是多么爱他，我会多么思念他。我告诉他我在为他祈祷，而且要他知道，不管怎样，我都是爱他的。我告诉他我永远永远都是他的克里西。

我把信折好并夹入一张我的照片，背面写着一句常听说的名言：“任何人都可以成为一个父亲，但只有特殊的人才可被称为爸爸。”

第二天一大早爸爸就要离开我们家时，我走到他的车前把我的信偷偷塞进他的包里。两个星期过去了，我们没有收到父亲的一个字。

后来有一天下午，我从学校回家，看到妈妈坐在餐桌前等着跟我说话。我从她的眼睛可以看出她哭过。她告诉我爸爸来过，他们长谈了一次。他们达成共识，有些事情他们双方是能够，也可以改变的——他们的婚姻是值得挽救的。

妈妈然后直视我的双眼。“克里斯蒂，爸爸告诉我你给他写了一封信。我能问你给他写了些什么吗？”

我觉得很难与妈妈分享我给爸爸写的那些心里话。我嘟囔了几句，耸耸肩。妈妈说：“嗯，爸爸说读你信时哭了。他非常在意，我几乎从没见过你爸爸哭过。读完你的信后，他打来电话问能不能过来谈谈。不管你写了些什么，对你爸爸绝对是个极大的触动。”

几天后，爸爸回来了。这次是回来住了。爸爸和我从没有谈过那封信。我想我一直将之视为我们俩之间的一个秘密。

我的父母继续度过总共 36 年的婚姻生活。爸爸 53 岁早逝，终止了他们的共同生活。在他们婚姻的最后 16 年里，我和所有认识我爸妈的人，目睹了一个真正“美满”的婚姻。当爸妈从医生那里得知爸爸的心脏在迅速衰竭时，他们一直手握手、肩依着肩共渡危难，直到爸爸去了。



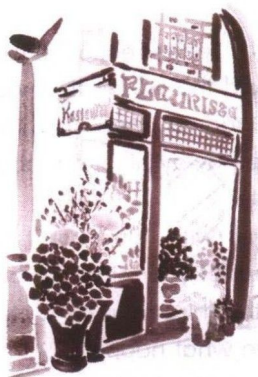
爸爸去世后我们经历了最痛苦的事：整理他的遗物。我从不喜欢做这种事，宁愿跑跑腿，这样就不必在那儿看着大部分的东西被分理、装箱。当我跑腿回来后，我的哥哥对我说：“克里斯蒂，妈妈说把这个给你。她说你会知道是什么意思。”

当我低头看他伸开的手掌时，我才意识到很久以前我给爸爸那封信的影响力。我哥哥手中握的是那天我给爸爸的我的照片。我那感情不外露的爸爸，他从没有让他的情感控制过自己。我那几乎从没有表示过他对我的爱的爸爸，他一直珍藏着这件对他对我都意味深长的东西。

我坐下来，眼泪夺眶而出。我以为父亲去世所带来的悲痛已把我的眼泪哭干了，但当我明白我在父亲生命中的重要时，眼泪又找到了新生。妈妈告诉我爸爸终生都珍藏着这张照片和那封信。

我的家里有一个盒子，我称之为“爸爸盒”。里面有许多东西都唤起我对爸爸的怀念。我不时会把那张照片拿出来回忆一番。我想起许多年前一位年轻人和他的新娘在新婚之日所作的许诺。我也记得一位父亲和他的女儿之间未曾说出的许诺……

一个被信守的承诺。



The Potato Puppy

如果不是每个人，至少大部分人都喜欢小孩子，喜欢他们的纯真，就像未经雕琢的璞玉，山间见底的清流。纯洁的东西是那么地可爱，让我们相信这个世界的美好，就算是动物，我们也喜欢毛茸茸的小猫，而不是老于世故的大肥猫。小孩如此惹人喜爱，还在于他们是如此固执地相信奇迹，他们相信只要有坚定的信念，一切皆有可能，包括土豆变成小狗。也许他们刚刚从上帝那里来，还带着尚未泯灭的神性。

My four-year-old son, Shane, had been asking for a puppy for over a month, but his daddy kept saying, "No dogs! A dog will dig up the garden and chase the ducks and kill our rabbits. No dog, and that's final!"

Each night Shane prayed for a puppy, and each morning he was disappointed when there was no puppy waiting outside.

I was peeling potatoes for dinner, and he was sitting on the floor at my feet asking for the thousandth time, "Why won't Daddy let me have a puppy?"

"Because they are a lot of trouble. Don't cry. Maybe Daddy will



change his mind someday,” I encouraged him.

“No, he won’t, and I’ll never have a puppy in a million years,” Shane wailed.

I looked into his dirty, tear-streaked face. How could we deny him his one wish? So I said the words that were first spoken by Eve, “I know a way to make Daddy change his mind.”

“Really?” Shane wiped away his tears and sniffed.

I handed him a potato.

“Take this and carry it with you until it turns into a puppy,” I whispered. “Never let it out of your sight for one minute. Keep it with you all the time, and on the third day, tie a string around it and drag it around the yard and see what happens!”

Shane grabbed the potato with both hands. “Mama, how do you make a potato into a puppy?” He turned it over and over in his little hands.

“Shh! It’s a secret!” I whispered and sent him on his way.

“Lord, you know what a woman must do to keep peace in her home!” I prayed.

Shane faithfully carried his potato around for two days; he slept with it, bathed with it and talked to it.

On the third day I said to my husband, “We really should get a pet for Shane.”

“What makes you think he needs a pet?” My husband leaned against the doorway.

“Well, he’s been carrying a potato around with him for days. He calls it Wally and says it is his pet. He sleeps with it on his pillow, and right now he has a string tied to it and he’s dragging it around the yard,” I said.

“A potato?” my husband asked and looked out the window and watched Shane taking his potato for a walk.

“It will break his heart when the potato gets mushy and rots,” I said and started getting out food for lunch. “Besides, every time I try to peel potatoes for dinner, Shane cries because he says I’m killing



Wally's family.”

“A potato?” my husband asked. “My son has a pet potato?”

“Well,” I said shrugging, “you said he couldn't have a puppy. He was so disappointed, in his mind, he decided he had to have a pet...”

“That's crazy!” my husband said.

“Maybe you're right, but explain to me why he is dragging that potato around the yard on a string,” I said.

My husband watched our son for a few more minutes.

“I'll bring home a puppy tonight. I'll stop by the animal shelter after work. I guess a puppy can't be that much trouble,” he sighed. “It's better than a potato.”

That night Shane's daddy brought home a wiggling puppy and a pregnant white cat that he took pity on while he was at the shelter.

Everyone was happy. My husband thought he'd saved his son from a nervous breakdown. Shane had a puppy, a cat and five kittens and believed his mother had magic powers that could change a potato into a puppy. And I was happy because I got my potato back and cooked it for dinner.

Everything was perfect until one evening when I was cooking dinner, Shane tugged on my dress and asked, “Mama, do you think I could have a pony for my birthday?”

I looked into his sweet little face and said, “Well, first we have to take a watermelon...”



Vocabulary

final [ˈfaɪnəl] *a.* 决定性的, 确定性的

streak [stri:k] *vt.* 在...上加条纹; 在...上留下条痕; tear-streaked *a.* 有泪痕的

sniff [snɪf] *vi.* (哧哧地)以鼻吸气, 擤鼻子

mushy [ˈmʌʃɪ] *a.* 烂糊的; [美]玉米粥状的

wiggle [ˈwɪɡl] *vi.* 扭动, 摆动; 扭动着行进(或走)

take (have) pity on... 同情..., 怜悯...

nervous [ˈnɜːvəs] *a.* 神经的, 神经系统的, 神经性的