

*A
Trip to the
United States*

Ruth Pao-Yu Li

Volume II

留美會話專集

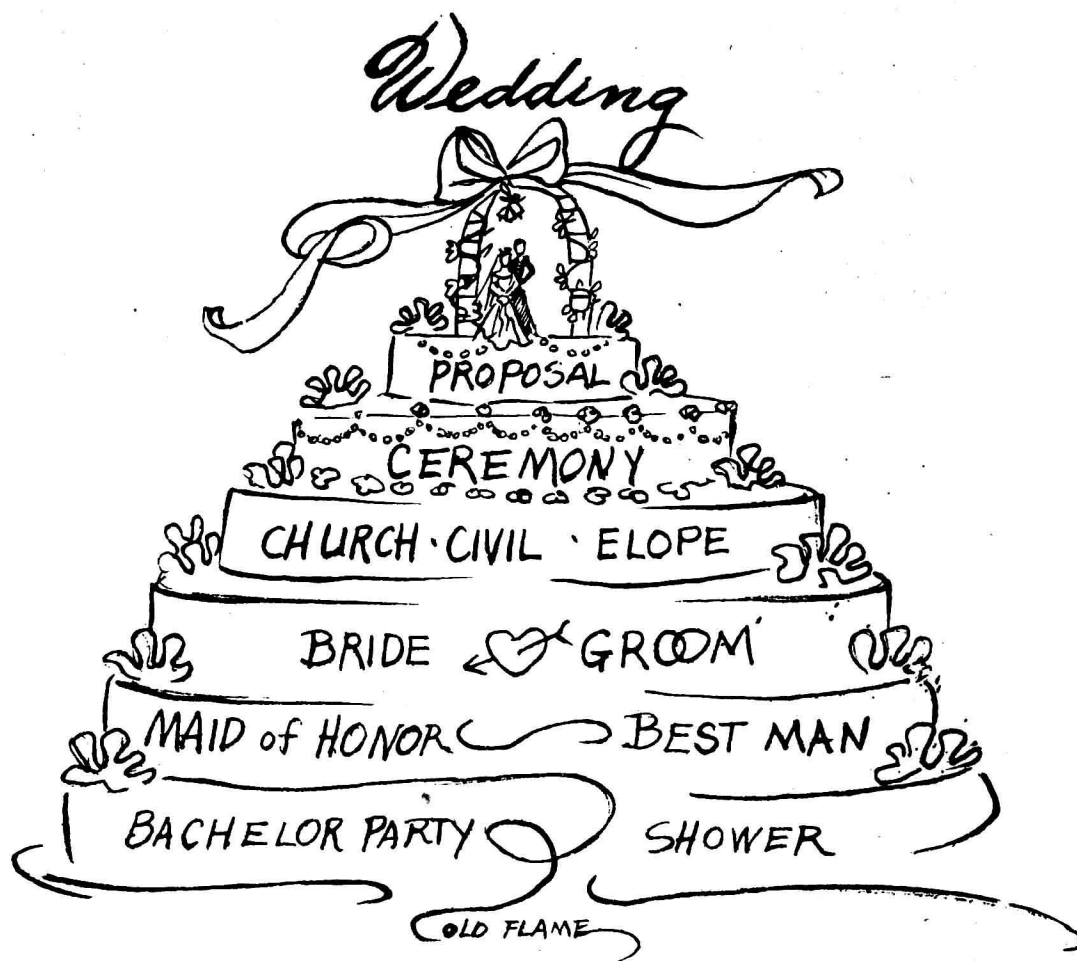
李保玉 著

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CHAPTER 20



Part A VOCABULARY AND EXPRESSIONS

20-B-1	What were you up to?	你幹嘛去啦？
	gossip	閑談；說人閑話。
	What's that?	那是什麼。
	Who's the lucky guy?	誰是幸運的男士？
	at the formal dance	在正式的舞會上。
	When's the big day?	那一天辦喜事？黃道吉日是那天？
	ex-husband	前夫。
20-B-2	It's none of his business now.	現在不關他的事了。
	a church wedding	教堂結婚儀式。
	a civil ceremony	普通的結婚儀式（不行宗教儀式的）。
	Catholic	天主教徒。
	recognize	接受；承認。
	divorce	離婚。
	sacrament	聖事。
	in the eyes of	在…觀點中。
	what Roger's religion is	羅吉信什麼教。
	Confucian Philosophy	孔子的哲學。
	To you Westerners it probably is.	你們西方人倒是可以這麼說。
	somewhat	有一點。
	superstitious	迷信的。
	Buddhists	佛教徒。
	live a good life	過純潔的生活。
	eventually	最後地。
	so far	到目前為止。

220 Wedding

	Christian	基督教。
	bride	新娘。
20-B-3	maid of honor	伴娘。(請看 Part C)。
	bridesmaids	伴娘。
	best man	伴郎。
	used to be	從前是。
	flame	情人。
	that was over	那算是過去了。
	groom	新郎。
	ex-boyfriend	以前的男朋友。
	You might get together again.	你們可能破鏡重圓。
	never can tell	(這種事情)很難預測;很難說。
	throw	給。
	a shower	(詳見本文 Part C)。
	bachelor party	光棍筵別會(詳見本文 Part C)。
	kitchenware	廚房用具。
	She likes to cook.	她喜歡烹調。
	roast	烤。
	bake	烘。
	broil	烤,炙。
	fry	炒。
	deep-fries	炸。
20-B-4	trimmings	一道菜附帶之零碎配菜。
	gravy	肉汁;肉汁調成的調味汁。
	French-cut	切條,切絲。
	string bean	豆。

	h arts of lettuce	萵苣菜心。
	oven	烤箱。
	stove	爐。
	freezer	冷藏器（與冰箱一樣大）。
	refrigerator	冰箱。
	sauce pans	有蓋的煮鍋。
	frying pans	煎鍋。
	coffee pot	咖啡壺。
	toaster	烤麵包機。
	kitchen utensils	廚房金屬用具。
	tea kettle	茶壺。
	You're way ahead of me.	你（講得）那麼快，（我還沒弄清楚吶）。
	have to	必須。
	stick to	堅持。
20-B-5	bathroom shower	送浴室用具。
	linen shower	送床單，床單，枕頭套，毛巾（該見本文 part c）。
	miscellaneous	零星的。
	double-up on	合買；分攤。
	nightgown	睡袍。
	something else personal	其他貼身用的衣物。
	wedding gown	結婚禮服。
I don't have the slightest idea.		我一點都不知道。
	attendants	儼相等總稱。
	reception	宴客。
	is held	舉行。
20-B-6	costs	花費。

joke	開玩笑。
hold the ladder	扶住梯子。
elope	私奔。
bridal bouquet	新娘花（新娘拿的花束）。
throw	扔。
single girl	未婚女孩。
with her back to them	背向着她們。
shoulder	肩。

Part B DIALOGUE

Ruth: What were you up to?

Zita: We had a very pleasant chat in Nancy's room.

Ruth: Hope it's not gossip.

Zita: I have surprising news for you.

Ruth: What's that?

Zita: Nancy is getting married.

Ruth: Well, isn't that simply wonderful! My best wishes to her.
Who's the lucky guy?

Zita: Roger. He proposed last Saturday night at the formal
dance.

Ruth: My, how romantic! When's the big day?

Zita: Right after graduation.

Ruth: I just wonder how her ex-husband feels about her marrying
such a nice guy.

Zita: It's none of his business now.

Ruth: Will it be a church wedding or a civil ceremony?

Zita: Well, Nancy is Catholic. But she can't be remarried in her church, because they do not recognize divorce.

Ruth: Why?

Zita: Because marriage is a sacrament, and in the eyes of her church she is still married to her first husband.

Ruth: Don't you know what Roger's religion is?

Zita: No. What is yours?

Ruth: I believe in the Confucian Philosophy. He had very good ideas.

Zita: Well, that's a religion.

Ruth: To you Westerners it probably is, but not to us Chinese.

Zita: Why?

Ruth: You see, a religion is somewhat superstitious.

Zita: I don't think so.

Ruth: Just like our Chinese Buddhists. Some of them believe that if they worship Buddha and live a good life they will be reincarnated and eventually attain their goal of reaching heaven. On the other hand the Confucian Philosophy teaches living the truth. My whole life so far has been based on this principle.

Zita: This is something new to me. Very interesting.

Ruth: By the way, what's your religion?

Zita: Christian. But I'm not good at debating these things.

Ruth: So, Nancy will be a bride again.

Zita: She's hoping I'll be her maid of honor.

Ruth: Did you promise her?

Zita: Yes, I did. It'll be my first time. She has also asked Betty and Barbara to be her bridesmaids.

Ruth: Who did Roger ask to be his best man?

Zita: His old classmate, John Hickman. He used to be my old flame, but that was over a long time ago.

Ruth: Very interesting. The groom's best man is the maid of honor's ex-boyfriend. You might get together again.

Zita: Impossible.

Ruth: You never can tell about these things.

Zita: I'll get together with the girls and we'll throw a shower for her.

Ruth: Did you tell her?

Zita: Yes, but she said not to go to any trouble.

Ruth: So, what are you going to do?

Zita: Suppose we give her a surprise shower one of these days?

Ruth: That's a good idea. What about a bachelor party for Roger?

Zita: The men will take care of that.

Ruth: What does she need?

Zita: What about giving her some kitchenware? She likes to cook.

Ruth: Yes, she roasts delicious duck, bakes cakes, broils steaks - she can cook almost everything.

Zita: Have you tasted her fried chicken?

Ruth: No. How does she fry it?

Zita: She deep-fries it. I just love it. She also makes a

delicious roast beef dinner with all the trimmings - gravy, baked potatoes, French-cut string beans and hearts of lettuce with bleu cheese dressing.

Ruth: Is that a salad?

Zita: Yes, but Chinese people probably wouldn't like the strong cheese dressing. Most Americans like it.

Ruth: Well, a kitchen shower certainly seems appropriate for Nancy.

Zita: I hope the other girls will like the idea.

Ruth: I'm sure they will. What do you want to give then - an oven, a stove, a freezer, or a refrigerator?

Zita: What do you think we are, rich as Rockefeller?

Ruth: Well, what do you suggest?

Zita: Well, there are a variety of things to choose from - sauce pans, frying pans, baking dishes, coffee pot, toaster, kitchen utensils, flatware, cannister set, tea kettle...

Ruth: Hey, wait a minute. You're way ahead of me. What are kitchen utensils, flatware, and a cannister set?

Zita: Kitchen utensils are the tools you use to prepare and serve food; flatware is the forks, knives and spoons; and cannisters are pretty containers for flour, sugar, coffee and tea.

Ruth: Do we have to stick to kitchen things for wedding shower gifts?

Zita: No, certainly not - only for a kitchen wedding shower. A new bride needs all kinds of things. You can also give a

bathroom shower, a linen shower, or a miscellaneous shower.

Ruth: Sounds very expensive.

Zita: Anything that costs more than about five dollars, we could double-up on.

Ruth: What's double-up on?

Zita: That means that several girls share the price of one item. We'll each give her a wedding present when the time comes so we don't want to spend too much money now.

Ruth: Can we give her a pretty nightgown or something else personal?

Zita: Yes, since she is a very good friend of ours. You usually don't give things like that to someone you don't know very well.

Ruth: I wonder if she has chosen her wedding gown.

Zita: I don't have the slightest idea. I wonder what color dresses we'll wear as her attendants.

Ruth: What do you mean by colors?

Zita: The bride is the only one who wears white. She picks the color she likes, and all the bridesmaids are dressed alike. It makes a very pretty picture.

Ruth: Are the ceremony and reception held in the same place?

Zita: No, not usually. Most people are married in a church, and then the wedding party and guests go to another place for the reception. Sometimes however, they hold the reception in a big room in the church.

Ruth: Where do they go?

Zita: Either they go to a public place such as a hotel, a restaurant, or a club, or to the home of the bride.

Ruth: They go to the home of the bride?

Zita: Why do you ask?

Ruth: The Chinese custom is to go the groom's home - just the opposite.

Zita: Oh! In our country the bride's family is responsible for the entire wedding - arrangements, costs, etc. So the reception is held at her home.

Ruth: That's very expensive for the father of the bride.

Zita: Many American fathers joke that they would rather hold the ladder for their daughter to climb down and elope than pay for a wedding.

Ruth: Tell me something about the bridal bouquet. Isn't it the custom to throw it?

Zita: Yes. When the bride and groom are ready to leave on their honeymoon all the single girls gather in one place. The bride stands with her back to them and throws her bouquet over her shoulder and they each try to catch it. The one who does will be the next one married.

Ruth: Maybe I'll be the one.

Part C CULTURAL BACKGROUND

1. **Guy; Fellow:** 美國人對這兩個字的用法僅是表示男士，是兩個很好稱呼男人的字，偶而在語氣上也許表達了傢伙的意思，但不是絕對表示“傢伙”的字。
2. **Maid of honor, matron of honor, bridesmaid:** 這三個字都是女傭相的意思；所不同者，maid of honor 或 matron of honor 是女傭相中最主要的一個，她是新娘最要好的朋友；maid of honor 是未婚的；如新娘的好女友已結婚，也可以請作傭相而叫做 matron of honor，但不能叫做 maid of honor。美國風俗傭相不只一個，除 maid of honor 外，其餘的傭相叫做 bridesmaids；有些婚禮中更有 ring bearer（拿結婚戒指的小男孩）和 flower girl（花童），均為女方的親戚，所有這些人物的總稱為 attendants。依美國的風俗，被新娘請去當傭相的人自己要做衣服，但顏色和樣子是由新娘選的。
3. **Best man（男傭相）:** 美國的男傭相和女傭相都是先在新郎、新娘雙方的兄弟姊妹、表兄弟姊妹、嫂嫂、連襟等親戚中選出。如果沒有適當的人選，就由新郎、新娘最好的朋友擔任。新郎除了請一個男傭相外，跟新娘一樣也請了幾位親友做 usher。Usher 的任務除了陪伴新郎外，主要的工作是接待賓客。
4. 參加婚禮一定要準時到。客人到達教堂後，就等 usher 來接待及安排座位，不能隨意走動。對女士的接待，usher 會伸出他的手臂（arm）讓女士挽着走入座。如是夫婦兩來參加，也是由 usher 伸出 arm 給太太挽着引入就座，先生跟在後面走。婚禮完了以後，也得繼續坐着，等 usher 宣佈可以走了，才走。美國的婚禮，賓客不像我們這麼多，大約 120 多個或 300 個左右。
5. **Wedding gift（結婚禮物）:** 通常帖子在婚禮前六個禮拜送出去。關於接到帖子後的送禮問題應知道決不能送錢，如你對送禮感到頭痛的話，這裡給你點小意見。大概說來，對普通朋友可買卅元左右的禮物，對交情好點的朋友就送上大約八十元的禮。送禮時，不用自個兒送去，多半包裝郵寄，或請買禮物的店裡派人送去。
6. **Wedding reception is held at her home:** 美國人的婚禮由女家負責，完全與我國不同，甚至是一切費用與安排也得由女方一手包辦。所以美國做爸爸的等女孩子告訴他，她要結婚時，他常會開玩笑的說：我寧願 hold the ladder 幫助妳爬牆私奔算了，我也好省些錢”。這與中國的女兒與聘金的關係迥然不同。
7. **A shower:** 通常大家知道 shower 可以當陣雨或淋浴講，但這個 shower 另有一種意

思。當一個女孩被男孩子求婚而正式宣佈黃道吉日後，這個女孩子會高高興興地回去告訴她要好的女朋友們，然後，那些女孩子就選一個日子帶些小禮物送她為她慶賀；這種聚會就叫做 shower。通常送得不多，因為正式發帖給你時，你還要送一次。這種 shower 的方法有時是明的，有時是以 surprise 的方式行之。老美很喜歡什麼事來個“驚奇”。shower 還有一個意義是指當一個女孩子第一次懷孕而在快分娩的那個月，通常她要好的女朋友們會聯合起來祝賀一番，而送一些小孩的東西也叫 shower。shower 的禮物不必多，一點點意思意思就好了。

8. A bachelor party: 前面我們說到 shower 是那些女孩子給準新娘的。準新郎的男友也給準新郎在新婚前開個 party，因為準新郎以後再也不能與他們共享光棍生活了。
9. Double-up on: 是大家分攤買東西的用語，與 Dutch treat 不同。後者為你付你的帳，我付我的帳。

CHAPTER 21

