

【海外英语系列读物】

永不凋谢的

爱情之花



LOVE
FLOWER

that

NEVER
FADING



敬科学技术出版社



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Love Flower that Never Fading

永不凋谢的爱情之花

《海外英语》编辑部 编



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《海外英语》的经典故事

带给你最真实的感动！

永不凋谢的爱情之花





I See an Angel

By Ranjeet Khaira

I have always been fascinated by wind chimes. When I was little, I thought they were clever, for they made the wind visible by dancing along with it. More recently, I have come to realize there are things in life just as real as the wind that we can see only with our hearts.

At my home near Kuala Lumpur, I stop what I am doing to listen as my favorite chime creates tones like distant church bells. My mind wanders back to the day in June 1996 when I suspected I was pregnant. I had bought a home pregnancy test kit and was carefully following the instructions. "Dear Lord," I prayed, "please let it be positive." The results seemed to be taking a long time. Then, with the magical suddenness of a rainbow, the pink line materialized.

As I looked at the positive test result, my joy was intertwined with fear. "Please let me have this baby," I prayed. Seth and I, married for seven years, were childless. I'd conceived several times, but the pregnancies had ended in miscarriage. With each loss, my world would turn upside down.

Over the years numerous gynecologists reassured me that the miscarriages happened because the fertilized eggs were just not good enough. It was nature's way of making sure that only the most healthy ones made it, the doctors said.

After my gynecologist confirmed that I was pregnant again, Seth and I put up a new wind chime in our home to celebrate our gift of life. The chime was ordinary, with its long, hollow shafts and wooden pendulum, but the music it made was divine.



我看见了天使

阿 蒙 编译

我一直很喜爱风铃。小时候我觉得它很聪明,因为它能随风舞动——它用这种方法让你看得见风。近来,我渐渐意识到生命中有一些东西如同那风,它真实,但需要你用心灵去感受才能“看”得见。

在吉隆坡附近的家里,当我钟爱的风铃在风中叮当叮当碰击时,它那美妙的音符如从远处教堂传来的钟声,我便停下手中的活儿侧耳倾听。我的思绪游回到了1996年6月的一天。那天,我感觉到我可能怀孕了。我买了一个家用测孕仪器,严格按照仪器的使用说明进行测试。“亲爱的主啊,”我不停地祈祷着,“别让我失望吧。”好像过了很长一段时间,测试结果才出来。那一刻,像突然间出现了彩虹一样那么神奇:那条粉红色的线出现了!

面对令人乐观的测试结果,我喜忧参半。我祈祷:让我拥有一个孩子吧。和我塞斯结婚已7年却仍膝下无子。我也曾怀了几次孕,但最终都流产了。每一次流产,我的世界就天翻地覆一次。

这些年来,无数个妇科专家宽慰我说,流产是因为受精卵不够好。让最健康的受精卵发育成功是自然规律,医生们这么说道。

医生确定我确实怀孕之后,我和塞斯在家里挂起了一个新风铃,庆祝我们所获得的生命。风铃是很普通的那一种,长长空空的管子围着一个木制的摆锤,但它发出的乐音却是神圣的。

永不凋谢的爱情之花





As the dangerous first 12 weeks passed, my joy increased. At prenatal checkups, I watched my baby's growth on the ultrasound monitor.

In the fifth month, I asked the doctor if he could determine the gender, but he said the baby was being mischievous by lying on his side. I felt sure it was going to be a boy. He would look like his father, whom I loved with all my heart.

Then, in my 29th week, my water broke and the baby started moving frantically. At the medical center the doctor told me there was a high probability that I would go into early labor. If the baby was born, he would need a ventilator to survive.

My world had suddenly become gray and cold. Somehow I knew the worst had just begun.

I went to a Catholic missionary hospital, which had a ventilator available. Slowly my contractions lessened and the baby's heartbeat seemed to become stronger. After 12 days, I returned home under strict orders to confine myself to complete bed rest.

On the first night of the 36th week, labor set in and we rushed to the hospital. As my doctor examined me he said nothing, but the sorrow in his eyes told me all I needed to know. He took my hand and said he could not hear the baby's heartbeat. My baby was dead.

Not wanting to risk complications from a Caesarean, he recommended that I deliver naturally. The next nine hours were the longest of my life. As the contractions grew closer together, I begged God for a miracle.

Finally, at 12: 33 p. m. on February 18, I gave birth to our son. Unlike other deliveries, there was no baby's cry, the doctor did not congratulate the parents, and the nurses did not coo over the newborn. Instead, the doctor tried to spare me by keeping the baby aside and consoling me that the ordeal was over.



最初 12 周的危险期过去之后,我的喜悦之情与日俱增。进行胎儿期检查时,在超声波的检测下,我看见了正在发育的胎儿。

第 5 个月,我问医生是否可测出胎儿的性别,但医生说,胎儿很顽皮地侧身躺着呢。我深信他会是个男孩,一定会长得像他的父亲——这个我全心全意爱着的人。

到了第 29 周时,子宫内的羊水破了,婴儿开始剧烈地蠕动。在医疗中心,医生对我说这孩子很可能会早产,如果真是这样,就需要一个输氧管来帮助他活命。

我的世界霎时变得灰冷灰冷。我知道,最可怕的事发生了。

我去了一家具有输氧设备的天主教传教士医院。慢慢地,我的阵痛减轻了,婴儿的心跳却愈加强烈了。12 天后我回到了家中,按照医生严格的要求,整日地卧床休息。

在第 36 周的第一个晚上出现了分娩先兆,于是我们立刻来到医院。医生做检查时一言不发,但他眼中流露出的惋惜之情告诉了我一切。他握住我的手说,他听不见婴儿的心跳——我的孩子已经死了。

医生不愿冒险给我做剖腹产手术,他建议我自然分娩。之后的九个小时仿佛是我今生所度过的最长的时间。当阵痛变得愈来愈厉害时,我乞求上帝让奇迹出现。

终于,在 2 月 18 日夜里 12:33,我们的儿子出生了。与其他刚出生的婴儿不同,我的孩子没有哭声,没有医生来恭喜我们,也没有护士逗引他笑。相反,医生为了尽可能不让我难受,把孩子放在了一边,并且安慰我说,最痛苦的已经过去了。



But it was not over for me. I insisted that my baby be brought to me. When I saw him, I laughed and cried at the same time. He was so beautiful, the spitting image of his father. His mouth was curled. His nose was both rounded and pointed. He had long black hair, thick eyelashes and almond-shaped eyes. He looked as if he had a million gurgles inside him, but he made no sound.

We named our son Joshua and gave him the best we could—the finest clothes, fresh yellow roses and ultimately the most beautiful baby-blue urn we could find for his ashes. Seth and I held the urn as the boat took us out to sea. When the boat stopped, I didn't want to let go. After many tears, the urn was placed into the receiving arms of the gentle azure waves.

When I went for my postnatal checkup, a month after the delivery, I felt so incomplete. All the other mothers had newborns in their arms.

At home, Joshua's wind chime reminded me of my loss. Many times I thought about taking it down, but I couldn't. It was my remaining symbol of joy and hope.

Sometimes I felt as if I were going to spend the rest of my life in pain. But as the days passed, I began to realize that my brief time with Joshua was itself a blessing. If my pregnancy had ended earlier, like the others, I would never have had the chance to feel him growing inside me, to see his beautiful face and to touch him.

My memories were a balm to the hurt. In time, my darkness lifted.

There are moments when my heart still aches, and then I pause to watch the chime in its gentle dance with the wind. And my spirit lifts as, once again, I see my angel Joshua.





但对于我来说这一切并未结束。我坚持要他们把孩子抱来给我。看着他,我又是哭又是是笑。他这么好看,简直就是他父亲的翻版。他的小嘴儿翘翘的,鼻子圆圆挺挺的。他的头发又黑又长,睫毛浓浓的,覆盖着一双杏形的眼睛。他看来好像曾咯咯笑过许多次,但他的嘴里却发不出任何的声音。

我们给儿子起名为乔舒亚,还给了他我们所能给的最好的东西——漂亮的衣服、新鲜的黄玫瑰,最后是一个我们所能找到的最美的蓝色婴儿骨灰盒。塞斯和我捧着骨灰盒由小船把我们带向大海。船停了,我们舍不得放掉手中的骨灰盒。哭了又哭之后,骨灰盒被放入了蓝色大海的怀抱中。

一个月后我去做产后检查,我感到如此的失落——所有其他的母亲都怀抱着她们新生的婴儿。

家中乔舒亚的风铃不时地让我想起我失去的儿子。许多次我想把它取下,但我不能,它是我继续存在着的欢乐与希望的象征。

有时,我觉得我好像要在痛苦中度过余生,但随着岁月的流逝,我开始意识到我拥有乔舒亚那一段短暂的时间本身就是上天的赐福。如果那次怀孕又像以前那样早早地流产了,我将永远不会有机会感受他在我体内成长的过程,也就无法看到他那张漂亮的小脸,更不用说去抚摸他了。

我的回忆对于伤痛来说是一剂镇痛药。我的世界不再阴郁了。

偶尔我的心仍然会疼痛,这时我就会停下来观看风铃在风中温柔地舞动,于是我的精神又开始振作起来,因为,我又一次看到我的天使乔舒亚。



Early in their marriage, a mistake was made, and a divorce separated them for over half a century, yet throughout those long, painful years, they nourished...

Love Flower that Never Fading

Their story began in 1929, with the Depression just around the corner. One day, Fred McCoy, owner of an electric shop in Pine Bluff, Ark, drove 40 miles to check on a malfunctioning refrigerator that belonged to Betty (Mrs. Horace) Bell in Little Rock. "Betty had such beautiful blue eyes." Fred recalls. "So when she said she had a sister in Pine Bluff, I said I wanted to meet her. Betty gave me the number."

Fred was 30. He had served aboard the battleship Oklahoma in World War I, sailed to South America while in the merchant marine and now was looking to settle down. Betty's sister, Henrietta, was 19 and in training to be a nurse.

On a Saturday in January 1929. Henrietta wore a blue-linen dress to flatter her big, blue eyes. Fred, trim, with curly blondish hair, wore a dark suit and a cocksure smile when he came calling. He asked her to the movies. Henrietta said no. She didn't want to go out with someone she didn't know. "But we sat and talked, and I fell in love with his smile and kind words."

Three months later, they married. The newlyweds lived in a brick duplex on Harding Avenue in Pine Bluff. They joined the bridge club. They twirled at Shriners'dances. Henrietta proudly wore her platinum





一步错棋使新婚燕尔的夫妻劳燕分飞，50余年的离别之苦，半个多世纪的殷殷冀盼，孕育着一株——

永不凋谢的爱情之花

周方珠 编译

故事发生在1929年，时值大萧条的前夜。一天，派恩布拉夫一家电器商店的老板弗雷德·迈克驾车前往40里外的小石城，为贝蒂·贝尔检修冰箱。“贝蒂那双碧蓝的眸子太动人啦，”弗雷德回忆道。“所以当她说她有个妹妹在派恩布拉夫时，我就提出想见她。贝蒂给了我她妹妹的电话号码。”

弗雷德正当而立之年，一次大战时曾在俄克拉荷马号舰上当过水兵，后来随商船队去过南美，眼下想安顿下来过消停日子。贝蒂的妹妹亨丽埃塔时年19岁，正在护校接受培训。

1929年元月的一个星期六，弗雷德来邀亨丽埃塔。他一身黑色西服，满头金发卷儿，新修饰的脸上挂着自信的笑容；而她呢，一双碧蓝的大眼睛在蓝色亚麻时装的衬托下越发显得楚楚动人。弗雷德请她去看电影，她谢绝了。她不愿和不熟悉的人外出。“不过我们在一起谈得很开心，我被他的笑容迷住了，被他的甜言蜜语征服了。”

三个月后，有情人终成眷属。小夫妻的新家就安在派恩布拉夫哈丁大街的一幢二联式公寓里。他们加入了桥牌俱乐部；施里纳舞厅里也常见他们翩翩起舞的身影。亨丽埃塔配带一枚白金钻戒，那颗一克拉的钻

永不凋谢的爱情之花





wedding ring with a one-carat diamond.

"We were happy every day," Henrietta said of the next six years, "until the last."

Her voice still burning with surprise and indignation now half a century old, she whispers, "He did something no married man should ever do. I told him he could even commit murder...but no that! He was...unfaithful. With a friend of mine."

Henrietta divorced Fred in 1935. Soon after, she met Stewart Rosenplanter, nine years her senior and a salesman for a large meat company. "I was married to this man for thirty years, but didn't love him," she says. "I married just for spite."

Fred didn't give up hope. "I wrote love letters trying to get her back."

The letters, now yellowed with age, are full of longing. "Darling Henry." Fred wrote on October 9, 1936, "I think of you continually and I believe my life will never amount to anything without you."

In 1937, two years after their divorce, Henrietta remembers: "Fred called and told me he was getting married to someone else if I didn't come back to him. I said I was sorry. But it just hurt too much. So he married Phoebe."

Henrietta and her new husband moved to Mobile, to Orlando, Jacksonville, St. Louis, Chicago, and finally to Fort Lauderdale in 1952.

"After Stewart passed away in 1965," Henrietta says, "I lived a very lonely life. I never went out on a single date. I wasn't interested. I loved Fred. I thought of him every day."

She managed a sports shop on Fort Lauderdale beach. She visited her sisters in Little Rock dozens of times, hoping to run into Fred. She never



石闪闪发光,使她鹤立鸡群,光彩照人。

“我们的小日子过得和和美美,每天都甜甜蜜蜜,”亨丽埃塔回忆婚后六年的生活时说道,“直到最后……”

“他干的那种事,对一个有妇之夫来说太不应该了。”她声音很低,但充满惊异,“我对他说,我宁可他去杀人,也不愿他去干那种事!他……他有外心,居然与我的一位朋友勾搭上了!”事情虽然过去了50年,提起这事她依然余怒难消。

1935年,亨丽埃塔终于与弗雷德分道扬镳。不久,她结识了年长她九岁的斯图尔特·罗森普兰特,一个规模很大的肉食品公司的推销员。“我嫁给了这个男人,在一块生活了30年。但我并不爱他,”她说,“我同他结婚只是出于怨恨。”

希望之光并没从弗雷德心中消失,他给亨丽写情书,希望她能重新回到他身边。

年深日久,那些满纸思念的信件都发黄了。在1936年10月9日的一封信中,弗雷德写道:“亲爱的亨丽,你依然让我魂牵梦绕,没有你,我的生命将毫无意义。”

他们分手两年后,也就是1937年,“弗雷德打来电话,”亨丽埃塔回忆当年时说,“他告诉我,如果我不回到他身边,他就同别人结婚了。我说我很抱歉,但那件事对我的伤害太大了,我无法忘怀。无奈之下,他同菲比结了婚。”

亨丽埃塔与她的第二位丈夫斯图尔特搬到了莫比尔,后来又先后迁居奥兰多、杰克逊维尔、圣路易斯、芝加哥,最后于1952年定居劳德代尔堡。

“斯图尔特于1965年去世,”亨丽埃塔说,“此后,我感到非常孤独,但我从未同男人单独约会过,我没这份兴致。我依然爱着弗雷德,他让我日思夜盼。”

亨丽埃塔在劳德代尔堡海滨开办了一个体育用品商店。她常到小石城的姐妹家走走,希望能邂逅弗雷德。可是,连个影子也没见着。她将弗



did. She kept three of his love letters for half a century in a bank vault, and later in a hiding place she will not reveal. She kept them in a yellow envelope, and wrote on the outside: "I really loved him all my life." Often, she says, "I'd read them and have a good cry."

Fred and Phoebe were married 47 years. Fred built up his own business in Little Rock, selling audio equipment. They had a daughter. But Phoebe had been ill most of her life, and finally she died in December 1984.

Shortly afterward, Fred phoned Betty Bell, who had given him Henrietta's phone number in 1929. Fred asked for her phone number again.

"I still loved her," Fred says, "and I was very lonesome."

One afternoon last February, Henrietta was playing bridge with the ladies in her card club when the phone rang.

"Darling", the voice on the other end said.

She knew immediately who it was. "Hello, darling", she said.

Henrietta hung up the phone a few minutes later, her hands trembling. "He told me that he had lost his wife. He said he was going to visit his sister in California. The next day he called and said. 'Can I come and visit you in a while?'"

For three months before that visit, they called or wrote every day. "To my Darling Sweetheart." Fred wrote, "only 13 more days I will be without you—and then, forever and ever." And just before he arrived: "I love, I love you, I love you, Fred."

He went to Fort Lauderdale in early May. They spent 19 days together.

Fred and Henrietta remarried at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Fort Lauderdale, 50 years after the divorce that each said was the mistake of their lives. Henrietta wore the platinum wedding ring that Fred gave her in 1929. "I hid it all those years," she says, "and kept looking at it to make sure