

*The American Lifestyle*

美国生活和英语阅读丛书

# 我爱苏珊

卫朝霞 编

I Love Suzanne

陕西科学技术出版社

美国涂鸦英语阅读丛书 1

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“美国涂鸦英语阅读丛书”策划

——瓦斯灯工作室 Gaslight Studio



## 瓦斯灯工作室的故事

——序“美国涂鸦英语阅读丛书”

门上钢制的牌子显得已经有些旧，也许是故意做的。上面刻着：

瓦斯灯工作室

Gaslight Studio

于燕轻轻叩门，门便朝里开了。屋里烟雾腾腾的，男男女女有七八个人吧。他们仍围着那个大显示屏的计算机，她要找的那个人不就坐在机器前吗！他和似乎所有人都没注意到于燕的进入。他的嘴正对着麦克风，手里几乎没停地按着电子键盘，给满屋加上了低低的背景和声。他似乎在谈对一位歌手的理解，手上的力度偶尔加大，嗓门提高，你便会听到几声歌唱。

九年多的时间过去了，潭的举止和神情看上去成熟而且自然。可他的歌声依然将于燕带回到从前的气氛中，带回到她爱恋着他的情调中。

“他也许永远不知道我曾对他的感情。”于燕心里想着，便突然从沉湎中回过神来。她注意到这间不大的工作室墙上贴了许许多多插图，她听出他们是在议论什么书。他们在议论故事的情节和人物，于燕无声无息地听进去了。

潭突然注意到了她。“我的天，”他的目光中依然闪着惊奇，脸上绽出了笑容。“您是找我吗？女士？”

也不知是因为有潭在这里，还是因为自己曾在这里有过四年生活的缘故，于燕觉得西安给自己非常亲切的感觉。于燕盯着酒吧窗外阑珊的夜色，微笑着听潭的说话。潭则一边谈着那些编书

的朋友，一边让思绪跃过自己在美国的四五年浪荡生活和与纪小若之间的暴风骤雨，回到八九年以前，……他记起那位忘了名的姑娘的话：“于燕以为自己得了不治症，想在生命的最后来向你表白。”

回想到这里，谭忽然产生一种莫名的感动，一种当年都不曾有过的感动，他嘴里的话便止住了。于燕其实一点也没听他说话，而是将满腹的心事变成无数不知从何而起的问题。当谭的话止住时，她的心狂跳不停，竟脱口说：“知道吗，我的女儿已经四岁了？”

当飞机升空之后，于燕突然想起谭在瓦斯灯工作室中弹奏的音乐，当时怎么都想不起来的，是一首名为“大西洋城”的歌：

“... everything dies, baby, that's a fact

But maybe everything dies someday comes back

Put your makeup on, fix your hair up pretty

And meet me tonight in Atlantic City ...”

头倚着舷窗黯黯吟唱的于燕，感觉到一滴泪冷冷地滚过面颊。

Gaslight Studio

1989年元月8日

## 序《我爱苏珊》

“涂鸦”伊始，还是97年9月初的事情。当时天气还很热，当时大家心里都没底，当时什么材料都没有，……我们几乎是在一种空洞的信念驱使之下开始的。只知道要编一套超越同类的新型阅读材料，但到底新在哪里，谁也说不清。即便有一点想法，也都很快发现并不现实。我们还请了《美国悲剧》和《文化震撼》等书的编者座谈。但说老实话，我们是要超越这些书而不是模仿它们，因此几次座谈其实并没能给我们多少启示。

坐在闷热的办公室里谈怎么着手，谈什么特色、什么前景，便开始觉得有点灰心了。假如只是为了出一本书，挂个名，编出来似曾相识的东西，不知道别人怎么想，我觉得没劲透了。

接下来，我真的是耐着性子开始读找来的材料。然而，就在这时转机突然出现了：我读到了几篇惊愕不已的故事。

当我想告知陈向京、聂文信和 Gaslight Atudio 诸位我的惊奇发现时，却发现他们也同样有吃惊不小的故事告诉我。此刻我们似乎忘了编书的使命，忘了没有特色的苦恼，而是沉浸在相互讲故事和讨论故事内涵的欣喜之中。原以为编书过程只不过是一个透支过程，万没料到有如此兴奋的收获于其中。这种兴奋感染了所有编者和编辑，也感染了那些原本我兴趣并不很大的文章，也感染了从秋天到冬天这许许多多日子。

用聂老师的话说，“这些很有意思，但就是

看不懂的故事”开始使我们考虑许多关于外语教育和外语读物的问题，也渐渐意识到这套书已然出现的特色。“涂鸦”中的多数文章没有确定的结论，但有离奇而引人入胜的情节。它们吸引你不停地读下去，读完之后又叫你脑子里充满“为什么”，完全不同于我们常见的“是什么”题材。这便是“涂鸦”与众不同的特色。

陈老师、聂老师和我都曾挑选书中的故事给学生试用过，反响之强烈与平时使用教材的沉闷形成了鲜明的对比。而且同学们将课上的热情延续到了课下。我们并没有给大家讲述太多，时而只是参与讨论。但他们全神贯注地读，长时间地思考并反复再读，这样的收获肯定远远超过我们的灌输。

坦率地讲，书中的许多东西我们也只是初识浅涉，我们所做的最重要的事是尽快把这些引荐给大家。尽管意识到许多文章我们也吃不透，在练习中常常使用不确定的答案，但对文章理解深度甚至正误上都肯定还会存在问题。但愿问题出得不会太离谱。

当我此刻坐在窗前，想象着向读者朋友们介绍《我爱苏珊》时，窗外已是冬至过后。我想象您读过某些文章后的惊讶，想象您向自己朋友讲述时的喜悦，很久没有过的冬天期待春天的感觉油然而生。期待着读者朋友们的反馈，无论是意见，还是感受 and 希望。编书的过程使我们体会到由衷的喜悦，也许读者朋友的反馈能带给我们更多。

卫朝霞

1997年12月



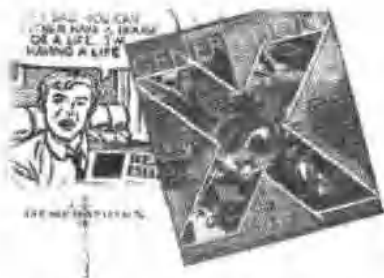
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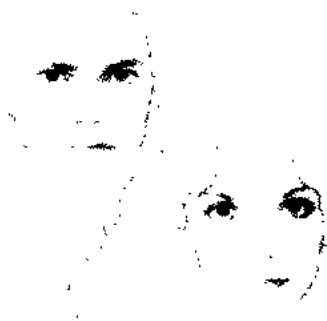


1991年，加拿大作家 Douglas Coupland 的一部小说为新一代人（1996~1965年出生的）命名了，这部小说的名字就叫 Generation X。

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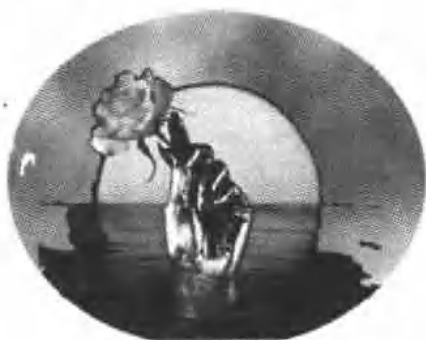
最早听卡伦·卡彭特时被感动得一塌糊涂，  
可当问及美国人、英国人关于卡彭特的事  
时，却总得到极平淡的反应。

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- 224 天堂之门，网上邪教
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瞧着她发怒时粉脸涨得通红，小拳头抵在腰间的样子，他终于鼓足了勇气。

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## 涂鸦

### Graffiti

70年代初在美国纽约的某面墙上，一位小孩胡乱写下“Taki 183”，没想到引发了全美国，乃至全欧洲无数年轻人自我表现的手段：涂鸦。

涂鸦无疑是对现代文明的反叛，是一种压抑和愤怒的宣泄。然而对于这种毫无节制的个人表现，各国政府，尤其美国政府都认为它是非法行为。可是同出现于60和70年代的许多东西，如发型诡异的旁客一样，它始终无法遏止并被一些人认为是艺术。

Why is this called “graffiti” when that other, stupid stuff is also



called graffiti...you know, the bathroom wall sayings and things?

Schmoo: Graffiti, to me, is writing on the wall. I <sup>trace</sup> what writers do today back to the Roman Empire, where the name graffiti first got applied to writing on a wall.

John: Here in <sup>Brazil</sup> Brazil, there is a special word for plain writing on the wall ("pichao"—untranslatable, but maybe "wall scribble" will do). Also we do a lot of figurative painting without words at all, which some have called "graffiti-murals." In general, any wall-painting done with little or no support, not vinctulated to an institution, <sup>illegal</sup> illegal or not, gets called a "graffiti." As the activity has expanded, new forms get lumped under the same word. Doesn't seem to be much point anymore in insisting on a definition. There're just too many possibilities. If a guy paints the same thing in the same place, for pay, that he would have done for free, should it get another name? What should one call a very poetic, or philosophic statement written on the bathroom door? Isn't there a Bible story about some dude (Nebuchadnezzar?) reading the "writing on the wall?" [Susan: It supposedly said: mene, mene, tekel upharsin — measured, measured and found wanting] Graffiti? Hell, he got it into the Bible! Who knows what primitive graffiti-nik didn't get supper because he drew a lopsided bison in the family cave?

Why are painters called "writers"?

Schmoo: Not all graffiti is done with paint. In the early years, especially, graffiti was done with all kinds of things: Pilot Markers,



home made markers, mean streaks, etc. At its roots, modern graffiti is still about words and writing words on surfaces. Therefore, all graffiti writers are just that, writers. Not all writers are artists or painters, that's why we call ourselves writers.

Kairos: Because that's what we do. The term "painter", by the way, is also fairly common. Any word that describes the activity is appropriate, "writer" just happens to be one of the most common and most logical. *prolific* *logic*

Who is doing this graffiti?

Schmoo: All kinds of people are doing it. It's always been that way. There is no race that does it more than another, no age group can really be credited with graf, and no socio-economic group is responsible, either. Graffiti is one of the few movements that I have been involved in that includes people from all backgrounds, with one goal in mind...Getting Up!

Do women paint graffiti too?

Schmoo: Definitely. There have been *profit* *prolific* female writers throughout modern graffiti history, but not very many of them—come on women, express yourselves.

Kairos: Yes, but they are admittedly rare. While there is no consensus on why women do not play a larger role in the graffiti underground, the most accepted explanation is the "danger factor":



graffiti often involves going into delapidated parts of the city at 3 or 4 in the morning. Also, many female potential writers are scared away by the idea that most graffiti is done by gangs and other misconceptions that lead them to believe that the culture as a whole is a dangerous. (ha!)

is not

Celtic: There are a number of women writers that I know personally and I'm sure that there are many I have never met. So basically there are enough in my city.

Susan: One of the best known and well-loved female writers is Lady Pink. Here are peeps of Reminisce, Omega, and one by an unknown female artist in Prague.

Do younger graffiti writers' parents know what they're doing?

Schmoo: In my case they didn't and don't know everything about what I do. I have shown them legal pieces that I have done, and illegal things my friends have done. I can't imagine that they don't know about it, but I don't think they want to talk about it. Style Wars shows good examples of both types of writers, those who tell their parents everything, and those who don't.

Why are so many of the faces so unhappy looking?

Schmoo: Most graffiti is done in the city. The city isn't the happiest environment for an artist, especially if you have to sneak around to express yourself and face fines and jail time for doing it.



Celtic: It really is up to the artist who is doing the character at that time. See if a writer is mad at something or happy for some reason chances are it will come out in his art.

Why are some of the graffiti in Europe written in English? Is it an American invasion?

Schmoo: A lot of the original NYC subway writers got to go over to Europe early in modern graffiti's inception. They took the established styles to Europe, which included the use of English words. Modern graffiti comes from America, so naturally of someone if going to start doing an American art form, they are going to take a lot from what has already been done, which includes the use of English words.

Is graffiti really illegal?

Schmoo: Sometimes yes, sometimes no. There are many legal yards in all major cities. Some cities tolerate it more than others.

Kairos: By and large, yes. In the United States, graffiti is an illegal act but there are still "legal walls" — places where writers can go to do murals without fear of being arrested. The limited number of legal walls leads to writers constantly having to go over one another for space. This drives the better writers away because they do not want to see their time-consuming works trashed in only a matter of days.





Laws vary in other countries. In general, it is illegal most everywhere, although in Australia, graffiti is seen as a sport, of sorts, and there are competitions sponsored by big-name companies. Please note that without the permission of the wall's owner, it is illegal in Australia as well.

Celtic: Yeah very illegal in most places, heavy fines, jail time etc... Especially in major cities that think they have a graffiti problem.

I like the art, but why do graffiti writers tag things all over town? Why don't they just quit doing that since police and property owners hate it so much?

Schmoo: Many people have the urge to write their names places to commemorate being there. People don't get upset when they hear stories of "Kilroy was Here" or kids scratching in Janet + Joe on a tree. But somehow when writing gets associated with the city, and kids from all races and backgrounds get together to express themselves in some rebellious way right in the face of everyone, it gets associated with evil. Then officials feel the need to go over graffiti with plain flat paint. The thing that they don't understand is that they are expressing themselves just as much as we are when we put our name or crew up. Unfortunately they don't have the creativity that we do.

Celtic: We do it to so we can get respect from other graf writers. Usually it's the newer writers who tag all over. This is because they