

SMART  
READING  
芝麻悦读系列

梁红 编译  
邹卫宁

# 咖啡人生

God's Coffee



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学以致用是学习任何技能的最终目的。当外国人对中国人写出的英语感到不知所云、一头雾水时，往往是由于写作者对英语国家的人的思维 and 表达方式缺乏了解。在不少人抱怨英语难学的时候，殊不知体会和借鉴英语思维实际上有激活和提高智力的功效。

“芝麻悦读(Smart Reading)系列”的特点是英汉对照。通过精彩的英汉故事对照，读者不仅能充分领悟原文的内涵及其文化背景，而且可以在两种思维和句法的对比碰撞下，激发起英语学习和翻译的兴趣。

“芝麻悦读(Smart Reading)系列”的书名含有多重意义：以小见大，点点滴滴，启迪人生；魔力般地轻松开启英语学习的大门；轻松的阅读体验，几何级的智慧增长……

本套故事丛书适应现代社会的快节奏，适合以下群体阅读：

- ◎每天东奔西走、时间零碎的白领。
- ◎心情浮躁、无法坐下来安静读书的青少年。
- ◎想学英语又下不了决心的英语恐惧症候群。
- ◎好不容易下定决心学习英语，看到刻板的教材却又想打瞌睡的悠游族。

“芝麻悦读(Smart Reading)系列”将帮你开启心灵之窗，打通英语学习的任督二脉。它具有以下特点：

- ◎语言地道，通俗易懂，重建英语学习的信心和乐趣。
- ◎轻薄短小，方便实用，随手拿，随处读。



◎丰富的学习内容，绝对物超所值。

◎版面设计活泼清新，故事评论妙趣横生。

◎生动有趣的插图，活跃视觉，拓展想象力。

◎小书本，大道理，学以致用，回味无穷。

本套故事丛书取材广泛，亦庄亦谐，有的轻松愉快、催人向上，有的恐怖诡异、扑朔迷离。只要能看懂一篇文章或故事，并且其内容令人回味，我们的目的就达到了一半，因为兴趣和好奇心已经受到激发，正如爱因斯坦所说的：“兴趣是最好的老师。”每个故事后附有重点难点的词汇注释、对故事内容进行思维辩证的珠玑妙语“芝麻逗”，以及点拨人生的经典谚语“芝麻经”。在阅读故事后读者会对这些谚语有更深刻的体会，将之作为修身养性和为人处世之准绳。

本册为励志成长篇，共有45个故事。感悟人生、催人奋进，生动的描述使人潜移默化地接受每个故事的积极意义。

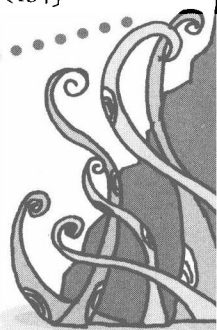
在本套丛书的编译过程中，作者力求谨慎客观、文字优美畅达，如有任何疏漏和不妥之处，还请读者不吝赐教。在此要特别感谢杨向梅、田强、刘彬、徐敏等为本书的编撰提供倾力相助，并对编辑、绘图者和设计制作人员的通力协作致以深深的谢意！

编者

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## 1. Pickup in rain

One night, at 12:00 pm, an elderly woman was standing by the side of a highway. It was raining cats and dogs that night. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soakingly wet, she was trying to flag down a passing car. At last, a young white man stopped to help her. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab.

She seemed to be in such a big hurry that she barely took time to write down the young man's address, she thanked him and drove away.

Ten days later a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a new car was delivered to his home, with a special note attached. The note read: Dear Mr. Thomas: Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway that night. The rain wet not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others.

### 词汇注释

1. soak [səuk] v. 浸, 泡, 浸透
2. taxicab ['tæksikæb] n. 出租车



## 雨中搭车

一天午夜12点，天上正下着倾盆大雨。一位老太太冒雨站在公路边。她的车抛锚了，急需搭车。虽然浑身上下已经湿透，老人仍坚持着一定要拦一辆过路的车。终于，一位年轻的白人停下车来帮她。他不仅把老人送到了安全的地方，还安排她得到救助，最后把她送上出租车。

老人似乎有急事要办，只来得及记下年轻人的住址，跟他道了谢，就乘车匆匆离开了。

十天之后，有人敲响了年轻人家的门。令他大吃一惊的是，他收到了一辆崭新的汽车，上面还附了一张留言：“亲爱的托马斯先生，衷心感谢您在公路边对我的倾力相助！大雨把我淋得透湿，令我心灰意冷，由于您的出现，我能够及时赶到丈夫的病榻边，见了他临终前最后一面。感谢您对我的帮助，也感谢您对他人的无私帮助！愿上帝保佑您！”



芝麻说

也许是无意的举手之劳，却能为别人送去温暖，自己也会因此收获温情的回报，这不正是“双赢”的最高境界吗？



芝麻经

Little help brings much return.  
滴水之恩，涌泉以报。

## 2. Blessings usually come in disguise

The only survivor of a shipwreck washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly to God for someone to rescue him, each day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements and to store his few possessions.

One day, after looking for food, he arrived home only to find his



little hut in flames, with the smoke rolling up to the sky.

The worst had happened; everything was lost.

He was stung with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!" he cried.

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him.

"How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man to his rescuers.

"We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

Never forget blessings do come in disguise!

### 词汇注释

1. shipwreck ['ʃɪprek] n. 船只失事, 海难, 遇难
2. feverishly ['fi:vərɪʃli] adv. 十分焦虑地
3. horizon [hə'reɪzn] n. 地平线
4. forthcoming [fɔ:θ'kʌmɪŋ] adj. 即将到来的
5. driftwood ['drɪftwud] n. 漂流木, 浮木
6. elements ['eləmənts] n. (pl.) (特别是恶劣或严寒气候的) 自然力量
7. approach [ə'prəʊtʃ] v. 靠近, 接近
8. disguise [dis'gaɪz] n. 伪装, 掩饰

## 因祸得福

在一次海难中，全船人员只有一位大难不死。他随波逐流被潮水冲到了一座荒无人烟的小岛上。他发疯似地一天到晚地祷告，祈求上帝派人救他一命。每天他都眺望着天边，希望有人来救他，但是一直没有任何船只出现。

筋疲力尽之后，他用海上漂来的浮木凑合着搭了个棚屋，暂且栖身和存放自己所剩无几的几件家当。

一天，他寻找食物回来，发现木屋着火了，浓烟滚滚，直冲天空。

天灾人祸，他一无所有了。

他不由得悲愤交加：“上帝呀，我做了什么要受到你这样的惩罚！”他呼天抢地、欲哭无泪。

第二天一早，他被马达声吵醒了。原来是一艘大船，正驶向小岛。这是专门来营救他的船只。

“你们怎么会知道我在这里？”他筋疲力尽地问道。

“我们看见了你发出的烟雾信号。”船员们答道。

别忘了世事难料，正所谓“塞翁失马，焉知非福”。



芝麻温

山穷水尽疑无路，柳暗花明又一村。再苦再难也不要轻言放弃，因为很多时候，上帝给我们关上门的同时，也为我们打开了一扇窗。



芝麻经

Where there's life, there's hope.  
留得青山在，不怕没柴烧。

### 3. A ten-cent idea

When young Charles was a store clerk, he tried to convince his boss to have a ten-cent sale to reduce inventory.

The boss agreed, and the idea was a resounding success. This inspired Charles to open his own store and price items at a nickel and a dime. He needed capital for such a venture, so he asked his boss to supply the capital for part interest in the store.

His boss turned him down flatly. “The idea is too risky,” he told Charles. “There are not enough items to sell for five and ten cents.” Charles went ahead without his boss’s backing, and he not only was successful in his first store, but eventually owned a chain of stores Charles across the nation. Later, his former boss was heard to remark, “As far as I can figure out, every word I used to turn Charles down cost me about a million dollars.”

#### 词汇注释

1. ten-cent ['tencent] adj. 便宜的
2. inventory ['invəntri] n. 存货, 库存
3. resounding [ri'zaundɪŋ] adj. 共鸣的, 反响的
4. inspire [in'spaɪə] v. 鼓舞, 激发
5. dime [daim] n. (美)一角硬币
6. flatly ['flætli] adv. 断然地

## 一字万金

查尔斯年轻的时候是商店的职员，他竭力想说服老板搞个促销活动，以便宜的价钱出售所有商品，以此来减少库存。

老板采纳了查尔斯的建议，结果反响热烈，大获全胜。这次成功极大地鼓舞了查尔斯，他想自己开间店，每件商品只卖五分或一角。这个想法要付诸实践需要一笔资金。于是，查尔斯问他的老板是否愿意出资，以后他们可以按股分红。

老板断然回绝了查尔斯的请求。“这主意太离谱了。”他说，“哪有那么多便宜东西能卖五分和一角？”

没有老板的支持，查尔斯依然不折不扣地独自创业。他开的第一家店就旗开得胜，并且最终成了老板，旗下是遍布全国的“查尔斯”连锁店。后来，有人听见他原来的老板说：“我算了算，当时拒绝查尔斯的时候我说的那句话，每一个字都使我少挣了100万！”



芝麻逗

机不可失，时不再来。许多机会往往就在一念之间，就在与传统和习惯相悖的创新思维中。可是我们如何才能有这种长远眼光呢？



芝麻经

Opportunities favor the prepared mind.  
机遇只青睐有准备的头脑。

## 4. A world of smile

More than five years I was working at a little clinic after I graduated from college. Actually I didn't like the job and felt depressed every day. One day while working at the cash register, an elderly couple came in with a little girl in a wheelchair.

As I looked closer at this girl, I realized that she was disabled. I then realized she had no arms or legs, just a head, neck and torso. She was in red. That is a warm color.

As I took the money from her grandparents, I looked down at the





girl, who was giving me the cutest, largest smile I have ever seen. All of a sudden her handicap was gone and all I saw was this beautiful girl, and her smile, just like the warm sun in the winter melted me and almost instantly gave me a completely new sense of what life is all about.

It was her smile that took me from a poor, unhappy college student and brought me into her world; a world of smiles, love and warmth.

Now I'm a successful business person and whenever I get down and think about the troubles of the world, I think about that little girl and the remarkable lesson about life that she taught me.

## 词汇注释

1. torso ['tɔ:səu] n. 残缺的东西或人
2. cute ['kju:t] adj. 可爱的, 伶俐的
3. handicap ['hændikæp] n. 障碍, 身心的缺陷

## 生命阳光

我大学毕业后, 在一家小诊所工作了五年多。说实话, 我压根就不喜欢这份工作, 每天都萎靡不振、无精打采。一天, 我正在收银台当班, 一对老夫妇推着一个坐轮椅的小女孩走了进来。



我仔细一看，发现小女孩有残疾。再一打量才看清，她四肢全无，仅剩头颅、脖子和躯干。她的衣着是红色的，是温暖的颜色。

当女孩的爷爷奶奶到我这儿结账时，我从柜台上俯视小女孩，她正在朝我微笑，这是我见过的最动人最开朗的微笑。顷刻间，小女孩看上去不再是个残疾人。我看到的是一个异常美丽的小姑娘，她的明媚笑容如同冬日的暖阳融化了我心中的郁闷和惆怅。一种全新的生活意义使我茅塞顿开、精神一振。

正是她的微笑，使我脱离了原来那个自怨自艾、愤世嫉俗的大学生；是她的微笑引领我进入她的世界——一个充满微笑、关爱和温暖的世界。

而今，我已经是一位功成名就的商人了。每当我意志消沉、为世态炎凉而眉头紧锁之时，我都会想起那个小女孩，想到她给我的启示。那是关于如何对待生活的精彩一课。



**芝麻逗** 小姑娘的微笑会令许多不能承受生命之重的人感受到勃勃的生机，重燃希望之火。



**芝麻经** Smiles bring us warm sunlight on a cold winter day.  
微笑在寒冷的冬日带给我们温暖的阳光。