

刘维凡



在鹰眼的

America

那些记忆



甘肃人民出版社

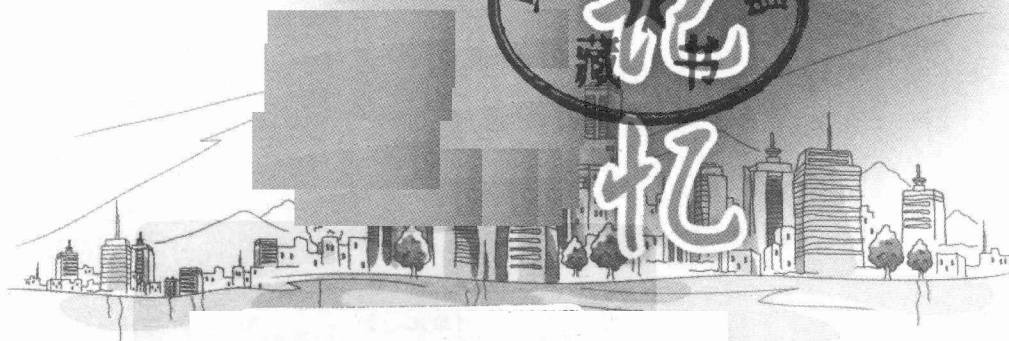
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Preface

In the year of 2005 when I was still an ordinary Chinese junior 2 student who had nothing to do with the United States, a country so distant away from where I was born and raised, my mom made a tough decision which switched my life in the upcoming 2006 in an 180 degree.

Without understanding why and how, I flew to the United States in January 2006, arriving at a city named Iowa City. Having no knowledge how my life and school education would turn out, I stepped into the local high school Iowa City West High School no more than 3 days after arrival. As difficult as you could ever imagine, I started my journey there like an adventure during which I made numerous ridiculous mistakes, experienced terribly embarrassing situations, and suffered severely from homesickness as every adult would do when coming to America for the first time. Overwhelmed by such an entire newness, I paved my way hard, trying with my best ability to assimilate and explore. When I amazingly found me used to every small detail of my life here, I was stunned myself. I could take every one of my classes flexibly and swiftly, completing a history essay with no difficulty, finding my English being lifted to an entirely new height. Though short, my stay in Iowa has left me with one of the most valuable fortunes of my life—an experience of gleaning up my confidence, faith and courage to overcome every challenge lying ahead. I was grateful of my mom who has made such a wise decision making me learn and grow.

作者序

2005年当我还是一个普通的中国初二学生,和美国,一个离生我养我的土地如此遥远的国度毫不相干的时候,妈妈做出了一个艰难的决定,它把我即将到来的2006年的生活扭转了180度。

不知道为什么和怎样,我于2006年1月就这样飞到了美国一个叫做Iowa City(爱荷华市)的城市。对于即将降临的生活和学校教育完全没有任何概念,我在抵达美国不超过三天后便走进了当地的一所高中Iowa City West High School。就像你能想象的那样困难,我在这里如同冒险一样开始了自己的旅程。这其中,我犯下了很多可笑的错误,经历了可怕的尴尬情景,还承受了每一个成年人初次抵达美国时候的思乡之情。被一种彻头彻尾的陌生感所包围着,我艰难地开辟着自己的道路,以我最大的能力去融入、去探索。当我吃惊地发现自己已经适应了在这里生活的每一个小细节,我自己都无法相信。我可以轻松自如地上每一堂课,可以写出一篇完整的历史作文,我的英语学习已经被提升到了一种新的高度。尽管短暂,但是我在Iowa的这段时间却为我的人生积累了一笔最有价值的一份财富——一份用拾起的信心、信念和勇气去攻克前方一切挑战的过程。我很感谢妈妈曾经做出了如此精明的一个决定,让我学习,让我成长。

Most of the articles collected were written when I was in Iowa where my language was still children-like. In the last 3 years when I came back from Iowa, I have been working to add memories I consider worth recording to the original parts forming the complete book that you are reading right now. I might not be a typical representation of students traveling to US having varieties of colorful experiences of honor, but I wrote sincerely with all my heart only wanting to keep down my truest memories and thoughts. I would like to thank my parents for giving me so much support when I was once in a depression in US and endowing me with such a strong belief and faith that we are together going to face all of the difficulties coming about in US.

Author Weifan Liu August 2009 in Beijing

本书大部分收集的文章写于我在 Iowa 读书期间,很多语言较为幼稚浅显。在我从 Iowa 回来后的三年中,我一直在向原来的这些文章补充我认为值得记录的回忆,以至现在形成了您所看到的整本书。我并不是一个拥有着多彩和荣耀经历的旅美中国学生代表,但我全心全意地写作,只为记录下昔日最真实的记忆和想法。我想感谢我的父母当我在美国一度陷入失落时的支持,感谢他们赋予了我一个坚定而有力的信念,那就是我们将一起面对在美国发生的所有艰难和挫折。

作者 刘维凡 2009 年 8 月于北京

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New Life Came

I woke up at about 8 O'clock in the morning. It was a sunny day. After I had my first breakfast in America, I went shopping with my parents. It was a different and big store. It was quiet, not liked the shop in China—everywhere is full of people and kind of noisy. The people here are helpful and friendly, especially to the foreigners. It was still very cold here in winter, the strong wind made the weather even drier. The sun is shining and the sky is crystal clear. The environment was very good here in Iowa City. There are thousands square of the grasses, tall trees and small animals everywhere. The squares are the most common animals here. Back in Beijing, it is difficult to find any animal besides family pets in streets. Iowa City is different; it is much smaller in land and has less population. The place I lived has a really cool name, which is “Hawkeye court” . It is a dwelling district constructed for foreigners who study in the University of Iowa only, like my dad. It was quiet and beautiful. I liked to hang out with my mom when I have free time. I found that I'm accepting the new life here gradually.

I knew I have to go to a high school here as soon as I adapt to the life here. I was apprehensive and even frightened to go to a school here. I thought my English is kind of poor, I think. My dad and mom always encouraged me to be daring and confident. After three days I came to America, my parents and I went to a high school nearby which is named Iowa City West High School. It was located on a small hill. The recep-

新生活的到来

早上我八点钟醒来，是晴空万里的一天。当我吃完在美国的第一个早餐后，我和父母来到了一家商店。这是一个和中国商店不同的大商店。它很安静，并不像中国超市那样——到处都挤满了人，很喧哗。这里的人们很热心友好，尤其是对待外国人。这里的冬天很寒冷；强有力的大风使得天气更加干燥。太阳照耀着大地，天空如水晶般湛蓝澄澈。Iowa City 的环境很好。这里有成片的绿草，大树和小动物。这里最常见的小动物就是松鼠。在北京，很难在大街上看到除了家庭宠物以外的动物。Iowa City 就很不同；它是一个小得多的城市，人口也少很多。我居住的地方有个很酷的名字——Hawkeye Court。它是一片专为在大学留学的外国人而建的居住区，比如我爸爸在这里访学。这里安静而美丽。我很喜欢与妈妈在闲暇时间在周围闲逛。我发现我在逐渐接受新的生活。

我知道我适应了这里的生活后，很快就要在这里读高中。我很担忧甚至恐惧到这里的学校上学。尽管爸爸妈妈不停鼓励我要勇敢自信，但我还是觉得自己的英语很不好。在我们抵达美国后的第三天，我就和父母来到了一个附近的高中。这所学校的名字叫“Iowa City West High School”，它坐落于一个小山坡上。接待我们的是一

tionist was a fat but friendly lady who introduced the school enthusiastically to me. Soon then, I was given a test on English and math. The English test was pretty easy. I almost got a full mark. However the math test is a bit hard as there were so much knowledge that I hadn't learnt yet. As a result, I was chosen in the algebra 1 class for math skills. As for English, I was chosen in ELL and ESL ELD class which were set especially for foreigners. I became a ninth grader at this school. We could choose the subject based on personal interests besides the required lessons. I chose six classes in all according to the recommendation of the counselor such as geometry, American study and found science. For the first time, I got my own ID card at this school.

At the same time, I got my own locker, which was designed for students to store books or clothes. I also met my math teacher and advisory teacher who can speak amazing Chinese! At last, I was guided by the receptionist to the school library to fetch my textbooks there. The textbooks here are not sold and could only be lent to students by scanning their ID cards. The textbooks here are so big and heavy that I couldn't carry all of them at one time in my arms although there were only 3 of them. They weighted 5 kilograms at least. I was kind of excited when I came home expecting the day when I could go to this school. However when I thought about my language skill, I was diffident. It was an exciting night with kind of blue. I couldn't fall asleep because the next day was as likely to be a special festival as a total disaster for me. I didn't know.

个胖胖的但很和蔼的女士。她很热情地向我们介绍了这所学校。很快，我便接到了一个英语和数学考试。英语考试很简单，我几乎可以拿到满分，但是数学考试有点难，因为有很多我还没学的东西。于是我就这样被安排到了代数一的课程中。而英语我则被选入了 ESL ELD 课程，一个专为外国学生开设的英语课。我成为了这所学校的一个九年级学生。除了要求的课程外，我们可以根据自己的喜好随意选择自己的课程。我根据顾问的推荐选了六门课，比如几何、美国历史和基础科学。我第一次拿到了在这所学校的 ID 卡。我得到了属于自己的储物柜，一种专为学生存放书籍和衣服的柜子。我还见到了数学和咨询老师，咨询老师竟然还会说中文！最后，我被接待的老师领到了图书馆，借到了教材。这里的教材是不允许外卖的，只能通过刷卡向学生外借。这些书竟然那么大，那么沉以至于我无法一次将它们抱起来，尽管只有三本书而已。它们至少有五公斤重。回到家后我感到有些兴奋，并且对于这所学校充满了期待。当我想到自己的语言，我总会感到很不自信。那是一个很兴奋却也很忧郁的一晚。我久久不能入睡，因为或许接下来的一天对于我将是一个十分特别的节日，抑或一场灾难。我真的不知道。

New School Begins

The day for me to face the challenge eventually came. My dad and I took the Campus bus to my new school. When I stood in front of the big building, I can hardly believe it. I've never imagined that I could enter a school in America one day when I grown up even in dreams. When I entered the building, I was stunned. Students here wore cool and creatively. Some of them were even wearing T-shirts on such a cold day! They have diverse hairstyles: curly, straight, long, short, and bald in diverse colors. They don't have any specific rules on wearing and looks which makes up a fun part of the school. I went upstairs and got to my locker. The locker was designed like a coffer. I need to rotate the circle number button for my password number before I could open it. After getting my books out, I was guided by the receptionist that I met yesterday. She took me to my first period classroom--Fundamental science.

When I got to the classroom, students had begun their classes. The science teacher was a brown-skinned lady. She took my hands when I stood in the front of the classroom introducing me as a new foreign student. She asked students to give welcome to me. The students applauded and said "hi, Vivian" together. They were nice people. Finally, the teacher pointed an empty seat to me, and I got to my seat. The classroom was kind of big for such a number of students--nearly 30 students. It consisted of teaching area and experiment lab area. I thought

新的校园生活开始

等待我勇敢面临挑战的一天终于到来。爸爸和我搭乘校车来到了新学校。当我站在学校的大楼前，我几乎难以相信一切。即使是在梦里，我也从未想过自己长大后会有一天来到一个美国学校上学。当我走进大楼的时候，我大吃一惊。这里的学生穿着打扮酷极了，创意极了。他们中的一些竟然在如此寒冷的冬天穿短袖体恤！他们拥有着迥异的头型：卷发，直发，长发，短发，秃顶而且五颜六色。他们并没有具体的关于外观和穿着的规定，这是学校很有趣的一部分。我上楼后来到自己的储物柜，小柜子看上去像个保险箱。打开以前，我需要转动数字钮输入密码才能打开。离开储物柜后，我被前一天接待我们的接待员引领着进入了我的第一节课的课堂。

当我进入课堂时，他们已经开始上课了。科学课老师是一个棕色皮肤的女士。当我站在前面的时候，她拉着我的手，并向全班介绍我。她让大家向我给予欢迎，学生们热情地鼓起掌来，对我说：“嗨，Vivian。”他们很友好。最后，老师向我指了一个空座位，我便坐了下来。教室对于其中的学生数来说是很宽敞的——大约三十人。教室由教学区和实验区两部分组成。我想课本里的知识