

外研社·剑桥英语分级读物 (英汉对照)

The Fruitcake Special and other stories

FRANK BRENNAN

水果蛋糕
特味香水

外语教学与研究出版社
剑桥大学出版社

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Level 4

Series editor: Philip Prowse

*The Fruitcake Special
and other stories*

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Frank Brennan (英) 著

王海涛 译

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

剑桥大学出版社

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

(京)新登字 155 号

京权图字 01-2001-4197

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

水果蛋糕特味香水/(英)布伦南(Brennan, F.)著;王海涛译.-北京:外语教学与研究出版社,2002

ISBN 7-5600-2619-2

I. 水… II. ①布… ②王… III. 英语-对照读物,故事-英、汉

IV. H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2002)第 012201 号

Originally published by Cambridge University Press in 2000.

This English-Chinese bilingual edition is published with the permission of the Syndicate of the Press of the University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England.

本书原版由剑桥大学出版社于 1999 年出版。英汉对照版由剑桥大学出版社授权外研社出版。

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责任编辑:吴 静

出版发行:外语教学与研究出版社

社 址:北京市西三环北路 19 号(100089)

网 址:<http://www.fltrp.com.cn>

印 刷:北京新丰印刷厂

开 本:850×1168 1/32

印 张:4.875

版 次:2002 年 4 月第 1 版 2002 年 4 月第 1 次印刷

书 号:ISBN 7-5600-2619-2/H·1361

定 价:5.90 元

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外研社·剑桥英语分级读物

亲爱的老师们、同学们,由外语教学与研究出版社和英国剑桥大学出版社联合出版的这套《外研社·剑桥英语分级读物》终于与国内读者见面了。它集原创性、针对性、时代性和多样性于一体,是一套理想的英语学习读物。

本套读物是我国目前引进的第一套专为非英语国家读者撰写的英语故事性读物,作者全部是经验丰富的英语教学专家。读物依据难易程度共分六级,每级四本,每本独立成篇。题材涉及广泛,包括喜剧、历险记、侦探小说、浪漫爱情故事和短篇故事等。内容涉及东西方多种地域和文化,情节扣人心弦,极富吸引力。读者在提高自身英语水平的同时,还会享受到阅读的巨大乐趣。

本套读物分为英汉对照版和英文注释版两种版本,以适应不同读者的不同需要。其中,英文注释版附有练习及配套音带,为不同程度的英语学习者在阅读中提供了及时而必要的帮助。

如果你们喜欢这套读物,请把它推荐给你们的朋友。如果你们对这套读物有什么意见和建议,也请告诉我们。

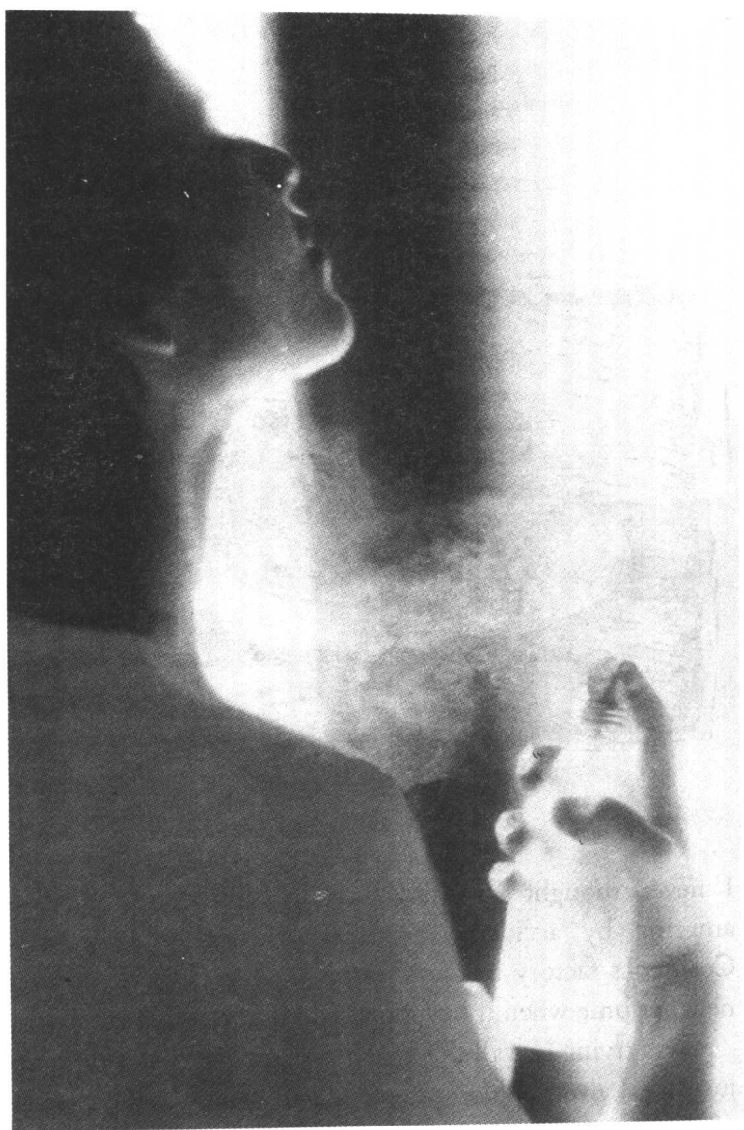
在此,我们谨向那些为这套读物的出版给予帮助和关切的老师们表示衷心的感谢!

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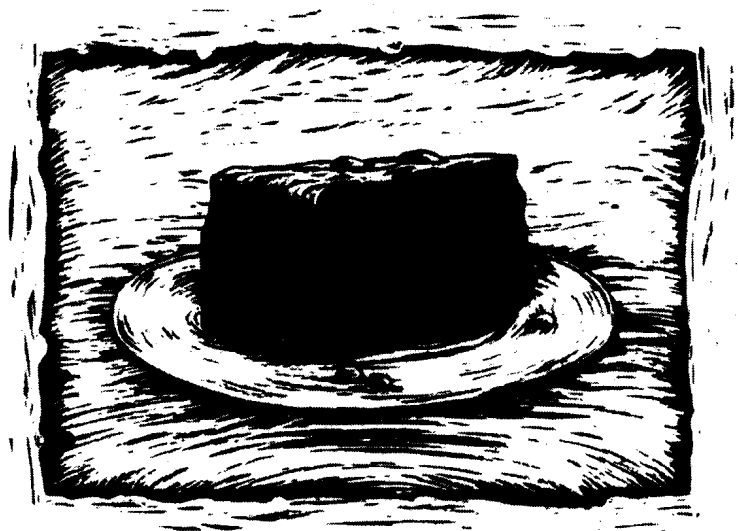
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The Fruitcake Special



I never thought I would discover something quite so amazing by accident. I was a chemist at the Amos Cosmetics factory in New Jersey, USA, trying to design a new perfume when it happened.

I was trying out all the usual mix of flowers and things – just like I always did – when I decided to throw in a piece of the fruitcake Momma had packed for my lunch. I don't know why I did it – I just did.

水果蛋糕特味香水

我从来没想到过自己会意外发现如此令人惊奇的东西。我是美国新泽西州阿莫斯化妆品工厂的一名化学师，发生这件事情时我正在努力设计一种新型香水。

像平时总做的那样，我正用鲜花和各种物质的混合物作试验。这时，我突发奇想，决定放进一块妈妈装给我作午餐的水果蛋糕。我不知为何这么做，我只是做了。

NOTES

amazing: *adj.* 令人惊异的,了不起的
chemist: *n.* 化学家,药剂师
cosmetics: *n.* 化妆品(这里指生产化妆品的公司)
by accident: 偶然
perfume: *n.* 香水
pack: *vt.* 包装,塞满

I put it into the mix with all the other things. Before long, I had a little bottle of perfume made from the things I had mixed together. I put some on the back of my hand. I thought it smelled nice, but there was nothing special about it, so I put the bottle into my handbag. I couldn't give something like that to my boss. After all, I am a chemist and my job is to make perfumes in a proper way. If I told him how I made this one he would tell me not to be a silly girl. Later, he would probably make a joke about it to his friends at the golf club.

That's the kind of man my boss was.

'Anna!'

It was my boss, David Amos, the owner of Amos Cosmetics. He happened to be walking past where I worked. He never usually spoke to people like me. What did he want? I felt nervous.

'Yes, Mr Amos.' I said.

'You're looking terrific today! Mmm . . . what's that lovely smell? It's like fresh bread and flowers and sunshine all mixed together with . . . I don't know – is it you, Anna?'

I didn't know what he was talking about. I couldn't smell anything special.

Mr Amos had an expert nose for perfumes. And he knew it.

'Yes, it is you!' he said loudly. All the other chemists nearby could hear. It was embarrassing.

I had never heard my boss speak to me like that before. Or to anybody else, come to think of it. David Amos is a dark, handsome English guy who would never dream of saying nice things to ordinary looking girls like me. He

我把它和其他物质一起放入混合物内，时间不长我就得到了一小瓶由混合在一起的各种东西制成的香水。我抹了一些在手背上，觉得闻起来蛮不错，只是没什么特别之处，于是我把瓶子放进了手提包。我不能把这样的东西交给我的老板，不管怎么说，作为一个化学师，我的工作是用合乎常规的方法研制香水。如果我告诉他这瓶香水是如何调制出来的，他肯定会要我别再冒傻气了。过后，他或许还会跟他在高尔夫球俱乐部的朋友们拿这事寻开心。

我的老板就是这种人。

“安娜！”

喊我的是我的上司戴维·阿莫斯，阿莫斯化妆品工厂的老板。他碰巧正从我工作的地方经过。他平常从不和我这样的人讲话。他想干什么？我不由得有些紧张。

“是的，阿莫斯先生，我回答。”

“你今天看上去棒极了！嗯……那个特好闻的气味是什么？它像是新鲜面包、鲜花和阳光调配起来的……我说不准——是你的吗，安娜？”

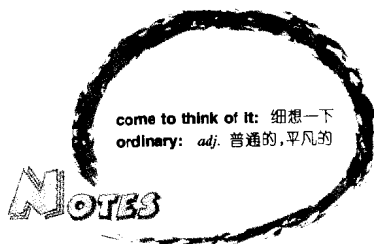
我不明白他在说什么。我闻不出有什么特殊的味道。

阿莫斯先生对香水有着专家般的嗅觉。他还是闻了出来。

“没错，是你的！”他大声说道，附近其他所有的化学师都能听到。这真让人尴尬。

我还从没听到过老板以前用这种语气同我讲话，细想和其他任何人也没有过。

戴维·阿莫斯是个皮肤黝黑、相貌英俊的英国小伙。他做梦也不会想过和我这样相貌平平的女孩子甜言蜜语。



preferred to be with pretty young models who liked his appearance and his money. When he did speak to the chemists he was usually complaining about something. Was he playing some kind of joke today?

Suddenly he came over right next to me. He spoke in a quiet voice close to my ear.

'You know, Anna, I've never really noticed it before – I can't think why – but you really are a beautiful woman!'

'Mr Amos. I . . .' I tried to answer but I didn't know what to say.

'No, it's true, Anna,' he said. 'I must see you outside this dull factory. Will you have dinner with me tonight?'

'Well, I . . .' I was still too surprised to speak properly.

'That's great! I'll pick you up at your place tonight at eight. See you then,' he said.

He was gone before I could say anything.

As I went home on the bus I thought of the strange situation I was in. My boss, who was famous for going out with beautiful women, had told me I was beautiful and had asked me out! But I know I am just ordinary looking and not his usual type at all. When I got home my Momma was in the sitting room talking to my Aunt Mimi.

Aunt Mimi. I like my Aunt Mimi, but she simply can't mind her own business. She has wanted me to find a husband for ages. She didn't like the thought of me being single and having a career. She thought it wasn't natural for a twenty-seven-year-old woman like me not to be married. Aunt Mimi thought that the least she could do for me was to find me a husband. I was used to this by now, but it was still embarrassing.

'Aunt Mimi – how nice to see you,' I said.

他更喜欢和年轻漂亮的模特在一起，她们看中的是他的外表和钱财。平常他与我们这些化学师谈话时就会不停地发牢骚。今天他是不是在开玩笑？

突然，他径直走到我身边，凑近我的耳旁轻声说道：

“你知道吗，安娜，我以前从没真正注意过——我想不出为什么——但你确实是个迷人的女人！”

“阿莫斯先生。我……”我尽力想回答，但不知说些什么。

“的确，这是事实，安娜，”他说道。“我必须在这个乏味的工厂以外的地方和你会面。今晚能否赏脸与我一起共进晚餐？”

“这个，我……”我惊讶得连话都说不利落了。

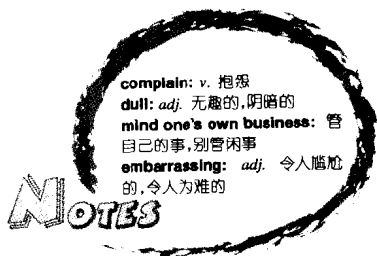
“好极了！今晚8点我到你家接你。到时见。”他说道。

没等我说什么他已经走开了。

在回家的公共汽车上，我琢磨着自己面临的奇妙境况。与漂亮女人约会出名的老板刚才竟说我迷人，还要约我出去！可我清楚自己外貌平常，决非他平时喜好的那类姑娘。我到家的時候，妈妈正和米米姨妈在客厅聊着天。

米米姨妈。我喜欢米米姨妈，但她有点爱替别人瞎操心。她想为我找个丈夫有段时间了。她不欣赏我立业但不成家的想法。她觉得像我这样27岁的女人不打算嫁人是不正常的现象。米米姨妈认为，她能为我做的最起码的一件事就是给我找个婆家。现在我已经习惯她这样了，但还是有些难为情。

“米米姨妈，见到您真开心。”我说道。



Aunt Mimi looked at me and smiled. 'Anna, my little girl . . . but look at you: you're not a little girl any more, you're a twenty-three-year-old woman already! How time flies!'

'Actually, I'm twenty-seven, Aunt Mimi,' I said. She always got my age wrong.

'So soon? And you're not married yet? Your mother was married when she was eighteen. Eighteen! And you were born when she was nineteen!' Aunt Mimi looked sad as she said this.

She decided to say what she thought at once – as she always did.

'So when are you going bring a nice boy home?' she asked, looking me right in the eye.

'There was that boy Armstrong you saw two years ago. He was nice,' said Momma, trying to help me.

'Momma, Armstrong was the pizza delivery man,' I tried to explain, but Momma never did listen.

'Armstrong was here a few times. I liked him,' said Momma.

'Momma,' I said, 'that was when the cooker broke down – remember? We ate pizzas for almost a week until it was fixed. Armstrong just delivered the pizzas.'

'I don't care,' said Momma. 'I liked him – he had nice eyes.'

Aunt Mimi raised her eyes in surprise.

'You mean to say you let this Armstrong boy go?' said Aunt Mimi.

'But he was only the pizza delivery man,' I said, weakly.

'Then he was. By now he probably owns the company!' said Aunt Mimi. 'And you let him go! Anna!'

米米姨妈面带微笑地看着我。“安娜，我的小姑娘……但是看看你：你不再是个小姑娘了，你已经是个23岁的女人了！时间过得真快啊！”

“实际上，我27岁了，米米姨妈。”我说道。她总是搞错我的年龄。

“这么快？可你还没结婚？你母亲18岁就嫁人了。18岁！你出生的时候她才19岁！”米米姨妈说这话时看上去有些伤感。

她决定立刻说出她的想法——像她平时一贯做的那样。

“那么，你什么时候带个好小伙子回家？”她直视着我的眼睛问道。

“两年前你见过的那个叫阿姆斯特朗的小伙子就不错嘛。”为了替我解围，妈妈说道。

“妈妈，阿姆斯特朗是个送比萨饼的。”我想解释，但妈妈就是不听。

“阿姆斯特朗来过几次。我挺喜欢他。”妈妈说。

“妈妈，”我说道，“那是咱家炊具坏了的时候，想起来了吗？炊具修好之前我们吃了差不多一个星期的比萨饼。阿姆斯特朗只是来送比萨饼的。”

“我不在乎，”妈妈说道。“我喜欢他——他的眼睛可真怜人。”

米米姨妈惊讶地抬起双眼。

“你的意思是说你让这个叫阿姆斯特朗的小伙子走掉了？”米米姨妈说道。

“可他只是个送比萨饼的呀。”我有气无力地说道。

“那时候他是。现在没准他已经自己开公司了！”米米姨妈坚持道。“而你竟让他走掉了！安娜！”

delivery: n. 递送
cooker: n. 炊具
break down: 机器停止运转, 坏掉

NOTES

It was no use arguing. I knew they were not going to listen to me. So I changed the subject.

'That fruitcake was nice, Momma,' I said.

'Aunt Mimi brought it,' said Momma. 'But don't change the subject – your aunt has something to say to you.'

Oh no! She's trying to find a husband for me again!

Aunt Mimi began, 'I've found the perfect boy for you, Anna. Well . . . he's not exactly young, but neither are you any more . . . and he's still got his own hair . . .'

I decided I had to put a stop to this – I didn't want to meet Aunt Mimi's 'boy' even if he did have his own hair.

'Thanks, Aunt Mimi,' I said. 'But I'm already seeing someone tonight.'

I hadn't meant to tell them but I had to do something to stop Aunt Mimi. It certainly surprised them. They both looked at me with their eyes and mouths wide open like a couple of fish.

'Yes,' I went on. 'I'm going out with my boss, Mr Amos. He's picking me up at eight.'

That certainly surprised them!

* * *

Momma and Aunt Mimi were very pleased, of course. They went off together to plan the wedding and left me to get ready for the man they hoped would be my future husband. I was beginning to wish I hadn't told them. After all, I had no idea why my boss had behaved towards me in that way. He had never even noticed me before now. However, he had noticed the perfume I had been wearing. Lately I had been wearing a perfume called *Intrigue*. It was

争辩是徒劳的。我知道我讲的话她们听不进去。于是，我换了个话题。

“那块水果蛋糕味道好极了，妈妈。”我说。

“是米米姨妈带来的。”妈妈说道。“别转移话题，你姨妈有事情跟你讲。”

喔，又来了！她又要给我找个丈夫了！

米米姨妈开始道：“我已经替你找到了一个相当不错的小伙子，安娜。嗯……准确地讲他不算年轻，但你也不小了……再说他还没老到头发都掉光的地步……”

我决定不能再听她说下去了。我可不想见什么米米姨妈的“小伙子”，即便有头发也不行。

“多谢了，米米姨妈，”我说道，“但今晚我已经安排好要见个人了。”

我原没有告诉她们的意思，但我必须做点什么让米米姨妈停下。这句话确实让她们大吃一惊。她俩像两条鱼一般睁大了眼睛和嘴巴看着我。

“是的。”我继续道。“我要和我的老板阿莫斯先生出去。他8点来接我。”

这无疑让她们都惊呆了。

* * *

妈妈和米米姨妈当然十分高兴。她们一同离开去筹划婚礼，让我留下为她们期望能成为我未来女婿的那个男人而梳妆打扮。我开始有点后悔告诉她们这件事了。毕竟，老板为何如此相待我也莫名其妙。在此之前，他还从未留意过我。不过，他倒是注意到了我洒的香水。我后来洒的是诱人牌香水。

argue: vi. 争论, 辩论
behave: vi. 举动, 表现
the perfume I had been wearing:
我一直用的/擦的香水
intrigue: n. 阴谋, 诡计 (此处为香水名)

NOTES