

外研社·剑桥英语分级读物 (英汉对照)

# A Love for Life

Penny Hancock

4 生命之爱

外语教学与研究出版社  
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外研社·剑桥英语分级读物(基训对照)

Level 6

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## 生命之爱

Penny Hancock (英) 著

黎松峭 译

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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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# Characters

**Fanella:** an editor in a publishing company.

**Steven:** Fanella's ex-boyfriend.

**Ellie:** a five-year-old girl.

**Teresa:** Fanella's best friend.

**Paulo:** Teresa's husband.

**Timothy:** Teresa and Paulo's son.

**Mark:** a friend of Paulo's.

**Rod:** Ellie and Timothy's teacher.

**Leah:** Rod's wife.

**Mrs Grey:** the headmistress at Rod's school.

**Mr Simpson:** Rod and Leah's neighbour.

**Norma:** a woman who looks after Ellie.

**Dan:** a boy in Ellie and Timothy's class at school.

**Mrs Bedrock:** Dan's mother.

## 书中人物

法内拉：一个出版公司的编辑

史蒂文：法内拉的前男友

埃利：一个5岁的小姑娘

特里萨：法内拉最好的朋友

保罗：特里萨的丈夫

蒂莫西：特里萨和保罗的儿子

马克：保罗的一个朋友

罗德：埃利和蒂莫西的老师

利厄：罗德的妻子

格雷夫人：罗德学校的校长

辛普森先生：罗德和利厄的邻居

诺尔马：一个照看埃利的妇女

丹：埃利和蒂莫西班上的一个男孩

贝德罗克夫人：丹的母亲



## Chapter 1    *It's over*

'Teresa, I wondered if I could come round to see you. Something's happened.'

It was eight o'clock on a Monday evening. It wasn't the best time to telephone a friend with a young child. But this was a crisis and Fanella needed to speak to Teresa urgently.

'Of course you can come round,' said Teresa, 'if you don't mind giving Timothy a good night kiss. He'd be furious if he thought you'd been here and he hadn't seen you.'

Fanella smiled, swallowing back tears. She loved Teresa's little boy, but right now it was going to be difficult to see him. 'I'll be there in about ten minutes,' she said.

'Good,' said Teresa. 'See you soon then.' Fanella pushed her bike round to the front of her small house. She cycled across Cambridge, avoiding tourists and students as she went, unable to share the happy atmosphere everyone else seemed to be enjoying. The river was alive with boats, the grass full of people picnicking. It was June and the time for end-of-term dances and university ceremonies.

Fanella envied the younger people. They had so few worries. She was trying to fight back the tears that had threatened her all day at work, and were now clouding her eyes as she cycled.

She rang on Teresa's smart brass doorbell, parking her bike by the side of the large house.

'Come in,' said Teresa, opening the door. Her long

## 第一章

### 分手

“特里萨,我不知道能否去见你。这儿发生了一些事。”

这是一个星期一晚上的8点钟。在这个时候,给一个带着小孩的朋友打电话不太合适。可这是个紧要时刻,而且法内拉迫切地需要和特里萨谈谈。

“你当然可以过来,”特里萨说,“如果你不介意给蒂莫西一个晚安之吻的话。如果他认为你来这儿而他没见到你,他会生气的。”

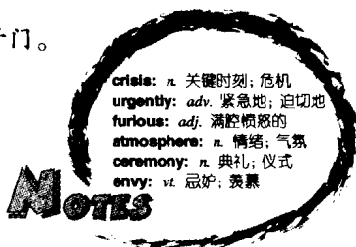
法内拉笑了,忍住了泪水。她爱特里萨的男孩,但现在要去见他很难。“10分钟左右我会到你家,”她说。

“好的,”特里萨说。“那一会儿见。”法内拉把她的自行车推到小屋前。她骑车穿过剑桥,一路上她避开游人和学生,没有心情分享其他人似乎都在享受的欢乐氛围。河里有船,并且热闹非凡,草地上到处都是野餐的人们。此时正值6月,也是期末舞会和大学毕业典礼的大好时期。

法内拉很嫉妒这些年轻人。他们没有太多的烦恼。她试图忍住泪水,这眼泪威胁着她整日的工作,现在她一边骑车,一边泪眼朦胧。

她把车子停靠在特里萨家的大房子边,然后按响了她家漂亮的黄铜门铃。

“进来吧,”特里萨说着打开门。



brown hair was piled on top of her head, and as usual she was dressed in jeans and a T-shirt. 'I think Timothy's still awake, and I promised you'd go up and say good night.'

Teresa always talked about her son before anything else. Fanella was used to it. She smiled and went straight up the stairs to the little boy's bedroom.

Timothy was lying in his bed flying imaginary aeroplanes through the air.

'I've come to say good night,' said Fanella, sitting down on his bed and thinking how much she liked him.

He looked so lovable, under the sheets in his clean pyjamas. The curtains were pulled to keep the summer evening light out.

'Is Mummy going out?' he asked. Fanella often looked after Timothy when his mother and father went out.

'Not tonight.' Fanella smiled. 'I've come to see your mummy. We're both here this evening.'

'Then I've got two mummies today,' he said, and Fanella laughed.

'I'm not your mummy,' said Fanella. 'I'm your special grown-up friend.'

'Whose mummy are you?' asked Timothy suddenly.

'Nobody's,' said Fanella, afraid the tears would start rolling down her cheeks again.

'Why not?' asked Timothy.

'Well, not all grown-ups are somebody's mummy,' began Fanella, feeling this whole subject was too much for her right now. 'Some grown-ups choose not to have children, and some grown-ups want to have children, but they can't.'

'Do you want to have children?' asked Timothy.

'Yes, I do, very much,' said Fanella, thinking how strange

她长长的褐色头发挽在头顶上,和平常一样,她穿着牛仔褲和T恤衫。“我想蒂莫西还醒着,而且我向他保证你会上楼和他说晚安。”

特里萨总是在谈其他事之前先谈起她的儿子。法内拉已经习惯了。她笑了,直接上楼走向小男孩的卧室。

蒂莫西正躺在床上,模仿着飞机在空中飞行的样子。

“我来和你说声晚安,”法内拉边说边坐到他的床边,想着她是多么喜欢他。

他穿着睡衣盖着被单,看起来如此可爱。卧室的窗帘被拉上了,用来遮挡夏日的余辉。

“妈咪要出门吗?”他问。当他的父母外出时,法内拉经常来照看他。

“今晚不,”法内拉笑了。“我是来看你妈咪的。今晚我们都在这儿。”

“那么,今天晚上我就有两个妈咪了,”他说,法内拉笑了。

“我不是你的妈咪,”法内拉说道。“我是你特殊的成人朋友。”

“那你谁的妈咪呢?”蒂莫西突然问。

“谁的都不是,”法内拉说,恐怕眼泪又要顺着她的脸颊而下了。

“为什么不是?”蒂莫西问。

“呃,不是所有的成年人都是别人的妈咪,”法内拉开始说道,感觉这所有的问题现在对她来说都显得太多了。“一些成年人选择不要小孩子,而一些成年人想要小孩子,但他们却不能。”

“你想要孩子吗?”蒂莫西问。

“是的,我想,非常想,”法内拉说,

pyjamas: n. 睡衣裤  
grown-up: adj. 长大的;  
成年的 n. 成年人

NOTES

it was that Timothy wanted to talk about this today of all days. 'Now it's time you went to sleep, and I'm going to go and talk to your mummy.'

Timothy put his arms up and Fanella leant over and kissed him on the cheek. Then he shut his eyes and began to breathe deeply. It was very pleasing, Fanella thought, when a little child trusted you enough to go to sleep in your presence.

She went down the stairs and into the kitchen where Teresa was putting dishes into the dishwasher. Fanella thought Teresa was so lucky. She had this large beautiful house, a happy marriage and a lovely little boy. But because Teresa was such a good friend, it was difficult to feel envious.

Fanella's own home was quite different. She loved where it was, in a busy area of the city. There was an Asian grocer's nearby, selling all kinds of food, and a pub at the end of the road.

But Fanella's house was tiny and she and Steven had done all the interior decoration themselves. In contrast to Teresa's soft shades of cream and natural wood, Fanella and Steven had gone a bit wild and had painted every room a bright colour, according to the mood they wanted to create. And always, in the back of Fanella's mind, had been the thought that one day, the little second bedroom would become her child's bedroom – the child she and Steven were going to adopt.

'Sit down,' said Teresa, waving a hand at the kitchen table. 'What would you like? Tea? Or something stronger?'

'Tea would be lovely,' said Fanella. 'I haven't had a thing since I got back from work.'

心想这些天来蒂莫西今天才要谈论这事是多么奇怪。“现在该是你睡觉的时候了,我也要去和你妈咪谈谈。”

蒂莫西伸出双臂,法内拉倾身吻了吻他的脸颊。然后他闭上眼睛开始深呼吸。法内拉想,一个孩子因对你足够信任而在你面前安然睡去是令人非常高兴的事情。

地下楼走进厨房,特里萨正在那儿把盘碟放入洗碗机里。法内拉想特里萨是多么的幸福啊。她拥有这幢漂亮的房子,一个美满的婚姻和一个可爱的小男孩。但因为特里萨是这样好的一个朋友,想感到嫉妒却很难。

法内拉自己的房子却不十分一样,她喜欢房子的地理位置,在该市的一个闹市区。附近有一家亚洲食品杂货店,里面出售各种各样的食品,路的尽头有一家小酒馆。

但法内拉的房子很小,而且是她和史蒂文自己装修的。与特里萨家柔和的奶油色油漆和自然木制品相反,法内拉和史蒂文有点疯狂地、随心所欲地把每间房子都刷成了明亮的色彩。在法内拉脑海深处已经有了这个想法,楼上那间小小的卧室有一天会成为她和史蒂文将要领养的女孩子的卧室。

“坐吧,”特里萨边说边伸手向厨房的桌边让着。“你喜欢什么?茶还是酒?”

“茶会好些,”法内拉说。“自从下班后我就没有吃过任何东西。”

## NOTES

in sb's presence: 当着某人;  
有某人在场  
interior: n. 内部  
decoration: n. 装饰; 装潢  
in contrast to sb./sth.:  
与某人/某物相比  
adopt: vt. 收养某人

‘Have something to eat,’ said Teresa. ‘There’s some lasagne in the oven. Paulo’s had to work late this evening. He just phoned to say he’d get something to eat on the way home.’

‘No, thank you,’ said Fanella. ‘I couldn’t eat anything. Just tea, thanks.’

‘So,’ said Teresa sitting down beside her friend, ‘what’s happened?’

Fanella took a deep breath. She wanted to tell Teresa the whole story without crying. But she could only manage two words. ‘Steven’s left,’ she said.

‘Left?’ Teresa was horrified.

Fanella looked at her friend, and nodded. She swallowed hard.

‘I can’t believe it,’ said Teresa. ‘You two were so much in love. You could see it. Everyone could see it. What do you mean he’s left?’

‘Left,’ repeated Fanella. ‘He’s moved out. He’s gone to live in London. We’ve finished. Broken up. It’s over.’

Teresa looked genuinely upset. ‘What happened? When?’

‘It’s been going on for some time, actually,’ said Fanella, feeling relieved now she had told Teresa. ‘He’s been seeing another woman. I don’t think he really loves her or anything, but we’ve both been under so much stress with trying to adopt a child – I think he just cracked. This other woman was an escape route.’

‘My goodness!’ Teresa sat, not knowing what to say. This really had come as a shock to her. ‘What . . . what about the adoption?’ she asked, at last.

‘It looks like that’s out of the question now, doesn’t it?’

“吃些东西吧，”特里萨说。“烤箱里有一些卤汁面条。保罗今晚得工作到很晚。他刚才打电话说他会回来的路上吃些东西。”

“不，谢谢，”法内拉说。“我什么都不想吃，喝些茶就行了，多谢。”

“那么，”特里萨边说边坐到她朋友的身旁，“发生了什么事？”

法内拉深吸了一口气。她不想哭着告诉特里萨整个事情的经过。但努力之后她却只说出了几个字。“史蒂文走了，”她说。

“走了？”特里萨惊讶道。

法内拉看着她的朋友，点了点头。她抽泣得厉害起来。

“我不敢相信，”特里萨说道。“你们两个如此相爱，你明白这一点，每个人都明白这一点。你说他走了是什么意思？”

“走了，”法内拉重复道。“他搬走了，他搬到伦敦去住了。我们已经完了，分手了，结束了。”

特里萨看起来真的着急了。“发生了什麼？什么时候发生的？”

“事实上，这事发生了已有一段时间了，”法内拉说道，告诉特里萨后她现在感觉轻松了许多。“他看上了另外一个女人。我想他并不真正地爱她或她的任何东西，可是我们都承受着想领养一个孩子的重大压力——我想他只是退却了。这个女人是他逃避的一个途径。”

“天啊！”特里萨坐在那里不知道该说些什么。这对她来说真是一个令人震惊的消息。“那么……领养方面怎么样了？”她终于问道。

“这件事现在看起来根本不可能了，不是吗？”法内拉边

horrified: *adj.* 震惊的  
break up: 绝交  
genuinely: *adv.* 真实地；确实  
relieved: *adj.* 如释重负的  
crack: *vi.* 支持不住  
out of the question: 不可能的

NOTES



said Fanella, holding her mug of tea tightly. 'The social services make it difficult enough to adopt a child when you're in a steady relationship. When they witness the relationship fall apart before their eyes, I expect they reject you immediately.'

Teresa couldn't help thinking this was probably true. She tried to think of some words of comfort for her friend, but found it difficult to know what to say. 'Fanella,' she sighed at last. 'I'm sorry. I'm truly sorry.'

'It's OK,' said Fanella. 'I just needed to be with someone this evening.'

'When did Steven leave?' asked Teresa.

'This morning. He came back last night from her house and told me he was moving in with her,' Fanella answered.

'Didn't he give you any warning at all?'

'Well, actually I knew about the other woman,' Fanella said. 'I've known for a few weeks. He started staying in London more and more. I guessed something was going on and I asked him. He said he was trying to stop the affair. I really believed him. He said it was one of those things that was difficult to end because he didn't want to hurt her. She's younger. She's only twenty-one, not ready to settle down or anything, and she doesn't want children yet. It's strange because, like me, Steven wanted children so badly. We were so close to getting one.'

Teresa looked at her friend and passed her a tissue. She knew all about the pain Fanella had gone through since she discovered she couldn't have her own children. Steven had been very understanding about it. He had moved in with Fanella and had lived with her for a few years before they decided to try to adopt a child.