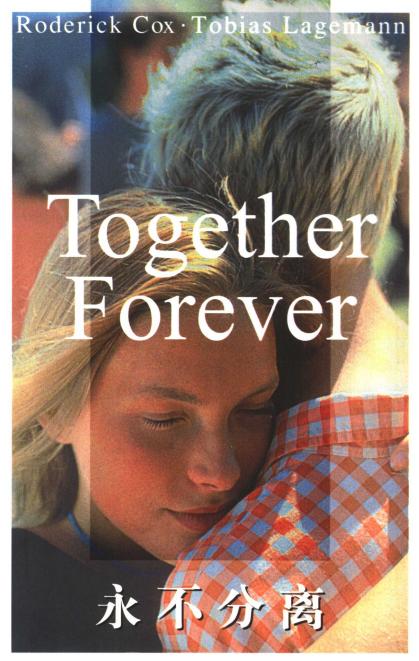
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Together Forever

永不分离

by

Roderick Cox and Tobias Lagemann

张 婴 审校

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CONTENTS

Chapter One	•••••	l
Chapter Two		10
Chapter Three		20
Chapter Four		31
Chapter Five		41

CHAPTER ONE

"Hallo, everybody, on this hot, hot day. It's three o'clock and it's very sunny. And it's going to stay like this. Just right for the weekend. And what's on Radio Chester this afternoon? It's our **drugs** special, with lots and lots of information about drugs and how to stay away from them. Because you all know, drugs can kill. Here's a song about this, *Julie's in the drug squad*, from our old friends, The Clash."

drug[drʌg]n. 毒品 squad[skwəd] n. 班,小组

It wasn't very busy at *Stringers Restaurant* on this Friday afternoon. It really was terribly hot. Nobody wanted to eat hamburgers. But on the other side of the road, outside *McFarlane's Ice-Cream*, there were long **queues** of students from Brookland School. They all wanted to eat a cool ice-cream – and not a hot hamburger! Claire Hall knew how they felt. But she had to wait another two hours till she finished work. And when she had finished work, her weekend – and her holiday – could start. Claire was very excited.

queue[kju:]n. 长队,行列

"Hi, Claire!" Somebody tapped her on the shoulder. Claire turned around.

"It's me, Andy, Andrew Wilson. Remember?"

"Yes, of course. Sorry. You surprised me," Claire said. "I was thinking about things."

Andy was an old friend from long ago.

"What were you thinking about?" asked Andy.

"My holiday," said Claire.

tap[tæp] v. 轻 拍 turn around [tə:n ə'raund] 转身



"Are you going on holiday?" asked Andy.

"I told you last month."

"I remember now. You said you were going to France."

Claire laughed. "Oh, Andy, not France. I'm going to Germany.

I want to visit my father. He lives in Cologne."

"Now, young man, what would you like to eat?" It was Mr Stringer, the **owner** of the restaurant.

"Hamburger and chips, please," said Andrew.

Claire went a little red. Mr Stringer paid her to ask the customers what they wanted to eat.

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"Can I buy you a cola?" Andrew asked Claire.

"No, thank you. I have to work," Claire said. "Maybe when I've finished."

"It's OK, Claire," said Mr Stringer. "It's your last day today. You can finish now. And we aren't **exactly** the busiest place in town this afternoon." Mr Stringer looked sadly across the street to *McFarlane's Ice-Cream*.

owner [ˈəunə] n. 主人

exactly [igˈzæktli] adv. 正是 "Thank you, Mr Stringer," said Claire and smiled. She sat down with Andy at a table near the window.

"That was a great match," Andy said.

"Yes, it was," Claire said. She had seen Andy at the big match, Manchester City against Manchester United.

"Here you are, young man, your hamburger and chips," said Mr Stringer. "And your cola, Claire."

"Thank you, Mr Stringer," said Claire.

"Do you still have your motor bike?" asked Andrew.

"Of course!" said Claire and smiled. After the match she had really enjoyed showing Andrew her motor bike. It wasn't a new bike, but it was her first bike. And that's always something special. Her Uncle Harry had lent her the money for it and she had had to **promise** to work in the school holidays.

"If you want something, you have to work for it," Uncle Harry had said.

"Are you going to France on your motor bike?"

"Andy, I'm not going to France, I'm going to Germany. I'm going to visit my father. I've just told you that."

"Yes, I'm sorry, Claire."

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"Are you OK?" asked Claire.

Her old friend really didn't look good. He was **pale** and his hands were **shaking**.

"I'm OK," said Andy. "I just have to go to the **toilet** – now!" Claire watched him walk away from the table. He was so **thin**.

The two young people sat for an hour in *Stringers*. Andrew Wilson **ordered** some more chips.

"I just love chips," he said and laughed.

They talked a lot about Claire's trip to Germany.

"It must be fun to travel so far on a motor bike," said Andrew.
"Yes, I'm really excited," said Claire.

Manchester
['mæntʃistə]
n. 曼 彻 斯 特
(英国城市)
motor bike
['məutə baik]
n. 摩托车

promise ['promis] v. 许 诺

pale [peil] adj. 苍白的 shake [ʃeik] ν. 晃动,抖动 toilet ['tɔilit] n. 厕所 thin [θin] adj. 瘦的 ordered ['ɔːdə] ν. 点(菜,饮料等)

via vaiə prep. 取道 Hull[hAl]赫尔 (英国港市) Dover['dəuvə] (英国港市) 多佛 Rotterdam ['rɔtədæm] 鹿 特丹(荷兰港市) Cologne ['kələun]科隆 (德国城市) ferry ['feri] n. 渡船 old-fashioned [buld 'fæʃənd] 老式的,传统 式的 Channel Tunnel ['tfænl 'tAnl] 英吉利海峡隧 渞 courier['kuriə] n. 信使,送急 件人 strange streind3

it was an exciting trip 那的确是一次令人激动的旅行

adi. 奇怪的

"How are you travelling to Germany? Via Hull or via Dover? If you go via Hull, your journey in England isn't so long, but it's a 14-hour crossing from Hull to Rotterdam. But from Rotterdam it isn't too far to Cologne."

"You know a lot about **ferries**." Claire was surprised *how* much he knew.

- "You told me all about them at the match," Andy said.
- "Did I?" asked Claire.
- "Well? Which way are you going to Germany?"
- "Via Dover, of course. I don't want to spend hours on a ferry. I want to ride my motor bike. And I'm going the **old-fashioned** way, by ferry, not through the boring **Channel Tunnel**. I'm leaving at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning."

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- "So you're going via Dover. Are you...?"
- "Look, Andy," Claire said. "You've been here for more than an hour and we've only talked about my trip. What about you? How are you? Did you get the new job you were telling me about at the match?"
- "Yes, I got the job."
- "And what do you do? You didn't want to tell me last month."
 "Oh, nothing special. I'm a courier."
- "At one of those firms like USP? Or NTT?"
- "Well, it's something like that. But it's a little different." Before Claire could ask more questions about the strange courier's job, Andrew got up.
- "I'm sure we'll meet again soon," he said and paid for his food and Claire's cola. Before she could say thank you, he had walked out of the restaurant.
- "He's a strange young man," Mr Stringer said, when Claire got her things from the office behind the restaurant.
- "Yes, he is," was all Claire could answer. All the time he had only wanted to talk about her trip. Well, it was an exciting trip.

Through England from north to south, then **across** the Channel by ferry, and then all the way to Germany – on her motor bike! It was going to take all day.

across[əˈkrɔs] prep. 横过,穿 过

- "Say hallo to your father for me, please," said Mr Stringer as Claire left the restaurant. "When's he going to come back and visit his home town again? He hasn't been to Chester for a long time."
 - "Next year perhaps," said Claire. "He has to work so much, he never has time for a holiday."
- "Yes, Charlie always worked a lot," said Mr Stringer.
 - "Goodbye, Mr Stringer. I'll see you after my holiday."
 - "Goodbye, Claire."

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Claire got on her motor bike. She called it "Susie", a good name for a Suzuki 250. She put on her helmet and zipped up her leather jacket. Then she rode home. "Susie" felt fantastic today.

As she turned into Elm Road, Mr Hitchcock waved to her. The old man spent all day in his garden. Sometimes he just sat in a chair, at other times – very often really – he mowed the lawn. And every Sunday he worked on his roses. Claire was surprised that the flowers hadn't died yet.

"Mum!" Claire shouted as she walked into the house. She could smell food. Claire thought it was chilli con carne. What was her mother thinking of? On this hot day a fruit salad was much better.

"Mum!" she shouted again.

Nobody answered. The house was empty. Claire opened the kitchen door.

"Surprise, surprise!" Sharon and Dave were in the kitchen and

['helmit] n. 头 zip [zip] v. 拉 上拉链 leather jacket [ˈleðə ˈdʒækit] 皮夹克 fantastic 「fæn'tæstik] 美 妙的,好的 wave weiv v. 挥手示意 mow∫məu]v. lawn [loin] n. 草坪 smell $\lceil \text{smel} \rceil \nu$. 闻到 chilli con carne 墨西哥辣味牛 肉豆

helmet

shade [feid] n. 阴影,阴凉处 in spite [spait] of 尽管 barbecue [barbikju;] n. 烤肉架 jacket potato dzækit dz pəˈteitəu] 连皮 烤的马铃薯 sausage səsida n. 香 肠,腊肠 future | fju:t[a] n. 未来 continue kən tinjuz ν. 继续 education edju'keifən n. 教育 college [ˈkəlidʒ] n. 大 学,学院 Birmingham [menimied] 伯明翰(英国 城市) mechanic [mi'kænik] n. 机械工,机修工 secretarial course sekra tearial ka:s]秘书课程

Asif and his girlfriend Nasreen too. Evan was there, and her new friends from the motor bike club Kevin and Georgina. And of course her brother Tom. There was a poster on the kitchen wall. "HAVE A GOOD TRIP!" it said. Claire's mother was standing behind all the young people.

"I don't know what to say," said Claire. "What a fantastic surprise! I just don't know what to say."

Everybody laughed. "Let's go into the garden," said Mrs Hall.

They all helped to carry the food into the garden. Then they sat down at the garden table in the **shade** of the big tree that Claire had watched growing outside her bedroom window over the last seven years. In spite of the terribly hot weather, they were having Claire's favourite meal, chilli con carne. On the barbecue were Claire's other favourites, jacket potatoes and sausages.

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There was lots and lots of talking in the Halls' garden on this super summer Friday evening. They talked about Claire's trip to Germany, of course. But the young people talked about their plans for the **future** too. Claire was going to **continue** her **education** at Chester Sixth Form **College**. Dave was going to go to Midland College in **Birmingham**. He wanted to be a car **mechanic**. His girlfriend Sharon was going to start a **secretarial course** at Chester College. And Asif and Evan were starting at the police college in Manchester.

"Will you have enough time for your running, Asif?" asked Georgina.

"Sport is very important for police officers," Asif explained.

"But I'm sure you have to learn so much if you want to be a police officer. All those rules and laws."

Asif laughed. "You all know I can learn faster than I can run."

"And you can run very, very fast," said Kevin.

Asif was the best 800 metre runner in Chester. He was usually in the first five at the **junior national championships**. His **coaches** were sure that their "boy" was going to win an **Olympic medal** one day. Asif wasn't so sure. That's why he was starting his training at the police college.

"When I'm older and can't run, I'll have a job," he had told his friends when they were all still at school.



It was a long evening. When Claire went to bed, it was almost 11 pm. But her **panniers** were already **packed**. She was glad that she had listened to her mother and had packed her things for the journey two days earlier.

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junior national championships ['dʒuːnjə 'næfənəl 'tfæmpjənfips] 国家青少年锦标赛 coach [kəutʃ] n. 教练 Olympic medal [əu'limpik 'medl] 奥林匹克奖牌

pannier ['pæniə] n. 驮篮 pack [pæk] v. 捆扎,打包

When Claire got up at 5:15 the next morning, she was still very happy.

"I'm leaving soon," she thought.

Her mother was already waiting in the kitchen.

"Oh, Claire, my little girl, time goes so quickly."

Claire looked at the kitchen clock.

"It's OK, Mum. I have another thirty minutes."

"No, no, I don't mean that."

"I know, Mum."

"You're so grown-up," said Mrs Hall.

Claire laughed. "Oh, Mum. I'm not really grown-up."

Mrs Hall took Claire in her arms.

"My little girl, my little Claire.

At 6 o'clock Claire started her motor bike. As she rode out of Elm Road and turned into Woodlake Road, Mr Hitchcock waved to her. Claire was surprised that her neighbour was in his garden so early. She had never seen him at this time before. She made the motor bike **roar** goodbye to Mr Hitchcock. In her mirror she could see that he was still waving. The old neighbour had got up early just for her. She had **tears** in her eyes.

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"Silly wind!" she thought, as she rode away from her home.

The first part of her long journey was through Chester's city centre. There wasn't much happening at 6 o'clock in the morning. All the shops were still closed. Two young men were waiting for a bus. They looked very tired. Claire **wondered** if they had got up early or if they hadn't been to bed yet after a long night in one of Chester's clubs.

"Goodbye, Chester," said Claire.

grown-up
['grəun ʌp]
adj. 成人的,成
熟的
little['litl] adj.
小的,幼小的

roar [ro:] v. 轰鸣 tear [tiə] n. 眼泪

wonder ['wʌndə] v. 想 知道 Five minutes later Chester was behind her. The A51 road towards the M6 motorway was empty. But near the bridge over the Shropshire Union Canal Claire saw a big motor bike next to the road. For a terrible moment she thought there had been an accident. But then she **realised** that the machine was still standing. It wasn't lying on the ground.

Claire rode onto the M6 motorway. "South: Birmingham, London," the sign said. All the way to Birmingham she thought about the big motor bike on the A51. Perhaps the **rider** had felt ill. Perhaps he had got off his bike and **collapsed** next to the road. How terrible!

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But then near Birmingham the traffic got really bad. And Claire forgot the strange motor bike.

motorway ['mautawei] n. 汽车道, 快 车道 canal [kəˈnæl] n. 运河 Shropshire Union Canal 什 罗普郡联合 运河 realise [ˈriəlaiz] v. 认 识到 rider['raidə] n. 驾驶者 collapse kə'læps vi. 倒塌:崩溃

CHAPTER TWO

Claire sang an old song —"Born to be wild"— as she roared southeast along the M6 motorway. She was happy. She was going on holiday. On her own motor bike. She had worked hard for it these last two months. Six days a week, eight hours a day, with a two-hour break in the afternoon. It was harder than at school. She remembered that Uncle Harry had said that it was going to be just like that. "Claire," he had said, "you often **complain** about school, but you'll see that going to work is hard too."

In the two months at *Stringers Restaurant* there really had been days when she wanted to be back at school. There had even been days when Mrs Winch's PE lessons seemed better than the **dirty** dishes in Mr Stringer's kitchen. At times like that she had always thought about what she was working for. And suddenly everything was very easy.

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And now she was on her way. She was going to Germany on her own motor bike. And she had **earned** the money for the holiday herself! Claire had always loved travelling. As she came past the motorway sign for Alton Towers, she remembered the **roller coaster**, the **ghost** train and the fantastic big wheel there. Yes, Claire had always liked wheels.

Then she thought about all the other trips she had had with her parents. Before her parents had **divorced**, the Hall family had travelled to different places every weekend in the summer. They had often been walking in the Welsh mountains and swimming at the Welsh seaside. When Claire had first seen Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales, she had only been five years old.

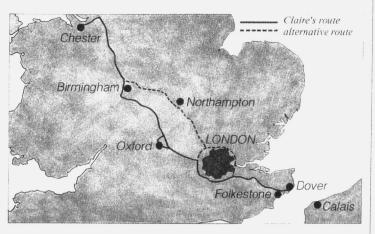
complain [kəmˈplcin] v. 抱怨

dirty [ˈdəːti] adj. 脏的

earn [əɪn] v. 挣钱

roller coaster ['rəulə 'kəustə]过山年 ghost [gəust] n. 鬼,幽灵 divorce [di'və:s] v. 离婚 The mountain had **seemed enormous** to her. She had travelled to Snowdon again on her first motor bike trip. The mountain was still enormous.

As Claire went past Birmingham on the M6 motorway, she thought of *Cadbury World*, the **exhibition** about chocolate at the famous chocolate factory in Birmingham. Claire had been seven years old when her father had said, "Would you like to see how they make chocolate, Claire?" What child could say "no" to a question like that? Claire's mother always liked to tell the story that Claire had had **toothache** for a week after the trip to *Cadbury World*.



Claire had planned her **route** carefully. There were two good routes from Birmingham to London, via **Northampton** or via **Oxford**. Claire wanted to have a break and something to eat in Oxford, one of her favourite English cities, so she turned off the M6 after Birmingham and onto the M42 and then onto the M40. At **Bicester** she left the motorway and turned onto the A34 to Oxford. Claire knew that it was a **detour** into Oxford,

seem[siːm] v. 看起来 enormous [i'nɔːməs] adj. 巨大的,庞 大的 exhibition [eksi'biʃən] n. 展览

toothache ['tu:θeik] n. 牙痛

route [ru:t] n. 路线 Northampton 北安普敦(英 国地名) Oxford ['ɔksfəd] 牛津 (英国城市) Bicester 比斯 特(英国地名) detour['dei:tuə] n. 弯路,迂回路

army [q:mi] n. 军队 autobahnen ['c:tə/bɑ:nən] n. 高速公路 autobahnpolizei 高速公路警察 局 park paik v. 停放 view [viu:] n. 景色 Thames [temz] n. 泰晤十河 university [ju:ni'və:siti] n. 大学(综合 性) check[tfek]v. 检查 Cambridge ['keimbrida] n. 剑桥(英国 城市) Calais ['kælei] n. 加来(法国 港市) ring[rin] around 环绕

Folkestone 福 克斯通(英国 城市) but Uncle Harry had told her, "Motorways can make you very tired. They're fast, but very boring. You need a good break. And don't go to one of those motorway cafés, where you'll just sit and think about motorways!"

Uncle Harry knew all about motor bikes and motorways. He had learned to ride a motor bike when he was in the army in Germany. He loved to tell Claire about the German Autobahnen and his "friends", the Autobahnpolizei!

Claire parked her motor bike in Oxford city centre and had a sandwich in a little café with a nice view of the river. What was its name? There were two rivers in Oxford. Was this the River Thames? Ten years ago her father had taken her to see this university town with its colleges that were hundreds of years old. While she checked her motor bike before she left town, she remembered that he had told her that students in Oxford liked to call their big rival Cambridge "The Other Place". Claire had to get to another place now – to Dover for the 13:15 ferry to Calais.

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She got back on the M40 motorway towards London and 20 miles outside the city centre she turned onto the M25, the motorway **ring around** London, the world's longest ring road. There was lots of traffic, but it was still faster than going through the centre of London. And Claire didn't feel safe enough on her motor bike to find her way through the city of 7 million people – without having an accident with one of them. Claire remembered that Londoners often crossed the road where they wanted to!

After an hour on the M25 Claire turned onto the M20. "Channel Tunnel, Dover," the sign said. Just before **Folkestone** she went past the enormous Channel Tunnel station, where cars were

waiting to drive onto the special trains that went through the tunnel to France in only half an hour. Ten minutes later she saw Dover **Castle** and the White Cliffs. And then the road went past the centre of the small town to Britain's busiest passenger port.

It was 12:30. Perfect timing! Claire got into the queue for the 13:15 ferry to Calais. On this Saturday morning all the people in south-east England seemed to be on their way to Calais. British people loved to go to Calais to buy the things that were cheaper there than in Britain. There were British supermarkets in Calais that sold wine, cigarettes – and British beer! Claire wasn't interested in those things, but she remembered the other things she had enjoyed on family trips to Britain's nearest neighbour – baguettes, orange lemonade and Camembert cheese.

But there was no time today to buy cheese when she got to the other side of the Channel. It was 250 miles, no, she had to think in kilometres now, 400 kilometres, from Calais to Cologne.

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The crossing to Calais went much too fast for Claire. Like many of the other people on the ferry she stood on the deck and took photos as "The Duchess of Kent" started its journey. She looked back towards the White Cliffs of Dover and the small town under the cliffs that had already been an important port over two thousand years ago, when the Romans were in Britain. She watched as Britain got smaller and smaller and the seagulls flew above the ferry. Then she went to the restaurant and had her last English meal for some time; fish and chips.

castle ['kg:sl] n. 城堡 baguette [bæˈqet] n. 法 国棍子面包 lemonade [lema neid] n. 柠檬水 Camembert 法 基贝尔(法国 地名) cheese [tfi:z] n. 乳酪 crossing ['krosin] n. 横渡 deck [dek] n. 甲板 The Duchess of Kent ['dAtsis] [kent] 肯特郡 公爵夫人号 Roman rəumən n. 古罗马人 seagulls $\begin{bmatrix} signl \\ n \end{bmatrix}$ 海鸥 flew [flu;] v. 飞、飞行(fly

的过去式)