

我的青春 在飞扬

——一位国际交换生的心理嬗变

冯萍
著

每一个故事都能点缀一段人生，每一段人生都有一种温馨的回忆，每一次回忆都会开启一回难得的开悟，每一次开悟都会充满成长的喜悦。那些温暖而纯美的故事宛如一盏又一盏柔和的灯光，照耀着我们青春的心房，**让青春的心灵渐趋成熟，让青春梦想随之飞扬。**

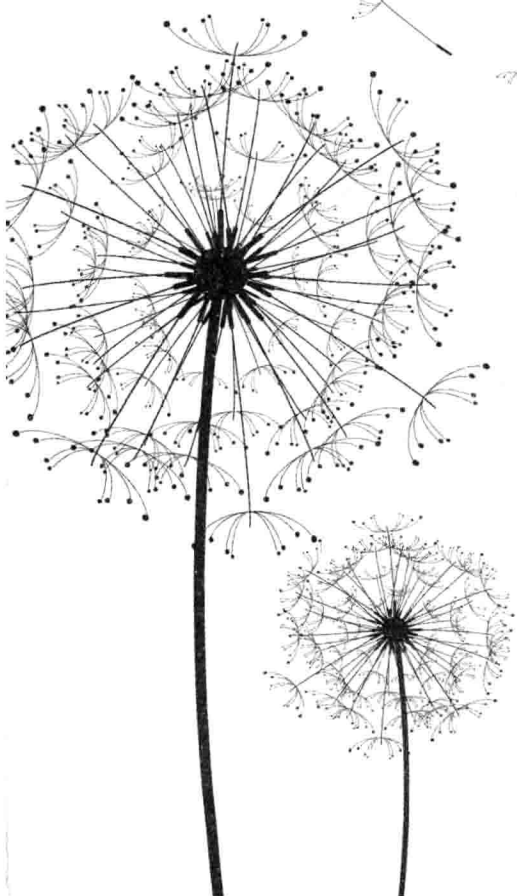


西南交通大学出版社

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• 成都 •



一生之中，总会有一些际遇在改变着我们。或是遇到挫折，从此一蹶不振；或是坦途一片，春风得意；或是有知音相伴，高山流水；或是错失良缘，茕茕孑立。有些经历，仿佛有上帝在主宰，瞬间就颠覆了你的世界观，改变了你的命运。

对于我来说，在波兰做交换生的经历是刻骨铭心的。不仅仅因为这是我第一次出国，第一次亲身感受外面的世界，了解欧洲的风土人情，而且还因为这次经历激发了我的自省，磨练了我的心性，在我易碎的心外面包裹了一层坚韧的防护膜，使我不再如从前那般容易担忧和受伤。这种改变已经融入了我的血液，于是，在我追求梦想、追求爱情的时候不会再犹豫彷徨、瞻前顾后；同时，又能尽量保持最初的自我，不让自己在种种改变中迷失。如今，我又一次来了波兰，在华沙大学读国际关系。坐在红色的电车里，看着窗边不断移动的世界，一切都是那么熟悉而又陌生。第一次踏上这片土地时新奇的感觉犹在脑海，这种感觉把我的过去和现在连接在了一起。所不同的是，现在的我，多了一分老成。

本书为纪实体小说，取材于本人在波兰做交换生期间的亲身经历。作为一个小女生，第一次出门远游，面临的困难可想而知。然而自己的心中有一团火，向往着探索未知的一切。在波兰，第一次觉得爱情就像刺猬，很可能把人弄得遍体鳞伤；第一次发现中外朋友之间，很多时候实际上并没有太大的交流障碍；第一次看到欧洲巴洛克、哥特式的建筑，体会到伟大建筑师高迪所带来的震撼；作为一个北方女孩，第一次看到了大海，并在那片无边无际的、深蓝色的世界里，让自己的思绪飘得很远很远……

一直想把自己的这段经历，以及在其间的所思所感记录下来，一方面作为青春的永久纪念，另一方面也希望与年轻的朋友们分享。于是，有了这本小书。

由于时间和水平的限制，书中不妥之处在所难免，欢迎读者朋友们批评指正。

冯 萍

2014年9月于波兰华沙

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Part One

Unexpected Opportunity

I still remember it was on the interview when I first met the other four girls who would go with me to Poland as exchange students. At that time, we didn't talk with each other too much, but just said hi to each other. They were from the same university, and to them I was an outsider.

I still remember my shyness when I began to talk with them. I was afraid of being looked down upon, because my school was just a branch of their school.

I was afraid that they were prejudiced, as others in the society, judging one's ability by the diploma he/she got.

Tian Shu asked in surprise, "Your name is Zhang Xiang?"

"Yes, what is the matter?" My face was as red as a lobster.

"Ah, I heard your name was mentioned by the Writing teacher many times in the class. She said that you were talented in writing. I was wondering what the real person would look like, and finally I meet you."

Being very flattered, I responded, "Thanks, but I thought what I wrote was totally nonsense."

"No, I am telling the truth." Tian Shu shook her head. "I adore you for your courage. You dare to write, while we don't even try. Maybe I should learn from you in the future."

"Thanks." I said briefly.

Again, "Learn from me." I felt very uneasy with these words, and I didn't know whether I should be happy or not. Most of the people respected me because of my strong academic performance. What would happen if I became ordinary and exposed my weakness in front of others? Though these qualities gave me chances to meet more people, they also made it difficult to know if those people really valued me. They were used to the mask I wore, without caring about what I was really suffering or what I was thinking.

But I still wore a stiff "mask" smile on the face, wrote down their phone

numbers, and went away.

I was waiting for the further news from my school at home. In fact, this was really a big decision for me. I never thought my future would be changed by the school I attended. I was used to the traditional way of receiving an education. To be honest, I did a really bad job on the college entrance exam. My university ranked far behind other universities in China, which meant I had to work hard to change my fate, and had to carefully weigh each of my choices.

I never thought I could have the opportunity of going abroad. To me, my life in the university was limited to classroom, canteen, and dormitory. One of my friends once said to me that I should not lead a boring life like this. He told me that people should find means to satisfy their desires, otherwise, they would regret never tasting the worldly happiness in the end. I was a little tempted by his words, but I had to make a wise choice. Enjoying the life needs financial support, but I was poor. So worldly desires had to wait behind.

Going abroad! I was a little afraid. I had never left home before. I was afraid that I could not get used to the life there. If so, I would waste time and money; this folly would be like building a castle in the air. Moreover, I was a junior this year and in over one year, there would be entrance exam for graduate students!

Roaming on the campus, I came across a lot of friends who asked me what I was doing these days, since I was not seen in the classroom. I did not know how to answer, because I was still hesitating at the cross of a road, afraid to make decisions.

I desperately needed to talk to others about my troubles. I asked one of my close friends, Liu Ling about her plans for the future. She said she wanted to be a teacher who taught foreigners Chinese.

"Do you want to go abroad?" I asked blankly.

"Of course, if only I could get such opportunity." She continued, "If we had a chance, we should grab it! Don't hesitate; just go for it."

She always liked lecturing on me. Before I was quite annoyed by her lectures, but at that time, I really appreciated her talking with me like this. I thought I might even miss her lectures when I was abroad. If I were to go abroad, the feeling would not be the same any more since she would not be there.

I began to worry again. Who knows what the future would be like? People change quickly. Maybe something would be gone before I realized.

Just then, my phone rang. It was from the teacher at the main campus. She told me that I was permitted to go to Poland as an exchange student. It was settled at last. No matter how uncertain I felt in my mind, I had to start my journey!

I knew that from that day on, my life was about to change.

Part Two

Exciting Experiences in Poland

1 The Arriving Day

After the security check, I boarded on the plane.

The other four girls were chatting happily and I was secretly meditating how the relationship with them would be going while hearing their conversation. Their silly jokes and absurd nonsense irritated me, because I was a kind of sour grapes. After two years' hard work, I had the least interest in girls' common topics like makeup, boyfriends, and gossips. Not humored enough, I was too lazy to reply these jokes; instead, I just sat there, listening. Their conversation went in one ear and out the other. Bored to death, I picked up my book, *the passage to India*, and began to read it. I kept wondering whether I could write a book *the passage to Poland* when I was back to China, and laughed myself at this idea.

This was my first time to travel on a plane for such a long time. Outside was total brightness. The sky appeared to me more than transparent image I held before, but a place with eternal brightness. Looking out through the window of the plane, I realized I got the chance to talk to the big, golden, and bright sun, because I was in the sky! All of a sudden, the plane passed through a few drifting clouds, which made the plane up and down, with my heart jumping up and down. I felt sick, and closed my eyes.

"Tea, or juice?"

I opened my eyes again. A beautiful lady in smart uniform stood in front of me, pushing the hand truck in the gangway. Her smiling face magically eased me of air sick.

"Juice, please." I answered merrily.

Then the lady gave me a bottle of juice, and some bread. I was upset again when I saw those sweet food. Leaving Chinese food for a few months, I was

upset that I would aggrieve my stomach for a few months, and I was more afraid that if I kept on eating sweetie everyday, My figure would be ruined. At that time, who would like me!

“Don’t eat the bread on the plane.” seeing I was about to enjoy the meal, Tian Shu warned me suddenly.

“Why?” I was a bit confused.

“Because once I saw a TV program at home. It said that bread on the plane was not fresh and healthy. And as we know, bread can only be eaten when it is fully baked.”

My happiness was suddenly gone, and I didn’t have the appetite any more. The more I stared at the bread, the weirder it seemed to me. On the one hand, it was my empty stomach for more than thirteen hours of journey; on the other hand, I wanted to keep a healthy diet. Suddenly, I had a vision that a fly smelt the bread, flew over, and hunted my bread. Airsick came back. I closed my eyes, and closed the window. I kept reasoning myself that there was no fly on the plane.

After a long time, I felt much better. Collecting myself, I decided to go on reading. But I was extremely tired. I found that an old lady sitting next to me was also reading a book. I wanted to practice my oral English, and began the conversation.

“Hello, are you going to Warsaw?” I asked in English.

She looked at me confusedly and said, “Nie rozumiem”

Ah, it must be Polish. I didn’t understand a single Polish word and smiled back awkwardly. She saw I smiled, and she also smiled back to me. I was much relieved.

This smile reminded me of something.

“Smile is the best language which could be understood all around the world.” Liu Ling kept telling me before I came abroad. “If you find that you lost your words or have some trouble in communication, just smile. It is a silent word which has the power to change the world.”

“The plane is getting off. Keep your seatbelt until the plane is fully stopped.”

I looked outside. There were seas of trees and buildings on the ground, and the scenery became clearer and clearer. The plane had already landed on the land of Europe. My heart beat fast. I took a deep breath, and followed the main stream

of the passengers out of the plane.

Everything was done. There was no going back. New life was waiting for me, and what I had to do was to embrace the changes. I looked around. Everything was new to me. Different customs, different people, different languages all regaled my sight. The wind blew a little hard at that time, but I felt it was the music that enchanted my ears because of excitement. We transferred to the intercity airplane to Rezcow, and on the plane a girl who spoke English told me that temperature in Poland varied greatly between day and night. Then she even asked me curiously whether there was snow in China, etc.

We arrived in Reszow in the late afternoon. Headmaster from UITM and a handsome Polish boy picked us up from the airport and drove us back to school hotel. The boy helped us to carry our big suitcases to the room we lived in, because none of us was strong enough to lift the suitcase upstare. I was a little shamed about this, because it showed our of physical exercise in our spare time, and we were spoiled children in the family. I made a determination that I would be a fully developed adult by exercising my body and mind later. But now, what I wanted was just a comfortable bed to rest, as I was tired because of jetlag.

I checked the time in China. It was the midnight there. Six hours' time difference. I was wondering the time difference among people's heart.

I got on line, hoping to see the messages of greetings. Ah, I was never disappointed. My vanity was greatly satisfied when I found friends all left messages to me, who sent me their best wishes, and also hoped me to take care of myself. My eyes were wet. I felt satisfied myself. Yes, only parting could tell us what the person around us meant. That was why we didn't want perfection, because imperfection could make life touching and charming. I laughed while trying to be serious.

Suddenly, the door of my room was opened. The cooking smell came to my nose, and I looked up searchingly. It was Tian Shu who came in with a plate in her hands. My eyelids jumped for joy, and my stomach ached for hunger. The food aroused my appetite.

"This is my cooking, in the style of my hometown. You have eaten nothing on the plane, and you must be hungry. Have a taste of my cooking."

"Thanks." In my heart, the flower of happiness began to blossom.

It smelled very nice. I looked at the food, which aroused my appetite, with

avaricious eyes. It was good to have food to eat when you were cold and hungry; especially the food was given by a friend. Our self-esteem won't be hurt by other's charity especially when our benefactors are friends, because we don't think they would laugh at us, or help us out of pity. We took friends' help for love. The cooking was typical southern Chinese food, with much sugar and pepper as seasoning.

At this time, Wu Xing rushed into my room. She saw the cooking in Tian Shu's hands, with flowing slaver. She grabbed the food away immediately. Her eyes sparkled wolfishly.

"I am hungry. Let me have a taste."

"Ok, no problem. You and Xiang can share it, but leave some to me. I haven't taste it yet."

"Ok" we said at the same time.

It was not a bad taste. To be exactly, for the first bite, I would rather say it was delicious. But the second bite was not so satisfying, because the food was a little greasy, because Tian Shu added too much spicy. Just as the life we were leading, it was good to have fun, but too much fun would weaken your will, and narrow your eyesight. I was also a food lover. However, this style was not my cup of tea. I pondered. I needed to learn to cook my own dinner, which fitted for my own appetite.

I announced "I will go to the supermarket."

"At this time? What are you going to do?" Wu Xing asked.

"I want to buy some ingredients and cook by myself."

"Ok, I will go with you." Wu Xing muttered with food in her mouth. By an accident, she dropped the plate on the ground. It was broken into pieces.

Tian Shu became dazed for a moment. After a few seconds, she realized what was happening, and shook with anger. The blue vein stood out on her temples. She cried in a hoarse voice, "Damn! Why are you so careless?"

I had never expected how funny Tian Shu looked like when she was in anger. It really

surprised me a lot that she could behave in such a bad temper towards her roommate just for a broken plate.

"I didn't even taste my own dish, but offered it to you. You didn't value it, and break the plate. What if the school leader asks us why we lost one plate?"

“I am sorry. I will go to supermarket with Xiang. I will cook for you and treat you a big feast. Moreover, I will buy a plate for you.” Wu Xing was very calm when saying those words.

I was studying Yang Xing’s face when she was talking all the time. It was really amusing. She spoke neither angrily nor excitedly. She was a good negotiator, who not only kept dignity herself, but also ease the tension of atmosphere by keeping faces of others.

An article that was titled “how to treat different kinds of people in different ways” occurred to me. It was said that the society’s happiness was influenced by individuals’s different value systems. However, it would be difficult to balance these values, so that many social skills and intelligence were needed in order to achieve the goal. These abilities were what I was lacking for now.

Tian Shu seemed to realize her rudeness, but she was too proud to apologize. She just said awkwardly “no, thanks. I will cook another meal myself. Well, one plate is nothing. Um, it is just a piece of cake!” She hurried out of the room without looking back. I couldn’t see her facial expression, but I heard Wu Xing giggle secretly.

2 *The First Class and First Party*

The layout of the school in Poland was totally different from that in China. In China, a school formed a whole closed system itself, in which students nearly spent the whole day on the campus. But the school in Poland was different. Different campuses scattered on different parts of city here and there. Our hotel was near the main campus, about 15 minutes' walk to the main campus.

To be honest, I was a little disappointed when I first saw the campus where we would have English classes. There was no big sports ground as a campus should have in my imagination, as it was located in the center of the city. I asked my mentor about whether other campus looked the same. He told me there was racetrack in another campus outside the city where lucky for us, we would have several classes in that campus. It took us two hours to get there by bus. My hope was aroused after hearing such words.

I longed to have the new classes in that campus day and night, hoping to see the racetrack.

It surprised me a lot when I saw the curriculum teacher sent to us. Unlike China's curriculum which was full of classes every day, we had a lot of free time during the whole semester. There were different forms of classes, including lectures, conservatory, practical class, laboratories. The class time was very flexible, and sometimes we were free the whole afternoon, while sometime, we even had classes at noon. In the whole week, there were only two or three days available for classes, though we had a lot of homework to do.

The first class I attended was phonetics. This class was a lecture. We Chinese students went to classroom together. Entering the classroom, I picked up a seat in the left corner of the room, while the other four girls sat in together on the opposite side. I looked around. This was a big classroom, with rows of fixed chairs in it. It was warm inside. I noticed that other foreign students all took off their big jacket the moment they went into the room. Following others' example, I also took off my big jacket when I sat down. I was very nervous at that time, for this was my first class. I was anxious yet a little afraid for teacher's coming.

The teacher finally arrived. I scrutinized the teacher, amused myself. Teacher dressed differently from Chinese female teacher, white skin, and blonde hair, typically European style T-Shirt, and long red dress. She was a little fat, but with a rather small, lovely head. Her ruby red earrings swang handsomely when she spoke.

I found the teacher spoke excellent British English, just as most Polish people I met, they spoke British accent. The teacher talked with a fast and clear voice. She was not only giving lectures, but also guidance. However, I found it a little hard to adapt English teaching classes first, especially my first class was boring, abstract phenetics. The teacher talked about many terms of "speech organs" that was rarely used in daily conversation, so that I found it hard to follow her. I was a little absent minded, and cast a glance at other Chinese students. Except for Wu Xing who was good at English, other girls all took on a hard expression. I felt a keen eyesight from teacher shoot on me, and I hurried to focus my attention.

I took notes, and imitated teacher's English accent. Gradually, I got into a groove. When the teacher said the class was over, I was still in a dream.

We picked our book, and went back to hotel.

"Alas, what a class. The teacher was talking and talking. I can't follow her." Ge Cheng complained first.

"So much homework to do! I thought we could have a free time in Poland." Ling Ling was very depressed.

"I will take a recorder with me next time." Wu Xing said, "Teacher talked so fast."

"Recorder is not available in Poland, I think." Tian Shu answered decisively, "Maybe we can check our notes with other Polish students."

"Good idea!" I assented, "but we needn't worry about it. I am sure that maybe later we will be used to teacher's teaching method soon."

The four girls said nothing and just stared at me in silence.

I knew in fact they all despised me a little, all looked down upon me in their heart, and never took my opinion seriously, because I was inferior to them in the college entrance exams. But I didn't care. Besides money, reputation was another important factor that determined a person's happiness and reputation was much related to your impression on others, but luckily most people judged others not

only by opinion, but also by his real character and manner. I had confidence in altering their opinion of me. Time will tell!

I swore that I would never let myself down. Then I kept reading and writing every day in the school hotel, and always boiled the oil regardless of weather.

One afternoon, we received a message from the mentor, who informed us that, in the evening, there would be a big party for the new students would be to be held in one of the most famous pubs in Reszow. Girls were very excited about this news.

"Wow, I could finally take part in a real party this time!" Ge Cheng was very cute at this time, "I could only watch TV to imagine what the party looks like before, but now I could enjoy it in person. Things are too true to make me doubt its reality."

"I can make some kicks in the night." Ling Ling smiled shrewdly.

"That is it! I will try my luck tonight to find my Mr. Right!" Wu Xing cried.

"Girls, we should all dress up! Do not waste time on talking such nonsense." Tian Shu suggested seriously.

They four rushed off immediately to make themselves up.

I still stood there, unmoved. I was absorbed into my own thinking. I wanted to become a writer in the future, so these experiences should be very precious to me. I watched and observed, afraid to miss a single syllable of their conversation.

"Why you don't prepare?" Wu Xing talked to me while standing in front of the mirror.

"I don't want to go." My words were brief and short.

"What? You don't want to go!" Tian Shu shouted, and looked at me doubtfully, "Why? This is the first party for us in Poland, a party to enjoy the Polish culture."

"I know, but I want to experience something really Polish in other ways, not to attend crazy parties at night, singing and dancing as if I were a primitive man who jumped wildly out of my crazy desires for happiness."

"How could you say that?" Ling Ling approached me immediately, "This is the party for new school year's celebration, the first party for us in Poland. You will regret if you give up this chance."

"I won't" My temper was aroused by their persuasion. I only wanted to be courageous enough to stick to my own principles, though there was some flabbiness in my character. I just wanted to improve to make myself become a