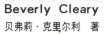
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●美国著名青少年文学家的力作

●反映美国当代青少年生活、学习和情感的英文原版小说

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内容简介

15岁的中学生珍妮偶然到舞会上旁观,不料被英俊的高年级同学 乔尼邀请为舞伴。珍妮以为乔尼喜欢他,从此便迷上了乔尼,千方百计地 与乔尼保持往来。其实乔尼邀她为舞伴不过是逢场作戏而已。屡屡受到 乔尼的慢待后,珍妮终于悟出自己追求乔尼是不自珍自爱的表现,觉得 自己以前对爱情的看法太幼稚了。

此刻,她意识到,作为一个女孩子,应该自尊、自强、自爱。珍妮开始 成熟了。

(英语沙龙) 推出美国青少年文学小说(英汉对照)一套三 本, 以满足广大青少年课外阅读之需, 书名与定价如下:

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CHAPTER 1

"A have the funniest feeling," remarked Jean Jarrett, who was drying the supper dishes while her older sister Sue washed them. "I keep feeling as if something nice is going to happen."

"That's because this is the first night of Christmas vacation," answered Sue, rinsing² a plate under the hotwater faucet³ and setting it in the dish drainer.

"I suppose so," agreed Jean dreamily, wishing that something nice really would happen. Lately life had lacked interesting ups and downs⁴. Oh, there were little ups like watching Kip Laddish on television, just as there were little downs, too, like the plaid⁵ skirt she was wearing. Because she had forgotten to allow extra material for matching the plaid, she discovered, when the pieces of the skirt were sewed together, that the stripes were uneven at every seam. Little ups, little downs how she wished she could replace them with big ups and downs that would make life exciting.

"What would you like to happen?" asked Sue.

第一章

"有一种很怪很怪的预感,"珍妮·贾勒特说。她姐姐苏 珊正在洗晚餐用过的盘子,珍妮帮着把盘子擦干。"我 总有一种预感,好像有什么喜事儿要降临似的。"

"圣诞假期的头一天晚上自然会有这种感觉,"苏珊说。她把一只盘子在热水龙头下冲了冲,放在滴干架上。

"我想也是,"珍妮表示赞同,但脑子里充满了遐想,盼着真会有喜事降临。近来生活中没什么有意思的事儿。开心事儿、伤心事儿都没有。对了,倒也有些小小的开心事儿,比如在电视上看基普·拉迪什唱歌;也有些小小的伤心事儿,比如她身上穿的那条方格裙。她忘了裁剪时在料子上打出点富余好拼接方格,结果等到几块料子缝在一起时,她才发现在每个接缝处条纹都对不齐。小小的开心事儿,小小的伤心事儿——要是能用大喜大悲来代替这些,让生活里多点儿刺激,那该多好!"

"你希望发生什么样的喜事儿?"苏珊问。

^{1.} funny ['fʌni] adj. 奇异的, 古怪的, 最高级为 funniest

^{2.} rinse [rins] vt. 用清水冲洗

^{3,} faucet ['fo:sit] n. 〈美语〉(自来水管的) 龙头

^{4.} ups and downs 浮沉,盛衰

^{5.} plaid [plæd]n. 方格花呢

"Oh, I don't know exactly," answered Jean. There was a speck¹ of food on the plate she was wiping. She considered returning the plate to the dishwater for Sue to rewash, thought better of it, and polished off the speck with the dish towel. When it was her turn to wash dishes, she did not like to have dishes returned to her dishwater. "It would be nice to grow a couple more inches, and not have to wear glasses; but at fifteen I don't suppose that will happen. Maybe some think like a cable arriving saying that a long-lost² uncle has died and left us a fortune."

"That would be nice," agreed Sue. "He could be a terribly romantic figure³, a family black sheep⁴ we had never even heard of, who had run away at the age of fourteen to Kenya or Bangkok and made his fortune in diamonds or teak⁵ or something."

"Or maybe it would be better if he had run away to the South Seas," elaborated Jean. "He could be a pearl king with crews of natives with knives in their teeth diving for oysters."

"Oh, well," said Sue. "How he got the fortune isn't important. What is important is that he died and left it to the Jarretts."

"It wouldn't even have to be a fortune," said Jean. "Just enough so we could have avocado in the salad every single day. And so I could walk into "我也说不准,"珍妮说。她擦干的那只盘子上粘着一点儿食物残渣。她本想把盘子放回洗碗水里去让苏珊再洗一遍,可一转念,就用毛巾把那点儿残渣擦掉了,因为她自己洗盘子时也不喜欢人家把洗过的盘子再放回到洗碗水里去。"要是能再长高一两英寸,要是不必戴眼镜就好了。可我已经 15 岁了,看来是没希望啦。说不定会有别的好事儿,比如收到一封电报,说某个多年下落不明的叔叔去世了,并留给咱们一大笔钱。"

"那倒不错,"苏珊附和说。"他可能是个极其浪漫的人物,咱们从来没听说过的家族里的不肖之子,14岁就离家出走,跑到肯尼亚或是曼谷,靠钻石或柚木之类的东西发了财。"

"也许他跑到南太平洋去更好些,"珍妮尽力发挥着想像, "他会是一个珍珠大王,手下有一大群土著,嘴里叼着刀子,潜 到海底去找牡蛎。"

"哦,"苏珊说,"不过他是怎么发的财并不重要,重要的是他去世了,把财产留给了贾勒特家的人。"

"甚至都不必留一大笔钱,"珍妮说,"只要刚好够咱们每 天在色拉里拌点儿鳄梨泥就行。还有,只要能让我进一次诺思

^{1.} speck [spek]n. 斑点

^{2.} long-lost 丢失很久的

^{3、}figure ['figə]n. 人物

^{4.} a black sheep 败家子;害群之马

^{5,} teak [ti:k]n. 柚木

^{6.} elaborate [i'læbəreit] vt. 详尽阐述, 发挥

^{7.} pearl [pa:l]n. 珍珠

^{8.} oyster ['aistə]n. 牡蛎

^{9.} avocado [ˌɑ:vəˈkɑ:dou] n. 鳄梨

Northgate Apparel Shop just once and buy a plaid skirt with the stripes matched by somebody else."

Sue laughed. "I know what you mean. Money for little extra things. Oh, well," she said, with an airy wave of the dishcloth, "what are the material things in life? We have ingenuity²."

Jean giggled. "Especially me. It takes real ingenuity to make such a terrible-looking skirt."

It was Sue who had the ingenuity. Right now she was wearing a skirt she had devised out of twelve red bandana³ handkerchiefs that she had bought at the dime store⁴. With it she was wearing a white blouse she had made out of a remnant⁵ and trimmed with a yard of leftover rickrack⁶. Jean remembered how Sue had schemed, rearranging her pattern several times, to get the blouse out of the short length of material. Even two years ago, when Sue was fifteen, she would have remembered to allow extra material for matching plaid. She was that kind of girl: she always knew what she wanted to do and then went about it in the right way.

Both girls were silent, each thinking of nice things they would like to have happen. She was right, Jean thought. Money for little extra things was a problem. House payments, life insurance, hospital insurance, money put aside for Sue's freshman year at the University next fall (their fa-

盖特服装店,买条方格裙,上面的条纹是别人拼接的就行。"

苏珊笑起来。"我懂你的心思。你想有钱买特殊的小玩艺儿。哦,不过,"她把洗碗布麻利地一抖,说,"生活里物质的东西算得了什么?咱们的财富是心灵手巧。"

珍妮咯咯笑起来。"尤其是我。像这么难看的裙子,要不 是心灵手巧,想缝还缝不出来呢。"

真正心灵手巧的是苏珊。此时她身上穿的裙子是用从一角钱店里买来的十二块红色的印花手帕拼出来的。跟这条裙子搭配的一件白衬衫,也是她自己用布头儿做的,还用做别的衣服剩下来的一码波纹花边作了装饰。珍妮记得苏珊剪裁这件衣服时真是费尽了心思,来回比量,好不容易才设法利用这短短的一块料子把衬衫做成。甚至在两年前,当苏珊只有15岁时,她就能想到裁剪衣料时要打出富余来好拼接料子上的方格。苏珊属于那种类型的女孩儿:做事历来目标明确、有条不紊。

两个女孩儿此时不再做声,各自琢磨着企望降临的喜事儿。苏珊说得不错,珍妮心想没钱买特别的小玩艺儿的确是个问题。房款、人寿保险、医疗保险,为下一年秋天苏珊读大学一年级积攒的钱(她们的父亲说女儿们要比他的生活有一个更

^{1.} airy ['səri] adj. 轻松愉快的

^{2.} ingenuity [ˌindʒi'njuiti]n. 机敏, 灵巧

^{3,} bandana [bæn'dænə] n. 一种印花大手帕

^{4.} dime store [美]廉价杂货店, 小商品店

^{5,} remnant ['remnant] n. 零头布

^{6.} rickrack ['rikræk] n. 工字形(衣服)花边

^{7.} insurance [in'ʃuərəns]n. 保险

ther said his girls were going to have a better start in life than he had had), a small check to help their grandmother in the East--all these seemed to consume Mr. Jarrett's pay check almost as soon as he received it. It would help if their father would allow them to earn money baby-sitting someplace besides the two houses next door, but he would not--not since the Friday night some strangers down the street had engaged² Sue to stay with their children and had not come home until two-thirty in the morning. Mr. Jarrett, who was a mailman³ and had to report to the post office at six o'clock in the morning, said he lost too much sleep worrying about Sue in a strange house being responsible for strange children. Kids could get into the darnedest4 trouble, Mr. Jarrett said. He ought⁵ to know. He had seen enough of it in his nineteen years of delivering6 mail. If his girls were going to baby-sit, they had to do it close to home, where he knew what was going on. Unfortunately for Jean and Sue, their next-door neighbors did not often go out.

Or it would be nice, Jean reflected, if her mother won a really big prize in one of the contests she was always entering--a prize so big she could give up her Saturday job as a salesclerk in a shop called Fabrics, Etc., which sold remnants and mill ends of dress, drapery⁸, and upholstery⁹ material.

高的起点),再加上要汇一小笔钱给住在东部的祖母——贾勒特先生的工资支票刚到手,上面的钱就差不多被瓜分得一干二净了。要是父亲准许她们到街坊邻里的人家去看孩子挣些钱,也许能给家里帮点忙,可他就是不肯答应——自从那个星期五以来他就不再允许她们干这种事了。那天在这条街上另一头儿住的一对不熟识的夫妇雇苏珊陪他们的孩子,可他们却直到凌晨两点半才回家。贾勒特先生是个邮差,清晨六点钟就得到邮局上班。他说那天夜里根本就没怎么睡,一直担心苏珊在陌生人家负责看护那些陌生的孩子会出什么事。贾勒特先生说,小孩子是会闯大祸的。他应该明白这点。他送了19年的信,这类事情见得多了。孩子们要去给别人看小孩,也只能在邻近的人家,他好随时知道孩子们的情况。可是珍妮和苏珊却运气不佳,隔壁邻居们不常出门。

珍妮心想,要是妈妈能在她每次都要参加的竞赛里赢一项真正的大奖,那也不错。不过这笔奖金要大到足以放弃星期六去当店员。雇她卖货的那家店叫"布头儿店",专卖布头儿和工厂剪裁衣服、帐帘和垫衬剩余的下脚料。

^{1.} consume [kənˈsjuːm] vt. 消费

^{2.} engage [in geidʒ] vt. 雇用

^{3.} mailman ['meilmæn] n. [美]邮递员

^{4.} darned [da:nd] adj. 糟透的

^{5.} ought [a:t] modal v. 应该

^{6.} deliver [di'livə] vt. 投递

^{7.} unfortunately [ʌnˈfɔːtʃənitli] adv. 不幸地

^{8.} drapery ['dreipəri]n. 帐帘

^{9,} upholstery [ʌp'həulstəri]n. 室内装饰品

"I know what would be nice," said Sue suddenly.

"What?" asked Jean, glancing at the clock. She must not get so carried away in daydreams¹ that she missed Kip Laddish.

"To meet a boy." Sue's voice was wistful².

"Not just any boy, but a really nice boy who liked me."

"Yes, that would be nice," agreed Jean seriously, because she understood that this time Sue was not joking. She was a little surprised at her sister's wish, because Sue had never been interested in the boys who seemed to like her. "But what about Cliff?" Jean asked. "He phoned you a couple of times, but you wouldn't go out with him."

Sue made a face⁴. "He always said, 'Guess who this is?' and 'What are you doing next Saturday night?' without telling me what he wanted me to do. Besides, he would have bored⁵ me stiff. ⁶ I am not interested in just any old boy."

"I suppose not." No boy, not even one who could be called any old boy, had ever telephoned Jean.

"Half a minute to seven. Almost time for your program," said Sue. "I'll finish up. We're practically through, anyway."

"Thanks a lot," said Jean gratefully, dropping

- "我知道好事儿是什么了。"苏珊突然发话说。
- "什么?"珍妮问,同时瞥了一眼钟。她可不能光梦想好事儿,不知不觉把基普·拉迪什的节目错过了。
- "跟男孩子约会。"苏珊的话音里带着惆怅,好像为这事尚未如愿而惋惜似的。"不是随便哪个男孩儿都行,而是喜欢我的像样的男孩儿。"

"是呀,那也不错,"珍妮一本正经地表示同意,因为她明白苏珊这次可不是在说玩笑话。她姐姐的愿望有点儿出乎她的意料,因为有些男孩儿似乎对她有好感,而她对他们却从来不感兴趣。"克利夫怎么样?"珍妮问,"他给你打过几次电话,可是你不愿意跟他约会。"

苏珊做了个鬼脸。"他总是说,'猜猜我是谁?'还说'下周六晚上你有安排吗?'可是他却不告诉我他想要我如何。再说,他让我腻透了。我对任何大男孩儿都没兴趣。"

"我想也是。"可从来还没有男孩子给珍妮打过电话,连那些可以叫做"大男孩儿"的也没有。

"差半分钟就七点了。你看的节目就要开始了,"苏珊说, "剩下的我来干。反正我们差不多快干完了。"

"那就有劳你了,"珍妮表示感谢,把擦碗布丢在滴水板

^{1.} daydream ['deidri:m] n. 白日梦

^{2.} wistful ['wistful]adj. 渴望的, 愁闷的

^{3.}go out with... 与…约会

^{4,} make a face 做鬼脸

^{5.} bore [bo:] vt. 使厌烦

^{6.} stiff [stif] adv. [□]+分, 极其

^{7.} gratefully ['greitfuli] adv. 感激地

her dish towel on the draining board. "I'll finish for you sometime."

At exactly seven o'clock Jean, her chin propped¹ on her fists, was sitting on the hassock² in the glow of the Christmas-tree lights in front of the portable³ television set, the biggest prize her mother had ever won in a contest. This was the moment Jean anticipated⁴ every week. And she knew that three doors down the street Elaine Mundy, her best friend, was sitting in front of her television set, too.

The commercial began. A pretty girl faced Jean and, while she smiled radiantly⁵, wiggled her fingers in her soapy hair. The soap, by some magic, rose from her head in a glittering⁶ trail of bubbles⁷ that turned into a singing, dancing bottle of shampoo. Jean removed her glasses, held them up to the light, and flicked a speck of dust off one lens.

And then Kip Laddish was there in the living room singing straight to Jean. He was so good-looking. That checked sport coat, his trademark, made him look boyish because it was a bit too large, as if he expected to grow into it. And the way he sang....He looked so serious, almost pleading, and then suddenly he would flash the most wonderful grin, that made Jean feel as if he were sharing a secret with her. It was almost as if

上。"不管什么时候我也会替你收尾。"

七点整,珍妮已坐在搭脚墩上,在圣诞树彩灯的照耀下,拳头撑着下巴,面对着那台便携式电视机了。这台电视机是妈妈在竞赛中赢到过的价值最高的一个奖品。这是珍妮每周都期待的时刻。她知道此时她最要好的朋友伊兰·曼迪也坐在她家的电视机前。伊兰也住在这条街上,离珍妮家隔着三个门。

广告开始了。一个漂亮姑娘面对着珍妮,喜眉笑眼的,手指在涂了洗发液的头发里搅着。那洗发液像变戏法儿似的,从她头上升起,形成一连串闪闪发光的肥皂泡,再变成一瓶会唱歌跳舞的香波。珍妮摘下眼镜,朝着灯光举起来看了看,然后用指尖弹掉了镜片上的一粒尘埃。

接着基普·拉迪什来到客厅里,正对着珍妮唱歌。他长得真帅。那件花格运动衫,他所特有的标志,使他看上去孩子气十足,因为那件衣服过于肥大了些,好像他料到还要长个儿,打出了些富余。还有他唱歌的那种方式……他看上去一本正经,差不多是在恳求听众,接着冷不丁儿粲然一笑,样子十分

^{1.} prop [prop] vi. 架,搁

^{2.} hassock ['hæsək] n. 膝垫, 脚凳

^{3.} portable ['po:təbl] adj. 便携的

^{4.} anticipate [æn'tisipeit] vt. 预期

^{5,} radiantly ['reidjəntli] adv. 容光焕发地

^{6.} glitter ['glitə] vi. 闪耀

^{7.} bubble ['bʌbl]n. 泡

^{8.} boyish ['boiiʃ] adj. 孩子气的

^{9.} pleading [pli:diŋ] n. 恳求