



Kat's Eye

英语学习

凯蒂的心情咖啡

(美) Katharine Wang (王文思) 著

外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

Kat's Eye

英语学习

凯蒂的心情咖啡

(美) Katharine Wang (王文思) 著



外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS
北京 BEIJING

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

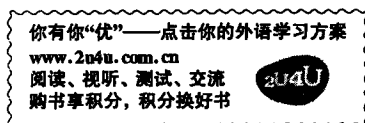
凯蒂的心情咖啡 / (美) 王文思著. — 北京: 外语教学与研究出版社, 2009. 6

书名原文: Kat's Eye

ISBN 978-7-5600-8686-6

I. 凯… II. 王… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物 ②散文—作品集—美国—现代
IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2009) 第 094586 号



出 版 人: 于春迟

责任编辑: 熊 洁

封面设计: 孙莉明

版式设计: 蔡 颖

插图设计: 郭永波

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>

印 刷: 北京国防印刷厂

开 本: 787×965 1/16

印 张: 16.75

版 次: 2009 年 7 月第 1 版 2009 年 7 月第 1 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5600-8686-6

定 价: 29.90 元

* * *

如有印刷、装订质量问题出版社负责调换

制售盗版必究 举报查实奖励

版权保护办公室举报电话: (010)88817519

物料号: 186860001

编者的话

2004年2月，18岁的美籍华裔女孩儿Katharine Wang通过“Kat's Eye”专栏走入了《英语学习》读者们的视线。接下来的每个月，她都如约向中国的读者讲述她在大洋彼岸的生活。光阴荏苒，不知不觉间，“Kat's Eye”陪我们一同走过了五年。应广大读者之邀，我们特别将该栏目集结成本书，希望与所有喜欢她的老读者重温那段美好的时光，同时与更多的新读者分享她的心情故事。

Katharine (Kat) 坚强上进、乐观开朗，但她也有沮丧，也有彷徨。初到美国，Kat由于性格内向交不到朋友，同时遭遇语言障碍和文化冲突，备受煎熬，但她逐渐克服了这些困难，生活也变得越来越多姿多彩。这本书就如同Kat呈献给我们的一个万花筒，色彩斑斓，变幻莫测，囊括了她生活经历中的点点滴滴，也为读者开辟了心灵交流的天地：如果你在生活或工作中备感压力，Kat会向你传授她的减压妙招；如果你想申请美国的大学，Kat会给你一些忠告；如果你同样热爱文学和写作，Kat想跟你来一番“文学一夕谈”；也许你有点儿崇拜Kat，这时，Kat会告诉你她在追逐梦想的道路上曾遭遇过的失败……

本书不是纯粹的英语学习之书，因为书中的故事真实、亲切，未经过滤，读起来就好比在聆听一个邻家女孩向你述说她的生活故事，透露她的人生小秘密。但本书确实又是一本可供学习英语之书，其语言地道、现代、活泼、幽默，你在咀嚼Kat的故事之时，也会情不自禁喜欢上她的充满个性的语言。

闲暇之余，泡杯咖啡，抑或沏壶好茶，掇起此书，静静琢磨每一幅清新幽默的小插图，细细品味每个故事的字里行间，也应算是一种独特的人生体验吧。

目录

- 01 Singing in the Shower
浴室歌声
- 06 Fish in a Different Pond
不同池里的鱼儿
- 11 Living in a Fairy Tale: After Closed Doors
活在童话世界里
- 15 Across the Threshold
跨越人生的门槛
- 19 Over the Mountains
山外有山
- 24 Ashes of a Phoenix
军人的葬礼
- 28 The College Jitters
入学前的恐慌
- 33 Chewing on the Apple
看纽约
- 38 Cardinal Spirit
斯坦福精神
- 43 US Pop Culture: the Slim,
the Beautiful, the Reality
美国流行文化反思



目 录

- 47 Valentine's Day
温馨浪漫情人节
- 52 Life Without Thunder
走近阿米什人
- 58 Cricket's Song
蟋蟀在歌唱
- 63 The Primal Scream
午夜尖叫
- 69 A Look at the Single Life
单身日记
- 74 Cow Tongue and Colombian Coffee
牛舌头和哥伦比亚咖啡
- 79 A Woman in a Teacup
喝茶的老妇人
- 84 A Snapshot of Water
水之印象
- 90 Moving in La Maison Francaise
搬进法式楼
- 96 French Table
法国大餐



101 Something Not Food?
排忧解难

107 Potential
潜力

112 The Little Pea That Could
我的饮食革命

117 An Evening with Calvin Trillin
文学一夕谈

121 Go into Politics
“投身”政治

125 Crazy Dance
疯狂的舞蹈

131 Kat on the Hill (Part I)
Kat在国会山 (一)

137 Kat on the Hill (Part II)
Kat在国会山 (二)

143 Kat on the Hill (Part III)
Kat在国会山 (三)

149 Gummy Politics
橡皮糖政治



目 录

- 154 A Curious Incident of a Santa in the Night Time
圣诞老人奇事记
- 161 Forget-Me-Not
勿忘我
- 166 Kat's Guide of Colleges
申请大学问Kat!
- 171 The Shadow of Leadership
领导之位的阴影
- 176 Creativity and Practicality
创造与实践
- 180 Wisdom Teeth Removed, Wisdom Retained?
拔掉智齿, 留下智慧
- 185 The Wreckage of October
十月的遗留
- 191 Mr. X and Ms. Z
X先生与Z女士
- 196 Niche
位置
- 200 Piranhas in the Job Pool
职场水虎鱼



- 205 The Silver Lining?
云朵的银边儿
- 210 Apples Fall Close to the Tree
苹果落在树边
- 214 Your God? My God? Who's God?
谁的“上帝”?
- 219 The Fellowship of the Lost and Found
迷惘与觉醒
- 224 All Good Things
美好的时光
- 228 Orientation Day
培训日
- 233 My Adventure into Office Sportiness
“出征”沙滩排球赛
- 238 The Effects of Growing Older
成长的烦恼
- 243 The Root of Politics
政治之我见
- 248 Tight-Rope Diplomacy
“走钢丝”之道
- 253 The Doogley Spirit
“谷狗”的精神



Singing in the Shower

浴室歌声



- 
1. decibel scale: 分贝刻度。
 2. splinter: 裂成碎片;
wobble: 摇晃, 晃动。
 3. hyena: 鬣狗。
 4. fume: 愤怒, 发怒。
 5. glisten: 闪亮, 湿物闪耀。
 6. deliria: 发狂, 极度的兴奋。
 7. gurgle: 汩汩地流。
 8. gag: 窒息, 作呕。
 9. squeal: 长声尖叫。
 10. shrink: 精神病医生。

Once upon a time, there lived a girl who killed the decibel scale¹ with her singing. She sang so loud, and so terribly that all the mirrors and glassware around her splintered, wobbled,² and crashed to the floor. This girl was called Kat. Me. Yes, me. Fine... fine... fine... I don't sing like a hyena³, but you get my point.

One night, after a day of school worshipping, I fumed⁴ into the shower. The tiles glistened⁵ under the burst of water droplets, clinging to the slippery, pearl-white surface.

"SOMEWHEREEEEEEE OVERRRR THE RAINBOWWWW!!!" I screamed out in half-deliria⁶, half-desperation. The water sprayed into my face and the water gurgled⁷ in my throat. And then all of a sudden, I heard a large bang.

BANG! BANG!... CRASH!...

The door flew open and there was my mother screaming: "ARE YOU OKAY?" She must have thought I was gagging⁸ instead of singing.

I squealed⁹ and grabbed my towel. Now, THAT was embarrassing.

1. My mother thought I sounded like a person screaming out of pain when I was actually singing.
2. My mother entered and saw me wearing my "birthday suit".
3. She told all her friends about it.
4. She thought that I was insane and asked whether I wanted a shrink¹⁰.

Some people sing in the rain and others do it professionally on a stage. And then there are people like me who are known as “closet singers”. Wait... not really... I am an inveterate¹¹ shower singer.

Usually, I sing because I’m stressed after a long, long, 100 meter long day. So now you’re probably wondering: She lives in America. How stressful can it really get compared to China? It’s a very valid question which depends on many factors.

I attend a prestigious private school in California. Students at private schools mostly aim to be admitted into an Ivy League¹² university and to be politicians, CEOs, lawyers, doctors, engineers, and so forth for the next generation of corporate America. These Bill-Gates/Clinton-want-to-bes must carry two large dumbbells¹³. Ivy League schools, or any good schools, not only look for superior academic performances, but also extracurricular and special talents. And everything adds up to a nice and fat ball of stress.

My dad told me this Chinese saying: grades! grades! dear roots of lives! You know how everybody exclaims *it’s the learning process that matters?* In reality, without good grades, your good school dream is finished. Here, we have a grading scale called “grade point average”¹⁴. If you get a 4.0, you are a straight “A” student: perfect. If you get a 5.0, you are a straight “A” student with college-level classes called “advanced placement”¹⁵ classes, also known as AP courses. You’re practically Einstein’s offspring. I have 4 AP classes currently; our top student has 5. It’s absolutely insane! I love the material. I love the teachers. But, I usually sleep at 1:00 or 2:00AM and wake up at 7:00AM, with bags under my eyes¹⁶. It’s test after test, presentation after presentation, quiz after darned quiz... they never stop coming. And just when you

11. inveterate: (指习惯等) 积习难改的, 根深蒂固的。

12. Ivy League: 常春藤联合会, 美国东部历史悠久的大学联合组织, 以其杰出的学术成就及显赫的社会威望著称, 包括哈佛大学、耶鲁大学、普林斯顿大学和哥伦比亚大学等八所高校。

13. dumbbell: 哑铃, 此处指“有影响力”。

14. grade point average: (美国学生各科成绩的) 平均积分点。

15. advanced placement: 跳级(生)。

16. bags under my eyes: (口) 肿眼泡, 松垂的下眼泡。



17. rally: 集合起来。
18. ASB: =Associated Student Board, 学生会; Honor Cabinet: 也是一种学生组织。
19. cross-country: 越野运动, 如跑步、骑马、滑雪或驾车等; water polo: 水球, 一种在水中进行的球类运动。
20. boxing ring: 拳赛场地, 此处形容学校里竞争激烈、学生压力大。

think you can see the end of the tunnel, you hear this: “you have a ten-page paper due this Friday on Shakespeare!”

Well, let's move on to the “extracurricular stress”. UNIVERSITIES LOVE LEADERSHIP skills. On top of your vision and resolve, you must have communication and people skills. It is sometimes like a popularity contest. You've got to rally¹⁷ people behind you and get people who don't really like you on to your side. And that can be extremely painfully and depressingly difficult sometimes. Schools purposely offer all sorts of leadership positions. We have ASB, class presidents, Honor Cabinet, Dorm counsel, clubs, etc.¹⁸ But leadership can also be found in community service projects.

Do you have special talent(s)? Can you stand out? We are not short of professional chamber singers, violinists, pianists, figure skaters, you name it. America promotes volunteerism, which is a great thing. There are plenty of opportunities to do community service. I volunteered at senior citizens' home, kids' programs as well as California Supreme Court and Congressman's office. Now every day after school, I push myself into the auditorium where we rehearse parts for our season's drama production: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Abridged). Besides drama, the school also offers various sports during the three sports seasons: Volleyball, basketball, cross-country, swimming, water polo, etc.¹⁹ When you're in, you've got to win the games. So while we all love the activities, they have become another layer of stress.

Added to this boxing ring²⁰ is the factor of high school relationships. “I think he looked at me” or “I heard she likes me” or “I like her but she doesn't like me” or “I heard from my

friend's friend from her friend that my best friend's friend thinks I'm attractive". But it's all so natural! We can't stop our emotions. Worst of all, you have pressure from the parental unit: the nagging, the pushing, the long lectures, the chastising...²¹ It goes on, and on, and on... "You have to go to one of the Top 10 Universities ranked nationally!" or "You got a 99% on your test! What happened to that 1%! Go back to your room and correct that mistake! I'm so disappointed in you!" At the end of the day, if everything worked out your way, you were the best sport, most popular, a straight "A" student. You also scored a perfect on all standardized tests. You probably entered Harvard.

You now know why I was killing a classical musical piece in the shower. Stress. For me, singing with water raining down on my scalp²² is one of the best methods. Maybe you should try it sometimes. It's rather therapeutic²³. But of course, my parents would hire me one Dr. Vockensteim, the psychiatrist with the fake German accent and the protruding black mole.²⁴ Good grief. But that's another story for another time.



- 21. nagging: 唠叨, 挑剔;
chastise: 厉声训斥。
- 22. scalp: 头皮。
- 23. therapeutic: 有益身心健康的。
- 24. psychiatrist: 精神病医生;
protruding: 突出的; mole: 痔。

Fish in a Different Pond

不同池里的鱼儿



Despite the usual occurrence of seasons in America, California seemed to be a rebel. No rain. No cloud. No frosty nipping¹ of nose and cheeks. It was a December day with a high of 79 degrees. Armed with boots, a white turtleneck sweater, jeans, and a fluffy brown scarf, I was equipped for heavy-duty winter season weather.²

Yet, there I was at school on a Monday morning, staring at the blue, blue sky with disdain. I muttered some curses beneath my breath at California's "too sunny" stereotype.

To make matters worse, I had an economics test and two other quizzes. As I entered my next class, I caught words in the air:

"Yeah, she's so weird."

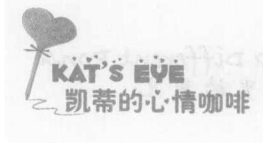
"She can't speak English!"

"Did you hear what happened last night?"

I curiously pulled my ear closer to the gossip. Turns out, there was a new freshman girl who just arrived at my school; a girl from China. Her visa was finally approved, and she was able to fly over the Pacific Ocean to join a bunch of elite American students. She moved into her room over the weekend to join her new roommate, a born-and-raised American blue-blood³. The first night, I heard, was a struggle of cultures. You had the short Chinese girl with a pair of glasses, a white jacket, and hair pulled behind her. And then you had the blonde "chick" with brown highlights,⁴ wide smile, short T-shirt, a pair of tight jeans, and a loud laugh. No glasses. And, of course, there were already stories about this new student. She was a little blunt, slightly unpleasant, and just kind of, well, foreign. However, as my friend who lived on the same floor put it, she must just be shy.



1. nipping: 冻得发痛。
2. turtleneck sweater: 圆翻领毛线衫; heavy-duty: 严酷的。
3. blue-blood: 贵族。
4. chick: 〈俚〉少女; highlight: 头发上(产生强光效果的)发亮的浅色。



5. dehydration: 身体脱水, 形容天气异常炎热。

6. enigma: 神秘 (或不可理解) 的人。

7. 第一站! 她简陋的住所。

8. avalanche: 雪崩般塌落, 这里是夸张的用法。



I wanted to meet this new girl; this puzzle that suddenly fell into our hands. And meet her I did.

Last period of the day, I crawled out of the science building with an overweight backpack filled with who knows what. Just when I was about to die of heat exhaustion, dehydration⁵, and book burns, the Assistant Dean called me over. As I approached her, I noticed the little walking enigma⁶ by her side.

“Hi, Kat! Have you met—yet?” The Assistant Dean asked.

“No, not really. Name’s Kat. Put it there.” I took out my hand with a grin.

She stared at it with an inquisitive look. After a second, she took out her own hand and shook mine. “It is very nice to meet you. My name is—,” she said slowly and methodically.

I controlled the sudden twitch in my face.

“Can you take her to her afternoon activity? It’s dance in the gym.”

“Sure. No problem.”

So we started our journey. First stop! Her humble abode.⁷

Half the room was decorated with pictures of models and fashion. The closet was half open with clothes avalanching⁸ out. The other half the room was neat and pristine with no posters and sign of human existence. Guess which half belonged to her.

You’re right if you guessed the no-dust-no-nonsense side of the room. My parents always said the Chinese are always very clean and organized.