

当今美国热门话题丛书之三

爱的教训

Lesson of Love

Mary Wayne 编

苗 天 祚

西安交通大学出版社

内容简介

本书不想对“爱”做出一个明确的定义。在这里,您会发现当今美国人的情感与生活 O.J. 辛普森的内心困惑,杰奎琳·肯尼迪的从容一生,艺术家们的执着追求,美国的流氓才子,父子深情,西方男女的内心伤痛,华裔姑娘的奋斗历程……这些真人真事远在大洋彼岸,近在您的眼前。它们定会带您进入多彩的情感世界,感悟西方的现代文化,理解大千世界的名流百姓,真正体验阅读的乐趣。

文章的导言会帮助您找到您最感兴趣的,注释对您的阅读理解会有帮助,每篇文章后的选择练习及书后给出的答案可以让您检查一下自己的阅读效果。大学生和有中等水平的读者能够通过本书这个窗口求知冶情,提高英语水平。

本丛书已被多所高校选定作大学生和研究生英语泛读教材。

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Lesson on Love

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“当今美国热门话题丛书”总序

学习语言的真正目的是求知和交流。然而同许多其它事情一样,这简单的道理被许许多多社会因素搅扰,以致很多教与学者误入迷途。看到一些学外语的朋友备受煎熬,而另一些通过考试后如释重负的样子,总叫人觉得可怜又可惜。学习另一个民族的语言,犹如打开一扇天窗,能看到另一个精彩纷呈的世界,这本是一件其乐无穷的事,为什么把大家搞得这么苦?

对大多数朋友而言,您也许没有机会体验与一位美国的管子工聊天之乐,但假如您是位歌手或歌迷,找一篇关于保罗·西蒙如何写歌的文章,从中得一二旁人罕知的要诀,其中乐趣是无与伦比的。

我们编这套“当今美国热门话题丛书”,最基本的出发点也就是要提醒和展示给朋友们外语阅读的乐趣。希望您选购这本书完全是出于对某些文章的内容感兴趣。如果您读到了非常

想知道的东西,或者最后您觉得读过的东西索然无味,那么您要学的语言的最重要部分应该说就已经学到了。不必刻意追求学习语言的效率,智者如陶渊明,阅读起来也满足于“不求甚解”,不是吗?

话说回来,要引起大家的阅读兴趣是件非常难做到的事情。因为对于多数中国读者,英语阅读能力差和知识志趣成熟的矛盾是一个大问题,很难兼顾。多数阅读书籍着重迁就语言水平,这难免使文章内容流于浅泛。而我们尝试对语言难度较少控制(多属原文照录,难者多加注释)的办法,这样可使文章内容的选择从容自如。

说到内容选择,大家都知道要注意情趣,但这谈何容易。为此我们将选择文章的原则确定为,着意选那些能称之为文化的内容,也就是那些能代表时代和社会的事件、人物和作品,而摒弃轶闻奇谈之类。民族文化的差异经常是引人入胜的话题,也是语言学习中重要的部分。然而西方文化同样浩如烟海,如何掌握轻重缓急又是一个棘手的问题。我们最后采取请外籍专家参与的做法,通过座谈议话题、定文章,最后确定一本书。再说兴趣,要引起读者兴趣文章自然得有一定的深度和专门性。但我们显然不可能选一篇关于“湿蒸汽两相流”之类的专业文章,这里的专门性也还是在广泛性的话题基础上,更具体和深入一些。

孔夫子曰:“能之不如好之。”做任何事,从中发现乐趣是至关重要的。您若不能从外语阅读中找到乐趣,即便在考试的压力下外语能达到一定水平,这一水平也会因无法保持而衰退。这种例子我们周围并不少见。

应当说编这套书是一次新鲜的尝试,因此我们真诚地欢迎读者朋友们及时反馈给我们您的想法、建议和批评。

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1994年9月

前言

没有到过美国的人自然而然会对它充满无限的遐想。或许是我们分属两个半球,或许是语言障碍的阻隔,或许是传播媒介的偏颇,国人在认识美国时总是难以把握其本来面目。

作为“当今美国热门话题丛书”的第三本,本书选出了美国人亲身经历的,亲自目睹、听说的事情展现给大家,旨在真实地介绍美国的政治、历史、文化、科技与生活,客观地反映当今美国人的情感与心态,使未出国门而又心系大洋彼岸的人能够既学习语言,又通过本书这个窗口更客观、现实地认识美国。

想认识美国不是件容易的事。这个大熔炉,汇集了黑与白、光荣与罪恶、进步与颓废,文明与暴力、尊严与丑恶,诱惑与绝望……;想全面地介绍美国也非易事,我们以观察家的角度展示出原汁原味的英文文章,大到总统及其家族的轶事,名流生活报道,小到凡人琐事,家庭恩怨,让读者自己去认识美国人对自已国家和

公民的态度,对时事、亲情、艺术、事业、前途等的评论。至于我们编者,除了加导言引导读者阅读外,不发表任何评判性意见,由读者自己品尝其中的滋味。

本书 40 篇文章,突出新鲜、真实与情感,力求通过扣人心弦的内容和地道生动的描述来激发读者学习语言的兴趣,摆脱了目前大多数课本和读物陈旧的内容和模式,寓语言学习于乐趣、求知之中。语言是思想的载体,正如大多数人认识汽车的构造和机理是为了更好地驾驶和修理汽车一样,学习语言是为了更好地了解这个国家的历史、文化和人民,而不是为了去研究语法结构,去填空、改错,或做翻译练习。我们的许多大学生在 TOEFL 和 GRE 考试中取得了令美国人都感到惊讶的高分,然而不少人出国之后居然不能很好地表达自己的思想和见解,不能与外国人交朋友,因为他们找不到共同的话题。这正是在英语学习上本末倒置的结果。

我们编这本书,同《美国悲剧》一样,都是为了使读者走出语言学习的误区,回归到语言学习的真正意义上来。希望大家带着兴趣去搜寻使您感兴趣的东西。文章后的注释对您的阅读会有帮助。读完之后可以做一下后面的选择练习,检查一下自己的阅读效果。可以不逐篇阅读,导言会告诉您哪一篇是您最感兴趣的。说得简单一点:做您想要做的,读您想要读的。

值得一提的是,刘影先生、Peter Jones 先生在本书出版过程中给予了大力帮助,温玉娟女士所做的许多工作实际上已远远超出了责任编辑的范畴,我们在此向他们致以深深的感谢。

编者

1995 年 9 月 8 日

Contents

1. *Lesson of Love*
爱的教训 (1)
2. *Campus Crisis*
校园危机 (8)
3. *Bold Words for a New Generation*
为年轻人壮胆 (15)

如果你是一名即将毕业离校的大学生，你一定是既踌躇满志，又恐惧迷惘。你厌倦了同窗的海阔天空，又不屑于家人的好心嘱咐，在你心里感到不大踏实的时候，请看一看这位朋友有何秘笈。

4. *21st Century Careers*
21 世纪的职业..... (22)
5. *Woodstock : Back to the Garden*
伍德斯托克：重返梦中天国 (35)
6. *Hollywood's Last Decent Man*
好莱坞最后的体面男人 (49)

奥斯卡金像奖得主汤姆·汉克斯在“阿甘正传”（Forrest Gump）一片中再显魅力，表现超群，又夺奥斯卡最佳表演奖。

7. *Interviewing Johnny Cash*
约翰尼·卡什笑侃惊世新作 (55)
8. *Bonnie and the Blues*
邦妮和布鲁斯 (72)

9. *Day & Night*

O.J. 辛普森的双重生活 (79)

Nicole 被残暴地杀害了，她的前夫 Simpson 曾被指控有犯罪嫌疑，随之一片哗然。在美国公众眼中，Simpson 这位大明星拿着巨额年薪，整日出入豪华场所，结交名流雅士，而另一个真实的 Simpson 却生活在黑暗中，沉溺于毒品和女人。目前的 Simpson 似乎平静了许多，然而他是否能获得一生的安宁呢？

10. *The Group*

克林顿夫人多彩的大学生活 (96)

11. *Kathie Lee's Greatest Worries*

名人的烦恼 (109)

节目主持人凯茜·李已是功成名就。人们对她羡慕不已，可她也有自己的烦恼，她甚至想放弃辉煌的事业。

12. *The Most Private of Public Persons*

杰奎琳·肯尼迪的从容一生 (120)

13. *The Way She Is*
史翠珊魅力常驻 (132)
14. *The Man of the Moment*
曼德拉叱咤风云 (141)
15. *Judge of Richard Nixon*
尼克松盖棺定论 (149)
16. *Young Salvador Dalí : Surrealism*
达利的超现实主义境界 (158)
17. *Aging Stars Becomes Graying Deteltives*
老“侦探”显大身手 (166)
18. *That's Outrageous !*
骇人听闻 (175)

天下乌鸦一般黑，每个社会都有着许多极其相似的阴暗面。提起美国挪用救济金的官僚，醉酒开车后又堂而皇之地踱出法院大门的司机，你也许不会感到惊讶，但是你可曾听说过将人类生殖器拿来构图的广告，以及奋不顾身拯救落沟人的两位工人却险些使其所在公司遭受巨额罚款的咄咄怪事。

19. “*Hero*” or “*Harasser*”?
才子 + 流氓 (185)
20. *The Man from Outer Space*
外星人绑架案 (195)

21. *Fascism Lives*
新法西斯主义 (207)
22. *Aids and Ignorance*
爱滋病与无知 (215)
23. *Do Teachers Punish According to Race ?*
教师是否以肤色取人 (225)
24. *Are Smokers Junkies ?*
烟瘾 = 毒瘾 ? (233)
25. " *Hey , Son , I Love You Too* "
“喂！儿子，我也爱你” (239)
26. *Women Easy Winners in Battle of the Sexes*
男人缘何败下风 (244)

老话说，唯女子与小人难养也。本文描述了女人为男人们带来的烦恼。由于男人们对女人的观念来不及更新，令他们在与女性交往中频频失利。男人们赶紧好好反省，把自己保护好，这种日子大概还得持续一阵子。

27. " *His Family Comes Before Me* "
你妈和我谁重要 ? (251)
28. *The Living Room War*
战线转移到家庭 (264)

29. *Death of a Marriage*
 婚姻死亡 (276)
30. *Six Secrets of Strong Families*
 幸福家庭的六个秘诀 (287)

幸福的家庭都
 很相似，不幸的家
 庭各有各的不幸。
 让我们一起来看看
 幸福家庭共同的秘
 诀。

31. *The Object of Life*
 生活的目的 (297)
32. *The Brief Life of Angela Lakeberg*
 安琪拉短暂的一生 (305)
33. *Cops Who Kill - Themselves*
 触目惊心的警察自杀 (314)

这幅照片中，一位拉斯
 维加斯牧师正在试图劝阻
 Broussard 不要自杀，这位此
 刻心神错乱的警察已经杀死
 了自己的妻子。遗憾的是，
 牧师也没能使他拒绝死神，
 在一家电视台现场直播下，
 他一枪击中了自己的头部。

34. *The Search for Virtues*
寻找美德 (322)
35. *Definition of the Philosopher*
哲学家睿语 (329)
36. *Career Planning*
设计辉煌前程 (337)

您是如何选定自己的事业呢？一旦决定了，你会从何处着手？本文作者为正在设计自己未来前程的青年人指出了几个最关键的问题。

37. *Why Listening Is Good for You ?*
聆听为何对您有益？ (350)
38. *How Oliver North Became a Millionaire*
奥立弗何以成富翁 (358)
39. *Why We Went to the Moon*

人类为何登月	(369)
40. <i>The Struggle to Be an All American Girl</i>	
誓死要成美国人	(378)

一位根在中国的姑娘曾经是那样的蔑视中国的一切，她讨厌外婆的一口中国话，嘲笑母亲的洋泾浜英语，把中文学校贬得一钱不值，甚至认为美国国旗也更漂亮。但是，她最终发现自己还是一个中国人。

<i>Answer Keys</i>	(386)
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1

Lesson of Love

by Gordon Fitchett

爱的教训

我为什么非要生活在怀疑、痛苦和恐惧中？我为什么没能早一点作出自己的抉择？

was only 19 years old and had just returned from travelling half around the world. My whole life lay ahead of me ; who would have guessed that I'd become one of the growing army of battered wives ?

I started work at the local hotel until I planned exactly what I wanted to do , and that's where I met him—the man I was going to fall in love with. A move I would regret for the rest of my life. He was strong , good-looking and macho and everyone liked him. I thought that a man like that would protect me from all life's evils—I was very wrong.

We became engaged and , at 20 , I found I was pregnant. He had bashed me before that , but after we had broken up for a month , he promised me he had changed and would cut off his right arm before hitting me again. Of course , I believed him. They say love is blind , and it's so true.

We married in August , and all was rosy even though we had very little money ; what was left over after paying bills , he would spend at the hotel. It became necessary for me to work part-time in the office of a local auto mechanic. It really annoyed him that I worked with men , and he was very jealous. The fact that I was six months pregnant and not at my most appealing didn't make him realise that the men wouldn't be automatically trying to crack onto me.

He started asking me for minute-by-minute reports of each day's events , and if I couldn't remember something , he would hit me. I wore long-sleeved blouses to cover up my bruises , and in the heat of the summer months it was very uncomfortable.

After the baby was born , I thought things would change. I nearly died having our child , but the night before I was due to re-

turn home , he came into the hospital , drunk , and started squeezing my arms , shaking me fiercely and was about to strangle me. Then someone came in and he ran from my room.

The next morning , he was at the hospital at 5 am , with flowers , looking like a small child , crying , begging my forgiveness and confessing his undying love for me , our baby girl and the great life we would have together. He was so sorry I put the incident down to drink. That night we all went home together.

I didn't see much of my family , which hurt me a lot. My father had had three heart attacks and was very sick. We had been a very close family , but my husband didn't seem to like them. I think he was jealous of the love I had for them.

We lived with his mother and , as the months went by , I became very thin and homely looking as I wore his mother's hand-me-down clothes and cut my own hair to save money. I often felt he wanted me to look plain so no-one else would look at me , yet sometimes he would hit me because I didn't look like the girl he first met.

I never spoke back to him , I was too scared to , and I worked tirelessly to make sure the house was spotless – trying not to give him anything to get angry about. I loved my child very much , having her was something I have never regretted but , after a while , I realised no-one should have to spend their lives in fear and that true love certainly isn't trying to hurt someone all the time.

My husband seemed to get pleasure from his weekly beatings and , as the bruises became bigger and the black eyes and cut lips became more difficult to disguise , I would dream of ways I could escape this imprisonment.

His mother knew what was happening to me , but I think that