**College sweethearts**

**大学情侣**

**1 I smile at my two lovely daughters and they seem so much more mature than we, their parents, when we were college sweethearts. Linda, who's 21, had a boyfriend in her freshman year she thought she would marry, but they're not together anymore. Melissa, who's 19, hasn't had a steady boyfriend yet. My daughters wonder when they will meet "The One", their great love. They think their father and I had a classic fairy-tale romance heading for marriage from the outset. Perhaps, they're right but it didn't seem so at the time. In a way, love just happens when you least expect it. Who would have thought that Butch and I would end up getting married to each other? He became my boyfriend because of my shallow agenda: I wanted a cute boyfriend!**

**我微笑着看着我那两个可爱的女儿，她们似乎比她们的父母还是大学情侣那会儿更为成熟。琳达，21岁，在大学一年级交过一个男友，她曾以为会跟那个男孩结婚，但他们已不再来往了。梅丽莎，19岁，还没有一个固定的男友。我的女儿不知何时才能遇到她们的那个“唯一”，她们伟大的爱。她们认为她们的父亲和我有着一段经典的、童话般的浪漫史，从一开始就直奔婚姻的殿堂。也许，她们是正确的，但在那时似乎并不是那么回事。在某种程度上，爱神恰恰在你最没准备时来临。谁曾想到，布奇和我最终会结婚呢？他之所以成为我男友，只是因为当时我那肤浅的打算：我要找一个可爱的男友！**

**2 We met through my college roommate at the university cafeteria. That fateful night, I was merely curious, but for him I think it was love at first sight. "You have beautiful eyes," he said as he gazed at my face. He kept staring at me all night long. I really wasn't that interested for two reasons. First, he looked like he was a really wild boy, maybe even dangerous. Second, although he was very cute, he seemed a little weird.**

**我们通过我的大学室友介绍在大学食堂相识。在那个命中注定的夜晚，我只是好奇，但对他而言，我认为是一见钟情。他凝视着我的脸，说：“你有一双美丽的眼睛。”他整个晚上一直盯着我。我真的对他没那么感兴趣，其原因有二。首先，他看起来就像是一个野小子，甚至还有些危险。其次，虽然他很可爱，却似乎有点怪异。**

**3 Riding on his bicycle, he'd ride past my dorm as if "by accident" and pretend to be surprised to see me. I liked the attention but was cautious about his wild, dynamic personality. He had a charming way with words which would charm any girl. Fear came over me when I started to fall in love. His exciting "bad boy image" was just too tempting to resist. What was it that attracted me? I always had an excellent reputation. My concentration was solely on my studies to get superior grades. But for what? College is supposed to be a time of great learning and also some fun. I had nearly achieved a great education, and graduation was just one semester away. But I hadn't had any fun; my life was stale with no component of fun! I needed a boyfriend. Not just any boyfriend. He had to be cute. My goal that semester became: Be ambitious and grab the cutest boyfriend I can find.**

**他骑着自行车经过我的宿舍，装作与我“偶遇”，看到我时还假装惊讶。我喜欢被重视的感觉，但对他的野性和充满活力的个性却小心谨慎。他很会说话，这会迷倒任何女孩。当我开始爱上他时，恐惧向我袭来。他那令人激动的“坏小子形象”简直太诱人了。究竟是什么吸引了我？我，一直口碑极好。为了获得优异的成绩，我的注意力只专注在自己的学习上。但又怎么样呢？大学应该是学习的好时间，可也应该有一些乐趣。我已几乎达成了伟大的教育目标，离毕业只有一学期之遥了。但我却还没有享受过任何乐趣，我的生活乏味，没有一点新鲜感！我需要一个男朋友，当然不是任何男朋友。他必须很可爱。于是我那个学期的目标就成为：雄心勃勃，抓住一个我能找到的最可爱的男友。**

**4 I worried what he'd think of me. True, we lived in a time when a dramatic shift in sexual attitudes was taking place, but I was a traditional girl who wasn't ready for the new ways that seemed common on campus. Butch looked superb! I was not immune to his personality, but I was scared. The night when he announced to the world that I was his girlfriend, I went along with him. And then I suddenly thought: "Oh my gosh! Am I his girlfriend? How did that happen?" Then he whispered sweet words in my ear and said, "I'm going to marry you one day and I will be a lawyer. You will see."**

**我担心他会怎么看我。不错，我们生活在一个性观念正在发生戏剧性转变的时代，但我是一个传统的女孩，对在校园里似乎常见的新方式还没有心理准备。布奇看上去很出色！我对他的个性毫无免疫力，但我对此很害怕。那天晚上当他向大家宣布我是他女友时，我是同意的。但我随后突然清醒：“噢，我的天哪！我是他女友吗？这是怎么回事？”紧接着，他在我耳边低声地甜言蜜语：“有一天我要娶你，我会成为一名律师。你会看到这一天的。”**

**5 I was laughing inside and said to myself, "I'd never marry this guy. He's a rebel without a good future. He's my boyfriend because I hate my boring student life. I just want to have fun."**

**我笑着对自己说：“我绝不会嫁给这个家伙。他是一个没有前途的叛逆者。他是我男朋友，只因为我恨枯燥的学生生活。我只想得到乐趣而已。”**

**6 Sure enough, the following month, I found out he had failed all his courses. Consequently, he was going to be expelled from the university. To my disgust, he seemed resigned to his fate. I knew there was hope, so I led him to the college secretary for reconsideration.**

**果然，一个月后，我发现他所有的课程都不及格。因而，他将被大学除名。令我厌恶的是，他似乎屈从了自己的命运。我知道还有希望，所以我让他去学院的秘书那儿进行复议。**

**7 "You are going to graduate with a BA in political science from UPenn and proceed to the College of Law," I told him, lodging an appeal on his behalf, which was approved. Butch was granted reconsideration. And, once we became steadies, he coordinated his studies and social life, passing all of his classes. He eventually studied law.**

**我告诉他：“你要先从宾夕法尼亚大学拿到政治学学士学位，然后进入法律学院。”我以他的名义递交了呈请书，结果被批准了。校方同意复议布奇的情况。我们的男女朋友关系一经确定，他就协调了他的学习和社交生活，结果各门课都通过了。他最终学了法律。**

**8 Despite Butch's somewhat wild character, at his core, he is always a perfect gentleman and deserves a lot of credit for that. True, he'd sometimes take the liberty of displaying his love by planting a kiss on my lips right in front of my astonished friends who watched and disapproved. But the truth is we had a pure and responsible relationship for seven full years. Sitting by the palm trees, hand in hand, we would listen to romantic songs, watch the sunset, and weave dreams of being together with children of our own, forever.**

**尽管布奇的性格有点野，但他在骨子里却是一个完美的绅士，这值得高度赞扬。的确，他有时会在我朋友面前亲吻我的嘴，擅自表达他的爱。我的朋友看到了很惊讶，也很不以为然。但事实上，我们在整整七年的恋爱关系中一直是纯洁和负责的。我们坐在棕榈树下，手牵着手，听着浪漫的歌曲，观赏着日落，编织着和我们自己的孩子在一起的美梦，一直到永远。**

**9 Two years passed in a blur. One day, Butch took me by surprise as he knelt down and proposed marriage holding a dozen red roses! Filled with deep emotion, I confessed my love for him, "How roooomaaaantic!!" Then my brain woke up from fantasy land. I cried out, "Good heavens. No! We're too young to tie the knot. We haven't even graduated from college yet!" I really loved him but was pessimistic about our chances for success.**

**两年糊里糊涂地过去了。一天，布奇出其不意地手捧着一打红玫瑰跪下向我求婚。我心中充满了深情，也坦诚了对他的爱：“太太太太太浪漫了！！”可我随即从幻想中惊醒。我大喊出来：“天哪。不！我们现在结婚还太早了。我们甚至还没有大学毕业呢！”我真的很喜欢他，但我对我们感情修成正果的机率却持悲观态度。**

**10 We married five years later.**

**五年后，我们结了婚。**

**11 Our faithful journey of love and learning took us down rocky roads of hardship and on smooth easy-going highways. It is a long, romantic, sometimes crazy, love story that sums up a 29-year long honeymoon together as a couple who are still madly in love with each other. Our love commenced with a casual attraction but bloomed into a mature love and rich life.**

**我们忠实的爱和学习之旅带我们走过艰难崎岖的岩石路，走上平坦易行的公路。它是一个永久、浪漫，有时又疯狂的爱情故事。它诠释了一对仍在疯狂地爱着对方的夫妇如何一起度过了29年之久的蜜月。我们的爱从漫不经心的互相吸引开始，但最终却发展出成熟的爱情和富足的生活。**

**﻿**

**Saving the date**

**恋爱预留日**

**1 Every day I anxiously wait for you to get to class. I can't wait for us to smile at each other and say good morning. When you arrive only seconds before the lecture commences, I'm indifferent to anything but your arrival. Instead of reviewing my lesson, I anticipate your footsteps and listen for your voice. Today is one of your late days, but I don't mind because after a month of denying the impulse to ask you out, today I'm feeling bold. Today I'm inclined to act.**

**每天我都焦急地等你来上课。我迫不及待地等待我们的互相微笑，互问早安。你在离上课仅几秒前才出现，在那之前，我对任何东西都无动于衷，只会注意你的到来。我不温习功课，却期待着你的脚步声，期待听到你的声音。今天你又来晚了,但我不介意，因为在想约你出去的冲动被克制了一个月之后，今天我感觉大胆多了。今天，我要采取行动。**

**2 I know dating has changed dramatically in recent years, and for many women, asking men out isn't daring. But because of my traditional upbringing, the simple notion of asking you out seems abnormal. Growing up, I heard the clear message: Men must take the initiative and make contact. They should call, ask and pay for the date. However, during my years at the university, I've learned otherwise. Many of my women friends have put a spark in their social lives by taking the initiative with men. My girlfriends reckon that it's essential for women to participate more actively in the dating process. "I can't be idle and wait," my former roommate once said. "Hard as it is, if I want to date, I have to ask guys out!"**

**我知道约会方式近年来有了显著的改变，对许多女性来说，邀请男性出去已不是什么大胆的举动。但是，因为我所受的传统教育，邀请你出去这一简单的概念似乎非同寻常。从小到大，这一信息很明确：男性必须主动出击，联络女性。他们应该打电话，要求约会，并支付约会的费用。然而，在大学这么些年，我了解到的并非如此。我的许多女性朋友通过主动提出与男性交往，让她们的社交生活迸出了火花。我的女性朋友都认为，女性必须更多地参与约会的过程。“我不能无所事事、一味等待，”我的前室友曾说。“虽然这很难，但如果我想约会，我必须邀请男人出去！”**

**3 More women are taking the initiative and invite men out, and many men say they view this new phenomenon with approval. They are relieved that dating no longer solely depends on their willingness and courage to take the first step. Then why am I so nervous?**

**更多的女性在争取主动，在邀请男性出去。许多男性说他们认同这一新现象。他们都松了一口气，约会不再仅仅取决于男性自己的意愿和勇气来踏出第一步。那么，我为什么还这么紧张？**

**4 I tell myself to relax since dating is more casual today. A college date means anything from studying together to simply having leisure time together like watching a film. Most of my peers prefer casual dating because it's cheaper and comfortable. Students have fewer anxiety attacks when they ask somebody to play tennis than when they plan a formal occasion.**

**我告诉自己要放松，因为如今的约会要比以往来得轻松。一个大学的约会可以是两个人一起做任何事，从一起学习到一起共度闲暇时间，如看电影。我的同龄人大多喜欢非正式的约会，因为它花费更少，且舒适。学生邀请人打网球要比他们计划一个正式场合的约会更感轻松。**

**5 As an added bonus, casual dating also encourages people to forge healthy friendships prior to starting romantic relationships. Young people can relax and get to know each other more easily this way. For example, my roommate and her boyfriend were friends for four months before their chemistry clicked. They went out often with a bunch of mutual friends. They alternated paying the dinner check. "He was like any other friend," my roommate said laughing. Another friend of mine believes casual dating improves people's social lives, allowing them to circulate in wider social circles. When she wants to let a guy know she is interested, she'll say, "Hey, let's go get a yogurt." or "How about a cup of tea?"**

**非正式约会的额外好处是，它鼓励人们在开始浪漫的关系前，先建立起健康的友谊。这样，年轻人可以更容易放松心情和了解对方。例如，我的室友和她的男友在他们来电之前做了四个月的普通朋友。他们经常与一群共同的朋友出去。他们轮流买单。“他就像任何其他的朋友一样，”我的室友笑着说。另一位朋友认为，非正式约会能改善人们的社会生活，使他们周旋于更广泛的社交圈。当她想要让一个男人知道她对他很感兴趣时，她会说：“嘿，我们去喝一杯酸奶吧”或“来一杯茶如何？”**

**6 Who pays for it? It's not as easy as it used to be because the traditional rules of courtship are undergoing major changes. Preliminary statistics also affirm this. A plurality of young men say women should chip in and help pay after a few dates. An almost equal percentage of women offer to pay for themselves, even on a first date. But widespread confusion still exists. The new rules have yet to be clarified.**

**可谁来买单？这可不如以前那么容易了，因为求爱的传统规则正在发生重大变化。初步统计的数字也证明了这一点。众多的青年男子说，在约会几次后，女性应该帮着一同买单。几乎相等百分比的女性要求自己买单，哪怕是第一次约会。但巨大的困惑仍然存在，新规则还有待澄清。**

**7 My own past dates have taught me some things. Either "going Dutch" or allowing my date to pay can be a definite challenge. One date whipped out his wallet on our first date before I could suggest otherwise. During an after-dinner walk, he proceeded to tell me he was romantically interested in me. After I explained I was more interested in friendship, he seemed unhappy. He explained that since I'd accepted his paying for my dinner, he'd assumed I was interested in romance. He seemed angry with himself for treating me. I regretted allowing him to.**

**我自己过去的约会教会了我一些东西。“各付各的”或是让我的约会对象买单可以说都是绝对的挑战。有一个约会对象在我们第一次约会时，还没等我提出相左的建议，就掏出了钱包。在晚餐后散步时，他告诉我他想跟我谈恋爱。当我解释我对做朋友更感兴趣时，他似乎感到不快。他解释说，因为我接受了他请我吃晚餐，所以他认为我会跟他恋爱。他似乎对请我吃饭一事很生自己的气，而我也很后悔让他这么做。**

**8 Another date frowned when I hastily opened my purse, pulled out my wallet, and offered to go Dutch. I asked politely, "How much do I owe you?" He said, "Uh, uh, you really don't owe me anything, but if you insist …" He looked exceedingly embarrassed. To him, my gesture of offering to pay had conveyed a message of rejection.**

**另一个约会对象，在我急忙打开钱包掏出钱，并提出各付各的时，他皱起了眉头。我客气地问道：“我欠你多少钱？”他说：“嗯，嗯，你真的不欠我什么，但如果你坚持……”他显得极为尴尬。对他而言，我要付钱的行动已传达了他被拒绝的信息。**

**9 Everyone seems confused as they try to clarify the new rules of dating. Who should ask whom out? Who should pay and when? So, while I do think dressing up and going out on traditional, formal dates is a blast, I thrive on casual dating because it has brought a valuable dimension to my social life. With casual dating, there's less pressure and more equality. I can give roses as well as receive them! Casual dating is worthwhile because it works.**

**在试图搞清约会的新规则时，每个人似乎都感到困惑。谁应请谁出去？谁应付钱？什么时候付？所以，虽然我认为穿着正式地去一个传统、正式的约会是一种乐趣，但我还是乐意去非正式的约会，因为它给我的社交生活带来了有价值的一面。因为是非正式约会，压力较小，且更平等。我可以送别人玫瑰，别人也可以送我！非正式约会值得去做，因为它管用。**

**10 So here I am, waiting. No magic formula guarantees he will say "yes". I just have to relax, be myself and ask him out in a no-nonsense manner.**

**所以，我在这里等待着。没有神奇的方案可以确保他会说“好的”。我得放松，做我自己，并用一种没有废话的方式邀请他出去。**

**11 He finally arrives. Sliding into his desk, he pats my shoulder and asks, "Hi, what's up?"**

**他终于到了。在悄悄地溜到他的书桌时，他拍拍我的肩膀，说：“嗨，早上好啊！”**

**12 "Good morning," I answer cautiously. With a knot in the pit of my stomach, I conquer my fear and ask, "Hey, how about lunch after class on Friday?"**

**“早上好，”我谨慎地回答。因为紧张，我的心紧揪着，可是我征服了恐惧，问道：“嘿，这个周五下课后一起吃午餐，怎么样？”**

**13 "You mean after the midterm?" he says with barely concealed enthusiasm. "I'd love to go to lunch with you."**

**“你的意思是期中考试后吗？”他用难以掩饰的热情说：“我很愿意和你一起吃午餐。”**

**14 Thrilled and smiling broadly, I confirm, "Well then, we'll save the date!" "Yes, we will!" he replies cheerfully.**

**我很激动，笑得很开心，并跟他确认：“那，我们就定了那天啦！”“好，就那样！”他兴高采烈地回答。**