

# Outline



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著者:Rachel Cusk

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A luminous, powerful novel that establishes Rachel Cusk as one of the finest writers in the English language

A man and a woman are seated next to each other on a plane. They get to talking—about their destination, their careers, their families. Grievances are aired, family tragedies discussed, marriages and divorces analyzed. An intimacy is established as two strangers contrast their own fictions about their lives.

Rachel Cusk's *Outline* is a novel in ten conversations. Spare and stark, it follows a novelist teaching a course in creative writing during one oppressively hot summer in Athens. She leads her students in storytelling exercises. She meets other visiting writers for dinner and discourse. She goes swimming in the Ionian Sea with her neighbor from the plane. The people she encounters speak volubly about themselves: their fantasies, anxieties, pet theories, regrets, and longings. And through these disclosures, a portrait of the narrator is drawn by contrast, a portrait of a woman learning to face a great loss.

*Outline* takes a hard look at the things that are hardest to speak about. It brilliantly captures conversations, investigates people's motivations for storytelling, and questions their ability to ever do so honestly or unselfishly. In doing so it bares the deepest impulses behind the craft of fiction writing. This is Rachel Cusk's finest work yet, and one of the most startling, brilliant, original novels of recent years.

### 作者介绍:

Rachel Cusk was born in Canada, and spent some of her childhood in Los Angeles, before her family returned to England, in 1974, when Cusk was 8 years old. She read English at New College, Oxford.

Cusk is the Whitbread Award-winning author of two memoirs, including *The Last Supper*, and seven novels, including *Arlington Park*, *Saving Agnes*, *The Temporary*, *The Country Life*, and *The Lucky Ones*.

She has won and been shortlisted for numerous prizes: her most recent novel, *Outline* (2014), was shortlisted for the Folio Prize, the Goldsmith's Prize and the Bailey's prize, and longlisted for Canada's Giller Prize. In 2003, Rachel Cusk was nominated by *Granta* magazine as one of 20 'Best of Young British Novelists'

She lives in Brighton, England.

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## 标签

英文原版

英文

小说

美国人看的十大好书

纽约时报

文学

中文

原版

## 评论

飞机上的对话 爱尔兰和希腊文化一窥 另外还可以学怎么写两个人的对话

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感觉特别难评价这本。倒是我自己在读英文原版书的过程中，更容易退居一个谦逊的位置，从而对作者书写的感知力加强（其实就是普遍抱有好感，“太会写了吧！”）。Rachel Cusk利用人物的谈吐风格来刻画形象，neighbor的“胡思乱想”显得杂乱无章甚至偶有庸俗，而女主人公在聆听的过程中“打假”般地以一名受高等教育者的身份去纠正。最容易读的当然是写作课上各个人讲述自己见闻的几个部分。女主视角的流畅感和她在希腊所遇见大部分人的繁冗卡顿形成对比（让阅读过程一言难尽...）。RC本人写过三本自传，谈了许多家庭生活相关，在本书中也得到了足够的体现。最后仍以一个小小的纠错结束，可谓颇具匠心。只不过这么一个outline，究竟喻指何处？我还是把猜测默默留在心里罢。

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2017.9.28-12.20 Lucid.

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太会用比喻了。对话好到觉得自己就坐在他们中间。读到一半才意识到多年前在the Paris review看过其中的一段。

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可以再少一点自负

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最后一章蛮好

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这个教授选的reading竟没有一本喜欢的噢今天consultation因为我准备了过多references（就四个而且都是用来conceptualize my ideas of failure的，又不是都close reading）对我批了一通，说我就不能写的简单点吗？复杂的留着博士论文写。好累。估计我们department除了我导师没人能/愿意欣赏我。再次证明选导师时的运气以及这个学期快过完吧，开始每天焦虑醒了...

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几乎是用对话完成的小说 每个章节encounter不同的人 飞机上的邻座 写作课的学生和老师 旧友 旧友的朋友 刚见面的陌生人。场景极其自然 随意而不乏深刻 似是平常交谈但是可窥见隐含的深意 每段对话都不会指向任何结论 整本书就像生活本身一样不断地carry on and on。对话填充了人物周围的空间，可是人物本身仍是空白，这就是outline.

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让人想起礼拜天下午在咖啡店里和朋友们谈话

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Rachel Cusk最吸引我的一点就是她独特的感知视角和敏感度，许多寻常经历在小说里（不一定是叙述者视角）有了解读，其中很多非常独特。与叙述者展开对话的人物各有各的情感不幸、偏执和纠结，生命中的经历和遇到的人事会各自解读成不同的信号，这种非典型线性叙事对我来说还挺新鲜的，能把群像铺在很大的空间里，对话谈到的观点和视角对看待人生大议题（两性地位、亲密关系、社会关系、人生价值 etc）也很有启发性。

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一段接一段看似轻描淡写的路人叙述的故事，涵盖了家人夫妻之间的各种感情问题和人生感悟，非常特别的小说形式。

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颠覆了我对小说写作方式的认知

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希望今年内能看第二遍

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看看

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遇见一个接一个话痨，陷入一段又一段独白，都是没有结尾的故事，但是充满闪光的片段。蜿蜒长句里塞着逗号破折号用得行云流水的小短句，就像说话不喘气，但听起来不恼人，那种effortless flow甚至让人觉得过瘾。

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不是所有书都要读出个结果。

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读完这本书之后，我再也不可能按照以前的方式写作了。

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Natural narration, but with thoughts provoking and breath taking pieces.

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Stopped after 40 pages. Not sure the point the writer is trying to make.

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最近看过比较有趣的一本。On Becoming a Mother那本絮絮叨叨得实在读不下去，差点把Cusk列入黑名单。但是Outline Trilogy另两部应该不会去看了，实在受不了这种“看我肚脐眼”的写法。

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书评

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