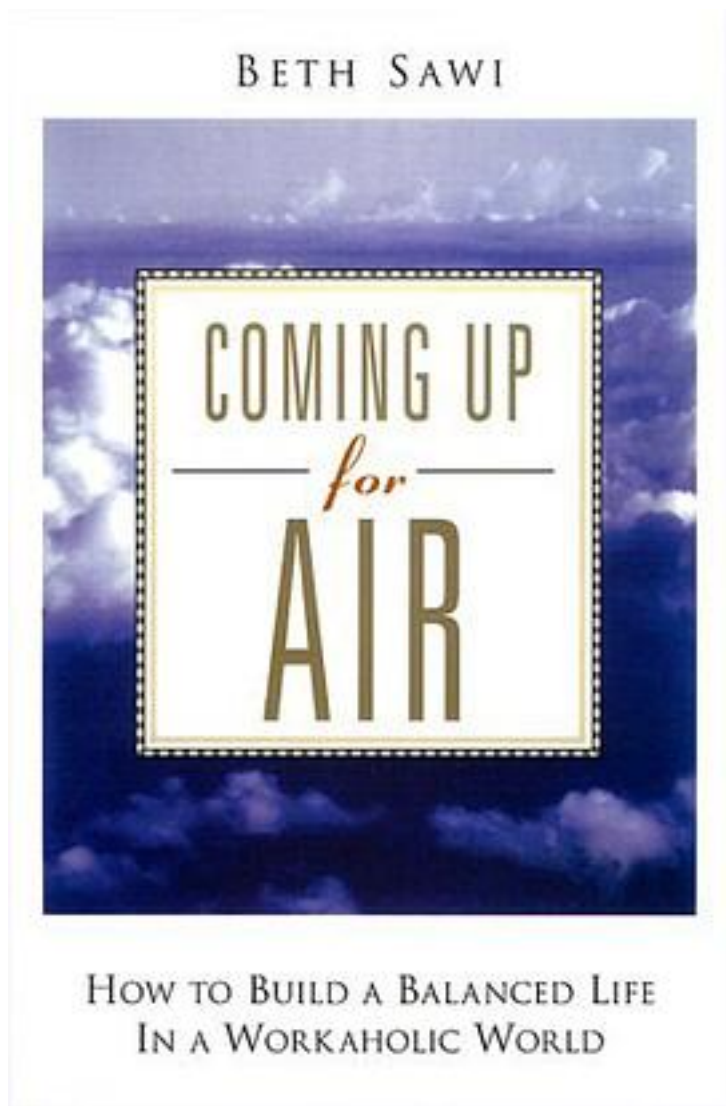


Coming Up for Air



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著者:George Orwell (Author)

出版者:Recorded Books

出版时间:1988

装帧:Audio Cassette

isbn:9781556901140

Synopsis

George Bowling, the hero of this comic novel, is a middle-aged insurance salesman who lives in an average English suburban row house with a wife and two children. One day, after winning some money from a bet, he goes back to the village where he grew up, to fish for carp in a pool he remembers from thirty years before. The pool, alas, is gone, the village has changed beyond recognition, and the principal event of his holiday is an accidental bombing by the RAF.

Amazon Review

Insurance salesman George "Fatty" Bowling lives with his humorless wife and their two irritating children in a dull house in a tract development in the historyless London suburb of West Bletchley. The year is 1938; doomsayers are declaring that England will be at war again by 1941.

When George bets on an unlikely horse and wins, he finds himself with a little extra cash on his hands. What should he spend it on? "The alternatives, it seemed to me, were either a week-end with a woman or dribbling it quietly away on odds and ends such as cigars and double whiskeys." But a chance encounter with a poster in Charing Cross sets him off on a tremendous journey into his own memories--memories, especially, of a boyhood spent in Lower Binfield, the country village where he grew up. His recollections are pungent and detailed. Touch by touch, he paints for us a whole world that is already nearly lost: a world not yet ruled by the fear of war and not yet blighted by war's aftermath: **1913! My God! 1913! The stillness, the green water, the rushing of the weir! It'll never come again. I don't mean that 1913 will never come again. I mean the feeling inside you, the feeling of not being in a hurry and not being frightened, the feeling you've either had and don't need to be told about, or haven't had and won't ever have the chance to learn.** Alas, George finds that even Lower Binfield has been darkened by the bomber's shadow.

Readers of 1984 will recognize Orwell's desperate insistence on the importance of the individual, of memory, of history, and of language; and they will find in Fatty Bowling one of Orwell's most engaging creations--a warm, witty, thinking, remembering Everyman in a world that is fast learning not to think and not to remember, and thus swiftly losing its mind. --Daniel Hintzsche

Review

A very different dish of tea from his earlier *Animal Farm* and recent *Nineteen Eighty Four* both of which instigated aroused controversy, is this book which was published in England before the war. Prophetic in its atmosphere, it is the total recall of George Bowling, 45, which is started by his set of new false teeth and some money he has won on the horses. The morning's events help him envision what will come with Hitler's threats growing stronger, lead him to think of his youth with special intensity and review the sort of secure, continuous life that went with World War I which took him out of the grocery business, turned him loose among books, inspired his thinking. The mental squalor of his life thereafter with Hilda and their two children and his present doubts as to what is coming - and the 17 quid - send him on a secret visit to his old home. It in turn offers only failure as an antidote for the country has turned into town, no one knows or remembers him or his family - everything is disillusion. In London again with the knowledge earned that there is no going back, that what is to come - horrible as it must be - cannot be stopped. Honesty in the picture of a man neither highbrow nor a fool of a poky milieu and the mingy situations of living, of the downhill

path to a ghastly flux, this in its backward, introspective look offers a nostalgic, sincere appreciation of a way of life that can never be again, and will prove something new for his followers. (Kirkus Reviews) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coming Up for Air

Author George Orwell

Publication date June 1939

Coming Up for Air is a novel by George Orwell, published before World War II and predicting that conflict. It is written in the first person, with George Bowling, the forty-five-year-old protagonist, telling the reader his life story.

The social and material changes experienced by Bowling since childhood make his past seem as distant as the biblical character Og, King of Bashan, whom he remembers from Sundays at church. A news-poster about the contemporary King Zog of Albania, along with 'some sound in the traffic or the smell of horse dung or something' triggers the connection in Bowling's mind and his subsequent 'trip down memory lane'. Orwell's writing tends to show a real relish for pessimism and squalor; nevertheless, Bowling expresses a nostalgic melancholy of some tenderness. The novel presents an absorbingly realistic evocation of what is now called 'a mid-life crisis'.

What is most notable is not so much that Orwell predicted the start of World War II, which was becoming expected, but that he foresaw the transformation of society which would succeed it. Indeed, just a few years after the publication of this book, pre-war England was almost as different as George Bowling's Edwardian childhood.

The themes of the book are nostalgia, the folly of trying to go back and recapture past glories and the easy way the dreams and aspirations of one's youth can be smothered by the humdrum routine of work, marriage and getting old. George Bowling is not a very sympathetic character ?he is a fat, middle-aged insurance salesman who dislikes his wife and children and who would betray what few principles he has for a couple of pints or a good night out with a prostitute.

However, like many Orwell protagonists, his saving virtues are perceptiveness and candour, especially regarding himself.

Orwell wrote the novel while spending six months in Morocco.

作者介绍:

乔治·奥威尔 (George Orwell, 1903-1950年)，英国人道主义者、新闻记者和社会评论家，著名的英语文体作家。最著名的作品有《一九八四》和《动物庄园》，堪称世界文坛上最著名的政治讽喻小说。

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评论

george orwell

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书评

我已经出版的译作，本本在我心里都有独特的位置，我几乎要像伍迪·爱伦笔下的尼德尔曼一样，慈祥地对它们说：“你们都是我的宝贝。”
就请原谅我这点自恋的感觉吧，我要说的是，不管出来的书留下多少遗憾，但是在翻译的过程中，一个字一个字打出来，经过几个月辛苦之后，永远...

与伙伴们一样，我常会埋怨喧嚣都市中悬浮的灰霾，它似乎不令鼻子过敏不罢休，紧接的喷嚏连连，是感冒前兆，郁结上心头。哪天碰上倒霉的鼻烟癌，叫你好受！
哗啦一阵瓢泼大雨，狂洗城市的愁容，我会庆幸着这难得一次的“上来透口气”：幻想蓝天轻抚浅色山丘，溪涧的裙...

你的生活是这样的：每日每夜，出没在同一间被称为家的旧房子里，墙皮泛着尿茧黄，裂着眼角纹，跟你同床异梦的虫子不下七种，天天走上同一条没人打扫的路，甚至连续一星期被同一个二楼砸下的酒瓶绊个趔趄。没人愿意跟你闲扯，更别说什么交流，事实上你说的每一句话其实都跟自己...

写《上来透口气》的乔治·奥威尔和那个写《一九八四》和《动物农场》的乔治·奥威尔似乎有点不一样。在这本书里我们看到奥威尔也可以幽默轻松并自娱自乐，而不是我们在看《一九八四》时想象的那个满脸皱容对极权专制苦大仇深的知识分子模样。《上来透口气》的故事很简...

假设你已在异乡工作数年，不论是位居高官颐指气使或者至今仍是寄人檐下，终于有一次机会，你回到了阔别已久的故土。那是你出来闯荡之前的栖身之地。当你一踏上这片土地，所有往事都会随着故乡熟悉的气味一起涌来。你脚下的崎岖小径曾是上学的必经之路，你知道什么时候该抬脚，...

1938年，一个糟糕一如平常的一月的早晨，45岁，有着两个孩子，身材已经开始发福的保险业务员乔治·保灵，兜里因为揣着赛马赢来的17英镑——瞒着妻子希尔达的，这一天便有了些和平常不大一样的意味。老爷车在大修，不用跑业务，去公司送了几份文件后，又取到了新假牙。口腔里...

过去那些充满活力的美好日子在回忆里就像一杯装在白色淡花瓷杯里冒着热气的茶，茶叶被开水浇在上面后散出淡淡的香味。滚烫新鲜的茶水让人不敢喝下去，只能一面看着茶叶不停翻滚沉浮一面任由那香味不停挑逗着嗅觉。呆呆望那杯茶一会儿后就扭头去做别的事情。但有事做事情...

微信公众号：shenshike-HK（心是主人身是客） ==
書封上寫：《上來透口氣》被英國文學專家評為20世紀50本最令人愉悅的書之一。又是一個“專家”，被中國不學無術大放厥詞的無恥“專家”吓坏了的我，看見“專家”就色變。好在此英國“專家”不同中國“專家”，說話比較...

昨天早西西弗看了这本书的序 很是喜欢 等我静下心来时 我一定要好好读完它
我喜欢看 关于一个男人怎样面对他的生活与信仰的书 关于题目 是今天上午的事儿了
我妈妈问我喜欢 哪种类型的人 作结婚对象 我说 可以陪我到处游走的人

如果一本书能够让我有一直看下去的欲望 并且时不时会让我觉得要停下来想一会
我会果断给它五星 奥威尔说 读到一本喜欢的书
是因为它提供的东西刚好和你现阶段的想法不谋而合
它诱使你原本只是蠢蠢欲动的思维拉扯上来然后抽丝剥茧 或许我们每个人
在年轻的时候都会有环游世界...

有些书会是这样，你看完了心里觉得很无奈。谈不上喜欢这本书。却会经常在某个时刻想起，因为它当中有什么，触到了你的生活，你的心，将现实写得看起来荒诞不已却又丝丝入扣。《上来透口气》就是这样的书。
乔治·奥威尔只活到了37岁，却将一个45岁戴假牙的胖子写得让人感觉就...

这篇不是好好写的书评，唯一和书切合的可能只是一种模糊的感觉：
耳边是声轨延迟的广播，赴台旅游、自主创业、救援工作、严正交涉、反战游行、恐怖袭击、暴动伤亡...层叠的语词鱼贯而入，清晨，少人的大厅，坐着等下一班地铁，木讷而呆滞，身体仍未从梦魇中完全复苏。一如电子...

奥威尔的小说好读。依旧是对身边女人充满鄙薄的态度，以至于主人公保灵一度想掐死自己只会嘟嘟囔囔的蠢妻子，一如缅甸岁月，被寄予厚望的甚至精神依赖的女性，最终不过是庸脂俗粉而已。
保灵先生终生没混成个上等人，只比自己的小镇谷店父亲好那么一点点，每周挣七磅。小镇...

可能有很多人知道作者的《1984》《动物庄园》但是，这本《上来透口气》却很多人不知道。不论你曾经对这位作者做出过何种评价，毋庸置疑的是George Orwell
他始终关心着我们的生活，我们的社会。
他关心着社会底层喜怒哀乐，他表现出对现代社会的忧虑。好似大家都生活在一...

2010-06-27 第一财经日报

《一九八四》书名来自于它问世的1948年，乔治·奥威尔把末尾数字换个位置，明确以预言的形式警醒世人对国家权力的迷信。此书早已成为经典，与《动物农场》一起，展示了对极权社会令人惊叹的预言能力。而奥威尔在此前十年写作的批判现代工业社会的...

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