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## *A Royal Romance, An Everyday Love Story* 王子婚礼与平民爱情

### Chapter Seven: Asking the Father for His Daughter's Hand 求亲

**Yang Li:** Hello I'm Yang Li. Welcome to the seventh chapter of the BBC series *A Royal Romance, An Everyday Love Story*. So far we've learned about how their paths crossed, how their love blossomed from a friendship and how the men popped the question. **What's next?** 故事顺理成章地讲下去在求婚的惊喜和激动之后两位男子是不是要上门求亲, 取得女方父亲的同意, 才算最后敲定婚事? 这是不是英国的传统习俗? 请听我的第七个故事 **asking the father for his daughter's hand** 求亲。

威廉王子和凯特小姐在宣布订婚之后接受了 BBC 记者 Tom Bradby 的采访。请大家边听边思考两个问题: 1 威廉为什么没有先去向凯特的父亲 Mike 求亲? 2 凯特用什么短语来形容她母亲特别高兴?

### Interview with Prince William and Kate Middleton

**William:** Well, I was, I was torn between asking Kate's dad first, and then the realisation that he might actually say no dawned upon me. So I thought if I asked Kate first then he can't really say no. So I did it that way round, and I managed to speak to, to Mike, sort of soon after it happened, really, and then it sort of happened from there.

**Tom:** Kate, what did your mum say?

**Kate:** Well, I think as any mother would be she was absolutely over the moon. And actually we had quite an awkward situation because I knew, and I knew that William had asked my father, but I didn't know if my mother knew. So I came back from Scotland, and my mother didn't make it clear to me whether she knew or not. So both of us were there, sort of looking at each other and feeling quite awkward about it. But it was amazing to tell her, and obviously she was very happy for us.

**Yang Li:** That was William and Kate. Now let's check your answers to the two comprehension questions. 第一, 威廉为什么没有先去向凯特的父亲 Mike 去求亲? **Because he feared that the father might say no.** 第二, 凯特用什么短语来形容她母亲特别高兴? **She said that her mother was absolutely over the moon.** 心满意足。Although it is now quite old-fashioned, British tradition has it that the man should ask the father for his daughter's hand in marriage.

Now let's turn to our regular guests who have been sharing their love journey with us. 早些时候我把两位请到了 BBC 的演播室。

### Interview with David and Jennifer

**Yang Li:** Well, as you would expect, Prince William was quite traditional and asked Kate's dad for her hand in marriage. He asked him if he could marry her. David, did you speak to Jennifer's dad?

**David:** No, I didn't actually. Jenny's dad lived in France, and I didn't actually get the opportunity to speak to him before I actually popped the question - so I didn't. Jenny grew up with her mum and she's a lot closer with her mum, so I think on that kind of traditional note, I think I probably would have asked Jenny's mum, because Jenny's mum and dad are divorced. But I didn't trust, if I asked Jenny's mum I didn't trust her to keep the secret to be honest!

**Jennifer:** She would have been far too overexcited!

**David:** She would have, she would have. I didn't do that, no.

**Jennifer:** And it's probably for the best. I think Dave made the right decision with that.

### Today's Phrases

**Yang Li:** 今天的重点词语是：思想斗争 to be torn between doing something.

**William:** Well, I was, I was torn between asking Kate's dad first, and then the realisation that he might actually say no dawned upon me. So I thought if I asked Kate first then he can't really say no.

**Yang Li:** 极为高兴 to be over the moon.

**Kate:** Well, I think as any mother would be she was absolutely over the moon.

**Yang Li:** 保守秘密 to keep the secret.

**David:** If I asked Jenny's mum I didn't trust her to keep the secret to be honest!

**Jennifer:** She would have been far too overexcited!

**David:** She would have, she would have. I didn't do that, no.

**Yang Li:** It sounds like there isn't a hard and fast rule about whether you should ask for the father's approval before marriage. William did and David didn't. What is important though is that both parents are over the moon, as Kate described her mother.

As for Jennifer's mother, she would have been far too excited to keep the secret. Anyway, all is well that ends well. Both couples are now on course for the big day and beyond: planning for their future.

What is the biggest challenge for Kate as the future Queen and Jennifer as the future Mrs Langrish? Join me again next week here on [www.bbcukchina.com](http://www.bbcukchina.com). Bye.