

1. 阅读理解

On the eve of our daughters' weddings, I gave both of them what I considered to be excellent marital advice: never leave your husband unsupervised (无人监督的) with pruning shears (修枝剪).

If only I had taken my own advice. I recently let my guard down. Thirty - some years of marriage can do that to a woman. Give a man pruning shears and electric trimmers (电动修剪器) and he will give new meaning to "armed and dangerous."

One day earlier this year, my husband said that the crab apple tree was dead.

"Why do you think it is dead?" I asked.

"Look at it. There's not a leaf on it."

"There's not a leaf on anything. It's March," I said.

"It looked sick last fall and with this bitter winter we had, I'm convinced it's dead."

The truth is he's never liked the crabapple. Sure, it has beautiful blooms in the spring, but then it gets a disease, the leaves curl, and it drops those little apples that sit on the driveway.

Each passing week he pronounced the tree dead. Eventually I began to believe him. Though he agreed it would be a regrettable loss, there was a twinkle in his eye.

He armed himself a couple of weeks ago and began trimming. A branch here, a branch there, a small limb, then a large limb. I watched and then decided to check the wood on some of the branches closer to the trunk. I broke one off and saw green.

The crabapple was not dead. It just hadn't had time to leaf out. The tree was now falling to one side, but it was not dead. I would have told him so, but he had moved on to a maple. Once the man starts, he can't stop. One trim leads to another.

"Please, stop!" I called.

He smiled and nodded, but he couldn't hear because he had started the hedge (树篱) trimmers and was getting ready to fix a line of hedges.

Zip (嗖嗖声), zip, zip.

"What do you think?" he shouted.

"It's supposed to be a privacy hedge; now all that will be private are our ankles."

He started the trimmers again.

"Stop!" I called, "Come back!"

"Why?" he shouted.

"You're in the neighbor's yard."

【1】 By saying "If only I had taken my own advice," the author means that

- A. she didn't follow her own advice about pruning shears.
- B. she feels regretful about her marriage after many years.
- C. she shouldn't have kept a close watch on her husband.
- D. she shouldn't have given that marital advice to her daughters.

【2】 We can learn from the article that the author's husband

- A. has a great talent for gardening.
- B. nearly ruined their neighbor's garden.
- C. mistook their crab apple tree for a maple tree.
- D. had never used pruning shears before.

【3】 What does the article mainly talk about?

- A. Why the author's husband insisted on trimming their crabapple tree.
- B. Why the author's husband shouldn't have been allowed to trim their crab apple tree.
- C. How the author has survived her "thirty - some" years of marriage.
- D. How the author's husband killed their crab apple tree.

【4】 What is the tone of the article?

- A. Anxious.
- B. Critical.
- C. Serious.
- D. Humorous.

2. 阅读理解

They say the average person makes 35,000 decisions a day. Yet in her new book, *How Woman Decide*, Therese Huston explores a widespread phenomenon that many women fail to notice. "There's a huge double standard when it comes to how men and women are viewed as decision makers," explains Therese, a psychologist from Seattle University. Therese decided to write the book after looking at her bookshelf: At one end, there were bestselling books about how to be a brilliant decision maker--all written by men and featuring interviews with men like athletes. At the other end were books aimed at women on gaining leadership skills and confidence.

"Once those women are at the table, will their decisions be taken as seriously as men's?" Therese wondered. "Men are respected as decision makers more than women, especially in the workplace, largely because there's this cultural belief that women are unable to make smart choices at work."

So, Therese began to pick apart the stereotypes (固有印象) to see what scientific research had found. "Scientific research shows that men and women struggle with decision-making equally. The only disadvantage I found was that during the teenage years, teenage girls are more indecisive than teenage boys. Otherwise, there's little difference between the genders."

However, there are some differences. "Women are more cooperative," says Therese, "A female boss is more likely to ask the opinions of those around her when making a choice. Women ask for input, which helps make better decisions. However, this is often seen as a weakness rather than a strength."

Therese also found that during times of stress, men and women make different choices, and the outcomes are often better when women are involved.

Study after study backs this view up. Neuroscientists Mara Mather and Nicole Lighthall from the University of Southern California studied the way men and women make decisions and found that in times of stress, they react very differently.

During their study, which involved playing a virtual gambling (赌博) game, they found that when the females became stressed, they made smart decisions--quitting while they were ahead or taking safe bets. But when the men became stressed, they did the opposite, risking everything for a slim chance of a big win.

【1】 Why did Therese Huston write her book *How Women Decide*?

- A. Women are less respected as decision makers.
- B. Women are not equally treated in workplaces.
- C. Women are unable to make smart choices.