

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF BY THE LIGHT OF MY FATHER'S SMILE

The Robinson family moves from the United States to Mexico, where Mr. Robinson and his wife, Langley, study the life of the Mundo people. Mr. Robinson, whose daughters are Magdalena and Susannah, is actually an anthropologist who pretends to be a missionary so that he can get funds for his expedition from the church.

Before moving to Mexico, Mr. Robinson has a close relationship with his two daughters. He loves his family and he always takes good care of his daughters. After they move to Mexico, however, everything starts to change. Seeing Magdalena have a close relationship with a Mundo boy called Manuelito, Mr. Robinson becomes very protective towards her. He is afraid that Magdalena will make love to Manuelito and get pregnant. Then he forbids Magdalena to play with any Mundo boys. On the other hand, Magdalena feels that she has already been grown-up and she is ready to start falling in love. Magdalena disobeys her father's orders by secretly meeting Manuelito. When Mr. Robinson finds out that Magdalena still has a relationship with Manuelito and even has sex with him, Mr. Robinson is outrageous. He beats her up. The beating is witnessed by Magdalena's younger sister, Susannah. It is very ironic because Mr. Robinson is actually a man who really enjoys having sex with his wife.

After the incident, the relationships between Mr. Robinson and his two daughters change. After being beaten by her father, Magdalena cannot forget what he has done to her and she cannot forgive him, either. Magdalena's life is full of anger,

sorrow, and unhappiness. She buries her feelings and anger by becoming obese. Susannah, on the other hand, becomes emotionally distant to both her father and her sister. Magdalena is like a stranger to her and she also closes her heart to her father's affection.

After Mr. Robinson has died, his soul can see that what he has done has made his daughters suffer. He realizes his wrongdoings and asks her daughters for forgiveness. Magdalena, who finally dies, meets her father and she forgives him. Susannah, who is still alive, is the last one to recover. Mr. Robinson's soul comes in her dreams – they finally forgive each other.

BIOGRAPHY OF ALICE WALKER

Alice Walker was born in Eatonton, Georgia, on February 9th, 1944. She is the daughter of Willie Lee and Minnie Lou Grant. In her childhood Walker got an accident and it blinded her in one eye; however, she managed to become a valedictorian of her local school. Later, she got scholarships to study at Spelman College and Sarah Lawrence College and graduated in 1965.

Since 1960 Alice Walker has been an active member in the Civil Rights Movement. She has spoken for the women's movement, the anti-apartheid movement, the anti-nuclear movement, and she has always been against female genital mutilation. Besides being an active member in the Civil Rights Movement, she is also a productive writer.

In 1968 Walker produced her first book of poems and she wrote her first novel just after she gave birth to her daughter in 1970. Walker won the Pulitzer Prize and the American Book Award for her novel The Color Purple. Her other bestselling novels include Possessing the Secret of Joy, The Temple of My Familiar and By the Light of My Father's Smile. Walker is also the author of three collections of essays, two

collections of short stories, five volumes of poetry, and several children's books. Many of her books have been translated into more than two dozen languages.

Alice Walker got married in 1967 but she was divorced in 1976. She has a daughter and now lives in Northern California.