

## APPENDICES

### **SYNOPSIS OF COMFORT WOMAN**

Comfort Women are women and girls who were forced to serve in Japanese “Recreation Camps” during World War II. The camps were intended to accommodate the sexual needs of Japanese soldiers. Akiko, the protagonist, was sold by her sister as a comfort woman. Her identities were stripped from her. She was very sad and she had a strong desire for death. At the age of 12, Akiko was regularly raped by several soldiers each night. At the age of 14, Akiko nearly died from a crude abortion. Akiko was rescued by a missionary named Richard, who soon became her husband. After her marriage, Akiko was still haunted by her lack of identity and her horrible days in the Japanese camps. Akiko believed in Shaman, a Korean traditional belief, whereas her husband was a faithful Christian. Shamanists worshipped their “god” by dancing and screaming aloud. Richard regarded Akiko as an insane woman. He tried to heal Akiko with his Christianity. Akiko could not accept Richard’s attempt to convert her into Christianity. Akiko often had conflicts with her daughter, Beccah. The conflicts were mostly caused by Akiko’s belief in Shaman and its rituals which Beccah and her schoolmates found very strange and ridiculous.

## **BIOGRAPHY OF NORA OKJA KELLER**

Nora Okja Keller was born in Seoul, Korea. Her father was a German computer engineer and her mother was a Korean "jack of all trades." Keller grew up in Hawaii and attended the University of Hawaii.

In 1995 she received the Pushcart Prize for a short story, "Mother Tongue," which later became a part of Comfort Woman, her first novel and winner of the 1998 American Book Award. Her recently published second novel, Fox Girl, is set in Korea in the mid 1960s. It tells the story of three young Koreans who are marginalized by their society and abused by American soldiers. It is a harrowing tale told unflinchingly and yet with lyricism. Nora Keller continues to tap into the reservoirs of historical relevance. (<http://biographynorakeller/org>.)