

APPENDICES

Synopsis of The Battle for Christabel

There is a woman named Rowena, who has a very close friend named Isobel. Rowena really wants a baby but she does not want the baby's father. She considers men only as a breeding machine and she does not want to share her baby with its father; in other words, she wants to be a single parent.

Rowena tries many times to have a baby with some men. Finally she gets pregnant from a black man named Amos, but he is never told about her pregnancy. Rowena does not tell her mother or sister about her intention to have a baby until she is pregnant because she knows that her mother does not like her daughter to make a relationship with a black man and she will oppose to it. She only tells about her willingness to have a baby to her best friend, Isobel.

Five years after the birth of Christabel, Rowena's daughter, Rowena is tragically killed in a climbing accident. Before her death, Rowena has already asked Isobel to take care of her daughter if something happens to her when she gives birth to Christabel. However, Isobel feels that she is unprepared to be a mother and she is pessimistic that she will become a good mother for Christabel. After the death of her mother, Christabel becomes an orphan and she is now under the protection of the social service department. The department now has a right to

determine by whom Christabel will be taken care of. The department chooses Betty and Norman, a couple from High Road city, to be Christabel's new parents. However, Mrs. Blake, Christabel's grandmother and Isobel disagree to this decision and they oppose it. Each of them wants to take care of Christabel. Finally, the council makes a decision that Betty and Norman cannot be Christabel's parents because they have more than one foster-child and they do fostering as a job and Betty gets £40 a week for each child.

Isobel wants to become a foster mother for Christabel because deep in her heart she loves Christabel very much. However since she is unmarried, the council will not permit her to take care of Christabel. Isobel does not give up doing the battle to get the right to take care of Christabel, but in the end unfortunately she has to accept her loss to get Christabel because finally the council makes a decision that Christabel will be taken care of by Carmichaels, the other couple from Totteridge, who is chosen by the social service department to be her certain foster parents.

Biography of Margaret Forster

Margaret Forster was born in Carlisle on 25 May 1938. She is educated at the Carlisle and County High School for Girls. From here she won an Open Scholarship to Somerville College, Oxford where in 1960 she was awarded an honours degree in History.

She worked as a teacher in Islington, north London, between 1961 and 1963. Since 1963 Margaret Forster has worked as a novelist, biographer and freelance literary critic. She also gives a lot of contribution regularly to book

programmes on television, to Radio 4 (four) and various newspapers and magazines. She was a member of the BBC Advisory Committee on the Social Effects of Television (1975-1977), and of the Arts Council Literary Panel (1978-1981). Forster was also a contributor to various newspapers and journals, and a regular broadcaster for the BBC, and was a chief non-fiction reviewer for the London *Evening Standard* (1977-80).

Margaret Forster has written 10 novels, they are Georgy Girl, The Seduction of Mrs Pendlebury, Private Papers, Mother Can You Hear Me?, Have the Men Had Enough?, Lady's Maid, The Battle for Christabel, Mothers' Boys and Shadow Baby, The Memory Box, all of which are published by Penguin. Her novel, Georgy Girl (1965), was filmed in 1966 with a screenplay by Margaret Forster and Peter Nichols. She is also the author of biography of Elizabeth Barrett Browning (the winner of the Heinemann Award), Bonnie Prince Charlie and Daphne du Maurier (the winner of the Fawcett Society Book Prize) and wrote the 'autobiography' of William Makepeace Thackeray. She also wrote about her mother and grandmother in Hidden Lives, a memoir published in 1995, and the follow up volume, Precious Lives (1998), was awarded the J. R. Ackerley Prize.

Now, Margaret Forster lives in two places, London and the Lake District with her husband, the writer and broadcaster, Hunter Davies and her three children.