

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF THE BINDING CHAIR

Chao-tsing (May's real name) is five years old when her grandmother binds her feet and tells her not to cry out whatever happens. When May is fourteen she marries a silk merchant. She is the fourth wife and her husband has a sexual disorder. May feels that none of her family support her wish. One day she runs away to Shanghai, makes a funeral for herself, changes her name and works as a prostitute.

May hates all Chinese men because she has a trauma with her former husband. May thinks that all of Chinese men are the same as her former husband. She wants to run away from her fate and bury all her past memories behind but she cannot do it as easily as she wants. Considering that May makes herself difficult to be understood by other people who love and care for her. May does not want everyone in her new family to know about her past life, moreover sometimes it causes a social conflict because of May's inner conflict.

After the fire, May and the rest of her family, Dick, May, Cecily, Alice and Miss Cuthbertson move to France. Before she leaves Shanghai, she wants to finish her business. In France, May learns swimming and Alice has her own life. May feels lonely. When May is swimming in the sea, she intentionally drowns herself and dies.

BIOGRAPHY OF KATHRYN HARRISON

Kathryn Harrison was born in Los Angeles, California in 1961. Her parents were only eighteen when she was born and they lived with her maternal grandparents who ended up raising her. In her memoir, it is stated that Harrison's childhood relation with her mother was dysfunctional and she only saw her father twice in twenty years. Then, when she did meet her father, she was manipulated into an incestuous affair that lasted four years. She also suffered from eating disorders for years.

Harrison graduated from the Iowa writers' Workshop in 1987, and then she moved to Brooklyn, New York, with Collin Harrison, whom she married in 1988. Her grandmother moved east and lived with them until her death, two months before her 92nd birthday. She saw her first great-grandchild, Sarah, who was born in 1990. The Harrisons also had a son named Walker, who was born in 1992 and a younger daughter Julia, born in 2000.

Harrison is a frequent reviewer for the *New York Times Book Review*; her essays, which have been included in many anthologies, have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Vogue*, *O Magazine*, *Salon*, and other publications.

Harrison is the author of the novels *Thicker Than Water*, *Exposure*, and *Poison*. She lives in New York with her husband, the novelist Collin Harrison, and their children.