

APPENDICES

Synopsis of Bernard Malamud's *The Assistant*

Morris Bober is a Jewish grocer who comes from Russia and has a store in Brooklyn, New York. Morris is a very kindhearted man; he shovels the snow in front of his shop for the Christians, so they can go to church. Morris also chases a customer who leaves change in the store and when he is ill, he opens his shop at six am just to sell the Polish woman a three-cent roll. But his grocery store has fallen recently because he has a competitor. To maintain his family, Morris depends on his daughter's wages.

Then one day a young man called Frank Alpine arrives from Boston to start a new life in Brooklyn. Frank, an Italian orphan, robs Morris' store with Ward Minogue, son of a police officer. Afterward, Frank realizes that he has done wrong thing and he tries to fix them. Frank comes to Morris' grocery store to find work and to pay for his mistake. Frank cleans Morris' windows for free. But Morris' wife, Ida, refuses Frank's effort because they cannot afford to have an assistant.

The next day Morris finds that a bottle of milk and two rolls of bread have gone. After a few days, Morris finds Frank sleeping in his cellar and Frank admits that he is the one who steals the milk and bread because he is hungry.

Instead of reporting Frank to the police, Morris gives Frank some meals and let him stay for the night. The next morning Morris slips and passes out when he drags boxes of milk. Luckily, Frank is able to save him and starts to work in the store, and he manages to bring more money. Because business is quite good, Morris starts to pay Frank. However, Frank does not want to be paid because he realizes that he has stolen some money of the store. Finally, Morris knows about the thievery and asks Frank to get out of the store. Frank realizes that he has missed an opportunity to change. However, when Helen, who is Morris' daughter goes to the park, Ward tries to rape her but Frank appears and rescues her but he himself rapes her instead.

One day one of Morris' competitors' store has been burned down by fire and the owner offers to buy Morris' store and Morris agrees to that. Morris feels happy and goes out to shovel the snow without wearing his coat. In the night Morris falls sick and dies three days later because of pneumonia. Frank has changed into a better person like Morris. Therefore, Frank starts to run the shop and also he works in many places and many kinds of job in order to gain more money to avoid the grocery store from bankruptcy and also to send Helen to university. Finally, Frank is able to do the same things as Morris; Frank opens the store in the morning just to sell the Polish woman a three cents bread. In the end, Frank, who has been influenced greatly by Morris' values and manners, goes to the hospital and has himself circumcised.

Biography of the Author

<<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/assistant/context.html>>

Bernard Malamud was born on 26 April 1914 in Brooklyn, New York. His parents were Jewish who emigrated from Russia to Brooklyn.

Malamud went to Erasmus Hall High School and graduated in 1932. He continued his studies in City College of New York and had his B.A. four years later in 1936. Malamud got his Master Degree in English Literature six years later from Columbia University.

Malamud started to write short stories after he got his Master Degree. He had the chance to work for Bureau of the Census in Washington, D.C. but he chose to become an evening instructor in English at Erasmus Hall High School in 1940. After that, he decided to marry Anna de Chiare and his wife gave birth to his two children, Paul and Janne. Later, Malamud worked in the faculty of Oregon State University from 1949 until 1961 and then he moved to Bennington College.

Malamud is famous for using Jewish characters in his novels. Malamud's works are *The Natural* (1952), *The Magic Barrel*, a collection of short stories, (1952), *The Assistant* (1957), *A New Life* (1961), *The Fixer* (1966), *Pictures of Fidelman*, a collection of short stories (1969), *The Tenants* (1971), *Dubin's Lives* (1979) and *God's Grace* (1982). Malamud's *The Magic Barrel* and *The Fixers* got the National Book Award in 1959 and 1967. *The Fixers* also won the Pulitzer Prize in 1967. Bernard Malamud died on March 18, 1986 in New York City.