

APPENDICES

Synopsis of Union Street

Union Street by Pat Barker is about seven neighbouring women who live at the same street in England. Its name is Union Street. All of them have different problems and they try to solve these problems.

The first, is Kelly Brown. She is eleven years old, her mother and her sister neglect her. One night, she is raped by a stranger. Three weeks later, she tells her mother about the rape but her mother still ignores her. Kelly becomes a loner and hates her mother. She also cuts her hair very short, wears a boy's shirt and hurts herself. Nobody wants to accompany her and she is always alone.

Joanne Wilson is eighteen years old. She is pregnant. When she tells her boy friend about it, he is angry and blames Joanne. She is afraid of marriage because after getting married, her husband forbids her to work and she does not want to be a housewife and only takes care of the baby. In the end, they are forced to get married although they have not met Joanne's mother yet.

Lisa Goddard is twenty-two years old. She has two sons and she is pregnant of the third child. Her husband has no job and becomes an alcoholic. He also often hits Lisa. When the baby is born, Lisa feels a dilemma because actually

she does not want to have the third baby because of the low economic condition. Finally, she can accept and try to love the baby.

Muriel Scaife has a husband whom she loves. Muriel feels depressed because of the illness of her husband and he does not want to go to the doctor. Her husband dies and Muriel blames herself for it and she always feels haunted by her husband's image. At the end of the story, she can accept her husband's death and takes care of her children.

Iris King feels disappointed and angry with Brenda, her youngest daughter because of her pregnancy. Iris persuades and asks her daughter to have an abortion. Brenda refuses it but Iris still asks her to do it until she accepts her mother's request. Iris almost changes her mind when Brenda aborts the baby. Finally, Brenda has undergone an abortion and Iris regrets asking Brenda to do it. Iris decides to love her other grandchildren with all her heart.

Blonde Dinah is sixty years old but she always comes to pub, waiting for a man who wants to be accompanied because she is lonely and poor. Nobody knows where her family is. She is always alone and feels lonely. Finally, she meets George. Dinah asks him to pay one pound to her for having sex with her because she needs the money.

Old Alice Bell is 76 years old, has a stroke and she has the difficulties of walking, talking and hearing. She always depends on her neighbor. Her son asks her to stay in the Workhouse at St. Anne, which is the place for old and poor people. Alice does not want to stay there because she knows she will die soon and she wants to die in her house, in her surroundings. Then, she goes to the park and sits on the bench. Finally, she dies peacefully.

Biography of the author

Pat Barker is a novelist who is born on 8 May 1943 in Thornaby-on-Tees in Yorkshire, England. She is graduated from London School of Economics and Durham University. Barker also learns about International History, so she becomes a teacher of History and Politics until 1982.

She begins to write at her young age and she is supported to be a writer as her career by the novelist Angela Carter. Barker's early novels are about hard lives of working-class women living in the North England. Her first novel is Union Street, which is published in 1982 and gets the Fawcett Society Book Prize. This novel is about seven neighbouring women who should face different problems and they try to cope with them. Her second novel is Blow Your House Down, which is published in 1984.

Barker is chosen as one of the 20 'Best Young British Novelists' in 1983. She makes trilogy of novels about the First World War. Her first novel in trilogy is Regeneration (1991), which is made into a film in 1997. The Eye in the Door (1993) is her second novel in trilogy, which wins the *Guardian* Fiction Prize. The final novel in the series, entitled The Ghost Road (1995), ges the Booker Prize for Fiction.

Her last novel, Border Crossing (2001) is about the relationship between a child psychologist and a murderer. Her new novel is entitled Double Vision. This novel is about the atrocity of war.

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