

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF THE STRANGER

In the beginning of the story Meursault is trying to recall his mother's death. He can only vaguely remember anything about his mother. He and his mother previously have a distant emotional state and nothing changes after her death. He remembers once he visits his mother, speaks to the undertaker, smokes a cigarette and meets Monsieur Perez, who helps to carry his mother's coffin to its burial plot.

The day after the funeral, Meursault takes a bus to the public beach and meets up with Marie Cardona, a beautiful young secretary from his company. After spending the day splashing around in the ocean and going to a movie, Marie returns to Meursault's apartment where they make love. Marie asks Meursault if he loves her. Meursault likes her and he will marry her if he wants, but he sees nothing special about her or any woman in general.

Meursault returns to work and his boring life. He passes some time with co-worker and friend, Emmanuel. He speaks with his downstairs neighbor, Salamano, who lives alone with his spaniel dog. Another neighbor, with whom Meursault become friends is Raymond Sintes, a short and stalk man, who openly

beats his ex-girlfriend who is an Arab and who he believes to have cheated on him. Raymond and Meursault discuss their lack of emotions and past relationships with one another, understanding the apathetic, cold, and indifferent personalities that they share.

One day, Raymond brings Meursault and Marie to the beach to visit his friend, Masson. They see a group of Arabs following them. Near a stream at the edge of the beach, the Arabs fight the three men, and run off. After the three men return to Masson's cottage, Meursault returns to the beach with Raymond's gun. He comes across the same Arab and, before much provocation, shoots him once. After he falls, Meursault shoots him four more times.

Meursault is arrested and put in jail to await trial. He speaks with a magistrate, several policemen, and his defense attorney. The prosecuting attorney describes Meursault's indifference towards his mother's death as monstrous and apathetic. The judges, jury and audience members are convinced when Marie explains that they begin their relationship immediately after the funeral proceedings.

Meursault is convicted of premeditated murder and sentenced to public execution by guillotine. The prison chaplain urge him to find God and salvation. Meursault still does not believe in God and finds the man frustrating and annoying. When the day of his execution arrives, Meursault understands Maman's actions and feelings prior to her death. He thinks that maybe he could live another life. Nevertheless, he is excited about the day. He walks out to the guillotine hoping that everyone cheers loudly for his death.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Albert Camus was born in Mondovi, Algeria in 1913. His father died one year later, and Camus' mother raised him alone. His mother was impoverished and nearly deaf, so the two of them moved to Camus' grandmother's apartment in the Belcourt section of Algiers, near the Arab Quarter of the city. Camus occupied himself with school and sports, proving to be an excellent student and an admirable competitor. He was tutored by an instructor named Louis Germain at the local school, and in 1923 he passed the lycée entrance exams. He was accepted to the school of philosophy at the University of Algiers, but had to take leave due to a bout with tuberculosis. He recommenced his education in 1930, and working for the Meteorological Institute, selling spare car parts, and private tutoring. He received his diplôme d'études supérieures in 1936. In 1937 he published his first book, a collection of essays entitled L'Envers et L'endroit.

From 1934 to their divorce in 1936, Camus maintained a short marriage to Simone Hié, the daughter of a wealthy ophthalmologist. Camus joined the Communist Party in 1934. From 1935-39 Camus, founded the Théâtre de l'Equipe, or the Workers' Theatre. This group wrote a collective play called *Révolte dans les Asturies*. In 1938, Camus became a journalist for an anti-colonialist newspaper called the Alger-Republicain. Camus left Algiers in 1940 for Paris. This same year the German army invaded France, so he returned to North Africa. He found a teaching position in Oran, and was married for his second time to Francine Faure, a mathematics instructor.

In 1943 Camus joined "Combat," a clandestine resistance cell and newspaper that had been founded in 1942 for underground intelligence and

sabotage. He became its editor in 1943, and held this position for four years. During the occupation the paper was printed in Lyon, and it moved to Paris after the Liberation in the summer of 1944. The first Paris edition editorial was written by Camus.

During the war, Camus published a number of works which have become associated with his doctrine of the absurd: his idea it is impossible to make rational sense of one's experience, and human life is made meaningless by mortality. The novel, The Stranger (1942; Eng. trans., 1946), has become the quintessential work of fiction of the 20th century on the theme of the alienated outsider. The Myth of Sisyphus (1942; Eng. trans., 1955) is an essay dedicated to the absurd. He also published two plays consistent with this theme: Cross Purpose (1944, Eng. trans., 1948) and Caligula (1944, Eng. trans., 1948). Although Camus is attracted to contemporary nihilism in these works, he became increasingly more ambivalent in his philosophy towards absurdism. He was not comfortable with the moral indifference necessarily implied by philosophical absurdism. He exercised these thoughts in works like Letters to a German Friend (1945), which is published with a number of other political essays, in Resistance, Rebellion, and Death (1960).

In 1944 Camus' wife gave birth to twins, Catherine and Jean. In 1949 Camus had a relapse of his tuberculosis, and he locked himself in seclusion to write. When he recovered in 1951 he published L'Homme Révolté (The Rebel). He began to write for *l'Express* daily newspaper in 1955, covering the Algerian war. He came back into favor with intellectual circles in 1956 with the publication of his novel The Fall. In 1957 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for

his essay Réflexions Sur la Guillotine as an influential work on behalf of human rights.

Throughout his life, Camus continued to work for the theatre, taking on the various roles of actor, director, playwright and translator. The themes of his theatrical work primarily wrest with the human desire for understanding and its conflict with the absurd nature of existence. State of Siege (1948; Eng. trans., 1958) and The Just Assassins (1950; Eng. trans., 1958) are two of his distinctly political plays. He also gained acclaim for his stage adaptations of novels such as William Faulkner's Requiem for a Nun (1956) and Dostoyevsky's The Possessed (1959).

On January 4, 1960, Camus died in a car accident near Sens, France, while on his return to Paris with his friend and publisher Michel Gallimard. Found in his papers was the novel The First Man, a fictionalized account of his family history, which was published in 1995 (The European Graduate School).