

APPENDICES

Summary of The Bonesetter's Daughter

There are two stories in this novel. The first is about Ruth's, the protagonist of the story, present life and about letters telling stories of Luling's, Ruth's mother, past life. Ruth is an American born Chinese woman who must take care of her mother, Luling, an immigrant from China. Luling comes to America in 1960's and in her old age, she suffers from her illness, dementia. Ruth has a boyfriend, named Art. While living together with him and his two daughters, Ruth also has to take care of her mother.

Ruth and Luling often disagree about lots of things. Ruth thinks her mother is old-fashioned and weird; while, Luling thinks her daughter is too rebellious and too Americanized. Luling never tells Ruth about her past in China but finally she writes a letter for her daughter telling everything about her past in China.

The letters describe Luling's early life in a Chinese Village called Immortal Heart; where she is taken care of by a nursemaid, Precious Auntie. Luling never finds out until later that Precious Auntie is actually her mother who has to pretend not to have a child because of her shameful past. Through this letter, Ruth finally understands her mother's past life in China, including her mother's difficult situation

during the war. This situation affects the way Luling teaches her daughter to be tough in facing her life.

Summary of Meridian

The novel which takes time in 1960's in South America is about Meridian Hill's personal struggle when she joins the Civil Rights Movement. Meridian, the protagonist of the story, is a courageous young woman who dedicates herself to fight for Civil Rights Work, but her activities in joining the Movement is not supported by her mother, Mrs. Hill. Mrs. Hill is a desperate housewife who is giving up her career in order to raise her child.

When Meridian is a teenager of thirteen years old, she refuses Jesus as her saviour, because she has no idea about what she is looking for. This is the opposite with Mrs. Hill who wants her daughter to follow her faith.

Then, when she was in high-school she was married to her boyfriend, Eddie. She regrets this decision because she must leave school although for Meridian, education is the most important thing. Later on unexpectedly, she is offered a scholarship to Saxon College. She takes this great opportunity although she must give away her baby and her mother regards her as a heartless monster.

On Saxon College she falls in love with Truman although Meridian swears she will never fall in love again. In the end Meridian separates with him because she does not want to have a close relationship. Finally, Meridian moves to Georgia to start her new work even though she is ill and paralyzed.

Amy Tan's Biography

Amy Tan was born in Oakland, California in 1952, several years after her mother and father immigrated to the San Francisco Bay area from China. Then, upon the deaths of her brother and father in 1967 and 1968 from brain tumors, the family began coincidence journey through Europe before settling in Montreux, Switzerland, where Tan graduated in her junior year in 1969.

For the next seven years, she attended five schools. First she went to Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon. In 1972, she graduated with honors, receiving B.A. with a double major in English and Linguistics. In 1989, The Joy Luck Club was published and through word-of-mouth proof by independent booksellers became surprise bestsellers, logging more than 40 weeks on The New York Time list. The Joy Luck Club was nominated for the National Book Critics Award. It received the Commonwealth Gold Award and the Bay Area Book Reviewers Award. It also adapted into a feature film in 1994, for which were a co-screenwriter and a co-producer with Bass and Wayne Wang. Then, The Bonesetter's Daughter was published in February 2001, and appeared on The New York Times bestseller list.

Source: Foothorap, Robert. "A profile of Amy Tan: Amy Tan's Biography"

Alice Walker's Biography

Alice Walker was born on February 9, 1944, in Eatonton, Georgia, the eighth and last child of Willie Lee and Minnie Lou Grant Walker, who were sharecroppers. When she was eight years old, she lost sight of one eye when one of her older brothers shot her with a BB gun by accident. In high school, she was leaved her class, and that achievement, coupled with a “rehabilitation scholarship” made it possible for her to go to Spelman, a college for black women in Atlanta, Georgia. After spending two years at Spelman, she moved to Sarah Lawrence College in New York. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Sarah Lawrence College in 1965.

Alice Walker was active in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, and in the 1990s she is still an involved activist. She has spoken for the women's movement, the anti-nuclear movement, and against female genital mutilation. She received the Pulitzer Prize in 1983 for The Color Purple. Among her numerous awards and honors are the Lillian Smith Award from the National Endowment for the Arts, a nomination for the National Book Award, a Radcliffe Institute Fellowship and many more.

Source: Luminarium.org: Alice Walker.