

APPENDICES

Synopsis of I am not Esther

Kirby Greenland is a 14 year-old girl who is abandoned by her mother in a strict fundamentalist Christian society. Kirby who always lives freely now has to obey the rules which are set by the strict fundamentalist Christian society. Kirby is left by her mother with unfamiliar relatives who devote themselves to Bible study. As Kirby is living in the society they also force Kirby to devote herself to Bible study. Kirby's uncle, Caleb, has changed Kirby's name into Esther without even asking if she likes it or if she agrees. Not only her name is changed, Kirby also has to dress just like the other members of the society. However, as time goes by, Kirby's old self is weakening. Esther starts to dominate her everyday living. Kirby tries to struggle to cope with the repression of her surroundings and to maintain her own identity.

At the end of the book, Kirby decides to leave the strict fundamentalist Christian society and stay with her mother. She has found her identity as well. Living as Kirby is her identity and staying with her mother is what she always wants.

Biography of Fleur Beale

Fleur Beale was born in Inglewood, Taranaki, New Zealand on February 22, 1945. She is a former teacher who was inspired to write I am not Esther when a student was beaten up and expelled from his family for going against their religious beliefs. She has written several novels that have been published in New Zealand, where she lives. Since 1993 she started to write for teenagers. Before writing for teenagers, she was a writer for young children. Now, Fleur Beale is a New Zealand teenage fiction writer who is best known for her novel I am not Esther. This novel has been published worldwide.

In 1998 her novel I am not Esther was short listed for the senior fiction section of the 1999 New Zealand Post Children's Award. Beale's other famous works are Ambushed, My story A New Song in the Land, The Writings of Atapo, Pahia, c.1840, Walking Lightly and many more.

Beale's achievements were a finalist in the Aim Children's Book Awards (Junior Fiction) and the finalist for the Junior Fiction section of the 2002 New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards. In 1999 she received an award of Children's Writing Fellowship at Dunedin College of Education, and in 2005 she received Notable Book Award.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fleur_Beale)