

## APPENDICES

### Synopsis of The Last Days of Dogtown

The Last Days of Dogtown by Anita Diamant is a novel about a dying village called Dogtown. It begins with the death of an old man of the village, Abraham Wharf. All the residents of Dogtown come to mourn for him. Judy Rhines, a white woman, comes first to Easter Carter's tavern, which is the biggest house in the Commons Settlement, the real name of Dogtown. Then there comes Oliver Younger, a twelve-year-old boy, accompanied by his aunt Tammy Younger, who has the habit of torturing him. The next comer is Black Ruth, who works as a stonemason. She does not talk much. After Ruth, there comes Cornelius Finson, a freed black man, whose love to Judy is denied because of their different skin colours. Others in the company are Mrs. Stanley and her grandson, Sammy, and the other residents of Dogtown.

Each of them has their own secrets which become issues among others. Oliver Younger has a miserable childhood after his parents die and so he lives with his only family, Tammy Younger. Black Ruth comes to Dogtown as she wants to find out the mystery of her mother's death. Cornelius Finson, who is no longer a slave after his master sets him free, falls in love with Judy. Judy Rhines has a bad experience in her past life and is in love with Cornelius.

At the end of the story, Oliver Younger finally leaves his aunt to start a new life of his own, gets married, and has kids. Tammy later dies because of her old age. Black Ruth finally knows the truth behind her mother's death. Cornelius Finson's love is still kept until his death, which still makes a problem for the community of Dogtown because of his skin colour. And Judy Rhines finally leaves Dogtown because there is nothing left for her to run a living in that town.

## **Biography of Anita Diamant**

Anita Diamant was born on June 27, 1951, in New York City. She is an American author of fiction and non-fiction books. She spent her childhood in Newark, New Jersey and then moved to Denver, Colorado when she was 12 years old. She attended the University of Colorado for two years but she did not finish her studies there. She was transferred to the Washington University in Missouri, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Comparative Literature in 1973. She received her Master's degree in English from Birmingham University in 1975.

Diamant starts her writing career as a freelance journalist and has won some awards. Her articles have been published in the Boston Globe Magazine and Parenting Magazines, New England Monthly, and Yankee. She branched out into books with the release of her non-fiction book The New Jewish Wedding in 1985. She started her debut as a novelist in 1997 with The Red Tent, which becomes a best-seller and was awarded *Book Sense* Book of the Year Award 2001. She then published her second novel Good Harbor, which was not as famous as her first one. The last novel she published is The Last Days of Dogtown. Her other non-fiction books are The New Jewish Baby Book, Living a Jewish Life, and Pitching My Tent.

Diamant is currently married, has one child and lives in Boston.

Source: "Biography of Anita Diamant"