

## **APPENDICES**

### **SYNOPSIS OF SOMEONE KNOWS MY NAME**

Aminata Diallo is kidnapped when she is a child from her home in an African village and sold into slavery. She passes a journey of great sufferings. She faces hard life in the trip, limited supply of food, unfriendly weather, and wild animals. Then she is taken to the United States of America, passing the wild oceans.

Her ability to catch babies makes her get the doctor's attention. She is taken to the doctor's room and can have proper food to eat, unlike other slaves. Finally, she arrives in the United States of America. There, she is sold to an indigo plantation as a slave. She is called Meena since no one – not even a black American – can pronounce her African name. She finally finds one friend from the journey in Africa called Chekura.

Meena gets pregnant. After she bears her child, her master sells her child. She is desperate for some time, but she realizes she has to survive. Later, she is taught to read and write by her mentor in the plantation. She learns it in a short time. One day, she is sold to a Jew and taken to New York. There she meets Chekura and has a baby. However, they get separated since Chekura is still a slave.

Having lots of obstacles in her life, Aminata never gives up. She struggles hard to face the problems she gets and tries to reach her dream. Finally, she can reach her dream to come to her hometown as a free woman.

### **SYNOPSIS OF BELOVED**

Sethe, a 13-year-old girl of unnamed slave parents, arrives at Sweet Home, a plantation in Kentucky operated by Garner. Within a year, Sethe selects Halle Suggs to be her mate and, by the time she is 18, she bears him three children. After Garner dies, his wife turns over the control of the plantation to her brother-in-law, the schoolteacher, who is a very cruel man.

Fearing that her children will experience bad treatments from the schoolteacher, Sethe sends them to her mother-in-law, Baby Suggs. The schoolteacher finds it out and asks his nephew to suck the milk from Sethe's breasts. Not able to stand this treatment, she finally escapes from the plantation even though she is pregnant.

Sethe flees through the woods and, with the help of Amy Denver, a runaway white indentured servant, gives birth to her fourth child. Then, with the help of a black ferryman, she crosses the Ohio River and gets freedom.

In Cincinnati she reunites with Baby Suggs and her babies. One day when she works in the yard, she sees the schoolteacher, the sheriff, a slave catcher, and one of the schoolteacher's nephews arrives to capture Sethe and her children. To spare her children a return to bondage, Sethe slices the throat of the eldest girl, Beloved, and tries to kill her two boys. Then she is sent to jail by the sheriff.

Three months later, the pressure given by the Quaker abolitionists and the Colored Ladies of Delaware makes Sethe set free.

In Baby Suggs' house, Sethe finds Beloved's ghost. Left only with Denver, her daughter, Sethe lives in an uneasy condition. Several years later, her husband's friend in the plantation, Paul D arrives. Since then, the ghost disappears. Sethe and Paul D decide to live together.

Sethe and Paul D's relationship is interrupted by the appearance of a mysterious young woman who calls herself Beloved. Beloved quickly becomes a dominant force in Sethe's house. She drives Paul D out of Sethe's bed and seduces him. One day, Paul D asks Sethe to have a baby. At first she agrees, but after she comes home and talks to Beloved and Denver, she disapproves of Paul's desire to have a baby. Then Sethe realizes that Beloved might be the reincarnation of her daughter. After this, Beloved disappears.

## **BIOGRAPHY OF LAWRENCE HILL**

Lawrence Hill is a Canadian writer, whose memoir Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada, was a Canadian bestseller in 2001. He was born in Toronto in 1957. He is the son of a black man and a white woman, civil rights activists Daniel and Donna Hill. Growing up in the predominantly white suburb of Don Mills, Ontario in the sixties, Hill was greatly influenced by his parents' work in the human rights movement. Much of Hill's writing touches on issues of identity and belonging.

In 2006 he won the National Magazine Award for the best essay published in Canada in 2005 for "Is Africa's Pain Black America's Burden?". He also wrote the screenplay for "Seeking Salvation," a documentary about the Black Church in Canada. "Seeking Salvation" won the American Wilbur Award for best national television documentary in 2005.

Lawrence Hill's third novel was published in 2007 as The Book of Negroes in Canada (HarperCollins) and as Someone Knows My Name in the USA (W.W Norton & Co.). It won the 2008 Commonwealth Writers' Prize (Canada and the Caribbean region) and the 2007 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. A #1 Canadian Bestseller, it was named one of the top 100 books of 2007 by The Globe and Mail. In the United States, Amazon.com listed Someone Knows My Name as one of the top 100 books of the year. Right now, Lawrence Hill lives in Burlington with his wife and five children.

(Source: <http://www.lawrencehill.com/bio.html>)

## **BIOGRAPHY OF TONI MORRISON**

Toni Morrison (Chloe Anthony Wofford) was born in 1931 in Lorain (Ohio), the second of four children in a black working-class family. She displayed an early interest in literature. She studied humanities at Howard and Cornell Universities, followed by an academic career at Texas Southern University, Howard University, Yale, and since 1989, a chair at Princeton University.

In 1958 she married Harold Morrison. They had two children, Harold and Slade, and were divorced in 1964. After the divorce she moved to Syracuse, New York, where she worked as a textbook editor. Eighteen months later she went to

work as an editor at the New York City headquarters of Random House. She was also a critic and gave numerous public lectures, specializing in African-American literature.

The Bluest Eye was her debut as a novelist in 1970, and it soon gained the attention of both critics and a wider audience for her epic power, unerring ear for dialogue, and her poetically-charged and richly-expressive depictions of Black America. In 1973 her novel Sula was nominated for the National Book Award. Her third novel, Song of Solomon (1977), brought her national attention. The book was a main selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club, the first novel by a black writer to be so chosen since Richard Wright's Native Son in 1940. It won the National Book Critics Circle Award.

A member since 1981 of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, she has been awarded a number of literary distinctions, among them was the Pulitzer Prize in 1988 for Beloved. In 1993 Morrison was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, the first black woman to win it. Her citation reads: Toni Morrison, "who in novels characterized by visionary force and poetic import, gives life to an essential aspect of American reality."

(Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toni\\_Morrison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toni_Morrison))