

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF A BATTLE WITHIN

A Battle Within is a story about married woman, named Olivia. She lives with her two children, Paul and Bridget and a husband, Luke. One day, Olivia decides to leave her husband without any apparent reason; she separates Paul and Bridget from her father. Olivia becomes an antisocial person because she keeps bitterness from her past life and brings it to her future. When Olivia was a child, she was threatened badly by her friends, she was isolated and no one wanted to be her friend so that she lacked confidence. Olivia's past life and the rejection from the society change her characteristic and she becomes a schizophrenic. She sometimes feels that she hates herself because she thinks that there is something else inside her which is not her real characteristics.

Olivia always wants to become a good mother and a good wife in the family but because of her illness she cannot control her emotion, and it has an impact on her family. For the sake of her family, she sees a doctor and some psychiatrics and undergoes a treatment which is one of the solutions to recover from her illness. At the beginning she feels down and depressed, she does not believe that she suffers from schizophrenia but her family always encourages her to take a treatment. She goes to the hospital and finds so many people who are in the same condition. She participates in many activities and shares with them, and

they support one other. She realizes that it is hard for her and perhaps she often overreacts but she must accept the reality, pray and think about it, so she will be stronger.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Barbara Macfarlane, known as Barbara Jean Macfarlane, is an Australian and also a mother of two children. At the age of 39, Macfarlane was diagnosed with Schizophrenia. She had to spend some time in the psychiatric hospital and undergoes some medical treatments. Macfarlane is also a writer, so during her illness, she passed her time by writing. Most of her writings are about fiction and children stories, such as Jenny on Canvas, The Mouse Keeper and The Birds and Hetty. But one of her writings, entitled A Battle Within, is inspired by her own story. In the novel, Macfarlane shares about her ups and downs when she has to fight against her illness. A Battle Within is a semi-biographical novel, which tells about a woman who suffers from Schizophrenia; besides, it is her only non-fiction work.

After recovering from Schizophrenia, Macfarlane becomes a member of Lutheran church, based on Steeple church in Dundee city centre in England. She works there as a parish nurse who focuses on serving health needs for church and community.

Source: "Faith Across Frontiers"