

## APPENDICES

### Synopsis of The Bell Jar

Esther Greenwood is a straight A's student and always wins scholarships. She travels to New York to work working as a guest editor for a month in a magazine; yet, somehow she cannot have the time of her life.

She is faced with two options whether she marries and lives a conventional life or keeps pursuing her dreams to be a writer, which is something unusual at her time. Everyone thinks she will marry her friend, Buddy Willard. But, after hearing Buddy's confession that he has slept with a waitress several times, Esther decides that she cannot marry him for he is a hypocrite. Esther eventually tries to lose her virginity as well.

She then returns to her mother's house in Boston suburbs. Being rejected from a writing summer course in Harvard, Esther gradually feels depressed and loses her ability to read, write, and sleep. Treatments from a psychiatrist make her unstable and worse. She attempts to commit suicide in various ways including taking sleeping pills.

Luckily, she survives from her suicide attempts. Philomena Guinea, who sponsors Esther's college scholarship, pays to move her to a private hospital. There she meets her new psychiatrist, Dr. Nolan, who begins to improve her condition with several therapies. As Esther improves, the hospital officials give

her permission to get out sometimes. On one trip, she finally loses her virginity with a math professor named Irwin. At the end of the novel, Esther will have an interview with doctors deciding on her leaving the mental hospital.

## **Synopsis of Eleven Minutes**

Eleven Minutes is about an innocent girl named Maria who lives in a small place in Rio de Janeiro. Like many other girls, naïve Maria dreams that one day she can fall in love with a wonderful man.

However, Maria experiences her first masturbation at the age of fifteen. Afterwards she thinks that she does not need a man to have sex. By the age of nineteen, Maria, who has dreamed to go to a big city, leaves her job in a draper's shop and goes to Rio de Janeiro. There she meets an agent who offers her to work in Switzerland as a samba dancer. She hopes she can get adventures, money and also love there. Unfortunately, she is low paid. She then threatens to sue the owner of the place she works. The boss feels scared and therefore, he gives her a lot of money. After this, she quits.

As she runs out of money, she then decides to be a prostitute at Copacabana bar. She earns money from that job so that she is able to buy her own apartment. She also saves money in order to buy a small farm when she goes back to her homeland.

During the eleven minutes of having sex, Maria learns about other people and herself. Reality is much harder than what she thinks before. When she almost disbelieves in love, she meets a painter of twenty nine who claims to see her inner light in a café. She falls in love with this famous and rich painter, Ralf Hart.

As Maria helps Ralf with his lack of interest in sex, she also comes with a different view about love. By the end of the story, when Maria is going back to her homeland, Ralf, who chases her, decides to choose her to be with him and they both live together.

## **Biography of Sylvia Plath**

Sylvia Plath was born in Boston on October 27, 1932. The eldest child of a German immigrant and an Austrian descent, Plath had started her debut as a poet by the age of eight. Her first poem and drawing were published in a Boston newspaper. However, in the same year her father died of lung cancer. Two years later Plath's family moved to Winthrop, Massachusetts. However, Plath's relationship with her mother did not go well.

Plath was a bright student for she could maintain an A average and won many prizes. She got a full scholarship to Smith College and graduated with summa cum laude. Most of her youth experiences were similar to those of her protagonist, Esther Greenwood, in The Bell Jar. Continuing her academic records, Plath also got a Fulbright scholarship to Newnham College. There she met an English poet, Ted Hughes and four months later they got married. Six years after that the marriage ended as she knew her husband's adultery.

Her early style of poetry was based on the current styles of refined and ironic verse. She got big influences in her writing from Dylan Thomas and her husband. Her honesty in writing has given a unique point of view to psychological disorder and to the feminists in a patriarchal society. The Bell Jar is Plath's one and only novel. Her "Collected Poems" won a posthumous Pulitzer Prize in 1982. Unfortunately, Plath decided to end her life by the age of thirty on February 11, 1963.

Source: "Sylvia Plath"

## **Biography of Paulo Coelho**

Paulo Coelho was born on August 24, 1947 in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Since his teen age he has wanted to become a writer but his parents, who are logical persons, opposed his idea. Coelho was committed to a mental institution by his own parents due to his introversion and opposition to follow the tradition. He spent three years in the mental institution and was released at the age of twenty.

Coelho enrolled at law school as his parents' wish. But he was dropped out a year later. After that he traveled to South America, North America, Mexico and Europe. Coelho also got several experiences before becoming an author. He was a theater director, an actor, a lyricist and a journalist.

His first book, Hell Archives failed to make an impact in 1982. In 1987 he wrote The Alchemist, which turns out to be the most translated book by living author according to Guinness World Record. Other important works by Coelho are Brida, The Valkyries, By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept, Eleven Minutes, Veronica Decides to Die, The Devil and Miss Prym and so on.

Coelho won many prizes for his contribution in literature. He also built a foundation to help children and elderly people in financial problems. Now he and his wife, Christina Oiticica, split time to live in Europe and Rio de Janeiro.

Source: "Paulo Coelho"