

## **APPENDICES**

### **SYNOPSIS OF NATIVE SON**

The novel is about a poor boy, Bigger Thomas, who lives in a one-room house with his family. His mother always pushes him to work, but Bigger prefers to join a gang and often robs people and stores to get some quick money. Having a conflict with his gang, Bigger agrees to work for the Daltons as a chauffeur.

Bigger's main duty is to drive the Dalton's daughter, Mary Dalton, to her class. However, Mary orders him to take her to meet her boyfriend, Jan. Bigger is not allowed to tell this to anyone. On the way home, Mary is very drunk, so that Bigger has to carry her to her bedroom. Being very drunk, Mary does not stop mumbling. Bigger is afraid that someone will hear her. Bigger is afraid that if anyone finds out, he will lose his job. Suddenly, Mary's blind mother comes into the room to check her. Fear of being discovered there, Bigger holds a pillow onto Mary's mouth to silence her. Unfortunately, Mary dies because of Bigger's action.

Not wanting Mary's body to be found, Bigger burns her body in a furnace at the Dalton house. He also sends a ransom note which states about Mary's kidnapping and signs it with Jan's signature in order to make the police guess that Jan is involved in Mary's lost.

Bigger tells everything to his girlfriend, Bessie. Nevertheless, Bigger fears that Bessie will betray him, so he murders her. Bigger finally gets caught and is executed on an electric chair.

## BIOGRAPHY OF RICHARD WRIGHT

Richard Wright was born in 1908 on a plantation near Natchez, Mississippi. His father was a black sharecropper and his mother was a teacher. Wright entered school in 1918, but was forced to leave the school because of his family's condition. In 1931, Wright published a short story, "Superstition", in Abbot's Monthly Magazine; however, this magazine was bankrupt before he received some money from the short story.

Since the age of twelve, Wright had started writing. He was attracted to some influential American writers, such as Henry Louis Mencken, Theodore Dreiser, and Harry Sinclair Lewis. In 1937, he went to New York City, where he became a Harlem editor of the Communist paper, "Daily Worker". He helped to launch the magazine *New Challenge*, and published "The Ethics of Living Jim Crow". A second novel, Tarbaby's Dawn, was never published, but Fire and Cloud won first prize in a *Story Magazine* contest in 1938.

In 1938, Wright's first book, Uncle Tom's Children, was published. This story led him to write Native Son in 1940. With this book, Wright gained national attention, especially after it won the \$500 prize awarded by *Story* magazine. In 1939, he married Dhimah Rose Meadman, a white dancer, but finally they were separated. Then he married Ellen Poplar, who was a member of the communist party. They had two daughters. Richard Wright died on 28 November 1960 at the age of 52.

Source: Gaster