

APPENDICES

Synopsis of *The Kitchen God's Wife*

Pearl Louie is a Chinese - American girl who works as speech therapist in California. She does not have a close relationship with her mother, thus when she finds out she suffers from multiple sclerosis; she keeps it secret from her mother. One day, she is called to attend her cousin's engagement party and once she arrives, her aunt, Aunt Hulan, who knows about her disease, threatens her to tell her mother about her illness. So, later that night, Pearl has deep conversation with her mother. Pearl is shocked to find out that her mother, Winnie Louie also has a secret.

Winnie, who is born in China, loses her mother when she is a child. Later, she moves into her uncle's house and lives there. However, Winnie is not happy there because her aunt's strict attitude towards her. Then, the time for Winnie has to marry comes. Her aunt arranges a marriage for Winnie with a middle class man named Wen Fu. It turns out that Wen Fu is an abusive husband. Winnie suffers physically, sexually, and mentally from the abuse and she loses her children along the way. So, in order to prevent from having Wen Fu's child, Winnie aborts the baby whenever she is pregnant. Having been abused, Winnie decides to get a divorce from Wen Fu. She then asks for help from Jimmie Louie, an American.

However, in order to get the divorce, Winnie needs two witnesses to sign the paper. She asks for Aunt Du's and Hulan's help. After Aunt Du and Hulan know the true nature of Wen Fu, they help Winnie and sign the paper as witnesses. After Winnie obtains the divorce paper, she decides to go to America. Unknowingly, Wen Fu chases her to her place and rapes her. Because of that event, Winnie is pregnant.

After Pearl hears her mother's secret, she tells her mother about her disease. Her mother blames Wen Fu for Pearl's disease, but Pearl insists that the illness is not genetic. Her mother then says that she will go to China to find a cure for Pearl and their relationship as mother and daughter becomes closer than before.

Biography of Amy Tan

Amy Tan was born in Oakland, California on February 19, 1952. She is the second of three children from John and Daisy Tan. Her mother had married before in China and she had three children already. Unfortunately for her, she was forced to leave her children in China and this incident was the basis for Amy Tan's first novel, 1989 *New York Times* bestseller *The Joy Luck Club*. When she was 15, her father and brother died from brain tumor within a year from each other. Her mother then moved her and her younger brother, John Jr, to Switzerland, where she finished high school. In 1987, Amy and her mother traveled to China to meet Amy's three half-sisters.

Amy Tan received her bachelor's and master's degrees in English and Linguistics from San Jose State University, and later did doctoral linguistic studies at UC Santa Cruz and UC Berkeley. She resides in Sausalito, California

with her husband, Louis DeMattei, a tax accountant whom she met on a blind date and married in 1974.

Her works include *The Joy Luck Club* (1989), *The Kitchen God's Wife* (1991), *The Hundred Secret Senses* (1995), *The Bonesetter's Daughter* (2001), *Saving Fish from Drowning* (2005), *Rules for Virgins* (2011), and her coming novel, *The Valley of Amazement* (2012)

Source: "Amy Tan"