

APPENDICES

Synopsis of Digging to America

The story is set in Baltimore, Maryland and it is about experiences of two families. Maryam, Sami and Ziba Yazdan are members of an Iranian-American family. Brad and Bitsy Dickinson-Donaldson are members of an American family. They meet at the airport when their adopted infant daughters arrive from Korea. The two families finally become friends and begin a tradition of celebrating the arrival of their adopted daughters each year, called The Arrival Party.

The differences between the two families are apparent from the beginning, especially Maryam Yazdan who insists on applying Iranian manners and refuses to apply American manners even though she has been living in America for more than 35 years which make the relationship between both of them become complicated.

Biography of the Anne Tyler

Anne Tyler was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1941. Tyler attended Duke University, where she majored in Russian language. In the first year, she became a pupil of Reynolds Price, who herself would become a major novelist. In 1962, she returned to Duke as a Russian bibliographer for the library. The following year, she married Taghi Modarresi, a psychologist from Iran.

In 1964, the two moved to Montreal, where Tyler worked as an assistant librarian at McGill University Law School and wrote her first two novels, If Morning Ever Comes (1964) and The Tin Can Tree (1965). In 1967, she and her husband moved to Baltimore, the setting for most of Tyler's novels. With the publication of A Slipping-Down Life (1970) and The Clock Winder (1972), Tyler began to receive more serious and positive critical attention, but only in the mid-seventies, when such writers as Gail Godwin and John Updike called attention to her, did her novels benefit from widespread recognition. Throughout Tyler's novels, characters struggle to negotiate a balance between self-identity and family identity.

Tyler's novel, Morgan's Passing (1980) was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle award and received the Janet Heidegger Kafka Prize. Dinner at Homesick Restaurant (1982) won the PEN/Faulkner Award from fiction and was nominated for a National Book Critics Award and the 1983 Pulitzer Prize. The Accidental Tourist (1985) is the movie version of which helped make Tyler to be more well-known. Breathing Lessons (1988) was honored respectively with a National Book Critics Circle Award and Pulitzer Prize.

Source: "Anne Tyler"