

APPENDICES

Synopsis of *The Secret Life of Bees*

Lily is a fourteen-year-old girl who lives with an abusive father, T. Ray, after her mother, Deborah, has died when Lily is four.

When Lily accompanies Rosaleen, her African-American maid who wants to register herself to vote, some racist men appear and assault Rosaleen. The police come and arrest Rosaleen. Knowing that T. Ray will not free Rosaleen, Lily decides to run away to be free from T. Ray and free Rosaleen from the jail. They go to August's house, where Lily's mother used to live in the past.

At August's house, Lily finds a new community who accepts her warmly. They treat her as their own family. She also learns a lot of things about life and develops her skills in writing and beekeeping.

August tells Lily that Deborah once leaves her before coming back again to take Lily out of T. Ray's house, but she accidentally dies. Feeling abandoned, Lily hates her mother. August, who loves Lily, gives her time to reflect. Finally, Lily understands that no one is perfect so that she wants to forgive her mother.

Later on, T. Ray manages to find Lily and violently forces her to return home. As Lily feels comfortable living at August's house, she asserts that she wants to stay there. Finally, T. Ray lets Lily stay in August's house.

Biography of Sue Monk Kidd

Sue Monk Kidd was born on August 12, 1948 in Sylvester, Georgia. The fact that her father often told her many tales when she was still a child has influenced her to be a writer.

The cultural climate of the 1960s left her feel uncertain about her career choice. By the age of sixteen, she decided to pursue a nursing career instead and graduated with a B. S. Degree in nursing from Texas Christian University in 1970. Then she became a nursing instructor at the Medical College of Georgia in her twenties. During that time, she met Sandy Kidd then got married. The couple have two children.

In her thirties, Kidd finally joined writing classes because she still had her old desire to become a writer. She also became a freelance writer of nonfiction articles and biographies as well as a Contributing Editor at *Guideposts* magazine for several years.

In the 1980s, her two nonfiction books, *God's Joyful Surprise: Finding Yourself Loved* and *All Things are Possible*, were published. In 1994, She wrote a short story titled *The Secret Life of Bees* that later became a novel published in 2002. The novel receives numerous awards. In 2005, she wrote *The Mermaid Chair* that won a lot of awards as well. Her newest memoir, *Traveling with Pomegranates: A Mother-Daughter Story*, co-authored with her daughter, Ann Kidd Taylor, was published in 2009.

Now, Kidd lives beside a salt marsh near Charleston, South Carolina with her husband and a black Labrador.

Source: "Biography of Sue Monk Kidd (1948-)"