

IX. SUMMARY OF *NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR*

Winston Smith is a man who lives in Oceania, which is a totalitarian country. It is ruled by a government called the Inner Party, which is led by a mysterious man called Big Brother. The Inner Party controls all aspects of the citizens' lives. No one is allowed to have ideas different from those promoted by the party. Winston is no exception. However, he secretly hates Big Brother and has some thoughts of rebelling against the law.

One day, at his workplace, Winston is suddenly given a love letter by a girl whom he has always suspected as a spy. Her name is Julia. They start to see each other secretly, for the Inner Party forbids the citizens to be involved in romantic relationships. Winston and Julia frequently meet at a bedroom above an antique shop, thinking that it is a place that is safe from the government's surveillance. However, the owner of the shop turns out to be a Thought Police, a secret agent whose job is to find the law-breakers. Both Winston and Julia are arrested and sent to the correctional institution of Oceania, the Ministry of Love.

During his imprisonment, Winston experiences many terrible things. He is physically and psychologically abused. It does not take long for him to realize that the government's goal is not only to kill him, but to make him love Big Brother before killing him. After a series of tortures, which include the use of rats, which are his phobia, Winston is forced to abandon all of his previous thoughts of rebelling. In the end, he gives up and accepts the reality that he must love Big Brother.

X. BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Born as Eric Arthur Blair, George Orwell was born on June 25, 1903, in Motihari, Bengal, in the then British colony of India. When he was one year old, his mother brought him back to England. At the age of five, he attended a small Anglican parish school in Henley. An intelligent boy, he managed to impress his teachers and got a scholarship to St. Cyprian's School, one of the most successful preparatory schools in England at that time. He later got two other scholarships to Wellington and Eton colleges, where he made friends with a few future British intellectuals.

Due to his family's poor economic condition, Blair did not attend any university. After finishing his study at Eton, he joined the Indian Imperial Police in Burma. He resigned, returned to England in 1928 and began his writing career. Blair adopted his pen name, George Orwell, in 1933. George was the name of the patron saint of England, while Orwell was a name inspired by one of his most favorite places in England, the River Orwell.

After a brief volunteering as a soldier during the Spanish Civil War in 1937, an experience which sparked his hatred for totalitarianism, he started to write again. In 1945, his very successful anti-Stalinist allegory, *Animal Farm*, was published. He is also best known for his dystopian novel, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, which was published in 1949.

He died at the age of 46 because of tuberculosis.

Source : "A Biography of George Orwell"