SUMMARY OF LOVE AND DUST

Marcus is a faithful man. He regularly goes to church, prays and reads the Bible. He is also a good black American, plain, forgiving and loyal, never does any harm to anybody. However, this is a long time ago, before he realizes that he cannot expect people to do a good thing for him and that he has to gain his own freedom by himself; otherwise his life will never change. He refuses to be a slave and believes that someday he will get his own freedom.

When his mother dies, Marcus works in a parking lot. His black friend named Big Red always blackmails him. When Marcus tries to tell his white boss about this condition, his boss does nothing. He does not care about Marcus. Marcus thinks his boss is the same as his God when Marcus asks God to help him.

One day Big Red comes to Marcus and asks for money again. Marcus gives him three dollars and hits Big Red’s head with a bottle. Marcus is sent to jail and meets other black men named Cadillac, Horse Trader, and Boxcar, who also blackmail and torture him.
Marcus finally gets out of jail, but not long after that, a black man comes to him and fights with him. Unintentionally, he kills the black man with a knife. Then he is sent to jail again, this time for murder.

Marshall Herbert, the owner of Herbert plantation, bails him out of jail for a few hundred dollars and gives him work in his field until Marshall can get his money back two and three times as much.

In Herbert plantation Marcus is threatened badly by a Cajun overseer named Sidney Bonbon. He is the brother of Marshall Herbert, and he takes care of the plantation. He makes Marcus work nearly to death when he tells Marcus to unload the corn alone by himself one evening. Bonbon makes Marcus work all day without any payment.

With all the treatment that he gets, Marcus plans to escape from the plantation and take revenge on Sidney Bonbon by seducing his black mistress and his white wife named Louise. However, Marcus and Louise fall in love.

Marshall knows that Marcus and Louise need help to run away. So, he asks Marcus to kill Sidney Bonbon for him and that then Marshall will give Marcus and Louise money and a car.

Unfortunately, Marcus does not kill Bonbon. Instead, he is killed by Bonbon for Bonbon has a gun that Marshall has put in the dash drawer. Marcus’s courage to run away and risk his life to gain freedom and happiness arouses people’s admiration for people at that time who are usually frustrated in their lives will never do the thing that Marcus has done.
ERNEST J. GAINES’S BIOGRAPHY

Ernest J. Gaines was born in 1933 on the River Lake plantation in Pointe Coupée Parish, Louisiana. When he was fifteen, Gaines moved to California to join his parents, who had left Louisiana during World War II. There he attended San Francisco State University and later won a writing fellowship to Stanford University.

Gaines published his first short story in 1956. Since then he has written eight books of fiction, including Catherine Carmier, Of Love and Dust, Bloodline, The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, A Long Day in November, In My Father's House, and A Gathering of Old Men, A Lesson Before Dying, his most recent novel, won the 1993 National Book Critics Circle Award. He has also been awarded a MacArthur Foundation grant, for writings of "rare historical resonance."

Gaines divides his time between San Francisco and Lafayette, Louisiana, where he is writer in residence at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. He is married to the lawyer Dianne Saulney.
My special thanks

Jesus Christ (for His blessings and guidance)

I cried a tear You wiped it dry
I was confused You cleared my mind
You gave me strength To stand alone again
To face the world Out on my own again
You held my hand When it was cold
When I was lost You took me home
You gave me love When I was at the end
And turned my life Back into truth again

Papa (the lovely father I’ll always have, I can make it all because of your love, I wish you are smiling in heaven now)

Every special minute with you becomes a special memory for me
Even though we live apart and there are certain things we must do
Not a moment goes by that I’m not thinking of you
Until I see you again
Know that you’re on my mind and that when we’re together
I wish it could be all the time
I’m sad when you leave
And happy when we’re together
I’ll always be there for you
A father love is forever
Peter Beauregard

Mama and Hany (The beats and the treasure of my life)

Family is…………..
Like blood thru my heart
Family is within me
Like a major to his city family is led
Like God protects his children family is protected
Like love from Jesus family is cared for
Like a campestral family is nurtured
Like no care in the world family accepts me, loves me, holds me, completes me
Geoffrey Flores
Gustaf (for his caring and loving)

My dearest
Before you came
I existed in this place and day went into day
But now I rise with a smile on my face because love has shown me the way
You gave me the energy to see with hope
And face the future with joy
No longer in darkness will pain and I mope
And no longer with tears shall I toy

Utie, Citra, Celly, Bevi (my beautiful friends)

I believe the angels the kind that heaven sends, I am surrounded by angels, but I call them friends. Friends are quiet angels who left us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.

Vero, Hera, Angel, Syenni, Erik, Ika, Friska, Titin, Eqi, Sidik, Harry, Ronald, Frank wangko, Didi, Willy, Diona, William (all of English Maranatha Department) and temen-temen kos Ika, Vina and Lili

Friends will come and friends will go, the seasons will change and it will show, I will age so will you, but our friendship stays, strong and true.

Christina, Meirissa, Dewi, Lia, Leo, Amelia, Sevi, Ezer, Engtzy, Yanu, Rosien (PMK Sastra)

One tree can start a forest, one smile can start a friendship, one touch can show you care, one friend like you can make life worth living

Mr. Ganda Wargasetia, Ms. Bernadette Santosa and Ms. Diah (for their helping, support and kindness, may God bless you always)