SYNOPSIS OF THE DEATH OF THE HEART

The Death of the Heart is a story about an orphaned sixteen-year-old girl named Portia. She is a very naïve and innocent girl. After the death of her parents, she must live with her half-brother, Thomas Quayne, and his wife, Anna.

Portia hopes that she will get a new better life and happiness in Quayne’s house. She hopes that Thomas and Anna can be her kind parents. As time goes by, she realizes that Anna seems to hate her, and Thomas seems not to care about her.

When she feels lonely, she meets a man named Eddie. Eddie is very kind to her. Because of that she falls in love with him. Machet, her kind maid, tells her that Eddie is a bad guy, but Portia does not believe her. Even she thinks that Eddie is the one who makes her to keep alive.

When Thomas and Anna are going to spend their holiday in Capri, they send Portia to Mrs. Hecomb’s house in Seale, about 70 miles outside of London. When she is there, she meets some new friends named Daphne and Dickie.

Eddie comes to Seale to meet Portia. Portia feels very happy, until she catches that Eddie is flirting with Daphne. And when Portia confronts Eddie about that, he just says that he likes Portia but he want to make any relationship with her. He says that he love her anymore, and he leaves her. Portia feels very sad and
disappointed. Her heart is hurt very much.

At the end of the story she runs away from Quayne’s house and asks Major Brutt, a man who is thirty years older than her to marry her although she love him. She does not care about her love feeling anymore. She knows just that Major Brutt is the only person who is truly kind toward her beside Matchett.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Elizabeth Dorothea Cole Bowen was an Anglo-Irish novelist and short story writer. Bowen was born on June 7, 1899, in Dublin, Ireland, into a wealthy and socially prominent family who has ties in England. She was the only child of her parents. When Bowen was seven, her father was hospitalized for a mental condition. She and her mother moved to England and spent the next five years moving from villa to villa. Bowen began to express her imaginative gifts, creating stories about make-believe families.

Later, a tragedy struck her when Bowen's mother was diagnosed with cancer and died. After her mother died, she stayed with her aunts who are her mother’s sisters.

In 1923, she published her first collection of short stories, Encounters. Later, she was married to Alan Cameron. In 1925, they moved to Oxford, where Bowen met a number of novelists such as Rose Macaulay, who took her to the editors, publishers, and literary agents. In 1926, Bowen published a second volume of short stories, and by 1929 Bowen had published her first two novels.

By the early 1930s, Bowen was well on her way to a hugely successful literary career. She became friends with great writers such as Virginia Woolf. In
1938 she published the novel entitled *The Death of the Heart* and this book was cited as a book among the one hundred best English language books of the twentieth century by the editorial board of the Modern Library. Not only that, the Irish Academy of Letters had elected her a member, and critics were comparing her to celebrated writers such as Virginia Woolf, E. M. Forster, Henry James, and Jane Austen.

After her husband's death, Bowen spent much time in the United States, teaching at universities and lecturing. During the last years of her life, she suffered from various respiratory illnesses, and on February 22, 1973, she died in London of lung cancer.