APPENDIX

Synopsis of *Breath, Eyes, Memory*

*Breath, Eyes, Memory* is a story about a young girl who has been left by her mother. Sophie is raised by her aunt in the village of Croix-des-Rosets. She never meets her mother since she was born. She lives with Tante Atie and considers her as her mother. At the age of twelve Sophie has to leave her aunt and move to New York to live with her mother.

Sophie begins her new life in New York City, where she finds out that she is a child of a rape victim. She also finds that her mother has been traumatic for many years by the memories of Sophie’s father who raped her when she was a teenager. Sophie is raised under the authoritative way of her mother. She forces Sophie to be a doctor and allows Sophie to have a boyfriend only after she is eighteen.

At the age of eighteen, Sophie falls in love with Joseph, a musician who is much older than her. Sophie’s mother does not agree to their relationship. To protect Sophie’s virginity, her mother does a traditional testing, which is the test of virginity by inserting a finger into the very private part of her body. Sophie decides to take her own virginity. As Sophie fails the test, Sophie’s mother asks her to get out from the house.
Sophie marries Joseph. They have a daughter, Brigitte. However, the test leaves a trauma in Sophie. To calm her mind and to find the answer to what the test is for, Sophie along with Brigitte goes to her grandmother’s village in Dame Marie. Later, Sophie’s mother comes to Dame Marie to settle their quarrel and they go back to USA together.

One day, Sophie’s mother commits suicide because her traumatic is getting worse when she is pregnant again. On her mother’s funeral, Sophie goes to the cane fields where her mother was raped, and attacks the cane fields. To release her feelings, she begins to beat a cane stalk so brutally that she is bleeding. Only after that can she now be free from her trauma.

**Biography of the Author**

Edwidge Danticat was born in January 19, 1969 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. When she was two years old, her father André immigrated to New York, to be followed two years later by her mother Rose. This left Danticat and her younger brother Eliab to be raised by her aunt and uncle. At the age of twelve, she moved to Brooklyn, New York, to join her parents in a heavily Haitian American neighborhood. After graduating from Clara Barton High School in Brooklyn, New York, Danticat entered Barnard College in New York City. Initially she had intended on studying to become a teacher, but her love of writing won out and she received a BA in French literature.


In 1993, she earned a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Brown University. Her thesis, entitled My turn in the fire - an abridged novel, was the basis for her novel Breath, Eyes, Memory, which was published by Soho Press in 1994.

Source: (“Edwidge Danticat”)