

APPENDIX I

SYNOPSIS OF *SERAFINA AND THE BLACK CLOAK*

There was a 12-year-old girl who lived secretly in the basement of Biltmore Estate with her pa. She was born with an unusual place one night lying in the woods which was later found by a mechanic who is now her pa. She must not be seen by others because it will threaten her life and her pa's job. Every day she read books in the Biltmore library, caught mice, and wandered around without anyone knowing.

Tragedy after the tragedy occurred in the Biltmore Estate, many children mysteriously disappeared. Seeing Biltmore's unsafe environment, Serafina could not stay still. She has a high altruism and upholds justice. She also has a special skill that is undetected movement with the privilege of her thin body that her spine is not connected to each other.

One night, Serafina wandered the Biltmore Estate secretly looking for mice. Suddenly the Man in the Black Cloak stood behind her to finish her off, while he was holding another girl named Clara Brahms. However, with all her strength she clawed, hit, and fled wherever she could reach. In the end, she was able to hide in the gap in the big machines until the next morning. The Man in the Black Cloak is very cruel. He did not hesitate to take all the souls of children who have expertise in any field, such as experts in playing music, horse riding, language skills, etc. He also will finish off everyone who stands in his way.

The plot to defeat the Man in the Black Cloak was not easy, but she kept trying whatever she could. She had no one else to cooperate with on this mission, apart from Braeden, the nephew of the owner of the Biltmore Estate. Luckily, Braeden is a child who does not underestimate other people, so they make friends easily.

The first step they have to do is find the black cloak. They conducted a secret investigation inside the Biltmore mansion. Entering every aisle ventilation system in a room after room of Biltmore guests. However, based on their investigation, they did not find the black cloak, only fancy clothes, dark gray gloves, lovely dresses, etc. Even though they got nothing, Serafina had an in-depth analysis of one of the most suspicious Biltmore Estate guests. Serafina asked many questions about the guest, Mr. Thorne. He had a bad past and had tremendous things happened to him. Serafina continued to question and analyze in-depth, however, Braeden still believed that Mr. Thorne is a good person.

Afterward, Serafina continued to look for ways to be able to unmask Mr. Thorne at once defeated the Man in the Black Cloak. Serafina's trait of defending

justice in society and upholding truth was so strong that she was willing to sacrifice herself and her safety to save the children of the Biltmore Estate. She ventured into the forest by herself alone. The moonlight shined as she walked step by step. Then a dark idea popped into her mind, she thought about how she could catch mice, and she found the answer, that was with bait. After Serafina returned to the basement, she saw the dress that Braeden had given her, and it was the perfect addition to her plans.

Serafina took the dress and put it on. Wiping her face and combing her hair like a normal girl. She made herself out of the basement and went to the first floor. She walked leisurely and organized like a proper young lady. She hates walking slowly like that because she is used to moving fast, agile, and aggressive.

Arrived at the winter garden, which is opposite of the billiard-room door. There Mr. Vanderbilt, Mr. Bendel, Mr. Thorne, and a few other gentlemen were enjoying their drinks and cigarettes. She stepped into the shadow behind a pillar so that no one could see it. At the end of the night, they rushed to go to their room. Everyone separated and said good night. Only Mr. Thorne, who remained in the room, sipped a drink and a cigarette. She hoped Mr. Thorne immediately came out and solved the problem with her.

See Mr. Thorne was sitting on the couch, something was strange about him. Mr. Thorne's face is gray, the skin under the eyes is wrinkled and peeling, he looks less shiny and perfect than when he was at the Tapestry Gallery that morning or when he came to help Braeden in the forest. The drinks have run out and he rushed out. This was the moment she had been waiting for, but she felt her muscles become tense.

Mr. Thorne wore a black jacket and tie like other gentlemen, but on his arms, he carried a black cloak as she has ever seen before, satin, shimmering, and clean. It is not wrong anymore, he must be the man, the Man in the Black Cloak. He was singing and still singing, while her heart was beating really fast, she was trembling, she was trying to calm and steady herself.

They look at each other-face to face, but it seems that she is not the child who the man's target. She stood for a long time and felt like she just wanted to run, but it was too late. When Mr. Thorne smiled, she gasped. She got scared. She took a deep breath, then turned back towards him and walked. She walked slowly and was followed by Mr. Thorne, who became closer and closer.

She could not control her fear and her hands started shaking. A little more, the exit door goes to the maze. She moved quickly to the maze. The man wore the black cloak and a hooded hat covering his head and shoulders while he is in the dark at night. With his bloodied hands he tried to grab Serafina from the back. She darted

like a weasel towards the forest, the forest is an ally. As she ran, she thought about her Pa, Braeden, and the Vanderbilts. Then, she had the idea that she should go to Gravestone.

Finally, Serafina arrived at the Gravestone, greeted by 2 lion cubs. She was hiding in the hole under the root of the tree, holding 2 lion cubs, she was trying to hold her breath because the man would immediately grab it. After that, the mother lion arrived and immediately pounced on the intruder. The man was clawed, pulled, slammed. The man tried to fight back, he could not pick up the dagger that fell to the ground, while the powerful catamount lion was so agile and full of anger. The man's flesh was torn apart, and the man was limp, then the man was tossed into a pile like an animal carcass.

Her plan had worked! She was very happy, she succeeded. The man died. She saved Braeden and also Biltmore. However, when she crawled to get out of the lion's den, it seemed too late. The ferocious lioness was furious, the first intruder was the same as the second intruder, Serafina. The catamount lion is ready to pounce and tear Serafina apart. The lion muscles protrude, the eyes are as sharp as lightning. Serafina huddled behind the lion's children and sat in the corner in fear, unable to escape. The mother lion pulled the leg to the chest and growled ready for battle.

Serafina dared herself, looked at the lion's face, and screamed as loudly as possible, as cruelly as possible, indicating that Serafina is not a weak person and will die very easily. The mother lion stopped, she fixed Serafina's face and looked into her eyes. The mother lion and Serafina think the similarity of each other is their eyes. They are not predators or prey. They are connected, they are relatives. Therefore, Serafina is a bit scared, she wants to communicate, instead, she communicates in body language. Serafina stroked the lion's head, stroking the lion's fur. Serafina survived, not being killed by the mother lion.

After the Man in the Black Cloak died and the cloak was also destroyed by Serafina instantly everyone was freed from the cloak prison. Including the lion, the original soul was freed to be a human soul again. It turned out that the mother lion was Serafina's mother who later returned to have a human soul again. Serafina's mother was both a catamount lion and human, but the Man in the Black Cloak came and took her human soul. Now Serafina's mother can return to being human and meet her child who has not seen her for a long time. They have physical similarities with each other. All of the Biltmore's people are safe and happy. Everyone can have a normal life again and get the welfare. Likewise, Serafina has received an answer from her identity, namely her biological mother. Serafina is also accepted by the society and has the honor of The Vanderbilts.

APPENDIX II BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Robert Beatty is the number one author of the *New York Times* best-selling Serafina Series published by Disney-Hyperion, a mystery-thriller novel about a young girl who secretly lives in the basement of Biltmore Estate who saved the society from the evil works. He won the Southern Book Prize in 2016. He is also the author of the #1 *New York Times* best-selling Willa of the Wood Series about a young forest girl with magical powers defending her life in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Robert Beatty lives in Asheville, North Carolina with his wife and his three daughters. He loves exploring the historic Biltmore Estate and the Blue Ridge Mountains where his novels take place. In his past lives, he was a CEO of Plex Systems, the co-founder of Beatty Robotics, and the chairman of Narrative Magazine. In 2007, he was named an Entrepreneur of the Year. However, he writes full-time now. His wife and his three daughters help him to refine his stories. The Serafina and Willa series books were inspired by his desire to write about heroic young girls for his three daughters. In addition to writing, Beatty is interested in history, nature, birds, horseback riding, wildlife rehabilitation, science, technology, computers, Jane Austen and other British and American carriage dramas, dogs, cats, architectural design, movies, and books of all kinds. Source: <https://robertbeattybooks.com/author/>