

APPENDIX I

SINOPSIS OF THE NOVEL

The novel opens with eight colony men who are imprisoned for drugging women and raping members of the female community. Over the past few years, nearly every young and old woman has been assaulted and wakes up agitated, covered in blood, and bruised. When reporting to their colony's bishop Peters, he informs them that they have visited by a ghost to punish the women's sins or that their report is the result of a 'wild female imagination'. Peters even gave the women an ultimatum that they must forgive the perpetrators otherwise women and men would be banned from heaven and the women would be ostracized and forced to leave the colony. They were given two days to delegate their choice.

The women took three possible actions: do nothing, stay and fight, or leave. They then asked the colony teacher August Epp to write down their meeting, as the colony women could not read and write but they wanted this meeting as a testament to their posterity on Molotschna. Through these meeting, the women build their faith and future.

After Ona asked August to become a clerk in their meeting and record all the ideas of the women. August's love for Ona made him agree to help women write their ideas, this meeting was held in a hay barn in one of the men's colonies. For two days the women debated their options. First, they discussed practicalities, what they could do if they left, and how much they could resist if they stayed. Their questions led them to moral, theological, and political considerations. The women voiced their anger and their doubts, they began to undermine the religious hypocrisy and the patriarchal structure of their society.

In the end, they came to the decision that saved them and their children was to leave the colony. They are detained by living side by side with their perpetrators knowingly subjecting themselves to violence. On hearing the news that the men are on their way home, the women gather supplies for their exodus. The women prepared what they needed, they also took the map that August made for them. These women have a strong will to survive even though the women does not have any experienced in the outside world.

The last and closing scene of the novel is when Augusts looking at the backs of the women who have left the colony, he lies alone in the hayloft and ponders what the can learn from women, the purpose he takes the minutes of women talk is for

life. August realized that just as he had returned to Molotschna to seek his peace, the women had left the colony to seek theirs.

APPENDIX II

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Miriam Toews is a Canadian writer who was born in Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada on May 21, 1964. She is second child of Mennonite's parents. Her father is Melvin C. Toews and mother, is Elvira Loewen. Toews left Steinbach at 18 and lived in Montreal and London before settling in Winnipeg. Toews has a B.A. in film studies from the University of Manitoba, and a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of King's College, in Halifax. and worked as a freelance newspaper and radio journalist. She is the author of nine books. Toews wrote her first novel *Summer of My Amazing Luck* (1996), while working as a freelance journalist. This novel is a description of mother's welfare and won the McNally Robinson Book of the Year award. Her second novel, *A Boy of Good Breeding* (1998) also won the latter prize. And other books include *A Complicated Kindness* (2004), *The Flying Troutmans* (2008), *Irma Voth and Silent Light* (2011), *All My Puny Sorrows* (2014), *Women Talking* (2018), and *Fight Night*. Toews' works always get a positive response because it raise issues in society by presenting them in the form of fictional responses. Toews has received many awards for her works such as the *Governor General's Award* for fiction and the *Writers' Trust Engel/Findley award* for her bodywork. Toews is also a three-time finalist for the *Scotiabank Giller Prize* and a two-time winner of the *Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction* prize. One of her best works is the novel *Women Talking* (2018) which became A National Bestseller book, *Women Talking* received positive reactions in the Canadian press and the Toronto Star called it "Intelligent" and "Finely calibrated this novel also was a finalist for the Governor General's Award and the Trillium Book Award, and was longlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award.



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