

APENDIX I

SUMMARY OF KATHRYN STOCKETT'S *THE HELP*

"*The Help*" is a historical fiction book by Kathryn Stockett set in Jackson, Mississippi, in the early 1960s, about three women from different racial backgrounds who are connected in their struggle against racial injustice. The three women are Aibileen Clark, Minny Jackson, and Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan.

Aibileen Clark is a wise and loving African-American housewife who works for the Leefolt family and takes care of their child, Mae Mobley. Despite having a strong bond with Mae Mobley, Aibileen often feels heartbroken when she sees her adopted children grow up and adopt their parents' racial beliefs. Minny Jackson, Aibileen's best friend, is a maid known for her sharp tongue and is often fired for her hurtful words. Minny ends up working for Celia Foote, a young woman from a poor family who is often overlooked by Jackson's elite social community. Over time, the tension between Minny and Celia Foote slowly begins to subside, and they build a strong bond in various situations.

Meanwhile, Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan, a young white woman, has just finished her education at the University of Mississippi, also known as Ole Miss. Skeeter returns to Jackson with a desire to become a writer. Skeeter is shocked to learn that Constantine, her family's beloved housekeeper, has disappeared without a trace. Her search for answers about Constantine's disappearance leads her to realize the harsh reality of how African-American maids are treated over the years. Skeeter's ambition to give voice to the plight of African-American maids is expressed in her

writing with the encouragement of Elaine Stein, a New York publisher. Skeeter decides to write a book that reveals the true story of the maids in Jackson, Mississippi. Despite the enormous risks involved, Aibileen and Minny agree to participate in the project, and over time, more maids come forward to share their stories.

During the writing process, social tensions and racism in Jackson intensify. Hilly Holbrook, who is an influential social elite and Skeeter's former best friend, becomes the main antagonist representing the racist attitudes of the white community at large in Jackson, Mississippi. Her attempts to control and corrupt the lives of those around her further expose the injustices faced by the African-American community. Despite facing threats and backlash, Skeeter, Aibileen, and Minny remain resolute to complete and publish the book they are writing. When their book is finally published anonymously, its impact shakes the Jackson community. The stories in the book inspire many and open people's eyes to injustices that have been hidden.

At the end of the story, Aibileen loses her job after the book is published, but she gets a new job as Skeeter's replacement in writing the answers to Miss Myrna's column. Minny, after suffering a lot in her abusive household, finally finds the courage to leave her husband and start a new life. Skeeter, on the other hand, receives the job offer from New York that she has been dreaming of and leaves Jackson to start her career as a writer.

APENDIX II

BIOGRAPHY OF KATHRYN STOCKETT

Kathryn Stockett is an American author best known for her phenomenal debut novel, "*The Help*", published in 2009. Born on November 6, 1969, in Jackson, Mississippi, Stockett grew up amidst the culture and social dynamics that later became the setting for her famous novel. Her childhood in the American South greatly influenced her understanding of race relations and social norms, which she incorporates with detail in her writing. After completing secondary education, Stockett studied at the University of Alabama and earned a bachelor's degree in creative writing and English.

After completing her studies, Stockett relocated to New York City, where she spent almost ten years in the magazine publishing industry. This experience gave her a deep insight into publishing and writing, which later came in handy in her literary career. While in New York, Stockett honed her skills, learning the intricacies of storytelling, editing, and the business side of writing. These years refined her skills and instilled the toughness necessary to succeed in the competitive literary field.

"*The Help*" was inspired by Stockett's childhood memories and the story of an African-American housekeeper working in a white home in Jackson. Despite facing many rejections from publishers, Stockett's persistence paid off when her novel was finally accepted. The book turned into a global bestseller, with millions of copies sold around the world. Its success was further enhanced when it was adapted into a

successful movie in 2011. The novel received widespread acclaim for its honest and emotional portrayal of racism and interracial relationships in the American South in the 1960s, touching the hearts of readers and audiences alike.

Today, Stockett lives in Atlanta, Georgia, and continues to write despite not publishing a new novel after "*The Help*". Her work remains an important example in contemporary American literature, demonstrating resilience in pursuing dreams in a challenging world. Through her stories, Stockett has given voice to those often not heard and opened up meaningful conversations about race, society, and history. Her journey from a small town in Mississippi to becoming a celebrated author is a testament to the power of perseverance and the impact of authentic storytelling.



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