

APPENDIX I

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Charmaine Wilkerson is an American writer and journalist known for her debut work, *Black Cake* (2022). She was born and raised in New York in a Caribbean diaspora family, a background that greatly influences the themes of social issues, identity, race, migration, and colonial history that often appear in her works. Her experience of living in a multicultural environment provides the basis for Wilkerson's depiction of the complexities of racial identity and intergenerational relationships.

Wilkerson pursued higher education in journalism and creative writing. She earned a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing from New York University (NYU). After completing her education, Wilkerson worked as a freelance journalist and writer whose work has been published in various media outlets, such as The New York Times, The Guardian, and several other international media outlets. Her writings often discuss social and cultural issues, racial justice, and the diaspora experience.

The novel *Black Cake* is Wilkerson's first work of fiction, which immediately gained widespread international attention. The novel made the New York Times Best Seller list and was adapted into a television series. *Black Cake* was praised for its success in raising issues of racism, intergenerational trauma, cultural identity, and family relationships within the framework of colonial history and migration.

As a writer, Charmaine Wilkerson is known for her reflective, emotional, and powerful writing style in depicting social conflict. Her works feature the voices of women, diaspora groups, and individuals living in unequal social systems. Through *Black Cake*, Wilkerson affirms her position as a writer who pays close attention to issues of racial discrimination, social injustice, and identity formation in the context of a multicultural society.

APPENDIX II

SYNOPSIS OF THE NOVEL

Charmaine Charmaine Wilkerson's novel *Black Cake* tells the story of a Caribbean family living in the shadow of colonialism, migration, and intergenerational racial discrimination. The story centers on two siblings, Benny (Benedetta) and Byron Bennett, who are reunited after the death of their mother, Eleanor Bennett. Through audio recordings left behind by their mother, they slowly uncover their family's past, which is full of secrets, trauma, and social injustice.

The story begins with the life of Covey, Eleanor's mother, who grew up on a Caribbean island in a society rife with racial inequality, social class, and colonial legacy. Covey's relationship with Lin, a man of Chinese descent, shows how racial discrimination occurred not only between whites and blacks, but also involved inter-ethnic conflict within the colonial social structure. As a lower-class black woman, Covey faced strict social restrictions in accessing education, employment, and an equal future.

After moving to England and then the United States, Eleanor, as the next generation, continued to live under the pressure of systemic racism. As a black immigrant woman, she faced discrimination in social, economic, and family spheres. These experiences influenced the way Eleanor raised her children, including developing an overly protective attitude and keeping many secrets about their family origins.

Benny and Byron, as the last generation, experienced different forms of discrimination. Byron, as a black man in America, repeatedly faced racial prejudice in academic and public spaces. Meanwhile, Benny, who had an ambiguous racial identity, experienced marginalization in his social relationships, work life, and love life. The discrimination they experienced was not always overt, but took the form of stereotypes, limited opportunities, and even physical violence.

Thus, *Black Cake* illustrates that racial discrimination is not just an individual issue, but part of a social system that is passed down across generations. This discrimination shapes the characters' identities, affects family

relationships, and leaves a collective trauma that continues to influence their lives to this day.



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