

APPENDIX I

SUMMARY OF THE HELP

The Help novel is written by Kathryn Stockett in 2009. It tells the story of black women as maid who work in white Southern homes in the early 1960s in Jackson, Mississippi. There are three main narrators. They are Aibileen, Minny, and Skeeter.

Aibileen is a black woman who works for a white family, Miss Leefolt. Miss Leefolt has a baby girl, Mae Mobley who is two years old. Aibileen considers May Mobley is a special girl. She has physically abused and neglected by her mother. Aibileen always tries to teach Mae Mobley about civil rights and racial equality. Aibileen has a son, Teelore. He died in workplace because of an accident. Afterward, she is frustrated.

A few months later, Aibileen tries to get up and gets a job as baby sitter in Miss Leefolt's home. Miss Leefolt takes an event which is called Bridge play in her home. In attendance, there is Hilly Holbrook, Eugenia Skeeter, and Miss Walters. They are all in their twenties like Elizabeth. Hilly tells Skeeter that she is working to have a law passed that would make it mandatory for white families to build outside bathrooms for their black employees. Skeeter suggests Hilly should have a bathroom outside. Thus, it makes a slow boiling feud between them. Aibileen hears Miss. Hilly's conversation. After the bridge game, Skeeter

apologizes to Aibileen about the Hilly's conversation and asks her that Skeeter hopes Aibileen can change the thing.

Aibileen goes home and takes a bus. On the bus, she warns her best friend, Minny Jackson. She was 36 years old who takes care of Hilly's mother, Miss Walters. Aibileen tells to Minny that Miss Hilly calls her a thief. Miss Walters is going to a nursing home, and Minny has been trying to find a new job. Now, she knows why no one has hired her. She tells Aibileen she did something terrible to Miss Hilly, something involving a pie, but she won't say what. Several days later, Minny finds work at the home of Johnny and Celia Rae Foote. Johnny is Hilly's ex boyfriend. Celia and Minny makes promise to keep herself a secret from her husband, causing Minny is stress.

After the bridge game at the Leefolt's, Skeeter goes home to Longleaf, her family's cotton plantation. Miss Skeeter was twenty two years old. She graduated from Ole Miss. She looking for her beloved maid and nanny, who is name Constantine that left her and mysteriously disappeared, and nobody tell Constantine's reason to her. Skeeter has real dream is to be a writer. She is in contact with an editor at a publishing house in New York, Elaine Stein. Miss Stein encourages her to get any job she can find at a newspaper and then use her free time to trying to find something controversial to write about. She scores a job at the Jackson Journal writing the Miss Myrna Column. The column is about housework and relationships, Skeeter knows little about them. With Miss Leefolt's reluctant

permission, Skeeter starts meeting with Aibileen to get answers to the questions readers. Skeeter learns that Aibileen's son was writing a book about his experiences in Mississippi at the time of his death. This inspires Skeeter to try to convince the local maids to be interviewed for a book that will show their points of view.

Miss Hilly sets Skeeter up on blind date with Stuart Whitworth who is a Senator's son. He gets drunk and insults Skeeter. She never wants to see him again. In December, Minny is discovered by Johnny Foote, her boss' husband. She has terrified of what he'll do to her, a strange black woman in his bedroom. But, her fears are in vain, Johnny realized his wife Celia had help as soon as the cooking improved. He is glad Minny here. He asks Minny to pretend that he does not know about her.

Aibileen agrees to work with Skeeter on the book about the lives of the maids of Jackson. Skeeter and Aibileen begin spending their evening together. Eventually, Minny also agrees to work with them. Aibileen tries to get other maids, but they are all too frightened. Skeeter steals a pamphlet from the library that lists Jim Crow Laws.

Three months after their failed first date, Skeeter and Stuart go out again and even share a passionate kiss. Stuart becomes a regular part of Skeeter's life, though he does not know about her secret writing project. In May, 1963, Celia has a miscarriage and reveals that it is her fourth. She is afraid that if she cannot have

babies, Johnny will not want her anymore. When Minny tries to convince her that Johnny loves her. Celia realizes that Minny and Johnny have met. She begs Minny to pretend to Johnny that Celia does not know Johnny knows about Minny.

In July, Hilly's maid who is named Yule May steals one of the rings, which happens to be valueless and which Hilly hates. Yule has twin sons and ia short the \$75 she needs to send both boys, instead of just one to college. When, Hilly refused to loan her the money, Yule stole the ring. Hilly fids out and uses her influence to have Yule fined \$500 and sentenced for four years in the state penitentiary. Anger at Hilly over her treatment of Yule May, plus a little persuasion from Minny, convinces eleven more maids to tell their stories for Skeeter's book. She and her family have dinner at Stuart's parents' home. At dinner, the topic keeps coming around to Stuart's ex, Patricia Van Devender, who cheated on Stuart with a white civil rights activist. At the end of the evening, Stuart breaks up with Skeeter.

Miss Hilly steals the list of Jim Crows Laws out of Skeeter's bag and says she won't give them back until Skeeter, editor of the Junior League newspaper, prints a notice about Hilly's bathroom project in the newsletter. Skeeter does print the notice. She also accidentally on purpose, prints a notice telling people to drop off their old toilets on Hilly's lawn. Meanwhile, she hires some kids to deliver dozens of toilets to Hilly's place. Needless to say, Hilly is furios when she finds out. Skeeter is subsequently ostracized by the women who used to be her friends.

Aibileen, Minny, and the other maids are afraid Hilly will find out that they are writing their stories and hurt them.

At the Jackson Junior League Annual Ball and Benefit, Celia Foote gets very drunk and tries to get Hilly to accept her into the high society ladies' circle. She ends up tearing Hilly's dress and vomiting on the floor not good progress there. In the days that follow, Celia is depressed and is on the verge of leaving Johnny because she thinks she is not good enough for him. Minny convinces her to stay.

We learn that during her last days of caring for Hilly's mother, Miss Walters, Minny baked a chocolate pie laced with her own poo and that Hilly ate two slices of the pie. This is why Hilly that their best protection against Hilly. If their book comes out, include the pie story in Minny's section. Even if Hilly recognizes the town as Jackson, she won't tell because it would mean admitting to eating poo, Brilliant.

In December, Skeeter learns that Constantine, the maid who disappeared mysteriously from Skeeter's life, is dead. After Constantine's daughter, Lulabelle, and Skeeter's mother, Charlotte, got into a confrontation, Constantine was fired. She moved to Chicago with Lulabelle and died three months later. Skeeter gets part of the story from Aibileen and part from her mother. Also in December, Skeeter and Stuart get back together. At the end of December, Skeeter mails the book

manuscript, which contains the maid's stories and is called *Help*, to Elaine Stein in New York City.

In January, Stuart proposes to Skeeter. She says yes, but when she tells him about *Help* he takes back his proposal. Also in January, Skeeter, Aibileen, Minny, and the other maids learn that *Help* is going to be published. They wait with bated breath. When the book comes out, Hilly immediately suspects the book is set in Jackson and begins campaigning against the maids who she suspects are involved. But when she gets to the last chapter, Minny's chapter, and reads the pie story, she does an abrupt turnaround and tells everybody she can that the book *isn't* about Jackson. Still, Hilly confronts Skeeter about her involvement in the book and vows revenge on Aibileen and Minny.

Skeeter is offered a job in New York City and Minny and Aibileen convince her she must take it. Before she goes, Skeeter arranges for Aibileen to take Skeeter's old job writing the Miss Myra column. Meanwhile, Celia finally tells Johnny about the miscarriages and about Minny. Johnny and Celia tell Minny she has a job with them for life. However, Hilly arranges for Minny's abusive husband, Leroy, to be fired and to be told that it's Minny's fault. Leroy then tries to kill Minny. She takes their five children, leaving Leroy and moving out of town, but still not far from her job with Celia.

Miss Hilly still is not satisfied, though, and proves to Elizabeth that Aibileen is the author of a chapter of *Help*. Hilly tries to frame Aibileen for stealing silver, but

Elizabeth does not go along with her plan. She does fire Aibileen, though. After a tearful good bye to Mae Mobley, Aibileen discovers she is about to start a new life, one in which she plans to spend writing about her life and the people she knows.

APPENDIX II

KATHRYN STOCKETT

Kathryn Stockett is a writer and editor of American origin. She is born in 1969 in Jackson, Mississippi, she is best known for her critically acclaimed novel *The Help*. Stockett studied creative writing and English for her undergraduate course from University of Alabama. Then, she moved to New York in order to pursue work in publishing business. For about nine years she offered her services in marketing and publishing of magazine and later relocated in Atlanta, Georgia. She shifted her interest to literary writing as she moved back to south.

After five years of hard work on her personal writing project, she finally had *The Help* published in 2009. It was not easy for Stockett to find a willing literary agent to represent her work. After rejection from 60 literary agents consecutively, eventually agent Susan Ramer took upon the task. The novel became a milestone in Stockett's writing career earning a tremendous praise for writing on a unique subject matter. The inspiration for the novel is Stockett's own childhood.

The Help highlights the relationship dynamics between whites and their African American domestic help in South. At first Stockett was reluctant to write about the dynamics of this relationship as she knew it would be heavily criticized. In her interviews she recounted her experience as a child in

South where Jackson had equal population of white and black, though she never saw any black receiving education. Her childhood memories are only of blacks as domestic help for white people which she assumed customary affair. It was not until she moved to North she was able to see the bigger picture. She realized that she was living in an isolated place where blacks were not considered equal race.

As she shared her childhood experiences of black domestic help in her family with other Southerners, she mulled the idea of writing down a story on it. The model for her novel was her close relationship with a black housekeeper, Demetrie. In an interview, Stockett sketched Demetrie's life who was underprivileged and was treated somewhat like a slave despite the change in segregation laws in 70's. Every family in Stockett's town had a black woman as a domestic help and they were expected to wear a white uniform which granted them access to white people's markets. They were not allowed privacy or offered any sort of comforts.

During the initial process of writing Stockett employed the first-person narrative of a black housekeeper, thinking her work would never have any readership. It was not until she let her friends read the book in order to get their valuable feedback, she felt concerned about her narrative technique and depiction of characters. Despite her apprehension, the novel won rave reviews from readers and critics alike. Over ten million copies of the book have been

sold in over 42 different languages. In 2011, the novel was adapted into film by Walt Disney Studios.

After publication of the novel, Kathryn Stockett professed that she felt mortified that it took her 20 years to see the unjust treatment of blacks. And the sole reason for her writing *The Help* was to understand why she couldn't see through the duplicity of things in South. The memories of Demterrie still haunt her and make her wonder what her childhood companion would think of present America, electing a black president twice.