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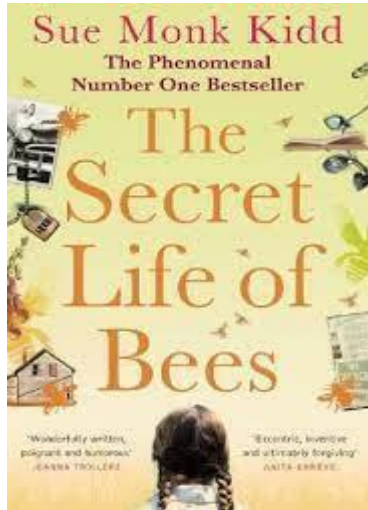
### **Internet Resources**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Secret\\_Life\\_of\\_Bees\\_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Secret_Life_of_Bees_(novel))

<https://suemonkkidd.com/author/> (Accessed on Juny, 14th 2022)

## APPENDICES

### A. Synopsys of *The Secret Life of Bees*



The *Secret Lives of Bees* follows the life of Lily Melissa Owens, a 14-year-old white girl whose life has been affected by the hazy memory of the afternoon her mother was murdered, and is set in the fictional town of Sylan, South Carolina, in 1964. She shares a home with her controlling father, who she addresses as T. Ray. Rosaleen, their stern housekeeper, serves as Lily's substitute mother. In the first chapter, Lily finds bees in her bedroom. Then, Lily breaks Rosaleen out of the hospital and they decide to leave town when she is arrested for pouring her bottle of "snuff juice" on three white males. They start hitchhiking in the direction of Tiburon, South Carolina, which is where Deborah's mother Deborah had once possessed a statue of the Virgin Mary dressed as a black woman. Before arriving in Tiburon, they spend a night in the woods with scant supplies and little hope. They purchase lunch at a local store there, and Lily spots the same "Black Mary" illustration on the side of a honey jar. They are given directions to the Boatwright house, where the honey is produced. August, May, and June, the three black Boatwright sisters who manufacture the honey, are introduced to the group. Lily fabricates a tale of being an orphan. Rosaleen and Lily are welcomed to stay with the sisters.

Both beekeeping techniques and boatwright techniques are taught to them. Lily discovers more about the Black Madonna honey that the sisters produce now that she has a new home and, for the time being, a new family. To pay August back for her compassion, she starts working as an apprentice beekeeper while Rosaleen does housework. Lily learns that when they were younger, May's twin sister, April, killed herself using their father's firearm. She observes June's continuing flirtations with her lover Neil and her refusals to get married to him. The sisters' religion is also shown to Lily and Rosaleen. At their residence, which they call "The Daughters of Mary," they hold services. August narrates the tale of how a man by the name of Obadiah, who was a slave, discovered this statue of "Black Mary," or "our lady of chains," which was actually a figurehead from the bow of an ancient ship. The slaves believed that God had heard their prayers, which included requests for deliverance, comfort, and liberation. They had hope in it because it had been passed down through the years.

Zach, August's godson, meets Lily. They quickly start to feel close to one another. While tending the hives, they communicate their shared objectives. Despite the near impossibility of their objectives, Lily and Zach support one another in trying. Zach aspires to be the "ass-busting lawyer," which would make him the first black attorney in the region. Lily desires to write short stories.

Zach interrupts Lily as she tries to tell August the truth by taking her on a honey run. They make a pit stop at a store to get some supplies. After one of Zach's pals, whom they had met at the store, threw a coke bottle at a white man, and none

of them would admit to it, Zach is jailed. Zach and his companions are taken into custody and locked up. The Boatwright household decides against telling May out of concern about an intolerable emotional outburst. The secret is soon revealed, and May falls into a depressive catatonia. August, June, Lily, and Rosaleen find May dead in the river with a boulder on her chest after she leaves the home. An apparent suicide.

It is observed with a four-day vigil. During that time, Zach is released from jail without being charged and beehives are covered in black fabric to represent sadness. When May's suicide note is discovered, she writes, "My time has come to pass, and your time is now. Keep things clean." August takes this to mean that he wants June to marry Neil. Later, May is interred. After a period of mourning, life resumes its usual course, putting the Boatwright home back together. After receiving repeated rejections, June finally consents to give Neil her hand in marriage. Zach promises Lily that they will one day be together and that they will both succeed in their endeavors.

Lily ultimately learns her mother's true identity. August looked after her mother and assisted in raising her. Deborah left her marriage to T. Ray when things started to go south and moved in with the Boatwrights. She ultimately made the decision to permanently part ways with him and went back to their home to pick up Lily. T. Ray went back to his house as Deborah was preparing to leave. Following their argument, they got into a fight in which Deborah pulled a gun. The gun dropped

to the ground after a brief struggle. Lily picked it up, and the gun accidentally went off, killing Deborah.

T. Ray arrives at the pink house to pick Lily up as she is trying to process this information. When Lily declines, T. Ray goes on an enraged rampage. He changes his mind after experiencing a violent flashback. Lily can stay with August, who intervenes and makes the offer. T. Ray caves and consents. T. Ray is asked what actually transpired on the day her mother passed away by Lily just as he is about to depart the Boatwright residence. T. Ray attests to the fact that she did it.

## **B. Biography of Sue Monk Kidd**



The small Georgian town of Sylvester, where Sue Monk Kidd was raised, had a significant impact on the creation of her debut book, *The Secret Life of Bees*. After earning her degree from Texas Christian University in 1970, she later attended conferences and took creative writing classes at Anderson College and Emory University.

She received an honorary doctor of letters degree from TCU in 2016 while attending Sewanee, Bread Loaf, and other writing institutions. *When the Heart Waits*, which was released in 1990 by Harper San Francisco, has become a classic work on contemplative spirituality. *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*, a memoir that chronicled Kidd's foray into feminist theology, was released by Harper in 1996. It had a revolutionary impact on religious circles.

In her forties, Kidd decided to focus on writing fiction, and in 1996 she was awarded the Poets & Writers Exchange Program in Fiction as well as the South Carolina Fellowship in Literature. Her short stories were published in *TriQuarterly*, *Nimrod*, and other literary journals; they also won the Katherine Anne Porter Award and were listed among the 100 Distinguished Stories in *Best American Short Stories*. Her debut book, *The Secret Life of Bees*, was released by Viking in 2002 and quickly rose to literary fame, spending more than two and a half years on the New York Times bestseller list. More than 8 million copies have been sold globally and it has been translated into 36 other languages. In 2004, *Bees* was named the Book Sense Paperback Book of the Year. It was also longlisted for the 2002 English Orange Prize. The novel has been performed on stage by The American Place Theater for more than ten years. In 2008, Fox Searchlight adapted the book into a film, which went on to win the NAACP Image Award for Best Picture and the People's Choice Award for Best Motion Picture. In middle school, high school, and college schools, the book is frequently taught.

*The Mermaid Chair*, Kidd's second book, has sold well over a million copies since Viking published it in 2005. It debuted at #1 on the New York Times bestseller list and spent nine months on both the hardcover and paperback lists. The book, which won the 2005 Quill Award for General Fiction, was also translated into 24 different languages and turned into a Lifetime television movie. It was also longlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. *Firstlight: The Early*

Inspiration Writings, a compilation of the spiritual essays, meditations, and motivational stories Kidd penned in her thirties, was released by Guideposts Books in 2006 and Penguin in 2007.

After visiting holy places in France, Greece, Turkey, and Turkey with her daughter Ann Kidd Taylor, Kidd and Taylor wrote a memoir together titled *Traveling with Pomegranates: A Mother-Daughter Story*. It was published in multiple languages by Viking in 2009 and made appearances on a number of bestseller lists, including the New York Times list.

Kidd's third book, *The Invention of Wings*, was released in 2014 by Viking to a plethora of positive reviews. On the New York Times bestseller list, where it spent a total of 9 months, it opened at U\$ 1. It has so far been translated into more than 20 different languages and has sold over a million copies. Numerous literary honors have been bestowed to the book, including the SIBA Book Award and the Florida Book of the Year Award. It was also selected for Oprah's Book Club 2.0 and the International Dublin Literary Award. Kidd, her husband Sandy, and their dog Barney reside in North Carolina, where Kidd serves on the Writers Council for Poets & Writers, Inc.



