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APPENDIX I

Synopsis of the *Black Boy* Novel

This story begins with the childhood of Richard Wright in Natchez, Mississippi, with his mother, father, younger brother, and grandmother. At that time everyone including Richard was required to remain silent because his grandmother was bed-ridden. Richard Wright who at that time was still four years old, became bored and started playing with fire near the curtain, which caused him to accidentally burn down his family home. In fear of not wanting to get punished for his actions, Richard finally ran away and hid behind a burning house, although in the end he was found by his father. Then after that, he was beaten by his mother until he lost consciousness and fell ill.

After some time, Richard and his family moved to Memphis, but not long after Richard's father left his family to live with another woman while Richard and his younger brother lived with his mother. Without financial support from his father, the Wright family fell into poverty and starved constantly. On the other hand, Richard always related that the difficulties his family felt now, especially their hunger, were all caused by his father.

The next several years, Ella struggled on her own to raise the children in Memphis, Tennessee. Where she worked as a cook in one of the white families, and in addition to his long hours, she tried to spare her little time watching Richard and his younger brother Richard. Unsurprisingly, Richard got into a lot of

trouble, spying on people in latrines and being a regular at a local salon, and becoming an alcoholic at the age of six.

Ella's deteriorating health prevented her from raising two children alone and often left her unable to work. During this time, Richard did whatever odd jobs he could as a child to generate money for the family. School is not the first choice for him because their economic problems were getting worse from time to time, there were times when Ella had to put her children in an orphanage for several weeks.

And then, Ella's life began to improve when Ella moved to Elaine, Arkansas, to live with her sister, Maggie, and her sister's husband, Hoskins. Hoskins runs a successful salon, so there's always plenty of food to eat. However, as the white jealousy of Hoskins' business success reached its peak, local whites killed Hoskins and threatened his entire family. And after the Hoskin murder incident committed by white people, Ella and Maggie decided to flee with the two boys to West Helena, Arkansas. Where there, the combined salaries of the two sisters made their lives easier than in Memphis. However, in just a short time, Maggie fled to Detroit with her lover, Professor Matthews, leaving Ella as the family's only lifeline, and tough economic times returned.

After that the situation got even more difficult when a paralyzed stroke hit Ella, beside that Richard's grandmother decided to bring Ella, Richard, and Richard's brother to her home in Jackson, Mississippi. And after the news of Ella who was sick spread throughout the family members, finally, Ella's siblings

gathered in Jackson to decide how to care for their sick sister and her two sons. The aunts and uncles decided that Richard's brother would live with Maggie in Detroit. Ella will remain at home in Jackson, and Richard is given the freedom to choose which aunt or uncle will live with him, and with all considerations, Richard finally decides to live with Uncle Clark, because Clark lives in Greenwood, Mississippi, which is not far away. from Jackson, where his mother is.

However, after he arrived at Clark's house, Richard also learned of one of the facts from a neighbor that there was a boy who had died many years ago in the same room Richard now occupies. Because he was too scared to sleep in the room, Richard managed to beg his uncle Clark to return to his grandmother's house in Jackson. After returning to Jackson, Richard once again faced the familiar hunger problem, he also faces a new problem: grandmother's very strict religious rules, where her grandmother is a Seventh Day Adventist, Granny sees her strong-willed, dreamy, and nerdy grandson think of Richard as a very sinful person, and she is aunt addies, his aunt Richard struggles. vigorously to change it to eliminate Richard's obsession with reading and forced Richard to enter the religious school where aunt addies teach.

One day in class, Aunt Addie beat Richard for eating soybeans, even though it was actually the student sitting in front of Richard who ate the beans, not Richard. When Addie tries to beat Richard again after school that day, later, Richard's other uncle, Tom, comes to live with the family. One morning, Tom asked Richard what time it was and thought Richard was responding

presumptuously. He tries to beat Richard for being considered insolent, but the boy blocks him with a razor.

Finally, his grandmother and Aunt Addie gave up on saving Richard's soul. And at the age of 13, Ricard returned to public school, where he entered fifth grade with children two years younger than him. She studied hard and moved up to the sixth grade two weeks later. At home, the family admires a "bad, bad boy" who does something very good. And besides that Richard, who was dressed in rags and was almost starving. She also wants to get a job on Saturday so she can buy her own clothes, textbooks, and lunch. But his grandmother forbade him from working on Saturdays, the Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath.

One day, a "tall, black, rebellious boy" told Richard about his job selling newspapers. This opportunity does not require Saturday work and offers an opportunity to read, so Wright took advantage of the opportunity. He sells newspapers after school and spends the night reading fiction in the newspaper section of the magazine. But when a customer showed Ku Klux Klan propaganda in the news section of the people he was selling, Richard stopped selling kora, and he returned to having no other income until the summer.

The following school year, when Richard was in seventh grade, his grandfather died, Wright's grandfather had been sick for years. After his grandfather's death, he begged his grandmother to be allowed to work on Saturday but again his grandmother refused, because he was rejected, finally Richar decided to go with his suitcase, and on the other hand when before he slipped to

entered his mother's den to tell him that he would not keep his grandmother and aunt and he would try to find a job, and he was kissed by his mother happily.

At school, Richard heard that there were jobs available as homeworkers for white women. When she interviewed him for the job, the woman asked Richard if he was stealing, to which he unwittingly replied in what she thought was "presumptuous". And even when he told the woman that he wanted to become a writer, she asked Richard: "Who put such an idea into your head of the country?". And after that Richard made the decision not to return to his place of work but to take a job with another white family, run errands and serve food.

Meanwhile, Richard also chose his way through school. He was happy with his studies especially reading and writing even though the people at home did not support such pursuits. Although he did not care and even confused and ridiculed everyone, he wrote and published in the local black newspaper a story called "Voodoo of Hell's Half-Acre."

Summer was here, and as usual, Richard needed work. One day while looking for work, he sees a friend named Ned Greenley, who says that his brother Bob has died. "They killed him," Ned said, and Wright knew immediately "they" were white people. Ned said the white man accused Bob of sleeping with a white prostitute. Wright accepted this death harshly and fell into depression. He wrote, "The death penalty awaits me if I commit a wrong act and I wonder if there is any point in taking action at all." Reflecting on his later moments, Wright said such

violence was "a more effective control over my behavior" than violence he experienced directly.

Ricahrd entered the ninth grade as the top of his class and learned that he may have a chance to become a teacher if he finishes the year well. He worked hard and was given the name valedictorian, which means he can speak on graduation. Richard wrote a speech, but the principal called him to the school office and gave him a different speech. When Wright insisted on reading his own words, the principal called him a "grumpy idiot" and threatened him. Later, the principal arranged for other students, including a classmate named Griggs, whom Wright respected, to change Wright's mind. But Wright refused to back down. At graduation, Wright read his own speech quickly, regardless of whether people liked it or not. When finished, Wright walked out, angry, and ready to leave school.

As Richard enters adult work in Jackson, he experiences many terrifying, often violent encounters with racism. In this most demoralizing encounter, two white southerners, Pease and Reynolds, who kicked Richard out of his optical shop job, claimed that such skilled work was not meant for blacks. Richard was annoyed that the white Northern running the company, Mr. Crane, had hired Richard specifically to teach blacks about the optical trade, but then had done little to actually help defend Richard against his racist employees. As his despair grew, Richard decided to go North as quickly as possible. Richard moves to Memphis, where the atmosphere is safer and where he can make final arrangements to move to Chicago.

In Memphis, Richard seems lucky to find a kind and generous owner, Mrs. Moss, who decides that he must marry his daughter, Bess. Even so, Richard did not accept Bess, even though after the incident Richard's rejection of Bess was discovered by Mrs. Moss. Sempta made her life situation awkward, but in the end, Mrs. Moss accepted the fact that her daughter would never become Richard's wife.

At Memphis, Richard took a job at an optical shop, where Olin, a seemingly benevolent white coworker, played mind games with Richard and Harrison, another young black worker, in an attempt to get them to kill each other. This strategy led to a fight between Richard and Harrison. Which in the end Richard knew that this had all been arranged by Mr. Olin, Richard, and Harrison's bribe who in fact are friends can kill each other.

Another white co-worker at the optical shop, Falk, was a genuinely kind partner who let Richard use his library card to check books that would not be available to Richard. And there Richard began to read obsessively and became increasingly determined to write. And on the other hand, his mother, brother, and Maggie soon joined him in Memphis. And after that, They all decided that Richard and Maggie were going to Chicago soon and the other two would follow in a few months.

In Chicago, Richard continues to struggle against racism, segregation, poverty, and with his own need to cut corners and lie to protect himself and move forward. He suppressed his own morals, forcing himself to work for a corrupt

insurance agency that took advantage of poor black people. He also worked in a cafe and for some well-meaning Jewish shopkeepers, the Hoffman family, in a whites-only neighborhood. Irresponsibly, Richard immediately quit trying to get a job at the post office.

A week later Richard found a new job washing dishes at the newly opened North Side cafe, where several white waiters worked. One day a white girl accidentally runs into Richard and in another incident, he is asked to tie another maid's apron for him. He realized that these girls were not aware of black and white. Richard observed that even in Chicago, his actions were matched by the social lessons he had learned in the South. After reading American Mercury magazine, the woman's boss entered the kitchen and asked where she had found it and if she understood it. Richard lied, saying he "found it" instead of saying he had bought it. After that, he wrapped his books and magazines in newspapers so that no one questioned him.

Richard was forced to find another job. Meanwhile, her mother and sister live in Aunt Maggie's apartment. Aunt Maggie constantly criticized Richard for reading and studying, and after he lost his postal job, aunty Maggie saw him as a failure. So in the end Richard decided to ask Aunt Cleo to share the apartment with himself, his mother, and his brothers.

In the end, Richard got a night job as a postal clerk after forcing himself to eat; a raise allowed them to move to bigger apartments and buy better food.

During the day, he experimented with consciousness-flow writing and tried to understand the "many modes of Negro behavior" through his writing. Richard also befriends a young Irishman with whom he has a lot in common, sharing their cynicism and beliefs. Richard also began examining several black groups. He met a black literary group on Chicago's South Side and found them almost bohemian and too engrossed in sex. Richard also met a group called the "Garveyites," an organization of black men and women seeking to return to Africa.

Richard observes their passionate "rejection" of America, an emotion he shares. But even though their emotional dynamics were similar, Richard pitied them because they couldn't see that Africa was really not their home. He viewed the Garvey people as naive in not realizing that Africa was under European imperialism and that they had joined too much with the West to return to native Africa. Meanwhile, Richard also began to hear about Communist Party activity but paid no heed to it.

In the end, he lost his job at the post office but was promised to be reinstated the following summer for a temporary job. After that, because Aunt Cleo had heart disease, her mother fell ill, and her brother had stomach ulcers. And at the same time, a distant cousin offered Richard a job selling insurance, which he accepted. And throughout the years, Richard worked for funerals and insurance agencies serving black people. His work allowed him, for the first time, to explore the life of black people in Chicago.

When the great depression broke out and forced him and millions of other people out of work, Richard began visiting Washington Park and began to find Communism attractive, especially its emphasis on protecting the oppressed. and in the end, he became a member of the Communist Party because he thought that he could help the Party by writing, finding language that could promote the Party's struggle to ordinary people.

Meanwhile, Richard worked a variety of jobs through the federal aid program. When he began writing for leftist publications, he took positions with the federal theater company and the Federal Writers Project. But in the end, he too was disappointed to learn that like any other group, the Communist Party is beset by fear and human weakness that continually thwarts its own ends.

Christmas arrives and Richard returns to work at the post office for a while, where he again talks with his Irish friends about current events. When his postal job ended, he looked for work at a medical research institute at one of the largest and wealthiest hospitals in Chicago. At the hospital, Brand and Cooke are doing nothing but feuding with each other. One day, the two began arguing about what year the last cold day was in Chicago. And on the other hand, the four black workers spent the rest of their lunch break trying to sort out the animals, randomly placing rats and mice in their cages, not knowing whether they were cancerous mice or those injected with tuberculosis. None of the doctors noticed that something was wrong and none of the workers told the director about the matter. Richard notes that because of the way black workers are treated, they have learned to shape their own code of ethics, values , and loyalty.

After witnessing the trial of another black Communist for counter-revolutionary activities, Richard decided to leave the party. He remains labeled an "enemy" of Communism, and party members threaten him to stay away from jobs and meetings. However, he didn't fight them because he believed they were awkwardly groping for ideas he agreed with such as unity, tolerance, and equality. In the end, he decided to use his writing to find a way to start a revolution: he thought that everyone had a "hunger" for life that needed to be filled, and for him, the writing was his way to the human heart.

APPENDIX II

Biography of Richard Wright

Richard Wright was an African American writer and poet who published his first short story at the age of 16. Later, he found employment with the Federal Writers' Project and received critical acclaim for *Uncle Tom's Children*, a collection of four stories. He is well-known for his 1940 bestseller *Native Son* and his 1945 autobiography, *Black Boy*.

Richard Nathaniel Wright known as Richard Wright was born in Roxie, Mississippi, on September 4, 1908. His mother was a village school teacher and indicated was a poor farmer who shared the land with other farmers, who was also someone illiterate. In 1914 the family moved to Memphis, Tennessee, and soon their father left them with another woman. Since then Richard's education has been inconsistent, but he has gained experience beyond his years. She shifts from school to school and desperately tries to make friends and fit in with her classmates.

At the age of nineteen, Wright decided he wanted to become a writer. And then he decided to move to Chicago, Illinois, where he could have access to a public library. In the library, he read all he could about Feodor Dostoevsky (1821–1881), Theodore Dreiser (1871–1945), Henry James (1843–1916), and William James (1842–1910). And besides that. When her mother, brother, and aunt Richard came to Chicago, she supported them as postal clerks until that job ended in 1929.

After months of living in public welfare, he landed a job at the Federal Negro Theater Project in the Employment Progress Administration, a government aid agency. Later he became a writer for the Illinois Writers' Project. His essays, commentaries, short stories, and poetry appeared regularly in communist newspapers, and in 1937, when he was Harlem's editor of the *Daily Worker*, he enjoyed a sizeable reputation in left-wing circles. Four novels (short novels), published as *Uncle Tom's Children* (1938), introduced him to many people.

Although Richard Wright was restricted in how he developed his mind, he got his first chance to publish in 1924. *Half Acre Voodoo of Hell?* a fictional short story about a criminal's strategy to get hold of a widow's house, appears on the *Southern Register*, a black newspaper. Because residents do not understand Wright's motive for writing, the explosion of creative thoughts in the future is hampered by family members. However, these obstacles did not stop him from realizing his determination to become a writer.

Evidenced by Wright then published his first book, *Uncle Tom's Children*, in 1938. Then in 1940, Wright published *Native Son*, where Wright was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1940 for the native son. later the novel was also written for Broadway and film scripts. In 1941 Wright also published *Twelve Million Black Voices: A Folk History of the Negro of the United States*. *Black Boy*, an autobiography of Wright's childhood south, was published in January 1945 which sold over four hundred thousand copies in March, and even Wright accepted an invitation from the French government to visit France, and the experience of three

months was a stark contrast to his own experience. , "delighted" (energized and invigorated) him with a "sense of freedom." Men of the highest intellectual and artistic circles met him "as equals."

After that Wright, his wife, and daughter moved permanently to Paris, France. Within a year and a half, Wright went to Argentina, where he "starred" in the film version of *Native Son*. *The Outsider*, the first of three novels written in France, was heavily influenced by existentialism, a philosophy emphasizing the experience of individuals in the universe, the most famous of whose speakers, Jean-Paul Sartre (1905–1980) and Simone de Beauvoir (1908–1986)), is a close friend of Wright. Following *Savage Holiday* (1954), a potboiler (a book, usually of lower quality, written to make money), *The Long Dream* (1958) proved that Wright had long been out of touch with American reality to deal with it. effective. Not a single novel written in France was successful. His experiments with poetry did not produce enough for a book.

In 1953 Wright visited Africa, where he hoped to "find his roots" as a black man. *Black Power* (1954) combines elements of a travel book with passionate political treatises, or formal writings, on "an entirely different order of life" in Africa. In 1955 he attended the Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung, Indonesia, and published his impressions in *The Color Curtain* (1956). *Pagan Spain* (1956), based on two months in Spain, is the best of his nonfiction works. *White Man, Listen* (1957) is a collection of four lengthy essays on "The White, East-West Relationship."

In 1960, Richard Wright died of a heart attack on November 28, in Paris, France. His naturalistic fiction no longer has the standing it once enjoyed, but his life and works remain exemplary.

