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APPENDIX I

Biography of Pearl S. Buck

Originally born on Virginia, United States, Pearl S. Buck spent the majority of her life in China ever since she's three months old, because her family relocates to China due to her father being one of the missionaries there at the time. Pearl S. Bucks was well known not only because of her literary works, but also the impacts that she creates In her social life. For example, she and Richard Walsh, her second husband, liked to adopt inter-racial children, which she ultimately found an agency that specializes in inter-racial children adoption.

Furthermore, she built a foundation with the purpose of funding thousand children across six asian countries. Green Hills Farm is one of the establishment that originates from her charity for adopting children, which has become a Historical Building. On top of that, Pearl S. Buck was one of the Feminist Activist that is legitimately concerned with the issues that women across the world faced.

She was the first ever woman to win a Nobel Prize in 1938, for her novel *The Good Earth*. She also won the pulitzer in 1932, only one year after *The Good Earth* was published. In 1935, she also won the Howells Medal, and the novel received movie adaptation in 1937.

APPENDIX II

Synopsis of Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth*

This novel is opened with Wang Lung who started his day realizing that this is the day he has been waiting for the most; the day of his marriage with a slave from House of Hwang, O-Lan. Living only with her dad without having a housemaid makes him feel ecstatic being that today will be the end of his days doing house chores.

The marriage of Wang Lung and O-Lan went well, despite the fact that O-Lan spend the day being rather silent due to the teachings of Miss Hwang that being a good wife means that one must be obedient to the wishes of their husband. Wang Lung who was initially happy felt a little sign of disappointment towards O-Lan's feet who aren't bounded, signifying that he is not of wealth, incapable of beautifying his wife, and the wife even had to work as a farmer alongside him.

Wang Lung and O-Lan spent their married life by farming together and live by the product of said farming. They also had their firstborn son which made Wang Lung happy because he believes that a son brings good fortune to his family. They bought a crop of land from the Hwang family who are going through a difficulty because of a bad habit that eventually affects the economy of their family. As a result, the Wang Lung family slowly became wealthier which attracts the attention of his cunning uncle who wanted to take benefit of his position as Wang Lung's uncle, and to use his money for useless things.

During this “rising” period, O-Lan is yet again pregnant which slows down her work at the farm during harvesting season, much to Wang Lung’s dislike. This means that Wang Lung inherently took O-Lan for granted, as he was eventually happy over the fact that she gave birth to another son, and due to the fact that O-Lan will be able to work in the field again. Unlike Wang Lung, O-Lan who was a former slave felt grateful for her marriage and to be able to raise her status.

O-Lan then gave birth to a daughter, which led Wang Lung to believe that this is a bad omen for their family. The birth of their daughter is followed by a drought. The drought destroys their crop which affects their financial condition. Then, a famine strikes and it worsens the suffering of their family which subsequently happened during yet another birth of a second daughter. This time O-Lan painfully let her children die at her own hand, so as to not be a burden to the family, and even if alive the child would only suffer and eventually die of starvation. With their financial condition being more critical, Wang Lung is then forced to travel with his family to the south.

Residing at the south did not help their condition much, with Wang Lung being a rickshaw driver, and O-Lan is forced to teach her two sons to beg for money in the street, and even stealing to ensure that their family is at least not starving. In despair, Wang Lung considered O-Lan’s proposition to sell their daughter as a slave. Then, Wang Lung and O-Lan joined a group of impoverished people in an attempt of robbery in the south, which yields enough money for them to go back to the north and to buy 300 ha land from Old Master Hwang. Shortly after, O-Lan gave birth to twins, a boy and a

girl, and later they discovered that their first daughter is retarded. They were delighted to welcome their twins since they are now financially capable of raising them.

A flood came which forced the farming to stop, Wang Lung who suffers from boredom blames it on O-Lan whom he deemed to be unattractive due to her huge legs that was not bounded. Then, Wang Lung bought an attractive woman from a painting he saw at the tea shop to be his concubine. Lotus with her bounded feet is lifted on a chair to Wang Lung's residence. Lotus is the epitome of a perfect women in Wang Lung's perspective. Unlike Lotus who was treated with luxury by Wang Lung, O-Lan kept working in the field on her own, who eventually realizes that she's severely ill. Knowing that his wife is dying, Wang Lung then realizes the importance of O-Lan to his family. His uncle's family kept exploiting Wang Lung's wealth which led him to move away from his current residence away from his uncle, as per his son's request.

O-Lan's death brings a huge burden of guilt to Wang Lung, for he never loved O-Lan the way he should've. Their sons deviated from their family plan and often fight against each other over money and lost their devotion towards farming (which was the main income and contributor to the family's wealth). In his late age, he promoted one of his slaves to be a concubine, Pear Blossom. Blossom promised him to not abandon his retarded daughter at all cost. The novel described how the family is going south as they encountered disagreements over land and money.