

## **APPENDIX 1.**

### **SYNOPSIS**

#### **“The Enemy”**

The story begins with the description of Pei-Yin as the second daughter. The receiving of suffering can begin very early; in Pei-Yin's case, since it is about the time she sprouts breasts and becomes a woman. Afterwards, she wants to defeat her breasts because they make a disturbance for her, for instance, a man at the bus touches her breasts twice. The increasing chest measurement attracts people's attention including her stepfather. Delinquency becomes more common in wide world that can cause a great damage especially for the victims, including Pei-Yin leaves to fight alone battle against harassment, and surrenders to her stepfather because unlike her elder sister, Mee Kin, Pei-Yin is a weak and submissive girl. Unfortunately, the unexpected condition happens to her. Moreover, her stepfather rapes her. By then, she shouts hysterically since her body was beaten deeply by a scorpion, her stepfather, and her hope in winning the Family Joy's Project was gone momentarily. Eventually, she suffers a lot because of her stepfather's immoral attitude toward her.

#### **“For the Gift of a Man's Understanding”**

It seems that a secretary becomes a good target for a boss to play around with her. Helen Lee, whose husband is unemployed man, should earn money to maintain her family financially. As a secretary, she is treated unkindly by her boss. Her boss likes to touch her body and to show the most disgusting picture of

a copulating couple. Furthermore, as a woman, who has a family, cannot stay along with his impolite attitude. She plans to express her feeling as soon as possible since his attitude disturbs her much. However, she is trapped in a no-win scenario because the basic of any negotiation, which is the mutual respect for each other, does not exist, as she has never been Mrs. Lee but has always be viewed as Helen. The fact that Helen, by virtue of her marriage and her preferred name, Mrs. Lee, belongs to another man, her husband, hardly deters Mr. Ong from encroaching on the private space, showing that men in truth have little respect for each other's territory. Finally, she has to suffer from inconvenience in job and the feeling of anxiety that can disturb her life.

#### **“Bina”**

Bina is a girl, who is sold because of “Bride Money” for her parents since Bina's parents are poor. Therefore, they have an advantage from their daughter's marriage. One day, Bina marries a 65 years old Arabian man without feeling in love. Actually, this old man has been married for several times because of biological needs. As a matter of fact, Bina is a new woman; consequently, in Bina's deep heart that she cannot just surrender to her destiny. Afterwards, she looks at the tricky ways so that she can escape from him. After she escapes, the international world reports this case, and she can really free because no men will come closer to her after knowing that they can be put in big problem by her. On the other hand, “the bride trade” is still popular among her society since parents need money. Eventually, there are still many girls who sustain a defeat throughout the arrangement married, including, Bina's sister, Ameena.

### **“The Paper Women”**

The certificate of sterilization, virginity, and non-pregnancy seem become a sign of the reduction of women's sexuality. In addition, the women's sexuality has been reduced to mere pieces of paper that is signed by men. Here, a wife should produce the sterilization certificate in order to enroll her children in the best school that she chooses. Usually, a husband blames her for that kind of mistake. Moreover, he requires his wife more than her, so it makes her sacrifice her life and freedom more. Based on her experiences in Bangkok, she finds a lot of young prostitutes register their names in the hospital in order to have an operation and get these certificates. On the contrary, his wife realizes soon that actually her life is in her husband's hand. She does not have a right and freedom to decide what she wants because the society has been shaped by tradition, so she cannot fight against them all.

### **“The Rest is Bonus”**

Meenachi is a typical of loyal woman. She should bear a lot of tribulation in her life since her husband likes to beat her when he gets drunk. Furthermore, she should accept many strokes after having sex while she is pregnant. Sometimes, she cannot serve her husband well, and he asks his daughter to serve him. She cannot stand with this condition anymore, however, she just can wish every day to the goddess that her husband will not rape her daughter anymore. Apparently, the goddesses answer her wishes so that her daughter is not raped again. In one hand, her daughter's life is secured; on the other hand, her life is almost gone and helpless. In fact, he forces her to serve him in drunken condition

and beats her, so she cannot fight back. As a result, she injures and goes to the hospital. Eventually, that day becomes a terrible day since she almost dies.

### **“The Song of Golden Frond”**

Golden Frond, who died more than forty years ago, sang a joyous song because she was special. She is a bondmaid of three masters, namely grandfather is seventy-three, first uncle is fifty-one, and older cousin is twenty-six. Every day, she should serve them. She carries the chamber pots from their rooms, provides the washbasins in order that they can wash their body, and cleans the rooms. In fact, it seems that these jobs are an easy job but these men have a bad intention toward her. Every bondmaid should serve them in bed without exception; as a result, she is always afraid of them. One day, Golden Frond has two special friends who can protect her from these reluctant men. Unfortunately, one of them dies and the other man cannot always protect her because he should go to China and he leaves her with a promise, namely marrying her soon after she arrives. Eventually, he dies in China and Golden Frond commits suicide since her life is empty and the forced marriage leads her to do that.

### **“The Revenge”**

Sometimes, woman should feel the sadness because her virginity is taken away by her boy friend. After she realizes that her boy friend just plays at her, she decides to take revenge. She and her mother plan to hurt him by cutting his boyfriend's penis. They think that he is an immoral man. After he takes the advantage of her, he leaves her without saying something. Afterwards, it seems

that he just wants to play with her love because he does not really love her but it is just a lust. In his opinion, he thinks that his girlfriend will not dare to fight against him for asking his responsibility because she is ashamed of her own condition, namely she is not virgin anymore. However, his opinion considers as a big mistake because his girlfriend will take the revenge crueler than what he has done to her. Finally, of course after they take revenge, they are captured by police. In addition, a narrator has sentenced for 3 years and her daughter has sentenced for 5 years in jail.

## APPENDIX 2.

### BIOGRAPHY

“Women have a generally down outlook on life but it does not stop their feeling that they should make the most out of their lives as life is too short to be wasted, so they should try to live a happy life no matter how difficult it may be” (“Key Elements,” 2001). This was a popular saying of Catherine Lim, who was born in 1942 in Kedah, Malaysia as the eight of fourteen children. As a matter of fact, she grew up in a small town in Malaysia but later she acquired Singapore citizenship. She also had an education at the Convent of Holy Infant Jesus and the University of Malaya under the department of English literature. Eventually, in 1963, she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in English. Five years later, she immigrated to Singapore and worked there. She taught English and literature at various secondary schools and General Paper at a junior college. After working several years with CDIS (Curriculum Development Institute of Singapore) as a project director of English language materials and then serving as deputy director in one of the departments, Lim completed her Ph.D. in Sociolinguistics at NUS (National University of Singapore). Besides that, she also joined RELC (Regional English Language Centre) as a lecturer.

Lim inherited her father’s love of storytelling and her mother’s literary bent. She also shows her hard will in writing literary works as her main tool in expressing her idea toward readers. Therefore, in 1978, she produced her first collection of short stories, Little Ironies. Actually, it was her first experiment,

however it was very well accepted. Lim continued to enjoy credible book sales. Moreover, she was considered as the first great woman, who arranged her own book's publication and the books' marketing. It is not because of business matter but it is because of her satisfaction. She wants to be herself so that she cannot be limited by changing the content of her works that the publisher disapproves. Because of this reason, her works cannot be published so that she looks the way out publishing her own books. She also produced some credible books, such as The Serpent's Tooth, O Singapore!: Stories in Celebration, and The Woman's Book of Superlatives, and others.

As a matter of fact, Lim has innumerable experiences that concern much about "village life, the views of villagers on gender issues, such as female education and familial or hierarchical relationship in the chain of being" are the inspiration for her stories (Lim, 1999, p. 90). She always gives an optimistic statement to her readers, "Never mind; in time, after your hand and arm have swelled and quivered long with torture, the squeezed scorpion will die, and you will have learned a great lesson: how to endure without a sob" (Lim, 1993, p. 4). During her life, she faced many complex problems that indirectly encouraged her sensitivity upon her surrounding. Readers may suspect that mutual feelings are shared by both Lim as the writer and the ex-wife or single parent. Therefore, based on the reality, she was encouraged to discuss this matter through her work The Woman's Book of Superlatives.

Eventually, almost twenty years, Catherine Lim's works had such an impact on the reading public; thus, they begin to reach the wider audiences' attraction. Since it becomes "a sign of encouragement to young writers who look on her as

one of Singapore's leading lights in the literary field" (Lim, 1999, p. 14).