

Appendix A

Synopsis

The Pumpkin Eater

The Pumpkin Eater is a story about a young married woman, Jo Armitage. Jo has been married four times. Her first husband is a reporter of a local paper. He is sweet but he is a drunker. She leaves him to marry the Major, her second husband. She is happy with the second marriage, the Major is a very good man with good career and he loves children but the Major dies in the sea. Then she meets her third husband Giles, a professional violinist but she leaves him to marry Jake. Unfortunately, it is a wrong decision.

At first Jake is only an ordinary man who works in the cinema business. Jo's father is very fond of Jake that is why he helps Jake to improve his business and then Jake becomes a successful man. Jake is an unfaithful husband, he believes that a successful man has a right to be unfaithful to his wife. Jake and Jo help a girl named Philpot and let her stay with them. Philpot is an unfortunate girl who has no relatives and they feel pity for her. Later on, Philpot suddenly leaves the house without any strong reasons. It raises Jo's curiosity which leads her to discover Jake's first affair. Jo cannot cope with this reality, she starts to feel depressed. She often cries without any reasonable reasons, she mourns all the time. On the other hand, Jake reaches his peak of career, he becomes a rich and successful. He begins to worry about Jo's mental health so he takes Jo to a psychiatrist to help her overcome her problems.

She regularly sees the doctor and takes medicine, both Jo and the doctor try to cure her mental illness. Jake is seldom at home, he travels a lot. As a wife, Jo never tries to take part of Jake's work, she feels excluded. Every time Jake asks her to go travelling with him, she always refuses it. She spends her time mostly at home. Even, she does not get acquainted with her husband's friends. One day Jo makes a big decision, she wants to try to adapt with her husband's friends that is why she throws a party at home and invites Jake's friends. In the party, she is introduced to Bob and Beth Conway and others and trying to make friends with them.

She is about to recover from her trauma of Jake's betrayal when she finds out that Jake has another affair with Beth Conway. As a matter of fact, Jake is expecting a child from her while Jo has to abort and to sterilize herself as Jake tells her to do. This affair really hits Jo into breakdown, it makes her lose track between dreams and reality. She loses her self-confidence and she easily gets drunk to ease her problem. Then one day she meets her ex-husband Giles and she decides to stay with Giles for a while. She stays with Giles for few days then she goes home because Jake's father is dead. The worst is Giles hides the news from Jo. That is why Jake considers that Jo does not care for him anymore. Both of them lose their love to each other. They are no longer try to renew their relationship. Jo continues living with her husband and children but she is still feel depressed and cannot figure out what is the best solution for her to walk out from her problems.

Appendix B

Biography of the author

Penelope Mortimer

Penelope Mortimer in full Penelope Ruth Mortimer was born at September 19, 1918 in Rhyl, Flinshire, Wales, Oxfordshire, England, UK. She studied in University of London then after her graduation, she began *to* write short stories, book reviews and novels. She was married and divorce twice and had two children by each husband as well as two by other. She was first married to the journalist Charles Dimont but in 1949 they divorced and she married the playwright John Mortimer (divorced 1972). She had six children from four different partners.

The Pumpkin Eater was Mortimer's most famous novel, it was a semi-autobiographical novel. In this novel, she was trying to tell the readers about her real life. Apparently she wrote it during her hard times of marriage with John Mortimer before they get divorced. Reading this novel makes me aware of Mortimer's own life from childhood until middle ages. She was born during the war, at that time life was miserable. She mentioned a little bit about her description of her childhood in the story.

Mortimer's love story also becomes the background of writing the novel. She has four men in her romantic life, each of them give her children. The main female character of the novel also experiences the same condition, she is married for four times and has many children from different partners.

The Pumpkin Eater was considered an emotional novel which story is about the failing marriage of the upper class. It also tells about the emotional breakdown of the main female character. In this **novel** Mortimer combined her true stories with her hopes

which cannot be done in reality. Nobody knows for sure what really happens in her marriage life but in the end of the novel she said “I have tried to be honest with you, although I suppose that you would really have been more interested in my not being honest. Some of these things happened, and some were dreams. They are all true, as I understood truth. They are all real, as I understood reality” (Mortimer, 1964, p.158). Mortimer might wrote this novel to express her feeling toward her marriage which she cannot express in reality and this novel was dedicated to her fourth husband John Mortimer. Mortimer died at October 19, 1999 in London, England UK, she was diagnosed to suffer from cancer. Although she is already gone, but her name still remembered as one of British writers who contributed many works.

<http://www.al.com/huntsville/obits/1999-10-24.html>