

# Characters - Lily

## Mommy and Daddy issues:

Lily is a sad soul when we meet her. She feels the loss of her mother and also very guilty about it. When Lily was 4 she killed her mom. Lily' dad is unpleasant and his behaviour ranges from indifference to contempt. Lily years for a better home-life.

## Smells like teen Angst:

Lily doesn't feels like she fits in well at school. (Chpt 1. Line 56). Because Lily's father is absence she ends up fending for herself. (C1. L51)

## Girls on the run:

Everything changes when she and Rosaleen ends up on the lam together. They head to Tiburon, SC, where Lily believes she will find people who knew her mother. She doesn't admit to August Boatwright (local beekeeper) whose daughter she is immediately. Lily is actually is a talented fibber.

# Characters - Lily

## Mama Drama:

Lily eventually tells the truth about her true identity and learns something about her mom. (C12 L171). August confirms T.Rays claims that her mother left her too - this is devastating to Lily.

Lily was desperate that her mom would be a loving and devoted mother.

## Home at last:

Lily calms down and heals when August brings her a box of her mother's things, which has a picture of Lily and her mother together.

Lily, August and the Daughters of Mary convince T.Ray to let her stay and continue her high-school in Tiburon. Lily finally gets the warm loving home she always wanted, and a whole team of mothers.

# Characters 2

## ROSALEEN

Rosaleen looks after Lily and helps around the house. Despite maintaining a tough exterior, she is a big softie. Rosaleen is a little quirky. Her exact age is unknown because she doesn't have a birth certificate.

Rosaleen (african american) decides to go and register to vote after the Civil Rights Act is signed. She gets harassed by a groupof white men, she ends up pouring a jug of her spit all over the men's feet. It doesn't end well. She ends up in jail and Lily manages to bust her out when they flee to Tiburon.

Rosaleen is a good egg. Strong sassy and has habits. She stands up for what she believes in and is loving towards our heroine.

## AUGUST BOATWRIGHT

Lives in Tiburon, SC where they make beekeeping and selling honey-based products. She is originally from Richmond, Virginia, where she worked as housekeeper for Lily's mother, Deborah. She got a teaching degree before moving to Tiburon.

August is warm,loving,energetic and powerful and loves to tell stories. She is spiritual and earthy. Lily is in awe of everything that August knows and can do.

# **Continue**

## JUNE BOATWRIGHT

The 1st sister we meet, Lily and June off to a shaky start. June is hesitant of Lily's presence, but has a heart of gold. She is a history and English teacher by day, plays music for comfort. June has a boyfriend, Neil, who refuses to marry, but eventually relents.

## MAY BOATWRIGHT

May is one of the sweetest and gentlest women you could hope to meet and the most empathetic. Lily notice immediately that May is unusual. As August puts it, she is "special" and has been since April (her twin) passed away. May often gets so upsets and start uncontrollably sobbing. She constructed a "wailing wall" where she goes when she's upset which help her somewhat. When Zach is arrested for a crime he didn't commit May commits suicide.

## T. RAY OWENS

Lily's father - unpleasant and abusive. He makes her kneel on grits. Lily and T.Ray never end up with warm and fuzzy relationship.Lily realizes that he's fighting his own demons and wounds.

## DEBORAH OWENS

Lily's mother. Grew up in Richmond, Virginia and is buried there. Moved to SC to be closed to August and met T. Ray. She got pregnant and got married, their marriage turned sour and she fled to August. After 3 months she went back to fetch Lily and the gun accidentally went off.

# **Characters**

## NEIL

June's boyfriend, a patient man. Quite tall.

## ZACHARY LINCOLN TAYLOR

Zach work in the honey house. He is August's godson - an impressive kid. (C7L15) He runs fast might get him into a college scholarship. He wants to be a lawyer. Zach and Lily forge a strong bond that takes a romantic turn, but it's too dangerous in racial climate 1960's.

## MRS. HENRY

A teacher at Lily's school in Sylvan. Encourage Lily to think big.

## EDDIE HAZELWURST

The cop August and Lily deal with when they go to visit Zach in jail. He is not the most progressive cop Like Shoe.

## MRS. WATSON

She is the neighbour from next door to T. Ray. Helped take care of Lily.

## MR. BUSSED

Deacon at the church Lily and T. Ray attend in Sylvan.

## BROTHER GERALD

Minister at the church Lily and T. Ray attends. Racist, gets agitated when he finds Rosaleen resting in his church.

## AVERY GATSON (SHOE)

Policeman. Allows attackers to continue and harass Rosaleen

# Characters

## FRANKLIN POSEY

One of the men whom Rosaleen fights when she gets to Sylvan. He is exceptionally hostile towards African Americans. Not the nicest guy.

## MR. GRADY

A man at the general store who serves Lily when she arrives in Tiburon. He gives her info about August's family and business.

## THE "DAUGHTERS" OF MARY: Queen, Violet, Mabelle, Cressie, Lunelle, Sugar-girl and Otis

They participate in a Catholic-inspired form of worship on the Virgin Mary. Friends of the Boatwrights also Daughters (support system for one another).

## CLAYTON FORREST

Local lawyer - friendly with the Boatwright's and Zach. Helps Rosaleen get out of her legal troubles. Seems non-racist and generally pleasant.

## MISS LACY

Clayton Forrest's receptionist. She rats out Lily's whereabouts to T. Ray when he comes looking for her, Lily doesn't have nice things to say about her.

## JACKSON

One of Zach's friends. Shouts insults at white men guarding the local Tiburon movie theater which results in all the boys getting arrested.

# Symbolism, Imagery & Allegory

## FLOWERS

- ★ The novel is preoccupied with flowers. The heroine's = Lily and another main character is Rosaleen.
- ★ Flowery imagery shows up in surprising places in Lily's universe. When she describes the loss of her mother (C1L87).
- ★ Lily makes up a fake grandmother named "Rose" and discover a William Blake poem "The Sick Rose" in her mother's poetry book. We also see lilies in there - she finds a picture of Gabriel giving the Virgin Mary a lily.
- ★ Flowers coincide with references to maternal figures. Flowers and flowering have something to do with maternal figures. Like when T. Ray allowed Lily to stay with August and the Daughters. (C14L216).
- ★ LILY'S ABILITY TO FINALLY "FLOWER" IN THE SUNLIGHT OF MATERNAL CARE REPRESENTS HER HAPPY ENDING.

# Symbolism, Imagery & Allegory

## THE VIRGIN MARY

- ★ There's a lot of religious significance, but Virgin Mary is the ultimate mama figure seen as a source of strength, guidance and comfort.
- ★ The Virgin Mary (our Lady of Chains) is a powerful symbol. Lily is in awe by the strength and its history. (C4L29-30)
- ★ The statue washed up near a SC plantation during the era of slavery, slaves found her and decided she was a presentation of the Virgin Mary. They drew hope, inspiration and strength from her
- ★ Lily is attracted to Our Lady' to serve as a mother figure as she feels the loss of her mother. (C8L234)
- ★ The novels representation of the VIrgin Mary is not traditional, converting her from a pure Christian figure to Earth mother goddess who possesses both historical significance and the power to serve as a “mother”.

# Symbolism, Imagery & Allegory

## BEES

- ★ We learn in this novel that humans and bees are not all that different. This story shows us that bee life is just a big microcosm of human beings and their relationships. *Kidd* draws a clear analogy between the bees that Lily trap in her jar and Lily herself early on (C1L215). Lily realises that she herself is sticking around in the “jar” of her unhappy home life, even though she is actually free (C2L72).
- ★ There is a clear kinship with bees that strengthens and deepens as the novel progress.
- ★ August broaden the idea of bees when she teach Lily about how to treat the bees, comparing her honey-producing friends to the entire human race (C5L72).
- ★ Bee life mirrors the matriarchal structure of August’s household and spiritual life. Bee life in the pink house are two sides of the same coin. A hive contains “no Ozzie, just Harriet and her ten thousand daughters” (C5L80) and August’s community includes a “mother of thousands”. It is the secret life of these women that the novel cares about, not the bees.

# Symbolism, Imagery & Allegory

## THE MOON

- ★ The emphasis on mothers, femininity and the secret lives of women connects with the moon (whose cycles mirror those of the female body). The moon is tied to August female-centric brand of spiritualism (C6L111).
- ★ Anything that draw women together is significant like ocean tides, the Virgin Mary.
- ★ Lily draws a link between the moon and maternity in the middle of a fight with Rosaleen (surrogate mother) and dreams about the moon breaking.