

## **THE EFFECTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN WINGATE'S BEFORE WE WERE YOURS**

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**Abstract:** This research is to reveal the effect of human trafficking portrayed in Wingate's *Before We Were Yours*. This research is classified as qualitative research. Literary theory of objective formulated by M.H. Abrams will frame the analysis of the data. This literary theory regards a work of literature is built from the internal relation of aspects found in a work of literature, the connection, the interrelation of internal aspects of a work of literature is really essential for the meaning behind the work. The implementation is that the data applied are in the novel. The result of the discussion is synthesized from the interrelation of the elements in the work or intrinsic data. It is found that human trafficking brings emotionally suffered and physically suffered. The trafficking is forced by a power, a business in which it is because of the unremovable reason, that is money. And it is also because of the money the 'evil' execution of human trafficking is done. Avoiding the society norms and values, can be a source of evil including human trafficking that can cause human suffering.

**Keywords:** *Human Trafficking, Power, Suffering, Wingate*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Many people and specialists are well aware that literature is an expression of human life. Literature is used as a medium for language acquisition when teaching English. Fiction is one of the literary genres. It can offer language learning to the students (Bataha, Moge, & Lolowang,

2021, 361). However, the term literature is more focused and limited to mere imaginative works, and there are experts have different opinions about literature. It can depends on time, situation and social conditions. A piece of literature with the ability to profoundly affect the senses and create the state of perfect consciousness it can effectively fulfill its role as a creator of human consciousness. (Wuntu: 2015, 100). There are countless definitions of literature, but none of them alter the meaning of literature in and of itself. Literature is a result of artistic creativity (Wellek and Warren, 1956: 301). Rees, on the other hand, interprets it narrowly, understanding that it conveys and expresses attitudes, sentiments, and views about life. As a piece of art, it amuses, heals, and more importantly, it provides intellectual guidance for resolving problems in life (Dengah, Maru and Lolowang, 2019). Given the definition of literature given above, it is clear that literature is important to human daily existence because every literary work contains ideas.

The main reason why the literary novel *Before We Were Yours* is interesting to be studied is that it is an emotional and immersive work of a horrific story of Georgia Tann, The work tells about those who are kidnapped and sold to Tennessee Children's home. The story is told from two characters' point of view, Rill and Avery. It is when Rill is having to take command of his brothers and trying to keep them all together and safe, Rill's chapter is horrific and heartbreaking as there are scenes of abuse (physical, emotional and sexual) and only revolves around disgraceful behavior towards children, while Avery tries to uncover family secrets. This research focuses on human trafficking as a painful experience done by those who are evil and greedy in the film *Before We Were Yours* Wingate.

It should be studied since the book discusses human actions and demonstrates social command concerns that can serve as an example and provide moral guidance. It can occur anywhere and at any time. Many things can be learn in works of fictions. Novels or works of fiction are typically thought to have at least 40.000 words (Kenney, 1966: 211).

The essential idea in understanding about human trafficking is that every human being in this world has the same right to be treated equally and has the privilege to ask about it (Menggalomo, Oroh and Mamentu, 2020). Human trafficking is considered as a big problem that occurs in many countries and the victims are usually children who have no power because they have no knowledge and are usually of low society. And also this is closely related to what has happened in Indonesia as well as in several other developing and developed countries where human trafficking is already rampant due to the demands of time that increasingly force human being to struggle to live and to support one to each other.

The Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage is a notorious place for kidnapping children and tricking parents into signing adoption forms. Georgia Tann is the chief director of the evil Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage. He kidnaps, changes identities and sells children to wealthy families for money. Rill struggles to keep his family together throughout the story and doesn't know if he will be able to make it under difficult circumstances. Avery, another young woman from present-day Aiken, South Carolina, finds out that she and her family are somehow connected to Rill and his story, and goes on a journey to find out how. Based on this story, the researcher wants to dig deeper into the issue of human trafficking in *Before We Were Yours*. The things described earlier are very important events to be discussed and studied to become a need for knowledge about human trafficking, it is indeed an unusual thing but talks about human rights.

The significance of the subject of this study proposal is further emphasized by the fact that it will analyze in depth the issue of human trafficking that is raised in the novel, why should children who became victims and why human trafficking is so prevalent. Therefore, the research proposal entitled "Human Trafficking in Wingate's *Before We Were Yours*" has moral and educational values, which are different from

the research studied in the English Education Department and so this can provide new horizons on a trade as it is portrayed in the work.

Each character has their own characteristics, personalities, struggles, and strengths, as well as the stigma of an orphanage. In the eyes of many people an orphanage is as a shelter for children who are orphaned, homeless and even those who are homeless that are generous and extraordinary dedicate their lives to raising less fortunate children. However, the opposite happens to Rill's life, he lives a pretty average life on his family's hut boat until one night a family emergency leaves Rill and his siblings alone on the river and then kidnapped by an orphanage to be sold. The villainous orphanage's head director, Georgia Tann, kidnaps kids, steals identities, and sells them for cash. As Avery is a young lady working in law enforcement, things take a turn for the worst when she starts to learn painful family secrets connected to Rill. Researchers are interested in uncovering human trafficking in the film *Before We Were Yours* Wingate.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### ***Research Design***

Every study project needs a specific kind of method to analyze the issue at hand. Likewise, this study. This study falls under the qualitative research category. It indicates that the information in this study will take the form of words or quotations rather than figures, graphs, or formulas. Bogdan and Biklen state:

“Descriptive research is qualitative. Instead of being presented as numbers, the data are presented as words or images. Data quotes are used in the written research product to support and bolster the presentation” (Bogdan & Biklen, 1992: 27)

The researcher should gather the information and several books that address the subject in light of the aforementioned assertion. Due to the information gathered from the book and other similar books, this research might be categorized as library research.

Both primary and secondary sources were used in this study. The novel itself serves as the major source, and certain publications on the subject serve as secondary sources. Words, definitions, quotations, comments, or dialogue that can assist this research are used as the analysis's data sources. The data will be examined in light of human trafficking, and the findings will then be presented in a descriptive manner. In other words, the researcher will examine the information in light of the question at hand before presenting the findings in a narrative fashion.

### ***Data Collecting***

Categories of sources will be used by the researcher in this study. The primary source and secondary sources are those. There are two types of relevant evidence for essays on literature: primary source and secondary evidence, which includes information and viewpoints from sources other than the original work (Griffith, 2011: 132). The *Before We Were Yours* novel serves as the primary source, and the secondary materials for this study came from various books and online resources.

### ***Data Analysis***

Literary theory of objective formulated by M.H. Abrams (2021) in The Mirror and The Lamp will frame the analysis of the data. This literary theory regards a work of literature is built from the internal relation of aspects found in a work of literature, the connection, the interrelation of internal aspects of a work of literature is really essential for the meaning behind the work (26).

The implementation is that the data applied are from Wingate's Before We Were Yours. The result of the discussion is synthesized from the interrelation of the elements in the work or intrinsic data.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### ***Human Trafficking In Wingate's Before We Were Yours***

This analysis is based on the work Before We Were Yours. It details the corruption of Memphis, Tennessee-based adoption agency Tennessee Children's Home Society. This organization specializes in abducting and selling underprivileged children. As he learns the truth about his family's past, Avery Stafford serves as the protagonist of the novel. He learns that Judy, his grandmother, was taken, sold by the agency to a wealthy couple, who raised her as their own, and then reared herself. Nevertheless, Judy had to separate from her sibling, May, during the process. Avery is devoted to learning the truth about the organization and reuniting his family members who have gone missing. Between 1924 and 1950, Georgia Tann served as the agency's director. Tann pursued affluent families who were unable to have children on their own and was responsible for the trafficking of more than 5,000 kids. There are several analytical studies contained in this literary research, namely human trafficking that hit poor children at that time who were traded to rich families who did not have children and how emotional and physical violence occurred for these children while its relationship to how they are struggling in their early young age because they are full of struggles to grow as an adult child because of their identity which has been damaged by Georgia Tann during the quarantine process when adopted illegally and handed over to rich families who want to adopt them as their children.

The trade of people for the purpose of forced labor, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others is known as human trafficking. Providing a spouse in the case of a forced marriage or the removal of organs or tissues, including those used in surrogacy and ova removal, fall under this category. Both domestically and internationally are possible sites for human trafficking. Because the victim's right to freedom of movement is violated by coercion and

because they are exploited for commercial benefit, human trafficking is a crime against the person. Human trafficking is the sale of other people, often women and children, and it is not always associated with transient movements of the victims. People smuggling, also known as human smuggling and migrant smuggling, is a related crime that is distinguished by the victim's permission. By pressure and exploitation, smuggling scenarios can develop into human trafficking. Those who have been trafficked are kept against their will and forced to labor for or offer services to the trafficker or others.

"I let out the breath I've been holding and suck in another one and catch the smell of peppermint. When I throw off the covers and wake Fern, there're two little white candies on the pillow. They make me think of Briny right off. When Briny hustles money at a pool hall or works on a showboat that's docked up, he always comes back to the Arcadia with a roll of Beech-Nut Luster-Mints in his pocket. They're the best kind. Briny plays little riddle games with us, and if we get the answers right, we get a candy. If there's two redbirds up a tree and one on the ground and three bluebirds in a bush and four on the ground and a big ol' crow on the fence and an owl in the barn stall, how many birds on the ground?" (105)

In order to investigate her grandmother's possible connection to May Crandall, Avery chooses to look through Judy's records and account books. Avery discovers Trent Turner's phone number in one of Judy's notes. When Avery contacts the number even though she doesn't know the name, she learns that Trent is a real estate agent on Edisto Island, where Judy has a beach property. Further investigation reveals that Trent is actually Trent Turner Sr., who passed away six months earlier and bequeathed the company to his grandson, Trent Turner III. On the phone with Avery, Trent Turner III claims to have a package of documents that his grandfather intended Judy to have, but he won't give them to Avery.

"Ssshhh!" She's so loud, I half expect the door to swing open and we'll all be in a fix. "I'm saving them for everybody for later." "You're stealin'." "Am not." Sure enough, Camellia's back to herself today, but like usual in the morning, she's in a mood. She don't wake up easy, even with peppermints. Most times, I'd square off with her, but right now, I'm too tired for it. "I'm saving them till later, I said. I don't want us to get in trouble." (106).

Avery goes to see Trent in person because she's determined to find out what's going on, but he still won't give her the papers. As Avery visits her grandmother's cottage, she discovers an ancient typewriter, takes the tape out, and reads the final few lines of the letter that was written on it. The lines show that Judy was attempting to find out more information regarding the Tennessee Children's Home Society (TCHS). Avery phones Trent and requests clarification because she is perplexed and afraid that her family is hiding something. Trent reluctantly consents to handing Avery the papers, which turn out to be Shad Arthur Foss' adoption record. Trent offers they check through his grandfather's office, which is stuffed with documents about the TCHS, since Avery is still perplexed. Jonah, Trent's kid, however, emerges from his room at that very moment, and Avery departs. Although being pulled to Trent and Jonah, she ignores these feelings in favor of Elliot.

"She stares hard at me, her brown eyes squinted into slits so that she looks like the Chinamen who wash river town laundry in big, boiling kettles along the bank. "You think they'll take us, for sure? Today?" "If we're good." I hope it's not a lie, but maybe it is. "Why'd they bring us here?" The question chokes her. "Why didn't they just leave us be?" My mind scrambles around, trying to figure it out. I need to explain it to myself as much as to Camellia. "I think it's a mistake. They must've figured Briny wasn't comin' back to look after us. But Briny'll tell them soon's he finds out that we're gone. He'll tell them this is all somebody's big mistake, and he'll take us home." (106-107)

Trent's grandfather's office is where Avery and Trent visit the next day. Avery reads an article on Georgia Tann, the former head of the TCHS who harmed many of the kids who went through the system many



of whom were abducted from underprivileged families as she travels. Trent discovers in the office that one of these kids was his grandfather, but Avery is left with more questions than answers. Trent chooses to accompany her when she returns to May. When Trent Turner Jr. was still known as Stevie, May explains to Trent that she knew his grandfather because the two of them attended the same orphanage in the TCHS. Avery doesn't trust May when she claims that Judy was merely writing an article about the TCHS. Avery starts to reevaluate every aspect of her life, including her engagement to the uninterested Elliot, in light of the potential that her family is hiding a sinister truth.

"Upstairs, Mrs. Pulnik takes us to the laundry room and gives us some things off a pile. She calls them playclothes, but they're really not much more than rags. She tells us to get ourselves dressed and use the bathroom, and we do, and breakfast looks a lot like the supper they gave us last night after the bath—a little scoop of cornmeal mush. We're late getting to the table. The other kids have already gone to play. After we've scraped our bowls clean, we're told to get outside too and not to try leaving the backyard and the churchyard, or else. "Andt you will not be goingk near to the fence." Mrs. Pulnik grabs Camellia's arm and Lark's before we can make it through the door. She leans over us with her round cheeks red and sweat shiny. "A boy tunneledt underneath yesterday. Mrs. Murphy has given him the closet. To be given the closet is very, very bat. In the closet, it is dark. Do you understandt?" (109)

One day, Trent contacts Avery and invites her to lunch. Avery spots a taxi waiting in Judy's driveway on her way to meet him and decides to investigate. According to the driver, Judy has had a regular appointment to be picked up every Thursday for years. Avery, who is perplexed, requests Trent's assistance in locating the whereabouts of the cab. They are dropped off at a home in Augusta by the taxi. When no one answers their knock, Trent and Avery open the door and enter. Avery finds a vintage photo of her grandma and three other women inside, each sporting a dragonfly bracelet. They leave to meet them after hearing a man outside. The man brings them to Hootsie, who looks after the house

and is the man's mother. Avery receives the first chapter of Judy's memoir from Hootsie. In it, Judy discloses that she is Christine's father's replacement for her stillborn daughter and that she is the daughter of Queenie and Briny Foss. Judy's sisters, one of them is May, are the other female subject in the cottage's photograph.

### ***Suffering of being abused emotionally***

The use of emotions to criticize, humiliate, shame, blame, or otherwise manipulate another person is known as emotional abuse. A relationship is generally considered to be emotionally abusive when there is a pattern of abusive language and bullying actions that erode a person's sense of self-worth and jeopardize their mental wellbeing. Also, although it is more frequent in dating and marriage relationships, mental or emotional abuse can happen in any connection, including those with friends, family, and coworkers. One of the trickiest types of abuse to spot is emotional abuse. It may be overtly manipulative or subtle and sneaky. In either case, the victim's self-esteem is damaged, and they start to question their perceptions of reality.

The work explores the pain some people inflict on others in their attempts to survive - emotionally, physically, materially. Rill Foss is kidnapped with his four siblings and taken to the Tennessee Children's Home in Memphis. The house is one of many run by Georgia Tann, a real-life character whose activities are questioned and then exposed and condemned.

George Tann has power and recognition by the public, whereas on the contrary he is someone who is in charge of selling children at that time, this is supported by the situation at that time there is a lack of legal protection for children and their needs. Slaves and child servants are very high and have not received special attention from the government, the next factor is from the side of children who have absolutely no power, with the label as a family of kidnappers they are complacent with everything that uses them and are finally easily traded

as stepchildren, helpers, workers, slaves or additional resources for a group of irresponsible people.

“Through the window, I see Camellia with her face mashed to the glass. The little kids have climbed up on the bench to look in. Lark’s got big tears rolling down her fat cheeks. She hates to see any living creature hurting. She throws all the baitfish back in the river if she can get away with it. Whenever Briny shoots possums, or ducks, or squirrels, or deer, she carries on like her best pal’s been killed dead right there in front of her.” (23)

In the description, it is explained that there is Avery Stafford, a young lawyer and a member of a powerful South Carolina political family. When Avery meets May Crandall, an elderly resident of a nursing home, the encounter starts her on a quest to unravel the mysterious connection between May and Avery’s own grandmother, Judy.

“She’s worried about the chemo. They told her that Daddy wouldn’t lose his hair with this kind, but she’s afraid he will.” There’s really no doctor on the planet who can comfort my mother about Daddy’s colon cancer diagnosis. Mama has always been in charge of the world, and she’s determined not to abdicate now. If she says Daddy’s hair will thin, it probably will.” (24)

Rill’s storyline introduces that her life before she is whisked away. She lives with her large, noisy family in a ‘shantyboat’ on the Mississippi River. Folk like her were known disparagingly as ‘river rats’ and ‘river gypsies’ – they are itinerant and poor. They don’t always have enough to eat and there are plenty of dangers on the river. But Rill’s family is loving, with music and books, and friends they meet up with on their seasonal travels up and down the river.

“I can’t help it. I’m still thinking about May Crandall and remembering the plethora of newspaper stories about nursing home abuse. Perhaps I just want to make sure that May didn’t come to me because she’s in some sort of trouble. Perhaps my curiosity has been piqued by her sad, macabre story. She was

found two weeks ago in a house along the river with her dead sister's body...." (35)

It has been understood that Rill and her brother and sisters are sent to the children's home, they are treated as if they are stock, items sold to couples desperate to adopt a child. There are sickening acts of cruelty and indifference towards children's needs, and a willful blindness by staff to the abuses perpetrated against their charges.

Avery who is well intellectually knows that her family and the whole children who are abused and even their parents and the weak ones do not have enough power to face and overcome the situation those who are involved in the trafficking are powerful and they are too strong financially and politically.

It's a sobering reminder, if one were needed, that there are people who will exploit the vulnerable and that, without proper oversight and regulation, abuses will occur, especially if money is involved. We may think that these sorts of situations could not arise today, but we would be mistaken.

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"My skin goes hot from head to toe, and my cheeks boil. Outside the screen door, Camellia laughs. I blush harder. If I could, I'd knock her and Silas both off into the water right now. "And take the little kids out with you," I snap. "A woman needs privacy." "How would you know anythin' about that? You ain't no woman. You ain't nothin' but a li'l curly-headed Kewpie doll," Silas teases, but I don't think it's funny, especially when Camellia can hear. On the porch, she's lined up with Fern and Lark, enjoying the show." (61)

As Avery's exploration of her grandmother's past continues and deepens, she learns about the scandals surrounding the 'baby farms' run by Georgia Tann. As she searches for the truth, her own future (which had

once seemed a charmed pathway to a life of privilege) becomes less clear to her. In her uncertainty about her family's past, she reaches for a different, more authentic future.

No matter how much we may love the melody of a bygone day or imagine the song of a future one, we must dance within the music of today, or we will always be out of step, stumbling around in something that doesn't suit the moment. (315)

The uncertainty of Avery's past always remained as the psychological suffering that annoyed her emotionally.

### ***Suffering of being abused physically***

Any purposeful act that results in trauma or injury to a person or animal through physical contact is considered physical abuse. Physical abuse typically affects children, but it can also affect adults, as in cases of spousal abuse or workplace violence. Other phrases that are occasionally used include sexual abuse as well as physical assault and physical violence. There may be more than one perpetrator and victim of physical abuse.

Rill was left in charge of her four younger siblings when their parents went to the hospital one rainy night. Strangers barged in and they were snatched up and brought to the orphanage. They were told they would see their parents very soon, but that was not to happen. The children were tortured, abused, separated and then illegally sold off.

"Don't," I spit under my breath. Mrs. Murphy told us not to make noise. The better we are, the more chance they'll take us where we want to go, I figure. "We need to stay together. Briny's gonna come get us soon's he knows we're not on the Arcadia. Soon's Silas tells him what happened. We've gotta be all in one place when he shows up. You hear me?" I sound like Queenie when there's breaking ice on the water and she won't let us hang over the rail in case a floe might hit the boat and shake us off into the river. Times like that, she wants us to know she means it when she says no. She don't get that way too often." (85)

In line with the statement above, in South Carolina, present day, Avery Stafford, a federal prosecutor, comes home to take care of her ailing father. She is well off, engaged to be married and seems to have it all. She discovers that her grandmother was keeping a secret about her past and so she begins to dig for clues which lead to her true and shocking family history. The two time periods follow fictional characters, revealing this tragedy in history. Lisa Wingate, through research, has shared with us stories similar to those of the actual stolen children and their families. The upheaval of so many lives was caused by the real Georgia Tann and the people at the Tennessee orphanage back in the early to mid 1900's. Thousands of children were torn away from their parents, had their names changed and sold off, never to be connected to their birth parents again.

"Mrs. Murphy stabs a finger toward Camellia. "You are the reason everyone must sit here rather than going outside to play." She stomps off down the hall, her steps drawing a crooked line. We sit. The little ones finally sleep, and Gabion falls flat out on the floor. A few other kids pass by—older and younger, boys and girls. Most wear clothes that are too big or too small. Not a single one looks our way. They walk through like they don't notice we're there. Women in white dresses with white aprons move up and down the hall in a hurry. They don't see us either."  
(88)

The tragic tale of Rill and the division of her family is based on a real-life scandal that occurred in the South. Throughout the 1930's and 1940's, Georgia Tann, the head of a Memphis adoption agency, abducted and sold underprivileged kids to affluent families across the nation. Using themes of adoption and reunion from this trying historical period, Lisa Wingate has expertly written a heartbreaking yet inspirational tale. These unauthorized adoptions were closed transactions that were shrouded in shame. It is interesting to compare the variations in adoptions during this period in history and to see how far the adoption community the mysteries surrounding adoption, despite the fact that these themes are

frequently so difficult to decipher. The “adoption agency” served as the children’s foster care settings, where they resided until being adopted. Because of the situation depicted, I think this is the most difficult section of the book to read.

“The room is quiet and wet-smelling. I open my eyes, shut them real tight, let them come open again slow. Sleep haze hangs over me so that I can’t see too clear. It’s like the river fog came crawling through the shanty windows overnight. Nothing’s where it’s supposed to be. Instead of the Arcadia’s doors and windows, there’re thick stacked-stone walls. The air smells like the closed compartments where we keep crates of stores and fuel. The stink of mold and wet dirt crawls up my nose and stays there..”  
(102)

This adoption tale stands out because it shows several biological siblings being split up and adopted by several households. Although though the book is fiction, we are aware that the present foster care system frequently separates biological siblings. Children of all ages may faces difficulties as a result, and their understanding of loss will be completely altered. Children who lose their birth and foster siblings frequently struggle. At the reunion of birth siblings, we also witness the strong and healing bonds.

### ***Struggling to free from the suffering***

Before We Were Yours captures something special, a heartbreaking story that explores family bonds and the extent to which we preserve them. The dual perspectives of modern Memphis and South Carolina uncover captivating mysteries that slowly unfold as uncovering the various characters, and the harrowing story of Georgia Tann's real life. In this novel, it is shown how difficult it is for children who become the victims of human trafficking. In the difficult situation forces the children to struggle to find freedom for there is no other choices. The story starts with a family friend of Rill, Old Zede, returns from the

hospital to drop off Silas, who will look after the siblings until Queenie and Briny can pick them up, and to inform Rill that the twins were stillborn. Following Zede's departure, a number of police officers board the family's skiff and order Rill and her siblings to accompany them to meet their parents. Rill nods in agreement and makes an attempt to get Silas to go tell Zede using her eyes. In close proximity to where their boat is moored, the policemen carry the twins into Memphis.

"That night, we're just three. I don't take out our book to read it, and my baby sisters don't beg for more of the story. Lark and Fern and me curl up in one cot together, and I hum one of Queenie's old songs until my sisters fall asleep. Finally, I drift away too. Sometime before sunup, Fern wets the bed for the first time since she was two and a half. I don't even holler at her for it. I just clean it up the best I can and open the basement window the little crack it'll go. I roll up the wet blanket and Fern's drawers and stick them under the bushes where hopefully nobody will find them. I'll sneak through the azaleas later and spread them out so they'll dry before tonight."  
(163)

Georgia Tann, who already has two children with her Stevie and Sherry is given custody of them. Mrs. Pulnik assists Ida Murphy in transporting the seven kids to her orphanage. Tann gives Rill's siblings new names in the orphanage: May, Iris, Bonnie, Beth, and Robby Weathers. They are placed in the cellar, where they will remain until Murphy decides they are worthy of being moved upstairs. The five Foss children are content to be together despite their fear. Mr. Riggs, the groundskeeper, enters in the middle of the night and places peppermints on their pillows.

"The place was incredibly well respected, and the woman who ran it, Georgia Tann, operated in powerful circles, socially and politically. She was well thought of publicly. People admired what she was doing. She changed the general perception that orphans were damaged goods. But the reality is that the Tennessee Children's Home Society in Memphis was rotten to the core. It's no wonder Granddad never wanted to talk about what he did in this



little building. The stories are sad, and they're gruesome, and there are literally thousands of them. Kids were brokered. Georgia Tann made money by charging huge fees for adoptions, transportation, delivery out of state. She took children from poor families and sold them to celebrities and people with political influence. She had law enforcement agencies and family court judges in her pocket. She duped women in hospital maternity wards into signing surrender papers while they were still under sedation. She told people their babies had died when they hadn't." He pulls a folded piece of paper from his back pocket and hands it to me. "There's quite a bit more than that. I printed this off today between appointments." (198)

A little while later, the four blond-haired Foss children Rill, Lark, Fern, and Gabion are suited up and taken to a viewing for potential adopters. Couples immediately become interested in the three younger kids, but Rill is mostly by herself and tries to keep an eye on her younger siblings. But, the pair that has been playing with Gabion at the end of the show doesn't want to let him go.

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Rill tries to stop Miss Dodd, but she restrains her. Rill tells Miss Dodd her story, and she offers to help, but Murphy catches her. Rill is sequestered in the cellar and is not permitted to leave, leaving Fern

alone. Rill falls into a profound depression after learning that Fern was adopted when she is allowed to stand up again. A few days later, Darren and Victoria Sevier, the same couple who adopted Fern, adopt Rill. Rill and Fern get back together, and she decides it's time for them to leave and look for their parents. They are assisted in doing this by young woman named Arney who is aware of the best way to travel to the Mississippi River. The sisters discover that Queenie has passed away and that Briny has developed an alcohol problem when Rill and Fern discover their family's shanty boat. One night, while intoxicated, Briny releases the boat into the river during a storm, and a floating tree sinks it. Rill makes the decision that Fern must be returned to their adoptive home, where they will be protected.

Nodding, she closes her eyes again, shutting me out. "I should rest now. Soon enough, they'll come around to poke me, or prod me, or haul me off to that infernal physical therapy room. Honestly, I'm almost ninety years old. What do I need with muscle tone?" Trent chuckles. "Now you sound like my grandfather. If he'd had his way, we would've put him in a jon boat and let him drift off down the Edisto River." "That seems perfectly lovely. Would you be so kind as to arrange the boat? And then I'll find my way home to Augusta and float away down the Savannah." She closes her eyes, smiling a bit. Within moments, her breaths lengthen, and her eyelids flutter in their pleated frames. The smile remains. I wonder if she is once again that little girl drifting on the muddy waters of the Mississippi aboard the shantyboat her father built. (230)

Rill and Fern were able to get back in touch with Judy and Lark as adults. The women spent as much time as they could together at the Augusta house while maintaining their secret relationship. Avery makes the decision to reveal the family secret to her parents and to reunite Judy and May, the last two remaining Foss children. Wells is shocked to get the news but concurs that the sisters should be reunited. In order to accomplish this, the Staffords arrange for May to reside in the same building as Judy, where the two sisters take pleasure in spending as much time as they can together. Avery's life is changed by learning the

truth about her family's past. She accepts a position as a lawyer for a senior rights PAC, ends her relationship with Elliot, and begins a new one with Trent.

## **CONCLUSION**

Avery Stafford, who was raised in a wealthy household, appears to have it all alutractive career as a federal presecutor, a charming fiance, and a spectacular wedding. Nevertheless, when Avery goes back to her family's house to assist her father during a medical emergency, a fortuitous encounter leaves her with troubling concerns and forces her to travel through her family's long-hidden history, which will ultimately lead to either destruction or redemption. Georgia Tann, the director of an adoption agency in Memphis, abducted and sold underprivileged children to affluent families around the nation.

It is found in the discussion that human trafficking is forced by a power, a business in which it is because of the unremovable reason, that is money. And it is also because of the money the 'evil' execution of human trafficking is done. Avoiding the society norms and values, can be a source of human suffering as in the novel it causes emotionally suffered and physically suffered.

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