

THE ADDRESS

Introduction and about the author

- I. The story is about the human predicament that follows the pre-War and Post-War period.
- II. Mrs. S who was a Jew was a rich lady, whereas, Mrs. Dorling was a non-Jew.
- III. The girl, daughter of Mrs. S, had lost her house and her mother during the war and now she had decided to come back to take her possessions from Mrs. Dorling, an acquaintance whose address was given by her mother years ago.
- IV. When she reached the house, the woman treated her with a cold reception and didn't let her into the house.
- V. She decided to go back anyway and then she met her daughter who let her in and told her to wait inside.
- VI. When she saw all the possessions in front of her, she couldn't connect with them and decided to leave the house.

About the Author **Marga Minco**

Author Name	Marga Minco
Born	31 March 1920 (age 100 years), GinnekenBavel, Netherlands
Spouse	Lambertus Hendrikus Voeten (m. 1945–1992)
Awards	P. C. Hooft Award, Ferdinand Bordewijk Prize
Movies	Het Bittere Kruid
Nationality	Dutch

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To enable the students –

- I. to inculcate values like courage, empathy, sensitivity, critical thinking and maintaining relations.
- II. to learn from past experiences.
- III. to understand to forget the past and move ahead in life.
- IV. to appreciate family members and family bonding.
- V. to value the with all that they are blessed with.
- VI. realize the value of time and not to be upset with old memories.
- VII. develop the comprehension skill, analytical skill, language skill and thinking skill.

The Theme of the Chapter

- I. This story is a touching account of a girl who goes in search of her mother's belongings after the Second World War in Holland.
- II. But even after finding what she so much wanted to touch, to see, to feel and remember, she leaves everything behind as it could not bring her dead mother back.
- III. She decides to move on and live with only memories of the former times.
- IV. The address that held so much importance till she visited that place, lost its value and the girl realised that it could get her nothing but pain.

The Chapter Explanation

- I. The narrator decides to visit the address that was given to her by her mother, where all her family's precious possessions were kept safely by Mrs. Dorling.
- II. The first time when the narrator visited the address, Mrs. Dorling behaved most absurdly. She refused to recognise the narrator and did not let her enter the house. So the narrator returns empty-handed.
- III. The narrator is reminded of her mother (Mrs. S) who had given this address to her years ago when despite the war, they were living in Holland and she saw Mrs. Dorling who was introduced to her as an old acquaintance of her mother.

- IV. The narrator noticed many precious items missing from their places. Then Mrs. S told her that Mrs. Dorling was helping her by taking her table cloth, silver cutlery, antique plates, large vases, and crockery to her house to keep in safe custody, in case they had to leave the house suddenly.
- V. The narrator decided to revisit the house of Mrs. Dorling as she felt the urge to see all her mother's belongings. She wanted to touch them, feel them, and remember them.
- VI. On her second visit to 46, Marconi Street, she could get entry into the house as Mrs. Dorling's 15-year-old daughter opened the door. Her mother was not at home.
- VII. The girl led her to the living room where, to the narrator's dismay, things belonging to her mother were arranged in a bad manner.
- VIII. Mrs. Dorling's daughter innocently told the narrator that they were using all the antique plates, crockery, and cutlery.
- IX. The narrator took an impulsive decision to leave everything behind as the precious objects owned by her mother had lost their value. Also, these objects associated with her mother were now in strange surroundings.
- X. The narrator decided to forget her past as it brought back bitter memories. Her mother was no more there to revive the pleasant memories.
- XI. The narrator walked out of Mrs. Dorling's house, deciding that she would never come back to this house to see or take away her family's possessions as she had no place to keep all of it.

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The story written by **Marga Minco** is about the human predicament that follows the pre-War and Post-War period.

Characters

Mrs S - The Narrator's Mother: -She was a simpleton who could not see the manipulating and fraudulent nature of Mrs Dorling, her acquaintance. She trusted Mrs Dorling and allowed her to keep all her precious belongings for the time being.

The Daughter: She is the narrator, who returns to Holland to go to the address where her mother's precious belongings were kept. As normalcy had returned after the Second World War in Holland, she wanted to see all possessions that were kept as a bond between her family and Mrs Dorling.

Mrs Dorling: She has been described as an old acquaintance of Mrs S. She possessed a cunning personality. She is most reluctant to recognise the daughter and does not allow her to enter the house.

CONCLUSION-The story beautifully delineates the pain, anguish, and the mental torture of the survivors of the war.