

SYNOPSIS

Sethe is an ex-slave lived in Cincinnati Ohio with her daughter, Denver. Then she meets Paul D. Garner, who is her old friend in Sweet Home, after eighteen years. Paul D. shocks toward her house because it seems that there is devil inside her house, but she argues that is not devil, it is only her sad daughter who has already died. Sethe tells that the only she gets from slavery only 'Tree' and 'Hainted House' when she objects to move away from her house because of Paul D. request. After that she explains about the condition when she gets those two injuries.

Sharing their pasts, Sethe and Paul D. start to plan out a future together. Paul D promises to be there for Sethe, and she reluctantly agrees to let him take hold of her life. However, then, there is a figure of a woman of 19 or 20 years old coming out of the marsh. She is tired and thirsty, but her shoes are new and her skin is flawless except for three scratches on her forehead. Her arrival is just when Sethe, Denver, and Paul D come back from the carnival. With a harsh voice, she pronounces that her name is "Beloved."

It takes weeks for Beloved to build up strength and Denver cares for her in the mean time. However, despite Denver's constant attendance, Beloved begins to show devotion towards Sethe. She begins inquiring about Sethe's past and asking questions that trigger her old memories. Beloved asks about Sethe's mother. Sethe remembers being told by her nurse that she was the only baby whom her mother had kept from the slave ship.

Despite Sethe's and Denver's affections for the girl, Paul D. begins to grow suspicious of Beloved. He begins to question her about her past, but Beloved evades his

questions. He notes that before her arrival, he and Sethe were just beginning to build a future. Beloved brings back many memories, especially those with regards to the horrors of slavery.

In Denver's room, Denver reveals to Beloved that she knows Beloved was the ghost of her house and asks why she came back alive. Beloved replies that she comes for Sethe. She is curious about the stories of Sethe. She asks about Denver's birth and Denver continues the tale. At the time Sethe ran away. Sethe felt that baby began to come at the edge of the Ohio River. By Amy's help, the baby was born and Sethe had named it after the white girl, Miss Amy Denver. Then she left Sethe. Sethe waited the boat that would cross the river. Fortunately, after hours later, Stamp Paid and his sons fishing by the river. Stamp Paid, a former slave, ferries her across where she is taken to Baby Suggs in 124.

Back in present, the description of Beloved's fragmentation reflects her dependence on Sethe. Beloved's need for Sethe reflects her instability as a child who does not wish to be separated from her mother.

Then when Paul D. works in the town, Stamp Paid calls him aside at work to show him an old newspaper clipping. It has a sketch of Sethe on it and describes the murder of her baby girl. However, he refuses to believe Stamp Paid. Then he takes the newspaper clipping back home in order to get confirmation of the error from Sethe. Sethe retells the story of the incidents and also the reason. They get serious conversation, then Paul D. prefers to move away from the house.

After Paul D. leaves the house, Beloved is being uncontrolled. She wants to eat and eat like a baby. That time Sethe has been fired from work and has put all her energies and life savings into making Beloved happy. However, Beloved is never satisfied.

Fearing for her mother's life, Denver decides for the first time in eighteen years to leave the house to ask for food to Lady Jones, her child school teacher. Then she decides to get a job and finds one at the Bodwins'. There, she tells the servant, Janey, about Beloved. The rumors quickly spread around the town and Ella, her neighbor, decides to lead a rescue to 124. On the day of the rescue, thirty women walk to Sethe's house. They are singing and praying. In that time, Denver is waiting Mr. Bodwin to pick her up to the first work. With Denver on the porch waiting for him and the women in the front yard, Sethe and a pregnant Beloved emerge. Sethe has spied on Mr. Bodwin and has run out to kill him with the ice pick. Denver has put her down. Mr. Bodwin has intent seen Sethe but he coincidentally stares at the naked Beloved. The thirty women have rushed to pin Sethe down and when they looked back up Beloved had vanished.

Meanwhile, Denver has gotten a second job at a shirt factory. On her way to work, she meets Paul D on the road and smiles to him. She invites him back to her house. A few days later, Paul D walks in and finds Sethe on Baby Suggs's bed. Sethe tells that she loses her baby girl again. She states that her baby girl is the best thing she gets. Then Paul D. whispers that "You your best thing, Sethe."