

The Lovely Bones

I, now, am struggling with Susie Salmon, with the scene of being with her beloved family flashing through our mutual minds. Meanwhile, we both are enduring the anguish of being murdered by her neighbor, Mr. Harvey, who has difficulty controlling his fiery temperament, and who is said to suffer inhumane child abuse when he was young. My feelings are contracting into a bolus of hostility, hate, and loss as my friend Susie starts to perplex why the sufferer is her and how Mr. Harvey could be so shameless that he had the audacity to talk to her mother. While anger and depression are growing in my heart, my friend leaves her mortal coil in a sudden, and I am still tracing the immortal spirit of Susie Salmon.

The Lovely Bones provides not only the heartbreaking shatter of a family but also the beauty of letting the past go. Alice Sebold begins the story with Susie Salmon, who was murdered when she was fourteen, and who was adjusting her new home in heaven, an idyllic place many desire but that is not at all what she expected. Seeing the life on earth continue without her, Susie found it difficult to forget what she just lost.

Regret spreading all over Susie, she couldn't forgive herself for torturing her parents to live under the shadow of losing her. Susie's parents couldn't accept the harsh reality and both chose the solution of escaping. In the bottom of their heart was the weakness that they didn't want to brace themselves up and they were still overridden by the tremendous blow of losing such a lovely daughter. Afterward, Susie met her grandfather in heaven, dancing with him for hours. "Sometimes you cry, Susie, even though someone you lose has been gone for a long time." Briefly saying this, her grandfather disappeared swiftly and became the dust on that spot.

Since the day Susie arrived in heaven, the memories of the past had appeared in rapid succession. Sometimes they were worth cherishing, and sometimes they could be harmful as well. Immersing herself in the good old days sometimes seemed to be a wonderful therapy for Susie. However, it also ceased her from proceeding to another new life. Gradually, Susie realized an essential aspect of adjusting to her new dwelling was to let it go. She learned to release herself of hostility and loss, and confronted the cruel realities that already happened. It is the only way to set her free.

I, now, with Susie Salmon, witness the life on earth without us. All of her dear

families are living in the happiness of her sister's marriage. I as well as Susie Salmon grow up and become mature. Crying is not a mistake; it's a method of letting yourself free. Desperation is not a cureless infirmity; it just needs forgiveness to remedy. After Susie learns to forgive, somewhere down on earth, her beloved parents tried to embrace the truth and determined to discover cure for the mental illness. *The Lovely Bones* seems to express a tragedy of a family, but actually it presents the tight connection between family members even though they were in different worlds. And I am experiencing a whole new life while embarking on the journey with Susie Salmon.