

BVP LKR

CLASS-11, SUBJECT-ENGLISH

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The Address

--- Marga Minco

Theme (Summary)

“The Address” is a moving short story of Marga Minco. The story is divided into pre-war and post-war. The war in Holland proved to be a disaster for Mrs S, the mother of the narrator. Mrs S was forced to part with all her precious and nice belongings. She was forced to flee from home with the narrator for their survival to a safer place. The war uprooted her and her family. Before leaving her home, she handed over all her precious things and belongings to Mrs Dorling, some acquaintance of Mrs S who assured her that all her ‘nice things’ would remain intact in her safe hands.

After the death of her mother, the narrator came back to her own town to meet the woman (Mrs Dorling) with whom her mother had left all her belongings. The woman not only refused to recognize her but also showed no any intention of returning the things she had in her possession. She had to come back. Thus, the narrator’s first visit was not rewarding.

After sometime she again decided to pay a second visit to see Mrs Dorling. This time she found Mrs Dorling’s fifteen-year-old daughter in the house. She stayed there waiting for Mrs Dorling. The narrator was pained to see that all her own things were arranged tastelessly. She came across

all the cutlery, knives, forks and spoons which were made of silver. When her mother was alive, she had told her about them. Finally she decided not to wait Mrs Dorling for she had to catch the train. She came out and read the number—46, Marconi Street. The address was quite correct..

All the 'nice things' aroused nostalgic feelings of former times in the narrator. The true owner, her mother, was not in the world. She decided better to forget those precious belongings and uncharitable Mrs Dorling. She also resolved to forget the address which symbolized a tragic past.