



THE ADDRESS

by MARGA MINCO



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marga Minco was born to an Orthodox Jewish family on 31st March 1920. She was the youngest child in the family. Following the German invasion of the Netherlands in May 1940, her parents were forced by the German occupiers to move into the city's Jewish Quarter. Later Minco's parents, her brother, and her sister were all deported. Marga Minco was the only member of her immediate family to survive.

Minco is one of the Netherlands' most popular writers and journalists. Her books reveal what Dutch Jews faced once the Germans invaded the country in May 1940, what they were forced to do in order to survive and how a survivor needed to come to terms with the past following liberation in April 1945.



MARGA MINCO'S NOTABLE WORKS

- ◆ Bitter Herbs
- ◆ The Fall
- ◆ The Days They Left Behind
- ◆ The Glass Bridge
- ◆ An Empty House

A GLIMPSE OF THE WAR IN HOLLAND



During World War II, the Nazis under Hitler invaded Holland where majority of the people were Jews. Many fled the country in fear while others were sent to concentration camps. The narrator and her mother also had to flee leaving behind all their belongings with Mrs. Dorling, who promised to safeguard all their belongings till the war was over.

‘The Address’, is a poignant account of a daughter who goes in search of her mother’s belongings after the war in Holland. When she finds them, the objects evoke memories of her past. However, she decides to leave them all behind and resolves to move on.

Characters

- Daughter - The narrator
- The narrator’s mother - Mrs. S
- An old acquaintance of the mother - Mrs. Dorling
- The girl - Mrs. Dorling’s daughter

SYNOPSIS

- ❖ 'The Address' begins with the narrator, a Jewish survivor, who goes to No. 46, Marconi Street to get her mother's belongings.
- ❖ She is met with incomprehension and downright resentment by Mrs. Dorling, her former neighbour, who had promised to safeguard all their belongings till the war was over.
- ❖ Though the narrator's first visit to Mrs. Dorling's house is futile, she does not lose hope.
- ❖ The second time she is greeted by a young girl, Mrs. Dorling's daughter.

Contd.

- ❖ The narrator is invited inside and the girl displays the antiques, ignorant of the fact that it once belonged to the narrator.
- ❖ The narrator is horrified to see the things tastelessly arranged. All the things which are familiar seem to oppress her in the strange atmosphere.
- ❖ The narrator realizes that the things which were once so important to her, has lost its worth as they are placed in a strange atmosphere and the sentiments that connected her to these objects have been severed.
- ❖ The narrator resolves to forget the address and move on.

VOCABULARY WALL

Synonyms for belongings :

- possessions
- goods and chattels
- accoutrements
- appurtenance
- paraphernalia
- valuables

Contd.

Idioms on war :

- All's fair in love and war - in love or in war, you are allowed to be deceitful in order to get what you want
- An armed teeth - heavily armed with deadly weapons
- Bring a knife to a gunfight - to enter into a confrontation or other challenging situation without being adequately equipped
- To bury the hatchet - to make peace

Contd.

- **Caught in the crossfire** - to be trapped between two lines of enemy fire
- **To meet one's Waterloo** - to be defeated by someone who is stronger or by a problem that is very difficult to surmount.
- **Loose cannon** - a person who is unpredictable and who is likely to cause unintentional damage.
- **Keep your powder dry** - Be cautious and prepared for the worst