Chapters 1-8 Discussion

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***Basic Overview of the Family Tree***

Mammachi and Pappachi: Parents of Chacko and Ammu

Chacko and Margaret Kochamma: Parents of Sophie Mol

Ammu and Baba: Parents of Rahel and Estha

Baby Kochamma: Sister of Pappachi

Kochu Maria: Maid of Baby Kochamma

Vellya Paapen: Father of Velutha

***Occurrences in 1969***

* Chacko is still in love with Margaret Kochamma
  + *What happened between them?* 
    - Have one daughter, Sophie Mol
    - Margaret found Chacko too lazy, fell in love with Joe
    - Joe died in a car accident
* Baba no longer with Ammu
  + Drunken man, fought with Ammu a lot
  + Almost forced Ammu to sleep with his boss
* *What will Sophie Mol Think?* 
  + The “play” they put on before Sophie Mol’s arrival
  + Stop at the movies for Sound of Music, and again because of a Communist Protest.

***Occurrences in 1993***

* *What do we know so far about the present?* 
  + Rahel marries Larry and moves to Boston
  + They are divorced (Rahel does not really love him) comes back to visit in Ayemenem
  + Estha has now refused to talk, but he lives in Ayemenem
  + Comrade Pillai and his neighbor talk to Rahel about her lifestyle
    - Says she is divorced, Pillai says “die-vorced”
  + Kochu Maria and Baby Kochamma live together, Baby is very obese, the pair are obsessed with television

***Relationship between Velutha and Rahel***

* They’ve been friends, Velutha is three years younger than Ammu
* Rahel claimed to see Velutha at the Communist Protest
* Ammu and Baby Kochamma were upset that she saw him
  + Begged her to get down
  + Demanded to know if it was Velutha
* *But why did he not acknowledge Rahel?* 
  + The idea of the caste system: Untouchable (Velutha)/Touchable (Ammu)
  + Doesn’t want people to know he is for the Communist party
  + He works at the Pickle Factory, does not wish to get fired
* *What was the situation like in India during that time period?* 
  + Communist Party of India/Communist Party of India (Marxist)
  + Comrade Pillai, friend or foe of Chacko?

***Current Themes***

* Love Laws
  + Touchable and Untouchable
    - Velutha Untouchable
  + Estha and Rahel?
  + Velutha and Ammu?
* Dysfunctional Family
  + Mammachi and Pappachi (drunken relationship)
  + Baba and Ammu (Divorced—drunen relationship)
  + Chacko and Ammu (argue often)
  + Baby Kochamma (sticks around with them all)
  + Rahel and Estha (call themselves “we” and “us”)

***Velutha and Ammu***

* Very attracted to each other
* Caste system forbids them from being together
  + Love Laws
    - “Who can love who, and how much”

***Significance of Orangedrink Lemondrink Man***

* Occurred at the Sound of Music showing
* Molested Estha
* Estha becomes terrified that ODLDM is always watching
* Does not want Ammu to flirt with him, does not want Rahel to take anything from him

***God of Small Things’ organization***

* *Why were there so many flashbacks and flashforwards?* 
  + Apparently never revised a sentence
  + Had to draw out a full plan of where the story was heading
  + Stream of consciousness
    - Almost as though she was talking, and going on various tangents
  + Makes the novel unique

***Creative Connecter: Andrew Bentivoglio***

* Dysfunctional family
* Both parents are not raising the child together in novel
  + Margaret and Chako with Sophie Mol
  + Ammu and Baba with Rahel and Estha
* Many families today are facing single parenthood
* Very high divorce rate

***Word Smith: Stuart Schultz***

* Kochamma: Names of Respect
* Mol/Mon: Young boy or girl
* Untouchable/Touchable: Caste systems
* Kochu: Small (Kochu Maria)
* Anglophile: Lover of England

***Quotations: Matthew Moe/Nick Macke***

* **“**Waking up one night giggling at Estha’s funny dream” (10).
  + Rahel and Estha are one; really connected
  + Not just normal twins
  + Proof they are special
* “Perhaps Ammu, Estha and she were the worst transgressors. But it wasn’t just them. It was the others too. They all broke the rules. They all crossed into forbidden territory. They all tampered with the laws that lay down who should be loved and how. And how much. The laws that make grandmothers grandmothers, uncles uncles, mothers mothers, cousins cousins, jam jam, and jelly jelly.”
  + Establishes how a caste system is so important in society
  + The Love Laws describe who could love whom
* “A quiet bubble floating on a sea of noise” (13).
  + Use of imagery, very important
  + Describing Estha, and how he has decided to remain silent
  + The world is so loud and noisy, Estha has become the opposite
* “Earlier that year, Margaret Kochamma's second husband, Joe, had been killed in a car accident. When Chacko heard about the accident he invited them to Ayemenem. He said that he couldn't bear to think of them spending a lonely, desolate Christmas in England. In a house full of memories.” (36)
  + Even though the family fights a lot and seems to hate each other at times, they still love each other and try to protect each other from getting hurt more than they already are.
  + Chacko is still in love with Margaret, he continually calls her his “wife” instead of the appropriate “ex-wife”