

**PROTAGONIST'S SUFFERING IN DENNIS BOCK'S  
NOVEL *THE ASH GARDEN***

**A THESIS**

**BY:**

**TRISTI ANANDA**

**Reg. No: 71190411011**



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**SUBMITTED TO  
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Medan, June 2023

The Writer

**TRISTI ANANDA**

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## APPENDIXES

### Appendix A

#### Biography of Dennis Bock

Dennis Bock was born in Belleville, Ontario, on August 28, 1964. He is the son of Helmut and Ursula Bock. He is married to an editor named Andrea Kellner on May 8, 1998. Bock and Ursula have two sons from their marriage.

During his youth, Dennis Bock studied English literature and philosophy at the University of Western Ontario. Then, he returned to Madrid, Spain, after completing his degree. Dennis Bock works as a book reviewer, a novelist, a short story writer, and also a lecturer at the University of Toronto.

Dennis Bock has written several works. He was hailed by *The Globe and Mail* as “Canada’s Next Great Novelist.” His books consist of *Olympia*, *The Ash Garden*, *The Communist’s Daughter*, *Going Home Again* (shortlisted for the 2013 Scotia Giller Prize), and *The Good German*. His books also have been shortlisted for the Amazon/Books in Canada First Novel Award. His short stories have also won many awards. They have appeared in *Glimmer Train*, *The Penguin Book of Canadian Short Stories*, and *The Journey Prize Stories*.

His first story book entitled *Olympia* won the 1998 Canadian Author’s Association Jubilee Award, the inaugural Danuta Gleed Award (best first collection of stories), and the British Betty Trask Award.

*The Ash Garden* is his first novel which was placed as first national bestseller. It was shortlisted for the prestigious 2003 IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the Amazon.com/Books in Canada First Novel Award, the Kiriya Prize, the Commonwealth Writer’s Prize for Best Book (Caribbean and Canada Region), and



Japan-Canada Literary Award. This novel has also been analyzed in several literature journals, one of which is Canadian Ethnic Studies which noted the similarities between Emiko the protagonist and the Hiroshima maidens.

## **Appendix B**

### **Dennis Bock's Literary Works**

1. The Ash Garden (2001).
2. The Communist's Daughter (2006).
3. Going Home Again (2013).
4. Olympia (1998).

## **Appendix C**

### **The Summary of the Novel**

The Ash Garden tell about the nightmare happened to Emiko Amai which involves her family members during the World War II. Besides Emiko and her family, two other characters are also involved, namely Anton Böll and Sophie. The story starts with a six-year-old Emiko who lives with her parents, her younger brother named Mitsuo Amai, and her grandfather. They live in Hiroshima.

During the World War II, many things happen unexpectedly. The sound of bombs and sirens is common. Men are going to war. But, because of her father and grandfather's condition, they are unable to join the army. It results in Emiko to feel a little unpleasant since her friends at school get special treatment because of this. Meanwhile, she is not embarrassed by this. Instead, she is understanding with the condition of her family.

The atomic bombing happened on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1945 caused Emiko to lose her parents. Her mother is found on the road, and her father is found on his bed. Because of the explosion and radiation, Emiko's face is broken. Scars are spread all over her body. Her grandfather cares for the patients when Emiko and Mitsuo are hospitalized. Emiko's grandfather makes her promise that she will go to America to have reconstructive facial surgery to get her face restored. Emiko is forced to do so. But, she tries to fulfill her grandfather's wish. During the painful recovery, she is haunted by the memories of her family being killed. She remains silent in spite of her unbearable pain.

Emiko motivates herself because of the presence of her younger brother Mitsuo. She often comforts him when he is unable to sleep. But, one day, the nurse tells her that Mitsuo died. Emiko feels broken. The bombing in Japan also takes her grandfather's life. Emiko wishes she could follow her family. She feels unfortunate since she is let to be alive with all those suffering.

After she recovers, the American media asks her to appear on *This is Your Life* show to thank the Americans for giving her opportunity to be in America. Later, she becomes a documentary filmmaker where she meets Anton Böll.

Anton is a Germany scientist recruited by the United States. He becomes a part of the Manhattan Project. It aims at recording the aftermath of what was happening in Hiroshima. There, Anton regrets what he had done for taking part in the bomb-making. Anton then attends the Pugwash Conference where he states his regret. He believes that it is necessary to end war in order to prevent more deaths.

Anton marries to Sophie. Later, he becomes a professor at Columbia University. After his retirement, he moves to Toronto. Sophie, in the beginning of World War II, is sent by her family away from Austria. She lives in a refugee camp in Canada, where she met Anton. Sophie is diagnosed with lupus. In 1995, Sophie decides to stop her medical treatment and with Anton, she lives her life even though she is suffering to the disease.

Anton meets Emiko. He asks for an opportunity to obtain more information about her life experience, especially during the Hiroshima bombing. Emiko, knowing that Anton was involved in the atomic bombing, was mad. But, later, she tries to accept the reason beyond this after having conversation. Later, Emiko befriends with Anton

and Sophie. There, Emiko who is still in denial and anger, who perceives herself as a disfigured girl, learns to accept herself. She helps Sophie gardening too. Later on, she finds answer of her questions. But, she chooses to keep some things unsolvable to remain living at peace. After Sophie's funeral, Anton reveals that during this time, he had been involved in Emiko's life where he first met her at the hospital where her grandfather worked. He ensured that Emiko was on the list of girls who get opportunity to have reconstructive surgery. Anton admits that he had been waiting for Emiko to find him. It happens when they both are involved in an interview.

## **Appendix D**

### **The Characters of the Novel**

1. **Emiko Amai** – a brave and strong woman who suffers much in her life. She had never been in a happy childhood. She attempts to find meaning in life in spite of her suffering.
2. **Anton Boll** – a brilliant Nazi German scientist who involved in the bomb-making. Later, Anton regrets to become part in the world destruction. He believes that it is necessary to end war to prevent more death.
3. **Sophie** – Anton's wife who is suffered with lupus. She is also a refugee. Sophie spends the rest of her life along with Anton by gardening.
4. **Mitsuo Amai** – Emiko's younger brother. He is a little naughty for ignoring Emiko's command sometimes.
5. **Haruki Amai** – Emiko's father, who is ill and unable to walk.
6. **Marlie** – a little girl that Anton helped on the hill in Ontario.

7. **Emiko's mother** – a tender-hearted woman who is full of optimism.
8. **Emiko's grandfather** – a good grandfather who forces Emiko to have a better life in going to America to have surgery. By this, he wants Emiko to be saved.