Summary #1: *The Secret Life of Bees*

In the novel *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd, the main character’s name is Lily Owens. In chapter one, Lily talks about her only memory of her mother—her accidental death. The details are sketchy. It happened one afternoon in December, 1954. Lily remembers her mother hurriedly packing her clothes into a suitcase. Suddenly, they heard the footsteps of Lily’s father T.Ray climbing the stairs. There was a violent argument between her parents that included his trying to send Lily to her room. At some point, her mother produced a gun from the closet; T.Ray wrestled it from her, and it ended up on the floor. In an attempt to protect her mother, Lily picked it up, but it accidentally discharged killing, her mother. Lily has carried this burden with her throughout her short life.