Boatwright family, in-laws, and friends
in Bastard out of Carolina

Granny: “The tales she told...in her rough
drawling whisper were lilting songs, ballads of
family, love and disappointment. Everything
seemed to come back to grief and blood, and
everybody seemed legendary.” (p. 26)

Uncle Travis, a drunk driver.

Aunt Ruth, Bone’s oldest aunt, wife of Travis. In
her declining health, she becomes Bone’s
confidant and protector. She owns a prize re-
cord collection.

Tommy Lee, Aunt Ruth’s oldest son, a prac-
ticed thief.

Deedee, Ruth’s daughter, who submits to servi-
tude.

Butch, Ruth’s son, a year older than Bone.

Uncle Earle—Bone’s favorite uncle, “the noto-
rious and dangerous Black Earle Boatwright.”
He introduces Glen to Anney. Earle’s wife,
Teresa, leaves him for “his lying ways.”

Aunt Alma: She moves out on her husband,
Wade, and rents an apartment, where Bone
befriends two African American children.

Grey: One of Alma’s children. When Bone sug-
gests a caper to him, “Grey grinned at me,”
Bone says, “like I’d grown an extra set of
feet.” (p. 192)

Uncle Wade Yarnall, a philanderer.

Uncle Nevil: Granny calls him and his wife,
Fay, “more like furniture than anything.” (p.
45) The couple lives in a house on a steep dirt
hill that Bone likes.

Aunt Raylene, a reclusive aunt who lives by
the river, resells found items, and cooks great
food. She’d once worked in a carnival. She is
an advisor and protector to Bone.

Uncle Beau. He and Earle had been rejected
from the army for criminal records. He is most
ready to be violent toward Glen.

Mama (Anney): She is torn between love for
Glen and defense of her children, whom she
has nurtured.

Reese, daughter of Anney and Anney’s late
first husband, Lyle Parsons. She fantasizes
about sex and dominance.

Glen Waddell. Bone’s stepfather, who abuses
her. He could show love or turn like bad whis-
key. His “feet were so fine that his boots had to
be bought in the boys’ department...while his
gloves could only be found in the tall men’s spe-
cialty stores.” (p. 34)

Daddy Waddell. Glen’s father, a successful dairy
farmer, who has given up on Glen, and who looks
down on the Boatwrights as trash.

Shannon Pearl: Bone’s albino friend, whose dad
books revivals. Her story occupies two chapters.

Dorothy Allison biographical dates
1949. Is born Apr. 11, Greenville, SC.
1971. Receives B.A., Florida Presbyterian (now
Eckerd) College.
1976. Begins 4-year tenure as editor of Quest: A
Feminist Quarterly.
1979. Studies anthropology at New School for
Social Research, New York, Masters Program.
1981. Begins 7-year directorship of The Informa-
tion Center, Poets & Writers, Inc.
1988. Publishes Trash, winner of Lambda Liter-
ary Award.
1992. Publishes Bastard out of Carolina, Na-
tional Book Award finalist.
1994. Publishes Skin: Talking about Sex. Class,
and Literature.
1995. Publishes Two or Three Things I Know for
Sure.
1995. Bastard out of Carolina is made into a
movie (dir. by Angelica Huston for Showtime).
1998. Publishes Cavedweller, NY Times bests-
seller.
2007. Receives Robert Penn Warren Award for
Fiction.
2009. Serves as McGee Professor and Writer in
Residence at Davidson College; completes new
novel, She Who.

Lives with her partner, Alix Layman, and her
teenage son, Wolf, in Northern California.

“I wanted what I felt to mean something
and for everything in my life to change
because of it.” —Bone, p. 152
TOUCHPOINTS
quotes from Bastard out of Carolina

About home
When I think of that summer [before Mama married Glen]—sleeping over at one of my aunt’s houses as easily as at home, the smell of Mama’s neck as she bent over to hug us in the dark, the sound of Little Earle’s giggle or Granny’s spit thudding onto the dry ground, and that country music playing low everywhere, as much a part of the evening as crickets and moonlight—I always feel safe again. No place has ever seemed so sweet and quiet, no place ever felt so much like home. (p. 22)

About rage
After [being caught stealing and being humiliated], when I passed the Woolworth’s windows, it would come back—that dizzy desperate hunger edged with hatred and an aching lust to hurt somebody back. I wondered if that kind of hunger and rage was what Tommy Lee felt when he went through his mama’s pocketbook. It was a hunger in the back of the throat, not the belly, an echoing emptiness that ached for the release of screaming. (p. 98)

The abuser’s plea to his wife
“She told me she hated me,” he said, “told me I would never be her daddy. And I went crazy, Anney. I just went crazy. Do you know? Do you understand how much I love you all, love her?...And—oh, God, Anney! They laid me off today. Just put me out without a care. And what am I going to do to feed these girls now?” (p. 107)

Mother’s common sense
“People don’t do right because of the fear of God or love of him. You do the right thing because the world doesn’t make sense if you don’t.” (p. 145)

About gospel music
That was what gospel was meant to do—make you hate and love yourself at the same time, make you ashamed and glorified. It worked on me. (p. 136)

And don’t go taking that gospel stuff seriously. It’s nice to clean you out now and then, but it ain’t for real. It’s like bad whiskey. Run through you fast and leave you with a pain. (Granny, p. 144)

About empathy even with haters
“They look at you the way you look at them,” [Aunt Raylene] told me bluntly. “You don’t know who those children are...You don’t know what happens to them when they go home...Could be they’re jealous of you, hungry for what you’ve got, afraid of what you would do if they ever stepped in the yard.” (p. 262)
A book is a set of printed sheets of paper held together between two covers. The sheets of paper are usually covered with a text, language and illustrations that is the main point of a printed book. A writer of a book is called an author. Someone who draws pictures in a book is called an illustrator. Books can have more than one author or illustrator. A book can also be a text in a larger collection of texts. That way a book is perhaps written by one author, or it only treats one subject area. Books Find out what the best minds think about reading and books. A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies, said Jojen. The man who never reads lives only one. -George R.R. Martin, A Dance with Dragons.Â To read a book for the first time is to make an acquaintance with a new friend; to read it for a second time is to meet an old one. -Chinese Saying. There are many little ways to enlarge your childâ€™s world. 1. Book info - general information about the book. 2. Text - the text of the book. 3. Footnotes - the text of the footnotes. 4. Document info - information about the current document.Â Here you can also upload the book cover of your ebook. Our system accepts both JPEG and PNG image files. The recommended width / length proportions for the cover are 5:8 (ratio 1.6). The text in the field "Description" will only be visible in the file list stored in the "Documents" menu section and will not be integrated in the ebook itself.