

The structure of the novel

To fully enjoy this new version of Candy Candy, it is necessary to have the structure of the novel very clear, so as to understand why the story is developed in such a particular, ambiguous and mysterious way.

The novel is divided into 2 volumes and is composed of the prologue, three parts as sections that divide the content of the story, and the epilogue.

Prologue

This part is obviously the introduction to the context in which Candy Candy will be developed in its novel version.

In the present, taking as a starting point the arrival of a letter from Pony's Home and the contemplation of a painting that portrays it in its old form, Candy will start to remember and reflect upon her life and each one of the events that led her to meet so many people and experience all kinds of adventures that enriched her path.

This present of Candy unfolds in some place far away from the United States, beyond the sea, where she lives with *him*, that mysterious person. Besides, here Candy herself mentions to us a completely new and very exceptional data to make us understand the reason of its reflections on the past and introduce ourselves to the story of her life, and it is that, in contrast to the manga and the anime, she affirms that the day Annie, her best friend in the orphanage, was adopted by a family, is the day her life changed forever.

Section 1

In this first section, divided into 20 chapters and told by an omniscient narrator, Candy's childhood develops since the age of 6 years as it was seen in the anime but with some changes and clarifications. The story begins with Annie's adoption and departure from the orphanage and that same day, while crying over her friend on the hill, she meets a mysterious boy whom she will call by the name Prince on the Hill, and who gives back to her hope and the desire to laugh, becoming her imaginary refuge at the most difficult moments.

Time passes, and at the age of 13, she decides not to be one more burden for the Home and accepts the proposal to go and live with the Leagans, starting a very hard stage for her but at the same time meeting some wonderful people, among them standing out the employees at the service of the Leagans, the Ardlay boys (Anthony, Stear and Archie) and the mysterious Albert. Despite Neal and Eliza's wickedness, luck will be on Candy's side and she will be adopted by

the influential Ardlay family and become the ward of hermit Great Uncle William without getting to know him. So Candy begins the most beautiful days she has ever lived but they will be shattered by Anthony's sudden death in the prime of his life, at 15 years, during a fox hunting organized for Candy's presentation in society.

Only the passage after Anthony's death is related by Candy herself from the present (this chapter isn't numbered). Here our heroine describes and reflects upon her dear friend's death and conveys to us the pain she felt 20 years ago and still feels at present, ending this first part.

Section 2

The story begins from the present (once again the passages related to the present aren't numbered) where Candy mentions to us again the letter from Pony's Home which informs her about the improvement of Miss Pony's health, news that fills her with happiness. Longing to return to the Home she reveals to us something we would never have thought it would happen: the villa of the Ardlays in Lakewood doesn't belong to them anymore. This fact leads her to remember again the day of Anthony's death.

Due to the emotions that emerged in this passage we have the only geographical approximation of her place of residence in the United Kingdom by her mentioning that she lives near a river called Avon surrounded by wild flowers and roses that she personally takes care of. Although many years have passed, Candy is still dreaming of Anthony. In those dreams she assures herself that she is happy because she lives with the person she loves; then she reflects on the people she will never be able to see again and the painful separations she has experienced, but while she is living she will always hope for a reunion, ensuring that she has lost her fear of goodbyes. This gives her the opportunity to speak about Slim, the painter of the picture of Pony's Home, and how she tried to locate him without success because of the war that time. That picture portrays the orphanage before the modification that was carried out by Great Uncle William thanks to whom an agreement was reached with Mr. Cartwright, and the orphanage was expanded in such a way that now it can accommodate more orphans. Candy, knowing there is a lot of work at Pony's Home, apologizes to the teachers for not being with them because at this moment she doesn't want to be separated from the person who also wants her to be by his side.

After this retrospective, the story of our heroine's adventures goes on after Anthony's death with numbered chapters, along which Candy of the present never bursts in to comment or reflect on that part of her past. In 17 chapters the story is narrated since Candy's boat trip to

London until her departure from St. Paul's Institute to return to the United States. In the middle of all this is her meeting with Terry Granchester, their coexistence in college, the May Festival (when he steals her first kiss and applies a shock therapy to her to make her forget Anthony), the vacation in Scotland (Terry becomes more gallant with Candy and she starts seeing him in a different light) and finally Eliza's trap that will cause them both to separate and take different paths.

Everything here is as it was seen in the manga and the anime, except for the change of some details that clarify better the development of the story and the relationship between Candy and Terry. It is also in this passage that Candy, providentially, meets Albert again around a corner in London and visits him at the Blue River Zoo where he is working, but he finally leaves for Africa as a volunteer, predicting that there are no goodbyes between them and that one day they will meet again.

Section 3

All of this section is related by Candy herself from the present in retrospect, supported by a sequence of letters that accompany her reflections. These letters are supposedly saved in a jewelry box that appears in this part for the first time.

The story in this section is related as seen in the manga but in an epistolary form, that is, the narrative is told through letters, most of them sent by Candy. This part begins relating her adventure of leaving England with no money to get to the United States, her decision to study nursing, the meeting with an amnesiac Albert and their living together at the Magnolia, Candy and Terry's separation in New York because of Susanna's accident, Stear's death at war, Albert's disappearance and the search for him that causes the Rockstown incident with Terry and her engagement with Neal which leads to the discovery of Great Uncle William's identity. Along this section, Candy from the present comments and reflects upon these facts and gives us a lot of new information related to the main characters in those moments of her life, concluding with her reflection upon the only letter she has received from Susanna Marlowe, which she keeps in the jewelry box, describing also the way of how she learned of her death. Following this a note from Terry is presented without any information that can locate it within a specific time frame, on which she makes no comment.

In total there are 39 letters that accompany Candy's narration, but because most of them are those sent by herself it is clear that their presence in the development of the story is only part of the epistolary style of this section and that obviously they are not in the jewelry box.

Epilogue

And so we come to the end of the novel. This part brings us the correspondence exchanged between Candy and Albert, which tells us how she discovered the real identity of Prince on the Hill, about Albert's childhood and his isolation from the world due to his position in the family, the way he decided to live his life and then assume his role in the Ardlay family, the celebration of Candy's birthday at the Ardlay mansion in Chicago, their visit to Lakewood where both vented their feelings about Anthony's death and how intimacy and complicity began to emerge between them. There are 10 letters exchanged during an indefinite period of time with one last letter "written in her heart" from Candy to Anthony in which she talks to him about Albert and the things she had discussed with him. She also tells him about what she has learned in London and in her life, promising him that whatever her path will be like she will always face everything with a smile.

The story closes with Candy returning to her present wrapped in a melancholy mood after recalling her past. To cheer up once more she paraphrases the greatest advice Miss Pony has ever given her: you never know what awaits you around a corner. And while she is waiting for her memories to calm her down *he* arrives, and recognizing his voice she throws herself into his open arms, welcoming him.