

L W O R T H

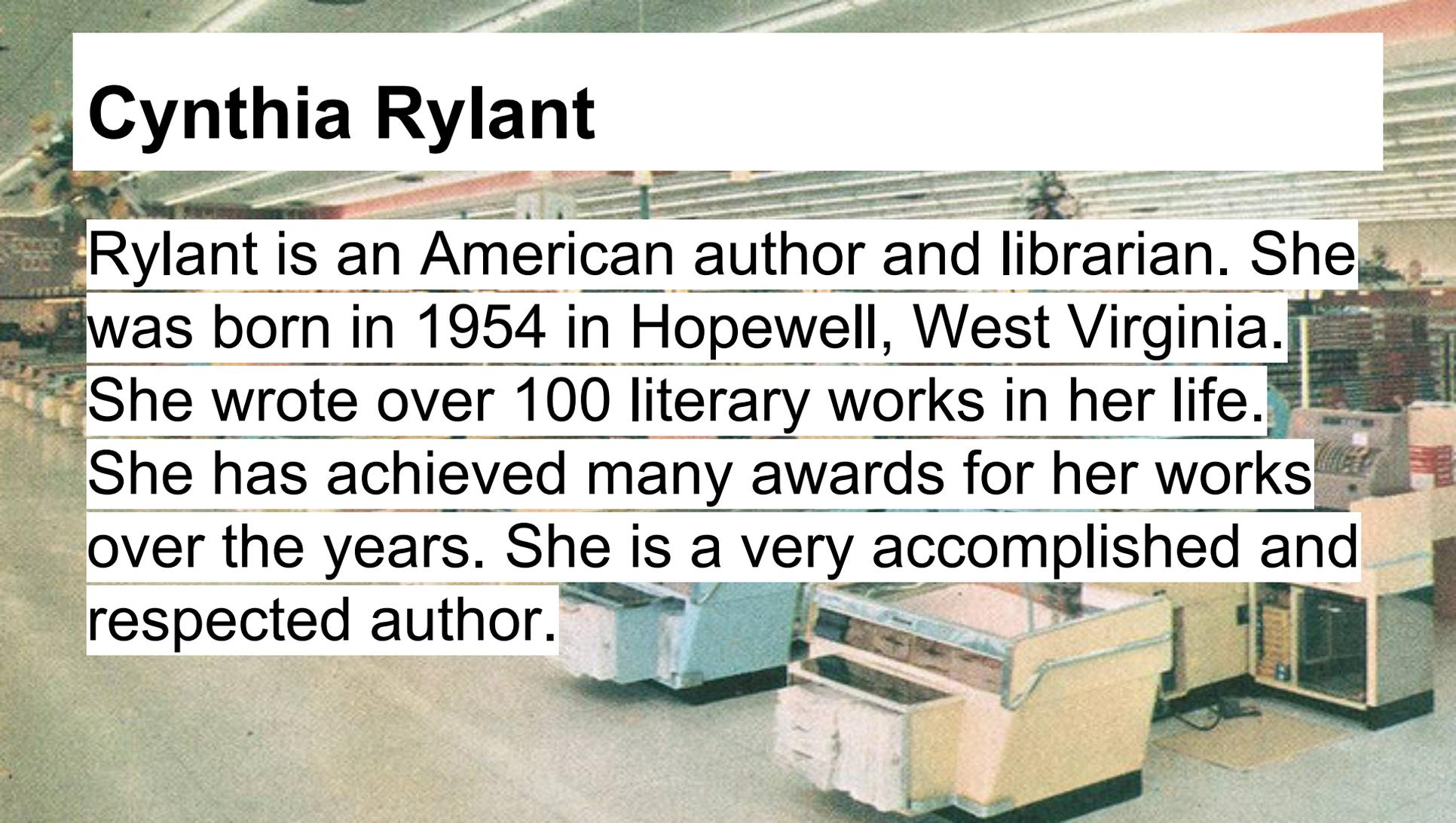
CHECKOUTS

Published in 1967



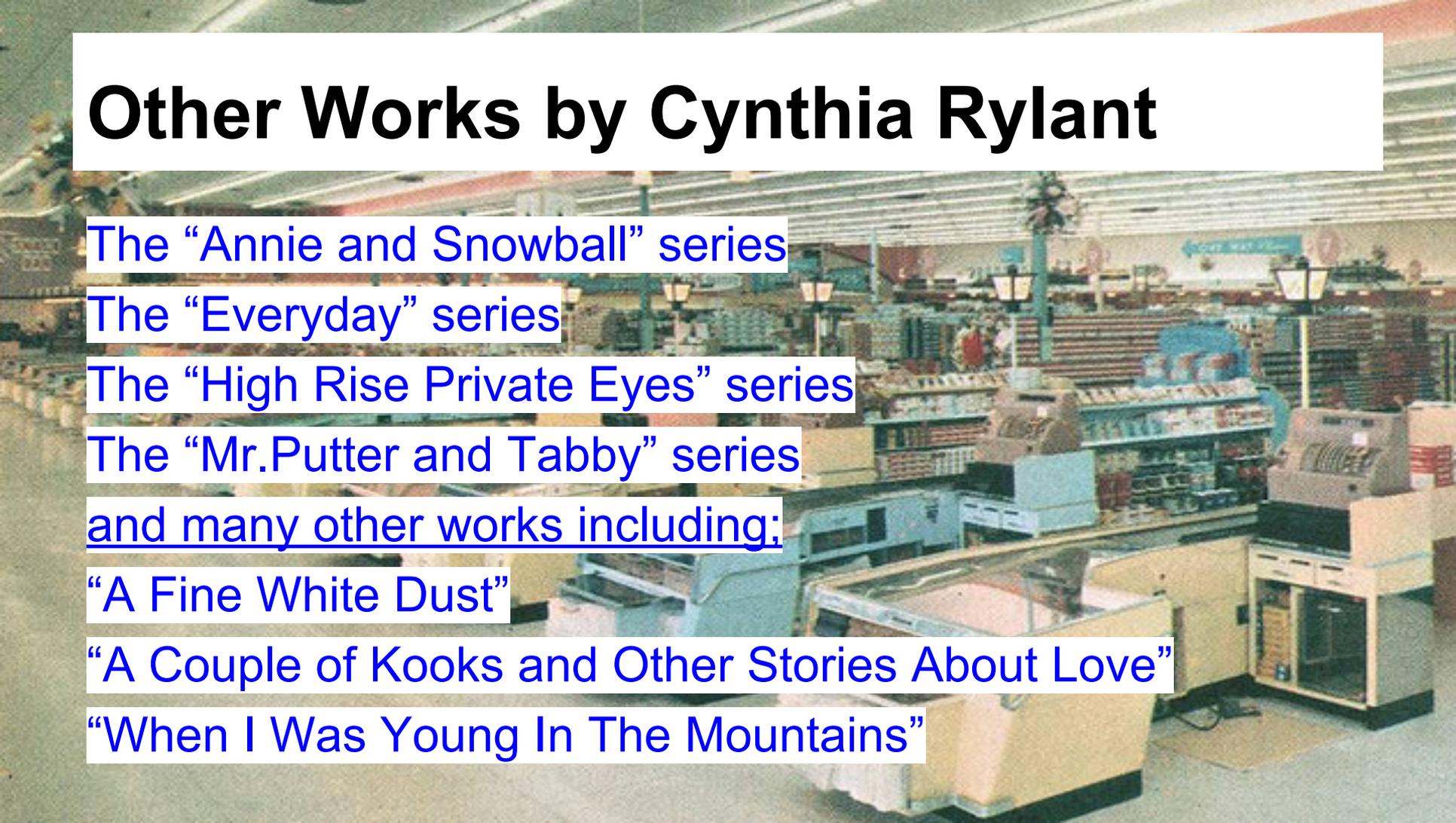
By: Cynthia Rylant

Cynthia Rylant

A photograph of a library or bookstore interior. In the foreground, there is a yellow chair with a white cushion. Behind it, there are bookshelves filled with books. The lighting is bright, and the overall atmosphere is clean and organized.

Rylant is an American author and librarian. She was born in 1954 in Hopewell, West Virginia. She wrote over 100 literary works in her life. She has achieved many awards for her works over the years. She is a very accomplished and respected author.

Other Works by Cynthia Rylant

A photograph of a grocery store interior. The store is brightly lit with overhead fluorescent lights. In the foreground, there is a counter area with a cash register and a computer monitor. Behind the counter, there are shelves stocked with various products, including canned goods and packaged items. The store has a clean, organized appearance with a mix of blue and yellow tones in the shelving and counter.

The “Annie and Snowball” series

The “Everyday” series

The “High Rise Private Eyes” series

The “Mr.Putter and Tabby” series

and many other works including:

“A Fine White Dust”

“A Couple of Kooks and Other Stories About Love”

“When I Was Young In The Mountains”

Setting

A photograph of a grocery store interior. In the foreground, there are several checkout counters with yellow and blue panels. A cash register is visible on the right. The background shows shelves stocked with various goods, including canned goods and packaged items. The store has a clean, organized appearance typical of the 1960s.

- Cincinnati, Ohio (the redheaded girl's new house)
- The grocery store down the street from where the red headed girl lives
- during the 1960s
- middle class girl

mood: This adds a relaxed feel to the piece because it's the grocery store where people casually shop for their food.

CHARACTERS

The Red Headed Girl:

- calms herself by shopping
- has red hair
- fond of bows
- loves the bag boy

The Bag Boy:

- disheveled
- clumsy
- loves girl with the red hair

- Both these characters are round/dynamic because the girl is upset about moving in the beginning and by the end of the story she is settled in. The bag boy changes through the novel because he is just content with his grocery store job but by the end he is bored with the job and starts working at a bookstore where he happens to meet a new girl.

SUMMARY

One day a girl moved to Cincinnati, Ohio with her parents. She finds peace by grocery shopping to calm her stresses from the move. While grocery shopping she encounters a bag boy. While he is bagging her groceries, he drops her mayonnaise and they become connected. She likes how disheveled he is and he thinks that she is mysterious and fantastic. They hope to see each other but their paths never cross until 4 weeks later. When they do finally see each other again they nod and move on with their lives.

POINT OF VIEW

- This short story has a third person point of view, with an omniscient narrator.
- The two characters never speak so the only way information is given is by the narrator
- This enhances the story because nobody would know what was happening if there were no narrator
- The reader also gets to see what happens to both characters for the 4 weeks when they don't see each other.

TECHNIQUES USED

irony: - When the bag boy drops her mayonnaise one would expect the customer to be annoyed but instead the red headed girl surprises the readers and falls in love with him. Both of them obsess over each other for the 4 weeks when they are apart, but when they finally see each other they don't make eye contact, or even speak. And after that they find that they don't love each other anymore

- Most people dread the thought of grocery shopping, but somehow in the story it calms the redheaded girl



SYMBOL

The grocery store - the store represents how people find a place to calm their nerves. For the girl she has the grocery store to relieve her stress. The bag boy was nervous about his first day at the checkout until he saw the girl and fell for her.

The mayonnaise: This represents their relationship. Like their relationship the mayonnaise lasts for a very short time. And also like the mayonnaise their connection is shattered easily and will never be repaired.

THEME

When a door closes a window opens:

When the red headed girl moves to Cincinnati the door to her old life closes, but when she meets the bag boy a window opens and she realizes that moving wasn't so bad after all. And for both the bag boy and the red headed girl, falling out of love with each other allowed them to find new people.

RATING (STARS 1-3)

We give this short story two stars due to the fact that the story was intriguing, unique, and romantic, but lacked suspense and enthusiasm which are important aspects to an enjoyable short story.



Plot Diagram

Climax: When the Redheaded girl chooses not to checkout at the bag boys register the next time she saw the boy.

Rising Action

they both obsess over each other and hope to see one another again in the store.

Falling Action:

The two both meet new people to date

Inciting Incident

the bag boy drops the red headed girls mayonnaise and they fall in love.

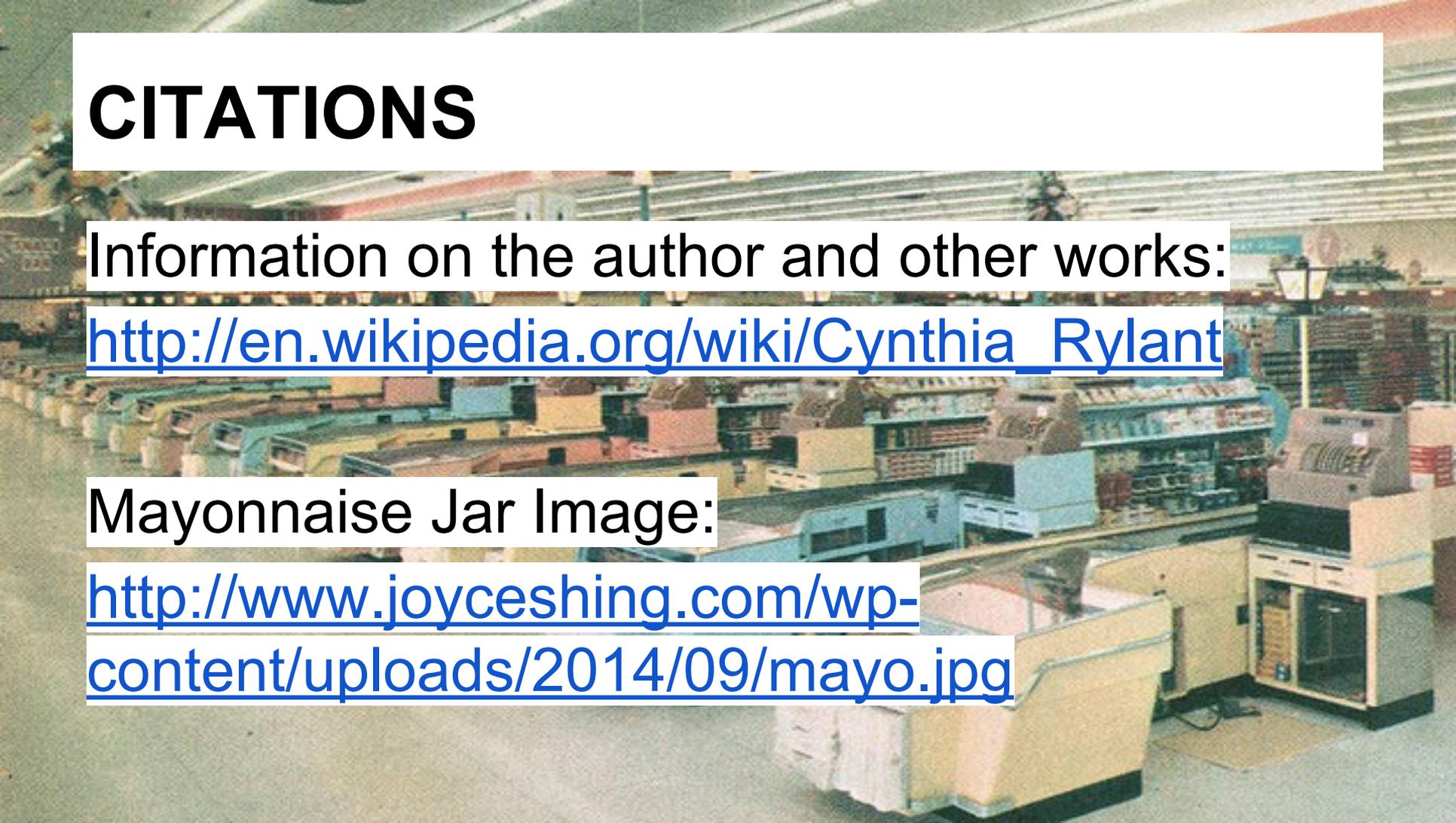
Exposition:

- Redheaded girl, bag boy
- Cincinnati/ grocery store
- Girl was forced to move with parents (made her unhappy)
- went grocery shopping to clear mind

Resolution:

The boy and girl meet once again in a line while with their other dates and they just smile at each other and move along

CITATIONS

A photograph of a grocery store aisle. In the foreground, there is a checkout counter with a cash register and a computer monitor. The counter is light-colored with a dark base. Behind the counter, there are shelves stocked with various products, including boxes and bags. The aisle is well-lit, and the ceiling has recessed lighting. The background shows more shelves and a sign for 'SALE'.

Information on the author and other works:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cynthia_Rylant

Mayonnaise Jar Image:

<http://www.joyceshing.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/mayo.jpg>