

Dorothy's Secret

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Short critical notes:

The book "Dorothy's Secret" by Barbara Lobo is informative and insightful because the author discusses the issue of female empowerment in the background. However, the narrative is filled with fundamental themes in the contemporary world that need to be addressed, including homophobia, xenophobia, and deforestation.

Dorothy's Secret is a detective fiction novel set in the 21st century. The plot takes place mainly in two countries that somehow complement each other, one due to its global economy (United States of America) and the other its natural beauty and biodiversity (Brazil). In this distinct and complementary universe, industries, skyscrapers, traffic, crime as well as humanitarian, social, environmental and gender causes enrich the fictional narrative of this novel, which brings as a backdrop a secret that can change everything.

The novel begins in a rural setting, in a small Louisiana town, with the birth of Dorothy, adoptive daughter of the Grewn family, who on her first day of life struggles for survival! As a teenager, aiming to forget a sad event from her past, she leaves her home in the countryside and moves to Texas. The setting for the plot is Houston, a large metropolis, and the adjacent area of Galveston. In these big cities, Dorothy becomes an active young woman. She is a feminist, and she participates in the humanitarian and social causes. In one of these meetings she meets Perlla. Both have diversity as their main cause. Dorothy works as a teacher and dreams of her academic career. She has just enrolled at the University of Texas, the largest state university, where she studies Public Administration and Marketing.



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As a teacher, she helps her student, Millie, a refugee immigrant from Honduras, try to stay in the United States. Dorothy, along with her flatmates Perlla and Dianne, receive the news of Ronald's murder, a young gay man and their best friend.

During the plot, Dorothy tries to prove her innocence and challenge the tension that permeates her life by going to a new place. She travels to Brazil shortly after her marriage to Ben. In the Northeast, they enjoy Recife and São Luis do Maranhão. Tourism is the main source of economy of this region composed of villages, cities and metropolises, which are surrounded by dunes, lakes, and beaches of crystal-clear water. Still in Brazil, the romance is peppered by the natural beauties and warm days of Rio de Janeiro, and the hectic life and cold nights of São Paulo, Brazil's important economic metropolis. The final whereabouts are the Amazon rainforest and the indigenous tribes, where Dorothy will visit with Marcella. Feminist and activist, Dorothy starts a fight for preservation in the Amazon. The Amazon rainforest is one of the largest remaining tropical forests in humanity that houses great biodiversity important to the planet. Some species are threatened with extinction.

In conclusion, reading "Dorothy's Secret" is a great option for anyone who wants to reflect on diversity, environment, and intercultural issues. After all, it is a book that addresses necessary themes about women empowerment, gender violence, and the environmental protection. In this novel, fiction is intertwined with the reality of the 21st century, where metropolises, cities and farms offer an attractive diversity, where Dorothy who lives a secret that helps her overcome fears and seek a better world for everyone.