

Book Review



Who is Margaret? What is she?

Written by Celia A. Leaman

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This young adult book is a collection of four science fiction short stories. It is written with a charming and sometimes twisted sense of humor. Each story will take you to a different world within the parameters of our so called "common daily lives". The book is entertaining and the ending on some of the stories will keep you wondering, "what if..?"

The book's title, *Who is Margaret? What is she?*, comes from the first story. In the cover you will see Margaret's intriguing and mysterious eyes. Her look is inviting and the contrast of purple and red covering most of her face will make you want to read the rest of the story and discover her true identity.

Margaret meets Veronica at the city launderette. She approaches Margaret and asks her for change for the laundry machine. Since the first day, Veronica feels comfortable sharing her most inner thoughts with Margaret. At first, Veronica is surprised of how much she shared with Margaret on their first encounter. However, she looks forward to talking with Margaret again. Veronica also tells Margaret about her issues with her daughters, Clarice and Minerva.

One night Margaret invites Veronica to visit her and takes her to a desolated place where she reveals her true identity. Veronica thinks Margaret is going to harm her, but instead, Veronica is taken on a time traveling journey to help her heal and put closure to a wound from the past.

The Suit. This is the story of Violet, a 70+ years old widow. This particular week she is having some minor chest pain but refuses to go to the doctor. She is afraid her doctor might recommend her to move into a seniors home. Today Violet is depressed and after

fighting with herself, she gets up, takes a shower, and decides to take a look at her winter clothes. She goes to her closet and pulls the suitcase where she stored her winter clothes. She finds a box behind the suitcase, and not remembering what is inside, she pulls it out, too. When Violet opens the box, she finds a bundle of Halloween customs and suddenly finds herself remembering those many Halloween parties she attended with her now deceased husband, John. When she finds "the suit," she remembers how that suit changed their life forever. Since she never had a chance to wear the suit, she tries it on and to her surprise, it fits her perfectly. While looking at the mirror, she has a close encounter that transforms her.

Join Violet as she walks throughout town wearing "the suit" and gets to see the world through the eyes of Meta.

The Man at the Side of the Road. Have you ever wonder if you truly belong in this world? Are you an Earthling? Is there someone out there gathering the lost ones? Are you among the lost and found? Are you among the wanderers? If you are not sure about your own answer, then I invite you to come along and see how Cathy and her husband Bob deal with her encounter with the Quinqera's gatherer.

Duplicated The Year 2225. Cloning has become as normal and natural as drinking water. Scientist are looking at cloning as the solution for population shortage. Others consider it a perpetuation of themselves for selfish motives. But what happens when the wife falls in love with her husband's clone? Does the real husband have the right to send his clone to be destroyed? What if one of the clones outsmarts his creator? The end of this story is a sweet and sour mix of surprises and wonder!



Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés, author of *The Window to My Soul; My Walk With Jesus* (ISBN 0975393359; 2004 Tate Publishing; www.tatepublishing.com).

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Author's Comment:

“Tannia Ortiz-Lopes was very thorough and sensitive in reviewing my books. She is a flexible reviewer and pays attention to detail. Everyone's time is precious, and I appreciate the time she has given to my work.”

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