

## *The Color of Lies* by Donna Meredith

- **Gold medal for adult fiction, Florida Publishers Association**
- **First place, unpublished women's fiction from the Florida Writers Association Royal Palm Literary Awards**

Forty-year-old widow Molly Culpepper believes her hometown, Alderson, Georgia, is a place of harmony, of white picket fences and harmless gossip passed along at church and the general store—until a fellow teacher chalks a racial slur on the blackboard during Barack Obama's presidential campaign. In the aftermath of the racial slur, a citizens' group files a lawsuit alleging discrimination against the high school where Molly teaches. To address the lawsuit's concerns over academic weaknesses, Molly joins forces with a black minister to plan curriculum improvements and a fundraiser for equipment upgrades.

Molly Culpepper's self-effacing humor shines through as she juggles her roles as a widowed mother, daughter, and dedicated instructor, all while dealing with a dangerous, growing rift in her community.

Donna Meredith's respect and love for her characters resonates as she spins this story of small town webs of connections that transcend color.

### Where To Buy

In the Tallahassee area, buy at [My Favorite Books](#) in Market Square on Timberlane Rd. or [Sweet Patina](#) at 3030 Thomasville Rd.

OR

[Buy now on Amazon](#)

### Praise for *The Color of Lies*

**The best novel about the complications of contemporary race relations in the South I've ever read.** I was immediately hooked by Meredith's oh-so-accurate depiction of a small Georgia town and her story of a vulnerable, heroic high school teacher trying to stay afloat in a flood of racial tension and family trials. I love *The Color of Lies*. **It's funny, wise, heartbreaking and unputdownable.**"

**-Elizabeth Stuckey-French, creative writing professor, Florida State University,  
author of *The Revenge of the Radioactive Lady***

"*The Color of Lies* is billed as fictional, but as a 'seasoned' African American woman, I found myself in a period of personal reflection . . . painfully real and far from fictional. I lived the 'Black and Blue Day' sort of experience in my state's capital city. The book is a **marvelous read**, and it contains **enough fictional reality to stimulate those who want to work to make things better for all mankind.**"

**-Freddie Grooms-McLendon, Ph.D., Retired administrator, Florida State University,  
author of *The Marginal Difference***

The twists come fast and furious . . . and the journey is fun and ultimately hopeful.

**-Foreword Magazine**

This novel magnificently captures the texture of small town life.

**- Southern Literary Review**

"If you ever wondered what really lies behind the teacher lounge doors, or how anyone manages to actually impart wisdom in this day of down-turned economy and age-old tensions, *The Color of Lies* will surely satisfy. **Molly Culpepper's self-effacing humor shines through** as she juggles her roles as a widowed mother, daughter, and dedicated instructor, all while dealing with a growing rift in her community."

**-Rhett DeVane, author of *Mama's Comfort Food***

**"Molly Culpepper is strong, witty, sensitive."**

**-Royal Palm Literary Awards Judge**

Though there is a Cassandra King/Connie May Fowler flavor, *The Color of Lies* shines with Donna Meredith's own strong voice. Intelligent, intuitive, and humorous, this tale takes us where most Southerners have to eventually go: smacking face first against our culture's racism. Yet Meredith's respect and love for her characters resonates as she spins this story of small town webs of connections that transcend color. There's a reason this won a first place award even before it was published.

**-Claire Maturro, author of *Skinny-Dipping* and *Sweetheart Deal*.**

In this complex tale of deception, love, and race, Meredith blends cringe-causing moments of fear with scenes of tenderness and connection to explore how lies are interwoven with the deepest truths of our lives. But **while dishonesty grips the characters, you'll find none in Meredith's writing**—a shoot-from-the-hip style to match her storytelling gifts.

**-Ron Cooper, author of *Purple Jesus***

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