

## 150-200 word synopsis of *The Color of Lies* by Donna Meredith

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. The action begins on page one of *The Color of Lies* and doesn’t stop until the final words. 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. The novel won first place for unpublished women’s fiction from the Florida Writers Association in 2010. Donna won the same award for her first novel, *The Glass Madonna*, in 2009.