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Brown Girl, Brownstones

Brown Girl, Brownstones is the story of an immigrant family, who migrated to the US from Barbadian. The story is about the struggle of this family that how they face enormous difficulties in meeting both ends meet. The complete story revolves around two sisters Selina and Silla who are totally opposite when comes to facing the life realities. Silla who is ambitious and don't care about hardships and challenges of life. In making both ends meet, Silla takes every step which she thinks might solve the financial difficulties of her family. The death of his father was another setback Silla’s family faced during their arrival in the new land.

The young Selina is a kind of misfit in her family. She is daring and remains open for falling in a relationship with anyone. She is beautiful and just for the sake of experiencing new changes in her body, she falls in a relationship with a young boy Bajan who use her for fulfilling sexual desires. On the other hand, the older Silla managed to marry a young decent man as per the expectations of her family. One of the major themes of this novel is the struggle for achieving the American dream and the price such immigrants pay for making themselves a part of the US community.

Brooklyn is one of the expensive neighborhood in New York City. Since the novel is based in the year 1930s, therefore it could be a mighty task for a family who has just been migrated to the US. It is the mother of Silla who dreams about owning a "Back home" in such an expensive residential area (Marshall). To fulfill her dreams, Silla works day and night. The narrator of the story mentions that the days and nights of Silla were always on the Sewing machine. This machine remained helpful for her throughout the life and in meeting the goals of her. While describing Silla, the narrator presents in front of readers a very tragic image of life. She ruined her personal life and is unlike her husband who is always in search of finding short cuts in his life. This is how the social and economic life of the immigrants was in the early years of the twentieth century.

Selina who is very ruthless and feels that she has a kind of superiority in terms of facial expressions believe that her ancestors were very ruthless. She believes that the values of her elders were not as according to the times they were living in. She believed that by not fulfilling the desires of their children, they have been committing the crime. She has been mentioned as saying "Perhaps everyone had his tomb: the mother hunched over the table all night might be locked in hers, her father, stretched on the cot, might have been sealed his, just as she was shut within the lonely region of herself”(Marshall). This shows that she was not happy with the way her forefather have spent their lives.

Selina's life routine is different from that of Christie in Louisiana. Christie is a hard working lady, who works on different jobs, similar to Sill. Her character is opposite to Selina, who offers herself to please the intimate feelings of others. Christie, on the other hand, has remained true to herself and has not involved in any such activity despite being receiving such offers (Alcott). Both these characters are therefore totally different from each other. The Brown girl, Brownstone is a story which depicts the harsh realities of life for immigrants and in meeting what kind of circumstances they face.

# Works Cited:

Alcott, Louisa May. *The Selected Letters of Louisa May Alcott*. University of Georgia Press, 1995.

Marshall, Paule. *Brown Girl, Brownstones*. Courier Corporation, 2009.