

ABSTRACT

PARADE OF BEAUTIES

This novel tells the story of two cousins starting college together in Orlando, Florida. They have dreams of succeeding, but their standards of success create the story's conflict.

Shunned by the scholarship committees, Katrina has turned to beauty pageants as a potential source of college money. After a couple of losses, she intends to do anything necessary to win the crown. In the process, however, college money becomes less and less important, and winning becomes her sole motivation.

Maritza wants to dance for an amusement park and experience Disney magic on a daily basis. But to her, part of this magic is having a boyfriend to share it with. She clings to the men who show promise for a relationship, so much that her desire for happiness becomes overshadowed.

This novel questions the values our society imposes on women and demonstrates how these standards can affect individual lives.

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