



South of Everything

A Novel

by Audrey Taylor Gonzalez



Young Adult - Coming of Age

219 Pages

Reviewed on 11/29/2015

Book Review

Reviewed by Tracy Slowiak for Readers' Favorite

In a simply lovely new book by author Audrey Taylor Gonzalez, *South of Everything*, readers will find a simple delight of a read that will stay with them long after they have finished the last page. Follow the story of protagonist Missy Sarah, a young girl living in Tennessee during very racially divided times. In fact, her parents own a plantation, and Missy Sarah is expected to act in very particular ways when it comes to decorum, race, and her religious beliefs. When she develops a special friendship with her parents' servant, Old Thomas, and he introduces her to the Lolololo Tree, a special tree gifted with the power to heal, she finds herself enchanted. The tree is the wisest creature she has ever known, and through it she comes to understand the racial and religious prejudice that she is growing up with. Will the tree also give her the means to fight her upbringing? You'll have to read the book to find out!

I so enjoyed *South of Everything*. It was simply a wonderful read; one that I couldn't put down once I started it. Author Audrey Taylor Gonzalez has done a stellar job in creating characters that her readers will connect with, relate to, and truly care about. If that isn't the hallmark of a gifted writer, I'm not sure what is. Any reader who loves a sweet and interesting story, one that will make them think, or simply a great work of fiction will love this book. I highly recommend *South of Everything*. I am looking forward to reading more from author Audrey Taylor Gonzalez in the future; her work is both promising and lovely at the same time, and I can't wait for more!