



***Miosotis Flores Never Forgets* by Hilda Eunice Burgos**

Tu Books, an imprint of LEE & LOW BOOKS INC, 2021

ISBN: 9781643790657 (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 9-12

Grade Range: 5 & up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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Perfect for fans of Meg Medina and Barbara O'Connor, this heartfelt novel about family, pets, and other things we hold close is one that you'll never forget.

Miosotis Flores is excited about three things: fostering rescue dogs, goofy horror movies, and her sister Amarilis's upcoming wedding. School? Not on that list. But her papi cares about school more than anything else, so they strike a deal: If Miosotis improves her grades in two classes, she can adopt a dog of her own in the summer.

Miosotis dives into her schoolwork, and into nurturing a fearful little pup called Freckles. Could he become her forever dog? At the same time, she notices Amarilis behaving strangely--wearing thick clothes in springtime, dropping her friends in favor of her fiancé, even avoiding Miosotis and the rest of their family.

When she finally discovers her sister's secret, Miosotis faces some difficult choices. What do you do if someone is in danger, but doesn't want your help? When should you ask for support, and when should you try to handle things on your own? And what ultimately matters most--what Miosotis wants, or what's right for the ones she loves?

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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"With *Miosotis Flores Never Forgets*, Hilda Eunice Burgos has delivered moving, richly layered story with an honest, often heartbreaking, and beautiful look at a Dominican American family. At the center of this bouquet of a story is Miosotis, an endearing and unforgettable twelve-year-old Latina, blooming into discovering her own strengths and courage."—Aida Salazar, award-winning author of *The Moon Within* and *Land of the Cranes*

"A stunning and relatable story about patience, puppies, and the power of family that will make readers think deeply about when to speak up and get help for someone they love."—Alyson Gerber, author of the bestselling *The Liars Society* series

"Will speak to middle-schoolers who love dogs, hate homework, and crave real agency in their families and communities. This book is for the kids who ask big questions about prejudice, hurt, and healing—and who won't be talked down to."—Emma Otheguy, author of *Silver Meadows Summer* and *Sofía Acosta Makes a Scene*

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“Covers the tough subject of domestic abuse and understanding what to do when you witness someone in danger. Though the topic of abuse is prominent throughout the story, Burgos also delves into other subjects, such as the loss of a parent and the prejudices present in some cultures, particularly colorism. *Miosotis Flores Never Forgets* is a profound and heartwrenching book that can help kick-start conversations on these heavy and complicated issues.” —[Booklist](#)

“Burgos’s explorations of social issues—also including racial profiling and colorism—are well incorporated, without overburdening the narrative. In *Miosotis*, she crafts a character who is thoughtful and true to herself, creating a satisfying story arc in which the protagonist determines her own potential. The book’s message will reassure readers who find themselves overshadowed by siblings’ achievements—or overwhelmed by their troubles—and who face pressure to live up to the expectations of others.” —[The Horn Book](#)

“The author explores colorism through *Miosotis*’ multigenerational Dominican American family—*Miosotis* is darker-skinned with textured hair, like her Papi; *Amarilis* has light hair and eyes like their late mother—as *Abuela*’s judgmental comments about brown skin are carefully unpacked and given context. The story admirably handles themes of recognizing abuse of humans and dogs in an accessible, thoughtful way. A poignant tale of learning how to help those you love.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

“Burgos builds a believable world in which strength of character is complex and contextual, deftly interweaving realities of racism and misogyny.” —[Publishers Weekly](#)

“With such a tight-knit circle of friends and family, *Miosotis* is bound to be successful. Readers will find a connection with *Miosotis* and gain insight on how to proceed in difficult social situations. Recommended for realistic fiction collections” —[School Library Journal](#)

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- Bank Street College of Education Best Children’s Books of the Year
- Junior Library Guild Selection
- Carolyn W. Fields Award Honor Book (Pennsylvania Library Association)
- MISelf in Books List (Michigan Association of School Librarians)

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Teacher’s Guide](#)
- [TeachingBooks’ Meet-the-Author Recording with Hilda Eunice Burgos](#)

## AUTHOR STATEMENT

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“While *Miosotis* and *Amarilis* are fictional characters, their story is not uncommon. According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, one in three adolescents in the United States is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner. That is a lot of young people in unhealthy relationships. How does it happen? Usually, it’s very gradual. Many times, college students find themselves away from home for the first time ever, making decisions and figuring out new relationships on their own. These relationships can be confusing. The abuse could start with social media stalking, asking for passwords, and demanding immediate responses to messages. If the victim says they feel uncomfortable with some of the abuser’s demands, the abuser will make the victim feel like they’re ‘crazy’ or unreasonable. Little by little, an abuser will exercise control over their victim until the victim feels powerless and trapped.

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But there are ways to end these feelings, regain control, and have safe and healthy relationships. The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or [thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org) provides free and confidential help for domestic abuse victims and their loved ones. Through the hotline, you can speak with a counselor by phone or live chat, get information about legal help, and find a domestic violence advocate in your area.

If you're a witness to domestic abuse, it can be difficult to know what to do. You may stumble and not always make the right choices, as Miosotis did at first when she lashed out at her sister in anger. But Miosotis definitely did some things right: she trusted the instincts that told her Amarilis and Rich were not in a healthy relationship, she did research to understand how best to assist Amarilis, and she did not give up on her sister. Helping a loved one—or yourself—get out of an abusive relationship is not a quick and easy task, but it can be done with steady patience, love, and the support of trained professionals. As Miosotis and Amarilis learned, abuse is never the victim's fault, and every-one deserves to feel safe in their relationships. So, whether you are a victim or a witness, be kind and patient with yourself and your loved one, and don't give up. You and your loved ones are worth it." — **Hilda Eunice Burgos**

#### **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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