



*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

Reviewed by Harini



Young Adult, Historical Fiction

### **Give a summary without spoilers!**

This book tells the story of Francie Nolan, a young girl growing up in a poverty-stricken neighborhood in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The book explores the hardships and challenges faced by Francie and the people around her. It delves into themes of social inequality, gender discrimination, and the impact of poverty on individuals. Despite the tragic circumstances, Francie's determination and education shape her into a resilient woman. The book offers a poignant portrayal of life's struggles and the human spirit's resilience.

### **What drew you to this book?**

I was drawn to this book because of its focus on a young girl's life and struggles in a small town in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The idea of exploring the challenges and growth of a young protagonist in such a setting intrigued me.

### **Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?**

Yes, this book reminded me of *The Secret Life of Bees* because it focuses on a young girl who is growing up and becoming aware of the societal issues in her community and takes it upon herself to be the best version of herself that she could. The book specifically deals with racial biases, but the same coming-of-age parallels can be found.

### **To whom would you recommend this book?**

I recommend this book to readers interested in social issues and coming-of-age stories. It offers a thought-provoking exploration of poverty, inequality, and personal growth.

### **Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?**

Yes, I enjoyed reading *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, and I would definitely recommend it to others. Despite its seemingly simple premise of a young girl's life, the book skillfully addresses social issues and the challenges one may face in the world.

**Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?**

I chose this book as part of my summer reading list, and I found the setting appealing, and I liked how the book centered around a young girl and used her life to explore social issues.