

Landlocked

by Doris Lessing

A brief summary of the second part

- The war is over. Mrs Quest gets a letter from her son Jonathan: he says that he is alright and is going to come back home soon. Martha's father feels better, and he is no longer confined to bed. His daughter visits him as often as she can. The Quests consider leaving for England.

A brief summary of the second part

- Martha feels lonely and thinks of her life as pointless, waits for real one to start. She compares her life to a house with a dozen rooms which are “self-contained”. The woman goes from one room to another but cannot find a place for herself in any of them.
- But, at last, she adds “a new room”, a new chapter to her story. Martha falls in love with a gardener Thomas Stern and feels very happy about it, despite the fact they both have their own families.



Martha Quest Series, Barbara Feldberg

The ending of the story

- Thomas Stern dies; Martha and Anton Hesse, whom she never loved, get officially divorced.
- Martha's friends and acquaintances, the members of so-called "African group", gradually distance from each other.
- Martha is about to leave Africa and move to England.



Martha Quest Series, Barbara Feldberg

My predictions on the ending

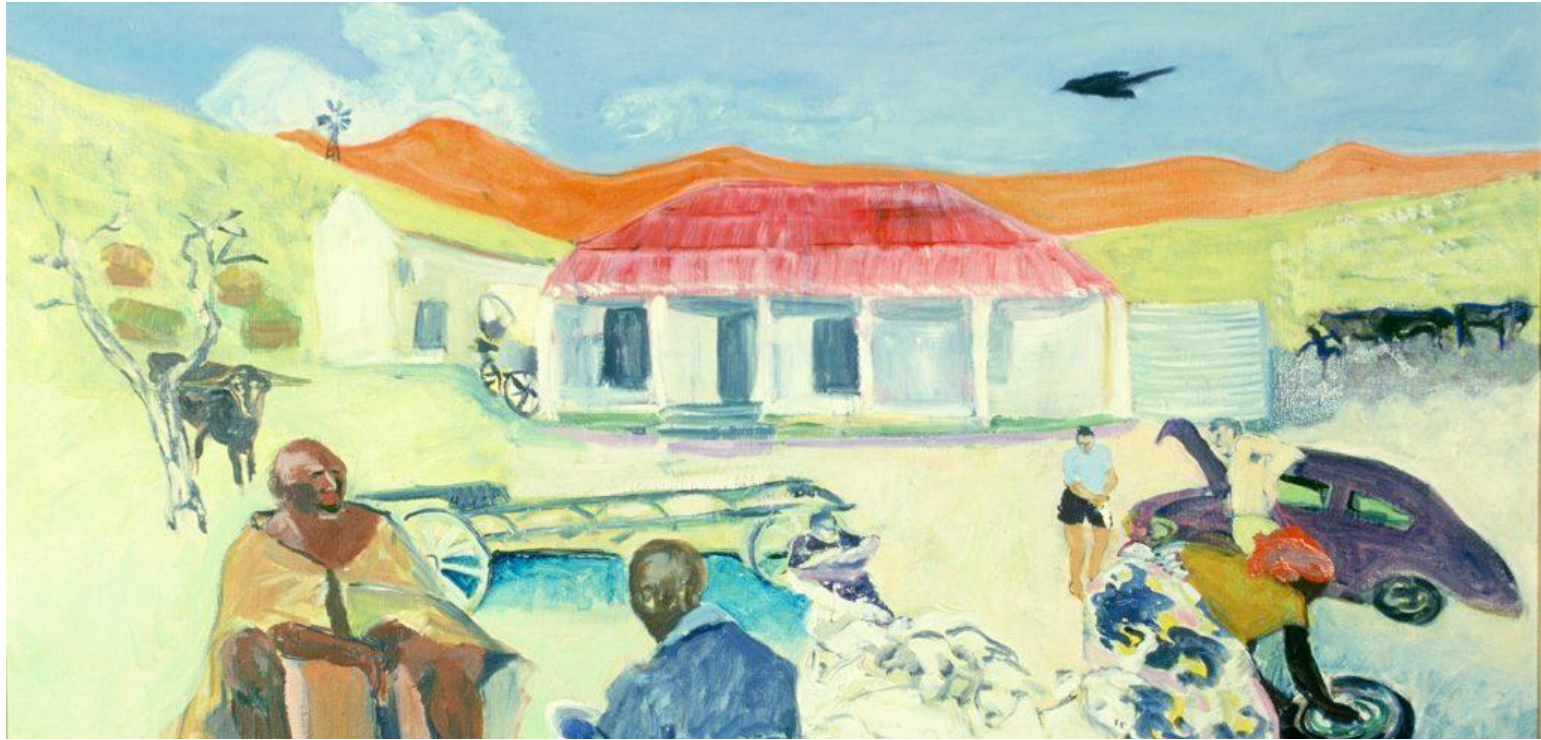
- Personally, I thought that the ending of the book would be more promising. I expected Martha to reunite with her daughter, to find a person with whom she would not feel unhappy and unloved.
- The only thing which gives me hope for improvements in the main character's life is her move to England. I want to believe that it would be a fresh start for Martha.



Martha Quest Series, Barbara Feldberg

The message of the book

- I may assume that the message of the book is devoted to the redefining of women's position in society, their values and mission in life.
- Doris Lessing wants to show that women do not have to be what others expect them to be. The author is convinced that it is not their obligation to be mothers, wives or to have female occupations. Women can also be interested in political and social issues, in world events.



Martha Quest Series, Barbara Feldberg

What did this book make me think about?

- The book made me think about people's view on their life. The main character, Martha Quest, for example, hardly sees happiness in her life. However, she and her family have not been affected by the war, and this is the reason to be grateful for the “boring” life, which Martha is fed up with.

What did this book make me think about?

- I have also noticed the characters' (especially young ones') general image. They cannot find meaning of life, and they do not expect their future to be bright and hopeful. These characters are reflections of the generation who lived at a time of two world wars, the people who saw purposeless violence and deaths, who became completely disillusioned with the world and the human race inhabiting it.