

Synopsis:

Roberta struggles to breathe as she trudges through a nightmarish, arid landscape. Dust and sand sting her body as her eyes turn toward the angry, purple sky.

This dream has plagued Roberta Lightner for several weeks now. The feelings of depression, suicide, loss and lack of fulfillment stirred up by creatures in the dream now invade her waking life.

Roberta is a successful artist who paints portraits of couples in fantasy settings as imaginary characters. Though her business has prospered, she has grown increasingly disillusioned with the nature of her painting and troubled by the confessions of her patrons. The conversations with her sitters have turned from light-hearted fantasies to examinations of their regrets and dissatisfaction with their lives.

Roberta's husband David is an engineer who is anxious to start a family. This has created tension, as Roberta wants to wait and continue pursuing her artistic career. Roberta confides in David about the dream. His response is that it is either her imagination or a nightmare induced by stress. Linda is Roberta's confidant and closest friend. She believes Roberta's dream is a metaphor for traumas from Roberta's past and present relationships.

As the dream unfolds, Roberta finds herself in a surreal valley of doors. Seated at a table on the edge of the valley is a silver-haired, androgynous woman. She tells Roberta that the doors hold the answers to her questions about her life and the people she encounters. She goes on to say that Roberta must open the doors and learn from what lies beyond them.

Through a series of events experienced in the doors, Roberta learns the lessons of trauma and its affect on people's lives. Roberta uses her newly found understanding to create more substantive and edifying paintings that help her form deeper relationships with her clients.

Log line:

A painter of fantasy portraits is tormented by dreams that dramatically transform her paintings, her life and the lives of the people she touches.