

## Why I Left My Book Club

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Volume 40, numéro 1, fall 2019

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1066425ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/1066425ar>

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Éditeur(s)

Mount Saint Vincent University

ISSN

1715-0698 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce document

Smith Silva, D. (2019). Why I Left My Book Club. *Atlantis*, 40(1), 69–69.  
<https://doi.org/10.7202/1066425ar>

## Why I Left My Book Club

I left my book club because I could no longer  
hide behind the wide clear layers of privilege.  
I no longer wanted to see the feigned ignorance of arched eyebrows  
or hear nervous giggles when topics brushed past vanilla courtyards.  
These women do not really want to know what I think.  
Instead, they tell me to have a glass of wine and relax,  
as if that would make me Dorothy:  
three clicks of my ruby shoes and suddenly I am on the dirt road to oblivion.  
No, I would rather be Red Riding Hood  
who has found her way in the dense forest and has slain the big bad wolves—  
turned those beasts into a new overcoat of her own choosing.

**Dorsía Smith Silva** is a Professor of English at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras. Her poetry has been published in several journals and magazines in the United States and the Caribbean, including *Portland Review*, *Saw Palm*, *Aji Magazine*, *Gravel*, *Adanna*, *Mom Egg Review*, and *POUI: Cave Hill Journal of Creative Writing*. She is also the editor of *Latina/Chicana Mothering* and the co-editor of four books.