PREFACE

Margaret Drabble is a strikingly interesting and productive British novelist who writes from her own experience and a knowledge of people around her. The solid, classical education in English literature and the practical, everyday experience of a woman in the twentieth century molded her works by adding a richness to them. Her output comprises novels, articles, TV plays, short stories, and critical biographies. My focus is exclusively on her novels and my thesis entitled "Margaret Drabble and Women's World," concentrates on Drabble's women, their proper tasks, and different roles.

In my discussion of Drabble's novels, all page references are to the following editions:


My heartfelt thanks are due to all who have contributed to the completion of my thesis:

Dr. V.V.N. Rajendra Prasad, Reader in English, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, for his painstaking critical reading of the manuscript and scholarly advice,

Professor A. Ramakrishna Rao and Professor C.R. Visweswara Rao for their valuable suggestions,

the Head of the Department of English and Comparative Literature and the members of the Faculty of English for their kind cooperation,

the British Council Library, Madras, the American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad, the University of Hyderabad, CIEFL, Hyderabad, and Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, for enabling me to consult the resources of their libraries,
Mr Lokanna for the prompt help,
Mr S.Niranjan Rao, Mrs S.Srivani, Mr G.Gangadhar, Mrs Aruna Henry and Mrs Nirmala Prasad for their inspiring encouragement,

Mrs Shanti Prasad who has made an indelible impression on me with all her love and affection,

My beloved husband, Capt N.Satish Kumar, for always being there for me, for ever with me,

and Dr (Mrs) N.Surya Kumari, my friend, philosopher and guide, and above all, my mother, having born to whom has been my greatest fortune and without whom I would have been nothing.

M.DURGA BHAVANI
I don't like people to give in.
I believe in continued effort.
I think that my characters go in for continued effort. Sometimes they're defeated, but all one can do is be honourably defeated.

- MARGARET DRABBLE