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Hist8c

The book, *Child of the Dark:  The Diary of Carolina Maria de Jesus,* and the article, *“*[*The Cautionary Tale of Carolina de Jesus*](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/08S/hist8c-1/private/levine.pdf)*,”* by Robert M. Levine examines the social and economic struggles of Carolina’s life that exemplifies the inherent economic and social inequality in latin America, particularly Brazil. The article by Levine gives a third person narrative of Carolina’s life, while the diary gives a first person perspective in the eyes of Carolina herself.

Carolina was a poor black women living most of her life in favelas, and had multiple children with multiple father that left her. She was forced to pick up bottles and cans and made at most 30 cents a day. She was approached by Dantas and showed her journal of stories of the favelas, and was approached to have them published. and was approached to have them published. In the book, Carolina talks about how she had people in the favelas had to beg for food, and how the children often lived in sufferable conditions. She also talks about how she dreamt of living in a nice house. The article expanded on that in when Carolina became a modest celebrity, she eventually got what she wanted, but she was alienated by her neighbors and was eventually forced to move back to the Favellas. She was always a political radical as she often talks about the “weak democracy, weak politician, and weak country,” in her diary, and how she continued to voice her political views and revealed the conditions of the favelas. The article expanded on Carolina’s life about how she lost her fame, which added clarity to the events of Carolina’s life, that may have not been apparent through the first person narrative of the book.

In the end, both the book offered insight into the life of Carolina, and through that revealed much of the political, social, and economic conditions of the early 20th century, whereas the article by Levine offered an important third person perspective that added to the personal narrative of Carolina by adding nonbiased information on how Carolina actually lived, that was not mentioned by her.