



Domestic Abuse in the Novels of African American Women: A Critical Study

Heather Duerre Humann

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The literary tradition begun by Zora Neale Hurston in the 1930s has since flourished and taken new directions with a diverse body of fiction by more contemporary African-American women writers. This book examines the treatment of domestic violence in Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Gayl Jones's *Corregidora*, Gloria Naylor's *The Women of Brewster Place* and *Linden Hills*, Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and *Love*, Terry McMillan's *Mama* and *A Day Late and a Dollar Short*, and Octavia Butler's *Seed to Harvest*. These novels have given voice to oppressed and abused women. The aims of this work are threefold: to examine how female African American novelists portray domestic abuse; to outline how literary depictions of domestic violence are responsive to cultural and historical forces; and to explore the literary tradition of novels that deal with domestic abuse within the African American community.

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