

Tribhuvan University

Racial Injustice in Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*

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By

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Letter of Recommendation

This thesis entitled “Racial Injustice in Sue Monk Kidd’s *The Secret Life of Bees*” by Anita B.K has been completed under my supervision. She carried out her research from August 2018 to March 2019. I hereby recommend this dissertation be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis titled “Racial Injustice in Sue Monk Kidd’s *The Secret Life of Bees*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Anita B.K has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

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Abstract

This study makes an attempt to explore the racial injustice upon black characters in The Secret Life of Bees by applying theory of justice perspective. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, protected the rights of African-Americans to enter public places, enrolls in schools, and avoids injustice from the white community. Although the Civil Rights Act strengthened the black community and protected them from many of the worst kinds of racism in America, it provoked a fierce and often bloodthirsty backlash. Sue Monk Kidd eludes passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and African-American characters in order to show how privileged White characters oppressed and dominated them and how African-Americans collective resistance and capability challenge the white supremacy. To examine, analyse and interpret the racial injustice eyes the theoretical insights primarily from theory of justice texts as John Rawl's A Theory of Justice, Iris Young's Justice and the Politics of Difference, Nancy Fraser and Axel Honneth's Redistribution or Recognition? A Political– Philosophical Exchange and Amartya Sen's Inequality Reexamined have been taken as theoretical parameters. The researcher argues that unfair distribution, disrespect and misrecognition, lack of participatory parity in policy and decision making bodies and no incentives and opportunities for functioning the capabilities in Kidd's The Secret Life of Bees make them be entrapped in racial justice .

Keywords: Racial injustice, Civil Rights Act, distribution, recognition, participation, capability, functioning