

ABSTRACT

THESIS: Affective Metamorphoses: Formations of Community in the Black British Female Bildungsroman

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PAGES: 107

My study examines three female Black British bildungsromane: Monica Ali's *Brick Lane*, Joan Riley's *Waiting in the Twilight*, and Buchi Emecheta's *Second-Class Citizen*. By combining a study of a relatively established novel form with contemporary female diasporic fictions, my work looks at how gender, race and location complicate the tropes of the genre, while still adhering to many of its parameters. I explore ways in which the existential states of loneliness, isolation, and solitude faced by the female protagonists in England assist or inhibit the formation of collectivity and subjectivity. This study pays particular attention to ways that community formation and friendship, as well as work and affective labor, serve as means to find/create a sense of home in diasporic conditions, as in *Brick Lane* and *Second-Class Citizen*. I also study how a sense of community falters because of a disconnection from productive work in *Waiting in the Twilight*.