



The Reversal of Power Relations in Dessa Rose

By Christina Gieseler

GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 26 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.8in. x 0.1in. Seminar paper from the year 2012 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1, 0, University of Wuppertal, course: Postmodern Neo-Slave Narratives, language: English, comment: Hauptseminar-Arbeit im Master-Studiengang , abstract: 1 Introduction In literary criticism Sherley Anne Williams novel Dessa Rose is often argued to be a story of a womans triumph in a (white) mans world (Beaulieu 40) and the story of a womans passage from slavery to freedom (McDowell 147). The novel, as a postmodern neo-slave narrative, stands as a counter-text to master texts and the slave narratives of the 18th and 19th century and presents a series of reversals, contradicting conventional expectations with regard to both race and gender (Beaulieu 31). As McDowell notes, the novel stages the oppositions of slavery and freedom, orality and literacy, fact and fiction . . . in an untidy network of social and material specificities (147). This paper is concerned with the power relations expressed through the relationship between orality and textuality, between the spoken word that enlivens and the written one that captivates and their reversal (Rushdy 2004, 99). As a novel, dealing with oppressive...



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