

UNVEILING WOMANIST CONSCIOUSNESS WITHIN THE QUIET INNER WORLDS OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN IN SINDIWE MAGONA'S *LIVING, LOVING AND LYING AWAKE AT NIGHT*

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ABSTRACT

*This paper explores the interconnections between spirituality, selfhood, and womanist thought in Sindiwe Magona's short story collection *Living Loving and Lying Awake at Night*. Drawing on the theoretical foundations of womanism as articulated by Alice Walker and other Black feminist thinkers, the study examines how Magona constructs the inner lives of her female characters through narratives of spiritual strength, cultural resilience, and emotional survival. These stories portray Black South African women navigating structural violence, apartheid trauma, and domestic injustice while maintaining a deeply rooted sense of self and spiritual grounding. The paper argues that Magona's characters demonstrate a form of quiet resistance and healing that is distinctly womanist emphasizing community, care, and inner transformation. Through close textual analysis, this paper positions Magona's work as a critical site for understanding how Black women's inner worlds steeped in lived experience, ancestral wisdom, and spiritual conviction—can serve as a radical space of resistance and healing.*

KEYWORDS: *Womanist, Sindiwe Magona, Spirituality, Selfhood*

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