

ABSTRACT

The Representation of Men in Caribbean Women's Writings

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Caribbean Literature has seen an increase in the number of female writers who have emerged since the 1980s. It is the opinion of many that their works present a predominantly negative image of men. This research project sought to verify the extent to which this perception can be substantiated.

In this thesis an examination of various factors that influence the image and character of men in Caribbean society is done. Theories that inform the works of women writers are also interrogated.

The writer did detailed study and close reading of texts by both male and female writers to determine the predominant images of men which the writers present in West Indian Literature. The research indicates that the perception that men are marginalized in the works of women writers is erroneous. Images that both male and female writers present tend to highlight both negative and positive characteristics of Caribbean men. This suggests also that those who speak to the marginalization of Caribbean men may need to reevaluate their position. This, in light of the fact that much of what the writers produce is semi-autobiographical and utilizes the realist approach to the representation of life in literature.

Keywords: Erica Donna Gordon; West Indian Literature; Women's writings; Caribbean male writers