

**SEXUAL MOLESTATION TRAUMA IN CHIKA UNIGWE'S ON  
BLACK SISTER'S STREET AND ALICE WALKER'S THE COLOUR  
PURPLE**

**BY**

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**A DESSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND  
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OGUN STATE. IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
AWARD OF MASTERS OF ARTS (M.A.) DEGREE IN ENGLISH (LITERATURE).**

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## ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Award of Masters of Arts (M.A.) Degree in English (Literature in the Department of Languages and General Studies, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State.

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## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research work titled, ‘Sexual Molestation Trauma in Chika Unigwe’s On Black Sister’s Street and Alice Walker’s The Colour Purple’ was carried out based on original study by Ononiwu Chinyere Maureen, with Matriculation Number 18PBC01783, of the Department of Languages and General Studies, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State. The research has been read and approved as meeting part of the requirements for the award of Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree in English (Literature).

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to the Holy Spirit, my helper; without whom this would have been totally impossible. In addition, I dedicate this to my loving parents, posthumously; my wonderful siblings, family and friends for their love and support.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The subject of sexual molestation is probably one of the oldest of human vices and yet did not gain public attention literary studies until the last years of the twentieth century. The connection with trauma as a theme in creative writing is even less evident; and despite the relatively more robust feature in fictional literature, trauma in sexual molestation remains one of the least popular of themes. Hence, this thesis examines the problem of in the novels of two female



writers from different societies; Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* and Chuka Unigwe's *On Black Sister's Street*. The method is a comparative of the primary texts using commentaries from online library sources as secondary material. The theory of Literary Trauma, is adopted as a critical approach to the study. Findings reveal that underlying memories of trauma play a great role in the post-abuse personality changes of sexual molestation victims. The work should contribute to data of trauma related research as an avenue of intervention for victims of sexual molestation.

**Keywords:** Sexual Molestation, Trauma, Female writers, Victims

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background to the study**

We live in an age of trauma. Writing in the *London Review of Books*, Thomas Laqueur reports a verifiable increase in the use of this term: "Having once been relatively obscure, it is