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Shilaho, Westen Kwatemba Godwin

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EXAMINING WOMEN'S STRUGGLE FOR VISIBILITY IN POST-INDEPENDENCE AFRICA IN KEKELWA NYAYWA'S *HEARTHSTONES*

WESTEN KWATEMBA GODWIN SHILAHO

A research report submitted to the Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in partial fulfillment for the degree of Master of Arts.

Johannesburg, 2005

ABSTRACT

This research report focuses on how Kekelwa Nyaywa, a Zambian novelist has represented Zambian women within a span ranging from the colonial up to the independence period.

Within the first chapter, a brief history of the Zambian nation is highlighted and a theoretical framework established. Chapter two engages with Nyaywa's use of romance to make a commentary on the idea of nationalism. By so doing she redefines the concept of romance which has invariably been associated with 'frivolity'.

The third chapter revolves around Chipembi boarding school which the author uses to feminize key issues in the Zambian society. The pivot of the chapter is that this space is a metaphor for women's liberation in Zambia. HIV/AIDS fueled by a 'macho syndrome' emerges in the fourth chapter as the single biggest threat to Zambian women's lives.

Finally, the conclusion investigates the trends of feminism that the author foregrounds in the book.

DECLARTION

I declare that this research report is my own, unaided work. It is being submitted in partial fulfillment for the degree of Master of Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other University.

_____

Westen Kwatemba Godwin Shilaho

(Name of candidate)

This day of February 3, 2005

To mama Sophia Ayuma,
Boniface, Consolata (RIP),
Fr Peter, Dr. Nyairo,
James among many others.
To all I say: sincere thanks .

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CONTENTS **PAGE**

Title page		i
Abstract		ii
Declaration		iii
Dedication		iv
Acknowledgements		v
List of Contents		vi
Chapter 1.	Introduction	1
Chapter 2.	Romance as an Allegory of Nationalism	19
Chapter 3.	Chipembi Boarding School as a Microcosm of a Nation	33
Chapter 4.	HIV/AIDS, 'Macho Syndrome', Violence and Women's Vulnerability	50
Chapter 5.	Conclusion	61
Chapter 6.	Bibliography	78