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BETWEEN WORLDS: EXPLORING IMRAAN COOVADIA'S *THE WEDDING* AND *GREEN-EYED THIEVES*

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A Research Report submitted to the Faculty of Humanities, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts.

Johannesburg, 2009

Abstract

Imraan Coovadia is the author of two novels, *The Wedding* and *Green-eyed Thieves*, and has published several short stories and essays. Coovadia's writing is of importance as a product of cultural hybridity, as he is a writer of Indian descent who was born in South Africa and studied in the United States. Coovadia's narratives allow for an exploration of significant issues of present-day diaspora critical thinking.

Coovadia's texts function primarily as migrant novels. A discussion of both texts, *The Wedding* and *Green-eyed Thieves*, explores the manner in which postcolonial themes feature as characteristic of migrant writing and, hence, reveal the effect of the lack of material reality in the texts.

Coovadia's popularity is representative of the West's preference for cosmopolitan writing. The value of migrant or transnational writing over national writing opens the way for further study in the field of South African literature.

Declaration

I declare that this dissertation is my own unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Master of Arts in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination in any other university.

Signed _____ on _____ _____ 2009.

(Zubeida Choonara)

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