THE CAUL THEME IN TINA McELROY ANSA’S NOVELS

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ABSTRACT


The project contends Ansa’s ability to create a reality consisting of the natural and the supernatural, and offers a cohesive and close critique of Ansa’s four novels. I argue that the interactions of the supernatural world with the caulbearer in the natural world will complicate the caulbearer’s understanding of self, reality, and identity. I also introduce the term of caulbearer-by-proxy which has importance in the reading of *Ugly Ways*. The discussion drives on interweaving aspects of folklore and literature.