

kicked up. The slaves undergo the violence not only in the morning and daytime when they are working at the plantation, but also at night when the overseer came to satisfy their hunger by snatching the slave's supper and satisfy their lust by raping the female slaves without seeing their age and physical appearance.

The story in *The Book of Night Women* is narrated by a daughter of female slave names Lilith. She intends, at first, to tell a story about her life, but ends up telling about her mother's story. However, she reveals herself as the narrator at the end of the novel.

“....The first time me write, me wanted to tell a different story, a story 'bout me, not a story 'bout her, but such is she that every nigger story soon become a tale 'bout they mother, even the parts that she didn't tell herself. The first time me ever write 'bout me mother was December 27, in the year of our Lord 1819. This was the first thing me write. You can call her what they call her. I goin' call her Lilith.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 31 p. 233).

At the beginning of the novel the narrator told how Lilith has already suffered a violence even at her first breath. She was born when her mother was 14 years old as a result of sexual abuse by an overseer named Jack Wilkins. Lilith was orphaned because her mother dies directly after giving birth to her. A new life has just snatched another life.

“...the lone baby of 1785. Not when the baby wash in crimson and squealing like it just depart heaven to come to hell, another place of red. Not when the midwife know that the mother shed too much blood, and she who don't reach fourteen birthday yet speak curse 'pon the

chile and the papa, and then she drop down dead like old horse..... a mother mouth screaming. A weak womb done kill one life to birth another. A black baby wiggling in blood on the floor with skin darker than midnight but the greenest eyes anybody ever done see. I goin' call her Lilith. (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 1 p. 1).

The above passage describes the situation when Lilith was born. A newborn baby who was supposed to bring happiness for the parents was cursed by the mother. Her birth was unwanted because the baby came out of rape. And she directly became a slave the moment she came out of the mother's womb. The slavery made the baby a slave because she was born by a slave. This situation is reinforced by James with the use of the phrase "EVERY NEGRO WALK IN CIRCLE. TAKE THAT AND MAKE OF....." repeatedly to open several chapters. This phrase seems like the meaning of connotation of Sisyphus mythology, where the Gods assigned Sisyphus to roll a great stone to the top of a steep hill. However, the stone has been created by the Gods to always roll back down while trying to reach the hill. Sisyphus continued to do this and was not able to complete the task.

Just like Sisyphus, the life of slaves will always cycle like that. Living in a cycle of suffering and there is no change for good. They are born from a slave who was raped by their white overseers and then they also give birth children who became slaves. James focuses on the time in the past and shows how the cycle never ends.

need to buy a nigger again. Spiting me own self out of business, yes I am. Shall we start at two hundred? Again, plenty hand shoot up one after the other. Lilith looking at the white mens buying and the black bodies shining and didn't notice they eye....”

“Two hundred ninety pounds! the auctioneer shout and the woman jump...” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 25 p. 175-176).

Those paragraphs potray on how a slave auction happens. The black slaves are classified based on their virtues. The virtue determines the slave's price. A teenage female slaves is favorable because she can be a sex slave to produce more slaves. A strong male slave is also highly priced because his strength may cover more works that save the master's money to buy more slaves.

In the auction the slaves are bought and sold like chattel, then they have to work relentlessly. In the plantation, they work from dusk to dawn even to dusk again. There is almost no time to rest. The master and the oversees only think about their own profits.

“Most time the field negroes work all through the night cutting cane, trashing the leaves, dodging rat and snake, and piling the cane together to send to the mill. Crop time is where the slave reap the cane and the massa reap the money. The overseer too, with his commission of every hogshead over one hundred twenty. On Montpelier, crop time is what keep the estate going. Next to rumor of rebellion, crop time is the only time a white man lose sleep.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 20 p. 137).

The paragraph above describes how the plantation slaves had to work nonstop from cutting cane, keeping the plantation safe and free from animal

attacks then sending the harvest to the factory to process the cane into sugar. The master does not come to work, but those who received the money. The overseer also does not need to spend quite a lot of power. They just need not to sleep to oversee the slaves. Slaves are like machines that are required to work without interruption.

The above explanation also shows how powerful and superior the Whites are. Whites can do anything at will on blacks, “EVEN THE DIRTIEST, SMELLIEST POOREST, MOST GODFORSOOK, black teeth, worthless Cockney bastard know that white skin carry God power” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 21 p. 142). The Whites are always superior over nigger. They can grab a nigger and kill them without any significant reason.

James uses the word *pickney* several time in this novel. The word *pickney* is derived from *piccaninny* but it has different connotations. *Piccaninny* is now usually regarded as an offensive racial slur for a black child, whereas *pickney* is commonly used to mean ‘child’ in West Indian English and in that context does not generally have offensive or racial overtones.

“White pickney and black pickney play all the time when they little, as if they be combolo, one and the same” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 1 p. 1).

“...the white pickneys reach the age when they become white and nigger become black and they don’t play together no more” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 1 p. 2).

The word *pickney* reinforces the meaning if blacks and whites are different. When the whites and blacks are still in childhood, they play together and become friends. But if they grow up, it is no longer valid. Whites will be the masters while Blacks will be the servants. They no longer be friends and live in different position or status. Blacks become their slaves to work and serve them. Moreover, it is also explained if “on some estate even the pickneys work, mostly in the trash gang to pick up rubbish on the estate or to carry water for the field slaves to drink, or to get firewood. That be the negroes” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 3 p. 17).

In several time the word *pickney* have offensive, racial overtones and angrily applied in this novel. Most of character called Lilith as *pickney*.

The other nigger in the kitchen look 'pon her. Some laugh and Lilith see.

—Me give any of you stinking nigger joke? Lilith say.

—Stink me could be, but me still get pick and not you, Andromeda say.—Mayhaps is you who should smell under you arm again, she say and laugh.

—Go smell under you cunt!

—Lilith! Enough out o' you. You think the mistress owe you something?

—She not the mistress.

—Neither be you. Now go peel two potato and settle yourself.

—She goin'—

—Me say go settle yourself, damn girl. You must still be a pickney.

—Why you don't go breed another one and stop call me pickney. But that can't happen since you damn pussy dry up.

Homer silent. She open her mouth slow.—You sure you can handle big woman chat, pickney? You sure you ready for that journey? You think good before you answer. Because some people about to forget that me be the head bloodcloth nigger in here. Now, go peel two potato and don't draw me tongue out in this place. (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 9 p. 54).

The quotation above is the conversation between Homer and Lilith in the kitchen. Homer tried to awaken Lilith, considered her the same with another nigger. She's just a slave. Homer called her *pickney* in an angry tone to confirm that she is a nigger who became a slave. However, Lilith is angry. She was offended, because she felt special with her green eyes and she did not know if she was the daughter of slaves who were raped by the overseer. So that when she grew up she would be a slave. She thought that she was the daughter of Circe and Tantalus because she live with them when she was child.

In another chapter, the meaning of *pickney* is to humiliate someone, it is clear from Lilith's anger when people call her with *pickney*.

—Make haste, pickney, de massa soon wakes up, and we still have egg to collect.

—Me no know how to do them things! Lilith say.

—Excuse me please? How come you is nigger and you don't have nigger skill? Look here, pickney.

—Me don't name pickney, me name Lilith.

—Eh-eh, excuse me please, whatever you name. Dulcimena don't say nothing else. Lilith set herself back on the stool and grab a cow udder. She squeeze again and milk, right in her left eye. (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 16 p. 103)

The paragraph above is the conversation between Dulcimena and Lilith. It happens when Lilith is at the first time work in Coulibre after she makes a mistake at Montpelier. Dulcimena call Lilith *pickney*, she was angry because she never like if people call her like that. Based on the conversation above, *pickney* may mean to degrade a nigger or black. It was clear the Dulcimena which states to emphasizes that Lilith is a nigger but could not do the nigger job. The use of the word *pickney* which refers the word child is only shown for black child, while if they call white child without designations and simply based on their real name. It shows the differences between Whites and Blacks.

In this novel, there are three most important white characters that have different nationalities and different class from one another. The first is Massa Humphrey. He is British and owns a slave estate that produces sugar cane for sale and distribution; he is the wealthiest and the most powerful (elite) among the three of them.

“The young son Massa Humphrey who was getting learning in England receive order to come back to the plantation directly to take up him station in life. When Humphrey Wilson reach Jamaica, the year was 1800 and he be twenty-one years of age.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 3 p. 18).

“The Montpelier Great House build long before Britain seize Jamaica from them Spanish people in 1655. A Jew tobacco farmer was the first British owner. The Wilsons buy the property in 1721 and king sugar take over. Though many years pass since the Wilson ownership, Massa Humphrey be only the second of him kin to live here.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 4 p. 22).

Those paragraphs above describes that Massa Humphrey is a white man British descent. He is the son of Patrick Wilson, an owner and manager of the largest sugar plantations in Jamaica. After he completed his education in England, he got a duty to go back to The Montpelier Great House to be the successor his father. He succeeded his father after his father died. Old Massa has been replaced by a new young Massa.

The second person is Robert Quinn. He is “an Irishman, take over as overseer, and live in the great house. Sake of Jack Wilkins getting on in years Massa Humphrey make he stay.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 4 p. 22). Robert Quinn is one of the white man from Ireland. He is a best friend of Massa Humphrey who was invited to Jamaica to be one of the overseers in his sugar plantation. Quinn is not a landowner or private slave owner, he worked for Massa Humphrey.

The third person is Miss Isobel. She is French and lives on a wealthy slave-owning estate, but her estate does not produce any crops or product for sale like Humphrey’s, and she is not the owner of her estate.

“Soon everybody talking ’bout Saint-Domingue. Miss Isobel say it be a colossal, bloody tragedy on account that she still be having some sort of cousin over there. —My family is at least half French, you know, she say.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 12 p. 75).

“Now that she get the massa to buy all new decoration, she call for a seamstress to make all of the house slave new uniform with blue trimming. Miss Isobel choose a new set of slaves to serve at the ball and don’t pick Lilith.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 9 p. 54).

Humphrey and Quinn take advantage of their white privilege in the colony through sexual practices in which the violence of rape and sexual dominance are perpetuated.

“The colony can change a man if he willing and there be things he can do here that he can’t do nowhere else. Regard this, coming to a land where a man can seduce, rape or sodomise any niggerwoman or boy or girl he wish and there be nothing that nobody goin’ do, for every other white man be doing the same.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 4 p. 23)

The paragraphs above confirming that Humphrey and Quinn uses their privileges for immoral lust and sexual abuse to the slaves. Immediately upon Humphrey’s arriving at Montpelier, he resorts to carousing with Quinn by drinking and having sex with the colored women on the island, both free and enslaved, asserting his gender and racial dominance. They came to the foreign land with overbearing and do things or whatever they wish. They feel that their race is superior so they can do as whatever they likes.

Meanwhile, Isobel uses racial boundaries in an attempt to construct herself as the proper French lady.

“Out in the courtyard be a black brougham carriage, big enough to seat four, with a negro at the reins dress up in a green suit and two white horse that get frighten by the dogs. Massa Humphrey run down the steps, and shoo away the dogs. Then he quiet the horse.

—Oh thank heavens, a voice say. A voice that belong to a young white woman. The massa surprise plenty ’cause nobody ever visit Montpelier just so.

—I thought hell’s very hounds were about to make short work of me, she say. —And to think I’ve been such a good girl.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 8 p. 47)

In order to construct her white female identity on the slave plantation, Isobel seems aware that she must behave in a certain way. Upon first arriving at Montpelier after Humphrey’s return, in order to take up the domestic affair of planning a ball at the great house, Isobel arrives in a horse-drawn carriage with an escort and rebukes the gentlemen about not appearing in proper dress in front of a lady.

Along with regulating the behavior of the white men in the house, Isobel takes a firm hand with the house slaves and believes that she knows them better than they know themselves. Isobel believes that white woman is superior than black slave woman because it has been handed down from her father, Massa Roget, who proclaims about the African slaves, stating that:

“Oh, no, young sir, they are nothing like us, they have no interest in the finer arts, knowledge, literature and science, nothing that man has put in place for his own advancement. No, sir, Massa Roget say.” (*The Book of Night Women*: ch. 17 p. 112)

This paragraph proves that according to Massa Roget that the slaves are not important. They are considered the lowest caste, very fool and don't know anything, including science. Moreover, he believes that the slaves are very different from his race which is superior and knew everything. While the race of slave is inferior :

inhuman treatment such as verbal and sexual abuse, and makes the Black slaves cannot be free to determine their own lives.

At the beginning of chapter 21, the narrator tells that actually the Whites feel insecure and afraid of niggers. Therefore, they become cruel and brutal to protect themselves. The narrator also tells about the evil behavior of white people towards black people. The whites whipped the blacks hundreds of times, they burn with hot iron mark on their chest, breast or ass cheek. Then, they shoot the slaves in the head if the cane do not cut right, they shoot if they not moving with haste. They step on them after the whipping and rub salt pickle, lime juice and bird pepper in the wound until they cry blood.

The whites brutality also occurs when Quinn punishes Lilith because she spilled hot drinks to a white woman.

Work stop and all the negroes gather to watch. Some of the womens don't look. They bind Lilith hand tight with a long piece of rope. A Johnny-jumper throw the long end over a high branch and the other two pull her up. Lilith scream again. (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 14 p. 91)

The passage above explains that after Lilith makes a mistake, the overseer punishes her. He pulls her from bedroom, disarms her by force and rapes her. After that he pulls her out to the right of the great house towards a cotton tree where all the Negroes gather. Lilith is naked and whipped. They torture the physical and mental of the slaves. As if there is no sense of humanity towards them.

Other form of racial discrimination in this novel is verbal discrimination through painful words. The Whites insulted or mocked the Blacks with vulgarity and demeaning word.

“That’s the lot of all niggers: little knowledge, less sense. Some of you even think you can aspire to something greater than your fate...”
(*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 15 p. 98).

“That good, trusty nigger resilience. I dare say you blackies could survive Armageddon with no loss of life or limb. God must be wise in giving every living thing just what it needs. I mean, look at you. Why are you here? You tried to use the mind, the brain, but you silly girl, those things are lost to the negro. What you have is a back that won’t break, a skin that won’t crack, legs like an ox and teeth like a horse. How fortunate you are that we found each other, Lilith!” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 16 p. 107).

The paragraph above is the dialog between Isobel and Lilith. Isobel insulted Lilith with rude and painful word. She insulted the Lilith physical by comparing her with animals such as *legs like an ox and teeth like a horse*. It is very discriminating and brash. How could a human being be compared to animals. Human is different from animals. She felt that the Whites are superior race and very different from a Negro. Moreover, she reminds Lilith if she should be grateful and very lucky to have a master like her.

Then the next form of racial discrimination is discrimination which makes the Black slave cannot be free to determine their own lives. Their lives are just like bird in a cage that expects freedom without rules and torture.

“—You seem to be thinking lately that me and you is same size. You don’t think it uncanny that in slave life you be the only nigger who live in house with mama and papa? Even man and woman who soft for each other can’t live together, for they know how things go.

—How you mean?

—Look beyond you mirror, chile. This be Montpelier. It no matter who you be, nigger is nigger and any day you could get whip, kill or sell. Just like that. Only thing sure in nigger life is that nothing sure.....” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 7 p. 41).

The statement above is the dialog between Lilith and Homer. Homer tells Lilith that their fate is the same. The Blacks could not live freely according to what they expect. Montpelier is located in Jamaica the place where they were born. However, their rights have been deprived by the White overseer and White Master. They should have rights which all people are born free and have the dignity and the equal rights.

Homer explains to Lilith that the Blacks never live happily. The Whites organize their lives. They force the Blacksto work from sunrise to sunset. They did not hesitate to whip or even kill if the Blacks make a little mistake. Even the desire to live together with the family or a person in love was lost. The blacks can not live together, mother, father, and child could live apart because of the chattel slavery.

“A few months after Homer put her there Lilith forget how she get to the great house and say,.....me tired of the damn cellar” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 4 p. 22-24).

The paragraph above concludes that in the Montpelier Estate, the slave house is in cellar. It is so pathetic. Cellar is a room under the ground floor of a building, used for storing things not for living. Usually the cellar is dark, cold, smelly and full of mice. It is no wonder if Lilith is tired with such condition. Meanwhile, the Massa lives in the great house. They eat, sleep or live very comfortably. Even, Massa Humphrey’s bedrooms are very spacious because they are enough for three large mattress. “They live supported with good and luxurious facilities such as everything ’bout white people circle round bedroom, ballroom and dining table. The dining table near as long as two carriage and the wood dark like night. The edge curve around like circle and carve up with leaf and flowers in the wood” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 12 p. 74).

Moreover, the segregation in the Coulibre is not too different with in Montpelier. Coulibre is an estate but is not an estate at all. No sugar be growing in this place, nor tobacco, nor cotton neither. The slaves live in pickney room. It just that the architecture of the building is different. Coulibre is all stone and the roof point to the sky like church.

“At the center of the room be the bed, with a dark wood desk to the right wall and another to the left. Right in front of the bed is four armchair, with purple cushions, all put to face each other like a cross. A rug with white baby angels cover the whole floor. On the right wall be a painting of a woman who look exactly like Miss Isobel...”

The paragraph above shows how the Gorgon explained that they had the same father, Jack Wilkins. He is the overseer who rapes and does sexual abuse on his slaves. They are same, namely a mulatto, a mix of whites and blacks. However, they are still niggers because they are born by a black slave. Their status is the same, namely as a slave.

First of all, Lilith feels she is different from others because she has green eyes. Before she knows that she is the result of the rape by a overseer on the slaves, she thinks that her life is better than other child. When she was a child, she lived with Circe and Tantalus, so she thought if they were her parents. But, it was Jack Wilkins attempt's to redeem his guilt after rapes her mother when she was 13 years old when she gave birth to Lilith and died at that time. Therefore, Lilith is misunderstanding about her parents.

Until one day when Lilith grows into a teenager, she had to accept the fact that she is the same as another nigger. She had to work as slaves. This quotation will confirm it:

“—Then you either with child or you dead. Mayhaps you breeding. Me know you was taking man, you know, you at the time now.
—No! Is sick me sick. Me can't feel nothing, and, and, me just weak. Weak bad. Circe look at her hard.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 1 p. 6).

When Lilith is 14 years old, after Circe sees the blood flowing on her legs of her menstrual bloods, she explained that she was not her mother and forbade her to call “mama”. Now, Lilith has been a woman, she would have taken by

Johnny-jumper for employment. However, Lilith malingering when will be taken to work. Circe told that the overseer does not care about his slaves when they were sick, they have to keep working for them. They would not care even the slaves died because of disease.

The next day, Johnny-jumper named Paris took her for working. For the first task, he must serve Johnny-jumper. It was very surprising at the first time of Lilith to work and she creates new problems in her life.

“Circe come right after dusk to see the floor ’wash in red. She follow the blood quick and stop at the naked Johnny-jumper foot. From foot up to thigh the black skin all chopped up with pink flesh peeking. From neck up be nothing but red. The blood didn’t stop there. The trail leave him body then turn left as if goin’ to the window. Under the window be the girl, crouching and hiding from the light. Her dress and her arms cover up in red.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 1 p. 8).

The quotation above explains that the 14 years old, Lilith the black girl, had killed Johnny-jumper Paris and had dared to show the insurgency. When Circe went back to the hut, she found Paris lying in blood and Lilith was hiding under the window. She had killed a man who want to rape her. However, it has given a problem for her and other nigger.

“Lilith know the other niggers don’t like her. They know she have something to do with the missing Paris.....” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 4 p. 24).

After seeing the incident, Homer saw the courage and strength of a black girl who was able to kill Johnny-jumper with her own hands without the help of others. Homer thinks if Lilith is worthy of inclusion in the night women to plan a rebellion. Homer has planned to recruit her in a clandestine of night women. So that she protects Lilith by way invite her to the cellar where she works as head of house slaves. Almost the niggers who live in the cellar feel unsafe because of the action of Lilith. So, they dislike her.

“Most night as Lilith fall asleep, she fly up awake in fear that the Johnny-jumpers already in the cellar and ready to kill her. Is a week since and right in that instant between dreaming and waking she hear a whisper calling her the wickedest woman..... Paris didn’t beat her or try to kill her and he not even try to have him way with her,..... Lilith looking for him in the dark, coming for her with no head on him shoulder.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 2 p. 14).

When Lilith is in the cellar in the protection of Homer, she never felt safe and comfortable. She was overshadowed by the feeling of fear if Johnny-jumper will punish and kill her. Even, Paris will come to haunt her with no head. Lilith fears in the dark for all she has done. But she killed to protect herself.

The new Johnny-jumper is searching for the killer of Paris. He came and asked the house slave at the Massa Humphrey. But he did not find the real killer. Lilith hiding in the cellar. Until one day Lilith feel bored for being in the cellar.

Lilith, go downstairs, she say.

—To go do what? Everybody else up here cooking.

—Me say to go downstairs. We need more potato.

The paragraph above tells that actually this is not a deliberate mistake by Lilith, but this is an accident because of the rush to turn around when Isobel's chaperone wanted soup immediately. Therefore, the trays fell, the soup bowl ruptured, and hot soup spilled on the neck and on her dress. The woman was screaming like she was burn in hell, then she fell to the ground. The man who saw it immediately moistened with a bottle of water so that she does not feel the heat. The other guest turned to see what happened. Massa Humphrey immediately came up with angry red face.

“She don't even see it, when Massa Humphrey take all the rage of the lord and slam him knuckles in her face. Lilith stagger back, but she didn't fall. Before she can even think, he punch her in the chest, then straight in the mouth and she fall and spit blood...”

“The girl head jerking and blood running from her nose. She bawling and coughing. She on the floor trying to get up...”

“A man pull down him pantaloon and slap him cocky till he ready. He throw himself on top of her to more laughing and shouting. The girl feel the whole weight of the man crushing her chest and forcing between her legs” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 13 p. 85-86).

The quotation above informs that Massa Humphrey is angry and beat Lilith in front of the invited guests. Massa Humphrey is ashamed because Lilith can not serve the guests well but harm his guests. Humphrey hit the face and chest of Lilith till blood flowing in her nose and she was spitting blood. Not quite up there, Humphrey still wants to punish Lilith more. He sent a slave driver

McClusky to drag her out to add punishment. McClusky punched her straight in the face, between the eye and nose. Lilith fall back flat on the ground and nearly knocked out. Not only the beating she received, she was also raped.

After the incident, Lilith moved into a house slave in Coulibre. At the home of Massa Isobel Roget, she met Dulcimena. In this place, she saw the violence experienced by black slaves Dulcimena. She lived in the environment of violence and darkness. Until one day Lilith plunged into darkness. She was a black girl filled with darkness in her life and soul.

“He whip the horse for them to ride faster. They burst a turn round a cliff and Lilith gasp when she see the gorge below. Coulibre seem far, very far for a place that Miss Isobel leave every day to come to Montpelier” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 15 p. 97).

“Dem call me Dulcimena, but everybody done call me Dulcey, she say” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 15 p. 100).

“He lash her back, her shoulder, her neck and two time he whip her in the face. Dulcimena fall to the floor between the counter and the kitchen table and Lilith can’t see her no more, but she see Massa Roget over her, whipping and whipping and she screaming and screaming, Me dead, massa, me dead, you done kill poor Dulcey. Massa Roget whip her until him hand give out and he couldn’t whip no more. Dulcimena crying” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 15 p. 102).

The paragraph above describes after Lilith made a mistake at Montpelier, she was sent to the Coulibre. She was escorted by Quinn who ride a horse, a long

distance as Isobel who every day visits to Montpelier. When arrived, she met one house slave at the Massa Roget house. Her named was Dulcimena and many people called her Dulcey. Lilith has just experienced violence at Montpelier, but when she had come in Coulibre she witnessed the violence of Massa Roget to Dulcey.

After she was abused, now she saw violence. Lilith watched how wild Massa Roget punished Dulcey. Massa Roget brought a horse whip to whip her neck, shoulders and face. Massa did not stop whipping up till his hands completely exhausted itself. Dulcey fell on the floor and she cried. She had screamed she was dead, but Massa Roget does not stop to whip her until he was satisfied.

Lilith lives in the midst of the ongoing violent environment. She often sees violence and get violence. The environment has affected the psyche of Lilith. Death black slave who was tortured by the master or supervisor is not new.

“She flog Dulcimena as hard as she could flog, swinging the whip wide and lashing Dulcimena back till the skin tear into flesh and the flesh tear into blood. The mistress get tired and rest for a few. Nobody beg for Dulcimena. Every time the mistress get tired, she sit down for a spell and have the new grounds nigger whip her till she ready to flog her again. Dulcimena get one hundred sixty-six lash that day....” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 17 p. 110 - 111).

The quotation above shows that Massa and Mistress Roget had killed Dulcimena. It is because Dulcimena forgot to lock the goat pen from the night

—Sometime, when the recipe call for molasses, me slip some dog shit in it too, Lilith say.

—Cow shit! Cow shit for me, Homer say.

—White man be one strong bastard with all the shit he eat, Lilith say and they laugh again.

—You different, Lilith. You have more darkness 'bout you now. You turning into woman, Homer say to her.

—Me turning into something, Lilith say” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 17 p. 121).

The passage above is the conversation between Lilith and Homer. Lilith has changed completely dark. She adds a bit of dirt to the food and drinks which were served to the Massa. She added urine even dog feces to the food and drink. Lilith turned into a criminal after often seeing and experiencing the cruelty of Whites. Homer also feels if Lilith has turned more darkness.

Lilith has really turned into a woman in the darkness and no longer a teenager. On one morning at 6, Isobel step over Lilith and wake her up by slapping her forehead with a horsewhip. She order Lilith to leave the house with her horse and told her stepmother if she asked then told if she would be back at afternoon. On the same day there has been a great event in Coulibre which Massa Isobel lost all her family, her possessions and her house slave apart Lilith.

“—Is six o’ clock, you indolent bitch, Miss Isobel say. Lucky for you, my horse is the only animal getting thrashed today. I shall be back by the afternoon. Tell that to my stepmother when she asks” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 18 p. 122).

Moreover, on that day, not only Massa Roget who picked up his doom, but also Mistress Roget, on the same day she also picked her doom. They were both killed by Lilith who became dark as a result of atrocities that she had felt.

“At the door be the mistress. She go to scream again but a cough come out. She run from the door.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 18 p. 124).

“Lilith run after her. Mistress Roget screaming and bawling, Lilith almost catch her. Blood pumping hot through Lilith and her temples pound like they goin’ burst. Lilith catch up to Mistress Roget by the stair balcony and push her hard. Matraca coming up the stairs and scream. Two scream, but Mistress Roget’s scream get cut when she burst over the wood balcony and fall to the marble floor and crunch her neck. Blood spread from under her back like two red wing.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 18 p. 125).

The quotation above tells that the Mistress is surprised to see this event; event which her husband was died. Lilith had killed her husband, therefore she screamed and ran. Lilith tried to chase the mistress and she pushed her to the ground from the balcony stairs. Mistress Roget’s blood spread across the floor.

Last of all, true darkness and true womanness make Lilith wants to live. Lilith let the spirit take her back into the kitchen. She has to hide and the only thing she can think of hiding in is to set the fire and burn the house.

“Lilith grab some stick from the kitchen stove. She look out the window and then go back upstairs. In the mistress’ room, be plenty curtain, drape, bedsheet, carpet and paper. Lilith touch each with

the stick and fire take birth. First it crackle, then it spread, climbing up one curtain and scooting across to the next, then spreading across rug, then twisting and turning through paper. Soon the fire roar. (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 18 p. 125).”

The passage above confirms that Lilith looks like she loses her consciousness. She was too eager to live and trying to save herself from getting punished or even killed by the Massa. Lilith follows her instinct for revenge because she wants to live longer, she seemed to get a whisper to remove any trace of the murder so that all people cannot know the killer of Massa and Mistress Wilson. She should set the house on fire. Fire will burn and obliterate all traces and evidence.

Without thinking long, she came back to the kitchen to pick up the baton from the kitchen stove. Then she looked at the window to ascertain the circumstances. Then she took some flammable objects such as fabrics, curtains, paper, sheets, plastic bag and carpets. She burned the object at any angle. When fire lit rumble, she jumped to save her. Massa Isobel's family burned to death in the fire.

During the day, Massa Isobel is back to Coulibre. She was devastated; she got angry and said she would kill the arsonist who killed her family. She screamed and cried until Massa Humphrey came. Massa Humphrey accused Lilith as the arsonist. However, Lilith dodged reason she did not know about it because she was at the farm for milking cows. She already seeing the fire burned all the houses and Isobel's family.

Massa Humphrey decided that Isobel lived in Montpelier Estate. Lilith was also sent to go back to Montpelier as the house slave. Lilith overshadowed by guilt for killing innocent people as well and saw Isobel so devastated and frustrated by her sadness.

“Since the fire, Lilith feel wrong whenever she eat, and don’t have no desire for it. She will eat the boil potatoes and milk and throw it up every time she think of two baby flesh burnin’ into one with a negro who trying to save them on top. Lilith wonder if she kill them first, gentle-like, before they feel any burn. She wonder again what kind of spirit give her madness, then take it away for her so that she see what madness did.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 19 p. 134).

The passage above tells that Lilith felt guilty, she felt uneasy in her life. She has no appetite. When she is cooking the potatoes she remembered Isobel’s two young brothers who are burn with the house slave who tried to save the brother. On bed she feels uneasy. Something that she was too eager makes her uneasy. To atone for her guilt to Isobel, she worked relentlessly serving Isobel and conceal the ugliness of Isobel from Massa Humphrey. When Isobel was frustrated, she goes every night to Kingston with her horse and go home smelling of alcohol.

Lilith is stuck with forbidden love with her overseer Robert Quinn. As the result, Quinn took her from Massa Humphrey’s house to work as his slave. Quinn makes Lilith confused about her life. Lilith is a black slave and Quinn is a white overseer. Quinn gave her the whip wounds, but he also gave a special treat to her

when in bed at night. Homer and night women trying to revive Lilith that she should not be complacent with the whites because they make black's life miserable. Several times they met in the cave to discuss the uprising, but on one night Lilith is not present. She chooses to be together with Quinn. This makes night women angry with Lilith.

“He touch her back in him sleep. Lilith curse herself. She is the one who get whip but he is the one she feel sorry for. She must be the most crossed and mixed-up nigger ever. But is a diabolical thing when a white man show kindness. Even if he wicked for seven day and good only one.”

“Damn them, damn even the babies who was goin’ grow up to kill nigger just like her. Damn Miss Isobel, who whip her in the face. Goddamn the whole of them. Lilith feeling good and righted. She tell herself that she feeling good and righted. But if Quinn touch her hair or moan or whisper lovey, everything broken. She would have to work up the hate all over again. Something fly up in her head and say, Kill him now. You not a woman until you do.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 23 p. 154).

The quotation above tells that since she join with Quinn, Lilith became confused whether Lilith really loved the man who had whipped her during the day. But she must hate him because he is white. When Quinn does good thing to her, she was sorry if she had to kill Quinn. However, if Quinn treated Lilith cruelly, she realized that she should kill him as she killed two babies or Isobel's brother before since if they are still alive they will kill the Negro.

“Lilith see him moving in to kiss her and pull back. He look at her. White man supposed to lie with negro woman, fuck them and even squeeze them. Sometimes they even love them. But no white man supposed to kiss a nigger. That be love things, things for white woman, and proper white woman at that.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 26 p. 184).

The passage above shows that Lilith felt that she and Quinn fell in love. However, Lilith confused because no whites were really falling in love with blacks. They just have lust to their slaves. The white man will simply love the white woman. So it is not possible if Quinn loves her. Until one night she went to the cave to discuss the uprising with the night women. They cautioned her that many lives were lost because of her and she was deliberately a killer. According to them, she got it right and she should kill Quinn rather than to love him.

“Seven souls, she thinking. Nine souls. What kind of woman can walk right after killing seven souls? Nine souls. And what about Bessy, the old nigger woman from Coulibre? Was she nine or ten? And what about that jumper nigger the first time? The sound of numbers run around her head and Lilith in the darkness and can’t remember if she set the fire because McClusky dingus go up in her pussy or the Massa Roget finger, or if the mistress whip her or Miss Isobel.” (*The Book of Night Women* : ch. 28 p. 204).

The passage above shows that Lilith had killed many people, until her memories forgot how many people have died because her. Lilith thought that she lived to be a killer. But if they are not killed they will torture and kill other blacks. Sometimes she thought what she did was right. However, on the other hand she

frustrated. Therefore, Lilith still hears her humanity because it is still tucked in her heart even though Isobel often do poorly as well against her. Lilith also saves her father Jack Wilkins because after all he is the father, he was never torture Lilith. Even more, Lilith gets the special treatment from him that is when she was a baby her father entrusted her to the Circe and Tantalus at home who were better than the other niggers. Although Lilith has to be someone who is filled with darkness because she in the environment of violence, she still has a sense of humanity.

