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Title: Behind the Face of Winter. (Book Reviews)

Author(s): Horace I. Goddard .

Source: Kola.

Document Type: Book review

Article Preview :

Confessions: A review of H Nigel Thomas' Behind the Face of Winter (novel), TSAR Publications, 241 pages, 2001 ISBN 0-920661-95-5 H. Nigel Thomas' latest novel, Behind the Face of Winter, is a literary tour de force that chronicles the coming of age of Pedro Moore. The novel depicts Pedro's upbringing in Isabella where his mother, Isis Moore, leaves him behind in the care of his grandmother when she immigrates to Canada to seek a better life. Life in Isabella is stark and bleak. Some villagers hardly have enough money or food to make ends meet. Pedro's grandmother receives food supplies from Sister Shiloh: sugar, flour and rice. She sends this message by Pedro: "Tell Ma Moore I say she don't owe me nothing. We all got to help one another stay above water," (p.6). However, their communal spirit is evident in their acts of sharing food and providing moral support for each other. These communal attributes and religious faith are observable mainly among the elderly and in particular women and help to buttress them against the socio-economic perils that dog them. This harsh environment forms the backdrop of Pedro's early life. During his pre-teen years he visits his cousins Lucy and Bruisie every summer. He enjoys their company and the sumptuous meals

they prepare. Behind this need for nourishment there is a more insidious question that begs to be answered, the identity of his father. His grandmother seldom responds to his queries and the village elderly refrain from bringing up the subject in his presence. All he learns is that his father is a womanizer "in Trinidad chasing down every frock tail his eyes 'light 'pon" (p. 19). When taking care of Pedro becomes burdensome, Ma Moore ships him off...

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Goddard, Horace I. "Behind the Face of Winter. (Book Reviews)." *Kola*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2002, p. 29+. *Academic OneFile*, Accessed 21 July 2018.

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