

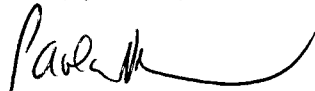
B.A. THESIS  
AMERICAN LITERATURE SPECIALISATION  
The Theme of Love in Toni Morrison's Novels  
Michaela Brzobohatá

The thesis addresses the theme of love in Toni Morrison's *Sula* and *Beloved*. Ms. Brzobohatá begins by stressing that Morrison's oeuvre, rather than being a euphoric celebration of love, addresses love in multiple—oftentimes violent, absurd, and conflicting—manifestations and effects. Morrison's love, for example, appears as paternalistic care, overwhelming romantic passion, religious command and devotion, and companionate attention. Ms. Brzobohatá then focuses on four concrete types.

The first chapter discusses motherly love, mainly pointing out the various reasons for its dysfunction (poverty, slavery, and middle-class conventions). In the second chapter, three characters from *Beloved* are watched on their quests for self-love: Denver (who breaks the bonds with her mother and forms new ties with the community); Sethe (who faces and accepts the horrors of her past); and Paul D (who redefines his sense of manhood). Here Ms. Brzobohatá emphasizes the role of *Beloved* and discusses the various interpretations of this character. The third chapter argues that Nel and Sula's delayed recognition of their love for each other was the primary reason for their lonely and tragic lives. Finally, the last chapter proposes that while *Sula* does not portray any successful romantic relationships (they are destroyed either by conventions or selfishness), in *Beloved*, the love of Sethe and Paul D has a "happy ending," as it is "connected with the mutual talking cure and the ability to forget and stop dwelling on the past" (44).

Ms. Brzobohatá's thesis is solid. She spent considerable time with the text and was highly engaged in writing it. At times, her in-depth analysis is a bit repetitive and positivistic (cf. the idea of "self-love" itself or the "mutual talking cure"), but this may not be a bad thing. The defense could address other relevant novels by Morrison, such as *The Bluest Eye* or *Love*, or discuss different issues (other than love) that Morrison raises.

At B. A. level, the thesis may be graded as "very good" (**velmi dobře**), or perhaps "excellent" (**výborně**).



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June 10, 2009