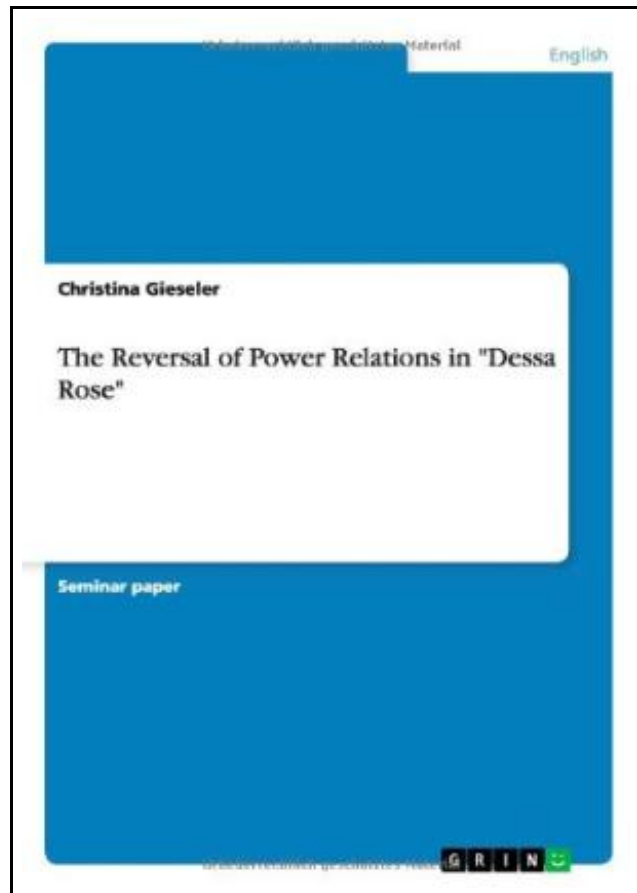


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THE REVERSAL OF POWER RELATIONS IN DESSA ROSE



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GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 26 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.8in. x 0.1in. Seminar paper from the year 2012 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1, 0, University of Wuppertal, course: Postmodern Neo-Slave Narratives, language: English, comment: Hauptseminar-Arbeit im Master-Studiengang , abstract: 1 Introduction In literary criticism Sherley Anne Williams novel Dessa Rose is often argued to be a story of a womans triumph in a (white) mans world (Beaulieu 40) and the story of a womans passage from slavery to freedom (McDowell 147). The novel, as a postmodern neo-slave narrative, stands as a counter-text to master texts and the slave narratives of the 18th and 19th century and presents a series of reversals, contradicting conventional expectations with regard to both race and gender (Beaulieu 31). As McDowell notes, the novel stages the oppositions of slavery and freedom, orality and literacy, fact and fiction . . . in an untidy network of social and material specificities (147). This paper is concerned with the power relations expressed through the relationship between orality and textuality, between the spoken word that enlivens and the written one that captivates and their reversal (Rushdy 2004, 99). As a novel, dealing with oppressive literacy and emancipatory orality Dessa Rose is a novel that directs our attention to the disparity in access to power between those who write master texts and those who produce slave narratives . . . (Rushdy 1993, 366; 1999, 136). In this paper this interesting discrepant relationship is going to be analysed on three different levels. On the level of the story of Dessa Rose it is going to be analysed how the southern white author Adam Nehemiah attempts to assume mastery over the slave woman Dessa and how Dessa refuses to be subject to his efforts of subjugation. It...



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