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God's Gonna Trouble the Water

Dominiqua Dickey

University of Mississippi, dominiqua.dickey@gmail.com

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GOD'S GONNA TROUBLE THE WATER

A Thesis
presented in partial fulfillment of requirements
for the degree of Master of Fine Arts
in the Department of English
The University of Mississippi

by

Dominiqua Dickey

May 2016

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ABSTRACT

GOD'S GONNA TROUBLE THE WATER is a noir set in Grenada, MS in the 1930s. This novel explores the issues of race, gender, and class via the protagonist, a thirtysomething black woman who despite her low status in the socioeconomic hierarchy of this small southern town is able to navigate the delicate complexities of the environment to search for her missing granddaughter, a mixed raced toddler whose father is the son of a prominent white land owner. Although national history portrays Mississippi as maintaining a polarizing view on race relations, the novel will explore how this idea of Mississippi is not accurate. The protagonist encounters resistance and assistance within her community as well as outside. This novel investigates how secrets are protected within communities and how communities respond when the secrets are revealed

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GOD'S GONNA TROUBLE THE WATER

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VITA

Dominiqua Dickey

P.O. Box 181 • Oxford, MS 38655 • (662) 816-5385 • dominiqua.dickey@gmail.com

EDUCATION

The University of Mississippi, University, MS

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, May 2016

Thesis: *God's Gonna Trouble the Water*, a historical novel

Advisor: Tom Franklin

University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Bachelor of Arts in Theater, June 1993

PUBLICATIONS

"God's Gonna Trouble the Water," *Mississippi Noir*, New York: Akashic Books, August 2016.

HONORS and FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Scholarship Recipient, NY State Summer Writers Institute, Skidmore College, 2016

Graduate Scholarship Recipient, NY State Summer Writers Institute, Skidmore College, 2015

Summer Research Fellowship, The University of Mississippi, 2014

Underrepresented Minority Fellowship, The University of Mississippi, 2014-2015

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Handle with Care"

22nd Annual Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi

March 2015

"Rhythms"

20th Annual Southern Writers, Southern Writing Graduate Conference

The University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi

July 2014

"Now or Never"

Energies: Through the Material, Theoretical & Textual

USC AEGS Conference

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

March 2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Tutor, Student Athletic Development Center

Fall 2015 – present

The University of Mississippi, University, MS

Tutor student athletes in the American Literature survey courses (pre and post-Civil War).

Provide assistance with reading comprehension, literary interpretation, critical analysis, and brainstorming for writing assignments.

Instructor

Summer 2014 – Spring 2015

The University of Mississippi, University, MS

Taught three creative writing workshops, Introduction to Creative Writing (August 2014 and Spring 2015) and Beginning Fiction Workshop (Fall 2014) to undergraduate students.

- Introduced students to the workshop model and how to critique.
- Created curriculum, critiqued writing, and graded assignments.
- Maintained office hours and held regular conferences with students.

Graduate Assistant Instructor

Spring 2014

The University of Mississippi, University, MS

Assisted professor with Literary Interpretation course that prepared students for upper-division studies in English.

- Graded examinations.
- Maintained office hours and held conferences with students.
- Gave one lecture for entire class of 30 students.

Graduate Assistant Instructor

Spring 2013

The University of Mississippi, University, MS

Taught three discussion sections for an English literature survey of American Literature from post Civil War to the present, focusing on how the socio-political issues influenced the literature and the movements from Realism to Post-Modernism.

- Introduced topics of discussion for a total of approximately 60 students.
- Planned class activities and graded examinations.
- Held regular conferences with students.

MEMBERSHIPS and ASSOCIATIONS

Phi Kappa Phi