



A World where “the wetness of tears or the dryness of words holds no meaning”: Two Stories of Incarceration



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ABSTRACT

R. Singh's Thirteen Years (1991) narrates the events and situations during his period of incarceration in different prisons. In his book there are discussions of revolutionary activities with which he was involved and also some of the ideological issues relevant to it. The memoir, however, does not mechanically portray the theoretical underpinning of Singh's activism; it has the elements of humour and pathos associated with the lives inside and outside the penitentiary. Caesarina Kona Makhoere's No Child's Play: In Prison under Apartheid (1988) is a South African prison narrative that demands of the reader

specific kinds of attention in relation to the politics and ethics of reading. The rhetorical strategy aims to elicit a response from the reader who finds himself / herself standing beside the rebels while reading a South African narrative that heralds the feminist virtues of love, affection and forgiveness.

KEYWORDS

Prison narrative, trauma, memoir, South Africa, Apartheid