The relationship between mother and daughter with white Racism in the Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

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ABSTRACT: - The black mother’s dedication to providing for and protectecting her children can be traced back to her African heritage. Ideas about Black mother hood emanating from African-American communities have been quite different. Historically, the concept of motherhood has been of central importance in the philosophies of people of African descent. In many African-American communities so much sanctification surrounds Black motherhood that the idea that mothers should lives of sacrifice has come to be seen as the norm. In the context of this historical significance, many African-American thinkers tend to glorify Black motherhood. They refuse to acknowledge the issues faced by Black mothers who ‘came back to the frequently thankless chores of their own loneliness, their families.’ This mother glorification is especially prominent in the works of U.S. Black men who routinely praise Black mothers, especially their own. However, by claiming that Black women are richly endowed with devotion, self-sacrifice, and unconditional love- the attributes associated with archetypal motherhood-U.s. Black men inadvertently foster a different albeit seemingly positive image for Black Women. The controlling image of the ‘super strong Black mother’ praises Black women’s resiliency in a society that routinely paints us as bad mothers. Yet, in order to remain on their pedestal, these same super strong Black mothers must continue to place their needs behind those of everyone else, especially their sons. Even Black-nationalist-inspired critical social theory finds it difficult to move beyond images of strong Black mothers working on behalf of the new Black nation.

Key words: beauty, racism, abandonment, sexism, isolation