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'The Color Purple' is a novel written by an American author, Alice Walker, in 1982 which was praised worldwide. It describes the struggle of a black girl, Celie who continuously suffered from male domination throughout her life. The main male characters, Alphonso, Mister, and Harpo's behaviors and influences in Celie's life represents the violence and cruelty of black male stereotypes without any argument.

Celie is a poor, uneducated 14-year-old girl living with her father, Alphonso who beats and rapes her constantly. Although Celie is a child, she impregnated of two children by her father and the children are abducted by her Alphonso. Then she is married to a man called Master, who already has children and physically, sexually, and verbally abuses her. She even does not call her husband by his name. Even Harpo's genuine love of Sofia, makes Celie jealous because she does not ever that kind of love, kindness and affection from a male but violence and hatred. This is mostly the fate of any black girl even in today's society. They do not get a chance to study, they are raped, they have to marry mother a child in such a young age and suffer throughout her life.

The Color Purple is considered a classic woman's text. It is about being a woman in the black society, living within the framework of the masculine, racist and sexist civilization, being subject to all possible forms of oppression.

"He starts to choke me, saying You better shut up and git used to it. But I don't never get used to it"

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This novel reveals the bitter truth about how men in the black society are capable of treating the women so badly, especially the young girls. They always treated as sexual objects than human being with rights. At such a young age, Celie is raped by her 'Pa'. Her education is suspended by force against her desire; She is married to a complete stranger because she has become a "burden". At the beginning of the novel, her only voice is her letters to God. In what kind of a society, a little girl is raped? She is married to a man who is much older than her and already has children because she is a burden to the family. According to my knowledge, Pa is the one who is responsible for Celie's unfortunates and struggles. Pa's character simply represents the black men stereotype.

Pa is a child abuser without remorse at the beginning of the book, and unfortunately it is not better at the end of his life. Pa's character is first appearing in the novel when he rapes his step daughter, Celie. He seems to only value women for sex and their ability to care for their home. Even as an old man, when Celie faces him to be not his real father, Pa does not feel guilty of his treatment with Celie. He is also married to a fifteen-year-old girl named Daisy. He seems to have a fetish for young girls. Pa commits several forms of violence against Celie. Obviously, she is physically violented through rape. It also causes emotional harm to her as pa shows neither respect nor kindness to her as a human being; he orders her. Eventually, he also separates her emotionally from others, forcing her to keep quiet about the way she treats her. According to my idea, Pa's character represents a type of black men. Because most of the black girls suffers throughout their childhood. They lost their childhood because of their fathers.

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“He [Pa] never had a kind word to say to me. Just say You gonna do what your mammy wouldn’t. First, he put his thing up against my hip and sort of wiggle it around. Then he grabbed hold my titties. Then he pushed his thing inside my pussy. When that hurt, I cry. He started to choke me, saying You better shut up and git used to it. But I don’t never get used to it. And now I feels sick every time I be the one to cook”

The other major male character in the novel is Mister. He also treats Celie as an object. He beats her like an animal and shows no human connection, even during sex. He also hides Nettie's letters from Celie for years. But, his cruel treatments towards Celie urge the development of her character throughout the years little by little. When Celie returns from Tennessee, she finds that Mister had resurrected his life and tried to correct his mistakes. Finally, he listened to Celie, and the two come together to chat and assemble. Finally, he says he wanted to be equal with Celie. He is also a representation of black men stereotypes. They think as woman are sex objects and only needed to bear their children. Their marriage life can be simply described as a duty than the marriage. But every man wants love. That is why they have girlfriends other than their wives. But they refuse to treat their wives as they treat their girlfriends. They think that loving their wives will make them look weak.

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He undergoes a profound personal transformation when Celie finally challenges him and overestimates his life and eventually becomes friends with Celie. He has a huge impact in Celie's life as he is the reason Celie changes into better. He has multiple children with multiple women but he loves is Shug, a singer. After Shug and Celie leave him, Mister realizes how much he depended on them and how cruelly he acted towards Celie in particular. He "finds religion" and apologizes to Celie. Mister gives Celie a purple frog as a symbol of their new friendship. It is a symbol that Mister has changed. Mister's love towards Shug frightens Celie. Her marriage hurts her self-esteem. But she was always encouraged by different women. She has to change; she has to stand for herself.

"Girl, you oughta bash Mister's head open and think about heaven later."

But it is not easy as throughout her life, she is only abused, over and over again, by different men. She does not know love, respect or kindness a man can give. Celie's life represents the typical black women under male domination. She has no choice in choosing who she wants to marry. She is married off in such a young age to an old man and also, she has to nurse her husband's girlfriend.

"I'm poor, black, I might even be ugly, but dear God, I'm here. I'm here"

Harpo is the eldest son of Mister. Harpo's many actions disprove stereotypical gender roles. He confesses to Celie about her love for Sophia, cries on her hands, loves to cook and work around the house, kisses his children and marries an independent woman Sophia. However, the expectations of the master about the stereotypical domination of men convince Harpo that he needs to defeat Sofia. His

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attempts to abuse Sophia failed because she is much stronger than him. At the end of the novel, Harpo reformed his way of life, and he and Sophia reconcile and save their marriage. Harpo's character symbolizes that how a man can love his woman and children. But the bad influence of the society changes them. They think they need to beat a woman to show their power and their strength. They think that until the woman challenges them. It takes a lot of effort for a woman to challenge a man in that society and a man like Harpo to stay truly as who he really is.

“All my life I had to fight. I had to fight my daddy. I had to fight my uncles. I had to fight my brothers. A girl child aren't safe in a family of men, but I ain't never thought I'd have to fight in my own house! I love Harpo, God knows I do. But I'll kill him dead before I let him beat me.”

Harpo is different from other black men. But the influence of Mister changes him. Harpo has feelings for Sofia, he loves her, unlike other typical men. But Mister disapprove their marriage. But Sofia gets pregnant with Harpo's child and it makes Harpo worry because of the strong disapproval of their marriage by Mister. Sofia is different from other women also. Again, Mister's influence in Harpo's life confuses him. He realizes that his and Sofia's relationship is different from his father's and Celie's relationship. When he seeks advice from Mister and Celie, both of them advise him to beat Sofia. Although Celie's advice surprises the reader's, it clearly shows that it is Mister's influence that make Celie into a jealous woman. It is very clear, that the typical men in the black society change the characters like Harpo.

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Mister's character is not easy to understand. His mistreatments towards Celie makes him an evil person. But his feelings towards Shug humanize him. Although he loves Shug, he does not marry her. Roots of his evil nature stem from his ignorance of himself. Mister's father did not force him to be independent, but rather to subordinate him to his own interests. When he became a man, he used his father as a role model and turned into an egocentric, irrational person. During the novel, Albert has been completely reformed. He is changing from a mean man to a gentle person. The key to this change lies in the pain that he experiences when both Shug and Celie leave him. Celie allows Albert to feel that during her wedding years they did not enjoy their wonderful life because of his meanness. He even gives Celie a gift to represent their friendship. It clearly shows that Mister has changed as well as Harpo. Harpo becomes who he always wanted to be.

Throughout the novel, it clearly shows that the men's cruelty and violence make the black woman's lives miserable. Even an independent woman like Sofia and her husband, Harpo who loves her, cannot enjoy their lives because of the influence of other men. The caring and gentlemen cannot live true to themselves because they are used to a society which women are treated as sex objects and punching bags. Therefore, it is very clear that in her novel, *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker shows her stress on violence and cruelty in the portrayal of the central black male characters simply reinforces black male stereotypes.

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