

BLACKNESS IN CONTEMPORARY IRISH FICTION

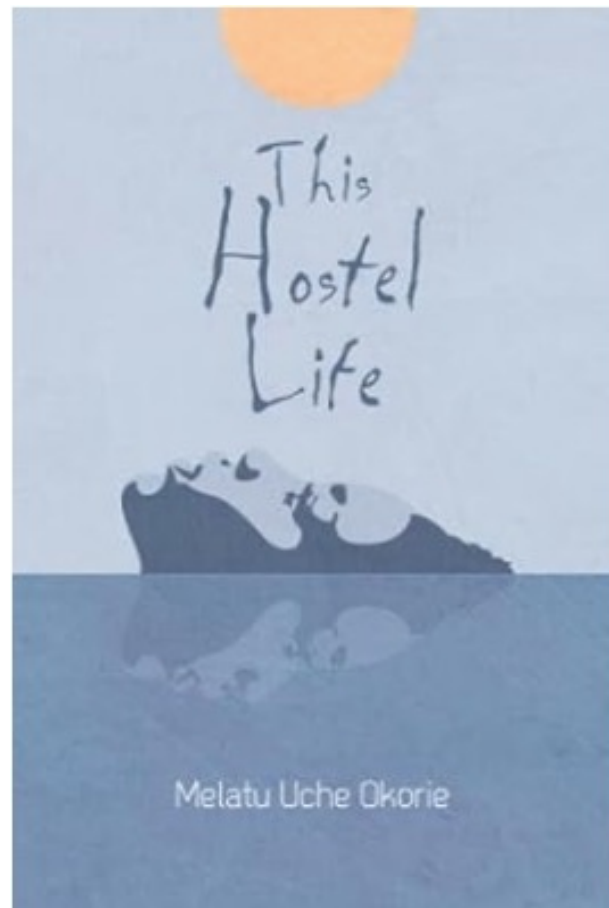
Reading Melatu Okorie's "Under the Awning"

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MELATU OKORIE

- born in 1974, Nigeria
- Moved to Ireland in 2006
- In 2009, Okorie won the Metro Éireann Writing Award for the story "Gathering Thoughts"
- Published *This Hostel Life* in 2018 (nominated to the Irish Book Awards)
- Mphil in creative writing from [Trinity College Dublin](#) and is studying for a PhD in the college of Education.



- **“Under the Awning”**
 - Structure of the story
 - Narrative elements
 - Setting
 - Characters
 - Stylistic elements



PARANOID READING, REPARATIVE READING & EVERYDAY RACISM

“**the paranoid position**—understandably marked by hatred, envy, and anxiety—is a position of terrible alertness to the dangers posed by the hateful and envious part-objects that one defensively projects into, carves out of, and ingests from the world around one” (Sedgwick, 2004, p. 128).

Reparative motives [...] are about pleasure (“merely aesthetic”) and [...] are frankly ameliorative (“merely reformist”)” (Sedgwick, 2004, p. 144).



“**everyday racism** is not a ‘single assault’ or a ‘discrete event,’ but rather a ‘constellation of life experiences,’ a ‘constant exposure to danger,’ a ‘continuing pattern of abuse’ that repeats itself incessantly throughout one’s biography – in the bus, at the supermarket, at a party, at a dinner, in the family” (Kilomba, 2010, p. 45).

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