

SYNOPSIS

The main character in *The Color Purple* is Celie, an ugly, foolish, an inferior black woman. Her father, Alphonso, treats her very bad for her condition. He does not let her to go to school but tells her to work hard in the field everyday. He even rapes her up to she gives birth two babies. One day Albert, a widower, asks for Nettie, Celie's younger sister, to be his wife but Alphonso refuses it and offers Celie as the substitute. Both Celie and Albert do not love each other but they have to receive it because they do not have another choice. Celie can not reject what her father tells her while Albert needs a wife to take care of his children. Celie's condition, however, does not get better since Albert gives the works in the field to Celie. At the beginning of their marriage Nettie lives together with them but she finally has to leave the house since Albert does not want her to live with them. Nettie goes to Africa.

One day Harpo, Albert eldest son, marries Sofia, a strong, tough, and brave girl. Their marriage is full of fights for their different attitudes. Harpo tries to take control over his wife and wants her to be like Celie who does anything her husband tells her without complaint. On the other hand, Sofia rejects all kinds of domination over herself. She is going to fight against anything she thinks wrong although it is committed by her husband. Celie, at the beginning tends to blame Sofia and then suggests Harpo to beat his wife but she finally realizes that her suggestion to Harpo is just a kind reflection of her jealousy to Sofia. She is jealous for she can not do what Sofia does. As Harpo and Sofia fail to reach an agreement in their marriage Sofia decides to leave Harpo by taking all her children. They remain to be in love each other but it can not change her decision.

One day Albert takes Shug Avery home because of her illness. Shug is a beautiful and intelligent woman whose profession is to be a blues singer. Her profession makes her to be close to men, drinks, and many kinds of habit viewed bad by the society generally. Shug herself wishes for an unlimited freedom. Albert tells Celie to take care of Shug and Celie does it with pleasure because she has admired Shug long before she knows her personally. She knows that Albert actually loves Shug but she does not care of it. She is not jealous for she does not love her husband.

From their interaction, Celie and Shug come to a very good friendship, even their relationship grows to be

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a lesbian affair. Shug tells and teaches Celie about anything. Firstly, she shows Celie that Albert is really a weak man. Then she implicitly says that everybody, including Celie, has potency and capability for self-development. Celie comes to a realization that she has been dominated by men so far. Her realization also encourages her, with Shug's guidance, to develop her talent in making panthes. She succeeds, and it makes her to be independent economically. Now she would not be treated as a "slave" by men anymore. She rejects to be slaved by her husband. This rejection plus her anger, when she knows that Albert has hidden Nettie's letters for her causing she loses communication with her sister, push her to decide leaving Albert. She then goes to Memphis and runs her business in making panthes successfully. In Memphis she lives with Shug as a couple of lovers.

Meanwhile, Nettie's letters gives Celie information about Nettie herself and her experiences, about African women, and even about Celie's children from her unusual affair with her father who are looked after by Nettie. She also tells about her love story with her husband, Joseph, that one day later will inspire Celie to try accepting Albert back as her husband. Moreover, Nettie tells her that Alphonso is not their real father but is just a step father. When Nettie informs that she and her family will go hometown, it makes Celie to be very happy. It appears her expectation to see her sister again and to see her children she has never seen so far. It as if ceases her painful heart caused by Shug's decision to end their affair and live with another one. At the end of the story Celie can reunite with her sister, Nettie, her children, and her husband, Albert.