

KEEPER of STORIES

CRITICAL READINGS
OF EASTERINE KIRE'S
NOVELS



edited by

W. D. Weisberg

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CRITICAL INSIGHTS ON THE TREATMENT OF DEATH IN EASTERINE KIRE'S *A TERRIBLE MATRIARCHY*

Adenuo Shirat Luikham

HAMLET. But that the dread of something after death,
The undiscovered country from whose bourn
No traveler returns, puzzles the will.... (*Hamlet* 1.3.72-88)

In one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies, *Hamlet*, the young prince ponders on death, referring to it as a country whose mysteries remain undisclosed and from where no traveller returns. These lines embody the enduring preoccupation with a subject that is accepted as an inevitability and yet arouses an unquenchable curiosity. Speculations on death and the beyond can only be experienced through witnessing others on their journeys or through the medium of fiction. According to the German literary critic Walter Benjamin, the answers we seek in fiction become our only means of knowing the death experience denied to us in real life (Hakola and Kivistö).

The confrontation with this reality and the need to make sense of the frailty of our existence become the driving forces for using death in literature at a philosophical level. However, what about the treatment of death and