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Of a Gated Community: Narrating Insecurity in
Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower* (1993)

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Abstract

Communities around the world continue to sink deeper into the pits of crises. Accordingly, intense feelings of insecurity ensue. For marginalized groups, the situation is even worse insofar this feeling of insecurity intersects with other perennial issues of race, class, sex, poverty, eco-disasters and a variety of other risks. Set in a violent world, Butler's *Parable of the Sower* is an apocalyptic climate-change novel that depicts the story of Lauren Olamina, a young Afro-American girl, who strives to survive after the loss of her family and the destruction of her home town as a result of exacerbated versions of social evils and climatic breakdown. Drawing on sociologist Ulrich Beck's model of "Risk Society" and the theory of Ecofeminism, this research paper endeavors to delineate the representation of insecurity along with its profound effects on characters' lives and psychology in Butler's selected novel. Reading this novel from such lens adds to the literary history and the experiences of people of color in the US.

Key words: Insecurity, risk society, apocalypse, ecofeminism, ethnicity.