

Summary

In her fifth novel, *Beloved*, published in 1987, Toni Morrison recalls the forgotten story of the “60 million or more” or “the nation under the sea”: the narrative of the African Americans that was never told. The effects of being subjected to the institution of slavery can clearly be seen in the lives of the inhabitants of 124 Bluestone Road, who have chosen a life of isolation and the constant battle of “keeping the past at bay”, refusing to acknowledge what went before.

Morrison stresses the importance of the act of “re-membering” in order for the person to become whole and the imperative of communal gathering and healing. The act of becoming complete once again is a struggle that cannot be won unless the members of the community of those who had to succumb to slavery allow themselves the privilege of remembrance. Through the multivalence of the character of Beloved, Morrison forces the reader to partake in the healing process. At the same time, she makes a political statement by constructing the character of Beloved as the embodiment of lost history.