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**Conceptualization of Feminism in Rebecca
Donovan's Trilogy The Breathing Series**

*An Extended Essay Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for
a Master's Degree in Anglo-Saxon Literature and Civilization*

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Dedications

No matter how we live or die, it all ends the same ...In silence. All our hopes and dreams in life become mere echoes to a tale cut short, but if we are lucky enough, our stories shall live on. Our songs will find voice in the hearts of those who remembered us and loved us, and our words will find their way to the essence of humanness.

May all the Praise be to the almighty, who has bestowed his grace upon me through my entire trajectory in the sake of knowledge.

My undying thankfulness and superabundant gratitude are sent to my two pillars, to thank whom my words might not be enough. May my efforts in this work be of satisfaction to your anticipations as to be even to your endeavors to ease my back whenever I felt burdened. My deepest recognition goes to each of my family members: Mounir, Choukri, Nourelhouda, Khaoula and my sister in law Asmaa for their unequalled assistance with little or much so I could reach what I have planned to amount to.

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May the fight for the wellbeing of humanity be of success.

To that specific Eve, whose forehead I desire to kiss as we reach our seventies and say with a low tone: "We did it! , but no measure of time with you will be long enough" So I might only say, I wishfully will be your reason to breathe".

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Abstract

What is to be reached beforehand deals with the elicitation of major feminist concepts in the contemporaneous trilogy The Breathing Series. The suggested points to be dealt with are those which help to educe the suffering of women from servitude, subordination and sidelining. It endeavors to display the handling of inequality women in the contemporary society are facing, unfold the mental health and abuse menacing them within the very society, as it tends to crystallize their enslavement and their lust for freedom. These women are elucidated as individuals with little, if any right to act for themselves with restricted rules to follow and abide with. They are visualized as subjects with abilities and endowments not at exposal, nor use, with strife to gain their own liberty after long, being ensnared within an unjust sphere. There are few symbols used by Rebecca Donovan like the countdown of time by the protagonist to denote women's strength and their eagerness to be freed. Other themes will be discussed as those of equality, for the protagonists are both a male and a female.

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General Introduction

General Introduction

Ever since obsolescence, people endeavored to manifest their ideas, concerns and claims. What helped them momentarily was literature with its prose, poetry and drama in a particular period of time. Literature with its fictitious and non-ideological assortments aided greatly to mark the information that was aimed to be shared from eons ago (Mouro. 2014, p. 2). This field has evolved through time to become one that is not only devoted to one trend only but to different orientations that are dealt with in the new form of prose, which is the novel as part of literature's enhancement.

The novel as an undeniable new form of prose that has ripened magnificently in the recent time, has allowed novel works to discuss distinct apprehensions of writers and people at the time (Idem). The work that is to be dealt with is that of The Breathing Series by Rebecca Donovan which is one renowned trilogy encompassing three contemporary installments. This treasure could be mainly ranked under the new adult fiction genre.

Rebecca Donovan; the American novelist is notorious for her breathtaking, and mind-blowing works, starting with Reason to Breathe that was published in 2011 which uncovers the kind of treatment some women suffer from in a contemporary American world Barely Breathing in 2013, Out of Breath the book finale of The Breathing Series, shortly after the second segment was put in reach of readers, to carry on and finish the story of the abused, and her late work entitled What If, the story of friendship, love and self-finding.

Donovan's formidable achievement The Breathing Series was granted an outstanding recognition in the United States and out, as was Donovan dominant in best-selling authorship thanks to such a work. What treasured the trilogy is Donovan's way to notify the reader of the ill-treatment and abuse as well as the injustice that intersects with female members of society.

What is a particularity in this work is that it has shown how society works in the contemporary time. It has given some pictures about different social classes as well as their lifestyles, as it has exhibited their behavior and perception of others.

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Another aspect that Donovan attributed her work to is that of the intricacies that subsist in such societies as to where they do dwell. Not to withstand the idea of the female protagonist and female's perception, these utterances in the novel supported Rebecca Donovan's will to manifest her claims and concerns about the matter which is Women's status in a contemporary American world. This pertinence to the cause of women raises some queries:

- ❖ Could The Breathing Series be considered as a work in advocacy and defense of women along with its author's will?
- ❖ What is Feminism and what are its concerns in the breathing series?
- ❖ How did Donovan picture females in the series?
- ❖ Did Rebecca Donovan mirror females want of freedom and empowerment?

The questions asked above might accept as hypotheses the prospective ideas that The Breathing Series could be deemed as a feminist work, by all the odds, as could Rebecca Donovan be a feminist as much as she is a woman writer. The second question might accept as a response the fact that feminism is about all women around the world with problems that hinder their prosperity and well-being. The probable answer to the third question might twirl around the fact that women were envisaged as tyrannized, ill-treated with rights violated. They were not all pictured as feeble individuals for some of the female characters were visualized as having a prosperous life but with flaws. The response to the last question may be that Donovan gave glimpses of women's strengthening and empowerment which will be discerned through the application of the feminist theory on the Trilogy's analysis.

What is about to be dealt with is going to be divided into two chapters. The first one would be remedying the concerns of Feminism by giving a preamble to the theory, feminist concepts in it, then, forms of oppression that women have encountered and finally a brief review of Contemporary Feminism in the United

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States. The information uttered in this chapter will be of great aid to dissect The Breathing Series from an angle that only belongs to Feminism.

The chapter that follows will deal with the analysis of the Trilogy on grounds of the feminist notion. It will be dealing with some of the forms of wickedness against women, as well as the thought of female's empowerment and lust for freedom in the three Installments.

Chapter one

Feminism and

Feminist Issues

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1.1. Introduction

The current chapter remedies the recognition of Feminism that is grasped as a bounce which found existence for a noble purpose, emanated of the ashes of sufferance and soreness and with patience; it was launched, by both the male and the female sexes to advocate the latter.

In this premier segment, an acquaintance will be drawn with the conception, knowing it is controversial, and misinterpreted, ever since it was brought into

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existence eons ago. The commencement of the section will be with putting the reader into the right course of comprehending what the proclivity signifies, as to what feminists stand for by exhibiting an introduction to the Feminist movement, not to withstand the giving of a mere idea about Feminist Literary Criticism, that might aid afterwards. An understanding of particular concepts is opted for to delineate the goals of Feminism as an intensive movement to find justice for women, starting with the call for parity, moving to the want of freedom and the desire to gain it, to stop at the exigency of empowerment and strengthening of women.

The illumined ideas to be tackled, afterwards, will be of the forms of oppression, inequity and unfairness wrapping women's well-being, initiating with the Handling of Disparity, before moving forward to tackle the effect of abuse and ill-treatment straitening the female sex and putting it into its context, as well as women's mental health that is endangered by such sets of action. The last but not least point to be discussed is that of women's ensnarement and enslavement, to make a clear avowal based on the scarce examples given, about the vestige of the entrapment of females as an opposite sex to males and to elucidate the effect of their deprivation from their own liberties and rights.

Altogether, the essence of what has been noted above from the very first notion to the very last of the chapter is to steer the reader towards a path on which the realization of all conceptions to be dealt with subsequently, are well comprehended and sensed. Consequently, one might not have any weariness or arduousness in the process of discerning the conceptualization of Feminism, and scouting about the forms of wickedness endangering the female sex in the American society, in The Breathing Series by Rebecca Donovan that is to be displayed in the rearward chapter.

1.2. Preamble to Feminism

Ever since antiquity, there were undeniably numerous movements, intensive powers, bounces and proclivities which were in awe of the Prodigious and

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disastrous horribleness that the individuals sought to dispose of, or the posture they wanted to better and upgrade. These efforts were directed and aimed at freeing one's self, and easing the burdens weighing on its back. These bids rose against must-be-followed rules, as well as being contra the discomfort, inconveniences and harassment of those standards and gauges, established in specific societies and in favor of different causes that reach politics, economy and society of sure. They followed, in the process, their own precepts and believed in their own rubrics and principles.

Might Feminism be the best example of what was formerly talked about, ideally, being the proper instance of inciting a particular feeling of alteration in society, that very same society inhabited by various kinds of oppression, harassment, inequality, not to withstand torturously, agonizing figures of marginalization and enslavement in women's lives. These very women who were viewed as sexual objects rather than individuals, ever since the old Greek mythology, through the rule and superiority of men in the Elizabethan Era, to the 20th century, when women's literature evolved to defend themselves against the maliciousness of society, until the 21st century, when, though, having some rights offered, Men still have the last word to be said.

These societies covered, just as snow covered the living and the dead in James Joyce's The Dead, with corruption towards women, otherwise, surnamed, apart from being a jail to these feeble creatures for not having the right to a say, Patriarchal, where the rule and dominion is only to men, to whom, solely, the power in society was handed. They were accorded power and sublimity for the thought that they are naturally chosen to be the norm of life. That was taken for granted with no comprehension of the consequences, leaving suffering and inferiority to women, who would rise up against the ill-treatment along with male defenders of women's rights.

In addition to what has been said in the previously uttered, this fact of affording power to men in oblivion to women, or clearly stated, putting maleness

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over everything else and take it for a norm while neglecting what is beyond and specifically rejecting women is termed *Androcentrism*, that was used primarily as an analytic term. Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1911) first utilized it and described it in her work The Man-Made World; or, Our Androcentric Culture which was an investigation on society and born problems of the term's use in it. Moreover, the term Androcentric gathered all what was said about women previously, taking for granted regarding women as the second sex, while masculinity as the supreme and superior one, as said by Schimmel (1987) who denounced in his way that the Term refers to “cultural perspectives where the male is generically taken to be the norm of humanness” (p. 334). That is meant to clear the notion of maleness being the basis of everything, while femininity gets sidelined.

Some scholars, feminists and writers aimed at explaining the idea of feminism, exhibit its ideals, and display the pillars on which it stands as a trend, to be embraced and defended, While people mistake, enormously, thinking that the term is all about Androcentrism and the undying combat between the two genders. These people dedicated their knowledge to give a proper definition of the conception and what it aims at in defense of women's rights, against whom and what, as well as to which gain to have from this defense. Some of them do it because they think it is the right thing to do, others would say that it is the key to economic development, while some announce they do that just because they want to live in a world where there is no anguish, dissimilarity nor absence of humanness.

Mouro. Wassila (2014) quoted De Beauvoir's saying that one is not born a woman, but rather becomes one and explained it in her own words. Mouro Said that De Beauvoir cried for women's rights, as she stated that women managed to defend themselves and fight for their rights and their stature in society under the movement called Feminism. She added that this movement extended its roots to writings since women reflected themselves and their status in society through their literary texts as literary artists (p. 55).

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Ngozi Chimamanda Adichie (2012) explained in her work we should all be Feminists that feminism is not about hating men. She uttered in the respect of which, that a friend told her calling herself a feminist meant that she hated men, so she rejected his idea by saying deciding to be called an African feminist who does not hate men. Consequently, this cleared the ambiguity and miscomprehension of the concept. The Nigerian author carried on and gave her own unpretentious definition of Feminism in the very same work, where she announced that her own introduction of a feminist is a *man* or a *woman* who accepts the notion of the existence of a problem with gender, and that it must be dealt with and fixed, as she urged both genders to do better to overcome these intricacies (P. 2).

Adichie (2012) also offered a definition she took from the dictionary, which said, according to her words, "Feminist: a person who believes in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes", this definition covered all aspects of society and all its sectors shortly. She ascribed value to it, as she expressed her pride of being called a feminist by her peers and friends, who, formerly were against it, if not pitying it, since they thought it entraps her within the unhappy, loners, and singles cage. (P. 11)

Allan G. Johnson gave his own comprehension of Feminism as a Movement and its gathered accessions. Johnson (2014) defined Feminism as a concept that encompasses various approaches of Gender and patriarchy. He claimed it as a way of thinking critically about gender and its localization in society. Johnson denoted that Feminism ranges in numerous directions, as he said that the understanding of the concept, like how outstanding is the connotation of patriarchy, and angles from which to comprehend it, differ from a branch of it to another. Johnson denoted that feminism serves for multiple, dissimilar aims giving the thought of it being utilized as an intellectual framework to discern how life works. He argued that feminism challenges individuals to experience new ways of life, to question what has already been said about the human nature, let alone to defy and brave the truths about male-centered prerogatives and the persecution of women (P. 95).

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Faris (2013), explained the idea of Feminism, and the need of it, unlike some other scholars and authors, saying that women require feminism, because, unlike others who think that it is only to refer to political movements from eons ago, Feminism is about all women who are facing injustice, not to withstand those who lack their rights and freedoms. Faris claimed, In “The Muslim Debate Initiative (MDI)”, that “women need feminism because there are women who suffer injustice” (p. 1).

The author of Testament of Friendship, who also edited The Dialectic of Sex, Rosalind Delmar (1986) declared in her own way that the common and proper definition of Feminism is the requirement of change. She denoted that women need to get rid of the discrimination and marginalization they are facing. Rosalind Delmar, trying to give a compatible definition, denounced that a feminist is someone who convenes that women undergo these behaviors “because of their sex”, as she proclaimed that women have some specific needs that rest unsatisfied if not negated, that the fulfillment of these needs requires a “change” in different sectors including the social, economic and political ones (p. 8)

Adams (2015), who is an American writer, answers to why he is a feminist, and gives a plain definition of feminism as to what it aims at. He stated comprehensively that the Concept revolves around women’s lives all over the world, as he, additionally, said that Feminism is in favor of those whose Freedoms are “restricted” and safety is *at risk* as well as those whose inlet to education, healthcare, is veiled. Ernest W Adams declared that it is *Right* to be a feminist because of the abuse which these women and girls around the world are dwelling within, because of the wickedness they want to be freed from, and the iniquity swiveling, and endangering their existence as free creatures.

Overtime, as an American author, feminist, and social activist, using the forefront name of Bell Hooks, she had her own words to define Feminism in Her piece of art, surnamed Feminism Is for Everybody: Passionate Politics, uncovering the fact that feminism is not a fight against masculinity. Watkins (2000),

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emphatically focused on those who misconceived the term by claiming them learning about feminism from patriarchal mass media who only portray women committed to gender equality, and not the grand picture of them occupying themselves with all forms of oppression within society

Bell Hooks initiated her definition of Feminism, displaying it as a movement to “end sexism, sexist exploitation and oppression”. Watkins uttered that she liked the definition because it does not picture men as the enemy. She clarified the problem that feminism is dealing with by going to the heart of the problematic with the concept of “sexism” being used. She made clear where she stands by stating plainly that the definition she gave means that any sexist thinking or action is the problem, whether those who perpetuate it are female or male, child or adult. She continued in her work, uncovering the misconception of feminism, as being only about women seeking equality to men or mainly being contra them, giving the responsibility of it solely to *Patriarchal mass media* as she preferred to call it.(p. 1)

Watkins (2000) gave an explication that went continually to explain how most of these individuals heard about such Feminism, as she said that Feminism they heard about the most was about women pledged to gender equality in different situations from work to house holding saying in this very respect: “Feminism they hear about the most is portrayed by women who are ,primarily, Committed to gender equality - equal pay for equal work, and sometimes women and men sharing household chores and parenting ...” (p. 1).

Furthermore, being one of the major British feminist authors and philosophers calling for equality, Mary Wollstonecraft (1792) stated clearly on her behalf responding to Rousseau’s idea about women and how they should be governed by fear to exercise their *Natural cunning* as he called it. She, in her historical A Vindication of The Rights of Woman, exhibited the fact that men and women should be founded on the very same rubrics and goal for the same purpose. Wollstonecraft, also claimed that, if by nature, women are inferior to men, then this

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should have been true, even by granting them equal rights, and opportunities as she declared that “their virtues must be the same in equality, if not in degree“(PP. 23-24)

Notwithstanding the fact that "the first time we see a woman take up her pen in defense of her sex" was Christine de Pizan, the French poet and author who wrote Epitre au Dieu d'Amour (Epistle to the God of Love) in the 15th century, as Simone De Beauvoir conceded. De Pisan gave a *New* point of view about the surroundings in her Book of the City of Ladies, which is mainly about the fact of neglecting the old rules of subordinating women and planting a new set of rules in society that should replace the old clumsy ones, these very ones which should be banished, though the opposition of the ruler and even against their own will, for, these rules are not of any good to them. De Pizan (1405) offered her help to women, uttering that she would take the burden of them thinking for themselves and rooting out the “marks of the ruler” on her own shoulders: “Take the pick of your understandings and dig Clear out a great ditch wherever you see the marks of my ruler, and I will help you carry away the earth on my own shoulders” (P. 16).

A little bit back in time, Henricus Cornelius Agrippa, who wrote Declamation on the Nobility and Preeminence of the Female Sex, had his word too. He argued against the misogynistic interpretations of the female body from various major angles, and according to what he mentioned, not only he defended the claims for equality of women to men, but rather granted women superiority and supremacy that their existence deserves, instead of the exclusion they faced through time. In this respect, Agrippa (1529) denoted his stand, starting by saying that woman was created “much superior to man”, empowering his argument in the very same work entitled the Superiority of Women in the Created Order by according reference to the names given to the first two humans on earth, Adam that refers to earth, and Eve that represents life. He concluded saying that, as far as life is to be assorted above earth, so far is woman to be classified above man (p.44)

The afore mentioned amongst several others, abundant scholars and authors were in the course of serving just one cause, women’s rights in society. For

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this purpose, they rose to form the so-called feminist movements by shouting out for equality, attempting to empower The Second Sex, and manifest the lust for freedom, engendered within their souls. They, additionally, endeavored at rising against the atrocities of Enslavement and inequality, along with marginalization in those androcentric societies. These efforts served for proving in the process, the status of women, who were created to be cherished, not to be excluded from all spheres, let alone the public one.

Counteracting and battering women gave birth to this movement called Feminism, this was, and still is, all about defending women's comfort, and combating the unusual norms of society, to grant them their God-Given rights, if to be said. This concept stands for the call for a political, social and economic change, in the respect of those women excluded from these sectors, and deprived of the participation to make the world livable, and bearable. It is, considerably, an effort to empower these women, and urge them not to succumb to the obscenities of the rules implied by society. In other words, Feminism as a movement could be revolutionary, for the sake of change.

1.3. Feminist Concepts

The notion of Feminism, rather than its plentiful view points, about women, their struggle, and the pain they have, if not still enduring for long, encompasses multiple tenors and connotations which belong to multiple ideologies trying to reach diverse aims. These thoughts were also in favor of different sects of society, either defending white Europeans, black Africans, or other individuals from the whole world; but still, they all defended the same female sex. Feminism as a concept has been defined differently, according to the conceptions discussed within it, but its goals were united, to reach women's well-being. This welfare of the female sex was aimed at by tackling some points like equality, freedom, and various other objectives considered as the terminus of struggle.

1.3.1. The Call for Equality

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Women, throughout history, suffered terribly, from all forms of inferiority, for their sole fault is not within their reach that is being females. They were treated as subordinates to men, and were deprived of their rights, so as to make this into the proper course; feminists had, and still have, a unified shout for parity, because, in the modern time, this goal seems not to steer away from being the principal one. Because of such needs and objectives, Feminism as a movement revved to life, from the right of education, to work, to be paid and treated equally, to be heard, to be involved in different fields and not the household in particular, to be seen and to show they are worthy of what they claim to be, though the horribleness of their subordination. It was claimed, recently in particular, that some of the contemporary writers and scholars, like-wisely said: Anti-feminists, denounce that it is far from defending women's rights as it was through its starting two first waves.

Hirschmann (2015) made some points in Visions for Gender Equality as she stated that Mary Astell, an English feminist writer and rhetorician who got the title "The First English Feminist", for her advocacy of equal educational opportunities for women, demanded in reference to the theorist John Locke: "if all Men are born free, how is it that all Women are born slaves?", Not to forget that she made this link between freedom and equality so clear and strong, relating the state of freedom, to the fact of being equal (P. 12).

Furthermore, the famous African American poet Angelou (1990) called in her poem "Equality" for the latter and emphatically put her focus on offering it the same status, as that of freedom, stating, not with a careless way, that she lacks equality to be free, repeatedly: "Equality, and I will be free/ Equality and I will be free". She urged for the racial behavior and unexplained gender inequality, that she was facing, as being a black woman, apparently, to be ceased. It is noticeable throughout the poem that Maya Angelou was trying to put the marginalization and the sidelining of women to an end. In the process of that, she urged the oppressor to confess they heard her awes, screams and suffering, as she stated in accordance to what she lived, that her fight is unending until she gets what she, for long , fought

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for, equality for herself and all women: "Yes, my drums are beating nightly/and the rhythms never change". n. p.

Wollstonecraft (1792) gave a lot to be remembered of in her Vindication of The Rights of Woman. She shouted in agony for those who were disabled of performing what they could, indicating that what hinders women from implementing their perfection is the lack of equality and chances. This ruthlessness that is justified by men, to chain them to their duties remorselessly, Wollstonecraft, to a great extent, intended to reach the point, where women and men will be equal and share the same responsibilities, rather than the obstacle of race. She urged this society, which is seen as patriarchal, or androcentric to a certain point, or even more than that, to take their wants for granted. She dared the very same society to offer them the chance, to prove that they are capable of doing exactly the same activities men do. She more or less, said it as a vow, with the sole condition of affording them the rights granted to the other gender with the promise that women "grow more perfect when emancipated", if not given that, she continued, then the oppressors in the same society, working by such rubrics, have to justify the unexplained, abusive rule over weak beings (P.106)

Being a Consultant Target Analyst at Blackbaud Company, Swank (2011) showed what she thought the female sex needs in her work "What Women Want", where she stated that what women lack is equality in all its forms. She continued, denouncing conspicuously that women want their opinion to be shared, and their responses to be heard and behaved upon. She carried her own explication, saying that women, to their extent, seek to own equality where they work, and a mighty equal sharing of the load from their male partners and counterparts as she attempted to excrete women's want to make the world a better, livable, and bearable place unlike the way it was (P. 2).

Bishop (2015), Stated in the United Nations General Assembly 70th Session, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs, "There is an inescapable truth – we cannot transform our world unless the place of women within it is transformed" referring

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in the breadth and width of what she utilized as words, to gender equality. She resumed, demonstrating that there is no elope from the fact that the world can never be mutated nor modified but with the conversion of women's stature in it. Julie Bishop showed in the process of what she said that the current status of women is what affects the changing of the world to its better.

Furthermore, as an antique Greek philosopher, Plato (380 B.C), declared, in defense of the idea of Equality, in The Republic, displaying to the finest of his wisdom, the notion of women's competency and ability to imitate men in fulfilling their duties in the stead of staying back at home and being subordinates who have restricted duties, only because they are thought to be unable to accomplish what men could realize on the other hand. He explained further, asking affirmatively if women are supposed to stay just home and accomplish the duties handed to them, or help men with theirs, including the fact that women could imitate men if not emulate them. She clarified that this would be achieved not with the present conditions they have but carrying on, with a solution, represented in giving both women and men equal chances and opportunities. He exemplified that in teaching them equally as he said in an attempt to clarify his thought: "If, then, we are to use the women for the same things as the men, we must also teach them the same things." (P. 147)

Plato went on, neatly defending his thought that, male and female sexes cannot outdo nor surpass each other unless they have equal opportunities, or else, they are in no way preferable, one than another. He claimed, in this respect, that if the only difference between the male and the female appears without having the same assignments, as well as similar privileges, then, there is no way in which a woman could be any different from a man (P. 151)

Again, Wollstonecraft (1792) allowed herself to confess that women may have dissimilar encumbrances and obligations, but she maintained that these duties are still human. She denoted that rubrics and principles put to adjust them and make them go within the appropriate course are an onus on male societies to deaden and

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equalize. This rectification of principles would create, with time, a stronger society in which individuals rights are evenly equiposed (P. 53).

As an American author and philosopher, who is well known for her critique of contemporary feminism, Hugh Summers (2008) wrote in Feminism and Freedom that Clare Boothe Luce, a conservative feminist, a playwright and a member of the United States Congress, expressed her ideas about Feminism and gender dissimilarities, stating that it was by time for women to be granted equality which they lacked and leave the rest to mother nature which is represented as a woman not to be fooled, to prove them either to be more or less worthy than men.(P. 61)

1.3.2. The Lust for Freedom

It might be noticeable, most, if not all of those who defend women's rights, steer towards the idea that the aim is, by all means, offering them what is God-given, and which is mainly constituted in the essence of humanity, the right to live, in other words, freedom. Numerous Scholars, writers, authors, activists and other defenders of women's wants dedicated their works fundamentally to confer the feeble, powerless or impotent creatures as some want to call them, their right to be liberated just as much as they wanted equality that has been defended by them since obsolescence. In this respect, Clare Boothe Luce proclaimed, according to Summers (2008), that women, if the choice will be left to mother nature, they will have their freedom, and no one will be able to change their minds about what to, and not to do, even if all opportunities are represented for their sake, they would still go for theirs :

What is in women's nature to do they will do, and you won't be able to stop them. But you will also find, and so will they, that what is not in their nature, even if they are given every opportunity, they will not do, and you won't be able to make them do it (P. 61).

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Wollstonecraft (1792) crystallized the idea of women being encaged within men's world, saying that the female could never be expected to have and show excellence unless they are granted their freedom. She stated similarly that women's goodness will not be exhibited, and they would always show stubbornness and disagreement, unless they are independent. Mary Wollstonecraft clarified her stand by saying that women will not make good wives and mothers but if they get liberated from men's fist. If that is not fulfilled, even to some extent, then, she carried on, women will be unmanageable, for they would not want to be but absolute subordinate creatures, objectified in the male-made world (P. 149).

According to Stanley (2013), the latter's work under the title Mary Wollstonecraft: Forerunner of Positive Liberty and Communitarianism, made clear in Rights of woman the idea that women could not possibly be knowledgeable of their reason to be virtuous, nor their role in society, including the marital life unless they have the strength, and intensity to comprehend their duty. This could not be amounted to, nor possibly attained, unless, a woman is accorded her freedom, as it is noticeable that Mary Wollstonecraft, connected several words such as *Freedom* and *reason*, and linked them to the good society. The so-called *Mother of Feminism* stated in her defense: "And how can woman be expected to co-operate unless she knows why she ought to Be virtuous? Unless freedom strengthens her" (P. 50).

As a professor at Dukes university, who has written about French philosophers, Elizabeth Grosz offered in her Feminism, Materialism, and Freedom what could be seen as a terse definition of Freedom, and the lust for it, Grosz (2010) explained that it is not initially about the ability of mind, but of the body. Moreover, she linked it to the body's capacity for movement and consequently "its multiple possibilities of action" said she, clearing her own understanding of the concept. Prior to that, she said that, according to Bergson (n. d.), who was a French philosopher, that he "elucidated a concept of freedom that links it not to choice but to innovation and invention". She continued by explaining that freedom is perceived as a state of actions, in a world with unpredictable deeds. Additionally, it is about what to be done surprisingly without any precedent, about the liveliness and

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activities taken into granted to change the self and, in a way or another, the world, in a wholly tremendous way. (P. 152)

Literature indicates continually, that there were inevitably profitable assemblages of women writers and women's rights defenders. Throughout history, these meetings were mainly to express their feelings, share their ideas and perceptions concerning all sects of society, whether on political, economic or social ground. The Congress of Women, as a publication in which myriad women writers thoughts were gathered, dealt with numerous problems that faced them through time. In this book that was part of the Colombian exposition, Miss Agnes M. Manning wrote in a publication entitled "Complete Freedom for Women", expressing her willingness to defend freedom for the woman.

Manning (1894) claimed that the gaining of freedom would raise her "politically, socially, financially and morally"; as she denoted that without freedom, a woman will have "no recognized status" as well as being classified with the minors of society. As she continues in the very publication, Miss Manning expressed her want to uphold the idea that women's complete freedom is unquestionably crucial. She foresaw that women need such privilege to maintain the weal of home and family, not to forget hers. She carried on denoting the injustice that her sex dwells within, and doubting the superiority of the male sex because of his claimed supreme knowledge (pp. 107-109)

Bronte, (1847), in this particular work called Jane Eyre, Lady Bronte expressed her proclamation to be free as a bird, as she denoted that she is not similar to the bird in being in a wait or an ambushade. She deciphered her will of being an independent human being with a free will and choices, exhibited in her desire to leave, as the example states. Charlotte Bronte with conspicuousness, exerted women's need to be freed and get rid of the feeling of being ensnared in a patriarchal world dominated by such an androcentric culture: "I am no bird; and no net ensnares me; I am a free human being with an independent will, which I now exert to leave you." (P.483)

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It has been known for eons, and throughout the course of history, that women writers, scholars and freedom fighters made one of their sacred goals, to free those women entrapped within patriarchy and atrocities of the societal behaviors and laws of the time. Perfect examples of those who advocated freedom for women and their right of liberty and free will could be pictured in the works of such writers as: Charlotte Bronte, Clare Boothe, and others who made the concept of freedom their cherished aim to be reached, at all costs, no matter the fear, anguish and tribulations hindering them from getting to that point of alteration in their lives.

Women's combat to gain their own liberty and freedom went through various intricacies, faced denial, and was confronted with allusions of disapproval and undecipherable arguments. These women, who fought for one of their rights, exposed themselves to the strenuous fear that burdened their shoulders for ages. Consequently, they grew more powerful, and their wishes of freedom were born from the ashes of the fright that was burnt within them.

1.3.3. Empowerment

Women's role in society and how well they desire to make it is a notion that is taken in consideration by multiple males and females. The female sex has suffered terribly, and struggled greatly to convey the reality of being qualified to better their environment. It has longed for making the world more infallible and goaled to prosper all sects that have a link with making society felicitous, just by granting women the choice which they would transform into actions that affect society undoubtedly, but, hopefully in a valorous way. It also sought to aid building a future, in which everybody is thrifty. For this sake, Women's rights defenders, as feminists, stood with a loud and clear voice, to notify the world of their wants and wants.

The message of women's palpable success had to be conveyed in one way or another, and was expressed differently and doubtlessly by those scholars, writers and feminists from the whole globe. These people were sure of the prosperity existing within the female earth.

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Lucy Maud Montgomery, an instantly successful Canadian writer because of her series of novels entitled [Anne of Green Gables](#), published in 1908. Montgomery (1909), denoted in her not-to-be-forgotten work [Anne Of Avonlea](#) that a significant portrayal of empowerment is to live according to one's own ideals, no matter what the results could be. She announced that life would be "a sorry business" without ideals as it could be "grand and great" with their existence. This is a conspicuous example that the empowering of human beings, and of women in a particular way, requires the grip to their ideals, not departing from them, even if the consequence is not usually as anticipated, a win, but rather a loss. (P. 104)

Hooks (1984) had her own standing point concerning the strengthening of women. She declared in her [Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center](#), that these subjugated women ought to discern that they can dismiss the powerful definition of their reality, that they should deny what they are said to be, and how the definition of being powerful implies on them, no matter the circumstances, "even if they are poor, exploited, or trapped in oppressive circumstances". Bell hooks continued saying that these women need to know that the usage of this inner power within them is an act of resistance. Only by utilizing their power to deny what they do not agree to, they are showing ultimate strength. (p. 90).

She denoted that this would be fruitful if applied. She concluded her idea by giving the example of those poor, black, exploited and oppressed women, who only got to change their perspective on power, and self-understanding by having enough courage within them to reject the powerful definition of their reality, which is often untrue. Hooks idea was mainly about women's need of repudiation and dereliction of the definition and characteristics attributed to them, so as to be able to free their strength and show themselves against this conventionalization (P. 90).

Once again, Hooks (1984), denounced in her own utterances, that the feminist ideology should not do what sexism did already, meaning that it should not urge women to think of themselves as powerless. She said that this doctrine should crystallize the powers which women put into action on a daily basis, as to show

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them how to make useful these powers in the process of resisting *sexist domination* and profiteering. Bell Hooks projected that sexism did not affect the power of women, rather than that it either curbs their might, or utilize it. She ended her idea with the fact that the avowal of this vigor is a giant step towards women's liberation which is ought to be taken forward. (P. 93)

Furthermore, J.K Rowling, the much known author for her series of "Harry Potter", uttered bravely in her Harvard Commencement Speech, in June 2008, that everybody, with no exclusions, have the ability to transform the world, with no need individuals, as a group, or as a government in general. She also denoted before this that power is not by identifying one's self with the powerful only, but with the powerless, additionally. She said that if one chooses to raise their voice and use their status on behalf of those who have no voice, as well as thinking of those who do not have the very same privileges and advantages that one has.

Consequently, their existence will be solemnized not only by their relatives, but also by those whose realities were helped changed by these particular people. By the end of the speech, Mrs. Rowling quoted from Lucius Annaeus Seneca, an old Roman stoic philosopher saying as she was in "search of ancient wisdom " in the respect, that life is way more similar to a tale, matters not how long it is, but how good it is, is what could be considered as more important. A clear, strong message she tried to convey, that is to serve life for goodness so as to make it good and worthy of living. Apparently this cannot be fulfilled with a part of the society not being able to voice themselves for being frightened by the response they would have which is rejection or sidelining as it was previously.

Over and above, the empowering of women was dealt with by M. Nisha, an Indian Assistant professor, in her "Subjugation and Empowerment of Women in Kathryn Stockett's The Help". Nisha (2017) gave a plain definition of women empowerment as being ultimately about the leverage of women's status, specifically concerning those underprivileged ones, in all strips of society. She announced that it is the creation of a society in which women could *breathe* without the fear of

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oppression, discrimination, as well as other behaviors like the feeling of persecution. These very ones are applied on women in a traditionally male dominated structure. She defended the idea that empowering women is linked basically to a society, void from the apprehension and exploitation they are facing on a daily basis. M. Nisha proposed education as a solution to strengthen and empower women as to develop the society. She linked the realization of the latter to the being of Equality between the two sexes, saying, "... the development is only possible when women and men enjoy equal opportunities to reach their potential." That is to say that the well-being of society and its development could not be reached without women being tantamount to men, in the partaking of duties and opportunities (P. 44)

In addition, Julie Bishop MP, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, said on the International Women's Day that empowering women is a key solution to boost Economy. Bishop (2014) argued that bolstering women ensures reaching the certain state of security and peace that societies for long, longed for. What Mrs. Bishop aimed to deliver is, that advocating women's empowering and the attainment of the strategies is correlated with the growth of the society from all sides and in all sects. (P. 3)

Notwithstanding the fact that Rebecca Campbell, an American professor of psychology gave a lightened notion about freedom in her work entitled Light Is The New Black, which was published first in the United Kingdom. Campbell (2015) announced, in a very understandable way, that everybody has their inner knowledge that is waiting for them just to use it, so it steers them towards their aim, which means they turn their backs on it and seek refuge within external ones. She emphasized on the idea that beings only turn back to their inner self when the world shuts all doors in their faces and "the universe turns off all the lights"; leaving no choice but to use the inner strength, put as a crutch the inner knowledge, and utilize *the light* within themselves as she called it (pp. 2-3).

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Lady Campbell stated that one could spend one's whole life looking outside of their selves for things and solutions to decipher their troubling problems and situations, as well as to quench the thirst within their souls. Yet, they will not feel their own self-satisfaction. They will always feel as if they are missing something. The lust cannot be pleased as long as one keeps striving against its own will, and the thirst would not be quenched by pushing one's self instead of "listening, trusting, and allowing" (pp. 2-3) Rebecca Campbell concluded the idea by highlighting the notion that whatever one searches for is within themselves. She made it clear that women are powerful enough not to put themselves under the mercy of others, but rather depend on themselves and trust their own instinct and inner *light*, for, according to her, they have everything they need within themselves. She stated in every conspicuous word familiar to her tongue: "...that everything I was searching for was inside me all along" (ibid).

The set of efforts and struggles done by women and men, for the sake of the female liberation and the leverage of her stature, was prosperous after years of fighting and defending multiple thoughts and beliefs, such as equality and the right for proper education that were enormously helpful to offer grandiose aid in evolving the status of societies and elevate the posture of humanness in the world. Not to forget the positioning of such results of feminism and its gauges on economics, politics and not solely the social sect.

1.4. Forms of Oppression

It is undeniable that the fight for women's rights started for some reasons, and to reach some goals, as it is undisputable that women have suffered terribly, and enormously from the monstrosity of men, and the rules applied by them. The female sex has witnessed uncountable pictures of discrimination, sidelining, marginalization, abuse and mental attacks, that have affected their status, their lives, and to a certain extent, their role in society. This malignity and wickedness has reached a certain level, in which women became the weakest link in

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life, the deserted sex, the detrimental specie and the race with more unpredictable detriment.

What was not fully comprehended, is that, in the process of defending the world's safety and sanity against the claimed injudicious, flimsy sex, it appeared that they were oppressing it, instead of just being protective towards it, weakening it, instead of empowering it, and ill-treating it in the stead of giving it the much of care it deserves and the wariness it merits to be taught.

All these together have manipulated women's thoughts and behaviors, and crated them within a world of fear. They turned into creatures that are afraid to raise their voices to defend themselves against the inequity, disparity and claimed contrast to men. These women, in the very same societies, where patriarchy and mental anarchy took place, suffered, pained and ached outrageously and were seen, explicitly, as a casualty of an androcentric-being world.

1.4.1. Unequal handling

It is knowledgeable, since, and even prior to the beginning of the struggle for women's rights, which was against partiality and imparity against females that women witnessed such disparity, unequal treatment and gender bias, that backed their social status. They received a humongous sly within society. The other sex's sufferance was represented in being subordinates, sidelined. Let alone the pivotal effect of culture on them. These women suffered unimaginably with the witness of wit men and women who, either attended those days, when this maliciousness was spread widely, and put into existence by most, if not all males and authoritarians of society, with the exception of some, who belong to the middle and upper classes, or read about it, studied it, or thoroughly looked into it.

They came to decide, finally, that they should fight it and hinder its proliferation, before it breeds to extinct the female's identity, along with its status and role in society, unknowingly to the consequences of it. This inequality women faced was not displayed only in the unequal payment for the very similar jobs, but

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also in not giving them opportunities to explain themselves, talk for themselves, or try to prove what they are said to be or not to be able to do, to be wrong.

Kamrany & Robinson n. d. declared in an article done by them under the title “The Global Problem of Gender Inequality” that the latest as an outrageous issue, still finds itself a place within society, though the adjustments taken to amend the latter, including the enhancement of education, work conditions, and economic opportunities. Both of them took as a fact, the notion that manifest efforts and progresses have been exerted, therewith, gender differentiation still suffuse. They urged authorities to take a humongous stride towards bettering society by making human development and economic commensuration (Para, 1).

Becker (1999) reckoned that patriarchy does not depend, nor put as a crutch the oppression of women. She clarified that a system in society that is all about the male sex; male identified, male-controlled, and male-centered, can never be expected to magnify women over the prior, as she said that this very same society glorifies and estimates masculinity and masculine traits over femininity and feminine traits. Dame Becker denoted that in such cases where society ennoble men over women, both sexes; Men and Women would embrace the fact that the latter is regarded as an object to *fulfill male needs*. Her idea was inevitably about the reality that women accept the social system which views them as subordinates to men, whose ideas were not aimed to be against being patronized, which leaves them in awe of their stature and importance in society (P.24)

Mary Becker had other ideas, yet, to be heard. She did not only insist on the notion of the subjugation of women not being the basis of patriarchy “central dynamic”, but she gave the credit to the patriarchal culture. Stating that it is all about hating women, calling it misogynistic, that ascribes esteem to masculinity. Miss Becker continued uncovering the truth that women, in such cultures are seen as: “less than fully human and as less than trustworthy” (p. 26).

She clarified that, women in such societies, working under such systems valuing the male sex over its opposite, could never be equal to men. She showed the

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conspicuous decay that leads to women's unequal treatment and the disparity, so as to be handled before it goes to the smallest places where there is no such behavior against them, as well as to be dealt with in these infected societies.(P.26).

A report has been submitted in favor of its title "Humanity Divided: Confronting Inequality in Developing Countries". In the reading of the latter, one comes across comprehensions of the inequality which wraps women and ensnares them within the cage. According to what it came with (2013), (Ridgeway, 2011), gave her own understanding of gender inequality, stating that it is not built only on the difference in access to resources, or the control over them. She reckoned that gender norms and stereotypes strengthen the identities of both sexes and coerce their behavior in processes that directly give birth to inequality and disparity. What is understood is that society, and blinded conclusions based on rules that are put to marginalize one sex in favor of the other, play a horrific role in gender inequality (P.163).

As for inequality affecting women even in preventing them from showing their own capacities and being restricted of participating and having access to public services just as men do. This reached, additionally, different sects of society, from politics all the way to economy. Katharine T. Bartlett confessed in Feminism and Economic Inequality that women suffer from the prior terribly for it is all subsistent, though with unequaled levels (P. 287).

Bartlett (2017) brightened the idea of women suffering not only from economic disparity on which she put her emphasis, but from inequality in different fields. She agreed that economic inequality is a snag that cut a dash in women's stability in the field. She carried on explaining that what is meant by economic inequality being women's issue is that women are oddly and disproportionately poor as she took it for a fact. She terminated her idea quoting Mackinnon's, which informs that feminism uncovered the real picture of maleness as being ubiquitous and unreal with existent results (P. 287).

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Bartlett continued stating that according to critiques concerning *libertarianism*, wealth is being distributed on ones on the expense of others and declared that if, “The systems of subordination work together. So should their critiques”, so as to mirror these systems as being man-made and exercisers of power with real, unjust and unexplained consequences. (P. 287)

Professor Karmany, and the research assistant Robinson n. d. added to their non-neoteric ideas about inequality and its omnipresence within all societies, even merely, which have been discussed before, that gender discrimination is planted within the pages of history, culture and mores. They pointed out that gender differentiation and partiality are a smirch that has to be dealt with, as they reported that it leads to inevitable psychological damage of women and their comprehension of their importance and lordliness to themselves and society similarly (Para. 7).

They expounded their words by demonstrating that women’s low status in society is due to their enchainment to culture and traditions that keep them ensnared to undecipherable odds of inequality, and concluded their utterances by suggesting rehabilitation to the injured society, which is to be exhaled from the traditions of citizenship. They also required the cooperation of all institutions to elevate the status of women and enhance their well-being instead of shifting their attitudes away from the favor of the female sex (Ibid).

Women’s concern, ever since they started their struggle, was to put inequality, as an issue that jeopardizes their lives and well-being, to a stop. They witnessed the atrocities of it and knew how hard it was to live under an umbrella of unequal treatment and injustice, so, multiple efforts were done by men and women for the sake of showing that inequality affects their welfare, and the benevolence of society as well. They sought to enlarge the interest in ceasing the spread of such phenomenon like a disease that takes over any place it comes across, by sensitizing societies of the unwholesomeness of such acts.

1.4.2. Abuse and Mental Health

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Women's suffering is not exclusive to be seen through physical harassment, or sexual abuse only, but through the mental, emotional, and psychological wickedness as well. The female sex suffered terribly from these atrocities of society, and put to be blamed for things and mistakes not even made by them. They perceived unbearable pain, and unimaginable resistance was theirs.

Orwell (1984, P. 301) concurred that there is only a sole thing to be wished of pain, that is of it to cease, meaning that it is so mischievous that it could not be endured for long. He admitted that there is nothing in the globe that would be considered more sinister and ominous than physical pain for it affects not only the body but moves on to influence one's psychology and emotions, from what to be grasped. George Orwell conceded that nobody could stand before pain, with all kinds of it there are no heroes when it comes to facing pain. This shows the immensity of wickedness that pain could give rise to, and if women are to be considered as most of the individuals within society that are involved in it, one could only imagine the harm that would comprise itself within their bodies, psyche and emotions, which is not enough, if at all amiable to be incurred

Pieters, Italiano, Offermans & Hellemans (2010) agreed on gender based violence and partner abuse's definition given on behalf of the World Health Organization that it encloses any behavior of fierceness that occasions physical pain, emotional soreness or sexual wrench; which is about the want to rule over the partner, to the individuals involved. This leads to the idea that women are the exposed portion to such duress, since they were considered as being the weakest, lawless link with less access to public rights in society (P. 13) .

As to carry on, Pieters, Italiano, Offermans & Hellemans (2010) added that the definition gathers also threats to perform such deeds, as well as the deprivation of liberty, which women suffered from for long because of the conception of gender differentiation and discrimination that others within the same environment still did not subsist. The latter includes not only the private life, with family members or partners, but the public one as well, including the daily life, which could be

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threatened by foreigners, who could be fanatic religious individuals, zealots, intolerant or bigoted work partners. The prior could cause all kinds of harm which would affect the individual whether being a male or a female, yet, the latter is the most influenced by such performances and malicious deeds (p. 13).

Promoting gender equality and women's rights Program (PGEWR) (2009) had to deal with violence on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (FMECD), so it gave an overview about it and its manifestations. It informed that the abuse of women should not be visualized as an affair of secrecy, but as a distortion of human rights. What was said was a conclusion of multiple conferences in defense of women against the malicious behavior threatening their well-being. A comprehensive view was given, concerning the whereabouts of violence against women, and the vents it fills. It denoted that women's abuse takes numerous shapes and fits in different aspects of the female sex, including the sexual, the physical, and the emotional or psychological viciousness. (P. 1).

It was shown, as a continuance to the mentioned beforehand in this program (2009) that cruelty could be caused by relatives, family, intimate partners or by foreigners, given the example of the violence caused by authorities like teachers and employees who exploit their powers to harass the less powerful (women in this case). This program denoted the fact that violence against women always ends with fatalities which could be true considering the reality of them being ill-treated, malnurtured in some locations of the globe, or tortured for they were and still are, perceived as sexual objects. And the best example of that is of the Honor killing (p. 1)

As a conclusion of all what has been said, and according to what came of words in this program (2009), violence against women covers the private and the public sects of society. "A widespread and multifaceted problem, with a variety of persons in the roles of perpetrators and victims" (p. 1), The program offered what to be considered as a solution, that is to defy this abuse by giving reference and

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importance to other factors including health and education from which women used to suffer.

Wollstonecraft (1792, P. 149), indicated that the establishment of equality is a must to give morality a fertile land, or else it would perish even if it was founded metaphorically on rocks, meaning that grace will not exist, nor will it be constant in a society infected with inequality, no matter what the precautions and provisions. Mary Wollstonecraft made it plain that a society, in which women are tied to the undermost of it unexplainably, will not be freed of their attempts and aims at “continually undermining it through ignorance or pride”. Either ignorance of the reasons of them being the suffering part of disparity, or their pride which is considered as fatal for them, not giving it up, leads to their destruction, either physically, or most significantly, on the emotional level.

According to a study done on behalf of the United Nations about “The World’s Women (2015)”, undergoing violence based on a gender bias, causes women to suffer from physical, mental, emotional health issues, as the conclusion was unanimous, that wickedness and women’s abuse usually end up with casualties that are regrettable; death as the most extreme terminus (P. 1).

Kamrany & Robinson n. d. denoted in “The Global Problem of Gender Inequality”, as an article written by them, that abuse and ill-treatment towards women are forms of inequality in society, as they insisted on the notion of them being as much harmful. The two writers backed their words up by giving instances of violence, femicide (that is the murder of women). The prior has many reasons like the honorable killing, which is usually done by family members for perceiving her having brought dishonor to the family. This has become a momentous snag, especially in Yemen, Pakistan, and Muslim Middle East countries, for them involving ultimate levels of misogyny, abuse, aggression and unexplainable acts of mistreatment. These deeds are not only promiscuous to women, as both writers declared, but to humanity in a wholly big picture (Para. 7-8).

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Based on Dr V Chandra-Mouli & Dr A Amin's research n. d. violence against women takes many forms, counting intimate and non-intimate partner's sexual violence, honor killings and forced marriages. They stated that, this issue encompasses myriad consequences in the sectors of economy and the societal one furthermore. It also causes a damage which covers all parts of humanity and human development, from individuals, all the way to communities and societies. The two doctors concluded their ideas by ensuring that there is a tremendous set of efforts put into action, all over the globe, to cease this outrageousness jeopardizing society and the well-being of its females (P. 23).

Based on a fact sheet that was written on behalf of the UN Women, published as a report delivered by the secretary general in 2010, Annan announced that:

Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development, and peace." (Para. 1) .

The secretary general uttered in his attempt to be conspicuous, that violence against the female sex is the most outrageous behavior towards well-being of individuals and humanness similarly, as he admitted that it has neither frontiers of geography, nor cultural confines. He put to rest the idea that as long as violence against women carries on, no amendments will occur on society's step towards parity, no alteration will take place within evolvement of humanness and the spread of amity will be minimal.

It was shown by various organizations, writers, scholars and historians, that abuse and violence against women has taken over since antiquity, they aimed at exhibiting the forms that this act could take as they wanted to achieve the point where they would be able to show the impact of such violence on the female sex. They illustrated with statistics, witnesses and scientific studies that revolved around one and sole idea, that violence against women could affect their mental health as

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well as their bodies, from a small scope. Yet, the bigger picture is that it affects not only that or the spread of peace, but the sense of humanness as well.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman had a specific way to deal with the mental depression. She explained it in a way that the reader of the Yellow Wallpaper might comprehend that it could be a semi-autobiographical work. A diary in which the narrator was unknown where she talked about herself being in confinement by her husband who asked her to rest, treated her as a child and imposed the rest cure on her which somehow showed the superiority of men as was thought. The picture of mental health being affected by oppression and imprisonment could be discerned through her utterances about the patterns she tried to dissolve before the reader knows that she becomes the woman behind the bars described by Gilman. According to Charlotte Perkins Gilman the thought of being ensnared by her husband and feeling jailed created a mental disturbance within her described in her behavior and the weakness of her husband for not being able to help her, instead of losing consciousness (Plemmons. 2015, Slides. 4-5-6).

Gilman Stated claiming that the kind of treatment imposed by her husband affected her so bad that she was close to mental destruction, "I came so near the borderline of utter mental ruin that I could see over" (p. 804), for her mental stability was jeopardized by the rest cure which was brought by Silas Weir Mitchell. (Rachel, p. 9)

1.4.3. Enslavement and Ensnarement

The female sex had for long strived for freedom, equality and parity amongst other rights. This strife was against the actual distribution of power at the time. Women were either enslaved literally or mind-captured as it is the case nowadays. Their rights were ignored and rules were applied on them solely in the case of patriarchal societies, or both them and the opposite sex, in the matter of slavery and slaves trade, but the prior is the main concern, since women were suffocating for being deprived of uncountable things

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Garvey (1937) denounced that enslavement is an outrageous issue, as he hinted to the fact that it could take many forms. He also denoted that enslavement is not all about being a subordinate to another person as he clarified it by saying that they should set themselves free from the mental slavery for none but themselves could free their minds though they would be able to free the body with other people's assistance. He continued declaring that the individual who is incapable of making use of their minds will be condemned to be ruled by other who do (Cited in Garvey. 2012)

It is understood that one could be enslaved within themselves before being ensnared by others' thoughts and this is applicable on women who are afraid to react to their partners or society's malicious behaviors towards them that leads them to be imprisoned within an environment of fear and scare to behave normally.

Wollstonecraft (1792) had her own way to discuss the problematic of slavery and women's entrapment. She informed that men's ultimate sake is only women's body to take into designation while her mind is into disavowal. Since the former debilitates men, they would still attempt to have absolute control over it; that is to enslave women unquestionably. Mary Wollstonecraft questioned how long it would take for these women to recognize that the status they deserve is not the same in which they dwell as she urged them implicitly to have a say, against their current status, "who can tell, how many generations may be necessary to give vigor to the virtue and talents of the freed posterity of abject slaves" (Cited in Ferguson.1992, P. 89)

Carter and MCrae (2017) have united their understanding concerning Wollstonecraft's A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792) and her outstanding ideas that are considered as everlasting for writers and writings. One of such is the idea which argued that the thought of women and their subordination of women is probably because of the thought that the first woman was, literally created from Adam's rib, which makes her bound to be beneath him. This understanding puts to rest the fact that this idea of women's subjugation and enslavement, the fact that

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women should be companions to men and that the whole reason for their creation is to be in men's interest and support, is subsistent since the first eons of time (P. 228).

Sylvia Path (2000) quoted in her Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Path that she would not consider herself to be free with her owning part of her body while her soul is not within her authority. She notified that one's body is just being destructed whilst their minds are not being part of it. What was said is a significance that a woman specifically, or an individual in general, could never be taken as being liberated with parts of them still not belonging to them, either their bodies, or their minds and souls. Or else, they will be conceived as slaves, entrapped for being subjugated to others with a segment of their existence. Condemned they will be, to accompany their implicit or explicit owners until they decide to retrieve their freedoms.

Wollstonecraft (1792) linked the idea of women's enslavement to the notion of them not having a proper education, along with not being able to educate their children neatly. She stated that women could not be liberated and taken as appropriate fellows of men if they were not educated to be, and hence she will stop the leverage of knowledge and precepts. Mary Wollstonecraft questioned the ability of women to be virtuous while they are entrapped by their ignorance. Women's comprehension of their own good and their ways of cooperation within society, she said, is stabilized on her knowledge of why she ought to be virtuous, and not only act according to rules planted in society. Wollstonecraft continued implicitly saying that women's ensnarement takes them nowhere and helps them not to grasp what their duties are for freedom according to her, strengthens their reason, help them walk again into the course of comprehension of what they ought and ought not to do, in connection to the manners related to her real good (Para. 6).

Wollstonecraft's (1792) idea made it clear that those women, to gain respect, must employ their understandings for it is the only basis of their character's liberation. She went explicit afterwards to state that women should kneel only to the power of reasoning and cogitation in the stead of remaining slaves of opinion,

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subordinates who are engaged by the latter which is not theirs. Likewise, Mary Wollstonecraft concurred that unless grace and integrity are accompanied by liberty, they will always be fragile and feeble. She intended to dilate what to be said about a single individual to all humans, emphasizing that morals have to be established upon unalterable precepts. Mary Wollstonecraft placed her concentricity on the fact that no human being is perceived as rational or an individual with principles, while being subordinate to an authority. She clarified that an individual (a woman) is considered of worthiness not by being subjugated to their companion and enslaved by their rules, but rather to the aspect of reason that would eventually show them where they really stand and rank in society (P. 53).

In the very respect, and in matters of the very quote, Stanley (2013) gave her own comprehension and explication, denoting that Wollstonecraft, through what she uttered, expressed her frustration with the restrictions of femaleness within society, which uncovers the fact that the concept of femaleness is endangered with the limitations imposed on women and accepted by them which led Mary Wollstonecraft to denounce that their understanding and reasoning is required to gain the freedom or else they will only remain modest slaves of others opinions, which is not much of a plausible behavior to be embraced and accepted (P. 55)

1.5. **Contemporary Feminism in the US (An overview)**

After the first wave feminism that called for women's right to vote, the second wave liberation movement, and the third one, women lately felt that this work within the third wave is being somehow dissimilar to the prior done by their ancestors. Once again, contemporary feminism or the new wave feminism if to say, is anew unlike the former ones with its use of new forms that are in favor of women as it has always been. This novel trend with its unprecedented utilization of technology and online empowerment helped women build strong movements for the good of women's cases. It has also shown the combat of the female sex recently just as it should be displayed. The late movement's combat is mainly against sexual harassment and violence against women on which there is a momentous focus,

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taking for granted that the world is witnessing such acts in multiple parts of society, including the workplace and street harassment. The United States is one of those countries that suffer terribly from such deeds that this gauge called the fourth wave feminism has formed itself to opposite and put them to a cease (Para. 3).

Contemporary Feminism has been defined differently as its principles and virtues remain the same, defending women's well-being. A definition was given on behalf of "Brown Council institute" n. d. that today's feminism is the awareness of the past and comprehending it to help know how the present is inhabited and aid build a future feminism. It is denoted accordingly that contemporary feminism is about acknowledging what is being done as a path to elevate the equitability and lessen more the patriarchal beliefs in society. Likewise, what is important in today's feminism is its understanding and beholding of race, class, and gender's effect on people's experiences of power, since the idea is that feminism of today is just a reproduction of the elder ones, with newer forms and techniques. (Para. 1)

Juliette Peers & Danielle Hakim n. d. "from The Women's Art Register"

announced that Contemporary Feminism concerns the fight for parity, as it always was, given the example of them defending women's justness in the field of art. They have agreed that feminism, being intersectional, delineates the idea that women's experience of injustice is not the same, as it shows that this wave is to uncover the fact that these women should not be hiding for their deeds are witnesses on what they have and still could do (Para. 2).

Gleeson n. d. "From Cherchez la femme" stated that feminism is as substantial as it always was, for women still endure unending maliciousness. These forms of oppression may have evolved through time but, they still subsist. He stated that the alteration of oppressions require an alteration in feminism to meet with the necessities to uphold its duty. Gleeson addressed all women facing oppressions rather than those white, middle class females that only appear to be addressed. He concluded giving his idea about what today's feminism should be like noting that it needs the continuance of inclusion, that it should be pliant and flexible as it should

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remain open for supplementary understanding, learning and human development (Para. 3).

Jen Kennedy & Liz Linden n. d. notified as part of their “Contemporary Feminism” **that they do not advocate for one definition of feminism over any other clarification of the term since it is related greatly to manifold politics. They denoted that one has to comprehend the breadth and the width of the term’s meaning nowadays, for the sake of creating a significant, pertinent and novel fusions or communions that are considered momentarily the engine chamber of politics. Deciphering the idea that feminism nowadays plays a plausible role in politics as in the rest of society’s sectors (Para. 4).**

It is acknowledged that Feminism, with all its waves, had similar wants that are represented in defending women’s rights and well-being in patriarchal societies. These same societies that are to be considered hell for them for they were if not still seen as subordinates with incapacities of imitating the virtues of men, their duties and responsibilities. The latter wave of feminism, stood against the very same oppressions with different forms since the ways of despotism changed.

1.6. Conclusion

Henceforward, ones’ thirst for understanding the conception of Feminism might be quenched. The chapter that has been dealt with, as has been shown

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upwards, brought to sight the enshrouded proper comprehension of feminism as to what it aims at. It helped unveil the erroneous thought that this movement is about an unending battle between males and females to take society over, and make conspicuous the notion that it attempts not to plant hatred towards men. It was rather to get the chance to prove they are not of incapability to imitate their virtues, but with their rights gained only. Any of those who read the segment as of now will have few ideas and a quantity of knowledge about the pillars on which feminism as a trend stands on, the concepts of it as well as the precepts it fights for. The reader is, as of the time, familiarized with the forms of wickedness women were and might still endure. Last but not least, there has been some sort of overview about the contemporary American Feminism, to crystallize the notion of the new wave feminism having the same principles as the formers with different forms of struggle. The understanding of the chapter might well aid comprehending and facilitating the analysis of the trilogy within the next one.

Chapter two
Conceptualization
of Feminism in
*“the Breathing
Series”*

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2.1. Introduction

Substantially, the present chapter will offer as a starter, a brief introduction about the author. Not to preclude a summary of the piece of art that treasured her in the eyes of the reader for, one will be apprised about the execution of occurrences in the three portions of The Breathing series by Rebecca Donovan. The lights will be shed on an explication of the might meant symbolism behind the use of the titles designating different parts of the trilogy that will be bestowed shortly. This segment of the work will also give a conspicuous picture of the utilization of few concepts which represent women's ultimate combat that is about their want of freedom, and prior to that, their persistence to gain it, as it will exhibit some of the forms of maliciousness plainly inhabiting female souls such as the unjust treatment. All will be mirrored in Donovan's work in hand. There will be an unambiguous connection between Donovan's use of specific words and names with unobserved meanings –like starting the work with the utterance *Breathe* and her want to confer the epistle that grasps within its folds the suffering of the female sex in contemporary societies as to its will, patience and persistence to be freed, likewise, the use of names such as Emily that refers to what a woman is supposed to be. One will also be met with ideas that strengthen Donovan and Readers' opinions about the status of women in society, their power, role and effect on it.

2.2. About the Author (A précis)

Rebecca Donovan is a graduate of Missouri Columbia University. She was born in the United States of America and recently residing and living in a small town in Massachusetts with her sole son. She formerly worked as an event

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organizer, and began her career as a self-published author. In 2012, Things started to take another path, and the wheel of fortune started steering towards her life. Her fame was uncovered to all readers and particularly fans of new young adult fiction genre. Dame Donovan is considered as USA bestselling author, whose lust for writing that resided within herself since a while back in time, resurfaced, and merged together with her persistence to become something, to deem her as an author at last.

Rebecca Donovan's treasured life commenced with the publication of her concatenated novels starting with Reason to Breathe that was published in 2012, followed by Barely Breathing that was launched just few months before the last installment of the marvel was published in July 2013, under the title Out of Breath. After astounding readers all over the world and having their echo back with wonder, appreciation and appraisal, Donovan bestowed her magic that was made in mind and written in papers, on those who read her works by adding an extra portion of magnificence to her last work entitled What if, that was published lately in 2014.

2.3. Abridgement of the Trilogy

The tenebrous Breathing series tells, through its folds, the story of a girl named Emily Thomas (Emma) and the virulence she lived under, as she resided at her aunt's. This virulence Emma witnessed went unambiguous throughout the series, as she discovered hand in hand with that, the beauty of love. Whilst being in an absolute nether status as well as enduring various tribulations at home, within society and within herself psychologically, she was staunch, to stand and persevere in the face of such complications. The course of events and happenings in the series make one terrified in a sense to continue with the following chapter and then with the subsidiary novel getting to the finale of the series. With events and incidents that would be pasted in one's thoughts addictively. This, consequently would cause the reader to get thirsty for more as, to make him eager to quench it with more **brehtaking** incidents.

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The first segment of the series being entitled Reason to Breathe commences with Emma struggling to grasp a whiff of air to feed her lungs, after having been beaten up by her disturbed aunt.

Breathe. My eyes swelled as I swallowed against the lump in my throat. Frustrated with my weakness, I swiftly brushed the tears that had forced their way down my cheeks with the back of my hand (p. 1)

Emma lives in Weslyn with her aunt Carol, Uncle George and her two cousins Jack and Leila, She was left at their door four years ago by her alcoholic mother, who could not take care of her, nor did she want her anywhere close after her father passed away. Emily's life becomes hell, as described by her Friend Sara when she compared the house Emma lives in as inferno while resembling Carol to a demon, "Well let's get you back to hell before the devil realizes you're not home". It would have been funny, except that it was too close to the truth for me to laugh" (p. 39).

She was being brutalized, hurt emotionally, assaulted mentally and abused physically by her deranged aunt. Besides of the fact of her uncle doing very poor by defending her, Emma hinders herself from reporting what occurs of her for the sake of protecting her little cousins from losing their mother who shows them as much love as she offers her of hatred and disgust.

With an unexpected amount of force, she thrust my head forward...A thunderous bolt shot through my head as the hall blurred around me...her vise grip tore the hair from my scalp and drove my head into the hard wood again..."I regret every second you're in my house," Carol growled with contempt. "You're a worthless pathetic tramp, and if it wasn't for your uncle, I would have shut the door in your face when your drunken mother abandoned you (pp. 39-40)

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Emma finds refuge in discerning that after two years she will be freed from the cage within which she subsists recently, that is when she goes to College that appears later on to be Stanford university, so she occupies herself with hard working to maintain her plausible grades and remaining an outstanding athlete as she is. She keeps herself off social relationships so she could survive till then:

I survived by keeping my emotions in check – by maintaining my composure and tucking it all away. I managed to stay under the radar, skating through school without anyone truly remembering I was here. My teachers acknowledged my academic successes and my coaches depended upon my athletic abilities, but I wasn't important enough to make a recognizable social contribution. I was easily forgettable. That's what I counted on (p. 18).

Unlike people in Connecticut who worry about their appearances and company more than anything, she occupied herself of that but to avoid distractions. An exception will be made, that of her best friend Sara McKinley, the very famous girl from Weslyn. That was working quite well with Emma until her unforgettable encounter with Evan Mathews, who has noticed her in a way that went beyond her anticipation. He found her interesting and tried to know her as he tempted to capture her attention as mentioned, "There are so many other people in this school-you don't have to know me.". "But I want to," he replied with a grin." (p. 19).

Evan tries to draw her attention with Sara's help, which he did, as she admitted that he came out of nowhere and discerned her world at short, when everybody else was shut out at their first attempts to talk to get involved with her. He changed her routine, and made her feel unease while being at school where she used to escape and feel safe

This was not how my days were supposed to go. No one tried to get involved with me, and I kept to myself. This was the place

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where everything was supposed to be safe and easy. How could Evan Mathews unravel my constant universe in just one day? (p. 23)

She agreed to start meeting with Evan, after some efforts by him and Sara in accordance with her being hesitant and reluctant, for she was concentrated on escaping the abuse she is enduring by getting a scholarship to college, as she was afraid of being compelled to tell him about it. After deciding to start meeting, Emma plans to make her life manageable in a sense, by imposing rules on Evan like what to talk about and how to behave towards each other, while abiding the rules set by her aunt as to the time of sleep and what to eat, how long would her shower take.

Emma starts having a portion of happiness, with Evan—whom she was neglecting the whole time, just as she used to do with everybody else, but his reaction was not the same as theirs, meaning that he did not leave her alone at her demand of it—introducing her to new things, showing her the meaning of happiness and joyousness. Yet, she questions whether it is worth it to enjoy the moment and live it as it has not perished yet, as she demanded whether her experience with Evan is better than the inevitable conclusion of her having either herself beaten by her aunt or her heartbroken by him so she stated ironically in the respect

Was it better to get as much out of the moment as possible, knowing it could slip out from under you in a second? Was the actual experience better than the inevitable conclusion? I guess I had to decide if the conclusion was a broken heart, or a broken bone, in order to weigh the risk.” (p. 148)

Through the whole book, it is noticeable that Emma suffered from physical and emotional abuse more than a human being could take. She was always being hurt. Being hit by her aunt, and mentally crushed while her uncle does little if

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anything to help her from that cruelty except for trying to cover up, as he takes as an argument for his wife's behavior the stress she is being under

“It would be best if you weren't around Carol very much,” he finally said. His voice drew my attention. I wasn't surprised he refused to look over at me. “She's been under a lot of stress, and the new medication she's on is affecting her moods. You can stay in your room and eat after we do, like you did before, but I'll take care of the dishes. You just worry about getting your Saturday chores done while she's out shopping (p. 148)

When Evan starts comprehending what is going on with her, she pushes him away though his love for her was reciprocal. After a brutal attack by the aunt that hospitalized Emma. Things started to calm thinly, with Evan's leave which changed her life and her new date, Drew who appears to perceive her with his animal instinct only. She leaves him and Evan reappears in her life to make better of it.

Emma's *reason to breathe* was the intersection of her want to feel free expressing love for Evan, knowing that love helped her breathe as she said: “In the balance of love and loss, it was love that made me struggle to... Breathe” (p. 221). As she said that love made her live life and not only endure it, as it aided her prove she was powerful enough. Emma said explaining her thought of love:

Love helped me live life instead of just survive it. It challenged my resolve, proving I was stronger than I ever thought possible. The comfort of it healed my wounds and caressed my scars. It gave me the confidence to stand taller than the inches within my body (p. 220)

With her lust to be liberated of her aunt's clutch and abuse that jeopardizes her life and future of having a normal life since she always bruised her, tormented her and left her with scars that obliged her to wear long sleeves since she was not

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able to play well in few of the games for being harmed physically, terribly. This tremendous part of the series ends with an unfortunate, breathtaking scene of Emma on the floor struggling to remain within the living, with her aunt's hands wrapping her neck to extirpate the soul out of her as the thought of Emily taking Carol's family away from her twirled inside of her deranged mind:

I pulled harder at my arms which were strung above my head. I heard the jangling of metal as the sharp edges of the restraints dug into my wrists,“ I am not losing my family because of you,” she seethed.

The suffering of Emily as a female protagonist was plain by observing the words which described the situation and Emma at the same time. She was struggling for her life literally as the fear of death wrapped her mind and her heart responded by pounding speedily:

Panic consumed me. I started squirming, screaming as loud as the restricted covering would allow. The pillow pressed against my face. I shook my head back and forth vigorously, trying to remove it. It wouldn't shift enough to provide me air. There was pressure on my chest. I tried to twist to get her off. That's when her cold hands gripped around my neck. I screamed louder, but my frantic pleas were muffled by the tape. I flipped my body back and forth - the restraints on my wrists and the weight on my chest wouldn't allow me to escape her strangling grasp (p. 220).

The subsequent novel in the series that is Barely Breathing is launched with Emma's resuscitation from the final incident. It started with her trying to recover, physically and emotionally of the wounds done by her aunt who was sent somewhere not close to her shortly after the fright that has taken place six months ago, after her death and revival. Emma moves to live with Sara, and her

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family for she has nowhere else to go, “It’s not like I had anywhere else to go, and the McKinleys wouldn’t turn their backs on me” (p. 8).

Then, happens what was not taken into account. Rachel, Emily’s mother appears from nothingness with an attempt to fix things with her daughter after having left her to drown in bitterness. Emily hesitantly accepts her offer and moves to live with her in an attempt to reconnect:

I spoke to my mother this morning...”

“It’s about time,” Sara interrupted. “You’ve only been ignoring her for like six months.” “What did she have to say?” Anna encouraged, ignoring Sara's outburst.

“Well... I’m moving in with her this Sunday.” (p. 9).

The choke came in the soon ulterior time, with the reality of her mother. Emily’s mother is a drug addict and an alcoholic with some mental trouble. She dates a young man, Jonathan, who appears to have built a good relationship with Emma since they both have a decipherable comprehension of the intricacy and dimness in life. Yet, Emma tries to break this connection since she considers it as jeopardy to her relationship with her mother, as it tangled her status with Evan, her boyfriend. Rachel starts questioning that Jonathan is hiding something and feels insecure with Emma existing around him.

Consequently, she repeatedly gets drunk and blames her daughter for things she only thinks happened or going to happen while Emma holds herself back and hand her the opportunity to amend the relationship. The story takes a dissimilar turn, when Emma, gets herself battered by her mother’s drug dealer, who endeavored to steal a necklace given to her by Evan, when breaking in the house for the second time “I scrambled to my feet, trying to find my focus, needing to reach him before he could make it to the stairs. I pulled at his hand. He turned back around, snatching the necklace out of reach”. (p. 231)

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She decides that she has got enough instability to stay with her any longer than she already has, for she made certain her mother will never change. She decides to leave the house and Evan after he got into a fight with Jonathan for her sake. She pushed Evan away, once again leaving him drowning in awe and wistfulness that he expressed through his behavior in the part of the novel where he was the narrator, He admitted that she left him and went to California “I had to look away. I knew I was only torturing myself. She left. She left me here.” (p. 273).

This made her think that she is only meant to hurt those around her. Emma leaves with a massive inheritance she got from her father and tries to stay away from those she cares about. The pain and soreness have not departed from her the whole way for she thought while she suffered in the previous periods of time from her aunt’s abuse, and recently from her mother’s, that she is the reason of their melancholy and chagrin, as her friend Sara told her:

Sometimes people hurt more than they can handle," she soothed, observing me. I had a hard time meeting her eyes. "And sometimes they don't know how to ask for help. They're so caught up in their own pain; they end up hurting everyone around them. I wish you didn't keep getting hurt (p. 210)

This novel comes to an end with Evan wrenched at the thought of being left by the girl he cherished the most. Being wrapped in the anguish of losing his love for her, he decides to leave trying to forget what happened as to what he has just lost. Keeping the machination to be deciphered in the coming, last section of the series.

The installment finale of the series with the title Out of Breath gets the initiation with Emma leaving Weslyn, where she used to live, where everything pernicious occurred to her but for the two most beautiful people in her life, Evan and Sara, whom she was not planning on hurting no more. She tries to overcome the trauma she got from her past by fleeing her hometown, her beloved and her

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friends who bid to help her overcome her guilt though they could not understand what happened in her life. She pushed everybody away, for her sole thought was that she is not worthy of anyone's love nor care. Given the example of Evan's father hating the relationship of his son with her for she is not from the same social status as theirs.

As an attempt to heal her wounds, Emily started drinking, which is a thing she has never done for her mother was an alcoholic, as she started doing things that she would not normally do, either to express her freedom or as an attempt to overcome the amount of hurt she carried in her heart. The harm within herself grows bigger with the suicide of her mother that left her emotionally broken:

Tears filled my eyes, slipping over my lashes and down my cheeks. I was so tired of fighting, tired of hurting. Tired of the guilt, that would never release me, and the regrets that could not be changed. I didn't want this life (p. 222).

She had to go back to her hometown where she met Evan, her Ex-lover, who took care of her while she got drunk in her mother's wake. He was not ready to give up on her and lose her once again so he accompanies her along with Sara back to California where he tried to amend her multiple injuries, including the biggest one, her emotional damage, as to know the reasons that pushed her to leave everything behind from the first place.

After Emma and Evan's relationship revved to life again, she decided to accept the truth that she is intelligent as a woman, beautiful, and worthy of love. Emma also needed to break from the hurting past so she decided to face it knowing that the only way to break from it is to give a confession about her faults and flaws according to what he told her when he uttered, "Living in the mistakes of your past isn't going to do anything but destroy your future" (p. 252). So she came frank with him, who came to a decipherable deduction that she had a rough childhood, and her feelings of loyalty are perverse.

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Eventually, Emma gets over the displeasing moments like her want to end her life, as she overcomes the aching past that hindered her from being the free, smart, visionary woman with dreams and objectives. Consequently, she has her happy ending with Evan and Sara by her side, as well as her Grandmother who did not want anything to do with her once. After a swirling and spinning of events, ups and downs, bitter moments and sweet ones. She uttered her last words as a conclusion of her story that was a beginning of something bigger:

This was just the beginning of our healing. Of being forgiven. I knew I would struggle with it at times, and feel like I was fighting for every breath. I just had to remember, there was always a choice. And I chose to live. I chose to love. I chose to *breathe* (p. 344).

The Breathing Series might be considered as a treasure that gathered multiple forms of love, hatred, hurt, violence, power and independence. Through this trilogy, one could possibly come with a conclusion that it is, as the title refers to; Breathtaking, with events that make the reader urge the self for more and incessant questioning of what might happen by the end of the trilogy or even wonder whether there will be a next section by time, that could carry the story of Emily and the surrounding.

2.4. Behind Titles and Covers

As part of literature, every utterance utilized has a certain signification that puts the reader on the trajectory of what is being remedied. What such uncovered says makes one stickles to explore what is beyond the plainly given. The best example of which is that of titles and covers of works. Granting a book a specific designation always encompasses the want to deliver a particular thought, which is why it is preferable to try to understand the title of work, and often analyze its cover prior to attempt to comprehend the purport behind it or the ideas discussed within it.

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The Breathing Series segments have multiple meanings held in the folds of their titles, and covers. Albeit deemed to be unimportant, yet, they have a lot to tell about the work. Thus, an endeavor to grasp their sense is harmless if not a useful extra information in the process of analyzing the work.

The analysis of the trilogy shall be initiated with having a look at the title and cover of the first work as a commencement of the process. Reason to Breathe, the title implies that the protagonist in this case who is a woman, that is Emma, is struggling to grasp flatulence of freedom. The reader could tersely deduce that Emma Thomas, the protagonist is being strangled concerning her liberty, or at least looking for some reasons to strengthen her want of it, so, as she endures pain and different kinds of imprisonment and ill treatment, she seeks within herself for some point of strength to help her rise against the obscenities of her social environment.

The outer part of the work does not reflect only the protagonist as a woman, but also pictures men, at some point, as a weak creature compared to women on whom they are dependent, which gives women a sort of empowerment if not over men, and women with a better status than theirs, in a double fight, then over themselves as feeble members of society as a third wing to fight against.

From another perspective, it could be said that the protagonist is feeding society's empowerment by fear and silence, and giving it a reason to breathe within them. This eventually vilifies their status and ostracizes them from the rest of the individuals whether being a man or a woman with a good position in society, since this lack of freedom and empowerment was not ubiquitous in a contemporary American society.

While the first novel's skeleton refers to some women's struggle to overcome their fear, suffocation, inferiority and the fact of being put aside and ostracized, as well as women with a better social status in what looks to be a vivid prison – as the protagonist who represents women that are giving all the above mentioned concepts a reason to crawl up into them and kill them slowly while they still live

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hardly, that of the second section of the series exhibits more hope for the female represented by the heroine.

Barely Breathing might conspicuously mirror the fact that the weak woman is dying within the protagonist, as she cannot even inhale enough air to feed her lungs; that is in reference to the weak woman. The name of the book shows that the woman rose against her weak self, as well as the double struggle against men and women similarly to be indulged in the undeniable fact of her belonging to the same rank of society as any other human existent. Taking for granted the second side of the title, one comes with not a discrete notion that it displays not only women arising from the ashes of their misfortunate stature to be a better treated creature with better opportunities and options in life, but also men as getting weaker and barely able to stand against them, as if **Barely Breathing**, scarcely able to treat them as they did before, objectify them if to say and minimize their status. This stands for the fact that women manages to have similar roles, responsibilities and social stature as men.

According to the title, the sick status of the protagonist in a society that implicitly implies abuse and embraces hurt, the very same society that could be in one way or another, considered as encaging, is coming to an end. As implied implicitly in the title of the installment finale of the trilogy, the suffering of the protagonist is suffocating, running Out of Breath as it is dying like an elder who could do nothing but wait for the angel of mercy to grasp that soul of theirs and put them out of their misery. What attracts the reader in the series is that the protagonists are both a male, and a female, this is a conspicuous picture of gender equality in the American society of the 21st century, as has been shown by Rebecca Donovan.

2.5. Behind Characters' Names

Rebecca Donovan's treasury work contains something that might be rarely found in literary works that is the hidden meaning behind the utilization of some specific names of characters in the works. Wellek & Warren (1985) denoted

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that the simplest form of characterization is naming (Cited in Mouro, 2009). Mouro (2009) claimed, discussing Ian watt's wider explication of naming the characters saying that when the novelist names his characters, he grants them an identity adding that naming characters is a novelistic device which previously did not give characters in literary works a completely individualized entity (p. 23).

There is the specific usage of the name Emily which has a particular signification concerning the suitable perception of the weak female sex through the protagonist as one. The name Emily is introduced according to Teresa Norman as, "an English cognate of the Latin Aemilia, which is from Aemilius, an old Roman family name probably derived from aemulus (trying to equal or excel, rival)". This definition says enough about the probable reason to choose the name, a crystallized exhibition of the woman's lust to be empowered enough to equalize if not overcome man and their weak selves in contemporary life. Furthermore, The name Sara according to what behind the name says, once again, is meant to denote lady, princess, noblewoman" in Hebrew, which is almost what Sara in the novel thinks of herself as to what she is treated like.

On the other hand, there is the utilized name Carol, a short form of the French feminine name which dates back to be imputed to the Germanic connotation "man", as it could have an alternative exposition such as army Warrior. This explication relates to the personification of the character's behavior; Cruel, rude, usually harsh, strong, powerful and willing to get rid of anything that is thought to be a hazard to the wellbeing and mental rest of them or their relatives, just as Carol in the story did; tried to choke Emma mercilessly, because she considered her as a threat that could take her family from her. The rest of the names are of less importance, not to say meaningless but they were used purposefully each to denote the character attributed to it.

2.6. Abuse, Enslavement and Mental Health

The female characters and particularly the protagonist in The Breathing Series suffered undeniably from different forms of oppression that could be

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pictured in the real contemporary society of America. Rebecca Donovan gave multiple examples of such forms of wickedness through the trilogy in which the female characters might be seen as individuals who suffered the most as well as being blamed for things their only participation in was their presence and existence.

2.6.1. Abuse and Enslavement

The representation of women's experience of abuse and enslavement by Rebecca Donovan in the dark trilogy started with a word behind which lies their whole sense "Breathe..." (p. 1). As if the protagonist, a woman, is urging herself to combat the enormous pain enveloping her, and fight against the feebleness and anger she is feeling because of the pain caused to her, mostly physically that is ubiquitous through the whole trilogy, by strangers displayed in the second segment or her aunt, a relative, in the first chapter of the trilogy, which renders her spiritless

I was bent over, with my head in the refrigerator, wiping the back wall when the air expelled from my lungs and I gasped in pain. I groaned, the force knocking me to the floor. I collapsed onto my side, cradling my stomach. My eyes filled with tears as I tried to gulp in air. I pulled myself into a ball, not sure if another blow would follow. Carol stood over me with Jack's aluminum baseball bat in her hand. She glared at me with a tight smirk as I tried to shrink against the refrigerator (p. 96)

There was a conspicuous statement of how life goes in parts of the United States. Rebecca said through Emma's words that success was the measure of importance in society, and since she was not much successful with the recent life she has, she was not considered as much important in society. Emma said it with an example of having cars as a measurement of how paramount or remarkable

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one could be, “Success, Diversity in Weslyn came down to what you drove, not your ethnicity” (p. 30).

Rebecca Donovan offered another vision of the unjustness wrapping the female sex, represented in the irrationality and misconduct towards the protagonist Emily Watson. That is pictured in the management of the money she has earned, not by her, but by her aunt and uncle, with strict arrangements that make her recanted to use her own money properly like could she ever get rid of this mistreatment calamity purchasing her life and well-being (p. 7).

...I knew that what I'd taken wasn't enough to satisfy my hunger, but I didn't dare take more... It was great to take a long, hot shower without fear of the knock on the door, signaling the end of my allotted five minutes (pp. 3-23)

This inconsequentiality, as mentioned above, subsisted everywhere, outside in matters of her social life and at home where she was afraid to ask for more food, disallowed to have enough time to shower and had strict regulations concerning when to sleep or when to be home, more appropriate than calling it a curfew, she was being ensnared just as a bird in a cage knowing it could fly high. A conspicuous picturesque of the representation of ill-treatment and encaging that female sex suffers from ubiquitously. “You're supposed to be home before ten o'clock,” he reprimanded. “I had a game tonight,” I said softly, confused by his reaction, “That doesn't matter. Your curfew is ten o'clock”. (p.94)

Prior to talking about other forms of harm reaching to the female protagonist who stands for women sufferers, other instances of physical wrongness were accorded by Donovan. One of these examples is the description of reality by Emma. She compared it to hellfire that she used to suffer from as she was home. She was being harmed and hurt terribly in oblivion to her deeds whether good or bad, just because of her ranking as she was perceived as a source of embarrassment.

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This consequently reflects the behavior towards some females in the United States because of their status since the girl had no redeeming resolution but to endure the anguish, “Then reality came crashing down with a jolting tug of my hair. “Don’t embarrass me,” seethed into my ear. I nodded”. (p. 23). The prior quote exhibited Emma’s definition of her own reality, by comparing it to her disturbed aunt’s conduct towards her as well as her perception of her as a source of embarrassment.

Donovan carried on uncovering the pain that the protagonist as a female had to endure, first in the first section of the trilogy by her aunt, “My head rocked to the right as her closed fist collided with my jaw. My hand instinctively covered where she made contact, as my eyes watered from the force of the blow”. (p.108). Then in the second Part of the trilogy when Emily, as well as her mother got beaten by the latter’s drug dealer, as a form of abuse which intersects with women by strangers (p. 239). It might be noticeable that the ill-treatment of women is not only exclusive on members of family as seen beforehand by the aunt who is deranged but moves also towards the fact that they could get such treatment from strangers and foreigners who give less if any importance to the wellbeing of women, as the drug dealer did by beating both, the protagonist and her mother remorselessly

2.6.2. Mental Health

The insufferable wickedness women had to endure was not only physical but emotional as well. Rebecca Donovan portrayed it through Emma who afforded terrible emotional pain being blamed for her mother’s drinking problem by her aunt who vilified her momentarily (p. 137). As she was assumed to be useless and nothing she does was of worthiness (p. 62). Besides of all that, in the second section of the series, Emily’s mother, Rachel, blamed her for everything bad that has occurred, accusing her of being the reason of her husband’s death and boyfriend’s leave, as she destroyed her already harmed mental steadiness by saying she did not love her that left her emotionally infirm (p. 206).

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Women in the novel differ one from the other. While one deems Emma oppressed and maltreated, right less and penniless, her aunt is perceived as the mentally deranged villain who cold-bloodedly mistreats her. Otherwise, it is noticeable that Sara, Emma's friend, is passionate and caring, open to society and comes from a respectable family in a society wherein people are valued with what they own. Then comes Evan's mother who is a woman of power, with a recognizable status in society. On the other hand, Emma's mother is, if to say, wretched, uncaring, not anywhere closer to being protective or meticulously an intellect female, that she could not quit drinking yet she could leave her daughter to endure pain. The description of such females in the Trilogy might give a more conspicuous idea about their mental stature; one is emotionally broken, and the other is mentally sick. Besides those whose mental health is just fine giving the example of Evan's mother and Sara for they come from different social status

It could be conceivable by the development of the story that Emma was trying to avoid any contact with guys, yet, they found their ways to get to her. Some of them wanted but to satisfy their needs. That gives a picture about how women are perceived in a contemporary American society, sexual objects. That was a palpable picture of the objectification of women that was and is still taking place in the modern American society. Others wanted but to see her breathing well as if it were themselves they were trying to protect. A plain call for individuals to respect the female sex in the stead of vilifying it has been made.

It's just a dream. I recognized the thought, trying to pull me out of the hands that drug me to the darkest depths of the water. But panic overshadowed the rational thought, and I kicked as hard as I could. It's just a dream, my voice echoed through my head again, trying to wake me. I looked down into the murky water, my breath burning in my lungs. The hands were now long, jagged claws, and as I kicked, one claw pierced my ankle, anchoring me under the water. A dark cloud surrounded me as the blood oozed around its nails. I struggled

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against it, but it only tore deeper into me. A rush of air bubbled around me as I screamed in pain. I was about to inhale my death when something pressed against my face (p. 8).

The quote chosen from the second book to be mentioned above deciphers one of many symbols used by Rebecca Donovan to imply the suffering of women through the females in the series, which would be the notion of Emma having nightmares. It denotes her reality as a sufferer and what pain she is being through, mentally, emotionally besides of the physical harm she had to endure for long. She always wakes up shivering while having a torturous vision about her past as abused trying to be pulled back to darkness and drowned in hurt, still fighting that feeling even after the reason of her hurt was almost gone she was still aching because of it. It implies that women though they could overcome the physical pain, they could still get hurt emotionally and mentally. This in return affects the social life they might have, pictured in Emily leaving her hometown and friends because of the harm she endured. Eventually, as Emma said, “It didn’t feel like a dream anymore” (p. 8).

It is noticeable in the midst of happenings that Emily’s mental health was affected by what pain she tolerated. She snapped at the mere of things that she used to neglect once. She could get nervous tersely, as she could get bruised emotionally easily that everything happening around her, she presupposed that it was because of her. It made her think she was the reason for every wicked thing happening to the people around her. That made her mentally vulnerable which jeopardized the supposedly existing posture of her personality as a strong woman in society who is responsible enough to face anything endangering her wellbeing in the stead of running away from it. The best instance to prove her mental derangement because of the abuse she lived under is her attempt to suicide in multiple occasions as described in Barely Breathing:

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‘Emma, what the hell are you doing?!’ Cole demanded again in a panic behind me. ‘You can’t jump! You’ll kill yourself from this height’. I didn’t look back. I took that final step and disappeared over the edge. Instantly swallowed up by the rushing wind I plummeted towards the water (p. 99).

It might be conceivable that most of the females in the series were miserable with negativity or flaws. The starter is with Carol, the aunt who was a mentally disturbed, suspicious and envious woman who abused the female protagonist for no palpable reason. Rachel, Emily’s mother was an alcoholic and a drug addict with personal issues, and careless attitude. Sara was seen as a girl who hangs out with guys most of the time and commits adultery for she saw that as part of her freedom or as a normal thing to be done. Finally, Emma, she was mirrored and introduced as an abused teenager, who was physically assaulted that harmed her terribly, and emotionally violated, that endangered her mental health’s stability.

The reason behind Emily’s hurt and current mental and physical status is the treatment of her aunt in the first section of the series, and her mother in the second one, as well as Drew who perceived her as a sexual object that caused her to fear men more, along with Evan’s father’s perception of her and rejection of her existence in his son’s life since she was from a different social status. All these affected her negatively.

As mentioned above her aunt was mentally disturbed and her mother in the second segment was an alcoholic and a drug addict. The behavior of these both females was not innate but caused by external incidents or treatment that endangered their, as well as Emily’s mental equilibrium. Carol, Emily’s aunt conduct might be caused by her obsession with raising and protecting her children since she was only occupied with taking care of the house and the kids only while her husband was a land manager, so she was jobless. This obsession with her kids good being grew bigger that caused her mind to be instable. Emily’s mother on the other hand, is oblivious to her health as well as her daughter’s wellbeing, she is full

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of negligence towards herself as a woman and the reason might be her husband, Emily's father, who, she claims left her and chose his daughter in oblivion of her as his wife. This caused her to be unbalanced which might explain the description of her character in the Series. The status of Emily's mother becomes clear in *Out Of Breath* where she commits suicide leaving a letter to her completely innocent daughter blaming her for all what happened instead of trying to put herself together.

This representation of women contra the one of males in *The Breathing Series*, gives a sense of inequality rather than the truth about the contemporary American society. It could, as a continuance, give a hint about the conception of sexism from which Rebecca Donovan might have expressed her concern from, even if slightly, in such society.

2.6. Empowerment and Lust for Freedom

Rebecca Donovan had her own way of conveying her thoughts about women desire to be freed and liberated, from the abuse, wickedness and maliciousness encaging them meanwhile destructing their bodies and souls. Along with their want of getting rid of that, Donovan tried to attain women's need to compass the feeling of being powerful and strengthened, to stand for themselves instead of sensing the urge of being protected by anyone rather than themselves, especially not by males whose notion is that women should be hidden under their wings instead of rising against them, or being rivals.

Through Emma, the female protagonist's reaction before her depart, one could decode the picture of the female not wanting nor needing protection from anybody anymore for not being able to afford having a crutch all the time, as was it a glimpse of women's subsistence of ensnarement even in a contemporarily. Emma's response as she said, "I don't want to be protected or looked after. I should be so much stronger than to need you or Evan Mathews to stand up for me". (p. 38) was a striking statement with the explicit meaning that a female could be strong enough not to depend on others. The latter was as much a

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notification as it could be an urge and pertinacity towards women to remind them not to rely nor seek the protection of none.

Going back to the idea of being hurt by her aunt in the first novel, Emily had a standing point that showed her as empowered though the hurt:

“Emma,” she breathed in exasperation, “look at you!”

“What?” I defended, glancing back up at the mirror. “I think I did a pretty good job of covering it up.”

“That’s what I mean.” Her voice was shaky. (p. 42).

In the quote mentioned above, Emma’s act of trying to hide the wounds and bruises caused by her villain aunt instead of collapsing and succumbing to sadness and despair was one of power. She overcame her weakness, as she is surmised to vanquish her voiceless status as her friend Sara told her, “You should never have to cover anything up”. (p. 42). That was for she could not talk about nor rebel against it, but to be powerful enough to endure the harm wrapping her.

Donovan made ubiquitous as a fact, women’s want to strengthen themselves and rebellion against the rules set in society. She represented that in Emma’s thought of what could be resulted from breaching the rules, as of her fear of what might take place, “The thought of breaking the rules and leaving school early without permission made my stomach turn” (p. 49). She displayed it in a form that designates the idea of standing above the restrictions of society in real life with the emphatic focus on the expression “breaking the rules”.

By the march of the events of the second installment of the series, Donovan clarified behind Emma’s mother words, when she uttered, “I’m not as strong as you. You can shut it off and block everything out” (p. 160) that she is powerful enough to endure the pain and stop everything harmful towards her. As it could be a hidden message for women that they are what they want themselves

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to shape, in this case vigorous is what she wanted them to comprehend their souls to be.

In, “I close my eyes to the truth. I refuse to see what's happening, convinced that I can handle whatever it is—believing that I'm strong enough” (p. 222) as a quote from Barely Breathing, Rebecca Donovan had enough to say about the fact that Emma as a female commenced to embrace the truth about her being powerful, saying that she turns her back to the truth, cheering it was or misfortunate, believing that she could enlighten herself and deal with whatever it is that hinders her steps towards prosperity. This is an implication of female’s empowerment in the American society and how their thinking shifted from being feeble emotionally, to enabling themselves to think they could deal with the atrocities of life just like any other human being.

The development of the female protagonist in the story indicates the strength she acquired just for the simple reason of them not giving up on nothing they believe in. one could notice Emma’s patience before the pain and count of time before she would be freed of this abuse, that stands for her last for liberation. They would rather fight for it. It was like persistence was ingrained in their vessels, as individuals whose only care is to reach what they aim at, at all costs Emma offered in the second section of the work, “And I knew. I didn’t know how to give up... I couldn’t give up. It wasn’t who I was”(p. 223), as if knowing already that it was not an option to succumb to loss and soreness that which females were granted.

What shows women’s empowerment in the novels is portrayed in the positive recognition granted to females for Emma and her friend Sara, were able to have a proper education. They got that right which somehow empowering and a kind of equality for them, just like the fact of the protagonists being both a male and a female. That comes along with Evan’s mother as well as Rachel, Emily’s mother, who was a worker that is a point of strength. Besides of that, Emily was an athlete, which stands for her vigor as a female in the society.

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Another symbol to show women's strength in the novel, though it might be inconspicuous, is that of the suicide of Rachel, Emily's mother. Although her death might be seen as a form of inequality, for she was the only character who died in the series and was a female, it might symbolize the death of the weakness of women, for Rachel was not a picture of the strong woman who stands before pain. Rachel through the second and third sections of the trilogy proved to be a weak character that drinks and takes drugs to overcome the pain and hurt she feels she felt so weak that she could not resist living in such a world which led her to end her life.

This might symbolize the fact that she stands for the feeble female individuals in society, either to show the reader that this kind can't live with such behavior and treatment, or maybe to exhibit a powerful image which states that the feebleness is dead and the remaining is only to the stronger members amongst these females. If the female is strong enough she would carry on to the end to end up having her freedom as Emily does by the end of the series, but if not able to fight back and persist, the very same female would end up more likely dead as to what happened to Rachel

There is something particular in the novels being dealt with, that indicates women's empowerment. It is the care that some male characters attributed to the females in the given work. They were well treated as they have been addressed respectively by them, giving the example of Evan's behavior towards Emma; love, care and protection which is similar to how George acts towards his wife Carol, in addition to pitying her for her distress.

This set of actions towards females in the Trilogy represents some hints of empowerment as if these women are imposing themselves on men what they wish themselves to be treated like and how should the action towards women be. The given examples were of characters who championed the better treatment for women, unlike the demeanor of George towards Emma which shows a kind of

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carelessness and oblivion, and sometimes estrangement like Stuart's conduct towards Emily for she was from dissimilar social standing to his.

Rebecca Donovan Exhibited an image which reflects the evolution of the female character through the Series. She mirrored Emily, the protagonist in Reason to Breathe as the weak, abused, voiceless, ensnared and marginalized female who has not the right to a say, this started to change in Barely Breathing where she started talking for herself. She could make her own decisions, and be responsible of her own. Donovan gave her a voice and showed even if implicitly that the protagonist in this chapter is different from the one in the prior: Stronger if to say.

This strength and empowerment grew stronger along with the sense of guilt that makes the protagonist vulnerable and affects her physique and mental stability. It could be conceivable that the female heroine was highly competent but that was neglected in the first segment of the Series. She was an excellent student, with great marks that she overcame her peers. She was also a fine athletic that helped her gain the scholarship to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor in Stanford, This all was not enough a supplication to cease the treatment she was receiving and was mentioned in the First Chapter mainly and continued partially in the second and the third where this became an intercession for her as she overcomes all what affected her negatively and hindered her evolution to be the best picture of herself as a female.

2.7. Conclusion

As to what has been discussed beforehand, one could effortlessly recognize Rebecca Donovan's solicitude in sketching women in a contemporary American society. It is conceivable that she utilized various concepts and manners in order to convey her standing point of what women are suffering from recently. She uttered what awed her utilizing multiple modes with the same purpose that is to show their weakness, sufferance and sorrow through the course of events taking place in the series.

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One could also tell that she contrasted that with abundant elucidations. The reader could decipher that she made use of what was discussed previously to put one on the right path of comprehending the dilemma women are drowning in as well as the importunity to take their empowerment for granted and not to minimize them. The titles, the covers, the characters and the places are all chosen carefully by Donovan along with her feminist tendencies and gauges, to aid accomplish the assignment she might have dedicated herself to fulfilling it.

General Conclusion

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It could be taken for a fact that literature helped people for eons to answer their queries, manifest their ideas and manage resolutions for their concerns. The ideas, on which any work of literature is built matters not whether it was fictitious or real, are based on facts, ideas that are of one's concern. Literature has given voice to those wordless and allowed them to uncover their ideas, emphasize their points of view and illuminate whatever they see as crucial to be dealt with in the house of examination where their own comprehension of the topic exists, either implicitly or in an apparent way for the sake of reaching an understanding about a particular matter.

In the light of what has been discussed, Donovan's Trilogy proved to be a feminist work by all means with credit to the glimpses and hints of women's lust for freedom and their empowerment. This was discerned through their imagery of women in the work, and also through the depiction of their treatment by men like the exhibition of Evan and Jonathan's characters, and women in some occasions, like how Carol was mirrored in the first segment of the work. Feminism's definition has been in favor of the female sex against the atrocities of society and the misconduct of not the male sex only but also against women themselves, in different fields of society.

On one hand, Rebecca Donovan utilized multiple tokens to convey her ideas, may the starter be with the titles chosen to designate each of the books, the first one to show the female as an individual who feeds such treatment and social posture with fear. Barely Breathing that pictures the weak woman as having throes of death before finally mirroring her as demising according to the third title. This all would make sense with the reading of the installments. This set of examples as well as the first word to initiate the very first novel, were to show the position of some women in society as to the behavior they receive and the wickedness they endure.

On the other hand, the longing for freedom and lust for it, as to the sense of empowerment were depicted by Donovan in her Breathing Trilogy. Some of the symbols of women's empowerment in the novels were the capacity to be educated

General Conclusion

giving the example of Emma and her friend Sara as well as to work as assigned to Evan's mother, Vivian. Another symbol of power is Emily being an athlete who lusts to be freed and liberated from the abuse, grief, and torturing past of hers.

There is something observed through the Series that is about the dichotomy in Rebecca Donovan's literature between different characters; providing an example that of Emma and her friend Sara. Emma's intelligence and sport capacities helped her to acquaint with Sara's knowledge about the social life and protectivism. Although they have different interests and different needs in life, they usually help each other concerning studies as well as social life management. They also consider the existence of each in the other's life as restful and promising.

The second twosome is that of Evan and his father. Both of them have the same traditions, share the same house and same family traditions, yet they have different beliefs, so they always end up having conflicts and misunderstanding. This kind of dichotomy was utilized to create some kind of conflict to escalate the heat of events in the story; as an example of it, the struggle between Evan and his father about Emma when he minified her for she was not from the same social status as them. On the other hand Emma standing by Sara's side when she had a hard time with Jared Mathews, Evan's brother. This dichotomy in the characterization might aid in further research and study of the Trilogy.

By all odds, The Breathing Series, being particularly a work that remedies the idea of feminism with the feminist conceptualization in it proved to be paramount for Rebecca Donovan as its author, who gave a colossal, yet incomparable regard to women's empowerment and vigor, likewise, their desire to be liberated and freed from the cuffs of injustice and ensnarement within undecipherable bounds in a contemporary American Society.

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