CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

1.1 The Portrait of Main Characters as Victims

This chapter analyzes the depiction of women struggle as seen through both of main characters in this novel, they are Mariam Jo as the illegitimate child of rich man named Jalil and Nana (a former housekeeper in Jalil's house) and Laila as the second main character, a young girl and smart a daughter of Fariba and Hakim. Moreover this analysis also digs up the reason why main characters being victims throughout several oppression that they accept from their childhood until they grow up become adult. By firstly examining on their characters, it will gain profound knowledge about the character and characterization of both main characters clearly. After having fundamental background of them, then studying their characterization more intensely to reveal their way of struggle. Inside this analysis process, it uses feminism theory to support the analysis in order to expose the motive that leads main characters in getting oppression and as the victim of gender discrimination, also the Taliban laws affective as the main impact.

1.1.1 Portrait of Mariam Jo's Character

A Thousand Splendid Suns is the novel that depicting of two Afghan women as main character, Mariam Jo and Laila. This part will explain about the first main character, Mariam Jo. She is one of female characters who tells to the reader about she does, speaks and thinks from her childhood instead Laila. For instance, other characters only appear when they have deal with Mariam thus she automatically

becomes the main character because she appears and dominate on the whole story (Nurgiyantoro 176).

Furthermore Mariam depicted as main character, she also becomes the protagonist. Mariam becomes the central person that must command involvement on the part of the reader and readers give empathy totally to her. She also becomes a dynamic character, it is a person who changes over time, usually as a result of resolving a central conflict or facing a major crisis (http://learn.lexicon.net). Most dynamic characters tend to be central rather than peripheral characters, because resolving the conflict is the major role of central characters. Therefore, Mariam also belongs to protagonist character that readers can really feel her hard struggle to getting happiness in her life.

Mariam is one of two a female characters. Mariam was born in 1959, she grows up Kolba outside Herat, a small city in Afghanistan. Her appearance starts in the beginning story as the little Mariam.

Mariam was five years old the first time she heard the word *harami* (Hosseini 5).

This story tells of first main character's life from her childhood, exactly on age five years old. Mariam has been a victim since birth, since she is an illegitimate child, she also is out casted by everyone including her father Jalil. She grows up by her mother, Nana. Nana is chased away by Jalil's family when she is pregnant of Mariam because Jalil refuses to acknowledge Mariam as his real daughter. Nana also frequently refers to Mariam as a *harami*, when Mariam gets wrong and does mistakes, it is uttered by her mother when Mariam still five years old. She always remembers what her mother said. You are a clumsy little *harami*. This is my reward for everything I've endured an heirloom, clumsy little *harami* At the time, Mariam did not understand. She did not know what this word harami—bastard meant Nor was she old enough to appreciate the injustice, to see that it is the creators of the harami who are culpable, not the harami, whose only sin is being born (5).

This means that Mariam does not know what the meaning of word *harami* is. It is because she stills a kid little that does not understand the meaning of *harami*. Mariam spends her childhood in ignorance, nobody pays attention to her. Later when Mariam grows older, finally she knows what the meaning of *harami* is. In the case that Mariam status as an illegitimate child leaves her without a true family who would be isolated and would never have illegitimate claim to the things other people had, such as family, love and acceptance by the other people.

Mariam would listen dutifully to this. She never dared say to Nana how much she dislike her talking this way about Jalil. The truth was that around Jalil. Mariam did not feel at all like a harami. For an hour or two every Thursday, when Jalil came to see her, all smiles and gifts and endearments. Mariam felt deserving of all the bounty that life had to give. And, for this, Mariam loves Jalil (6)

From the quotation it shows Mariam is always obey to her mother, although sometimes she has not deals if her mother said about badness of her father. Her father, Jalil heads for wipe out what he does to Mariam and Nana, to assuage his conscience he builds a small shack to them. He also visits Mariam once in a week, Mariam like him. He always gives her some stories that make her imagines how nice her father is. She never feels as a *harami* when she hears all of stories from her father and feels that her mother does not love her as much as Jalil does without listen what Nana said about his to Mariam. Nana tries educating Mariam about the pretentious love that Jalil Khan showers upon her, about how she was accused by Jalil himself when others in his family get to know of their illicit relationship.

Learn this now and learn it well, my daughter: Like a compass needle that points north, a man's accusing finger alwaysfinds a woman. Always. You remember that, Mariam (7).

It means that the role of women and how they are often undermined and abused by men in Afghani culture. That is Nana tries to tell Mariam, to be careful. Nana gives Mariam some of her firsthand experience on her life, because she afraid Mariam will confront as same as Nana's bitter experience in the past. It is also shows of radical feminism thought, while radical feminism is belief that male supremacy is the root or model for all other oppressions (http://amptoons.com).

Once Mariam expresses her desire for attaining a formal education to Mullah Faizullah (her Quran teacher) she wants to go to school like the other Jalil's children.

One day, as they were walking. Mariam told him that she wished she would be allowed to go to school. I mean a real school *akhund* sahib. Like in a classroom. Like my father's other kids (13).

It shows how she wants to do as same as the other children. it shows how stubborn she is to get her right to be educated. Mariam does not simply accept that she must be isolated and cannot do things like the other do. She hopes that she can get the education like the other kid get. It is also a kind of rebellion action that showed by Mariam who always isolated from her childhood and cannot do anything like the other children who she knows in their daily. Mariam insists to attend school but Nana refuses it, Mariam learns early on that the attainment of a formal education would not only be impossible for her, but also that such an education would be wasted on her. The larger point as a woman's responsibility is her home and her family because Nana does not see the need for a woman to be educated. It shows how Mariam's life is isolated from her childhood because she is illegitimate. Nana intervenes it and says that a child like Mariam needs only one skill to live, and it is not taught in school.

Only one skill. And it's this: tahamul. Endure. It's our lot in life, Mariam. Women like us. We endure. It's all we have. Do you understand? Besides, they'll laugh at you in school. They will. They'll call you harami. They'll say the most terrible things about you. I won't have it. (18)

What the most important to know about Mariam is her own realization that

her life is hard and yet she endures all. This shows that the social system suggests

women to learn endurance since their childhood.

After that, when she decides to visits Jalil, she must accept the sad reality

that she is not treated like his real daughter. Jalil ignores her arrival in his house,

moreover lets her sleep on the road. She spends the night outside of the house.

All during the ride, as she bounced in the backseat, she cried. they were tears of grief, of anger, of disillusionment. But mainly tears of a deep, deep shame at how foolishly she had given herself over to Jalil, how she had fretted over what dress to wear, over the mismatching hijab, walking all the way here, refusing to leave, sleeping on the street like a stray dog (25)

It shows how Mariam ashamed about what she does, she prepare well

when she goes to Jalil's house. She feels how stubborn she is, she ignores her

mother's advice not to go there. She just demands to meet Jalil, but she must

accept how Jalil treats her not as his daughter as well as she thoughts. Another

quote that shows her feeling, "Mariam kept thinking of his face in the upstairs window. He lets her sleep on the street. On the street Mariam cried lying down. She does not want to be seen. She imagines all of Herat know this morning how she is disgrace herself. She wishes Mullah Faizullah were here so she could put her head on his lap and let him comfort her (25).

Then, she must accept of her mother suicide when she arrives in her house. After her mother's suicide Mariam lived with Jalil's family. Life gives a hard knock and her love for her father is strangled when Jalil Khan disowns her, gets rid of her by marrying her off to Rasheed, a widowed of shoemaker. She cherishes her marriage initially, Rasheed's over-protective nature, he talks about pride and honour.

He fished a sky blue *burqa* from the bag. The yards of pleated cloth spilled over his knees when he lifted it. He rolled up the burqa, looked at Mariam...'It embarrasses me, frankly, to see a man who's lost control of his wife...But I'm a different breed of man, Mariam. Where I come from, one wrong look, one improper word, and blood is spilled. Where I come from, a woman's face is her husband's business only''' (70).

In this dialogue Rasheed introduces in use of *burqa* as a new rule for Mariam. He said about some women in Kabul that are freer only because of the mentality of their husband. He gives her the *burqa* before they leave the house together. It shows how women are oppressed by men in Afghanistan. Men can wear whatever they want, instead women must wear *burqa*.

Mariam's shame at being illegitimate is one big reason that makes her unable to stand up for herself. She is plagued by guilt that controls her for much of her life. Rasheed's loss about his son would have been immense, but such an

exercise would always be heretic for a woman. Rasheed's protection for Mariam does not last long; eventually their relationship becomes bitter as her presence was meant only to bear a son for Rasheed. Mariam's inability to have children turns her into a resentful, bitter, and fearful woman. She also at first resents the arrival of Laila in their lives, but soon comes to exercise a strong bond with her. She finally finds an opportunity to love and be loved by Laila and her children, Aziza and Zalmai. She is a character who becomes a role model for the reader because of her devotion to the people whom she comes to love. This helps her understand her own mother better.

4.1.2 Portrait of Laila's Character

Laila is the youngest and the only daughter of Hakim and Fariba. She is also the second main female character. She is depicted as protagonist because she appears in whole of story and helps first female character to resolve the main conflict that happened around them that make reader get empathy of their character. She is depicted as a flat character, flat character is the opposite of a round character. This literary personality is notable for one kind personality trait or characteristic. Because starts her appearance in the beginning in the story, she depicts as a girl who has strong desire to change people around her to have positive thought. She is depicted as a pretty and smart girl.

> They were marveling at the baby's light hair, at her pink cheeks and puckered, rosebud lips, at the slits of jade green eyes moving behind her puffy lids (66).

From Laila's appearances, she is physically described as a beautiful girl with green eyes, blonde curly hair and high cheekbones. She was born from educate and liberal parents. She is dedicated as "Revolutionary Girl". This name happens to have deeper meaning regarding Laila's personality. Laila represents the new modern face of Afghanistan.

> I know you're still young, but I want you to understand and learn this now, he said. Marriage can wait, education cannot you're a very, very bright girl. Truly, you are. You can be anything you want, Laila I know this about you. And I also know that when this war is over, Afghanistan is going to need you as much as its men, maybe even more. Because a society has no chance of success if its women uneducated (72).

Laila father (Hakim) is person who well educated teacher that holds

progressive views about politics and women's rights. He thinks education is always to be a priority in encouragement. From the quotation, Laila's father, he has progressive attitudes about women and believes strongly to Laila. Her father educated Laila that Afghan women have an equally important role to play in their country. Rather than attempt to marry her off young age, Hakim hopes his daughter will pursue an education and contribute to the rebuilding of Afghanistan after the war. Growing up with mother careless seems to have forced Laila to become more independent girl.

Women have always had it hard in this country, Laila, but they're probably more free now, under the communists, and have more rights than they've ever had before, Babi said, always lowering his voice, aware of how intolerant Mammy was of even remotely positive talk of the communists. But it's true, Babi said, it's a good time to be a woman in Afghanistan. And you can take advantage of that, Laila (135). The quote when her father talks to Laila about being a woman in Afghanistan is significance, also that there is high hope or more people should have more hopes for women and their rights of equality throughout Laila's character. From her father, Laila imbibes the modern thoughts and believes in building the society through education.

The absence of both of Laila's older brothers, who have gone to war makes her life uncared for, but also fills it with a sense of purpose. She has a strong desire to use her intelligence and education to improve the world around her.

The war gets so bad that her father decides to homeschooled Laila and that makes her lose some of her freedom. At age fifteen years old, Laila fall in love with her best friend since childhood, named Tariq, but war forces Tariq and his parents to flee to Pakistan and after that, the unfortunate come to Laila's life. During the wars of the 1980s and 1990s, a rocket destroyed Laila's home with her parents in it and kills Laila's parents also wounds her. Rasheed help her and asks Mariam to nurse her back to helath. This tragedy and unexpected pregnancy forces Laila to become Rasheed's second wife. He said to Laila that Tariq was dead caused war.

I'm so sorry," Rasheed said to the girl, taking his bowl of mastawa and meatballs from Mariam without looking at her. 'I know you were very close...friends...the two of you''' (211).

Rasheed said this in a sarcastic tone, telling Laila how sorry he is that Tariq is dead. He sounds very happy, because he sees the chance to marry Laila, as she has no other chance. He also said that many young men die this way. But actually he is not dead at all. Rasheed lied to Laila, to marry her. Laila is pregnant from Tariq, before they married. Instead of, the endlessly motivated by the desire to replace his dead son, Rasheed entraps Laila into marriage.

That becomes a big problem later is when Laila born a daughter not a son that like Rasheed wants. Because of it, Rasheed is extremely aggressive. Rasheed savagely beats Laila, as Afghan women in general are stifled and forced to suffer the consequences of being born the inferior gender.

3.1.3 How They are Victimized

Mariam and Laila are forced into life situations which challenge their strength and ability to endure. In the beginning of the novel, Nana was perhaps apt trying to teach Mariam the most important skill that every woman should have is endurance. In this part will analysis about kinds of depiction the main female characters as the victim in the novel.

a) Portrait of Mariam Jo as Victim

Firstly the depiction of Mariam Jo as victim, there are some depictions systematic that Mariam as victim from her childhood.

- Refusal Kid

Mariam, the illegitimate child results from Jalil's sexual liaison with his housekeeper, Nana. She is chased away by Jalil's family when Nana in pregnant Mariam. Jalil refuses to accept Mariam as her real daughter because the relation between Nana and Jalil is forbidden relation also Nana just a housekeeper in his house that has different status with him. Thus, Nana grows

up Mariam by herself in outside Herat, Afghanistan. As a young girl Mariam was treated like *harami* leading her to grow up to be very hard on the outside and able to take a lot of injustice. The depiction of Mariam as an illegitimate daughter that isolated and cannot accept kinds of family and acceptance of her government are the forms how she is victimized. Also that she must live with her temperament mother that frequently refers to her as a *harami*. Mariam's rough childhood prepared her for the life she would be living in the future. Become uneducated girl and isolated because her status that never gets acceptance from the society.

- Education

The women in A Thousand Splendid Suns have very different educational experiences, between Mariam and Laila. Both of the female characters have difference in get education. Mariam is tutored by Mullah Faizullah, he is Mariam's Qur'an tutor. Mariam learns how to read and write. Yet, when she asks her mother to going to school, her mother insist Mariam's wish and say to Mariam only lesson that Mariam needs to learn is "endure."

- Fixed Marriage

After her mother suicide, she is also victim of fixed marriage is arranged by her father's wife. Jalil Khan, her father marrying her off to a forty year old widower without giving her a chance to have an option. When we refer to the Holy Scripture in Islam, according to Surah Nisa 4:19, marriage is considered a sacred agreement and it is mandatory that both the man and woman agree to marry. Even the father cannot force the daughter against her wishes.

She forced to married with widowed named Rasheed, it is surely has contradiction with Qur'an that marriage must be the agreement of both of woman and man to be bridegroom. Mariam starts become Rasheed puppet that must be obey what he said like when he asks Mariam wear *burqa* (kinds of cloth to covered all of the woman body in Afghanistan). *Burqa* is not comfortable for the woman, this dressed is really hot and also is really hard to see what is in front when they are using it.

Eventually *burqa* is a sign of oppression and male domination. Mariam is getting abusive from her husband because of the several miscarriages that happened to her. He changes become a cruel, abusive man and because her several miscarriage, he thinks that Mariam cannot caring their child when she pregnant. The suffering of Mariam can be accounted to the belief system that Rasheed, a Pashtun practices in the face of his ethnic group ideology. It is always seen that the man has taken all the decisions of her life.

Depicted in one of hadiths said that the primary duty of a wife is thus to obey her husband in all that is lawful. However, if he invites to what is unlawful and displeasing to Allah, she should not obey him. The Prophet said, "There is no submission in matters involving disobeying or displeasing Allah. Submission to the husband is obligatory only in what is good and reasonable. A woman should not obey her husband if he orders her to do something sinful (Fatima, 198). It means command to obey husband in everything except in what is unlawful and displeasing to Allah. Therefore, if a husband invites his wife to commit an unlawful act, she should abstain from doing. The oppression of Mariam is continued by Jalil's cruel. One day he forced Mariam to chew

pebbles in his impatience and disgust over her inability to reproduce.

Put it in you mouth... His powerful hands clasped her jaw. He shoved two fingers into her mouth and pried it open, then forced the cold hard pebbles into it... Through the mouthful of grit and pebbles Mariam mumbled a plea. Tears were leaking out of the corners of her eyes (94).

From the quotation, the first female character, Mariam Jo who is by the time getting oppression and victimized in her life, it started from her childhood until she becomes adult.

b) Portrait of Laila as Victim

While the second female character, but she more luck because she grew up by educated parents. In contrast, Laila has a father that emphasizes the importance of her education. Her father, Hakim is a teacher who diligently works with Laila on her homework and provides her with extra work in order to expand her education. He emphasizes that Laila's education is important as that of any boy. After the streets of Kabul become too dangerous during the war, he insists on tutoring Laila himself.

He comments about the importance of women attending universities. When we consider Laila, she is born in a privileged world and is quiet lucky to have a father whose views are modern and contribute in the making of a woman who pursues against all odds and claims her stance in the society. Unlike Mariam, she strongly believes that she deserves a life where she is valued and loved. These are kind of depiction that Laila as victim:

- Ignorance Maternal (Cultural Belief)

Laila is also as the victim how she has careless mother. Contemplating, Laila's childhood, it can be said that she experiences that obscure love from her mother, as most of the times she is thoughtful about her sons' coming back proclaiming peace in Afghanistan. As a result, Laila misses out on all the life experiences that she as a youngster and daughter should have got.

Her mother spends much of Laila's childhood grieving for her lost sons, Laila endures her mother's setbacks with love and as much understanding as she can give. Laila shoulders more of the household chores. She would also persuade her mother to out of bed for baths and meals. Laila would struggle or rather get choked listening to these words again and again. Laila lay there and listened, wishing her mother would notice that Laila had not become a shaheed. In fact that she was alive that she had hopes and a future.

That's the kind of brave young men your brothers were, Laila, that Commander Massoud himself, the Lion of Panjshir, God bless him, would over-see their burial. (140)

Her mother represents all those at the domestic front to disrupt the social living of the women Laila being the actual victim.

- Fixed Marriage

At that time when war started, Tariq's turn to flee to keep his parents in a safe place and leaving his love (Laila) here amidst the chaos. After that, when war getting worse a rocket kills Laila's parents and wounds her. Laila's life getting worse and simplicity started when their parents killed and forced marriage, as Rasheed's second wife because her pregnant with Tariq. She started getting abusive from Rasheed when she uttered a daughter not a son like Rasheed wants.

Rasheed and Mariam nurse her back to health. Laila is devastated and her idealism and independence are challenged when she decides to marry Rasheed in order to give her unborn child by Tariq a father. Soon, she also becomes a victim to Rasheed's violent ways and is willing to accept the limitations she once would have openly mocked. She extends her love to Mariam and takes comfort in having a friend and a mother figure.

However, she is astute enough to make attempts to free herself and Mariam from the clutches of Rasheed. She also begins to understand the sacrifices that are necessary to be a good mother by following Mariam's example.

But somehow, over these last months, Laila and Aziza--a harami like herself, as it turned out--had become extensions of her, and now, without them, the life Mariam had tolerated for so long suddenly seemed intolerable (256).

Rasheed said this to Mariam and Laila when the morning of September 27 the Taliban goes to Kabul shooting and whistling and they pass in front of Rasheed's house and then they start to talk about the Taliban. The meaning of this quote is that Rasheed shows that he is agree with the Taliban because they are not corrupted by soviets and he thinks that they are going to bring peace to Afghanistan. The significance is that Rasheed is agree with the Taliban because he is a traditional men of Afghanistan, he believes in all the thinks that the Taliban say but is not right, when the Taliban take away the woman right and this caused inequality between man and woman. After

Taliban have control of Kabul, they directly announced some of rule

that must be obeyed by society and as laws that used in Afghanistan.

These are the Taliban laws:

All citizens must pray five times a day. If it is prayer time and you are caught doing something other, you will be beaten.

All men will grow beards. The correct length is at least one clenched fist beneath the chin. If you do not abide by this, you will be beaten.

All boys will wear turbans. Boys in grade one through six will wear black turbans, higher grades will wear white.

All boys will wear Islamic clothes. Shirt collars will be buttoned. Singing is forbidden.

Dancing is forbidden.

Playing cards, playing chess, gambling, and kite flying are forbidden.

Writing books, watching films, and painting pictures are forbidden.

If you keep parakeets, you will be beaten. Your birds will be killed.

If you steal, your hand will be cut off at the wrist. If you steal again, your foot will be cut off.

If you are not Muslim, do not worship where you can be seen by

Muslims. If you do, you will be beaten and imprisoned. If you are caught trying to convert a Muslim to your faith, you will be executed.

Attention women:

You will stay inside your homes at all times. It is not proper for women to wander aimlessly about the streets. If you go outside, you must be accompanied by a mahram, a male relative. If you are caught alone on the street, you will be beaten and sent home.

You will not, under any circumstance, show your face. You will cover with burqa when outside. If you do not, you will be severely beaten.

Cosmetics are forbidden.

Jewelry is forbidden.

You will not wear charming clothes.

You will not speak unless spoken to.

You will not make eye contact with men.

You will not laugh in public.. if you do, you will lose a finger. Girls are forbidden from attending school. All schools for girls will close immediately. Women are forbidden from working. If you are found guilty of adultery, you will be stoned to death. Listen. Listen well. Obey. *Allah-u-akbar* (278).

When we compare the policies of men as against the women, it is seen that the men do not have major restrictions. Adherence to the dress code and forbidding all acts of pleasures is all that they have to abide by. For women the policies seem to be highly stringent and acting as a deterrent for the nation's growth. Abandoning them from education and employment would rather take civilization back to pre-Islamic days. It is agreed that women's responsibilities include gaining profound knowledge in one's religion and also abiding by its demands praying, fasting, performing good deeds etc. It is also that a woman can be dutiful to her family and society only if she has gained knowledge about her religion. Further it is essential for her to gain some worldly knowledge in sciences so that she can fulfill her duties as a wife, mother, sister, daughter and a responsible human being representing the other half of the society and actively contributing to the prosperity of the nation.

Under the Taliban, women and girls were discriminated against in many ways, for the crime of being born a girl. The Taliban enforced their version of Islamic Sharia law. Under their rule, violence against women and rape were endemic. They are flagged just because they were born females. Moreover, women in the novel were raised aware of their duty as wives and mothers. This is what they are born for, to conceive. They are a mere object of production and they acknowledge that very well.

1.2 Women Struggle Against Women Discrimination in Khaled Hosseini's A Thousand Splendid Suns

A Thousand Splendid Suns is set in Afghanistan from the early 1960s to the early 2000s. Women in Afghanistan have been going through gender equity in its severe form since ages. Khaled Hosseini's depicts of Afghan women whose live during several invasions in the Afghanistan. In this novel tells about two female as main character that getting oppression and become victimized cause of patraichal society and Taliban laws that used in Afghanistan. The issues of feminism and gender equity have been raised through the character of Mariam and Laila. The novel stresses over the rights women were not given along with restrictions to education, choices, and liberation.

1.2.1 Mariam's Struggle and How She is Getting Happiness

Harami or an illegitimate child, this word has a lasting impact on Mariam, defining her status in Afghanistan and establishing a lifelong struggle with selfworth. Raised by sacrificing but bitter mother neglecting father, Mariam is taught from a young age that she would never have a legitimate claim to the things other people had. Her mother attempts to steel her to hardship in preparation for a future of injustice and abuse by men, assuming Mariam's future will same as her own past.

Like a compass needle that always points north, a man's accusing finger always finds a woman. Always. You remember that, Mariam (7).

These are words of advice given to Mariam by her mother, Nana. Nana is a bitter woman who prepares her daughter to expect nothing but abuse from men, rejected by her fiance, impregnated by Jalil, and abandoned by her father however women must endure from much injustice in patriarchal system. It is can be pointed that, in Afghanistan have different ways that a few years ago, if a man makes a mistake he can easily put of the blame on the woman. That is what Nana was trying to tell Mariam, to be careful. There is nothing women can do to escape this, if a man does something wrong, it is automatically the women's fault, and there is nothing that she can do about it. As events derail her optimism, Mariam soon begins to believe her mother was right when she said her only potential is to endure. Burdened grief and guilt after her mother's suicide, Mariam is betrayed by her father, who marries her off to a widowed and older man in order to conceal his own shame.

Mariam's story of resilience as she seeks to endure her difficult life and the abuse from her controlling husband, in the process, she struggles with concept such as justice, worth and the role of women. Before she can overcome obstacles, she must confront her lifelong fear and guilt. Fifteen years later when she is succumbing to despair and resentment, she finds hope and a second chance in an unlikely person, her husband's second wife Laila. Mariam on the other hand, has an inner strength that's as hard and unyielding as a block of limestone. The combination of the two is something fierce. Mariam has not been confident in herself since she was a child. As an illegitimate child, she was an outsider and the final straw may have come when Jalil rejected her. After that, she seemed to cut herself off from the people around her as a defense mechanism.

But Laila plants something inside her. Laila's inspiration helps Mariam take control of her own destiny. Rasheed has been an awful, abusive husband to her, but up until this point, she is never defended herself. but when she sees Laila being strangled to death, she finally understand the need to fight back Rasheed. It is evident that Mariam finds the courage she needed when she saves Laila when Rasheed choking her by swinging a shovel to Rasheed's head, she killed Rasheed and leaving him dead. To pay what she did, Mariam executed by Taliban.

Mariam wished for so much in those final moments. Yet as she closed her eyes, it was not regret any longer but a sensation of abundant peace that washed over her. She thought of her entry into this world, the harami child of a lowly villager, an unintended thing, a pitiable, regrettable accident. A weed, and yet she was leaving the world as a woman who had loved and been loved back. She was leaving it as a friend, a companion, a guardian. A mother, a person of consequence at last. No. It was not so bad, Mariam thought, that she should die this way. Not so bad. This was a legitimate end to a life of illegitimate belongings" (329).

This quote was thought by Mariam giving the message of living with Rasheed for so long that now she finally has friends and people she love and who also love her back. The meaning would be how Mariam says how she could not live without Laila and Aziza because they are now a part of Mariam's life now and that she wouldn't be able to handle it if they were not around her anymore. Mariam makes a connection with Aziza because they are both harami and in a way Mariam is like a mother to Aziza and takes care of her like if she was her own child. Mariam also took care of Laila as if she was her own but they are not

both harami but they both share sadness of losing their most loved ones. Through her love for Laila and Laila's children, Mariam is able to fulfill her wish to be a mother and to finally give and receive love.

From this accident Mariam bravery was appears and it is because of she wants to protect the ones who she loves, Laila that she consider as her daughter. Also Mariam is able to become what she thought a harami like her could never be a mother, a friend and a hero. Mariam, for her part, is simply grateful for opportunity to know Laila and her children for as long as she could. Through her love for Laila and Laila's child, Mariam is able to fulfill her wish to be a mother and to finally give and receive love. Mariam reevaluates her life and reassesses herself worth. She must finally prove or dispel her mother's fateful words. Her personal development and renewed faith lead to a pivotal moment that will force her to choose between the safety of enduring and the risk of determing her own fate. She felt not a problem that beginning she was an illegitimate but in the end she is a legitimate in her life.

This was a legitimate end to alive of illegitimate beginnings (370).

1.2.2 Laila's Struggle and How She is Getting Happiness

Laila is raised with a strong sense of self by her father is not willing to submit to her circumstance to be uneducated women. Her father wishes that Laila will be able to change of Afghanistan. It is Afghanistan, she born as smart girl who grows up by educated family. Laila is someone who has lost her brothers and parents. She was suffering from her heart that she had

lost her love and raising his daughter. She had not anything to do other than marrying Rasheed. Both of Mariam and Laila had to marry him eventhough they did not want to. The discrepancy appear in the two Mariam and Laila marriage to Rasheed. Rasheed becomes abuse too Laila, when she was uttered a daughter named Aziza. Birth of Aziza make Mariam and Laila be friendship, different with Mariam who endured the pain and hardship, Laila escape route when she knew her life is going to be hell when she decided to marry Rasheed. Laila brings her headstrong nature to the table, giving Mariam the confidence that she so desperately needs. Mariam might not know what it is that's growing inside her, Laila who has the power to spread her positive nature to everyone around her. The two women start off at odds with each other but come to realize the only way they will be able to remain sane in their unstable lives is if they can come together, creating a deep friendship tied to their shared pain.

This is significant because Mariam has deep meaning for Laila and would do anything for her as she saved her life and the judge is thinking women cannot have the same rights as men and that she doesn't deserve to be not guilty. Mariam emerges as the true hero of the novel, willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for her loved ones and her beliefs. Although the Taliban execute her, Mariam leaves the world on her own terms, proud of the person she has become.

Mariam is never very far. She is here, in these walls, they've repainted, in the trees they've planted, in the blankets that keep the children warm, in these pillows and books and pencils. She is in the children's laughter. She is in the verses Aziza recites and in the prayers she mutters when she bows westward. But, mostly, Miriam is in Laila's own heart, where she shines with the bursting radiance of a thousand splendid suns (366).

Conditions in Kabul improve because of the U.S invasion and Laila insists that her family move back home so they can help rebuild their city. Laila visits Mariam's old home and is able to relate to Mariam's talk about her Kolba, she comes to terms with her grief over Mariam's execution. This quote comes at the very end of the novel and reveals how much Mariam has affected Laila's life and how even though she is gone, Laila will never forget her. She and Tariq where talking about what to name their child and Laila already has a name for the child if it's a girl will give her name Mariam. She means that she wants to continue Mariams memory on and on for a long time so she is never forgotten. This is significant because Laila got so close to Mariam that she cannot let her go and has to remember her. Laila fulfills her father's hope for her at the end of the novel, when she leads a project to rebuild an orphanage in Kabul. She chooses to dedicate her life to help the forgotten children of Afghanistan, the young girls and boys who never received the same encouragement and love that she did when she was their age. Laila has become a teacher, like her father and she will spread her determination and intelligence to the people who need it the most. Laila and Tariq build a new life in Kabul. Laila becomes a school teacher, a respectable woman in Afghanistan as her father dreams, during her childhood days. She works in the orphanage where Aziza once lived. And when Laila becomes pregnant, she decides that if she has a girl, she'll name her Mariam.

Both Laila and Mariam exhibit characters that are unique in their own way, Laila strong with her spirit ready to confront the male domination whereas Mariam weak submissive yielding to life's situations. Both women must face Rasheed, an older brutal man, as he reigns over their lives. The two women start of at odds with each other but come to realize the only way they will be able to remain sane in their unstable lives is if they can come together, creating a deep friendship tied to their shared pain.

Mariam and Laila represent the heroes within the analysis of the novel as well, they are not continuously perceived as acting heroically. At some point during the analysis of the novel, passivity of Mariam and Laila is so pervasive that their being heroin is vanished. In contrast, the users never hesitated to label Mariam and Laila as heroes. From their viewpoint, the heroic action of Mariam and Laila is reflected in both their acceptance of and their resistance to the adversity. They are perceived as heroes either for their self-sacrifice, which is manifest in their resistance to domination or for their survival, which is evident in their acceptance of domination.