

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the issue of domestic violence in two chapters, I am now going to come to the last chapter of my thesis, which is the conclusion made from comparing the two novels, namely The Woman Who Walked Into Doors by Roddy Doyle and Black and Blue by Anna Quindlen. I will show both the similarities and the differences of the novels.

The two novels share several similar things, one of which is that both female major characters of the novels are white people in their thirties. Both of them experience domestic violence and they at first submit to the situation, but in the end they decide to take action in order to get out of such violent marriage. Since the two novels are both written in 20th century, I think the authors are trying to show that domestic violence is a reality that unfortunately can be seen in the modern world, too; moreover, the violence that they get from their husbands is used as a tool to oppress them because of the unawareness of gender equality between them.

Furthermore, I am going to show the differences that can be found in the novels. The first one is the female major character's way of ending the violence. The second one is the setting of place of each novel. The third one is the different genders of the authors.

I will start with the first difference. The way each of the female major character deals with the violent husband in order to set themselves free is different. In Roddy Doyle's The Woman Who Walked Into Doors, the female major character chooses to fight the violent husband by hitting him using a frying pan. I consider it ironic because a frying pan is actually a tool that is identical with the so-called domestic life that women are forced to live. I think by creating such a way to fight the violence, Doyle is trying to show that, even though women are always considered weak, they are smart enough to use a domestic tool to fight the oppressor. Whereas in Anna Quindlen's Black and Blue, the female major character chooses to run away from her husband, and I think that it happens this way because Quindlen is trying to give a solution to women who cannot fight the abusive husbands directly so the solution she offers is for women to have new identities and start a new life away from their violent husband.

Next, I will come to the second difference, which is the setting of place of the two novels. I think the setting of place somehow influences the way each major character ends the violent marriage. The Woman Who Walked Into Doors is set in Ireland, which is known as a Catholic country, <http://www.esatclear.ie/~dialogueireland/worldreligions/> and I think it somehow affects Doyle to make an ending where the female major character stays married to her husband even though they are separated because according to Catholic values, divorce is not allowed. However, Black and Blue is set in the United States of America, which is known as a land of freedom and also known for its Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since people in America highly respect human rights and freedom, I believe that it affects Quindlen to imagine an organization that provides help to free abused women from their

violent husbands. I assume that Quindlen is trying to criticize the fact that there are still abused women in America, which is known as a land of freedom.

The third difference that I am going to analyze is the gender of the author of the two novels. Both of the novels are about women being abused by men, but the gender of the author is not the same. Black and Blue is written by a female writer, Anna Quindlen, while The Woman Who Walked Into Doors is written by a male writer. As far as I know, usually such novels are written by females because they can easily describe how women feel to experience such oppression from men. However, even though The Woman Who Walked Into Doors is written by a man, I would say that the author, Doyle, has successfully brought out the portrayal of abused women and placed himself as a woman using the first person point of view in the novel; moreover, Doyle has done it as well as the female writer of Black and Blue. Nevertheless, the different genders of the authors still cause a difference in the way the authors present the solution to the domestic violence. In The Woman Who Walked Into Doors I can see that the female major character, Paula Spencer, fights her violent husband using a frying pan, whereas in Black and Blue Fran Benedetto chooses to run away from her husband. I would say that what Paula does is typical of what men do, which is to confront problems openly with their strength, but what Fran does represents what most women do in reality, which is to run away from problems.

Finally, I want to say that both novels have given us a depiction of how women are treated unfairly because of men's feeling of being superior. However, the two female major characters have become the representation of the feminism spirit because both of

them have shown that finally they do not let people disrespect their rights as humans to receive equal treatment like men.