

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

After analysing Carolly Erickson's The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette and Kathryn Harrison's A Thousand Orange Trees, I will end my analysis by comparing the two of them. This conclusion consists of the similarities and differences of the two novels. Both novels talk about a queen who acts as the protagonist of each novel. The two of them, Marie Antoinette and Maria Luisa, experience political marriage. This political marriage causes both of them to move to different countries. Both authors, Erickson and Harrison, want to show the human side of Marie and Maria. The authors also want to say that wealth and power cannot guarantee a queen to be happy as both queens undergo difficult situations, in which they have to adapt and struggle.

The author of The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette, Erickson wants to show the human aspect of Marie Antoinette, as well as the dark side of her. She is still a human being who has flaws and strong sexual desire in her life. Erickson reveals Marie's characteristic through her reaction. One of the examples is when she commits adultery with two men, Axel and Eric; Marie faces a difficult situation as her husband, Louis, never sleeps with her.

Since the novel is written in the form of a diary, which is in the first person point of view, the readers will know exactly Marie's true personal feelings, as it is written by the first hand source. Therefore, there is no gap between the readers and the characters in the novel, in this case Marie Antoinette, who is the protagonist and the narrator of the diary in the novel.

Kathryn Harrison, the author of A Thousand Orange Trees, presents Maria Luisa as a queen who suffers. As a queen, she is presented to lead an oppressive and monotonous life. One of the examples is when Maria is not allowed to do things that she likes. She lives in a cheerful and colorful life in France; on the other hand, she feels oppressed when she moves to Spain. Besides, Maria's life as a queen is not as glamorous as what people think about a queen in general. This proves that Harrison wants to show the human side of Maria Luisa.

One of the similarities is the characteristics of the protagonists in both novels are told in indirect presentation. This means both authors show the readers about the protagonist's characteristic indirectly through their reaction, their speech and their thought.

Another similarity is that both Marie Antoinette and Maria Luisa are round characters. Marie is presented as a complex character seen from her positive traits namely rebellious, brave and caring, and negative traits namely unfaithful and extravagant. Maria Luisa is also a complex character. She is presented as a submissive and melancholic person. However, when forced by oppressive situation, she becomes sly.

Nevertheless, Marie Antoinette is a dynamic character that undergoes a change in some aspect of her characteristics. Her extravagant characteristic changes

gradually and becomes not as extravagant as she was. Different from Marie Antoinette, Maria Luisa is a static character. I notice that her true characteristics do not truly change as basically she remains submissive. This is the first difference between Marie Antoinette and Maria Luisa.

The second difference is seen in Marie Antoinette's and Maria Luisa's characteristics and their actions in facing their problems. Both queens have opposite characteristics. This can be seen when they face their problems. Marie Antoinette does not really care about the social norm. She does things that she considers good for herself as she appreciates herself as an individual. She dares to oppose not only her mother-in-law but also morality by committing adultery. Marie Antoinette is portrayed as a rebellious queen. When Marie breaks the rules by visiting her ill sister, the author, Erickson, shows the reader that Marie is not only a rebellious person but also a caring sister. Marie is also portrayed as a brave woman. She is first known as an extravagant queen, but at the end of the story she realizes that she cannot live in spree and changes her attitude gradually and becomes not as extravagant as she used to be. On the other hand, Maria Luisa is a submissive queen who does not dare to oppose the social norm. She just accepts and obeys it, although she has sly ideas because she is under pressure. She does not dare to be against her mother-in-law, either. She is also portrayed as a melancholic person. Even though she is a sly woman, she seldom uses her cleverness to solve her problems because she is oppressed by the rules. She is tied by the rules so she gradually becomes more and more submissive and abandons her intelligence.

The difference is also found in Erickson's and Harrison's way of writing both novels. In The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette, the author uses first person point

of view which means there is no gap between the reader and the narrator, who is Marie Antoinette, as the novel is written in the form of a diary. While in A Thousand Orange Trees, the author, Harrison, uses third person point of view.