

**GENDER DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCED BY THE MAIN
CHARACTER OF BARBARA QUICK'S *A GOLDEN WEB***

THESIS

By:

FIAN FAJRI MULAIIKA TISKA

NIM 10320037



ENGLISH LETTERS AND LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM

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**Presented to
Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra***

By:

FIAN FAJRI MULAIIKA TISKA

NIM 10320037

Advisor:

Miftahul Huda, M.Pd

NIP 19750310 200312 1 004



**ENGLISH LETTERS AND LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM
STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY, MALANG**

2014

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORSHIP

Name : Fian Fajri Mulaika Tiska

Student ID : 10320037

Faculty : Humanities

Department : English Language and Letters Department

Herewith certifies that the thesis researcher wrote to fulfill the requirement for *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S) entitled **Gender Discrimination Experienced by the Main Character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web*** is truly her work. It does not incorporate any materials previously written by another person, except those indicates in quotations and bibliography. Due to the fact, she is the only person responsible for the thesis if there is any objection or claim from others.

Malang, September 10, 2014

Fian Fajri Mulaika Tiska

APPROVAL SHEET

This is to certify that Fian Fajri Mulaika Tiska's thesis, entitled Gender Discrimination Experienced by The Main Character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web* has been approved by the advisor for further approval by the Board of Examiners.

Malang, September 10, 2014

Approved by
The Advisor,

Acknowledged by
The Secretary of the English Language
and Letters

Miftahul Huda, M.Pd
NIP 19750310 200312 1 004

Dr. Syamsudin, M. Hum
NIP 19691122 200604 1 001

Acknowledged by
The Dean of
The Faculty of Humanities
Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang,

Dr. Hj. Istiadah, M.A
NIP 19670313 199203 2 002

LEGITIMATION SHEET

This is to certify that Fian Fajri Mulaika Tiska's thesis, entitled Discrimination Experienced by the Main Character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web* has been approved by the thesis advisor for further approval by the Board of Examiners.

The Board Examiners

Signatures

1. Advisor

Miftahul Huda, M.Pd.
NIP. 19750310 200312 1 004

2. Main Examiner

Muzakki Afifuddin, M.Pd.
NIP. 19761011 201101 1 005

3. Chair of Examiner

Edy Thoyib, M. A

Acknowledged by
The Dean of
The Faculty of Humanities
Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang,

Dr. Hj. Istiadah, M.A
NIP 19670313 199203 2 002

MOTTO

DO WHAT YOU CAN

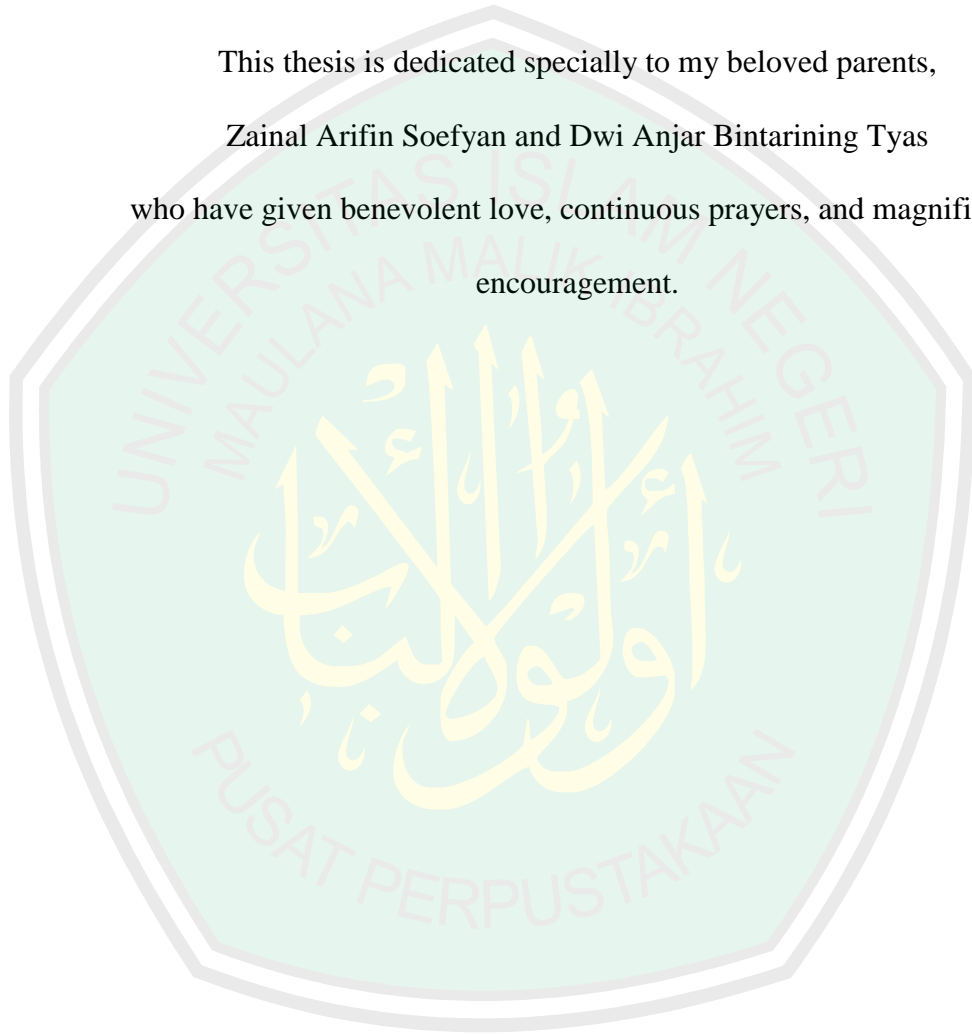
WHERE YOU ARE

WITH WHAT YOU HAVE



DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated specially to my beloved parents,
Zainal Arifin Soefyan and Dwi Anjar Bintarining Tyas
who have given benevolent love, continuous prayers, and magnificent
encouragement.



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The greatest gratitude the researcher would like to grant to the one above all of us, the Almighty Allah SWT for answering the prayers, for giving the strength, guidance and blessing so that the researcher is able to finish this thesis.

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ABSTRACT

Tiska, Fajri Fian M. 2014. **Gender Discrimination Experienced by the Main Character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web***. Thesis, English Language and Letters Department, Humanities Faculty, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang.

Advisor: Miftahul Huda, M.Pd

Key Words: Discrimination, Gender discrimination, Feminism

Discrimination closely related to gender discrimination. It can be met in every relation, whether family, society, workplace, and religion. Gender research has inspired methodological exploration in areas of representation, ethics, and collaboration. This present research is aimed to analyze the gender discrimination experienced by the young girl in a family as the main character by Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web*. The novel *a Golden Web* tries to reanimate someone, Alessandra Giliani, the world's first female anatomist which ever lived in Italia. The first problem, researcher focuses on the form of gender discrimination experienced by the main character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web*. The second, researcher continues to know the efforts to fight against gender discrimination experienced by the main character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web*.

Furthermore, the researcher uses appropriate theory to support this object. The theory used is feminist literary criticism. As the researcher now, feminist literary criticism focuses on the studies of the gender discrimination. Besides, this theory also represents the women that struggle with discrimination gender. Based on the novel there are causes of gender discrimination, include the following, religion, family law, workplace discrimination, education and physical factors. Those are gender discrimination experienced in the province of Emilia-Romagna in the early fourteenth century.

From analyzing the novel, the researcher found some causes of gender discrimination: (1) Religion, (2) Family Law, (3) Workplace Discrimination, (4) Education, (5) Physical Factors. Those are according to Filip Spagnoli (2008). Therefore, the researcher tries to connect with all of evidences in this novel. The portrayed of gender discrimination in this novel, those are: (1) Family Laws, The cruel treatment of step mother in family and living in seclusion, (2) Education, not allowed for get higher education, because Alessandra is a woman, (3) Workplace Discrimination, not allowed to be a healer because she is a woman, (4) Physical Factor, according to the man, the woman was weak.

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مستخلص البحث

تسكا فجرى فيان. 2014. تمييز الجنس أصابها الفاعلة في رواية غالدين ويب عند برباره قويك. البحث العلمي، قسم اللغة الانجليزية وأدبها، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية بمالانق.

المشرف: مفتاح الهدى الماجستر

الكلمات الأساسية: التمييز، تمييز الجنس، نظرية المساو بين الجنسين.

تبدو وثيقة بين التمييز و التمييز الجنس. وجدنا في العلاقات على سبيل المثال الأسرة، مجتمع، أماكن العمل، والدين. هذا البحث يكتشف تلك الظواهر في القبائل والتعاون. أهداف البحث أولاً تحليل التمييز الجنس التي أصابها المرأة في أسرته، وهي برباره قويك في رواية غالدين ويب. تحي هذه الرواية أليسندرا جيليانى من علماء التشريح في ايطاليا. ركز الباحث عن أشكال التمايز الجنس أصابها الفاعلة في رواية غالدين ويب برباره قويك. أن يعرف الباحث السأي لمواجهة التمييز الجنس ألتى أصابها الفاعل في رواية غالدين ويب ببربرا قويك.

استخدمت الباحثة في هذا البحث نظرية تؤيد الموضوع. منهج البحث نظرية المساو بين الجنسين. ركز هذه النظرية لمعرفة مشكلات التمايز الجندرية. انطلاق هذه النظرية ظهر جهاد المرأة في تمييز الجنس. وهناك المثال تمييز الجنس منها، العائلة، تمييز في بيئة الوظيفة، وعوامل التربية، وعوامل المادى، وهذه الخبرة تقع في ولاية ايميليا رومغن في أوائل القرن 14.

ونتائج البحث من أسباب تمايز المادية فيمكن أن نتخلص فيما يأتي: (1) أحكام العائلة. (2) تمييز في بيئة العمل. (3) وعوامل التربية. (4) وعوامل المادى. بناء من فيليف سفنولى (2008). نسب الباحثة الدلائل في الرواية. هذه من الصور التمايز في الرواية منها: (1) أحكام العائلة، عمل الحشي والنفصال من زوجة الأب. (2) وعوامل التربية، ما أجاز لاستمرار الدراسة لأن أليسندريا امرأة. (3) تمييز في بيئة الوظيفة، ما أجاز ليكون طبيا لأنها امرأة. (4) وعوامل المادى، رأى الرجل بأن المرأة ضعيف.



ABSTRAK

Tiska, Fajri Fian M. 2014. **Diskriminasi Gender yang Dialami oleh Pemeran Utama a *Golden Web* oleh Barbara Quick**. Skripsi, Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

Dosen Pembimbing: Miftahul Huda, M.Pd

Kata Kunci: Diskriminasi, Diskriminasi Gender, Feminism

Diskriminasi lekat hubungannya dengan diskriminasi gender. Diskriminasi tersebut dapat dijumpai disetiap hubungan, dalam keluarga, masyarakat, tempat kerja, bahkan dalam agama. Penelitian ini secara metodologi mengeksplorasi gambaran di area kesukuan dan kerjasama. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis diskriminasi gender yang dialami oleh seorang gadis dalam suatu keluarga, sebagai pemeran utama oleh Barbara Quick dalam novelnya *a Golden Web*. Novel *a Golden Web* ini mencoba menghidupkan kembali, Alessandra Giliani, ahli anatomi perempuan pertama di dunia yang pernah hidup di Itali. Persoalan pertama dalam penelitian ini, peneliti focus pada bentuk-bentuk diskriminasi gender yang dialami oleh pemeran utama dalam novel *a Golden Web* oleh Barbara Quick. Kedua, peneliti juga ingin tahu tentang usaha untuk melawan diskriminasi gender yang dialami oleh pemeran utama dalam novel *a Golden Web* oleh Barbara Quick.

Selanjutnya, peneliti menggunakan sebuah teori untuk mendukung objek dalam penelitian ini. Teori yang digunakan adalah teori feminisme. Sebagaimana yang peneliti ketahui, teori feminisme ini focus untuk mempelajari masalah diskriminasi gender. Disamping itu, teori ini juga menggambarkan perjuangan wanita dalam diskriminasi gender. Berdasarkan novel, ada beberapa bentuk diskriminasi gender, termasuk didalamnya sebagai berikut, hukum keluarga, diskriminasi di lingkungan kerja, pendidikan, dan factor fisik. Itu semua adalah pengalaman yang pernah terjadi di provinsi Emilia-Romagna pada awal abad ke-14.

Dari analisis novel ini, peneliti menemukan beberapa penyebab diskriminasi gender: (1) hukum keluarga, (2) diskriminasi di lingkungan kerja, (3) pendidikan, (4) factor fisik. Semuanya berdasarkan Filip Spagnoli (2008). Oleh karena itu, mencoba menghubungkannya dengan beberapa bukti yang terdapat pada novel. Penggambaran diskriminasi gender dalam novel, meliputi beberapa bentuk sebagai berikut: (1) hukum keluarga, perlakuan kejam oleh ibu tiri dalam keluarga dan pengasingan (pingitan), (2) pendidikan, tidak diizinkan untuk menempuh pendidikan yang lebih tinggi, hanya karena Alessandra seorang perempuan, (3) diskriminasi di lingkungan kerja, dilarang menjadi seorang pengobat (dokter/dukun) hanya karena Alessandra seorang perempuan, (4) faktor fisik, menurut pandangan laki-laki, wanita adalah seorang yang lemah.

ABSTRACT

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the introduction of the research. In this introduction, the researcher discusses the basic things of the research. The basic things are cover the background of the research. It is the place in a report (at the beginning) where researcher lists the reason for this research. Besides, research questions. It determines where and what kind of research of the researcher will be looking for. Furthermore, objective of the research and significant of the research thereabouts describes what will be studied. In addition, scope and limitation, they are actually different. The scope of research is the areas covered in the research, whereas the limitation of research is the opposite of the scope of research.

1.1. Background of Study

According to McKinney in the article under the title *“Big Data Could Create Big Discrimination Problems* (2013), Microsoft principal research Kate Crawford, personal data by marketers is growing so vast and far reaching that it is threatening to unleash a new wave of discrimination, one that ordinary people won’t even be able to see happening. Combining the troves of information collected by retailers, mobile carriers, internet companies and others into massive database creates so-called big data sets. From here, researcher believes that using all of the data that can be collect about your age,

race, gender, etc. afterward, companies can determine you without ever meeting you.

Early in history, gender discrimination created social gaps between the two genders. Females were regarded as "less privileged" than males in educational and occupational opportunities. Males, on the other hand, were stereotyped as the "stronger" gender, McLeary, eHow Contributor (2010). In actual fact, there are many of the laws that existing today, especially those that involve the family are in favor of women. In addition, McLeary explains that gender seems to be one of the deciding factors for job employment and compensation in some companies. It is according to a 2002 study for the College Student Journal, aside from educational attainment and job experience.

Discrimination here is classifying people into different groups. It is according the members of each group distinct. On the other hand, gender has a definition, the designated sex of an individual, male or female. All in all, gender discrimination has definition the unfair treatment of a person based on his or her gender. According to The Hunger Project (2011), despite the fact that women in developing countries provide nearly 70 percent of the agricultural labor, they continue to account for over 60 percent of the world's hungry. It is certainly true that lack of gender equality limits a woman farmer's access to agricultural inputs, credit services and a market to sell her products.

An article in the New York Times asking and then answering the question time after time "*Why are there still so few women in science?*".

According to Pickett (2013) the article explains that author Eileen Pollack who was one of the first women to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in physics at Yale in 1978 writes that even in 2013. Pollack says that American women are not only given low expectations from start for success in some subjects, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics, but also are seldom encouraged. Above all, Pollack commends some research studies as proof that gender inequality remains a rampant problem in the male dominated world of some subject careers and academia.

The reason of doing this analysis is that the researcher wants to convey by that very fact woman's struggle also present in the literary work. In actual fact, Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web* is one of the great novels to read. Researcher would tell any teen to read it because it is about a girl discovering herself and trying to succeed in a difficult world. Besides, disguising her gender, she sets out to infiltrate and conquer the all-male world of medical school. In this beautiful imagining of the centuries-old story of Alessandra Giliani, the world's first female anatomist, acclaimed novelist Barbara Quick gives readers the drama, romance, and rich historical detail for which she is known as she shines a light on an unforgotten, and unforgettable, heroine.

The researcher tries to analyze by using one of literary theories is that feminist literary criticism. According to Peter Barry 'The feminist literary criticism of today is the direct product of the 'women's movement' of the

1960s'. Indeed, it is possible by using another theory to analyze, but the researcher tries to learn and shows the phenomenon which appears in the novel. So that, feminists do effort and analyze the problems which cause women marginalized, get freedom to be a woman, and have social equalities in some aspects like men have. Moreover, some evidence appeared in the novel by using feminist literary criticism as the theory.

Some people argue that literature will often reflect the cultural assumptions and attitudes of its period, and that of course includes attitudes towards women: their status, their roles, their expectations. According to Bernard (1981) and Janet Radcliffe Richards's *The Sceptical Feminist: A Philosophical Enquiry* (1980), feminists have argued for positive discrimination as the only way to correct centuries of bias. Nonetheless, the consensus emerging among black Americans is that positive discrimination is counter-productive. Disadvantaged minorities desperately need the odds levelled, but not patronizingly tilted in their favour.

Feminist research has emerged as a legitimate, relevant and popular research model. Its quality and the validity of its findings are beyond contention, and over the years it has produced a significant output that has provided guidelines for policies central to modern societies (Roberts, 1981). Researcher believes that its domain is wide and diverse, and so are its basic methodological principles. Besides, in this sense, feminist research is an emancipatory type of inquiry.

Furthermore, feminist research is a type of investigation that deserves its place in this text not primarily because of the nature of methods it employs or the output it produces but rather because of the manner in which it uses conventional methods, the areas on which it focuses, and the manner in which it employs its findings (Alcoff, L. and Potter, E.: 1993).

1.2. Research Questions

1. What are the forms of gender discrimination experienced by the main character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web*?
2. What are the efforts to fight against gender discrimination experienced by the main character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web*?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Based on the previous statement of the problems mentioned above, the objectives of this research are to know Gender discrimination experienced by the main character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web* while research in Bologna, the major effect of immediate environment, and the kind of the culture that disapproves by her. Socialist feminist analysis arose out of an attempt to articulate these developing understandings to broader theories of social change, primarily, but not exclusively, historical materialist theories.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This research is intended that to have significance of the research both theoretically and practically analysis in literary works. Theoretically, by means of this research expects to have a contribution in analyzing literary

work using objective approach. In the mean time, practically, this research will be able to become one of references to other students of English department who attracted to analyze in the same topic.

1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research is feminist literary criticism; in particular feminism theory analyzed the connection the efforts to fight against gender discrimination experienced by the main character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web*. In addition, this research to confront there are many problems that concerned with the main character of *a Golden Web* novel, such as the problem of her family and the problem of her school. Head for make the researcher manageable and to avoid the broadening of the discussion the researcher focuses on some aspects around experienced by the main character, there are family law, education, and efforts to fight against gender discrimination to be certain. Discrimination in this research is considered only as it appears on the province of Emilia-Romagna in the early fourteenth century and experienced by Alessandra Giliani as the main character.

The struggle here means that how big gender discrimination experienced by the main character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web* while research in Bologna. In the University of Bologna, Alessandra Giliani impersonate as a boy. As we know that the university is boys only. Moreover, she uses Sandro as her nick-name.

On the other side, the theory used by researcher here is feminism is not only desirable but it is also necessary because the current system of capitalism is not stable and cannot last in its present form. In addition, this does not mean that the society will inevitably become socialist. However, we want to emphasize the need for a multi-level approach to women liberation.

On the other side, the limitation of this research is extrinsic aspect that is setting based on events that faced by Alessandra Giliani.

1.6. Research Method

It provides detailed descriptions of research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis.

1.6.1 Research Design

This is a research that categorized as literary criticism. The literary criticism is mode to analyze a literary work. Here, *A Golden Web* novel that be used by researcher in this research. Besides, by using one of literary theories is that feminist literary criticism.

Researcher was analyzing the one of intrinsic aspect that is all of about the main character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web* which explains about gender discrimination deeply. Therefore, the researcher use the objective approach, in which this research is focus on analyze the text only.

This research is designed into some steps. First is deciding the object and the topic of the research. Then delivering to reason of why the researcher is interested in analyzing that topic. Second is arranging the research

questions about the information which is needed by the researcher. Third is choosing the appropriate methodology. Fourth is collecting the data. Five is analyzing the data. The last is concluding the result of the analysis.

1.6.2 Data Source

The primary data of this research is *a Golden Web*/ Barbara Quick.—1st ed, EPub Edition © February 2010. This novel is consist of 456 pages.

In addition, *a Golden Web* novel included in Juvenile fiction. This novel was also published in several countries such as, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and United States.

1.6.3 Data Collection

There are several steps in collecting the data in this research. The first is researcher reads *a Golden Web* novel time after time. Furthermore, researcher rereads and gives mark to the data needed by the research question, such sentences, words, dialogues, phrases, etc. Afterwards, underline the phrase or sentence which are related to the evidence of gender discrimination. Then, the researcher reread carefully and rewrites the main point in each chapter of novel. Besides, researcher is classifying the required data based on the experienced by the main character of this novel.

Then, the researcher takes some most important data which has been marked. The last, researcher classifies the data which is related with the research questions.

1.6.4 Data Analysis

After data collection, here, researcher defines a *Golden Web* novel as the first data, and then researcher is going to interpret the most important data implying the form of gender discrimination experienced by the main character of this novel one by one. Afterward, those data will be linked to the plot of the story to know the responses of the main female character to the gender discrimination. Furthermore, researcher will analyze the data from the novel. Besides, researcher will explain and discuss it with all elements of the theory used. All in all, the researcher will conclude the answers of all statements of the problems.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

a. Discrimination : discrimination is the prejudicial treatment of an individual or group.

b. Gender discrimination: the unfair treatment of a person or group based on some identifying characteristic such as race or gender.

Definition above is according to <http://www.toolingu.com/class-950215-harassment-and-discrimination-215.htm>.

c. Feminism : the belief and aim that women should have the same rights, power, and opportunities as men (Collins COBUILD Dictionary on CD-ROM 2006). In addition, the belief that women should be allowed the same rights, power and opportunities as men and be treated in the same way, or the set of

activities intended to achieve this state (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary – 3rd Edition).

- d. Socialist : means based on socialism or relating to socialism. Supporting or relating to socialism (Collins COBUILD Dictionary on CD-ROM 2006).
- e. Main character : a person or an animal in a book, play film or movie (Oxford 7th edition). Furthermore, main character is the first actor to engage in dialogue with the chorus. It is the leading character of a drama or other literary work (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Main+character>).

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter, the researcher provides the related literature to the research. In addition, it is to give a brief definition and explanation about the discrimination more generally, gender discrimination, cause and effect of gender discrimination, feminist literary criticism, and previous study.

2.1. Sex and Gender Differences

Sometimes, distinguishing between sex and gender is hard to understand. Based on *World Health Organization* (WHO) definition, "sex" refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women; meanwhile, "gender" refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes given by the society and considered appropriate for men and women. There are some examples of each characteristic. Women menstruate while men do not, men generally have more massive bones than women do, etc. Those are some examples of sex characteristics. The example of gender characteristic, in most of the world, is that women do more housework than men.

2.2. Gender Discrimination

Gender is not something we are born with, and not something we *have*, but something we *do* (West and Zimmerman 1987) – something we *perform* (Butler 1990). In other words, gendered performances are available to everyone.

As noted by Burri and Schiek(2009):

“Gender discrimination occurs not only as isolated form of discrimination, but also affects women who

simultaneously are suffering from discrimination on grounds of their racial and ethnic origin, their age, their disability, their sexual orientation and their religion or belief”.

The evidence suggests that discrimination can occur on the basis of intersections between elements of individual identity rather than on the basis of a single characteristic.

As Fitzduff (1988) explains that all discrimination of whatever kind shares similar features. It can be individual, group or institutional; It can be direct or indirect, overt or covert; It is based on the belief that one group is inferior; It involves power relationship - the "superior" group or individual is in the "up" position; The problem above becomes focused on the inferior individual or group and not on the superior individual or group.

2.2.1. Discrimination

Everybody may be able to take action if you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age.

In analyzing discrimination, it is crucial to understand what is meant by discrimination. Even though an extensive literature tries and assesses the equity implications of gender inequality.

Perhaps the most common approach to study discrimination is by investigating inequality in outcomes between groups. Rather than focusing on the attitudes or perceptions of actors that may be correlated with acts of

discrimination, this approach looks to the possible consequences of discrimination in the unequal distribution of employment, housing, or other social and economic resources.

Gary Becker (1957) focuses on 'taste for discrimination' i.e. non-pecuniary motivation as the source of discrimination by entrepreneurs, male employees and consumers. Becker applies Adam Smith's approach of 'compensating variation' to develop his treatment of discrimination.

Becker (1957) argues that "if an individual has a 'taste for discrimination', he must act as if he were willing to pay something, either directly or in the form of a reduced income, to be associated with some persons instead of others". The taste for discrimination is related to individuals. Employers are prepared to sacrifice profit to avoid female workers, male employees are prepared to sacrifice wages to avoid female workers, and consumer prepared to pay higher prices to avoid female provision because of this distaste.

There has been no judicial interpretation of the term "discrimination" contained in this Act. The understanding is that it refers only to direct discrimination in the sense interpreted by Lord Lowry (Armagh District Council v. Fair Employment Agency, 1983):

When the Act (FEA) uses the word "discrimination" or "discriminate", it is referring to an employer who makes a choice between one candidate and another, on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion; it is not speaking of an evidential disadvantage which is due to a difference between the religion of the employer and of the candidate, but of a

deliberate, intentional action on the part of the appointing body or individual.

It can be explained that, although spite, deliberate intention to differentiate on the grounds of religion, politics, sex, color or nationality, is an indispensable element in the concept of discrimination.

2.2.2. Cause and effect of gender Discrimination

According to Sherrie Scott (2014) gender discrimination happens when sexes are treated unequally. Gender discrimination is not based solely on gender differences but on how people are treated differently because of their sex. Gender discrimination is illegal and several laws are in place to prevent and eliminate discriminatory practices.

Indeed, we have gendered institutions, such as school and the workplace, that favor men; women are often victims of discrimination. Nevertheless, there are other factors as well, such as psychological and biological differences that influence society's views on gender. However, in researcher's opinion, gendered institutions cause for the greatest gender discrimination.

Many believe that gender discrimination is a subject of the past. However, it is still an issue that assured attention all around the world. According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, there were 28,372 charges of sex-based discrimination in 2008. There are many causes for gender discrimination.

According above statement, there are causes of gender discrimination, include the following, religion, family law, workplace discrimination, education and physical factors.

Many religions rate as women below the mark of men, and create a patriarchal society. In addition, Spagnoli (2008) also explains some causes of gender discrimination. In Spagnoli's view that religious traditions and sacred texts is one of the causes of gender discrimination. This could be because the Muslim religion contains many discriminatory injunctions which moreover are often interpreted very literally. Furthermore, another causes custom and culture. As Spagnoli says that culture shapes the way "things are done" and the thinking of people who believe that things should be done in a certain way. In this day and age, it is certainly true that in many cultures we still witness men dislike of women. On the other side Jonathan Fox (2002) claims in his article that the results show that religious factors influence the process that leads to discrimination and that the causes of religious discrimination are distinct from the causes of other types of discrimination. It is researcher opinion that all of this, along with other factors implies that religion is not merely a reflection of general cultural differences, but rather has a distinct and separate influence on ethnic conflict.

Second is family law. Family laws that force arranged marriages often lead to gender discrimination. The women in these marriages are often abused both physically and sexually. Furthermore, as Spagnoli explains in one of the articles about human rights:

"Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry

and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses”.

Spagnoli perceives statement above that polygamy is also a cause of discrimination. It is certainly true that in researcher opinion, many cultures, forced marriages are still very common and it's often resulting in sexual abuse. For this reason, women often do not have the same rights about divorce.

Then, workplace discrimination is caused by the sense that certain occupations are a 'man's job' or a 'woman's job'. While there are laws against this type of discrimination, it is still often a determining factor when hiring someone. Spagnoli (2008) also says that without any discrimination, the right to equal pay for equal work, but even in industrialized countries there is salary discrimination and there are promotion obstacles for women. In developing countries, this discrimination is even worse. As we know that in some countries, the choice of work is restricted for women. Nevertheless, often women are not allowed to work at all and they are confined to house keeper.

Furthermore is education. Humans rights also states that education plays an important role in gender discrimination. In many countries, women are forced to stay home to clean and cook. However, the men are sent to school, furthering inequality. Besides, Spagnoli writes that the literacy rates and school enrollment rates for girls and women is often much lower than for boys and men. Researcher believes that girls are often forced to stay home and do the housekeeping. Then,

when a girl is allowed to take a job, it will be a substandard one because of her low level of education. She will also be expected to continue to do the housekeeping. Therefore, the researcher guesses that women do perform everything to get justice. Such as, the women will show her outstanding performance to be successful. Besides, they will be more ambitious toward what to do.

The last is physical factors. Often because women are physically weaker than men; they are more easily abused and discriminated against. In Spagnoli views women are often the victim of rape and female genital mutilation or other kinds of sexual abuses. The facts are that because of the anatomy. This could be a result of their bodies and their relative physical weakness compared to men.

There are many types of discrimination based on sex or gender, and can range in gravity from workplace discrimination to violent crime. Gender discrimination is still a wide spread problem. In actual fact, women are still the victims of brutal violence, abuse and rape. In researcher's opinion some of causes of discrimination above are true concepts of what she founds in *a Golden Web* novel. They are family law, education, workplace discrimination, physical factors, and fact.

Gender discriminations are more common in societies. The term patriarchy refers to a society where men are granted the majority of social and political power. Gender discrimination doesn't just hurt women but also people who identify as transgender have a gender identity that does not match the sex that they were born with. Transgender people also face gender discrimination. Like women

this can include a wide range of discriminatory acts, from unequal treatment and disturbance in the workplace to violence and hate crimes.

The effect of gender discrimination can happen in everywhere, social setting. The effects of gender discrimination are negative for the person experiencing the discrimination and for everyone around them. Women are typically that is to be discriminated against.

As Sherrie Scott (2014) gender discrimination in the workplace leads to an increase in employee turnover and creates a hostile work environment. Gender discrimination also promotes harassment and possible workplace violence. The victims of gender discrimination have the right to file lawsuits to recover damages suffered as a result of discriminatory practices.

All in all, gender development does not end with childhood or adolescence. Gender continues to be transformed as we move into the marketplace, as we learn to act like secretaries, lawyers, managers. And it continues to be transformed as our family status changes, as we learn to be wives and husbands, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers. According all above sentences is concerned with feminism theory. According to www.sociology.org.uk (2005) in *Feminism: Basic Principles*, there are four major varieties of Feminism, Liberal, Marxist, Radical, and Socialist. This theory is the one of ways to set over that women still face gender discrimination. Gender discrimination is still a big problem.

2.3. Feminist Literary Criticism

There are many types of literary criticism; one of them is feminist literary criticism. Feminist literary criticism is literary analysis that arises from the

viewpoint of feminism. Besides, a feminist literary critic resists traditional assumptions while reading. At the present time, the progressive discourse on gender equality the equality on the right between men and women besides the issues on human right, we find that is the most influential and contextual issue taking most attention from the intellectuals, social scientist, politicians and others. Thus, might be proof that the issue on women is controversial that needs profound discussion.

The women's movement around the world takes many stances, including women's rights, feminism, women's research, religious organization, and socialist feminism. Most criticisms of Feminist perspectives have stemmed from Feminists themselves. For many feminists, socialism is attractive because it promises to end the economic inequality of working women.

Like post-structuralism, feminism draws upon a short but thoroughly diverse theoretical tradition.

“In her account of ‘third wave’ feminism, Mills (2002) suggests that it is possible to identify three distinct chronological waves in the history of feminism.”

Analyzing by using feminist literary criticism is one way to find women's problem in some aspects. It can be used for analyzing historical data and nonliterary works which also emphasize on women's case. Another spect, “Feminist has argued that the subordination of women has been described by feminist as patriarchy, a concept that has connotation of male-headed family, mastery and superiority. As movement, feminism has been concerned with two key issues. First, to win citizen rights such as voting and equality before the law.

Second, to influence cultural representations and norms in ways those are beneficial to women.” (Barke: 2008).

The most important argument in feminist theories to explain gender segregation is that “women’s occupations tend to be extensions of domestic roles (e.g., teaching children, nursing, cleaning, serving), and just as women’s domestic work is devalued within most societies so are these occupations and skills. Some women’s jobs may not in fact be less skilled than those done by higher paid males but tend to be downgraded because mainly women have developed skills” (Anker and Hein, 1986). This approach is very useful to demonstrate women’s position in everywhere.

It is implied that “although their analyses are often polemical and lack the mathematical precision of the neo-classical and segmentation theories, they are nevertheless important since they force us to think about the deeper social roots of the sex segregation in the labor market” (Anker and Hein, 1986).

In addition, as mentioned above, in Italy, the real life in the province of Emilia-Romagna in the early fourteenth century, cultural social and ideological factors play a very important role to explain women’s subordinate position in the educational. Therefore, we can say that the feminist theories of discrimination may be useful in explaining gender discrimination in Italy.

What can be done about illegal treatment? According to Shelter England (2014), whoever fell victim to discrimination can also contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service helpline, or you could get advice from Citizens Advice or a law center.

2.4. Previous Studies

Some university students have done the study of feminism in literature with many different objects. There are some researchers that used the feminist literary criticism. such as; Nanda A. Surya Permana (2007) analyzed the Portrait of Women's Struggle Performed by "The Main Character in Fern Michaels", Ika Kurniawati (2007), through feminist approach she described Women's Struggle Against the Patriarchal Chinese Family in Pearl S. Buck's *Pavilion of Women*.

The writer, of Women's Struggle against the Patriarchal Chinese Family in Pearl S. Buck's *Pavilion of Women*, Ika Kurniawati (2007) founds the struggles that are done by some female characters against patriarchal Chinese family in the novel. Those are: (1) Demonstration against Polygamy, (2) Abandoning from Serving Husband and Doing Household, (3) Demanding to Choose the Marriage Partner Freely, (4) Struggle for freedom in Family, (5) Struggle against Women's Oppression and (6) Struggle for accessing Education. In fact, there are some point above, 3, 4, 6 are the same things in this study, it is likely that researcher founds in Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web* novel. Nevertheless, the aspect in this research has different things. This research refers simply to the gender discrimination experienced by the main character.

Furthermore, Nanda A. Surya Permana (2007) as the writer of study Portrait of Women's Struggle Performed by the Main Character in Fern Michaels' *Texas Rich* analyzes one main problem that is the forms of the woman's struggle in military family. The writer founds the struggle in pre-marital life, in post-marital life, and after having children. The writer also founds the struggle of the

main character in defending the marriage and family beside the struggle in gaining the same position in the family. Indeed, in the last point above most likely same as the study of gender discrimination here. However, the study above almost certainly is different with this study.

On the other hand, only Anshar Elahi Sinaga (2010) analyzed the gender discrimination performed by Gender Discrimination Experienced by The Main Character Described in *The Last Empress* by Anchee Min. the author of the novel offers a powerful revisionist portrait based on extensive research of one of the most important figures in Chinese history. Anshar extend that the novel is full of the struggle woman and full of the domination and discrimination against women. In fact that Anshar tries to describe another value that covered the women interest and women emancipation in the form of mind set movement to the readers. Nonetheless, the study of gender discrimination in Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web* here has something different, and even explain facts and figures. In fact, here Barbara Quick's first young adult title is a tale to encourage and inspire readers of all ages. Besides, in the novel exquisite imagining of the centuries-old story of Alessandra Giliani, she is known as she shines a light on an unforgotten, and unforgettable, heroine.

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

The first part focuses on the form of gender discrimination. Then, the efforts to fight against gender discrimination experienced by the main female character portrayed in the novel. All data absolutely are causally related to the novel of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web*.

3.1. The form of gender discrimination portrayed in Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web*

In fourteenth-century Bologna, Alessandra Giliani, a brilliant young girl, defies convention and risks death in order to attend medical school at the university so that she can study anatomy. However, we should be proud of this literary work that show how big the struggle of women to get the expectation. Sandro, the nick-name of Alessandra Gilliani in Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web* here is exemplary for us, especially for the women. In the process of becoming Sandro in this novel, Zan Zan (her childhood name) is not merely born within Sandro as a boy. In actual fact, she has reasons why she does it.

According to the previous chapter, there are causes of gender discrimination, as follows, religion, family law, workplace discrimination, education and physical factors. In this novel, the researcher finds some written of form of gender discrimination portrayed in Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web*.

Far before the researcher explain about the form of gender discrimination portrayed in Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web*, right here there are some statement as evidence. As it is stated as a follows:

The baby had, the night before, looked up from the nanny's breast, smacked her lips, and said, as clear as day, "Delizioso!"
If the oak apples sank instead of floating, the nanny would know for certain that this child—with such an unnaturally bright look in its eyes—was a changeling, put in the cradle by a devil who had snatched the real baby away with him at a moment when the nurse's attention was somewhere else. (Prologue, page 8-9).

The quotation above is one of the evidences that show how bad the baby girl at that time. But actually the case is "*Delizioso!*" a word who said by a baby girl, Alessandra Giliani. However, in days of yore, in the early fourteenth century, a baby girl likes Alessandra Giliani considered to be start for a clever girl. And will it do something, what will be in the world if there is a clever girl who changes the world. On the other side, the mother of baby girl tried to prevent from the nanny. Nanny is a representative of system who believes that female should not be cleverer than male.

With the strength and swiftness born of her love, Signora Giliani wrested both the knife and her son out of the nurse's grasp and snatched her baby daughter out of the cradle. The bowl of water, stained brown by the oak apples, spilled out over the flagstones. "Leave this house!" she said, her voice raked by the horror of what had nearly happened. (Prologue, page 9-10).

Nevertheless, "*Delizioso!*" a word, and not just any word, but such a fancy word, at eight months old, Alessandra Giliani. Besides, in this novel shows that

Signora Giliani (Alessandra's mother) thought the word again that Alessandra said before, "*Delizioso!*". One of the several words comes to associate with feelings or things.

Those are evidence in the prologue in Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web*. The following is form of gender discrimination portrayed in this novel with its evidences.

3.1.1 Family Laws

The first is family laws that force arranged marriages often lead to gender discrimination. The women in these marriages are often abused both physically and sexually. Gender discrimination experienced by Alessandra Giliani as the main character here is very much like one of the causes above.

a. The rule of keeping a fourteen years old

Nicco and Pierina could come and go as they pleased, so long as they got their work done. Even Dodo, free to romp unsupervised in the garden, was allowed more license than Alessandra. Ursula barred her from the scriptorium, citing the frequent presence of students there—and made sure she kept Alessandra occupied with housework, far from the schoolroom, when Nicco had his lessons. (Chapter 6, page 119-120).

From the evidence above, it can be seen that Alessandra's life clouded over. Alessandra never appreciated her freedom until it was taken away. Fourteen is the age when girls must be kept inside. The age is when girls must be kept even from looking out windows or doors. At that time the rule is applied to every girl.

Furthermore, as good as Ursula as Alessandra's step mother shoots the works toward Alessandra. There was no way Alessandra's absence from home

could have gone unmarked, it is because she was roused by the sound of the church bells tolling Vespers, telling her that they'd (Alessandra and Nicco) stayed away too long. Alessandra apologized toward her step mother. However, Ursula never forgave her.

On the other hand, Carlo Giliani (Alessandra's father) hushed.

"Amore," he said, "the fish is getting cold."
(Chapter 4, page 66).

Nonetheless, Ursula repeated her voice.

"Your hands!" Ursula repeated in a voice as cold as the river from which the fish had been hauled up in a net that morning. (Chapter 4, page 66).

Even so, Alessandra took orders her step mother.

Alessandra raised her hands up and held them out, palms up. Ursula grabbed the candelabra and drew it closer to the edge of the table, dripping wax onto the white cloth. "Turn them over!" There was still dirt and mud and blackberry juice under Alessandra's nails. A drop of hot wax fell on the back of her hand. Alessandra flinched but didn't cry out. Another drop fell. (Chapter 4, page 67).

Sometimes, Alessandra looked at her hands, a child's hands still, smooth and dimpled and as yet unmarked by life. But, the problem came again.

Carlo left for several days on a business trip to Bologna, and Ursula took advantage of his absence to give Alessandra tasks she would never dare give her otherwise. So while Pierina sat by the kitchen fire, helping Cook put up apples to dry, Alessandra was sent to the well with the two buckets balanced, one at each end of the rod that hurt her back and neck even while the buckets were empty. (Chapter 5, page 87-88).

Those are point out that Alessandra was a calm girl. Alessandra embraced the task without complaint, taking it as an intellectual as well as a physical challenge. However, Nicco as her brother had it in for one, their step mother having done.

“Are you trying to drown yourself? Surely there’s an easier way.”

“Who would dare order a shrimp like you to carry the water?” (Chapter 5, page 89)

And:

Nicco grinned. “The world will be a better place because of you, Alessandra, if you’re able to stay alive long enough to do even half of what you cook up inside that brilliant heart of yours.” (Chapter 5, page 90).

On the other side, no matter what happened, Nicco never gives up to turn against his step mother’s attitude.

“Know, Madame, that I will defend my sister if anyone misuses her.” (Chapter 5, page 92).

Nicco and Ursula stared at each other, neither hazarding to utter another word. Alessandra, roused from her own thoughts, looked up at them, from face to face, locked in combat as surely as if they’d been trading blows. However, Ursula took advantage of his husband absence to say things she never would have dared say when he was at home. Nevertheless, Alessandra was selfish and horrid for refusing to marry or take the veil and leave Ursula in peace to enjoy her husband’s other children.

The more Alessandra stayed indoors alone, while her siblings climbed trees and swam in the river and watched the sunsets, the more Alessandra grew to loathe her jailor.

Fall slipped away from her, barely glimpsed—and then the fog and rain of winter came. By then—even though her father was home again—each day seemed to last a year. (Chapter 6, page 124).

b. The rule of seclusion in the convent

One day, the following spring, Alessandra's father came to visit her in her room, where she lay in bed reading after the midday meal. At that time, Alessandra show how her heart desires.

Silently, she prayed to the soul of her mother to intercede for her and aid her cause—her mother, whose needless death had inspired Alessandra's ambition, and whose love had given her the belief that it might, against all odds, be possible to fulfill. (Chapter 6, page 136-137).

And then she said what she'd practiced saying a hundred times, never finding quite the right way.

"I want to go to the University of Bologna, Papa. I want to study medicine." (Chapter 6, page 137).

At the same time, Carlo looked at his daughter a long time before responding to the astonishing thing she'd just said. He knew that she was not like any other child, male or female, he had ever known. But this newest conceit of hers left him quite speechless.

She spoke when he said nothing. “There are female scholars in the town.” “Are there?” Carlo looked thoughtful. “Are you sure?” (Chapter 7, page 138).

And:

“Females, I believe, can attend lectures if they so desire. At least, I have never heard any injunction against it.” Her voice trailed off into uncertainty. (Chapter 7, page 139).

On the other side, Carlo thought that it is not true; it is not good for her daughter.

“And medicine, child! What man would surrender his pulse and his urine to a female physician?” (Chapter 7, page 139).

However, Alessandra had a mind.

“I want to study the workings of the body, Father—not to wear the red gloves and attend the ill.” (Chapter 7, page 139).

“I want to study as Aristotle says men should study.” (Chapter 7, page 140).

“It’s true the old Stagirite has nothing kind to say about the intellectual capacity of females. But I am living proof that he was biased in his view!” (Chapter 7, page 140).

Silently, Carlo thought how proud his daughter was. How proud and pretty. And he had to admit, correct in her opinion. And yet she was a girl, and what she asked for was against every law of man and Nature.

She had all the capacity required to pursue any of the seven liberal arts: grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, music, or even astronomy. . .

*She was a natural scholar and an original thinker.
Was it not but an unhappy accident that she was born
a girl? (Chapter 7, page 141).*

And:

*“Wouldn’t music be better suited to you, Alessandra?
Both the study of music and the study of medicine are
concerned, after all, with achieving harmony.”
(Chapter 7, page 141-142).*

Nonetheless, Alessandra was heading toward her principle. She was never give up. That heart desires actually make Carlo too afraid to take the decision. However, Carlo’s decision influenced Alessandra’s future.

*“And yet they are as different as an angel is from a
living creature, Papa! I want to study the body itself
and learn the secrets of how it works—of everything
that’s hidden beneath the flesh. To learn, as Aristotle
teaches us to do, by observation.” (Chapter 7, page
142).*

On the other side, Carlo confused. He did not understand about his daughter wants.

*“Did I nurture you and coddle and encourage you,
only to see you banished from the company of every
decent, God fearing person? To see you become a
smut in the eye of God Himself?” (Chapter 7, page
144).*

Besides, the strongest of family laws is a year in the convent. Everyday Ursula spent hours weaving matching blue silk ribbons into Alessandra’s hair. It as all is aimed to protect daughter’s virtue.

“You’re a lovely young woman now—a fruit that’s nearly ripe for plucking. A year in the convent, and then there will not be a virgin in Emilia-Romagna who will command a higher bride-price—or merit a grander bridegroom!” (Chapter 7, page 158).

The word used to denote the evidence above is, *like a pig, being primped and fattened and brought to market*. Nonetheless, Pierina, Alessandra’s young sister dislikes what their parents do toward her sister.

Carlo saved the day by coming closer to his wife and kissing her hand. “We have good news from the convent.”

Alessandra froze.

“You are taking the veil!” cried Pierina reproachfully.

(Chapter 8, page 181).

And:

“A year of retreat,” said Carlo. (Chapter 8, page 182).

It shows that Alessandra entire life was about to be transformed. And all she felt was dread. The light of Alessandra’s face was once again dim and imperfect.

In addition, Alessandra must be kept safely apart from all men, even their brothers.

“From the Holy Father,” said Ursula. “It is my duty to protect your daughter’s virtue, and I will see that it is done. No matter what—” Here she looked at all of them, one by one. “No matter what anyone says, as God is my witness!” (Chapter 6, page 118).

On Alessandra mind, the end of her thirteenth year, the house was transformed by her stepmother's zealous oversight into a barrier between her and all the wonders and pleasures of the outside world. On the other side, Nicco and Pierina could come and go as they pleased.

However, her father could convince her to wait a bit, on grounds of finding an even more powerful match for her. Family laws actually make Alessandra felt her own physical presence in the world diminishing, like the sandstone being worn away by wind and rain.

3.1.2 Education

Traditional lifestyle in some households causes unjust discrimination to women (Anderson, Moore, Faison, 1995). In many countries, women are forced to stay home to clean and cook. However, the men are sent to school and the women furthering inequality. They think that men must be educated in order to find a better work to give his family a better life. Therefore, the equality of education opportunity is important to prevent gender discrimination.

According to the novel, Alessandra was selfish and horrid for refusing to marry or take the veil. It is because she thinks that how limited the curriculum is at the cloister. She had to live in seclusion not in the school what she wants.

- a. Women are not allowed to get higher education

When the day was fair, Alessandra sat in the garden to plan and dream, with a prayer book, as often as not, sitting open but unread across her lap. (Chapter 9, page 194-195).

And:

Emilia was surprised to see Alessandra—normally a curious and outgoing girl—show so little interest in the other inmates of the place where they would both be spending a year or more. (Chapter 9, page 196-197).

The evidence above is firm when someone dislikes injustice of life. She actually had enough of her life. Sometimes, she thought that:

Why would God have given her a keen and questioning mind if He didn't intend her to use it? Why would the world and all of Nature be laid out like a book, waiting to be read and understood, if the Creator had not desired her to discover its secrets and draw wisdom from them? Wasn't it a sign of respect to try to better the lot of the creatures God had favored above all others with intelligence and reason? (Chapter 11, page 262-263).

And:

Woman was created last of all, after all the animals and after Adam himself. Why would God have done it thus if He intended woman as a lesser creature? Would He not then have made her just after the animals and before Adam? (Chapter 11, page 263).

Alessandra knew that she would have to oppose the entire powers Earth to accomplish what God had given her the ability and ambition to do. She was sure that what God have given her is very important. Not only sure, but also she believe that God has purpose of it.

Fatefully, that Alessandra does at that time. In addition, Alessandra has amazing habit. It is the way of thinking especially that she has. Smart and curious are preeminent things of her.

Some actions of Alessandra that show of her skill:

Just then, Emilia herself, rosier than usual and spattered in what looked distinctly like blood, appeared in the doorway, wringing her hands. "I am undone!" she wailed. . .

And:

"I gave him a piece of meat and a bowl of wine, feeling rather badly at the way I'd handled him earlier. And he no sooner had a sup of it than he clawed at the air and came over all possessed, barking and snorting like Satan himself!" (Chapter 2, page 28).

Alessandra has the string incident above:

Alessandra bent down, close enough to stare into the friar's glassy blue eyes—then farther still, so that her cheek was resting on his chest. . .

"Hush!" she said. With her cheek still pressed against the friar's body, she felt along the length of his arm, finding the underside of his wrist and squeezing there. (Chapter 2, page 32).

Alessandra knelt down and traced a cross near the top of Fra Giuseppe's belly, between his ribs. "Just here! Stomp on him, hard and sharp, but not hard enough to break his bones." (Chapter 2, page 33).

As a result:

Fra Giuseppe gasped, sputtered, and then cried out in fear when his hands made contact with the pool of his ownblood. "Are we attacked?" he said, hisvoice wobbling.

Other Alessandra's practices:

"Wasps don't drop their stinger—just their poison." Pushing Pierina aside, Alessandra brought Nicco's hand up to her mouth, sucked on the swelling there, and then spat. "Let's put some mud on it now." (Chapter 6, page 111-112).

At that time, Pierina was torn between jealousy and admiration for her sister. Even, she found think who would want to be as weirdly smart as Alessandra? Certainly not Pierina.

Alessandra, ignoring both of them, was digging around the roots of the tree, looking for some damp earth. (Chapter 6, page 112).

In addition, Carlo is convinced about his daughter's intelligence.

Carlo sighed. "You have ever been two steps ahead of everyone else in this household, Alessandra. Your first nanny was convinced you were a changeling. (Chapter 6, page 127).

Undeniable, everybody has to approve Alessandra's skill. Indeed, Carlo Gilliani admitted that she was a natural scholar and an original thinker. She can study from everyone. Alessandra was learning about the world of Nature from her brother how to draw from Giorgio, and she continued to read whenever light and time allowed.

Alessandra had, for many years now, been in the habit of stealing away with a candle to the storage

room. Because there was no window there, and no fire, it was the only room (apart from the privy) where she could usually count on spending time alone. (Chapter 3, page 44-45).

In addition, Alessandra heart beat little faster, thinking about how there might well be as many wonders beneath the surface of things as there are above.

By the end of the day, she had a new respect for her brother, filthy hands, and an ache inside her to find out more. "No wonder you find Aristotle dull, Nicky! Why read about learning, when the entire world spreads its wonders at our feet?" (Chapter 4, page 61).

Alessandra's characteristics above with each passing day go strong. Above all, especially for this purpose, Alessandra learned, was the renowned and well-respected professor of medicine, Mondino de' Liuzzi, who was the very reason she'd wanted so much to study in Bologna. Moreover, in a day Alessandra also wanted to savor that day and that moment. She had never been to the city without one or both of her parents.

There are some evidences showing Alessandra was a bright and curious girl.

The fame of this brilliant and mysterious young man spread quickly, as did all news in the student quarter. People were calling him another Abelard. (Chapter 11, page 260).

And:

"You!" said Mondino. He was pointing at Alessandra.

"Me?" she mouthed silently.

*I've seen your skill with a knife. Step up—be swift!
The body is decaying rapidly.” (Chapter 12, page
323).*

And so Alessandra Giliani became Mondino's prosector. Besides, it shows that she was by far the best prosector he'd ever had, a veritable genius with a knife, with a subtle, delicate touch he'd never seen before in any of his assistants. Furthermore, that event is just in time to earn her room and board. She was caught up in the heady joy of being immersed in the very thick of the best learning environment in all of Europe for what she most wanted to study.

One day there is a debate between Mondino and Alessandra. In this debate shows that how very curious Alessandra is. The novel told that Mondino was about to leave Alessandra alone with a windfall corpse that had just come to him from the hospital. The body was that of a prostitute who died in childbirth. No one knew her.

“I must change my clothes and make sure the runner has done his work,” said Mondino. But then he saw the look on his young assistant's face. “Are you all right?”

Alessandra bit her lip and tried to look professional. “My mother, God rest her soul, died in just the same way when my little brother was delivered.”

“A gruesome business! I would not myself be a woman for all the world.” (Chapter 13, page 346-347).

Suddenly, Alessandra waylaid her teacher.

“When a woman is so exhausted from her labor that she’s in danger of dying, couldn’t the babe be cut out of her then, while both are still alive?” (Chapter 13, page 347).

Mondino’s answer:

“Only if the babe is a future king will a woman be ripped open before she’s dead—because such a cut could only kill her.” (Chapter 13, page 347-348).

However, he came again the answer from Alessandra’s teacher. On the other side, Alessandra is unsatisfied.

“But if we knew more precisely where to cut, and where not to cut—wouldn’t it be possible then?” Alessandra thought of a completely different childhood for herself, in which her mother had lived.

And:

“It would take a miracle or black magic,” said Mondino. “Certain midwives boast of having done it—but any man of science is wise to keep his distance from the likes of them.” (Chapter 13, page 348).

Debate above shows that how the point of views of menfolk toward womenfolk at that time. That debate shows that men too underestimate to women.

It is likely that the menfolk do not want to compete with womenfolk. As the researcher found in this evidence, the man here thought nothing of everything what woman do. That night, after dissection Alessandra stayed up late in her room. For many days, every night she woke, very stiff and cold, actually she dreams something.

There were two rivers, one bloodred and the other blue. There was an island in the center where the rivers crossed. The island was teeming with animal life, although Alessandra couldn't recognize any of the creatures there. But she could tell from the pulse of the place that it was indeed filled with living things—with life itself. The rivers were wide where the island parted them, but each one branched out in scores of tributaries, bloodred and blue, into streams of diminishing size with the smallest as fine as a spider's leg. (Chapter 13, page 349-350).

The dream was unsuspected. Alessandra had a feeling through her dream. It is guides her to the real life.

Alessandra liked being good at things, especially things she wasn't expected to be good at. Moreover, and at the rate she was going, she can get her degree in philosophy next year and go on to the medical school.

All above show how storm and stress Alessandra ambitiously. This novel told Alessandra person's background in detail by the author. So long since at home, she was well-read. Almost any when she spends time in her Father's spot.

After she came back from church, Alessandra hid herself in the workshop to start reading a book her father had just borrowed from the Dominican priory. It was a newly discovered text from Avicenna, the princely Persian scholar—lately translated into Latin by a visiting monk from Toledo. (Chapter 5, page 79).

Moreover, in this novel there are several evidences that show Alessandra inventers of the blood stream. She thought, once again, how people see what they expect to see, even when something quite contrary to their expectations is right before their eyes.

The septum—just as it seemed to be—was impregnable! There were no pores in it, either visible or invisible: Alessandra's teachers had been wrong. (Chapter 15, page 414).

It is also true that there are prejudices toward female gender. Just so long as she can make her way to Bologna before someone comes to claim her. Nevertheless, there is only one sort of unmarried woman who makes it her business to stay in Bologna.

"Then why are you here? There are many choices for a man, apart from priest, lawyer, or medico." Alessandra thought, as she said this, that the same was not at all true for her own gender. (Chapter 9, page 230).

On the other side, Alessandra knew she would have to oppose all the powers on Earth to accomplish what God had given her the ability and ambition to do. Injustice, brace her. What should she did, what should she thought, and others.

As mentioned by Moreau (2010, 159). Education opportunities are prioritized for the male family members. This is due to most of the people have a thought that men are more talented to studies. This will cause that men think that they have more knowledge compared to women and it is a cause of gender discrimination.

3.1.3 Workplace Discrimination

Then, workplace discrimination, gender discrimination is caused by the sense that certain occupations are a man's job or a woman's job. In this novel, Alessandra ever found herself on a street filled exclusively with women, where the midwives and witches of Bologna were said to practice their arts.

- Not allowed to be a healer because she is a woman.

“I don’t do abortions,” the woman said without looking up from her sorting. (Chapter 15, page 379-380).

Abortion is a word as an evidence that someone be afraid or carefully deemed to be a witches. Besides, womenfolk there try to cover up their job from the world. That could be because they afraid reputed as a witch, and it’s going to be burned soon.

In addition, at that time there is unannounced examination by agents to found the women with healing powers.

One day when she was visiting, hooded agents of the Podestà came down the alleyway, pounding at every door, looking for a midwife who was known to everyone there—and yet everyone there denied ever having heard of her. They left with their pikes and their hangman’s noose.

“Any woman with healing powers,” Dame Edita explained to Alessandra, who’d been frightened for her friend, “whether a witch or a future saint, causes their manhood to shrink, and calls out the killers among them.” (Chapter 15, page 400).

From the experience above, Dame Edita always put in mind of Alessandra’s impersonation.

“Be wary, my dear, about showing the full extent of your true self to any men—because their sense of rightness in the world depends on their belief in themselves as the sex that is stronger and wiser, and far more worthy.” (Chapter 15, page 401).

Alessandra usually listened very carefully and well to what Dame Edita told her. On the other side, sometimes she did not take to heart what she heard. It is because of Otto. He was proof. Alessandra thought that not all men were that way. Moreover, Mondino, her teacher in Bologna University, once he had gotten over the shock of her unmasking, seemed to have undergone a change in his attitude about women.

He even suggested to his own daughters that they, too, might—in time, and if properly veiled—like to start attending lectures. (Chapter 15, page 402).

Even when Alessandra was at home, she ever heard that someone meet with a witches.

“I fear for myself! That was as much as a threat tonight. Where in Persiceto has someone discovered a witch?”

“It’s the old wet-nurse—the one who was convinced you were a changeling!”

And:

*“The crier said she’d caused the death of three babies!”
(Chapter 5, page 73-74).*

Alessandra thought about how close she herself had come to dying by the same hand. It is just because “Delizioso!”. One of the several words comes to associate with feelings or things. The old wet-nurse thought that the baby who was convinced that Alessandra were a changeling.

In addition, Pierina thought, with that heart of Alessandra so stuffed with learning, she would be accused straightaway. Unless. Unless it is to marry.

What could one be but a nun or a wife? Widows often could and did take on the work of their husband. But no woman could set out to be anything—except, perhaps, a servant. (Chapter 11, page 230).

Above is one of the statements shows that how very low woman's job at that time, their possible in this time too.

...Alessandra's ears pricked up at the mention of a woman doctor at the University of Paris.

"Oh, she's history!" said a fat youth with pockmarked skin. "Haven't you heard? She's been restrained from ever practicing again."

"Did they burn her?" someone else asked.

"No," sighed the fat youth, sounding bored. "Only banished her."

(Chapter 10, page 235-236).

It makes Alessandra felt more conscious than ever of her disguise. And it is not easy. She had to hide her impersonation. The story of a woman doctor at the University of Paris inspired her to study hard that not the only one a woman who dream like her.

3.1.4 Physical Factor

Physical factors, it is often because women are physically weaker than men, they are more easily abused and discriminated against. Aristotle (384 - 322 BC) considered women 'defective' human beings. "The relationship between the

male and the female is by nature such that the male is higher, the female lower, that the male rules and the female is ruled.” That is the reason why the man dominates in society is his superior intelligence. Only the man is a full human being. Women's status was very low. A woman's main function was the reproduction of children only, no more.

The novel extends that Ottone Agenius Lustrulanus (Alessandra's husband) deprived by her loss of his better half. In fact, Alessandra died at the age of 19, consumed by her hard work, on the 26th of March, year of our Lord 1326. The fact is that Otto was always there to help and encourage her. Alessandra asked Otto to write down things as she observed her research and to make drawings as well.

- a. According to the man, the woman was weak.

The face Alessandra saw in the mirror belonged to an awkward, lonely, and frightened girl who was nonetheless filled with a sense of her own momentous destiny. Who was about to leave all safety and comfort behind her, as well as every similarity she bore to the saintly mother she loved so well. (Chapter 8, page 165).

The novel *a Golden Web* here uncovers the real life in the province of Emilia-Romagna in the early fourteenth century. What did it feel like to be a young girl then? The author of this novel extends about Alessandra, this daring teenager who dreamed of doing medical research at a time in history when women were burned at the stake with very little provocation. It is convinced the researcher that a novel just had to be study about her short and marvelous life.

There is foolish fact that experienced by Alessandra while she was impersonating as a boy in Bologna.

“Are you too proud to shit with your mates, Sandro? Come—I could go ca-ca myself, now that you mention it!” He moved off a bit, away from the onions, and made to squat down.

“I won’t be long!” Alessandra called over her shoulder as she ran as fast as she could toward the safety of the trees.

*What a bother it was to be a girl sometimes! She found a place behind a fallen tree, where she was sure she wouldn’t be seen by anyone.
(Chapter 12, page 304).*

On the other side, Alessandra blamed to the God toward her gender. However, she was jealous.

“There was no other way for me to come here as a scholar. You yourself have no doubt had to contend with a great deal to lift yourself above the state you were born into.”

“At least I was born a man!”

“It was your good fortune—not only to be born a man but to have the intellectual abilities that allow you to pursue an academic degree. I have the ability, Bene—it is only my gender that is wrong!”

“It is a sin to try to change it.”

*“I don’t wish to change it! I only wish to study and learn.” She came even closer. “Do you remember how that felt, when you were still a boy in your village—when you’d learned and read everything you could there?”
(Chapter 12, page 306-308).*

The label was given to women as a weak person. It shows that women are usually perceived as the second class person. That describes that very much discrimination toward women, such as the discrimination toward education and power. Considering those facts, the researcher takes this novel which demonstrates woman condition and struggle to get her destination.

Besides, Alessandra always considers about her mother's death. It, actually, makes her weak. However, thinking about her mother can make out of focus.

She thought of and then brushed away the memory of her mother's body split open from chest to just below the naval. She smelled the hot blood and felt her father shaking with sobs and watched between her fingers as the midwife pulled Dodo out, still in his caul. (Chapter 4, page 55-56).

In addition, Alessandra never forgets about her mother's death though she already is a student and study in Bologna University.

Alessandra tried to hold back the liquids that began to rise from her own gullet. The last time she had seen this sight was when she was looking inside her mother's own corpse. (Chapter 12, page 317).

Every time Alessandra rethoughts about her mother she always closed her eyes and whispered a prayer to their mother, asking her to watch over them. On the other side, she got an advice from Ursula, her step-mother.

"Our stepmother says that I mustn't be afraid. That as many women as die in childbirth live to take joy in the

baby they've brought into the world." (Chapter 5, page 77).

However, there is ludicrous fact of Alessandra as a girl. The researcher thinks that it is a natural as a girl on awkward age, age of puberty.

...She'd never experienced anything like it before: his chest pressed up against her back, her bottom brushing against his thighs. It was very much like having an itch and longing to scratch it—but this itch was not anyplace she could reach or even locate. (Chapter 12, page 311-312).

The event above, when Alessandra as Sandro and Otto ride a horse. However, the ride was an agony of trying not to rub against Otto. It is fairly impossible.

Even Otto was the only man to whom she had ever truly felt drawn in a romantic way. They lived just on the other side of a wall from her. They ate at the same table. And it seemed to take every opportunity Alessandra could study, sit, or walk by her side.

She forgot for hours at a time that she was anyone other than Sandro, student par excellence and trusted assistant to Mondino de' Liuzzi. Alessandra Giliani, the girl from Persiceto, began to seem a distant memory—rather like Pierina, Dodo, Nic, and the entire family from the life she'd left behind. (Chapter 12, page 325).

In defiant pursuit of her dreams, Alessandra as a normal girl always used her feeling to face everything. It is actually make her weak. There's no tolerance in her life actually. However, she was a normal girl usually.

*She thought how lucky she was to have such a friend.
More than once she caught Otto looking at her in
such an ardent way that, in time, she came to be
convinced that he had fallen in love with Sandro.
(Chapter 12, page 332).*

With the result that Alessandra would not have guessed Otto to be one of those men who prefer the love of their own gender.

*Beauty was beauty, after all, no matter whether the
possessor of it was male or female. (Chapter 12, page
333).*

On the other side, all of related to Otto pained Alessandra. At that moment, to think that Otto might on, as a man who preferred men, be able to return Alessandra's feelings, even if she could unmask herself to him.

*And yet she knew that very unmasking might well
mark the end of his affection for her! (Chapter 12,
page 334).*

All of the thought that related to Otto left Alessandra strangely confused. Nevertheless, things were going more beautifully for Alessandra at Mondino's than she never could have hoped.

3.2.The efforts impersonating as a boy to fight against gender discrimination experienced by the main female character.

This part focuses in her struggle. In addition to confront there are many problems, such as the problem of her family and the problem of her school.

3.2.1 Idea

The struggle here means that how big Alessandra Gilliani's struggle impersonate as a boy while study in Bologna. In the University of Bologna, Alessandra Gilliani impersonate as a boy. As researcher know that the university is boys only. Moreover, she uses Sandro as her nick-name.

In disguise, Alessandra would have to cover her tracks so thoroughly that not one single suspicion would be raised, either in her home or at the convent. In addition, Emilia muttered darkly about the sin of subverting one's gender.

Alessandra stood by her, as if mistress and servant had changed roles, helping Emilia dress herself and stashing the capacious lavender-and sweat-scented everyday clothes in the newly emptied saddlebag. (Chapter 9, page 209-210).

Alessandra surveying her looked quite satisfied.

Giorgio gave a nod of approval for Emilia but then shook his head at Alessandra. He touched his hair, which was cut short, in the usual style. "Y-y-yyour h-h-h—" (Chapter 9, page 210).

Alessandra had never cut anyone's hair before.

She had to saw away at it, and despite her full intention of being brave, tears sprang into her eyes as she did so. It felt as if she was sawing off one of her own limbs. (Chapter 9, page 212).

Those facts show that how brave she is. She would fain her hair become short. Alessandra tried to be as inconspicuous as possible during lectures. But when she knew a subject well, she would approach the professor afterwards and arrange to be examined. Furthermore, in this way, all within the space of her first

nine months in Bologna, she passed her first year's exams, and then the second year's, followed by the third.

On the other side, Alessandra knew about what she did.

Alessandra withdrew more and more frequently into the sanctuary of the seven churches of Santo Stefano, to ask forgiveness for the sinful pride she took in her accomplishment, as well as for the sin of disguising her gender. (Chapter 11, page 261).

Nevertheless, Alessandra had difficulties in her disguise.

Her heart was beating fast. What business did he have, looking at a fellow student so intensely? (Chapter 11, page 265).

And:

Intimate friendship would not be on Sandro's path—how could it be? Anyone who drew too close to her was bound to discover her secret. (Chapter 11, page 267-268)

How would she hide her gender, at such close quarters, from this man who made her heart beat fast and her knees feel weak with a longing to be held in his arms? (Chapter 12, page 297-298).

Someone who takes to heart toward Alessandra had some reasons.

Otto had never met his equal among the youths of Lustrola—and he'd never had a brother, although he'd always longed for one. He felt an odd, unsettling sense of excitement whenever Sandro was near. The thought of making him a bosom friend was unspeakably attractive to him. (Chapter 12, page 295).

Moreover, Alessandra's agony was compounded, of course:

What ill luck that she had needed to relieve herself just then, with Bene lurking close by! He must have set out to trap her. Why else would he be up on the mountains instead of studying, as he said he was going to do? (Chapter 12, page 312-313).

In addition, Alessandra worked with all the urgency brought on by her dread.

...desperate hope that perhaps Mondino himself would find some way to employ her, in exchange for her room and board. She could go to him, as Sandro, and tell him that she'd had a sudden reversal of fortune—that she'd have to leave Bologna, return home, and give up her education if some financial remedy couldn't be found. (Chapter 12, page 314).

And:

Or perhaps, she thought with some bitterness, she could simply give in to her family's wishes and marry whatever scurvy man her father had picked out for her. He was rich, after all. But what chance was there that he'd allow his wife to study medicine? If her father had refused her—her father, who loved her more than anyone else in the world—how could she even dream of another man giving her greater license? She would be doomed to stay and serve this great landowner in one or more of his stupid castles, ordering his servants around and carrying his keys. He'd get her pregnant and then her life of learning—and maybe even her very life—would well and truly be done for. (Chapter 12, page 315-316).

3.2.2 Process of Impersonate

Furthermore, Alessandra worked hard more and more to keep her changing body well hidden from everyone. However, her growing breasts were more and more difficult to hide beneath the length of cloth she wound around her

chest. In actual fact, it is something difficult. Alessandra has to binding the breasts as tight as she could without constricting her breathing. It is also too difficult in the summertime, when it made Alessandra sweat.

Moreover, Alessandra must supply and buy great quantities of cloth every month. It is not only to bind her breasts but also to catch the bloody flux that came out her opening every time.

It seemed to be a rule of life, Alessandra noticed, that people saw only what they expected to see. (Chapter 12, page 330).

The evidences above show that how worriedly Alessandra is. Nonetheless, Alessandra impersonation was solved.

"I'm sorry!" he said. "I'll buy you a new—" He stopped midphrase as the fabric fell away, exposing her naked shoulder...and the cloth wrapped tightly around her breasts. (Chapter 12, page 341).

And:

"My love of learning," she said, looking up into Mina's eyes, "has been the cause of a great deception." (Chapter 13, page 355).

3.2.3 Reveal

Finally, Alessandra was brave to talk to Mina about who she is. At that time, what it really is that Mina already knew about Alessandra's impersonation.

"You told me yourself, my dear. Did you think I wouldn't find the soiled rags from your flux? Did it not worry you, being all alone and finding yourself bleeding?" (Chapter 13, page 356).

However, honesty makes each other happy.

“I had read of it, and so it did not surprise me—although it made my insides ache, and still does.” She sighed. “I am the elder girl, and my mother died before I could take notice of such things—and my nanny left before my flowering.” (Chapter 13, page 356-357).

As she allowed herself to relax into Mina’s warm embrace, Alessandra experienced a floodtide of memories of her own mother. She thought how there are some things that cannot be learned in books or lectures but only in the experience of feeling them. In that sweet scent of a woman’s flesh and the soft caress of firelight, she fell utterly—and quite to her own surprise—fast asleep. (Chapter 13, page 358).

Alessandra’s secret and her safety rested now with some people including Mina and Otto. Alessandra asked unable to suppress a worried sigh actually.

“True love,” said Mina, “is something that reveals itself only with the passage of time.” (Chapter 13, page 361).

In addition, she is said to have carried out her own anatomical investigations. Celebrated as the first female anatomist of the Western World, she is reputed to have been a brilliant prosector. She worked as the surgical assistant to Mondino de' Liuzzi, a world renowned professor at the medical school of the University of Bologna.

Therefore, Alessandra must be careful toward her purpose and as sure as impersonation. However, her impersonation as Sandro have been detected by some people, she never gives up.

“I am a student in the medical school—and there you have it, Signora, my reason for wanting to stay here, where the men of Bologna know they are not welcome.” (Chapter 15, page 381).

And:

“I’m sure it will suit me well—for both the refuge and the proximity to your craft. There is much that I would learn from the women healers of Bologna.” (Chapter 15, page 381).

On the other side, sometimes Alessandra consciously thought that what she done is dangerous. It is dangerous for herself and everybody around her. There is no help for it.

“That’s the first time such a thing has been said to the likes of me by any scholar of the University.” (Chapter 15, page 381).

Alessandra was anxious to do or find out something what she wants. One day, when Alessandra went to the quarter where the Jews lived. She passed a stall that had books in it.

In one of these there was a simple drawing of a person showing the heart and the lungs and—painted in bloodred ink and blue—the veins and the arteries. (Chapter 15, page 395-396).

Alessandra is very interested in the book. And then she came back with two gold coins and bought the book.

She wanted to pay the Jewish merchant to translate the words accompanying the drawing of the heart and lungs. But he protested that he could read very little Arabic, and only poetry. Nonetheless, she made him write down for her, in the Latin alphabet, the name of the man who authored the book. It was Ibn al-Nafis, who was born in Damascus, the bookseller told her—everyone knew of him in the Oriental world. He was a great scholar of law, as well as medicine and philosophy, and had been the personal physician to the Sultan. (Chapter 15, page 396-397).

The evidence above shows how put up a good fight of Alessandra. She was getting to do what make her be anxious. There is a fighting chance because of Dame Edita was happy enough to have Alessandra come along with her to gather the ingredients for her medicines. From there, Alessandra more was confident toward what she does. It made her grateful that she had come to that place that was shunned by some people.

But Alessandra learned a great deal in this reading—and it struck her how odd it was that there seemed to be a parallel world of women's medicine, where women were in charge. And another world of Oriental medicine, if her book by Ibn al-Nafis was any indication of the depth of learning there in the faraway lands of the Levant. (Chapter 15, page 399-400).

3.2.4 Effect after the Reveal

Furthermore, Otto who loved Alessandra so much not wanting to disappoint his bride, thought that everything Alessandra does it best that such a thing not take place in their own little home. Their home And Dame Edita was willing as ever to be of help. What a lucky of Alessandra is. On the other side,

their life is not safe because they have to hide from people around to do a post-mortem practice. Therefore, Otto was willing to buy a house that is a little far from the village. Besides, they had to prepare the corpses secretly to use surgical practice by Alessandra.

In Alessandra's research, she found something. It is different with Mondino said.

But not one drop of bright red appeared on the right side of the gray flesh of the dead woman's heart. Contrary to everything Alessandra had been taught by Mondino and all she had read, the red-dyed wax they'd squirted in spread down from the left side of the heart out into the body. (Chapter 15, page 414).

That result make Alessandra never gives up to everything else. However, her desirability should be wary by everybody around hers, including herself.

The cock crowed. Exhausted and near the point of collapse, she wondered briefly what the woman had died of. (Chapter 15, page 416).

During the night's labors, Alessandra had nicked her finger with the knife and another time with the needle—but hardly felt it. She gazed with wonder in the guttering candlelight mixed with the murky light of early morning, how clear it all was now, mapped out in red wax and blue—anyone could see it. And soon everyone would see it! (Chapter 15, page 416-417).

On the other side, Alessandra was proud of her work hard, and Otto, and everybody who helped her.

There in the bright, cold sunlight, for all to see, the secret pathways of the blood between the heart and the

lungs were revealed as only God had seen them before, visible now in the same bright blue and scarlet dyes that stained Alessandra's fingers. (Chapter 15, page 420).

"Behold," she said in a lecturer's voice, "the beauty of God's work!" There were tears in her eyes. Alessandra stood there dressed as Sandro, even though God and a handful of others knew who she really was: a daughter of Eve. A woman. And a scholar. A sister to Ibn al-Nafis. A daughter of Mondino. A descendant of Galen, Aristotle, and Avicenna. (chapter 15, page 420-421).

At the same time:

And then Otto saw someone walking up behind her—someone tall and red-haired and big-boned. Someone he hadn't seen for a while.

It was Bene. He grabbed Alessandra from behind. Otto tried to push through the crowd to get to her. But Bene had already torn her scholars' robe and the chemise she wore beneath it. Holding her from behind, he tore the clothes from her body until her breasts were exposed.

"This is Sandro!" he shouted. "This is your prodigy!" (Chapter 15, page 421-422)

At that time, a new murmur had begun in the crowd, breaking out and then in loud, angry rumbles of speech.

"Stregheria!"—witchcraft—and a score of others took up the cry. This august and international gathering of physicians, professors, and scholars was quickly converting itself into an angry mob on the shores of the Reno River. There were calls of "Death to the witch!" and "Burn her!" (Chapter 15, page 422-423).

However, Alessandra was shaking with fever. Besides, she is still able to do said :

“My notebooks!” she cried. “Otto, you must make sure they’re safe!”

*He sent word to Dame Edita to hide the notebooks where no one would find them.
(Chapter 15, page 423).*

Alessandra spoke so faintly, and only Otto could hear her.

*“Aristotle...,” she said, then closed her eyes.
“Although I revere him, Aristotle was wrong about many things.”*

“The threechambered heart,” Otto said, his hopes rising.

*“The unvascularized brain.”
(Chapter 15, page 425).*

And:

*But Alessandra, with surprising strength, pulled him closer. “He was wrong about the capacity of women.”
“He said...” She paused, her lips parted, gathering strength. “He said, ‘The courage of a man is shown in commanding, of a woman in obeying.’ By that measure, Otto, I am a coward.”*

*“Then by that measure, my darling, I am a woman—for I am ready to obey your every command.”
(Chapter 15, page 425-427).*

And then, Otto heard the words, so faint as to seem from another world:

*“I would not like to be forgotten.”
There was a slick of tears then between their cheeks.
“You will not be forgotten, Alessandra Giliani!”
(Chapter 15, the last page).*

“When he sat with her, late into the night—as they parsed Latin together and she could feel the heat of him so close to her—her head swam with the frustration and unfairness of it. More than once she leaned so close that her lips nearly brushed his cheek. But every time she stopped herself, pushing herself up from the bench where they sat to go outside and gulp the cool night air—or simply telling Otto that she was too sleepy to study anymore. Then she’d

lie in her bed alone, thinking about him—there, just on the other side of the wall.” (Chapter 9, page 197-198).

Alessandra is not the type of girl to have her heads in the clouds, but when she sees Otto for the first time she feels different. When he moves into the same house as her, in the room next door, their friendship intensifies.

Alessandra undertakes an audacious quest, her bravery equaled only by the dangers she faces. Struggles and ambitions of Alessandra are enviable. The novel of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web* gives the information about Alessandra. In this novel, when women were burned at the stake with very little provocation. It is convinced researcher that this novel just had to be written in a research form. Where Alessandra still lived and wanted her story told. The history would become one of life.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter researcher extends the conclusion and suggestion about the study. The conclusion of this study covers the summary of the finding, while the suggestions are intended to give information to the next researchers who are interested in doing further research of the similar study.

4.1 Conclusion

Alessandra Gilliani's struggle impersonate as a boy while study in University of Bologna can be precedent for us, especially the women. Gender discrimination experienced by Alessandra Gilliani as the main character of Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web* newsworthy for us to open minded what is happening around. Many believe that gender discrimination is a subject of the past. The victims of gender discrimination have the right to file lawsuits to recover damages suffered as a result of discriminatory practices. However, it is still an issue that assured attention all around the world.

Based on the analysis in previous chapter, the researcher can conclude there are some causes and effects of gender discrimination which can be seen from the main character of this novel, Alessandra. The condition shows that as a woman, she cannot control her own fate. As much her brother, Nicco, Alessandra also has the same right and equality to get better education for her life.

This novel actually tries to reanimate a young girl, Alessandra Giliani, the world's first female anatomist which ever lived in Italy. Furthermore, Alessandra comes to be called as Sandro, which is actually not possible, because a student is proscribed for a woman in those days.

4.2 Suggestion

Analysis by using feminist literary criticism is one way to find women's problem in some aspects. Furthermore, in this study, researcher uses feminist literary criticism as the theory. In addition, it is analysis that arises from the viewpoint of feminism. Indeed, it is possible by using another theory to analyze, but the researcher tries to learn and shows the phenomenon which appears in the novel. So that, feminists do effort and analyze the problems which cause women marginalized, get freedom to be a woman, and have social equalities in some aspects like men have.

The researcher also gives suggestion related to this study; hopefully this study will help students or other researchers to have more understanding in analyzing literary works using feminist literary criticism. Besides, the next researcher can analyze Barbara Quick's *a Golden Web* from different point of view or continue in analyzing another aspect of different character in the story.

Nevertheless, the researcher realizes that this thesis is not the perfect one. There are still many lacks. Therefore, this thesis is widely open criticisms and suggestions.

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APPENDIX

No.	The form of gender discrimination portrayed in Barbara Quick's <i>a Golden Web</i>	Page
1.	The baby had, the night before, looked up from the nanny's breast, smacked her lips, and said, as clear as day, " <i>Delizioso!</i> " If the oak apples sank instead of floating, the nanny would know for certain that this child—with such an unnaturally bright look in its eyes—was a changeling, put in the cradle by a devil who had snatched the real baby away with him at a moment when the nurse's attention was somewhere else.	Prologue, page 8-9
2.	With the strength and swiftness born of her love, Signora Giliani wrested both the knife and her son out of the nurse's grasp and snatched her baby daughter out of the cradle. The bowl of water, stained brown by the oak apples, spilled out over the flagstones. "Leave this house!" she said, her voice raked by the horror of what had nearly happened.	Prologue, page 9-10
3.	<p>Family Laws (The rule of keeping a fourteen years old)</p> <p>Nicco and Pierina could come and go as they pleased, so long as they got their work done. Even Dodo, free to romp unsupervised in the garden, was allowed more license than Alessandra. Ursula barred her from the scriptorium, citing the frequent presence of students there—and made sure she kept Alessandra occupied with housework, far from the schoolroom, when Nicco had his lessons.</p>	Chapter 6, page 119-120
	<p>"Your hands," said Ursula, her voice perfectly calm. Ursula's voice was a tad more urgent when she spoke again. "Show me your hands!"</p> <p>"<i>Amore</i>," he said, "the fish is getting cold."</p> <p>"Your hands!" Ursula repeated in a voice as cold</p>	<p>Chapter 4, page 66</p> <p>Chapter 4, page 66</p> <p>Chapter 4, page 66</p>

<p>as the river from which the fish had been hauled up in a net that morning.</p> <p>Alessandra raised her hands up and held them out, palms up. Ursula grabbed the candelabra and drew it closer to the edge of the table, dripping wax onto the white cloth. “Turn them over!” There was still dirt and mud and blackberry juice under Alessandra’s nails. A drop of hot wax fell on the back of her hand. Alessandra flinched but didn’t cry out. Another drop fell.</p> <p>Carlo left for several days on a business trip to Bologna, and Ursula took advantage of his absence to give Alessandra tasks she would never dare give her otherwise. So while Pierina sat by the kitchen fire, helping Cook put up apples to dry, Alessandra was sent to the well with the two buckets balanced, one at each end of the rod that hurt her back and neck even while the buckets were empty.</p> <p>“Are you trying to drown yourself? Surely there’s an easier way.”</p> <p>“Who would dare order a shrimp like you to carry the water?”</p> <p>Nicco grinned. “The world will be a better place because of you, Alessandra, if you’re able to stay alive long enough to do even half of what you cook up inside that brilliant heart of yours.”</p> <p>“Do you dare defy me, Niccolò?” Ursula was a tall woman, but not quite as tall as Nicco. She raised herself up to her full height and held her head high as she spoke to him.</p> <p>“Know, Madame, that I will defend my sister if anyone misuses her.”</p> <p>Fall slipped away from her, barely glimpsed—and then the fog and rain of winter came. By then—even though her father was home again—each day seemed to last a year.</p>	<p>Chapter 4, page 67</p> <p>Chapter 5, page 87-88</p> <p>Chapter 5, page 89</p> <p>Chapter 5, page 90</p> <p>Chapter 5, page 91</p> <p>Chapter 5, page 92</p> <p>Chapter 6, page 124</p>
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<p>4.</p>	<p>Family Laws (The rule of seclusion in the convent).</p> <p>Silently, she prayed to the soul of her mother to intercede for her and aid her cause—her mother, whose needless death had inspired Alessandra’s ambition, and whose love had given her the belief that it might, against all odds, be possible to fulfill.</p> <p>“I want to go to the University of Bologna, Papa. I want to study medicine.”</p> <p>She spoke when he said nothing. “There are female scholars in the town.” “Are there?” Carlo looked thoughtful. “Are you sure?”</p> <p>“Females, I believe, can attend lectures if they so desire. At least, I have never heard any injunction against it.” Her voice trailed off into uncertainty.</p> <p>“And medicine, child! What man would surrender his pulse and his urine to a female physician?”</p> <p>“I want to study the workings of the body, Father—not to wear the red gloves and attend the ill.”</p> <p>“I want to study as Aristotle says men should study.”</p> <p>“It’s true the old Stagirite has nothing kind to say about the intellectual capacity of females. But I am living proof that he was biased in his view!”</p> <p>She had all the capacity required to pursue any of the seven liberal arts: grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, music, or even astronomy. . She was a natural scholar and an original thinker. Was it not but an unhappy accident that she was born a girl?</p> <p>“Wouldn’t music be better suited to you,</p>	<p>Chapter 6, page 136-137</p> <p>Chapter 6, page 137</p> <p>Chapter 7, page 138</p> <p>Chapter 7, page 139</p> <p>Chapter 7, page 139</p> <p>Chapter 7, page 139</p> <p>Chapter 7, page 140</p> <p>Chapter 7, page 140</p> <p>Chapter 7, page 141</p> <p>Chapter 7, page 141-142</p>
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<p>Alessandra? Both the study of music and the study of medicine are concerned, after all, with achieving harmony.”</p> <p>“And yet they are as different as an angel is from a living creature, Papa! I want to study the body itself and learn the secrets of how it works—of everything that’s hidden beneath the flesh. To learn, as Aristotle teaches us to do, by observation.”</p> <p>“Did I nurture you and coddle and encourage you, only to see you banished from the company of every decent, God fearing person? To see you become a smut in the eye of God Himself?”</p> <p>“You’re a lovely young woman now —a fruit that’s nearly ripe for plucking. A year in the convent, and then there will not be a virgin in Emilia-Romagna who will command a higher bride-price—or merit a grander bridegroom!”</p> <p>Carlo saved the day by coming closer to his wife and kissing her hand. “We have good news from the convent.” Alessandra froze. “You <i>are</i> taking the veil!” cried Pierina reproachfully.</p> <p>“A year of retreat,” said Carlo.</p> <p>“From the Holy Father,” said Ursula. “It is my duty to protect your daughter’s virtue, and I will see that it is done. No matter what—” Here she looked at all of them, one by one. “No matter what anyone says, as God is my witness!”</p>	<p>Chapter 7, page 142</p> <p>Chapter 7, page 144</p> <p>Chapter 7, page 158</p> <p>Chapter 8, page 181</p> <p>Chapter 8, page 182</p> <p>Chapter 6, page 118</p>
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<p>5.</p>	<p>Education (Women aren't allowed to get higher education).</p> <p>When the day was fair, Alessandra sat in the garden to plan and dream, with a prayer book, as often as not, sitting open but unread across her lap.</p> <p>Emilia was surprised to see Alessandra—normally a curious and outgoing girl—show so little interest in the other inmates of the place where they would both be spending a year or more.</p> <p>Why would God have given her a keen and questioning mind if He didn't intend her to use it? Why would the world and all of Nature be laid out like a book, waiting to be read and understood, if the Creator had not desired her to discover its secrets and draw wisdom from them? Wasn't it a sign of respect to try to better the lot of the creatures God had favored above all others with intelligence and reason?</p> <p>Just then, Emilia herself, rosier than usual and spattered in what looked distinctly like blood, appeared in the doorway, wringing her hands. "I am undone!" she wailed. . . "I gave him a piece of meat and a bowl of wine, feeling rather badly at the way I'd handled him earlier. And he no sooner had a sup of it than he clawed at the air and came over all possessed, barking and snorting like Satan himself!"</p> <p>Alessandra bent down, close enough to stare into the friar's glassy blue eyes—then farther still, so that her cheek was resting on his chest. . . "Hush!" she said. With her cheek still pressed against the friar's body, she felt along the length of his arm, finding the underside of his wrist and squeezing there.</p> <p>Alessandra knelt down and traced a cross near the top of Fra Giuseppe's belly, between his ribs. "Just here! Stomp on him, hard and sharp, but not</p>	<p>Chapter 9, page 194-195</p> <p>Chapter 9, page 196-197</p> <p>Chapter 11, page 262-263</p> <p>Chapter 2, page 28</p> <p>Chapter 2, page 32</p> <p>Chapter 2, page 33</p>
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<p>hard enough to break his bones.”</p> <p>“Wasps don’t drop their stinger—just their poison.” Pushing Pierina aside, Alessandra brought Nicco’s hand up to her mouth, sucked on the swelling there, and then spat. “Let’s put some mud on it now.”</p>	Chapter 6, page 111-112
<p>Alessandra, ignoring both of them, was digging around the roots of the tree, looking for some damp earth.</p>	Chapter 6, page 112
<p>Carlo sighed. “You have ever been two steps ahead of everyone else in this household, Alessandra. Your first nanny was convinced you were a changeling.</p>	Chapter 6, page 127
<p>Alessandra had, for many years now, been in the habit of stealing away with a candle to the storage room. Because there was no window there, and no fire, it was the only room (apart from the privy) where she could usually count on spending time alone.</p>	Chapter 3, page 44-45
<p>By the end of the day, she had a new respect for her brother, filthy hands, and an ache inside her to find out more. “No wonder you find Aristotle dull, Nicky! Why read about learning, when the entire world spreads its wonders at our feet?”</p>	Chapter 4, page 61
<p>The fame of this brilliant and mysterious young man spread quickly, as did all news in the student quarter. People were calling him another Abelard.</p>	Chapter 11, page 260
<p>“You!” said Mondino. He was pointing at Alessandra. “Me?” she mouthed silently. I’ve seen your skill with a knife. Step up—be swift! The body is decaying rapidly.”</p>	Chapter 12, page 323
<p>“I must change my clothes and make sure the runner has done his work,” said Mondino. But then he saw the look on his young assistant’s face. “Are you all right?”</p>	Chapter 13, page 346-347
<p>Alessandra bit her lip and tried to look professional. “My mother, God rest her soul, died in just the same way when my little brother was</p>	Chapter 13, page 347
	Chapter 13, page 347-348
	Chapter 13, page 348
	Chapter 13, page 349-350

<p>delivered.”</p> <p>“A gruesome business! I would not myself be a woman for all the world.”</p> <p>“When a woman is so exhausted from her labor that she’s in danger of dying, couldn’t the babe be cut out of her then, while both are still alive?”</p> <p>“Only if the babe is a future king will a woman be ripped open before she’s dead—because such a cut could only kill her.”</p> <p>“But if we knew more precisely where to cut, and where not to cut—wouldn’t it be possible then?” Alessandra thought of a completely different childhood for herself, in which her mother had lived.</p> <p>“It would take a miracle or black magic,” said Mondino. “Certain midwives boast of having done it—but any man of science is wise to keep his distance from the likes of them.”</p> <p>There were two rivers, one bloodred and the other blue. There was an island in the center where the rivers crossed. The island was teeming with animal life, although Alessandra couldn’t recognize any of the creatures there. But she could tell from the pulse of the place that it was indeed filled with living things—with life itself. The rivers were wide where the island parted them, but each one branched out in scores of tributaries, bloodred and blue, into streams of diminishing size with the smallest as fine as a spider’s leg.</p> <p>After she came back from church, Alessandra hid herself in the workshop to start reading a book her father had just borrowed from the Dominican priory. It was a newly discovered text from Avicenna, the princely Persian scholar—lately translated into Latin by a visiting monk from Toledo.</p> <p>The septum—just as it seemed to be—was impregnable! There were no pores in it, either</p>	<p>Chapter 5, page 79</p> <p>Chapter 15, page 414</p> <p>Chapter 9, page 230</p>
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	<p>visible or invisible: Alessandra's teachers had been wrong.</p> <p>"Then why are you here? There are many choices for a man, apart from priest, lawyer, or <i>medico</i>." Alessandra thought, as she said this, that the same was not at all true for her own gender.</p>	
6.	<p>Workplace Discrimination (Not allowed to be a healer because she is a woman).</p> <p>"I don't do abortions," the woman said without looking up from her sorting.</p> <p>One day when she was visiting, hooded agents of the Podestà came down the alleyway, pounding at every door, looking for a midwife who was known to everyone there—and yet everyone there denied ever having heard of her. They left with their pikes and their hangman's noose.</p> <p>"Any woman with healing powers," Dame Edita explained to Alessandra, who'd been frightened for her friend, "whether a witch or a future saint, causes their manhood to shrink, and calls out the killers among them."</p> <p>"Be wary, my dear, about showing the full extent of your true self to any men—because their sense of rightness in the world depends on their belief in themselves as the sex that is stronger and wiser, and far more worthy."</p> <p>"I fear for myself! That was as much as a threat tonight. Where in Persiceto has someone discovered a witch?"</p> <p>"It's the old wet-nurse—the one who was convinced you were a changeling!"</p> <p>"The crier said she'd caused the death of three babies!"</p>	<p>Chapter 15, page 379-380</p> <p>Chapter 15, page 400</p> <p>Chapter 15, page 401</p> <p>Chapter 5, page 73-74</p>

	<p>What could one be but a nun or a wife? Widows often could and did take on the work of their husband. But no woman could set out to be anything—except, perhaps, a servant.</p> <p>...Alessandra's ears pricked up at the mention of a woman doctor at the University of Paris. "Oh, she's history!" said a fat youth with pockmarked skin. "Haven't you heard? She's been restrained from ever practicing again." "Did they burn her?" someone else asked. "No," sighed the fat youth, sounding bored. "Only banished her."</p>	<p>Chapter 11, page 230</p> <p>Chapter 10, page 235-236</p>
7.	<p>Physical Factor (According to the man, the woman was weak). The face Alessandra saw in the mirror belonged to an awkward, lonely, and frightened girl who was nonetheless filled with a sense of her own momentous destiny. Who was about to leave all safety and comfort behind her, as well as every similarity she bore to the saintly mother she loved so well.</p> <p>"Are you too proud to shit with your mates, Sandro? Come—I could go ca-ca myself, now that you mention it!" He moved off a bit, away from the onions, and made to squat down. "I won't be long!" Alessandra called over her shoulder as she ran as fast as she could toward the safety of the trees.</p> <p>What a bother it was to be a girl sometimes! She found a place behind a fallen tree, where she was sure she wouldn't be seen by anyone. "There was no other way for me to come here as a scholar. You yourself have no doubt had to contend with a great deal to lift yourself above the state you were born into." "At least I was born a man!" "It was your good fortune—not only to be born a man but to have the intellectual abilities that allow you to pursue an academic degree. I have the</p>	<p>Chapter 8, page 165</p> <p>Chapter 12, page 304</p> <p>Chapter 12, page 306-308</p>

<p>ability, Bene—it is only my gender that is wrong!”</p> <p>“It is a sin to try to change it.”</p> <p>“I don’t wish to change it! I only wish to study and learn.” She came even closer. “Do you remember how that felt, when you were still a boy in your village—when you’d learned and read everything you could there?”</p> <p>She thought of and then brushed away the memory of her mother’s body split open from chest to just below the naval. She smelled the hot blood and felt her father shaking with sobs and watched between her fingers as the midwife pulled Dodo out, still in his caul.</p> <p>Alessandra tried to hold back the liquids that began to rise from her own gullet. The last time she had seen this sight was when she was looking inside her mother’s own corpse.</p> <p>“Our stepmother says that I mustn’t be afraid. That as many women as die in childbirth live to take joy in the baby they’ve brought into the world.”</p> <p>...She’d never experienced anything like it before: his chest pressed up against her back, her bottom brushing against his thighs. It was very much like having an itch and longing to scratch it—but this itch was not anyplace she could reach or even locate.</p> <p>She forgot for hours at a time that she was anyone other than Sandro, student <i>par excellence</i> and trusted assistant to Mondino de’ Liuzzi. Alessandra Giliani, the girl from Persiceto, began to seem a distant memory—rather like Pierina, Dodo, Nic, and the entire family from the life she’d left behind.</p> <p>She thought how lucky she was to have such a friend. More than once she caught Otto looking at her in such an ardent way that, in time, she came</p>	<p>Chapter 4, page 55-56</p> <p>Chapter 12, page 317</p> <p>Chapter 5, page 77</p> <p>Chapter 12, page 311-312</p> <p>Chapter 12, page 325</p> <p>Chapter 12, page 332</p>
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	<p>to be convinced that he had fallen in love with Sandro.</p> <p>Beauty was beauty, after all, no matter whether the possessor of it was male or female.</p> <p>And yet she knew that very unmasking might well mark the end of his affection for her!</p>	<p>Chapter 12, page 333</p> <p>Chapter 12, page 334</p>
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No.	The efforts to fight against gender discrimination experienced by the main female character	Page
1.	<p>Alessandra stood by her, as if mistress and servant had changed roles, helping Emilia dress herself and stashing the capacious lavender-and sweat-scented everyday clothes in the newly emptied saddlebag.</p> <p>Giorgio gave a nod of approval for Emilia but then shook his head at Alessandra. He touched his hair, which was cut short, in the usual style. “Y-y-y your h-h-h—”</p> <p>She had to saw away at it, and despite her full intention of being brave, tears sprang into her eyes as she did so. It felt as if she was sawing off one of her own limbs.</p> <p>Alessandra withdrew more and more frequently into the sanctuary of the seven churches of Santo Stefano, to ask forgiveness for the sinful pride she took in her accomplishment, as well as for the sin of disguising her gender.</p> <p>Her heart was beating fast. What business did he have, looking at a fellow student so intensely?</p> <p>Intimate friendship would not be on Sandro’s path—how could it be? Anyone who drew too close to her was bound to discover her secret.</p> <p>How would she hide her gender, at such close</p>	<p>Chapter 9, page 209-210</p> <p>Chapter 9, page 210</p> <p>Chapter 9, page 212</p> <p>Chapter 11, page 261</p> <p>Chapter 11, page 265</p> <p>Chapter 11, page 267-268</p> <p>Chapter 12, page 297-298</p>

<p>quarters, from this man who made her heart beat fast and her knees feel weak with a longing to be held in his arms?</p>	
<p>Otto had never met his equal among the youths of Lustrola—and he'd never had a brother, although he'd always longed for one. He felt an odd, unsettling sense of excitement whenever Sandro was near. The thought of making him a bosom friend was unspeakably attractive to him.</p>	<p>Chapter 12, page 295</p>
<p>What ill luck that she had needed to relieve herself just then, with Bene lurking close by! He must have set out to trap her. Why else would he be up on the mountains instead of studying, as he said he was going to do?</p>	<p>Chapter 12, page 312-313</p>
<p>...desperate hope that perhaps Mondino himself would find some way to employ her, in exchange for her room and board. She could go to him, as Sandro, and tell him that she'd had a sudden reversal of fortune—that she'd have to leave Bologna, return home, and give up her education if some financial remedy couldn't be found.</p>	<p>Chapter 12, page 314</p>
<p>Or perhaps, she thought with some bitterness, she could simply give in to her family's wishes and marry whatever scurvy man her father had picked out for her. He was rich, after all. But what chance was there that he'd allow his wife to study medicine? If her father had refused her—her father, who loved her more than anyone else in the world—how could she even dream of another man giving her greater license? She would be doomed to stay and serve this great landowner in one or more of his stupid castles, ordering his servants around and carrying his keys. He'd get her pregnant and then her life of learning—and maybe even her very life—would well and truly be done for.</p>	<p>Chapter 12, page 315-316</p>
<p>It seemed to be a rule of life, Alessandra noticed, that people saw only what they expected to see.</p>	<p>Chapter 12, page 330</p>

<p>“I’m sorry!” he said. “I’ll buy you a new—” He stopped midphrase as the fabric fell away, exposing her naked shoulder...and the cloth wrapped tightly around her breasts.</p>	<p>Chapter 12, page 341</p>
<p>“My love of learning,” she said, looking up into Mina’s eyes, “has been the cause of a great deception.”</p>	<p>Chapter 13, page 355</p>
<p>“You told me yourself, my dear. Did you think I wouldn’t find the soiled rags from your flux? Did it not worry you, being all alone and finding yourself bleeding?”</p>	<p>Chapter 13, page 356</p>
<p>“I had read of it, and so it did not surprise me—although it made my insides ache, and still does.” She sighed. “I am the elder girl, and my mother died before I could take notice of such things—and my nanny left before my flowering.”</p>	<p>Chapter 13, page 356-357</p>
<p>As she allowed herself to relax into Mina’s warm embrace, Alessandra experienced a floodtide of memories of her own mother. She thought how there are some things that cannot be learned in books or lectures but only in the experience of feeling them. In that sweet scent of a woman’s flesh and the soft caress of firelight, she fell utterly—and quite to her own surprise—fast asleep.</p>	<p>Chapter 13, page 358</p>
<p>“True love,” said Mina, “is something that reveals itself only with the passage of time.”</p>	<p>Chapter 13, page 361</p>
<p>“I am a student in the medical school—and there you have it, <i>Signora</i>, my reason for wanting to stay here, where the men of Bologna know they are not welcome.”</p>	<p>Chapter 15, page 381</p>
<p>“I’m sure it will suit me well—for both the refuge and the proximity to your craft. There is much that I would learn from the women healers of Bologna.”</p>	<p>Chapter 15, page 381</p>

<p>“That’s the first time such a thing has been said to the likes of me by any scholar of the University.”</p>	Chapter 15, page 381
<p>In one of these there was a simple drawing of a person showing the heart and the lungs and— painted in bloodred ink and blue—the veins and the arteries.</p>	Chapter 15, page 395-396
<p>She wanted to pay the Jewish merchant to translate the words accompanying the drawing of the heart and lungs. But he protested that he could read very little Arabic, and only poetry. Nonetheless, she made him write down for her, in the Latin alphabet, the name of the man who authored the book. It was Ibn al-Nafis, who was born in Damascus, the bookseller told her—everyone knew of him in the Oriental world. He was a great scholar of law, as well as medicine and philosophy, and had been the personal physician to the Sultan.</p>	Chapter 15, page 396-397
<p>But Alessandra learned a great deal in this reading—and it struck her how odd it was that there seemed to be a parallel world of women’s medicine, where women were in charge. And another world of Oriental medicine, if her book by Ibn al-Nafis was any indication of the depth of learning there in the faraway lands of the Levant. But not one drop of bright red appeared on the right side of the gray flesh of the dead woman’s heart. Contrary to everything Alessandra had been taught by Mondino and all she had read, the red-dyed wax they’d squirted in spread down from the left side of the heart out into the body.</p>	Chapter 15, page 399-400
<p>The cock crowed. Exhausted and near the point of collapse, she wondered briefly what the woman had died of.</p>	Chapter 15, page 414
<p>During the night’s labors, Alessandra had nicked her finger with the knife and another time with the needle—but hardly felt it. She gazed with wonder in the guttering candlelight mixed with the murky</p>	Chapter 15, page 416
	Chapter 15, page 416-417

<p>light of early morning, how clear it all was now, mapped out in red wax and blue—anyone could see it. And soon everyone would see it!</p> <p>“Behold,” she said in a lecturer’s voice, “the beauty of God’s work!” There were tears in her eyes. Alessandra stood there dressed as Sandro, even though God and a handful of others knew who she really was: a daughter of Eve. A woman. And a scholar. A sister to Ibn al-Nafis. A daughter of Mondino. A descendant of Galen, Aristotle, and Avicenna.</p>	Chapter 15, page 420-421
<p>And then Otto saw someone walking up behind her—someone tall and red-haired and big-boned. Someone he hadn’t seen for a while.</p> <p>It was Bene. He grabbed Alessandra from behind. Otto tried to push through the crowd to get to her. But Bene had already torn her scholars’ robe and the chemise she wore beneath it. Holding her from behind, he tore the clothes from her body until her breasts were exposed.</p> <p>“This is Sandro!” he shouted. “This is your prodigy!”</p>	Chapter 15, page 421-422
<p>“<i>Stregheria!</i>”—witchcraft—and a score of others took up the cry. This august and international gathering of physicians, professors, and scholars was quickly converting itself into an angry mob on the shores of the Reno River. There were calls of “Death to the witch!” and “Burn her!”</p>	Chapter 15, page 422-423
<p>“My notebooks!” she cried. “Otto, you must make sure they’re safe!”</p> <p>He sent word to Dame Edita to hide the notebooks where no one would find them.</p>	Chapter 15, page 423
<p>“Aristotle...,” she said, then closed her eyes.</p> <p>“Although I revere him, Aristotle was wrong about many things.”</p> <p>“The threechambered heart,” Otto said, his hopes rising.</p> <p>“The unvascularized brain.”</p>	Chapter 15, page 425

<p>But Alessandra, with surprising strength, pulled him closer. “He was wrong about the capacity of women.” “He said...” She paused, her lips parted, gathering strength. “He said, ‘The courage of a man is shown in commanding, of a woman in obeying.’ By that measure, Otto, I am a coward.” “Then by that measure, my darling, I am a woman—for I am ready to obey your every command.”</p>	<p>Chapter 15, page 425-427</p>
<p>“I would not like to be forgotten.” There was a slick of tears then between their cheeks. “You will not be forgotten, Alessandra Giliani!”</p>	<p>Chapter 15, the last page</p>

I never even liked history when I was at school, apart from the context of literature, music, and art. But history has lately been revealed to me as the place where I live, where we all live, side by side with others who—if we get quiet enough and listen carefully enough—will touch us and tell us their stories.
(Barbara Quick: 2010)