

## Feminism Analysis in the Novel “Three Dark Crowns”

by Kendare Blake

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### Abstract

This research analyzes feminist elements in the novel *Three Dark Crowns* by Kendare Blake using a qualitative descriptive approach. This research aims to explore how this novel criticizes patriarchal structures through depictions of gender dynamics, power organizations, and symbolic traditions. This study uses feminist analysis to interpret the narrative and uncover themes such as women's autonomy, solidarity, and the impact of societal expectations on women. The research results show that the novel depicts the problems of the three queens (Katharine, Mirabella, and Arsinoe) as a reflection of women's lives in a patriarchal culture. Through its complex narrative, *Three Dark Crowns* explores how patriarchal structures exploit women's potential, hinder their independence, and encourage competition in the world between them. This research encourages readers to consider women's more significant challenges in patriarchal institutions by highlighting the novel's importance as a work of fiction and commentary on current feminist issues.

**Keywords:** Feminist Analysis, Gender Dynamics, Patriarchy, Women's Solidarity.

### INTRODUCTION

Feminism is a movement that fights for women's emancipation and equal rights. Feminism built this movement, a tool for women to fight for often marginalized rights. Feminism is also not only concerned with women's struggle for their rights. However, it is also concerned with more significant issues, such as race and class conflict, where gender inequality is a primary source of discrimination and social injustice. Therefore, feminism is not only about achieving equality between men and women but also about overcoming the social and economic differences that exist in society. Feminism aims to equalize the position or status of women and men. Feminism supports women as free human beings and humanity. The values underlying feminism, such as personal knowledge and experience, will inevitably differ between white and black women. Feminists are not rebellion against men; they are not against social and cultural institutions such as marriage, the household, and the public sphere. Women do not want to be looked down upon or looked down upon (Sinta Saputra & Paulina Simamora, 2022)

Analyzing *Three Dark Crowns* utilizing women's activist theory is "Control Women's liberation." The most important reason is that the novel centers on three female heroes who have exceptional mysterious powers and are locked in a battle to seize the position of authority, delineating the topic of female strengthening and control over control. In this setting, the three princesses appear that ladies not as it were properly having control but can moreover utilize it to decide their destinies. Despite the patriarchal framework that administers their world, the three girls battle to preserve control over their lives, which is in line with the standards of control for women's liberation, which emphasizes the significance of ladies having and controlling control.

Feminism is a women's movement that occurs almost all over the world. The feminist movement is a struggle to end the practices of sexism, sexual exploitation, and voting. The awareness that women have equal rights drives this movement. Through the feminist movement and theory, women demand changes in cultural awareness that discriminate against women so that balance can be created dynamically (Aulia et al., 2024). "*Three Dark Crowns*" by Kendare Blake critiques patriarchal systems through the three sisters' fight for Fennbirn's throne. It

integrates feminist theory, exploring power, identity, and resistance and revealing how social structures reflect gender power dynamics.

An intriguing phenomenon in the study of feminism, gender, and literature, "Three Dark Crowns" offers an intriguing viewpoint on gender. A feminist literature review must include a study of this book since it sheds light on the problems of inequality and gender equality. The novel clarifies how these themes appear in society by analyzing the interactions and relationships between the characters. This analysis offers a deeper understanding of the gender-related issues in "Three Dark Crowns" by examining the intricacies of gender roles, power struggles, and societal expectations. "Three Dark Crowns" by Kendare Blake explores themes of power, sisterhood, and identity through the story of three sisters vying for Fennbirn's throne, highlighting the complexity of life.

From the standpoint of Islamic law, this article aims to ascertain how Indonesian women are affected by Marxist feminist ideas and society. It is then further developed by examining the viewpoint of Islamic law through earlier works of classical jurisprudence. Islam's perspective on women and the role they play. Therefore, we know the effects on children if Marx's ideas or culture are consistently present in Indonesia without their knowledge (Lazuardi & Shamsu, 2024). To comprehend Marxist ideas and how they affect women's and children's education and career women's education. In the sense that both the husband and the wife contribute to the family economy by working outside the home. In order to expand the world's scientific resources and exercise caution in examining things, whether they are the opinions of others or the culture that is present in the children of the country (Hossain & Chowdhury, 2023).

Despite numerous feminist movements and women's activists who are vehemently advocating for and defending women's rights, patriarchal cultural practices still exist today. Domestic, economic, political, and cultural activities all exhibit this practice. According to Soetomo's book, social problems are conditions that the majority of the community does not want to occur, such as sexual harassment, domestic violence, early marriage, and the stigma associated with divorce. As a result, this practice leads to several social problems in Indonesia. When viewed through the lens of the problem method, the effects of Indonesia's patriarchal society are classified under the blame system approach, which focuses on issues brought on by a system that is not functioning as intended or anticipated. Sexual harassment (domestic violence), Early marriage rates, and the stigma associated with divorce are caused by a cultural system that tends to permit them, as well as by Indonesia's current legal system, which also permits the aforementioned cases to continue to occur.

In 2018, there were 195 occurrences of marital rape, which is defined as sexual encounters that are undesired and cause misery to the wife. From 2016 to 2017, when there were 135 cases, this number rose to 172. The 2017 National Commission on Violence Against Women's Annual Records, which were based on the grounds for divorce documented at the Religious Courts, did not precisely specify the number of marital rape incidents in 2015 and below. This is because the Religious Courts have not recognized domestic rape, which is categorized as sexual assault and falls under the "other" nomenclature—indeed, citing a 2017 National Commission on Violence Against Women article.

In his book *Introduction to Gender and Feminism* (Sultana, 2011), he claims that the word patriarchy is derived from the word patriarchate, which denotes a system in which men are viewed as the only, primary, and all-powerful. Gender inequality and other forms of inequality that impact different facets of human activities are caused by the patriarchal system that controls society's culture. Men play a key role in maintaining societal authority. In contrast, women have little or no rights in most spheres of society, including the institution of marriage and the social, political, psychological, and economic spheres. As a result, women are positioned as inferior or submissive. Patriarchal culture's limitations on women's duties imprison them and subject them to prejudice. One of the systemic barriers that prevents people in society from having equal access is the

disparity between the roles that men and women play. In addition to that, women have frequently been the victims of government policies that have, up to now, been unsympathetic to their demands. Women are indirectly marginalized as a result of their lack of legal protection. Due to patriarchal power dynamics, both individually and through governmental legislation, women are positioned as oppressed parties in historical and cultural contexts.

The world's culture has positioned men at the top of the social hierarchy and women at the bottom since ancient times. This is evident in Hindu customs. For instance, women did not inherit property from their departed husbands or families throughout the Vedic era, which began around 1500 BC. In 1500 BC, women were married off before they reached puberty in Buddhist traditions. The majority become illiterate as a result of their lack of education. Women are viewed as inferior, filthy, and a source of impurity under Jewish religious law. Because of this, women are only permitted to go to places of worship and not attend religious ceremonies. Similar to this, in Indonesia, women were utilized as sex workers for foreign troops stationed in Indonesia. Additionally, laws forbid women from obtaining an education unless they are from aristocratic or noble backgrounds (Lugo et al., 2013). This article describes how Indonesian women's patriarchal society affects social issues and the role social workers play in them. The data presented was gathered from literature reviews of numerous books and periodicals.

The National Commission on Violence Against Women has deemed sexual violence in Indonesia to be an emergency since 2014, necessitating a law that expressly addresses this issue.<sup>1</sup> The national legislation program (prolegs) incorporated the measures that were first described in the Draft Law on the Elimination of Sexual Violence (RUU-PKS) This law was created to give Indonesian victims of sexual assault legal protection.

Although passage was initially planned for before the 2019 General Election, the draft law was not ratified as of August 2019. Instead, a social controversy emerged, particularly about the criminal penalties that may be applied to those who commit domestic rape (marital rape). Marital rape is discussed in the context of Indonesia, the act of a husband or wife forcing sexual relations without consent is a problem that is not always acknowledged in some legal systems. The state's choice to punish those who commit marital rape with criminal penalties is supported by some individuals, and Some people vehemently disagree with this clause. The improvement of terminology "...obscures the real phenomenon regarding the type of violence against women that is being processed," according to the Annual Notes (Catahu).

The Latin verb "rapere" (to steal, force, seize, or take away) is where the word "rape" originates. The verb "rape," which implies to violate or violate with violence, is the root of the word "rape" in the extensive Indonesian vocabulary. Rape, on the other hand, is the act, procedure, or violation that involves violence. Article 285 of the Criminal Code, which states that "Anyone who uses violence or threats of violence to force a woman to have sexual intercourse with him outside of marriage is punishable for committing rape with a maximum prison sentence of twelve years," is what is meant by rape in general when discussing the criminal laws currently in effect in Indonesia.

Adopted from the Dutch legal code *Wetboek van Strafrecht (WvS)* (Dutch Criminal Code, which was applied in Indonesia during the colonial era), this criminal clause was in effect in the Netherlands until it was eventually changed. In the meantime, these laws continue to be enforced in Indonesia, along with the development of laws about sexual violence.

Regarding the PKS (Draft Law on the Elimination of Sexual Violence) bill's penal measures that are likely to trap those who commit marital rape, there is disagreement. The PKS Bill was created to address social and legal problems in Indonesian society. Among other things, the issue statement in this study asks why the "outside of marriage" component of Article 285's definition of rape is accepted. Given the Criminal Code, how have laws in Indonesia evolved to make marital rape a crime, and what does the State's involvement in making marital rape a crime as defined by the PKS Bill mean (Mahfud & Rizanizarli, 2021).

## METHODOLOGY

Descriptive qualitative research methodology was employed in this study. It is typically used in qualitative research to describe attitudes and behaviors (Fossey et al., 2002). Descriptive qualitative research means that there is no correlation between variables.

Subjective inquiry strategies are research approaches based on reasoning used to explore phenomena, with the researcher as the primary instrument. Data collection and analysis in subjective research emphasize understanding meaning. Subjective research aims to analyze and describe phenomena or research objects through social activities, attitudes, and perceptions of individuals or groups. In this approach, researchers focus on understanding the meanings and interpretations rather than testing hypotheses, controlling bias, or generalizing findings.

The novel *Three Dark Crowns* by Kendare Blake was used as the subject of the study. Feminist analysis was applied to interpret the data. The data were analyzed using a qualitative approach, and the results were presented descriptively. Several important elements, including the dynamics of female power, autonomy, sisterhood, and critique of gender norms, can be used to evaluate feminism in Kendare Blake's novel *Three Dark Crowns*. The book shows how patriarchal structures affect women's relationships and the survival battles of three queens: Arsinoe, Mirabella, and Katharine.

### 1. Dynamics of Gender

The three queens' connection serves as an example of the nuanced roles that women play in patriarchal cultures. In a custom intended to drive them apart, they are compelled to engage in a lethal contest for the throne. For instance, Arsinoe, Mirabella, and Katharine are all under tremendous pressure from their sides to achieve, which breeds animosity even in the face of sympathetic moments. Despite this, the queens sometimes show unity, demonstrating the possibility of sisterhood hidden behind the forced competition.

### 2. Organizations of Power

The three queens' unique abilities—naturalism, poison resistance, and elemental control—stand in for the enormous potential of women. However, outside forces, like their trainers and factions, frequently control their abilities.

Analysis: This reflects how women can lose control over their potential due to social and political pressures. The queens' struggle to reclaim control of their abilities highlights the broader struggle of women for freedom and autonomy.

### 3. Symbolism of Power

The tradition that requires the queens to kill each other to become the sole ruler serves as a powerful metaphor for how women are forced to compete for recognition and power in patriarchal societies.

Analysis: This symbolism relates to real-world societal structures, where patriarchy not only harms women individually but also prevents them from uniting to bring about meaningful change.

By intertwining powerful narratives of strength, rivalry, and solidarity among women, *Three Dark Crowns* sharply critiques patriarchy and calls for women's unity in driving change.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Through the depiction of the three queens—Arsinoe, Mirabella, and Katharine—and their struggles against the roles that society has assigned women, Kendare Blake's *Three Dark Crowns* offers a potent feminist critique of patriarchal structures. The queens' rivalry, which was imposed by patriarchal custom, is a metaphor for the negative ways patriarchal systems deprive women of the ability to band together and collaborate. The story examines the effects of gendered expectations and how resistance, autonomy, and solidarity can arise in the face of oppression via the hardships of these three sisters.

The queens' competition examines how patriarchal cultures compel women to fight for survival,

status, and power. From the book's outset, the queens are conditioned to view one another as adversaries rather than allies. Raised in the tradition of poisoners, Katharine is taught to be sly and brutal. She is subjected to severe emotional and physical abuse during her training, which drives her to the limit of her humanity. Katharine's story illustrates how patriarchal structures frequently require women to forgo their uniqueness and emotional health to gain power. As quoted in her statement:

*"She is thin to the ribs," Genevieve says, smacking them lightly as if it might scare the bones farther under the skin. "And still so small. Small queens do not inspire much confidence."(p.9)*

"She is thin to the ribs" describes a critical physical analysis of the queen's physique, limiting her identity to her appearance or body. This illustrates how women are frequently evaluated or valued more for their outward looks than for their skills, intelligence, or other attributes.

Political, social, cultural, and educational elements are the root causes of society's many challenging problems. Women have historically been marginalized in most countries, primarily due to the structural problems of society. This is not surprising considering the patriarchal framework that uses a set of values, beliefs, education, and behavioral norms to justify male domination and oppression of women in cultures almost all over the world (Gupta et al., 2023).

According to the line, "Small women do not inspire much confidence," a person's body size can influence their perception of their leadership capacity. This shows a gender bias that supports patriarchal structures, which consider that women must have certain physical features to be considered firm or capable.

When women live under patriarchal domination, they are often ignored, treated with violence and injustice, and always considered inferior. This shows how important feminist studies are for women. The study also emphasizes women's right not to be subordinated and their right to make their own decisions. Therefore, feminism is seen as a way to achieve equal rights between men and women (Pokhrel, 2024).

This conversation shows how Katharine's body is the object of criticism as if her confidence as queen depends on her appearance. Feminism is often criticized for social pressures that force women to meet specific standards to be considered good or respected by society.

In the novel, it is also told that the characters experience limitations in their freedom of choice, Katharine has no control over her life, including small decisions like what to wear or how to behave. Everything was arranged by the people around her, especially Natalia. As the conversation goes:

*"Katharine sits silently as her attendants pull her into her gown, the tight corset squeezing her ribs and making it difficult to breathe. It is better this way. She cannot protest. She must not protest."(p.18)*

Katharine is treated as an object because she has no freedom and no will of her own. When others impose torturous clothing to control their bodies, it shows how women are often seen as mere symbols, whether of role or beauty, without regard for their desires.

Nowadays, quite a few societies or families prioritize patriarchal culture; its growth in society is no longer taboo. This culture underwent significant social and structural changes. Roles, rights, and children's duties in an environment with a patriarchal culture tend to be different, which causes many differences in the way parents educate boys and girls (Rahma, 2023).

Since Katharine cannot protest, it shows that women do not have a voice or power over their lives in many socio-historical contexts. This shows a patriarchal structure that limits women's freedom. Women are often looked down upon in patriarchal cultures, both in social and political terms. In Indonesia, many women can only play secondary roles due to structural injustice. For example, in politics, efforts have been made to increase women's representation in parliament. However, it is still

far from the minimum target of 30% in the 2019 election, with women's representation in the DPR RI only 20.87%. This shows that many things prevent girls and women from actively participating in politics (White et al., 2024).

The sentence "*It is better this way. She cannot protest. She must not protest.*"

Suggests that Katharine is beginning to recognize that refusing is normal and perhaps even necessary. This points to one of the problems faced by feminism: discovering and confronting the internalization of patriarchal habits.

In this novel, Katharine is a mighty queen, but Natalia controls her life. This can be seen as evidence that more extensive systems, such as patriarchy, often restrain women in high positions.

This narrative functions as a feminist critique of women's oppression by social rules created by other people, often by people in a patriarchal system. This novel tells Katharine's story and shows how important it is to empower women and fight structural injustice. Apart from that, in the novel, it is also told that a woman experiences demands to be a perfect queen, as in the following statement:

The crowd's expectations are not just for Mirabella to perform but to fulfill a glorified, nearly god-like image of power. This is evident when the crowd expects her to demonstrate all her elemental gifts, including the earth-shaking displays of power they desire. "*They would have her shake the earth until the pillars of the temple crack. Perhaps they even want her to shear off the black cliff and cast it into the sea so the temple can drift in the bay below.*"(p.31)

These extreme expectations placed on her reflect the burden of perfection that society often imposes on women in power and the tension between her limitations and the lofty demands of those who expect her to be perfect. The feminist aspect here is how Mirabella grapples with these expectations while still taking control of her gifts and using them to command the room.

The Social Burden on Women is represented in the narrative and conversation above. The demand for Mirabella as the "Perfect Queen" reflects how women, especially in positions of leadership or power, are often faced with inhumane expectations. Quotes such as "They would have shaken the earth until the pillars of the temple crack" demonstrate the pressure to achieve nearly impossible standards, creating the image that women must be "more" than their male counterparts to be recognized.

Issues related to gender are constantly changing and can change along with changes in societal culture. More advanced thinking is required by a society that continues to view women as weak and helpless creatures and believes that women should only handle problems at home while men are responsible for the public sphere.

Feminism is a movement that demands full equality between men and women. Cultural and historical facts, as well as levels of awareness, perception, and behavior, can lead to changes in the definition of feminism. Even among women who are almost identical in gender, there are debates and differences of opinion about feminist thought. Starting from various reasons, such as the basis of patriarchal culture and male domination, this debate continued until it finally resolved women's struggle to avoid environmental exploitation and freedom from class, background, race, and gender (Anjum, 2020).

Mirabella must face expectations that demand physical, emotional, and spiritual perfection, but she must also face her limitations as a human. In this story, feminism is seen when she tries to overcome this pressure by showing that she is independent and not just a symbol of power.

Despite the enormous pressure to meet society's demands, Mirabella takes control of the situation by using her power to lead, not just to meet expectations. This depicts the feminist theme of agency: women's ability to be independent and use their power without submitting to society's rules or demands. As the phrase "using them to command space" suggests, Mirabella survives and navigates and exploits pressure to solidify her authority.

The standards applied to Mirabella critique the way society often sets unreasonable

expectations of women in positions of power, such as being "perfect" or "flawless." Feminism often discusses how these norms limit women and create gender inequality. The character Mirabella symbolically depicts this injustice in this story.

This narrative falls into the realm of feminism because it raises the central issue of how women are expected to meet unreasonable demands and how women have the power to navigate these pressures with agency and those in authority. This is related to the problem of modern feminism, which often discusses how women, especially those in leadership positions, are considered to bear ideals and responsibilities by society.

*"You will look a fool," Rho says, "after supporting her. It is too late to change course." (p.99)*

The statement "You will look a fool" can be examined within the framework of feminist theory as an example of social control through language frequently employed to uphold patriarchal authority and gender hierarchy. This statement may be read as an attempt to manipulate or coerce people—women in particular—to adhere to patriarchal societal norms.

In particular, this paper looks at double oppression from a postcolonial feminist standpoint. The analysis's findings demonstrate the unique discourses on women's inferior status as a result of the patriarchal control of both colonial and Indigenous men and the dominance of the Dutch and Japanese colonial systems. Indigenous women endure suffering and are positioned at the bottom of the colonial hierarchy as a result of these two types of oppression. The prospect of double oppression against women in the modern era, which is equivalent to the period of capitalism (imperialism) and the still-existing patriarchal ideology, can also be reflected in such a sentimental attitude (Ahmed, 2019; Alfando & Wahyuni, 2022).

By taking into account the novel's core themes—power struggles, female identity, and the impact of patriarchy on the lives of female characters—the statement "It is too late to change course" can be examined from a feminist standpoint. The saying "It is too late to change course" may be interpreted as a reflection of this social pressure being internalized. Because patriarchal dominance and tradition do not allow for freedom or alternatives, they may feel compelled to follow the predetermined route even though it goes against their will. From a feminist standpoint, this demonstrates how social systems frequently compel women to fulfill designated roles, even when doing so is harmful to them.

It is evident how difficult it is for women to rebel against patriarchy by engaging in anarchic behavior. To raise public awareness of women's presence in society and to enlighten the public about the continuance of gender prejudice behavior, the topic of women's struggle draws the attention of scholars. The language and actions of the topic, which include anarchic acts like food poisoning, head slashing, and machete threats, demonstrate how women's fight against patriarchal culture is reflected in these movements (Kamil et al., 2024).

*"The council would have us killed." (p.101)*

In general, the statement "The council would have us killed" illustrates how the patriarchal system oppresses, mistreats, and restricts women from upholding tradition and authority. From a feminist standpoint, this is both a call to fight back and regain women's agency and a critique of the systematic unfairness that victimizes them.

How women express their rights, either individually or as group spokespeople, and how the audience is shown the women's battle through word choice, sentence structure, and narrative formats. This approach focuses on the representation of women in the text. According to the study, women can use literature for resistance movements. Readers are made aware of the errors that frequently corner women by portraying them as strong leading characters and topics who oppose the patriarchal system that has been ingrained in society as objects (Hajir & Marsih, 2023).

*"I know that there is always a price," Jules says. "I know it is for the simple, and the desperate, and the weak." (p.120)*

Jules' understanding of the unjust outcomes, particularly for women, in a repressive societal

structure, is demonstrated by her statement, "I know that there is always a price." Jules and other women in the book frequently had to pay more than men to survive or accomplish their objectives. This illustrates how women in patriarchal cultures frequently have to make extra sacrifices—be they social, emotional, or physical—to satisfy expectations.

Western Europeans created the philosophy of feminism to advocate for equality between men and women. They aim to demand justice and women's freedom from the limitations of religion, culture, and other societal systems. According to Dr. Mansour Fasih, there is no concise and unambiguous definition for the term feminism, often known as gender. They favor keeping sex and gender apart.

*"Did you take too much blood?" Jules asks. "I do not feel right. My eyes . . ."*(p.137)

"I do not feel right" demonstrates how the incident affected Jules physically and emotionally. This unease or loss of control may reflect how women are frequently compelled to put up with circumstances that cross their societal bounds. According to feminists, this is an example of symbolic violence, in which women are compelled to put up with or accept harmful customs or structures.

The mass media's high news value on sex, gender, inclinations, needs, aspirations, and goals for the other sex makes it seem as though the news material denigrates women. Gender-biased media can be explained by a variety of variables, including the representation of female victims of sexual violence in the media that is hidden from view. Symbolic reality seems to permit a society in which women are the victims at all times. Additionally, gender disparity is further marginalizing women in that role (Az-Zahra & Roselani, 2024).

*"Do you want me to die now, instead of her? Would that make you happy?"* (p. 266)

This sentence expresses tension or conflict in which women feel positioned in a dilemma about sacrifice or death. It can criticize the narrative of female sacrifice in many cultures or stories, where women are often seen as victims who must sacrifice themselves for the sake of others or a greater goal.

This article examines how women are often used as victims in rituals or sacrifices in many cultures. Bynum explores how women's sacrificial rituals reflect gender inequality in society by Caroline Walker Bynum.

Three Dark Crowns' main takeaway is one of tenacity and resistance. Even though the queens are compelled to compete, the book shows that they may fight back against the patriarchal forces attempting to dominate them by having moments of empathy, understanding, and solidarity. From rivalry to solidarity, the queens' path reflects the larger feminist fight for women's rights. It serves as a reminder that women's greatest strength is not in overcoming one another but standing by one another in the face of institutional injustice.

As the queens realize their shared experiences, the novel offers a vision of a world where women are no longer forced to compete for survival but can instead work together to challenge the systems that seek to control them. This vision of solidarity is an essential feminist message that calls for collective action and mutual support in dismantling patriarchal structures.

The research reveals that despite the tension in the characters' relationships, they ultimately emphasize the importance of relying on each other to overcome challenges. Despite facing numerous obstacles, the protagonists realize they cannot survive alone, underscoring the necessity of collaboration in competitive situations.

Three Dark Crowns explores the theme of fate versus freedom, with characters grappling with external power issues and preordained destinies. Despite the seemingly inevitable nature of fate, they find ways to change their lives as the story progresses, highlighting the themes of freedom and destiny.

## CONCLUSION

In addition to being a work of fiction, Kendare Blake's novel Three Dark Crowns offers a powerful social critique of the effects of patriarchal structures on women. Through its complex plot, the book reveals how social constraints and patriarchal traditions force women to compete with one another, impeding their ability to band together and oppose oppressive standards. The relationships

between the three queens—Katharine, Mirabella, and Arsinoe—show how deeply ingrained patriarchal structures drive women into competition. These dynamics are similar to those in the real world, where women are frequently portrayed as enemies in various contexts, including the workplace and family relationships. The book illuminates the psychological and emotional toll that this competition takes and the hidden strength of camaraderie.

The depiction of the queens' prowess also represents women's enormous potential. However, the influence of outside factors like consultants and customs emphasizes how social norms frequently restrict women's independence. This is part of a larger struggle for women under patriarchal systems, where their skills are often disregarded or used for non-beneficial purposes. A powerful critique of patriarchal power structures may be found in the symbolism ingrained in the lethal custom that demands the queen's battle to the death. It demonstrates how these structures guarantee women's subordination and hinder group action by sustaining cycles of conflict and division among them. However, the queens' shared suffering and empathetic moments raise the prospect of ending these cycles. These incidents highlight how women may overcome the repressive structures that hold them back and find power in unity.

Ultimately, *Three Dark Crowns* highlights that the fight against patriarchy is a group endeavor to restore agency, reinterpret relationships, and build a more just society rather than only an individual struggle for survival or power. In addition to criticizing current gender conventions, the novel's narrative urges women to acknowledge their everyday experiences and band together to fight for justice and self-determination.

Kendare Blake offers a gripping examination of the intricacies of gender, power, and resistance via the narrative of rivalry, strength, and, ultimately, moments of solidarity. The book pushes readers to consider both the real-life difficulties women confront in their struggle against patriarchal oppression and the fictional struggles of the queens. *Three Dark Crowns* explores the theme of fate versus freedom, prompting readers to question whether they truly have control over their fate or are part of a more extensive system. The narrative offers a poignant reflection on power, identity, and freedom in a society of uncertainty, encouraging readers to question their role in an ever-changing world.

Overall, *Three Dark Crowns* by Kendare Blake successfully explores complex themes related to power, identity, and destiny through the struggles of three conflicting protagonists. Through the characters Katharine, Arsinoe, and Mirabella, this novel depicts the tension between physical, political, and moral forces that interact, creating a narrative full of conflict and complexity. Each character faces external challenges and internal tensions that depict the search for identity and understanding of their role in a world of uncertainty.

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