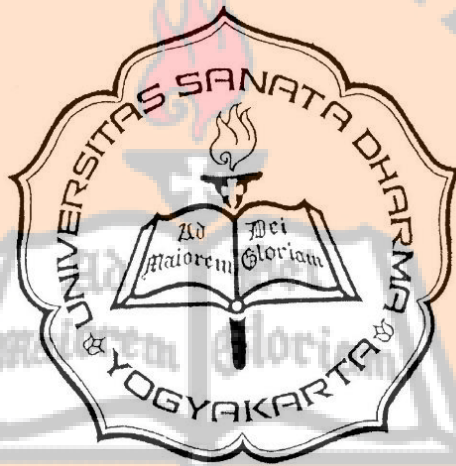


**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE AS THE  
RESULT OF MALE DOMINATION IN GAYLE SANDERS'  
*MUMMY'S WITNESS***

**AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra*  
in English Letters



By

**DESI FEBRIANA PUTRI**

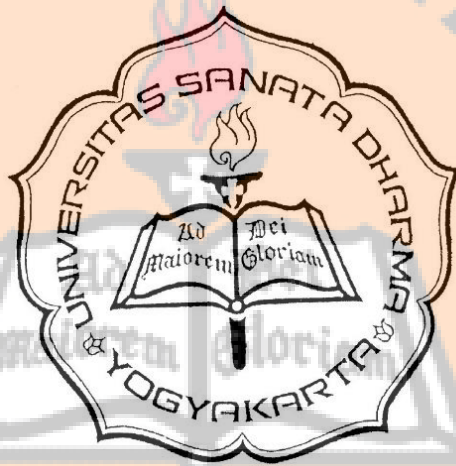
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SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY  
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March 15, 2018

Advisor



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March 15, 2018

Co-Advisor

A Sarjana Sastra Undergraduate Thesis

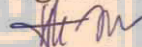
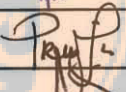
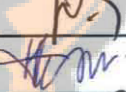


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By

**DESI FEBRIANA PUTRI**  
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Defended before the Board of Examiners  
On April 3, 2018  
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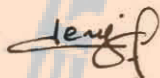
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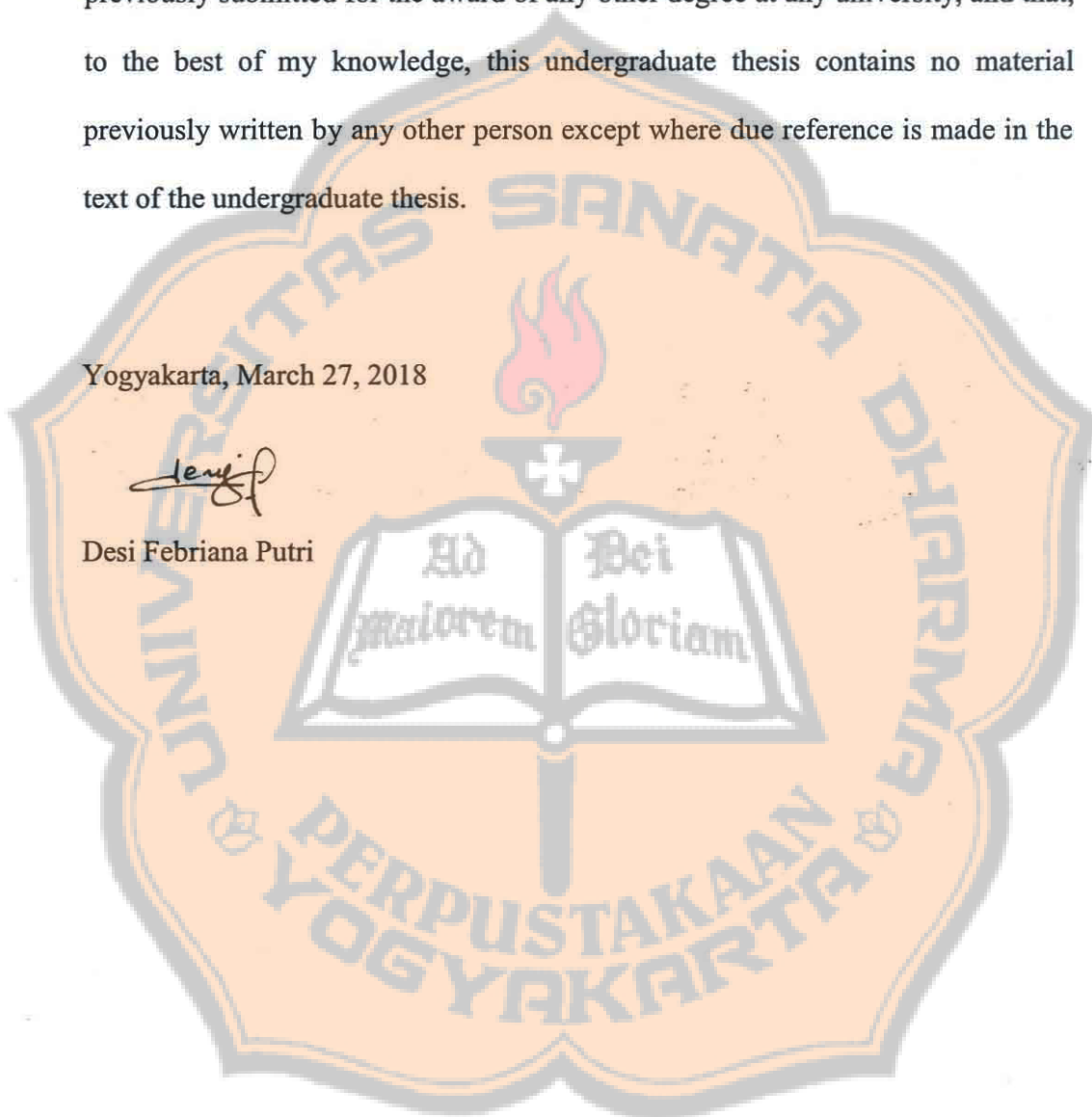

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Yogyakarta, March 27, 2018



Desi Febriana Putri



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RESULT OF MALE DOMINATION IN GAYLE SANDERS'  
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Yang menyatakan,



Desi Febriana Putri

*“I don’t want to be at the mercy of my emotions.*

*I want to use them,*

*to enjoy them,*

*and to dominate them.”*

*Oscar Wilde*



FOR ALL THE LOVELY PEOPLE WHO HAS HELPED ME  
THROUGH THE HARD TIMES





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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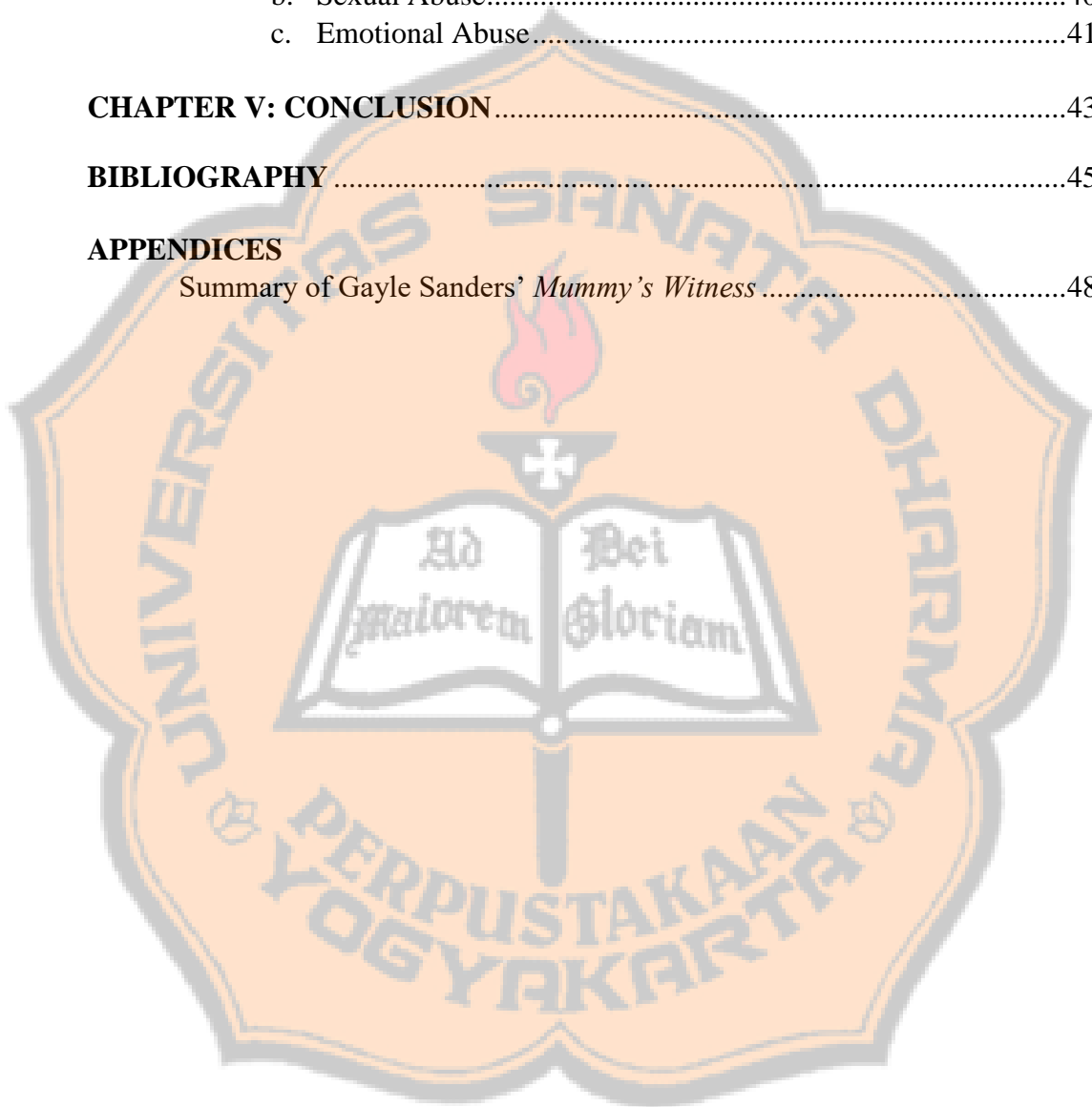
Finally, I present my gratitude to all my lovely and caring best friends Donna, Dayu, Disa, Hiba, Nino, Ula, Wikan, Satya, Halim, and Lolo. I have experienced extremely hard times for the past three years. I was almost end everything, but they have helped me throughout those hard times. I would like to thank them for always being there when I need them the most. This accomplishment would not have been possible without them. Thank you.

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## ABSTRACT

PUTRI, DESI FEBRIANA. **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE AS THE RESULT OF MALE DOMINATION IN GAYLE SANDERS' *MUMMY'S WITNESS***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2018.

This study focuses on analyzing the issues of domestic violence and child abuse resulted from male domination in Gayle Sanders' *Mummy's Witness*. Gayle Sanders and her mother, Susan Sanders always involve in violence that is committed by the head of the household, Tom Sanders. As a man, Tom believes he has the rights to control all aspects in the domestic area. He uses violence to maintain his power over them.

This study has two objectives to be analyzed. The first objective of the study describes the way male domination presented in a family. Second, this study identifies how male domination can cause domestic violence and child abuse. It also aims to find out the categories of violence experienced by the victims.

In this study, the writer uses library research as the method of the study. The writer gathers theories which are importantly needed. Furthermore, the writer analyzes domestic violence and child abuse as the result of male domination by using evidences found in the novel. In analyzing the issues, feminist criticism is applied as the approach of the study. The use of feminist criticism is relevant because the issues are related to the power differential between men and women in particular area.

The result of this study is divided into two parts. Firstly, male domination is presented through Tom Sanders' character and actions as the head of the household. He is revealed to be an abusive and controlling person in the family. He rules over everything under his power. Secondly, his power and authority are the causes of domestic violence and child abuse. He legalizes any ways to maintain his power and control over Susan and Gayle Sanders. As the result, Susan Sanders experiences four forms of domestic violence; physical, psychological, emotional and economic. On the other hand, Gayle Sanders experiences three forms of child abuse; physical, sexual, and emotional.

**ABSTRAK**

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Penelitian ini difokuskan untuk menganalisis isu-isu kekerasan rumah tangga dan kekerasan pada anak yang dihasilkan dari dominasi laki-laki di dalam novel Gayle Sanders yang berjudul *Mummy's Witness*. Gayle Sanders dan ibunya, Susan Sanders selalu terlibat dalam kekerasan yang dilakukan oleh kepala rumah tangga, Tom Sanders. Sebagai seorang laki-laki, Tom percaya bahwa dia memiliki hak-hak untuk mengatur segala aspek dalam rumah tangga. Dia menggunakan kekerasan untuk mempertahankan kekuasaannya terhadap mereka.

Penelitian ini memiliki dua tujuan yang harus dianalisa. Tujuan pertama dalam penelitian ini dirumuskan untuk menggambarkan bagaimana dominasi laki-laki disajikan didalam novel. Yang kedua, tujuan dirumuskan untuk mengidentifikasi bagaimana dominasi laki-laki dapat menyebabkan kekerasan rumah tangga dan kekerasan pada anak. Penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk menemukan kategori-kategori kekerasan yang dialami oleh korban.

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan studi kepustakaan sebagai metode penelitian. Penulis menggabungkan teori-teori yang penting untuk digunakan. Selain itu, penulis menganalisa kekerasan rumah tangga dan kekerasan pada anak sebagai hasil dari dominasi laki-laki dengan menggunakan bukti-bukti yang ditemukan didalam novel. Dalam menganalisa isu-isu tersebut, kritik feminis diaplikasikan sebagai pendekatan penelitian. Penggunaan kritik feminis relevan karena isu-isu tersebut berkaitan dengan perbedaan kekuasaan antara laki-laki dan wanita di tempat tertentu.

Hasil dari penelitian ini dibedakan menjadi dua bagian. Pertama, dominasi laki-laki disajikan melalui karakter and tindakan-tindakan Tom Sanders sebagai kepala rumah tangga. Dia terungkap sebagai seseorang yang kasar dan pengatur didalam keluarga. Dia mengatur segala hal dibawah kekuasaannya. Kedua, kekuasaan dan wewenangnya adalah penyebab kekerasan rumah tangga dan kekerasan pada anak. Dia melegalkan segala cara untuk mempertahankan kekuasaannya dan kontrol terhadap Susan dan Gayle Sanders. Sebagai hasilnya, Susan Sanders mengalami empat bentuk kekerasan rumah tangga; fisik, psikologi, emosi dan ekonomi. Di samping itu, Gayle Sanders mengalami tiga bentuk kekerasan pada anak; fisik, seksual dan emosi.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

A man in a family is a person who should protect the whole family members. In some cases, a man does not fulfill his responsibility to take care of the family, but in fact he becomes the perpetrator of domestic violence. UNICEF states “violence in the domestic sphere is usually perpetrated by males who are, who have been, in positions of trust and intimacy and power” (2000:3). Not only domestic violence, but also child abuse often happens in a domestic area because there is a gap between the perpetrator and the victim. Rowan states that “fathers who are absent or stepfathers or mother’s boyfriends who have no early relationship with the child are more at risk to abuse that child later in life” (2006:9).

There is a violence in the society that places women and girls as its targets or victims. Harne and Radford state “it was socially accepted in male dominant cultures”, and that “women have also been expected to suffer in silence” (2008:1). The statement concludes that being women or female means they have to be ready for all the consequences – oppressed, abused, and also controlled by the perpetrators. Children as the victims also cannot do anything because they are powerless and the violence they receive happens in a period of time.

Since women and girls have lived under the male domination, they have automatically placed in the subordination. In this case, women and girls do not have the same portion in every single thing because of their different sexes. As Barry states, “the mechanisms of patriarchy, that is, the cultural ‘mind-set’ in men and women which perpetuated sexually inequality” (2009:117). Besides, the sex differences make women and girls are assumed “as the men’s property; such as social isolation creates economic dependency, making it difficult for the victim to leave, and, in the men’s eyes, ‘justifies’ the treatment of the woman as his property” (Lockon and Ward, 1997:17).

A non-fiction novel written by Gayle Sanders entitled *Mummy’s Witness* has been chosen as the main source of this study. This novel contains the issues of domestic violence and child abuse resulted from patriarchy that will be analyzed deeply.

Gayle Sanders has grown up with violence since she was little. As a little girl, she has to experience such a hurtful and horrible event for a long time. Her father often viciously abuses her mother as his violent temper can erupt at any moment. Gayle also becomes the target of her father brutality. There is almost zero chance for both Gayle and her mother to escape from the violence. They have to experience many forms of violence that are perpetrated by the father in their everyday life.

In this study, the issues of domestic violence and child abuse found in the novel will be analyzed and revealed through the life of a mother and her younger child under the male domination.

## **B. Problem Formulation**

Based on the background of the study above, here are the problem formulations:

1. How is male domination presented in Gayle Sanders' *Mummy's Witness*?
2. How does male domination cause domestic violence and child abuse in the novel?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problem formulation above, this study has two objectives. The first objective of the study is formulated to describe the way male domination presented in a family. The second objective is formulated to identify how male domination can cause domestic violence and child abuse. After that, the writer aims to find out the forms of violence experienced by the victims so that the clear and complete analysis is achieved.

## **D. Definition of Terms**

It is necessary to define some terms which are related to the study in order to avoid misunderstanding. The first term is domestic violence. Ganley defines domestic violence as "A pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners" (1991:16).



The second term is child abuse. Based on The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) in Child Welfare Information Gateway, the term child abuse is defined as,

“Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm” (2013:3).

The third term is patriarchy or male domination. Sultana in her article defines the word ‘patriarchy’ as,

“The word ‘patriarchy’ literary means the rule of the father or the ‘*patriarch*’, and originally it was used to describe a specific type of ‘male-dominated family’ – the large household of the *patriarch* which included women, junior men, children, slaves and domestic servants all under the rule of this dominant male” (2010:2).

Moreover, Bhasin in Sultana states that it is used more generally “to refer to male domination, to the power relationships by which men dominate women, and to characterize a system whereby women are kept subordinate in a number of ways” (2010:2).

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

#### A. Review of Related Studies

A study written by Artana is taken based on the same novel and author, entitled *The Unfair World as Seen in Gayle Sanders' Mummy's Witness*. This study mainly analyzes the major character, Gayle Sanders, on why she regards her life as an unfairness. The study is stated as follows:

The last finding is the Gayle's motivation in regarding her life as unfairness. Explicitly, her motivation is to highlight the devastating effects of violence and death, especially on the children who are forced to cope with the legacy. She also wants to do anything to help preventing another child suffering as she did by writing the novel entitled *Mummy's Witness* (2013: 5.1).

The second study is also taken based on the same novel and author written by Damanic, entitled *Gayle's View on the Violence Committed by Her Father Against Her Mother as Seen in Gayle Sanders' Mummy's Witness*. Her study focuses on how Gayle Sanders regards the violent actions committed against her mother based on her point of view. The study is stated as follows:

Gayle regarded the violence actions her father did as the motivation of her father to fulfill his needs. There are various reasons that motivated Tom to treat his wife, Susan badly. The first one is that he felt that his wife was not important anymore. The second is that his sexual needs could not be fulfilled by his wife, Susan. It was the reason why he looked for another way to fulfill his needs of sex and one of the victims was his own daughter, Gayle. The next is that he had an affair with another woman, a nurse. The last is the cruelest. During the divorce process Tom could not accept that the custody of Gayle, his daughter was given to Susan. His cruelty is ended in a tragic murder of his wife, Susan (2013: 5.1).

The third related study is taken from Artriani's study based on the same novel and author, entitled *Gayle's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Resulted from Past Traumatic Experiences as Seen in Gayle Sanders' Mummy's Witness*. In her study, she focuses on analyzing the post-traumatic stress disorder resulted from Gayle's past traumatic experiences and how she copes with her past traumatic experiences. She concludes her study into three different parts. The study is stated as follows:

Then most horrible experience is when Gayle watches her father kill her mother (2010: 5.1.2).

Gayle's post traumatic stress disorder consists of three types. First is when Gayle has flashbacks and nightmares. The second type of post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms is being on guard. The last type of her past traumatic stress disorder is avoidance and emotional numbing (2010: 5.1.3).

Gayle does two types of actions in coping with her PTSD. Namely positive coping actions and negative coping actions. The first are positive coping actions which consist of two things. She solves her problems by calling a counselor for help and by practicing some relaxation methods. Second are negative coping actions which consist of two things. She solves her problems by using drugs and by isolating herself from others (2010: 5.1.4).

The last related study is taken from a study which has different source.

This study is written by Simon, entitled *Domestic Violence Revealed Through Elizabeth's Conflicts in Nicholas Sparks' The Lucky One*. The study focuses on analyzing how the conflicts between characters reveal the issue of domestic violence and what conflicts are experienced by Elizabeth. The study is stated as follows:

In the discussion from the analysis part it is concluded that the conflicts between Elizabeth and her ex-husband Keith Clayton reveal the violence that happens between a woman and the former spouse. In the conflicts experienced by Elizabeth were the conflicts of man-against-man and the conflicts of man-against-himself (2013: 44-45).

The three related studies have different objectives however, those are based on the same novel and author which is *Mummy's Witness* written by Gayle Sanders. The last related study is taken from different novel entitled *The Lucky One* written by Nicholas Sparks which also has different objectives. The first study mainly analyzes Gayle's motivation on why she regards her life as unfair as she lives with violence. The second study focuses on how the major character, Gayle, regards the violent actions committed against her mother. In the third study the writer tries to analyze the post-traumatic stress disorder resulted from Gayle's past traumatic experiences, she also analyzes how she copes with her past traumatic experiences. The last study is about revealing domestic violence through the conflicts experienced by Elizabeth.

This study is different from the previous related studies that have been discussed. However, the four related studies give the writer better understanding and ideas. In this study, the writer analyzes three important issues which are domestic violence and child abuse resulted from male domination. As the victims, Gayle Sanders and her mother, Susan Sanders, always involve in violence perpetrated by the head of the household, Tom Sanders. Thus, this study focuses on analyzing male domination in domestic area that can cause domestic violence and child abuse through the male character as the perpetrator in the novel. After that, the writer also analyzes the violence experienced by the victims deeply and put them into categories.

## **B. Review of Related Theories**

Review of Related theories discusses the theories that related to the problem formulation stated in the previous chapter. This part is importantly used in order to help the writer answer the problems in this study.

### **1. Character and Characterization**

Without characters, a story will lose its main focus because characters are what make a story. In general, character is the person made by the writers while characterization is the way the writers develop characters in a story.

Abrams explains the term characters as,

“The persons presented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferenced from what the persons say and their distinctive way of saying it – the dialogue – and from what they do – the action” (1999:3).

Based on that explanation, it can be concluded that characters are interpreted by the reader through their dialogue and action. They have the qualities in which each quality tells their characters as a person.

Another definition is taken from Roberts. He describes character as “an extended verbal representation of a human being, the inner self that determines thought, speech, and behavior” (1987:119). It is clearly defined that characters are the verbal representation of a human being made by the author in a literary work.

Not only the author of a literary work can create a character, but also he/she has ways in which each character can be defined by the reader. Murphy has nine ways in defining a character. The definition is stated as follows:

a. Personal description

The author can describe a person's appearance and clothes (1972:161).

b. Character as seen by another

The author can describe him through the eyes and opinions of another. The reader gets a reflected image (1972:162).

c. Speech

The author can give us an insight into the character of one of the persons through what that person says (1972:164).

d. Past Life

By letting the reader learn something about a person's past life the author can give us a clue to events that have helped to shape a person's character (1972:166).

e. Conversation of others

The author can also give us clues to the person's character through the conversations of other people and the things they say about him (1972:167).

f. Reactions

The author can also give us a clue to a person's character by letting us know how that person reacts to various situations and events (1972:168).

g. Direct comment

The author can describe or comment on a person's character directly (1972:170).

h. Thoughts

The author can give us direct knowledge of what a person is thinking about.

He can tell us what different people are thinking (1972:171).

i. Mannerism

The author can describe a person's mannerisms, habits or idiosyncrasies which may also tell us something about his character (1972:173).

**2. Patriarchy**

Madsen defines that "patriarchy as a cultural (ideological) system that privileges men and all things masculine, and a political system that places power in the hands of men" (2000; xii). Based on her statement, this patriarchal system is more favorable to men that it gives them all the power to control.

Moreover, Walby describes the term of patriarchy as,

"A system of social structures and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women. The term of social structure clearly implies the rejection both of biological determinism, and the notion that every individual man is a dominant position and every woman in a subordinate one" (1990:20).

She clearly mentions that in this system, every man is placed in the higher position than women. Thus, they have the privilege to oppress and exploit women.

Weber in Walby explains patriarchy as a system of government in which men ruled societies through their positions as heads of households. Furthermore, she mentions that patriarchy has two main forms which are private and public. Private patriarchy is based upon household as the main site of women's oppression. Public patriarchy is based principally in public sites such

as employment and the state (1990:24). Both forms are ruled over by men as they are given the power to easily oppress women.

Furthermore, feminist theory in Tracey's article states that "patriarchy, in any and all forms, is the ultimate cause of all abuse against women, for patriarchy is seen as the overarching social construct which ultimately engenders abuse" (2007: 576). From that explanation, this can be assumed that patriarchy potentially causes an abuse against women in which domestic violence is included because it engenders abuse.

Tracy states, "So many abusive men, in order to maintain their fragile sense of masculinity, they use physical force to keep their wives in their "proper place" (2007:583). His statement indicates that patriarchy is contributing to domestic violence as it allows men to use physical force towards their wives. It also shows that the use of physical forces against women is intended to hide their fragile masculinity. The physical force they use is to keep their wives in the "proper place" which is a lower position. They are, in fact, struggling to be the superior to dominate their wives as women.

Furthermore, Tracy in his article explains,

"While all forms of patriarchy can and do contribute to domestic violence, it appears that the models of patriarchy which give husbands the greatest levels of power and authority are most likely to stimulate domestic violence" (2007:594).

His explanation clearly describes that patriarchy has big contribution to stimulate domestic violence because the power and authority which are given to men are in the greatest levels. Knowing that they have the greatest levels of power and authority in domestic area, they take advantage of that opportunities.



Moreover, Sylvia Walby explains that,

“Patriarchy is composed of six structures: the patriarchal mode of production, patriarchal relations in paid work, patriarchal relations in the state, male violence, patriarchal relations in sexuality, and patriarchal relations in tures” (1990:20).

Based on her explanation, it can be assumed that male violence is an inseparable part of this system.

### 3. Domestic Violence

Human Rights Watch in Jackson’s article has the definition for the term of domestic violence. The definition is stated as follows:

Domestic violence is a form of aggression perpetrated by one family member against another. It includes a pattern of behaviors involving physical, sexual, economic, and emotional abuse, used alone or in combination, by an intimate partner often for the purpose of establishing and maintaining power and control over the other partner (2007:2).

According to the definition above, Human Rights Watch states that the perpetrator might be combining each pattern while attacking the victims in order to establish and maintain both power and control over them.

Harne and Radford have the definition for domestic violence. The definition is stated as follows:

Domestic violence incorporating many forms of physical violence, sexual violence and a range of coercive, intimidating and controlling behaviors. It is damaging physically, psychologically and socially. Domestic violence can occur in any intimate or familial relationship, irrespective of whether the parties are living together or not, whether they are married or cohabiting or living in three-generational extended family. It is this rational element, rather than location that defines the violence as ‘domestic’ (2008:2).

It is clear that based on the definition above, domestic violence goes into several forms; physical, sexual, coercive, intimidating and controlling

behaviors. This threatening behavior is usually done by intimate partners or the persons who are in familial relationships.

Ganley states that domestic violence is not an isolated, individual event, but rather a pattern of perpetrator behaviors used against a victim. The pattern consists of a variety of abusive acts, occurring in multiple episodes over the course of the relationship. She adds the explanation as follows,

domestic violence has many names: wife abuse, marital assault, woman battery, spouse abuse, wife beating, conjugal violence, intimate violence, battering, partner abuse. The use of specific term such as “woman abuse” is only to highlight the fact that most victims are women (1991:16).

Another definition is taken from UN Declaration on The Elimination of Violence against Women in Doak’s *Child Abuse and Domestic Violence*. The definition is stated as follows:

Violence against women “means any act of gender based violence that result in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life” (Doak, 2007: 1).

From the definition above, it can be concluded that domestic violence as gender based violence that targets women as the victims is potentially occurred in public or in private life.

Based on The Advocates for Human Rights on Stop Violence Against Women, there are four different forms of domestic violence that fit in this study.

a. Physical Violence

Involves the use of physical force against another. Examples include hitting, shoving, grabbing, biting, restraining, shaking, choking, burning, forcing drug/alcohol use, and assault with a weapon, etc. Physical violence may or

may not result in an injury that requires medical attention (stopvaw.org, 2013).

b. Psychological Abuse

It is often characterized as intimidation, threats of harms, and isolation. Examples include instilling fear in an intimate partner through threatening behavior, such as damaging property or abusing pets, constant supervision, or as a type of psychological abuse (stopvaw.org, 2013).

c. Emotional Abuse

Involves undermining and individual's sense of self-worth. Examples of emotional abuse include constant criticism, name-calling, embarrassing, mocking, humiliating, and treating like a servant (stopvaw.org, 2013).

d. Economic Abuse

Involves making or attempting to make the victim financially dependent on the abuser. Examples of economic abuse include preventing or forbidding an intimate partner from working or gaining education, controlling the financial resource, and withholding access to economic resource (stopvaw.org, 2013).

#### 4. Child Abuse

World Health Organization (WHO) in Child Abuse and Neglect by Parents or Caregivers has a complete definition for child abuse. The definition is stated as follows:

Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/ or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or

commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power (who.int, 2017).

From the definition above, any forms of negative treatment towards the children can be categorized as a child abuse or child maltreatment if it is affected or has potential to harm their condition under a relationship of responsibility, trust and even power.

Kempe in Corby's *Child Abuse* explains child abuse as a clinical condition in young children who have received serious physical abuse generally from a parent or foster-parent (Corby, 2006: 82). From his explanation, it can be concluded that basically this form of abuse towards children is the state of children's condition after they are abused physically by the perpetrator.

Another definition of child abuse is taken from Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. The definition is stated as follows:

Child abuse can be a single incident, or can be a number of different incidents that take place over time. Children are usually abused by someone they know in their own home, most of them a parent or a carer, rather than stranger. The causes of child abuse are complex and there is no single or simple explanation (4-9).

Based on that definition, it is clear that the perpetrators of child abuse are most likely people who have close relationship with the victims. Besides, this kind of abuse takes place over time. It means that this abuse towards children is done in a number of completely different incidents or sometimes it may happen in a single incident only.

Kelly and Bird have five categories of child abuse. However, the writer uses three categories only in this study.

a. Physical abuse

Physical abuse involves contact intended to cause feelings of intimidation, pain, injury, or other physical suffering or harm (2014:10).

b. Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse occurs when a child or young person is pressurized, forced or tricked into taking part in kind of sexual activity by an adult or another child (2014:10).

c. Emotional abuse

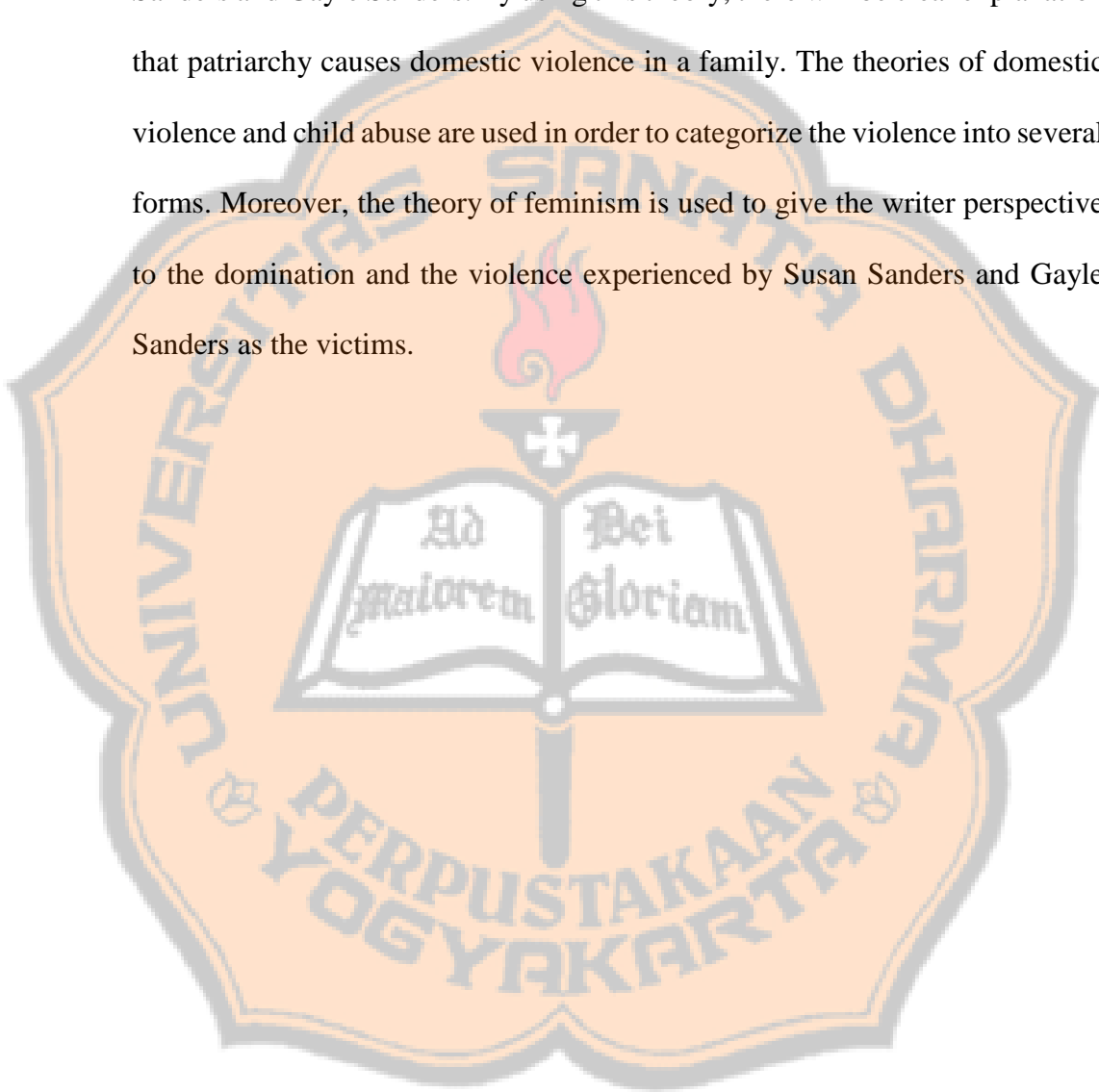
Emotional abuse, also referred to as psychological abuse, is an abuse of the mind. Some children are subjected to psychological harmful behavior which can cause them to lose confidence and their sense of self-worth (2014:11).

### **C. Theoretical Framework**

The theories and the review of related studies have contribution in answering the problems of the study. They are applied systematically in order to make them operationally applicable to the problem formulations written in the previous chapter.

To answer the first problem, the writer focuses on using the theory of character and characterization. The character of Tom Sanders as the head of the household has the significant information that is needed in this study. Then, by using the theory of patriarchy, there will be clear explanation on how male domination is presented in a family through the male character as the head of the household.

To answer the second problem, the writer uses the theory of patriarchy as well. This theory is used in this part to explain that male domination is the ultimate cause of domestic violence and child abuse experienced by Susan Sanders and Gayle Sanders. By using this theory, there will be clear explanation that patriarchy causes domestic violence in a family. The theories of domestic violence and child abuse are used in order to categorize the violence into several forms. Moreover, the theory of feminism is used to give the writer perspective to the domination and the violence experienced by Susan Sanders and Gayle Sanders as the victims.



## CHAPTER III

### METHODOLOGY

#### A. Object of the Study

A novel written by Gayle Sanders, a domestic violence coordinator, entitled *Mummy's Witness* which consists of 280 pages is used by the writer in this study. The novel was originally published in 2007 by Hodder & Stoughton Ltd, London which has sold over 38,000 copies. The novel is divided into 20 chapters in which each chapter tells about Gayle Sanders' struggle in facing child abuse and witnessing domestic violence experienced by her mother perpetrated by her own father.

The story began when four-year-old Gayle Sanders saw her father viciously abused her mother. Gayle also became the target of her father's brutality as his violent temper could erupt at any moments. She described her father as an abusive and authoritarian person who ruled over the house. At her age, she had to experience such a horrible situation when her father began to sexually abuse her and continue doing so for the next eight years. She suffered in silence as her father told her to keep quiet.

Her mother tried to fight back for their rights by filing for the divorce and finally won the permanent custody of Gayle. Not satisfied with the result, her father murdered her mother by hanging her in front of her eyes. Being the only witness of her mother's death, she lived with terror and trauma. After the

incident she was sent to see psychiatrist and went to the hospital. There she was raped by a male nurse and it became her turning point. Since then she tried to fight for her own rights and began to build her new happy life.

### **B. Approach of the Study**

The use of Feminist Criticism in this study is relevant because the issues found in the novel related to the power differential between men and women in the particular area. In the novel, there can be found that woman is being controlled and is placed in the subordination. Feminist Criticism will give the perspective on how the writer should see and analyze the problems.

Humm states that in general “feminism is the ideology of women’s liberation since intrinsic in all its approaches is the belief that women suffer injustice because of our sex” (1990:74). From her definition, it can be seen that feminism mainly focuses on the awareness of inequality between men and women because of their different sexes.

Bhasin and Khan in Ray explain the meaning of feminism. The explanation is stated as follows:

Feminism is an awareness of patriarchal control, exploitation and oppression at the material and ideological levels of women’s labour, fertility and sexually, in the family, at the place of work and in society in general, and conscious action by women and men to transform the present situation (1993:3).

From their explanation, it can be said that women are kept in the level where they do not have the rights to live as equal as men. They have been controlled, oppressed and exploited in the number of ways. This includes the action they take to gain equality.



### C. Method of the Study

This study was using library research as the method of the study. Library research is based on the written documents such as books and online journals as the references. The primary source of this study was a novel written by Gayle Sanders entitled *Mummy's Witness*. The secondary source were all the reviews on the novel.

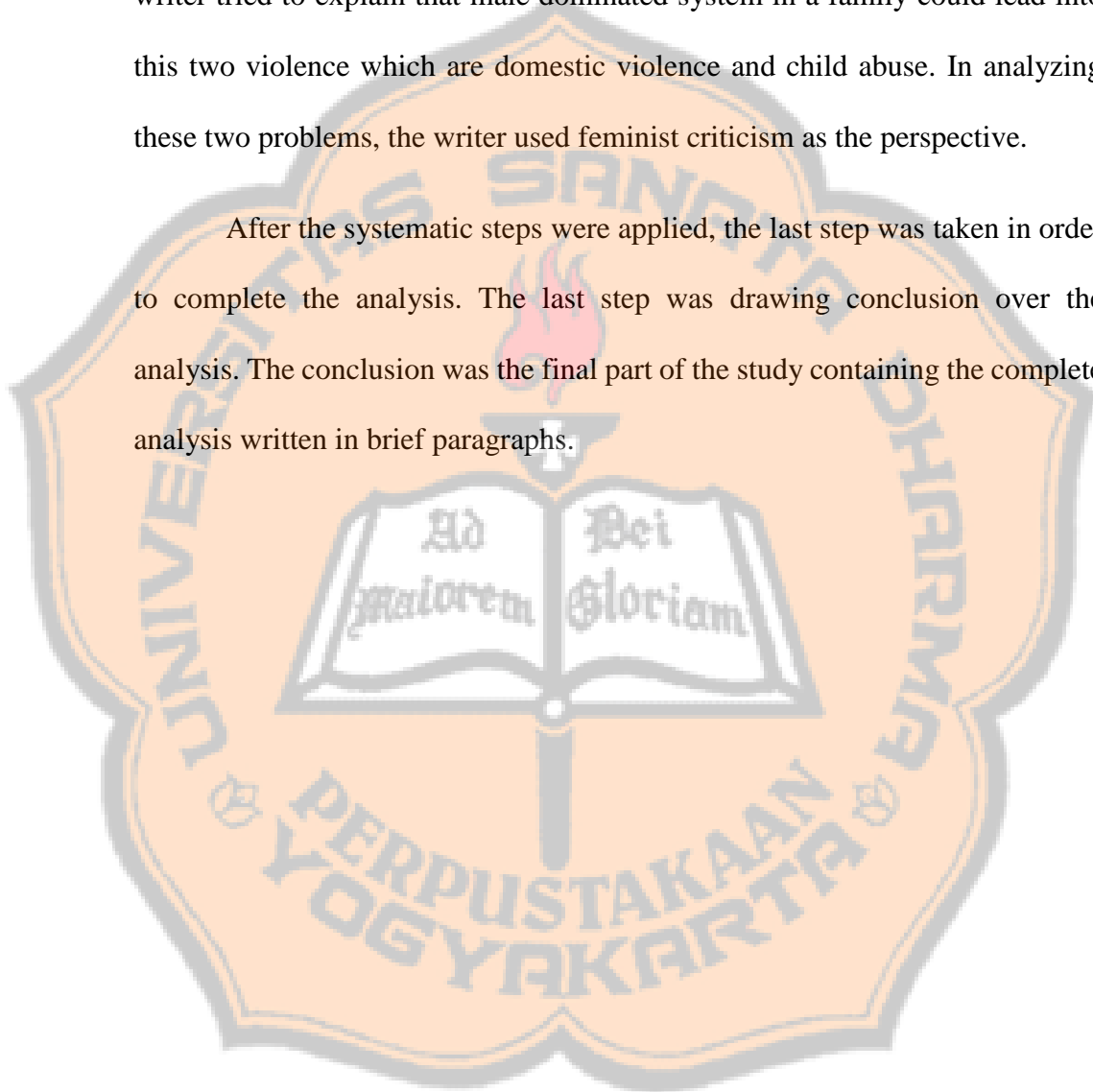
Systematic steps were applied for the analysis of the study. The first step was reading the primary source which has been mentioned in the previous paragraph. The writer read the novel deeply to understand the whole content of the story. In each chapter there were significant information that the writer should understand.

The second step was finding and understanding the theories stated in chapter two. By understanding the theories, the writer would not make mistakes in applying the theories to the analysis because each analysis has its own theories that should be applied. Besides, the right approach should be chosen which was Feminist Criticism.

The third step was the writer tried to answer the two problems by using the gathered theories. In this study, the writer focused on the issues of domestic violence and child abuse. They were resulted from patriarchy or male domination perpetrated by the male character who was Tom Sanders, a father and a husband.

To answer the first problem, the writer was using the theory of patriarchy. The theory of patriarchy was used to see how this situation is presented in the novel. After that, by using different theory of patriarchy, the writer tried to explain that male dominated system in a family could lead into this two violence which are domestic violence and child abuse. In analyzing these two problems, the writer used feminist criticism as the perspective.

After the systematic steps were applied, the last step was taken in order to complete the analysis. The last step was drawing conclusion over the analysis. The conclusion was the final part of the study containing the complete analysis written in brief paragraphs.



## CHAPTER IV

### ANALYSIS

This chapter contains the discussion and analysis of the study. The first problem is analyzed through the male character, Tom Sanders, as his characteristics and action reveal the issue of male domination in a family. The analysis of the second problem analyzes domestic violence and child abuse as the result of male domination experienced by Susan Sanders and Gayle Sanders. This analysis focuses on how male domination causes the violence in a family. After that, the writer gathers the theories and the evidences found in the novel in order to achieve the systematic analysis.

#### A. Male Domination in *Mummy's Witness*

In this part, the writer focuses on the male character who is Tom Sanders in order to reach the goal of the first problem in this study. It is important to see his characteristics and action because they give concrete and clear evidences on how he is pictured as the head of the household in the family. Besides, his characteristics are importantly studied to help the writer reveals the issue of male domination.

##### 1. The Domination of Tom Sanders in the Family

Based on Abram's theory on character, he describes character as "The persons presented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional

qualities” (1999: 32). These qualities are what the writer tries to find by interpreting Tom Sanders’ characteristics. He has the qualities as a character in the novel that has contribution in this analysis to support the study.

To interpret his characteristics, the writer uses two out of nine Murphy’s methods on defining character. The first method is character as seen by others. This method helps the writer to get the reflected image of his character as it is seen by the others in the novel. It means that “the author can describe him through the eyes and opinions of another” (1972:162). By using others’ opinion on Tom Sanders’ character, the writer can easily analyze him.

Based on that theory, Tom can be identified through the other character’s eyes and opinion. In this case the writer focuses on Gayle Sanders, his younger daughter, because she is the eyes of everything. She has the opinions and descriptions of him, and all the information that are needed to reveal his characteristics as a dominant person. She directly reveals and mentions his characteristics or how he is pictured as a father in the family.

In the novel, Tom Sanders is a husband and a father. He is the one who controls all aspects in the domestic area under his power. He is also the figure who would like to be respected in the family. As Gayle Sanders lives with her father, she absolutely understands her father’s characteristics. He is described by his younger daughter as “...accomplished, highly educated man with power and influence” (p.18). This might as well the indication of a dominant person in the family because he has everything a man needs to dominate.

Furthermore, she describes her father as the person who rules over everything. She clearly says “But behind this carefully contrived front he was intense, controlling and authoritarian” (p.24). Her statement about his father characteristics gives a concrete evidence that he is the dominant person in the family. He is the controller of all things and he is not allowing personal freedom to his all family members because everything should be done under his will.

The second method is speech. In this method, “the author can give us an insight into the character of one of the person through what the person says” (1972: 164). By using this method, the writer is able to analyze Tom Sanders’ character through what he says to others.

Based on that theory, Tom Sanders can be identified as a controller and the one to obey through what he says; “Gayle, get in the car.” (p.89). Tom Sanders is in serious argument with his wife when suddenly Gayle appears. After abusing his wife, he wants to take his younger daughter out. The order that Tom shouts directly to Gayle is the indication of his power in the family. Gayle truly understands that she must obey his order because there are no excuses.

He then tries to show his domination by winning the custody of Gayle, although it is an interim custody he is quite proud. She does not have any choice than being under the control of his controlling father for a little longer. He uses this situation to show his ability to easily dominate and take control over everything.

Moreover, when his wife wins the permanent custody of Gayle and they are officially divorced, he cannot hold his anger. He does not want to be the loser who loses everything he has achieved. He would not like to see both Gayle and her wife live their lives without him. This is when he decides to kill his wife, after that he walks into a police station and says “I’ve done it, I’ve finally killed her.” (p.123). From both situation and what he has said, it can be assumed that he always wanted to be the domination no matter what it costs. Thus, his characteristic reflects male domination in a family.

The theory of patriarchy mentioned in chapter two is used in this part of analysis. Based on the theory that has been applied, which is Walby’s theory, Susan Sanders and Gayle Sanders are being placed as the subordination in the family. Tom Sanders, on the other hand, is the superior who has power to dominate the subordinate one. Under his domination, Susan Sanders and Gayle Sanders’ position as the victims are not equally the same. They are placed in the position in which self-freedom is not allowed by the superior. He is the one who determines all aspects in the family under his huge control.

Furthermore, in the family, Susan Sanders and Gayle Sanders are the dominated victims while Tom Sanders as a husband and father is the perpetrator. It is a must to obey the rules made by Tom Sanders because he is in the higher position that has the rights to make decision. As head of the household, he uses his role as a weapon to rule over his victims by not giving them the equal rights to live their life.

Both Susan and Gayle cannot use their rights because Tom has the power to easily dominate, control and take over everything. Patriarchy or male domination is described through all the actions Tom Sanders has done and it is reflected through his character as the dominant.

From the beginning, Gayle describes her house as “Nightmare with no end” (p.11) as she lives under the domination of her father. It is not easy for Gayle and her mother, Susan, to get what they deserve as a family member. She states that “everything in our house was controlled by my father. He determined who went where and who did what” (p.17). It proves that his action in controlling both Susan and Gayle as he has great authority in the family describes the male domination. She also states “...and the atmosphere in the house was too oppressive” (p.17). It is obvious since Gayle and her mother, Susan, are being oppressed in the family for so long by their head of the household.

As patriarchy highlight the domination of male in particular area, Tom Sanders’ action in ruling the family clearly represents his dominance here. He is the decision maker and the controller whom action certainly pictures his position and power in the family or domestic area. He perfectly fits in the Weber’s definition of patriarchy; “patriarchy as a system of government in which men ruled societies through their positions as heads of households” (1989: 214).

In relation to Walby's theory on patriarchy that every individual man is a dominant position, it explains his needs to force her wife into the lowest position. As the superior, he would do anything to maintain his position. Under his power, Susan and Gayle do not have the chance to live their life as free as Tom does. He always has a way to show his superiority to all his family members. Gayle says "My mother was a housewife (p.12), she then explains

"My mother stayed home rather than going out of work. This might well have been her own choice but, judging by my father's reluctance to let her work in later years, it might also have been an early indication of his need to control everything she did" (p.21).

His father uses this case to strengthen his power to rule over his mother. This situation gives him the opportunity to easily dominate his jobless wife. He knows exactly how to make his wife stay in her position as the subordination by not letting her wife to have a job. As the result, his jobless wife will be fully dependent to him.

Not much that his wife can do, even she often has to deal with the lack of food "...my father kept her locked in the house for most of the time, without enough to eat" (p.22). Here, it can be seen how big his power in the family that his family member sometimes is not allowed to have food if he says so. None of them would protest about such thing, because they are too afraid of the consequences they might get. Gayle states "She was literally a prisoner in her own home and she became seriously malnourished" (p.22). All the actions he takes are meant to maintain his control towards wife directly. He does not afraid to torture his wife in the worst ways possible in order to be feared and respected as a perpetrator.



Gayle also describes his father as a person who can be angry over a small thing that it can leads into a punishment. She cannot do anything because she remembers that everything in the house must be done under his command. Even when she starts to enter school, it is her father's decision that should be obeyed, "We weren't Catholics, but my father considered that this was the best primary school in the area" (p.25). There is no room for discussion or for one to give opinions. When her father has commanded her to do things, she truly understands there is no excuse for her not to obey her father's command.

All the basic things in the house such as eating, sleeping, and talking cannot be done if they do not have his permission. Gayle and her mother, Susan, both of them are trapped in Tom's system of controlling. Gayle says "I never argued or protested about such things, I just did as I was told" (p.59). They do not have the bravery to do anything without asking first. She pictures her father as someone who can easily manipulate things "Our father was always either terrorizing us into doing as he wanted..." (p.64). This is one of many ways he uses to take control over his younger daughter. He is also perpetually trying to maintain his power over his wife, "Hard as my father tried to control her every move" (p.78).

Madsen states patriarchy as "system that places power in the hands of men" (2000; xii). Tom Sanders as the head of the household is given the power in this patriarchal system. He completely manages to describe male domination in a family through his action that reflects his character as a person who uses power to take control over the weak in the family.

## **B. Domestic Violence and Child Abuse in the Novel**

In this part, the writer focuses on analyzing the issue of domestic violence and child abuse resulted from patriarchy. Firstly, the writer analyzes how patriarchy can cause domestic violence. In analyzing the issues, the theory of patriarchy is importantly used to explain the relation between patriarchy and domestic violence. In the previous section, the writer has analyzed the description of male domination in a family done by the male character, Tom Sanders. Male domination in a family is presented through Tom Sanders' characteristics and actions as the head of the household.

The very first indication of patriarchy as the direct cause of domestic violence is supported by the feminist theory in Tracy "...that patriarchy, in any all forms, is the ultimate cause of all abuse against women, for patriarchy is seen as the overarching social construct which ultimately engenders abuse" (2007:576). Based on that explanation, patriarchy has a big contribution in causing violence against women in domestic area, because it is a system of social construct that gives a chance of engender abuse and to justify violence.

In the family, Susan Sanders has been dominated by Tom Sanders in most of the private form of patriarchy. This form is "based upon household production as the main site of women's oppression" (Walby, 1990:24). Because Tom is the head of the household, he believes he has the rights to have control over every aspect in domestic area by not letting others to take action or make decision. He clearly engenders abuse of his role as the head of the household. This main site of women's oppression has been found in the previous analysis

as Tom takes control over the production of the goods and services in his family. He does not let his wife to cook or even give her the opportunity to take care of their children.

Tom Sanders is portrayed as an abusive person who often does physical forces towards his family members. The use of physical forces against his wife are intended to keep her stay in her boundaries. The physical forces he uses are also done to maintain his wife in the “proper place” which is in the lower position under his abusive domination. His ultimate weapons in this case are his abusive behavior and violent temper. When he abuses his wife directly, there would not be any chance for her to simply live in an equal way.

Patriarchy clearly causes domestic violence because it gives a husband the great power and authority. As Gayle describes her father as “...a man with power” (2007: 18), it clearly portrays that he is totally a powerful head of the household in the family. This can also be the indication that as a powerful person he can possibly do anything to maintain his position. Also, as a man who is in the higher position, Tom Sanders has the rights to take action, make decision and even create rules to keep the subordinated victims in their lowest position under his domination.

There is always male violence in patriarchy or male domination because this is one of many structures it has in building the system (Walby, 1990:20). Inside this patriarchal system that triggers domestic violence, child abuse is included. In this case, he prefers to only abuse his younger daughter, Gayle Sanders, because he likes to. She says “there was absolutely no possibility of

avoiding or heading off an attack” she adds, “He did it because he felt like it” (p.14). Both Gayle and her mother are unable to do more than simply survive.

It can be found that there is also a certain reason of his abusive behavior towards his younger daughter. He assumes that she is most like her mother. It can be seen as she says “Like her, I seemed to irritate and annoy him simply by existing” (p.18). That is why he always abuses his younger daughter when he has the chance and “Perhaps that was why he disliked me so much” (p.18). The other two children are not being abused because Tom simply does not want to.

Secondly, in this study, the victim’s experiences of domestic violence and child abuse resulted from male domination are what the writer tries to discuss afterwards. In the novel there can be found four different forms of domestic violence experienced by Susan Sanders. Besides, there are three categories of child abuse experienced by Gayle Sanders.

### **1. Domestic Violence Experienced by Susan Sanders**

Based on theories stated in chapter two, domestic violence is a threatening behavior or abuse that is done by intimate partners. In the family, Susan Sanders has experienced these four forms of domestic violence.

#### **a. Physical Violence**

This form of domestic violence involves the use of physical force against another. “Physical violence may or may not result in an injury that requires medical attention” (stopvaw.org, 2013).

The violence that can be categorized into physical form is when Gayle witnesses her father starts to abuse her mother “He started hitting her. She stumbled backwards, and stumbled again as he pushed and shoved her” (p.9). Although her mother is crying and is heavy breathing, her father does not stop to abuse her mother viciously. “Then my father punched her hard and she fell. He turned and left, slamming the door behind him” (p.10). His action in torturing his wife using physical contact that occurs in multiple scenes is considered as a physical violence.

His brutality continues that he likes to “punch and kick her, twist her arms, throttle her and sit on her” (p.10). He keeps on torturing her wife in the worst way possible. Gayle says “But what is certain is that my father refused to call a doctor or an ambulance and she miscarried” (p.22). It shows how brutal his father can be that he leaves her mother miscarried. His physical force against his wife seems cannot be stopped. Gayle often witnesses the physical violence occurs in front of her eyes. Her father does not stop to abuse her mother when she is there, instead he keeps on doing it. “My father had been attacking my mother in the longue...punching her, followed by her gasps as she fell” (p.44).

All the physical forces she has received are classified as a physical violence because it concerns in the physical contact. “My mother was on the floor on her back and my father was on top of her, chocking her, his hands around her neck” (p.50). The torturing scene often happens without warning and sometimes he does this because he feels like it. “Then he began hitting her, in full view of Nan and me” (p.55). His character as an authoritarian and

controlling person can also be the reason of his brutality towards her. Being the perpetrator, he does not worry for what will happen to his wife because his focus is only to assault the victim. In front of other people, he acts as a humble and caring person but later his violent temper will take over. This situation is what Gayle often witnesses, “Once Louis had gone he might well launch himself at my mother, slamming her into the wall and twisting her arms” (p.67).

His physical violence towards his wife reaches its peak. He cannot hold his desire to torture his wife even more after knowing she files for the divorce. Gayle says “my father with his hands gripped tightly around my mother’s neck” and “at that point my father smashed his fist into my mother’s mouth” (p.101). The fact that they are officially divorced and his wife wins the custody cause his anger. He knows he will lose control over them if they are gone. Gayle witnesses her father begins to attack her mother viciously, “my father grabbed my Mum and began punching her head from both sides” (p.116). He uses his physical power as his weapon in attacking his wife to show that she cannot leave him just yet.

All his heavy-handed actions as the perpetrator completely describe the physical violence that Susan Sanders has to experience. “Then he began punching her all over her body, raining blows on her stomach, head, legs and arms” (p.116). He cannot control his anger and disappointment until he finally kills his wife in front of his daughter. “He pulled her over to the stairs, put the rope around her neck and began trying the other end to the banisters” (p.117). This action of killing is the result of his brutality at the end.

The final violence of a psychopath and abusive husband sends his wife straight to her death. His failure to act and treat his wife in the right way give an evidence to the existence of male domination or patriarchy in a family that can lead into domestic violence.

#### **b. Psychological Abuse**

Psychological abuse is targeted to attack the victim psychologically in order to show the perpetrator's ability to control. Moreover, through this action of threatening behavior, the perpetrator wants to gain the victim's fear. By fear, the victim will not have the bravery to fight back because there is always consequence for this. As the result, it will be easier for the perpetrator to take action. "Psychological abuse aims to create fear within the victim. Besides, psychological abuse often characterized as intimidation, threats of harms, and isolation" (stopvaw.org, 2013).

The action that is categorized into psychological abuse is when Tom tries to isolates Susan from her children, "...or playing psychological games – in John and Sarah's case, games that were intended to alienate them from our mother" (p.64). By attempting this kind of abuse, the goal is to create isolation between the victim. Being isolated from her children creates a feeling of abandon that will damage her psychological condition. When her psychological is damaged, there will be a huge chance for him to keep attacking. Furthermore, he also has the chance to play with her damaged psychology in which it will be easier for him to take control.

As the perpetrator of domestic violence he does not always attach to weak, defenseless person, but more often to strong characters. This presents him with bigger challenge, which he finds exciting. This is why damaging her psychological is important in order to break her from within. Creating gap between her and her younger daughter is one of many ways he has done. Gayle says “but he did make sure that we were never able to be close because he was always there between us, and terrorizing both of us” (p.64). When she does not have people around, the feeling of being alienated is more intense. Thus, attacking and controlling his wife are more effortless to achieve.

The use of children to attack her psychology is effective since he finds his wife still can be controlled. However, after knowing that she has finally filed the divorce, he does not want to let her win the custody. Gayle states “my father was granted interim custody of me until permanent custody could be decided.” (p.97-98). By owning temporary custody, he can create tension to challenge his wife. His plan is to show his ability in destroying her life as a perpetrator by taking over everything important that she has in her life.

### **c. Emotional Abuse**

One of domestic violence forms is intended to attack the victim emotionally. This abuse “involves undermining and individual’s sense of self-worth” (stopvaw.org, 2013). Not only Tom Sanders is attacking Susan’s psychological, but he is also trying to weaken her emotional. Attacking her psychology and emotion will create a huge impact to her condition that makes her more fragile. That is why Tom always tries to attack her emotion at all costs.



In order to break her emotion, he often uses verbal abuse shouted right in front of her face. This violence is targeted to lower her self-worth as a human being. This can be seen through his action below

“He was saying cruel, nasty things to my mother. She had stop ironing and was beginning to back away as he came closer, shouting his angry, hurtful words in her face, his voice big and powerful” (p.9).

Once Tom successfully damages her emotion, she will lose her confidence as a mother and wife. At this time, Tom will take pleasure to break her emotion constantly, “as he tortured and humiliated her, leaving her weeping and in agony.” (p.11).

As the perpetrator, he always tries to show how disrespectful he is to his victim. Again, the aim of this abuse is to make his victim less confidence. “He liked to belittle and humiliate my mother, laughing loudly at her and calling her names, or telling her that she was useless” (p.15). When she is not confident with herself, she is not able to fight for her rights because she believes she does not deserve the better things she might get in life. The lack of respect he has towards his wife make her begins to think of herself as a fool. This condition is what he tries to achieve to damage her emotional. He then starts to attack her again by “snarling insults at her” (p.44).

Not having the confidence to act as herself, she is trapped under his domination and huge control. He always has that intimidating look which makes the tension more oppressive. He will always take advantage of this situation such as,

“He would humiliate her by laughing at her, a loud, roaring, exaggerated laugh. If she became angry he’d always jeer at her. At other times he’d stare at her, his eyes following her every move, saying over and over

again in a slow, menacing voice: ‘You’re mad, you’re mental bad, evil, no good’ (p.74).

Those words are shouted right in front of her face so that she will be more less confident of herself as a human being.

#### **d. Economic Abuse**

This form of abusive behavior involves making or attempting to make the victim financially dependent on the abuser (stopvaw.org, 2013). By making the victim dependent on the perpetrator, it strengthens the perpetrator’s power and control over the victim. Tom’s huge domination in the family has reached all aspects in the domestic area when he tries to “control the financial resource and even withholding access to economic resource” (stopvaw.org, 2013).

Since Susan does not have the strength to fight back, Tom easily manages to dominate her in every aspect. After attacking her physically, psychologically and emotionally, he then tries to control her by not letting her to have intervention in the economic aspects. It is forbidden for her to have control or simply get a job to support herself. It can be seen by this condition,

“My mother stayed at home rather than going out to work. This might well have been her own choice but, judging by my father’s reluctance to let her work in later years, it might also have been an early indication of his need to control everything she did” (p.21).

If she is jobless, his dominance in the economic aspect has been accomplished because she will be dependent on him.

He also easily limits her control in the economic resources. He totally does not want her to have control in this aspect of life. It can be seen below

“it was just that the buying and preparing of food simply didn’t happen a lot of time. If my mother made it to the kitchen to cook, my father

might well begin attacking her and on those occasions the meal would not reach the table” (p.25).

He is too oppressive and controlling that she cannot simply move out and call for help. This condition really strengthens his power and control as an abusive perpetrator.

These four forms of domestic violence have been experienced by Susan Sanders in her life since she lives with her abusive husband, Tom Sanders. She has been attacked from every possible way that she finally died in her husband's hands. He does not stop there; he then begins to attack his younger daughter just as brutal as he ever does to his wife.

## **2. Child Abuse Experienced by Gayle Sanders**

Tom Sanders does not fulfill his responsibility as a good father to his younger daughter, instead she becomes the target of his abusive behavior. He fails to act as a parent who must protect and take care of his child. As she lives with this abusive and authoritarian father, Gayle Sanders has to experience three categories of child abuse.

### **a. Physical abuse**

Gayle Sanders is very little when her own father starts to abuse her as his abusive behavior can erupt at any moment. At a very young age, she has to face the reality that she has become the victim of an abusive perpetrator. The same perpetrator who abuses her mother until she finally dies. At the beginning, her father begins to attack her physical whenever he needs to.

It is clear that in this category of child abuse, the perpetrator attacks the victim physically. Kelly and Bird state “Physical abuse involves contact intended to cause feelings of intimidation, pain, injury, or other physical suffering or harm” (2014:10)

Tom Sanders sometimes does not have particular reasons to abuse her because his abusive mood can appear unexpectedly. She is forced to be ready for the situation like this. She says

“His mood would change suddenly and if I was his target the first I would know of it was when he would suddenly get up, stride over to me and hit me on the legs or across my back, often until I fell to the floor” (p.15).

It is that easy for him to abuse his younger child and that she does not need to make mistake to be abused. He also does not have the guilty feeling after beating his own child because this is a normal thing for him. She says “I was four when my father, always heavy-handed and rough, pushed me over one day in the hall...” (p.34).

Gayle experiences multiple attacks done by his own father without any chances to escape. She does not receive the affection or love from her father, instead he gives her physical abuse. As a child who has been tortured by her father, she clearly does not have the power to fight back. He is too much big and powerful that one hitting can make her unconscious. All the cruel things he has done to his younger child are categorized into physical abuse. He does all the torturing scenes himself under his power and control.

**b. Sexual abuse**

His brutality towards his younger daughter, Gayle Sanders, has finally come to the worst. Not only that her physical is damaged but also that her life as a female has been broken brutally. This time her father has gone too far, he tries to not let her daughter to get a life in the future. He tries to damage everything within her when he begins to sexually abuse her.

Kelly and Bird states “Sexual abuse occurs when a child or young person is pressurized, forced or tricked into taking part in kind of sexual activity by an adult or another child” (2014:10).

This category of child abuse has to be experienced by little Gayle. She describes the horrible violence sadly,

“When I was four my father had begun sexually abusing me – and he was to continue doing so for the next eight years. The first time it happened I was terrified, shocked and bewildered” (p.28).

For twelve years long, she has to experience the horror of sexual abuse done by her own father. Being sexually abused since four years old, her father has done everything to keep her quiet. He threatens her in every way possible so that no one will ever discover his crime. He knows he has power and control; thus he uses these excuses to make his victim to do things he wants.

His sexual abuse towards her is unpredictable, it is just an outburst as his sexual desire appears and he is the one who knows it. She never sees the warning comes, she says

“I couldn’t predict when the sexual abuse would happen, either. The threat was always there, and sometimes he would molest me often, while at other times he might wait for days or even a couple of weeks” (p.29).

This abuse causes her constant fear and anxiety that she is often wetting her bed. She never breathes a word about what has happened to her because she is much too afraid of getting in trouble. She has no choice except being a good girl by never telling anyone the case.

Because there is no single person figure out what he has done to his younger daughter, he keeps on doing this brutal violence to her. He always finds a way to sexually abuse her in any situation. He never gets tired of this torturing scene until she finally reaches the age of ten. Gayle says

“I had to share a tent with my father and he would molest me while the boys slept. I’m sure he took me along solely for this purpose, and it was torturing” (p.43).

She clearly does not have any chance except to let her father does his job. She always frightens but still has to stay quiet as he tells her to.

“My father was still regularly sexually abusing me. I had never told anyone – it didn’t even occur to me to do so, as I was far too frightened of the consequences” (p.79).

It can be said when he does the sexual abuse, it is also because he believes he has the rights to do so since he has power. He clearly misuses his authority as the head of the household.

### **c. Emotional abuse**

To make his victim stay on the line and under his control, he then attacks her emotional. “This emotional abuse, also referred to as psychological abuse, is an abuse of the mind. Some children are subjected to psychological harmful behavior which can cause them to lose confidence and their sense of self-worth” (2014:11).

The act that is categorized into this emotional abuse is when Gayle gradually loses her confidence because there is a lack of love in the family. None of the family members ever help her to grow up as a confident, strong and happy child. As she says “There was no affection of any kind, either between my parents or from them towards us” (p.15). One of many jobs a parent has to do is to give affection and love to the children. Instead, this family do not have it because they live under an abusive head of the household. She says,

“As a small child I left unloved and unnoticed. I longed to be cuddled, but my mother was too frightened and traumatized to be able to give me much attention” (p.16).

Tom Sanders, as a perpetrator does not let them to have close relationship to one another because it is easier for him to attack when they are separated. He clearly manages to separate them; it is proved when Gayle says “There was very little meaningful contact or communication between us” (p.16).

Because she does not have confidence within herself, she finds it really hard to socialize with other people in the school. She says “I was miserably unhappy. I made a terrible start...” (p.48). He successfully makes her younger daughter as an insecure person in front of other people.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

This chapter contains the conclusion of the analysis written in the previous chapter. There are two problems that have been analyzed using theories which are considered to be the most relevant and appropriate. The result of the first problem reveals that male domination occurs in a family is presented through Tom Sanders' character and actions as head of the household. The result of the second problem explains that male domination is the ultimate cause of domestic violence and child abuse in the family. Besides, all the violence experienced by Susan Sanders and Gayle Sanders as the victims have their own forms.

Firstly, male domination is presented through Tom Sanders' character and actions as the head of the household. He is totally the dominant person in the family. It is revealed that he is an abusive authoritarian person with power and control. Thus, he is the decision maker and the controller in the family. He rules over Susan Sanders and Gayle Sanders and pushes them to stay as the subordination. He does not allow personal freedom to his wife and younger daughter. Moreover, he oppresses and exploits them in every aspect of domestic and personal life. Under this patriarchal system, as the superior he has full control over everything.



Secondly, male domination in a family is the ultimate cause of domestic violence because he missuses his power and authority. He legalizes violence as a way to keep his victims. Besides, it also justifies the domestic violence and child abuse which are done by the perpetrator. Having the total power and authority to dominate and take control, Tom Sanders legalizes physical force to keep the victims in the lower position. Not only domestic violence, child abuse is included because as it has been analyzed, there is always a chance of engenders abuse. As a perpetrator of domestic violence, Tom Sanders totally does not care who the victims are. He strongly relies on violence in order to maintain his power and authority. As the result, there are domestic violence and child abuse.

Susan Sanders has experienced four forms of domestic violence which are physical violence, psychological violence, emotional violence and economic abuse. All four forms of domestic violence she has experienced is perpetrated by her own husband, Tom Sanders. Besides, her younger daughter, Gayle Sanders has experienced child abuse perpetrated by the same person. There are three categories of child abuse which are experienced by Gayle; physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. Some of the violence they have experienced happen in an unpredictably period of time.

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## APPENDIX

### Summary of Gayle Sanders' *Mummy's Witness*

Gayle lives in a house ruled over by her father, Tom Sanders, with his unpredictable and monstrous behavior. Crimes like domestic violence and child abuse take place in this private place. At a very young age, she has to witness her father viciously abuse her mother whenever he wants to. She also becomes the target of his father's brutality. Both Gayle and her mother, Susan, cannot do anything but simply survive.

As a perpetrator, her father manages to manipulate things under his control. No one knows what is exactly happening inside the closed door because her father always forces all family members to appear like a happy and loving family. This situation gives him the chance to keep abusing his wife and younger daughter.

His cruelty reaches its peak when he begins to sexually abuse his younger daughter, Gayle. She has been warned not to reveal anything, he then continues to do so for several years. When finally, her mother figures out what has happened to her daughter, she files for the divorce. After a long process, her mother wins the custody of her.

Knowing that her father now totally loses control over them, he attacks her mother brutally. He kills her mother by hanging her in front of her eyes. As a child, she cannot do anything to help her mother. Being the only witness, she is deeply traumatized by the horrible event she has witnessed.