

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Mollie Burkhart's narrative, as depicted in *Killers of the Flower Moon* (2023), is a compelling exploration of resistance against systemic oppression and patriarchal structures. Mollie's struggle against the exploitation and violence perpetrated by both her husband and broader societal forces highlights the deeply entrenched patriarchal norms of early 20th-century America. The legal and social systems, dominated by white men, exploit the Osage people's oil wealth, severely limiting Mollie's autonomy and opportunities. This dynamic is vividly illustrated through her interactions with the justice system, where her fight for justice is continually thwarted by oppressive structures.

Ernest, Mollie's husband, plays a significant role in her challenges. Initially reluctant, he becomes actively involved in the scheme to murder Osage individuals, including members of Mollie's family. His actions, influenced by his uncle Hale, betray Mollie and further complicate her struggle. Ernest Burkhart's role in this narrative reveals how patriarchal and colonial manipulations permeate personal relationships and influence individual actions. This manipulation not only perpetuates injustices against the Osage but also illustrates the broader mechanisms of control that sustain systemic violence and exploitation.

Despite these obstacles, Mollie's determination to seek justice remains unwavering. Her interactions with federal authorities reveal her indomitable spirit

and commitment to justice. Mollie's plea to the President and her efforts to secure federal intervention demonstrate her role as a feminist agent challenging the oppressive structures that have led to the murder of her family and the exploitation of her community. Her resilience is further exemplified by her efforts to bring national attention to the crimes affecting the Osage Nation. Mollie's actions, from seeking support from the sheriff to her direct appeal to the President, embody a powerful resistance against both patriarchal and colonial oppression.

Mollie's role within her family and community, along with her struggle against gender roles and power dynamics, challenges traditional expectations and highlights the complexities of her identity. Her ability to navigate and assert her agency in a patriarchal society, despite attempts to undermine her, reflects feminist ideals of defiance and empowerment. Mollie's actions and persistent quest for justice serve as a poignant critique of the systemic violence and exploitation faced by the Osage people.

In conclusion, Mollie Burkhart's story is a powerful testament to the intersection of gender, race, and power in a patriarchal and colonial context. Her struggle against systemic oppression, her confrontation with manipulative forces, and her ultimate triumph in securing justice reflect a profound critique of the societal structures that seek to marginalize and control. Through Mollie's resilience and pursuit of justice, we gain a deeper understanding of the broader dynamics of feminist resistance and the potential for individuals to challenge and disrupt entrenched systems of oppression.