

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

This chapter presents the conclusions drawn from Eloise Bridgerton's analysis in the previous chapter. In the Netflix series *Bridgerton*, Eloise Bridgerton emerges as a compelling representation of liberal feminism, actively challenging the restrictive gender roles imposed on women during the Regency era. Through her critical stance against societal expectations, her intellectual curiosity, and her defiance of traditional femininity, Eloise embodies the ideals of gender equality and personal autonomy. Her character serves as both a critique of patriarchal constraints and an inspiration for modern audiences seeking progressive female role models.

From the beginning, Eloise rejects the notion that a woman's worth is determined by her ability to secure a suitable marriage. Unlike most debutantes in her social circle, she does not aspire to conform to the expectations imposed upon young women of her time. Instead, she openly expresses her disdain for the rigid norms that dictate a woman's life choices, highlighting the oppressive nature of a system that prioritizes marriage over intellectual growth. This perspective positions her as a feminist voice within the series, advocating for an alternative path where women are valued for their intelligence and ambitions rather than their marital prospects.

One of the defining aspects of Eloise's feminist ideology is her persistent questioning of power structures that marginalize women. Her pursuit of Lady Whistledown's identity is not merely a fascination with gossip but a deeper inquiry

into how women navigate societal limitations. By attempting to uncover the truth, Eloise exposes the power of female voices and the necessity of women controlling their narratives. Her relentless search for Lady Whistledown reflects a broader feminist critique of how society silences and manipulates women, underscoring the importance of reclaiming agency in a world that seeks to diminish female autonomy.

Eloise's actions throughout the season also illustrate her resistance to male-dominated authority. She frequently challenges her older brothers, particularly Benedict and Anthony, when they attempt to impose traditional expectations upon her. Her defiance against male control reinforces the idea that women should not be confined to submissive roles but should instead have the freedom to make their own choices. Furthermore, her interactions with her mother, Lady Violet, highlight the generational divide in feminist perspectives. While Eloise respects her mother's experiences, she refuses to accept marriage and motherhood as the sole measure of a woman's success.

Another crucial element of Eloise's character is her unwavering support for female solidarity. Despite her contrasting personality and social status compared to her best friend, Penelope Featherington, Eloise remains loyal and protective. She values friendship over societal expectations, recognizing that women should support one another rather than compete for male validation. This theme of female empowerment is evident in her encouragement of other women to break free from imposed roles, reinforcing the message that collective resistance is vital for progress.

Ultimately, Eloise Bridgerton represents a progressive reimagining of the Regency-era woman who dares to question, resist, and redefine the boundaries

imposed upon her gender. Her character encapsulates the principles of liberal feminism through her pursuit of knowledge, rejection of traditional gender norms, and advocacy for autonomy. As she continues to challenge societal expectations, she serves as a thought-provoking figure within *Bridgerton* and an inspiration for contemporary audiences striving for gender equality. Eloise's story urges viewers to reconsider women's historical and modern struggles, encouraging them to challenge injustice and seek more significant opportunities for female empowerment. In doing so, she becomes more than a rebellious character; she symbolizes progress, resilience, and hope for a more inclusive future.