

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Jennifer Saint's "Ariadne" (2021) reimagines Greek mythology from a female-centered perspective, using feminist literary criticism to explore the agency and vulnerability of characters like Ariadne and Phaedra. Through intrinsic elements such as characterization, setting, and conflict, the novel highlights women's struggles in a patriarchal society. Ariadne is portrayed as compassionate and resilient, grappling with loyalty and betrayal; Phaedra as intelligent yet constrained by political marriages and disillusionment. Settings like Knossos, Athens, and Naxos symbolize confinement and transformation, while conflicts reveal the tension between personal desires and systemic oppression, underscoring how patriarchy treats women as commodities.

The novel also examines extrinsic concepts, showing patriarchy as a dominant force reinforced by religion and paternal control, as seen in Minos's authority over his daughters, Husband control over Phaedra. Female agency emerges through acts like Ariadne's moral choices and survival, and Phaedra's strategic manipulation, but it coexists with vulnerability, evident in Ariadne's abandonment and Phaedra's objectification. This aligns with feminist theorists who argue that agency and vulnerability intertwine under oppression.

Ultimately, "Ariadne" critiques ancient patriarchal structures while resonating with modern discussions on women's rights, autonomy, and resilience,

illustrating the ongoing balance between subjugation and resistance. By foregrounding women's voices, the novel encourages readers to reflect on how these mythological struggles mirror contemporary challenges, emphasizing the importance of compassion, defiance, and resilience in the face of systemic barriers.

