A Thousand Splendid Suns Motif Quote Tracker

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| **Motif: The Role of Women** | | | | | |
| **Situation paraphrased** | **Setting** | **Characterization** | **Conflict** | **Resolution to the conflict** | **Analysis/ Motif Development** |
| Mariam’s illegitimate birth and her innocence in understanding her mother’s “cruelty” when trying to protect her. | “Nana had been one of the house keepers. Until her belly began to swell. When that happened, nana said the collective gasp of Jalil’s family sucked the air out of Heart” (6).  “The next day, he had her gather her few things from the servants’ quarters, where she’d been living, and sent her off” (7).  “‘You know what he told his wives by way of defense? That I had *forced* myself on him’” (7). | “’You are a clumsy little *harami*. This is my reward for everything I have endured. An heirloom-breaking, clumsy little *harami’”* (4). | “’ I want you to take me tour cinema,’” (26).  “That’s not a good idea,’ said Nana… ‘Maybe your mother is right…’ ‘You see? Your father agrees’” (26).  “’Tomorrow. At noon. I’ll meet you at this very spot’’ (29)  “She waited until her legs were stiff”(30) | “…she did not go back to the Kolba…[she], for he first time headed down the hill for Heart” (30)  “’Jalil Khan says that I need to take you back. Right now. Do you understand’” (34).  “They had been disgraced by her birth and this was the chance to erase, once and for all, the last trace of their husband’s scandalous mistake” (48) | By the end of this situation, Mariam is able to understand what Nana has been saying when she says that “’ Women like us. We endure” (19). She realizes that she will have to endure, because as Nana had predicted, “’Like a compass needle that points north, a man’s accusing finger always finds a woman. |
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