

Reclaiming the Silenced: A Comparative Study of Briseis and Ragini across Literature and Cinema

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Abstract: *This study offers a comparative exploration of female agency, trauma, and resistance in Pat Barker's The Silence of the Girls (2018) and Mani Ratnam's Raavanam (2010), examining how literature and cinema reinterpret myth and history through distinct narrative mediums. Both texts reframe canonical stories—the Trojan War and the Ramayana—from the perspective of women who have been marginalized within patriarchal and heroic discourses. Briseis, a captive queen in Barker's novel, and Ragini, a kidnapped woman in Ratnam's film, exist within worlds shaped by violent male conflicts, yet each navigates her captivity and trauma differently. Through Briseis's interior narration, Barker transforms silence into testimony, allowing her to reclaim authorship over her experience and to expose the moral cost of masculine glory. Conversely, Ragini's resistance unfolds through performance and moral confrontation, as Ratnam uses visual and emotional language to challenge binaries of heroism and villainy. By juxtaposing these works, the paper underscores how cross-medium storytelling interrogates the enduring structures of patriarchy and redefines what it means for silenced women to speak, endure, and transform myth into lived human truth.*

Keywords: Reinterpretation, Patriarchy, Marginalized, Juxtaposing.

