

AP Q3

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The themes of power contrast into the plots of many plays to recognise certain attributes of characters the author shapes, and to raise story conflicts. In the play Women Like a River Falling From The Sky, we see the desires of each character both seek and gain power. The power that all the characters desire to reach is a called "Paradise." This power allows the characters to understand the full truth, and how they had to seek for power within themselves. Throughout Elena's journey, the audience sees her struggle to find her true identity because she doesn't have power over her own life, but through self-empowerment by validating her worthiness, Elena is able to gain the power she needs.

The first time Elena appears in the play, we find out that her story is a complete wreck. She has been victimised by a rapist at the age of eleven and struggles to find her own truth within herself because she doesn't have the strength to find her own empowerment. This rapist has taken control over Elena's mind, unable to seek her own power. "I don't know if I was told it was wrong or if just the silence around it made it feel wrong, but it was silent. Everyone else was silent. But I suppose I was silent too." Elena has lost her identity and little by little her progress of reaching paradise is nowhere near.

Her friend Azucena, a mentor through Elena's journey, helps her define who she is and gain power. Through the process, Elena finds it difficult to make a distinction between her previous thoughts and the new ones she needs to create. After being victimised, her power seemed forever lost because she can never erase such a powerful moment that has happened to her at a very young age. No one else in her community has ever experienced such a horrid moment and she makes it clear to the audience that her childhood has been taken away from her. Azucena guides Elena to attain her power, the power of forgetting. This power wasn't clear to Elena at first but in her last moments of her monologue she finally distinguishes that once she was able to find her truth, she was also able to find her worthiness. "Because if you forget, you win."

The author, Emily Ritger, purposefully uses complex language and jumping from one story to another for the audience to keep up with the struggles of power. Ritger herself has struggled with power and through her experiences and other people she has interviewed, her play has been touched by audiences throughout the years. The main idea she portrays in her play is asking ourselves are we worthy enough for this power? This question not only makes us wonder if we are able to manage to seek and gain power on our own but also if this power gives us justice of our own thoughts. Just like Elena, we have to find our own truth to really justify if our power is worthy enough, and when it is, we are able to attain it and claim it as our own paradise.