

**GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH LIBERAL FEMINISM:
A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE PROTAGONIST IN
ELIZABETH RUDNICK'S *MULAN* (2020)**

A THESIS

By

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**SUBMITTED TO
THE FACULTY OF LITERATURE
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The writer,

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APPENDICES

Appendix I

Biography of the Author

Elizabeth Rudnick is a scriptwriter and novelist known for adapting beloved stories for a younger audience. A strong education in English at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) has enhanced Rudnick's storytelling ability, character development, and narrative structure, which characterize her writing style. The background of Elizabeth Rudnick, the author of this movie novel, is remarkable. While she was at Middlebury College in Vermont, Rudnick became a senior editor at Disney Press in New York City, focusing on literature. Because of her love for children's books, she entered the publishing field at Columbia University. Elizabeth began working as an editor at Disney Hyperion and has always been in that world, whether it's working online, editing, looking for character background ideas, or troubleshooting. During her tenure at Disney Hyperion, Elizabeth took the time to get to know each author and the world they created to help them in the process of bringing a book to life. Elizabeth writes herself when not working as a freelance agent or editor. As well as her interest in middle grade, she has also adapted over 30 books, including bestsellers *Cinderella* and *Beauty and the Beast* and original stories based on hit movies such as *Frozen* and *Pete's Dragon*. She is also open to writing for people of all ages.

Rudnick became popular as the scriptwriter for the live-action film adaptation of “*Mulan*”, which was released in 2020. This adaptation covers more in-depth topics of empowerment, identity, and the fight against social norms. In her portrayal of the character of *Mulan*, Rudnick demonstrates her courage and passion, showing the journey of a young woman who challenges traditional gender roles to protect her family and maintain honor. She

encourages audiences to accept their own identities and challenge social expectations with her adaptations. In addition to writing the script, Rudnick also advocates for women in the media. She plays an important role in promoting gender equality and encouraging young people to achieve their dreams by creating characters that reflect resilience and empowerment.

Appendix II

The Summary of the Movie Script

Disney's *Mulan* was officially released in September 2020. The name "Mulan" is inspired by "The Ballad of Mulan," a long narrative poem from China's Northern Dynasty. The story follows *Mulan*, a young woman determined to fight for women's rights, challenging the traditional gender roles of her time. Disguising herself as a man, she joins the army to save her ailing father. On the battlefield, *Mulan* achieves unexpected success but declines the emperor's rewards, as her sole desire is to restore her family's honor and reunite with them after the war. The narrative highlights Mulan's courage and kindness, making her a beloved figure in Chinese culture.

The creative strategy for Disney's *Mulan* began in 1998 with the release of the animated film, which was then adapted into a live-action movie in 2020. The adaptation made some changes to the original story's structure, yet it retained its core themes, resulting in a film that resonated worldwide. *Mulan* received high praise for its touching storyline and exceptional production, earning awards globally. It garnered positive reviews on major film review platforms, with Douban.com, a Chinese review site, rating it 7.9 out of 10, and Rotten Tomatoes in the U.S. giving it an 86 out of 100.

Appendix III

Her Literary Works

1. *Thor* 2011
2. *Cinderella: Junior Novel* 2015
3. *Disney Frozen: A Frozen Heart* 2015
4. *Beauty and the Beast Novelization* 2017
5. *Maleficent Mistress of Evil* 2017
6. *Christopher Robin: The Novelization* 2018
7. *Aladdin* 2019
8. *Disney Aladdin* 2019
9. *The Lion King: The Novelization* 2019
10. *Mulan* 2020