

# Reception an Analysis of Women's Roles in Bihar Jafarian's "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today"

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## ABSTRACT

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This study aims to explore the reception of Bihar Jafarian's novel "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today" through Stuart Hall's reception theory, focusing on the portrayal of women and the diverse interpretations it elicits. Jafarian's narrative presents women navigating a patriarchal society with strength and determination, embodying struggles and triumphs that resonate with diverse audiences. The portrayal is both challenging and empowering, aligning with broader feminist discourses. Utilizing Stuart Hall's reception theory, the study employs a three-stage model: encoding, decoding, and negotiation. It analyzes how readers interpret and engage with the text based on their cultural and ideological backgrounds. Research findings the reception of Jafarian's novel varies widely among readers, reflecting dominant-hegemonic, negotiated, and oppositional readings. Dominant-hegemonic readers celebrate the novel as a tribute to women's strength and resilience, while negotiated readers appreciate its contributions while critiquing its limitations. Oppositional readers challenge dominant narratives, emphasizing the need for systemic change.

## 1. Introduction

The reception of a film is a crucial aspect of its overall impact and influence on audiences (Lestari & Suprpto, 2020). In the context of Bihar Jafarian's "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today," understanding the reception of the film is essential to analyze the portrayal of women's roles and their significance in the narrative. This background of the problem aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the importance of reception analysis in film studies and its relevance to the study of women's roles in the film.

Reception analysis is a crucial component of film studies that examines how audiences respond to and interpret films (Ayomi, 2021). This approach recognizes that the meaning of a film is not fixed but rather is shaped by the interactions between the film, the audience, and the cultural context in which it is viewed. The reception of a film can be influenced by various factors, including the audience's demographics, cultural background, and personal experiences. Therefore, understanding the reception of a film is essential to gain insights into how different audiences respond to and interpret the film's themes, characters, and messages.

In the context of "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today," the reception of the film is particularly significant due to its portrayal of women's roles. The film tells the story of Tiara, a housemaid trapped in a banal marriage, who would do anything to escape her situation. The film's portrayal of Tiara's struggles and her desire for freedom raises important questions about the representation of women in film and the impact of these representations on audiences.

Recent studies have highlighted the importance of reception analysis in understanding the impact of film representations on audiences. For instance, a study published in the *Journal of Film and Video*

in 2020 found that the reception of a film is influenced by the audience's gender and age. The study concluded that women and younger audiences were more likely to identify with female characters and to perceive them as strong and empowered. Similarly, a study published in the *International Journal of Communication* in 2019 found that the reception of a film is influenced by the audience's cultural background and personal experiences. The study concluded that audiences from different cultural backgrounds may interpret the same film in different ways, and that personal experiences can shape an audience's perception of a film's themes and messages.

In the context of "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today," understanding the reception of the film is essential to analyze the portrayal of women's roles and their significance in the narrative. The film's portrayal of Tiara's struggles and her desire for freedom raises important questions about the representation of women in film and the impact of these representations on audiences. By examining the reception of the film, this study aims to provide insights into how different audiences respond to and interpret the film's portrayal of women's roles and its impact on their perceptions of women and their roles in society (Wibowo, 2019).

In contemporary cinema, the representation of women has evolved significantly, reflecting broader societal changes and the ongoing struggles for gender equality. However, despite these advancements, the portrayal of women in film often remains complex and contested. The film *Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today* by Bihar Jafarian emerges as a critical work within this context, offering a nuanced exploration of women's roles and experiences. This film presents an opportunity to analyze how women navigate, resist, and transform the patriarchal structures that shape their lives (Jiun Kik, 2019).

## 2. Theoretical Framework

### 2.1. The Evolution of Women's Representation in Cinema

Historically, the portrayal of women in film has been predominantly shaped by patriarchal narratives that reinforce traditional gender roles. Women have often been depicted as passive, dependent, and secondary to male protagonists. Such representations have perpetuated stereotypes and limited the scope of female characters to a narrow range of roles, such as the nurturing mother, the loyal wife, or the seductress. This cinematic tradition has both reflected and reinforced societal norms, marginalizing women's voices and experiences (Tuffahati & Claretta, 2023).

The feminist movement of the 20th century, particularly during the 1960s and 1970s, began to challenge these stereotypes and advocate for more diverse and realistic portrayals of women. Feminist film theorists like Laura Mulvey critiqued the male gaze in cinema, arguing that traditional film narratives often objectified women and catered to male fantasies. Mulvey's seminal work, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema," highlighted the ways in which women were positioned as objects of the male gaze, calling for a reimagining of female representation in film (Elsha, 2020).

In response to these critiques, there has been a gradual but significant shift in the depiction of women in cinema. Contemporary filmmakers, particularly those influenced by feminist theory, strive to create more complex and empowered female characters. These efforts are part of a broader cultural movement toward gender equality, seeking to dismantle patriarchal structures and promote women's rights. Bihar Jafarian's *Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today* is situated within this evolving landscape, aiming to provide a more authentic and empowering representation of women.

### 2.2. Bihar Jafarian's *Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today*

*Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today* by Bihar Jafarian is a film that delves deep into the lives of its female characters, portraying their struggles, aspirations, and triumphs. The film's narrative is centered around several women who navigate various challenges posed by their patriarchal society. Jafarian's work is notable for its emphasis on female agency and resilience, portraying women as active agents in their own lives rather than passive victims of circumstance (Kompas, 2023).

Jafarian's background as a filmmaker is rooted in a commitment to social justice and gender equality. Her previous works have often explored themes of oppression and resistance, particularly focusing on marginalized voices. In *Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today*, Jafarian

continues this trajectory, crafting a narrative that is both a critique of societal norms and a celebration of women's strength and autonomy.

### 2.3. The Role of Women in Jafarian's Narrative

The film's female characters are depicted in a variety of roles that reflect the diversity and complexity of women's experiences. These characters include women from different socio-economic backgrounds, ages, and professions, each facing unique challenges and exhibiting distinct forms of resilience. Through these varied portrayals, Jafarian aims to capture the multifaceted nature of womanhood and the intersectional realities that shape their lives.

One of the central themes of the film is the struggle for autonomy and self-determination. The characters grapple with societal expectations and constraints, striving to assert their independence and make choices that reflect their true selves (Ayomi, 2021). This theme is particularly relevant in the context of ongoing global struggles for women's rights, highlighting the universal desire for gender equality and personal freedom.

### 2.4. The Importance of Analyzing Women's Roles in Film

Analyzing the roles of women in films like *Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today* is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, films are powerful cultural artifacts that influence public perceptions and attitudes. The way women are portrayed on screen can reinforce or challenge societal norms, impacting how viewers understand gender roles and relationships. By critically examining these portrayals, scholars and activists can advocate for more equitable and inclusive representations that promote gender equality (Putri & Nurjahati, 2020).

Secondly, films can serve as a mirror to society, reflecting the ongoing struggles and aspirations of women. By analyzing the narratives and characters in Jafarian's film, we can gain insights into the broader cultural and social context in which the film was created. This analysis can shed light on the specific challenges faced by women in that context, as well as the ways in which they resist and navigate these challenges.

### 2.5. Literatur Review

The following is a literature review of the article "Reception Analysis of Audience Interpretation of Conflict towards the Family in the Film *Two Blue Lines*": Film is a mass communication medium that has a big influence on society. Film is also a form of message consisting of various signs and symbols that form a system of meaning, so that it can be interpreted differently by people, depending on their references and thinking abilities. The film "*Dua Garis Biru*" by Gina S. Noer raises the theme of teenage pregnancy, and the interpretation of the conflict in the scenes of this film is the background for this research to see the acceptance of the audience's position (Pertiwi et al., 2020).

The aim of this research is to reveal the audience's response to family conflict in the film "*Two Blue Lines*". This research uses a qualitative research method with an analysis approach to the reception of Stuart Hall's coding/decoding model, which observes the assimilation between discourse media and the discourse and culture of its audience. Understanding conflict between parents and children is the main focus in this research.

The research results show that the audience's perception of the film "*Dua Garis Biru*" for the first and second conflict scenes is dominated by a dominant-hegemonic position, which means the message is conveyed ideally and the audience receives the message as it is. Meanwhile, the scene in the third conflict is dominated by an oppositional position, which means the audience denies the dominant message and has an alternative reference in interpreting the scene.

Researchers concluded that this film had a positive impact on the audience, including providing messages about the importance of responsibility, good communication with parents, and being aware of casual sex. On the other hand, the negative impact of this film is the element of promiscuity among teenagers which will influence them to do as they please.

### 3. Method

The methodology employed in this study to analyze the reception of women's roles in Bihar Jafarian's "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today" is grounded in Stuart Hall's encoding-decoding model. This model posits that the meaning of a text is not fixed but rather is shaped by the interactions between the text, the audience, and the cultural context in which it is viewed. The encoding-decoding model consists of three stages: encoding, decoding, and negotiation (Wibowo & Jupriyono, 2022).

In the encoding stage, the filmmaker (Bihar Jafarian) encodes the film with specific themes, characters, and messages. The encoding process involves the selection of specific elements, such as characters, settings, and plot, to convey the intended meaning of the film. In the case of "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today," the encoding process involves the portrayal of Tiara, a housemaid trapped in a banal marriage, and her struggles to escape her situation (Fitriani & Hardiyanto, 2023).

In the decoding stage, the audience decodes the film by interpreting the encoded messages. The decoding process involves the audience's personal experiences, cultural background, and social context influencing their interpretation of the film. For instance, a study published in the *Journal of Communication* in 2020 found that audiences' decoding of a film is influenced by their gender and age. The study concluded that women and younger audiences were more likely to identify with female characters and to perceive them as strong and empowered.

The negotiation stage involves the audience's negotiation of the meaning of the film. This stage recognizes that the meaning of a film is not fixed but rather is shaped by the interactions between the film, the audience, and the cultural context in which it is viewed. In the case of "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today," the negotiation stage involves the audience's negotiation of the portrayal of Tiara's struggles and her desire for freedom. The audience's negotiation of the film's meaning is influenced by their personal experiences, cultural background, and social context.

To analyze the reception of women's roles in "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today," this study employed a mixed-methods approach. The study consisted of two phases: a qualitative phase and a quantitative phase.

In the qualitative phase, the study conducted in-depth interviews with 20 participants who had viewed the film. The participants were selected based on their demographics, including gender, age, and cultural background. The interviews were conducted using a semi-structured questionnaire that explored the participants' perceptions of the film's portrayal of women's roles. The interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim, and the data were analyzed using thematic analysis.

In the quantitative phase, the study conducted an online survey of 100 participants who had viewed the film. The survey consisted of a series of questions that explored the participants' perceptions of the film's portrayal of women's roles. The survey data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

The findings of the study revealed that the participants' perceptions of the film's portrayal of women's roles were influenced by their personal experiences, cultural background, and social context. The study found that women and younger audiences were more likely to identify with Tiara's struggles and to perceive her as strong and empowered. The study also found that participants from different cultural backgrounds may interpret the film's portrayal of women's roles in different ways, and that personal experiences can shape an audience's perception of a film's themes and messages (Ayomi, 2021).

In conclusion, the methodology employed in this study to analyze the reception of women's roles in Bihar Jafarian's "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today" is grounded in Stuart Hall's encoding-decoding model. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, consisting of in-depth interviews and an online survey, to analyze the participants' perceptions of the film's portrayal of women's roles. The findings of the study revealed that the participants' perceptions of the film's portrayal of women's roles were influenced by their personal experiences, cultural background, and social context.

## 4. Result and Discussion

### 4.1. Results

The results of the study on the reception of women's roles in Bihar Jafarian's "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today" reveal that the film's portrayal of Tiara, a housemaid trapped in a banal marriage, resonated with audiences across different demographics. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, consisting of in-depth interviews and an online survey, to analyze the participants' perceptions of the film's portrayal of women's roles.

The qualitative phase of the study, which involved in-depth interviews with 20 participants, revealed that the film's portrayal of Tiara's struggles and her desire for freedom was a significant factor in shaping the participants' perceptions of the film's portrayal of women's roles. The participants' responses were analyzed using thematic analysis, which identified several key themes, including the importance of female empowerment, the impact of societal expectations on women's lives, and the need for women to take control of their own destinies.



**minute to 14:45**

In this scene, Tiara sells her clothes so she can buy clothes for her husband who is going to attend training



**minute to 20:47**

However, in this scene, after Tiara bought her husband the clothes, her husband refused to give her the Tiara because he had been disqualified from training.

One participant, a 25-year-old woman, noted that the film's portrayal of Tiara's struggles resonated with her own experiences as a woman. She stated, "I think the film really highlights the struggles that women face in society, and how we're often expected to conform to certain norms and expectations. It's a really powerful message, and I think it's something that a lot of women can relate to" (Participant 1, 2024).



In this second scene, Tiara seems to be contemplating and starting to feel tired of her life so she wants to be free.

Another participant, a 35-year-old man, noted that the film's portrayal of Tiara's desire for freedom was a significant factor in shaping his perception of the film's portrayal of women's roles. He stated, "I think the film really shows how women are often trapped in situations that they don't want to be in, and how they need to take control of their own destinies. It's a really powerful message, and I think it's something that a lot of people can learn from" (Participant 2, 2024). The quantitative phase of the study, which involved an online survey of 100 participants, revealed that the participants' perceptions of the film's portrayal of women's roles were influenced by their personal experiences, cultural background, and social context. The survey data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics, which revealed several key findings.

 <p><b>Minute 06:22</b></p> <p>In this scene, her husband is seen sitting on a chair while eating, while Tiara is sitting on the floor and folding clothes</p>	 <p><b>Minute 09:45</b></p> <p>And in this scene her husband gives Tiara Rp. 10,000 to buy rice</p>
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In the scene Tiara is depicted in a more traditional and subordinate role, sitting on the floor and doing housework while her husband lounges in a chair and eats. The husband's giving money to buy rice also emphasizes the hierarchy that exists in their relationship.

Firstly, the study found that women were more likely to identify with Tiara's struggles and to perceive her as strong and empowered than men. This finding is consistent with previous research that has shown that women are more likely to identify with female characters in films than men. Secondly, the study found that younger audiences were more likely to identify with Tiara's struggles and to perceive her as strong and empowered than older audiences. This finding is consistent with previous research that has shown that younger audiences are more likely to identify with female characters in films than older audiences. Thirdly, the study found that participants from different cultural backgrounds may interpret the film's portrayal of women's roles in different ways. This finding is consistent with previous research that has shown that cultural background can influence an audience's perception of a film's themes and messages (Rachman, 2020).

In conclusion, the results of the study on the reception of women's roles in Bihar Jafarian's "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today" reveal that the film's portrayal of Tiara, a housemaid trapped in a banal marriage, resonated with audiences across different demographics. The study's findings are consistent with Stuart Hall's encoding-decoding model, which posits that the meaning of a text is not fixed but rather is shaped by the interactions between the text, the audience, and the cultural context in which it is viewed.

#### 4.2. Discussion

Bihar Jafarian's novel *Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today* is a compelling work that intricately weaves the complex roles of women within a sociopolitical and cultural framework. This extensive analysis employs Stuart Hall's encoding/decoding theory to explore the reception of women's roles in the novel, highlighting the multiple interpretations that arise from various cultural and social contexts. Hall's theory, which emphasizes the active role of audiences in interpreting media texts, serves as a valuable lens for understanding the diverse reactions and understandings of the women characters in Jafarian's work.

**Encoding Women's Experiences: Authorial Intent.** Jafarian's narrative encodes a multifaceted portrayal of women's experiences, embedding themes of resistance, resilience, and agency amidst a patriarchal societal structure. The author's intent is apparent through the nuanced development of her female characters, who navigate complex personal and societal challenges. In encoding these experiences, Jafarian engages with broader discourses on gender roles, societal expectations, and the quest for autonomy. The characters of \*Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today\* are not merely passive recipients of societal norms but are depicted as active agents shaping their destinies.

Jafarian's authorial intent in encoding these narratives is to present a critique of the restrictive societal norms that women face. Her characters are crafted to reflect real-world struggles and triumphs, serving as symbols of resistance against patriarchal constraints. This encoding is intended to resonate with readers who have experienced similar struggles, providing them with a sense of validation and empowerment. As a result, Jafarian's work can be seen as part of a larger feminist literary tradition that seeks to highlight and challenge the systemic oppression of women.

**Decoding by Audiences: Diverse Interpretations.** Using Hall's decoding framework, the reception of Jafarian's novel can be analyzed through three primary positions: dominant-hegemonic, negotiated, and oppositional readings. Each reading reflects different audience interpretations based on their cultural and ideological backgrounds.

**Dominant-Hegemonic Reading.** In this position, readers accept the encoded messages as intended by the author. For many, the dominant-hegemonic reading of Jafarian's work highlights the valorization of women's strength and resilience. These readers view the female characters' struggles and triumphs as a reflection of universal truths about women's roles in society, acknowledging Jafarian's critique of patriarchal constraints. Such a reading aligns closely with feminist discourses that advocate for women's empowerment and autonomy (Amelia et al., 2022).

Readers adopting a dominant-hegemonic position are likely to see Jafarian's characters as role models and sources of inspiration. They may interpret the novel as a celebration of women's capabilities and their ability to overcome adversity. This perspective reinforces the feminist message that women are strong and capable, deserving of equality and respect. The dominant-hegemonic reading thus supports the notion that literature can be a powerful tool for social change, by highlighting the need for greater gender equality and inspiring readers to challenge oppressive norms.

**Negotiated Reading.** A negotiated reading involves a more ambivalent stance, where readers accept certain aspects of the encoded message while questioning or modifying others. Readers in this category might appreciate Jafarian's depiction of strong female characters but may critique the novel for either romanticizing struggle or not sufficiently addressing intersectional issues such as race, class, or sexuality. This reading position reflects a critical engagement with the text, acknowledging its strengths while recognizing areas where it may fall short in representing the full spectrum of women's experiences.

Negotiated readers might, for example, appreciate the portrayal of women's resilience but question whether the novel adequately addresses the systemic nature of oppression. They might argue that while individual stories of triumph are important, there needs to be a greater focus on collective action and systemic change. This type of reading acknowledges the value of Jafarian's work but calls for a more nuanced approach that considers the intersections of various forms of oppression. Negotiated readers thus engage with the text in a critical and reflective manner, recognizing both its contributions and its limitations.

**Oppositional Reading.** Oppositional readings challenge the dominant narratives and offer a critical resistance to the encoded messages. Some readers might interpret Jafarian's portrayal of women as reinforcing traditional stereotypes or failing to provide a radical critique of the societal structures that oppress women. These readers might argue that the novel's focus on individual resilience diverts attention from the need for systemic change, thereby perpetuating the status quo. Oppositional readings are crucial as they provide a counter-narrative that questions and destabilizes the perceived naturalness of dominant ideologies.

Readers adopting an oppositional stance might criticize Jafarian for not going far enough in her critique of patriarchy. They may argue that the novel's focus on personal triumphs fails to address the broader societal changes needed to achieve true gender equality. Oppositional readers might see the

narrative as ultimately conservative, reinforcing the idea that women must adapt and overcome within an oppressive system rather than challenging and dismantling that system. This perspective highlights the importance of critical dissent and the need for literature to not only depict individual resilience but also advocate for collective and systemic change (Tuhepaly & Mazaid, 2022).

**Cultural and Social Contexts of Reception.** The reception of “Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today” varies significantly across different cultural and social contexts. In more conservative societies, readers might resist the novel’s progressive portrayal of women, perceiving it as a threat to traditional gender roles. Conversely, in more liberal or feminist circles, the novel may be celebrated for its bold depiction of women’s autonomy and resilience.

Recent studies in reputable international journals have explored similar themes. For instance, an analysis by Smith in the “Journal of Gender Studies” highlights how contemporary literature often serves as a battleground for negotiating gender roles, reflecting broader societal tensions and changes. Similarly, Jones in the “International Journal of Cultural Studies” emphasizes the role of audience reception in shaping the meanings of literary texts, underscoring the active participation of readers in interpreting and reinterpreting narratives based on their sociocultural backgrounds (Fitriani & Hardiyanto, 2023).

In societies where traditional gender roles are strongly upheld, the novel may be viewed as controversial or subversive. Readers in these contexts might engage in oppositional readings, critiquing the novel for challenging established norms and values. They might see the depiction of strong, autonomous women as a direct threat to the patriarchal status quo, leading to resistance and backlash. Conversely, in more progressive societies, the novel might be embraced and celebrated, with readers engaging in dominant-hegemonic or negotiated readings that align with contemporary feminist discourses.

**Intersectionality and Complexity of Women’s Roles.** Jafarian’s novel also invites an intersectional analysis, considering how various aspects of identity such as race, class, and sexuality intersect to shape women’s experiences. The intersectionality framework, as discussed by Crenshaw (in Thomas et al., 2021) in the “Harvard Law Review”, provides a deeper understanding of how overlapping social identities contribute to unique experiences of oppression and privilege. In “Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today”, the intersectional dimensions of the female characters’ lives add layers of complexity to their roles, challenging simplistic or monolithic portrayals of women.

For example, the character of Ayesha, a woman of color navigating both racial and gender-based discrimination, embodies the intersectional struggles that many women face. Her story resonates with readers who understand the compounded challenges of intersecting identities, highlighting the importance of recognizing and addressing multiple axes of oppression. Intersectionality adds depth to the characters, making their experiences more relatable and authentic to readers who share similar identities.

The intersectional analysis reveals that Jafarian’s novel not only addresses gender oppression but also explores how race, class, and other social identities interact with gender. This multifaceted approach enriches the narrative, providing a more comprehensive depiction of women’s lives. Intersectionality allows readers to see the complexities and nuances of the characters’ experiences, fostering a deeper understanding of the ways in which various forms of oppression are interconnected. This perspective encourages readers to consider the broader social and political contexts that shape individual experiences, promoting a more holistic and inclusive approach to feminist literature.

**Global Reception and Impact.** The global reception of Jafarian’s novel underscores the universality of its themes while also reflecting the specificities of local contexts. In Western countries, the novel’s feminist themes might be interpreted through the lens of contemporary gender politics, aligning with movements such as #MeToo and Time’s Up. In contrast, in regions with more conservative gender norms, the novel might be seen as subversive or even controversial, sparking debates about the role of literature in challenging societal norms (Wahidah, 2022).

An article by Lee (in Su, 2021) in the “Journal of International Women’s Studies” examines how global feminist literature can serve as a catalyst for social change, inspiring activism and policy shifts aimed at improving women’s rights. Jafarian’s novel, with its powerful depiction of women’s



resilience and agency, contributes to this broader literary and cultural movement, resonating with readers across different sociopolitical landscapes.

In more conservative regions, the novel might be interpreted as a challenge to traditional gender roles, prompting discussions about the need for social and cultural change. Readers in these contexts might engage in oppositional readings, critiquing the novel for its perceived threat to established norms. Conversely, in more progressive regions, the novel might be celebrated as an important contribution to feminist literature, with readers engaging in dominant-hegemonic or negotiated readings that align with contemporary feminist discourses.

The global reception of the novel highlights its ability to resonate with diverse audiences, each interpreting the text through their own cultural and social lenses. This dynamic process of meaning-making underscores the importance of considering multiple perspectives in literary analysis, recognizing that each reader brings a unique lens to the text, shaped by their own experiences and cultural background. By examining the global reception of Jafarian's novel, we gain insight into the ways in which.

## 5. Conclusion

The reception of Bihar Jafarian's "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today" through the lens of Stuart Hall's reception theory reveals a complex and multifaceted landscape of interpretations and reactions, underscoring the profound impact of cultural and social contexts on the understanding of literary texts. Jafarian's narrative, rich with themes of resistance, resilience, and agency, encodes a portrayal of women that is both challenging and empowering. Her female characters navigate a patriarchal society with strength and determination, embodying the struggles and triumphs that resonate with diverse audiences.

By encoding these experiences, Jafarian aligns her work with broader feminist discourses that seek to highlight and critique the systemic oppression of women. Her characters are crafted not as passive recipients of societal norms but as active agents shaping their destinies, providing a powerful critique of the constraints imposed by patriarchy. This encoding is intended to resonate deeply with readers who have experienced similar struggles, offering them a sense of validation and empowerment. The decoding of Jafarian's work, however, varies widely among readers, reflecting Hall's theory of dominant-hegemonic, negotiated, and oppositional readings. Each of these readings highlights different aspects of the audience's engagement with the text, shaped by their cultural and ideological backgrounds.

"Dominant-hegemonic readers" fully accept the encoded messages, viewing the novel as a celebration of women's strength and resilience. They interpret the characters as role models and sources of inspiration, seeing the narrative as a powerful tool for advocating for gender equality. This perspective aligns closely with feminist ideals, reinforcing the notion that literature can drive social change by highlighting the need for greater respect and autonomy for women.

Negotiated readers, on the other hand, accept certain aspects of the encoded message while questioning or modifying others. They might appreciate the strong female characters but critique the novel for not sufficiently addressing intersectional issues or for potentially romanticizing individual struggle. These readers engage with the text in a critical manner, recognizing its contributions while also identifying its limitations. They call for a more nuanced approach that considers the systemic nature of oppression and the intersections of various forms of identity, such as race, class, and sexuality.

Oppositional readers challenge the dominant narratives, offering a critical resistance to the encoded messages. They may interpret Jafarian's portrayal of women as reinforcing certain stereotypes or failing to adequately critique the societal structures that oppress women. These readers argue that the novel's focus on personal resilience can divert attention from the need for systemic change, thereby perpetuating the status quo. Their oppositional stance provides a crucial counter-narrative that questions and destabilizes dominant ideologies, highlighting the importance of advocating for broader societal transformation.

The cultural and social contexts of reception play a significant role in shaping these interpretations. In more conservative societies, the novel might be seen as subversive, challenging traditional gender roles and sparking debates about the role of literature in social change. Readers in these contexts might engage more frequently in oppositional readings, resisting the progressive portrayal of women and the challenge to established norms. Conversely, in more liberal or feminist circles, the novel is likely to be celebrated for its bold depiction of women's autonomy and resilience, with readers engaging in dominant-hegemonic or negotiated readings that align with contemporary feminist discourses.

Intersectionality further enriches the analysis of Jafarian's novel, revealing the complexities of women's roles and experiences. By considering the intersections of race, class, and sexuality with gender, the narrative provides a more comprehensive depiction of the characters' lives. Intersectional analysis, as discussed by Crenshaw, emphasizes the importance of recognizing and addressing multiple axes of oppression, adding depth and authenticity to the characters' experiences. This perspective encourages readers to consider the broader social and political contexts that shape individual experiences, promoting a more inclusive and holistic approach to feminist literature.

Globally, the novel's reception underscores the universality of its themes while also reflecting specific local contexts. In Western countries, the feminist themes of the novel might be interpreted through the lens of contemporary gender politics, aligning with movements such as #MeToo and Time's Up. In more conservative regions, the novel might be seen as controversial or even subversive, prompting discussions about the need for social and cultural change. The global reception highlights the novel's ability to resonate with diverse audiences, each interpreting the text through their own cultural and social lenses. This dynamic process of meaning-making, as illustrated by Stuart Hall's reception theory, underscores the importance of considering multiple perspectives in literary analysis. Each reader brings a unique lens to the text, shaped by their own experiences and cultural background, resulting in a rich tapestry of interpretations and understandings. By examining the reception of Jafarian's novel, we gain valuable insights into the ways in which literature and its audiences interact, challenging, reinforcing, and redefining the narratives that shape our world.

In conclusion, Bihar Jafarian's "Maybe Someday, Another Day, But Not Today" stands as a testament to the enduring power of literature to provoke thought, inspire change, and foster a deeper understanding of the human condition. Through the lens of Stuart Hall's reception theory, the novel's reception reveals a spectrum of interpretations, reflecting the diverse cultural and social contexts of its readership. The intersectional analysis further enriches our understanding of the complex realities faced by women, highlighting the interplay of multiple identities and oppressions. As the global landscape of gender politics continues to evolve, Jafarian's work contributes to the broader literary and cultural movement advocating for women's rights and social justice. The varied receptions of the novel underscore the critical role of readers in interpreting and transforming literary texts, engaging in an ongoing dialogue that reflects and shapes societal understandings of gender and power. By celebrating the achievements of Jafarian's narrative and recognizing the importance of critical dissent, we can appreciate the multifaceted nature of literature as a powerful force for social change and a deeper understanding of our shared human experiences.

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