

that if he asked me to do something I could not say no." (151) Griet, at this point, wants her master to notice her so that she can progress in her relationship with him. Similarly, *The Three Musketeers* contains a female maid character, Kitty, who attempts to get d'Artagnan's attention. Dumas writes, feeling, in a way, sorry for Kitty, "But, as we have said, d'Artagnan paid no attention to this persistence of poor Kitty." (696) Kitty is trying to attract d'Artagnan, but at this point in the story she does not have any success.

Griet and Kitty both desperately seek attention from the men that they're respectively attracted to. In both cases, the women have little effect on the men. D'Artagnan does not notice Kitty at all, and Vermeer tosses around Griet like she means nothing, taking her in and then ignoring their relationship in front of others. In Griet's case, Griet still feels like she does not have Vermeer's affection and tries to earn it. The books emphasize that the men do not care about the emotions of the women, and that the men can play around with the women as pawns. The men clearly have control of the relationships in both instances, and the women follow behind the men without discretion. The stories both value the opinions and actions of men higher than those of women, narrating the importance of the men to the women's identity. These authors are both undermining the power that women have, openly portraying women as weaker in their relationships. This brings women to a submissive level in which their thoughts and actions are influenced by men. Both authors have included this sense of dominance in their writing.

The authors, in their writing, use these gender stereotypes when referring to characters. Males are often referred to in both books using their surnames. Females are generally referred to using their first name, or even just relative to their spouse. In *Girl With a Pearl Earring*, rich males are referred to using "van" along with the family's origin, and females are referred to either with first names or based on the husband's name. "While van Ruijven's wife and Maertge remained oblivious, van Leeuwenhoek noted everything--Catharina's fury, my master's irritation, Maria Thins' shrug, van Ruijven's lingering hand." (153) Griet's master is also referred to as Vermeer, which is his surname, when it is mentioned in the book. Very much like *Girl With a Pearl Earring*, the male characters in *The Three Musketeers*, except primarily the three musketeers, are named based on their surnames. "D'Artagnan replied that he had been sent thither by M. de Tréville to treat for a supply of horses, and that he had brought back four as specimens. Milady in the course of the conversation twice or thrice bit her lips; she had to deal with a Gascon who played close." (695) D'Artagnan and M. de Tréville as referred to in the quote are male, and Milady is female.

The authors speak of the characters using this convention often throughout the book. This manner of naming the characters is based on the overall idea that men are more important than females. Indeed, Chevalier does not bother to introduce the name of van Ruijven's wife, or even that of van Ruijven himself. Since van Ruijven is only referred to by his surname, his first name is never used. Males are referred to only with their surname, and females like Catharina or Maria Thins tend to have their first names introduced. This is true in *The Three Musketeers*, too. Milady is referred to in the book mostly as just "Milady", and is only called "Lady de Winter" in a few circumstances. Kitty, Milady's female maid, is also referred to only as such. The males, however, are always introduced with their surnames, often never having their first names introduced. D'Artagnan and M. de Tréville are only two examples. The authors are both clearly stressing the importance of men when it comes to control of the family; when speaking the family name, generally the authors are referring to the dominant male of the family. This reference shows the importance of males in the