The film, Death and the Maiden, tells a story of paulina, who was tortured for two months. Specifically, her main torturer was a doctor, and was presumably to be the same doctor, Miranda, that her husband brought home. The book “The Little School,” details the personal accounts of Alicia Partnoy of her time detained by the argentian military juntas of the 70’s Alicia partnoy and Paulina shares similar traumatizing experiences of shock, rape, and lack of personal privacy.

In the movie, Paulina shares her accounts of her time detained. She talks about being raped and having electric rods inserted inside her body. Paulina was detained without trial andn had her rights taken from her. She was basically treated less than a living being. Alicia Partnoy details the account of her fellow detainee, and how they were tortured. She shared her experience thtrough dialogue between the supervisors and the detainees. They were starved, and ate bread in unhygienic conditions. Both characters are survivors of torture.

Partnoy and Paulina share similar post traumatic stress. In the book, you can see how Alicia Partnoy was deeply affected by her experiences. In the chapter, “Ruth’s Father” she wrote the chapter in the poetic style, and it seems she was trying to convey a sense of being like and animal, “Im not an animal…”(95). You can see how she seems to have lost her mind when she was detained, which really contrasts how in the movie, Paulina became mad after she tied up It doctor Miranda, and talks about how she remembers her scent, mannerisms, and touch.

Both characters wanted some form of healing. Paulina wanted to move on through the doctor’s confession, wheras Partnoy wanted some release through the process of writing the story. It shows that the experiences of torture sticks with you, and changes you forever, and the pain never goes away.