

Unbreakable spirit in Marlee Matlin's "*I'll Scream Later*"

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Abstract:

Marlee Matlin is one of the persons who overcomes disability and become a source of inspiration to all kinds of people around the world. She is the youngest recipient of Oscar Award for her stunning performance. She has become a symbol of optimism and courage by overcoming all the odds on her path. Her autobiography, '*I'll Scream Later*' is a record of her personal testimony that manifests the ability in disability of the narrator in particular and the disabled in general. She has acquired a unique place among the disabled for asserting self identity and ability. This autobiography depicts the inner world and individuality of the author in a strange way. Her writings express strong opposition to restrictions and objectifications imposed upon the disabled. The story of her life motivates the people from pessimism to optimism. She never lost her heart even when she experienced the heart-wrenching incidents in her life. She was very active and keen observer since she had lost her hearing capability. She was molested and sexually exploited in her young age. The relationship between Bill and Matleen was shaky, now strong and now weak. She became realistic in her life. She had no background support in acting career like many other deaf actors. She faced such nepotism difficulties for years. She got enough popularity. She learnt to cope with any sort of situation. She was gradually finding the ways to overcome the hurdles and obstacles caused by her deafness. Despite several challenges and difficulties she pushed herself forward in her acting. She never bothered about failures but focused on success. In spite of failures in personal life, she moved ahead with the great hope that good would happen in her life. She was unique in thoughts and deeds. She worked hard to be successful. She made sure that her deafness could not stop her from becoming lovely daughter to parents, dear sister to brothers, clever student to teachers, faithful wife to her husband and best mother to her children. Her courage to combat with all the situations was amazing and inspiring. She never gives anyone any scope to assess her person based on her deafness. Finally, this paper is an attempt to analyze how this woman who has reached the heights of success in her career, despite her disability and having no background in film industry. She is now an emissary for the deaf community all over the world.

Keywords: ability, disability, nepotism, failure, success etc.

Marlee Matlin, the winner of Academy Award for Best Actress in a leading Role in *Children of a Lesser God* (1987), is the youngest and first deaf actress to date. In her autobiography, *I'll Scream Later* published in 2009, Marlee reveals the illuminating, moving, and often surprising story of how she defied all expectations to become one of the most prolific and beloved actresses of our time and she also speaks candidly for the first time about the troubles of her youth, the passionate and tumultuous relationships with Hollywood heartthrobs. The statement "I had, against all odds, won" (Matlin 141) shows the essence of her life story. She has faced many hardships in search for her identity. She portrays realistically her struggles to cope with the world outside of her cloistered existence resulted from her impairment. She describes everything about her life with truth and fortitude. It is amazing to know how she has reached the heights of success in her career, despite her disability. She has become a symbol of optimism and courage by overcoming all the odds on her path. Her disability makes her to convert the unfavorable circumstances into the favorable ones as Aisha Chaudhry, the disabled person, says, "Over the years I have tried to convert my worst woes into an opportunity" (Menon 10). Her self-portrayal is an extremely inspiring story to all who are suffering from disabilities and the non-disabled around the world.

Her full name is Marlee Beth Matleen. She was born on August 24, 1965 in Morton Grove, Illinois. Her father Don Matlin is a dealer of used- cars and her mother Libby is a jewelry-setter. Both her father and mother have come from different social backgrounds. Don and Libby who fell in love in their teenage and later became husband and wife had their share of joys and sorrows. The parents were hardworking and concerned for their children - two boys Eric and Mare, one girl Marlee Matlin who was disabled. Before the birth of this girl, everything went well. The misfortune of the girl had shaken up the family violently. Around eighteen months, this little Matlin was affected by roseola, a viral infection that is common in little children. This illness left her permanently deaf. There were several theories regarding Marlee's loss of hearing. Whatever might be the reason, this little girl could not understand why or how she was pushed into the deaf world. There was a lot of confusion in the family as to how to communicate with her. Her parents could not endure the misfortune happened to little Marlee. They approached many specialists but to no avail. She became deaf totally. Her entire family could not digest it. She was unable to understand normal talk of other people. They were weighed down by the grief caused by Marlee's deafness. They were not able to bear to see their dear child suffer like that. A change of atmosphere was perceptible in the family. Her brother Marc says, "I was angry at her being Deaf, that nature played such an armful trick" (Matlin 15). Her parents took care of her studies. They wanted to send her to the mainstream schools in order to improve her communication skills and mingle with people outside. They searched for the schools that could help her handle her life. Their aim was to make her to navigate her life properly in the world. They arranged speech lessons to her but she found them tortuous. She did not like to use hearing aids. She

showed more interest in acting rather in studies despite her parents repeated cautions and suggestions.

As she grew up, they were tormented by many doubts about how she would conduct herself in the world. The signs she used to communicate were inadequate. She could not understand why she was kept aloof from the world she wanted to live. She often got angry wherever her communication with others failed as Helen Keller says, “the deaf and the blind find it very difficult to acquire the amenities of conversation” (Keller 46). As the time passed, her parents and brothers became busy with their work and she found none who could understand her thoughts and explain unknown things to her. She decided to find a way put an end to the traumatic situation in her life.

Marlee was interested in performing actions and different gestures from her childhood. She never wanted her deafness to define her as a person because it was one of the many parts of her personality. Her passion to explore the world in acting career grew stronger. She made new friends both hearing and deaf. She learnt to cope with the situation and the people around her. She easily mingled with the people around. At forty-two, she speaks, “I am many things, and only one of them is Deaf, and I’m at peace with that. But it wasn’t always so” (Matlin 22). She learnt car driving. In the same way, she had acquired skills to lead an independent life that made her a role model for many people across the world. She practiced her parts without cease. She along with her friend Liz enjoyed attending parties, movies, dances and roller-skating. As she was the only girl in the family, she enjoyed full freedom. It is very interesting to know how a deaf girl could achieve greater success in her life. The story of her life motivates the people from pessimism to optimism. She did not lose her heart even when she experienced the heart-wrenching incidents in her life. She was very active and keen observer since she had lost her hearing capability. She became realistic in her life. She had earned a degree in law enforcement at Harper College and continued her acting performances in the movies. It is true of Marlee’s life what Aisha Chaudhry’s says about life, “the hardships and struggles of life have made me a different person” (Menon 12).

Malee never considered her disability as an excuse but an opportunity to grow higher in her life. Her bathroom was her first training ground for practicing gestures and acting. By looking into mirror, she created various facial expressions and learnt to communicate her emotions and feelings through bodily gestures. She loved to read comic books – Veronica and Betty were her favorite books. In her childhood, Cathy, her best friend, was the only girl among the children on her street that could understand her sign language well and communicated in it with her. She mingled with every one easily and always liked to be with somebody. She was now able to understand Sunday school classes in sign language. Here, she got acquainted with Liz who was also a deaf girl. They had many things in common.

They became good friends. They have been in continuation until today. They together spent many weekends and vacations. Their mutual understanding was superb. They shared secrets and plans between them. They both supported each other in the times of trouble – worries, uncertainties and fears. Their parents treated them with love and affection. They felt comfortable and happy in each other's company.

Marlee likes music. It was confusing how a deaf girl could take pleasure in music. However, Music was the turning point in her career build up. Marlee attended the music camp designed by Dr. Pat Scherer for Deaf Children along with their siblings in the summer of 1972. Dr. Pat Scherer was attracted by her performance and encouraged her to perform on stage. She received a great applause from the audience for her performance. She felt happy at the audience response. This incident opened her eyes to see the real world. Her father helped her to understand the practical world and perform things on her own. If they went out for dinner, he encouraged her to order her food. Gloria, Eric's wife, was one of the prominent persons in Marlee's life. Gloria maintained good friendship with Marlee, they both enjoy sharing many things. She was ready to help whenever Marlee was in need. Her parents wanted to provide her good education, so they always encouraged her to go for higher studies. She was so determined to take up acting as her career. Her parents were worried about her future because she had less interest in her academics. Marlee's mother wanted her to focus on studies rather than performance because she did not believe in it. She was ready to leave everything for acting career. Her experience resembles Shobhaa De's experience who says, "My parents were equally puzzled by my lack of academic ambition" (De 33). The creative instincts in her propelled her to take a plunge in Hollywood. She liked watching shows that were high on action and low on dialogue. She would understand the meaning of conversations by reading the facial expression and bodily gestures of people around her though she could not hear the words. In an essay-writing contest during school days, she wrote on her acting career. This little piece of writing reflects how little Marlee is interested in her acting. Her performance remains superb always. She tries to perform well every time. As time passed, her dreams of becoming a movie star grew bigger and bigger. She says, "I began to seriously dream of acting for the rest of my life" (Matlin 48).

Marlee narrated a shocking incident in her life without any distortion. She reveals all the pleasant and unpleasant experiences in her life honestly. When she was barely eleven years old, the babysitter, a girl from neighborhood, molested her. The baby sitter was sixteen and wild in thoughts and actions. Little Marlee was instructed to follow whatever the babysitter said. The babysitter asked Marlee to make sure all the doors and windows locked. They both sat on the huge couch. The babysitter removed her jeans and asked Marlee to take off her dress. Marlee reluctantly did as instructed. Next what the babysitter did was unspeakable and it was a terrible experience to Marlee. The babysitter pushed Marlee's finger into her vagina repeatedly. Marlee could not understand what the babysitter was

doing and she was forced to do that. Marlee wanted the babysitter leave the place as soon as possible but she could not because no one was there at her place. Her parents were busy with their work and brothers went to their part time jobs. Marlee was unable to control her anger and she washed mouth until her gums started bleeding. Even she washed her body and clothes. She could not erase this incident from her mind. She became sick. She did not tell anyone until she put it on the paper. She was scared to reveal it and felt ashamed of herself always. The babysitter molested her because she was deaf. She took advantage of her deafness. It was a heinous act. Little deaf girl felt oppressed and she became timid due to this shocking incident. She gets angry whenever she remembers it. There have been many such incidents targeting innocent girls.

Her teacher molested her in another shocking incident. It happened in her high school days. The particular teacher who exploited her sexually was a person who secretly attracted every beautiful girl in the school. She was more interested in acting than academics. This teacher started taking interest in young beautiful Marlee's by taking advantage of her interest and deafness. He was thirty-nine. He always talked about her beauty and told her about his life. She was just fourteen years young girl. One day, he promised her that he would make a tasty omelet with onions learning that she hates onions from the start. He convinced her to go to his place in his car. At his place, he fondled her with many kisses. He removed her dress and touched her naked body. He forcibly made love to her, despite her strong protest. She was frightened for she was bleeding. She thought that she was wrong at that time. Pain started in her stomach. Her suffering is similar to Shobhaa De who experiences, "An unbearable pain reverberates through the entire body" (De 03). She did not tell anyone. She cried silently. He made omelet with onions but she barely touched it.

Marlee was a victim in both incidents because she is a deaf girl who is unable to express to other people. She revealed these horrible happenings to explain how the disabled girls are exploited sexually. Everyone looks down upon the disabled and tries to take advantage of their disability. It is noticed that a girl with disability suffers more than others. Marlee is forced in these two situations despite her unwillingness. Many such incidents make us weep in sorrow. The same teacher also seduced her bosom friend Liz. After ten year of their high school, the both deaf girls got in touch with the school administration and complained about the bad behavior of the teacher who was asked to quit the job. But it happened very late.

Her independent thoughts made her work in different sectors for her financial needs. She wanted to become a cop because she had a liking for the profession when she was young girl. She was so interested in the job that she visited a prison where she saw a deaf prisoner. After a lot of observation, she understood that the police job demands a good communication but she was deaf. Later she thought of becoming a probation officer working

with deaf criminals but she was frustrated that it too requires speaking. She strongly desired to be independent in all aspects. She decided to earn her own money. She would loathe being lethargic. She got a job at Allstate typing and filling in summer. She did her job with full commitment. She proved that she was better than others in that job were. But she relinquished that as she found no satisfaction in it. She joined a department store as a sales person. She was assigned to women lingerie. Her parents and her brothers wonder how she was performing her duties without talking. They all went to see her in the shop while she was at work. She left that job also because it did not suit to her passion. In reality, she did not take pleasure in the desk jobs. Her brother Marc advised her to seek career in acting. He appeared to know what she liked most so he suggested her, "Acting is what you love to do; it won't hurt you to try" (Matlin 80). Her brother, Marc's motivation helped her to find a good career in the acting profession. She was scheduled for audition for the role of Lydia. She succeeded in it. When she was offered the role, she and her brother were happy except Mike who is in love with her. Now she is a professional actress earning \$ 300 a week.

Paramount pictures selected Marlee to play the role of 'Sarah' in *Children of a Lesser God*. Randa Haines, the director of the film, was impressed by Marlee's performance. Therefore, the crew took her to New York to read with Bill Hurt, a big-time movie star. Marlee felt that she was attracted to Bill's performance and personality. Initially, she was scared at the idea of acting with such a big time movie star. She quickly learnt many techniques in acting and particularly, she did well in emotional scenes. She was appreciated for her mesmerizing performance. When she received phone call from Paramount Pictures, her family members were happy because she would be paid a whopping \$50,000. Mike disliked it. Marlee accepted to perform even the nude scenes in the movie. Bill called her to be with him at the earliest. Now her heart was filled with sorrow and happiness. Her love for Mike was genuine but happy for the opportunity in movie. Acting became her passion. Finally, she decided to go for acting career. The movie could help her see "...a new world opening in beauty and light, and I felt within me the capacity to know all things" (Matlin 142). Marlee went for rehearsals in Saint John, New Brunswick. Many shots were done in Rotheseny College, old beautiful campus. Randa helped her overcome the challenges in acting rehearsals. Bill always cleared her doubts. The deaf actors were not given easily the major roles in movies then. There were and are many deaf actors who toiled for opportunities for many years. She had no background support in acting career like many other deaf actors. She faced such nepotism difficulties for years.

Afterwards the situation was changed favorably. She was given major role 'Sarah' which had a lot of scope for performance despite there was no support from the community of deaf actors. She performed extraordinarily in each scene and impressed all. She extended cooperation required in any shot. The first film helped her acquire skills to become a good actress. She learnt all the nuances in expressing various feelings and emotions. She had a

beautiful physique and freedom to express the emotions through gestures. She followed all the instructions of Randa to maintain personality and performance. She took all the necessary care to cut down on diet to avoid putting on weight. She smoked as Sarah did. Sometimes she suffered from nostalgia while shooting was going on. She overcame it as time passed. Randa guided her in all the scenes, odd and emotional moments. She was very particular about her role and performance. Her nude performance at the pool was mind numbing. She improved herself in exposing physically and mood in nude scenes. During this period, the relationship between Bill and Matleen was shaky, now strong and now weak. Whenever they came to make love, everything appeared nice and wonderful. Soon they would begin to fight and argue angrily but it was for a short time. Their anger would blow away like a cloud.

As Sarah was intrigued and made love to James in movie, Marlee did with Bill off screen. But their love was strong and weak. They both shared their feelings and experiences. For silly seasons, they fought with each other. Sometimes, they had no idea about their arguments and quarrels. In this new relationship, she was Sarah off screen and on screen. Her relationship with Bill had merits and demerits. She learnt many new things in acting by moving closely with a big movie star but the intermittent bickering between them made her into a cynic. Unknowingly, she was drawn into Bill's world that was new and different. Their love life witnessed wild fluctuations. This kind of love and adult relationship was new to Marlee, whereas Bill was a master in these matters. Despite all hurdles, she learnt how to navigate her life in the best way she knew. She ruminates, "Whether it was the Deaf or the hearing communicating, I've always fought against anyone defining me, stereotyping me, and limiting me because of my deafness" (Matlin 90)

She was happy for Bill's selection for Academy Award in 1986 and she applauded his extraordinary performance in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. She wanted Bill in her life forever. It became a daydream. Their film *Children of a Lesser God* was released and the reaction of audience was emotional. She turned twenty one and celebrated her birthday. Bill presented her the most beautiful Paloma Picasso bracelet. When the film was released, her family members were happy. She says, "I remember seeing the film for the first time, seeing my name on the screen – that moment was unlike any I'll ever had, butterflies inside" (Matlin 114). She became popular for her performance. Hereafter, she was requested to attend the shows here and there. Her relationship with Bill started to fizzle out. There was lack of understanding between them for they hailed from two different backgrounds. Besides, Bill was much older than she was and had affairs with other women in the industry. He had his education in the top schools unlike Marlee. In November, they quarreled bitterly. He used to get drunk heavily. She was scared of his peculiar behavior. With regular arguments, fights and injuries, their relationship came to an end.

Both of her previous lovers failed to understand her heart and interests. They were not suitable for her kind of personality. In spite of failures in personal life, she moved ahead with the great hope that good would happen in her life. She was unique in thoughts and deeds.

Marlee won Oscar Award for her outstanding performance in *Children of a Lesser God* in 1987. This was a remarkable achievement in her life. All these years she was in an imaginative world, watching it from a distance. Her dreams came true. She was the first person who opted for acting career in her family. She overcame all the obstacles on her path. With her success in the movie industry, her entire family became popular and known to all. As her father predicted, she would be a great support to the family in coming days. Her name and fame changed the fate of her family. She was extremely happy for Oscar. She wore dress specially designed by Theoni Aldredge and Jennifer Beals for the occasion. She liked purple color. She was gorgeous in that costume. Her parents and brothers attended the Oscar night with boundless joy. There was a big applause from the audience as she moved on to the stage. She had a special recognition. She was not only the first deaf actress winning the Oscar but also the young woman for a leading role in the actress category for her debut performance. She was unique among all the winners in that night. This night was long and happy for those who were in the know of talent. These great moments led her into a strange world. She reached this stage by dint of her persistence and unbelievable performance. There were many actors who strove for such recognition but she had got it in a short time. Acting is an inherent talent she used it to the perfection. Bill with his son was present during the ceremony. It is he who hurt her most. She states, "That at twenty-one, I was walking away with so much so fast while he had worked for so many years to get that sort of recognition" (Matlin 134).

After a painful break up with Bill, Marlee hoped for good days to come. It took many days for her to come out of such depression and disturbance. In August, she happened to meet Rob Love who became good friend of hers at Williamstown. On Theatre Festival that year, there gathered all the famous actors and actresses whom she met many. Along with Rob Love, she attended many parties there and had happy moments with him. In connection with this festival, Fashion Magazine published an article on the famous actors and actresses. It described Matlin as strong and magical actress. Rob Love and Matlin worked together in *The West Wing*. He introduced her to new Hollywood heroes and politics. She maintained good relations with them and actively participated in Social Activities like voter registration and fund-raising for the old.

The movie *Walker* was not successful and it brought bitter criticism. Failure of the film was blame on the director of the star cast. Matlin felt bad for the poor show. She tried to console herself by thinking that failure was a lesson for her to be cautious in the future.

From all sides she was attacked, but she stood the ground boldly. With Ruthie, she went to St. Bart to seek relief from her bad memories, bad experiences, bad reviews and bad boyfriends. She was happy and enjoyed herself with Ruthie. She admits, "...for the first time in a long time, I felt completely free. We talked and laughed and spent endless hours in the surf. I truly started healing" (Matlin 169). She learnt to be her own self. It was difficult for the deaf people to understand the intensity of the words. Nevertheless, she overcame all the obstacles. She did not let her deafness hinder her progress at any moment of search for identity. She could drive her car well. She was a good sport person. She loved sports. She would play hockey well; she had fans and followers too. Ricky, the famous actor, was among her hockey fans. In 1988, she got the opportunity to call out the names of the Oscar Award Winners because she won it in the last year.

Marlee advised the parents of deaf children that they should speak to their children directly instead of using sign language. She observed that the deaf people could succeed if they started speaking. According to her, speaking is the best weapon to defeat deafness. After learning it, she could utilize all the opportunities of speaking in her life. She worked hard to be successful. She made sure that her deafness could not stop her from becoming what she wanted. Her courage to combat with all the situations was amazing and inspiring. She did not give anyone any scope to assess her person based on her deafness. She noticed that deaf people remain only as spectators in many functions she attended. She wanted to see them on the stage instead of a silent audience. She desired to be different from the crowd. She turned every adversity into an opportunity to show her ability and independence. She believed in what Robert H. Schuller says, "Success is never certain, and failure is never final" (Schuller 106). She became the celebrity spokesperson for the National Captioning Institute. She did her duty with honesty and sincerity. She was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Gal Lauder University, the only Deaf University in the world, for her efforts in expanding closed-captioning. She was extremely happy for the honour for she considered it a second Oscar to her credit. As her popularity was on rise, her critics grew in number. She was a positive young woman. Owing to the advancement in technology, all programmes on TV, movies and series are closed – captioned today. It had been developed to aid the hearing-impaired persons and she played her part in popularizing the technique. She observes, "Every day the world opens up a little more for those who can't hear. I'm grateful that I've been a part of making that happens" (Matlin 184).

The CBS-TV Movie *Bridge to Silence* is one of the important movies in her career. In the, movie she played the role of a young deaf Woman who suffered from loss of her beloved husband. She withstood all the consequences after her husband's death. She even opposed her mother for the sake of her husband's old shirt. She impresses everyone with her outstanding performance. She is applauded for her courage and will power in the times of

difficulties. Soon, she became a famous actress. The name and fame she has today was the result of her devotion to duty and dogged persistence in achieving her goal. Sustaining the tempo of success rate was an uphill task for her. It had had hard times because there were no projects for her for a while. She and her family faced many difficulties because of financial problems. Interestingly, her popularity helped her brother Eric expand his business in Hollywood. Her agent Carla Hacken is always supportive in searching for the opportunities. They both look alike and they are good friends. She is very realistic and practical person. She maintains balance between her personal life and public life. Whoever comes into her contact will be impressed by positive attitude and cannot help appreciating her determination to realize her dreams in spite of odds in her life. They cherish her friendship for her broad-mindedness. She understood the essence of life and developed broad thinking. She says, "Life is infinitely better when you're happy, and humor is really not a solitary occupation – you need to have people to laugh with you, to share in it, and I love that, too" (Matlin196)

Marlee is a good human being. She seemed to cast a spell on the people who come to her. No one wanted to leave her lively company. There had been many trying situations in her life and she bore them with fortitude and moved forward in her acting career. She faced crushing pressures in her profession. She was always energetic and dynamic. She treated everyone with love and care. Acting became her life. She performed everything with commitment and honesty. She played the role of a girl, who wasn't deaf but reluctant to speak freely, with Jean Reno and Eric Duret. Her performance was superb. She says, "I'm always curious to dig deeper into my experience and my emotions to enrich a character" (206). She absolutely followed the instructions of her director, impressed them with her performance. She acted in many ads also. Her deafness became a blessing in disguise for her to make a career in the film industry. Never did she worry about her impairment although there were many misconceptions about deafness among the people. She used her acting to forget her physical deficiency and made others to see her talent rather than her weakness.

Marlee went to Burbank for a shoot for *Reasonable Doubts*. There were cops everywhere in Burbank all the time. She always chatted with the cops if she met them. Kevin was a good looking and duty minded cop. He knew that Marlee Matlin was a deaf actress, nothing more than that. She wished him. Both Marlee and Kevin realized that they were attracted to each other. They enjoyed being together. Their likes and dislikes were more or less same. They appeared to have good mutual understanding. During this happy time, they cleared their doubts about each other. Their casual friendship became love journey. Later she and Kevin loved each other sincerely. Kevin had his girlfriend then. He separated from his girlfriend without a feeling of hurt. After the shoot, she was to go to Portland to do the film *Hear No Evil*. Before her leaving, she talked to Kevin very personally. He said that his thoughts were with her forever. She felt very happy. February 13 was Kevin's birthday, so

they went to a park in Burbank. They enjoyed themselves. Kevin proposed to her, she immediately accepted his love. They exchanged rings. They had good understanding about each other. She told her friends about her love. After this, she left with a great hope for her future.

Being conscious of her goal, Marlee devoted most of her time to her profession and tried to do everything to the best of her ability. She disliked to be known as a person with disability. With her unyielding spirit, she competed with others in performances and practical life. She found pleasure in acting and maintaining relations with the people. Acting with the sign language is not an easy task. However, it is not impossible as it is proved through her success. Her acting was natural and fantastic. She would understand the situations and persons through their gestures. She did many things, acting, singing, dancing, playing, driving, running, laughing etc like any other hearing person. She is an extrovert. She liked to lead her life happily like any other person. Her story tells there is no difference between normal person and a deaf person except hearing problem. She employed her eyes for both seeing and hearing. It is a technique that she mastered after a long struggle in the world of deafness. She speaks, "My eyes are my ears and I put that into my work" (Matlin229). After a long love affair, Kevin and Matlin got married happily. All the friends and relatives attended their marriage. Her husband Kevin had many qualities in common with her. She played a different role of a woman who would hear and speak. In this case acting and reacting was a challenging task for a deaf actress but she did it with utmost perfection. In film, *Against Her Will: The Carrie Buck story*, Carrie Buck who was the central character underwent unbearable tragedy and trauma. Matlin essayed the role of Carrie Buck in it. Marlee gave her best in the film as such it earned a Cable ACE nomination. She never hesitates to learn either from juniors or seniors. She says, "With each experience I try to keep myself open for what I might discover- good or bad – from my colleagues" (Matlin242).

She could become symbol of persistence and hard work by her strengths and strains. Without fear, she overcame all the hurdles in her life. Every person that appeared in the autobiography played a part in her growth as a strong person and professional actress. A year after her marriage, she was pregnant. They both were happy and took all the necessary care for it. They did not want to know the sex of child before its birth. They made all arrangements for their child in advance. She gave birth to a baby girl – Sarah Rose Gramdalaki who was very special to them for she was their first baby. Motherhood was a different experience to her. She loved children. She enjoyed her motherhood. Her new role brought her many responsibilities.

She performed a young woman character in *The Outer Limits*. Being a deaf woman, she could do justice to the role given in that movie. After '*With Reasonable Doubts*' she got

an opportunity in *Seinfeld* which had a popular star cast. She always proved that she was special and a wonderful performer despite her limitations. She was nominated for 'Emma' award in two categories- outstanding Guest Actress in Comedy for *Seinfeld* and outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama for a picket Fences episode called '*The Dancing Bandit*'. David Kelly, the director, says about her, "she's profoundly intuitive, which makes her a great actress, she always finds the truth within the character" (Matlin 257).

Then her second child Brandon entered the world. With six months gap, she went to South Africa to act in '*The Next Day*'. It was very risky yet she did it. She acted in *Jurassic Park* in which moved with huge elephants. It was challenging role she did it with her will power. She was applauded for her histrionics. Later she gave birth to two more children: Tyler Daniel and Isabella. As a responsible and loving wife, she cried, when her husband Kevin's broke his ankle in an accident. She balanced her acting career and family responsibilities well. She recollected how her mother behaved when she entered the motherhood. She thought of the role of a perfect mother of growing children. She decided not to behave like her mother who always closed her door to get privacy from her children, especially deaf child. Little Matlin longed for her mother's love. She was determined not to behave rudely towards her children who were her life. She tried to be an ideal mother. She would respect her children's feelings and emotions. She was more of a friend than a conscientious mother. She was very particular about their food and careers. She reflects, "It is amazing to watch these four personalities emerge- each so different, so unique" (Matlin 289). Children learnt sign language to communicate with their lovely mother. They understood her communication problem. Their friendship was wonderful. Like a warrior, she battled out with all the difficulties in her personal and public life.

Marlee could make a good mother who loved her children more than anything else did. She never left house without kissing her kids. She made a perfect mother despite her deafness. She gave value to her children's likes and dislikes and allowed them to grow in natural surroundings. Besides motherhood, she continued to enjoy acting. She played the character of murderer in *Where the Truth Lies*. She says, "Then a handful of smaller film projects started casting me as the seductress, the villain, the con artist- I liked playing against the good girl stereotype" (Matlin265). She acted in *Dancing with the Stars* with Fabian Sanchez. She mastered the mechanics in gestures and acting. Her eye contact was wonderful. She would always keep a great smile and big eyes. Carrie Ann commented: "You made me cry, something about that performance truly touched me." (Matlin317). She faced all the hurdles with her a remarkable courage and will power. She never blamed anybody for her failures and deafness. She was very positive in all her roles. She always planned for career growth. She was independent in all aspects. She missed no opportunity that helped her career graph. She loved reading books on the children and the deaf. She

used her knowledge to patch up with Liz when their friendship became tougher due to some misunderstandings. It worked out and they resumed their relationship.

Thus, the narrator could make her place in the world by winning the Oscar award despite mammoth strains and struggles. She shared her life story with uncompromising honesty and humor. There have been many trials and tribulations in her career growth in the Hollywood. With determination and hard work, she carved a niche for herself in the fashionable of world of cinema. She reached the top place in her career in a short period. She became a symbol of success for those with or without any physical deformity. She is now an emissary for the deaf community all over the world. Her family members have always stood by her through thick and thin. She performed all the roles – daughter, sister, cousin, friend, love, actress, wife, daughter-in-law, and mother perfectly despite her disability. *I'll Scream Later*, which takes readers on the frank and touching journey of Marlee's life, from the frightening loss of her hearing at eighteen months old to the highs and lows of Hollywood, concludes with a statement of gratification thus, "My life is rich and I am blessed and I am grateful" (Matlin 322).

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