

**AMERICAN WOMEN'S STRIVE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN
CLINT EASTWOOD'S *CHANGELING* MOVIE (2008) :
A FEMINIST APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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Proposed by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

People fight for social justice in their life. There is a tendency to delegate the responsibility of doing social justice to anyone except oneself. A significant challenge is to avoid divisiveness, to emphasize common ground among social service and social action, education and advocacy, pro-life and social justice, economic development and environmental commitment. It is needed to work together to reflect a comprehensive concern for the human person. The social justice is interested to be analyzed, and it is reflected in *Changeling* Movie, which tells a single mother who is trying to get the social justice in America.

The phenomenon of life in America has inspired many authors to write literary works. One of male authors who portrays the life of Christine Collins as important story is J. Michael Straczynski, through his masterpiece of his early phase of writing: *Changeling*. His full name is, Joseph Michael Straczynski; born July 17, 1954, in Paterson, New Jersey, United States; son of Charles (a manual laborer) and Evelyn (maiden name, Pate) Straczynski; married Kathryn May Drennan (a writer), 1983. Addresses: Agent: Joel Begleiter, United Talent Agency, 9560 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 500, Beverly Hills, CA 90212. His Nationality is American and Occupations is Writer, producer, journalist, critic, story editor, educator.

The other famous works are as follows: *Murder, She Wrote*, CBS, 1991-93, (Uncredited) Supervising producer, *Walker, Texas Ranger*, CBS, 1993, Creator and executive producer, *Babylon 5* (also known as *B5*), syndicated, 1994-97, TNT, 1998, Creator and executive producer, *Crusade*, TNT, 1999, Creator and executive producer, *Jeremiah*, Showtime, 2002-2004, Creator of *Aragon and the Wuff*, ABC. Also producer of *Jake and the Fatman*, CBS. And his movie is : Creator and executive producer, *Babylon 5: In the Beginning* , TNT, 1998, Creator and executive producer, *Babylon 5: Thirdspace* (also known as *Thirdspace* and *Thirdspace: A Babylon 5 Adventure*), TNT, 1998, Creator and executive producer, *Babylon 5: The River of Souls* (also known as *The River of Souls*), TNT, 1998, Producer, *Murder She Wrote: A Story to Die For*, CBS, 2000, Pilots Creator and co-executive producer, *Babylon 5: The Gathering* (also known as *Babylon 5* and *B5*), syndicated, 1993, Creator and executive producer, *Babylon 5: A Call to Arms* (also known as *A Call to Arms*), TNT, 1999, Executive producer, *Babylon 5: The Legend of the Rangers--To Live and Die in Starlight* (also known as *Legend of the Rangers: Babylon 5*), Sci-Fi Channel, 2002, Television Director Episodic as follows: "Sleeping in Light," *Babylon 5* (also known as *B5*), TNT, 1998, Television Appearance Specials, such as: *The Guide to Babylon 5*, TNT, 1997, Episodic (Uncredited) Maintenance worker, "Sleeping in Light," *Babylon 5* (also known as *B5*), TNT, 1998, earlier Marvel series titled *Squadron Supreme*), Marvel Comics, beginning 2003, *No Surrender, No Retreat: Babylon 5*, illustrated by Shannon Kalvar, Diamond Comic

Distributors, 2004, *The Book of Lost Souls* (series), Marvel Comics, beginning 2005, *Dream Police*, Marvel Comics, 2005, *Strange: Beginnings and Endings*, illustrated by Gary Frank and Jonathan Sibal, Marvel Enterprises, 2005, Author of, or contributor to, other comic books, including *Star Trek 16: Worldsinger*, DC Comics; *Teen Titans Spotlight*; and *TwilightZone*.

Changeling is the movie that tells a story of 1928 Los Angeles, and a single mother named Christine Collins (Angelina Jolie, *Wanted*) returning home from work to find her young son Walter (Gattlin Griffith) missing. After frantic calls to the local police department, the next day a patrol car is sent out and a missing person's report is filed. Five months later Walter is found and brought home, but it is not Walter. He is taller and is not circumcised. Ms. Collins pleads with the police to find her son and take back this imposter but the police refuse.

Captain J.J. Jones (Jeffrey Donovan, *Hitch*) of the LAPD tries to make Ms. Collins seem crazy or out of touch. He goes so far as to have her incarcerated at a mental institution, where she finds other women like herself who have challenged the authority of the police to have everything taken away. Meanwhile the writer learn that an insane man named Gordon Stewart Northcott (Jason Butler Harner, *John Adams* miniseries) has kidnapped many children and taken them to his distant ranch where unthinkable things are done. Most of this is discovered when a Canadian child illegally in the U.S. spills the goods to a semi-decent cop, Detective Ybarra (Michael Kelly, *Dawn of the Dead*) who tries to bring this to the attention of his superiors only to be

rebuffed because it doesn't look good for the department. On Ms. Collins' side (even while she's in the loony bin) is Reverend Gustav Briegleb (John Malkovich, *Burn After Reading*) who learns of Christine's problems with the LAPD and already has a running battle going on with them over their autocratic style. His assistance is invaluable in aiding in Christine's release from the mental institution, as well as releasing the other women who were wrongfully imprisoned on behalf of the LAPD.

Changeling (2008/II) is an independent movie inspired by the old English folklore. Back in the day, villagers believed that goblins would steal human babies and leave one of their own goblins behind in its place (which the villagers called "changelings"). Now in the present day, the goblins are still up to their old tricks, and our hero's life starts to make a lot more sense when he discovers he's never been human at all.

In this research, the writer applies feminist theory. Feminist theory is an extension of feminism into theoretical or philosophical fields. It encompasses work in a variety of disciplines, including sociology, economics, women's studies, literary criticism, art history, psychoanalysis and philosophy. Feminist aims to understand gender inequality and focuses on gender politics, power relations, and sexuality. While providing a critique of these social and political relations, much of feminist theory also focuses on the promotion of women's rights and interests. Themes explored in feminist theory include discrimination, stereotyping, objectification (especially sexual objectification), oppression, and patriarchy.

The writer chooses this movie because: first, this movie is interesting to be analyzed. The actors portray the various characters very well indeed. It almost seems like a documentary at times. Beside for that reason the movie is from the true story. This movie consists of many emotional expression and tragedy. There are sadness and happiness expression. This movie is full of emotional parts which may influence for life to be better.

Second, this movie is full of themes. There are some themes which are told in this movie. It explores into the themes of social justice, love, strive, faith, moral and spirituality. The theme of social justice includes LAPD tries to make Ms. Collins seem crazy or out of touch. He goes so far as to have her incarcerated at a mental institution, where she finds other women like herself who have challenged the authority of the police to have everything taken away.

Third, *Changeling* is a movie that tells about a single mother who strives to who find her lost son. She is a woman who stand up herself in a time when “women’s rights” are far from the rage.

Last, this movie is about the true story from Christine Collins in Los Angeles at 1928, she finds her young son Walter (Gattlin Griffith) missing. That is why the writer intends to conduct a research movie with the title of research “AMERICAN WOMEN’S STRIVE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN CLINT EASTWOOD’S *CHANGELING* MOVIE (2008): A FEMINIST APPROACH”.

B. Literature Review

To provide the originality of the research, the researcher wants to present the previous research that deals especially with social justice. The previous research is an article done by David Germain (2008) in “*Nuance Goes Missing in Changeling*”. This first research focused on the emotional depth and nuance of that string of films marking Eastwood's remarkable late-career resurgence. Instead, *Changeling* slips back toward the workmanlike storytelling of Eastwood's decade between "Unforgiving". The result from this study is how the Eastwood's emotional depth and the string from this film.

Lydia Williams (2009) the research is an article entitled “*Women's Strive Social Justice for Changeling Movie*”. It focused on the strength of the movie. For example about a woman who used everything she had inside her to fight for what she believed was right. Christine Collins wasn't a superhero. The result of this research is she was a mother who was told not to believe what, in her heart, she knew to be true. She was a woman who stood up herself in a time when “women's rights” were far from the rage.

Different from two previous researches the writer focuses on how the motivations from the major character to American Women's Strive in Christine Collins as a single parent who has lost her son in a feminist perspective. For this reason the writer is interested to analyze ‘**American Women's Strive for Social Justice in Clint Eastwood's *Changeling* Movie (2008): A Feminist Approach.**’

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of choosing the subject above, the writer is going to focus her research in *Changeling* movie with the problem statement of this research as follows: “How American Women’s Strive for Social Justice is being reflected in *Changeling* movie?”

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problems stated above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the meaning of social justice in *Changeling* movie.
2. To find out the meaning of feminist in *Changeling* movie.

E. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study of social justice on *Changeling* movie are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research will enrich the study of literature especially on *Changeling* movie and its contribution for English Department students particularly in learning about movie.

2. Practical Benefit

It is expected that the study can improve the students’ or the readers’ knowledge particularly in social justice in *Changeling* movie.

F. Research Method

1. Types of Research

This type of research is qualitative in which the research does not need statistic to collect, to analyze, and to interpret data.

2. Types of data and data source

In this research the researcher takes two kinds of data:

a. Primary Data

Primary data is the main data obtained from all the words, dialogue, phrases and sentences in the movie related to the topic.

b. Secondary Data

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from literary books, criticism, and some articles related to the movie.

3. Research Object

The object of research is the J. Michael Straczynski *Changeling* movie released 2008, Los Angeles, United States by Universal Pictures and Imagine Entertainment.

4. Method of Data Collection

In this research, the researcher uses library research. The data are collected from the film related to the topic. The first step is watching the *Changeling* movie many times to identify the problem and find the data. Then it is continued by reading the relevant theory with the subject, finally is collecting the supported data from any critical review, internet and other reference related to the topic.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis is descriptive in which the researcher uses feminist approach especially Simone de Beauvoir and Andersen theory and draws a conclusion.

G. Research Organization

The writer organizes this research paper in order to make easier to understand. This research is divided into five chapters: Chapter I is introduction. In this chapter the writer divided it into six items, they are: background of the study, previous study, problem of the study, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory. It consists of feminist theory, which is adopted from Andersen's book. Chapter III is historical background of America at turn of twenty first century. It presents the social aspects, economic aspects, science and technology aspects, religious aspect, political aspect, cultural aspect, and women conditions. Chapter IV is research finding. Chapter V is feminist analysis. And chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion.