

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Sex and the City is one of the most popular women drama movies of women friendship and love. This film is romantic comedy and adapted from the novel with the same name written by Candace Bushnell. She is an [American author](#) and [columnist](#) based in [New York City](#). She is best known for writing a column that was anthologized in a book, [Sex and the City](#) novel (1997), which in turn became the basis for an immensely popular movie and television series and its subsequent film adaptation. She was born on December 1, 1958 in Glastonbury and moved to New York city at age 19. She wrote many novels such as *Four Blondes*(2001), *Trading Up* (2003), novel that filmed *Lipstick Jungle* (2005), and *One Fifth Avenue* (2008). Through her books, Bushnell's work has influenced and defined two generations of women. She is the winner of the 2006 Matrix Award for books (other winners include Joan Didion and Amy Tan), and a recipient of the Albert Einstein Spirit of Achievement Award. She currently resides in Manhattan.

Sex and the City movie is directed by Michael Patrick King, an [American director](#), [writer](#) and [producer](#) for [television](#) shows. King was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania on September 14, 1954. His most famous work has been for [Sex and the City](#) where he wrote all the season finales and premieres since the second season. King has also recently directed [the show's film](#)

[adaptation](#). It was with King's work on the blockbuster HBO sitcom *Sex and the City* (1998-2004), however, that he fully broke through to acclaim as one of Hollywood's most sought-after scribes. In time, he ascended to a post as the program's head writer and assumed production duties as well, executive-producing the series for HBO. Accordingly, the top-tiered cable network and New Line Cinema tapped King to script, co-produce, and direct the big-screen filmization of *Sex and the City* in 2008.

The film begins with [Carrie](#) ([Sarah Jessica Parker](#)) and [Big](#) ([Chris Noth](#)) viewing apartments with the intention of moving in together. Carrie falls in love with a [penthouse](#) suite far from their price range, which Big immediately agrees to pay for. However, Carrie experiences doubts over the wisdom of this arrangement, explaining that they are not married, and as such she would have no legal rights to their home in the event of a separation. She offers to sell her own apartment, and quelling her fears, Big suggests that they get married.

Carrie's wedding plans escalate into such a lavish event that Big begins to experience doubts. Carrie is given a [Vivienne Westwood](#) wedding gown after modeling it for a photo shoot in [Vogue](#). Carrie reads to Big from a book of [famous love letters](#) she has borrowed from the [New York Public Library](#). She teases Big for never having sent her a [love letter](#). While returning [Love Letters of Great Men, Vol. 1](#) to the library, Carrie sees a wedding being held there and chooses it for her own venue.

On the day of the ceremony, Big cannot go through with it, but attempts to telephone Carrie again and again but fails. A devastated Carrie flees the wedding. Big changes his mind and intercepts Carrie as he sees her limousine drive away. Carrie, humiliated and betrayed, furiously attacks Big with her bouquet while he earns scathing looks from Miranda and Charlotte. The four women subsequently take the honeymoon that Carrie has booked to [Mexico](#), where they de-stress and collect themselves.

Upon her return to [New York](#), Carrie hires an [assistant](#), Louise ([Jennifer Hudson](#)), to help her move back into her old apartment and manage her administration. Charlotte learns she is pregnant after a visit to her doctor. Miranda eventually confesses to Carrie about what happened during the night of the rehearsal dinner, and the two have a brief falling out. Samantha begins over-eating to keep from cheating on Smith with Dante, but eventually realizes that their relationship is simply not working, and that she needs to put herself first.

A surprise encounter with Big at a restaurant leaves Charlotte so outraged that she goes into labor. Big drives her to the hospital, and waits until baby Rose is born, hoping to see Carrie. Harry passes on the message that Big would like her to call him, and that he has written to her frequently, but never received a reply. Carrie searches her correspondence, before realizing that Louise has kept his e-mails password-protected from her, after Carrie earlier announced she wished to sever all communication with him. She finds that he has sent her dozens of letters copied from the book she

showed him in the weeks before their wedding, *Love Letters of Great Men, Vol. 1*, culminating with one of his own where he apologizes for screwing it up and promises to love her forever.

One hour before the locks are due to be changed on their shared penthouse apartment, Carrie travels to the home, Big has bought for them to collect a pair of mint condition blue [Manolo Blahnik](#) shoes she has left there. She finds Big in the walk-in closet he has built for her, and the moment she sees him, her anger at his betrayal dissipates. She runs into his arms and they share a passionate kiss. After spending the final hour in their apartment together making up, talking and apologizing to one another, Big proposes to Carrie properly, using one of her diamond-encrusted shoes in place of a ring. They later get married, in a simple wedding in New York City Hall, with Carrie dressed in the original dress she has bought in a vintage shop and the blue Manolos. After Big kisses the bride, he whispers into her ear "forever mine, forever yours, forever us", a line Carrie reads to him from *Love Letters of Great Men, Vol. 1* earlier in the film. They hold a get-together at a local diner with their friends. The film ends with the four women around a table in a restaurant, sipping [cosmopolitans](#), celebrating Samantha's birthday, with Carrie making a [toast](#) to the next fifty.

Sex and the City film was prominently shot in New York between September-December 2007. The locations included a number of places around [Manhattan](#) and a certain portion was shot in [Steiner Studios](#) and [Silvercup Studios](#). The film's international premiere took place on Monday,

May 12, 2008 at [Odeon West End](#) in [London's Leicester Square](#) to the audience of 1700. It was next premiered at Sony Center at Potsdamer Platz in [Berlin](#) on May 15. The film had its New York City premiere at Radio City Music Hall on Tuesday, May 27, 2008. The film has experienced commercial success. Opening in 3,285 theaters, the film made \$26.93 million in the US and Canada on its first day. The three-day opening weekend total was \$57,038,404, aggregating \$17,363 per theater. The film recorded the biggest opening ever for an R-rated comedy and for a romantic comedy, and also for a film starring all women. As of October, 2008, the film has grossed \$152,619,616 at the US and Canadian box office, and \$256,274,667 in other markets, bringing the worldwide total gross revenue to \$408,921,925. In February 2009 it was officially announced that a sequel will be made including all four actresses and writer-director Michael Patrick King.

The film received mixed reviews from critics. Brian Lowry of [Variety](#) said the film "...feels a trifle half-hearted". While Carina Chocano of the [Los Angeles Times](#) stated "the film tackles weighty issues with grace but is still very funny". [Anthony Lane](#), a film critic for [The New Yorker](#) since 1993, called the film a "superannuated fantasy posing as a slice of modern life" ; he noted that "almost sixty years after [All About Eve](#), which also featured four major female roles, there is a deep sadness in the sight of Carrie and friends defining themselves not as [Bette Davis](#), [Anne Baxter](#), [Celeste Holm](#), and [Thelma Ritter](#) did by their talents, their hats, and the swordplay of their wits, but purely by their ability to snare and keep a man."

Sex and the City is an interesting women's movie, there are three aspects that make this movie really interesting. First, *Sex and the City* has the romantic and friendships story about four female friends: [Carrie Bradshaw](#) ([Sarah Jessica Parker](#)), [Samantha Jones](#) ([Kim Cattrall](#)), [Charlotte York Goldenblatt](#) ([Kristin Davis](#)), and [Miranda Hobbes](#) ([Cynthia Nixon](#)), dealing with their lives as 40-something year olds in [New York City](#). The majority discussed about romance and sexuality. Romance between Carrie and Mr. Big, Samantha and Smith Jerrod, Charlotte and Harry, and also Miranda and Steve. And the friendship story is between Carrie with Samantha, Charlotte, and Miranda, and also between Carrie and Louise. This major story is about Carrie's love, how Carrie searches for her true love with Mr. Big. When she is hurt by Mr. Big, time after time she knows that Mr. Big is her true love. And actually Carrie finds that love is not only passion between male and female, but also about seriousness in relationship of love.

The Second aspect is the plot and the cast of the movie. Michael Patrick King makes the audience feel enjoyable and enthusiastic with the movie because the plot is easy to understand the movie. It is started from the cause and then the effect, from simple until complex, and from happy to conflict and then ends in happy ending. The casts of this movie also have a valuable part. In this film, Sarah Jessica Parker as Carrie Bradshaw who has played for the major cast is a great actress. She won four [Golden Globe Awards](#), three [Screen Actors Guild Awards](#) and two [Emmy Awards](#). She is a wonderful actress that has many career in movie, such as [Firstborn](#) (1984), [Girls Just](#)

Want to Have Fun (1985), *A Year in the Life* (1986), *Honeymoon in Vegas* (1992), *Hocus Pocus* (1993), *Miami Rhapsody* (1995), *Mars Attacks!* (1996), and *Sex and the City* (2008).

And the last aspect is costumes for the actors in this movie. Patricia Field, has created costume designs for the series, also undertook the job in the film. However, Field has stated that she initially was ambivalent to do the film, for monetary and creative reasons. Field rose to fame particularly after designing for the series from 1998 to 2004, wherein she popularized the concept of using designer clothes with day-to-day fashion. The iconic and glamorous wedding dress was made by Vivienne Westwood. Hats for Vivienne Westwood in the film were made by Prudence Millinery. H. Stern loaned more than 300 pieces of jewelery to the film. Costumes were also selected from collections by haute couture designer Gilles Montezin.

Based on the previous background, the writer will observe *Sex and the City* movie by using psychoanalytic theory by Sigmund Freud. So, the writer constructs the title **CARRIE'S SEARCH FOR LOVE IN MICHAEL PATRICK KING'S *SEX AND THE CITY* MOVIE (2008): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

There is no research paper about *Sex and the City* movie, but there are two papers or essays that analyze the term of *Sex and the City*.

The first is taken from AcaDemon Term Papers and Essays (2006). This paper explores the vital components involved in the phenomenal success of HBO's comedy television series *Sex and the City* which was loosely based on *New York Observer* columnist Candace Bushnell's personal life. The movie target audience is gender specific to women of varying ages as the four women in the series also varied in ages. This paper discusses the manner in which *Sex and the City* (SATC) utilized various types of humor that nearly always hit their target. The four main characters were written for easy viewer identification. Carrie Bradshaw the main character was the most balanced of the quartet. Miranda was the workaholic lawyer, Charlotte dreamed of the classic American family while Samantha was the most outlandish with her refreshingly blatant attitudes towards men and sex.

And the second is from AcaDemon Term Papers and Essay (2004). This paper discusses and analyzes two important points that emerge from an analysis of the TV series, *Sex and the City*. The first issue covered is that the show demonstrates a transition among its characters, wherein the image of the modern woman is immediately replaced during the last season of the program to illustrate women facing challenges that real women confront in real life. The second point examined in the paper is that each *Sex and the City* character represents a particular facet of femininity and womanhood that the

show's audiences can relate to, giving the show its human and realistic element.

The differences of this research paper with the two essays above are: (1) this research paper analyzes in *Sex and the City* movie, (2) this research paper analyzes how Carrie the major character of *Sex and the City* movie searches for her love, and (3) this research paper analyzes using Psychoanalytic approach.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement is the important part of research. The writer proposes “How Carrie searches for love reflected in Michael Patrick King’s *Sex and the City* movie?” as problem statement.

D. Objectives of the Study

After formulating the problem statement above, the writer conducts the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To describe how Carrie searches for love in Michael Patrick King’s *Sex and the City* movie based on psychoanalytic approach.
2. To analyze Michael Patrick King’s *Sex and the City* movie based on the structural elements of movie.

E. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing Carrie’s search for love in *Sex and the City* movie based on psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

The writer hopes that this research gives a new contribution and information to the larger knowledge particularly in the literary studies on *Sex and the City* movie or novel.

2. Practical Benefit

The writer hopes that this research can enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and other readers who have interest with literary study on the movie with psychoanalytic approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of Research

In this research, writer uses descriptive qualitative research. Qualitative research is a research of which the data in the form of written or oral word are descriptively analyzes. Merriam (1988) in John W. Creswell affirm that “qualitative research is descriptive in that the researcher is interested in process, meaning, and understanding gained through words or picture”.

The descriptive qualitative research is a type of research which is not presented in digits or statistic but the data in the form of descriptive. Moleong (1989: 3) affirms that “qualitative research is a research of which the data in the form of written or oral word are descriptively analyzes”.

The steps to conduct this research are:

- a. Determining the type of the study,
- b. Determining the object of the study,
- c. Determining data and data source,

- d. Determining technique of collecting data, and
- e. Determining of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is Carrie's search for love in *Sex and the City* movie directed by Michael Patrick King and publishing by New Line Cinema in 2008, it is analyzed by psychoanalytic approach.

3. Data and Data Source

The primary data in this research are Carrie's search for love in *Sex and the City* movie directed by Michael Patrick King from New Line Cinema and the script of this movie. The secondary data sources are *Psychoanalytic Theory* book and also *Sex and the City* movie review.

4. Technique of Collecting Data

The techniques of collecting data are capturing the pictures and note taking, with the steps are:

- a. Watching the original movie for several times.
- b. Reading the movie script.
- c. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- d. Taking notes of important thing both of primary and secondary data sources.
- e. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- f. Noting the material and other resources that related into the movie and the analysis.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis uses descriptive qualitative analysis.

It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and also psychoanalytic approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of Carrie's Search for Love in Michael Patrick King's *Sex and the City* Movie (2008): A Psychoanalytic Approach is as follows:

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of background of study, previous study, problem statement, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, benefits of the study, research method, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory. It elaborates notion of psychoanalytic, principle of psychoanalytic, psychoanalytic in literature, and structural elements of the movie.

Chapter III is structural analysis of *Sex and the City* movie. It elaborates the structural analysis of *Sex and the City* movie and discussion.

Chapter IV is psychoanalytic approach in *Sex and the City* movie.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. And for the last part is bibliography and appendix.