

**MEANING OF LOYALTY REFLECTED IN *LET ME IN*
MOVIE (2010) BY MATT REEVES:
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



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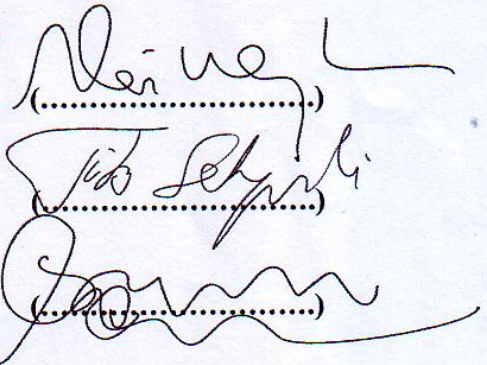
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**MEANING OF LOYALTY REFLECTED IN *LET ME IN*
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ABSTRACT

The major problem of this study is to reveal how Owen's loyalties to keep his lover reflected in *Let Me In* movie. The objective of this study is to analyze the movie based on its structural elements and an individual psychological approach.

In analysis, the writer uses qualitative method. The object of the study is *Let Me In* written by Steven Conrad. The data sources consist of primary and secondary data sources. The primary data source is *Let Me In* movie itself and the secondary data sources are the other sources related to the primary data such as the information about the director's biography, websites, and the other sources related to the analysis like theory of individual psychological by Alfred Adler. The method of the data collection are watching the movie, taking notes the important data, arranging the data based on category of elements of literature review, and the last is looking for the supporting data. The technique of data analysis is descriptive analysis.

The outcome of the study is shown in the following conclusions. First, Matt Reeves wants to describe that love can defeat anything and he wants to convey about hard work to achieve the purpose and never gives up is the important thing to get our dream. Second, based on individual psychological analysis, Matt Reeves wants to reflect that Owen's loyalties to keep his lover can produce happiness.

Key words: *Loyalty, Let Me In, Individual Psychological*

A. Introduction

Every human being has his or her own problems in life. The problems may vary among them. Problems are not to be avoided but to be faced and solved. If an individual tries to escape from the problems and avoid solving it, the problems are getting more complicated, which in turn will arise conflict and frustration. *Loyalty* is one of the problem that every

human should be done. Therefore, human must know that loyalty is an ability to survive or quality of being faithful to somebody or something. In other word, loyalty is strong feeling that person wants to be loyal to somebody or someone. Here, the writer wants to discuss about the meaning of loyalty on *Let Me In* movie by Matt Reeves.

Let Me In movie was released on October 1, 2010 in United States. The director is Matt Reeves and written by Steven Conrad. This film is produced by Steve Tisch. Filming locations in Overbrook and Escape Artists studios United States. It stars Will Smith as the main character as Chris Gardner, Jaden Smith as Christopher, and Thandie Newton as Linda, Brian Howe as Jay Twistle, Dan Castellaneta as Alan Frakesh, James Karen as Martin Frohm, and Kurt Fuller as Walter Ribbon.

The film tells about story of the young girl's life in the in Los Alamos, New Mexico. The story starts when a police detective acted by Elias Koteas enters the hospital room of a disfigured man. He tries to ask question the patient and concludes by telling him that he will catch whoever else is in league with him. Then, the detective is called to take a phone call outside the room by the nurse desk. While he is on the phone, a scream is heard, and the detective finds the suspect has fallen out of the window to his death. The man had scribbled a note: "I'm sorry Abby".

Flashback two weeks earlier, Owen acted by Kodi Smit-McPhee is a very unhappy and lonely 12-year-old boy, who is neglected by his divorcing parents and continually harassed at school by cruel bullies. Owen harbors considerable anger against the bullies, he often enacts imaginary fights where he stabs various targets representing the bullies. While peering at neighbors from his bedroom window with a telescope, he notices a girl and a middle-aged man appearing to be her father, moving in next door. One evening, when Owen is alone in the courtyard, practicing one of his imaginary fights, his actions are observed by the girl who starts the first conversation with Owen. Her name is revealed to be Abby, who claims to be 12 years old. Abby tells Owen that they cannot be friends, but

regardless Abby and Owen grow closer, seeing each other at night in the courtyard, and start communicating by Morse code through the walls of their apartments. At school the main bully, Kenny acted by Dylan Minnette scars Owen with an antenna rod, when Abby finds out about this she tells him to defend himself and she will help him if needed.

Abby is very saddened by the death of Thomas, but she moves on to Owen for psychological comfort. She goes to Owen's window while he is asleep and asks him if she can come in. Owen allows her into his room, and he asks her to be his girlfriend, which she accepts. Meanwhile, the detective gradually learns of the protector's connection to Abby. The next day on a field trip for school, Owen stands up to Kenny and hits him with a metal pole, splitting his ear. That night, when Owen tells Abby, she approvingly kisses him on the cheek. He then takes her to an abandoned area of the complex where he cuts his finger to make a blood pact with her. Abby is drawn to the blood falling to the ground, she licks it up and Owen sees her vampiric face, but instead of attacking Owen, Abby runs away and attacks Virginia (Sasha Barrese), a woman in the complex park, but is chased off by her boyfriend, Larry (Dylan Kenin). Owen becomes afraid and calls to his estranged father for comfort, who ends the phone call quickly. Owen then proceeds to Abby's apartment. She tells him she needs blood to live. As Owen looks through Abby's belongings, it becomes clear from old photos that the middle-aged man who protected her was not her father, but that many years ago, he was a boy she knew. Owen becomes frightened and leaves Abby's apartment. At the hospital, the police officer learns from Larry that Abby attacked Virginia. A few seconds later, a vampiric Virginia begins to feed on the blood in her arm from her IV. When a nurse opens the blinds to the daylight, she bursts into flames, setting fire to the nurse and the hospital room.

Abby visits one night when Owen's mother acted by Cara Buono is away. Owen opens the door for her and she tells him he needs to invite her in. He asks why, so she enters without an invitation, which causes her to

bleed heavily until he verbally acquiesces. Abby confidently tells Owen that she knew he would not let her die. Abby showers and Owen offers her one of his mother's dresses, but she leaves when his mother returns. The next morning, the detective heads to Abby's apartment and breaks in. He finds Abby asleep in the bathroom and tries to shine the daylight to see her, partially burning Abby, but Owen startles him, allowing Abby to grab him in the confined space. Abby kills the detective and starts to feed off him, Owen closes the bathroom door, apparently horrified by the sight but nonetheless resigned to the inevitability of it. Later, Abby is seen leaving, having earlier announced to Owen her intention to do so. A taxi takes Abby to her new destination, as Owen watches from the window and cries.

There are at least four points of interest of this movie seen from the character and characterization, casting, plot, and theme.

The *first* is *Let Me in* has the uncommon story because this film tells about young girl's life and his soulmate but they come from different kinds, human and vampire. They hope they will be together because they love each other.

The *second* is the visualization and the cast of the movie. Catherine Hardwicke makes the audience feel enthusiastic with the plot of the movie, even when the movie shows about the life of vampire's family which is very different with the human life as usual. The music on the movie gives more chemistry when learning of the story. This is made the audience feel that the movie is real.

The *third* is the existence of the vampire's family in human society through the movie. Owen's family was considered human's family as usual in fact. Owen's family is vampire family. His family lives like the other humans do their activity. It shows the audience that human and vampire are different. They can live together as long as the vampire know what they should do in human society and can control their emotion when smelling the blood of human.

The *fourth* is the movie tells about romance fantasy film. Owen is a female vampire and Owen is a male human being. This difference makes the film very interesting. Vampire usually drinks the human's blood, but in this movie, a female vampire falls in love to a man.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in observing meaning of loyalty reflected in *Let Me In* movie. That is why writer is interested in understanding the relation based on the individual psychological approach for his research paper entitle: **"MEANING OF LOYALTY REFLECTED IN *LET ME IN* MOVIE (2010) BY MATT REEVES: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH."**

B. Research Method

The method used in this research is qualitative study which takes the source data from words and other written text. Qualitative study is concerned with providing description of phenomena that occur naturally. This study attempted to present the data from perspective of the observed subject. The object of this study is *Let Me In* movie. This movie is directed by Matt Reeves and written by Steven Conrad.

Type of the data is in the form of script movie entitled *Let Me In* directed by Matt Reeves. The writer divides the data source into two categories: primary data and secondary data source. The primary data source of the study is *Let Me In* movie that is directed by Matt Reeves and written by Steven Conrad. The writer takes the secondary data source, including reference and materials related to the study whether picking up from books or internet.

The technique of collecting data is library research. The data from both primary and secondary sources are collected and recorded in a short of document as evidence. The techniques of collecting data are as follows: Watching the movie several times and determining the character that will be analyzed, reading some related books to find out the theory data and information required. Accessing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study. Taking notes of important parts in

both primary data and secondary data. Arranging the data into several parts according to its self classification. Selecting particular parts that are considered important and relevant for the analysis, and drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

C. Finding and Discussion

The individual analysis that consists of inferiority feeling, striving for superiority, fictional finalism, style of live, social interest, and creative self.

1) Inferiority Feeling

Alfred Adler once wrote in his book, "to be a human being means to feel oneself inferior". It means that everyone, without expectation, feels inferior. People always feel that there is something that is wrong with them, that people do not have, that is not enough. People spend most of the lifetime to feel inferior toward others. The inferiority feeling can be caused by real inferiority, like physical handicaps, or feel inferiority.

As a human, Owen, the major character in the movie surely has inferiority feeling that should be faced and finished. In the movie, he is an ordinary people who always feels fear, nervous and strong in his life. It can be seen when Owen sees Kenny who is punished by Mr. Zoric because of Kenny's naughty for his girl friend in swimming pool. Owen spins the tumbler on his locker as fast as he can, quickly grabs his backpack.

2) Striving for Superiority

Striving for superiority is something that everyone does in order to move ahead, from a condition of getting over inferiority. The striving for superiority is a natural way of being to get a better life.

Adler (in Hjelle and Linzey, 1992: 143) said that the striving superiority is based on the human's ability to be aware of himself of his ability to remember past experiences and to imagine himself in the future. Later Adler said that the striving exist first, then feelings of

inferiority in first time, and finally, the striving are given direction by the creative power in response to the feeling of inferiority (Feist, 1985: 70-71).

Striving for superiority can be found in many ways. Firstly, he strives for keeping his love after the death of her father. Owen invites her to come in his room whenever she wants. Owen will not allow Abby to die although she has to need human blood to survive. At that time, police detective comes to Owen's room to check where Abby is. But, it becomes the chance of Owen to help Abby who needs human blood.

3) Fictional Finalism

Vaihinger (in Feist, 1985: 65-66) state that fiction is ideas that have no real existence, yet they influence people as if they rally exist. Final goal may be a fiction that is an ideal, which is impossible to realize, but which is nonetheless a very real motivation to human's striving and the important explanation of their conduct. Adler said that he normal person could free himself from the influence of the fictions and see reality when necessity demanded, something that emotional sick of person is fiction, finalism is the human behavior is directed toward a future goal its own making. The greatest importance of fiction finalism is the goal of superiority or success. The friction final goal has great significance (Adler in Feist, 1985: 65).

The final goal that is reflected on major character, Owen in Let Me In movie is Owen wants to revenge his friend named Kenny and gangs who always gives disturbance in the school. Almost everyday Owen is grabbed by them. They feel that Owen is nice target to show their emotion. Owen is scared if he wants to fight against back them directly. So, he has a plan which is not realized. He stands up in front of the mirror bringing the kitchen knife and imitates the Kenny's style.

4) Style of Life

Style of life is the system principle by which the individual personality functions, it is the whole that commands the parts. Style of life is Adler's chief idiographic principle, it is the principles that explain the uniqueness of the person. It is the way of someone to solve the problems they are facing and the way to realize their fictional final goal (Hall and Lindzey, 1981: 126).

Adler (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 146) argues that there are four styles of life: Ruling type, Getting type, Avoiding type, and Socially useful type. These include ruling type: aggressive, assertive, dominating people who don't have much social interest or cultural perception, the getting type: individuals with this attitude relate to the outside world in a parasitic manner, depending on the other to satisfy most of their need, the avoiding type: their goal is to avoid, all problems in life because avoiding any possibility of failure, the social useful type: the person who express a genuine concern for and communion with other people.

5) Social Interest

Pervin and John (1984: 143) state that social interest is a relationship and cooperation between an individual and the others. Hjelle and Ziegler (1992:147) assert that the social interest is a concept that deals with that relationship between an individual and his social environment.

So, in Individual Psychology, someone is not seen only as an individual, but also in social contexts. Someone is viewed by the way he believes in society, by the society where he was raised and lived, and by his social standards. "What we call a good or bad person can be judged only from the viewpoint of the community" (Ansbachers, 1956: 130).

Moreover, social interest is our attitude related with humanity in general as well as empathy for each member of human race. It is real

as collaborating with others for social progress rather than for personal gain. In this story it is also manifested by Owen in his school. Owen always becomes the target boy for Kenny and gangs. It can be seen when Owen has a class with them, they always starts to disturb him.

6) Creative Power

Creative power is the concept used by Adler to reflect his belief that each person is empowered with the freedom to create her or his own life style. This creative power is responsibility for the person's life goal determines the method of striving for the goal and contributed to the development of social interest (Adler in Feist, 1985: 77-78).

All people have certain creative self to overcome their feeling. As a younger who has feeling love, Owen also strives to save his love named Abby from Police detective. He cannot allow something happen to her. It can be seen when Abby leaved by his father who die in the incident. Owen shows his creative self by inviting her to play in his apartment in order to forget her sadness.

a. Loyalty of Owen

Loyalty is quality of being faithful or strong feeling that you want to be loyal. In other definition loyalty also has meaning feeling of duty that is a feeling of devotion, duty, or attachment to somebody or something (Oxford, 2004:256).

Loyalty is one of way people keep his relation. It is also shown by the character named Owen when he gives his rubrics to his lover named Abby in the middle of night after introducing their self. He feels happy when he gets new friend in apartment. It makes him become opened person after closing with Abby. He can share about everything in both in school and daily activity.

The second Owen's loyalty is also shown when Owen shares his problem to Abby about his friends. He is intimidated and gets negative behavior from his friends in his school. He does not attempt

to fight against back. He tells her the truth about what happened. When Owen has a problem with his friend in his school, he shares to her. So, Abby knows all about his life, both in the school and daily activity. Abby asks Owen to be a brave person. If he is disturbed by his friend in the school, he is hoped against back to them.

D. Conclution and Educational Implication

Severe trauma in early childhood affects all domains of development, including cognitive, social, emotional, psychological and moral development. Students who have experienced traumatic events may have behavioral or academic problems, or their suffering may not apparent at all.

Some students, if given support, will recover within a few weeks or months from the fear and anxiety caused by a traumatic experience. However, some students need more help over a longer period of time in order to heal, and may need continuing support from family, teachers, oe mental health professionals. Mental health counseling that has been demonstrated at school to be affective in helping students deal with traumatic stress reactions.

For general readers who are interested in literature, this study is hoped can give contribution in developing literature aspect and knowledge in English education.

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