

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

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 budget is about \$20 million. This film is nominated to 12 academy awards and also gets Academy Award for the original soundtrack.

Besides, the director Matt Reeves gains success with their literary work in the same title.

The director of *Let Me in* movie is Matt Reeves. He was born on April 27, 1966 in Rockville Centre, New York. He is an American film writer, director and producer. He began making movies at eight years old, directing friends with a wind-up camera. Reeves met and became friends with J.J. Abrams when both were 13 years old, and both were having their short films aired on a cable access channel. Reeves attended the University of Southern California. There, he produced an award-winning student film titled "Mr. Petrified Forest", which helped him acquire an agent, and also co-wrote a script that eventually became *Under Siege 2: Dark Territory*. After graduating, he co-wrote *The Pallbearer*, which also became his professional directorial debut. Reeves also wrote and directed *Let Me In* movie, a remake of the Swedish film *Let the Right One In*, which was released on October 1, 2010 by Overture Films. He was a special guest at the 2010 San Diego Comic Con. The films whichever he hands are such as *Future Shock* (1993), *Under Siege 2: Dark Territory* (1995), *The Pallbearer* (1996), *Felicity* (1998–2002), *The Yards* (2000), *Cloverfield* (2008), and *Let Me In* (2010). Matt Reeves is a director who realizes many films in every year.

Let Me In is a 2010 American romantic horror drama film directed by Matt Reeves. It is based on the 2008 Swedish film *Let the Right One In* (*Lat Den Rätte Komma in*), directed by Tomas Alfredson, and the novel of the same name by John Ajvide Lindqvist. The characters are Kodi Smit-McPhee

as Owen, Chloe Grace Moretz as Abby, Richard Jenkins as Thomas, Cara Buono as Owen's mother, Elias Koteas as The Police Detective, Sasha Barrese as Virginia, and Dylan Minnette as Kenny.

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.

Meanwhile, Abby's "father", Thomas, occasionally goes out nightly to kill local residents in order to acquire blood for the vampiric Abby. During his first murder, he accidentally spills the blood. After he returns home empty handed, a furious Abby leaves the apartment and then tricks, kills and feeds off a jogger who lives in the same neighborhood, Thomas later dumps the body in a lake so that Abby is not incriminated. Abby continues developing her relationship with Owen and Thomas asks her to stop seeing Owen, but she does not. One night, Thomas hides in the back of a high school student's car in order to later subdue him, but the student ends up bringing a passenger along, completely altering Thomas' plans. While the driver stops at a gas station, Thomas subdues the passenger, starts the car and tries to flee. Driving erratically in reverse, he ends up crashing the car in nearby a ditch. Trapped in the wrecked car, Thomas douses his face with acid so that his connection to Abby will not be discovered. He is taken to the hospital, when Abby hears this on the news, she climbs up outside his window to see him horribly disfigured. Abby then drinks Thomas' blood after he silently implores her to do so, and he falls out to his death, bringing the story back to just before the flashback.

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.

During gym class, Kenny, his older brother Jimmy and friends start a fire outside to distract the teacher acted by Ritchie Coster and clear out the swimming pool. Jimmy tells Owen that if he can survive underwater for three minutes, then he will cut Owen's cheek, if he cannot he will poke an eye out. Owen is held underwater by Jimmy and struggles to hold his breath. However, as he is held underwater, a commotion suddenly starts taking place above the surface, to the sounds of screams and what seems to be a creature flying around. Soon, Jimmy's head falls into the water, as well as various other body parts, while the water of the pool starts turning red. Owen surfaces as the screams of the bullies fall silent, to meet the eyes of Abby. As Abby and Owen exit, snow falls from a broken window into the bloodstained pool, which is surrounded by the dismembered bodies of the bullies. Later, Owen is

seen traveling on a train, with Abby beside him in a trunk to avoid the sunlight. They tap out brief messages to each other in Morse code.

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. Previous Study

As long as the writer knows, there is no previous researcher that has been conducted in Matt Reeves's *Let Me In* movie at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. So this study is the first study. Further, in this study, the writer studies Matt Reeves's *Let Me In* based on the individual psychological approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the research, the writer proposed a single problem statement. The main problem in this research is: "How Owen's loyalties to keep his lover reflected in *Let Me In* movie?"

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher focuses on the analysis on the meaning of loyalty reflected in *Let Me In* movie based on an individual psychological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze structural elements of the movie.
2. To analyze the movie based on individual psychological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

- a. To give some information which can be used by the other researchers who are interested in analyzing this literary work.
- b. The study gives contribution to the larger body of knowledge particularly literary study on Matt Reeves's *Let Me In* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or other Universities who have interest in literary study on the movie from individual psychological approach.

G. Research Method

The research method of this research paper is broken down into five aspects: (1) Type of Research, (2) Subject of the Study, (3) Type of data and Data Source, (4) Technique of the Data Collection, and (5) Method of the Data Analysis.

1. Type of the Study

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.

2. Object of the Study

The object of this study is *Let Me In* movie. This movie is directed by Matt Reeves and written by Steven Conrad.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

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.

a. Primary 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.

b. Secondary Data Source

The writer takes the secondary data source, including reference and materials related to the study whether picking up from books or internet. The script movie is downloaded in <http://www.simplyscript.com> and is added by the writer to reach the completeness.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

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:

- a. Watching the movie several times and determining the character that will be analyzed.
- b. Reading some related books to find out the theory data and information required.
- c. Accessing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study.
- d. Taking notes of important parts in both primary data and secondary data.
- e. Arranging the data into several parts according to its self classification.
- f. Selecting particular parts that are considered important and relevant for the analysis.
- g. Drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The method employed in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis, in which the data is collected, described, and then analyzed. The writer concerns with the relationship between the movie and the individual psychological theory to show how the meaning of loyalty reflected in *Let Me In* movie.

H. Research Paper Organization

To give clear understanding of the contents of this study, the writer has appointed the presentation of the study. The presentation of this study consists of five chapters. This paper is divided into five chapters. *Chapter I* is introduction, covering the background of the study, previous study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. *Chapter II* is the underlying theory that consists of the notion of individual psychology, basic concept of individual psychology, structural element of the movie, and theoretical application. *Chapter III* deals with the structural analysis of the movie. *Chapter IV* discusses individual psychological approach and its application in analyzing Matt Reeves's *Let Me In* movie. The last is *Chapter V* which contains conclusion and suggestion.