

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Ruthless is a novel by an American author Anne Stuart. This novel was published in 2010. The novel consists of 24 chapters. *Ruthless* is the first book in Anne Stuart's upcoming House of Rohan trilogy. The theme of the novel is historical romance. This is typical Anne Stuart fare: very dark and violent with a definite Gothic flavour.

Anne Stuart, born May 2, 1948 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is a prolific and best-selling American romance novelist. She has written over 100 novels and is a recipient of the Romance Writers of America's Lifetime Achievement Award. Stuart grew up with her parents in Princeton, New Jersey. Her husband is Richard Ohlrogge, her daughter, and her son live in northern Vermont. Her first book was published in 1974 by Ballantine Press when she was 25 years old. Since then, her books have been published by numerous publishers such as Dell, Doubleday, St. Martin's Press and currently Harlequin.

Ruthless tells a story about Elinor Harriman lives, she lives in France with her disgraced aristocratic mother and her beautiful younger sister, Lydia. Elinor Harriman is trying to do her best at surviving in Paris 1768. Her mother is ill and no money is coming in. Her father, in England, has recently died and left his fortune to an unknown cousin. Her beautiful sister is coming of age and there are

2 servants also depending on them for survival. Now her mother has managed to sneak out to gamble the last of their money. Elinor makes her way to the Heavenly Host to bring her mother home and there meets the mysterious and depraved Viscount Rohan.

When Elinor shows up demanding to see her mother, Rohan is interested with her. This woman is not like the other beauties that lay at his feet. She is actually quite plain, with a very pronounced nose and best of all, she stands up to him. Something that rarely, if ever happens. Rohan is intrigued, and suddenly his boredom is a thing of the past. Elinor is terrified he will want to bed her beautiful sister, but Rohan doesn't want the beauty. He wants the sister with some spunk, although he would never admit it to anyone.

Elinor is a fierce heroine, one who will do anything to keep her sister safe. She has led such a poor life, with a horrible mother who made her do despicable acts. It is actually odd that her sister and herself turned out so proper – although the help from Nanny Maude, gave them a little love that is much deserved.

Rohan takes an interest in Elinor, something she has never had. He is so flip and arrogant, he never shows her necessarily a physical interest, or at least doesn't lead that on. But Elinor is so starved for affection of any kind, she can't help but be somewhat drawn to this man. And out of character for him, he sees himself financially helping this family. A series of unfortunate circumstances lead Rohan to offer Elinor an indecent proposal, and they soon find themselves caught up in a mystery involving murder, false identities and greed.

In *Ruthless* novel, there are many positive responses having addressed to this book. It can be seen from *goodreadsinternet* site. One of the discussant, Keri in October 20, 20110 states that *Ruthless* is a great book.

Ruthless is this was a great book over all. Elinor is a woman on the edge of ruin. With her ill mother driving them deeper into poverty, the constant guard over her beauteous sister and the stress of trying to keep the 5 people she cares most about, out of debtor's prison and homeless in the Paris streets forever.

Another response is coming from Kimm in June 27, 2010 stating that *Ruthless* is great.

She thinks that *Ruthless* is well....quite surprising. I sit on the fence with this book. I liked the characters' backstories and the overall plot; however, I didn't really enjoy the route taken to get there. I have to say that I cringed a few times expecting to find myself in the midst of an erotic read (which I am not a fan of). It felt like dodging a bullet most of the time. *Ruthless* has it's fair share of umm....exposure, but turned out to be more chaste than I first imagined

Ruthless is one of the bestsellers novels and everyone waiting for the next one novel to come out.*Ruthless* is the first book in Anne Stuart's upcoming House of Rohan trilogy. Susan Philips in 2013 states that "Its the first book of a series. I love the story, the history, the characters, its very well written and even if I agree with some of the negative reviews, I still would enjoy reread this book and the 3 others. I'm waiting for the next one to come out". The next series of *Ruthless* is *Reckless*, *Breathless*, and *Shameless*.

There are five reasons why the writer is interested in studying this novel; first is because the writer is interested in character and characterization of the novel. Second is because the setting of the novel is. Third is because the plot of

the novel is interesting. Fourth is because the style of the novel. The fifth reason is because hedonistic life that becomes the main issue of novel is reflected well.

The first reason, the writer is interested in character and characterization of the novel, for examples Rohan and Elinor have different characteristics. Rohan is not a very nice man, and he has done many hedonistic things in the pursuit of pleasure, Elinor is innocent young ladies but Elinor fearing and hating Rohan to loving him come a little too abruptly. Novel also gives emotional feeling to the reader.

The second reason, the setting of the novel is interesting. *Ruthless* is set 1768 in Paris when the winter. The story of *Ruthless* is set a few years before the French revolution in Paris. It describes the setting in which the story takes place, including the aristocratic privileges that jointly with the financial crisis would eventually trigger said revolution and it is make it beautiful story.

The third reason, the plot of the novel is interesting. Hall (in Koesnoesoebroto, 1988: 29) argues that “plot as what happen in a story, the story’s organized development, usually a chain linking cause and effect”. This novel tells the story about lives and loves. The plot of the novel is easy to understand and makes the writer interest.

The fourth reason is because the style of the novel. Kennedy (1983: 75) stated that style refers to the individual traits or characteristics of a piece of writing; to a writer’s particular ways of managing words that we come to recognize as habitual or customary. Style indicates a mode of expression: the

language a writer uses. Style is considered one of the fundamental components of fiction. The style of the novel is dark, intense, and sometimes unsettling historical romance.

The fifth reason, is because hedonistic life that becomes the main issue of novel is reflected well. The analysis focuses on the main theme, that is hedonistic life. In this novel Anne Stuart tells about the activity of hedonistic life conducted by Rohan and his friends in the Heavenly Host such as gambling and free sex. Hedonistic is the belief that pleasure or happiness is the most important goal in life.

The writer uses a sociological theory as an approach to analyze this novel, because the story of the novel is about hedonistic life, so it is appropriate with sociological theory as an approach. By so doing, the writer gives the title:

HEDONISTIC LIFE REFLECTED IN ANNE STUART'S *RUTHLESS* NOVEL (2010): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

B. Literature Review

There is no literature review related in Anne Stuart's *Ruthless* (2010) novel at least among university in Central Java such as UNS, UMS, UNDIP, UNSOED, etc. So that the writer cannot compare this research with other research because this is the first study of *Ruthless* (2010) novel. The writer uses Sociological approach to analyze the data and using *Ruthless* novel an object. The writer cannot find the related research because this data sources is the newest novel that are released on 2010. So that the writer cannot compare this research

with other research because this is the first study of *Ruthless*. The writer uses Sociological approach to analyzed the data and using Revolt in Paradise as an object. The write analyzed **HEDONISTIC LIFE REFLECTED IN ANNE STUART'S *RUTHLESS* NOVEL (2010): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

C. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of study, the researcher proposed the problem “How is hedonistic life reflected in Anne Stuart’s *Ruthless* novel (2010)?

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing hedonistic life reflected in Anne Stuart’s *Ruthless* novel (2010) based on a sociological approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the research are:

1. To describe *Ruthless* novel based on structural elements of novel.
2. To analyze how hedonistic life reflected in Anne Stuart’s *Ruthless* novel (2010) based on a sociological approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

The researcher really hopes that this research on *Ruthless* (2010) has benefits. The benefits of this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and contribution the development of the knowledge, and as an academic reference

by other researchers to conduct further research and particularly the literary studies on *Ruthless* novel.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or other University students who have interest in literary study on the novel from a Sociological Approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer uses qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. It proposes to analyze novel using sociological approach. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is hedonistic life reflected in Anne Stuart's *Ruthless* novel (2010). It is analyzed by using a sociological approach.

3. Type of the Data and Data Source

The writer uses two sources of data, namely primary data sources and secondary data sources.

a. Primary data sources

The primary data sources is Anne Stuart's *Ruthless* novel (2010)

b. Secondary data sources

The secondary data sources from other sources related to the study, such as website, dictionary, and some books that support the analysis.

4. Technique of Data Collection

The methods of collecting data are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly and understanding the content
- b. Reading some other resources related to the novel
- c. Giving marks to particular parts in the novel, which are considered important for the analysis
- d. Taking notes for important parts both in primary and secondary data sources
- e. Classifying the data into categories and developing them into a good unity
- f. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with structural elements of the novel on hedonistic life reflected in Anne Stuart's *Ruthless* novel (2010).

H. Paper Organization

The research paper organization of Hedonistic Life reflected in Anne Stuart's *Ruthless* novel (2010) is as follows. Chapter I is introduction, which

consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, the objectives of study, the benefit of study, and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory, which presents the notions. Chapter III deals with research method, it concerns with the type of study, the object of the study, the data and data sources, the method of collecting data, and the method of data analysis. Chapter IV deals with structural analysis of the novel, which involves the structural elements of the novel and discussion. Chapter V is sociological analysis, this chapter explains the sociological analysis of *Ruthless* novel. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion.