

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Ruthless is the first book in Anne Stuart's upcoming *House of Rohan* trilogy. This is typical Anne Stuart fare: very dark and violent with a definite Gothic flavour. This novel was published in 2010 and consists of 24 chapters. *Ruthless* novel also consist of 410 pages. This is *House of Rohan* trilogy. The first *Ruthless*, *Reckless* and also *Breathless*. *Ruthless* was a historical romantic novel.

Anne Kristine Stuart was born on 2 May 1948 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Stuart grew up with her parents in Princeton, New Jersey. Anne Stuart is a grandmaster of the genre. She is also the winner of Romance Writers of America's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, survivor of more than thirty-five years in the romance business and still just keeps getting better. The first novel was *Barrett's Hill*, it is a gothic romance novel published by Ballantine in 1974 when Anne had just turned 25. Since then she's written more gothics, regencies, romantic suspense, romantic adventure, series romance, suspense, historical romance, paranormal and mainstream contemporary romance for publishers such as Doubleday, Harlequin, Silhouette, Avon, Zebra, St. Martins Press, Berkley, Dell, Pocket Books and Fawcett. She's won awards in America, appeared on most bestseller lists and speaks all over the country. Her has

gotten on Entertainment Tonight, as well as in Vogue, People, USA Today, Women's Day and countless other national newspapers and magazines. She's favorite hobby is travelling. When she's not traveling, she's at home in Northern Vermont with her luscious husband of thirty-six years, an empty nest, three cats, four sewing machines, and one Springer Spaniel, and when she's not working she's watching movies. She's also like to listen rock and roll music and spending far too much time quilting.

Ruthless tells a story about the life of Ellinor Harriman. Ellinor Harriman lives in exile in France with her disgraced aristocratic mother and her beautiful younger sister, Lydia. When Lady Caroline left her husband for a dashing Frenchman, she and her daughters began a life of upheaval and insecurity. The intervening years have seen Lady Caroline embark on a series of disastrous affairs and reckless gambling, leaving her daughters to fend for themselves and the household. At the beginning of the story, she's in the final stages of syphilis and has descended into madness.

As the elder sister, Ellinor feels responsible for her mother and sister's welfare. When Lady Caroline takes the last of their money and absconds, Ellinor is obliged to follow her. Her destination: a debauched house party hosted by the notorious Viscount Rohan. Rohan and his cronies are known for their depravities. His is not an address visited by innocent young ladies. But as Ellinor is neither young nor innocent, she is only mildly intimidated by Rohan's reputation. She's desperate to stop her

mother from gambling away what remains of their meagre funds, and this desperation outweighs any trepidation she might feel.

Viscount Rohan is intrigued by Ellinor. She's neither beautiful nor charming, yet she stirs his interest. He helps her find her mother and transport her back to Paris. Afterwards, he finds himself strangely reluctant to end their acquaintance. A series of unfortunate circumstances lead Rohan to offer Ellinor an indecent proposal, and they soon find themselves caught up in a mystery involving murder, false identities and greed.

In *Ruthless* novel by Anne Stuart, there are many positive response having been addressed to this book. It can be seen from *goodreads* internet site. The discussant from Elizabeth in 2010 states that *Ruthless* is "This is an extraordinary tour-de-force of a historical romance with a sex-on-a-stick rake hero and an outspoken, plain heroine who goes toe-to-toe with him". Another response from *amazon* internet site is coming from Motorcycle Mamma in 2013. She said that "This was a very good story. I love to read, and sometimes want something that I can read to relax. This book was that and more".

Ruthless is one of the bestsellers novels and everyone is waiting for the next one novel to come out. 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”.

There are reasons why the writer is interested in studying this novel; because the writer is interested in five points; character & characteristic, setting, plot, style and suspect mature the novel.

The first, the writer is interested character and characteristic the novel. Novel is a long written story in which the characters and events are usually imaginary and also gives emotional feeling to the reader. The story of *Ruthless* novel reflects the different characteristics of two persons, Ellinor and Rohan. The two persons have different characteristic but they can make it beautiful through any kinds of life problems.

The second reason is because the setting of the novel is interesting. *Ruthless* is set 1768 in Paris. The story of *Ruthless* is set a few years before the French revolution in Paris. It is describe 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 is because the plot of the novel is interesting. This novel tells the story about lives of Ellinor and Rohan. The plot of the novel is easy to understand and makes the writer interest.

The fourth reason is because the style of the novel. Style is the codified gestures, in which the author tells the story. Along with plot, character, theme, and setting. Style is considered one of the fundamental

components of fiction. The style of the novel this dark, intense, and sometimes unsettling historical romance.

The fifth reason is because the suspect mature on the novel. Material oriented life that becomes the suspect mature of novel is reflected well. Material oriented life always in social life. This novel contains material oriented life message, such as Ellinor in this novel always help her family find something to eat.

The researcher uses a Marxist theory as an approach to analyze this novel, because the story of the novel is about material oriented life, so it is appropriate with marxist theory as an approach. By so doing, the researcher gives the title: **MATERIAL ORIENTED LIFEREFLECTED IN ANNE STUART'S *RUTHLESS* NOVEL (2010): A MARXIST APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

There is no literature review related to *Ruthless* (2010) novel written by Anna Stuart's at least among university in Central Java such as UMS, UNS, UNDIP, 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 Marxist Approach to analyze the data and using *Ruthless* (2010) an object. The writer uses Marxist Approach to analyze the data. The writer analyzes **MATERIAL ORIENTED**

**LIFERELECTED IN ANNE STUART'S *RUTHLESS* NOVEL
(2010): A MARXIST APPROACH.**

C. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of study, the researcher proposed the problem "How is material oriented life reflected in Anne Stuart's *Ruthless* novel (2010) ?

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focused this research in analyzing material oriented life reflected in Anne Stuart's *Ruthless* novel (2010) based on a Marxist 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 material oriented life reflected in Anne Stuart's *Ruthless* novel (2010) based on a Marxist approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

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

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and contribute to the development of the knowledge. It is also 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 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 Marxist approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer uses qualitative research and the data sources are library or literary data. It proposes to analyze novel using Marxist 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 material oriented life reflected in Anne Stuart's *Ruthless* novel (2010). It is analyzed by using a Marxist approach.

3. Type of the Data and Data Sources

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 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 other resources related to the novel.
- c. Giving marks to particular parts in the novel.
- 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 Data Analysis

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

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of "Material Oriented Life reflected in Anne Stuart's *Ruthless* 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 Marxist analysis. This chapter explains the sociological analysis of *Ruthless* novel. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion.