

**RISING FROM BEING INFERIOR IN JOSEPH RUBEN'S *SLEEPING
WITH THE ENEMY* (1991): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL
PERSPECTIVE**



RESEARCH PAPER

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by

NINDI MARIATUS SHOLIKAH

A320060062

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Sleeping with the Enemy is a [1991 psychological thriller film](#) which was released in February 8, 1991, starring [Julia Roberts](#), who escapes from her abusive, obsessive husband, played by [Patrick Bergin](#). She captures the attention of a kindly gentleman, played by [Kevin Anderson](#). Written by Ronald Bass based on the novel by Nancy Price. Cinematography by John W. Lindley. Edited by George Bowers. Music by Jerry Goldsmith, Leonard Bernstein, and Hector Berlioz. Produced by Leonard Goldberg. Distributed by Twentieth Century Fox. Estimated budget is \$20,000,000 and gross revenue is \$ 100,294,830. Directed by Joseph Ruben. Color. 98 minutes.

Sleeping with the Enemy is directed by Joseph Ruben. He was born in Briarcliff Manor, New York, May 10,1950. He studied theater and film at the University of Michigan, then went on to earn a master's degree at Brandeis University. His feature film directing debut was a thriller called *The Sister-in-Law* (1974), starring John Savage. Next up for Ruben was the light-hearted teen romp *The Pom Pom Girls* (1976), starring Robert Carradine. Continuing in the teen genre, Ruben took on the adventure film *Joyride* (1977), again starring Carradine, along with Desi Arnaz Jr. and Melanie Griffith. Ruben's *Sleeping with the Enemy* (1991), starring Julia Roberts, was his first mainstream success, grossing over \$101 million in the US alone and \$173 million worldwide.

Sleeping with the Enemy tells about Laura and Martin Burney as a couple.

They lived near a beach. Laura is a beautiful and sexy woman. Her husband, Martin Burney is a abusive and obsessive men. He always orders every detail of Laura's life. One night Martin invite Laura for evening sail together with their neighbor. Actually at a night there was rainstorm. That chance used Laura to slips out the boat during a rainstorm. Meanwhile, Martin has called the police to search his wife, but Laura is not found. Laura is declared dead. But in actually Laura is not dead, because she secretly learns to swim. And then Laura returns home, to take some items and she had hidden away in preparation. She leaves home after throwing her wedding ring into toilet.

Laura moves to Cedar Falls, Iowa. She rents a house and tries to start a new life with the name Sara Waters. She has neighbor, a good men, named Ben. He is a drama teacher at the University. He helps Laura to get a job at the school library. In the other side, Martin get a call from one of Laura's friend who mentions her efforts to learn swim. Then Martin back home and finds Laura's wedding ring in the toilet. He begins to organize a search to find his wife. One day, Laura wants to visit her mother in the nursing home. Ben disguises her as a young men. Finally, Laura met with her mother. At the same time, Martin also came in the nursing home. He asks to give information if there is a beautiful woman visits Mrs. Chloe.

One night, Laura and Ben have a moonlight picnic. , and Martin see them, then following them until Laura's home. When Laura returns home, she feels that something is wrong. Suddenly, Martin holds Laura at gunpoint before she can

escape. Ben comes to the door and breaks in and Martin knocks him out. Laura gets a gun away from Martin and call the police. She then kills Martin and goes to help Ben.

This movie gets various responses from many sides whether it is pro or contra. Good response by Desson Howe, stated text *Sleeping with the Enemy* is powerful due to the strong performances by Julia Roberts and Patrick Bergin, who manages to avoid making Martin a complete monster by showing him to be a prisoner of his own madness. He even seems human when he reveals his own desperate attachment to Laura, best evident perhaps in the last scene of the film as he pleads with her. The picture is also graced with a splendid soundtrack by Jerry Goldsmith, influenced no doubt by the lyrical third movement of Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Second Symphony* . (Desson Howe, Movie Review , <http://www.movie-gazette.com/267/sleeping-with-the-enemy>) Based on Hawk from California, this movie is good. He thinks most people tend to overlook how well-done the first 20 minutes of this movie really are. Ruben carefully builds a creepy atmosphere, relying on brief glances, moments of silence and quietly expressive performances (especially by Julia Roberts) to help the viewer understand that, behind the image of a perfect couple, something is really wrong. It's a visually polished movie, though, and the very good performances give it a strong psychological center that keeps it above-average. (Hawk, Movie Review , <http://www.movie-gazette.com/267/sleeping-with-the-enemy>)

Besides the good responses, *Sleeping with the Enemy* also gains some bad responses, especially from Roger Ebert the film contains a silly montage sequence

of Laura and Ben out on a date. This scene clashes in tone with the rest of the film. It is also a shame the film did not contain an epilogue showing whether Laura revealed the entire sequence of events to the police when they arrived. It could have also suggested whether she might have had a possible future with Ben. (RogerEbert,MovieReview

<http://rogerebert.suntimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/19910208/REVIEWS/102080302/1023>)

Sleeping with the enemy is nominated for four Academy Awards and winning one among them. The score by [Jerry Goldsmith](#) won the [BMI Film Music Award](#), 1992, and the film was nominated for the [Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films Saturn Award](#) for 1992 in four categories: [Best Actress](#) (Roberts), [Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actor](#) (Bergin), [Best Horror Film](#) and [Best Music](#) (Goldsmith).

Sleeping with the Enemy is interesting to be studied due to the following reasons. The first reason is there was an interesting major characters, which is interested to study. Laura, Martin Burney and Ben. Laura is a wife who want to rising from being her inferior from her husband. Martin is abusive husband. Ben is friendly and good man. Actually, the problem in our life come from outside and inside. The problem which come from inside, it can be seen when someone in afraid ness or have inferiority, and this movie tried to appear those in major character that is Laura or Sara Water

The second reason is there were several casting, the actors and actresses of this movie are a good people who play a movie. They play their act or role in a

perfect way, they use a good mime and expression to make the audience cry, and also angry such as, [Julia Roberts](#) as Laura Burney, a woman who repeatedly suffers domestic violence from her husband, Julia Robert has perfect perform as Laura. And then, [Patrick Bergin](#) as Martin Burney. He is a abusive husband and always stalks his wife, trying to get her to return to him and ultimately tries to kill her. Patrik has a good acting and expression as Martin Burney. Then, [Kevin Anderson](#) as Ben Woodward, a drama teacher and Laura's new neighbor in Cedar Falls and love interest. Kevin has suitable character as Ben.

The third reason is setting of place and setting of time. Setting of place in the Cape Cod, Cedar Falls, Iowa, in Martin's office ,and in Minneapollis .That place is interesting to enjoy. Setting of time is about 1988, because Joseph Ruben not present setting of time in this movie. So, the writer estimate setting of time about in 1988, because in this movie there is not yet high technology like handphone. Handphone there was in 1991.

The fourth reason is *Sleeping with the Enemy* has a good mise-en-scene, including, first, a good costumes and make up, for example, when Laura lived together her husband she wears a perfect costumes, but when she live in Iowa, she wears a enjoy costumes. Second, figurative expression and movement, for example, when Martin Burney look his wife, his eye as tell something.

The fifth reason is this movie has a good cinematography, including , a clear sounds, a good editing from beginning until finishing. And then a good speed of motion, this movie speed of movement is concerned. The duration of shot is a good and.the space and temporal in this movie is fix to enjoy.

The last reason is this movie has a good plot. The events in this movie is easy to be understood, and in this movie there is also flashback plot. So it makes the audience feel embittered in how the story can be like that. And also it makes the audience not bored to enjoy this movie.

Here, the writer will use an individual psychological theory by Adler to analyze the movie manuscript, especially in Laura's strive in her right which finally gets true love. It is caused by an individual psychological analyze the spiritual or psychological thing of the character. And the writer wants to explore and show Laura's strive to get her right from her husband through many ways, for example, learn swim, make a new identity.

From the background above, the movie makes the writer interested in Laura's (Julia Robert) effort to find her right to be happy in the future. The writer is interested in conducting in this research entitled "RISING FROM BEING INFERIOR IN JOSEPH RUBEN'S *SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY* (1991) : AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE".

B. Literature Review

The film of *Sleeping with the Enemy* by Joseph Ruben is an interesting and thriller film. As far as the writer concerns, the research on the film of "*Sleeping with the Enemy* " has been conducted by two students.

The first researcher is Yoga Mahardika (2009), Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the title is *Oppression Against Women In Joseph Ruben's Sleeping with the Enemy ; A Feminist Perspective*. His research is aimed to

analyze the oppression against women based on feminist perspective. His research uses qualitative method which employs the method of collecting, describing, classifying and analyzing the data which then drawing conclusion. The conclusion of his study depicts the oppression against women in *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie which presented by Joseph Ruben as his response to America's society in the late 20th century. He shows the lack of women's position, role, right and participation caused by oppression.

The researcher is Verna Brown University of South Africa. Her research is the mythic elements in the film *Sleeping with the Enemy*. Taking the Polyphemus myth as structural spine, she focuses on the "one-eyed" obsessive point of view of Martin Burney, which is captured by the camera, his cruel ogre-like behaviour and the necessity for escape by his victim, Laura. She shows how her escape is linked with the dominant myth by the Poseidon-like punishment she endures in her Jungian bid for individuation through her "sea-voyage". Folk-loric elements of the Sleeping Beauty, the Rapunzel figure and the disguised androgynous page boy are also indicated. In addition she surmise that Julia Roberts, the star of the film, instinctively chooses what Northrop Frye calls "myths of deliverance" as vehicles for her protean acting talents.

Different from two previous researchers this study focuses on rising from being inferior of Laura, one of the major characters in this film by Individual Psychological perspective. " *Rising from being Inferior in Joseph Ruben's Sleeping with the Enemy (1991) : An Individual Psychological Perspective*".

C. Problem Statement

The main problem of this study is how rising from being inferior is reflected in Joseph Ruben's *Sleeping with the Enemy* .

D. Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study are as follows .

1. To analyze the movie based on the structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on an Individual Psychological perspective.

E. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the study are that, through this study, the writer hopes that the study will provide benefits:

1. Theoretical benefit: to give some contributions to larger body of knowledge or the development of knowledge particularly the literary studies on Joseph Ruben's *Sleeping with the Enemy*.
2. Practical benefit: to get a better understanding about the movie and the application of individual psychological.

F. Research method

1. Types of research

The type of this research is a qualitative research in which the writer does not need statistic to collect, to analyze, and to interpret.

2. Types of data and data source

The types of data of this study are the images and the text which forms such like words, phrases, and sentences in a dialogues or monologues.

The writer takes 2 kind of data:

a. Primary data source

Primary data is the main data obtained from all the worlds, dialogues, phrases, and sentences occurring in the movie related to the topic.

b. Secondary data source

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from the literary books, criticism, and some articles related to the movie.

3. Research object

The object of the research is the movie Ruben's *Sleeping with the Enemy* (1991) for about 98 minutes.

4. Method of the data collection

The writer collects the data by taking notes for the texts and by capturing images for the images. She uses library research in collecting data which involves several steps:

- a. Collecting the video compact disk of *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie and movie manuscript by browsing on the internet.

- b. Watching the film carefully and repeatedly on order to get the best understanding of all messages, ideas, and other significant points.
- c. Reading some relevant books to get the theory being used to analyze the film, data, and information to support her study.
- d. Taking the significant data and then writing some notes of the important part of sources.
- e. Writing the data on the paper.

5. Technique of data analysis

The technique of data analysis is Classifying the data into groups according to the category of the elements of the literary study and descriptive in which the writer uses individual psychological approach and draws conclusion.

G. Research organization

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I is introduction which consists of background of the study, literature review, research problem, objective of the research, benefit of the study, research methodology, and the last is research organization. Chapter II is the underlying theory which consists of notion of individual psychological, the structure of personality, and structural elements of the movie. Chapter III is structural analysis of the movie which contains the structural elements- character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style, theme, and discussion. Chapter IV is individual psychological analysis of the personality. The last is chapter V which consists of conclusion and suggestion