



## **THE AFFAIR AND BETRAYAL IN THE MURDER INVESTIGATION AS SEEN IN PAULA HAWKINS' *THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN***

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### **Abstract**

*This research is focused on revealing the character that has an affair that appears in novel *The Girl on the Train*. The purpose of this study is to (1) To describe the cause of affair and betrayal in the story the *Girl on the Train* (2) To explain the affair and betrayal in the story the *Girl on the Train* (3) To reveals the murder investigation that expose the characters' affair and betrayal in the story the *Girl on the Train*.*

*This research analyzes about the main character, they are Rachel, Anna, Megan, and Tom. The theory used is psychology theory by Sigmund Freud which explains that the life of the human soul has three levels of consciousness namely; id, ego and superego. The method used in this research is a descriptive qualitative method in which this research does not require statistical data to obtain reality or phenomena that occur in the community.*

*The writer found that the protagonist character in this research was Rachel. In the beginning the story, Rachel is not like the protagonist in general, at the beginning of the character's story Rachel is an alcoholic, has severe depression because she has problems with her fertility so she cannot have children, unemployment, often lost consciousness (black out). But at the end of the story, Rachel's character changes where Rachel is involved in a murder case, when she realizes, she relentlessly tries to uncover the truth of Megan's murderous night, turning her into an unusual detective hunting for clues in her blurred memories. Finally facing the truth of her abusive marriage to Tom, she overcomes her emotional dependence, finally rejects victimization, and resumes control over her life, revealing herself to be the strongest female character in the novel. Despite her flaws, she is guided by a strong moral compass and empathy.*

*Keywords: *The Girl on The Train*, *The Affair*, *The Psychology of Main Character**

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### **I INTRODUCTION**

The *Girl on the Train* is novel of psychological thriller written by Paula Hawkins. The story is a first-person narrative told from the point of view of three women: Rachel, Anna, and Megan. Rachel Watson, the protagonist of this story, she is the title's girl on the train. Rachel and Tom divorced after Rachel grew depressed by her infertility and she is an alcoholic too. Rachel's drinking has caused her to lose her job; she frequently binges and has blackouts. While drunk, she often harasses Tom by phone and sometimes even in person.

The affair and betrayal in the murder investigation is very suitable title to be analyzed because throughout the story, characters betray and lie to their loved one. Tom is the most obvious example. Tom is Rachel's ex-husband. When Tom still had married with Rachel, he had an affair with Anna, after divorced with Rachel; Tom married with Anna and had a baby. Then in their marriage, Tom had an affair with Megan, Megan is Anna's babysitter. Tom lies about everything in his life and betraying trust in his relationship as a whole. Tom betrays Megan

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herself when he dumps her upon finding out that she is pregnant and then kills her.

The reason writer chooses this novel because novel the *Girl on the Train* is instant number one New York Times best seller, has sold over 4 million copies in America and in UK

and has been published in 60 editions. About the author, Paula Hawkins, she is one of the best author psychological thrillers, especially with her novel *The Girl on the Train* (2015), which deals with themes of domestic violence, alcohol, and drug abuse.

## II RESEARCH METHODS

To analyze *The Girl on the Train*, the writer uses psychological approach by Sigmund Freud's theory. The study will be focused on the characters that have an affair.

In the psychological analysis, psychological approach is based on the assumption that literary work always talks about human life events because it concerns about people and their lives, it must contain psychological aspects in the story. Psychology is expected to help us to know the characters well. The general concept of this approach can be seen in the following ideas: 1. Literary work is the process of subconscious to conscious, 2. Creation process, 3. Meaning, thought, and philosophy, 4. A good work has symbols, 5. Psychological conflict, 6. Self actualization. In this analysis, the concept of psychological conflict and self actualization will be applied because in psychological science one learns about behavior and mental process of a person. In this the *Girl on the Train*, the writer only observes from the character as one of the elements from the internal aspect, which is the main character.

In analyzing *The Girl on the Train*, the writer needs systematic ways to write this research, the writer uses primary data as source of the research and qualitative method to collect the data. The qualitative method that used is based on Pradopo in book *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra*. Qualitative research is a broad methodological approach that encompasses many research methods. The aim of qualitative research may vary with the disciplinary background, such as understanding human behavior and the reason that govern such behavior.

### 1.1 Method of Collecting the Data

In this research, the method of collecting the data the source that the writer uses is a primary data. The primary data is taken from the novel *the Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins.

### 1.2 Method of Analyzing the Data

In analyzing the data, the information from data collection is processed and presented in form of thesis. In the application, the writer uses genetic structuralism method. It looks the external factor of the literature that conveys the internal element of literary work such the actions of the main character, such as characters and author. The data are interpreted by the writer based on the literature interpretation and data take from by quoting some dialogs or text from the novel which is connected to the analysis.

### 1.3 Technique of Collecting the Data

In collecting the data, the writer uses library research. This research is oriented in the library in order to find the related data. Activity of data collection is a very important part in any form of research. The writer uses documentary technique in collecting the data. This technique is attempted to trace the source of information in the form of document which are relevant to the object of the research. The writer uses reading the books and searching on internet for collecting the data. In collecting data, the writer took the following steps: Reading and understanding the novel by Paula Hawkins and identifying the content of novel.

### 1.4 Technique of Analyzing the Data

The data analyzing procedures concern with the way of the writer to conduct the analysis of the data. In the procedure of analyzing the data, the primary data source for this research is taken from novel *The Girl on the Train*, the writer tries to analyze it by using the information based on the novel itself. In doing this research, the writer starts by analyzing some intrinsic elements of this novel, after that tries to find extrinsic element which becomes the basic of the problem that will be analyzed. The secondary data of this research are taken from any information all referential data related to the novel. To answer the research problem, after the data have been collected, the writer analyzed them systematically. The writer

conducted the analysis through some steps as follow: 1. Reading the whole novel. After identifying in novel, then the writer categorizes the main character and psychological of the characters that have an affair. 2. Finding the theme of the novel. 3. Describing of the main

character with use theory Sigmund Freud's. 4. Making conclusion, after the writer finds the answer from the research problem, then the writer makes the conclusion of the analyzed data.

### III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to Sigmund Freud, human personality is complex and has more than a single component. In his famous psychoanalytic theory, personality is composed of three elements: the id, the ego, and the super ego. The id is the source of all psychic energy. It functions to fulfill the primordial life principle, which Freud considers to be the pleasure principle. Without consciousness or semblance of rational order, the id is characterized by a tremendous and amorphous vitality. So the id is the source of all our aggressions and desires.

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The ego is governed by the reality principle. Consequently, the ego serves as intermediary between the world within and the world without. Its main function is that part of the id which has been modified by the direct influence of the external world. The ego represents what may be called reason and common sense, in contrast to the id which contains the passions in its relation to the id. The ego, driven by the id, confined by the super ego, repulse by reality, struggles bringing about harmony among the forces and influences working in and upon it. The ego seems to be more loyal to the id, preferring to gloss over the finer details of reality to minimize conflicts while pretending to have regard for reality.

The superego is dominated by the morality principle. Acting either directly or through the ego, the superego serves to repress or inhibit the drives of the id, to block off and thrust back into the unconscious those impulses toward pleasure that society regards as unacceptable, such as overt aggression, sexual passions, and the Oedipal instinct. Freud attributes the development of the superego to the parental influence that manifests itself in terms of punishment for what society considers to be

bad behavior and reward for what society considers good behavior. An overactive superego creates an unconscious sense of guilt (hence the familiar term guilt complex and the popular misconception that Freud advocated the relaxing of all moral inhibitions and social restraints).

In [psychology](#), the superego can be further divided into two components: (1) the ego ideal; the ego ideal is the part of the superego that includes the rules and standards for good behaviors. These behaviors include those that are approved of by parental and other authority figures. Obeying these rules leads to feelings of pride, value, and accomplishment. Breaking these rules can result in feelings of guilt. (2) The conscience; the [conscience](#) is composed of the rules for which behaviors are considered bad. When we engage in actions that conform to the ego ideal, we feel good about ourselves or proud of our accomplishments. When we do things that our conscience considers bad, we experience feelings of guilt.

The primary action of the superego is to suppress entirely any urges or desires of the id that are considered wrong or socially unacceptable. It also tries to force the ego to act morally rather than realistically. Finally, the superego strives for moral perfections, without taking reality into account.

The superego is also present in all three levels of consciousness. Because of this, we can sometimes experience guilt without understanding exactly why we feel that way. When the superego acts in [the conscious mind](#), we are aware of our resulting feelings. If, however, the superego acts unconsciously to punish or suppress the id, we might end up with feelings of guilt and no real understanding of why we feel that way.

After analyzing the main character, the writer can apply the psychological condition of the main character to this analysis are:

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1. Character of Rachel: Rachel's super ego is small condition and the id taken over her because she didn't hear anything that people said. She always refused advice from her friends and her family. She didn't care and not really aware with her fault. The psychological conditions of Rachel are depression woman and psychological setback. She really lost her life and her family. She lost her job and became poor. A homeless woman who staying at her friend's apartment. She had a blackout and shoddy memory after get drunk, she couldn't remember the action that she was doing before.
2. Character of Anna. Ego Anna is big condition than her superego. Her superego know that what she did to Rachel was wrong but she didn't care because her ego taken over her. She never felt guilty to Rachel who has taken Rachel's husband and makes Rachel is not good enough to Tom.
3. Character of Megan. Superego is big condition. Megan has a bad past; a bad past affects Megan's life in the present. The psychological conditions of Megan are a traumatic woman and seducer. First, she had a traumatic tragedy, a bad past that she couldn't forget. Second, her ex-husband left her alone in the house and never come back again. And the third, her new husband, Scott is overprotective and always get jealous. Megan had became a seducer because she felt enjoy having affair and thought that she had a power of someone. She was not happy with Scott and dispenses her sex desire to another man.
4. Character of Tom. At the beginning, Tom's id and ego are as big as they are. Having an affair is a kind of Tom's desire to seek attention and runaway problems on the pressure of his life. And Tom's ego, he only thought of pleasure without thinking about suffering Rachel. He was not aware of the consequences that would be caused by the affair. But at the end of the story, the Superego was bigger and controlled himself. Tom's Superego influenced him to take action against Megan. In social life, infidelity is something that is wrong and violates certain norms in the life of our society, so that people who commit infidelity will have

an impact on themselves, their families even in the community. For that, to cover up the affair and to keep his secret safe, Tom must kill Megan.

### **1. The Causes of the Affair and Betrayal in the story of The Girl on the Train.**

Since Rachel's father died, she feel so sad and getting depressed. At the time, Rachel met with Tom, who saved her from grief after Dad died. He always there for her, someone love her and feel safe and happy, he safe her life from the sadness.

“ Ah, Rach, don't be like that. Don't you remember? You all sad, because Daddy's died, and just wanting someone to come home to, someone to love you? I gave you all that. I made you feel safe. Then you decided to piss it all away, but you can't blame me for that.” (C36 p449)

Rachel laments the fact that she feels worthless as a woman after having fertility problem (As a result Rachel feels worthless because she cannot have children) and then losing her looks through drinking to escape these problems. Rachel depression leads to her inordinate interest in the seemingly perfect lives of “Jess” and “Jason” as well as her strong dislike of Anna, who she sees as fulfilling her womanly roles by having a child with Tom.

“let's be honest: women are still only really valued for two things—their looks and their role as mothers. I am not beautiful, and I can't have kids, so what does that make me? Worthless.” (C7 p118)

### **2. The affair and betrayal can happen in the story of The Girl on the Train**

Anna defines herself by her looks and her sexual power over men. Being a mistress of the dark is very fun; with an affair she feels her life more challenge and becomes more passionate. She enjoyed it. She loved it. The truth is, she never felt bad for Rachel, even before. She found out about Rachel drinking and how difficult she was, how she was making Tom's life a misery. She just wasn't real to her, and anyway, she was

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enjoying herself too much. She didn't care that Tom had a wife and love her.

“Being the other woman is a huge turn-on, there's no point denying it: you're the one he can't help but betray his wife for, even though he loves her. That's just how irresistible you are.” (C26 p344)

Woman is easily deceived by the man she loves, easily deceived because if she loves someone so much she can do everything for that someone she loves, likes Rachel. Rachel loves Tom so much; she always believes what Tom said. Because Rachel loves him so much, that's why whatever Tom's said and Tom did to her, she believes it. When they were still have married, Tom did a lot of lies. Even she divorced with Tom, she can't let him go. Although Tom has married with Anna, she often harasses Tom by phone and sometimes even in person, stalking his house, visit his house, even the worst thing she pick up their baby and walked outside with her one day.

Rachel is weak when she faces to Tom. This is what he does, this is what he always does. He's a master at it, making Rachel feels as though everything is her fault, making her feel worthless. He smiles, that wide, beautiful smile that used to make her melt and weak to him, and her start to sob. Rachel can't believe it, can't believe they are brought to this, that the greatest happiness she has ever known, her life with him, was an illusion.

“You have no idea how exhausting it is, coping with people like you. And, fuck, I tried. I tried so hard to help you. To help both of you. You're both . . . I mean, I loved you both, I

really did, but you can both be incredibly weak.” (C34 p437)

### **3. The murder investigation exposes the characters' affair and betrayal in the story of *The Girl on the Train*.**

Through this investigation, Rachel and Anna found the truth of Tom's character. Tom is a big liar and he had an affair with Megan and when he knew that Megan was pregnant and then Tom killed her. Almost about his life is lying. When Anna realizes that Tom met Rachel in person, she begins to suspect that he is still in love with his ex-wife. When Anna found that's hand phone, on that day Anna knew that Tom had an affair with Megan. Listening to the outgoing voice mail message, she realizes that it is not Tom's phone but a woman's. She recognizes the voice. She tells Tom that she found the phone and asks him not to lie to her.

“I found the phone , Tom.” She says, her voice so small, she almost inaudible. “So please, don't. Don't lie. Just don't lie to me.” (C34 p435)

Many lies he did to Rachel, this is what he does, and this is what he always does. He's master at it, making Rachel feel as though everything is her fault, making her feel worthless. Tom is a good liar. Tom's whole life was constructed on lies, falsehoods and half truths told to make him look better, stronger, more interesting than he was.

“I don't believe you,” I say.  
“Why would he lie about that?”  
“Because he lies about everything.” (C32 p408)

#### IV CONCLUSION

After analyzing this novel “The Girl on the Train” the writer would like to draw the conclusion as follows:

1. The psychological condition of the main character are:

- Rachel: She is an alcoholic, has severe depression because she has fertility problem (barren), unemployment and often lost consciousness (black out) but in the end of the story she recovered from her dependence on alcohol.
- Anna: Talking about Anna, she likes being the other woman, she is selfish and controlling (Anna defines herself by her looks and her sexual power over men), But the other side, Anna is a good mother. She cares for her baby, Evie.
- Megan: Megan is an unpredictable character. She can be any character even though she doesn't like that character, like being a babysitter. She had bad past, her bad past always haunts her that's why she get a therapist to treat her. Having an affair is one of the few times Megan feels in control of her own life.
- Tom: Tom's whole life was constructed on lies, falsehoods and half truths told to make him look better, stronger, more interesting than he was.

2. Infidelity has a bad impact in a household. First: broken a relationship between husband and wife which can lead to divorce. Second: the worst impact have an affair is murder as happened to Megan.

3. Through this investigation, Rachel and Anna found the truth of Tom's character. First, Tom had an affair with Megan and when he knew Megan was pregnant and Megan want his responsibility but Tom refused her and that baby and then to keep his secret safe, Tom must kill Megan. Second, Tom is a big liar. Almost his whole life is lies.

This analysis might not be perfect, so the writer want to the readers give the critics and suggestions to make this thesis more perfect. The writer hopes this analysis can be add our knowledge about literature and can motivate the other to develop these thesis it can be more useful.

Finally, the writer also hopes that this writing will give the contribution especially to the English Department Faculty of Literature students in Eka Sakti University Padang and whoever may be interested in subject being discussed

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