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## EXPLORING INJUSTICE AND REVENGE IN THE FILM PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN

### Abstrak

Artikel ini bertujuan untuk memberikan informasi menarik bagi pembaca agar lebih memahami tema ketidakadilan dan balas dendam dalam film “Promising Young Woman”. Film ini menarik perhatian banyak orang karena menggambarkan kompleksitas dan ambiguitas konsep Ketidakadilan dan balas dendam. Metode penelitian yang digunakan peneliti adalah analisis kualitatif terhadap narasi dan tokoh dalam film. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Radikal feminisme untuk menemukan hasil. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa film ini memberikan gambaran yang menarik dan kompleks tentang tema ketidakadilan dan balas dendam. Film ini menunjukkan bahwa balas dendam bisa menjadi cara untuk memperjuangkan keadilan, namun juga bisa menjadi sumber masalah dan konflik yang tidak terduga. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini adalah film “Promising Young Woman” memberikan gambaran yang menarik dan kompleks mengenai tema keadilan dan balas dendam. Film tersebut menunjukkan bahwa konsep-konsep ini tidak selalu mudah diterapkan dalam kehidupan nyata, dan trik balas dendam dapat menimbulkan konsekuensi yang tidak diinginkan. Oleh karena itu, artikel ini memberikan pesan yang kuat tentang pentingnya mempertimbangkan akibat dari tindakan balas dendam dan mencari alternatif lain untuk mencapai keadilan sejati. Latar belakang penelitian pada artikel “Menjelajahi Ketidakadilan dan Balas Dendam dalam Film Wanita Muda yang Menjanjikan” adalah keinginan untuk mengeksplorasi tema ketidakadilan dan balas dendam dalam film tersebut.

**Kata Kunci:** Keadilan, Balas Dendam, Kompleksitas, Ambiguitas

### Abstract

This article aims to provide interesting information for readers about injustice and revenge in the film Promising Young Woman. This film attracted the attention of many people because it depicts the complexity and ambiguity in the concepts of justice and revenge. The research method used by researcher is qualitative analysis of narratives and characters in films. This research employs Radical feminism theory to uncover its findings. The research results show that this film provides an interesting and complex picture of justice and revenge. This film shows that revenge can be a way to fight for justice, but it can also be a source of unexpected problems and conflict. The conclusion of this research is that the film "Promising Young Woman" provides an interesting and complex depiction of justice and revenge. The result of the research shows these concepts are not always easy to apply in real life, and revenge tricks can have unintended consequences. Therefore, this article conveys a strong message about the importance of considering the consequences of acts of revenge and exploring other alternatives to achieve true justice.

**Keywords:** Injustice, Revenge, Complexity, Ambiguity

### INTRODUCTION

According to Saryono (2009: 16-17) sastra bukan sekedar artefak (barang mati), tetapi sastra merupakan sosok yang hidup. Sebagai sosok yang hidup, sastra berkembang dengan dinamis menyertai sosok-sosok lainnya, seperti politik, ekonomi, kesenian, dan kebudayaan. Sastra dianggap mampu menjadi pemandu menuju jalan kebenaran karena sastra yang baik

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adalah sastra yang ditulis dengan penuh kejujuran, kebeningan, kesungguhan, kearifan, dan keluhuran nurani manusia. Sastra yang baik tersebut mampu mengingatkan, menyadarkan, dan mengembalikan manusia ke jalan yang semestinya, yaitu jalan kebenaran dalam usaha menunaikan tugas-tugas kehidupannya (Saryono, 2009: 20). Sastra dapat dipandang sebagai suatu gejala sosial (Luxemburg, 1984: 23). Hal itu dikarenakan sastra ditulis dalam kurun waktu tertentu yang langsung berkaitan dengan norma-norma dan adat istiadat zaman itu dan pengarang sastra merupakan bagian dari suatu masyarakat atau menempatkan dirinya sebagai anggota dari masyarakat tersebut.

Sumardjo & Saini (1997: 3-4) stated that literature is ungkapan pribadi manusia yang berupa pengalaman, pemikiran, perasaan, ide, semangat, keyakinan dalam suatu bentuk gambaran konkret yang membangkitkan pesona dengan alat bahasa. Sehingga sastra memiliki unsur-unsur berupa pikiran, pengalaman, ide, perasaan, semangat, kepercayaan (keyakinan), ekspresi atau ungkapan, bentuk dan bahasa. This is confirmed by Saryono's opinion (2009: 18) bahwa sastra juga mempunyai kemampuan untuk merekam semua pengalaman yang empiris-natural maupun pengalaman yang nonempiris-supernatural, dengan kata lain sastra mampu menjadi saksi dan pengomentaran kehidupan manusia.

Based on a number of existing studies, researcher is increasingly interested in film literary works. Film is a visual storytelling medium that is used to convey stories or situations involving acts of sexual violence. As a form of art and entertainment, film has the ability to convey stories using visual, auditory and narrative elements. In a literary sense, film is a narrative that combines visual and audio elements to create a story that is able to evoke emotional responses and deep thoughts in the audience. Films play an important role in detailing the complex aspects of sexual violence. In this medium, characters, settings and conflicts related to acts of sexual violence can be depicted in detail so that viewers can think about the psychological and social implications related to this issue. So films can be a way to create empathy and a deeper understanding of the experiences of victims. These films open the door to understanding how visual media can overcome discrimination, gender inequality and cultures of violence. Films are a powerful way to represent the experiences of victims and increase public awareness of issues related to sexual violence. As a unique form of artistic expression, film can also be an important means for exploring and understanding issues of gender, sexuality and power in a society in the context of sexual violence. Films provide vivid visuals, allowing viewers to experience, critique, and respond to gender stereotypes and a culture of violence. According to his research, films have the potential to help overcome these complex problems through literary and cultural lenses.

The film that the researcher analyzes is *Promising Young Woman*, an American-produced film that was first released on January 25 2020 at the Sundance Film Festival. This film is the debut of actress Emerald Fennell as a director and scriptwriter. The film *Promising Young Woman* stars Carey Mulligan, Bo Burnham, Alison Brie, Clancy Brown, Jennifer Coolidge, Laverne Cox, Chris Lowell, and Connie Britton.

Film *Promising Young Woman* wins many Hollywood Critics Association (HCA) awards. In addition to taking home the top prize, HCA awarded Carey Mulligan for her performance as the revenge-driven Cassie and director Emerald Fennell for her screenplay. Other winners included Delroy Lindo for Best Actor in *Da 5 Bloods* and Yuh-Jung Youn who won Best Supporting Actress for *Minari*.

Women experience various types of harassment and violence. one example is sexual assault or rape. especially when we are under the influence of alcohol. The influence of alcohol can trigger calm in the heart and mind. This is one of the weak points that a woman faces when walking alone, especially in the middle of the night. Circumstances like this are what provoke men to commit sexual violence. Media representations of a woman who drinks alcohol are seen as being more easily seduced, and willing to have sex than those who don't drink alcohol. Alcohol is thought to provide comfort in situations that would normally be considered dangerous. The effects of alcohol on motor skills may limit a woman's ability to resist an abuser effectively, whereas sober ones are better able to resist effectively. Many men find it

more effective to seduce drunk women, so they try to get the victim drunk to getsex (Abbey 2002, 123).

The Film "Promising Young Woman" is an interesting cinematic work that raises themes of justice and revenge. This film, which lasts 1 hour 53 minutes, tells the story of a woman named Cassie who tries to take revenge for sexual harassment committed by a number of men against her best friend named Nina. Cassie had to be willing to give up her dream of becoming a doctor and leave college. Cassie even gave up her time to often go to a club with self-motivation to take revenge on the predatory men there. The purpose of this research is to explore how the themes of justice and revenge are presented in the film Promising Young Woman

However, in the process, she discovered that the existing justice system did not always prioritize justice and often tended to provide support to perpetrators of crimes. Therefore, this research will explore the themes of justice and revenge in the film Promising Young Woman. Focusing on the depiction of the issues of justice and revenge in this film, the aim of this research is to gain an understanding of how the film depicts these two issues and their impact on society's views on these issues. Previously, there have been many studies discussing the themes of justice and revenge in films. For example, Research Wregas Bhanuteja, director of the film "The Copy of Light", conducted research for one year by listening to stories from survivors of sexual violence cases and following news reports about similar issues to produce a film that voices the issue of sexual violence and the victims' struggle to obtain justice. Apart from that, there is also research by A. M. K. Kline in 2016 showing that films that display themes of justice and revenge can influence the emotions and behavior of the audience. To gain a deeper understanding of this topic, this research will involve a review of relevant previous literature. The literature review will include theories about justice and revenge in the context of films, as well as analysis of similar films that have existed before. By conducting a previous literature review, this research is expected to provide deeper knowledge and understanding of how the film Promising Young Woman depicts the concepts of justice and revenge." The novelty of this research lies in the in-depth analysis of the film Promising Young Woman which has not been studied much before. In this research, researcher will carry out an analysis character conveyed in this film. Thus, this research is expected to provide new insights and a deeper understanding of how the film Promising Young Woman depicts the concepts of justice and revenge. and through this research the researcher hopes to find answers to important questions regarding how this film can be a strong representation of women's struggle to seek justice and revenge for the events they experience.

## METHODS

In this research, researcher used qualitative research with a content analysis approach. Qualitative research methods were used because this research aims to make it easier to understand the themes of justice and revenge in the film Promising Young Woman. The data source used in this research are premiere data from the film Promising Young Woman itself. Researcher will analyze this film in depth to identify scenes, dialogue, characters and messages related to the concepts of justice and revenge. This data source is used to gain an in-depth understanding of how the themes of justice and revenge are presented in the film and their impact on the audience. and the data collection method used in this research is observation and film analysis techniques. this technique is used to observe and record scenes, dialogue and actions that occur in the film.

The data analysis used by researcher in conducting this research was by analyzing narratives and identifying themes related to justice and revenge. Then the data collected will be analyzed using qualitative analysis with the aim of identifying narrative patterns and messages contained in the film Promising Young Woman. By using this method, this research is expected to provide in-depth insight into how the film Promising Young Woman depicts the concepts of justice and revenge. This research method also allows researcher to

comprehensively analyze elements related to the research topic, so as to provide broader and deeper insight into this film.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

After completing the analysis, the researcher found evidence concerning Cassie's characterization using a feminism approach. This research focuses on examining Cassie's actions that rely on radical feminism. Characterization in a literary work is very important because each protagonist and antagonist has a unique character. In this article it is necessary to find out the reasons for the emergence of radical actions in the main character in the film *Promising Young Woman*.

This research will take the point of view of existing feminist theories. Currently, feminist theories include Liberal Feminism, Radical Feminism, Marxist-Socialist Feminism, Gender Psychoanalytic Feminism, Existentialist Feminism, Postmodern Feminism, Multicultural and Global Feminism, and Ecofeminism. However, this study will specifically focus on Radical Feminism. The researcher will also discuss the goals behind Radical Feminism to further detail the issues addressed by this perspective.

Ti-Grace Atkinson in her basic work, "Radical Feminism" (1969) stated that "Radical feminism is a movement to liberate women from oppression by men. This is an effort to liberate women from sexual slavery, from gender roles, and from domestic roles. that has been established by patriarchal society. Radical feminism is a movement to liberate women from oppression by men. It is an effort to liberate women from sexual slavery, from gender roles, and from domestic roles that have been determined by patriarchal society."

In this analysis the writer uses the theory of radical feminism taken from Grace Atkinson. After analysing the film, the writer then write the pictures of injustice and revenge .

### a. **Justice cannot always be achieved through the legal system:**

This film shows how the justice system often fails to provide justice to victims of sexual violence. This is also reflected in the main character. Cassie, who felt that the legal system was unable to provide justice for her friend who was a victim of sexual violence. That's why she decided to take action herself so that the perpetrator of sexual violence received the appropriate punishment.

At the beginning of the film it also shows that Cassie also became a victim of sexual harassment when she was reprimanded by a number of construction workers. As we know, almost 84% of women often face catcalling. Research results show that catcalling is a form of verbal sexual harassment and has a negative impact on the victim's life. The informant who was the victim of catcalling chose to remain silent even though it had a deep impact, even leading to traumatic experiences. But it was different from Cassie when she received treatment like that. Instead he stared sharply back at the person who called him.

Macmillan et al (2000) argue that one of the effects that occurs as a result of catcalling includes limiting a person's freedom to move. Catcalling creates fear in victims and makes them feel that they have to be alert when they are out and about. Melsen (2004) said that catcalling is done to cause fear and dominate the victim (Ellaine, 2018).

### 1. **Opposing sexual objectification of women**

The scene shows that Cassie dares to go to a nightclub where there are lots of predators. with self-motivation to avenge justice for his friends. Even there, Cassie received very inappropriate treatment and words towards her. There, Cassie pretends to be drunk to trap the predators by asking them to go on a date. Hearing words like that, usually men will be more interested because according to a man it will be a challenge for them. Because of this, one of the men in the club was interested in Cassie and immediately invited Cassie to his apartment to date him. When he got there, Cassie, who was immediately lying on the bed, was immediately approached by the man's touch and kiss. But suddenly Cassie changed drastically, previously she acted like a drunk person, but now she looked very scary with a cynical look at the man, then she explained to the man that she was not drunk. Cassie also explained why

she did this. because Cassie wants to show her courage as a woman and teach all men a lesson so that they will never again use an unconscious woman as an object to satisfy their lust.

It didn't stop there, Cassie then continued her crazy actions by going to a club again. And she also returned as usual, pretending to be drunk to trap her prey, then she managed to get a predatory man named Neil. Then Neil took Cassie to the apartment to trick her. Cassie . Seeing that Neil was very tempted by her, Cassie immediately carried out her fatal action on the and in the next scene, the scene shows that Cassie dares to go to a nightclub where there are lots of predators. with self-motivation to avenge justice for his friends. Even there, Cassie received very inappropriate treatment and words towards her. There, Cassie pretends to be drunk to trap the predators by asking them to go on a date. Hearing words like that, usually men will be more interested because according to a man it will be a challenge for them. Because of this, one of the men in the club was interested in Cassie and immediately invited Cassie to his apartment to date him. When he got there, Cassie, who was immediately lying on the bed, was immediately approached by the man's touch and kiss. But suddenly Cassie changed drastically, previously she acted like a drunk person, but now she looked very scary with a cynical look at the man, then she explained to the man that she was not drunk. Cassie also explained why she did this. because Cassie wants to show her courage as a woman and teach all men a lesson so that they will never again use an unconscious woman as an object to satisfy their lust.

Neil : "What is this? Are you some kind of psychopath or something?"

Cassie : "Why would you say that?"

Neil : "I thought that you were."

Cassie: "Drunk?"

Cassie was even considered a psychopath because she had changed so drastically that she had previously challenged him to date but suddenly rejected him. At this moment, Cassie concluded that logically for a man to have a relationship with a woman, he must be in a situation where he can completely control her. This is what makes Cassie's beliefs about men regarding how men treat women. In this scene, it shows radical feminism, an example of which is rejecting men who want to have sexual relations or harass women and showing how to block their ways of deceiving women. In this scene, Cassie tries to seek justice and rights for her late friend. However, by using very extreme and dangerous methods, this may not even be easy for women to do in real life.

Through we can see through the color code on the pen which shows that Cassie has had many victims to take revenge on the predatory man. However, it seems that there are still blank sheets left, which means that Cassie is still not satisfied with eliminating predators who abuse or treat women with disrespect and Cassie will not stop filling in the blank sheets before she finds out who is the main mastermind behind the murder of her best friend. However, on the other hand, Cassie's actions are very dangerous and very risky if practiced for women. Cassie's strategy to stop objectification is seen as radical. even the type of feminist who in general would never think of putting herself in danger just to gain rights by letting her body be played with by men. In situations like this, it is very natural that women prefer to avoid being used as sexual objects by men "Studies have shown that individuals often underestimate their own risk of being attacked compared to the average person of their gender. This tendency to downplay personal vulnerability, whether the aggressor is an acquaintance or a stranger, reflects a belief system that may be influenced by various socio-cultural factors" (Smith et al., 2005).

The idea behind this assumption is that people often underestimate their own risk of being attacked compared to the average person of the same gender. regardless of whether the perpetrator is an acquaintance or a stranger. the tendency to

underestimate personal vulnerabilities. This reflects a belief system that may be influenced by various socio-cultural factors. However, it is important to remember that risks can vary between individuals and do not always reflect objective reality. So this idea encourages women to always be careful in making decisions. In contrast to other women, Cassie, who is considered a radical feminist, chooses to ignore this advice. What Cassie did was the idea of putting herself in a bad and risky situation. However, on the other hand, Cassie has awakened a strong and brave feminist spirit to fight alone and never give up for the feminist rights that women have. So the theme of this film is about Cassie's best friend, Nina, who was raped by Al-Monroe. In this film, Nina, who is under the influence of alcohol, makes Al Monroe take advantage of Nina by having sexual relations with her. But unfortunately, no one believed Nina that Al Monroe was the one who sexually harassed her. As a result, Nina experienced depression and very deep regret. Such an experience will definitely traumatize us deeply and will also affect our future.

In this scene, Cassie and Nina's friend provide a videotape showing Nina being raped by Al-Monroe. The recording is clear evidence that Nina has become a sexual object that is viewed by other people. This picture shows the disturbing part. The camera position focuses on Cassie's facial expressions. Despite the fact that the public ignored the disclosure of the video, in this scene shows Cassie's frightened eyes when she watches the video recording of her friend being unconscious when her friend was sexually assaulted. The evidence that Cassie saw caused her mental and emotional disturbances. Cassie's parents also think that their child's behavior often looks like depression and isolation, which causes Cassie to spend her time planning radical feminist ideas to take revenge for the sexual harassment behavior experienced by her best friend Nina.

## 2. Aggressive Tendencies

After the death of her best friend Nina, Cassie begins to associate feelings of contentment with revenge and violence, as her aggressive behavior. However, this actually leads her to a strange habit, this is a self-destructive behavior. One of her behaviors that tends to be aggressive, Cassie's strange habits include verbal hostility, namely causing fear in every lecherous man who tries to rape her while 'pretending' to be drunk. This is aggressive because it involves enjoying other people's suffering. However, she considers that what they are trying to do to her is wrong, as can be seen in the text below.

Neil :. Alright. Fuck. I take your point. What do you want from me? To say I'm an asshole? Fine, I'm an asshole.

Cassie : Why are you so freaked out, Neil? Wow. You really need to calm down. At least you didn't try to have sex with me while I was passed out. You do get points for that. I want you to be proud of yourself. A few guys...eh they don't mind so much. But you, you woke me up before putting your fingers inside me. That was sweet.

(Promising Young Woman, 00:18:47 – 00:19:14)

The script above is one of Cassie's trying to make the depraved men realize that it is wrong to take advantage of a drunk woman.



Picture 1



Picture 2

The desire for revenge reappears when Cassie gets news from Ryan Cooper that Al Monroe has just returned after 10 years in England. and will have a bachelor party. Hearing this news, Cassie felt uncomfortable, as can be seen in the picture 1 above, which was taken using a medium close-up shot. Here, her ego fails to withstand the demands of her destructive identity so she decides to harm the people responsible for Nina's death. Taking revenge against those people brings a sense of satisfaction to Cassie. The use of a medium shot in the picture 2 above depicts Cassie's expression which looks satisfied when she sees Dean Walker desperately apologizing.

To get revenge against Al Monroe, Cassie plans to attend a bachelor party hosted by Al Monroe as a stripper. While at the party, Cassie was so passionate about killing Al Monroe that she tried to write Nina Fisher's name all over Al Monroe's body using a sharp tool, as a reminder of Al Monroe's relationship with Nina.

**b. The complexity of the problem can create a new person**

"Promising Young Woman" stands as a cinematic tour de force, weaving a narrative tapestry that delves into the intricate depths of societal issues, particularly the pervasive specter of sexual violence, and the transformative power it holds over individuals. Through the lens of "the complexity of the problem can create a new person," the film emerges not only as a compelling exploration of personal evolution but also as a profound commentary on the human condition.

In the realm of scientific inquiry, the film's portrayal of protagonist Cassie's journey serves as a compelling case study in developmental psychology and trauma theory. Cassie, grappling with the haunting echoes of past traumas, undergoes a nuanced and multi-faceted process of metamorphosis. From initial stages of denial and repression to the searing fires of anger and grief, Cassie traverses a landscape of emotional turmoil, ultimately arriving at a place of profound self-awareness and acceptance. In this regard, "Promising Young Woman" illuminates the intricate interplay between personal trauma and the construction of identity, showcasing how the complexities of lived experiences can shape and redefine the very essence of an individual.

"Can you guess what every woman's worst nightmare is? The thing is you thought you'd gotten away with it because everyone had forgotten."—Cassie

Moreover, the film serves as a poignant meditation on the nature of resilience and agency in the face of adversity. Through Cassie's journey, audiences are confronted with the stark realities of injustice and inequality, prompting introspection and dialogue on the broader societal forces at play. Cassie's unwavering resolve to confront the perpetrators of sexual violence, coupled with her unyielding commitment to seek justice, underscores the transformative potential of individual action in effecting systemic change. In this sense, "Promising Young Woman" emerges as a rallying cry for social awareness and activism, challenging audiences to confront uncomfortable truths and mobilize towards a more equitable future. At its core, "Promising Young Woman" transcends the confines of traditional cinematic storytelling, emerging as a thought-provoking discourse on the complexities of human experience. Through its masterful blend of narrative depth and thematic resonance, the film leaves an indelible imprint on the collective consciousness, sparking conversations and catalyzing movements towards a more just and compassionate society. In this regard, "Promising Young Woman" stands not only as a testament to the transformative power of cinema but also as a beacon of hope in an often dark and tumultuous world. Cassie is engaged in one of her late-night missions to expose predatory men. She deliberately feigns inebriation to lure potential predators into revealing their true nature

Cassie : "You might be surprised to hear that gentlemen are sometimes the worst."

Neil : "What? What are you talking about?"

Cassie : "You see, Neil, it's always the ones who pretend to be nice. The 'gentlemen,' as they call themselves. They think they can get away with anything because no one would ever suspect them."

Neil : "Are you some kind of psychopath or something?"

Cassie : "Why would you say that?"

Neil : "I thought that you were.."

Cassie : "Drunk?"

The idea that reason is not the sole origin of men also means that Wollstonecraft has made the argument, often attributed to Simone de Beauvoir in *The Second Sex* and the so-called second wave feminism of the 1950s and 1960s, that gender norms are socially constructed. social.

Rational qualities, according to Wollstonecraft, are not inherently gendered. They are learned and shaped by the environment, especially through upbringing, education and culture. Narrow and limited education will produce narrow and limited thinking. This is what he meant when he wrote about women: "Free them and they will soon become wise and virtuous

Wollstonecraft argued that women are equally capable of acquiring these virtues and benefiting from a full education if given the opportunity to develop their capacities in the same way as men".

**c. The Moral Ambiguity in Responding Personal Issues and Resolving Problem**

"Promising Young Woman" navigates the labyrinthine terrain of moral ambiguity with a deft hand, offering viewers a compelling exploration of individual responses to trauma and the quest for resolution. From its enigmatic protagonist to its morally fraught narrative, the film invites audiences into a world where right and wrong blur into shades of gray, challenging us to confront the complexities of human nature and the elusive nature of justice.

At the heart of the film lies the enigmatic figure of Cassie, whose journey serves as a microcosm of the moral ambiguity that permeates the narrative. Driven by a potent cocktail of grief, rage, and righteous indignation, Cassie embarks on a quest for retribution in the wake of past trauma. Yet, her methods defy easy categorization, straddling the line between heroism and vigilantism, righteousness and revenge. Is Cassie a champion of justice, bravely challenging a culture of impunity, or a vigilante teetering on the brink of moral bankruptcy? The film refuses to offer easy answers, forcing audiences to grapple with the uncomfortable truth that the boundaries between right and wrong are often muddied by the complexities of human emotion and experience.

Moreover, "Promising Young Woman" offers a nuanced exploration of personal resolution, probing the depths of human psyche in search of closure and healing. Cassie's relentless pursuit of justice through confrontations with her past tormentors raises profound questions about the nature of forgiveness and redemption. Can true resolution be achieved through acts of retaliation, or does it require a more profound journey of self-discovery and acceptance? As Cassie grapples with these existential quandaries, audiences are drawn into a dizzying whirlpool of moral uncertainty, forced to confront their own assumptions and biases. In the end, "Promising Young Woman" transcends the confines of traditional cinematic storytelling, emerging as a provocative meditation on the nature of morality, agency, and the eternal quest for meaning in a world fraught with ambiguity. Through its intricate narrative and morally complex characters, the film challenges us to confront the inherent messiness of life and the impossibility of easy answers. In doing so, it offers a profound reflection on the human condition and the eternal struggle to navigate the treacherous waters of moral ambiguity with grace and integrity.

**d. Patriarchy**

According to radical feminist experts, patriarchy in society is considered a system of sexual hierarchy that prioritizes male power. They argue that this patriarchy causes the



oppression of women through various means, such as physical exploitation, racism, heterosexuality, and marginalization. Radical feminists reject the institution of the family as a source of suffering for women, because it is considered a place where women are exploited biologically and socially. In *Promising Young Woman* (2020), patriarchal society is seen in the university dean, students, and even the legal system who do not take the sexual violence case experienced by Nina seriously.

The first person discussed is Dean Walker of Forrest University. Cassie meets him to pretend to continue her medical studies. When they accidentally meet, Cassie is only there to bring up Nina's case, Dean Walker doesn't remember who Nina is. However, the dean can only remember Al Monroe, the perpetrator, as a kind and intelligent person. Cassie discussed Nina's case which Dean Walker had previously handled. Dean Walker, like Maddison, doesn't believe Nina's side of the story. There was no defense support given to Nina, who instead received a rejection of the accusations made by Dean Walker's best student at the time, Al Monroe. The following conversation shows how Cassie fought to get justice for Nina.

Cassie : "You felt that there wasn't sufficient evidence. You said there's too much of a 'He said',

'She said' situation"

Dean : "We get accusation like this all the time. One or two a week,"

Dean : "What would you have me do? Ruining a young man's life every time we get an accusation

like this?"

Cassie : "So you're happy to take the boy's word for it?"

Dean : "I have to give him the benefit of the doubt. Because innocent until proven guilty"

The dean's response made Cassie even more convinced that there was gender bias against Al Monroe, a male medical student who had a reputation for being kind to others both inside and outside the university. In addition, she is a smart and excellent student, making it difficult for other people to believe Nina's case. While Nina is an ordinary medical student on campus who, because of her gender identity, has been stereotyped at every corner, with people always thinking that the woman is a seductress of men and that the "guilt of rape" is the reward she gets for being a flirtatious woman. Patriarchy does exist in this toxic system. In the setting of this film, where men dominate the social hierarchy, their opinions take priority. Therefore, those in authority tend to silence women's opinions. Even so, the stereotype that exists towards Nina is not true.

In the film *Promising Young Woman*, the person involved in Nina's rape case is Mr. Green, Al Monroe's lawyer in the rape case. In order to achieve success as a lawyer, Mr. Green once threatened and bullied Nina in court until Nina was forced to drop the charges against Al. Due to the higher socioeconomic status of men, Mr. Green was blinded by power and money at the time, so he did whatever he could to ensure that Al Monroe won and went unpunished. This shocked Cassie because she had an idea that he was a misogynistic man who had ruined a woman's life. Power is related to privilege. In a system where men have more power than women, men have a certain level of privilege that women do not have."



Picture 3

In picture 3, the camera focuses on the center of the room, showing Cassie sitting on the sofa, and Mr. Green knelt in front of her. Mr. Green was apologizing to Cassie for his behavior. The reason behind his change in behavior was because Mr. Green had an epiphany that made him regret his actions towards his opponents who he had wronged, including Nina. Mr. Green even resigned himself to accepting the offer to be hurt because he felt he deserved it. Cassie also initially prepared a hitman to torture Mr. Green.

In this story, Mr. Green is the person Cassie hates the most in this case because he prevents Nina from receiving fair treatment and winning her case in court. That's why he took various kinds of revenge on the people who had ruined Nina's life. He almost got the worst revenge by being tortured by an assassin. Fortunately, there is a deep sense of regret in Mr. Green, even though she has a feminist nature, she still feels sorry for Mr. Green because he still has moral values. Loyalty to his friend is still prominent, but pity trumps loyalty. Therefore, Cassie took back the hitman's idea and instead forgave him because she felt that Mr. Green changed. At the end of the story, Cassie is able to destroy the patriarchal system in this film and destroy Al Monroe's domination of power.

**e. Reflection On The Impact Of Revenge In Society**

Apart from justice, the film *Promising Young Woman* also explores the concept of revenge. Cassie uses revenge as a form of expression of justice desired by victims of sexual crimes. However, Cassie plans and carries out revenge very strategically. Revenge is a behavior that is widespread and often appears in the form of aggression or conflict. The desire for revenge can motivate someone to kill, hurt others and even cause international conflicts (McCullaugh, 2008). However, this film also invites viewers to question the effectiveness and morality of revenge as a form of justice. The results that can be explored in this film are the impact of the acts of revenge depicted in the film *Promising Young Woman* in this film researchers can analyze about how acts of revenge can affect individuals in society more broadly. This film discusses how revenge can bring justice or only make the situation worse, as well as its impact on the victim, perpetrator or society as a whole. This research also involves considerations of ethics and morality in the context of revenge. Someone can carry out revenge for various reasons and the reason that drives someone to do this is because they want to get emotional satisfaction. Revenge provides emotional satisfaction for someone who feels hurt or wronged, so with revenge they may hope to eliminate the feelings of anger, sadness or justice they feel.

Geoff Beattie (2022), a psychology professor from England, argues that people who have been hurt or betrayed seem to really believe that if the other party suffers, they will feel better and the emotional pain will be reduced. In fact, after an act of revenge, this may not necessarily happen. In a 2008 study, researchers found that people often report significantly more negative moods immediately after carrying out acts of revenge.

The conclusion is that avengers report a mix of emotions. Revenge "is not always sweet, but has bitterness." This means that revenge actually has the capacity to trigger both positive and negative emotions (including feelings of tension, uncertainty, and fear).

Cassie, as the main character in this film, also shows that she took revenge to seize the rights to the sexual harassment experienced by her friend Nina and also as an effort to change society's view of victims of sexual crimes. Cassie does not use physical violence in her actions, but uses clever strategies and relies on her intelligence and emotional strength. While these actions may feel personally satisfying, the film illustrates that revenge can lead to ongoing problems. Cassie's act of revenge will create a cycle of violence that is difficult to stop.

In addition, revenge can also lead to loss of self-direction and destructive obsessions. Cassie becomes obsessed with revenge, which causes her to become socially isolated and lose contact with the people around her. This shows that acts of revenge can destroy an individual's life and affect a person's mental health. This film depicts that revenge will cause negative attitudes and hatred. Apart from that, revenge can also encourage physical or emotional violence. As in this film, it is seen that Cassie uses dangerous and self-defeating revenge tricks that can trigger further acts of violence. In the last scene in this film, Cassie has to accept all the consequences of the revenge she took against Al Monroe. Cassie herself was killed at the hands of Al Monroe when she tried to take revenge on Al Monroe, but Cassie actually already knew that she would die at the hands of Al Monroe, but He thought that that way it would be easier for Al Monroe to prosecute Al for murder rather than rape. Therefore, Al Monroe was arrested by the police and he was successfully put in prison. What Cassie has done by giving her life to restore justice for her friend Nina is a very feminist and radical person because Cassie had to give up her life as evidence of crimes committed by men against women. She succeeded in using this method but it is not natural to imitate it. by women.

## **CONCLUSION**

The research conclusions in the film Promising Young Woman reveal that Cassie's actions rely on a radical feminism system. This research also discusses the goals behind radical feminism which aims to liberate women from male oppression, sexual slavery and gender roles. Apart from that, this research also focuses on that justice cannot always be achieved through the legal system, as in this film where the justice system often fails to provide justice to victims of sexual violence. and this film also explores the concept of revenge showing that how acts of revenge can affect individuals in society as well as its impact on victims, perpetrators and society as a whole. This research provides a deep understanding of the complexity of Cassie's character and the use of radical feminism as a tool to combat oppression against women. Apart from that, this film also depicts how justice is often not achieved through the legal system, which reflects failure in handling sexual harassment cases. Additionally, this research also reveals the impact of revenge in society, highlighting that acts of revenge can bring justice or simply worsen the situation, as well as its impact on individuals and society as a whole. In conclusion, this research provides in-depth insight into the important themes raised in the film Promising Young Woman, including radical feminism, the failure of the legal system in handling cases of sexual harassment, and the impact of revenge in society. The film provides a powerful depiction of the complexity of these issues and raises deep questions about justice, feminism, and morality. Thus, this research provides a valuable contribution in understanding the messages conveyed by this film.

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