

DIANE SHERMAN'S PSYCHOPATHY IN THE MOVIE *RUN*

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to find out the symptoms of psychopathy and the causes of the psychopathy portrayed by Diane Sherman in the movie *Run*. The writer applied Hare's theory and used a descriptive qualitative method to this study. The writer found a total of 23 data, including 19 data describing the symptoms of psychopathy and 4 data describing the causes of psychopathy. For the symptoms, there are two categories. The first categories are the emotional interpersonal traits or feelings and relationships. The second category is social deviance explaining the lifestyle of psychopaths. For the causes there are also two categories, they are nature and nurture, but in this study, the writer found data only on nurture. In conclusion, Diane is a psychopath, who seeks pleasure through deceit and manipulation, to make her daughter stay by her side. Her obsession with her daughter, Chloe, stems from past trauma and physical abuse from her mother. Diane's lack of remorse and guilt makes her feel justified by her actions.

Keywords: *Run, Diane Sherman, Psychopathy, Symptoms and Causes*

INTRODUCTION

Psychology, the scientific study of the mind and behavior, is the subject of study. The term "psychology" comes from the Greek words "psyche" meaning life and "logos" meaning explanation [1]. Psychology explores the operation and applications of organisms, focusing on behavior and living organisms. Behavior encompasses all life activities and experiences of a living organism while living organism refers to all living things on Earth [2]. Literary psychology is a branch of psychology that studies human behavior through fiction, providing readers with insight into the inner world of humans, while psychology focuses on human behavior [3]. Psychology and related subjects like history, linguistics, communication, social sciences, philosophy, education, and arts allow for the extrinsic study of literature by determining the relationship between a work of art and its surrounding environment for human insight [4]. The movie follows Diane Sherman, a caring mother living in Pasco, Washington, with her sick daughter Chloe. Despite her apparent kindness, Diane is not transparent, hiding Chloe's college acceptance letter and intentionally giving a dog medicine to Chloe.

Also, her lack of remorse for pain indicates her inability to understand emotions. Diane exhibits psychopathy traits, but her daughter remains skeptical due to her consistent kindness. The movie shows that Diane's traits are indicative of mental illness, and the traits manifested by Diane are the characteristics of a psychopath. Psychopathy, a term used to describe aggressive and irresponsible behavior, has been a concept in the psychiatric literature for a long time, with various names and synonyms [5]. Every aspect of humanity can become psychopathic, irrespective of race, culture, location, economic status, or personality type [6]. The reason for choosing psychopathy in the movie *Run* is to ensure people of all ages who have limited knowledge about the topic might be more aware, careful, and have a consciousness to always be vigilant when socializing or doing anything with someone closest to them. Because in this movie, it gives a direct example to the viewers and readers that even the closest person can be a psychopath which can be dangerous for us.

METHOD

This study utilized a descriptive qualitative method, which involves collecting, analyzing, and drawing

conclusions from the analyzed data. To explain psychopathy experiences in the movie *Run*, using data quotations to support the presentation. The data collection procedure in qualitative research involves several types of strategies; there is qualitative observation and qualitative audio-visual material [7]. This study uses data from the 2020 Hulu movie *Run*, directed by Aneesh Chaganty and produced by Natalie Qasabian and Sev Ohanian. To analyze the symptoms and causes of psychopathy, the writer uses the theory from Robert D. Hare.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Symptoms of Psychopathy

A. Emotional and Interpersonal (Feelings and Relationships)

1. Glib and Superficial

The data shows Diane entering Chloe's room with medication and informing her that Chloe's doctor had changed the prescription. Diane gave Chloe the medicine, unknowing that her daughter already knew it wasn't hers.



Fig. 1. Diane gives Chloe medicine

This Data shows Diane's superficial efforts to avoid lying, including making calm expressions. Diane noticed that Chloe knew about the medicines that she was given. That meant that her lies had been exposed, but she seemed not to be disturbed by the situation. In addition, she just shows a confused expression to hide the fact that she knows about the medicine. Even though Chloe always asked about the medicine, Diane avoided it several times with the same expression, a calm face showing that the medicine was not hers.

2. A Lack of Remorse or Guilt

The data describes Diane who recognizes that Chloe

already knows the information about she is not Chloe's biological mother. Then Chloe started asking about her illness. The effort to not feel remorse is shown in the answers given by Diane to Chloe which can be seen in the figure and the dialogue below.



Fig. 2. Chloe asks about her illness to Diane

CHLOE. Was I ever actually sick?

DIANE. Tell me one time I wasn't a good mom to you. Tell me one time, huh?

CHLOE. Could I walk? My heart beat normal? I... I wasn't covered in rashes?

DIANE. You were sick. You know how many times I have to take you to the hospital?

CHLOE. You poisoned me.

DIANE. Shh! (WHISPERS) **Protected. I protected you**

Figure 2 shows Diane's seemingly underestimating expression with a bending smile and uplifted eyebrows. Her expression indicated that Diane was impressed with the insignificance of Chloe's words about her illness. This shows that Diane does not feel guilty about what she has done. The conversation above explains the situation in that Diane does not feel guilty at all for all the diseases she created for Chloe. From the answers she gave “. . . Protected. I protected you”, she just thought that what she did was the right thing. This is because psychopaths tend to feel that what they do is justified by their norms. Diane does not feel guilty because, in her point of view, she was protecting Chloe all this time.

3. Deceitful and Manipulative

The data explain that Diane said that the name looped around the side of the bottle was for the receipt, but after Chloe checked again, it changed to her name. Chloe opened the medicine paper and found Diane's name on it.

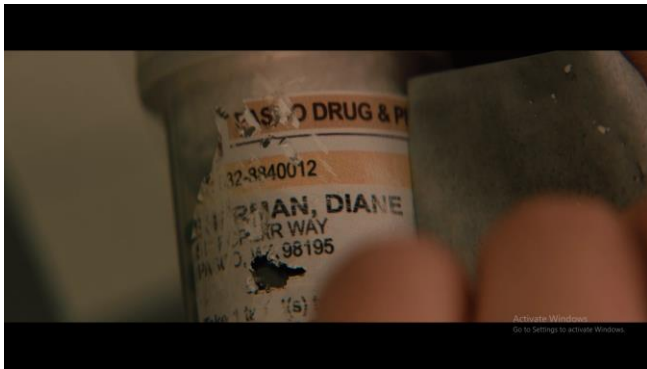


Fig. 3. Chloe peels off the prescription and had Diane's name on it

The figure explains the situation of Chloe who found out about the medicine she found in the Kroger bag, with Diane's name on the bottle. She had argued with her before, and at the end of their argument, Diane's name on the bottle was for the receipt. This figure showed before Chloe peeled off the paper, the name that looped around the side of the bottle suddenly changed to her name. Because the paper looks thick, suddenly Diane's name is seen on the paper when Chloe peels it off, which means the medicine belongs to Diane. Diane not only lied to Chloe, but she also changed the data about the medicine Chloe was going to take. The characteristic that Diane shows is parts of lies. The figure shows that to cover up her lie, she manipulated the data so that her lie looked consistent.

B. Social Deviance (Lifestyle)

1. Impulsive

The data shows that Diane made a brown liquid and added paint thinner, and then injected it into Chloe.



Fig. 4. Diane wants to inject a dangerous liquid into Chloe

This figure explains that Diane's creating a dangerous liquid to inject into Chloe was impulsive. The writer assumes that Diane is showing these symptoms because she is unable to think about the negative parts that could happen in the future. She is only concerned with her ambitions, which is to make sure that Chloe can forget her memories.

2. Poor Behavior Controls

Figure 5 depicts Diane locking Chloe in the basement, finding her room messy and secret boxes containing Chloe's death certificate and a newspaper headline. After Chloe's statements, Diane loses control, as seen in Figure 5, revealing her true identity.



Fig. 5. Diane shouted at Chloe

Figure 5 explains the situation after Diane found out that Chloe already knew all her secrets. When asked that she is not Chloe's biological mother, she immediately showed anger. This shows poor behavioral control, the behavior of a psychopath where she gets angry or blows up for only a short time, then a few moments later she becomes normal again as if nothing had happened

The Causes of Psychopathy

Nurture

1. Poor Living Conditions

This data shows Diane is experiencing financial

problems because her income only comes from herself as a substitute teacher. It can be seen in the figure below.



Fig. 6. Diane talks about financial problems with Chloe

This scene shows that Diane supports her life and her daughter by teaching at a home-schooling organization. This indicates that Diane has no income except for teaching. This scene also shows that Diane tries to explain to her daughter their financial problem with a sad expression. The writer assumes this situation is one of the triggers for Diane's character to have a worsening psychological condition.

2. Physical Abuse

The data explains that a newspaper was found containing a story about Diane, who experienced child abuse when she was seven years old and has experienced abuse for years.



Fig. 7. Diane experienced physical abuse for years

Diane experienced physical abuse for many years, which is one of the causal factors in creating the behaviors that are most commonly assumed to be psychopaths, namely the result of early psychological trauma or Diane's bad experiences.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In conclusion, the study revealed that Diane, a

psychopath, seeks pleasure through deceit and manipulation, to make her daughter stay by her side. Her obsession with her daughter, Chloe, stems from past trauma and physical abuse from her mother. Diane's lack of remorse and guilt makes her feel justified by her actions. The writer aims to raise awareness about strangers and people closest to them through this study. The writer suggests comparing *Run* and other movies to studying psychopathy or studying Chloe's character's psychological response to her psychopathic mother.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The writer can finish this thesis with the encouragement and advice provided by several parties. The writer would like to express deep gratitude to the supervisor, Femmy Dahlan, S.S., M.Hum., for the knowledge, instructions, patience, and professional attitude, which helped a lot in finishing this thesis. Big Gratitude is also to the examiners, Prof. Dr. Elfiondri, S.S., M.Hum., and Temmy Thamrin, S.S., M.Hum, Ph. D., for providing comprehensive criticism and suggestions during the examination and finishing the thesis.

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