

CHAPTER 3

ANALYSIS

This chapter will discuss about the characteristic of Billy Hicks on the novel and how it influenced him of becoming serial killer. Before the writer try to find out the influence of his characteristic to become serial killer, the writer would like to understand first how he is described in the novel. From his description in the novel, the writer could understand how Billy is since childhood until he has already growth as an adult man and what kind of event that ever happened to him which is expected to contribute to shape him as serial killer. By looking at that information, the writer would like to comprehend how all of them contribute in order to shape Billy for becoming serial killer.

3.1 Characteristic of Billy Hicks

Billy Hicks is the main male characters in the novel. He is introduced as the son of Ivor Hicks. His mother was died when he was a child. Since his mother dead, he has to live with his father. During his day, he has a few times picked his father up from the jail because of drunk. His father is also thought as a mad person by people around him because he believed that he had ever been kidnapped by an alien. His mother dead and his father behavior make people feel sorry to him. Based on the story in the novel *Chosen to Die* by Lisa Jackson, the writer found some characteristics that belong to him.

Billy is skillful man. Somebody could be called skillful if he is good at doing something especially something that need special ability or certain training

(Hornby 1378). Billy's cleverness could be seen from his success to change the tunnels into several secret rooms to keep his victims. It took years to make the tunnel livable. On the other hand, Billy is a carpenter. He works in his own carpentry. This ability enables him to change the tunnel.

I've spent years improving these tunnels and rooms, updating them, making everything usable for my special purpose. Long before any of the women I've chosen were brought here. There are various tunnels that sprout off these steps, some short, others long and, eventually airless. Some have other exits, others dead end....(Jackson 222)

But deep down , they all knew that the killer, a very organized and clever person, was not only trying to tell them something, he was lording it over them that he was smarter than they....(Jackson 41)

Billy killed his victims not in common way. First of all he shoot the tire of his victim's car to make the car fall into ravine or just hit the tree and the side of the mountain until it was broken. He uses his good shooting skill in here. His mother has already trained him since childhood about how to use the gun. That's why, he can shoot the tire of his victim car easily and exactly on the target although it is in a middle of snow fall.

...How many times did my mother take me into the snowy wilderness and advice me on the skill of survival and what it would take for me to "become a man?." She, the bitch was right, of course but I always thought my father should have been to stop her from leaving me to find my way home in mid-winter. She encouraged me

to live off the land and I learned to shoot small prey at an early age, I was good at it...(Jackson 258)

This guy was a bad news. A patient, organized, and skilled killer who somehow shot the tires of unsuspected victims, then “rescued” the injured women before squirreling them to some private liar where he nurtured her back health, getting their trust, and dependence before marching them naked into the storm-ravaged wilderness and strapping them to a tree where he left them to die a slow, agonizing death in the frigid, unforgiving forest (Jackson 4).

Billy chose all of his victims not in random. He is doing a research before he determined them. The other form of Billy cleverness is the way he choose them and prepared everything that should be prepared. The tunnel is one of the examples. He also prepared a pain killer that will be used to help the victims face their accident pain. Just like prepared the tunnel, he also spent years until he got the right women. He knows exactly when he is ready to start.

Unconsciously, he has already learned it since childhood. Billy’s mother is a woman with high temper. She often abuse Billy both verbal and physical. As a child Billy can do nothing except receive all of his mother treatment toward him. But, it changes when he in twelve years old. He is as tall as his mother. He is also as strong as his mother. That’s why he thinks, it is the right time to reject his mother command and to fight back. Billy learns to know when he is really ready for doing something.

Oh, yes, Mother. You finally delivered your punishment until at twelve, I turned the tables, I was as tall as you were, and as strong.

And that mean the killer was close enough to Long to know that he was returning to Montana and had lain in wait for him. That information alone had absolved many suspect of the crime. As far as Lavarez knew, none of the victims had known anyone in the Long family (Jackson 313-314).

Whoever the bastard was, he'd been planning his killing spree for very long time. The depth of his plot in the files he kept in the big armoire and his labyrinth of underground tunnels (Jackson 330).

Billy Hicks is also a restraint man. We not only could see his restraint from the way how he could controlled his temper, but also from the long time that he has spent during making the plan for the killer and wait until the right time has came. Billy started to learn about patience since childhood. Once again, his mother has an important role in teach him. In the previous discussion clearly stated if Billy's mother often abuse him. Unconsciously, while Billy did every his mother command he train his patience. Although he is doing nothing except follow his mother command, it does not mean that he is doing nothing. Billy keeps his emotion under controlled during his mother abuse. He is waiting for the right chance come to him to fight back, and it came when he is in twelve years old.

In the part of the story, the writer could find if Billy ever had conversation a few times with Regan Pescoli since she has already been kidnapped. Billy said many sentences that express his arrogant because he has succeeded to kidnap one of police detective. He believes that there will be no one even the police could stop what he is doing. The opposite things expressed by Regan. She keeps talk if

However, the pattern that is shown by Billy in his modus operandi and the message that is delivered by him, unconsciously reflect what ever happened to him during his childhood.

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Their only hope was that the killer’s M.O. of nurturing his victims back to health before brutally leaving them to die in the frozen wilderness would buy Regan some time.... (Jackson 72)

Billy has made a plan. So, he will work based on it. We could find his consistency from his commonly modus operandi during the killer. First of all, he will shoot his victim’s car wheel until it break the ravine or hit on the tree or even the mountain side until it is broken. Then, he will come and rescue the victims, take care of them, get their trust, Then finally left them naked tightly tied on a tree in the middle of snow storm to die slowly. This pattern is repeating again and again to all of his victims except Brady Long. Brady is the special one. He does not kidnap him but just shoot him in his chest and left him to die slowly also.

Start from his first victim, there is no sexual abuse that could be found on every one of them, because it was the agreement between him and himself. Billy

will not touch the girl sexually. Billy has already had named list of his victims. He will just kill them not anyone out of it. It does not matter what is going on, he just killed the person who is on the list. In the part of the story, in a morning, when he gets his breakfast at one restaurant, he hears Manny Douglas said something about the star crossed killer which is refer to him. Manny is a journalist. He just believes in himself that he knows the pattern of the killer. He is so arrogant about it. It makes Billy temper becomes increased. He is mad of him. But, because Manny is not on the list, he is safe.

He hadn't sexually molested any of them
That seemed out of place
His dominance wasn't physical, so much emotional (Jackson 41)

And what was his game? Not sexual gratification, at least not to point of penetration. No one body was shown sign of recent sexual abuse or intercourse. NO semen was found or on their bodies, nor there been any wound in their breasts or vaginal areas (Jackson 74)

So the thought has crossed her mind
But Liam had been too good to her
And she thought he might be failing in love with her
Not that he'd ever tried everything. He hadn't even kissed her, just touch her gently when he'd tended to her injures. Nonetheless, she was thinking less of Cesar these days and more and more about what it would be like to kiss Liam, in run her hands down his long back, to feel the hard muscles of his buttocks (Jackson 210).

You can bet on that, weasel-face, I think but just sip my coffee and pretend interest in the sports page. I would love to shut him up permanently, but he's not the part of the plan. So he's safe. If he

had any idea how long I've worked, how I've planned to find just the right women (Jackson 158)

Billy is temperamental. In some part of the story, we could see Billy's ability to control his emotion. But, in others parts to, the writer could find that he expresses his feeling as an anger. It happens especially when he thinks about something bad or unfair happened toward him (Hornby 49). Billy is just like her mother who has a high temper. Billy's mother often did physical abuse to him when she was angry with him.

I see it. Have witnessed it before in this very room with its twin bed draped in the hand-piece quilt Mother created over a half century ago. it seems fitting, somehow, that some of my guest slept under Mother's handy work. Theresa had mentioned how "beautiful" it was, the detail "intricate." If Theresa had only known that those very hands that had so lovingly cut and pieced the tiny scraps together had also shown a great ability to slap, or flick a lit cigarette, with equal ease (Jackson 322)

"Good, good, cuz I don't want Billy to get mad. He has temper, you know. Got it from the mother." He sighed. "Lila, rest her soul, was the most beautiful girl on God's green earth, I swear, but she had a mean streak in her. Oooowee." Staring across the bar, where colorful bottles were on display, glistening and shining in front of the mirror, Ivor said, "what was it she used to say whenever Bill got himself into trouble?" He rubbed his chin....(Jackson 396)

The first part of the story that shows Billy's angry expression is when he is fighting with Regan. Every time, Regan tries to free herself from the chamber where Billy puts her on. She tries to break the weld connection in her iron bed by

Truly, she'd never really Thought Billy would kill Brady Long. Not that her bully of an older brother hadn't deserve to die. A bullet had been to kind. In Padgett's opinion....(Jackson 447).

Billy is also enjoying taking other's destiny under controlled, perfectly match with his mother who took control of him when he is was child. Since early aged, Billy has already learnt how to shoot. He could shoot a small animal from far distance. He is good in this ability. He found happiness when he could control other creature's life.

....I learned to shoot small pry at an early age. I was go at it. Received her rare praise and found deep satisfaction in controlling the destiny of some other living thing, should that jackrabbit live? could I really kill a squirrel from a hundred feet? Could I lie still and motionless long enough for the doe to leave her fawn? Yes, my mother thought me much....(Jackson 258-259)

A tiny zing sizzles through my blood at the thought that I ended her life. I had that power. This, the way I kill them, is how. Slightly impersonal. I never feel that surge of supreme ecstasy. I imagined a killer might feel who wields a knife.

But knowing that I controlled another's destiny, a woman. I'm sure, who was put on this earth to fulfill my needs, suffices (Jackson 348-249)

Billy's satisfaction in order to control the destiny of other living thing could be found when he felt happy after doing his crime. One of them is when he succeeds to shot Regan's car wheel. Regan Pescoli is a police detective. One day she has to drive alone to Bitterroot to pick her children up who have been taken by his ex-husband. Unfortunately, Regan is one of Billy's victims while at the same

many secret spots, so many places to hide a person and no one would ever be the wiser. Thank goodness I've been thinking ahead. Putting the plan into action. Finding those who are worthy to be left. Making certain I have enough...inventory. Again I smile. I really am far smarter than anyone would ever imagine, especially Mother (Jackson 223).

Based on the previous discussion about serial killer, there are many things that could motivate them for becoming a serial killer. One of them is anger (Morton et al 18). The killer feels angry to an individual or a group of people because of something that they ever done to him before which make he wants to end their life as the expression of his anger. Some of them also feel that they have an authority to take someone life. Before the thesis writer try to find out the motive of Billy as serial killer, the writer would like to know first how the attitudes of people around Billy include his mother, father, and society in the city that are supposed to have role in influencing Billy to be a serial killer

Since childhood, Billy lived with his father and mother named Ivor Hicks and Lila Kress. Billy has bad memory about his mother while he was a child. On the other hand, Freud believes that the first 4 until 5 years or childhood era is the most crucial period for personality development (Jess Feist and G J Feist 38). It means that family as the first environment known by the child has an important role during personality forming. Billy's mother is a beautiful woman with high temper. She often expressed his anger to Billy in a form of abuse both verbal and physical. Sometime, she did it without any clear explanation about what Billy fault is.

century ago. it seems fitting, somehow, that some of my guest has slept under mother's handy work. Theresa had mentioned how "beautiful" it was, the detail "intricate". If Theresa had only known that those very hands that had also shown a great ability to slap, or flick a lit cigarette, with equal ease (Jackson 322)

How often of did my bitch of mother whisper those very before she hit me across my bare buttocks with a slim belt that stung and it into my flesh? How many times did she force me to stand waiting, trembling in the corner, without a stitch on? oh, I quivered and cried, anticipating her attack and as she struck, she told me about Orion and the sting of the scorpion which had killed the great hunter. Oh, yes, she repeated the story with great relish, savoring it, as much as the beating she inflicted (Jackson 424).

In order to train Billy as a man, Lila often asks him into the centre of wilderness of winter forest and leaves him alone. She asks him to find out the way home by himself. It makes Billy hopes that there is somebody who will stop his mother for doing this to him. On the other hand, Lila also gives him ability. She trains him how to use gun in good way. Billy has learned how to use gun and shoot even a small animal from the far distance since early age. He is good in this ability. He also finds deep satisfaction in controlling other life things destiny.

...How many times did my mother take me into the snowy wilderness and advice me on the skill of survival and what it would take for me to "become a man?." She, the bitch was right, of course but I always thought my father should have been to stop her from leaving me to find my way home in mid-winter. She encouraged me to live off the land and I learned to shoot small prey at an early age, I was good at it...(Jackson 258)

During under his mother authority, as a child under twelve years old, Billy can do nothing to response the abuse toward him except crying and following his mother command. Deep down his heart, he tries to keep his feeling about the abuse at least when he is under twelve years old. Because he realizes that he does not have enough power to fight back against his mother at that time. But, it completely changes when he was twelve years old. He is not doing any of his mother command because he thinks he has the same power and able to refuse any command from his mother. However, Lila decides to leave the house. She died just less than a week from her leaving.

And I took it. All of he wickedness and wrath while dear old Dad turned a blind eye, then poured himself into a bottle so far and so deep that his satisfy fled.

Oh, yes, Mother, You finally delivered your punishment until, at twelve, I turned the tables. I was as tall as you were. And as strong. I refused to strip. Grabbed that belt and swore I would kill her if she ever tried to me hit again! (Jackson 424)

Lila Kress has died when Billy was a child. Because of that, he has to live with his father named ivor Hicks. Unfortunately, Ivor is being thought as a crazy person by the people of the city because he believes of alien. He tells everybody that he had ever been kidnapped by alien named Crytor. The alien did an experiment to him by put something into his body that makes Crytor possible to communicate and watch Ivor whenever and wherever. Ivor also has a bad habit. He likes to drink until drunk. It is his favorite routine that makes him have to sleep in a drunken jail for a few times. While he is come in on the jail, at the same time, Billy is called by the police to pick him up.

live. Related with morality or law that exists in society, what Billy doing with killing somebody is wrong.

Murder is the unlawful taking of human life. It is a behavioral act that terminates life in the context of power, personal gain, brutality, and sometimes sexuality. Murder is a subcategory of homicide, which also includes lawful taking of human life, such as, manslaughter, deaths resulting from criminal and noncriminal negligence, and unpremeditated vehicular deaths (qtd in Douglass 94)

However, there is no one in Billy life that could teach him that killing somebody else is something unlawful. Billy's parents is failed to do their duty as superego agent. His mother has started to abuse him since early age. She also train Billy how to use gun and shoot an animal without told to him that he may not use his ability in shooting for something wrong someday.

Ivor Hicks, as Billy father is doing nothing when Billy was punished by his mother. He never tried to stop her or even defend his son. He never tries to explain to Billy what is wrong and what is right, why he deserved to be punished and why is not. Ivor also never tries to stop his wife when punish Billy that make him only judge something right or wrong based on his mother point of view. Later, he also judge something is right or wrong also just based on his own point of view without caring moral or law that exist in society. Unconsciously, the punishment that often did by his mother make him conclude that someone who ever hurt him of did something wrong to him is deserved to be punished whatever

the punishment is, just the same with his mother who punish him when he is in trouble.

The society around him also failed to play their role as morality teacher. The people in the city are feeling sorry to Billy's live especially when he has left by his mother. But, it just in a form of sympathy, the society just talks about it behind him without do something to help him. Sheriff Grayson for example, also never gives clear explanation about the real reason why Billy's application is rejected. It makes Billy conclude by himself that Grayson rejects him because he is not smart enough, while actually it because of his father and his own attitude. Billy ever mixed up with couple of fighting case. He never knows that what he has done is wrong, if Grayson explains to him that his attitude is not good enough, he will learn because of his bad attitude, it makes he rejected from job that he apply. However, it is possible to make Billy change his own attitude become better than before.