

**EMILY'S EFFORT TO PROVE HER DAD'S INNOCENCE IN  
LUCY CHRISTOPHER'S *THE KILLING WOODS* NOVEL**

**THESIS**

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree  
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Surabaya, July 10th, 2018



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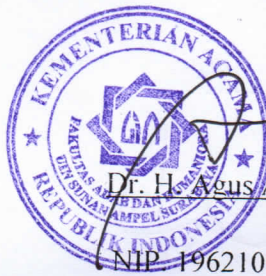
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possession of experience (4). This means that literature has intimate quality, it is more personal to each person who read the literary work and receives a different perception based on their own experience in life. Eagleton also stated more particularly the modes of feeling, valuing, perceiving and believing which have some kind of relation to the maintenance and reproduction of social power. The fact that such beliefs are by no means only private curiosity may be illustrated by a literary example (13).

For a simple case that Lucy Christopher as a popular literature writer, she wrote *The Killing Woods* novel because she was inspired by the woods near her house also her hobby to hike up a rainforest. Through her experience, she can develop it into a novel with a dark vibe like the wood itself (Chicken House 4). According to Terry Eagleton, a novel is one of the literature that brings up the issue of men's life through imaginative work. It does not mean facts are not included in literature.

in English late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, the word 'novel' seems to have been used about both true and fictional events, and even news reports were hardly to be considered factual. Novels and news reports were neither clearly factual nor clearly fictional. Moreover, if 'literature' includes much 'factual' writing, it also excludes quite a lot of fiction. As examples, *Superman* comic and Mills and Boon novels are fictional but not generally regarded as literature, and certainly not as Literature (2).

So, novel is a fiction work which has true and fictional aspects. Reading a novel the readers can precede the moral value or perceive their own knowledge that is influenced by their background which related to the issue in the novel.. According to Kennedy and Gioia, between the forms of imaginative literature, the novel has been the chosen of writers and readers for more than two hundred years. Generally, a novel is a book-length story in prose that the author tries to make the sense that readers experience actual life (275). Readers can experience something in the novel that they read because it might have similar problems with them. That sometimes literature can change people mind and affect the world (Wellek and Warren, 20-27). According to Cawelty (5), novel itself has some genre based on the type of stories such as horror, romance, humor, adventure, and mystery. Those entire genres have a literary formula to analyze, but mystery novel has a different side to analyze because usually it starts with an unsolved crime or questioned situation.

According to Cawelty, the fundamental principle of the mystery story is the investigation and discovery of hidden secrets, the discovery usually leading to some benefit for the characters with whom the reader identifies. The problem always has a desirable and rational solution, for the underlying moral fantasy expressed in formulaic archetype (42). Mystery can intensify and complicate a story of triumph over obstacles or of the successful development of love by increasing suspense and uncertainty and adding further interest to the final resolution (43). Mystery story itself has the pattern of the formula which in





### 1.3 Objective of Study

The objective of this research is to answer the question revealed in the research question.

1. To find out how the death of Ashley affects Emily
2. To find out how Emily's affection for her father changes the accusation

### 1.4 Scope and Limitation

To prevent a broad analysis, the researcher will only focus on Emily as the main character in *The Killing Woods* novel and the researcher focuses on how Emily proof her belief that her father is innocent towards Ashlee's death using Phenomenology and New Criticism as the supporting theory

### 1.5 Significance of Study

By this study, it is purposed to giving academicals and practical contribution. Ideally, the results of the analysis are expected to give involvement in developing the study and analysis on literary study related to the study of Phenomenology on Emily as the main character in *The Killing Woods* novel. The researcher expects to give more knowledge about how each of the main characters defends their belief with Phenomenology theory also to know deeper about the character. The researcher also hopes that this research can be useful references for those interested in studying the same topic. Also for the common reader, they can take the value that not all the things that happen look like exactly what they thought this research can be an inspiration and enrich knowledge, especially about the mysterious murder pattern.





## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

#### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

In this chapter, the researcher explains about literary theory that is related to the issue of *The Killing Wood* novel. *The Killing Woods* novel has the fundamental of the mystery story which is investigation and discovery of hidden secret, therefore, the researcher uses John G. Cawelty's book to analyze the novel especially plot. Plot is one the element of New Criticism, therefore, the researcher uses it to know how the death of Ashlee affects Emily and Phenomenology theory to analyze Emily's affection to her father changes the accusation.

#### 2.2 Popular Literature

Here the researcher uses John G Cawelty's popular formula. Formula literature is a kind of literary art. Therefore it can be analyzed and evaluated as another genre of literature. The purpose of popular literature is to entertain the reader, as the escape and relaxation. While popular literature itself has a lot of genres such as horror, adventure, romance, and mystery. Each of genres has their own characteristic, but in mystery usually, the crime happens in the beginning of the story with a hidden secret and investigation to reveal the truth. To do the investigation and reveal the truth there must be a certain character as the investigator known as a detective that

work with an agency. It is known as a classical detective story. In John G. Cawelty's (1976) the classical detective story has some pattern that defined by Edgar Allan Poe those are situation, pattern of action, character, and relation, and setting.

Some of the mystery novels make the certain character as the detective even though the character does not work with an agency or make the detective as their job. As long as the character does an investigation to reveal the truth of the crime and the patterns of the formula are identified in the story, then it can be a detective story in the mystery genre. Here the researcher explains more about the pattern of the formula in John G. Cawelty that defined by Poe, the four aspects of the detective story as a convenient way of defining and developing a particular kind of situation(s) in patterns of the formula there are:

### 2.2.1 Situation

In mystery novels, there is a crime to solve by certain characters with some clues that will lead to the explanation of its mystery case. The story starts with an unsolved case that moves to reveal the truth of the mystery story. The crime in the mystery novel must be major with complicated result so the victim is possible to ask the detective to do an investigation (Cawelty 80). There are a lot of cases in mystery novel such as a murder with unknown suspect or accused innocent people as the suspect. Therefore, the mystery of the case has to be solved.

### 2.2.2 Pattern of Action



The pattern of action will lead the detective's investigation and the solution to introduce the detective and then it flows to the crime and clues, investigation, announcement, explanation and denouement. In the mystery novel, the pattern of action needs crime, clues, investigation and the solution to flows the sequence of event. Those patterns do not always appear in arrangement, it can collapse into each other but still has a connection to each (Cawelty 82). The detective has steps to solve the case with clues that will lead them to reveal the truth and find the suspect.

### 2.2.3 Character and Relationship

One of the intrinsic elements is character and characterization. Characters are the life of literature and the objects of curiosity attraction, affection, dislike, admiration, and blame. A literary character is a person who is somehow present in the story. Realist characterization presupposes a 'mimetic' model of literary texts whereby what is primary or original is a real person, and a character in a book is simply a copy of such a person (Bennet and Royle 62). Character is seen as a purely functional component that controls on both the broad and the story level. It is naturally treated as a syntactical subject at the level of sentence, but also as the narrative subject of the events happening in the story (Prochazka 7). According to Abrams, The character is the name of a literary genre; it is a short, and usually witty, sketch in prose of a distinctive type of person, the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say



The character is inseparable by characterization, according to Wellek and Warren, the principle of characterization in literature has always been defined as that of combining the "type" with the "individual"—showing the type in the individual or the individual in the type (23). The simplest form of characterization is naming, modes of characterization are many. There are static characterizations and dynamic or developmental. "Flat" characterization (which commonly overlaps "static") presents a single trait, seen as the dominant or socially most obvious trait. It may be a caricature or maybe abstractive idealization. "Round" characterization, like "dynamic," requires space and emphasis; is obviously used for characters focal for point of view or interest; hence is ordinarily combined with "flat" treatment of background figures—the "chorus." (227). In a word, besides character, there is a characterization that showing each individual type such as static or dynamic characterization.

According to Terry (5) there are five different methods of indirect characterization. First is speech, in this case, the author wants to the readers know the character from the conversation or dialog between the characters individually. Then thought, here the author wants the readers to understand what the character is expressed through his or her mind. The third is the effect on others of the character; the author tries to explain the characters to the readers through the character's behavior as a response to other characters. Next is action, the author describes the characters to the readers by the actions or attitudes that caused by character. The last is looks; the author describes the







### 2.2.1.1 Introduction of the detective

The introduction of the detective can be told by an objective narrator who sees partly into the detective's mind or a character that involved in the story. If it is from the detective point of view, the writer must be able to keep the mystery as a secret without creating strange and arbitrary limits of the detective's reasoning processes.

### 2.2.1.2 Crime and clues

The crime here must be surrounded by some of tangible clues that make it clear that some agency is responsible for the crime and it must be insoluble. Combine evidence with an indication that it cannot have been any person can imagine being involved.

### 2.2.1.3 Investigation

The investigation purpose is to reveal or expose the guilt of a character(s) with whom the reader has been heartened to sympathize or detect. So the final of detective's solution is not only to clarify the mystery but also to rescue of character(s) to set free from the suspicion and danger.

### 2.2.1.4 Announcement of the solution

Since the beginning, the reader is being forced to follow the action from the confused and limited point of view. Then from the point of view, the















Emily's first thought was her father brought a deer that got hurt from the Darkwood on Saturday night in August. Last time her Dad brought a living creature from the Darkwood and it was to help an injured deer.

"I tried to pick out the shape of the deer's body, but it was all wrong. The legs weren't long enough, neither its neck. I took a step towards them. And that's when it made sense: the shape. It wasn't a deer Dad was carrying. It was a girl." (Christopher 4)

When Emily came closer, what she thought was wrong. From the shape of the thing that brought by her Dad was not like a deer. The feature was not a deer, it was a girl and clearly, her Dad never brings an unconscious human before.

"What happened?" I said. Dad didn't answer. His face was red and damp; he wheezed as he pushed past me. The girl's fingers trailed over my arm, and they were cold – dead cold – like a stone found in a cave. Dad laid her carefully on the kitchen table as if he were putting her to bed. He turned her head to the side and stretched out one of her arms so she was in the recovery position. (Christopher 5)

Emily could feel something was not right, she then felt a dead cold touch from the body. Even when the girl's body was cold, Emily's Dad still set it in recovery position. By the temperature of the body, it was not possible that girl still alive but Emily's Dad was still trying to do the best just like he got trained in the army.

"I made myself bring my fingers to her wrist, waited long enough to be sure. I knew I should be panicking, should be calling an ambulance... but Ashlee Parker's eyes were staring at me, fixed in position, brown and big. "She's got model's eyes" Kirsty had said once. (Christopher 5)

Emily and her Mum started to get panicked when they realized it was a girl.

They wondered how it happened.

“Is she...?” I hesitated. “Is she... OK?” Dad didn’t answer. I don’t know what he thought, whether he hoped she would wake up. But I’d seen the small red marks on her neck, the blue speckles of bruises spreading out like flowers. I could see she wasn’t breathing at all.” (Christopher 5)

Emily then recognized the girl. She was found by Emily’s Dad was known as Ashlee Parker. Emily could say so because Ashlee went to the same school with Emily. She was one of the popular girls in the school. Emily was not really sure about Ashlee’s condition. Whether Ashlee fainted or died. Then Emily checked Ashlee wrist as she started to get panic and when she paid attention to Ashlee’s neck there was bruise and the pulse was not beating. From the dead-cold body, opened eyes in a fixed position and no pulse in the neck was the strong reasons to state that Ashlee was dead.

“She made a tight gasping sound as if she’d sucked up all the oxygen in the room at once. She looked at Dad then back to Ashlee. She stepped across and felt for a pulse. ‘Who is she?’ she said, her voice low. When he didn’t answer, she strode across the room and grabbed Dad by the shoulder. ‘What’s happened?’ (Cristopher 6)

Here Emily’s Mum shocked to saw that her husband brought a girl into their house. She also tried to feel the girl’s pulse. She could feel what happened with the girl was because of Emily’s dad silence and speculate he did something to the girl. She then asked her husband for an explanation.

“Sorry,’ he said, his eyes watery. “Sorry, sorry, sorry...” He looked at Mum desperately. “But they were shouting... the soldier told me I’d done it.’ He shook his head and murmured, ‘Me, me, me...” (...) “You aren’t in combat now, Jon! There’s no firefight! You haven’t shot anyone!’ Mum was almost pleading with him. ‘You’re in your kitchen. You’re with your wife and daughter. You’re and ex-soldier in a flashback, that’s all!” (Christopher, p.9)

Emily and her Mum could not find any answer from Jon Shepherd because of his condition. He got shocked after found a dead body in the wood. Jon Shepherd was an army before and then he got post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after he came back from the war. Because of the PTSD, he could not distinguish the real life and the last time when he was in the army. As if he still heard the soldier voices even when he was not in a battlefield anymore and that was why he said sorry a lot of times.

Two months later Emily's Dad was accused as manslaughter by a lawyer. Then when Emily went to school all of the students glared at her and whispered the incident of Emily's Dad found her schoolmate named Ashlee dead.

“I still remember how Dad's defence lawyers talked us through all that. “He'll plead manslaughter because of his flashbacks,” they'd said. “Because he doesn't remember the events of that night, because of his *post-traumatic stress disorder*(...) I want to shake them, tell them that Dad only thinks he killed Ashlee Parker because he can't remember what really happened. Tell them that if he can't remember, then maybe he didn't do it at all.” (Cristopher 18)

After two months since Emily's Dad brought a dead girl to his house, the defence lawyer said that he would plead manslaughter. The reason was that of his mental disease which was known as PTSD made him unable to distinguish the past and present. He got arrested because of that. Emily's strong beliefs on the innocence of her Dad motivate her to set her Dad free. Emily believed that her Dad was innocent. Even though Emily's friends shout her out and avoided by her friend, she was sure that Emily's Dad would never kill anyone. Emily's friends wonder that her Dad stalked Ashlee Parker and meant to kill her. Another speculation was that it was







“You know, Emily, if the prosecution lawyers do accept your father’s manslaughter plea, the court may decide he’s too mentally unstable to even be given a fixed sentence. They may put him in a secure psychiatric hospital indefinitely.” I stare hard at the empty shelf where the photos were. “So he might never come out?” I won’t let myself imagine it. “Why would they do that?” “Because he could be dangerous. Because he killed someone. Because he needs help.” (Christopher 88)

Emily’s Mum believed that her husband was dangerous because of his past for accidentally killed a civilian girl. Because of the accident he accused as a murder and got manslaughter plea. Emily’s Mum said her husband got help for mentally unstable and being placed in a secure psychiatric hospital. While for Emily her Dad is her Dad like he used to be. He was not a criminal.

“Mum starts reeling off things she’s told me before. About the fact Dad admits it. About how Ashlee Parker’s DNA was on his clothes. About the psychological profiling the police have done, the flashback he was in, his trauma from combat. She looks away from the quiz show long enough for me to find her eyes. “He was living that flashback, Emily,” she says, “... Exactly like the psychiatrist said... killing, just like he did I combat.” “It could have been anyone!” (Christopher 89)

Emily faced her Mum and convinced her that her Dad was not guilty. Her Mum already stated everything and made her Dad as the one who got blamed. Emily’s Mum believed that her husband had changed, he could not escape from the trauma and that was the biggest alibi that Jon Shepherd’s got for manslaughter. While for Emily, it could be anyone who killed Ashlee and used her Dad’s PTSD to accuse him and ran from the punishment.

“The sooner you realize your Dad’s not the same dad you remember from childhood, the better. Then we can move on with our lives, and we need to do that.” “You talk like he’d dead.” She breathes in sharply. “The man we both

want to remember is.” Her voice is a thousand sharp fingers, jabbing me back into the bookshelf. (Christopher 90)

Emily asked her Mum to care for her husband because, for Emily, the wife was supposed to care. While Emily’s Mum thought that caring was not enough and sometimes circumstance went beyond it. Then her Mum said her husband that he used to be before got PTSD was “dead”. The word “dead” here means Emily’s Dad was not a loving person and a good person anymore, therefore, Emily’s Mum decided to move on and continue their life.

Besides with her Mum, Emily has conflicts with her friend, Kirsty who believe that Emily’s Dad as a criminal. Since Emily’s Dad manslaughter plea, Kirsty avoids her.

“Yeah, we were friends, Emily,” she says slowly, “...Friends until your creepy Dad went and killed Ashlee Parker.” I feel anger rise like it does every time someone says something bad about Dad. Only now it’s worse because it’s Kirsty who’s saying it.” (Christopher 21)

Kirsty used to be Emily’s friend but because of the murderer she said bad things and hurt Emily’s feeling by saying that her Dad was a creep meanwhile as a friend she had to accompany Emily and listened what was Emily’s feeling about her Dad got accused as manslaughter.

“Freak!” Kirsty spits the word in my face, punches me like this. “Scum family!” my fingers tighten in her hair. There’s yelling behind me, jolting me back to where we are. I hear Jonah and Luke shouting, but there’s a crowd around us too, people jolting for a view and screaming for a fight.” (Christopher25)

Kirsty became mean to her and avoided Emily. Kirsty believed that Emily's Dad killed Ashlee Parker also because of the PTSD that he got then Kirsty mocked at Emily that her Dad was freak and Emily's family was a scum family. Emily got mad and pulled Kirsty hair.

Another person that had a conflict with Emily was Damon. He believed that Emily's Dad as Ashlee's killer and it was supported by Emily's Mum belief. If Emily's Mum believed her Dad as the murder then the stranger who never know Emily's Dad could easily judge him as the killer.

"Meet me in Darkwood," he says instead. "I'll be waiting at the Leap. You know it?" "Darkwood?" "Yeah" he nods. "The Leap" I get a flash of memory of bumping into him in Darkwood once before –by accident, when he'd almost tripped over me. (Christopher 33)

Damon decided that the detention would give in Darkwood. A place when Emily's Dad found Ashlee's body. Meanwhile, *The Leap* here was a little hill in the Darkwood, certain people use Darkwood as a place for cross-country train there for the army. Those people named it *The Leap*.

"I think about the conversations I've had with Joe over the last few weeks, the theories we'd had about who else could have been in Darkwood the night Ashlee died: tramps, druggies, kids from out of town, ex-army... we'd made a list –possible suspects –I'd wanted the police to keep looking. "Someone could still be hiding in those trees," I'd said. "They could be waiting undiscovered," But the police hadn't listened. Damon was on that list, though." (Christopher 39)

Even though her Dad was accused as manslaughter she still tried to find other possibilities that might happen or another possible suspect except for her Dad. She

also had a suspicion on Damon because he followed Ashlee everywhere since they were a famous couple in the school.

“I remember that spark of hope when I’d heard: when I’d thought, for a short while anyway, that maybe it was Damon that killed Ashlee, that even this was more likely than it being Dad. “They always say it’s the boyfriend,” Joe had said that day. ” (Christopher 40)

Emily has thought that the biggest possibility as the killer of Ashlee was Damon because he was Ashlee’s boyfriend. Damon also knew more information about Ashlee’s in personal and they always together.

“Then I’m in Darkwood car park: the main entrance into this vast, ancient woodland. The place Damon and Ashlee and Damon’s mate were drinking that night. There are soggy colorful bundles of flowers and toys that must be for Ashlee, to pay respects...” (Christopher 45)

Another reason that Damon could be the suspect is because he was drunk in the Darkwood with their friends in the night Ashlee found dead. Emily remembered this when she was going to meet Damon for the detention.

“Why don’t you believe it?” I just go ahead and ask her this too. “If it wasn’t your Dad that killed Ashlee, who did?” “Plenty of people use these woods. All the time they do! Anyone could have been there that night” She’s looking at me hard like she knows something. “Police don’t think so,” I snap. Your Dad don’t even think so.” Still she keeps eye contact. “My Dad doesn’t know what he thinks.” (Christopher 64)

In the Darkwood from Damon’s point of view, he asked Emily why she did not believe that her Dad killed Ashlee because Damon knew that Emily’s Dad had trauma from accidentally killing a civilian in the combat. As a daughter that has a strong love and belief to her Dad, Emily knew that he would not do it on purpose,

because of her Dad's PTSD. Another reason was that somebody could be in the woods that night means that anyone can kill Ashlee also.

“He thinks about this. “Catch me and I might be. If not...” He breathes out fast. “I could make your life hell for you, y’know, hurt you for what your dad did...” He scrambles around the cliff face, arms and legs splayed wide, until he reaches what looks like a small animal path a few meters away. “This is your detention, remember?” he says. “So chase me. Do it!” (Christopher 72)

In the Darkwood Damon chose to play a running game. Emily should chase and catch Damon while he keeps running and not get tagged. This game was also a game that played by people from cross-country train for army beside that, this game was being played by Damon's friends in the night when they got drunk, the night when Ashlee was dead.

“Then I'm pinning his arms, putting my knees on his shoulder. I'm doing what Dad thought me to do once: *Disable the enemy as quickly as possible*. “Dad wasn't the only one in the woods that night!” I scream it into his face. “And Dad couldn't have chased anyone... not on these paths, not at night. He's scared! When he's in the woods, he doesn't leave that bunker –there's *no* way he could have stalked Ashlee!” (Christopher 76)

After the detention, Emily caught Damon by jumping on him and pinned him. Emily tried to convince Damon that her Dad is not the killer. By the detention, Emily believed that her Dad would not be able to trail the Darkwood path with PTSD and trauma that he got from the combat, especially at night.

“I didn't move. “Why didn't you walk Ashlee all the way home, anyway? What kind of boyfriend leaves his drunk girlfriend in the woods after dark?” “You don't know what I did.” His face is red –mad! His voice is fierce. “You're the last one who saw her alive, though,” I say. “So why don't you know anything? You should be the one giving me answers!” (Christopher 77)









But Mack insisted like he was really sure about the incident. He insisted that Damon was not doing anything wrong and innocent. Mack was so sure the one who guilty was Jon Shepherd.

The clue was Ashlee's collar as her identity of The Game was missing and Damon could not find it anywhere so he went to the Darkwood.

“Ashlee's dog collar isn't in any of other drawers in my desk. Or in my coat pockets. I even go through all my old sports bags again. So where is it? I must've dropped it on my way home that night, been too drunk to realize.”  
(Christopher 111)

The thing that Damon realized was his girlfriend collar. The game that he played with his friend was a running game with collar. If someone got caught then they had to give their collar and lose from the game. Damon cannot find Ashlee's. The collar might be the clue for what they do the night Ashlee's death.

Emily was also tried to find the proof by went to her Dad bunker in the Darkwood.

“I see the slightly raised bit of ground with the leaves and brambles covering it: Dad's bunker. The only way anyone would know it was here is if they were really, truly looking and if they knew what to look for, but we'd happened upon it by fluke.” (Christopher 114)

Emily believed that Ashlee could get killed by anyone except her Dad in Darkwood. She then went to trace Darkwood to find the clue and prove that her Dad was not guilty. Then she found her Dad's bunker. The location of the bunker was

impossible to be found. Except for careful people and another possibility was found it by accident.

“It matters,” I say again, trying to work out how to phrase what’s bothering me, “because if Shephred didn’t plan to kill Ashlee –if his flashback story’s right and it’s manslaughter –then it means Ashlee got to his bunker by herself, didn’t she? He didn’t lure her there or stalk her or whatever. She walked there!” (Christopher 131)

Damon started to doubt any speculation that he got because of the reason that Emily said to him. He then told his friend, Mack about his doubt. Damon has thought that Ashlee maybe went to Emily’s Dad bunker by herself at that night and Emily’s Dad was not stalked or lured her to go there. This could be another clue about what was happening that night.

“There is something else inside. I stretch to reach it, and this heavy sense I’ve got gets worse. I know this is what it has to be. It’s been hidden here. I pull it out. In my hands is a pink sparkly dog collar, soft wool on it inside. (Christopher 239)”

On the way back Damon kicked the falling leaves and looked in branches to find Ashlee’s collar but he cannot find it. Until in a few meters, Damon found a big oak tree, the biggest and the widest oak tree in Darkwood. He then crushed his fingers into deep ridge bark. Damon found the hidden collar that he did not remember where it was. It was like his body knew exactly what it did the night Damon got drunk. It was like his skin remembering it. Then it was true there was Ashlee collar, but Damon still has not find Ashlee’s phone. So he went to Mack’s house instead.

The second clue that found by Emily was an animal sketch in her Dad's bunker. She thought it might be a picture that happened on the night Ashlee's death.

"I'm grasping at it, crumpling it, but something stops me before I tear it up. I shove it deep into my coat pocket instead. And it might not evidence at all. Even so, there's a weight pressing on my shoulder, making me slow and hunched as I walk to our house." (Christopher 146)

Emily found a sketch of animal that her Dad used to draw with her. Emily's Dad used to draw to depict a person. He used to draw his wife as a cat with the green eyes and Emily as a squirrel with a grey messy fur. This time a picture that Emily found was a deer that looked like Ashlee Parker. It had the same huge brown eyes, delicate ears, and high cheekbones. Emily then chose to save it as a clue and could be evidence.

"Joe shakes his head to keep me quiet. "What if Damon wants to hide evidence before the police can find it? What if he's trying to cover something up. Joe lowers his voice like there are people listening, like he's in some sort of film." (Christopher 202)

The night when Damon played The Game he then ran and found Joe. Joe was Emily's best friend and become the one and only friend that believe Emily's Dad was an innocent man. Joe was a photographer and he went to the Darkwood to take some pictures of his project. Joe then told Emily to not get easy with Damon and need to be careful because Joe believes that Damon could be in Darkwood to look or hide evidence that Emily's Dad can be innocent.

"I don't leave my bed. I sink to somewhere deeper than sleep (...) I don't tell her about the sketch I found in Dad's car -I can't. I don't tell her

anything about what I've done today. Though it's as if she guesses something." (Christopher, p. 156)

When Emily arrived home, Emily could not share what she found in the car about her Dad's drawings as a clue about what happened on the night of Ashlee's death. She also did not tell that she went to her dad bunker. She did not say anything about what she had done that day.

"I don't know how long I look at this bit of paper, but the bunker seems to roll round me as I do. It's like I'm in a ship, sinking. Because this thing –this picture I'm looking at –it isn't an ordinary drawing. Ashlee's face is staring back from it. Only her face is also a deer's face, and that deer is running through woods." (Christopher 228)

Emily then gave Damon what she found in her Dad's car, the animal sketch. Damon then tried to learn the picture. He tried to understand, then he realized that it was not just a usual draw. He saw his girlfriend as a deer. Jon Shepherd might saw what Damon, Ashlee, and their friends did in the Darkwood.

"I watch him. His eyes flick to the gun slit and he frowns as he thinks. Then he stands, goes to the slit and peers out. "Your Dad was looking out at the woods from in here, wasn't he? That's how he saw it all? I lower my head. Damon's got it. He sees everything in this picture I've been scared about." (Christopher 231)

From Emily's Dad sketch Damon could guess that he drew the sketch in the bunker. Damon knew because he was in the place where Emily's Dad drew the sketch. Emily's Dad saw them and depicted them from the windows bunker. So it means Emily's Dad knew The Game that played by them every night. Emily's Dad drew the sketch for the documentation depicted what was happened at the night Damon, Ashlee, and their friends. He drew animals sketch showing the surrounding

areas, and showing locations of objects, also depict the victim as animals. Those steps were in *Crime Scene Investigation* guide conducted by the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) (18).

“For one crazy moment I want to tell Emily everything, about last night and the images I’d had, about how her dad’s plea might be right after all – because if I passed out, because if Ashlee walked back home past this place.. Emily’s staring at me like she wants to tell me something too. She’s got this really intense look in her eyes.” (Christopher 223)

Emily and Damon went to Emily’s Dad bunker when it was raining in the wood the electricity in the bunker also shut. The silence in Darkwood made Damon tell Emily about The Game and the flashback that he got. Damon finally knew that Emily’s Dad might not be the killer because of the flashback that he got. The bunker also could not be found because it was in a hidden place.

“I need Ashlee things,” I explain. “Need to know where he put them.” “There’s nothing here! The police everything except the stuff you see. They searched all around!” “They must be somewhere!” She shakes her head. “The police think she lost her phone before she got here, in the woods.” (Christopher 227)

When Damon in the Jon Shepherd’s bunker he started to ask Emily about the things that Ashlee’s belong. What Damon looking for actually was the collar that Ashlee wore when they played The Game, but Emily absolutely had no idea about it. Even though Emily did not really know what Damon looking for but maybe it was a phone because everybody absolutely has a cell phone in nowadays.

The last clue was Ashlee’s phone. It was the prominent evidence that found by Damon in the place that he did not expect before.



believes that Emily's Dad was the killer at the first place, because of what Emily said in the detention Damon then started to doubt himself and tried to find the truth who was the one who killed his girlfriend.

The investigation that Damon did was by played The Game again to get his memories back at the night Ashlee's death.

"I need to do this," I say. "It's important. One last time. Just to... just to settle things. And for whatever reason, Mack backs off. He runs a hand across his neck. "You know, you and I could just play, without the others. Like we used to?" (Christopher 168)

To found the missing memories of Damon, he then played The Game again with his friends, including Mack. Mack suddenly suggested that Damon could play The Game not with all his friends but only with him. Damon then rejected it. By the offer that Mack said to him, Damon then realized that Mack was not talked too much not about Ashlee or about Army like he used to be.

"It hurts to remember this. Hurts more than any punch. But Mack's wrong – this is the sort of pain I need, not the physical kind, all this stuff that's coming at me confused and tangled." (Christopher 182)

When The Games was played, Damon can remember something in his brain and because he suffered from a loss he felt pain unphysically. They did The Game again to remember what was happening was a right choice that he did.

"I'm in a car. It's freezing. I still can't open my eyes. But there's a tapping sound –loud. Beside my right ear. I turn my head, painfully sneak one eye open through the window is a face. Frowning. Behind her I see that it's morning." (Christopher 210)



The night when Damon played The Game with his friends he felt unphysical pain from the flashback of Ashlee. He then chose to go to Emily's house but he came not at a right time. Damon came when Emily and Joe had an argument about Damon being a suspect. Joe kept insisting that Damon was suspicious and Emily needed to realize that Damon might be the killer. Damon then waited outside in Jon Shepherd's car, until Emily found him in the morning.

“He looks back through the windscreen. And I get it suddenly, why Damon might have been in the wood last night, he might have been looking for. “You’d never find that alone,” I try. “Not if you didn’t know where it was.” He frowns, then a wisp of smile straight after. I know I’m right about what I thought. “Show me, then,” he says, “Please?” (Christopher 216)

Emily then asked Damon what was his purpose to stay in Jon Shepherd's car. Damon was not stated it clearly, but he said that last night he looked for something and could not find it. So he came to Emily's house, Emily knew why he came to hers. She also knew what Damon looked for. Damon came to her asked for help to find the bunker maybe Ashlee's collar was there. The place Jon Shepherd drew the animals to depict what he saw.

While Joe captured some photos for his own project he found Damon and his friends played The Game in the Darkwood. He became suspicious of Damon.

“Joe’s jaw is tense. I’m surprised by how committed he seems to this idea, how he’s not letting this go. I put my hand back on the sketch to take it out of my pocket. Your dad didn’t do anything,” he says firmly. “It’s someone else. And Damon Hillary’s the obvious choice.” (Christopher 203)

Joe got so sure that Damon was Ashlee's killer. He assumed that the biggest possibility that killed Ashlee was her boyfriend, not Jon Shepherd. Joe had that speculation because Damon also got drunk with his friends in the night Ashlee'

“What's got into you? Did you even listen to what I said? Last night Damon was in Darkwood! He had dirt on his face and he was wearing a combat shirt! You don't think that's weird? Maybe like he was high on something? Or panicking? He's freaking out, Emily! It's suspicious!” (Christopher 204)

Joe Wilder still tried to convince Emily that Damon was also suspicious. The night when Joe met Damon was when he played The Game again with his friends that were why he was wearing a combat with dirt on his face.

After Emily and Damon's encounter in Emily's Dad bunker, Damon just realized that the place of the bunker always got passed but he never realized it.

“I turn my head and check, both ways. I know where this path leads, both sides of it. Course I do this path is one of the edges of The Game Play: a boundary. I pause to take this in. All that time we'd been so close to this bunker! No wonder Shepherd drew what he did.” (Christopher 237)

When the rain was stopped, Emily and Damon back to their own home. When Damon wanted to take the path he found two sides, he knew where those sides will leads. But what he did not realize was the place of the bunker. The left side was the shortcut that will lead to Ashlee house. And Damon also just realized that he can use this was as a shortcut to his house.

“I thought you were staying away from that girl, anyway?” He's trying to say this casual, almost like it's a joke, but I know he's freaking out, I can tell by the way his temples are pulsing and how his jaw's gone tight. (Christopher 246)

Mack was Damon's friend and when he knew Damon went to Emily's place he got mad and tried to convince him that Emily's Dad was Ashlee's killer.

"You went there too? With her?" I shrug. "Wanted to see." Mack sucks in air through his teeth. "I'm worried about you, mate. This is morbid, what you're doing is. It's wrong!" (Christopher 247)

Damon told Mack that Emily knew some part of The Game. He also said that he got Shepherd's drawings that Emily's found in Jon Shepherd's car. Damon told his mate that he met Emily in Emily's Dad bunker. Mack seems did not like by the way he sucked air through his teeth.

Damon still has no idea about what was happened at the night when they played The Game and when Ashlee's got killed. When he told what he felt to Mack, Mack got mad so easily.

"The police will think I chased Ashlee to Shepherd," I say. "They'll look at this picture and think it's my fault she was there!" Mack stares at the rabbits. "But you walked her back to her short cut. Remember! That's what you told them." "I don't remember it, not one bit. I don't even remember The Game finishing. I was too drunk, Mack, and you know it!" (Christopher 249)

Because of the memory loss that Damon had when he saw the animal sketch he felt that it was his fault. The sketch showed that Ashlee was being chased to Shepherd's bunker. While Damon cannot remember anything about what was happened at that night. He cannot remember how the end of The Game that they played was. He told that to Mack for an assurance. Mack then told Damon that he already walked his girlfriend that night and said that Damon was a fool if he said anything different.

“He grabs me around the back of my neck, which feels weirdly soothing, like how a cat would pick kittens. You’ve got to stop this,” he says. “Shepherd has admitted. And whatever you do, or don’t, remember it won’t make any difference now.” He squeezes the back of my neck until I look at him.” (Christopher 250)

Mack can feel the doubt that Damon got. Mack then made his mate sure about what he did. He also asked Damon to stop trying to investigate or to find out the truth that he looking for. Mack also believes that whatever Damon did it will not change the accusation that Jon Shepherd was the suspect of manslaughter.

“He’s trying to act normal, I know he is, he’s trying to act like it’s a normal Saturday and we’re doing normal things, but the pulse in his temples is beating stronger now, and he’s doing the skinning too fast and rough.” (Christopher 251)

After saw the respond from Mack, Damon saw that his mate was tried to act normal when actually Mack got upset knew Damon met Emily and doubt himself. Mack keeps insisting that Damon was not guilty and Damon did walk his girlfriend that night when they play The Game.

“You know, she could think it’s me,” I say. It’s possible Emily Shephred could think it’s me that did everything” I choke on air as this thought sets in “she could think her dad drew this picture as some kind of, I dunno, like a warning or something...” (Christopher 251)

Damon also felt that maybe what happened that night was like what Emily and Joe thought. Maybe Damon was the one who hurt Ashlee then the sketch that Jon Shepherd drew was what he saw. Drawing for warning or clue about what happened that night.



him that hard means that he might be did something bad that made Mack protected for all this time.

Emily decided to follow Mack secretly. Mack came afterward Damon went to Darkwood by asked his friends that played The Game too at that night.

“Then they gone into the woods, even though it’s pretty much dark now. Why are they so desperate to find him? What do they think he’s done? Or is going to do? I turn from the window, grab my coat and go swiftly down the stairs. If Damon really is still in the bunker, only me and the police and maybe Joe I guess, can find him there.” (Christopher 299)

In the same night, Emily saw Mack and the other boys of Damon’s friends walked to the path of Darkwood. Mack talked to them to found Damon and said that they need to find him before he did something stupid. Emily had no idea what was going on, but Emily was curious what made those boys looked for Damon in the Darkwood at night, and what did Damon do until they really need to find him.

“One howl, two... I wait for the third. A gust of wind blocks my ears. I hunch in tighter to the rock face. It feels like I’m on the run, like I’m playing The Game for real and the boys are hunting me out. But maybe it should be me hunting them out –for not telling me how they played The Game with Ashlee, because Ashlee told me a secret that night that they might’ve been a part of.” (Christopher 306)

Damon heard his mate called his name he then felt like he was in The Game. The boys will haunt him to make him lose, but Damon thought that maybe he was the one who should haunt them to asked some explanation how the boys and Ashlee played The Game the night she died, because he started to get his memories back.

Emily got helped by Damon who was also seek the truth about what was happened in the night Emily's Dad brought Ashlee's dead body and the night Damon played The Game.

“I didn't throw it, did I? I don't remember it. I stare at these bits in my hand like they can give me some answers. But nothing comes. If I was spinning so much that night that I don't remember getting home –that I don't even remember when I last saw Ashlee –how could I have climbed up here to throw this?” (Christopher 309)

Damon then found Ashlee's phone under the Suicide Drop. Darkwood has a lot of spots and the army trainee named some spot in the Darkwood including the Suicide Drop. The name came up because of the height. Damon found the phone in the rock of the Suicide Drop. Damon got confused how he could climb to the Suicide Drop when he was weak because of the drug and throw Ashlee's phone. The person who got drugged mostly will get limp and hard to keep their balance, and surprisingly Damon could climb on the Suicide Drop.

“Could John Shepherd have thrown it down here instead? I remember Emily telling me that he was scared of heights, but she could've been lying. Couldn't she? I slot the battery in. I have to wedge the back of the phone in hard to make it stick.” (Christopher 310)

Then Damon thought another possibility that might happen. He thought about Emily's Dad that being accused as the killer of his girlfriend. But then Damon remembered that Emily had said that her Dad was afraid of height, and the trauma that he got of PTSD.

“You are! You are trying to make Damon believe he did it.” His eyes narrow. “You're trying to make him think he killed his own girlfriend!” My



breath catches. “What?” He glares at me. “He didn’t, you know.” I stay silent, frozen. “You’ll do anything to get your dad off,” Mack keeps on. “You’re desperate! That’s why you’re here now isn’t it? You’re waiting for him.” (Christopher 321)

On the other side in Jon Shepherd, there was Emily that trapped with Mack. He yelled at Emily about changing Damon’s mind. Mack accused Emily that she tried to convince his mate that he was killed his girlfriend to set free her Dad accusation and the punishment will be canceled. Mack thought that was the reason why Emily went to the bunker to wait for Damon and made him believe that he was a murder.

“You started this,” he says again. “You changed everything. And you’re never going to believe it was your dad, are you? Whatever evidence there is. You’re always going to keep going after Damon! He pulls away to look out of the gun slit.” (Christopher 323)

Mack keep accused Emily and blame her about Damon who doubts himself about the murderer that happened to Ashlee. Mack cannot accept Damon’s guilty feeling about what was happened to Ashlee because Mad believes that the one who got the blame was Jon Shepherd that being ‘freak’ after he come back from the combat.

“It wasn’t Damon!” Mack shouts. “It was your dad that did everything! I stare at the wolf above me. I’m seeing things, I must be –because now I recognize this wolf’s expression. Right now I recognize its eyes. I dig my fingernails into the palms of my hands...” (Christopher 324)

When Damon came in the bunker Mack kept blaming everything that wrong to Emily. He also convinced Damon that Jon Shepherd was the one who killed Ashlee by stalked her to the Darkwood and strangled her there. Mack then asked

Damon to stopped Emily because she might tell the police. But Damon already knew what was happened.

“Tell me what’s going on!” Damon’s yelling. “What did you do, Mack? What happened that night?” I don’t jump for the ledge. Instead I turn back and see Damon still waving that phone about. I see that it’s beaten about and covered in dirt.” “I didn’t do anything!” Mack roars, finally throwing Damon off him. “I didn’t!” (Christopher 331)

Damon then came after knowing the truth that Mack was the murder of his girlfriend in the night they played The Game. Damon already saw the video that Ashlee made in the night they use drugs when played The Game. He also knew how Ashlee got killed in his friend hand. But he still asked what was happened, asked for an explanation.

“You don’t know shit” Mack saying. “You don’t know what I did with Ashlee,, what I meant.” My stomach clenches. Mack and Ashlee kept secrets. Ashlee did things with Mack she didn’t do with me, Mack just admitted it.’ (Christopher 334)

When Damon asked Mack what he did, he did not realize that when he tried to defense himself he also admitted that something happened between Mack and Ashlee without Damon’s knowing. And it hurts Damon so much, when he lost his girlfriend, and felt guilty because he thought he was the one who hurt Ashlee, also his friend kept secret from him about The Game.

Emily then could reveal the truth by Damon’s helped who was also tried to find the truth about the mysterious murder.

“You!” I shout. “You wrapped your fingers around her. You squeezed.” And he made me believe that it was Shepherd, all this time!” (Christopher 335)

Damon already saw the video of Mack strangled Ashlee when Mack accused Jon Shepherd was the murder of Ashlee since the first place and tried to make Damon believe it. Damon knew that something was not right and something is missing. Now he knew that the truth was his own friend killed his girlfriend and lied in front of his face by accusing a person that got PTSD to make it sense.

“There’s mumbling sound –Mack saying something, trying to, but maybe the camera is in his mouth now like Ashlee suggested. The image jolts again and I see two hands –Mack’s? they stretch into the shot and wrap around Ashlee’s neck. Just like that. She doesn’t stop him. She even smiles a little.” (Christopher 340)

Damon then played the video. In that video Damon was already passed out from the drug and Emily still want to have fun, so she asked Mack. Ashlee asked Mack to strangle her for seven seconds. Ashlee wanted Mack to strangle her because apparently, the lack of oxygen gave a cheap thrill. Because there was another pleasure for someone who uses the drug and got strangled in seven seconds, and Ashlee wanted to do that. She then asked Mack to strangle her and record it with her phone. Mack strangled Ashlee with his two hands and recorded it used his mouth. The fact that Mack did it too strong and when Ashlee asked to stop Mack thought that it still not seven seconds yet, or maybe he thought that it was not long enough for the pleasure.







“I want to shake them, tell them that Dad only thinks he killed Ashlee Parker because he can’t remember what really happened. Tell them that if he can’t remember, then maybe he didn’t do it at all.” (Christopher 18)

Because of the strong belief that Emily’s got, she wanted to make people around her who believed that her Dad was a killer realized other possibilities could happen. People thought that Jon Shepherd killed Ashlee because of the PTSD. While Emily thought that maybe because of the PTSD her Dad cannot remember or he actually did not do anything at all and the PTSD made him could not defend himself.

“Freak!” Kirsty spits the word in my face, punches me like this. “Scum family!” my fingers tighten in her hair. There’s yelling behind me, jolting me back to where we are.” (Christopher 25)

When Emily was in school, her old friend mocked her by telling her Dad was a freak and Emily’s family was a scum. Emily cannot accept her Dad called a freak, she then defense herself by pulled Kirsty hair for mocking her family.

“I think about the conversations I’ve had with Joe over the last few weeks, the theories we’d had about who else could have been in Darkwood the night Ashlee died: tramps, druggies, kids from out of town, ex-army... we’d made a list –possible suspects –I’d wanted the police to keep looking. “Someone could still be hiding in those trees,” I’d said. “They could be waiting undiscovered,” But the police hadn’t listened. Damon was on that list, though.” (Christopher 39)

Emily has a strong belief in her Dad, therefore she had a lot of possibilities in her mind that might happen. She was so sure that someone was in Darkwood when the incident happened and might be hiding from the police stay undiscovered.

“I remembered that spark of hope when I’d heard: when I’d thought, for a short while anyway, that maybe it was Damon that killed Ashlee, that even this was more likely than it being Dad.” (Christopher 40)



Emily had thought that Damon might be the one who killed Ashlee because Damon was the last person that met Ashlee in the night she got killed.

“I allow myself a moment of Dad, of how he was before he got discharged from the army. That Dad could never have hurt Ashlee Parker. Whenever I say this to Mum she says people change; she says the awful things can make brains buckle. She reminds me that only one person has ever admitted to killing Ashlee Parker and that person is Dad. How can the police ignore something like that? How can anyone?” (Christopher 41)

Emily thought about her Dad for a moment before he got discharged from the army. She believed her Dad would never hurt or killed Ashlee Parker even when she tried to tell her reason to her Mum, her Mum was hard to believe. Emily’s Mum was so sure that her husband has changed. Jon Shepherd was the one who admitted that he killed Ashlee. It was strange when a suspect admitted a crime that they did and Emily hate that no one could see the strange things such that.

“Why don’t you believe it?” I just go ahead and ask her this too. “If it wasn’t your Dad that killed Ashlee, who did?” “Plenty of people use these woods. All the time they do! Anyone could have been there that night” She’s looking at me hard like she knows something. “Police don’t think so,” I snap. Your Dad don’t even think so.” Still she keeps eye contact. “My Dad doesn’t know what he thinks.” (Christopher 64)

Emily has a strong belief for her Dad and Damon asked her about it. The reason that gave by Emily was still the same as the reason that she said to Joe. She believed that someone else was there. Her Dad just took the accusation because he did not remember and had the traumatic disorder.

“So I read Dad’s discharge notes again, all that stuff about him shooting that civilian girl and how it affected him. But I still don’t understand how Dad’s manslaughter plea came from this. Just because Dad shot a girl by accident



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

Based on the analysis discussed in the previous chapter, in this part of the report will be drawn the conclusion of the analysis. After a thorough analysis of the plot, it can be concluded that Lucy Christopher's *The Killing Woods* novel has five patterns of action, those are: introduction, conflict, crime and clues, investigation, and denouement.

The introduction of the novel was Emily saw her Dad who had *post-traumatic stress disorder* (PTSD) brought Ashlee's dead body caused a lot of speculation. The conflict started when Emily's Mum asked what was happened to the girl and her Dad only said sorry that made Emily's Mum speculated her husband was the killer. Emily also defended her Dad from Damon accusation for killed his girlfriend. Next is crime and clues. Emily found her Dad's animal drawing in his bunker that turns out to be the clue how Ashlee could be in the Darkwood. Another clue found by Damon was Ashlee's collar and her cell phone in Darkwood. Fourth pattern is investigation. Emily went back to Darkwood to investigate other possibilities that might happen the night when her Dad brought Ashlee's dead body. By the clues that are found, Emily and Damon had a strong evidence from Ashlee's video in her phone. The suspect was found and turned out





