

# **THE BEHAVIOUR PORTRAIT OF 1900s AMERICAN LADY BASED ON *ENVY* NOVEL**

BY ANNA GODBERSEN

A THESIS

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the Sarjana Degree Majoring American Cultural Studies in English Department  
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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer states truthfully that this thesis is compiled by herself without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any universities. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take the material from other thesis or someone's work except for the references mentioned.

Semarang, 22 September 2011

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*I like the night. Without the dark, we'd never see the stars.*

***Stephenie Meyer, Twilight***

*Twilight, again. Another ending. No matter how perfect the day is, it always has to end.*

***Stephenie Meyer, Twilight***

*It's not the face, but the expressions on it. It's not the voice, but what you say. It's not how you look in that body, but the thing you do with it. You are beautiful.*

***Stephenie Meyer, The Host***

*This paper is dedicated to*  
My Dad & Mom: *Daryanto & Niken Prabandari*  
My Sister: *Arivia Laksita Rukmi*  
“You are the best I ever had”

## **APPROVAL**

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The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect. She, therefore will be glad to receive any recommendation to make this thesis better.

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Semarang, 22 September 2011

The Writer

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## ABSTRACT

Seorang *lady* seharusnya memiliki sikap dan tutur kata yang baik sesuai dengan aturan-aturan yang ada sehingga bisa menjadi panutan masyarakat. Dalam skripsi ini, penulis tertarik untuk menganalisis bagaimana para *lady* era 1900an di Amerika justru menunjukkan sikap dan perilaku yang berlawanan dengan tata cara sebagai seorang *lady*. Penulis memilih sebuah novel karya Anna Godbersen berjudul *Envy* sebagai bahan penelitian.

Dalam membahas analisis dalam skripsi ini, penulis menggunakan metode penelitian kepustakaan, metode pendekatan eksponensial untuk membahas aspek intrinsik, dan teori mengenai tata cara berperilaku para *lady* Amerika untuk membahas aspek ekstrinsik. Penelitian kepustakaan yang digunakan adalah pengambilan sumber dari buku-buku terkait di perpustakaan dan berbagai sumber lainnya melalui internet. Aspek intrinsik yang dianalisis adalah tema, karakter, latar, plot, dan konflik, sedangkan untuk teori tata cara berperilaku sebagai seorang *lady* dalam aspek ekstrinsik, penulis menggunakan metode pendekatan feminisme.

Berdasarkan analisis yang ada, penulis menemukan bahwa Elizabeth dan Diana Holland, Penelope Hayes, dan Carolina Broad hanya ingin mendapatkan apa yang mereka dambakan dan pada prosesnya mereka lupa bahwa mereka bukan perempuan biasa yang tidak boleh sembarangan berbicara ataupun berperilaku seenaknya sendiri. Mereka menggunakan segala cara untuk mendapatkan apa yang mereka inginkan tanpa memandang bagaimana pandangan masyarakat. Sehingga muncullah berbagai rumor tentang mereka. Selain rumor, hidup merekapun juga semakin rumit karena mereka mengutamakan keinginan mereka dan lupa untuk bertingkah laku seperti layaknya seorang *lady*.

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

The word ‘lady’ usually refers to a woman, but they are actually different. The word ‘woman’ is the normal word that is generally neutral in tone. A woman who behaves politely can be called as lady. A lady can also be described as a woman from an upper social class whose special characteristics make her different from the others. A lady is regarded as a proper, virtuous, and well-behaved woman. She always speaks in a polite way. A lady learns proper manners, from how and when to talk, to how to laugh. Simplicity is also the characteristics of a well-educated lady. They never interrupt the speech of others, nor do they discuss private matters in public.

In the *Envy* novel, there are three ladies that show the opposite characteristics of a lady. They do many things that a lady should not do. For example, one of the ladies is talking about her friend’s scandal though the scandal is the least excusable of all conversational vulgarities in the lady world. Behind their perfect behavior and glamorous dress, they have many secrets. They do not like and trust one another though they are friends. This novel shows the dark side of New York ladies in 1900s. The pictures of contrast characteristics of the lady make the writer choose “The Behaviour Portrait of 1900s American Lady Based on *Envy* Novel by Anna Godbersen” as the title of her thesis.

#### **2. SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

Making scope of study is very important in the process of writing a thesis. Scope of the study can make the analysis more focused, easier to understand, and it can also sharpen the analysis. The object of this research is *Envy* novel written by Anna Godbersen. The writer will focus on how the 1900s New York lady pictured in this novel.

#### **3. AIMS OF THE STUDY**

The writer has a purpose of her study that is she will show how the ladies act and think in *Envy* novel. The writer will describe the portrait of 1900s lady that lives in New York based on this novel.

#### **4. METHOD OF THE STUDY**

##### **1. METHOD OF RESEARCH**

Method of research is a method that is used to find out, develop, and test the truth of knowledge empirically based on the fact and data (Semi, 1993:7). Data are collected by doing



library research which is done in the researcher's room or in the library, and then the researcher is taking the data or information from the books or other audiovisual devices (Semi, 1992:8). The writer of this paper uses library research; she reads books or references related to the subject matter of her thesis. The writer tries to get important information and inspiration from some significant sources to support her ideas. She uses two kinds of data; those are main data and supporting data. *Envy* novel (2009) written by Anna Godbersen, is the main data of this research. The supporting data are collected from some books and articles from the internet related to the novel and the topic of this thesis.

## **2. METHOD OF APPROACH**

The writer uses some approaches to analyze her thesis. First, exponential approach. It focuses on the intrinsic aspects of the novel which consist of narrative elements. Traditional feminist approach is the second approach. This approach focuses on women's role and status in the society. It also describes about men's domination or women's movement, it is said not only that women can do what men do but also that women ought to do what men do. Women do a kind of superhuman double duties that often leave exhaustion and ineffectiveness (Grant, 1988: 4). Traditional feminist approach also talks about former feminine behavior, a softness, sweetness, kindness, and relatedness. Tony Grant states that feminine soft behaviors are tremendously powerful and hypnotically appealing both to men and women. These behaviors greatly enhance a woman's feelings of vulnerability, receptivity, and desirability (1988: 8). Traditional feminine behaviors do involve a type of passive receptivity and silence. To listen, to be there, to receive the other with an open heart and mind, this has always been one of the most vital roles of former woman (1988: 9). Sandra Gilbert defines a general feminist criticism at its most ambitious: it seeks "to decode and demystify all the disguised questions and answers that have always shadowed the connections between textuality and sexuality, genre and gender, psychosexual identity and cultural authority (1980:19).

## **5. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

From the analysis above, the thesis will be arranged in chapters as follows:

### **Chapter 1 Introduction**

It contains the Background of the study, Aims of the study, Scope of the study, Methods of the study, and the Organization of the study.

### **Chapter 2 Synopsis of The Story**

It is the summary of *Envy* novel that is reliable to the theme of the thesis, so that readers can easily dig out the correlation between the novel and content of the thesis.

### **Chapter 3 Literary Review**

It consists of the theoretical review that can support the writing of the thesis. The theories deal with the definition of characters, theme, setting, and conflicts. It is also about how a lady should or should not behave.

### **Chapter 4 Analysis**

It can be called as the main part of the thesis since it reveals the discussion of the theoretical review above connected with the story in the novel. The discussion lifts an analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of a literary works, which are in the thesis, explain the character manner.

## Chapter 5 Conclusion

It serves the outline of the analysis results of the previous chapters.

### CHAPTER 2 SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY

*Envy* is talking about rich New York socialites living at the start of the twentieth century. Not only does that time period include pretty girls with gorgeous dresses, sumptuous dinners, and fashionable pale skin, unreachable boys, arranged marriages and the always demanding status quo, it also shows scandals, lost love, and gossips. The novel shows how all of their actions affected the lives of the others, even if they do not realize it. *Envy* begins just a couple of months after the homecoming of Elizabeth Holland. She is inexplicably back on the scene, but not really there. Diana Holland is recovering from Henry Schoonmaker's marriage to Penelope. Carolina Broad is capitalizing on all her sudden success. And Penelope Hayes still wants to be number one lady in New York.

It is almost six weeks since Penelope married Henry Schoonmaker. Unfortunately, Henry is still in love with Diana Holland, but Penelope has threatened to ruin Diana's reputation if Henry doesn't start acting like an ideal husband. Henry and Penelope are the city's most celebrated couple but actually they are an unhappy couple. Henry is not happy about his marriage, Diana is the love of his life. He can not even bring himself to look at Penelope with affection and he is not going to fulfill his physical requirements as a husband.

Diana Holland, the real love of Henry's life, is hurt because of Henry and Penelope's marriage. Henry tells her that he marries Penelope to protect her. Penelope has threatened to tarnish Diana's wholesome reputation by telling all of New York that Henry has taken her virginity out of wedlock. Seeing Henry with Penelope all the time is a painful matter for Diana. Now that he is no longer in the market for a wife, Diana is doing everything she can to put her feelings for Henry behind her, but love is relentless and he haunts her everywhere she goes.

Elizabeth's former maid, Lina, is continuing to raise into high society, with the help of a doting elderly wealthy gentleman, Mr. Longhorn. She is once a maid in the home of the Holland sisters and is the informant who aided Penelope in her pursuit of Henry. Carolina rises to the highest high and sinks deeper than low, and then when her wealthy benefactor dies suddenly, she finds herself in a new set of circumstances.

The new Penelope Schoonmaker is watching Henry and Diana severely. She is no fool and she can see the way the pair of them still look each other. It makes her sick to the stomach to think of her husband's eyes searching for someone else in the crowd. But actually she can not expect anything, she bribes Henry into marrying her in the first place. Penelope knows all too well that the only way she will keep her man is by bribing and manipulating him further. She is afraid to let her new husband out of her sight, so she invites herself and a group of her privileged peers along on the fishing trip that Henry has planned.

Elizabeth Holland is still reeling from the death of her husband, a fact she can not make public that their marriage must be kept secret from the harsh judgment of society because Will Keller is a stable-boy. She finds herself in quite the predicament indeed, she feels alone. Then she finds herself attracting the attention of Teddy Cutting. Elizabeth does not know that an intimate encounter between Diana and Henry is observed and reported to Penelope, once Elizabeth's dear friend.

Seeking to secure her place in society, Penelope organizes a trip to Florida for all of the young socialites. Then the exhausted celebrated daughters and sons head down to Florida, and the arrival of Grayson Hayes can only mean more scandal. He has his eyes set on one of society's pretty girls, Diana Holland. The Holland sisters are invited along on a trip to Florida, they decide this is the perfect escape. Elizabeth is still getting over Will's death and Diana is recovering from Henry's marriage to Penelope, both make startling discoveries that will alter their lives again. Penelope is not pleased to invite the woman her husband is in love with along on her trip, but she knows she must keep her enemies close if she is ever going to get what she wants.

In the end of this novel, Teddy Cutting seems to be destined toward one life but decides to make his way in a different direction. And Henry also follows his way to be a soldier, he leaves Diana with a letter. Elizabeth decides to marry Snowden Cairns because of her pregnancy.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **LITERARY REVIEW**

#### **1. INTRINSIC ASPECTS**

Literary works can represent social problems. These social problems build the story in the literary work. The intrinsic elements are written similar to the human life in reality. The character in literature such as novel is written just like human character in reality. The problem or conflict is usually common in reality although it is usually exaggerated for certain reasons, for example commercial reason. The social condition in the literary work is also usually made like the social condition in real life so that it can even be observed through social science. Nurgiyantoro in *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi* states that intrinsic aspects are elements which develop the literary work itself. Intrinsic aspects can be found when someone reads the literary works (1995:23).

#### **1. Theme**

Theme is the basic idea of some literary works. All dramas, novels, poems, and movies have themes that the author wants to get across to the reader. Theme is the key to understand the literary works. Kennedy claims, "The theme of a story is whatever general idea or insight the story reveals" (1978:90). "It is unifying generalization about life stated or implied by the story" (Perrine, 1987:90). Theme is the impression that a reader get from the literary works. It is a very important element because theme is the reason why the authors write their literary works. Theme makes the reader know about the author's point of view. As stated by Meyer (1996:196) in *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*, theme is the central ideas of the story. It provides unifying points around which the plot, character, setting, point of view, symbol, and the other elements of a literary work are organized. Theme can explicitly or implicitly state an idea. There are some big themes or issues in American literary works: American Dream, individualism, family value, discrimination, feminism, racialism, etc.

#### **2. Setting**

Setting is the background that occurs in the literary works. It can be the background of

place, the background of time, and the background of social environment. Brown and Olmsted assert, "Not even virtual people, event, and conflict can exist in a vacuum; they must have 'a local habitation', and this is what we called the setting of the literary works" (1962:220). The setting is not only about particular time and particular place but also the very substance of a region, down to its dust, how the people think, how they react, their prejudices, their insanity, their life style with all elements suggested directly (Hammalian and Karl, 1976:59). A good movie setting can impact a good sense of watching. There are three elements of setting based on Meyer; setting of time, setting of place, and social environment. Setting of time is the historical period of the story, specific time such as date, year, and century. It could be a natural condition such as morning, night, or dawn. Setting of place is talking about geographical location of the story. The place can be a room, a road, a town, or a country. Mountain, forest, or the other natural environment also can be the setting of place. Social environment or social condition is not only describing about the social class of certain society but also showing some conditions around the main character. Meyer (1990:107) states that it consists of governmental regulation, society custom, and religion, moral, intellectual and emotional conditions.

### **3. Character**

Kennedy and Gioia (1993: 60) states, "A character, then, is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story—although that simple definition may admit to a view exceptions." There are two meanings of the word 'character'. First, the person in a work of fiction. Second, the characteristics of the person. A character may have important role in a story, which makes him or her to be a major character. The character is intended by the author to have the most determinant part in forming the theme of a story. In case, he or she will become the main attention and has the largest portion of the narration in a story. A character also can have less important role in a story. He or she only has limited portion of the narration and less essential part in making theme of a story. It is called minor character (Nurgiyantoro, 1995: 173). The author may reveal a character in several ways; by his or her physical appearance, what he or she says, thinks and feels, what he or she does or does not do, and what the other people say about him or her and how they react to him or her.

Most people are familiar with human being as the characters of a story. As a human being, characters have various different personalities. There could be strong, aggressive, introvert, extrovert, friendly, etc.

### **4. Conflict**

Potter clarifies the understanding of conflict as the following:

The term of conflict is familiar; it is the result of analysis opposition between at least two sides. The conflict may be overt, and violent, or implicit, and subdued, it maybe visible in action or it may take place entirely in a character's mind; it may exist in different levels of meaning; but by definition it is inherent in the concept of plot. (1967: 25-26)

Conflict rises as the major character encounters more and more obstacle in the pursuit of her or his goals. There are two types of conflict based on Stanton (1995: 124); external (a struggle with a force outside one's self) and internal (a struggle within one's self, a person must make some decision, overcome pain, quiet their temper, resist an advice, etc.).

## **2. EXTRINSIC ASPECTS**

### **3.2.1 The Behaviour Principles of A Lady**

In the early 1900s, some young ladies begin to recognize that hard work does not necessarily guarantee success. Despite their best efforts, many simply can not escape from hardship and poverty. They realize that their wealth is depend on their elder's or their husband's wealth. As a result, they think that they should act as perfect as they can to reach and save their own glory. Wives and mothers are expected to foster harmonious relations within the family. Their social behaviors can influence everything at that time, include their victory.

Women are expected of certain things according to their rank in the social class. A day in the life of a wealthy woman involved those etiquette rules which involved changing up to six times a day. There was a morning dress, walking dress, visiting dress, travelling dress, shooting dress, golf dress, concert dress, opera dress, dinner, and ball dress. All the different dresses were for the sole purpose of showing off the wealth of the man and the household. The social aspect of the pressure on woman to be perfect and unheard was not of great importance to these people.

Based on *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, the word *lady* refers to a woman (especially in polite use), or a woman with dignity and good manners, or a woman of good family and social position (especially in formerly use). *Lady* is a woman of good manners and some claim to social position formerly, but the word has now become vague in meaning, it refers to a woman of any kind, whether of high or low social position or with or without good manners and refinement.

Good manners are the main characteristic of a former lady. A lady must be a nice woman also, it is the principle of a traditional lady. As a result, she has to follow some rules of good behavior. For example, she has to know how to walk, how to dress, how to talk, and how to make up her face. A lady should always walks in an easy, unassuming manner, neither looking left nor right. She does not giggle or whisper in public, talking loudly is inexcusable at all times. She should smile pleasantly, she must never let a male talk to her in a slangy manner, touch her on the shoulder or call her by her first name in front of strangers. And if she lives in the traditional family, it seems to be very difficult to deal with her parents' traditional mind.

All those rules is told to her in order that she can be nice, be polite, be bright, be charming, and be thoughtful in her daily life. There are some regulations for a lady so she can behave as a nice woman. According to *The Nice Lady's Guide to Good Behavior* (Monica Redlich, 2004) there are some principles for being lady:

1. A well-behaved woman is far from petty jealousy, and she will never try to make her friends are not good-looking. Even her friend looks too simple she will tell her honesty combine with a kindness, and she will admit her plainness. If her friend asks about her features, a nice woman will show how generously she admires them. It is always nice to make some little comment when a lady sees her friends in new clothes. If her friend obviously dressed a little too much, it is only kind to remind her to sense of proportion by saying 'What are you going to wear this afternoon?'
2. A lady can not show all her personality to everyone, people only can see some aspects of

her mind which are likely to appeal to them most. She should not show her cruel mind, such as how tiny her friend is or how unsuitable her dress is. Actually, only thinking of other people badly is an inexcusable for a lady let alone showing it. She should conceal all the bad things in her mind, it is better if she can keep her mind only for thinking the good things. She should keep a watch on her mind and behavior. The really nice woman is perpetually careful not to let down her own high standards, she will do nothing that she will be ashamed of.

3. Women who know everything are intolerable. They think they know best about everything, and attempt to put people right. They dominate conversations by saying her opinion all the time. A good-behaved lady should not do that, it is show how foolish and selfish she is if she can not show her sympathy by not letting other people talk and impart what they do like. The nice, the thoughtful, the unselfish lady considers the others. This does not mean that she have not a thirst for knowledge, it means quite reverse indeed. The secret of happy conversation is unfailing politeness, a lady should not think of herself, she thinks all the time of her friend sand what they are feeling. If her friend who is clever appears to feel her lack of social attraction, a lady does not let her unhappy. And if her friend knows something that the lady does not know, she will not be the slightest bit jealous, she will show her respect to her friend. All nice women are wonderful listeners.
4. The world is a vey ill-natured place, the nicer and kinder a young lady tries to be, the more jealous and unsuccessful people will spread heartless rumors about her. It would be pleasant to be able to ignore such rumors, but she will find that all her friends show the utmost eagerness to tell her about it, owing to their envy of her superior character. And if she considers scandal about other people, she will pay not the slightest heed to ill-natured gossip either about people unknown to her. If a lady's friends are pretty, they will almost certainly be so jealous and uneasy that she can not has anything to do with them. Knowing very well that she would suffer by the comparison, they will make every attempt to prevent her from becoming introduced to the nice friends whom they have got to know. She could not like people who have minds like that, but she will continue to be perfectly friendly with them. A young lady's mother has to realize that her daughter's future would look blank indeed if she were not encouraged to begin makings friends. She will receive countless invitations, many of which she will be perfectly right to accept. And it is a mother, an elder lady, has to do that is to help her daughter chooses which invitations she could come, or which person she could be friends with. Naturally her daughter would like nothing better than always to be polite to her mother, but the elder lady has some vexed characteristics that can make the younger difficult to face them. The elders are old-fashioned, they do not understand the rising generation and they do not try to, they always think they know the best, they object to perfectly ordinary behavior, they also talk too much, and they are hopelessly narrow-minded. But in the face of whatever injustice and provocation, a young lady must be just as nice to her elders as she would be to anybody else.
5. It is an obligation for young ladies to behave in public in a perfectly ladylike manner. They must follow the proper etiquette for important public occasions. Their dress certainly according to their looks, but do they behave to suit them? There are some things about how much added pleasure that a young lady can give to her partners at dance by truly being herself: if she has good teeth, be radiant; if she is very thin, be serious; if she is well-developed, avoid the polka; if she is dark, be sympathetic; and if she is blonde, be bright. A party is a gathering of people whose only ambition is to give pleasure to one another. If she goes in a party, politeness requires her to remain in that party, however unintelligent

her partners may be. If everybody knows she is nice even before she begins to prove it by her behavior, this does not absolve her from acting as always with the utmost good taste. A lady's behavior depends, not on what she looks like, but on who she is. And her all behavior can be summed up in the two words which express her unfailing ideal: be nice.

6. It is well known that no nice lady ever drinks. The terrible thing about drink is that it loosens not only manners but also speech, making nice women say things which they would otherwise never dream of saying. It is an excellent plan, if she is in a night club or some other public place, to pretend to have drunk rather more than in fact she has, she can thus say things which add considerably to the happiness of the party, and make jokes and humorous remarks of a quite unexpected kind, with no weight on your conscience whatsoever.
7. The more friendly a lady becomes with a man, the more careful she is not to be vulgarly demonstrative. It is a universal rule that no nice lady gives presents to a man. She gives a man many things; her friendship, her understanding, her sympathy, and her companionship. Love, it is well known, is the most beautiful and the strongest of all the emotions, and the one that has the most wonderful consequences. More unhappiness is caused by her eagerness or ambition to get a man she loved. A lady should remember that true love leads to marriage. If a man falls in love with her, he will ask her to become publicly engaged to him, and she will marry. That is infallible test by which love may be recognized, and there is absolutely no other. If a lady is nice, she will win a good man's love and will get married.

According to *Being a Woman* (Grant, 1988) there are some behavior principles that a former woman has to obey so they could be a well-behaved woman:

1. Traditional woman behaviors do involve a type of passive receptivity and silence. To listen, to be there, to receive the other with an open heart and mind, this has always been one of the most vital roles of woman. Most women do this quite naturally, but many have come to feel uneasy in this role.
2. They have to uncover the sexual needs and desire carefully, what kinds of postures and behaviors they must assume so that each will declare her 'the best'.
3. A woman who negotiates from more power, money, and advantage in the world, who is always asserting her will and her opinions, is dangerous for a man because it is psychological annihilation of his manhood, certain death. He never picks a dominant and strong woman whom he can not control. Almost all men also respond poorly to a woman who lacks serenity. Indeed, a woman without serenity seems hardly a woman at all because she is nervous, high-strung, and utterly impatient.
4. The aspect of a former woman is inspirational in nature and imparts standards, values, and ideals. She embodies the quintessentially feminine virtues of patience, silence, and faith. She has high standards and a strong sense of right and wrong. A well-behaved woman could be known as a lady if she is to be ever gentle, soft, gracious, attending to the little niceties that make the world a more comfortable and civilized place in which to live. She is looking for stability, peace, and continuity in her lives.