

BOOK REVIEW OF NOVEL
CARRIE
BY STEPHEN KING

A FINAL PROJECT

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by himself 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 he does not take the material from other project or someone's work except for the references mentioned.

Semarang, 26 January 2015

Brian Wicaksono

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Dimana ada kemauan, di situ ada jalan.

(My Grandma, Hj. Sri Sundari)

Stop saying these negative things about yourself. Look in the mirror and find something about yourself that's positive and celebrate that!

(Tyra Banks)

This paper is dedicated to:

My beloved parents

My Grandparents

My only one brother

My only one sister

And my friends

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1. Introduction

Human is essentially a social being. They cannot live alone, in other words, a human needs other humans. They socialize with each other, establish strong relationship and produce a harmonious society. Social humans are naturally able to communicate well with the surrounding environment as well as humans are influenced by the environment itself. Therefore, as a social being, humans are united in a society to respect other humans with various backgrounds.

On the other hand, in social life, intimidation or commonly called bullying often occurs. "Bullying is commonly an aggressive behavior because of the imbalance power within a group. Bullying occurs when a group of people disrupt a person's physical or psychological condition and is done continuously. Insulting, changing nicknames, or even isolating the victims of bullying by ignoring and leaving them outcast or teased are also included in the practice of bullying". <http://www.academia.edu/7010281/INTIMIDASI_BULLYING_Masalah_Remaja>

Bullying is also the main theme in *Carrie* novel, by Stephen King. The bullying in this novel is described clearly from the beginning until the end of the story as its central insight. It makes this novel interesting to read because Carrie, the main character is an unpopular weird girl with a secret super power. Being bullied had become her lifetime experience because of her weirdness. Carrie always wanted to be normal like the other girls in her school. The climax is when she was humiliated in front of her school friends at the school prom that she could not handle it anymore. She decided to take revenge with her secret super power she killed those who had mocked her at school tragically.

2. Summary and the Author

2.1 Summary of the Novel

Carrie, written by Stephen King is the story of Carrietta White, a telekinetic girl in Chamberlain. Her mother is a fanatic in her faith. She set Carrie and taught the not common way then she had grown up as an unpopular girl since she was in Elementary School until the Senior High School. Her friends abused her, they called her with some disgusting names, bullied her physical, made fun of her faith and so on.

One day at the Ewen High School, the school where Carrie studied at, the girls finished their shower after playing volleyball. Her friend, Chris Hargensen found out that Carrie was bleeding and shout that Carrie had her period at that time. Carrie thought that she was bleeding to death and called for help. Sue Snell laughed out loud and shouted to Carrie to clean up the mess. No one knew that it was the first period for Carrie, even Carrie didn't know because her mother never gave her any information about it. Things got worse they threw some tampons toward her and bullied her at the shower room. Carrie freaked out, she screamed until she cracked the lamps with her uncontrollable telekinetic secret power.

The girls suddenly scattered when Miss Desjardin, the gym teacher came up to fix the situation. She helped Carrie and took her to the vice principal. Mr. Morton, the vice principal gave compensation to Carrie and allowed her to go home. After that, Mr. Morton discussed with Miss Desjardin about the penalty to who was involved in the bullying action to Carrie White.

Miss Desjardin punished the girls, Chris Hargensen, Tina Blake, Helen Shyres, Rachel Spies, Sue Snell and the others with suspension for several days of what they have done to Carrie White, and they could not go to the prom, Sue Snell was the one who was really upset.

Miss Desjardin and Chris were involved into arguments because Chris did not obey the rule and Sue Snell started to dislike Chris.

Sue Snell was dating Tommy Ross, one of the popular golden boys at school, she was really upset about Miss Desjardin's punishment and she felt guilty about Carrie White. She asked Tommy to invite Carrie to the prom night replacing her in return. The kind Tommy accepted her wish because he loved her. Tommy met Carrie and asked her to replace Sue for the prom night, Carrie was shocked. She thought that Tommy would fool her and laughed at her. At first, Carrie rejected politely, she knew that her mother would not let her go. Tommy tried to explain that he did this because he knew that she was a good girl, and she deserved an invitation then finally Carrie found that Tommy said that honestly and accepted the invitation. Meanwhile, Chris with her boyfriend Billy Nolan, one of the bad boys at school, was planning to do something bad.

The prom night would crown the new prom king and queen. The king and queen would be voted by the other students, Tommy and Sue were nominated but Sue's name was crossed out and was replaced by Carrie's. Due to the suspensions, Chris planned a sly trap with her boyfriend, Billy Nolan, to humiliate Carrie at the Prom night. Chris promoted her friends to vote for Tommy and Carrie for the prom king and queen and sabotage the vote cards. While Billy set the trap at the prom night stage with pig blood.

When the crowning moment came, Tommy and Carrie were crowned as the prom king and queen, everybody in the party felt funny, and did not expect this, or some that knew what was the idea of this crowning moment. Pig blood spilled out from the ceiling and flushed Carrie. Everybody laughed, mocked and insulted Carrie. Carrie and Tommy did not know what was happening. Carrie's anger was even unstoppable. She was angry. Suddenly she could control her telekinetic power to punish everybody in the party, even Tommy, the kind guy. She was angry to be bullied in her life. She could not handle that anymore. She set the school on fire with her mind power and burnt them to death.

After burning the city, in the same night Carrie went home bloody, she had a fight with her mother. Her mother stabbed her shoulder with a knife, Carrie fought back, she killed her mother with her mind power. After that Carrie looked for Chris and Billy Nolan, who were the masterminds of the pig blood at the party. She met them at the Cavalier. Billy tried to hit her with his car, but Billy and Chris hit a building and burnt together. At the end Sue found Carrie was dying losing much blood, Carrie tried to make a mind contact and told Sue what was happening, but too late, Carrie was dead, and Sue called the police for help. It made Sue came to the court for her witnessing.

2.2 About the Author

Stephen King was born in Portland, Maine, on September 21, 1947. He is the second son of Donald King and Nelly Ruth Pillsbury King. He and his brother, David King lived with their mother in Indiana. Then they moved back to Maine until he graduated from Lisbon Falls High School in 1966.

He attended the University of Maine at Orono. He wrote a weekly school newspaper. He graduated in 1970, with a B.A. in English. Next year, he married to Tabitha Spruce in January 1971. Throughout the early years of his marriage, he taught high school English classes at Hampden Academy, in fall 1971 and was still writing short stories and to work on novels. In

spring 1973, *Carrie* was published. After that he wrote his next novel titled *Second Coming* and *Jerusalem's Lot*. Then, in 1975 he finished his writing, *The Stand* and *The Dead Zone*. He also wrote a screenplay for the movie *Maximum Overdrive* in 1985.

The Kings provide scholarship for local high school student, and contribute in many charities. In 2003, Stephen was the recipient of *The National Book Foundation*. Over years, he became known for his frightening and critically-acclaimed titles. <http://stephenking.com/the_author.html>

3. Review of the book

3.1 The Strengths of the Novel

Carrie novel presents some attractive sides and positive moral values to the reader. These become the strengths to this novel. The strengths are as follows:

1. The first strength of the novel is its theme. The theme of the novel is very interesting to read. Perrine (1988:90) says that the theme of a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. This novel's theme is bullying because bullying is the controlling idea in the story. The bullying is dramatically shown up from the beginning and it ends with a massive tragedy caused by the bullying itself. A nasty bullying occurs at the beginning of the novel, in the girl locker "...plug it up, plug it up, plug it up..." (King, 1974:10). Carrie's girl friends are mocking her because of her freaked out on the very first period. They are also throwing sanitary napkins and tampons toward her. The reader can directly know how the condition of the bullying even from the beginning of the story. The bullying keeps described along the story and it always lead to Carrie until the story ends. Moreover, Carrie still gets bullied when she is dead. "...CARRIE WHITE IS BURNING FOR HER SINS..." (King, 1974:179) it is written on the tombstone of Carrie's grave. Even though these all descriptions of bullying theme are attractive, yet these also show positive moral value that bullying can cause bad effect to everyone involved in. The bad effect in this novel is a massive tragedy caused by the wrath of the bullying victim.
2. The second strength is the characters in this novel. This novel gives strong overview of the characters in the story. According to Wellek and Warren, character consists only of the words by which it is described or into whose mouth they are put by the author (1989:286). Some characters take major effect on story from the beginning to the end. They are attractive in delivering the positive moral value to the story. The characters are:
 1. Carrie.
She is the main character of this novel. This character plays an important role because this novel tells the reader all of her life. Carrie is an unpopular lonely girl and also the one who had been bullied. Carrie character becomes more attractive because she has a strong secret super power called telekinetic "...she possessed a latent telekinetic talent..." (King, 1974:91), she can control her power depend on her current emotion. The power is very helpful for her to hold on under the pressure of bullying. She is also the one who brings the climax to the story with a massive tragedy. She kills many of

her friends who always bully her and burns her school with her telekinetic power. Her anger becomes uncontrollable because she cannot handle the pressure anymore. The reader can see that there is a limit in Carrie White's patience of being bullied. Even she kills many of her friends it is only because she cannot take that extreme bullying any longer. The weird girl with superpower is still a human being like the other. There is no excuse for a murderer but the readers can see the positive value that there is a bad effect come after bullying.

2. Sue Snell

Sue is one of Carrie's friends who secretly cares about Carrie. She once ever bullies Carrie, like her friends but she realizes that what she has done is not a really good attitude to do to Carrie White. She knows that Carrie is innocent. As she feels guilty, her personality drastically changes. She sincerely plans to make amend for Carrie. She asks her beloved boyfriend, Tommy Ross to invite Carrie to the prom night replacing her and she hopes that Carrie would accept and makes that bullied girl a little bit happy "... that I asked Tommy to take Carrie to the spring ball ..." (King, 1974:64). This attitude shows that Sue really means what she is doing and she believes that she is doing it right. The value that this character brings is friendship value. It can be seen when she changes her mind to help Carrie until the end of the story and she always tries to communicate until Carrie dies.

3. Miss Desjardin

She is Carrie's gym teacher. This character has very good personality. She always shows positive relationship values between her and Carrie White to the readers not only as a teacher and a student but also as a friend. Those values are love, attention and support. At first, she shows a very wise attitude, she disbands the girls in the locker room when they are bullying Carrie White and gives them punishment that they deserve. After that she always pays a very good attention to Carrie and makes sure that no one will hurt Carrie anymore at school. She maintains the relationship. It is shown when her expresses her appreciation to Carrie at the prom night "... Miss Desjardin smiled and her eyes seemed to catch and hold the soft ..." (King, 1974:113). In the end of the story, she expresses her sorry and deep condolence that she could not help Carrie from the massive bullying so that Carrie decided to punish the other students in tragic fire.

3.2. The Weaknesses of the Novel

Besides, this novel also presents some points that become the weakness. The weaknesses of the novel are as follows:

1. The first weakness of this novel is the plot. The plot in this novel is confusing to the reader. The main chronological plot is disturbed by some testimonies and other backwards "... Margaret White was born and raised in Motton ..." (King, 1974:47). Both testimonies and throwingback come up in the middle of the main plot and sometimes they continue with other testimonies. They come with the other point of view of the main story, and they are very complicated. Those things can happen is about some pages before going back to the main plot. Those testimonies are: My Name is Susan Snell and The Shadow Exploded.
2. The second weakness is the description of Carrie's mother's personality. She has a very

strong fanatic religious. She can be really a very caring person to her daughter yet she also can be an evil to Carrie. She wants Carrie to obey her even she forces Carrie to be like her. Whenever Carrie disobeys her, she does not hesitate to punish Carrie, hits Carrie's head with the bible and worse she pulls Carrie's hair and drags her to the closet. She wants Carrie to pray for forgiveness for any mistake in that closet. This cruel image of Carrie's mother is described until the end of the story, she tries to kill Carrie with a knife and stabs her on the shoulder. The dramatic description is very bad, because it seems like Carrie's mother has a mental disorder. Her behavior is very rude and her thoughts are insane. She is not like the other mothers who love their children.

4. Conclusion

This novel's theme is bullying, like what happens to the main character Carrie. The unpopular girl who gets bullied all her life by her friends at school. They mock, shout, and worse they change her name. One day at the prom, she cannot take the bullying anymore. She takes revenge to all her school friends using her secret telekinetic power.

In this novel, the bad effects of bullying are the victim's mental disorder and massive revenge. A vengeful victim of bullying gets outcast and has very low self-esteem. In the stressful situation, the victim can do something as bad as the bullying itself. Worse is the victim in this novel has a super power called telekinetic. At the end, the revenge is done with massive destruction and tragic murder.

As a human being, every single person has to respect each other, not to hurt or even attack each other. Human has intelligence and feeling, which differs human to the other living creature in this world. Human has to help the other in hard situation not make it worse, to live in peace not to start hostility, to respect not to bully, like what is written in Carrie novel.

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