



**AN ANALYSIS ON MALCOLM RIVER'S DISSOCIATIVE  
IDENTITY DISORDER IN *IDENTITY* MOVIE DIRECTED BY  
JAMES MANGOLD**

**A FINAL PROJECT**

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement  
For S-1 Degree in Literatures  
In English Department, Faculty of Humanities  
Diponegoro University

Submitted by:

Abdul Rohim Indra Wibowo

13020112130043

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY  
SEMARANG**

**2017**



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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer states truthfully that this final project is compiled by himself without taking the results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, The writer ascertains that he does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned.

Semarang, 14 March 2017

Abdul Rohim Indra Wibowo

## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

Life is a game. You cannot reach higher level unless you defeat the bosses.

(Anonymous)

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I- I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.

(Robert Frost)

*This project is dedicated for my family and friends.*

**APPROVAL**

**THE REPRESENTATION OF MALCOLM RIVER'S  
DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER IN *IDENTITY* MOVIE  
DIRECTED BY JAMES MANGOLD**

**Written by**

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The writer realizes that this final project is still far from perfection. Thus, he will be glad and thankful to receive any constructive criticisms and recommendation to make this final project better.

Finally, the writer expects that this final project will be useful to the readers who wish to learn something about personality, especially in dissociative identity disorder.

Semarang, 14 March 2017

Abdul Rohim Indra Wibowo



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## **ABSTRACT**

This project aims to analyze the character Malcolm River in *Identity* movie. The result of analyzing the figures Malcolm Rivers is that he suffered multiple personality syndrome or now known as Dissociative Identity Disorder. Malcolm was abused, neglected, and finally abandoned by his mother was a prostitute when he was a child. He felt extremely insecure so he made a new personality or a new identity to protect his original identity. However, this new identity was in fact a killer. As time goes on he made new identities to fight against the identity of the killer and also protect him from any threat.

Keywords: trauma, identity, Dissociative Identity Disorder.

**THE REPRESENTATION OF MALCOLM RIVER'S  
DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER IN *IDENTITY* MOVIE  
DIRECTED BY JAMES MANGOLD**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.1. Background of the Study**

People enjoy watching movies since then until now. A movie entertains people by showing an extreme rapid sequence of images that is packed into a video. For some people, watching movie is more interesting than reading a novel. They usually love to watch a certain movie based on a genre they love. According to [thefreedictionary.com](http://thefreedictionary.com),

“Movie is a recorded sequence of film or Visual images displayed on a screen with sufficient rapidity as to create the illusion of motion and continuity. Any work, as of art or entertainment, having this form, usually including a soundtrack”.

A movie often has a story for people to enjoy. The story of a movie often brings people to a catharsis, a feeling of relieve or purge through its moral value. It means that movie is kind of literature work which conveys its story through sequence of Visual images displayed on a screen. In the "Identity" movie (2003), director James Mangold showed the movie as well as one of the literary works that also contain elements that can be reviewed through literature window.

This movie indeed has a twisted-ending inside its psychological thriller genre and that is very interesting to watch for some people while some is not. However, despite of its twisted-ending genre, the movie also has a moral value to be earned. Therefore, the project is made to analyze the "Identity" movie in order to know deeper the message from Mangold.

### **1.2. Research Problems**

1. What are the causes of Dissociative Identity Disorder in Malcolm Rivers?
2. What are the forms of identities in figure Malcolm Rivers?

### **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

By writing this project, the writer hopes that we will be able to know and understand the causes of Dissociative Identity Disorder in Malcolm River and the meaning of every existence of an identity in Malcolm River.

### **1.4. Research Method**

The writer uses library research method in analyzing the *Identity* movie. Factual data about the topic is needed to support the analysis. The writer collects the data from articles, books and some sources from internet. Objective approach is also used to analyze the *Identity* movie from the movie itself such as the narrative and cinematic aspects.

## **2. BIOGRAPHY OF DIRECTOR AND SUMMARY**

### **2.1. Biography of Director, James Mangold**

James Mangold was born in New York, 16<sup>th</sup> December 1963. His parents were both artist (painters). He started his interest in movie at his 11<sup>th</sup> years old by making short animated movies. James Mangold continued his education at the California Institute of the Arts in a major that focused on acting and movie. As a student, he started writing and directing some short student movies in 1985. In 1988, Mangold started to work with Disney in one year contract. He did the screenplay. When his contract ended, Mangold did some jobs and then continued his study in Columbia University for his Master Degree.

In 21<sup>st</sup> century, Mangold started directing some movies such as Kate & leopard (2011), Identity (2003), Walk the Line (2005), 3:10 to Yuma (2007) and Night and Day (2010). Mangold has been married to Cathy Konrad, his producer and partner. He won an Amanda Award in Norway in 2006 for Best Foreign Feature Movie for the critically-acclaimed Walk the Line (2005). The incoming movie he will direct is Logan (2017) and it will be released in March.

<http://www.tribute.ca/people/james-mangold/4018/> (November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016)

### **2.2. Summary of *Identity* Movie**

*Identity* is a movie which tells us a murder case by a man named Malcolm River who suffered Multiple Personality Syndrome or now known as Dissociative

Identity Disorder (DID). He was arrested after killed six persons at Lakeworth Apartment on May 10, 1998. 4 years after the murder, the case was analyzed by a psychiatrist named Dr. R. Mallick as the defense team. He did it in order to testify for defense and convince the Judge that the killer personality inside Malcolm can be eliminated by doing a therapy. So he demanded a midnight hearing to do the therapy in front of the Judge and others and also Malcolm's present. The hearing was held right 24 hours before the execution at a conference room.

However, there was another event that is shown hand in hand with the hearing. It was a murder event in a motel. Initially, a total of 10 people included one child and the motel's manager stuck in a motel because of the heavy rain that resulted in flooding at both ends of the road that night. Then, the murders started to happen. One by one people at the motel was killed. Nobody knew who the killer was but every time a person dead, there was a key around the body. It was a key of the one of motel's room and it counted backwards from number 10 on the first victim, number 9 on the second, and so on. As they could not find the killer and felt stressful and could not trust each other, they decided to stay in a room. They expected that it could stop the murder by doing that. But it did not. The killer still continued eating the free meals. However, the dead bodies and the keys started to disappear one by one and there was a shocking fact that they had the same type of name and the same birthday.

When the scene was back again to the midnight hearing for a couple times, Dr. Mallick explained that the murder event at the motel only happened in Malcolm's

mind. Malcolm was possessed by Ed, the police personality. Those 10 people at the motel were all Malcolm's identities. They were created by Malcolm as a child. Dr. Mallick asked Ed (Malcolm) to find and kill his killer identity that existed in one of those people at the motel. Finally, only one person left and survived from the motel. It was Paris, the whore. And it was quite convincing for Dr. Mallick and the Judge that the killer identity was gone. The execution was stayed and Malcolm will be transferred to State Psychiatric Service under Dr. Mallick's care. However, on the way a police and Dr. Mallick transferred Malcolm, he did blackout again and revealed that Timmy, the child was still alive and turned out to be the killer identity of Malcom. He approached Paris that had been at her home and killed her. Moreover, he who finally became the only identity left in Malcolm killed Dr. Mallick and the police.

### **3. LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **3.1. Intrinsic Aspects**

There are two parts in analyzing intrinsic aspects of a movie. Those are narrative aspects and cinematography aspects.

##### **3.1.1. Narrative Aspects**

###### **3.1.1.1. Characters**

According to Baldick in *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms. 2nd ed*, "a character (or fictional character) is a person in a narrative work of arts (such as a novel, play, television series or film) (2001: 37)". The person

must have a relation to the events of the work. So the events will connect as a story. Mostly, there is more than one character in a work but there is only one main character that is the focus of the story. Some maybe have an important role but still not as important as the main character.

### 3.1.1.2. Conflict

#### 3.1.1.2.1. Internal Conflict

According to Ross in *Write Now*, “with "man against self" conflict, the struggle is internal. This is a conflict that is usually associated with an external conflict (1993: 108)”. There will be a conflict inside a character and it usually is the main character who suffers internal conflict. The character must overcome his nature or make a choice between two or more paths - good and evil; logic and emotion.

#### 3.1.1.2.2. External Conflict

According to Maria in *Aesthetic Approaches to Children's Literature: An Introduction*, “characters are forced to make moral choices or frustrated by social rules in meeting their own goals (2005: 100)”. A conflict in literature is defined as any struggle between opposing forces. Usually, the main character struggles against some other force. This type of conflict is what drives each and every story. Without it the story would have no point or purpose. There needs to be some struggle in order for the reader to get involved and care about what might happen to the characters.



### 3.1.1.3. Settings

According to Levin in *Get That Novel Started*,

“in works of narrative (especially fictional), the literary element setting includes the historical moment in time and geographic location in which a story takes place, and helps initiate the main backdrop and mood for a story (1992: 110-112)”.

Although the form of a movie is different to a novel, they still have the same elements like setting. The difference is that movie is a work that has been visualized while novel demands the readers' imagination. However the function of setting in movie is still the same as novels. Setting is vitally connected to the main story of a work.

### 3.1.2. Cinematography Aspect

There are some aspects in cinematography such as costume, make-up, lighting, and camera-take techniques. These aspects are called *mise-en-scene*.

According to Hill and Gibson in their *Film Studies Critical Approaches*,

“Analysis of the form of the cinematic text concentrates on the two basic building-blocks of film, the shot and the cut, and on the structure that comes into being when the film is assembled, the combination of the shot and cut that is the finished film (2000: 13)”.

The writer will only use the camera-take technique, especially the shot element. Every shot has different size and angle. This is so important for directors to choose the appropriate shot as they want to convey the movie attractively. There are some techniques of shot that directors often use such as close-up, medium close-up shot,

medium shot, medium long shot and long shot. Every technique of shot has different meaning and purpose depends on what director wants to convey for his/her meaning.

According to Bordwell and Thompson in *Film Art: An Introduction*, “The Close-up is traditionally the shot showing just the head, hands, feet, or a small object. It emphasizes facial expression, the details of a gesture, or a significant object (2008: 191)”. Close-up shot often used to give identification, intensity and intimacy of the scene. Medium Close-up is a technique that position in the middle of the Close-up and Medium Shot. This shot reveals only a little of the surroundings. “The Medium Close-up frames the body from the chest up (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191)”. The Medium shot is a little bigger than Medium Close-up shot and it is the most frequently technique used in a movie. It reveals the subject more detail and also shows some of the background to be seen. “The Medium Shot frames the human body from the waist up. Gesture and expression now become visible (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191)”. The next bigger shot is Medium Long shot. It allows us to see shot scale that reveals the knees up of the character. “These are common, since they permit a nice balance of figure and surroundings” (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). The last is Long Shot. It reveals the whole of the character’s body and gives a wide view of the background. “In the long shot figure are more prominent, but the background still dominates (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191)”.

A director of a movie must have a purpose of making such combination of shots whether in order to attract viewers’ attention or give some details of things or

intentionally inserting meanings/messages in a shot. The writer will put cinematic analysis inside others analysis each time a picture inserted to support the point.

### **3.2.Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)**

Multiple personality syndrome or now known as Dissociative Identity Disorder is a mental illness that make the person split their personality or identity.

According to American Psychiatric Association,

“dissociative identity disorder (DID), previously known as multiple personality disorder (MPD), is a mental disorder on the dissociative spectrum characterized by at least two distinct and relatively enduring identities or dissociated personality states that alternately control a person's behavior, and is accompanied by memory impairment for important information not explained by ordinary forgetfulness (2000: 526-529)”.


Mostly, DID is caused by extreme traumatic events in childhood such as physical or sexual abuse from other people or an extreme attack from people or animal. It is possible for people who suffer DID to have more than two identities inside them. Each identity cannot recognize other identity because they cannot appears in a same time. Every identity has a reason why he/she is created inside the host body.

## 4. THE REPRESENTATION OF MALCOLM RIVER'S DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER IN *IDENTITY* MOVIE DIRECTED BY JAMES MANGOLD

### 4.1. Intrinsic Aspects


#### 4.1.1. Characters

The writer will analyze some characters which have important roles. Those characters are Malcolm River, Edward, Dr. Mallick, and Paris. The first one is Malcolm Rivers, the main character. At the beginning of the movie, Malcolm Rivers is shown as a culprit of murders through files of murder that was read by a psychiatric. He was sentenced to death penalty four years after being arrested for a mass murder of six persons on Lakeworth Apartment on May 10, 1998. Malcolm had a multiple personality syndrome or now known as Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) that made him to have a lot of identities inside his body. It can be seen from the dialog and **picture 1** when Dr. Mallick, his psychiatric explained that Malcolm Rivers had DID. However, we can see that **picture 1** uses Medium Close-Up Shot. It shows us Dr. Mallick is framed from chest up and reveals part of windows and drops of rain outside.

Visual	Audio
 <p>Picture 1</p>	<p>Dr. Mallick : When faced with an intense trauma, a child's mind may fracture... creating disassociated identities. That's exactly what happened to Malcolm Rivers. He developed a condition that is commonly known as Multiple Personality Syndrome. (01:12:39 – 01:12:59)</p>

Malcolm has ten identities in total. They are named as Edward, Rhodes, Paris, Larry, Ginny, George, Timmy, Lou, Suzanne, and Alice. In this movie, they are the persons that stuck in the motel scene. The fact, they were all made up by Malcolm as a child.

The next is Edward Dakota. He was driving Suzanne, the artist and they got stuck in the motel because the heavy rain. By the end of the movie, we will know that he is one of Malcolm's identities. His details as ex-Cop is said by River in this dialog when River rejected the revelation Dr. Mallick gave to him. Here are some dialogs and pictures when Dr. Mallick said about Edward's details.

Visual	Audio
 <p>Picture 2. Dr. Mallick explains things to Malcolm (Edward)</p>	<p>Dr. Mallick : Because you, Edward... are one of his personalities. (01:13:10)</p>



Picture 3. Malcolm's face


Malcolm : I was a cop in the Rampart Division of L.A.P.D for six years.... (01:14:11)



Picture 4. Edward's face

In **Picture 2**, it uses Medium Close-up shot same as **Picture 1** but we can see that **Picture 2** is slightly closer than **Picture 1**. Perhaps nobody realized it but this tiny difference gives more intense feeling for them. We can see that Dr. Mallick was explaining to Edward that he is one of his personalities. **Picture 3** uses Close-up shot shows Malcolm's face detail. He was possessed by Edward denying what Dr. Mallick said. **Picture 4** shows Edward's face that also uses Close-up shot. It reveals only face detail to focus in the frame while the background is blurred. However, these scenes contain element of surprise which Edward's face is suddenly turned into Malcolm's face after Dr. Mallick gave a mirror to Edward. This scene is the point for the viewers start to know that all persons in the motel are Malcolm's personalities and the murders were only happened in Malcolm's mind.

Now let us see Dr. Mallick, a psychiatrist. He defended Malcolm Rivers from his death penalty by convincing the Judge that the killer inside Rivers is gone through his therapy. It can be seen from a part when Dr. Mallick tried to control Malcolm's refusal emotion. In **Picture 5**, the Director uses Medium shot because he wanted to show that there was still a conflict between the Judge and Dr. Mallick. We know that they have different point of view on Malcolm's case. We can see almost half of the Judge's body even he is sitting.

Visual	Audio
 <p>Picture 5. Dr. Mallick pointing to the Judge</p>	<p>Dr. Mallick : ...Malcolm Rivers will be put to death because of those actions unless I can convince that man that the killer is gone. (01:15:12 – 01:15:23)</p>

The last character that the writer wants to discuss is Paris Nevada. In the movie, Paris was a whore who was also stuck in the motel that night. **Picture 6** that uses Medium shot shows us two upper bodies of a man and Paris in a frame. This scene is a flashback after Paris who was driving looking for her lighter. Paris is also one of Malcolm's identities.



Picture 6. Paris roleplaying a man (06:28)

#### 4.1.2. Conflict

##### 4.1.2.1. Internal Conflict

It is known that conflict is divided into two, internal conflict and external conflict. The internal conflict in the movie existed in Malcolm Rivers. He had a DID caused by his traumatic childhood so he had ten identities in total and every identity cannot recognize the other identities. Unluckily, one of his identities was a killer and because of his blackout, Malcolm got possessed by the killer identity and he killed people in real life when the identity possessed his body. Of course Malcolm himself does not want them to exist but on the other side he needs them to protect him from any threat like his traumatic childhood.

However, the fact is that the origin identity or personality of Malcolm River is already dead long time ago (this will be explained later) but the identities were still switched one to another each time Malcolm had a blackout, randomly. Blackout is like another universe created by Malcolm's mind but what he did there seems semi-connected to the real world. That is why when the killer identity possessed him and killed people in the other universe, Malcolm also killed people.

##### 4.1.2.2. External Conflict

The external conflict in this movie is that the psychiatrist, Dr. Mallick as the defense team of Malcolm's case, tried to defend Malcolm Rivers from execution. He did it because Malcolm himself did not aware that he had a crime and by the name of humanity, the death penalty should be re-discussed. Of course it annoyed the Judge and the others that they had been working on Malcolm's case for four years and



reached the point where the death penalty had been sentenced but suddenly 24 hours before execution they had to re-discussed it again for the name of humanity on a killer.

#### 4.1.3. Setting

The setting of this movie at the beginning was at Dr. Mallick's office room where he was analyzing Malcolm Rivers' files and records (**Picture 7**, Medium shot, we can see clearly Dr. Mallick and his office room clearly as the background). Then the scene moved to a motel, Nevada Motel, at night in a heavy rain storm. In **Picture 8**, the Director uses Extreme Long shot which used to set a scene of settings. It usually shows a landscape or a building etc. **Picture 8** shows a building of a motel from a quite distance. This motel is the site that is used to a shelter from the heavy rain storm by people in this movie and they start dying one by one. This motel may symbolize the place when little Malcolm Rivers was abandoned, neglected, and abused so it may trigger the killer identity to appear. And why was it at night and in a rain storm? Perhaps it was made up to get the grip of the murders' atmosphere.



(01:53)

Picture 7. Dr. Mallick's Office Room



(04:06)

Picture 8. The Motel

#### 4.2. The Causes of the Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)

An extreme or intense trauma is the cause for most DID case. In this movie, Malcolm River also had an intense trauma in his childhood. Dr. Mallick, as the expert on DID in this movie, said that when faced with an intense trauma, a child's mind may fracture, creating dissociate identities. It was also mentioned in the movie that Malcolm's mother was a whore and he had also been abused, neglected and finally abandoned by her when he was a child. We can see it from **Picture 9, 10, 11** and **12** below. Those pictures use Close-up shot in order to deliver some details from the newspapers. However, in this movie, those scenes below slide rapidly. We will not able to catch the details if we keep watching the movie without pausing at the moment.



Picture 9. News(1)(01:39)



Picture 10. News(2)(01:41)




Picture 11. News(3)(01:41)



Picture 12. News(4)(01:44)

The news which was on June 11 1972 said that boy (9-years-old Malcolm) was found abandoned at Local Motel. It was also said that he was neglected and abused. He said he was waiting for her mom in bathroom. It means that Malcolm's mother neglected, abused and abandoned him at a motel and Malcolm still thought that his mom will pick him up again. This was one of his traumatic events on his childhood.

There was another event which indirectly mentioned in the movie. Let us see the part when Edward asked if the little boy (Timmy) was alright. And then George, Timmy's father answered:

Visual	Audio
 <p>Picture 13. George talking to Edward</p>	<p>George: No, no, no. He doesn't talk muck ever since the.... I'm his stepfather. His Father... Two years ago, he left. Little Temper problem. (21:28)</p>

In **Picture 13**, it uses Medium Close-up shot as we can see George and Edward from the chest up. We can also see blurred Timmy watching the rain from the window as the background. The director wants to show that how important the information which Timmy had a father who has a temper problem. Please keep in mind that people inside the motel scene were all Malcolm's identities. Many people who watched the movie will predict that Timmy was Malcolm's childhood identity, his origin identity since born. It means that Malcolm had a father with temper problem

and he may get a physical abuse from his father. This also may be the cause for his traumatic childhood.

So Malcolm had been abused by his father and mother. His childhood was totally ruined by his parents. A child needs a lot of affection but what he got was intense traumas by his own parents. However, as a child, many people will try to forget the bad, traumatic event. Freud called this repression. They try to forget it by repressing their bad/traumatic memory to the unconsciousness.

#### **4.2. The Forms of Identities in Malcolm River.**

Many identities are formed inside Malcolm River when he was a child. The writer would like to discuss some of them which seemed had an important role. Those are the character Timmy, George, Alice, Edward, and Paris. The character Timmy, the little boy, he was pictured as the childhood of Malcolm Rivers. He got traumatic childhood from his biological father who had temper problem and it is possible that violence was occurred to Timmy. It revealed after Edward asked George if Timmy was all right. Below is the picture of Timmy's first time appearance in the movie. He was with his parents on the way back to home.



Picture 14. Timmy

**Picture 14** uses medium shot that allow us to see the upper body of Timmy and a little part of the surrounding. The director wants to introduce the character Timmy to viewers by showing his upper body and inform the weather by showing the raindrop on the window of the car. Even the situation of Timmy and Malcolm was same Timmy did not represent the original identity of Malcolm. Timmy represented the killer identity of Malcolm. The killer identity appeared because of the hatefulness of Malcolm River on his parents. We will know this fact after watching the movie until the end. So where was the original identity?



Picture 15. Dead body found (53:59)

The scene on **Picture 15** uses Medium shot that we can see the dead body from his belly up. It showed a dead body found in a freezer after Paris tried to escape from Larry's threat and accidentally opened the freezer. The dead body was the manager of the motel and Larry was just a person who just ran into the motel earlier and found him dead sitting on his desk. The writer assumed that the dead manager represented the original identity of Malcolm. He used to be the manager of the motel but he was dead and frizzed. So did Malcolm's original identity. He used to be the one who controlled Malcolm's body but he was also dead frizzed, lack of love.

We knew that Malcolm had parents who abused him. Of course he had a wish that he had good parents and got a lot of affection from them. These wishes became his identities in order to protect him. The identities were represented by George and Alice, Timmy's parents. They were Malcolm's dream parents. **The picture 16** below is the first appearance of George and Alice. It uses medium shot. It is enough to inform the viewers about the characters by showing the upper body.



Picture 16. George and Alice

Edward, the man who described himself as an ex-cop, was also Malcolm's identity. He was the one who possessed Malcolm's body when the hearing is ongoing. Everyone must have a mindset that a cop is a good figure, protects other people from a threat. So does the little Malcolm. He was insecure, abused, unprotected so he created this identity.

Even Malcolm already had his expected mother identity, he was not able to forget his own mother even she was a whore and abandoned him. He thinks that she was still able to protect him, to give him love. So there appeared Paris Nevada.



Picture 17. Paris Nevada



Picture 18. Malcolm River

The pictures above are the scenes when Paris Nevada was on her way back to her mother house. She was the only one who survived from the murder at the motel. At the same time, **Picture 18** shows Malcolm's expression when he had a blackout and was possessed by Paris. His expression had deceived Dr. Mallick, the Judge and others that the killer identity was gone and finally the death penalty was cancelled. Those pictures use Close-up shot in order to show the details of their expression after such situation. However, other identities are formed from collective unconsciousness that may capable to protect him from his parents or even his killer identity. Like Rhodes, also a villain. He killed a cop and pretended to be the cop. Malcolm thought that the villain might be able to fight the killer identity.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The *Identity* movie directed by James Mangold shows Malcolm River who suffered Dissociative Identity Disorder had a lot of identities inside him. This happened because Malcolm River suffered abuse from his temper-problem father that is explained or delivered by Timmy's step-father and his mother (a whore) who also

abused, neglected and abandoned him when he was a child. This traumatic childhood made the killer identity and other identities appear. Malcolm felt insecure so he created all the ten identities to protect him. Every identity has a reason why he/she exists. Such as Paris Nevada, she represented Malcolm's mother. She appeared because Malcolm still believed that she would protect and love him even she was a whore but the fact, she did not. Moreover, his blackout is the way he changes the identities, randomly and of course he cannot control the blackout.

The lessons to be learned from this movie is (probably for the parents and other family members) to pay attention to the child's childhood and give them affection and love as much as possible and do not do a violence to the child so that the child does not experience any childhood trauma.



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