

UNRESOLVED CHILDHOOD TRAUMA IN GERALD'S GAME MOVIE SCRIPT

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Abstract

This article will analyze Gerald's Game movie, directed by Mike Flanagan. Issues arise regarding the effects or consequences that arise and affect a person's life after experiencing a trauma in childhood and how to deal with unresolved trauma. Jessi, the main female character, is sexually abused by her biological father as a teenager, traumatizing her into adulthood. The purpose of this article is to analyze how much influence trauma experienced in childhood can affect a person's personal life. This study uses a psychoanalysis approach based on Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory. In addition, this article used direct quotations dialogs between characters from Gerald's Game movie. The findings show the main character's reaction to a traumatic event and how she copes with it, although the event's memory is still attached to her.

Keywords: Childhood Trauma, Psychoanalysis, Sexual Abuse

INTRODUCTION

Human character and personality are formed since childhood. Therefore this period is most important so it must be considered. Childhood memories will have a significant influence on future events. A good environment allows a person to have many beautiful experiences and significantly impact the formation of positive memories. Otherwise, if someone has a poor childhood memory due to growing up in an unsupportive environment, such as a family with divorced parents, victims of domestic violence such as sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, abandonment, or those who are afflicted with severe illnesses, these are just some of the memories that people who have experienced psychological trauma have had. As a result, they may face difficulties as they grow older and keep their problems to themselves. Hence, it could be detrimental to their lives.

The research is inspired by the many cases experienced by some people who have had trauma. However, some also deny and even consider that what they experienced is not part of the trauma. Neglect, abandonment, sexual assault, and physical abuse are only some of the experiences that qualify as psychological trauma. Researchers took the work

of Mike Flanagan, an American filmmaker mainly known for his horror movies. Before *I Wake*, *Ouija: Origin of Evil*, and *Doctor Sleep* are among the films he directed, wrote, and edited. Flanagan's filmography exploits human perception's fallibility to generate legitimately terrifying horror, and it is this approach that makes him the most exciting up-and-coming genre filmmaker of this decade. *Gerald's Game* is thought to be un-filmable for as long as most of the story takes place in the mind of Jessie and is mainly about her internal conflict. While the film is a medium that explores extra-personal conflicts best, the novel is proud of its capacity to explore inner thoughts and feelings. By simply writing what the character thinks, a writer can find their way into the character's mind.

However, this topic is still interesting to discuss, and some have included it as research, among others "Petter's Childhood Trauma in Joestin Gaarder's *The Ringmaster's Daughter*" by Dayanara Estu Hapsari. She is from the English Letters and Language Department Faculty of Humanities at the Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang in 2016. It is discussed about the symptoms and the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) illness. It is experienced by the main character Petter in the novel *The Ringmaster's Daughter* after traumatic events in his childhood and influenced his life and personality. This research found that childhood trauma has three main symptoms: re-experiencing, avoidance, and arousal.

Furthermore, a study by Sandy Rodan from the English Letters Study Program Department of English Letters at Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta in 2018, "The Impacts of Psychological Childhood Trauma on the main character, Libby Day, in Gillian Flynn's *Dark Places*," aims to analyze the impact of Libby Day's childhood trauma and how her conditions affected her character or her life in the future. The author shows the result of the analysis that the impact of childhood trauma makes the main character become a shy person, anti-social, and introverted.

Last is "The Childhood Trauma of Prince Albert as seen in David Seidler's *The King's Speech*" by Fadhilah Anwar student from the English Department Faculty of Adab and Cultural Sciences at State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta in 2013. The researchers found that the trauma experienced by the object figures greatly affected their life from childhood to adulthood. His childhood trauma made him a person with bad habits. It is a defense mechanism which is fixation. However, fixation did not affect his life, while his technical defense helped him control himself and overcome the trauma.

This study will examine Jessie's trauma, the main character, explicitly dealing with childhood trauma caused by sexual abuse and emotional abuse from her parents. Her childhood trauma still shaded her life and affected her marriage in her adulthood. Over this, Jessi's trauma has remained unresolved. The researcher's goal is to uncover the effect of Jessie's childhood trauma on her marriage and how she accepts her unresolved childhood trauma as a part of her life.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Childhood Trauma

One of the childhood trauma theorists is Lenore Terrs (1990, 1994, 2003, 2008). She assumed that childhood trauma has four persevering effects: visualized memory, repetitive behavior, trauma-specific fear, and shifts in attitudes toward people, life, and the future (Terr, 2016). It is a troubling issue that can paralyze people through mental health issues, arrests, addictions, and death (Schaaf, 2012). People who are unable to overcome early trauma have difficulty learning and socializing. They must recognize that they are not responsible for how the trauma affects their lives when the trauma is perpetrated by someone else. Too often, traumatized people are ashamed of their problems as a result of their trauma, which makes it difficult for them to seek help (Duncan A., 1955).

Child Sexual Abuse

In child sexual abuse, there are two types of interactions: (a) child's sexual behavior is forced or coerced, and (b) sexual activity between a youngster and a much older person, whether or not there is obvious compulsion (a common definition of "much older" is five or more years) (Browne & Finkelhor, 1986). Sexual abuse of children is suggested as a factor in the development of certain significant personality disorders (Allers et al., 1992). However, Finkelhor also stated that more than half of adult survivors are able to function normally, and only 20% of survivors have severe mental health issues (Allers et al., 1992).

Effect of Trauma

It is still that child sexual abuse, violence, and neglect cover an enormous range of omissions that take place in widely differing family settings and might happen to children at different ages, over different periods (McQueen et al., 2008). Child abuse can lead to anxiety, panic attacks, phobias, depression, and anger (Briere & Jordan, 2009). Childhood trauma has been linked to both short- and long-term negative effects. Kimberly Holland in www.healthline.com stated that anxiety is the body's natural response to pressure and a common form of the emotional disorder that is characterized by feelings of fear, worry, restlessness, apprehension, nervous about something that will happen or will be done (Holland, 2020). She also mentioned that anxiety can affect anyone at any age. According to Holland, anxiety includes several parts of the different disorders: Panic disorder, phobia, social anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, separation anxiety, illness anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

METHOD

In this study, the approach used is psychoanalysis, by developing a discussion of childhood trauma through psychoanalytic theory. Since this research speaks of childhood trauma as the effect of psychology-related sexual abuse, the researcher uses Sigmund

Freud's psychoanalytic theory. In the theory of psychoanalysis suggested by Sigmund Freud, there are concepts related to human psychology such as a pessimistic understanding of human nature, an accent on natural biological forces, early life form personality at the age of 5, universal stage of development (Carter, 2006). In the film *Gerald's Game*, there is continuity with these concepts, which state the initial experience of forming a personality at the age of 5. It means that what a person does since he is a child or gets experiences from the beginning such as experiences of joy or sorrow, trauma and others can shape the person's personality as an adult it can find out how the main character experienced child abuse by using those two steps and how the main character received trauma.

The author uses the storyline in the film *Gerald's game* to collect data in this study. Several events in the film related to the female lead *Gerald's game* are the writer's focus. In collecting data, the author takes several steps. The first step is to prepare the topic of the analysis and watch *Gerald's Game* Movie. The researcher also does a close reading of the script to better understand the character dialogue.

After that, identify the scenes and take the data by screenshotting the scene that contains the depiction of the childhood trauma, the effect, and acceptance of trauma during re-watch. This research focuses on psychological problems caused by events during the childhood of the female lead in the film *Gerald's Game*. After taking the screenshot to quote certain dialogues and monologues, the researcher will provide further information from the script. In this case, the writer will use a specific template or form to simplify the analysis, dividing the data into three categories: childhood trauma, the effect, and acceptance of trauma.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Recalling the Events

Sexual Abuse

Researchers analyzed the film *Gerald's Game* discussing the childhood trauma experienced by the main character Jessie Burlingame. By using the theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud, the researcher will describe each topic by observing Jessie in the film. She is a representative of children who has experienced traumatic violence. Jessie's father sexually and emotionally abused her. It had an impact on her character and life. According to clinical and nonclinical studies by Tufts (1984), children who experience sexual violence seen by physicians show a pathological disorder. The study also discovered that their enormously long effects are impossible to avoid as they get older. Therefore, the vulnerability of mental disorders impairment for victims of child sexual abuse should be taken very seriously (Browne & Finkelhor, 1986). Victims of harassment are inextricably linked to the perpetrator and everything they do. In this case, Jessie will never forget her father's sexual abuse when she is a child. He is constantly thinking about the events he is going through because of his inner wounds. They occasionally feel as if they are back in the middle of the incident, as if they are experiencing

it for the first time. It usually manifests as a nightmare in both the waking and sleeping states. The fact that he remembers everything about his father impacts his adult life orientation.

"You married an older man.. Your father is a lawyer. Gerald as a lawyer. Your father minimized you, objectified you."(scene 14)

00:54:37 - 00:54:43

In the text above the illusion, Jessie says that she is still stuck with a sinister past and her father's treatment to affect her adult life. Her father's treatment made an impression on her that she became so influenced that she chose to marry a man her father is related to and similar. Childhood trauma is a troubling issue that can paralyze people through mental health issues, arrests, addictions, and death (Schaaf, 2012).

"The point is, Jessie, you married into the only dynamic you've ever known. You were a girl, he is a man, and you never walked away from that. That afternoon never ended." (scene 14)

00:54:50 - 00:55:01

Russell and Finkelhor (1979) found that fathers or father figures cause the most trauma compared to other perpetrators (Browne & Finkelhor, 1986). Jessie continues to feel trapped in the circle of her past life, as stated in the quote above. She continues to live her life in a way that is connected to the traumatic events. As a result, Jessie has a lifeline that continues even after the abuse. Her old wounds entrap her, and she chooses to marry someone who shares some qualities with her father. Bagley and Ramsay (1985) discovered a slight but nonsignificant increase in impairment in women who had been molested by their fathers or stepfathers (Browne & Finkelhor, 1986). Everything about their fathers reminded them of it. Recalling these events on repeat made it difficult for them to focus on a single task.

Moreover, by using measures of children's anxiety, the Tufts (1984) study discovered that children who had been fondled but not penetrated are more anxious than those who had been penetrated. Besides, the other studies found no consistent relationship between sexual activity type and effect (Browne & Finkelhor, 1986).

*"Sure. Just like you handled those last few minutes on Daddy's lap."
"He didn't rape me. He didn't even touch me. He only touched himself. [sobs]
And if you wanna blame someone... I might as well blame my mother or the boat. The sundress is too short. What he did to me on that swing isn't the worst thing anyone's ever done." (scene 14)*

00:55:50 - 00:56:28

Based on the quote above, Jessie does not experience sexual abuse. Still, she does experience sexual harassment from her father, despite her best efforts to convince herself that she has never experienced sexual abuse. She denies and tries to say that her father did not do anything to her, but it remains in her memory. This parental sexual exploitation of a child is a severe breach of trust. The father figure who serves as a role model in the family becomes a monster. Children who have been abused severely are doubtful to move forward. Victims' self-accusation, admission of guilt, trauma, and confusion about how

they felt about the abusers are all common, and these feelings served as roadblocks to speaking out (Salter, 2021).

According to Michael Salter Scientia, Associate Professor of Criminology at UNSW, the perpetrators they studied can maintain adult romantic relationships as well as a "normal" appearance (Salter, 2021). To put it another way, some criminals care for and manipulate their partners to gain access to children. They try to fool people by pretending to be in a romantic relationship with someone else. In this case, Jessie's father devised a strategy to maintain his relationship with his wife, her biological mother.

"Your father had your mother till you were nice and ripe." (scene 14)

00:55:30 - 00:55:32

Jessie's illusion says that her father is taking advantage of her mother by pretending to be a romantic husband refer to the quotation above. Nevertheless, until Jessie is in her teens, well into her childhood, her father becomes interested in her.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse has the overarching goal of discrediting, isolating, and silencing the victim (Gordon, 2020). Jessie's father perpetrates this abusive behavior. In the end, he makes Jessie feel confined.

"Your father minimized you, objectified you." (scene 14)

00:54:40 - 00:54:43

Jessie's mother is completely unaware of her kid's problems and treats her as a rebellious child who disobeyed her parents.

"I hate to...just because things have been pretty tense between the two of you lately. Hell, they've been tense between us, too... with the baby and all." (scene 15)

01:01:47 - 01:01:59

Jessie's father's abusive emotional signs can be seen in every treatment he treats his daughters. He manipulates Jessie and her situation by exploiting her fear and compassion not to tell anyone anything. The following quotation demonstrates this point.

"You all right, Mouse? I'm so sorry. I'm sorry you were there when I... It is not like I touched you, Jessie. But still... Maybe we should tell Mom. I think we have to, don't you?" (scene 15)

01:00:38 - 01:01:43

He tried to instigate Jessie by playing the victim and made her feel guilty. He tries to win Jessie's heart by pretending to be guilty and trying to be a dad who gives everything to Jessie.

"But this... well, this could make things a lot worse. She won't think it is your fault. I'm sure. Fairly sure. I mean, she might. We all know... it isn't your fault." (scene 15)

01:02:00 - 01:02:22

He exaggerates Jessie's flaws by designating her as a girl who can't keep secrets to distract or avoid taking responsibility for her mistakes.

"Because you can't keep it a secret. I mean, if it is ever going to come out, then it is better for both of us that it happens now. Not in a week or a year or even ten years from now."

"I mean... if we don't tell your mom today then we could never tell anyone."
(scene 15)

01:02:41 - 01:03:24

He was accusing Jessie of being a child who is too sensitive and emotional to keep a secret so that Jessie would believe his words.

"And not just your mother. Not anyone. That's a big responsibility for a little girl. I'm sorry. A young woman. But you might be tempted. With friends, One of them tells you a secret, maybe you might wanna tell them." (scene 15)

01:03:30 - 01:03:54

Acting as if he is always right, knows what's best, and is a better man and father to Jessie than anyone else.

"I've never been able to refuse you anything that you wanted, have I? Okay, Jess. We'll try things your way." (scene 15)

01:04:45 - 01:04:58

Hopes, forces, and orders to share his opinion and Jessie not permitted to have a different opinion.

"So I guess we have a deal. I say nothing. You say nothing, not to anyone else, not even to each other. We walk out of this room... and it never happened. I did a shameful thing." (scene 15)

01:05:03 - 01:05:29

The text above shows how Jessie's father controls Jessie's mind to become afraid and close herself. According to (Salter, 2021), parental abuse is very daunting to detect since they have complete control over their victims and have constant access to them. Because of shame and fear, children who their parents abuse frequently kept this secret. People who are unable to overcome early trauma have difficulty learning and socializing. They must recognize that they are not responsible for how the trauma affects their lives when the trauma is perpetrated by someone else. Too often, traumatized people are ashamed of their problems as a result of their trauma, which makes it difficult for them to seek help (Duncan A., 1955).

"Maybe we shouldn't tell her." (scene 15)

01:02:26

"Please just don't tell her. Ever. Please." (scene 15)

01:04:28

Due to persuasion from her father, Jessie is afraid that her mother would find out about the incident. She chooses to be shut up, and she must bear it by herself. All the text above is her answer when her dad controlling her.

"No, that would be what he did to you after, in the bedroom."

"What did he do?"

"Nothing. He just talked to me." (scene 14)

00:56:30 - 00:56:48

Jessie's denial proves that her father has gained control of Jessie's mind without her awareness. The sexual and emotional violence that Jessie experienced as a child resulted in deep trauma for her. She became a different person after the incident. After marriage, she tried to hide her trauma from Gerald, her husband. Therefore, it makes their relationship less harmonious.

Fear and Anxiety

Childhood trauma memories are embedded in their symptoms, relationship struggles, and low self-esteem, even when pushed away and unconsciously (Cohen, 2019). To be the reason Jessie and Gerald's marriage is losing its romance, so they have decided to take a break from everyday life.

"How did we go so wrong? Jess, we were happy once."

"Of course." (scene 2)

00:14:41 - 00:14:44

They stopped to discuss everything about their marriage life and avoided each other. The two of them chose to remain silent until finally, the idea of the sex game emerged.

"You found it and never said anything. But I knew you'd seen it, and I just stopped covering it up."

"We never talked about it, though." (scene 6)

00:32:07 - 00:32:16

Traumatized children present challenging behavior and emotional responses, which puzzle their parents, teachers, and mates. When dealing with other people, adults with childhood trauma experience stress, fear, and disorientation (Baylin & Winnette, 2017). As a child, Jessie has been traumatized; it lives deep within.

"'Cause everybody's got a little corner in there somewhere. A button...they won't admit they want to press. Year after year... I barely gave you a glimpse of mine." (scene 6)

00:33:27- 00:33:43

Unfortunately, the roots of the trauma of childhood remain unresolved. For a while, the symptoms may fade away. However, stress that causes an emotional crisis, or an incident that is too similar to a way to remind them of their previous trauma, can bring them back to their initial experiences (Cohen, 2019). The ways that Gerald treats Jessie sometimes make memories of her father appear again.

"You can fight all you want, but Daddy's gonna get what Daddy wants."

"Uncuff me and stop calling yourself "Daddy"!"

"Jesus. Isn't this why we came up here? To spice things up and try and push some boundaries? I--Sorry...if I wanna try and make things more exciting."

(scene 2)

00:12:13 - 00:12:50

As a result of their childhood experiences, survivors of unresolved abuse frequently report tolerating abusive adult relationships, as well as extremely low self-esteem and feelings of worthlessness or hopelessness (Allers et al., 1992). Jessie gave up the same way Gerald did to enhance their relationship.

*"You haven't touched me... in months. No interest whatsoever until I say I'll let you play some sex game, and it is turning into a rape fantasy that I never knew you had. Please, just unlock these. This isn't gonna save us, Ger."
"It never is." (scene 2)*

00:12:53 - 00:13:15

Jessie and her husband are estranged because she is never honest with him. She closed tightly on her past and kept it a secret to herself. As a result, her husband had no idea about Jessie's tragic past, even though they had been married for a long time.

"You heard the silence, and you knew it, but you just laid there, wasting precious minutes and hours and breath and life, If you're gonna have a mental breakdown, that's a great excuse." (scene 4)

00:24:46 - 00:25:01

Once people are traumatized, they go into shock right away. Anxiety, fear, nervousness, and even guilt may be present. Traumatic symptoms can appear within a month of a traumatic event, but they can also take years to occur.

*"And you did what you always do when it gets too much, you ran. In here."
(pointing head) (scene 4)*

00:25:10 - 00:25:16

Jessie is anxious and afraid after a previous incident. In the previous quote, Jessie's defense system relies on denial because she does not know how to deal with her trauma. She avoids situations where she will have to confront the fear she has experienced due to her trauma. Gerald's illusion claims that Jessie is constantly running away from her mind, her memory. This traumatic event lingered in Jessie's mind and disrupted her sleep at night.

Jessie's illusion says that Gerald is an authoritative individual who believes he is better than others.

*"Oh, babe, you're losing it now"
"No, you're doing what you always did, minimizing, condescending." (scene 5)*

00:27:58 - 00:28:13

The text above represents that Jessie has gone through a lot in her life. The trauma Jessie experienced, and the people around her made her feel like she always had to please others and did not want to upset them. Since she was a child, her father had always been by her side; Jessie had grown too attached. Meanwhile, her father treats Jessie as an object. Her treatment causes her to have a closed personality, finds it difficult for her to open up to new people, and keeps her distance from people.

*"...and you moaned like a dutiful wife, never objected."
"But, for the first time, the first time in all those years, you wondered..."
"Who exactly did I marry?" (scene 6)*

00:33:04 - 00:33:20

The text above depicts Jessie's transformation into a woman afraid to express her opinion and refuses to follow instructions. Her trauma has an impact not only on her personality but also on her daily life.

"Died of fear... because they saw, at their bedside...the Moonlight Man." (scene 9)

00:44:22 - 00:44:31

Nightmares and childhood memories form illusions in her mind. It creates the figure of a moon creature that continues to appear every night before she sleeps. It makes it difficult for her to tell which one is real and just a figment of her imagination. A creature that depicts Jessie's abuse by her father during a lunar eclipse. Because of that, this monster has eyes that glow with the light of a lunar eclipse.

"It is just a dream."

"Like the man in the corner."

"He is definitely... a bad dream."

"If there's a monster under your bed, it won't bother you if you're asleep." (scene 14)

00:58:26 - 00:45:31

According to Freud's theory, the relationship between trauma and its general representation or manifestation is insanity. Josef Breuer and Sigmund Freud patients are frequently intelligent women who suffer from strange and shocking physical ailments such as seizures, hallucinations, and extreme mood swings (Anderson et al., 2010). Jessie's mental creation, the Moonlight Man, is eating away at her even more. She is growing increasingly concerned that the creature would kill her. However, she did not deny her delusion and assumed it is a nightmare.

As Jessie's hatred for her father grew, so did her fear and anxiety. Finally, her father gave her a unique nickname, which she still remembers. Her father uses to call her "mouse," but she grew to despise that moniker.

"Everybody knows that, Mouse."

"Don't call me that." (scene 9)

00:45:36

Denial of her past serves as a protective mechanism for her and her family. One way Jessie can survive her father is to shut down and keep secrets about the alarming incident. Although she must conceal her identity and the attention of those around him. She also had to let go of her mother's increasingly disrespectful and indifferent attention to her.

"It would have meant my little sister is also doomed to let that son of a bitch steal her childhood, and Mom would have died before facing that. So it is up to me to protect Maddie. Even though it meant that I never felt like part of the family again. And that isn't my job description. is it? My job is to be a kid. Suddenly, that isn't an option." (scene 17)

01:14:28 - 01:14:53

All she had to do is defend herself and Maddie, her younger sister, from her father. She had to give up everything so that her sister's life would not be ruined in the same way that hers had been. Jessie's hatred for her father grew stronger after that incident, and she refuses to hear anything about him. Even if she is no longer a family member, Jessie will look after her younger sister. She had to give up her childhood, which is supposed to be a time of enjoyment but instead became a phase of survival from her parents.

"I remember every moment. I remember every shame-filled glance he threw my way, and I remember Mom... looking but not seeing" (scene 17)

01:14:16 - 01:14:24

Jessie dreamed of meeting herself as a child at her parent's lake house while unconscious in the house where Gerald handcuffs her. Her hands are cuffed, and she described herself as having been held captive since she is a child. Their conversation continues as below.

"You've had everything you need to survive from the beginning. You just have to remember. Not the sun, not the eclipse." (scene 17)

01:14:53 - 01:15:03

Not long after the incident, Jessie and her father still felt she had a chance to speak up about the incident. She wanted to express it from the gaze and talk of her body to her mother to make her mother aware of something but did not know what it is. Something is wrong with her daughter, she realized. Her desire to expose her father's depravity is fueled by seeing her mother and father still together.

Acceptance of Unresolved Trauma

Humans seek psychological distance from traumatic events or "deep memories" (Fisher, 2017). Humans will deny and dismiss all negative memories as a part of another self as a means of surviving. The person with the trauma keeps the heart and soul from becoming as bitter as it is by denying the traumatized parts of the self or the state of the self by emotionally disconnecting from it or losing awareness of it through dissociation. Jessie described the sad and distressing pain of trauma she endured by writing letters to herself in the past with her injured right hand. She is diagnosed with amnesia after her husband's death, and she understands that after going through a tough time.

"People who undergo serious trauma often block out memories. The cops knew that even better than the lawyers. And I knew it better than any of them." (scene 22)

01:29:27 - 01:29:36

Jessi's way of dealing with her trauma is to stay away from it, as this makes her keep going and keep growing and developing no matter what happens to her.

"...and life went on. The new normal. Well, not normal. Never normal." (scene 24)

01:29:52 - 01:30:01

For a moment, she remembers her nightmares and the night terrors that plague her every time she sleeps. She wants to find the answers to the events and memories that have happened to her to no longer live in fear and shadows of her childhood trauma.

"Every night, just before I closed my eyes...If it isn't him, if it isn't his face keeping me from sleep...it is the question." (scene 24)

01:30:02 - 01:30:41

She calls the " moonlight man " with the courage to search for the truth about the night creature she calls the "moonlight man". To find the reason for the creature's existence in her life

“That in all the reports, all the cops that come through that house, they never found my wedding ring. What got me through those nights is you. Thinking of you. And why you came to me that day.” (scene 24)

01:30:42 - 01:30:59

She wanted to untie the bonds and confinement that her father and husband had created for her good.

“You, in your sunless world, always on that swing. What you needed me to understand...that his shackles were silence (her father), and he is comforted (her husband).” (scene 25)

01:31:01 - 01:31:19

Comprehensive psychological recovery is critical for sexual violence victims (Yonanda, 2017) because recovering from her traumatic experience will make it easier for her to determine her future life goals, determine a happier, more optimal future, and socialize in society. Jessie began advising both friends and siblings, reminding them constantly to be cautious and set boundaries in their interactions so that what happened to her did not happen to the people she cared about by establishing a foundation with the proceeds from her husband's insurance policy.

My days were better. I took the insurance money, and I started a foundation for girls and boys like us. I spent so long never telling that story, so... I made sure that I did. I tell that story every day to every kid it could help. (scene 26)

01:31:24 - 01:31:42

After some time, she lived her life as usual. Even though she still has a bad dream, her fear of the Moonlight Man monster has not disappeared. She got better after helping many children who had the same experience.

“And while that helped my days, I still sat up at night...waiting for that pale face in the moonlight...to claim his runaway bride. Six months after the handcuffs, six months of being a widow... six months of living death.” (scene 27)

01:31:49 - 01:32:13

Jessie suddenly discovers that the monster she thought was not absolute and is only part of her nightmare is a murderer and has been a fugitive during this time. Felt sure that she had overcome all his fears.

“And then Raymond Andrew Joubert's picture first appeared in the paper. Two years ago, reports of graveyard vandalism in the backwoods of Alabama hit the papers, but I never read about them, not in New Orleans.” (scene 27)

01:32:13 - 01:32:32

This series of events made Jessie less trusting and too dependent on someone. Even the closest friend, who is supposed to be a protector in life, can end up hurting their loved one.

“And so I had to write this to you, Mouse...because of the people who were supposed to protect you from the monsters...[both] turned out to be monsters themselves...[both] and it almost killed you.” (scene 31)

01:34:29 - 01:34:55

Reassuring herself and proving her healing from her trauma, Jessie came to the man whom she thought was the creature of the moon. No more fear in her words for the man.

"You're so much smaller than I remember." (scene 32)

01:36:40 - 01:36:42

Briefly, Jessie has overcome her trauma and can manage her own life without being confined by men. As a result, she has grown and developed into a stronger, more self-assured, and independent woman.

CONCLUSION

Harassment and abuse to a child occur when adults use a child to gratify their sexual desire. In most cases, the perpetrator is someone the kids already know and trust. Gerald's Game depicts a father figure abusing a daughter, and the ensues trauma. The dialogue in the film disclosed that Jessie had been shackled by men who should have been her life's support since childhood. She is also constrained by her husband in her marriage and deals with unresolved childhood trauma. Both men turn her into a weak woman who is unable to defend herself and must rely on them. Jessie's insecurities, faults, and guilts are all revealed in the dialogue.

Sexual assault victims may find themselves constantly juggling. Acceptance of events that happened in the past enables women and other victims to move on with their lives. The story of Jessie's character is an example of a survivor's journey. How she was able to accept her father's and husband's treatment. One way she uses to overcome trauma is by assisting others who are going through the same thing she is. Despite not having had a man in her life, she has grown into a strong and independent woman. Because of many flaws in the study, it is still far from perfect. There's still a lot of data to disclose. Hopefully, the next study will provide more information and gain insight into the study's topic. It is expected that by disclosing more information in research, more information will become available and better research will be established.

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