



# Psychological Analysis of the Main Character as Influenced by External Conflicts in the Movie Entitled “Gone Girl”

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## ABSTRACT

This study entitled “Psychological Analysis of The Main Character as Influenced by External Conflicts in the Movie Entitled “Gone Girl”. It is focused on psychological condition of the character as influenced by external conflicts. The aims of this study are to find out the types of external conflicts faced by the main character and to analyze the effect of those external conflicts that the main character faced to her psychological condition as found in the movie entitled “Gone Girl”. This study used theories from Stantont (1956) and Koesnosoebroto (1988) to find out the types of external conflicts and Bernhardt (1953) to analyze the psychological aspect of the main character. Descriptive and qualitative methods were used to analyze the data while observation methods were used to collect the data. The result found that there are 33 external conflicts and 16 internal conflicts faced by the character and in this study the writer will focused on analyzing the external conflicts faced by the main character in Gone Girl movie that influenced her psychological condition.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is the duplication of humans life that can be enjoyed by human being itself. It's captured about human's feeling, experiences, faith, and their thought into a form that we called literary work. The form of the literary works are poetry, movie, novel, and drama. A work of literature builds an element of entertainment which gives people many interesting things in order to attract them to enjoyed the literary work. Literary work is considered to be interesting because it present many stories that taken from people's life which are very commond around us. There are many definations about literature from the expert. According to [Wellek and Warren \(1956\)](#) Literature is a creative creation that always have a structure and aesthetic purpose, a total coherence, and effect.

Movie as the parts of the literary works with a combination of art music, literature, drama, audio, and visual. In movie also there is a conflict as the intrinsic element of the movie. Without a conflict the story of the movie would be very boring, because the presence of a conflict will entertains the viewers to watching the movie from beginning until the end. Conflict will make the people to thinking about the cause of the conflict itself and they will watching the movie until the end to know about the the solution to solve that conflict. From watching about the conflict in the movie people will learn about how to handle the conflict when it happens in their real life. According to [Kenney \(1996\)](#), a story may deal with a conflict within a single man, a conflict between man, a conflict between man and society and a conflict between man and nature. Based on that statement, the writer concluded that there are many kinds of conflict that usually happens in the movie, such us the conflict between the character with himself, the character with other characters and the character with the environment.

The existence of a character in the story is really important, because the character will plays the rule of the story in the movie and the character also can help the viewers to the understand about the plot of the story in that movie. According to [Abrams \(1999:23\)](#) declares that characters are the persons presented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the character with moral, emotional qualities that are expressed in the way they talks to each other (the dialogue) and what the things they do (the action). The character in the movie also called an actor or an actress. The characters in the movie do interaction to one another to develop the plot. Not only become as the subject in the movie, the character also can be the object of the plot. A conflict has an intense relation with plot.

Psychology and literature cannot be separated because both of them has some concerns, namely human life, especially human beings and their thoughts. Literary work is usually analayzed through psychological aspect because in literary work there is characteristic of each character that play in the movie.

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Wellek and Werren (1965:90) states that characters in movies or novels are judged by the readers to be psychologically true. Sometimes psychological theory, held either consciously or dimly by an author, seems to fit a figure or a situation. Therefore, even a movie is an imaginative work but it contains many psychology problems that or we called conflicts. This issue shows that psychology and literature has the same relation, because both of them study about people's mind and soul.

In this study the writer used the data source from a movie entitled "Gone Girl". This movie direct by David Fincher that containing a psychological thriller genre, which mean it is a movie that combining two aspects; the thriller and a psychological fiction genres. Gone Girl movie was chosen because as the data source because there are many conflicts that shown by the character in this movie, for example the conflicts between Amy as the main character of this movie with her husband, friend and also her parents. This movie premiered on opening night of the 52nd New York Film Festival on September 26, 2014 before it release nationally on October 3rd, 2014. Furthermore the topic was chosen in order to enrich the knowledge of the readers about the type of conflicts and why those conflicts can influenced the psychological aspect of people. Based on the description as above, the objective of this study are to find out the external conflict faced by Amy as the main character in *Gone Girl* Movie and to analyze the effect of that external conflicts to Amy's psychological aspect found in *Gone Girl* movie.

## 2. METHODS

Observation method was used to collect the data. In collecting the data the writer used some steps which are: First, downloading the movie in the internet. Second, watching the movie repeatedly. Third, reading the dialogue between the character, especially the dialogue or monologue of Amy as the main character of the movie with other characters. Then the last step is, taking a note that shows about the situation of the external conflict faced by Amy and her psychological condition. Moreover, descriptive and qualitative data were used by the writer to analyze the data. The writer also used some theories in order to help her to answer the problem of this study. First theory to find out about the type of conflict, specifically in this study that is external conflict is the theory from Stanton (1965) and Koesnosoebroto (1988) and for the psychological condition of Amy the data was analyzed using the theory proposed by Bernhardt (1953) about the psychological aspect of the character. The focus of this study is psychological condition of the main character as influenced by external conflicts in the movie entitled "Gone Girl". The data from the movie entitled "Gone Girl" released on October 03, 2014. The length of this movie is 2 hours and 30 minutes. The theme of this movie is psychological thriller.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### RESULT

According to the data that were found, there are 34 external conflicts faced by Amy as the main character in *Gone Girl* movie . The external conflicts faced by Amy with other characters in *Gone Girl* movie, they are; conflict between Amy and Nick, Amy with her parents, Amy with Nick's Mom, Amy with other people around her, Amy with Margo, Amy with Tommy, Amy with the Police, Amy with Noelle, Amy with Andie, Amy with Greta, Amy with Nick and Andie, and Amy with Desi. Moreover, there are five kinds of psychological aspect of Amy as influenced by the external conflicts that she faced in *Gone Girl* movie, they are; Psychological aspect of Appetite, Want, Emotion, Feeling and attitude, and the last is aspect of Social Motives. The percentage of the external conflicts and psychological aspect of Amy as the main character in *Gone Girl* movie can be presented by tables below.

**Table 1. The Percentage Data of the External Conflicts faced by Amy as the main character**

No	External Conflicts faced by Amy	Frequency	Percentage
1	External conflict between Amy and Nick	9	28%
2	External conflict of Amy and her parents	4	12%
3	External conflict of Amy and the reporters	1	3%
4	External conflict of Amy and Nick's Mom	2	6%
5	External conflict of Amy and society	4	12%
6	External conflict between Amy and Margo	2	6%
7	External conflict between Amy and Tommy	2	6%
8	External conflict between Amy and The Police	2	6%
9	External conflict between Amy and Noelle	1	3%
10	External conflict between Amy and Andie	2	6%

No	External Conflicts faced by Amy	Frequency	Percentage
11	External conflict of Amy and the relationship between Nick with Andie	1	3%
12	External conflict between Amy and Greta	2	6%
13	External conflict between Amy and Desi	1	3%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1 above shows that there are 33 types of the external conflicts faced by Amy as the main character in *Gone Girl* movie. The occurrence of the external conflicts between Amy and Nick are 9 or 28%, Amy and her parents are 4 or 12 %, Amy and the reporters is 1 or 3%, Amy and Nick's mother are 2 or 6%, Amy and the Society are 4 or 12%, Amy and Margo are 2 or 6%, Amy and Tommy are 2 or 6%, Amy and the Police are 2 or 6%, Amy and Noelle is 1 or 3%, Amy and Andie are 2 or 6%, Amy and Nick with Andie is 1 or 3%, Amy and Greta are 2 or 6% and Amy with Desi is 1 or 3%. The most frequently external conflicts faced by Amy versus her husband which is Nick that is 9 conflicts or 28%.

**Table 2. The Percentage Data about Psychological aspect of Amy as the main character**

No	Psychological Aspect	Frequency	Percentage
1	Appetite	1	3%
2	Wants	7	21%
3	Emotion	8	24%
4	Feeling and Attitude	5	15%
5	Social Motives	12	37%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 2 above shows that there are 5 aspects of Amy's psychological condition as influenced by the external conflicts that she faced in *Gone Girl* movie, they are psychological aspects of Appetite with 1 frequency or 3%, aspect of Wants with 7 frequency or 21%, aspect of Emotion with 8 frequency or 24%, aspect of Feeling and attitude with 5 frequency or 15% and the last is psychological aspect of Social motives with 12 frequency or 37%. The most psychological aspect that influenced with the external conflicts faced by Amy is the psychological aspect of social motives with 12 frequency or 37%. The percentage of psychological aspect of Amy is same with the percentage of the external conflicts faced by Amy because those conflicts always have an effect to Amy's psychological condition.

## DISCUSSION

Based on the finding above, the data were analyzed using the theories from Stanton (1965) and Koesnosoebroto (1988) to find out the types of external conflicts faced by Amy as the main character in *Gone Girl* movie and also for the psychological aspect of Amy, the writer using the theory proposed by Bernhardt (1953). In the discussion below the writer put several data that contains about the external conflicts faced by Amy and the explanation about the effects of those conflicts to Amy's psychological condition.

### External Conflicts between Amy and her husband (Nick Dunne)

Data 1 below shows the situation when Amy came back from outside to her house. In the living room Amy saw Nick that playing a movie games. Nick and Amy were lost their main job as a writer. But unlike looking for a new job Nick just spent his time to playing a game and wasting the rest of Amy's money. Not only do that things Nick also blamed Amy because Amy gave her parents money without asked for Nick's permission. Below is the picture that showing the situation between Amy and her Nick in their house.



**Figure 1.** (Social conflict between Amy and Nick)  
Source: Gone Girl Movie

Figure 1 shows the scene when Amy and Nick were arguing in the living room. In that situation they were blamed each other. This type of conflict classified as the external conflict which is social conflict, as this case conflict between Amy versus Nick. Nick thinks that he had the right to buy anything that he wanted using Amy's money, but according to Amy she asked Nick to find the solution to solve their money problems in that moment, instead of just spent the rest of them to buy useless stuff. The picture above also supported with the following dialogue.

**Data 1 (00:33:51 – 00:34:19)**

Nick : "Oh I see. You can give your parents \$879.000 without talking to me but God forbid I buy a video game without getting your permission".  
 Amy : "You are spending a lot".  
 Nick : "You don't trust me, you don't trust my judgement. You certainly don't trust my intention".  
 Amy : "What do you talking about?"  
 Nick : "That's the basic tent of preneup. Isn't it?"  
 Amy : "Why are you throwing that in my face again?"  
 Nick : "Because it's easy to throw".  
 Amy : "Nick I don't geti t. I don't get why you are daring me to be someone I dont wanna be. The nagging shrew, the controlling bitch. I'm not that person I'm your wife".  
 Nick : I'm sorry. I just don't know how to dot his. I've never not had a job.

Based on that dialogue we know that they were arguing about the problems that happened in their financial and also in that situation shows how Amy feels that she was disappointed with Nick because Nick does not help Amy to solve their financial problems. The things that Nick done also daring Amy to be someone that she really hates, that is a slut. This conflict influenced the psychological condition of Amy which is the aspect of want. Amy does not want to be a slut, a slut in here as Amy's said in the dialogue above means that she does not want to be a girl who always complaining and scolding or controlling her husband, but Nick's behavior wants to change Amy's attitude become a type of girl that she usually called as a little slut.

Data 2 below shows the situation when Amy left her house into a hidden place that very far from Nick's village. When she knew that Nick already cheating on her with Nick's student in the University, Amy decides to gone and arranged the drama to teach Nick a lesson. Below is the picture when Amy moved to other place to prepare about her mission.



**Figure 2.** (Social conflict between Amy and Nick)  
Source: Gone Girl Movie

**Figure 2** shows the scene when Amy driving her car and left Nick alone in their house. Amy feels so disappointed with Nick because Nick already cheating on her. She do not have any options to solve her household problems, so she prefer to go outside. But actually, in that moment Amy already prepared her mission to take revenge to Nick. Below is the monologue that expressed Amy's feeling toward Nick after they were fights because Nick wants to divorce Amy and prefers to life with his mistress.

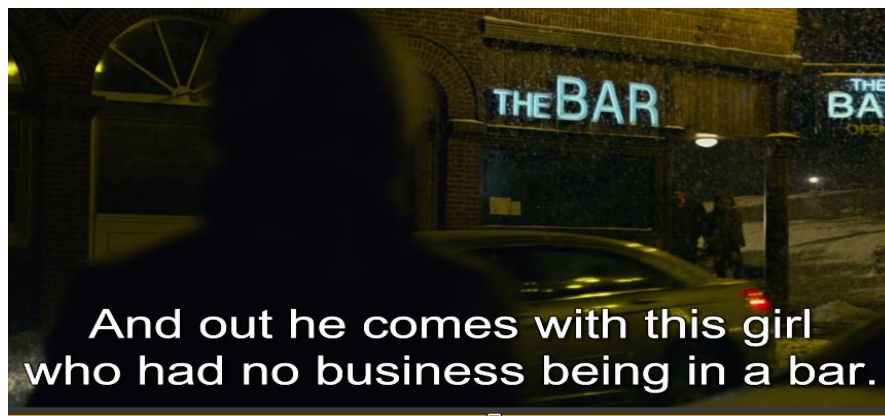
**Data 2 (01:06:10 – 01:06:53)**

Amy : “ I’m so much happier now that I’m dead. Technically missing soon to be presumed dead. And my lazy, lying, cheating oblivious husband will go to prison for my murder. Nick Dunne took my pride, my dignity, my hope and my money. He took and took from me until I no longer existed. That’s murder. Let the punishment fit the crime. To fake a convincing murder, you have to discipline”.

Based on the monologue by Amy as above shows about how Amy feels that she really angry and disappointed with Nick. She does not let Nick achieved what he wanted. So, Amy wants to teach Nick a lesson based on what he had done. This conflict is categorized as social conflict between Amy and Nick. Then this conflict influenced Amy's psychological condition that is the aspect of social motives. In the theory of psychology proposed by Bernhardt (1953) the aspect of social motives is divided in to two they are Self-Assertion / Self-Negation and Self-Submission / Self-Negotiation. Self-assertion is a universal tendency to overcome obstruction or difficulty, while Self submission is a tendency present in human being to submit, to give and to subordinate themselves to other authorities. Based on the Amy's case in that situation it is closer to Self-assertion because Amy feels that Nick had betrayed her but she still never gave up and want to fight for her happiness and save her marriage. She will not let Nick to win. Because of that she tries to solve her household problems.

**External Conflicts between Amy with Nick and Andie**

Data 3 below shows the situation when Amy have moved to new place that very far from her house. In that place she met with a girl named Greta. When Greta saw Amy sitting beside the pool, Greta approached Amy and tries to chit chat with her. Greta saw at Amy's face that looks like she has a lot of problems, then she tries to guess Amy's problem. But all the things that Greta said were wrong. After that Amy started to tell Greta about her problems. Below is the picture that show the situation when Amy saw her husband cheated on her with another girl.



**Figure 3.** (Social conflict between Amy with Nick and Andie)  
Source: Gone Girl Movie

Figure 3 shows the scene (plot twist) when Amy came to “The Bar”, her own Bar that she gave to Nick. On that moment Amy wanted to give a surprise to Nick, but in there she saw her husband cheating on her with a girl named Andie that is Nick’s student in the University. Amy told Greta that she was very disappointed and never thinks that Nick will do that thing to her. Nick also did the same things as he did with Amy when they first met. Before Nick kissed Andie, he lifted his hand to Andie’s lip. After the incident that happened between Amy, Nick, and Andie, Amy was very sad and she decided to go home. Below is the dialogue between Amy and Greta when she explained about her feeling toward Nick.

**Data 3 (01:17:33 – 01:19:32)**

Greta : “Let o guess, he’s trying to watch the big game and you just won’t shut up. No, you don’t seem like much of a talker. I got it, you caught your boy rubbing up on some hot little skank and he apologized to you by bosting you a good one”.

Amy : “Worse. I went to the Bar where he works to surprise him, and out he comes with a girl who had no business being in a Bar. On the way, first night that we met, we walked by a bakery that was having their sugar delivered and it was in the air, everywhere. A sugar storm and before he kissed me, he leaned in and did this. And you guess what?”

Greta : “What?”

Amy : “He did the exact same thing with her”.

Greta: “That is the most disgusting thing I ever heard”.

Amy : “Thank you”.

From the dialogue above we know that how Amy feels that she was very angry and disappointed with Nick, after all the things that she gave to Nick but Nick decided to cheating on her and he wanted to choose that girl then divorced Amy. This type of conflict classified as external conflict which is social conflict between Amy versus Nick and Andie. Then this conflict influenced the psychological condition of Amy that is the aspect of emotion. Amy’s emotion suddenly appears when she saw her husband was cheating on her. Emotion is not always we can see in human attitude because it will appear when someone in the situation that she does not like. As this case Amy’s emotions suddenly appears when she saw her husband kissed another girl. By emotion people also usually make some decisions in their life. In Amy’s case she decided to gone from Nick’s life for a while because she wanted to teach Nick a lesson and she wanted to put Nick in jail. Because she already left all the evidences that can be easily found by the police to prove that Nick is the mastermind of his wife disappearance.

**External Conflicts between Amy with Greta and Greta’s boyfriend**

Data 4 below shows the situation when Amy and Greta watching a news about “Amy’s disappearance” in the television. As the writer analysis, Amy wanted to teach Nick a lesson. She already made a manipulation of her disappearance and tries to tell the public that Nick is the mastermind of Amy’s disappearance. When Greta saw that news, she said that the girl in that news (which is Amy itself) is just a girl who very stupid and spoiled. Below is the picture and the dialogue that shows Amy and Greta in that situation.



**Figure 4.** (Social conflict between Amy and Greta)  
Source: Gone Girl Movie

**Data 4 (01:25:10 – 01:28:21)**

Greta: “Ha-ha-ha.. Oh, I’d love it just once, someone was like...she was “a real rag”. “Ha-ha-ha. Seem like a rich bitch to me”.

Amy : “What do you mean? People love her”.

Greta: “I don’t know. She seems uppity. Spoiled rich girl, married a cheating asshole. Paid the ultimate price”.

Greta came to the toilet, then Amy spat Greta’s drink.

Amy : “A little harsh”.

Greta: “That’s life, baby”.

Figure 4 and the dialogue as above, we saw that Amy does not accept Greta’s words. Because of that Amy decided to spit Greta’s drink when Greta went to the toilet. This situation also saw the first incident between Greta and Amy, Amy thinks that Greta was not on her side then Amy decided to go to her house and left Greta alone. After that incident the relationship between Amy and Greta became not good. This type of conflict belongs to external conflict which is social conflict, as this case conflict between Amy and Greta, her new neighbor in that place. This conflict also is the trigger that influenced Amy’s psychological condition that is the aspect of Emotion. Because Amy heard that Greta mocked her as she said when they were watching a news together because of that Amy’s emotion suddenly appears then she decided to spit Greta’s drink. After that Amy also decided to keep a distance between her and Greta.

Data 5 below shows the situation when Greta and her boyfriend visited Amy at her house, because Greta realized that Amy was made a distance from her. Not only that, Greta and her boyfriend was also suspicious that Amy had a mission about something that Amy never told to Greta before. Amy also told that she just a poor girl and her husband always beat her because of that she decided to move to that place. But Greta thinks that Amy was lied to her because she saw Amy had a lot of money. After knew about that Greta asked her boyfriend to come to Amy’s house and took that money from Amy, because in fact Greta and her boyfriend is a bad people. Unfortunately, Amy does not realize about that. Below is the picture that shows Amy versus Greta and Greta’s boyfriend when they were visited Amy in her house.



**Figure 5.** (Physical conflict between Amy and Greta)  
Source: Gone Girl Movie

Figure 5 shows the scene when Greta and her boyfriend forced to enter Amy's house and took Amy's money. In that moment Amy tries to tell them that she had no money, but Greta did not trust Amy anymore, she asked her boyfriend to search that money in Amy's room but he did not find it because Amy already puts that money in her bag. The picture above also supported by the following dialogue as below.

**Data 5 (01:37:25 – 01:38:47)**

Greta: "Hello"..

Amy : "Hey"

Greta: "You clearing out?"

Amy : "No, just cleaning up".

Greta: "Let us come in and say goodbye".

Greta's boyfriend: "Let us give you a hand".

After they entered Amy's room. They was trying to get Amy's money.

Greta's boyfriend: "Where is the money, sweetheart ?"

Greta: "Look under her dress".

Amy: "The second you leave, I'm calling the cops".

Greta: "Your glasses are fake, your hair's dyed all hamster. You say your name Nancy, but you don't even answer to it half the time. You're hiding. I don't know why and I don't really care. But you ain't gonna call the cops and I don't think you've ever really been hit before".

Suddenly Greta pushed Amy's head into the wall

Greta's boyfriend: "Sorry, but we really need the money".

Greta: "Next place, be more careful okay?"

Based on the dialogue above shows that Amy and Greta they were arguing about a mission that Amy never told to Greta. Actually, Greta never cares and asked Amy to tell her about that issue because she just wanted to get Amy's money. But if Amy lost her money, she does not have much money again to complete her mission. After they were arguing, Greta pushed Amy's head very hard until Amy hit the wall. This type of conflict classified as external conflict which is physical conflict between Amy, Greta, and Greta's boyfriend. As this case, Amy and Greta had a fight that used their physics. This conflict also effected to Amy's psychological condition that is the aspect of feeling and attitude. Amy thinks that it was unpleasant situation because of that she decided to move again into another place and tries to find another solution to complete her mission because the money that she had was taken by Greta and Greta's boyfriend. It can be defined also that Amy's attitude, when she wants to make a decision, she usually used her feeling.

**External Conflicts between Amy and Mr. Desi Collings**

Data 6 below shows the situation when Amy decided to call her friend Mr. Desi Colling that she thinks he can help Amy to solve her problems. Desi is a friend and also fans fanatic of Amy since they were in Vocational High School. Desi really like Amy and wanted to make Amy to be his wife, but Amy never like Desi. Until now Desi still have not a wife yet, because he still loves Amy. After the incident that happened between Amy and Greta, she decided to leave that place and met with Desi. When they met in the café, Amy told Desi that Nick never makes Amy happy after they got married. Unlike, Nick always do the violence to her and also Amy told to Desi that Nick wanted to kill her. After know that story Desi invited Amy to live in Desi's Lake house. But unfortunately, in Desi house Amy was arranged the last section of her mission and she decided to kill Desi that she used as her scapegoat, so she can back to her house and life again with Nick. Below is the picture that showing the situation when Amy killed Desi.



**Figure 6. (Physical conflict between Amy and Desi)**  
Source: Gone Girl Movie

The picture above shows the scene when Amy killed Desi Collings in Desi's Lake house. Desi was very shocked when he knew that Amy wants to kill him, but he cannot do anything again to help himself because Amy already prepared all of the things to complete her mission. Amy already put a knife under the pillow in Desi's room, because Amy knew that Desi really infatuated with her, she invited Desi to have sex with her. While they have a sex Amy suddenly wafted the knife to Desi's neck. Not long after that Desi died. Below is the dialogue that supported the picture above, before Amy killed Desi.

**Data 6 (02:03:17 – 02:06:21)**

Desi: "Mr. Collings is home".

Amy: "Hello, Mr. Collings. I've missed you. I've been thinking. I don't wanna be without you. Stay with me. And when all this dies down we'll go to Greece, like you said".

Desi: "How long do you think until it's done?"

Amy: "Not long, six months for the trial. Sentencing will be quick"

Desi: "He'll appeal".

Amy: "I can watch the rest overseas".

After that Amy took off her dress and Desi started to kiss Amy, then Amy opened Desi's clothes and kissed Desi back until Desi's got hurt on his lips.

Desi: "Go slowly".

Amy: "But I want it!"

Desi: "Don't rush".

Amy: "Just do it".

The situation that happened between Amy and Desi is categorized as external conflict which is physical conflict. This conflict happens between someone with something from external sources or with other characters in the movie, as this case physical conflict shown between Amy and Desi. This conflict influenced the psychological aspect of Want. Amy wanted to use Desi as her scapegoat that she can use to tell the public that the cause of her disappearance is Desi. Amy told to the public and Nick that Desi was raped and kidnapped her all of this time.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the data that has been presented in the discussion as above, the writer conclude that conflict can influenced the psychological condition of Amy as the main character in Gone Girl movie. Overall, there 33 types of external conflicts faced by Amy as found in Gone Girl movie, they are conflicts of Amy versus her husband (Nick), her parents, society, Greta, Tommy, Desi, Andie, the Police and Margo. Furthermore, those conflicts gradually influenced Amy's psychological condition in the aspect of her Appetite, Want, Emotion, Social Motives, Feeling and attitude. Moreover, that situation also changed Amy's behavior and also, she become a psychopath. This study proves that conflict can be a biggest factor that can be affected to Amy's psychology, because when the conflict arises it will trigger Amy's emotion, by this emotion Amy can do anything in subconsciously and sooner or later if she cannot handle her emotion properly it can influence her psychological condition.

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