

BOOK REVIEW OF NOW AND FOREVER WRITTEN BY DANIELLE

STEEL

By Mochamad Memorial Angga Eka Sampurna
Project Advisor: Dr. Ratna Asmarani, M.Ed., M. Hum
English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University
Jl. Profesor Soedarto, Tembalang 50269 Semarang, Jawa Tengah

Introduction

Literature can express human feeling in several ways of action in life, and some of them are reflected by literary works, such a poetry, drama, prose and others. Novel is one of literary works in literature. *Now and Forever* is a novel written by Danielle Steel that tells the unusual love story. A love story in the boundaries of marriage. Steel tries to explain that love is not always fun, sometimes love needs a sacrifice for the happiness. This novel show about the reality of a love story who needs a great sacrifice to last long.

The writer is interested in reviewing the novel *Now and Forever* because the background of the story affirms on the sacrificing as the important points. *Now and Forever* as the International Bestselling Novel must have some important point that attracts the readers to read it. The writer loves *Now and Forever* because this novel has a lot of good things that could be taken. Although the story makes the readers annoyed, it also gives the readers a look at the affection, patience, and kindness. The writer hopes that the novel could be something interesting to discuss in this paper.

Biography of Danielle Steel

Danielle Steel has sold 650 million copies of her books internationally, and every one of her books is a bestseller. She is published in 69 countries and 43 languages. All of which have leapt to the top of the Best Seller list, the Wall Street Journal list, and comparable best seller lists around the world.

Summary of the Novel

The summary of the novel is when Ian Clarke a writer who was not so successful, had lunch in Enrico's restaurant before he picks up his wife, Jessica Clarke, from the airport. He met a woman wearing a straw hat named Maggie and he offered to drive her home, she agreed. When they arrived at the hotel where she stayed, he was offered to drink wine and they both had sex afterwards. Jessica arrived from New York in the evening after bought some fall fashion collection for Lady J, her boutique.

Next day when Jessica was working in the Lady J, police inspector from San Francisco police department told her that Ian Clarke was arrested for the rape and forced tier 3. Jessica was surprised about this news and immediately called her lawyer, Martin Schwartz. Ian told Martin everything about that incident, he admitted that he had sex with Maggie but he refused that he raped Maggie because she gave consent to do it. Martin proposed to suspend detention on bail, but Ian refused it because he did not want to give Jessica problem. She only wanted him to be at her side forever, she did not want Ian to leave.

Next day Jessica went to bail bond office to pay Ian suspend detention. She was willing the house, boutique and her mother's jewelry to be guaranteed for

Ian. Ian was released in the evening, and waited for trial next few weeks. After two trials, the judge punished Ian with two years in jail. Jessica lost half of her soul and became crazy and mad to Maggie who entrapped another man like what she did to Ian after Martin's investigation, only to revenge and her satisfaction.

Review of *Now and Forever* by Danielle Steel

The writer reviewed the points of this novel by classifying them into two parts: the strengths and the weaknesses of the novel. There are three points that the writer discovers as the strengths of this novel including analysis of theme, main characters, and point of view. The first strength is the theme of the story. In this novel, love theme plays an important role in the part of the story. Love is not always going to be happy. Sometimes love needs a sacrifice. Like what Jessica does to save Ian. Jessica always loves Ian. She will do anything for the sake of her love to Ian. Jessica is willing to guarantee her house, boutique, and jewelry that keep a lot of memories of her mother for the sake of Ian.

The second theme is loneliness. Loneliness is an important part of the novel. The causes of loneliness are varied including social, mental, emotional, or even physical factors. Jessica feels lonely when Ian is imprisoned. She is scared, she does not have anyone else who understands her except Ian. When she feels lonely Jessica always hears her parents and her young brother voices who have been dead. This indicates that Jessica becomes insane because she is afraid of being lonely.

The second strength is characters and characterization. The main characters in this novel are Jessica Clarke. She is a tough woman. Her parents are dead now, they had not been young when she was born. Her mother was in her late thirties, her father just past forty-five. And Jessica was four when Jake, her brother was born and he died when he was serving in the Vietnam war. She is lonely. She does not have women friends. She had Ian. He is her best friend, her lover, even her brother, now that Jake was dead. Ian is everything for Jessica. Jessica is always repaying other people kindness. When Jessica is saved by Ian from her suffering from the death of the parents and brother, she supports Ian to resign from his job in advertisement company to become the full-time writer.

The second main character is Ian Clarke. Ian is the Jessica husband. He is sexy and attractive, handsome, elegant. He is a man with romantic gesture who always supports Jessica. He always works hard to repay what Jessica does to him. Ian does not want to be a gigolo who is supported by his wife. He wants his role as a head household can be restored. When Ian had been able to sell his book written when he was imprisoned, he buys new car for Jessica for replacement of the car that Jessica sells for his guarantee.

The last strength is point of view. The narrator in this novel is the author Danielle Steel, a woman. Steel is perfect to describe Jessica who is the main character of this story. The writer believes that a female author is able to write accurately about female character if she writes from the female point of view. They have experienced life as woman that will help them to describe the heroine perfectly.

The novel also has weaknesses behind its strength. The first weakness is that the author gives too many supporting characters in this novel. The reader will be difficult to remember their name or their contribution in the story. There are some supporting characters that appear in the story but they never develop. There is almost no contribution to this story in some minor character. The second weakness is the ending of the story. The writer thinks that the ending feels so bland without exposing the fraud of the main villain. The readers may be disappointed with the ending because this story is very good in the beginning but in the end, many problems that should be explained but the author leaving it unsolved.

Conclusion

Now and Forever is one of the greatest of Danielle Steel novels. *Now and Forever* is a novel that tells the love story of a married couple to maintain their relationship. Jessica and Ian face many obstacles in their relationship.

Now and Forever has some strengths that make it a good reading. The writer uses intrinsic elements in analyzing the strengths namely theme, main character, and point of view. While the weaknesses of this novel namely supporting characters and the ending.

Although the novel has weaknesses, this novel is highly recommended to read. Especially to those who love reading a love story. *Now and Forever* can be useful for the readers because this novel teaches us that love needs sacrifice, and love will never be beaten, no matter what happened along the way. The ups and

downs and the hardship are those, among the things, that the book teaches the readers to appreciate their loves.

REFERENCES

- Fromm, Erich. (2006). *The Art of Loving*. New York: Harper Collins
- Hicks, Malcolm & Hutchings, Bill (1989). *Literary criticism: a practical guide for students*. New York: Edward Arnold
- Kennedy, X. J. (1991). *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama (Second Edition)*. New York: Harper Collins
- Steel, Danielle. (1978). *Now and Forever*. New York: Dell Publishing
- _____. (2000). *Now and Forever*. (Diterjemahkan oleh Ny.Suwarni A.S). *Sekarang dan Selamanya*. Jakarta: Gramedia.
- _____. *Danielle Steel Biography*. 20 July 2017.
<http://daniellesteel.com/about-danielle/>