CHAPTER III

DISCUSSION

3.1. Summary of the Story

Black Swan is set in New York City, where a respected ballet company is making plans to put on a production of Swan Lake. Aging ballet superstar Beth Macintyre (Winona Ryder) has been kicked to the curb, and company director Thomas Leroy (Vincent Cassel) is looking for some fresh meat to fill the dual lead role of the White Swan and the Black Swan. The frontrunner is Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman), a beautiful and talented ballerina. Another dancer competing for the part is Lily (Mila Kunis), an exotic beauty who is more in touch with her sensuality than Nina.

As everyone auditions and frets about the upcoming ballet, the audience gets a glimpse of Nina’s life at home. She lives with her controlling mother (Barbara Hershey), herself a failed dancer. She hopes Nina will surpass her limited success, so she pushes the young woman at every turn.

Leroy is in a bit of a pickle, as he wants to cast Nina but he does not know if she has what it takes to embody the Black Swan role. Just in case, he casts the naturally sensual Lily as her understudy.

Nina develops an unsightly rash on her shoulder, and at the same time begins to be plagued by bizarre and graphically brutal visions. Things are not going any
better at work, as her inhibitions are holding her back, and her reluctance to sleep with Thomas are making him increasingly frustrated. She becomes convinced that Lily is scheming behind her back to take the lead role. When she arrives at the theatre, she is shocked to find Lily dancing the part of the Swan Queen.

The rash on Nina’s shoulder is getting worse, and picking at the wound reveals several black feathers imbedded inside. Her mother’s paintings are also talking to her, and the horrific visions continue. It becomes too much for Nina to take, and she falls over, knocking herself out in the process. Nina becomes violent, savagely lashing out at her parent in an effort to make the show on time. Once backstage at the theatre, she begins to prepare in earnest.

The first act is a disaster. Nina’s partner drops her while they dance, and she returns backstage to find Lily waiting in her dressing room, dressed as the Black Swan. Nina attacks her, breaking a mirror and stabbing Lily with one of the shards. Hiding the corpse of her rival, Nina returns to the stage for the second act and gives a brilliant performance. Nina imagines that black feathers have sprouted from her body.

When she returns to her dressing room to prepare for the final act, she finds Lily waiting to congratulate her. As it turns out, Nina did not stab Lily. Noticing the broken mirror, Nina realizes that her fevered brain caused her to stab herself. But she heads to the stage anyway, dancing with both passion and abandon as her life fades away. She tries to leap to her death in an emulation of the Swan Queen, and the members of the concerned cast and crew surround her. Proud of her performance, Nina triumphantly comments as she does, she said she was perfect.
3.2. The Symptoms of Mental Disorder

According to Maslim (2013:7) “Symptom of mental disorder in general includes, clinical symptoms (behavioral and psychological patterns), suffering (pain, discomfort, not peaceful, disturbed, organ dysfunction) and disabilities (bathing, dressing, eating, personal hygiene.)”

Among the symptom of mental disorders above, the writer found out in the movie that symptom of mental disorder in Nina Sayers are suffering and clinical (behavioral and psychological patterns). It can be seen in dialog and scene as follow:

a. Suffering

This symptom includes pain, discomfort, not peaceful, disturbed, and organ disfunction.

Supporting Data 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thomas</th>
<th>“What’s going on?”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nina</td>
<td>“Lily… You made her my alternate?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>“There’s always an alternate. Lily is the best choice.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nina</td>
<td>“No, she wants my role.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>“Every dancer in the world wants your role”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nina</td>
<td>“No, this is different. She is after me.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“She is trying to replace me.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>“Nobody is after you.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nina</td>
<td>“No, please believe me.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(01:17:30)

From the dialogue above, it explains that Nina feels discomfort and not peaceful because she thinks Lily is trying to replace her role as a Swan Queen. Thomas tries to convinced her that Lily or nobody is going to replace her role but she keeps saying that Thomas is wrong.
b. Clinical (psychological and behavioral patterns)

**Supporting Data 2**

Lily : “Rough start, huh? Must have been pretty humiliating.”
Nina : “Get out of my room!”
Lily : “I’m worried about the next act.”
      “I’m not sure you’re feeling up to it”.
Nina : “Stop. Please stop.”
Lily : “How about I dance the Black Swan for you?”
Nina : “Leave me alone!”
      “It’s my turn!”

(01:33:46)

From the the scene above, it is clearly pictured Nina psychological is disturbed. Nina becomes emotionally unstable. Her behavioral becomes abnormal. Nina does not want Lily replace her role as Black swan. Lily comes into Nina’s room and asks her if she wants to dance the Black Swan for her. After hearing that Nina becomes insane, Nina slammed Lily's head into the mirror, then stabbed her with a broken glass, shouting that it was her turn. Nina hides Lily’s body in the bathroom. In the next later scene, Lily reappeared, and from there it was known that Nina was just hallucinating. She never killed Lily, all she did was stab herself

**Supporting Data 3**

![Figure III.1 Nina sees her other self](image)

(00:52:53)
The scene above shows when Nina bathing in the tub. Nina tries to dip her face in the bath tub. She sees a glimpse of another herself in front her face with a creepy smile. In reality, there is no other of herself, it is just her hallucination. The writer assumes her psychological is disturbed, she starts seeing things that are not there.

Supporting Data 4

Nina: “Don’t come in here!”
Nina’s mother: “What’s this?”
Nina: “It’s called privacy. I’m not twelve anymore.”
Nina’s mother: “You’re not my Nina right now.”
Nina: “Leave me alone!”

(01:08:01)

In that scene above, it can be seen that her behavioral changes. Nina got drunk and goes home with Lily. Nina begins to feel disgusted with her mother's possessiveness. She runs into her room, and slams the door in front of her mother’s face. From what Nina’s mother’s words, and Nina’s reply, the writer assumes that Nina’s behavioral changes as she starts to rebel against her mother.

3.3. The Types of Mental Disorder

Australian Government Health (2016:1) lists some most common types of mental disorder. In the movie Black Swan, the writer concludes there are two types of mental disorders experienced by Nina Sayers, namely eating disorders and schizophrenia.
a. Eating disorder

The sign of this disorder are intense fear of weight gain, obsession with weight and persistent behavior to prevent weight gain.

Supporting Data 5

Nina’s mother: “My daughter, the Swan Queen.”
Nina: “It’s our favorite. Vanilla with strawberry filling.”
Nina: “Oh, Mom, not too big.”
“**Oh, that’s way, way too much.**”
Nina’s mother: “It’s a celebration. It’s just this once.”
Nina: “**Mom. My stomach still in knots.**”
Nina’s mother: “**Fine. Then it’s garbage.**”
Nina: “No, mom, don’t. I’m sorry.”

(00:25:41)

After Nina’s mother hears about Nina’s success on taking the role of Black Swan, she tries to suggest a piece of cake. However, Nina declines it because she does not want to gain any weight and her mother expresses sudden anger and attempts to throw the cake away.

Supporting Data 6

Nina: “**What are you doing here?**”
Lily: “I just came by to apologize.”
“**You’re right. I should have never spoken to him about you.**”
Nina’s mother: “**Sweetheart…**”
Nina: “**Give me a second.**”
Nina’s mother: “**Your dinner…**”
Nina: “**Mom, please.**”
Lily: “**Oh, she’s a trip.**”
Nina: “**How do you know where I live?**”
Lily: “**I have my ways.**”
“Jesus, relax. I got it from Susie in the office.”
Lily: “**Look, I feel really shitty about what I did.**”
“**And, I want to make it up to you.**”
“**How about I take you to dinner?**”
Nina: “**I don’t think…**”
Lily: “Okay. That’s fine. What about drinks?”

(00:57:38)
In that scene Nina refuses the offer for a dinner from her mother. Lily also asks Nina to have a dinner, but Nina hesitates for a while by saying she does not want to. When Lily offers only go for a drink, Nina immediately accepts it. The writer assumes this scene illustrates how eager Nina to be in perfect shape so she rejected those offer.

**Supporting Data 7**

![Image](image.png)

*Figure III.2 Nina is happy because she lost her weight*

(01:16:37)

In that scene, it is depicted that Nina has an eating disorder because when the woman who is fitting her costume for the stage says that Nina has lost some weight. The woman turns around and it can be seen that Nina smiles slightly. It shows Nina is satisfied with the result of not eating. Also it shows the obsession of weight suffered by Nina.
b. Schizophrenia

Schizophrenia is a type of mental disorder in which a person cannot tell what is real from what is imagined. The world may seem like a maze of confusing thoughts, images, and sounds. The behavior of people with schizophrenia may be very strange and even shocking.

Supporting Data 8

Figure III.3 Nina meets her ‘other’ self for the first time

(00:15:32)

In that scene, it can be seen the beginning of mental disorder (schizophrenia) suffered by Nina. This disorder can be resulting in hallucinations, paranoid delusions, and disorganized thinking and speech. On the way home after the screening for the lead role, Nina met with her other self passes her by, wearing all black clothes with mysterious smile, the opposite of herself. The other self of Nina smiles to Nina with total different aura, a dark aura. It is the time when Nina’s hallucinations begin
Supporting Data 9

Figure III.4 The other Nina cutting herself

(00:52:53)

The scene above shows when Nina bathing in the tub. She sees another herself in the mirror but with a horrible face. Nina finds out her finger covered in blood and she notices her nails which turns out wounded. After that the other Nina (she imagines it herself) in the mirror was cutting her nails till it bleeding while the real Nina did not do that it was only her hallucination.

Supporting Data 10

Figure III.5 Nina sees the other of herself

(01:16:53)
After fitting costumes for the stage, as she depressed and afraid her role will be replaced by Lily. Nina was again having hallucinations. In the mirror in the fitting room, she sees her reflection did not match with her action, Nina’s reflection scratching her back, which is the real Nina did not do that, which is already known that it is a bad habit of Nina previously. Nina is panicked and run away from the fitting room.

Supporting Data 11

Figure III.6 Nina sees the painting moving

(01:23:52)

In the scene above, it shows Nina cannot distinguish between the reality and what is not. Nina is searching her mother in the entire house. When she comes into her mother’s room, she panicked and anxious to see all the paintings of her made by her mother were moving and chanting "sweet girl".
In that scene Nina perceives herself transforming into a Black Swan. As she dancing on the stage she imagines herself turn into a real Black Swan. Her feet and legs become bird-like and her back sprouts feather and wings to transform into an actual Black Swan. Her aura becomes dark, it seems like it is different Nina. This transformation articulates Nina becoming a true Black Swan in terms of mental state.

3.4. The Factors of Mental Disorder

There are three factors that cause mental disorder in general includes, biological, psychological, and social or external factors. In the movie Black Swan, the writer concludes that the factors affecting Nina are psychological and social factors that made Nina has mental disorder.

a. Psychological Factor

Psychological factor is the factor from inside itself.
Supporting Data 13

Nina : “I just want to be perfect”
Thomas : “You what?”
Nina : “I want to be perfect.”
Thomas : “Perfection is not about the control. It is also about letting go. Surprise yourself so you can surprise the audience. Transcendence. And very few have it in them.”
Nina : “I think I do have it in me.”

(00:21:12)

In that scene Nina comes to see Thomas with seductive makeup. She comes with a request to play a role as the Swan Queen. Nina also expresses her obsession to be perfect, she said it herself. Thomas told her to lose herself. It can be seen that Nina’s psychological is slightly disturbed, because she was willing to do anything for her obsession, to be perfect.

Supporting Data 14

Thomas : “No, you should not be whining in the first place.”
Nina : “I did not.”
Thomas : “You could be brilliant. But, you are a coward.”
Nina : “Sorry.”
Thomas : “No, stop saying that! That’s exactly what I am talking about! Stop being so fucking weak!”

(00:54:13)

In that scene above, Thomas scold Nina because she was too weak. The writer concludes Nina is already disturbed because she is whining all the time but she does not accept that fact.
b. Social (external) Factor.

Social or external factor is factor from outside the patient. In this case, Nina got it from her mother who is really possessive and over protective toward her.

Supporting Data 15

Nina’s mother: “Where did you get these?”
Nina: “They are fake.”
Nina’s mother: “Fooled me.”
Nina: “I can do it”
Nina’s mother: “He has been by your side all night.”
“Showing you off.”
Nina’s mother: “Oh Nina…”
Nina: “It is just a rash.”
Nina’s mother: “Rash? What are you talking about?”
Nina: “It was worse a few days ago. It is fine already.”

In the scene above, Nina's mother showed excessive possessiveness towards her daughter, Nina. Nina’s mother asks Nina about the earrings, which is turned out that was fake, she wants to know everything about Nina. After sees the rash in Nina’s back, Nina's mother undressing her adult children assumes Nina’s age is still far below the reality. Nina feels uncomfortable and wants to do it herself but her mother forces her and Nina ends up obey it. The writer considers the excessive possessiveness of Nina’s is one factor in mental disorder that affects Nina.

Supporting Data 16

Nina’s mother: “I just don’t want you to make the same mistake I did.”
Nina: “Thanks”
Nina’s mother: “Not like that. I just mean as far as my career concerned.”
Nina: “What career?”
Nina’s mother: “The one I gave up to have you.”
Nina: “I’m 28.”
Nina’s mother: “So?”
In that scene also illustrates how possessive Nina’s mother to her daughter. It also can be seen in that dialogue that Nina’s mother has a reason from the past that cause her possessiveness to Nina. Nina’ mother interrogates several questions and Nina does not want to answer them. Nina's mother ends up asking her skin condition and again forces to undressing Nina.

Supporting Data 17

In that scene above, Nina got drunk and goes home with Lily. Nina begins to feel disgusted with her mother's possessiveness. She runs into her room, and slams the door in front of her mother’s face, and shouts she is not twelve anymore. She begins to rebel against her mother. The writer assumes that this one external factor that affect Nina because she already feel disgust with the upbringing of her mother, it can be seen when Nina told her mother to leave her alone.
The writer concludes that the most factor which cause mental disorder in Nina is the external factor because Nina has been living with her extremely possessive mother since along time ago.

3.5. The Message of the Story

From the movie *Black Swan* the writer concludes that the message can be taken from this movie is as parents we should not impose the will of our child because it can make our child’s mental becomes disturbed. As a child, we also have to say what we wanted although it against the our parents’ wishes. It is better to expressed and negotiated what we want rather than keep it to ourselves and leads to overthinking which continues to mental disorders like Nina had in the movie.