

## **CHAPTER III**

### **ANALYSIS**

#### **A. The Intrinsic Analysis**

In this subchapter, the writer only analyzes the plot, the characters and the natural settings of the movie to support the writer's study about Claire's ambition in creating the perfect housewives.

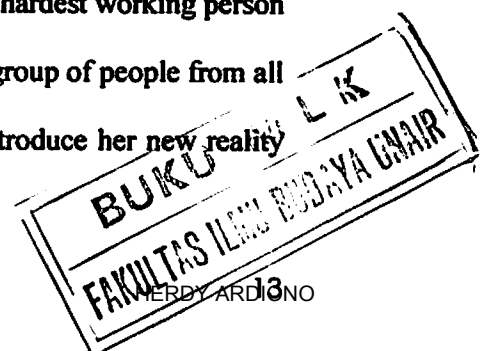
##### **1. Plot Analysis**

In this analysis, the writer will write the complete story of the movie from the beginning until the end. After that, the writer will analyze the story which part of the story is the introduction, the raising action, the climax, the falling action and the final outcome. The writer also analyzes the conflict of the story since it pertains to the analysis of Claire's ambition and her psychological condition

To come to the better understanding, the writer will divide this analysis in two parts:

##### **a. Story**

The story begins with Joanna Eberhart, a legend in EBS industry. She is the most successful president in the history of EBS network. For the past five years she has kept EBS at the very top of the ratings. She is going to take EBS right to the edge. She is genius, the most powerful and the hardest working person in television. She gives a press conference to the fantastic group of people from all across the great network and EBS network affiliates to introduce her new reality



show, the battle of sexes, that is: Balance of Power and I Can Do Better. She said that I Can Do Better is not just a TV show. It is a breakthrough, a breakout, a break all the rules and brings on the Emmys mega smash. It is planet's ultimate reality phenomenon.

*I Can Do Better* is a reality show about faithfulness. There is a happily married couple, they are flown first class to a tropical island paradise. They will be completely surrounded by professional prostitutes. And at the end of the week they have to choose whether they back to their couple or choose the professional prostitute.

The first contestant of this reality show is Hank, a personnel manager from Omaha, and Barbara He has spent the entire seven days with Vanessa, a prostitute and exotic dancer. He admits that he had some fun in the hot tub but he did nothing except talking because he loves his wife. He only wants to be beside his wife, Barbara, in Omaha.

Barbara, his wife, spent her week with many hunks. She spent Monday with Rocky, a bodybuilder and male escort, Tuesday to Thursday with the entire cast of the XXX film Hung Jury, and for the entire weekend with Tonkiro, a professional gigolo. She chose all the hunks.

In the end of her speech, Joanna gets a surprise, Hank comes to the press conference. He loses his mind and tries to kill Joanna. He shoots her with a gun. Luckily, the bullets do not hit her and she is alive.

The problem started when Joanna was fired from her job. It was because of Hank. Right before he tried to kill Joanna, he went to see his ex-wife and five of her new boyfriends. He shot all of them. The wife was in critical condition and

four of the guys were on life support. All of the affiliates will not touch Joanna's shows because of this accident. EBS has shareholders. They cannot let Joanna sink the network. That is why they have to fire her.

After she got fired, Joanna had a complete nervous collapse. Her perfect marriage in trouble, unable to remember where her kids go to school, Joanna was starting to look like a candidate for electroshock therapy. The doctors said that there was a lot of work to do but she was going to just fine.

Walter, a vice president in EBS and also Joanna's husband, calls the Television network and quits the minute after he heard the news. He could never work for those people after the way they treat his wife. Then, he takes her to move to another town so she can forget her problems and have a great new life. They move to Stepford Estates, Connecticut.

When Walter, Joanna and their two kids arrive to the Stepford, they are directly welcomed by Claire Wellington. She takes them to take a peek for their new house. She said that it is the perfect house for them. It is the top of the line at Stepford Estates. It has got everything an American family could ever need. It is also a smart house. It is completed by the automatic security system. It can talk to the refrigerator, so they can know what ingredient which is out of stock. The system also monitors all the commodes where it will test your urine for blood sugar, protein and body fat.

The next morning after Joanna gets up, Claire takes her to take peek the estates and introduces her to the neighbors. She feels weird, because she is different from the other women in Stepford. They are well dressed and full make up just for aerobic. They call it clairobic because Claire invented it.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the entire citizens in Stepford gather in a town square. There, Joanna firstly meets Bobbie Markowitz, a successful book writer, and Roger Bannister, the amazing architect from The Times. They are connected each other from the very first time they meet. That is why they become really good friends.

In here, Joanna feels weird about the people. When Sarah, one of ladies in Stepford collapses after she overdoes the Stepford Square Dance, everybody just stands up and watches her spasmodic. Joanna feels weirder when Mike Wellington, Claire's husband, tries to heal Sarah. Mike does not allow anyone to call an ambulance. He only breaks Sarah's neck and then she heals. Joanna sees sparks coming out of Sarah ears when Mike heals Sarah. That thing makes Joanna get the first seriously spooked. She thinks something wrong about this.

Joanna and Walter fight each other because of this. Joanna thinks that it is very strange about what happens in the town square, but Walter says that there is nothing strange. In the end of their fighting, Joanna confesses that Walter is right and she apologizes to him.

Now, Joanna is trying to make an effort to change. She tries to act like the other Stepford wives. She tries to be a stay-home mother, the toughest job in the world. The first thing to do is not wearing black sites like usual. Bobbie thinks that she looks kind of Betty Crocker with her new looks.

Stepford Men's Community is the place where the entire stepford husband can get together and stay out of the wives. They discuss their wives and share their problems. Women are not allowed to visit it except they have been changed into robots. In this place, Walter's amazed by Tad, the other men's contentment.

He is even more amazed when a man summons his wife and asks for twenty dollars. She sticks his cash card in her mouth and then spits out first the card then twenty one-dollar bills. That is when he persuaded by Mike to change his wife into a robot.

Joanna, Bobbie and Roger suspect Men's Association as a strange place. That is why, they want to investigate those place. Roger is right person to do this job. It is because although he is a gay, he is a man. Only man can enter that place. But this moment is used by Jerry, Roger's boyfriend, to change him into a robot.

The next 2 days, Bobbie and Joanna want to know the story of the Men's association from Roger, but they cannot find him. The weird thing is that Bobbie and Joanna find Roger's favorite clothes, Dolce and Gabbana, Gucci and Versace, in a trash in front of his house. Even, his favorite actor's picture that he loves so much is in a trash. It is very strange because all of them are his favorite thing.

Joanna and Bobbie are more surprise on Jerry campaign because they see Roger as the new candidate for the state senate. He does not act feminine anymore. He acts like a real man. The weird thing is he ever said that he hates to do politics because it is like wanting to be a gay with a bad haircut but now suddenly he changes his mind.

Joanna wants to move as soon as possible from Stepford after seeing Roger suddenly changes. She feels something wrong with this place. This place does something to people. All of the women are always busy and perfect and smiling and all of the men are always happy. She feels that it is not normal. Walter pretends that he agree with her and convince her to leave Stepford the next day. He plans to change Joanna into a robot but she does not know.

The night after this, Joanna finds a remote control with her name on it. It makes her know that Walter wants to change her like other Stepford husbands do to their wives. But she still does not know how they do it. Then, she searches on an internet and find that all of the women in Stepford is used to be super power women. They are CEOs, executives, judges. But in Stepford, they are suddenly just wanted to be housewives.

The next morning, Joanna wants to tell Bobbie what she has found in internet about all of the Stepford wives. But she got a surprise once again. She got Bobbie change into somebody else. Bobbie's house that usually mess up turn to be clean. The way she speaks is also different. She used to be a sarcastic woman, but now she speaks politely.

The changes of Bobbie makes Joanna wants to leave Stepford right away. She picks her children on the day camp but she cannot find them because Walter has picked them first. It makes her angry with him. She tries to find Walter and her children at home but she cannot find them. Then, she comes to the Men's Association and finally she finds her husband. Walter gives a reason why he does this to her. It is because he has tired to work under Joanna. In the end, Walter commands Joanna to be changed into a robot.

Claire and Mike celebrate the changes of Joanna into a robot. They make a Waltz Dance Party to honor their very newest citizens of Stepford. They are Joanna and Walter. The night is truly the highlight of their year.

In the middle of the party, Walter enters the robot maker room. He breaks the entire machine so all the Stepford wives get conscious. All of the Stepford

people finally discover Claire is the brains behind the whole town and that Mike is the robot.

In the end of the movie, the life of Joanna, Bobbie, Roger and all of the Stepford citizens have been back to normal. Joanna produces the hard hitting documentary, *Stepford: The Secret of the Suburb*. It won six Emmys. Her marriage with Walter is also fine because they know for sure that it is not about perfection. Joanna and Walter are eventually able to achieve peace in their marriage. They realize that true love is not trying to dominate or change the other person. It is about sacrificing for them. The solution for our modern gender war is for both sexes to lay aside their selfish ambitions and support one another at home and workplace.

Bobbie writes her very first book of poetry. It is all about hope and communication and the healing power of love called *Wait Until He's Asleep, Then Cut It Off*. While Roger run and wins the election. He is in state senate. And all of the husbands get punished in Stepford. They have to do the housework so they can feel what women feel.

From the description above, the writer can find that the introduction of the movie is when Joanna introduces her new reality show. The rising action is when Joanna suspects that Stepford Estates is a weird place because all of its citizens are strange, the way they act and whatever they do is not like a real human. The climax is when Joanna finds all of her friends, Bobbie and Roger, become robots and her husband wants to change her too. The falling action is when Joanna and Walter find out that the brain of all the disaster is Claire and they fail all of Claire's dreams to change all of Stepford Estates' citizens into robots. The final

outcome of the movie is all of the Stepford citizens finally know their own mistake that they have to respect each other.

#### **b. Conflicts**

From the description of the story from the previous subchapter, the writer will analyze the conflict between Claire and other characters, that is Claire and Mike, Claire and herself, Claire and Joanna, Claire and Bobbie, Claire and Roger, and Claire and Walter.

The first conflict of the story is between Claire and Mike. Mike has an affair with another woman, that is Patricia, Claire's assistant. When she knows it, she is very angry and kills them.

She thinks she has already given her husband the best of her. She thinks that her husband proud of her because she reach the top of her job. But she has wrong. Her husband has an affair with another woman.

The second conflict is Claire against herself. Claire is a very busy woman. She has lots of activities outside the house and neglects her husband, Mike. That is why, Mike starts to have an affair with another woman.

After she kills Mike, she realizes that when he cheating on her, it is not completely his fault but it is also her own fault. It is all because she never cares about Mike. All she cares about is only her works outside the house. She blames herself of all this. Then, Claire changes herself into a perfect housewife, a woman who always cares about her family, her house and her appearance and becomes the role model for other woman; that they have to be perfect in everything.

But not all of women want to be total housewives. That is why; she wants to change all of women into perfect women by turning them into robots. She



thinks if all of the women do not want to be left by their husbands, they have to stay at home. They have to do the housework. They also have to serve their husband and their children. And the most important thing is, they have to take care of their appearance so they are look beautiful. They have to do all those things to please their husbands. Then, she also creates an estate named Stepford to realize her vision.

The third conflict is between Claire and Joanna. The first time Claire met Joanna, she see her in worn, dark, urban sweat clothes with stringy hair and almost no make up. In Stepford, Joanna has to dress like other wife. Even when she works out, she also has to look beautiful. She wears full dress and high heel.

Claire also thinks that Joanna is too suspicious about what happen in Stepford. Claire does not want her to investigate Stepford. Then, she command Mike to persuade Walter, Joanna's husband, to change her into a robot.

The fourth conflict is between Claire and Bobbie. Claire thinks that Bobbie cannot take care of her house. Bobbie's house is like a trash dumb. There are lots of trashes in her house. The house wares are completely mess. all of the women should be able to take care of cleanliness, especially at their house. They should not live with dirt because it is considered as unfeminine. Bobbie's house is like a dumb trash. That is why Claire wants her becomes a robot so she will be crazy with cleanliness.

Claire is also thinks that Bobbie's attitude does not show that she is a lady. Bobbie is a sarcastic woman. Bobbie often shouts to her husband. This behavior describes the impatience of Bobbie in facing her husband, Dave. When Dave wants her to do something, she always gets angry and shout to his husband. It

shows the bad attitude of Bobbie. In Stepford, all of women have good attitude. They speak politely. That is why Claire wants to changes her into robot.

The fifth conflict is between Claire and Roger. Roger's gay couple, Jerry, wants him to become a gay republican but Roger does not want to. Roger here considered as the wife. All of wives in Stepford always obey their husband's command. That is why Claire changes him into a robot.

The sixth conflict is between Claire and Walter. She uses Mike to persuade Walter to change Joanna into a robot and he already does it. But actually, he only pretends in doing it. He doesn't want to have a wife from radio shack. He doesn't want to have a wife who cannot say "I love you" from her own heart.

Walter tries to break all of program that controls all of wives in Stepford. It makes Mike get angry and try to kill Walter. In the middle of all this, Joanna tries to protect Walter by hitting Mike's head with an iron stick. Because of this, all of Stepford know that Mike is only a robot and Claire is the brain of all the disaster.

## **2. Character Analysis**

In this subchapter, the writer will only analyze the eight characters of the movie. Those characters are considered to be influential since they give much contribution to the analysis of the story of the movie.

### **a. Claire Wellington (Glenn Close)**

Claire Wellington is played by Glenn Close, the antagonist character of the movie. She is a beautiful woman with straight blond hair. She is the leader of the

**Stepford wives. She has a husband named Mike. She is the creator of the Stepford Estates.**

**The first time we meet Claire Wellington, she is the nicest and the friendliest person we have ever seen in Stepford Estates. She always smiles to the neighbors every time she meets them. That is why, the neighbors like her so much.**

**Claire is a woman who always takes care of her appearances. Whatever she does, she always wants to look her very best. She doesn't want her husband and other neighbors to see her in worn, dark, urban sweat clothes with stringy hair and almost no make up. Even when she works out, she also wants to look beautiful. She wears full dress and high heel.**

**Claire: "Well, of course. Whatever we do, we always want to look our very best. I mean, why, imagine if our husbands saw us in worn, dark, urban sweat clothes with stringy hair and almost no makeup?" (scene 4, 00:19:08)**

**Claire is also taking care of her attitude. We can see it in the way she talks and walks. The way she behaves in front of other people is also a way to show people that she has a good attitude.**

**Although she is only a house wife, she also has activities outside the house. Claire becomes an aerobic instructor. She usually gathers the wives on Simply Stepford Day Spa to do the aerobic thing. She names her aerobic move as Clairobics (scene 4, 00:19:38). The move is based on simple household.**

She also creates a book club to spare her time. She names it Stepford Book Club. She and other stepford wives discuss the book which they have read. They discuss what is the interesting thing on the book.

She loves her husband so much. She always shows people how she loves her husband. We can see it from how her eyes are shining when she is looking at his husband. She also flatters him to the neighbors. She looks proud becoming his wife.

In this movie, Claire belongs to the round character. In the beginning of the movie, Claire seems to be the nicest and the friendliest person in the Stepford Estates. But, actually she only pretends in doing it. In the end, she shows her real character, that she is a very rude and fake woman.



*Claire Wellington*

#### **b. Mike Wellington (Christopher Walken)**

Mike Wellington is played by Christopher Walken, the antagonist character of the movie. He is Claire's husband. He is the leader of the Stepford husbands.

Mike is a person who always becomes a shoulder to cry on by the Stepford husband. The husbands cannot do anything without him. When one of wives gets unconscious, all the husbands do not anything, they only watch her. But when

Mike comes, they feel glad, because only Mike who can heal her. That is why all the husbands in Stepford Estate adore him so much. It is because they feel that Mike can make their dreams to have perfect wives come true. Mike can always control them. Whatever Mike said, they always do it.

Mike is a man who always persuades the others. He persuades the husbands to change their wives into robots so they can control their wives. He shows Walter how the wives in Stepford become so sweet, sizzling and super fine. He persuades him to change Joanna into a robot (scene 8, 00:38:33)

In the end, all of the Stepford people know that Mike's real name is not Mike. It is just a nickname from where he used to work, Microsoft (scene 12, 01:06:46). Actually, he is not a human but a robot. Claire changes him into a robot to reach her dreams.

In this movie, Mike belongs to the round character. At the beginning of the movie, Mike seems to be a man who always cares about all of the husbands' problems. In middle until the end, we know that actually he only pretends in doing it. He persuades them to change their wives into a robot.



*Mike Wellington*

**c. Joanna Eberhart (Nicole Kidman)**

Joanna Eberhart is played by Nicole Kidman, the protagonist of the movie. She has an attentive husband, Walter, and two beautiful children, Kimberly and Pete. On the surface, Joanna's life appears to be well and perfect until one catastrophic day when it all comes crashing down around her. Fired from her job, her perfect marriage in trouble, unable to remember where her kids go to school, Joanna is starting to look like a candidate for electroshock therapy.

Joanna Eberhart is a legend in EBS industry. She is the most successful president in the history of EBS network. It is all because for the past five years, she has kept EBS at the very top of the ratings. All of her friends think that she is going to take EBS right to the edge. As the EBS' Manager said:

EBS' Manager: "Ladies and gentlemen, I would now like to introduce a legend in our industry. She's the most successful president in the history of our network. And for the past five years has kept us at the very top of the ratings. She's our maverick, our wild card, and today she's gonna take us right to the edge. Please welcome a giant, a genius and the hardest-working person in television: Joanna Eberhart" (scene 2, 00:03:15).

Joanna's job is specializes in reality TV shows in which women get the better of men, especially wives of their husbands. Although she has already make lots of reality shows, she never gives up in making new reality shows. She makes another two new reality shows that are Balance of Power and I Can Do Better. But, those two reality shows make her get fired from her job.

Joanna is a workaholic woman. She is so busy until she has not make love with her husband in over a year (scene 6, 00:30:30). She dedicates her life on her job. She always wants to reach the top. She always has a fresh idea in creating new reality shows and it is always be the top of the rating. Because of it, her boss gives her an award.

She is an ambitious woman. She doesn't know who she is if she is not the smartest, best of the best and the most successful (scene 6, 00:31:19).

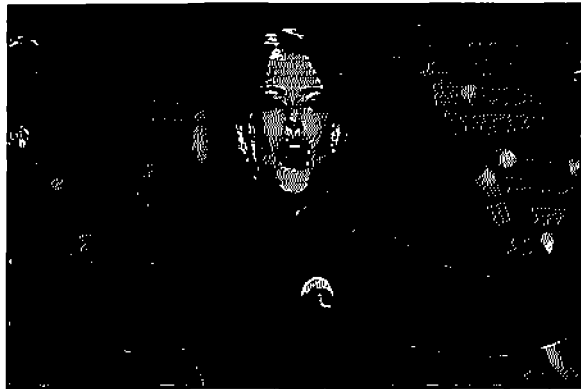
Although she is very busy, actually, she's still care and love about her husband. She knows her husband silly habit.

Joanna: "But I've always loved you so much. I... You know that"  
(scene 6, 00:30:37).

Joanna: "Because... Because... ...you're goofy, and you're... You're handsome, and you're... You're... You're my Walter. And because when you play computer chess you do that little... You do that little victory dance" (scene 6, 00:30:48).

She is a suspicious woman. She always feels that something wrong with the Stepford people. The first time she feels it when she sees all of the women in Stepford. The women of Stepfrod spend all day knitting, gardening, exercising in beautiful dresses, and are the most splendid of all women on Earth. She feels that it is too perfect to be true. The second is when one woman overdoes the barn dancing and Joanna sees sparks coming out of her ears but Mike won't allow anyone to call an ambulance. The last is when all of her friends, Bobbie and Roger change into different people. They are like somebody else.

In this movie, Joanna belongs to the round character. In the beginning of the movie, Joanna always busy and never care about her family. From the middle until the end, she knows that she is wrong when she neglects her family. She tries to become a better person by becoming a total house wife and please her family.



*Joanna before and after she becomes one of the Stepford wives*



**d. Walter Kresby (Matthew Broderick)**

Walter Kresby is played by Matthew Broderick, the protagonist of the movie. He is Joanna's husband. He is a vice president in EBS.

Walter loves his wife, Joanna, so much. He signs on the network because he thought that if he was around her, he could help Joanna lighten up. He misses Joanna so much because she is too busy (scene 6, 00:29:59).

Walter is a person who does not want to be beaten by a woman especially by his own wife. He envy with Joanna. He always feels that he was beaten by Joanna in everything. He feels that Joanna is better educated, stronger, faster, better dancer and better tennis player than him. Joanna has always earned at least six figures more than he could never dream of. Joanna is a better speaker, a better executive and even better at sex. In the office, he got to work under her. He is tired to got hold Joanna's purse. He gets to tell the children that Joanna had to be late again. He gets to tell the press that Joanna had no comments. He feels that he has married a wonder woman, a super girl or Amazon queen who can live without a man. That is the reason why he wants his wife into a robot. (scene 12, 01:03:28)

In the end, he knows that he makes a mistake. He changes his mind to change Joanna into a robot. He says that his wife is not a science project and he doesn't marry something from radio shack. It makes Mike get angry and disappointed (scene 14, 01:19:23).

In this movie, Walter belongs to the round character. In the beginning of the movie, Walter seems that he always cares about Joanna. He moves into a suburb to make Joanna forget about her problems that makes her get shock. But, in the middle of the movie, he gets persuaded by Mike to change Joanna into a

robot. In the end, he realizes that he has wrong. He changes his mind to change Joanna into a robot and also save the other wives from Claire, Mike and their husbands by breaking all of the microchips that has been plant in their brain.



*Walter Kresby, Joanna's husband*

**e. Bobbie Markowitz (Bette Midler)**

Bobbie Markowitz is played by Bette Midler, the protagonist of the movie. She is a famous writer who had plenty of books published. One of the books that she had published is called *I Love You, But Please Die*. The book was about her relationship with her mother. She is a woman who has problems with her husband. She has three sons. She said that the reason why she had to move to Stepford was because of a court order.

Bobbie's real name is not Bobbie. It is Roberta (scene 12, 01:11:12). In the writer's opinion, she changes it because it sounds like more man. Roberta is more women.

Bobbie often shouts to her husband. This behavior describes the impatience of Bobbie in facing her husband, Dave. When Dave wants her to do

something, she always gets angry and shout to his husband. For the example, when Dave asks her about the sandwich, she shouts to her husband.

Dave : “Did you make the sandwiches?”

Bobbie : “Did you?” (scene 5, 00:23:10)

Shout means speak or cry in a loud voice, typically as an expression of a strong emotion (Hornby, 924). In the writer’s opinion, it describes Bobbie as a sarcastic and unfeminine woman. Feminine woman will not speak in a loud voice.

Bobbie is not really care about her family because she is too busy. When her husband asks her about her kids, she does not know if she has kids. It is describe that Bobbie is too busy with her book.

Dave : “Where are the kids?”

Bobbie : “What kids?”

Dave : “Our kids.” (scene 5, 00:23:11)

Bobbie does not want to do the housework. She neglects her house. She never cleans the house until it looks like a dumb trash. The reason is she is too busy to finish her new book.

In the end, Bobbie ends up becoming a Stepford wife and she gives her kids and husband whatever they want.

In this movie, Bobbie belongs to the round character. In the beginning of the movie, Bobbie always busy about her book and never care about her house and her family. In the end, eventough she is a robot, she changes her personality. She cleans the house, take care of her family and never care about her book again.



*Bobbie before and after she becomes one of the Stepford wives*

#### **f. Dave Markowitz (Jon Lovitz)**

Dave Markowitz is played by Jon Lovits. He is an antagonist character in this movie. He is Bobbie's husband. He does nothing but command his wife. He is weird man. He always acts like a dumb person. He wants to change his wife in to a robot because his wife is too independent, she does not care about the house things and she always disobeys his command.

In this movie, Dave belongs to the flat character. We can see it from the beginning until the end of the story, he still the same person with the same character, that is a man who always command his wife.



*Dave Markowitz*

**g. Roger Bannister (Roger Bart)**

Roger Bannister is played by Roger Bart, the protagonist of the movie. He is the amazing architect from The Times who came to Stepford hoping to save his rocky relationship with his conservative partner Jerry.

Roger is an effeminate man. We can see it in the way he talks. He talks like a woman. The way he walks also like a woman.

Roger is a flamboyant man and likes to dress up well. He likes to wear Dolce and Gabbana, Gucci or Chanel, the famous clothing brand. He always knows to take care of his appearances in front of people.

Roger is a sensitive man. When he shares his problems with Joanna and Bobbie, he is almost crying. The story touches his heart (scene 7, 00:36:27).

Roger and his gay couple, Jerry, have been in a couple's counseling for over a year because they always fight each other. Jerry wants him to be a gay republican but he does not want to. He said that it is like wanting to be gay with a bad haircut. So the counselor suggested that they have to move to the suburb to find the balance (scene 7, 00:36:27).

In the writer's opinion, if someone lives in suburb or in a village, they will be more patient in facing their problem. It is all because usually in a suburb is not really crowded. They can think clearly. Live in a city especially in a big city they will be easier to get stress and angry.

According to Robert Gifford, environmental psychology examines the interrelationship between environments and human behavior. Noise increases environmental stress. Although it has been found that control and predictability are the greatest factors in stressful effects of noise; context, pitch, source and habituation are also important variables. Density and crowding can have an adverse effect on mood and even cause stress-related illness. Accordingly, environmental and architectural designs could be adapted to minimize the effects of crowding in situations when crowding cannot be avoided. (Roberts, 1998: 52).

In this movie, Roger belongs to the round character. In the beginning of the movie, Roger acts like an effeminate and sensitive man. But, when he becomes a robot, he acts like a real man. It shows the changing of his personality.



*Roger Bannister after he becomes a robot*

#### **h. Jerry Harmon (David Marshall Grant)**

Jerry Harmon is played by David Marshall Grant, the antagonist of the movie. He is Roger's gay couple. He is an antagonist character in this movie.

Jerry is a man who doesn't want everyone know that he and Roger is a gay couple. He wants his couple to know that being a gay does not mean a guy has to be effeminate or flamboyant or sensitive. He also wants Roger to be a gay republican but Roger does not want to. That is why he changes Roger into a robot.

In this movie, Jerry belongs to the flat character. We can see it from the beginning until the end of the story, he still the same person with the same character, that is a man who wants his gay couple to become the gay Republican.



*Jerry Harmon*

### **3. Setting Analysis**

In this subchapter, the writer will analyze setting of place, setting of time and setting of atmosphere. However, the writer will be more concern in setting of place, because it contains a lot of information about the events which happen in Stepford Estates. The writer writes the setting of time and setting of atmosphere to make the analysis more complete and perfect.

### **a. Setting of Time**

The setting of time in this movie is in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the writer's opinion, most of the wives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century already have activities outside their house. The director wants to show to all of wives in the world that although they have lots of activities outside the house, they have to remember to take care of their family. Moreover, for men, they have to realize that not only men who can reach the top of their career but also women. If the wives' position is higher than the husband, they have to take it. It does not mean that they lose their power if their wives' position is higher than them.

Most of the acts in the movie are done in the morning and afternoon. It means that the director wants to show that Stepford is a paradise. It is because in the morning and afternoon, we can see the beautiful scenery of the Stepford Estates.

Despite in the morning and afternoon, the acts is also taken in the evening. It is when Joanna and Bobbie investigate their husbands in Men Association; it gives creepy images, so the audience can feel what the character's feel when they do the act.

### **b. Setting of Atmosphere**

At the beginning of the movie, the atmosphere is optimistic. Joanna presents her new reality show. She is really optimistic that her show is going to be a very successful show. Next atmosphere of the movie is rather gloomy. Joanna gets fired from her job and almost loses her mind. Then, the atmosphere is



beautiful. Joanna and Walter move to the Stepford Estates. The place is very beautiful and all of the women are friendly and beautiful. The following atmosphere is weird. Joanna feels weird because all of the women in Stepford never get sad. They are always happy. They are always perfect. Joanna thinks that women in a real world are not like women in Stepford Estates. Next atmosphere is spooky. Joanna and Bobbie try to find out what is going on in Stepford Estates. The atmosphere then is weird. Bobbie and Roger act as somebody else. They become a robot. After that, the atmosphere is very gloomy. All of the Stepford citizens know the secret of Claire and Mike. Claire gets insane and then she dies. At the end of the movie, the atmosphere is happy. The life of Joanna, Boobie, Roger and all of the Stepford citizens have been back to normal. And all of the husbands get punished in Stepford. They have to do the housework so they can feel what women feel.

### **c. Setting of Place**

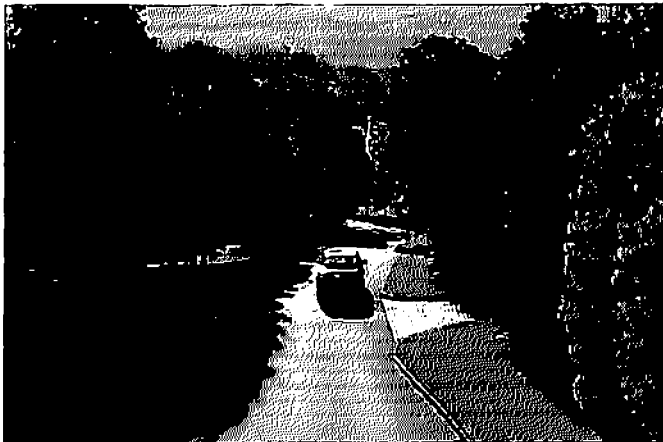
#### **1. Stepford Estates**

Stepford Estates is a beautiful place. The town is over 200 years old. It was founded by George Washington. Stepford is Connecticut's family paradise. It has no crime, no poverty and no pushing (scene 4, 00:17:50).

When the front gate opens, we can see a beautiful tree surrounding the estates. The town and the houses are like a dream. The people in this town are very friendly and wonderful. But they are a whole other dimension.

In the writer's opinion, Stepford Estates describes as a beautiful place is to show that it is the perfect place to live. It is all because everything in Stepford has

to be perfect. Claire makes it perfect to attract people to live in Stepford Estates, so they can be changed into robot.



*Stepford Estates*

## **2. Joanna's House**

Joanna's House is like the perfect house. It is the top of the line at Stepford Estates. It's got everything an American family could ever need. It is also a smart house. It is completed by the automatic security system. It can talk to the refrigerator, so we know what ingredient which is out of stock. The system also

monitors all the commodes where it will test your urine for blood sugar, protein and body fat (scene 4, 00:15:19).

In the writer's opinion, the house is acting like a husband who commands the wife. When the ingredients in refrigerator are out of stock, the house commands Joanna to buy it because it is the responsible of the wife to buy the ingredients in the market. It is the part of the wife's housework.

The house can test the urine for blood sugar, protein and body fat, in the writer's opinion, the house tells Joanna to take care of her appearances. She has to keep her weight not to be over weight.



*Joanna's house*



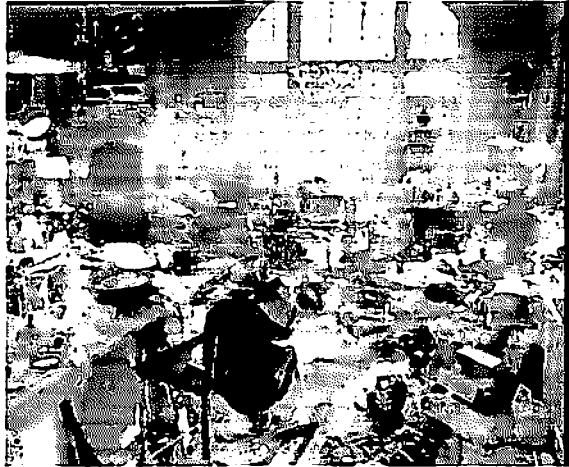
*Joanna house's security system*

### **3. Bobbie's House**

Bobbie's house is like a trash dump. There are lots of trashes in her house. The house wares are completely mess. The first time Joanna and Roger come to her house, they feel shock seeing how messy and dirty her house is. Roger thinks that she is making anthrax (scene 7, 00:35:36). She feels lazy to clean house because she is busy to make her new book.

When Bobbie turns into a robot, she cleans all the parts of the house. The house is perfectly clean and spotless. The house wares that usually mess turn into tidy. Everything about her house is completely perfect to the smallest details. Joanna gets shock after seeing the change of her house and does not recognize her house anymore.

In the writer's opinion, in *Stepford Estates*, all of the women should be able to take care of cleanliness, especially at their house. They should not live with dirt because it is considered as unfeminine. Bobbie's house is like a dumb trash. That is why Claire wants her becomes a robot so she will be crazy with cleanliness.



*Bobbie's house before and after she becomes one of the Stepford wives*

#### **4. Stepford Men's Association**

Stepford Men's Association is the place where the entire Stepford husbands can get together and stay out of their wives. In this place, they talk about how great their wives are and how great their sex lives.

Women are not allowed to visit it except if they have been changed into robots. They want to keep their area clean from women. They can feel powerful because they can authorize their own territory by themselves.



*Stepford Men's Association*

This place is the place where all women in Stepford are changed into robots. Walter gets surprised when one of the wives can act like an ATM machine. She takes out some money from her mouth. He is persuaded by Mike and other husbands to change Joanna into a robot. If he changes her, he can have a wife like Ted's wife.



*One of the wives takes out some money from her mouth*

## **5. Simply Stepford Day Spa**

Simply Stepford Day Spa is the place where all the entire Stepford wives gather. They do the women thing, such as aerobic, reading a cook books, et cetera. In this place, Joanna firstly meets the other Stepford wives. She feels strange because all of these women are always smiling and they wear full dress and high heels when they are working out.

In the writer's opinion, by doing aerobic, it can make the body look beautiful. In Stepford, all of the women have beautiful body. By reading cook book, it can make the women cook delicious meals for their family. In Stepford, all of the woman can cook deliciously.



*Simply Stepford Day Spa, the place where all the entire Stepford wives gather*

## **6. Stepford Town Square**

Stepford Town Square is the place where the entire Stepford citizens gather. In this place, Joanna feels weird about the people. When Sarah, one of the ladies in Stepford collapse after she overdoes the Stepford Square Dance. Everybody just stands up and watches her spasmodic. Joanna feels weirder when Mike Wellington, Claire's husband, tries to heal Sarah. Mike does not allow anyone to call an ambulance. He only breaks Sarah's neck and then she heals.



Joanna sees sparks coming out of Sarah's ears when Mike heals Sarah. That thing make Joanna get the first seriously spooked (scene 5, 00:25:44).

In the writer's opinion, all of the Stepford citizens are friendly people. Stepford Town Square is made to make close the relationship of every citizen. If they only stay at home, they will not know each other. If they do not know each other, they will not care each other. In Stepford, they have to care each other.

Joanna : "We should go see her."

Roger : "Why?"

Joanna : "Because we need to be supportive. That's how people behave outside of Manhattan. They care about each other. I mean, if you were in New York and one of your neighbors got sick what would you do?"

Roger : "We'd call her."

Bobbie : "To see if she was gonna die."

Roger : "So we could get the apartment."

Joanna : "Let's go. Up. Up. Up." (scene 7, 00:32:41).

From the quotation above, it shows that in everyone in Stepford is always care each other. Although Joanna comes from big city, Manhattan, she tries to do the thing that Stepford citizen do if one of her neighbor gets sick. It is very different with Roger and Bobbie said that if one of their neighbors got sick, they will call her so they could get the apartment. It shows that people from big city usually do not care each other. Stepford Town Square can close the relationship between neighbors.



*Stepford Town Square*



**Sarah collapse after she overdoes the Stepford Square Dance**

## **B. The Process of Claire to Create The Perfect Housewives**

In this subchapter, the writer will analyze the main problems with a sketch of the process of Claire to create the perfect housewives; therefore, this analysis is divided into two parts.

### **1. The Background of Claire's Experiment**

The moment that affects Claire's present life is her traumatic memory with Mike. Her feeling is hurt because of two reasons. First, Claire feels hurt when Mike having an affair when she still loves him. Second, Clarissa feels shocked when she knows Mike wants to leave her for another woman who apparently is also her own assistant.

Claire feels hurt when Mike having an affair when she still loves him. She is hurt due to her deep feeling for Mike. It is all because she has unforgettable sweet memories with him. She cannot forget her past time when she is still together with Mike. Both of them share sweet memories. Furthermore, it becomes an unforgettable memory in Claire's life. Since there are a lot of sweet memories with Mike, she feels really hurt when Mike cheating on her.

Claire feels more hurt and shocked when she knows that Mike having an affair with another woman who apparently her own assistant, named Patricia. She gets angry and kills them the moment she saw them having an affair in her house.

Actually in facing her broken heart, Claire also feels desperate. In facing this reality, she even feels the trauma for and does not want this incident to happen anymore. She tries to endure this feeling and also tries to enjoy her life without regretting anything about the past.

As a result of her traumatic experience, Claire becomes a total housewife. Furthermore, Claire starts to think of a new life without think about her activities outside the house. However, the most significant thing is Claire starts to think of changing busy women into robots so they become total housewives.

Therefore, seeing what happens between Claire and Mike, and how Claire keeps that as her sweetest memory, no wonder that her feeling is really hurt when Mike having an affair with another woman. She does not only feel disappointed and hurt, but she also feels the trauma. As a result, she never thinks about her activities outside the house anymore. Thus, one of the external factors that influence Claire to make an experiment to change women into robots is because Mike hurts her.

Claire's activities outside the house also become the background of her experiment. She is a major person in business. She was the world's foremost brain surgeon and genetic engineer. She works with several major agencies. She has top secret contracts with the Pentagon, Apple and Mattel. It describes how busy she is. She abandons her husband because of her jobs. She never cares about her husband. All that she cares is only about her job outside the house.

Claire: "I was the world's foremost brain surgeon and genetic engineer. I had top-secret contracts with the Pentagon, Apple and Mattel." (scene 15, 01:22:37).

One night, Claire came home from her work and found her husband, Mike, with her brilliant, blonde and still 21 years old research assistant, Patricia, having an affair. She was very angry and then kills them. It shows that jealousy makes Claire loose her mind.

The next morning, as she gazed across the breakfast table at her husband and research assistant's lifeless bodies, Claire thinks what she can do to make the world more beautiful with her skill. It shows that she has already thought what she is going to do to make everything is on her way.

Claire's curiosity in creating perfect housewives increases after she saw lots of women who were always busy with their work outside the house, just like she used to be, and their husbands want them to become stay-home mothers. She wants to make the husbands' dreams come true.

To realize her larger vision comes true, Claire needs someone to help her. Then, she creates a robot using the dead body of her own husband because he was other man would listen to. She cannot give a command to the man because men usually do not take commands from women. They do not want to be driven by women. So, she creates Robot Mike.

Claire: "And so I made Mike. Because he was someone other men would listen to. (scene 15, 01:23:41)

After she did this, both Claire and Mike move into Connecticut, where people never notice a town full of robot. Then, they create an estate and name it Stepford. They work together in turning people into robots. Mike persuades the husbands and Claire persuades the wives. The people who move to Stepford would eventually become robots.

Claire: "And then I asked myself, where would people never notice a town full of robots? Connecticut." (scene 15, 01:23:49)

## **2. The Influence of Claire's Ambition toward Her Psychological Condition**

Claire's ambition in creating perfect housewives has been shown obviously after she kills her husband, Mike. She is very angry because he has cheating on her with Patricia, her young and beautiful assistant. She thinks she has already given her husband the best of her. She thinks that her husband proud of her because she reach the top of her job. But she has wrong. She has already neglected him. That is why he starts to cheating on her.

After Claire kills Mike, she regrets what she has done to him. She thinks that when he cheating on her, it is not completely his fault but it is also her own fault. It is all because she never cares about Mike. All she cares about is only her works outside the house.

All those things make her psychological condition unstable. She feels glad that she has already killed the man who cheating on her. But, on the other hand, she feels very sad that she has killed her husband that she loves so much. She feels angry with herself.

Claire's anger with herself makes her want to change every woman she met. She always feels that every woman is like she was used to be, before she changes herself into a total housewife, a woman who always busy with her works outside the house and never cares about her family, a woman who always drives her husband, a woman who always does whatever she wants to do. She thinks if all of the women do not want to be left by their husbands, they have to stay at home. They have to do the housework. They also have to serve their husband and their children. And the most important thing is, they have to take care of their

appearance so they are look beautiful. They have to do all those things to please their husbands.

According to Pickering, it is possible for the characters to have different personalities after what they have experienced in their lives. What happens to them or any events can make them have new conditions of life, behavior, as well as attitudes (Pickering, 1988, p. 25). It means that what happens in the past can influence someone in his/her present.

It also happens to Claire when she gets an unsuccessful relationship with Mike in which Mike betrays her young assistant, Patricia. Mike's betrayal becomes a bad memory for Claire. As a result, her choice to be a total housewife might be a way to avoid having another bad experience or another broken heart.

Claire becomes a woman who respects her life. She sees that life is beautiful. She thinks that life must not be wasted. For her, it also means that she has to dare in facing the reality of life. Furthermore, her bad experience in the past cannot influence her to neglect her life. The writer assumes that as a woman who respects her life, Claire does not want to make her life useless by remembering her past memories.

Moreover, Claire's ways of thinking is influenced by the situation where she lives. She lives in Stepford, a place which gives her how to enjoy her life. On the other hand, when she is still busy with her activities outside the house, she never knows about how to enjoy her life. She feels overstressed, overbooked, under-loved. This condition also makes her realizes that it is important to respect a life so that the people can survive enough even in a difficult situation. It matches with the theory of characterization by Robert. Robert says that the combination of

character traits and circumstances causes a character to act in a certain manner” (Robert, 1977, p.517). The combination between a character trait and a situation where Claire lives makes her act to become a woman who enjoys her life. Claire lives among the people who respect her and love her so that she does not want to leave them.

Claire becomes an optimistic Person. Clarissa’s optimism leads her to change from an active woman becomes a total housewife. Claire thinks that by being a total housewife she can find a real happiness. She believes that by being optimistic, she can be happier than before.

In addition, related to her changing of her preference, Claire thinks that there is another way besides living as a woman who always busy outside the house. Her bad experience with Mike who cheating on her affects her decision to be a total housewife. From Claire’s thought, the writer observes that although Mike has already hurt her, but she still thinks that she wants to continue her life. In addition, there is no reason for her to stay still in her sadness.

Therefore, from the action that Claire has already done, the writer assume that being an optimistic person is something important for her. She has many choices in life and she does not want to make her life useless. By being a total housewife she has another way to enjoy her life.

Claire becomes a persevering woman. Claire’s character trait by being a persevering woman can help her to forget about the past. Claire’s persevere in this case means that it is enough for her to be hurt in the past and she does not want it happens anymore. She never thinks try to have an activity outside the house



anymore. She only thinks about her appearance, her attitude, her house and her house.

Claire's character trait as a persevering woman can also be seen when she try to change all of woman in Stepford into robots. Claire wants to make the world more beautiful. From Claire's thought, the writer assumes that if she wants something to do, she must do as her plan and nobody can stop her.

Persevering in Claire's mind means that she will not change the decision which she has already made. When she decides to become a total housewife, she never thinks about her activities outside the house anymore. It can be seen in daily activities. Her daily activities are not far from woman thing that is cooking or working out to shape the body, et cetera.

Thus, by seeing this character trait, the writer can analyze that becoming a persevering person in this case supports Claire in order to change her preference. Furthermore, holding the idea and staying in her decision is important for her. By staying in her character traits, Claire hopes she can stay become a perfect housewife and change other women to become like her.

Another thing that happens to Claire Wellington is that she is obsessed by beautiful thing. Whatever she does, she always wants to look in her very best. She doesn't want her husband and other neighbors see her in worn, dark, urban sweat clothes with stringy hair and almost no make up. That is why, the first time she saw Joanna, she feels sorry for her.

Claire becomes a woman who always takes care of her appearances. Whatever she does, she always wants to look her very best. She doesn't want her husband and other neighbors to see her in worn, dark, urban sweat clothes with

stringy hair and almost no make up. Even when she works out, she also wants to look beautiful. She wears full dress and high heel.

Claire: “Well, of course. Whatever we do, we always want to look our very best. I mean, why, imagine if our husbands saw us in worn, dark, urban sweat clothes with stringy hair and almost no makeup?” (scene 4, 00:19:08)

Claire is also taking care of her attitude. We can see it in the way she talks and walks. The way she behaves in front of other people is also a way to show people that she has a good attitude.

Claire creates Stepford Estates to reach her dream to make the world more beautiful come true. She wants to success the ideal married couples. She thinks that a perfect housewife is a stay-home mother. She wants to make all of women become perfect. She feels that she has a skill to do that. To make it come true, she put some microchips in the Stepford women’s brain, so their husband can control them.

When everybody knows Claire secret that Mike is a robot, her psychological get worst, she goes insane. She screams and says bad things to the Stepford citizen. She tells them, why she becomes such this things. And, in the end, she dies because she got electricity wasp from her robot husband. She dies with smile upon her face because she dies beside her husband that she loves so much.