

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

Basically the study of theme through the major character in this thesis is through the internal conflicts which Alma burden. These conflicts arise within her adultery. The writer analyze it through the stages of her life, in a way to see the basic causal of her internal conflict, her basic family relationship, and her social relationship, also her expectancy to be loved by John.

Critics aimed on this work show the similarity with the theme of **A Streetcar Named Desire**, whereas the writer is tracing up the relevance of his analysis with the above-mentioned example. The theme is a victimized innocent girl who committed compensation to confront the unfair societal life.

A. Plot

The plot is the sequence of actions in which describing the theme. By knowing the plot the reader will

know what the story is actually tell. **Summer And Smoke** consists of two parts, and each part consists of six scenes. In the part one there is a prologue.

- Prologue

Alma a girl of ten, playing in the fountain, disturbed by her classmate who also her neighbor, John.

* Part One - Summer

- Scene One: The Fountain

1. Alma is singing at the 4th of July festive, disturbed by her mother's whimper for an ice cream.
2. John intentionally disturbs Alma by throwing a firecracker in order to make a conversation.
3. John promises Alma to take her for a drive, while a minute later he sees Rosa Gonzales and left her.

- Scene Two: The Rectory

4. While Alma is having a conversation with Mr. Winemiller about her mother madness, Mrs. Winemiller has stole a hat at a store, John phones Alma.

5. Alma invites John to come at the Rectory to have an informal literary gathering.
6. Alma has a quarrel with Mrs. Winemiller, she mentions about John's relationship with Rosa Gonzales and his bad reputation.
7. Nellie Ewell, one of Alma's singing pupil, comes in and informs her about Nellie's mother quarrelling with John about John's relationship with Rosa Gonzales.

- Scene Three: The Rectory

8. The informal meeting is on the run. John's presence gives a bad air to the audience, and end up by John's leaving.
9. Alma is angry and disperses the meeting because of Mrs. Basset mockery about John's affair.

- Scene Four: The Doctor Office

10. John is bandaging his wound by Rosa's assistance. Alma comes to see Mr. Buchanan to cure her sickness, but John insists to check her himself.
11. Alma annoyed by John's insult, John says that she was a good lonely girl.

- Scene Five: In the Rectory

12. Alma is expecting John's call, which made Mr. Winemiller angry. They are arguing about John's reputation, which is not good enough for her to make a companion.

13. In anger Alma decides to find John herself instead of waiting him.

- Scene Six: The Arbor

14. John and Alma just come from having a drive. Alma refuses to get into the casino to see the cock fight, because as noble citizens they should not come into such place like a casino.

15. The argument extends to John's career, which is nearly abandon. Alma says that John's weak character is the only reason of it. John insists that whatever every man reach is to make a glorious success based on his satisfaction. While Alma on the other side says that glorious success should be reached for something far beyond human senses.

16. The conversation turns to Alma's serious relation with men. John says that Alma is much more interesting than any other woman he ever met is, and he kisses Alma, which makes Alma felt losing her nobility. John argues that there is no such nobility like what she says.
17. Alma is saying implicitly that a woman has a true love as a base of man and woman connubial felicity, which makes man differ from animal. While to John the natural instinct - the sex - is the main cause of forming a family. He does not believe to the existence of love and soul, and asks Alma to show where they are in the body chart.

* Part Two - Winter

-Scene Seven: The Rectory And the Doctor Office

18. Mrs. Basset brings some news that John lose in Casino gambling a few thousand dollar, which made him should marry Maria Gonzales. Alma makes a phone call to dr. Buchanan at the Lyon Clinic at once.

19. John mentions his plan to go with Rosa to Galvestone to get away from Gonzales, Rosa's father. Meanwhile, Gonzales comes in and tells the story of his success is by pulling his pistol.

20. John comes to the Rectory to find Alma. He wants to see her before leaving his hometown. At the same time dr. Buchanan comes home and finds that John has a party at the house with Rosa. In anger he expelled Gonzales and struck him. Finally dr. Buchanan dies by Gonzales's fire.

- Scene Eight: The Doctor Office

21. Alma confesses to John that it was her who made a phone call to dr. Buchanan. She feels sorry for the tragedy, which must happen to make a weak person as John to be strong. John is furious, he feels deplore for cured her just to give her strength and right to go on living with her spiritual life.

22. In his anger John gives Alma a human chart lesson. The body is divided into three parts,

the brain, the belly, and the sex. Each is fed differently, the truth, food and love. He suggests Alma has fed nothing to the sex section. Anything Alma said about love or soul is nothing but some attitudes or poses.

23. Alma argues that the anatomy chart is for animal, not for human. Human has love, and soul in his body but it is invisible. So, she can not show it to John although she willingly to die for John. Finally, John confesses that she was too worthy to be love by John. When they are arguing, dr. John is pass away.

- Scene Nine: The Rectory

24. Mr. and Mrs. Winemiller have just arrived from the store. He wonders why Alma has a habit getting to dress at night. She says that she has already change in a new way of life, but still does not know how and when she would be.
25. Mrs. Winemiller is mentioning about the parade in town to well coming John as a hero. John has succeeded the work of the late Mr. Buchanan. Alma is so excited to hear the news.

26. At the parade Nellie meets John and teases him to kiss her.

Scene Ten: The Fountain

27. Nellie meets Alma, she mentions about someone who regards Alma as an angel. She gives Alma a Christmas present and a card, which comes from her and John. Nellie says that John was so thankful for the good influence Alma did.

Scene Eleven: The Doctor Office

28. Alma visits John at the office. She implicitly says to John that she is willingly married to John. The old self of her has changed into the new self, the new personality John wants her to be.

29. On the contrary John mentioning the conversation they have about the body chart. He admits that Alma has won the argument, and he has changed to a new personality, which Alma has wanted him to be. So, they now already come around to each other side.

30. Nellie comes in and tells Alma that she and John will marry soon. The news shocks Alma.

- Scene Twelve: The Fountain

31. Alma is in the fountain with a young man, a stranger. The stranger man is a shoe salesman. She says that Glorious Hill is famous for its artesian spring water.
32. She comments about the life of a salesman, which she says interesting but lonely.
33. She takes a sleeping pill and offers it to him. Its prescription number is considered as God's phone number. She regards the pill as a merciful pill to make people able to keep going on living.
34. Alma takes the young man to the Moon Lake Casino, which is on the new management but still does not change the character.

B. Setting

The theme theory mentioned setting as part of the work, which can back up the story. Setting can suggest the reader with an atmosphere that helps to catch the theme. Basically, setting is physical device on the stage, which called the physical setting. But, there is

another unphysical setting, which called the psychological setting.

In real, physical setting is as place and time. While, the psychological setting is the atmosphere of the play, which carried by the physical setting. The *Summer and Smoke* has only the physical setting, there are no specific description to suggest the reader with a certain atmosphere.

This play depends a lot on the characters' act. For instance, in the prologue the setting is as:

In the park near the angel of the fountain. A dusk of an evening May, in the first few year of this century.

This setting is only suggesting the description of a quiet afternoon at a fountain angel on a summer season. No details enclosed to suggest the reader to get more information or specific atmosphere. This is continued until the end of the play on the scene twelve.

C. Alma's life Span

Alma's life span is divided into three major parts: the past, the present, and the future. The past is depicting Alma's childhood. The present is showing Alma as a grown-up girl who fallen in love to John Buchanan, a young man who is a son of a famous doctor, The future is the resolution, sketching Alma's life after John married to Nellie Ewell.

C.1. The Ten Year-Old Girl

As a ten-year-old girl, Alma is quite different from other girls of her age. She has a dignity of an adult with an extraordinary delicacy and tenderness, or spirituality, it is shown by her habit cupping one hand under the other. She also shown an interest in spirituality

JOHN. Eternity ?

ALMA. Eternity! -- Didn't it give you the cold shivers?

JOHN. Nahh.

ALMA. Well, it did me! (prologue, p. 668)

As a clergyman daughter should be. This quality also shown by her name, which is the Latin word for soul, Alma.

The young Alma was falling in love to John, a young boy who s a son of a famous doctor. John is her classmate quite contrary to Alma, John was a naughty boy. He does not pay any attention to spirituality. In showing her feeling to John, Alma did it secretly.

ALMA. You have a bad cold and your nose has been running all week. It spoils your appearance.

...

ALMA. I like your appearance.

She shown-up her admire feeling by giving John a box of handkerchief on his desk. She did it because she loved him.

C.2. The Grown-up Girl

In her twenties Alma has grown up as a beautiful girl, a public figure once. Unluckily, her family has cross to bear, Mrs. Winemiller is having a mental illness. Accidentally, on one occasion she meets again with John. Apparently she still loves John. But at that

time John was having a relationship with Rosa Gonzales, a daughter of a casino owner. Rosa is not only the barrier for Alma, because her father definitely opposed her.

John's bad reputation is well known, this is the reason for Alma's father opponent. Alma insists to have a relationship with John, while on the other hand John can not love her. He admires her because of her spiritual quality. In this relationship Alma often having argument with John. She tries to push John to be a decent man and take his medical school. After the big quarrel with his father, which brought to John's father death, John realizes that he was wrong.

C.3. The Disappointed Girl

The young doctor John is coming back to town. Being thought that John would be except her love, Alma change her attitude like the way John's like compare to the common girl. Desperately, she found that John could not love her. Instead, he chose Nellie Ewell, Alma's singing lesson pupil, as his future wife.

Shocked and deceived by this fact made Alma turning her point of view of her philosophical life. In

spite of being a good and decent girl like in the past, she turns to continue to her new way of life.

D. The Committed Compensation

The psychological approach is taken due to the previous chapter in discussing Alma's compensation. According to the psychological theory, compensation may happen because of these summarizing factors :

1. The Socialization experiences, including
 - a. cultural ideas of society's
 - b. early experiences with the family (family constellation) :
 - i. Birth order
 - ii. Parents models
 - iii. Values
 - iv. Family atmosphere

2. The creative self

These summarizing factors are taken in order to fit with the objective Alma's condition, other factors is omitted.

E. The Desperate Girl

E.1. The Decent and Sweet Girl

As a minister's daughter Alma grew up as a nice and decent girl. When she was still a child she already had the quality, which made her different from other children.

She already has the dignity of an adult; there is a quality in her, which distinctly apart from other children. (668, prologue).

This quality also shown in her manner of cupping one hand under the other, in a way similar to that of receiving the water at the Holy Communion. This habit still remains until she was an adult.

As a virgin in her twenties the society the society even called her as the Nightingale of the Delta because of her quality. Not only because of her maturity, but also because of her kind heart. A matter of fact she pays attention in social problem. She does not approve with society's opinion to condemn other people's life, in fact in her opinion people should give a hand to help.

ALMA ... And I always say that life is such a mysteriously complicated thing that no one

should really presume to judge and condemn the behavior of anyone else! (674, scene one)

In this circumstances she was not only good in talking, but also consequently doing it. Consequently she must confronts her father, when she took Nellie Ewell as her pupil. Nellie Ewell's mother is a merry widow who always dates with salesmen. The same consequence also must be taken when she took John to her scientific meeting with her friends.

ALMA. Father didn't want me to take her as a pupil because of her mother's reputation ... (674, scene one)

...

ALMA. I won't have malicious talk here! You drove him away from the meeting after I'd bragged so much about how bright and interesting you were! ... (682, scene three)

E.2. The Destructive Emotion

Just as what Alma believe in eternity, Alma's puppy love appear to be an eternal love. The accidental meeting with John on the 4th July festival once again lit

the fire of love. Love is something unthinkable for Alma. She has difficulties in making acquaintance with men. The only man close to her is Roger Doremus, a friend in church activity. The biggest obstacle for this reason is her mother mental illness, which she consider s

ALMA. ... in a way it may have - deprived me -
of my youth (675, scene one)

She must take her mother's duty on household and even manage the Rectory.

Somehow Alma realizes her social position as a minister daughter which pushed her to b more selective on doing activity and making acquaintance.

ALMA. I don't recluse ... being a minister's
daughter I have to be more selective than most
girls about the society I keep. (675, scene one)

But, when John tempted by saying that he liked Alma, she was misled to her old puppy love feeling. And whenever John asked her to go for a ride she was eagerly expecting him.

ALMA. ... I have been breathlessly waiting and
hoping that you would remember that promise ...

Time and time again the four-wheeled phenomenon flashes by the Rectory ... (677, scene two).

The promises were broken. And they make another appointment on the scientific meeting at Alma's house.

It was another disappointment for Alma, because John actually was having another relationship Gonzales. He makes an apology as if he was going to have a meeting with a patient. And he left earlier. The meeting was broken because of other member's mockery, which revealed John's secret that he was having a relationship with Rosa Gonzales.

MRS. BASSET. I bet I know who the patient was.
Ha ha ! That Gonzales girl whose father owns
Moon Lake Casino ... (681, scene three)

And it was making her friends feeling surprised and sorry for her being fallen in love to John.

MRS. BASSET. Have you fallen for him, miss Alma?
Miss Alma has fallen for the young doctor! They
tell me he has lots of new lady patients! (662)

...

MRS. BASSET. Poor Miss Alma!

ROGER. She hasn't herself lately.

(682, scene three)

Her friends were not the only opponent, but also her father. On another night when she was going out with John, Alma and Reverend Winemiller was fighting. Her father insisted Alma to stay at home, because he considered John was not a decent man to go out with.

MR. Winemiller. If he does come you will go upstairs to your room and I will receive him.

(685, scene five)

But, on the other hand Alma insists to meet him herself and confront her father that John is only a victim of people who does not have charm and cleverness as John has.

ALMA. I'll receive him myself ... I don't judge people by the tongues of gossips. I happen to know that he has been grossly misjudged and misinterpreted by old busy bodies who're envious of his youth and brilliance and charm. (685, scene five)

The fallen in love girl getting into a deeper confusion when she finally must facing John and his material philosophy.

E.3. The Philosophical War

Frictions always arise whenever two people met. Especially when those persons come from different background and life view. The same thing happened to Alma and John, although they maybe had the same feeling to each other. Alma and John were tied with a kind of unique circumstances where love was not a friend, but a foe.

The first war was began when John was trying to seduce by kissing her. It was seemed that John was superior to Alma, and Alma was the inferior.

ALMA. Not "Miss" anymore. Just Alma. (687, scene six)

After the kissing there is something in Alma's personality. She felt something lost in this body and soul war. The body has conquered the soul. For Alma the pure love is important in making relationship between man woman in marriage.

In a good and decent marriage a woman should have a pure love, a dignity, a soul. A thing, which is eternal, is a thing, which every woman could have, although she is not a minister daughter.

ALMA. There is no reason that I am a minister's daughter. A minister daughter's no different from any other young lady who tries to remember that she is a lady. (687, scene six).

And Alma wants to give John that kind of eternal and decent love.

While on the other hand to John love is not an existing thing, to him love is just a biological phenomenon. There is no soul who has a love, there is no such thing called soul who is eternal. According to John the body is divided into three parts, the brain, the belly, and the sex. Each one needs to be fed properly.

JOHN. ...This upper story's the brain, which is hunger for something called truth and doesn't get much but keeps on feeling hungry! This middle is the belly, which is hungry for food. This part down here is the sex, which is hungry for love because it is sometime lonesome. I've fed all three, as much of all three as I could or as much as I wanted -- you've fed none -- nothing ... But love or truth, nothing but -

nothing but hand me down notions! - attitudes! -
posses. (692, scene eight)

They are just a manner of attitudes, or poses.
They are just human's made-things, which is not real.

Alma insisted that love is something real although
the brain can not imagine it, or for eyes to be seen.

ALMA. .. What you have here is not the anatomy
of a beast, but a man. And I reject your opinion
of where love is, and the kind of truth you
believe the brain to be seeking!—There is
something not shown on the chart. (692, scene
eight)

And she loves him the way it is should be,
although she enjoys the way they kissing. The way Alma
loves john with her pure love and soul scarred, and made
John more highly respecting her.

JOHN. ... Yes yes ! Isn't funny? I am more
afraid of your soul than you're afraid of my
body. You'd have been as safe as the angel of
the fountain—because I wouldn't feel decent
enough to touch you ... (692, scene eight)

In these circumstances there are two different poles that separate them. Alma is in the soul-part. One tries to reach the other helplessly. After they fight each other on defending their personal truth finally they must fight their own mind to determine their future step.

The second was is the hardest one for them. After his father passed away, John became a doctor and fought the fever at Lyon Clinic. And he got the noble for this, while Alma was still confusing with her mind.

ALMA. Tell them I've changed and you've waiting to see in what way. (The band music becomes a little louder)

MR. Winemiller. Are you going to stay like this indefinitely?

ALMA. Not indefinitely, but you may wish that I had. (693, scene nine)

She can not decide whether she would stay as the old Alma or to be the new Alma. The new Alma who leaves away her personality and becomes a girl who does not have a pure love and soul. In fact she did not know that John has already changed into the new john because of her effort.

E.4. The Tragic Exchange

Love is a magical bound, which may sometimes confuse mind. The good becomes the bad and vice versa, only to reach the goal of the heart desire. But whenever it is led to the bad one it can be heart breaking and disastrous.

The argument about love-soul and the human anatomy between Alma and John resulted a positive effect for John While Alma never thought that she has a contribution in John's positive changing. Whenever Nellie Ewell told her about this fact she was surprised, and also felt insecure.

NELLIE. He told me about the wonderful talks last summer when he was so mixed up and how you inspired him and you more than anyone else was responsible for his pulling himself together,...

...

NELLIE. He told me about how you came into the house that night like an angel of mercy !

ALMA. (laughing harshly by the fountain). This is the only angel in Glorius Hill. (She bends to

drink). Her body is stone and her blood is mineral water. (696, scene ten)

Alma was insecure and uncertain about herself because she knew that at that time she was not an angel anymore. She already changed.

The next meeting with John is the most hurt meeting. Although she knew that Nellie and John was having a love affair, she forcing herself to see John. She was expecting that John would except her and love her. Even in this circumstances she is still trying to be over estimating herself.

ALMA. He can ask for much than that. He can ask for the coming true of his most improbable dream.

JOHN. It's best not to ask for too much.

ALMA. I disagree with you. I say, ask for all, but be prepare to get nothing! (697, scene eleven)

And told John that she had already changed herself into the way their conversation. The way other girl as John knew in the past.

ALMA. You know what I mean, all right! So be honest with me. One time I said "no" to something But now I have changed my mind, or the girl who said "no", she doesn't exist anymore, she died last summer - suffocated in smoke from something in fire inside her. No, she doesn't live now, but she left me her ring --...

(697, scene eleven)

A girl who can be kissed by John and admired his building, his charm. A girl who is admired the beauty of physic.

ALMA. You see? This one you admired, the topaz ring set in pearls ... And she said to me when she slipped this ring on my finger—"Remember I died empty-handed, and so make sure that your hands have something in them! (Ibid.)

The old Alma does not have anything left except the memory, but the new one is ready to make a new life with John. Ironically her effort to have John is come to nothing.

The opening truth and finding the fact sometimes makes people hurt. Although John actually understands the

meaning of pure love in the end, the result is disappointing to Alma.

JOHN. It's only been three or four times that we've come face to face. And each of those times—we seemed to be trying to find something in each other without knowing what it was that we wanted to find. It was not a body hunger although—I acted as if I thought it might be the night I wasn't a gentleman—at the Casino—it wasn't the physical you that I really wanted!

(698, scene eleven)

Because they have come around to each other way of thinking and nobody gets the aim.

ALMA. ... I came here to tell you that being a gentleman doesn't seem so important anymore, but you're telling me I've got to remain a lady.

(She laughs rather violently) The table have turned with a vengeance!... (699, scene eleven)

F. Creating the Self into Other

Disappointed by the fact and dazzled by the truth made Alma so hard to collecting again her personality.

The first love she has had already took her down, and now there is nothing left on her except the memory which uneasy to forgive and forget.

ALMA. I won an argument this afternoon.

THE YOUNG MAN. That's nothing to be nervous over. You ought to be nervous if you lost one.

ALMA. It wasn't the argument that I wanted to win ... (700, scene twelve)

To console herself she acted that nothing to be afraid of being lost, because life is full of mercies. Mercies to keep someone staying alive and keep going on continue the new life.

Consequently she made a step to go on her new way of life. A life that she never entered before. Consciously she took the new step by entertaining herself with her new friend to the Moon Lake Casino. The Moon Lake Casino is a symbol of John's old way of life, a kind of life which John had already left but now become the new step of Alma.

ALMA. ...There's one called Moon Lake Casino. It's under new management now, but I don't suppose its character has changed.

THE YOUNG MAN. What was its character?

ALMA. Gay, very gay, Mr. Kramer ...(701, scene
twelve)

As if a losing soldier she saluting her old life
she ever has symbolize by saluting the stone angel on the
fountain.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION