

ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the childhood trauma in Joe Goldberg in Caroline Kepnes's *You* (2014) and its lasting consequences in adulthood using a psychoanalytic approach. The purpose of this study is to analyze how Joe's unresolved childhood trauma, stemming from parental abandonment and the psychologically abusive mentorship of Mooney, constructs his destructive behavior in adulthood. This study applies Cathy Caruth's trauma theory and Sigmund Freud's concept of repetition compulsion through an intrinsic analysis, focusing on character, characterization, setting, and conflict. The findings show that Joe Goldberg's obsessive, controlling, violent, and stalking behaviors stem from unresolved childhood trauma that resurfaces later. Joe unconsciously re-enacts his trauma through patterns of obsession, confinement, and controlling relationships. The research concludes that Joe's destructive actions are driven not by intent or pleasure, but by deep trauma that was never acknowledged.

Keywords: Childhood Trauma, Repetition Compulsion, Psychoanalysis, Belated Trauma

