



**THE TRIGGERS OF EDMUND KEMPER'S SERIAL
KILLING IN "MIND HUNTER" TV SERIAL**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for S-1 Degree Majoring American Studies in the English
Department, Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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PRONOUNCEMENT

I truthfully say that this thesis was composed entirely by myself, without taking any work from other researchers at any university, in diploma, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degrees. I also ensure that I do not use any content from other publications other than the sources cited.

Semarang, December 3rd 2021

Devio Prahananto

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

I remember that nobody taught me to dance: You learned by asking a girl, by throwing yourself into it, by forgetting to be afraid. Like swimming. There was no swimming teacher like there is today, either: Somebody would throw you in the water and you just had to figure it out for yourself.

Arsene Wenger

If you're going through hell, keep going.

Winston Churchill

*This thesis is dedicated to
My beloved mom,
and those who I love the most*

APPROVAL

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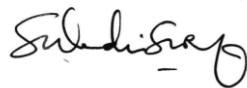
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This thesis of course still needs to be improved since I realize that this is far from being perfect. Thus, any recommendation and constructive suggestion would always be welcomed and appreciated. Finally, I hope that this thesis would be helpful for those who want to learn about cleft palate deviation or any related field in general.

Semarang, 3 December 2021

Devio Prahananto

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ABSTRACT

Mind Hunter is a TV Serial directed by Joe Penhall, which spotlight the mind of serial killers. One of the main character, Edmund Kemper, is a serial killer with an interesting background. Edmund Kemper is a serial killer with an abusive childhood. This thesis studies the condition of parents' lack of affection towards their children which is presented by Edmund Kemper. The aim of this study is to discuss and explain thoroughly how lack of love and self-esteem could result in Edmund Kemper's serial killing. To analyze Joe Penhall's *Mind Hunter*, the writer uses Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. The writer uses descriptive qualitative approach to finish the research. The result of the data analysis shows that the lack and absence of the needs could potentially cause one's misdemeanor, since a person naturally tend to work their way up to fulfill the missing needs.

Keywords: Kemper; maslow; misdemeanor; needs; affection; hierarchy of needs

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

People around the world may be having different ways to do things. Although the behavior of each culture and race are quite different, they still have similar basic needs. Maslow (1943: 29-30) in his paper believed that people have an inborn instinct to be self-actualized or in other words, being something that all they can be. Further, Maslow also mentioned that there are five stages that an individual has to overcome in order to reach the goal, that is self-actualization.

One of the stages is the need of love or attachments. Love in this case includes both romantic relationship as well as bond to family members. The need for love encompasses the context of intimacy between individuals that involves care, compassion, empathy, a feeling of having a place in the world, being part of a group, attention, and affection. This social needs in Maslow's hierarchy need to be fulfilled in order to prevent loneliness, anxiety, or a feeling of being excluded in a group. The other stage of Maslow's hierarchy is the need of self-esteem. The need of self esteem played a major role in forming an individual personality and behavior. An individual tends to realize the importance of appreciation and respect from others. A failure in fulfilling the need of self-esteem could develop feelings of inferiority and jealousy. Love and self-esteem are definitely needed in order for one to achieve better things in life. Maslow (1943: 56) stated human as an integrated

and organic whole that are motivated by hierarchical needs. The unfulfilled lower need in the Maslow's hierarchy of needs will dominate one's behavior and mindset until those needs are satisfied. Zalenski and Raspa (2006: 1221) also support the ideas by stating "indeed, the fulfillment of the basic needs is considered a prerequisite to such pursuit."

The failure of Maslow's hierarchy of needs could be presented in almost any literature, from a novel to a movies and TV Serial. TV Serial, according to Kozzlof (1992: 91) is "the story and discourse that do not come to a conclusion during an episode, and the threads are picked up again after a given hiatus." One of the TV Serial that portrays the failure of fulfilling Maslow's hierarchy of needs is "Mind Hunter." The TV Serial "Mind Hunter" was released on 13 October 2017. This TV Serial is based on a book by John E. Douglas titled "Mindhunter: Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit." John E. Douglas is a former FBI special agent and unit head who was one of the earliest criminal profilers. He also wrote the book based on his career journey on profiling some famous criminals. Joe Penhall, a British playwright, screenwriter, and producer, put an interest in Douglas' book and made it into TV Serial with a similar title, Mind Hunter.

The story is about two FBI agents that is given a task to interview and investigate some famous serial killers in order to study their uncommon and erratic behavior. Throughout the Serial, there are various type of serial killer that sometimes tried to get into the agents' head and manipulate them. One of the serial

killers who had a significant role in the Serial is Edmund Kemper, a murderer that perfectly reflects of the failure of fulfilling Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

The writer chooses Mind Hunter TV Serial as an object of study because this Serial explore the psychological thoughts of a murderer which makes the storyline quite interesting, so that the audience could feel how it feels to be in serial killer's shoes. With that kind of storyline and plot, the writer argues that Maslow's theory about hierarchy of needs would be suitable for exploring the Ed Kemper, one of the killers, abnormal behavior in the Serial.

1.2 Research Problems

1. What are the intrinsic elements in Mind Hunter by Joe Penhall?
2. How Edmund Kemper fulfills his hierarchy of needs in Mind Hunter TV Serial?
3. What are the results of Edmund Kemper's hierarchy of needs in Mind Hunter TV Serial Season 1?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study is to discuss and explain thoroughly how does the lack of love and belonging need and self-esteem need affect Edmund Kemper in Mind Hunter TV Serial. This study uses The Theory of Needs by A.H. Maslow to dissect the triggers and causes of the serial killing.

1.4 Previous Studies

The research on Mind Hunter TV Serial has never been conducted before. However, there are several studies that have been done using the same formal object that this study use. Alifia Nur Halizah (2019) conducted a research using Maslow's hierarchy of need theory by the title "*Motivasi yang Mendorong Tokoh Watanabe Shuuya Melakukan Pembunuhan dalam Film Kokuhaku*" Alifia's research focuses on the reason why Watanabe Shuuya, a character in the movie, commit murder. The difference between Alifia's research and this research is the material object.

Arief Listya Nugraha (2018) also conducted a research using Maslow's hierarchy of need theory by the title "*Motivasi yang Mendorong Tindakan Terorisme Tokoh Nine dalam Anime Zankyou No Terror.*" This research focuses on the reason why Nine, a character on the Anime, did terrorism. Quite similar with Alifia's research, the difference between this research and Arief's research is the material object.

Although the previous studies mentioned use the same formal object and the issues are quite similar, the studies mentioned are focused on the character's actions itself without really focusing on the background that caused the character's bad personality. This study and research will try to fill the gap by trying to uncover the background of things that caused the character's bad personality related with his hierarchy of needs fulfillment.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The television Serial "Mind Hunter," based on John E. Douglas and Mark Olshaker's true-crime book Mindhunter: Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit, is the subject of this study. In this study, the writer focuses on observing Season One of the Serial. Season one of this Serial focused on Edmund Kemper's psychological background, therefore the writer believes that it is suitable for this study. The material object of this study is Mind Hunter TV Serial Season 1. The formal object of this research is the triggers of Edmund Kemper's serial killing in Mind Hunter TV Serial Season 1. The main focus of this study is needs of love and self-esteem, which that Edmund Kemper, one of the criminal characters, that caused his serial killing

1.6 Organization of the Study

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes the following sections: the Background of the Study, the Scope of the Study, the Purposes of the Study, the Method of the Study, the Previous Study, and the Organization of the Study.

CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter presents the theoretical framework that underlies this research. The writer writes down a theory that

is relevant to the subject and describes the intrinsic and extrinsic elements.

CHAPTER III THE TRIGGERS OF EDMUND KEMPER'S SERIAL KILLING IN "MIND HUNTER" TV SERIAL

This chapter contains the narrative (character, conflict) and cinematography (camera angle, shot technique) elements and extrinsic elements that are theory of hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow.

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

This chapter contains the conclusion as the result of this study.

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This chapter explains the theories that the author uses in order to thoroughly analyze Joe Penhall's *Mind Hunter*. The intrinsic element which will be discussed are characters and characterization, conflicts, and cinematography. A. H. Maslow's Theory of Needs will be discussed as an external aspect. This theory is classified into five categories. Those are physiological, safety, love, and belongingness, esteem, and self-actualization needs.

2.1.1 Intrinsic Aspect

Nurgiyantoro (1995: 23) defines intrinsic aspects as "components that construct the tale itself". These elements are the one that make literary works appear and recognized as literary works, the elements that will factually be found in literary works itself.

2.1.1.1 Character and Characterization

There are always beings in a story who invest and lead on how the story goes. Sometimes they are humans, but just as often, they could be animals, imaginary things, or even inanimate objects. Characters need to be included because a story need someone, or something, to invest in, to care about, and to root or against for. The fact where the story takes place, or how good the plot is, does not really

matter if there are no characters because there will be nothing to invest in that story. Whereas, Jones (1968) as cited in Nugiyantoro (1995:165) explains:” *Character is illustration of someone it appears on its narrations*”.

Characterization, on the other hand, is the process of processing information about characters in a fictional work. Characterization allows those who watch or read the literary work to comprehend each character and, as a result, the entire plot of the literary work. Martin (1984:95) stated that characterization refers to how the writer informs the reader about the physical and non-physical traits of the character in the tale. Characterization can be categorized in some ways. One of the categories is Major and Minor Character. As Nurgiyantoro explained (1995: 176):

“Character according to their importance and role in the story, there are characters that are keep being shown that they dominate the whole story, and also there are characters that only being shown once or a couple times; hence their short participation. The first one mentioned is the major character, and the second one is minor character.”

2.1.1.2 Conflict

Conflict is an important part of literary works. It entails a battle between two opposing forces. Conflict is not necessarily faced by two opposing forces; it might also be encountered by one character. Conflict is the elements whereby a story might develop in a literary work. Dramatic conflict is classified as character against character, character vs. nature, and character vs. society, according to Kress (1993: 12-13).

Internal conflict is a conflict that revolves around herself or himself. The majority of the time, it includes a character taking decisions. External conflict is a type of conflict in which one character is pitted against external cause, According to Jones (1998: 30). For instance, a character may have issues with other characters (the main character and supporting characters), as well as with society.

2.1.1.3 Cinematography

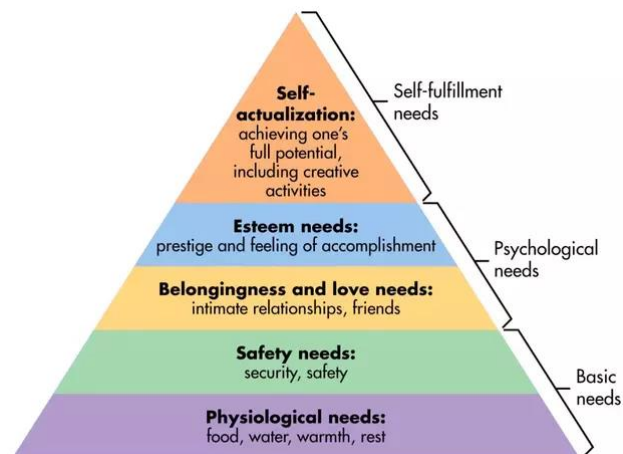
According to Hornby (2006: 950) movie means a series of moving picture recorded with sound that tells a story, shown at cinema/movie. In the making of a good movie or film, cinematography played a quite crucial role. Cinematography brings the ambience, or the feelings of what is happening in the scenes. In order to achieve thus purpose, several techniques are needed to get a decent shot of the scene. Brown on his *Cinematography: Theory and Practice* (2012: 17) explained that there are numbers of shots of basic building blocks of film grammar, such as wide shot, full shot, medium shot, and two shot.

2.1.2 Extrinsic Aspects

The writer uses A.H. Maslow's Theory of Needs to discuss the extrinsic elements in this Serial. Theory of needs, or often called hierarchy of needs, are physiological, safety, love and belongingness, esteem, and self-actualization needs.

2.1.2.1 Theory of Needs

The writer uses Abraham Maslow's theory of needs, often known as the hierarchy of needs or pyramid of needs, to evaluate Edmund Kemper's style of thinking in depth. This pyramid of needs consists of physiological, safety, love and belongingness, and self-actualization needs.



(Source: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html>)

These needs are sometimes fundamental and essential to human beings. Maslow (1943: 26) argued that someone who failed to fulfill the needs at various stages of the hierarchy of needs could lead to mental health issues. Maslow (1943: 27) also believes that in society, disregarding these needs is the most common cause

of maladjustment and more serious psychopathology. Supporting Maslow's argument, most psychopathology theorists have emphasized the obstruction of love needs as fundamental in the concept of maladjustment.

2.1.2.1.1 Physiological Needs

In the hierarchy of needs, physiological needs are at the lowest level. These needs are basic human needs, or in other words, instincts. These are what drive humans to fulfill their physiological needs (such as needs to breathe, drink, eat, etc.) Maslow (1943: 5) also states, "*these physiological needs are the most pre-potent of all needs*".

2.1.2.1.2 Safety Needs

For newborns and children, safety is typically a priority. Infants, for example, are unable to distinguish between persons who would hurt them and those who will help them. As a result, they are powerless to stop them. They also do nothing since they are still children. In this instance, they rely on their parents to keep them safe. Adults, on the other hand, can compensate the threat since they have been educated to protect themselves (Maslow, 1943: 17).

2.1.2.1.3 Love and Belongingness

According to Abraham Maslow (2005: 279), "love and belongingness demands, such as the desire for friendship; the need for a partner and children; the need to belong to a family, a club, a neighborhood," "love and belongingness demands,

such as the desire for friendship; the need for a partner and children; the need to belong to a family, a club, a neighborhood," and so forth. In order to give and receive love, it also includes sex and human connection. "The love needs involve both the receiving and giving of love— love from someone and someone to love," Petri and Govern (2012: 336) write. If the criteria for love and belonging are not addressed, a mental health condition may emerge. Maslow (1943) said that '*psychopathic personality*'¹ is one of the examples of the lack of love and attention. Quoting from Maslow's *A Theory of Human Motivation* (1943)

These are people who, according to the best data available, have been starved for love in the earliest months of their lives and have simply lost forever the desire and the ability to give and to receive affection.

2.1.2.1.4 Esteem Needs

Human have a need or desire for a stable appraisal of themselves in order to have self-respect or self-esteem, and for the other esteems, humans need to stabilize self-evaluation. Maslow (1943) stated

“Satisfaction of the self-esteem need leads to feelings of self-confidence, worth, strength, capability and adequacy of being useful and necessary in the world. But thwarting of these needs produces feelings of inferiority, of weakness and of helplessness.”

For this context, self-esteem refers to a person's abilities, accomplishments, and respect from others. There are two types of self-esteem needs. First and foremost, humans require the desire for strength, accomplishment, confidence in their ability

¹. Cleckley, H. (1941). *The mask of sanity; an attempt to reinterpret the so-called psychopathic personality*. Mosby.

to confront the world, independence, and freedom. The second one is to have respect for one another, as well as recognition, attention, significance, and admiration.

2.1.2.1.5 Self-Actualization

Maslow's pyramid of needs places self-actualization at the top. Even after all of the essential demands have been met, humans believe that they would experience dissatisfaction and restlessness until they do what they wish for and what is relevant for them. A person, for example, had to be everything he could become. A poet, for example, must write a poem, whereas an artist must paint, and so on (Maslow, 1943: 29).

2.2 Research Method

In this study, the writer uses descriptive qualitative approach to finish the research. This approach focuses on providing description of the phenomenon itself which occur naturally without any intervention from any other experimental treatment. As stated by Bogdan and Biklen (1982: 5), qualitative approach is an attempt made by way of working with all of the subjects analyzed and classifying it into something that can be analyzed further.

2.2.1 Data and Data Source

Data used in this research is some of the dialogue uttered by Edmund Kemper, Holden Ford, and Bill Tench. It is taken from the Mind Hunter Season 1. The source of data was taken from Netflix.

2.2.2 Method of Collecting Data

The data collecting method in this study is library research. According to Zed (2004: 3) “Library research is research that use library sources to get the data.” There are several procedures that the writer had to do in order to obtain the data for this research. The first step to collect the data needed, writer watches the Serial, as a material object, to gain the data and information needed. Next step, the writer read a couple of journals and books to get and understand on analyzing narrative structure of the material object and analyzing the formal object.

2.2.3 Method of Analyzing Data

The writer uses qualitative descriptive analysis technique and went on some few procedures to assess the data. First step, the writer identifies the utterances produced by the characters, especially Edmund Kemper’s dialogue about his past. Then the writer classifies which utterances is related to the triggers of the character’s serial killing. After that, the writer analyzes how could Edmund Kemper’s way of fulfilling his hierarchy of needs could result in serial killing. The last step, the writer draws conclusion of what is the triggers of Edmund Kemper’s serial killing.

CHAPTER III

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Intrinsic Aspects

The writer will discuss the Serial' intrinsic aspects, particularly character and characterization, as well as conflict, in this chapter.

3.1.1 Character and Characterization

Character and characterization part discuss everything about the character in the serial.

3.1.1.1 Major Character

Major character is the character in the Serial that play a significant role in terms of driving the story.

3.1.1.1.2 Edmund Kemper

Edmund Kemper, or 'Ed' as he is called in the Serial, is one of the key characters. The story revolves around Edmund Kemper's tale and experience about serial killer. He is also the one who drives Holden Ford to interview more serial killer. Edmund Kemper is considerably tall serial killer with 6 feet 9 inches tall with 300 pounds weight. This pale individual has a big nose and a small mouth with a melancholy eye. He is an intelligent and well-educated man, even some people called him genius. Ed's has a typical neat trim with a pair of glasses, making him

looked like an ordinary nice guy. Ed's physical appearance is shown in picture 3.1 which is taken with full shot following his first encounter with Holden Ford.



*Picture 3.1
(00:11:54)*

Despite of his clean and neat appearance, Edmund Kemper disguised a pretty terrifying behavior behind. He kites and lure his victims (besides of his relatives) with his neat looks so the victims did not even realize the danger followed them. Edmund Kemper always 'knows' when he is about to kill someone. He did not plan it, but he knows that is the time to kill. This is proven by his own words when being interviewed by Bill Tench and Holden Ford in episode 2 "*You see, Bill, I knew a week before she died I was gonna kill her*" (00:42:44) This shows the psychopathic behavior that Kemper has. In picture 3.2, shot with medium close-up to show Ed's flat emotional expression, Ed is depicted having no facial expression when talking about his killing 'desire.'



Picture 3.2
(00:42:25)

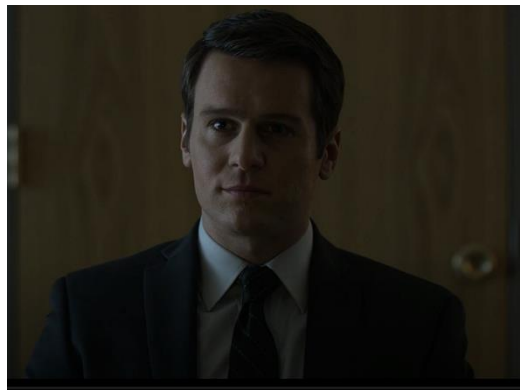
This idea is supported by the fact that he sometimes wanted to relive the moment when the killing happened. It is proven his own words in episode 3, minute (00:29:34) “*Sometimes, afterward, I visited there to be near her.*” Another trait that the director wanted to show is the lack of empathy that Edmund Kemper has. When Edmund Kemper tells his stories about the killing, he did not even mention his guilt and his regret at all. What makes it even worse is he even said that it is his way to ‘vent’ which is shown in episode 2, minutes (00:41:25) to be exact, “*Just to vent. You know what I'm saying? Classic displacement activity. Because it was my retreat from the insanity of the world.*”

3.1.1.2 Minor Character

Minor characters are those that appear in the story but serve just to support the big character's part, allowing the story to be complete as a whole.

3.1.1.2.1 Holden Ford

Holden Ford is a newly transferred FBI Agent in FBI's Behavioral Science Unit. He is the one who really enthusiastic in interviewing other serial killers after having an intense conversation with Edmund Kemper. Holden Ford's appearance is quite the description of what a neat guy really is. He has a slicked back haircut with a clean face, without any facial hair. His sharp eyes and pointed nose really do bring an officer looks to him. He always dresses in a nice suit complete with a tie around his neck. His appearance can be looked in almost every episode, but in picture 3.3, shot with medium close-up technique, really prove that Holden Ford is a guy with neat appearance.



*Picture 3.3
(00:10:40)*

Holden Ford is depicted as an FBI agent who is really passionate about his job. He really tried to get his job done even though he had to cross some lines. The idea of interviewing serial killer was considered as a 'wild' idea.

3.1.1.2.2 Bill Tench

Bill Tench is an FBI agent who co-founded the Behavioral Science Unit and later on became Holden Ford's partner. Bill Tench has a very mature looks, following

his role as Holden Ford's 'senior' in Behavioral Science Unit. His fade haircut with slightly grey color because of his age, really show his maturity in his looks. He has a sharp nose and hazy eyes. He is not as tidy and neat as Holden Ford; he tends to take off his suit while it is not really necessary to be formal. His shirt is also quite messy sometimes.



Picture 3.3
(00:40:56)

3.1.3 Conflict

There are many conflicts that happened in the Serial regarding to Ed Kemper. The conflicts happened can internal or external. The internal conflicts that Ed Kemper had are his confusion between wanting love and hatred towards woman and his insecurity because of his childhood experience. The external conflict is between Ed Kemper and his parents.

However, conflicts in this section were analyzed based on the interview between Ed Kemper and the FBI agents. There is no scene that showing the event

itself, but the dialogue between Ed Kemper and the FBI agents are considered enough to be the foundation of this section.

3.1.3.1 Internal Conflict

3.1.3.1.1 Confusion between Wanting Love and Hatred towards Woman

One conflict that Kemper had in his deepest self is his hatred towards woman, but in the same time he also craving for woman's affection. Kemper who could be considered as 'sexually desperate' (because of his late bloom) is still craving the love from a lady, but in the same time he is also hate a woman because of his past. This can be inferred from the dialogue in episode 3 between Ed Kemper and Holden Ford.

Holden Ford : "So how did you feel after your first kills?"

Ed Kemper : "I liked Mary the best. I was lukewarm on Anita."

Holden Ford : "What was wrong with her?"

Ed Kemper : "Oh, nothing in particular. It was more that Mary was... I was really quite struck by her personality and her looks, and there was just almost a reverence there.

Holden Ford : "Reverence? Sure."

Ed Kemper : "Sometimes, afterward, I visited there to be near her because I loved her and wanted her."

Holden Ford : "At the murder site?"

(Penhall, 2017: *Mindhunter*: Season 1 Episode 3: 00:29:02 – 00:29:36)

The dialogue between Ed Kemper and Holden Ford show that Ed Kemper is actually wanted the affection from a woman, but decided to kill her anyway because of his 'passion' which caused by the horrible experience in the past. This

can be concluded from the phrase “*because I loved her and **wanted** her.*” The word ‘wanted’ in Ed Kemper’s sentence shows his urge to murder her. He wanted her, but he was not sure how to show affection because he never felt one. The only thing that Ed Kemper knew about getting who he wanted is to kill that person, so that he could have them at his reach.

3.1.3.1.2 Ed Kemper Insecurity

Insecurity is one of Ed Kemper’s internal conflicts. He conflicted with himself about his feelings about woman. He had been ‘out of touch’ for years when he was a teenager because of his murder case. Ed Kemper also implied that living with his grandparents caused him feeling like an ‘old fogey’. Ed Kemper talked about this in episode 3

Ed Kemper : “You probably can't imagine this, but since I was locked up from age 15 to 21 for the murder of my grandparents, I was very much out of touch with women my own age. When I got back on the street, it was like being on a strange planet. I had been living with people older than I was for so long, I was like an old fogey.”

(Penhall, 2017: *Mindhunter*: Season 1 Episode 3: 00:29:49 – 00:30:09)

Living with his grandparents had cost Ed Kemper his self-esteem. Because of his grandparents, especially his grandmother, he never fallen in love when he was a teenager. His grandmother’s terrible attitude towards Ed Kemper also played a significant role in causing this, because he never sees any ‘good’ woman in his life. He never feels any love, any kind of love. He never received one, nor gave one.

Ed Kemper was confused on how to treat women, even for how to see woman as a woman. His insecurity about women peaked to the point where he cannot even see women with a normal reaction. This is also stated by Ed Kemper in the Serial in episode 3

Ed Kemper : “You know, when I confessed to the police,they drove me through Californiaand we stopped by a diner for some food.Some attractive youngladies walked by the car.I vomited.Right there and then, on the police car, in front of all the cops.Quite violently.”

(Penhall, 2017: *Mindhunter*: Season 1 Episode 3: 00:29:49 – 00:30:09)

The dialogue above is a proof that Ed Kemper had no slightest idea how to act in front of a lady. He cannot handle the pressure of his insecurity towards a female individual, which caused him to act like how he acted.

3.1.3.2 External Conflict

Ed Kemper was treated as the ‘unwanted’ child since he was young. His parents despised him; treat him like he is not his own son. None of the families he had wanted him. His mother, father, and even grandparents did not want him to exist in their life. This is proven by what Kemper said in episode 2 “In the end, I ran away to live with my father, but he didn't want me either. So they packed me off to live with my grandma. She thought I was a freak” (00:41:46 – 00:41:56). They humiliate Ed Kemper so many times that hatred has become the only thing that Kemper’s had for his parents. Ed Kemper talked about this in episode 2, “If there's one thing I know, it's this:A mother should notscorn her own son.If a woman humiliates her

little boy,he will become hostile, and violent, and debased. Period.” (00:43:40 – 00:43:52)

3.2 Extrinsic Aspects

In this section, the writer will discuss the extrinsic aspects in the Serial. The extrinsic aspects will be discussed in this section contains some of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, especially the needs of love and self-esteem.Despite the fact that Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory contains five levels of needs, this research will only cover two of them since Ed Kemper, the primary character being studied, has already met the first two. The first two needs will not be covered because the needs that already fulfilled is not the one that causing his erratic behavior. The writer will dissect the reasoning behind Ed Kemper murder spree and its relation to the Maslow’s theory about hierarchy of needs fulfillment.

3.2.1 The Needs of Love and Belonging

In this Serial, the parental love that Ed Kemper should be receiving as a son was never exist. The question of why the parental love that Ed Kemper should have received never existed was because his parents despise him as a child. Ed Kemper’s father and mother never shown any form of love his whole life. He missed the third rung of Maslow’s hierarchy which is the needs of love and belonging. In other words, he missed the feeling of receiving affection that his parents should gave him in the first place. The consequences of the lack of love and belonging needs are the

deep hatred towards woman and Ed Kemper misdemeanor, which leads to his murder spree.

3.2.1.1 Ed Kemper Not-so-loving Mother and Grandmother

Edmund Kemper's mother was never made it into the scene of the Serial, but she played a part that affect Edmund Kemper psychological growth. Although she does not appear in any scene in the Serial, Ed Kemper mentioned her a couple of times, describing how she is. According to Ed Kemper, his mother was an honorable and decent person in general, but when it comes to Ed Kemper, she becomes a totally different person. This is proven by the dialogue between Ed Kemper and Holden ford in episode 2 (00:28:12)

Ed Kemper : "Look. My mother was a decent, upstanding, reasonable woman, but when it came to me, she had nothing but contempt, disappointment, and disdain."

Holden Ford : "That must've been awful."

(Penhall, 2017: *Mindhunter*: Season 1 Episode 2: 00:28:15 – 00:28:28)

Other than acting completely different when it comes to Ed Kemper, his mother also mistreats him when he was just a kid. She confined Ed Kemper in the basement when he was ten years old. The dialogue between Bill Tench, Ed Kemper, and Holden ford in episode 2 (00:40:41) show Ed Kemper's past, about how his mother treated him.

Ed Kemper : "And my mother would yell and scream at me, tell me I was sick. She thought I was going to do something hideous one day."

Bill Tench : “What did she think you were gonna do?”

Ed Kemper : “I guess rape my sister or something. This is when I was ten years old.”

Holden Ford : “Nice.”

Ed Kemper : “Not exactly ‘*The Brady Bunch*.’”

Bill Tench : “Why do you think she thought this?”

Ed Kemper : “Because she was fucking nuts.”

Bill Tench : “You didn't do anything to frighten her?”

Ed Kemper : “She frightened me. She'd make me sleep on a dirty old mattress in the basement. Lock the door. Ten years old.”

(Penhall, 2017: *Mindhunter*: Season 1 Episode 2: 00:40:41 – 00:41:14)

The dialogue between Bill Tench, Holden Ford, and Ed Kemper shows that Ed Kemper’s mother never loved him like how a mother usually love their children. What Ed Kemper’s mother said, quoted by Ed Kemper “*my mother would yell and scream at me, tell me I was sick.*” Show that Ed Kemper’s mother really despise him as a child. Yelling and screaming telling her son was sick is one of the proofs that Ed Kemper did not receive the love and affection that a child should receive from their mother. The next thing that Ed Kemper’s mother did to him is the valid example of the terrible treatments when it comes to Ed Kemper “*She frightened me. She'd make me sleep on a dirty old mattress in the basement. Lock the door. Ten years old.*” These horrible treatments that Ed Kemper received from his mother was the beginning of his hate towards woman. Because of his mother, he never

looked at woman the same way he did before. The hate on woman that Ed Kemper felt, is then fueled by another woman in his life, his grandmother.

Ed Kemper's grandmother is not any different from Ed Kemper's mother. Both of them did not give Ed Kemper the best treatment and affection that should be given to their son/grandson. Same as his mother, Ed Kemper's grandmother treated him very poorly. Quoting Ed Kemper words in episode 2 on the Serial "Well, they were both **very controlling, aggressive, matriarchal** women." (00:41:58 – 00:42:02)

Surely, both of Ed Kemper's mother and grandmother showed no love at all towards him. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, Ed Kemper did not receive nor gain the needs of love that a person should have. Referring back to Maslow's hierarchy theory of needs, this lack of love needs made him look for a way to fulfill the needs because people who already fulfill the previous needs tend to be motivated to achieve the higher needs that they have not fulfill.

3.2.1.2 Ed Kemper's Way of Fulfilling the Needs

Despite the fact that Ed Kemper was never given any of love by the people who should have loved him, he still seeks some form of love that he needed. Ed Kemper's way of fulfilling the needs of love can be said as a little bit off track, or rather extreme. His extreme way of fulfilling his needs of love was to murder a woman, this is proven by Ed Kemper's saying in episode 10

Ed Kemper :“My whole life, no one wanted to interact with me. Not even our cats, when I was a kid. The only way I could have those girls was to kill them, and it worked. They became my spirit wives. They're still with me.”

(Penhall, 2017: Mindhunter: Season 1 Episode 10:00:46:37 – 00:47:00)

The way that Ed Kemper said this with no hesitation shows that he really had his own way to fulfill what is missing from him, which is the need of love. “***The only way I could have those girls was to kill them, and it worked.***” That sentence uttered by Ed Kemper depicts his frustration about the need of love, and he could not find another way around to get it, therefore he thought that murdering somebody was the only way of how he gets the love he needed. Looking back to Maslow’s theory of needs, people had their natural instinct of fulfilling the needs, therefore Ed Kemper’s urge to kill can be considered as his effort of trying to fulfill the needs. The next phrase he said, “*They're still with me,*” is also a proof that Ed Kemper believed that his way is working out good for him. He got what he wanted, love, and it never left.

3.2.2 The Needs of Self-esteem

In Mind Hunter, Ed Kemper was humiliated and disgraced by his closest people. The people who should have encourage him to be a better person really put a shame on his name. He was called anything but a good kid. This really put Ed Kemper’s pride to the absolute ground. In this case, he missed the fourth rung of Maslow’s

Hierarchy of Needs, which is the needs of self-esteem. Basically, he was never had a pride in his name when he was a kid.

3.2.2.1 Ed Kemper's Childhood Humiliation

Humiliation and mockery have always been the case for little Ed when it comes to his family. Ed Kemper's mother really did see him as a failure when he was a kid. She did not show Ed Kemper any sign of love and care, nor the encouragement for him to be proud of who he is. She kept saying things that degrade Ed Kemper and treat him as a disgrace. One of which was when she made a 10 years old Ed Kemper sleep on the basement, because she thought that Ed Kemper would do something hideous. Ed Kemper's mother also said things that wipe off his confidence of having a relationship with women. What Ed Kemper's mother said, quoted by Ed Kemper, can be found in the dialogue between him and Holden Ford in episode 2.

Ed Kemper :As far as she was concerned, I was never going to end up with one of those girls because I was a fuckup and an embarrassment.

Holden Ford : You were a failure in her eyes.

(Penhall, 2017: Mindhunter: Season 1 Episode 2:00:28:04 – 00:28:15)

In the dialogue between Ed Kemper and Holden Ford, Ed Kemper said that her mother considered Ed Kemper as '*a fuckup and an embarrassment*' which certainly not a very nice thing for a mother to say to her own son. Her mother really disgraced and belittled him with her words. This surely did not help Ed Kemper

boost his confidence, and throw it away for good instead. Ed Kemper grew up without any confidence and pride in his side, but rather doubt and disgrace

Another humiliation that Ed Kemper received as a kid was when her mother blamed him for her not having sex for seven years. This can be seen in the dialogue between Ed Kemper and Holden Ford in episode 2.

Ed Kemper : “She went out to a party, she got soused, she came home alone. I asked her how her evening went. She just looked at me. She said, "For seven years." She said, "I haven't had sex with a man" because of you, my murderous son. So I got a claw hammer and I beat her to death.”

(Penhall, 2017: Mindhunter: Season 1 Episode 2:00:42:49 – 00:43:15)

Ed Kemper is trying to be nice and respectful towards his mother by asking how her evening went despite the fact that his mother came home totally wasted. Her mother did not appreciate Ed Kemper’s decency but rather lashed out to him and blaming him for not getting laid. Being called ‘*murderous*’ by his own mother really did put a shame on Ed Kemper at the point where he murdered her as a response to her utterance.

3.2.1.2 Ed Kemper’s Way of Regaining His Pride

Despite of Ed Kemper being low on the self-esteem department when he was a kid, he somehow still tried to fulfill the esteem needs that he apparently did not have. Ed Kemper started to regain control of himself, regarding to his self-esteem, confidence, and pride, when he began the murder spree and got away with it every

single time. This can be proven by Ed Kemper's dialogue with Holden Ford in 2nd episode.

Ed Kemper: "Well, Holden, I'm not an expert. I'm not an authority. I'm just an **extremely accomplished** murderer who spent my adult life successfully evading capture...until **I gave myself** up because I **despaired** of ever being caught."

(Penhall, 2017: Mindhunter: Season 1 Episode 2:00:21:01 – 00:21:08)

Ed Kemper really did call himself '*an extremely accomplished murderer*' which shows that he successfully regains his self-esteem needs that he missed when he was a kid. The murder that he did was the one that made Ed Kemper feel like he had the power and control over the others, placing him at a higher position in terms of who had controls over who. Let alone his utterance '*extremely*' has an emphasis to it, showing that his accomplishment of being a murderer is at the top, almost as good as what he could think of. He further said that he successfully evading the police, which was his way to prove that he was really good at what he does. He fed his needs of self-esteem by deceiving the authorities for so long, that he felt like he could do whatever and whenever he wanted to. He showed another sign of showing that he had controls over the authorities which was, quoting Ed Kemper, "... *until I gave myself up because I despaired of ever being caught.*" meaning that he could have been free and keep doing what he did, but chose to show the authorities that he chose to be arrested with his own will. Although he was still somewhat struggling because of his concern about ever getting caught, which he never did,

the confidence that implied in his sentence is a sign that he was successful in fulfilling the needs of self-esteem.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Mind Hunter directed by Joe Penhall is a TV Serial about two FBI Agents travelling around the United States to interview some serial killers in order to establish Behavioral Science Unit, a new department in FBI. One of the serial killers that really stands out is Edmund Kemper, a vicious serial killer that had an interesting background. The interesting background of Ed Kemper, which was an abusive childhood, encourage the writer to study this Serial using Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory.

The hierarchy of needs consists of physiological, safety, love and belongingness, and self-actualization needs. A human being usually tends to try to fulfill the needs from the basic one, which is the physiological needs, and work the way up to the last one, which is the self-actualization needs. Despite the fact that it is natural instinct for a person to fulfill the needs, there are some who failed in the way of working their way up of fulfilling the needs, which could potentially cause one's misdemeanor. The reason of a person failed to fulfill their needs in hierarchy of needs theory is the lack or even the absence of the needs itself.

The lack and absence of the needs is portrayed in Ed Kemper's childhood. The murder spree that Ed Kemper did is the result of the lack of love and belongingness and self-esteem needs. The lack of love and belonging needs came from his abusive parents, especially his mother. Ed Kemper was treated very poorly as a child, call him as a disgrace, and even disown him when he was a teenager. This no-love environment made him developed an extreme hatred towards woman. The lack of self-esteem needs came from Ed Kemper's mother. Since he was a kid, his mother never encourages him to be a decent person, she rather humiliates him and called him nothing but a freak. This treatment that Ed Kemper received as a child made him lost in a sense of being and dealing with a person. Those lack of needs that Ed Kemper went through drove him to the point where when he wanted to 'show love' to woman, he had to kill them to have them always on his side and never leave him, and also to show them that he had full control of their life. Everything that Ed Kemper did to fulfill his needs was a perfect depiction of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory.

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