



**THE INDIVIDUALISM OF THE CASH FAMILY PORTRAYED IN THE
MOVIE *CAPTAIN FANTASTIC* (2016)**

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

**for the Bachelor Degree Majoring in American Cultural Studies in the
English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University**

Submitted by:

Nugrahaning Anindita Cahyani

13020117140105

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly states that this thesis entitled “The Individualism of the Cash Family in the Movie *Captain Fantastic* (2016)” is written by herself without taking any works from other researchers in diploma degree, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree of any university. The writer also ascertains that she does not take any material from other works except for the references mentioned.

Semarang, 21st June 2021

Nugrahaning Anindita Cahyani

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

But your solitude will be a support and a home for you, even in the midst of very unfamiliar circumstances, and from it you will find all your paths.

Reiner Maria Rilke

This thesis is dedicated to those who have been giving me help and kindness.

APPROVAL
THE INDIVIDUALISM OF THE CASH FAMILY IN THE MOVIE
CAPTAIN FANTASTIC (2016)

Written by:

Nugrahaning Anindita Cahyani

NIM: 13020117140105

Is approved by the thesis advisor

on 21st June 2021

Thesis Advisor



Rifka Pratama, S.Hum., M.A
NPPU H.7.199004282018071001

The Head of the English Department



Drs. Oktiva Herry Chandra, M.Hum
NIP. 19670041993031003

VALIDATION

Approved by

Strata I Thesis Examination Committee

Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

On 30th June 2021

Chair Person

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, sharp strokes that form a stylized, somewhat abstract representation of the name.

Arido Laksono, S.S, M.Hum

NIP.1975071119999031002

Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a series of connected, wavy, horizontal strokes that create a rhythmic, undulating pattern.

Hadiyanto, S.S, M.Hum

NIP.197407252008011013

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to anyone interested in American culture, particularly individualism, or in any area connected to it in general.

Semarang, 21st June 2021

Nugrahaning Anindita Cahyani

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ABSTRACT

Captain Fantastic (2016) is a captivating movie that offers a unique perspective of the world by Matt Ross. This thesis examines the individualism of the Cash family, the characters in the movie, through the scene and dialogue. The research aims to discover the Cash family's individualism and see the consequences that they have to face due to the implementation of individualism. This study's approaches are the sociological approach to explaining the phenomena within the movie. Emerson through his essay titled *Self-Reliance* explains how people apply individualism by doing self-reliance. The Cash family is a family with ideals and beliefs that is distinctive from other people. The findings of this research they struggle to live off-grid with the emphasized practice of individualism through responsibility, autonomy, and self-reliance directly from their action and utterance. Meanwhile, the result of their individualism is visible through a lack of sociability and the well-being of the children.

Keyword: Individualism; Emerson; Self-reliance; Captain Fantastic (2016).

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.1 Background of the Study

America perceives life's knowledge and how they strive for life based on the priority of their private life. According to Welzel, America is a nation that has individualism identified in society (2013:205). In this sense, an individual will focus on one's growth to achieve their goals. On the other hand, Ma and Schoeneman point to social group as the traits that vary between individualist and collectivist as an individualist puts themselves to be the first priority (1997:262).

Some American movies show American values to the worldwide audience. According to Boli and Lechner, "the American values of heroism, individualism, and romantic self-fulfillment are well suited for the large screen and for global audiences" (2014:410). Movies reflect the American value that people worldwide can absorb and see the film have certain ethics revolving around America's culture. Based on Yuxian, American values are religious tradition; equality, democracy, freedom; individualism; pragmatism; and innovation (2013:37).

Moreover, according to Yuxian, individualism is often the fundamental core and representative of American values (2013:36). It emphasizes the importance of an individual's space. Based on Rego, Tocqueville described the American spirit with the word individualism in the nineteenth century and celebrated self-discipline and self-reliance as the key to success and "attributed the plight of poor to individual

shortcomings” (2008:20). That means everyone has different life experiences, and those raised by individualism have a new way of living. A Cannes Film Festival 2016 winner, *Captain Fantastic*, is an American comedy-drama movie that shows how the characters can let people see the dignity of what they believe. Written and directed by Matt Ross, *Captain Fantastic* was first premiered in the Sundance Film Festival 2016. Viggo Mortensen, the chosen actor by Matt Ross, performs the character convincingly as a dad who struggles to connect with his six children.

Captain Fantastic depicts a story of the Cash family that lives off-grid in the woods in Washington. It means that they do not have access to society or even neighbors. They live an off-grid lifestyle, which means they have the freedom to the forest and the minimum amount of using electronic and internet. Ben and his six children, Bodevan, Kielyr, Vespyr, Rellian, Zaja, and Nai, hunt for meat, plant their own vegetables, and rely heavily on themselves. Ben and Leslie raise them in nature and teach them how to survive in the wilderness.

Unfortunately, Leslie suffers from bipolar disorder and has to be hospitalized with the help of her parents. In order to know Leslie’s condition, Ben has to drive his rusty school bus to the skirt of Washington with Bodevan. When he hears the news that Leslie is dead. Ben goes to her funeral with the children by their old bus. The children experience a culture shock outside their rural life. They do not understand how modern life works. When they run out of food, Ben and the kids steal from a grocery store in the middle of their journey because they think the goods are commodified and reinforce capitalism in society. They have to

experience the abrupt social norms in society. It sends the family to settle in a new setup. This movie further explores the ideology of what they believe, and each main characters portray it irresistibly. Each of them has a particular view of something on their own even though they have a problem identifying themselves in modern society. That includes their beliefs and their lifestyle, which are influenced by the act of individualism.

According to Peter Callero, “American individualism celebrates the power of individual people and deemphasizes the power of social forces” (2009:143). It means that each person has a bias of what they view as a power. The writer will analyze individualism along with the aspects that lead to it based on the Cash family in *Captain Fantastic* and how individualism affects their lives, making this thesis entitled, “The Individualism of the Cash Family Portrayed in *Captain Fantastic* (2016).” The writer hopes this research regarding individualism will be beneficial for other related studies.

I. 2 Research Problems

The following research questions can be listed:

1. What is the intrinsic aspect in the movie *Captain Fantastic*?
2. How does the individualism of the Cash family reflected in the movie *Captain Fantastic*?
3. What is the affect of individualism on the Cash family in the movie *Captain Fantastic*?

I.3 Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is:

1. To examine the intrinsic aspect in the movie *Captain Fantastic*.
2. To examine the individualism is reflected in the Cash family in the movie *Captain Fantastic*.
3. To analyze the affect of individualism on the Cash family in the movie *Captain Fantastic*.

I.4 Previous Studies

Before conducting the research of this study, several related studies use individualism as the leading theory. The first one is by Jack Turner. He investigates individualism in the social field realm with *American Individualism and Structural Injustice: Tocqueville, Gender, and Race* in 2008. The research explains the injustice of American people's individualism as it reveals the gap of privilege influenced by gender and race.

The next study is individualism compared to equality has been done by Eugene Goodheart. The title of this research is *Individualism versus Equality* in 2011. The research analyzes how minorities' freedom is limited to the privilege of Americans impacted by race. Ivan Jankovic has been done research entitled *Das Tocqueville Problem: Individualism and Equality between Democracy in America and Ancient Regime* in 2016. The study is about inconsistency about individualism in Tocqueville's book *Ancient Regime and the Revolution and Democracy in America*. Then, James Hussey, titled *Hawthorne's "Dangerous Soul" and Jacksonian Individualism: Artistic Isolation in Fanshawe and The Artist of the*

Beautiful, in 2018, analyzes the individualism of Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story *The Artist of the Beautiful* and novel *Fanshawe*. The research explains how the characters show the implication of the fundamental values of individualism. As for Heitmann and Uhlman, in their research titled "*Stealing Freedom: Auto Theft and Autonomous Individualism in American Film*" in 2015, analyze the symbolic meaning of car and driving in American culture. The result is that the self-determination and the capacity of mobility is raced and gendered.

Brenda M. Boyle studies the collectivism and individualism of two movies in her research titled *Lone wolf family man: Individualism, collectivism and masculinities in American Sniper(s) and Lone Survivor(s)* in 2019. She finds that the movies wrongly shows to the audience that the collectivism is under the heroics of the individual. The next one is the research done by Noel Brown titled *Individualism and national Identity in Disney's Early British Films* in 2015. The study examines several movies namely *The Story of Robin Hood and His Merrie Men* (1952), *The Sword and the Rose* (1953), *The Highland Rogue* (1953), *Kidnapped* (1960), and *The Fighting Prince of Donegal* (1966). These movies are based on British folktale narratives but the researcher finds that the movies depicts typical American values of freedom and individualism.

Bryant W. Sculos, in his research titled *Parenting for Progress: Reflection on Matt Ross's Captain Fantastic* in 2016, examines the childrearing in the modern and capitalistic society in the movie. He finds that in the midst of capitalistic society, Ben raised his children in the non-traditional and radical way. Sculos mentions how *Captain Fantastic* is giving the audience message to put their hands

on deck to effectively participate the resistance from the oppressive and undemocratic late capitalism. Meanwhile, Martausová, in her research titled *Authenticity and the Forest in Captain Fantastic (2016) and Leave No Trace (2018)* in 2021, analyzes the environment and the representation of male protagonist in the movies. The findings of her study is that there is a correlation between setting and how man's position reforms in the society. Further, Steven E. Alford studies *Captain Fantastic* in his research titled *Capitalism Rejected is Education Perfected: The Imperfect Examples of Tarzan's New York Adventure and Captain Fantastic* in 2017. He finds that the movies show the parenting are put together and set by economic reason.

Although using the same theory and the study's object, this research is different from the studies mentioned above. *Captain Fantastic* is analyzed using individualism and other supporting aspects, and it will be resulting in a different outcome. Therefore, the title of this study is "The Individualism of the Cash Family Portrayed in the Movie *Captain Fantastic* (2016)."

I.5 Scope of the Study

In the film *Captain Fantastic*, the research will concentrate on individualism, particularly on the Cash family characters that consist of Ben Cash, Bodevan, Kielyr, Vespyr, Rellian, Zaja Nai. The discussion about individualism will include the factors that trigger it and the impact of it as reflected in the Cash family.

I.6 Writing Organization

This thesis consists of four chapters, and every chapter will be separated into sub-chapters. The following chapters are:

1. Chapter I: Introduction. In this section, the chapter explains the study's background, the research problems, the objectives of the study, the previous study, and the writing organization of the thesis.
2. Chapter II: Theory and Method. This chapter contains elaborate intrinsic and extrinsic theories and also the method to analyze the movie.
3. Chapter II Result and Discussion. This chapter presents the discussion of both the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of the movie to answer the research problems.
4. Chapter IV: Conclusion. This chapter is going to conclude the examination in the preceding chapter.

References

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

II.1 Theoretical Framework

II.1.1 Intrinsic Aspects

Wellek and Warren state the intrinsic analysis of literature is focusing on the interpretation and the literature itself (1956:139). In line with the previous statement, Wellek and Warren mention that literature's intrinsic aspects consist of theme, conflict, plot, character, setting, literary device, and point of view (1956:225).

II.1.1.1 Character

A character can be anything in any form, such as a person, a figure, or an animal. However, it plays a role in the movie to keep it going. According to Eder, Newman states that protagonist character has a goal to be achieved, a need, and central weakness linked to their backstory meanwhile, antagonist moves the story forward (2010:30-31). Wellek and Warren state that characters are frequently described through physical and psychological characterization whether from their appearance, saying, or mannerism (1956:219).

II.1.1.2 Conflict

Conflict exists to serve the storyline, appear to be exciting, and keep the audience wondering about the next move of the characters in the movie. According to Wellek (1956: 217), conflict is the dramatic action between two roughly equal

significance of power. That means the main character has a hard time achieving his/her goal. According to Lamb, there are four types of conflicts: man against man, man against nature, man against society, and man against self (2008:108). Lamb also states that the conflict between man against man is where a character fights another character (2008:109). Furthermore, Rand mentions the conflict of man against man is the obstacle that the character has to overcome to achieve their purpose (2000:27). Meanwhile, man against society, based on Lamb, is a struggle of a man against the government to fight their civil rights or even for a change (2008:109).

II.1.1.3 Setting

The setting is the environment in the story. Kuiper states that the characters' behavior depends on the environment (2012:8). This means that the surrounding has an impact on the characters. Based on Abrams, the setting is divided into three: time, location, and social circumstances (2009:330).

II.1.1.3.1 Setting of Time

It is when the story takes place. It can be in the form of the season, year, and more precisely like day, hour, or even minute (Abrams, 2009: 330).

II.1.1.3.2 Setting of Place

The setting of the place is where the story happens. It is in a physical form like a general mention of an area such as a country, continent, or detail like part of the house (Abrams, 2009: 330).

II.1.1.3.3 Social Setting

The social setting is the social circumstance of the story where it takes place. Politics, culture, and society are examples of the social environment (Abrams, 2009: 330).

II.1.2 Cinematography

Cinematography, according to Bordwell, is the act of creating motion that relies on photography. In the movie production, Bordwell and Thompson mention the four important parts of a movie: mise-en-scene that deals with arrangements of objects to be filmed; cinematography involves the camera, tonalities, and frame and the time of the shot; editing, and sound (2016:3). Further, Mamer states that the camera angle is the fundamental piece of the movie production to execute a shot (2009:4).

II.1.2.1 Camera Distance

Mamer defines proxemics as the distance between subject and camera (2009:5). The distance is going to decide the framing of the shot. According to Bordwell and Thompson, the approximate distance uses the human body scale in the shot (2016:189).

II.1.2.1.1 Long Shot

A long shot is a shot of the full human body shot covering head to toe (Mamer, 2009: 5). There is also an extreme long shot based on Bordwell and Thompson that can be used to frame landscapes (2016:189). The difference between the long shot and the extreme long shot is the domination of the background. For example, in picture 2.1, an extreme long shot frames the city view with no sign of human compared to picture 2.2 that shows tiny humans but still distinguishes background (Bordwell and Thompson, 2016: 189).

II.1.2.1.2 Medium Shot

This shot is framing the human body from the waist up (Bordwell and Thompson, 2016:189). The medium shot, picture 2.3, shows the shot in a richer detail like facial expression becomes visible to the audience.

II.1.2.1.3 Close-up

The close-up shot, which can be seen in picture 2.4, is a headshot from the chest to face, but it can also be another part of the body or object. This shot shows more details and action to feel the character's freedom of movement (Mamer, 2009: 6).

II.1.2.2 Angles

According to Mamer, an angle is the level position of the camera that has a direct relationship to the subject and there are several types of angles that each of them has a different meaning based on Mamer (2009: 7).

II.1.2.2.1 Low-angle Shot

This shot, picture 2.5, is taken by positioning the camera below the subject and angled upward. A low-angle shot makes the character appears to be more dangerous, intense, or frightening (Mamer, 2009: 7).

II.1. 2.2.2 High-angle Shot

The camera's position is above the subject, picture 2.6, pointing down to make the character look threatened and has less power than the low-angle shot (Mamer, 2009: 8).

II.1.2.2.3 Eye-level Shot

This shot presents a straight arrangement between the viewers with the subject, as shown in picture 2.7. But the true eye level is too aggressive for the audience, so the camera position will be slightly above or below eye level (Mamer, 2009: 9).

II.1.2.2.4 Bird's-eye View

The bird's-eye view is taken by a camera that is positioned very high level. Therefore, the shot of picture 2.8 will result in an omniscient point of view, and things below will be insignificant and look like ants (Mamer, 2009: 9).

II.1.2.2.5 Oblique Shot

An oblique shot is taken with the camera is tilted and no longer parallel. This shot shows diagonal lines like in picture 2.9 and will present the unbalanced world as the shot is slanted (Mamer, 2009: 9).

II.1.2.2.6 Point-of-view Shot

This shot shows the gaze of a particular character to represents their comprehension. However, this shot is rarely used because human eyes and camera vision are different. In picture 2.10, the point-of-view shot focuses on the character's perception, and the result of the shot is somehow more focused than the actual human's eyes (Mamer, 2009: 9).



Picture 2.1 Extreme Long Shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 2016: 189)



Picture 2.2 Long Shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 2016: 189)



Picture 2.3 Medium Shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 2016: 189)



Picture 2.4 Close-up Shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 2016: 189)



Picture 2.5 Low-angle Shot (Mamer, 2009:7)



Picture 2.6 High-angle Shot (Mamer, 2009: 8)



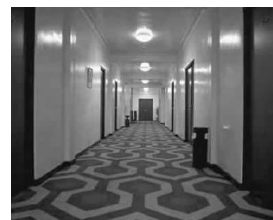
Picture 2.7 Eye-level Shot (Kenworthy, 2009: 9)



Picture 2.8 Bird-eye View (Mamer, 2009: 9)



Picture 2.9 Oblique Shot (Mamer, 2009:9)



Picture 2.10 Point-of-view Shot (Kenworthy, 2009: 67)

II.1.3 Extrinsic Aspects

II.1.3.1 Individualism

America is a country that holds individualism as its value. Based on Fischer, Turner, an American historian, mentions that America is built upon the people with free will that supports democracy, capitalism, liberty, and individualism. It is the way of how Americans living their life and behaving (2013:140).

Peter Callero (2009) states that:

“Individualism is a belief system that privileges the individual over the group, private life over public life, and personal expression over social experience; it is a worldview where autonomy, independence, and self-reliance are highly valued and thought to be natural; and it is an ideology based on self-determination, where free actors are assumed to make choices that have direct consequences for their own unique destiny.” (Callero, 2009: 17).

Individualism in America is one's ideology rather than interpreted as selfishness as ordinary people think of it. An individualist will put their rights above the group. Not only do they choose their privilege, but individualist also will place their private life and personal embodiment. They will not rely on others and prefer to solve their problem in their own approach. As long as they can do it, they will do it independently, but they also ask other people for help if it's necessary. Being an individualist also means that they will face the outcome. However, they are doing in life. They pick their own destiny, and they will avoid other people deciding for them. Therefore, individualists have the liberty to deal with the consequences of their actions, and they are fully responsible for it.

Ralph Waldo Emerson is an American author that concerns about individual, particularly in his essay titled *Self-Reliance*. In his essay Emerson writes the importance of individual to practice individualism emphasizing self-reliance. Emerson states, “what I must do is all that concerns me, not what the people think,” (2019:13). The sentence asserts the importance of putting the individual needs or goals to be priority and setting aside other people’s opinion.

Individualism through self-reliance highlight the self-responsibility of an individual. Emerson states:

“There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide that he must take himself for better, for worse, as his portion; that though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given to him to till.” (Emerson, 2019:9).

The quotation above signifies the responsibility of an individual in which their effort to achieve their goal must be done with a hard work using their own ability. By the phrase “no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him...,” means that nothing will come to their way unless it comes from their effort and knowledge. Moreover Realo also explains the self-responsibility means that individual acknowledge the responsibility of themselves and their action and by that acceptance will be resulting a faith in their confidence (2002:167-168).

An individualist must come through the society and resisting the conformity of the public norms to be independent. Emerson writes:

“Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist. He who would gather immortal palms must not be hindered by the name of goodness, but must explore if it be goodness. Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind.” (Emerson, 2019:9).

Emerson explains that individual being independence and having the capability to think, judge, and decide certain matter by themselves regardless the public opinion. The last sentence signifies the need of independency of individual to stand in the middle of the society. In addition, Realo mentions that autonomy of individual means to be independent and their priority is fully in one's hand of aims, decisions, and choices (2002:167).

Moreover, Emerson urges the need to be unique and take a stand against conformity through sentences below:

“The objection to conforming to usages that have become dead to you is, that it scatters your force. It loses your time and blurs the impression of your character.” (Emerson, 2019:13)

The statement explains that being a nonconformist is important in the society as an individual to understand their personality. Even more, maintaining the conformity of life will result in “blurs the impression of your character,” meaning that conformity spoils one's true character of themselves and they project what the society deems as public norm. Realo also states that individual views themselves being different than other people emphasizing the one's awareness of being unique (2002:168).

II.1.3.2 The Consequences of Individualism

Based on Triandis (1995), the influence of individualism has several impacts on the individual, interpersonal relations, intergroup relations, and social institutions. The individual impact covers family support and mental health, well-being, and individual differences. Interpersonal relations are the influence of dealing with maintaining a relationship with other people. Meanwhile, individualism's effect on

intergroup relations includes acculturation, communication, and discrimination. Further, in social institutions, individualism has influences in the economic institution, health, religion, and also politic.

Triandis (1995) states that in the individual realm, there are possibilities in an individualistic family that the children experience alienation from their parents. The emphasized practice of self-reliance leads to not bother to ask or offer help to other people and learn not to meddle in other people's business as it was considered inappropriate. Further, individuals have perceptions and personalities depending on the social environment. In the individualism culture based on Yuxian (2013), children as an individual are treated as a personal being, and they have rights to determine their decision with the guidance of the parents.

II.2 Research Method

II.2.1 Method of Data Collection

The method of this study to analyze *Captain Fantastic* is library research. According to George (2008), library research requires finding sources as the primary data that provide factual and accurate "information or personal/ expert opinion on a research question; a necessary component of every other research method at some point". Meanwhile, the secondary data is obtained through books, journal articles, literature reviews, magazines, and newspapers. This study uses the movie *Captain Fantastic* as the primary data. This study uses books, journal articles, literature reviews, magazines, and newspapers for the secondary data, whether it is digital or paperback.

II.2.2 Method of Approach

This research approach is a sociological approach in which will provide support for the study. According to Timms (2014), the sociological approach has the nature to give distinctive social determinants of behavior. This approach is emphasizing on the dynamic social environment. In addition, literature is surrounded by the social life of humans.

“Literature ‘represents’ ‘ life’; and ‘ life’ is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary ‘imitation’.” (Wellek, 1956:94).

Literature mirrors the social reality through one’s perspective and reflects the condition of the world. In this way, the research attempts to explain the social phenomena within the movie.

CHAPTER III

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

III.1 Intrinsic Aspects

III.1.1 Character

In *Captain Fantastic*, many characters are contributing to the storyline. The protagonist characters are Ben Cash, Bodevan Cash, and Rellian Cash, meanwhile Jack Bertrang is the antagonist character. They express themselves through their actions and dialogue.

III.1.1.1 Ben Cash

The first protagonist character is Ben Cash. He is the father of six children Bodevan, Kielyr, Vespyr, Rellian, Zaja, and Nai. He is left to parent the children alone in Washington forest as his wife. At the same time, Leslie gets the bipolar medication that she needs in the hospital, leaving Ben to thoroughly look over the children as a parent and a teacher. Living in the wild is tough; that is why Ben must be creative with what they have and compromise with everything from food to their house.

Ben teaches by doing activities in the wild as part of the natural and on-spot adventurous learning and training like hiking, yoga, knife fight, and surviving in the wild. He balances the physical activity with book reading as Ben has an extensive comprehension of knowledge. Ben is also truthful about everything from Leslie's disorder to whatever the children want to know. He is very spoken about

the issues that the children are curious about, including Leslie's condition without any sugarcoating.

Ben: All of those things are true. But Mom does not have enough of the neurotransmitter serotonin to conduct electrical signals in her brain.
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*,00:13:49)

Leslie's description is quite scientific and honest. Ben singlehandedly tries to break the stigma that mental illness is equal to crazy. Instead, he offers rational information, unlike other people who try to explain something through the underlying message or sugarcoating it. It can be seen from the dialogue between Ben and Dave.

Dave: And she... died cause of... because of... because of the sickness.
Ben: She slit her wrists. She killed herself. That's what happened.
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*,00:50:49)

From the conversation above, Ben blatantly tells everyone in the dinner that Leslie killed herself. However, that is not acceptable in Harper dan Dave's household meanwhile Dave reveals how Leslie's death by using ambiguous explanation. Moreover Ben, in picture 3.1 in the appendix, needs to adequately address the truth. The shot of picture 3.1 is shot through close-up and using a straight eye-level angle as it presents his calm face in great detail showing his unkempt beard and medium-length hair which initiates that he is strong and mature. Ben is insensitive as he crosses the boundary because of the difference in parenting by describing how Leslie dies using explicit words "slit her wrists," as Harper does not want to give her kids any wrong idea. Although afterward, he apologizes to Harper.

III.1.1.2 Bodevan Cash

Then, there is Bodevan Cash, a protagonist. He is a tall and lanky boy with long hair that, at the end of the movie, he cuts and sharp eyes. He is the firstborn of Ben and Leslie Cash. As the first child, he experiences the off-grid lifestyle and grows up with it. Bo is brave and skillful with knife fighting, hunting, and outdoor sport such as mountain climbing. Hunting is like the final test to prove that he is an independent adult. But Bo has little experience socializing and talk to other people. He is awkward to begin a conversation with girls of his age when Ben and Bo visits the nearest village to collect the stuff they need, as seen from the dialogue.

Ben: Go talk to her.

Bodevan: Ask her what she thinks about the working people creating an armed revolution against the exploiting classes and their state structures?
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:15:20)

Ben tries to push Bo to talk to other girls around his age but Bo refuses because he does not have any relevant interest to talk with them as Bo mentions the topic he is interested. What Bo says is the result from the lack of social ability that Bodevan experiences as he lives literally in the middle of nowhere. Bo's response to his father is sarcastic because Bo does not have any good topic to talk to the girls about.

Bo has the opportunity to learn so much from Ben and Leslie. He is competent and proven by the letter of acceptance he gets from the Ivy League. Bo is close with Leslie as they plan Bo's college entrance admission together. When he received the letters that he hides from Ben, he feels unsettled because she is not there to support him, which can be seen in picture 3.2 in the appendix. Through picture 3.2, Bo's face is taken by using a close-up and straight eye-level angle that emphasizes his perplexed face with unfocus eyes and detail of his unruly hair.

Seeing the result of the college enrollment, he is brilliant in the academic field. In the picture of 3.3 in the appendix, using the close-up scene of the letter allowing the audience to take a glimpse of the first paragraph of the letter, Bo is accepted as an undergraduate class of 2016 of Harvard University and other universities, meaning he takes a fast-track program.

Bodevan: Unless it comes out of a fucking book, I don't know anything about anything!
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 01:19:41)

The dialogue above is Bo attempting to change his father's mind, but alas, he fails. Bo is angry, which can be seen from the word 'fucking' as it signifies the stress of his anger, that Ben does not allow any formal education to him. It proves that Bo is more progressive than Ben as he attempts to see the world in a bigger picture.

III.1.1.3 Rellian Cash

Meanwhile, Rellian Cash, another protagonist, is the fourth child of Ben and Leslie. Rellian is very hopeful about Leslie's medication. He wants to be with Leslie again, but she has not come back after three months of waiting.

Unlike his other siblings, Rellian has short hair. It signifies that he wants to be different from his siblings that follow in Ben's footsteps. Rellian often wears clothes with neutral colors. He is often showed reluctant behavior to do the activity that Ben sets up. During the knife fight practice after yoga, in picture 3.4, Rellian chooses to sit alone when his siblings exercise. It implies that Rellian does not want to be there and contributes to the activity.

Moreover, Rellian is the family's rebel and often asks whether what they do is abnormal as other people do not actually apply it in real life.

Rellian: What kind of crazy person celebrates Noam Chomsky's BIRTHDAY like it's some kind of official holiday?! Why can't we just celebrate Christmas like the rest of the world?!
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:44:50)

The dialogue above shows the unwillingness of Rellian to celebrate Noam Chomsky's birthday. Rellian wants to be like everyone else and celebrate everyday things. He wants to be an ordinary person and does not live like a freak. When he runs away from Ben, Rellian is in Jack's residence. Rellian also blames Ben for the death of his mother. Rellian mentions that he overheard the conversation between Ben and Leslie about where to live, and Leslie wanted to get out of the woods. Rellian deems Ben as selfish and does not care about Leslie's mental health well-being. He is straightforward and honest with his dad. In connection to his living condition desire, Rellian chooses to live with his grandparents as they can provide what he wants, which is the conformity to live like everyone else.

III.1.1.4 Jack Bertrang

In this movie, Jack Bertrang is the antagonist character that helps the protagonist to move around. Jack Bertrang is Ben's father-in-law means he is Leslie's father. He loves Leslie very much as she is his only child. Jack is a rich suburban man living in New Mexico with his wife, Abby. Jack hates Ben as he often shows dismissing attitude when Ben calls Jack to know further information regarding Leslie's funeral. Jack is the one who pays Leslie's medical expenses, and he is going to hold the funeral in the church in New Mexico.

Jack: You are not welcome here. If you show up, I will have you arrested.
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*,00:22:18)

In addition, the dialogue above proves that Jack is selfish and heartless for not allowing Ben and his grandchildren to show up at the funeral. Although he, himself, is miserable for losing his daughter.

Jack always dresses well and has a conservative view of the way of living, parenting, and giving education to the children. He disapproves and blames Ben for Leslie's condition before her death.

Jack: The utter recklessness, the instability and insecurity that you have brought to her life...
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*,00:21:39)

Jack: Listen, I think I just saw a prowler wandering around outside on my grounds. I wonder if you'd send a car. Thanks. Yeah.
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*,01:23:55)

The dialogues confirm that Jack judges Ben for influencing Leslie and makes her suffer the mental illness. He even calls Ben a prowler. It initiates that Ben's presence is not appreciated at all by calling the police. Moreover, it implies that Jack thinks very low of Ben.

III.1.2 Setting

III.1.2.1 Setting of Place

The movie setting of place begins in the middle of the woods in the state of Washington. The house, in picture 3.5 taken in a long shot, appears to be a building consists of a tall tent and a hut mixed together. Several other cabins are functioning as greenhouse and storerooms. The Washington forest, picture 3.6, signifies isolation and seclusion from society which becomes the comfort zone for Ben. The scene is taken by using a bird-eye angle that shows the wide landscape of the forest.

On the way to New Mexico, the Cash family travels by blue-colored bus that they named Steve. The bus moves from their comfort place to places the children have never been. It becomes a new experience for them. Journey with Steve means they are moving from their life into dynamic and full of discovery. From picture 3.7 in the appendix, the hiking scene is presented through an extreme long-shot and bird-eye view that shows the considerable comparative between the cliff and the Cash family.

Other places are Harper's house, the campground, the church, and Bertrang's house. Meanwhile, the Cash family ends up in a countryside house, 3.8, with a farm to sign their new chapter of life. Steve is turned into a chicken coop indicates their journey is now over.

III.1.2.2 Setting of Time

The movie takes time around 2014, which means two years before the filming. It can be seen from the magazines that Bo takes out from the PO-box. The first magazine, picture 3.9, is the newest one, called Scientific American, with The Neuroscience of Habits dated June 2014. Then, the second magazine, picture 3.10, is from the same magazine dated May 2014 with A Crisis in Physics as the issue. The scene of the magazines in picture 3.9 and picture 3.10 is shot in a close-up view giving the magazine being exposed.

III.1.2.3 Social Setting

The social setting of *Captain Fantastic* is between upperclassman and middle-class men. Jack Bertrang is the upperclassman meanwhile Ben Cash is the middle-class

man. It can be seen from the conversation where Ben sits with the children deciding to let Jack and Abby take care of them.

Zaja: I am not staying here.
 Vespyr: This house is a vulgar display of wealth.
 Kielyr: And an unethical use of space.
 (Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 01:30:53)

Vespyr and Kielyr refer to the enormous house of their grandparents that provides a large backyard and a massive place. Kielyr says regarding the size of the house that is not used properly as she is not comfortable with that. She is accustomed with Ben and Leslie that functions their land as needed for their benefit. Jack house's signifies his status as a wealthy upperclassman. In picture 3.11, the shot of the house was taken by using extreme long-shot to emphasize the size of the house.

Moreover, after the conversation with the children, Ben has talked to Jack regarding Bo's education.

Ben: Bo wants to go to college. He got in everywhere—all the best schools. I don't really know how we're going to pay for all that.
 Jack: Ben, I'll take care of it. We're going to look after your children.
 (Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 01:33:48)

Ben says to Jack that Ben is not financially able to provide Bo a higher education because he does not have a stable income to fund Bo. He does not have much money because Ben thrives for the lifestyle he practices provides everything, meanwhile Jack strives for status as mentioned previously.

III.1.3 Conflict

There are two conflicts of man versus man in this story, both revolving around Ben as the main character. The first one is the Cash family consists of Ben, Bo, Vespyr, Kielyr, Rellian, Zaja, and Nai against their grandparents, especially Jack. Ben is

threatened to be arrested if he comes to Leslie's funeral. It makes him feel devastated. But the children persist in going to the funeral, although Ben has given up like Abby suggests, as he cannot meet his wife for the last time and does her last will.

Bo: It's completely unjust. That's what it is.

Vespyr: We're in the very unique position of hating those people.

Ben: Can "unique" be modified?

Bo: No.

Vespyr: No.

(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:23:23)

Kielyr uses the word unique because Jack and Abby are their Nana and Grandpa. Still, it does not justify them to prevent Ben and the children from attending the funeral. Through several attempts, the children successfully persuade Ben to go to New Mexico. Although they have to walk on a bumpy road, the Cash family can honor Leslie's life.

The next conflict is between Ben, himself, and Jack involving the custody of the children. Jack views Ben as an incompetent father that is failed to give them access to education and other social skills like socialization and the ability to operate modern technology. Ben has great pride in raising the children with Leslie, so he is offended by Jack and tries to win the children back. However, seeing Rellian wants to live with Nana and Grandpa, how Bo plans his college admission with Leslie, and Vespyr almost dies in a saving Rellian mission, Ben feels profoundly guilty and letting Jack and Abby take care of them.

And then, the conflict of man against society is Ben struggles against the government for the available system in the society, even Ben decides to live in a secluded area to avoid the influence seeping to his family. His purpose is that to

protect his family from danger in society. The children even remember what Ben says to them as an attempt to explain the current situation.

Zaja: You said Americans are undereducated and over-medicated.
 Kielyr: You said the AMA are avaricious whores only too willing to spread their fat legs for Big Pharma.
 (Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:13:41)

Nai: We don't hate Nana and Grandpa, but the rest of their tribe are fascist capitalists.
 Kielyr: You're just repeating whatever Dad says.
 (Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:23:28)

Noticing the word "you said" that the children repeat, it is suggesting Ben tries to give an illustration of how he hates society and the big industries that try to control the people for money.

Ben: Power to the people.
 Kids: Stick it to the man.
 (Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:37:35)

Their motto as seen from the dialogue above emphasize the freedom of people. The phrase "stick it to the man" signifies that someone have power of freedom to make decision. Moreover, as the government and the economic industries try to take over people's rights and limit their education making the people do not understand what is really going on as they barely make a living. However, Ben refuses to settle in with those companies and attempts to deny the existing state of the society. Ben religiously educates the children about the danger of the present society that uses capitalism and the useless schooling system teaching nothing to children.

III.2 Extrinsic Aspects

III.2.1 Exploring the Cash Family Individualism

The Cash family demonstrates their tendency to practice individuality throughout the film. It can be seen prominently from their knowledge, their way of thinking, and their lifestyle. Besides, they are pushed outside the forest, their safe zone to the modern society that is a foreign concept to them. The individualism of the Cash family is pioneered by Ben and Leslie as the parent and teacher figures of the family. The children follow Ben and Leslie's way of living without limiting their own freedom.

III.2.1.1 The Accountability of the Cash Family

Responsibility is when individuals taking accountability morally and legally for their actions. It is a way to preserve and direct their life. Whatever one does in life, one is influenced by their behavior. Then, if something goes wrong, an individual has to admit their mistake as a part of the responsibility.

Every person is responsible for their action, whether it is right or wrong. Ben is responsible for his own action. It includes when he chooses the lifestyle he and Leslie provide for their family. Morally, Ben suffers from Jack's judgment that what Ben does to the children and Leslie is ridiculously dangerous and wrong.

Jack: The utter recklessness, the instability, and insecurity that you have brought to her life...
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:21:39)

What Jack states are moral consequences that Ben has to face because what he has done is against the conformity in the society that Jack lives in. The nouns he uses to call the things Ben made in Leslie's life are all negative in which reflects how

Jack sees Ben as a bad person. And then, Jack also proceeds to call the police on Ben.

Jack: Who do you think the police are going to listen to? Me? Or some hippie in a clown outfit?
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 01:13:33)

From the dialogue above, Jack reminds Ben that he has to be responsible in the law institution provided by the government and the view he has is against the law which makes him an easy target to be arrested by the police. Noticing the noun phrase “clown outfit” stresses that Ben will not be taken seriously and treated as a joke.

When Ben gives Jack and Abby the custody of the children, that is the way Ben saying that he is wrong to implement such an extreme lifestyle in his family.

Nai: Why can't we just stay with you?
Ben: Because if you do, I'll ruin your lives.
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 01:32:33)

Ben states to the children are that he brings harm to them, and to prevent further damage, he gives custody to their grandparents. Ben using the word ‘ruin’ emphasizes that he already gives disadvantages to the children, and although that is a hard decision to make, Ben has to face it.

Ben, as the father figure of the family, has the responsibility to look after the children. The previous dialogue proves that he is taking full account of what he has done by admitting it to the children and giving custody to Jack and Abby. Though the children do not want to part from their father, Ben has to do it as it seems to be the best solution at the time.

In addition, the Cash family puts care and justice to treat each other. It is a way for them to express their true self without any intervention, even from their

family. They value their quirky characteristics and not afraid to show them to the world as they are parts of their identity.

The family always respects each other, whether it is an achievement or in a family conversation. In the moment of Bo's successful deer hunting, his siblings gather together to celebrate it. As can be seen from picture 3.12 in the appendix, Kielyr carrying Nai on her back, showing compassion and care for him, is shot with a medium shot and straight angle showing her holding her head high. Kielyr's body language shows the pride and respect feeling for Bo's brave attempt to singlehandedly kill a deer with a knife and his bare hands.

Then, Ben sets an example to treat each other equally. The way he treats Rellian opinion to not celebrate Noah Chomsky's birthday is taken seriously by Ben. He gives Rel a chance to explain himself.

Rellian: Why can't we celebrate like the rest of the entire world?

Ben: You would prefer to celebrate a magical fictitious elf instead of a living humanitarian who's done so much to promote human rights and understanding? Okay, well, let's have a discourse.

(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:45:56)

It can be seen that Ben weighs Rellian opinion heavily. For Ben, Rel's opinion on Noam Chomsky's birthday does matter to him. The word "discourse" emphasizes Rel's importance of opinion instead of other words like conversation or talk, initiating Ben giving some kind of lectures on why Christmas is wholly wrong. The way Ben giving the children the opportunity to debate and ask will lead them to be honest, open-minded, spoken out, and freely express themselves. Moreover, Kielyr also shows Bo that she is equal to him.

Kielyr: Don't talk to us like we're your inferiors.

(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:13:33)

What Bo says about their mother's illness sparks a sense of inferiority to Kielyr. Although Bo is older than her, Kielyr is outspoken about what she thinks in which each sibling should be treated equally regardless of everything.

Then, Ben and the children display their individuality, as can be seen from the choice of clothes in picture 3.13 in the appendix. The shot is taken through a medium shot and eye-level angle to show the detail of their clothes without alienate the background. In picture 3.13, each member of the family has their own quirkiness from Ben that wears his red wedding suit to express his love to Leslie, Vespyr and Kielyr dress in a knitted green and purple dress which probably they sew, to Nai that wears an animal onesie. Compared to other people in the background that wear black dresses, the Cash family shows their piece of mind in which funeral should be a place to celebrate the living moment of Leslie and not to mourn her. They have a peculiar way of showing to the rest of the people in the church that they are different.

The Cash family demonstrates fairness and care to each other with solicitude in a way where they prove that the virtues protect them as an entity. The family also does not afraid to show how they are divergent with most of the people in the society. Responsibility is when individuals taking accountability morally and legally for their actions. It is a way to preserve and direct their life. Whatever one does in life, one is influenced by their behavior. Then, if something goes wrong, an individual has to admit their mistake as a part of the responsibility.

III.2.1.2 The Autonomy of the Cash Family

Autonomy is a practice where one has their self-direction to make their subjective decision based on themselves. An individual has the capability to take control of their life regardless of whatever they want. Although an individual's action will result in a dispute or conflict, they have the rights to manage their life. Having autonomy also means that individual has rights to personal privacy meaning they should be out from other's business and keep the matters in private.

As each of their own person, every member of the family is allowed to decide what they want as a form of self-direction and under Ben and Leslie's wings as their guardian as they realize that each person has the freedom to make a choice and decision. The children are in the homeschool taught by Ben and Leslie. When on the journey to New Mexico, in picture 3.14, Kielyr shows the book she wants to read which is *Lolita*. Although it means that she skips the current book that she is reading to *Lolita*. Picture 3.14 is shot by close-up shot through the rear-view mirror and oblique shot too, resulting in a distinct disproportion of Ben and Kielyr. Ben lets her read *Lolita* if she orally reviews it which she does well. Bo also wants to go to college. With Leslie's help, he can go through the tests he needs to enroll in formal education.

Bodevan: It was Mom. She helped me with everything. We did it together.
I just want to go to college.
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 01:19:23)

The college stuff that Bodevan wants, according to the dialogue, is a form of self-direction in which forms an assertion in which he deserves resulting in anger in Ben, while Bo knows that it will create a conflict between him and Ben.

The religious beliefs are very private to them, they do not go to the church, and their religion is not mentioned unless for Leslie. Although in picture 3.20, the scene that is captured by close-up shot and eye-level angle, the cop who stops Ben's school bus is startled by the Christian hymn sung by the children in order to trick the cops to not give Ben a ticket. It is unclear whether they practice Christianity or not because it is never mentioned or shown unless to deceive the cop.

From what Ben says in front of the crowd in the old church that Leslie used to attend, Leslie practice the philosophy of Buddhism.

Ben: First of all, Leslie practiced Buddhism, which, to her, was a philosophy and not an organized religion. In fact, Leslie abhorred all organized religions. To her, they were the most dangerous fairy tales ever invented. Designed to elicit blind obedience and strike fear into the hearts of the innocent and the uninformed. To her, the only thing worse than death would have been the knowledge that her rotting flesh was to be trapped for all eternity inside a big box and buried in the middle of a fucking golf course.

(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 01:10:43)

Buddism, according to her, is a spiritual foundation without any characteristics of organized religion, namely Christianity that she used to practice when she was young. According to her will that Ben tells the people there, Leslie disagrees with the coffin burial in the graveyard. Notice the word "golf course" is used to amplify the graveyard land is being wasted because there is no actual use of it unless for the memorial of the dead which she is not very fond of it.

Moreover, autonomy also emphasizes an individual's privacy that is kept in private and not to meddle in one's business and vice versa. Rellian allegedly hears his parents' fights about their living location as Leslie, his mother, wants to move from the wood.

Rellian: I heard you. I heard you fighting about where we live. Mom wanted to leave. I heard.
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 01:21:24)

Whether he is accidentally or purposefully eavesdropping on his parents, Rel does not tell his other siblings, meaning he has a sense that the fight is meant to be private.

Then, Ben prefers to be alone and in solitude as he tries to calm himself after hearing that Leslie is dead. In picture 3.15, Ben sits right below the stream of the waterfall to cool down his head that is taken by a long-shot and eye-level angle that signifies the background nature and the small human, which is Ben, figure. The scene is giving prominence to the solitude that Ben values highly as he is alone in the huge cliff of the waterfall with Ben below it.

The Cash family acknowledges every person's autonomy resulting in an understanding between each other. They can do what they want. The kids are free to choose what they want to do, and if they choose to have a helping hand, that is okay too. The privacy between each member of the family entails the knowledge that to mind their own business.

III.2.1.3 The Cash Family Practice of Self-reliance

Self-reliance is a mindset of an individual to understand their potential and to be self-sufficient in society. Individuals must comply with their interests without indicating any self-centered behavior or even disrespect the interests of other individuals. As one is responsible for their own well-being, the Cash family basically relies on themselves from food to their safety. The vegetables they eat comes from their own garden that they plant or buy in the form of shelf-stable

canned beans, and the meat is from the hunting that they have done in the forest. The vegetables in picture 3.16 are pickled to preserve their freshness. The scene is taken by using a close-up shot and low-angle level to provide good detail of the food that the Cash family eats and snacks on. Moreover, for their health, they do physical training like running and yoga. They also practice knife fighting skills by using a piece of wood as the mock knife in picture 3.17. That is showing Bo lying with Ben's wooden knife with a close-up shot and eye-level angle. The scene presents Bo failed the fight practice against Ben. It will prepare not only Bo but also all of the family members to defend themselves against any oncoming threats to them.

Their economy is supported by making a handmade craft made from the woods that they sell in the shop in the Washington countryside residency which is often visited by tourists. Picture 3.18 is a close-up shot of the products, such as a bird feeder. The crafts are good as they are sell-out to tourists. Ben does not have a regular job as he spends most of his time taking care of the children. Moreover, Leslie and Ben seem to have problems with the American government. They make their own haven, in which they practice the Republic of Plato situation in their own family.

“We created a paradise out of Plato's Republic. Our children shall be philosopher kings.”

(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 01:29:55)

In Leslie's letter, she mentions how Ben and Leslie take the idea from Plato's Republic. The prime example is the dialectic method in the family to converse, resulting in the children being more aware and knowledgeable about the important matter from the books that they read or what they hear.

In the Cash family, there is a perception that one's effort to do and achieve one goal is important. When the family goes in cliff climbing training, everyone is climbing by themselves without any help from each other except for the harness and safety gear. Even the Nai, the youngest child, climbs by himself along with other family members. They choose their own path to get to the top of the cliff as everyone tries their best to finish it. Picture 3.19 of the Cash family climbing shows the scene in an extreme long shot and low-angle shot while both give a landscape view of the cliff and frightening effect to signify the height of the cliff.

Not only in physical training and academic learning but the children are also required to present their understanding of the book that they read.

Ben: Are you having any trouble with quantum entanglement? Planck length versus Planck time?

Vespyr: I'm fine.

Ben: Good. Then tomorrow after lunch, you can give a brief presentation on M-theory. Argue counterpoints with Bo and Rell vis-à-vis Witten and Dirac.

(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:10:23)

Vespyr has to prove that she understands M-theory, a physics theory from the book *The Fabric of the Cosmos: Space, Time, and Texture of Reality* by Brian Greene, by debating with Bo and Rell using two other physicist view. What Vespyr will do is in line with how one's achieves their target by doing a competition. By using their own efforts, the Cash family has to depend on their initiative to finish or even reach their targets through the determined attempt and ability.

Ben then comes to a realization that the off-grid and frugal lifestyle he practiced brings harm to the children. Ben improves his way of thinking that the children deserve to see how society works by actively contributing and participating

in it. Later they can decide for themselves it is good or bad for them or whether they want to stay or leave. In that way, Ben restores the autonomy of the children as well as the way for him to express his interest in his idealistic lifestyle without breaching the children's interests of modern lifestyle. As can be seen from the landscape view of picture 3.20 of their new home in the countryside. As the shot is taken using a medium proxemics shot and eye-level angle that captures the Cash family's new home in a new location which is not exactly in the middle of nowhere but still much more accessible rather than their old house in the woods. The shot also includes the growing tomato vines which initiate that they do not abandon their economic integrity to provide food on the table without depending on the market.

The Cash family practices self-reliance in many aspects of their life, and that proves that they depend on themselves to provide everything they need. Their effort to make sure their well-being and ideals are protected although their family is not considered as a role model family in the society. They preserve their non-conformity and be independent in the community that they choose to live in.

III.2.2 The Cash Family Consequences of Being Individualist

One's action will affect themselves at some point in their life. As the Cash family raises their family in the secluded area in the Washington forest, they eventually will face the time bomb coming their way. The consequences vary from mental health, well-being and resulting in their unique individual personalities. In the Cash family, the most prominent consequences can be seen from their mental health and well-being. They experience both positive and negative consequences of being influenced by individualism.

Living in an alienated place for a long time has affected Leslie's mental health state. In the forest, there is no such thing as a mental health facility to give therapy or the needed medication to one's benefit. Leslie's mental health is in shambles. When Ben realizes that Leslie needs medical help, he agrees to let his father-in-law pay for Leslie's treatment if she goes to the health facility in New Mexico. Later, Leslie is revealed to have bipolar affective disorder.

Ben: She had a mental illness. Bipolar affective disorder. We think it started right after Bo was born. Probably a form of postpartum psychosis. She'd have violent mood swings ranging from mania, where she'd be elated and make elaborate plans for the future, to severe depression, where she'd become almost catatonic Utterly without hope.
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:50:23)

Ben tells about Leslie's illness in the Dave's, Ben's brother-in-law, household dinner. What Ben explains initiating that although Leslie suffers from the bipolar affective disorder due to postpartum depression after giving birth to Bo, she gets help years later when Bo is almost 18-year-old. For that long time. Due to the idealistic view to live off-grid in a remote area without any neighbors or other facilities, she does not treat her disorder professionally.

In the movie, Leslie is never present, as the movie takes place when she is already in the hospital.

Leslie: I love you all so much. I love you so much.
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:25:17)

Leslie says that she loves Ben very much as Leslie is only shown through Ben's dream that depicts her as a loving and supporting wife for him. Unless for Ben's dream, there is no scene or dialogue where Leslie is interacting with the children.

Rellian: I have memories of Mom laughing. I... I can't even remember when that was. Mom had psychotic episodes. She had hallucinations of

smashing our heads in with rocks. I heard them talking about it. Mom was sicker than any of us knew. Dad made her crazy. Dad's dangerous.
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 01:17:14)

What Rellian says to Bo gives another perception of Leslie's condition in which may be worse than what Ben tells the children. Rell mentions that Leslie's psychotic episode is smashing the children's heads with rocks. The hallucination of harming the children is maybe the point where Ben finally gives in to let Leslie get the medication and the therapy she needs. It is more than just a tale of Leslie's disorder. Rell actually witnesses his parents talking about it and that gives him an insight into how his mother's bipolar affective disorder overshadows their daily life.

Then, the children's well-being is at risk too. This is because they do not live in a neighborhood with any peers to socialize with and without any available electronic devices too. They miss a lot of issues in the world right now in which will make them struggle to cope with modern society. Even they struggle with basic information like food names when they want to buy lunch.

Bodevan: They have hot dogs!
Zaja: What's "cola"?
Ben: Poison water.
Kielyr: Can I have the grilled cheese?
Ben: No.
Nai: What's a "milkshake"?
Vespyr: Dad, can I have a hamburger and fries?
Zaja: Can I have pancakes?
Bodevan: Okay, everyone up. We're outta here. What? No, why?
Ben: Because there's no actual food on this menu. Let's go.
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:40:15)

The conversation in the restaurant shows how clueless the children are. Even things like "cola", "milkshake", and other food that American usually eats sounds like a foreign concept to them.

Bodevan happens to meet Claire McCune at the caravan ground. He tries to woo her with his knowledge. Unfortunately, they do not share the same perception resulting in a misunderstanding.

Bo: He's writing a book on Dr. Spock.

Claire: Oh. I love Star Trek, it's awesome.

Bo: Which star?

Claire: You know, Spock. The guy with the ears, he's from Star Trek.

Bo: No, Dr. Spock was from Connecticut. Right after Yale, he wrote *Baby and Child Care* in 1947. It's one of the seminal books on child-rearing.

Claire: I was talking about that old TV show.

Bo: Oh.

(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 01:01:44)

The dialogue above when Bo says "oh" is a defeated response because he completely does not know the TV show Star Trek. Instead, he rambles about a completely different topic with Claire. Bo feels ashamed and uncomfortable even he continues the conversation with Claire. The children never watch television and let alone know about the entertainment industry unless for an old song like Sweet Child O'Mine by Guns N' Roses that they usually sing for enjoyment.

Moreover, the children also do not have any information regarding brands or companies that exist in the market, although surely it is no doubt that they excel in academic study.

Nai: They killed each other for Nike? The Greek winged goddess of victory?

Justin: Stop. He's joking, right?

Jackson: They're like Adidas.

Zaja: Who's Adidas?

Justin: You're serious?

Jackson: They're shoes.

(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 00:48:14)

They are common knowledge about the brands in public. If they enter a modern society or people, it will cause huge stress because of so much information that

overlaps. Not only Nike that they know is a Greek god, but also for other people, Nike is a famous shoe brand. The children will be embarrassed by not knowing certain things that most people know.

Although the children are independent as they have the ability to defend themselves. Ben taught the physical activity too harshly for the children. For example, when climbing the cliff, Ben pushes Rellian to continue climbing although he broke his palm. Even Jack accuses Ben of doing child abuse.

Jack: It's child abuse. Even if they make it through whatever it is you're doing to them, they're going to be totally unprepared for the real world.
(Ross, *Captain Fantastic*, 01:23:09)

The point that Jack makes Ben feels like Jack is belittling him. Somehow, what Jack says already happens to Rellian and after that to Kielyr that broke her neck by climbing to Rellian's bedroom in their grandparent's house. Soon, Ben sees Jack's point and tries to fix it by letting Jack and Abby be the legal guardian of the children.

Furthermore, Ben moves to a new place. Ben makes the children attend school too. It will help the children to meet new friends, and to study new things. Their new living condition is very hopeful about their ability to socialize. In picture 3.21, they look happier with their life, as the scene is taken in a medium proxemics shot and eye-level angle. They offer each other food that they grow, and each child does their chores contently which means they are taking good care of each other and more satisfied with their livelihood.

The Cash family faces the consequences of their individualism to themselves. The children can be seen getting the prominent result from individualism. As they live in an alienated and secluded area, the children have a

problem socializing and understand what is happening in society. Leslie's mental health is also an example of trying to be independent without any professional help causing her to fall deeper into her disorder.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Captain Fantastic (2016) has shown the Cash family's embodiment of individualism. The writer finds the individualism is present in the Cash family through their accountability, responsibility, and self-reliance. Everyone in the family is permitted to expand their interest but still giving others space to do their own thing, does compete with each other, but each person is held accountable for their action. Meanwhile, their autonomy is to have freedom of choice to make decisions and be the one who is in charge of their life. They manifest their individualism importantly in self-reliance as they entirely depend on themselves to meet their needs and being independent to protect their ideals and belief. And then their personality is quirky and different from most of the people shown through the easiest thing to notice which is their clothes.

The individualism of the Cash family that they practice leads to certain consequences. The outcome of their individualism can be seen through their socialization skill which they barely have, the untreated bipolar affective disorder that Leslie has, and the unequipped self to directly participating and contributing to society. As Ben lowered his set of ideals that make them live in a remote area and

finally moves to the countryside, the Cash family is able to regain a betterment understanding of their true self. They are able to live independently without limiting the children because they finally attend school, and presumably be befriended with other people, see how the government and society works, and they can decide the best that works for them.

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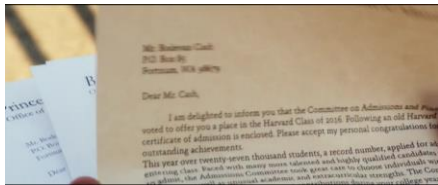
Appendix



Picture 3.1 Ben in Harper's household dinner



Picture 3.2 Confused Bodevan reading his college acceptance letter



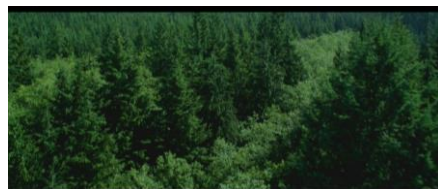
Picture 3.3 Letter from Harvard University



Picture 3.4 Reluctant Rellian to do physical training



Picture 3.5 The Cash family house in Washington forest



Picture 3.6 Landscape of Washington forest



Picture 3.7 Cash family does cliff climbing



Picture 3.8 Steve the bus turned into a chicken coop



Picture 3.9 Scientific American for May 2014



Picture 3.10 Scientific America for June 2014



Picture 3.11 Bertrang's huge house



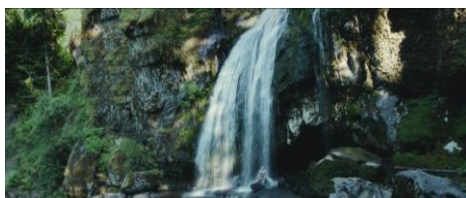
Picture 3.12 Bo's sibling's proud face



Picture 3.13 Cash family attending the funeral in colorful clothes



Picture 3.14 Kielyr shows the Lolita book to Ben



Picture 3.15 Ben calms himself below the waterfall



Picture 3.16 Pickled vegetables



Picture 3.17 Practicing knife fighting skill



Picture 3.18 Handmade crafts made by the Cash family



Picture 3.19 Tricking the cop by singing gospel song



Picture 3.20 Vespyr and Kielyr happily running with their new home in the background



Picture 3.21 Breakfast before school at the Cash household