CHAPTER 3

ANALYSIS

This chapter deals with the detailed analysis about Amy Elliot Dunne and her complicated life. Inside this analysis process, the researcher uses New Criticism theory, especially character and characterization and Psychoanalytic Feminism as the grand theory to support the analysis in order to understand the facts that influence Amy Elliot Dunne being a psychopath.

The discussions within this chapter are divided into two parts. The first is about the oppression happened in Amy’s childhood that psychologically affects her attitude when she is an adult. The second part is about the oppression in Amy’s marital life that affects her psychological state.

3.1 The Oppression in Amy’s Childhood

Amy Elliott Dunne is the main woman character of this novel. She was born Amy Elliott and Dunne is her husband last name, Lance Nicholas Dunne. The first thing that appears extraordinary about her life is that she seems just fine with whatever oppression she underwent from her parents in her childhood, but actually she unconsciously repressed the oppression and that finally affects her psychology when she is an adult.

Firstly, start from her childhood, she feels uncomfortable when she has to do all her parents’ instructions, but she can repress her bad feeling and obey all her parents especially her mother’s instructions. Her parents were the best writer who publish children’s book entitled Amazing Amy.
that get famous at that time. *Amazing Amy* tells about a daughter who is very perfect, smart, and pretty. Amy’s parents especially Amy’s mother always commands Amy for being the same as with Amy in *Amazing Amy* book in order to get the book famously read by million of people. Amy is being oppressed by her parents with anyway to catch public’s attention that she is a wonderful and perfect girl just like Amy in *Amazing Amy*. Many people want to be *Amazing Amy*:

“She was the girl that every girl wanted to be,” said Sharon’s voiceover. “Beautiful, brilliant, inspiring, and very wealthy.” “She was the guy that all men admired…” (247)

When one of the *Amazing Amy* series tells the story of Amy getting married, in factual life, Amy is oppressed by her mother to get marry too. According to Amy, after married in thirty two is still young for herself. Actually, Amy feels very sad, because she does not want to get married in her age. But she can not refuse her parents. Her parents will search her a man if she does not have a chance to marry with her choice. Amy feels worse when Marybeth Elliot says that it will be okay because she was married with Rand Elliot in her twenty three.

*Amazing Amy* latest series will get the best seller, if Amy in her actual life is the same as Amy’s character who marry with Andi in the book, because Marybeth also wants her daughter to get marry before thirty five years old. Amy claims that she is not worry with marriage though she has many married friends, because she has good job, a pretty face, and much money. She can look for a man whom she love:
Rand and Marybeth feared that I might take Amy’s marriage as some jab at my perpetually single state. (“I, for one, don’t think women should marry before thirty-five,” said my mom, who married my dad at twenty-three.) My parents have always worried that (25)

I go home and cry for a while. I am almost thirty-two. That’s not old, especially not in New York, but fact is, it’s been years since I even really liked someone. So how likely is it I’ll meet someone I love, much less someone I love enough to marry? I’m tired of not knowing who I’ll be with, or if I’ll be with anyone. I have many friends who are married—not many who are happily married, but many married friends. The few happy ones are like my parents: They’re baffled by my singleness. A smart, pretty, nice girl like me, a girl with so many interests and enthusiasms, a cool job, a loving family. And let’s say it: money. The ones who are not soul-mated the ones who have settled are even more dismissive of my singleness: It’s not that hard to find someone to marry, they say. (26)

Amy always gets oppressed by her parents about marriage. To avoid her mother’s nagging, Amy goes to a party and meet a man whom she describe as nice and good-looking, smart and good writer, Nick Dunne. Not long from that time, Amy was falling in love with Nick, and both of them get marry. Actually, the marriage happens within a very short time, but because her parents command her to get marry in order to get high fund from Amazing Amy, after Amy meets one man, and they both like each other, there is more again to refuse Amy’s parents from
marriage. Amy’s parents who tend to decide whatever Amy should do unconsciously influence Amy’s psychology that will give effect in later condition, as follows:

I go on dates with men who are nice and good-looking and smart—perfect-on-paper men who make me feel like I’m in a foreign land, trying to explain myself, trying to make myself known. Because isn’t that the point of every relationship: to be known by someone else, to be understood? He gets me. She gets me. Isn’t that the simple magic phrase? (27)

So we married on the beach on a deep blue summer day, ate and drank under a white tent that billowed like a sail, and a few hours in, I sneaked Amy off into the dark, toward the waves, because I was feeling so unreal, I believed I had become merely a shimmer (32).

Secondly, the reason why Amy passes her extraordinary action is because she gets oppression from Nick Dunne, her husband. Nick Dunne also aware that Amy is somehow being under pressure by her parents especially her mother to be as perfect as Amazing Amy. Amy tries to do the best to show that she is the best woman ever. Amy has many hobbies which make her husband feel curious with her, because she already study hard in order to get many new experience, knowledge, and hobby:

Amy was once a woman who did a little of everything, all the time. When we moved in together, she’d made an intense study of French cooking, displaying hyper-quickknife skills and an inspired boeuf bourguignon. For her thirty-fourth birthday, we flew to Barcelona, and she stunned me by rolling
off trills of conversational Spanish, learned in months of secret lessons. My wife had a brilliant, popping brain, a greedy curiosity. Of course Amy can cook French cuisine and speak fluent Spanish and garden and knit and run marathons and day-trade stocks and fly a plane and look like a runwaymodel doing it. She needed to be Amazing Amy, all the time. It was about the worst outcome possible for my competitive wife: a town of contented also-rans. “She has a lot of hobbies,” I said (38).

Amy has to obey all her parent’s rule in order to show the public that she is the same as Amazing Amy. She is a multitalented woman who can drive the plane, speak Spanish fluently, cook French cuisine, knit, garden, run marathon, all those because has to be Amazing Amy. Because of the fact, Amazing Amy becomes the best seller book and Amy’s parents get high income from that. They demand Amy to do more and be the same as Amazing Amy story.

One of the reasons Amy’s parents do such thing is because they only have her. The other children were passed away. When the y had Amy, it was a big luck because the baby is girl, just the same as Amazing Amy. Therefore, Marybeth and Rand always oppress Amy to do the same as Amy’s character in their book in order to get much money:

Marybeth would never have another baby. As a child, I got a vibrant pleasure out of this: just me, just me, only me. (159)

Actually, Amy was exhausted with her parents demand her to be a perfect woman. In other way, Amy has a husband who love her and take care her at the first time, but when Amy
moves from her parents home and lives with her husband, Nick is no longer in love with her. He also make Amy exhausted by himself.

While I am stuck here on earth, and every day I must try, and every day is a chance to be less than perfect. It’s an exhausting way to live. I lived that way until I was thirty-one. And then, for about two years, everything was okay. Because of Nick. Nick loved me. A six-o kind of love: He looooooved me. But he didn’t love me, me. Nick loved a girl who doesn’t exist. (159)

The behaviour of Amy who is a kind and calm woman change directly to bad woman and then back again for being good woman. Amy Elliot Dunne is pictured by Flynn as a good, smart, and kind woman, she always obey all her parents command in order to make their parent’s book entitled Amazing Amy to be the best seller children’s book and get the popularity at that time.

At the beginning, Amy is pictured as a beautiful woman with “Her yellow-butter hair was pulled up, the hank of ponytail swinging cheerful as a jump-rope...”(Flynn 11).

The first part of this novel, Nick Dunne, Amy’s husband, describe his wife, Amy Elliot Dunne as the beautiful woman through the look of her hair. He describes her ponytail that reflects he is happy with his wife. Not only Nick Dunne says his wife is beautiful but also other character, Rhonda Boney. In an other situation, detective Boney “leaned in to examine Amy. “Your wife is very pretty.” “She is, she’s beautiful,” I said... (32)

Boney says that Amy is beautiful when she looks at Amy’s photos in Nick Dunne’s office. Amy also writes in her diary that many people claims herself as the pretty woman. Many
people know her because she is the inspiring character in *Amazing Amy*, a children’s book written by her parents, Marybeth and Rand Elliot:

They’re baffled by my singleness. A smart, pretty, nice girl like me, a girl with so many interests and enthusiasms, a cool job, a loving family (26).

Take pride in your accomplishments: “I write personality quizzes using the knowledge gleaned from my master’s degree in psychology—oh, and fun fact: I am the inspiration for a beloved children’s-book series, I’m sure you know it, Amazing Amy? Yeah, so suck it, snobdouche! (14)

Beside her beauty, Amy is seen as a fashionable woman who likes wearing sundress and overdress:

An overdressed, sleek-haired young thing with fuck-me stilettos (25)

We are all overdressed in our little flashy frocks, our slasher heels, and we all eat small plates of food bites that are as decorative and unsubstantial as we are. (43)

I am wearing my swimsuit under my sundress, as instructed. (201)

I unhook my money belt and fold my sundress around it, leave it at the water’s edge with my glasses on top. I lower myself until I feel the warm water hit my thighs, my belly, my neck, and then I hold my breath and go under. (203)

The way Amy dresses is also imitated by Andie, Nick’s student with whom he has an affair. She often say to Nick how Amy dresses, and what Amy’s favourite in order to make Nick
more interested to her. In fact, Andie also wears sundress like Amy. She wants Nick to have more attention to her than Amy:

You went to the opera? What did she wear? Full-length? And a wrap or a fur? And her jewelry and her hair? Also: What were Amy’s friends like? What did we talk about? What was Amy like, like, really like? Was she like the girl in the books, perfect? It was Andie’s favorite bedtime story: Amy (107).

“With one quick tug, she yanked down the top of her sundress ...(107).

Nick’s affair is one of the reasons that makes her set the perfect murder scene and frame her husband to be the murderer of herself. She then goes to New York in order to escape herself from her life in Mississippi. In New York, Amy changes her appearance and her attitude. She changes totally from all her life in order for being different woman. As a woman who usually has much money in her hand, Amy Elliot Dunne in New York becomes simpler than before:

I clean myself in a McDonald’s bathroom green gel on wet paper towels and change into a cheap, papery sundress.(227)

Amy is a psychopath girl but she is a very smart woman. She sets the condition of her fake murder perfectly. She cuts her arms, prepares the paper puzzle clues, and set the other places where will the police will go to investigate, such as: Hannibal. Hannibal is Nick’s father home in previous time, where Nick ever live with Amy also has his affair with Andie. This is the reason why Amy gives clues that lead to Hannibal, to expose Nick’s affair with Andie. Amy smartly sets the above situation to rebel her oppression. Therefore, she is
able to do dangerous actions. Amy even changes Hannibal’s alarm code two weeks before she has gone. However, Nick does not realize that he tries to enter many codes and thinks hard about the alarm code, which is useless, because Amy has already changes the code with her secret phone number:

I input the code, the one that drove Amy insane because it went against every rule about codes. It was my birthday: 81577. Code rejected. I tried again. Code rejected...

Woooonk-woooonk-woooonk! I scanned the alarm for the company’s number and found nothing. I pulled over a chair and began yanking at the alarm; I had it off the wall, hanging by the cords, when my phone finally rang. A bitchy voice on the other end demanded Amy’s first pet’s name. Woooonk-woooonk woooonk! (100)

Amy changes from being kind, pretty, and smart into a criminal is partly because of her husband’s attitude toward her. She even pictures herself death and what Nick will do with her death body:

That the river might sweep my body all the way to the ocean. I’ve actually felt sad for myself, picturing my slim, naked, pale body, floating just beneath the current, a colony of snails attached to one bare leg, my hair trailing like seaweed until I reach the ocean and drift down down down...... I think he would have just rolled my body into a trash bag and driven me to one of the landfills in the sixty-mile radius. Just dispose of me (176).
Before Amy doing her extraordinary action, Amy seen as a beautiful, smart, and nice woman. She is also kind and care to her parents and husband. She always obeys what her parents and husband’s ask her to do. She never ignores them because she loves them very much:

We opened a bar. We borrowed money from Amy to do this, eighty thousand dollars, which was once nothing to Amy but by then was almost everything. I swore I would pay her back, with interest. I would not be a man who borrowed from his wife (12)

“Nick, I’m on your side here. We’ll be okay no matter what. My money is your money.”

“Not according to the prenup.” He is drunk. He only mentions the prenup when he’s drunk. Then all the resentment comes back. I’ve told him hundreds, literally hundreds of times, I’ve said the words: The prenup is pure business. It’s not for me, it’s not even for my parents, it’s for my parents’ lawyers. It says nothing about us, not you and me (53).”

Nick Dunne borrows Amy’s money to open a bar named “The Bar”. He promises Amy that he will pay back her money. Nick actually is doing nothing because Go, Nick’s twin sister ran The Bar. Amy is a kind woman.

She is never afraid that Nick’s bar will get bankrupt or others. She believes that lending her husband eighty thousand dollars for a new business is a good thing to do because she and her husband do not have lost job after moving from New York. Beside that, Amy does not mind if Nick is using her money to open The Bar. From this part, we know that Amy actually is very kind. When Nick worries about the prenup if he borrows much money from her, Amy just says
that he may not be afraid about that. Amy already do the best for her husband that shows she is a good woman:

“Should we start looking for in-home care for her? A nurse?” “She doesn’t have that kind of insurance.” He stares at me, arms crossed, and I know what he is daring: daring me to offer to pay, and we can’t pay, because I’ve given my money to my parents. “We’ll take a year, and we’ll go do the right thing. We have no jobs, we have no money, there’s nothing holding us here. Even you have to admit that.” “Even I have to?” As if I am already being resistant. I feel burst of anger that I swallow. “This is what we’re going to do. We are going to do the right thing. We are going to help my parents for once (76).

The above quotation also shows the kindness of Amy Elliot Dunne when Nick’s mother get cancer in fourth stadium. Actually Nick wants that Amy pay the chemotherapy, but Amy already gives her money to her parents. Therefore, Nick then decides to move to his hometown in order to take care of his mother. For Amy, to move from her parent’s home is a very hard decision, but at least she follows Nick’s decision.

Another Amy’s kindness is when she agrees to move and take care of Nick’s mother:

So I’m keeping my head down and making the best of a bad situation, and I mean that in the deep, literal Mama Mo usage. I keep my head down and do my work: I drive Mo to doctor’s appointments and chemo appointments. Change the sickly water in the flower vase in Nick’s father’s room, and I drop off cookies for the staff so they take good care of him. I’m making the best of a really bad situation,
and the situation is mostly bad because my husband, who brought me here, who uprooted me to be closer to his ailing parents, seems to have lost all interest in both me and said ailing parents (104).

That situation shows Amy is responsible with her position as woman and wife, she makes the bad situation to be better condition while Nick does not take care to herself also his parents. This condition oppresses Amy at that time, actually she is hard to leave her parents to follow Nick in order to take care Nick’s mother, but in difficult condition Amy is a kind woman with patient and try to do better.

Nick’s ignorance is another factor that oppresses Amy. She then thinks of a way to revenge him. She even makes a list of what to do to run her plan:

Item 22, Cut myself, has been on the list a long time. Now it’s real, and my arm hurts. A lot. Item 30: Carefully dress wound, ensuring no blood has dripped where it shouldn’t be present. Wrap box cutter and tuck away in pocket for later disposal. Item 18: Stage the living room. Tip ottoman. Check. Item 12: Wrap the first clue in its box and tuck it just out of the way so the police will find it before dazed husband thinks to look for it Item 32: Change into generic clothes, tuck hair in hat, climb down the banks of the river, and scuttle along the edge, the water lapping inches below. Check, check, check. I can tell you more about how I did everything, but I’d like you to know me first. Not Diary Amy, who is a work of fiction (and Nick said I wasn’t really a writer, and why did I ever listen to him?), but me, Actual Amy. (159)
The paragraph above tells about Amy’s action when she prepares the murder scene before she goes to New York to make herself missing. All those acts are the actual evident on how much she wants to punish her husband, because as long as she lives with Nick, he always says that the perfect Amy is just within the book *Amazing Amy*. Amy is showing the actual situation at that time. Amy changes to a criminal, who is able to create hard and complicated condition.

Amy actually has another plan to revenge Nick. She tries to think how to make the best way to do it. She thinks of shooting herself in her calf or wrist, to make people think that Nick has shot her, but then she cancels her plan:

I was going to get a gun and then, on the morning I disappeared, I was going to shoot myself. Nowhere dangerous: through a calf or a wrist... A struggle occurred! Amy was shot! But then I realized this was a little too macho even for me. It would hurt for weeks, and I don’t love pain (my sliced arm feels better now, thank you very much). But I still liked the idea of a gun. It made for a nice MacGuffin. Not Amy was shot but Amy was scared (199).

Amy’s revenge plan shows how Amy has changed into a psychopath. She is even willing to hurt herself in order to carry out the plan. Because she thinks about the risk and dislike the pain, she delays her plan shooting, and sets other plan to cut her arms to get much blood for her complicated and extraordinary action before leaves her home.
When she is in New York, Amy gets harder condition when Jeff and Greta, her neighbour and friend in New York rob all her money that she brings. Amy does not know whether she will be able to continue her life because she loses all her money:

He scans me, neck to foot and back up. “Where is it, sweetheart?” “What’s that?”
“Your money.” He shrugs. “Don’t make it hard. Me’n her really need it.” Greta is silent behind me(215).

“I have about twenty bucks,” “Lie,” Jeff said. “You pay for everything, even rent, in cash. Greta saw you with that big wad of money. So hand it over, and you can leave, and we all never have to see each other again..... “Holy shit,” she says. “This is like”—she counts—“more’n a thousand, two or three. Holy shit. Damn, girl! You rob a bank?” “She may have,” Jeff says. “Embezzlement.” He pats me on the arm as they leave. A quarter and a dime sit on the bedside table. It’s all my money in the world(217).

Losing all her money makes Amy confused and frustrated. Nothing more to do but to call and meet Desi Colling. Desi was her boyfriend in senior high school, but he was ignored by Amy’s parents because he was a rude boy however rich he was. After Amy meet Desi, she claims that she will never go back to Nick, because she is very tired with her previous life. Amy’s attitude after meet with Desi seems to imply that she will be a good woman again who will live happily, after she passes hard situation.
“I can’t ever go back to my old life, Desi. Nick will kill me. I’ll never feel safe. But I can’t let him go to prison. I just wanted to disappear. I didn’t realize the police would think he did it (229).”

In Desi’s lake house, Amy gets all she wants, such as: food, clothes, and when she asks money to Desi, he gives much money to her. Desi Colling is very kind to Amy, and Amy also feels comfortable to live at Desi’s lake house:

I blurt, nervously, “Desi, would you be able to leave me with some money?” He actually pretends to be surprised. “You don’t need money now, do you?” he says. “You have no rent to pay anymore; the house will be stocked with food. I can bring new clothes for you. Not that I don’t like you in bait-shop chic.” I guess a little cash would just make me feel more comfortable. Should something happen. Should I need to get out of here quickly.” He opens his wallet and pulls out two twenty-dollar bills. Presses them gently in my hand. “There you are,” he says indulgently. I wonder then if I have made a very big mistake (241).

When Amy and Desi watch TV in evening, there is Nick Dunne in a reality show. Tells about Amy, and he wants Amy back and to live together again. After watching the show, Amy gets confused and faces dilemma, and then she directly changes her decision to go back to Nick Dunne. This case shows that Amy is a round character. She then thinks about the plan to get out from Desi’s lake house, because his house is locked by password in the gate. Amy decides condition to kill Desi to make her out from his home:
Because I want to go back to my old life. Or my old life with my old money and my New Nick. Love-Honor-and-Obey Nick. Maybe he’s learned his lesson.

Maybe he’ll be like he was before. Because I’ve been daydreaming—trapped in my Ozarks cabin, trapped in Desi’s mansion compound, I have a lot of time to daydream and what I’ve been daydreaming of is Nick in those early days (249).

Amy feels happy when she lived with Nick, she forgets Desi’s kindness. Her attitude changes to worse that she will kill Desi and go back to Nick, her new Nick. She assumes that Nick already changes to be a good and responsible man. Therefore, she sets the condition to make herself safe to back again in her life with Nick without any serious problems.

Nick fastened me to the earth. Nick wasn’t like Desi, who brought me things I wanted (tulips, wine) to make me do the things he wanted (love him). Nick just wanted me to be happy, that’s all, very pure. Maybe I mistook that for laziness. I just want you to be happy, Amy. How many times did he say that and I took it to mean: I just want you to be happy, Amy, because that’s less work for me (249).

Amy is very smart in storytelling. She makes a good story that most of its content is lies. She tells that in order to make detective Rhonda Boney and Gilphin, public, and also her husband believe her lie. She sets a very perfect situation with her body that she got sexual assault from Desi in the previous time. Amy is a perfect woman with multitalent ability from good and bad side. We can look her answer when she was interviewed by the detective and police in the
hospital to clarify what is the actual story that she passed in Desi’s house last time, how she can back here again, and whether it is right that she killed Desi because of self-defense, as follows:

“Desi,” she whispered, her lower lip trembling. “Desi Collings took me. It was the morning. Of. Of our anniversary. And the doorbell rang, and I thought… I don’t know, I thought maybe it was flowers from you (261).”

My rope-wreathed wrists, my damaged vagina, my bruises—the body I present them is textbook (264).

Although Amy lies to the public, when she comes to her home with Nick, she is honest to her husband in order to make him continue their life in better condition and forget the previous tragedy. At this moment, Amy’s good personality appears, she goes back to her husband in purpose for building a better life than before. She honest to Nick that she lies when she said that she is pregnant. The fact is, Amy has smart plans to do all.

The baby was a lie. It was the most desolate part for me. My wife as a murderer was frightening, repulsive, but the baby as a lie was almost impossible to bear. The baby was a lie, the fear of blood was a lie—during the past year, my wife had been mostly a lie. “How did you set Desi up?” I asked. “I found some twine in one corner of his basement. I used a steak knife to saw it into four pieces—” “He let you keep a knife?”

The previous description shows the everchanging character that Amy possesses. That changing in personality explains her psychopathy. Actually, Nick does not believe that condition, because he did not touch Amy after she returns back, but Amy can explain clearly how, with the
situation can run it well. She already takes Nick’s cement from hospital’s laboratory and enters it to her womb and she is pregnant in the fact. Therefore, Nick can not divorce Amy, because she is pregnant Nick’s child.

Amy can not change her bad attitude while she tries for being good wife again, because Nick oppresses her again, she is doing strange action again. The fact may imply that a psychopath when she already try to be a patient person, but she gets more oppression from environment, it will make her bad until she makes the worst condition as the reflection of the situation in herself.

Amy was pregnant. “It’s obviously not mine,” I said. “Oh, it is.” She smiled back. She tried to snuggle into my arms. “Congratulations, Dad.” “Amy—” I began, because of course it wasn’t true, I hadn’t touched my wife since her return. Then I saw it: the box of tissues, the vinyl recliner, the TV and porn, and my semen in a hospital freezer somewhere. I’d left that will-destroy notice on the table, a limp guilt trip, and then the notice disappeared, because my wife had taken action, as always, and that action wasn’t to get rid of the stuff but to save it. Just in case (291).

3.2 The Oppression in Amy Elliot Dunne’s Marital Life

Amy’s oppression is not only coming from her parents but also from her husband, Nick Dunne. Just like what she does with her parents’ oppression, Amy also extraordinarily keeps herself calm with whatever oppression she gets from her husband. However, it does not mean that she takes everything willingly. She plans her revenge in a very extraordinary way by setting a trap for her husband.
Amy love her parents no matter how much they always demand her to do what they want, on the other hand, Nick commands Amy to follow him moving to his parent’s home to take care his mother who get cancer in four stadium. Actually Amy is very sad because she will live far from her parents. But, she decides to follow Nick to take care of his mother. How hard Amy leaves her parents is described as follows:

My parents dropped by the night before, presented us with the family cuckoo clock that I’d loved as a child, and the three of us cried and hugged as Nick shuffled his hands in his pockets and promised to take care of me. He promised to take care of me, and yet I feel afraid. I feel like something is going wrong, very wrong, and that it will get even worse. I don’t feel like Nick’s wife. I don’t feel like a person at all: I am something to be loaded and unloaded, like a sofa or a cuckoo clock. I am something to be tossed into a junkyard, thrown into the river, if necessary. I don’t feel real anymore. I feel like I could disappear.(77)

I mean, it’s nice, it’s great—$785,404 that I have in savings thanks to my parents. But it’s not the kind of money that allows you to stop working forever, especially not in New York. My parents’ whole point was to make me feel secure enough so I didn’t need to make choices based on money—in schooling, in career—but not so well-off that I could be tempted to check out. (65)
Amy feels difficult to leave her parents because she used to have them decide everything for her, from her childhood until she got marry with Nick. All her life was very good with her parents because she is provided with a lot of money from Amazing Amy. Marybeth and Rand Elliot make Amy their money machine in the previous time, but she still feels thankful for the money they saved for her so that she has enough money to live in Mississippi:

Like extremely wealthy.” “Right,” said Boney, “those Amazing Amy books.” “Yeah, they made a ton of money in the eighties and nineties. But the publisher dropped them. Said Amy had run her course. And everything went south. Amy’s parents had to borrow money from us to stay afloat.”

In other side, Amy is unwilling to follow her husband is not only because of her parent, but also because of her wealthy life. In New York Amy lives in great lifestyle and if she follows her husband it will change totally. However, Amy finally decides to follow Nick.

Before Amy moves to Mississippi, the publisher who used to publish Amazing Amy, refuses to publish it. Therefore, Marybeth and Rand Elliot borrow Amy’s money to stay afloat. The problem not only comes from that condition, Amy’s last money is borrowed by Nick to open a bar, right after Amy and Nick moves to Nick’s home. Amy and Nick lost their job, and Nick wants open a bar. Therefore, he needs to borrows Amy last money. All those things become big problem in Amy’s new life:

“From your wife, you mean?” “Right, fine. And then we used most of the last of Amy’s trust fund to buy the bar, and I’ve been supporting us since.” “So when you married Amy, she was very wealthy,” Gilpin said. I nodded. I was
thinking of the hero narrative: the husband who sticks by his wife through the horrible decline in her family’s circumstances. “So you had a very nice lifestyle.” “Yeah, it was great, it was awesome.” (132)

Things are getting worse for Amy when her husband starts to ignore her. They usually celebrate their anniversary every year, but in the third anniversary Amy is waiting for Nick until the next day, but Nick never care to Amy’s feeling at that time.

When Amy is alone, her father called her to wish anniversary, Amy actually wants to pretend to be okay, because Nick is always angry when she called her parents and when she did he wants Amy to say about the best side of him. However Amy can not control herself. She cries and tells her father about her condition at that time:

Dad phoned to wish us happy anniversary, and I picked up the phone and I was going to play it cool, but then I started crying when I started talking—I was doing the awful chick talk-cry: mwaha-waah-gwwahh-and-waaa-wa—so I had to tell him what happened, and he told me I should open a bottle of wine and wallow in it for a bit. Dad is always a proponent of a good indulgent sulk. Still, Nick will be angry that I told Rand, and of course Rand will do his fatherly thing, pat Nick on the shoulder and say, “Heard you had some emergency drinking to do on your anniversary, Nicky.” And chuckle. So Nick will know, and he will be angry with me because he wants my parents to believe he’s perfect—he beams when I tell them stories about what a flawless son-in-law he is. (52)
Amy feels better after her father call. But then, Nick comes when in next the early morning. Amy says happy anniversary to him, he looks rather angry and lazy. Nick does not care with her. Nick is mad, because he will lose his job and now he do want to be bad man on there. He tells her about his sixteen jobless friends and it can be he who will lose his job, too. The way Nick adresses Amy is very bad. Amy is waiting for him, but he did not give any information why he comes late in their anniversary day:

Here’s what happened: Nick got home just after four, a bulb of beer and cigarettes and fried-egg odor attached to him, a placenta of stink. I was still awake, waiting for him, my brain ca-thunking after a marathon of Law and Order. He sat down on our ottoman and glanced at the present on the table and said nothing. I stared at him back. He clearly wasn’t going to evengraze against an apology hey, sorry things got screwy today (52).

Nick’s behaviour makes Amy feel worried. She thinks that everything is getting worse after she moves and lives with Nick in Mississipi. In New York, Amy indeed got oppression from her parents. But at the least, she got much money to distract her. Then it is different when she lives with Nick. Whatever Nick does only brings her more deppression.

“Happy day after anniversary,” I start.

He sighs, a deep aggrieved moan. “Amy, I’ve had the crappiest day ever. Please don’t lay a guilt trip on me.......”

I know this, and I can usually wait it out,usually. “I was just saying happy anniversary.” “Happy anniversary, my asshole husband who neglected me on my big
day.” I don’t want to be the bad guy here....... Sixteen of my friends now have no jobs. It was miserable. I’ll probably be gone too, another few months.” Friend (52).

The bad condition does not only stop from their wedding anniversary. Nick is being cold man right now. He really never care to Amy except he wants to do sexuality with Amy. He only needs Amy for her body not others. As a husband who is jobless, Nick is respect Amy at the first time when he borrows Amy’s last money to open The Bar, a bar which ran by Go, his twin and himself. Nick promises to Amy will back her money, but in the fact, Nick does not do that.

Nick changes all his attitude to Amy, he often opresses Amy more than before. Amy feels she is not interesting again for Nick. Therefore Nick only needs her body and nothing more. Just the same as before, Amy tries hard to deal with this condition. She convinces herself that it is just the dark side of their marriage, and it will be run well later:

Angry Nick is back. You are supposed to lean on your spouse in hard times, but Nick seems to have gone even farther away....... He presses me against a table or over the back of the bed and fucks me, silent until the last few moments, those few quick grunts, and then he releases me, he puts a palm on the small of my back, his one gesture of intimacy, and he says something that is supposed to make it seem like a game: “You’re so sexy, sometimes I can’t control myself.” But he says it in a dead voice. Quiz: Your husband, with whom you once shared a wonderful sex life, has turned distant and cold—he only wants sex his way, on his time. You: a) With hold sex further—he’s not going to
win this game! b) Cry and whine and demand answers he’s not yet ready to give, further alienating him. c) Have faith that this is just a bump in a long marriage—he is in a dark place—so try to be understanding and wait it out. Answer: C. Right? (136)

Day after day, Amy gets more oppression. When she wants a baby, Nick does not agree with her in any reasons. Nick says that his mother had just passed away, and it was not the right time to talk about having baby. And if the baby needs a nanny, Amy is jobless and Nick also does not have money to pay. But, Amy says to Nick that she will take care the baby by herself. She really wants a baby to save her marriage life. However, Nick does not care with Amy. He even gets very angry that he does bad things to her, grab and press hard Amy’s legs. Nick does not want a baby who will disturb his life:

“Well, now might be the right time. To start a family. Try to get pregnant.” I know it’s crazy even as I say it, but I can’t help myself—I have become the crazy woman who wants to get pregnant because it will save her marriage. It’s humbling, to become the very thing you once mocked. He jerks away from me. “Now?, Now is about the worst time to start a family, Amy. You have no job—” “I know, but I’d want to stay home with the baby anyway at first—” “My mom just died, Amy.” “And this would be new life, a new start.” (137)

“So we’re going to be one of those couple who has a kid to fix their marriage? Because that always works out so well.” “We’ll have a baby because—” His eyes go dark, canine, and he grabs me by the arms again. “Just….. No,
Amy. Not right now. I can’t take one more bit of stress. I can’t handle one more thing to worry about. I am cracking under the pressure. I will snap.” For once I know he’s telling the truth. (138)

Because of Nick’s ignorance, Amy starts to think that Nick is marrying her just because of her money and her look.

However Nick’s ignorance is not only because Amy does not have a lot of money, Nick has an affair. Once time Amy goes to Nick’s bar in order to give Nick’s surprise. But what surprises her is that Nick with a young girl who looks like his student. The girl name is Andie.

Nick married me when I was a young, rich, beautiful woman, and now I am poor, jobless, closer to forty than thirty; I’m not just pretty anymore, I am just pretty for my age. It is the truth: My value has decreased. I can tell by the way Nick looks at me. But it’s not the look of a guy who took a tumble on an honest bet. It’s the look of a man who feels swindled. Soon it maybe the look of a man who is trapped. He might have been able to divorce me before the baby(149). I got there just in time to see him leaving with her. I was in the goddamn parking lot, twenty feet behind him, and he didn’t even register me, I was a ghost. He didn’t have his hands on her, not yet, but I knew. I could tell because he was so aware of her. I followed them, and suddenly, he pressed her up against a tree—in the middle of town—and kissed her. Nick is cheating, I thought dumbly, and before I could make myself say anything, they were going up to her apartment. I waited for an hour, sitting on the doorstep, then
got too cold—blue fingernails, chattering teeth—and went home. He never even knew I knew. (167)

Amy has already gotten a lot of oppression from her husband. so far, she is trying to act as if everything is fine. But Nick’s affair with Andie makes Amy can not forgive that. She starts to scheme a revenge by setting a fake murder scene. She then moves to New York and frames Nick as the murderer of herself:

It’s rather extreme, framing your husband for your murder. I won’t divorce him because that’s exactly what he’d like. And I won’t forgive him because I don’t feel like turning the other cheek. Can I make it any more clear? I won’t find that a satisfactory ending. The bad guy wins? Fuck him. For over a year now, I’ve smelled her twat on his fingertips as he slipped into bed next to me. I’ve watched him ogle himself in the mirror, grooming himself like a horny baboon for their dates. I’ve listened to his lies, lies, lies .. (169).

Amy does her extraordinary choice because she can not be patient and strong again after living some years with Nick and over thirty years being underpressure with her parents. She will make herself lost to New York. She plans to kill herself but before that she makes the condition as if she was killed by Nick Dunne, her husband. Amy feels everybody does not care with herself. Her parents, Marybeth and Rand Elliot, never gives any attention to Amy’s condition. They just want Amy do the same as Amazing Amy in order to get much money. The decided the money that Amy should have and her friends that she should get along. After Amy marry Nick Dunne, for the first time, Amy is very happy. But after she knows that Nick is cheating with his
student, Amy loses her patience after some years she tries to compromise with Nick’s bad attitude.

My parents are worried, of course, but how can I feel sorry for them, since they made me this way and then deserted me? They never, ever fully appreciated the fact that they were earning money from my existence, that I should have been getting royalties......... Thanks for thirty-six years of service! They deserve to think I’m dead, because that’s practically the state they consigned me to: no money, no home, no friends. They deserve to suffer too. If you can’t take care of me while I’m alive, you have made me dead anyway. Just like Nick, who destroyed and rejected the real me a piece...... He took away chunks of me with blasé swipes: my independence, my pride, my esteem. I gave, and he took and took. He Giving Treed me out of existence. That whore, he picked that little whore over me (171).

Amy is a smart woman who is able to set her condition as the expression of a long time being under oppression. She chooses to do that extreme decision in order to show Nick that she is very disappointed with him and also for her parents, Marybeth and Rand Elliot who make her their money machine. Most of the clues she created lead to think the public that Nick is her murderer, we can look from the first envelope that found by detective Rhonda Boney and Gilphin in Nick’s office room at home:

I opened it as gingerly as if a head might be inside. I found only a creamy blue envelope marked FIRST CLUE. Gilpin smirked. “Imagine our
confusion: A missing persons case, and here we find an envelope marked FIRST CLUE.” “It’s for a treasure hunt that my wife—” “Right. For your anniversary. Your father-in-law mentioned it.”

I picture myself as your student, With a teacher so handsome and wise

My mind opens up (not to mention my thighs!)

If I were your pupil, there’d be no need for flowers

just a naughty appointment during your office hours

hurry up, get going, please do

And this time I’ll teach you a thing or two

Amy was very detailed, she sets all the clues by herself, which lead to the fact that Nick is the only murderer of herself. Beside that, Amy has much money and she gets it at all for her living in New York until she kills herself.

But I am careful with money, my point. I have enough to live on until I kill myself.

Amy’s psychopathy was shown by her extraordinary life. Amy hopes the police can find her fake diary, because the diary has very complicated story. It tells about Amy who lies that she got pregnant, about her setting the condition that make Noelle Hawthorne, her kind neighbour and Andie Fitzgerald, Nick’s affair, will be honest to the public, and her claim that if she passed away it means that she is killed by Nick. The diary was the strong clue because it captures all Amy’s feelings which are written by her hand. All of Amy’s prediction are getting success at all. She tries to make sure that the condition runs very well:
I won’t get an abortion and I won’t divorce Nick, not yet, because I can still remember how he’d dive into the ocean on a summer day and stand on his hands..................... But I may be wrong, I may be very wrong. Because sometimes, the way he looks at me? That sweet boy from the beach, man of my dreams, father of my child? and I think: This man might kill me. So if you find this and I’m dead, well… Sorry, that’s not funny..................... (149).

I need her to break. I need 1)Noelle to tell someone about my pregnancy; 2) the police to find the diary; 3) Andie to tell someone about the affair. I suppose I had her stereotyped— that a girl who posts updates on her life five times a day for anyone to see would have no real understanding of what a secret is(178).

In New York, Amy encounters very bad situation when her money is robbed by Jeff and Greta, her neighbour. Her money was all money she has in her hand. She does not have choice except to call Desi Colling, her high school boyfriend who is handsome, rich, and wealthy. Desi then brings her to his lake house. In there, Amy feels comfortable and does not want to go back to her old life with Nick Dunne.

But, once night Amy watches Nick Dunne in a reality show. He tells to the public that he already changes his attitude and promises to be a good husband. He needs Amy to come back to him. Knowing that condition, Amy changes her plan and she sets the condition to kill Desi, because she is already trapped in Ozark Cabin, Desi’s house, and can not go because the house has password number in the gate. Amy sets the condition that she kills Desi accidentally, because of self-defense to safe herself:
I have mixed up some martinis, I announce—Desi loves a decadent afternoon drink—and when he makes a move to put on his shirt and fetch them, I insist he stay in bed. “I want to do something for you for a change,” I say. So I scamper into the kitchen and get two big martini glasses, and into mine I put gin and a single olive. Into his I put three olives, gin, olive juice, vermouth, and the last of my sleeping pills, three of them, crushed....

“Don’t you like my martini?”.... “If it makes you feel better!” He is giddy, triumphant. Hiscock is slick with conquest. He is basically, like all men. Soon he is sleepy, and after that he is snoring. And I can begin(258).

Amy finally goes back to Nick again. She wants to live together again with Nick, but she have to clarifies her situation why she kills Desi Colling. Because Amy is a smart but psycopath woman, she manipulates the situation by her serious mimic and fake evidence. Actually, the detective Rhonda Boney does not believe Amy at all, but because there is not strong evidence that proves Amy murder of Desy, detective Boney has to let the case go.

Perfectly. Amy sets the condition to kill Desi because she has imagine that she will make her life better again with Nick, but she trapped by Desi, so the only way to be free is killing Desi by self-defense claim:

I still have Desi’s semen inside me from the last time he raped me, so the medical examination goes fine. My rope-wreathed wrists, my damaged vagina, my bruises—the body I present them is textbook. An older male doctor with
humid breath and thick fingers performs the pelvic exam—scraping and wheezing in time—while Detective Rhonda Boney holds my hand.(264).

Amy thinks that she will get her old money back from her parents and new Nick comes when Nick is interviewing in a Ellen Abbot reality show. That things make Amy changes her mind and she prepares all the condition to make her back in what way she wants:

Nick forgives me—I screwed you over, you screwed me over, let’s make up. What if his code is true? Nick wants me back. Nick wants me back so he can treat me right. So he can spend the rest of his life treating me the way he should. It sounds rather lovely. We could go back to New York. Sales for the Amazing Amy books have skyrocketed since My disappearance—three generations of readers have remembered how much they love me. My greedy, stupid, irresponsible parents can finally pay back my trust fund. With interest. Because I want to go back to my old life. Or my old life with my old money and my New Nick. Love-Honor-and-Obey Nick. Maybe he’s learned his lesson. Maybe he’ll be like he was before. I need to get home to him (249).

Amy lies to the public that she was kidnapped by Desi. When she was in the livingroom and someone rang the bell, Amy thought that Nick gave her surprise because it was their five anniversary. But it was Desi who came and forced her to follow. Amy was trying to fight him back, but it made Desi angry and at least Amy had to follow Desi to his home and when she had good opportunity, she killed Desi to defend herself and back to Nick:
Desi barged in, and he was pacing around the living room, all flustered and kind of frantic, and he said, What are you doing for your anniversary? It frightened me, that he knew today was our anniversary, and he seemed angry about it, and then his arm flashed out and he had me by the wrist and was twisting it behind my back, and we struggled. I put up a real fight. B: What next? A: I kicked him and got away for a second and ran to the kitchen, and we struggled more and he clubbed me once with the big wooden Judy handle, and I went flying and then he hit me two or three more times.

I remember not being able to see for a second, just dizzy, my head was throbbing and I tried to grab for the handle and he stabbed my arm with this pocketknife he was carrying (265-266).

After the public believes to Amy’s story, she is back home with Nick. Being in curiosity, Nick asks Amy the real story, because he does not believe her story at all. Amy feels that if she is back she will get better life with Nick, but the fact is Nick doubts her honesty.

“You killed Desi so you had a new story, so you could come back and be beloved Amy and not ever have to take the blame for what you did. Don’t you get it, Amy, the irony? It’s what you always hated about me—that I never dealt with the consequences of my actions, right? (272).

After Nick knows that Amy is a psychopath woman that can be dangerous for himself, he decides to divorce Amy and get marry with Andie. Knowing that, Amy becomes angry to Nick.
and she tells him that in a long time he has live with Amy’s money and he can not divorce her in easy way:

You are WITTY, you are WARM, you are BRILLIANT. You’re so pathetic. You think you can ever be a normal man again? You’ll find a nice girl, and you’ll still think of me, and you’ll be so completely dissatisfied, trapped in your boring, normal life with your regular wife and your two average kids. You’ll think of me and then you’ll look at your wife, and you’ll think: Dumb bitch.” “Shut up, Amy. I mean it.” “Just like your dad. We’re all bitches in the end, aren’t we, Nick? Dumb bitch, psycho bitch.” He grabs me by the arm and shakes me hard. “I’m the bitch who makes you better, Nick.” He stops talking then. He is using all his energy to keep his hands at his side. His eyes are wet with tears. He is shaking. “I’m the bitch who makes you a man.”

Then his hands are on my neck.

In the last story, Amy is pregnant for real. Nick looks the test pack to make sure and it is pregnant-blue. He then drives to the doctor with Amy, and the doctor says Amy is pregnant. When Nick says that he never touches Amy after she returns back, Amy says she got Nick’s semen in hospital laboratory and she took it in her womb. From that time, Nick realizes that he can not divorce Amy, because Amy is pregnant with his child. Because of the pregnancy, Nick starts to accept and continue his life with his wife, Amy Elliot Dunne.

I made her do it again in front of me. Piss on the stick, me squatting next to her on the bathroom floor, watching the urine come out of her and hitting the stick and turning it pregnant-blue. Then I hustled her into the car and drove to
the doctor’s office, and I watched the blood come out of her—because she isn’t really afraid of blood—and we waited the two hours for the test to come back. Amy was pregnant. “It’s obviously not mine,” I said. “Oh, it is.” She smiled back. She tried to snuggle into my arms. “Congratulations, Dad.” “Amy—” I began, because of course it wasn’t true, I hadn’t touched my wife since her return. Then I saw it: the box of tissues, the vinyl recliner, the TV and porn, and my semen in a hospital freezer somewhere. (291)

3.3 Islamic’s View on Women’s Oppression

Amy Elliot Dunne has complicated life because the oppression she gets from her parents in her childhood and from her husband in her marital life. The first, she gets oppression from her parents, because her parents not only want to get high popularity with their book Amazing Amy but also they want to get a lot of money from the book. In order to get the popularity and the money, Amy’s parents demand her to act and do the same as the Amazing Amy from the book, such as Amy has to be fluent in speaking many languages, cooks various foods from abroad, drives aeroplane, and others. Because Amy has to obey all her parents’ instructions, she becomes a great and multitalent girl as Amy’s character in Amazing Amy, but in other side she does not have friends and she can not be free to do what she wants to.

Oppression towards child especially daughter in Islam is forbidden because Rasulullah said “Whoever is given the ordeal something because of daughters, then he is doing the best to them, the daughters will become a barrier for him from the torment of hell.”(HR. Bukhari no. 5995 and Muslim no. 2629)
In Amy’s family, both of her parents give her the best for everything. However, every best thing that Rand and Marybeth Elliot provide for Amy is not for her sake but mostly for their own advantages. The following hadith also states that every parents are responsible towards their children’s life:

“Every child is born in a state of fitrah(Islam), his parents would make him a Jew and Christians.” (HR. Abu Dawud)

Based on the hadith, what a child will be in the future depends on how the parents nurture them. The child, whether girl or boy, if the parents educate in the right way will be a good person. But if the parents give bad examples, command the wrong life, they will get sins and trouble in their life. Therefore, in Amy’s case, it can be said that Amy is being a psychopath due to the way her parents treat her in the past and in the present. Her parents give her all the best just to force her to be a perfect and great woman in order to make her parents famous with their Amazing Amy book.

The second, Amy gets oppression from her husband, Nick Dunne. In her marital life, the problem is coming when Nick and Amy are jobless. It is actually not a big problem for Amy because she has a lot of money in her bank. However, things are getting worse when Amy follows Nick to move to Missouri. Nick borrows her money to open a bar. But after that, Nick becomes ignorant towards Amy. He prohibits Amy to get pregnant because of many reasons, and then he cheats with one of his students. As Islam’s Women says even if the man have more responsibility than the woman and thereby have a degree over her, it does not make a husband
inherently better than his wife. The oppression towards wife in Islam is forbidden as has stated in al-Quran as follows:

“O you who have believed, it is not lawful for you to inherit women by compulsion. And do not make difficulties for them in order to take [back] part of what you gave them unless they commit a clear immorality. And live with them in kindness. For if you dislike them - perhaps you dislike a thing and Allah makes therein much good.” (Q.S An Nisa’ 19)

That verse explains that a husband should be kind towards his wife. A husband should be able to keep his temper down. This condition does not happen in Amy’s marital life. After moving to Nick’s hometown, Amy find her husband is very ignorant towards her. When she says Nick that she wants to get pregnant, Nick starts hate Amy and he even thinks of getting divorce. Islamnever allows a husband to act rude towards his wife both physically and spiritually. Because Islam is a religion that values such egalitarian principle, justice, and humanity. The followings are verse and hadith which require the husband to be polite, affectionate and gentle to his wife:

“And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought.” (Q.S Ar-Ruum 21)

“A’ishah narrated that Rasulullah SAW once said "The best among you are those most polite to his wife".” (HR. Turmudzi)
Those verse and hadith explain that a husband has to be polite to his wife. He is prohibited by Allah to act rude and create difficulty towards his wife. What happen in Amy’s marital life is the example when a husband is always rude and never cares to his wife. Nick just needs his wife’s body to have sex. Beside that, he cheats with his student and plans to divorce her wife. Those are prohibited in Islam because a wife has to get kindness from her husband as previously mention in Q.S Ar Ruum verse 21 and HR. Turmuizi.

Virtually, Gone Girl is one of literary works which comes from non islam civilization, but then the story within the novel can be taken in the context of islamic values.