

III. ANALYSIS

The Process of Ashley Patterson's Paranoid Schizophrenia

In this chapter, I would like to analyze the causes of the main female's paranoid schizophrenia behavior in Sidney Sheldon's Tell Me Your Dreams. I will use the psychoanalytic theory of mental disorder to observe the processes that lead her paranoid schizophrenia. First of all, I would like to discuss the background of Ashley Patterson's life as seen from her childhood with her father. In the discussion later, I would like to observe Ashley's paranoid behavior by using paranoid schizophrenia and psychopathic personality and try to find the processes of her paranoid schizophrenia.

In this chapter, I will show about Ashley's psychosis level, the forming of Ashley's alter egos and the state of her paranoia level, and the forming of Ashley's problems with her surroundings that lead her to paranoid schizophrenia. The process brings psychological destruction toward Ashley, especially to her daily life and her job. After several horrible murders, Ashley becomes afraid of living alone in her apartment, she feels like being chased by someone who wants to kill her.

At the last part of this chapter, I will show about the trial process of Ashley. She has to pass the trial as the consequences of what her alter egos has done by using her body as the media to kill many men. Also I will show about the recognition from the people around her about the facts of her alter egos and her alter egos' interference in the murder cases.

III.1. Ashley Patterson's Psychosis Stage

Psychosis is a behavior disorder in which people lose contact with reality as result of unclear perception and cognition, often with hallucinations or delusions, disturbances of speech and memory, and extreme shifts in mood and feelings.

Psychotics are usually unaware that their behavior is maladaptive; one of the principal psychoses is schizophrenia. Ashley, in this part, is stepped into psychosis – the beginning level of paranoid schizophrenia – as the effects of her childhood experiences and her teenage life with her family, especially with her father. Ashley really suffers because of her father's attitudes and behaviors and her suffers has brought the significant changes into her life, she suffers from a mental disorder.

A person always has his or her own background of life that becomes the clues to find out about the basic idea of the problem that has happened to his or her life. Ashley Patterson has grown up in Bedford, Pennsylvania, a small town two hours east of Pittsburgh, deep in the Allegheny Mountains. Her father has been the head of the Memorial Hospital of Bedford County, one of the top one hundred hospitals in the country. Bedford has been a wonderful town to grow up in. There are parks for picnics, rivers to fish in and social events that go on all year. Ashley enjoys visiting Big Valley, where there is an Amish colony.

After having graduated from her college, Ashley is employed at Global Computer Graphics Corporation, a successful, fast-growing young company with two hundred employees. Her father – Dr. Steven Patterson – has pioneered a breakthrough in minimally invasive heart surgery. He is constantly invited to lecture at major hospitals around the world. Ashley's mother has died when Ashley is twelve, and she has no one but her father.

Ashley has many bad experiences when she is living with her father. One of the experiences that change her life is when her father forbids her to have a relationship with Jim Clearly – her boyfriend – at the high school. Because of this, Ashley has to go to London to continue her study there.

Dr. Patterson was worried. "You're seeing too much of that Clearly boy."

"Father, he's very decent and I love him."

“How can you love him? He’s a goddamned *football* player. I’m not going to let you marry a football player. He’s not good enough for you, Ashley.” (p.11) [Italics from the original]

....

“I’m sorry, sir. The party – “

“Don’t give me your goddamn excuses, Clearly. Who the hell do you think you’re fooling?”

“I’m not – “

“From now on, you keep your goddamned hands off my daughter, do you understand?”

“Clearly, I want you to get the hell out of here and stay out”

“If I ever see you around here again, I’ll break every bone in your body.” (p.12)

From the sentences above, it is very clear that Dr. Steven Patterson – Ashley’s father – does not like Jim Clearly very much. This happens when Jim Clearly accompanies Ashley to go home from a party. It is late at midnight, and beyond their thought, Dr. Steven Patterson – Ashley’s father – is waiting for them. From the illustrations above, Jim is forced by Dr. Steven Patterson to leave his house and is never in touch with his daughter again.

Starting from the situation, Ashley feels that her father has intervened too much in her personal life and she does not agree to that. She plans to escape with Jim that night but in the middle of her journey to Jim’s house, she cancels it.

“I’m not going to let my father do this to me, Ashley thought, determinedly. He’s trying to ruin my life. She sat on her bed for a long time. Jim is my future; I want to be with him. I don’t belong here anymore. She rose and began to pack an overnight bag. Thirty minutes later, Ashley slipped out the back door and started toward Jim

Clearly's home, a dozen blocks away. *I'll stay with him tonight, and we'll take the morning train to Chicago.* But as she got nearer to his house, Ashley thought, *No. This is wrong. I don't want to spoil everything. I'll meet him at the station.* And she turned and headed back home." (p.13) [Italics from the original]

From the quotations above, it is clear that Ashley expresses high emotion because of what her father has done to her. "Communication deviance is related to an increased risk for episodes of schizophrenia in high-risk young people, and high expressed emotion in families increases the possibility of decline for schizophrenics." (Perroto, Culkin, 1993 p.266). From this quotation, it shows that Ashley' high emotion can lead her to paranoid schizophrenia. She is very angry so she leaves her father and escapes with Jim. She thinks that Jim is her future and dreams, so she decides to escape with Jim and gets married with him, but in the middle of her way to Jim's house, she turns around and cancels her plan because she thinks that it is better for her to meet Jim at the station. She is waiting for Jim at the station for hours but Jim never shows up.

...At 5.30, she picked up her suitcase and moved silently past the closed-door pf her father's bedroom. She crept out of the house and took a bus to the railroad station. When she reached the station, Jim had not arrived. She was early. The train was not due for another hour. Ashley was sat on the bench eagerly waiting...

....

But I can't let him live my life. One day he'll rally get to know Jim, and he'll see how lucky I am. 6:30 ... 6:40 ... 6:45 ... 6:50... there was no sign of Jim. Ashley was beginning to panic. What could have happened? She decided to telephone him. There was no answer. (p.13) [Italics from the original]

....

A few minutes later, Ashley stood there watching the train to Chicago pull out of the station, taking all her dreams with it. She waited another half hour and tried to telephone Jim again. When there was still no answer, she slowly headed home, desolate. At noon, Ashley and her father were on a plane to London. (p.13-14)

From the quotations above, it shows about Ashley's life when she is a teenager. She has to suffer because her father forces her to follow his will. Ashley never has her own life and world, her father always interferes her life. She is trying to escape from her father by going to other places with her boyfriend but it never becomes a reality because he never shows up. Her childhood and teenager experiences have affected her personality. She grows up in a life which is full of fear, worried feelings, and anxiety towards her family and surroundings.

Ashley is living under the pressure of her father. Because Dr. Steven Patterson is too suspicious of Ashley's friends he always protects Ashley from what he calls "outer world." Ashley suffers a lot with what her father has done to her. She never has a chance to hang out with her high school friends freely. Dr. Steven Patterson thinks that he has done his best to keep her only daughter away from a bad friendship, but he does not realize that Ashley has suffered because of it.

"Father, we're just good – "

A waiter came up to the table. "Would you like to see a menu?"

Dr. Patterson turned to him and snapped, "Can't you see we're in the middle of a conversation? Go away until you're sent for!" (p.9)

From the quotation above, it looks like Dr. Patterson really wants to enjoy every single second of his time with his daughter. He really realizes that their relationship is not as tight as a father-and-daughter's relationship in a happy family. He looks disturbed when a waiter comes and asks for an order of menu. "You're a

million miles away. What are you thinking about?” Ashley studied her father across the table. “Nothing” (p.14) From the quotations, it seems that Dr. Steven Patterson wants to talk with her, construct a relationship – in this case, a conversation – with Ashley, but Ashley does not pay attention to her father. She chooses to be quite and says just a simple answer. Dr. Steven Patterson knows that his relationship with her daughter is not tight anymore, that is why he says that Ashley flies “a million miles away” at their lunchtime.

Because of her father’s overprotective attitudes in her life, Ashley becomes afraid of doing something and being caught in the act by her father. She stands in a line between honesty and lie to her father and this creates an anxiety and worried feelings inside her. Wherever she goes, she is always afraid of her father that he knows about what she has done with her friends. She is living under the pressure of her father and that makes feel her like being jailed in the golden cage. Her father’s behavior has made Ashley become afraid of living under the same roof with him.

She had forgotten how savage her father’s temper was. He had once punched an intern during an operation for making an error in judgment. Ashley remembered the screaming arguments between her mother and father when she was a little girl. **They had terrified her.** Her parents always fought about some thing, but try as she might, Ashley could not remember what it was. She had blocked it from her mind [bold mine] (p.9).

From the quotation above, it seems that Ashley suffers from anxiety and worried feelings of her father because of his temper and behavior. Instead of her father’s overprotective attitude, the reason why Ashley does not want to live under the same roof with her father is because of his uncontrolled temper. “They had terrified her” (p.9), This is a proof of Ashley’s fear of her father and she has “blocked” it from her mind. It means that Ashley wants her father not to interfere with her life anymore. She is afraid that her father would take all of her future dreams and life. Her fear to

her father is so strong that she can remember directly about her terrified memory of her father's hatred of Jim Clearly. "Where were we? Oh, yes. Going out with Shane miller is a mistake. A big mistake." And his words brought back another terrible memory (p.9). From the quotation, it shows that Ashley suffers from a traumatic memory about her father's attitude when she is living with him. The traumatic memory comes again when she is reminded about it. It means that what her father has done to her really influences her mind.

Ashley, in this case is in a psychosis level of her paranoid schizophrenia. She suffers from anxiety and worried feelings, high emotion and a traumatic memory about the situation around her. With these conditions, Ashley has a huge tendency to become a schizophrenic.

III.2. The Forming of Ashley's Alter Egos and the State of her Paranoia

Stage

Alter ego is the experiences in life and reflects to the psychological attitude and behavior of a person. Alter ego is usually born because of the bad experiences and traumatic about something that has happened in his or her past life. As the main scope in this thesis, Ashley Patterson is the person who has alter egos in her personality and later will lead her to paranoid schizophrenia.

Ashley's problems with her alter egos bring a big change in her life. Her mental disorder begins when John –her relative – rapes her at six years old in her house.

"It happened when Ashley was six. I had to go to England. My wife couldn't go. I took Ashley with me. My wife had an elderly cousin over there named John. I didn't realize it at the time, but John had ... emotional problems. I had to leave to give a lecture one day, and John offered to baby-sit. When I got back, he was gone. Ashley was in a state of complete hysteria. It took a long, long time to calm her down. After that, she wouldn't let anyone come near her, she became timid

and withdrawn and a week later, John was arrested as a serial child molester.” Dr. Patterson’s face was filled with pain. (p.325)

From the quotation, we know the beginning of Ashley’s nightmares in her life from Dr. Steven Patterson. Her own relative rapes her and it happens until twice. These incidents bring a very significant result to Ashley when she grows up as a woman.

Ashley starts to realize that there is “something” inside her that can take control of her body and mind when she finds out many strange things have happened to her. Inside her mind and body – psychologically - Ashley has two alter egos, Toni Prescott and Alette Peters.

“Was that the first time it happened, Toni?” Dr. Keller asked

“Yes”

“How old was Ashley?”

“She was six.”

“”And that the first time you were born?”

“Yes. Ashley was too terrified to face it.” (p.328)

This conversation is between Dr. Keller and one of Ashley alter egos, Toni Prescott. He wants to know when Toni is “born” in Ashley. Dr. Keller hypnotizes Ashley and invites Toni to “go out” and speaks to him. Dr. Keller finds out that because of the frightening condition when Ashley is raped and Ashley has no strength to bear it anymore, Toni Prescott is “born” as the representative of Ashley’s feelings when she is raped. Ashley feels that she has no power to fight the will of her mother’s cousin, she wants to be against his will but she is too little to do that, she is only a six year old child.

“It was in London. She was in bed. He sat down next to her and said, *“I’m going to make you very happy, baby,”* and began tickling her, and she was laughing. And then...he took her pajamas off, and he

started playing with her. *“Don’t my hands feel good?”* Ashley started screaming, *“Stop it. Don’t do that.”* But he wouldn’t stop. He held her down and went on and on...” (p.328)

[italics from the original]

Toni is “born” when Ashley is raped by John - her own relative - when she is six years old. When Dr. Steven Patterson has to go to London but her wife can not accompany him, he leaves her wife with her wife’s elder cousin without realizing that it is the beginning of her daughter’s nightmares in her life. Ashley is very depressed after the rape. She passes her day with the fear of being raped. She is too frightened to say it to her parents because she is afraid that her mother’s elder cousin will do something worse than rapes. This feeling triggers the birth of Toni in Ashley’s mind. Toni is “born” in London that is why she has a delightful British accent. Because Toni is born when Ashley is in the weak condition, Toni becomes a representative of Ashley’s feelings and will when she is six. Toni appears as the “guardian angel” for Ashley to “protect” her from harm. Toni is the first alter ego who is “born” in Ashley, which is why she is the one who handling the control of Ashley and Alette, Ashley’s another alter ego.

“Toni Prescott was twenty two years old, impish, vivacious, and daring. She was half smoldering, half firecracker. Her face was puckishly heart shaped, her eyes were a mischievous brown, her figure alluring. She had been born in London and she spoke with a delightful British accent. She was athletic and loved sports, particularly winter sports: skiing and bobsledding and ice-skating.” (p.18)

Toni Prescott is an attractive person. She looks very dominant from her eyes sight, she also very ambitious and confident woman and always wants to become more superior than others. Toni is one of Ashley’s alter egos which is very dominant

and can control Ashley's mind and body. Toni regards Ashley as a weak person who cannot defend herself against the situation.

Alette Peters, another Ashley's alter ego, is "born" in Italy. The trigger is the same with what has happened in Ashley's hometown. "We moved to Rome, where he – Dr. Patterson – did research at Policlinico Umberto Primo." (p.329) When they are at Rome, her mother's elder cousin comes and rapes her again. Ashley cannot stand it anymore; she is slaved by her frightening feeling. In this situation, Alette Peters is "born" in Ashley's personality. "Alette Peters was twenty years old. She could be plain looking, attractive or stunningly beautiful, depending on her mood or how she was feeling about herself. She was shy and soft-spoken of Italy." (p.28) Actually, Alette is the representative of Ashley's love to art. But she is "born" in a horrible situation. From the story, we can see that the second rape happens in Rome. At that time, Ashley and her family move to Rome because Dr. Patterson does a research there. Ashley loves Rome because of its arts and beauty. Based on this, we can see that Alette likes art and later we also can see that she is in relationship with a painting artist before Toni kills him.

Ashley actually is an attractive woman, but her introvert attitude makes others become lazy to make her as their friends. Ashley only has several friends in her office, which is her teamwork. Her fears to others make her very depressed everyday, and later, her depression will lead her to her paranoid schizophrenia behavior.

Her troubles and problems start when there is a series murders in her town, where she is working. At the beginning, she does not care with the news at the media or in the television, but everything changes when she finds a lot of strange experiences in her life. For example, when she wakes up naked in a cheap hotel in Chicago and cannot remember why she is lying there.

... Ashley was looked around the room and began to panic. She was lying in a bed, naked, in a cheap hotel room.

....

... The Chicago Loop Hotel. She read it again, stunned. What am I doing in Chicago? How long have I been here? The visit to Dennis Tibble's apartment had been on Friday. What day is this? ... (p.53-54)

[Italics from the original]

Ashley never knows what has happened to her, why she could lie naked in a cheap hotel in Chicago. She tries to remember, but she cannot, so she decides to phone the receptionist and asks about the day, but she is really surprised with the answer of the receptionist.

It was difficult for Ashley to speak. "What – what day is this?"

"Today is the seventeenth of –"

"No. I mean what *day* of the week is this?"

"Oh. Today is Monday. Can I –"

Ashley replaced the receiver in a daze. *Monday*. She had lost two days and two nights. She sat up at the edge, trying to remember ... (p.54)

[Italics from the original]

She does not know where her two days and two nights have gone, she tries to remember but she cannot remember anything about her past few days before she wakes up in that hotel. She is like an amnesia person who cannot remember any details of her past few days.

Ashley becomes more afraid when she receives a statement from her credit card company. She cannot believe her own eyes when she reads the statement:

Five days later, Ashley received a statement from the credit card company. Three items caught her attention:

A bill from the Mod Dress Shop for \$450

A bill from the Circus Club for \$300

A bill from Louie's Restaurant for \$250

She had never heard of the dress shop, the club or the restaurant.
(p.71)

She is very confused with the bill because she never goes to the places written down in the bill and for what reasons she comes to those places. Ashley does not know that Toni and Alette, her alter egos, have stolen her two days and two nights without her notice. All that she could remember is that she is in Dennis Tibble's apartment to talk about the job, but it is two days before.

Despite the fact that she wakes up in Chicago or receives strange bills from the credit card company, Ashley faces a big trouble with what her alter egos have done without her notice. Her alter ego – in this case Toni – has committed murders to several people, and Ashley is really in big troubles because she does not know anything about the murders. The Police cannot discover any clues to find the murderer. All the information that they gets is that the victims are seen with a beautiful lady when they are killed.

“The victim's name is Jean Claude Parent. He was stabbed at least a dozen times, and his body was castrated.

“Monsieur Parent was at Pavilion with a woman named Toni Prescott, a brunette, very attractive, with an English accent. The manager of Monsieur Parent's jewelry store said that early that day, Monsieur Parent had brought a woman answering the description into the store and introduced her as Toni Prescott. (p.87)

At the time when he is murdered, Jean Claude Parent – the owner of Parent Jewelry store – has a dinner with a woman in a pavilion and the name of the woman is Toni Prescott. The police cannot find Toni Prescott because they could not find her data in FBI's database.

“We cannot find her. We have checked all the local hotels. We have checked our files and the files of the FBI. She has no birth certificate, no social security number, no driver license.”

“Impossible! Could she have gotten out of the city?” (p.87)

....

One hour later, a report came in from the FBI. They were unable to identify the fingerprints. There was no record of Toni Prescott. (p.88)

The next victim, who is dead in the same condition as Jean Claude Parent, is Richard Melton. Richard is a talented painter who also has a relationship with Alette Peters who is also interested in painting. They have spent a great time together, visiting a gallery and museum; Richard also introduces Alette to his friend, Brian. “Afternoon, Brian. This is my friend, Alette Peters. Brian Hill. Brian said to Alette, “Are you enjoying the museum?” “Oh, yes. It’s wonderful.” (p.94) Alette is so happy when she is with Richard Melton. They match to each other. Richard never knows that his meeting with Alette will bring a horrible end to him, because at the next morning, Gary – Richard’s roommate – finds Richard’s dead body stabbed and castrated.

At two o’clock in the morning, Richard Melton’s roommate, Gary, returned from a birthday party. The apartment was dark. He switched on the lights in the living room. “Richard?”

He started toward the bedroom. At the door he looked inside and was sick to his stomach. (p.95)

Gary cannot stand to look at his roommate condition. Richard is murdered brutally; he is stabbed to death and castrated. He calls the Police and soon the Police come to his apartment. Detective Whittier asks him several questions but Gary knows nothing, he only knows that Richard is in a relationship with a beautiful woman named Alette Peters.

“... There was a girl he was interested in. I think he was really starting to like her.”

“Do you know her name?”

“Yes. Alette. Alette Peters.” (p.95)

In tone with Jean Claude Parent and Richard Melton, Deputy Sam Blake – the next victim – is also found dead with a horrible condition in an alley that ran behind Ashley’s apartment. A night before he is killed, Deputy Sam Blake is invited by Ashley to come to her apartment to protect her because she feels that someone wants to kill her. She walked into the bathroom and turned dead white. On her bathroom mirror, someone had scrawled in bright red lipstick **YOU WILL DIE** [bold mine] (p.101). From the quotation, Ashley is really afraid of her own apartment. When she finds the scrawl on her bathroom mirror, her paranoia begins to show up. This is one of the evidences that show Ashley’s paranoia condition. She never realizes that actually she is the person who writes the scrawl on her own mirror, but at that time she is under the control of Toni, one of her alter egos.

When Dr. Keller has a conversation with Ashley about Deputy Sam Blake, he figures it out that Ashley does not know anything about Blake’s murder. He hypnotizes Ashley and talks with Toni. “I’m here. You want to know what really happened, don’t you? Ashley was a fool to invite Sam to stay at the apartment. I did it.” (p. 343) Toni confesses to Dr. Keller that she is the “person” who “controls” Ashley to write “YOU WILL DIE” on her own mirror in her apartment and also kills Sam Blake.

She was fighting hysteria. Her fingers were trembling so hard that she dialed three times trying to reach the number. She took a deep breath and tried again.

....

The phone began to ring,

“Sheriff’s Office.”

“Deputy Blake, please. Hurry!” (p.102)

Because she is filled with panic and afraid with the scrawl, Ashley calls Deputy Blake to come to her apartment. Hysteria and panic are the signs, showing that Ashley suffers from paranoia. That is why she calls Sam Blake to come to her apartment. They get involved in a conversation about the scrawl on the mirror. Ashley is so frightened, so, Deputy Blake decides to stay in her apartment until next dawn. Ashley needs someone that she can trust to accompany her at that night because she feels very scared. She will feel worry if there is no one near her to keep their eye on her. This also becomes an evidence of Ashley’s psychopathic behavior.

The next morning is a horrible morning for Ashley because Deputy Blake is found murdered and castrated, not inside her apartment but outside in an alley behind Ashley Patterson’s apartment building.

At six o’clock in the morning, Deputy Sam Blake’s naked body was found by the wife of the building superintendent in the alley that ran behind Ashley Patterson’s apartment building.

He had stabbed to death and castrated. (p.108)

The partition that covered the murder cases at Ashley town is opened bit by bit. The facts rise up to the surface in the morning when Sheriff Dowling – the Deputy who handles murder cases in California – receives a phone call from FBI telling him that the murderer is found, and they are all in the same person. Richard Melton in San Francisco was seeing an Italian lady named Alette Peters when he was killed” (p.115). This evidence shows that Alette is really attracted to art. Richard Melton is a painting artist that works in a museum gallery as a painting teacher. Because of being “born” in Rome, Alette really likes art and she has a relationship with an artist, but later, Richard is killed by Toni as a “way of protection” from Toni to Alette and Ashley. “That was the FBI lab in Washington. They’ve finished

crosschecking the fingerprints on the bodies of the victims. Jean Claude Parent in Quebec was seeing with an English Woman named Toni Prescott when he was murdered” (p.115). This quotation shows the fact about Toni. Because Ashley does not want to have a relationship with man although Ashley is an attractive woman, Toni, as the alter ego of Ashley takes every chance by gaining a relationship with rich man, exploits the beauty of Ashley to have some fun. Tony always chooses a rich man to become her date. She always chatting in the internet and trying to get along with rich man.

“Well, I need your help, Toni. I want to ask you a question. What do you think of Ashley?”

“Miss *Tight Ass*? Don’t get me started.”

“You don’t like her?”

“In spades.”

“What don’t you like about her?”

There was a pause. “She tries to keep everybody from having fun. If I didn’t take over once in a while, our lives would be boring. *Boring*.

She doesn’t like to go to parties or travel or do any fun things.” [Italics from the original] (p.301)

Toni only wants to have some fun with the rich man; she can get whatever she wants just by asking the rich man. Toni does this because Ashley is an introvert person who does not like to go to parties or traveling to get some fun. From this evidence, it shows that Toni can control other people easily, and this is what she has done to Ashley and Alette.

In Ashley’s case, Toni Prescott is more dominant than Alette Peters. “Dr. Keller said thoughtfully, “I’ve talked to the two alters. The dominant one is Toni.” (p.302) This is an evidence of my statement above that Toni is more dominant than Alette Peters. The murders that had been done by Tony when the victims are trying to make love with one of them are the evidence that proves the domination of Toni.

David said, “But Alette knew them all. You committed those murders, Alette. You had sex with those men and then you stabbed them to death and castrated them....”

Toni said, “You bloody idiot! You don’t know anything, do you? Alette would never have had the nerve to do that. *I* did it. They deserved to die. All they wanted to do was have sex.” She was breathing hard. “But I made them all pay for it, didn’t I? And no one can ever prove I did it. Let little Miss Goody Two-shoes take the blame. **We’ll** all go to a nice cozy asylum and –“ [bold mine] (p.279).

From the bold word above, it looks like Toni can control Alette and Ashley to follow her will. Toni thinks that either Ashley or Alette must obey with what she has told them to do. Toni’s overprotective actions toward Ashley and Alette are because she is the representative of Ashley’s first feelings when she is raped by her relative. From the quotation above, it seems that Toni has no regret with what she has done to the victims. It is the effect of what Ashley has experienced in her childhood and triggers Toni’s birth in her. Because she is raped when she is a six year old child and she cannot do anything to defend herself. Toni regards every man who want to approach them is only want to lay them.

“Toni, I want to help you.”

“No, you don’t, Dockie baby. You want to lay me.”

“Why do you think that, Toni?”

“That’s all you bloody men ever want to do. Ta.”

“Toni ... ? Toni ... ?”

Silence. (p.298)

Ashley hates every man and Toni – who was the “representative” of hatred – understands Ashley’s feeling. From the quotation above shows the reason why Toni

stabbed and castrated all of the men who want to have sex with Ashley or Alette or even with “herself”. Toni regards all men who want to have sex with Ashley, Alette or even with “her” is trying to rape them, which is why she kills them directly.

Up to this level, it seems that Ashley is in paranoia stages or level. Although she still can appear normal in front of the people and can hide her paranoia from others, but at uncertain time, she could change to become someone else or another personality. Her delusions and hallucinations become the sign that leads her later to her paranoid schizophrenia.

III.I.3. The Forming of Ashley’s Paranoid Schizophrenia

Someone can suffer of paranoid schizophrenia if she or he always has a delusions, hallucinations, or unreasonable fear of something, and Ashley as the main female character in this novel has suffered from paranoid schizophrenia as the peak of her mental disorder. Because of having no friends; Ashley spends her time in her apartment alone, listens to the radio and watches the television. One day, she wakes up in the morning and feels that someone follows her. Nightmares are haunting her everyday, she spends her nights with many nightmares, and the experiences of the nightmares always reminds in her imagination everyday.

“Someone was following her. She had read about stalkers, but they belonged in a different, violent world. She had no idea who it could be, who would want to harm her. She was trying desperately hard not to panic, but lately her sleep had been filled with unbearable nightmares, and she had awakened each morning with a feeling of impending doom. *Perhaps it’s all my imagination*, Ashley Patterson thought. *I’m working too hard, I need a vacation.*” (p.3) [Italics from the original]

Ashley's mind is plotted to create a sort of imagination that someone follows her and wants to kill her. She begins to be suspicious to every person who wants to approach her. She tries to kill her feeling about her panicked by saying that she works too hard and needs a vacation, but actually Ashley cannot release herself from her paranoia feelings. Wherever she goes, she always keeps her eyes open to her surrounding, also when she is at her apartment.

“...Before she went in, she studied the reflection in the storefront mirror to see if there was anyone behind her whom she recognized. No one. She went inside the store.” (p.15)

“She was taking a hurried shower, late for work, when she heard the sound. A door opening? Closing? She turned off the shower, listening, her heart pounding. *Silence*. She stood there for a moment, her body glistening with drops of water, then hurriedly dried herself and cautiously stepped into the bedroom. Everything appeared to be normal.” (p.38)

From the quotations above it looks that Ashley is really in her paranoia and psychopathic condition of personality. She is really afraid of her own apartment that makes her have to observe the situations of her apartment before she enters it. She also has delusions and hallucinations that someone has opened her door and entered her room. Delusions and hallucinations are strong signs indicating mental disorder – in this case paranoid schizophrenia – in someone's personality, and this has happened to Ashley.

Instead of showing her fear towards her apartment as one of the characteristics of her paranoid schizophrenia, she also behaves strangely with her surrounding. It proves when she is talking with the bookstore's clerk. She asks for an unusual book to the clerk and makes the clerk thinks that she is a weird person.

“A young male clerk walked up to her. “May I help you?”

“Yes. I – Do you have a book on stalkers?”

He was looking at her strangely. “*Stalkers?*”

Ashley felt like an idiot. She said quickly, “Yes. I also want a book on – er – gardening and – and animals of Africa.”

“Stalkers and gardening and animals of Africa?”

“That’s right,” she said firmly...” (p.15-16)

[Italics from the original]

This shows that Ashley starts being controlled by her fear feelings and unreasonable frightening about her surroundings. Ashley feels like someone is chasing her, trying to kill her. She tries to “protect” herself by buying a book about stalkers. She is a paranoid person to her surroundings. Many thought comes to her mind like the stalkers in her apartment, someone knocking at her front door, someone following her when she goes to work or when she goes home. She is too suspicious to everyone near her, she is afraid that one of them may be the stalker who follows her everyday.

Her fears of her surroundings become worse and worse when she knows from the television and the newspaper about the serial murders. They are killed brutally, stabbed and castrated by the murderer. Because of these situations, Ashley’s paranoid thought becomes more and more “active” inside her mind. Her fears reach its peak when she attends the reunion party in her hometown, Bedford, and finds out that actually Jim is murdered by someone and Jim’s body condition is the same with the victims of a series murders at Cupertino California.

Florence was staring at her. “My God! You don’t know?”

“*Know what?*” Ashley demanded fiercely. “What are you talking about?”

“The day after the graduation party, Jim’s parents came back and found his body. He had been stabbed to death and ... castrated.” (p.48)
[Italics from the original]

Ashley is shocked with the news that she hears from her friend, Florence. She never thinks that the disappearance of Jim at the station at that time is because someone has murdered him. She wonders in her mind about the murderer when suddenly she remembers her father’s conversation with Jim. She could hear her father voice, “*You keep your goddamned hands off my daughter, do you understand? ... if I ever see you around here again I’ll break every bone in your body*” (p.49) [Italics from the original]. Ashley is very sure that her father does all the murders even to Jim. She cannot receive the reality that it is her father. She is very upset and tries to find out as much as she can about the facts that it is really her father who killed them all. But, Ashley is shocked with the facts that she never thinks before, her fingerprints are found at every victim’s body and also the DNA is precisely the same with hers, as I have explained in the previous explanation.

Ashley cannot run from the police because the facts about the murder cases point to her. Sheriff Dowling, who investigates the serial murders case, arrests her. As the effects of this arresting, Ashley has a big problem with her company. She is fired from her job and everyone at her office looks her as a savage person.

“Well, I – I hate to do this now, but under – under the circumstances, I – the company – is terminating you. I mean ... naturally we can’t afford to be connected with anything like this. It’s bad enough that the newspapers have already mentioned that you work for Global. You understand, don’t you? There’s nothing personal in this.” (p.142)

Ashley’s supervisor at the Office, Shane Miller, visits her and brings news that the company has fired her from the job because they afraid of the news in the newspapers that mentions Ashley is working for Global and it can give bad effects for

the company. There is nothing that Ashley can do except receiving the company's policy.

After being fired from her job, Ashley is really in a mess. She faces a serial murder accusation by the Police. In order to help his daughter, Dr. Steven Patterson points a young, talented lawyer named David Singer to release her only daughter from jail and to prove that Ashley was not guilty.

David's journey in defending Ashley is not easy. In the trial, Ashley faces several problems that can burden her case. Like the attorney who is very passionate to send her to jail until the jurors who are also almost deliver her to jail. "Brennan looked at the jurors and said, "I'm amazed that the defense is not questioning the evidence, because it proves beyond a doubt that the defendant murdered and castrated three innocent men and – "(p.213). In the trial, Ashley's lawyer – David Singer – has several difficulties in defending his client. For example, the text above shows that the state's lawyer – Mickey Brennan – really forces David to give up and give Ashley to be imprisoned and judge Williams seems to agree to Brennan's idea.

Judge Williams leaned forward. "I've never seen murder trial conducted like this. You're one-man show looking for glory, aren't you? Well. You won't find it in this court. I'll tell you something else. You probably think I should recuse myself because I don't believe in your devil-made-me-do-it defense, but I don't recusing myself..." (p.242)

In the beginning of the trial, Judge Williams does not believe in the facts that David has brought to her and the court. She seems to accept and is more convenient with the idea of Brennan about Multiple Disorder Personality murder case. It is proved when she tells David that she does not believe in David's opinions about Ashley's case. David has tried his best to create a way for Ashley to escape from the accusations but beyond his imagination, he has made an enemy with Judge Williams when they are talking about Ashley's case.

“For God’s sake, Counselor, Ashley Patterson’s DNA and fingerprints are at every crime scene. I’ve never seen a more clear-out case of guilt. If you insist on going ahead with this, it could turn on into a circus. Well, I’m not going to let that happen. I don’t like circuses in my court. Let’s dispose of this case here and now. I’m going to ask you once more, will you plead your client to life without parole?” David said stubbornly, “No.” She was glaring at him. “Right. I’ll see you next week.” (p.190)

Even though David Singer and Dr. Salem have brought a lot of facts that draw the MDP case, Judge Tessa Williams and Mickey Brennan insist that all the facts are not enough to support their defenses toward Ashley. In her trial processes, Ashley is really affected by her paranoid behavior and attitude. It happens when she is asked by David to be the witness in her own case.

“So you have no recollection of ever having met Richard Melton, you had no motive for killing Dennis Tibble or for killing Deputy Sam Blake, who was at your apartment to protect you?” “That’s right.” Her eyes swept over the crowded courtroom and she felt sense of panic.” (p.257)

Ashley is begun to be panicked when David asks her some questions about the murders. She realizes that all the people in the courtroom look at her as a savage person that is why she looks all over the courtroom. When she does it, the pressure of the situation around the courtroom makes her paranoid behavior and attitude appear and she begins to be panicked. Ashley also shows another characteristic of her paranoid behavior and attitude with the trial. “The FBI’s fingerprints lab checked the fingerprints the police found at the scenes of the crimes. And I’m sure this will surprise you –“ (p.258). Ashley was on the verge of hysteria. “The alters must have –

“(p.259). From the quotations, it also shows about Ashley are another paranoid behavior with her surrounding – in this case with the situation around the courtroom – by starting to hysteria. She cannot stand with the pressure and starts to be speechless when Brennan tells her the fact about the fingerprints. She is paranoid with the trial because she feels that she is not guilty of all the accusation but the facts always say that she is the one who does all of the murders.

Until one day, David has an idea to record the conversation between Dr. Salem, Ashley, Toni, and Alette. This is his last chance to release Ashley from jail. He knows that Judge Williams and Brennan should see this conversation to change the Judge’s mind and release Ashley from the accusations.

At the court, he approaches Judge Williams and says that he has new evidence but Brennan does not agree with David. He takes it for granted that the court is done and Ashley is guilty for first level murders. But, Judge Williams has another policy; she gives David ten minutes to show his new evidence. She almost goes out of the courtroom when suddenly the screen turns on and a song began to fill the room.

“A penny for a spool of thread.

A penny for a needle.

That’s the way the money goes,

Pop! Goes the weasel.” (p.277) [Italics from the original]

This is the favorite song of Toni Prescott. She loves to sing this song because her mother does not like her voice when she is singing. She hates her mother and is happy when her mothers commend her to stop singing the song but she moves on.

Judge Williams puzzles and turns around. She looks at the picture on the screen. She looks that Ashley’s face completely changes into Toni. Ashley face had completely changed. It was Toni. Toni said angrily, “Too frightened to come out in court? Did you think I would come out just because you ordered me to? What do you think I am, a trained pony?” (p.278). Judge Williams slowly moves back into the room, staring at the film. And, then another amazing thing happens on the screen,

Ashley's face changes again into a shy look and in her Italian accent, it is Alette. Because of her curiosity, Judge Williams is nailed on her foot. Alette said, "Mr. Singer, I know you did the best you could. I wanted to appear in court and help you, but Toni wouldn't let me" (p278). With a blank face, Judge Williams and all in the courtroom are watching the film. The conversation between David and Toni has opened all the partition that covers Ashley's case.

David said, "But Alette knew them all. You committed those murders, Alette. You had sex with those men and then you stabbed them to death and castrated them...."

Toni said, "You bloody idiot! You don't know anything, do you? Alette would never have had the nerve to do that. *I* did it. They deserved to die. All they wanted to do was have sex." She was breathing hard. "But I made them all pay for it, didn't I? And no one can ever prove I did it. Let little Miss Goody Two-shoes take the blame. We'll all go to a nice cozy asylum and --" (p.279)

The conversation is cut because Toni hears a "click" voice at the corner of the room. Finally she realizes that they have been recorded by using a hidden camera. She is very angry and attacks David and Dr. Salem, luckily the court guard enters the room and saves them.

"You've got a fucking camera behind here," Toni screamed. She turned to David. "You son of a bitch, what are you trying to do? You tricked me!"

On the desk was a letter opener. Toni grabbed it and lunged at David, screaming, "I'm going to kill you. I'm going to kill you!" (p.279)

Ashley under the control of her alter ego attacked David. Her Multiple Personality Disorder really appears in her alter ego. The presence of the alter ego is

one of the characteristics of her MPD. David's hand bleeds because of Toni's attack. He asks Dr. Salem to wake Ashley up. Dr. Salem wakes her up and what Ashley says next really changes the situation in the courtroom.

"Can you hear me?"

"Yes." It was Ashley's voice, sounding far away.

"You'll awaken at the count of three. One... two... three... how do you feel?"

Her eyes opened. "I feel so tired. Did I say anything?" (p.280)

By the time Ashley wakes up, the screen is blank and David walks to the corner of the courtroom to turn on the light. Brennan seems not to be happy with the film; he knows that the film could break all of his offences in the trial. But, Judge Williams has known the truth and that becomes a very hard situation for Brennan. Judge Williams can change her mind after she watches the record. It is very clear that Ashley knows nothing about those murders because she is under her alter egos' domination when the crime happens. When Ashley wakes up from her hypnotize, she says "Did I say anything?" when Ashley is hypnotized, she is afraid of her own speech.

Brennan said, "Well! What a performance. If they were giving out Oscars for the best – "

Judge Williams turned to him. "Shut up!!"

Brennan looked at her, in shock.

There was a momentary silence. Judge Williams turned to David,

"Counselor."

"Yes?"

There was a pause. "I owe you an apology." (p.280)

After seeing the short record at the screen, Judge Williams realizes that she almost makes a big mistake by sending Ashley to jail because jail is not the place she belongs but to a psychiatric hospital. This is the climax of all the problems that Ashley has. She finally could be released from all of the partitions that burden her, but she has to go to “The Connecticut Psychiatric Hospital” to follow the curing process to send her alter egos away.

In the last part of this explanation, I can conclude that Ashley is included in a psychopathic personality, because she is affected by her environment in where she is living. Her behavior that expresses her psychopathic personality is that she often shows an uncertain attitude toward her environment. For example when she is in a book store and she is asking for a very strange theme of book to the clerk that is about stalkers and a book about Africa, when she is in the process of her trial and begins to be panicked and to hysteria of the courtroom and the pressures around her and also when she is in her apartment and thinking that someone is breaking into her apartment and trying to kill her. This really shows her paranoid especially when she finds a scrawl on her bathroom mirror that says “**YOU WILL DIE.**” She is really frightened with the warning but actually the scrawl is written by herself under the control by Toni, one of her alter egos.

From Ashley’s experiences and problems with the surroundings, it is clear that Ashley is also in paranoid schizophrenia level. She is afraid of some unreasonable situations; such as she always thinks that stalkers follow her, someone is slithering into her apartment, someone has written a warning at her mirror in the bedroom and someone wants to kill her. These feelings has led Ashley to her paranoid schizophrenia behavior to everything around her, she becomes suspicious to everyone who wants to approach her because she is afraid that the person wants to kill her when she is least expected.