

# BOOK REVIEW OF ONE NIGHT WITH PRINCE CHARMING WRITTEN BY ANNA DEPALO

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## 1. Introduction

### 1. Background of the study

According to Wellek and Warren (1976: 94) in *Theory of Literature*, literature represents life and life is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary 'imitation'. Novel is very popular among literature enthusiasts. The story within a novel usually reflects human life, so the readers will understand the moral message behind the story.

Romantic relationship is a relationship between two people who love each other and there is no place for a third person. However, there is no perfect relationship in this world. However, in *One Night with Prince Charming* a novel about perfect relationship written by Anna DePalo tells the reader how perfect love is. Love starts from intimacy, passion and commitment. This novel also teaches how to maintain a perfect relationship.

In this novel, problem emerges when major character Pia Lumley, her heart is already broken because minor character James Fielding left her three years but he insisted to mend what is broken. The story has a lot of meanings, an understanding of the meaning of love and sacrifice. The reason why the writer uses the book as the object in the final project because the way the author writes this book makes the reader enjoy it until the last page.

### 2. Purpose of the study

The purpose of the writing is to review one of Anna DePalo's novels *One Night with Prince Charming*, and to explain three intrinsic aspects of the novel: character, theme and setting. In addition, the strengths and weaknesses of the novel with theme of love and passion, and its effects toward each characters of the book are also discussed. The writer hopes the writing will give a portrait to the reader about love story.

### 3. Anna DePalo and her works

Anna DePalo graduated from Harvard University. She earned an advanced degree in political science, practice intellectual property law. She went on to live in Italy and England, and now she lives with her husband, son and daughter in Brooklyn, New York City. *Having the Tycoon's Baby* is her first book which is sold to Silhouette Books, and it became a best-seller and award-winner. There are ten novels besides *One Night with Prince Charming* which is published by Silhouette Books. Her book is not only best-seller, but also has the RT *Book Review* Reviewer's Choice Award, the Golden Leaf, and the Book Buyer's Best, and has been published in many countries.

## 2. Summary of the book

Pia Lumley is a well-known wedding planner for British middle-class in New York society. When Pia was hired as wedding planner for her friend Belinda Wentworth, she saw unexpected guest who took her virginity three years ago. The gorgeous man was James Carsdale,

the Ninth Duke of Hawkshire. He was known as Hawk. Pia was avoiding him because she was really upset about his disappearing act after what happened three years ago. In fact, she overheard Oliver Smithson, a well-known Wall Street hedge fund manager called James "Your Grace". As far as she knew, "Your Grace" was a form of address reserved for dukes. James chased after Pia because he felt guilty and he wanted to make amends for what he had done.

Three years before Pia and Hawk met at Tamara Kincaid's wedding reception, Pia was as Tamara's wedding planner and Hawk was a friend of Tamara's husband. Pia did not know that Hawk was one of British aristocrats. At first, Hawk introduced himself as James Fielding who had a boring finance job without mentioning any titles. He enjoyed flirting with Pia because she was type of woman he wanted. Besides, Pia had hobby fishing and riding which only could do by women in his social circle. After they were flirt each other, Hawk drove Pia to her apartment in Manhattan and Pia invited him in. They had sexual intercourse at Pia's apartment, but Hawk felt guilty after finding that Pia was a virgin.

The reason why Hawk left her without a word was that his older brother William was dead on boat accident. So he left her abruptly after his mother told him that day to catch first flight back to London. After his brother's death, few months later, his father had heart attacked and he passed away. His brother had to be a duke but he passed away, so Hawk replaced his position. Hawk had two jobs, he did not only become a duke, but he also ran family business as CEO Sunhill Investment.

Hawk was so helpful for Pia's business progress; although she knew that his help was just to make amends. Pia's friend told her not to get involved with Hawk again because Pia was a nice person, her heart was very fragile. Nevertheless, she felt sadness for Hawk after she had discovered that his brother and father were dead. She gave him a chance to mend her broken heart and she let their chemistry play out to its natural conclusion.

Hawk invited Pia to his home at Silderly Park, Oxford. They spent their closeness by fishing and horse riding. Pia's happiness was interrupted by Michelene. Pia did not know that Hawk had dated Michelene for few months. Pia left Lucy's engagement party after dowager duchess, Hawk's mother made announcement that Hawk was engaged to Michelene.

Her heart was broken twice by the same man. She left in rush from Hawk's house to Tamara's house in London. Pia sacrificed her feelings; she wanted to continue her affair with Hawk until he was officially engaged with Michelene. She did not know what she supposed to do at Lucy's wedding. She could not face the truth that Michelene and Hawk were engaged.

In fact Hawk had dated Michelene for few months, but he realized that he did not love her and Michelene was his brother late fiancée. His mother told him that Michelene was a perfect choice to become a duchess. And Sawyer, one of his friends told him to think about what made him happy rather than what was suitable for him. He told his mother that he did not love her. He tried to convince his mother that his choice was right. After long consideration, his mother wanted her son to have a happy marriage like she did.

At Lucy's wedding, Hawk explained everything to Pia before she walked away again like she did before. However, Pia did not want to hear it because it was as clearly as she thought. Hawk gave her tiara and proposed her. She did not expect Hawk to marry her after he had done, but Hawk said that he loved her and he wanted her to be his duchess. She accepted his proposal and they get married several months after Lucy's marriage.

### **3. Review of the book**

#### **3.1 Intrinsic aspects**

##### **3.1.1 Theme**

Theme is the most important thing in a novel. It brings us to ask what the purpose of the story in the novel is. According to Perrine, there are certain principles of theme; theme must be stated as a generalization, it should not be larger than what justified in the story (1988).

The writer shows that love is the main theme in the story that Anna DePalo gives to the reader. The kind of love in this story is consummate love, based on *Triangular Theory of Love* by Robert J. Sternberg (1986: 124). Consummate love results from full of combination of the three components, they are: intimacy, passion and commitment. There is further explanation for this theme in the strengths of the book.

### **3.1.2 Character**

Morner and Rausch define character simply as “a person in a literary works” (1991: 31). It is also stated that a character in fictional works is unlike the real person in life. The personal qualities and actions are limited by his or her function in the story. The centre character in the story is called hero or protagonist and is usually an admirable figure.

#### **3.1.2.1 Pia Lumley**

Pia is the major character; it means that she is the main character in the novel. The character of Pia in the story is naïve and she is a nice person. Conflicts that are faced by Pia from the beginning of the story have changed her attitude. Because of this changing, Pia is also identified as a dynamic character.

#### **3.1.2.2 James Carsdale**

James Carsdale, The ninth Duke of Hawkshire, he is also known as Hawk is the minor character and he is identified as round character because he changes a lot from the past three years. He is a playboy who always teases and flirts many women before he meets Pia. After they know each other, Hawk has feeling that Pia is his type of woman he wants.

### **3.1.3 Setting**

#### **3.1.3.1 Place, time and social setting**

At first chapter, the story beginning at St. Bart church where Belinda Wentworth and Tod Dillingham are married, it happens in June. Next, at fourth chapter, the story happens in Lucy's house, East 79st Street on Manhattan Upper East Side. The setting of time is September. In tenth chapter, Pia visits Hawk's residence at Silderly Park in Oxford, London. It happens in November. Social setting in this novel which DePalo well-described is British middle class in New York society.

### **3.2 Strengths of the book**

#### **3.2.1 Consummate Love**

The first strength of this book is the theme of love which is determined as consummate love. This theory is based on *Triangular Theory of Love* by Robert J. Sternberg. Consummate love has three components, they are: intimacy, passion, and commitment. At some points of those components, they are not only become the strengths but also the weaknesses.

##### **3.2.1.1 Intimacy**

The intimacy component refers to the feelings of closeness and connectedness in love relationships. Basically, intimacy is a feeling of warmth that is caused by loving relationships. It includes the feelings of experienced happiness with a partner, mutual understanding and intimate communication with the loved one. Action triangle of intimacy can be divided into: a) communicating inner feelings, b) promoting the other's well-being, c) sharing one's possessions, time and self, d) expressing sympathy for the other, and e) offering emotional and material support to the other.

##### **3.2.1.2 Passion**

The passion component refers to the romance, physical attraction, and sexual consummation. Those sources of motivation and other forms of arousal lead to the experiences of passion in love relationship. Action triangle of passion can be divided into: a) gazing, b) touching, c) hugging, d) kissing, and e) making love.

### **3.2.1.3 Commitment**

Commitment or decision consists of two aspects, in the short term, it is the decision to love someone else, and in the long term, it is the commitment to maintain that love. Action triangle of commitment can be divided into: a) pledging, b) fidelity, c) staying in a relationship through hard times, d) engagement, and e) marriage.

### **3.3 Weaknesses of the book**

These are some points of consummate love which determined as weaknesses of the book. The intimacy component which included to the weakness is at point c) sharing one's possessions, time and self. Because there was no explanation that they were spending time together on fishing and horse riding.

The next components of consummate love which included to the weaknesses of this book are passion at point a) gazing, b) touching and c) hugging. There is no explanation those points of passion components which DePalo described in this novel.

The last components of consummate love which include in the weaknesses of this book are commitment at point a) pledging, b) fidelity, c) staying in a relationship through hard times and e) marriage.

### **3.3.2 Plot**

The second weakness of this novel is plot of the story is not well-described. The first chapter is on going until second chapter. At the beginning on the third chapter, the author describes what happens for three years between Pia and Hawk without mentioning any explanations in the first sentence. The readers will find that it happens for three years ago after in the end of this chapter.

After knowing what happens in three years ago, the author tells the story the happening at the present time. The happening in three years of the story has not been finished yet and instantly the author changes the topic. This thing will make the reader confused if they do not read this story carefully.

### **3.3.3 Uncommon words**

The third weakness of this novel is that this book has many uncommon words. For example: *bon appétit*, *baba ganoush*, and *hors d'oeuvres*. Those words sound like the kind of food in France. These words appear in the first chapter when Pia is looking for the appetizer in wedding reception.

### **3.3.4 Adult book**

The fourth weakness in this book is not for all ages because this book tells about adult love story, which does not have to be consumed by children under age. This book is only consumed by young adult and adult, because there are many intimate scenes between Pia and Hawk.

## **4. Conclusion**

Every work is imperfect. It has strengths and weaknesses. The author writes this book with some strengths and weaknesses. The strengths are the theme of the book. *One Night with Prince Charming* by Anna DePalo is the kind of historical romance. So, the theme is about love and passion. The kind of love used in this book is consummate love.

Most of us know that there is nothing perfect in this world, but through the author's experience, DePalo describes that story is very real. Although there is social background difference between Hawk and Pia, they try to maintain their love until Pia become a duchess after

she gets married with Hawk whereas at the beginning she was just an ordinary wedding planner.

The weaknesses of this novel are the author describes sexual activity between Pia and Hawk. However, the description is too explicit for adult reader and they know about what is going on in this story. Moreover, there are some unclear plots in this novel, it makes the reader confused. Besides, there are uncommon words and the author does not explain what the meaning is.

Overall, this novel has a good story. Although, the writer suggests that the readers must be young adult and adult readers since this novel contains many adultst scenes. This novel is definitely not for children under age and teenager in Indonesia. This book is suitable for adult which learn about love.

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