

Psychoanalysis of Norma's Character in *Button Button* by Richard Matheson

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Abstract— People can experience catharsis and gain insight into their current state of mind by bringing the content of the unconscious into conscious awareness. Through this process, a person can find relief from psychological distress. The present study aimed to analyse the character of Norma, the protagonist, in the short story “Button Button” by Richard Matheson. The study delves into Norma's most private thoughts which led her to commit such a heinous crime. The primary source of conflict in this story is the incompatibility between Norma and Arthur who are married to each other. In terms of their thoughts, they are opposed to each other. Arthur is a man of morality whereas Norma is a bit of a philanthropist who has held on to a few dreams during their married life together. She was willing to go to any length to have her desires met, even if it meant losing her husband. When she receives the \$50,000 offer, she is overjoyed to the point of becoming enraged with greed. She wished to see that the offer for her desire was fulfilled, regardless of whether or not anyone died. As a result, the story is in a state of conflict. The study's goal is to find out what her deepest desires are.

Keywords— Psychoanalysis, private thoughts, philanthropist, conflict

I. INTRODUCTION

To explain psychoanalysis and to source psychoanalytic concepts authors have turned to literature. Psychoanalysis has been attempted to be exploited and used in literature for creative expression and literary criticism. The state of mind and personality structure of the author is fictionalised expressions of his or her own. Following psychology history, psychoanalysis first gained popularity in the medical field. Psychoanalysis spread to other fields of study, eventually becoming one of the approaches to literature used in literary studies, as well as other disciplines. Human actions are influenced by people's previously held beliefs about current events, according to psychological theory. “Psychoanalytic theories assume the existence of unconscious internal states that motivate an individual's overt actions,” writes (Monte, 1977). Essentially, psychoanalytic therapy is the re-telling of a person's life story. It has placed a great deal of emphasis on

the significance of the relationship between the unconscious and thought processes. They believed that becoming aware of this is therapeutic and necessary for maintaining a healthy mind. As a result of psychoanalysis' emphasis on motives, which was particularly focused on hidden or disguised motives, literature can be clarified on two levels: at the level of writing itself, and at the level of character action within the text. Psychoanalysis places a strong emphasis on the subject and attempts to explain how meaning and identity are related to psychic and cultural forces by examining the subject's thoughts and feelings.

Essentially, psychoanalytic therapy is the re-telling of a person's life story. It has placed a great deal of emphasis on the significance of the relationship between the unconscious and thought processes. They believed that becoming aware of this is therapeutic and necessary for maintaining a healthy mind. As a result of psychoanalysis' emphasis on motives, which was particularly focused on hidden or disguised motives, literature can be clarified on two levels: at the level of writing itself, and at the level of character action within the text. Psychoanalysis places a strong emphasis on the subject and attempts to explain how meaning and identity are related to psychic and cultural forces by examining the subject's thoughts and feelings. As a result, Sigmund Freud is a strong supporter of the psychoanalysis movement (1859-1939). Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961) a later student of Freudian psychology, re-directs his view in the understanding of psychoanalysis to suit his social milieu. Jung is the one who sees the fundamental human behaviours in myths and legends. Alfred Adler (1870-1937), who sees man as a social being, was a later development of psychoanalysis. We are motivated by social needs, according to Adler, because "we are self-conscious and capable of improving ourselves and the world around us" (McConnell, 1980). Sibi (2020) put in Sigmund Freud as he is regarded as the father of modern psychology which examines the human mind and asserts that the unconscious mind governs the conscious mind. The human mind is divided into three layers: the conscious mind, the preconscious mind, and the unconscious mind.

The ego, superego, and id are mental apparatuses that function in a person. The unconscious mind is a storage facility from which one's personality emerges. Dreams are the unconscious mind's indirect outlets. As a result, dreams are the royal roads to the unconscious mind in the psychoanalysis method. Freud's theory examines the life and death instincts in humans. The dialectical synthesis of birth and death is the goal of life (Freud, 1949). According to Pamela Thurschwell (2001), "psychoanalysis is a form of therapy." Theory of strong emotions Cherry (2020) is of the view that Psychoanalysis is defined as a set of psychological theories and therapeutic techniques that originated with Sigmund Freud's work and theories. The belief that everyone has unconscious thoughts, feelings, desires, and memories is at the heart of psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysis is both a theory and a therapeutic practice that aids in the treatment of patients suffering from anxiety and depression by gaining insight through free association, dream analysis, catharsis, and by making connections between the patient's past and present experiences.

Unconscious conscious is a phrase that means "unconscious conscious is conscious." Dr Joseph Breuer and Sigmund Freud collaborated on the study of psychoanalysis. It was Sigmund Freud who popularized this phrase. We can better understand human behaviour by reading psychoanalytic literature, which is based on the theories of Sigmund Freud. To better understand human relationships at the conscious, subconscious, and unconscious levels, psychoanalytic criticism and theories are applied to literature. Furthermore, it assists us in deciphering the hidden motif within the text. The psychoanalytic approach aids us in comprehending the psychological development of a character as well as the author's personality and thought process. As a result, psychoanalysis is concerned with motivations that are concealed or disguised. Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, and Jacques Lacan are just a few of the well-known figures associated with psychoanalysis.

Problem Statement

People can experience catharsis and gain insight into their current state of mind, according to psychoanalysis, by bringing the content of the unconscious into conscious awareness. Through this process, a person can find relief from psychological distress. The same can be said for Norma, the protagonist in Richard Matheson's short story "Button Button." She has unconsciously become avaricious enough to kill her husband for money. The study delves into Norma's most private thoughts, which led her to commit such a heinous crime. The primary source of conflict in this story is the incompatibility between Norma and Arthur, who are married to one another. In terms of their thoughts, they are opposed to one another. Arthur is a man of morality, whereas Norma is a bit of a philanthropist who has held on to a few dreams during their married life together. She was willing to go to any length to have her desires met, even if it meant losing her husband. When she receives the \$50,000 offer, she is overjoyed to the point of becoming enraged with greed. She wished to see that the

offer for her desire was fulfilled, regardless of whether or not anyone died. As a result, the story is in a state of conflict. The study's goal is to find out what her deepest desires are.

Introduction of the Story "Button Button"

The husband and wife are given a box with a button to press. Mr Steward knocks on their door shortly after they receive the button and offers them a once-in-a-lifetime deal. He emphasises that the person who presses the button is not required to witness the death of the unknown person who has been killed. Norma, the husband's wife, sees it as a business opportunity. Arthur, the husband, believes that pressing the button is the same as murder. The couple is debating whether or not to press the button to end their relationship for a few days.

Despite her husband's protests, Norma eventually presses the button, and as a result, her husband is killed in a train accident while on their honeymoon. She receives a check for \$50,000 as a result of her husband's death benefit. Mr Steward's accusation of lying causes Norma to question whether she has ever been a true friend of her husband. This Twilight Zone episode served as the inspiration for the feature film "The Box," starring Cameron Diaz and James Marsden.

Setting

There is no clear description of the story's setting; we only know from the text that Norma and her husband work and that when they return from their office, they find a cube-shaped carton in front of their door. Their name and address were handwritten: "Mr and Mrs Aurthur Lewis, 21 7 E. Thirty-seventh Street, New York, New York 10016."

Characters Portrayal

This spy story isn't overflowing with characters. In the story, there are only three characters. Mr Arthur Lewis, the husband, and her wife Norma, as well as Mr Steward, essentially stirs the main conflict of the story. He approaches them and makes an enticing offer that piques Norma's interest. The offer is "If you push the button," Mr Steward told him, "somewhere in the world someone you don't know will die. In return for which you will receive a payment of \$50,000. "Finally, but not least, the story's title, "Button Button." The writer, Matheson, has manipulated the word button with repetition, which means that he wanted to catch the readers' attention by emphasising the repetition of the word 'Button.' The entire fabric of the story revolves around the character of Button.

Plot

The plot of the story is straightforward, with no complex details. Norma's house is the station from which all of the story's events are broadcast. The story begins with the couple returning home from their respective jobs. When

they get to the door, they discover that they have been given an enticing offer of \$ 5,000 if they push the button. The pressing of the button owes them the death of an unknown man. First, they reject this lethal offer and return the gadget to Mr Steward, who returns knowing that the couple is incompatible. He sneaks in and places the carton in front of their door. Norma picks it up and inhales it with ostentatious rage. Her husband is not willing to commit such a crime, but she is enraged by the madness of long-cherished desires, and in a fit of greed, she presses and has her husband murdered. The plot in this story has a chronological structure, which means that everything happens in the correct order.

Narrator

The story's narrator is a detached individual. He could be the author or someone else.

Conflict

The main conflict in this story is that Norma and Arthur cannot agree on whether or not to open the box. She wants to open the box because she will receive \$50,000 and all she will have to pay is for someone she does not know to die. Arthur does not want to open it because it may result in the death of a neighbour or an innocent child. He does not believe it is fair, regardless of who dies.

Climax

After Norma pushed the button, she receives a call informing her that her husband had been pushed in front of a train and died, and she realises that his \$25 000 life insurance would double if he did. Finally, she realised that she had received \$50,000 when she pressed the button, but that it had cost her her husband. The story's turning points are the same. It happens when she presses the button, but the outcome is not the same as in the story. The story's climax occurs when Norma is alone at home and decides to press the button, despite what her husband says.

About the Writer

Richard Matheson (1926-2013) was an American novelist and short-story writer who wrote many classic novels and short stories. Author of horror, fantasy, horror, suspenseful novels and science fiction novels as well as westerns, he wrote in a variety of styles and genres. Apart from books, he was a prolific writer for television (for shows such as *The Twilight Zone*, *Night Gallery*, and *Star Trek*) and numerous feature films, among them *In addition to I Am Legend*, *Somewhere in Time*, and *Shrinking Man*, several Matheson's novels and short stories have been adapted for the big screen. Many of his honours include the World Fantasy and Bram Stoker Awards for Lifetime Achievement, the Hugo Award, the Edgar Award, the Spur Award for Best Western Novel, and several other Writers Guild awards. In 2010, he was inducted into the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame in San Francisco. A good

collection to start with is *The Best of Richard Matheson* (Amazon), which contains more than 30 short stories, including some of his best-known, such as "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet," "Button, Button," and "Third From the Sun," among others.

Objectives of the Study

- i. To probe into the mental conflict of Norma in 'Button Button'
- ii. To know How does Norma's mental conflict destroys her own life

Research Questions

- i. How can we probe into the mental conflict of Norm in 'Button Button'?
- ii. How does Norma's mental conflict destroy her own life in 'Button Button'?

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Frush (2003) proposed that as a part of his investigation into psychoanalysis' troubled history in Germany during the Nazi era, the author provides a partial analysis of his own. It is particularly interesting to consider the impact on the psychoanalysis of its 'Jewish origins,' which were denounced by the Nazis but have since been reclaimed by Jewish and other scholars. According to the author, the rapid decline of the pre-Nazi psychoanalytic institutions was brought about by a policy of appeasement and collaboration. He pays particular attention to the continuation of some forms of psychoanalytic practice within the 'Görling Institute'. He contends that an important feature of this history was the anti-Semitism displayed by some non-Jewish psychoanalysts, which revealed hostility toward their positioning as adherents of the 'Jewish science.'

Roghani's (2015) study discovers that The character of Tess, the protagonist of Thomas Hardy's novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, uncovers her psychoanalytical evaluation. As the central theme of this article, it has been discussed under the umbrella of the psycho-analysis process, which is a method of Tess's character development in the novel that takes into account her contemporary historical, cultural and social backgrounds in addition to her character flaws, which has been discussed in this article. Furthermore, the purpose of this article is to examine the prejudiced social norms, the cruel ethical standards, the unjust laws, the deliberately harmful morality standards, the inequality of a male-dominated society, and the hypocrisy of social prejudice that all contribute to Tess's innocent crush. Put another way, this article reflects Hardy's views on fate and captures the certainty that her tragic fate awaits her and her family.

F irozjaee (2015) says that in Shakespeare's great tragedy, *Macbeth*, what causes general human behaviour? What are their characteristics and nature? The tone of Shakespeare's work is tragicomic. In this play, the

humanism (humanity) scale was used. He, like the human spirit, struggles to emerge from error and sin and into truth and wisdom. In a man lacking in character strength, dark thoughts and unconscious temptations lead to terrible actions. The human condition is examined through Shakespeare's reinterpretation of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's soliloquies. This play is profound as a realistic portrayal of psychological, social, and divine personality in the course of life affairs and interpersonal interactions.

Sayyed Ali & Elaheh (2015) studies that one of the most famous novels written by George Eliot (1819-1880), a famous British Victorian novelist, is *The Mill on the Floss*, in which Maggie Tulliver, the main character, lives in a family where she is discriminated against by her family members and even other people in society because of her dark skin and eyes, as well as the blackness of her hair and eyes, and the darkness of her skin. Because of the blackness that she possesses, she is regarded as a bad girl by the general public. Maggie, on the other hand, attempts to change their negative attitudes toward her by being kind and showing good behaviour. An analytic review of this character in this novel is presented here to examine her personality, behaviour, and sense of responsibility, as well as the reactions of Maggie's family and other characters to this character.

Huo & Shi (2015) studied that a famous novel about character and environment written by Thomas Hardy, *The Return of the Native* has gained enormous popularity in China since it was first published there in 1903. The purpose of this paper is to examine the inevitability of Eustacia's tragic ending. It examines the underlying causes of the heroine's tragedy from the standpoint of feminist theory. It demonstrates that people who violate the laws of nature and society are liable to be prosecuted and punished. The purpose of this paper is to inform the public that each citizen should make every effort to contribute to the establishment of a harmonious relationship with other human beings, nature, and society.

Raj (2016) claimed that the exploration of the unconscious by Sigmund Freud had an impact on the interpretation of *Hamlet*, Shakespeare's seminal work. After spending time in a psychoanalyst's chair, what Shakespeare intended to be performed on stage took on a whole new meaning for the actors who played the fictional characters. The purpose of this paper is to critically map the psychoanalytic approach to Shakespeare's *Hamlet* as a psychopathic drama to better understand it. It is the tangled nature of Hamlet's unconscious, his oedipal desire, and his autobiographical recoiling at the impossibility of desire that serves as the foundation for examining *Hamlet* from a psychoanalytic perspective.

Kumari (2016) discusses how psychoanalysis can be used in literature to understand the text, character development, and the author's psyche. Lawrence wrote works like *Sons and Lovers*, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and others that beg for psychoanalysis. In the novel *Sons and Lovers*, the domineering power of a mother's love and jealousy limits her son's desire for other women. Do the mother's blood ties to another woman win out? Also, how does a child's early psychological development influence their personality? However, despite the class divide,

Connie's suppressed sexual desires drove her to infidelity. Connie has suppressed her desire for a long time due to her husband's physical disability. When she sees Mellor, these suppressed desires come to the surface. She established a sexual relationship with a lower-class servant, creating a moral dilemma in her superego.

Hossain (2017) suggested that psychoanalysis is one of the modern theories that has been used in English literature to analyse characters and plots. In psychoanalysis, it is regarded as a theory of personality organisation and dynamics, as well as a theory of personality dynamics and dynamics of personality. In the academic field of literary criticism or literary theory, it is well known that the close connection between literature and psychoanalysis has always been used as a point of departure. Psychoanalysis has long been regarded as one of the most contentious and underappreciated approaches to literary criticism, particularly among younger readers. Despite this, it has long been regarded as one of the most intriguing and rewarding approaches in the field of interpretative analysis.

In recent years, this psychological interpretation has evolved into one of the mechanisms for determining the hidden meaning of a literary text. Investigation of the writer's innate personality as factors that contribute to his or her experience from birth to the time of writing a book can also be beneficial in this regard. The goal of psychoanalysis was to demonstrate that certain behaviours were caused by the interaction of the unconscious and the conscious minds of the subject. Authors of literary works in English literature have used psychoanalysis in their works, according to the proposed research, which is titled '*Psychoanalytic Theory Used in English Literature: A Descriptive Study*.'

Bottinelli & Laxton (2018) suggested that Psychoanalysis influenced the early twentieth-century art movement surrealism. Sigmund Freud's research influenced Surrealism's psychoanalytic theories. During the First World War, André Breton, the leader of the Surrealist movement, first became acquainted with Freud's ideas. Breton declared psychoanalysis the basis of Surrealism in the First Manifesto of Surrealism, believing that Freud's ideas had the potential to revolutionise culture. Their idealisation of Freud justified their male-dominated and misogynistic beliefs. The Phenomenon of Ecstasy, a Salvador Dali photo collage, is used to illustrate the translation of psychoanalytic ideas into sexualized and fantasy-like depictions of women in Surrealist artwork.

AL-Dmour (2019) claims Toni Morrison's *Beloved* seems to lend itself best for analysis. Freud developed this theory to explain human behaviour using dreams and unconscious symptoms. *Beloved* is considered one of the most modern psychoanalytic novels. In this study, I will explain these theories in the novel using characters and key incidents from the novel. Especially the murder of her innocent daughter, Sethe is the main character in the novel. She had been mistreated in the past. In Kentucky, she is subjected to slavery, oppression, and rape. Mental symptoms in *Beloved* are clear: hysteria, the oedipal complex. Many critics, such as Kristin Boudreau, have written and discussed psychoanalytic theories in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. Women "tried to find an outlet for

their painful experiences and hurtful past," she said. Sethe, let go of her negative emotions and desires by killing her daughter. Many readers believe Morrison's novels establish her desired tradition. She challenges the reader to accept her as she is.

Khan, Shaheen, & Siddiqi (2020) state that "Hedda Gabler" by Ibsen is rife with psychological implications. It's a play in which Ibsen tackles the complexities of romantic relationships. The research is based on Sigmund Freud's theory of the unconscious, which includes unconscious motives, repression, fear of intimacy, displacement, anxiety, and neurosis. Many of the play's young characters attempt, but fail, to form intimate relationships. The majority of the characters are terrified of intimacy. This leads to an examination of their unconscious motivations and desires. According to the study, the majority of the characters in this play are controlled by their unconscious desire to have power over the people with whom they want to be intimate. This is why they are unable to form intimate relationships with the people who are important in their lives. The research presents a literary application of Freudian concepts. It also aids in comprehending the reasons for the failure of intimate relationships.

Aalam (2020) suggested that Among the many experts who have looked into Shakespeare's work are philosophers, sociologists, anthropologists, psychologists, and psychoanalysts. Shakespeare's testimony as a proponent of psychoanalysis is that even Sigmund Freud quoted lines from Shakespeare's plays to help him deal with serious issues and problems, such as extreme failure and the instinct of death. In other words, Shakespeare's plays serve important socio-psychological functions, which were later developed by Sigmund Freud into the field of "psychoanalysis." The purpose of this article is to provide an analysis of the main characters in Shakespeare's play Othello. It paints a picture of why things went so tragically wrong in the play while also raising the question of whether the characters or the circumstances should be held responsible. What caused a character's behaviour to change from tolerant to violent, jealous, or tolerant. The components of Freud's psychoanalytical theory, such as the 'id,' the 'ego,' and the super ego,' can serve as useful references for this research. However, no criticism of the terms "conscious," "subconscious," and "unconscious" has been included in the study.

III. METHODOLOGY

The present study offers a psychoanalytical interpretation of Norma's character is greedy enough to kill someone for money. As a theoretical framework, this qualitative study used Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory. The term psychoanalysis is associated with Sigmund Freud, a German psychologist who lived in the early twentieth century. In the late nineteenth century, he researched the conscious and unconscious psyche of the human mind and developed theories to support his findings. He also asserted that dreams have their significance and reveal a great deal about a person's personality and that dreams are the result of suppressed feelings and desires that

are released through defence mechanisms. According to the theory, childhood experiences are important; unconscious, sexual, and aggressive drives are important in determining the personality of the majority of people; and different people react differently to the same situation. The study examined the character sketch of Norma, the protagonist of Richard Matheson's short story "Button Button." The short story is included in the syllabus of Intermediated Part-I, Punjab Textbook.

IV. DISCUSSION

"Norma put the button unit beside her on the couch. She reread the typed note, smiling."

Mr Steward, the company's agent, presented the offer and then quietly left. Norma and her husband's stirred minds remained emotionless. Norma was overjoyed with the offer, but she did not express her joy all at once. She was required to perform household duties, which she did. When she was free, she pressed the button unit and reread the note on the card. She was smiling as she did this. A reader can easily understand her inner feelings that she did not express previously. Though Norma's smile has a meaning, the reader is unaware of why she is so happy. This happiness will become clear in the following explanations.

"It could prove very valuable," he told her.

"Monetarily?" she challenged.

Mr Steward nodded. "Monetarily," he said."

Mr Steward had informed her with the offer that he would come to meet them at 8 p.m., and being a professional, he arrived on time. In any case, he was not well received by Norma, who was happy on the inside but disgusted on the outside. It is clear from this act that she is very astute. Mr Steward, displaying true professionalism, ignored cunning Norman's hard behaviour and insisted on explaining the offer. Mr Arthur greeted him and allowed him to give a presentation. Norma inquired about the nature of the offer during the conversation. Would they benefit financially from the offer? Mr Steward assured them that the offer was financially advantageous. Norma's question about whether the offer is financially beneficial demonstrates her greedy nature.

"Norma was still sitting on the sofa. "What do you think it was?" she

asked.

"I don't care to know," he answered.

She tried to smile but couldn't. "Aren't you curious at all?"

"No." He shook his head."

Norma was completely engrossed in the allure of the offer. She was in a trance-like state. She asked her husband's opinion on the offer in a casual manner. Her husband was a

straightforward and emotionless individual who stated unequivocally that he has nothing to do with the offer. It was very teasing for Norma, who had dreams about it and was looking forward to having her long-held desires fulfilled by this offer. She wanted to put on a fake smile, but she restrained herself. She was at a loss for what to say. She gathered her courage and asked him again if he was interested. Her husband stated unequivocally that he was not interested in the bloody offer.

"Why won't you talk about it?" Norma asked.

Arthur's eyes shifted as he brushed his teeth. He looked at his reflection in the bathroom mirror.

"Doesn't it intrigue you?"

"It offends me," Arthur said."

The offer had become ingrained in Norma's mind, and she was completely enthralled by it. Her husband, on the other hand, was aloof and uninterested in this offer. She wished for her husband to come around, but he was unwilling to do so. When she asked him why he was not interested in the offer as he was getting ready for work in the morning, he replied in the negative that he gets irritated with the offer.

"You think it's a practical joke?" she asked as they went into the bedroom.

"If it is, it's a sick one."

Norma sat on her bed and took off her slippers. "Maybe it's some kind

of psychological research."

Arthur shrugged. "Could be."

In her waste efforts, she is doing everything she can to persuade her husband to accept the offer. She explained to her husband that he mistook the offer for a joke. Mr Arthur responded by clarifying that he fully understands the offer that irritates him. Norma speculates that it could be psychological research on human behaviour. She was trying to persuade her husband that the company would not kill anyone, but Arthur demonstrated his carelessness.

"Wouldn't you like to know?"

Arthur shook his head.

"Why?"

"Because it's immoral," he told her.

Norma slid beneath the covers. "Well, I think it's intriguing," she said.

Arthur turned off the lamp and leaned over to kiss her. "Good night,"

he said.

"Good night." She patted his back."

Arthur is not interested in the offer because he considers it an immoral act, even worse than murder, but her greedy wife Norma insisted on taking the risk. She repeatedly inquired about the device that he refused to reveal, but he flatly refused. Norma goes to bed, and before she falls asleep, she expresses her interest in the offer. Arthur is offended by the open affirmation. In any case, he kisses her and bids her goodnight. However, he was enraged, but the act of kissing at this time may be traditional, but it can help Norma persuade Arthur over time.

"Norma closed her eyes. Fifty thousand dollars, she thought."

Norma's greedy fantasy has reached its pinnacle. Norma can see \$ 5000 flying in front of her eyes as long as she closes her eyes. This demonstrated that she had become a dreamy enough person to constantly fantasise about money. He is unconcerned about her husband's opinion, whether he agrees or not. This portends disastrous consequences in the future.

"After lunch, she took the card halves from her purse again and Scotch-taped the edges together. "Why am I doing this?" she thought.

just before five, she dialled the number.

"Good afternoon," said Mr Steward's voice.

"I'm curious."

"That's natural," Mr Steward said."

When Arthur first meets Mr Steward, he declines the offer and tears the card in half, but his wife keeps the two halves intact in her bag. She scotch-tapes the edges of the card and thinks while at work and during bread time. The hidden thoughts. The reader cannot predict that she will commit a heinous crime that will destroy her. As with Norma, she isn't just saying it; she truly believes it. She called Mr Steward on the phone without informing her husband and replied in hushed tones that he was sure she would call him, but he pretended to be shy. Norma informs him that she would like to accept the offer. Mr Steward comments on this, saying that acceptance is natural. He was certain, as if he were a professional dealer, that he would entangle the greedy Norma.

"Well, whatever-" Norma swallowed. "When you said someone in

the world would die, what did you mean?"

"Exactly that," he answered. "It could be anyone. All we guarantee is

that you don't know them. And, of course, that you wouldn't have to

watch them die."

"For \$50,000," Norma said."

Norma, on the other hand, is fully entangled in the trap, but she pretends to be unconcerned and tells Arthur that she does not believe what he told them about the offer. Concerning the money and the assassination of an unknown person. Mr Steward assures her that the offer is genuine and that everything will go as planned. Nonetheless, one thing is certain: she will not witness the man's death. Norma confirms the amount of the offer once more. This demonstrates Norma's impassive and materialistic nature, as money came first to her. She requires money in any case, even if someone dies.

"All right, suppose it is?" He looked incredulous. "What would you like

to do? Get the button back and push it? Murder someone?"

Norma looked disgusted. "Murder."

"How would you define it?"

"If you don't even know the person?" Norma said.

"The point is, Norma," he continued, "what's the difference whom

you kill? It's still murder."

She tries to persuade her husband in any case, like a stubborn person. Arthur finds it unbelievable that her wife has gone insane for money. She has become cruel enough to kill someone she knows. He emphasises that she should not engage in murderous behaviour, but his wife does not believe it was a criminal act. She claims that if they don't know the man, they can't be criminals. Finally, whatever the case may be, if someone dies as a result of their actions, it will be considered murder.

"Arthur stared at her, appalled. "You mean you would?"

"Fifty thousand dollars, Arthur."

"What has the amount-"

When Norma insistently repeats and persuades her husband to participate in the act, he is powerless and terrified. Norma repeatedly reminds him of the amount of offer that can change their destiny and allow them to fulfil their dream of living a luxurious life with a cosy apartment, elegant furniture, and a car, and even go on a trip to Europe that they had only imagined in their minds, but now was the time for their dreams to come true.

"Reaching out, she pressed it down. For us, she thought angrily.

She shuddered. Was it happening? A chill of horror swept across her."

Even though her husband was at the party with her, she was determined to do so. When she was alone at home, she picked up the device and, in a fit of rage, pressed it, expressing her disdain for her husband, who did not support her. She became terrified as she pressed the button and felt something titillating he scruples. She had a feeling while watching a horror movie and experiencing the horror.

"She picked up the receiver. "Hello?"

"Mrs Lewis?"

"Yes?"

"This is the Lenox Hill Hospital."

She was in a state of shock after pressing the button, and a call from a Lenox Hill Hospital exacerbated the situation by informing her that her husband had died in a train accident. That news came as a surprise to her, and she was unprepared for it. She is now only half-dead. As she hung up the phone, she suddenly remembered her husband's \$25,000 life insurance policy. She was going to get that policy's money with double indemnification. It means that in the event of death, the amount of money would be doubled, making it \$5000. She was senseless earlier in a money frenzy, and now that she is about to get that money, she has lost all senses.

"Mrs Lewis?" Mr Steward asked.

It wasn't her voice shrieking so; it couldn't be. "You said I wouldn't know the one

that died!"

"My dear lady," Mr Steward said. "Do you

think you knew your husband?"

During her last phone call with Mr Steward, she blamed him for lying and betraying them. She was upset because he didn't ask them about Mr Arthur's death. He informed them that a well-known person had died. Mr Steward clarified that he was not mistaken; Mr Arthur and Mrs Arthur had different points of view and were unaware of each other's existence. Even though they were husband and wife and lived in the same house, their thoughts were incompatible. Mr Arthur was a moral man, whereas Norma was a greedy woman who murders her husband and destroys her own life.

V. CONCLUSION

"Button Button," a short story by Richard Matheson, tells the story of Norma, the main character. She is married to Mr Arthur Lewis, who is also her father. Both of them are enjoying their married life together. As the story begins, it is unclear whether they are content or not; however, as the story progresses and we delve deeper into

the mind of Norma, we learn that they appear to be financially strapped and dissatisfied with their current lifestyle choices. That they have many wishes that have gone unfulfilled is revealed by Norma's thoughts. Mr Arthur is extremely content and self-satisfied, and he does not wish to offend anyone's feelings in any way. In contrast, his wife, Norma, possesses no moral conscience, is preoccupied with herself, and dreams of living a luxurious lifestyle. Whatever the case, her long-cherished desires remain unfulfilled. Finally, Mr Steward brings with him the promise of luxury in the form of that heinous offer that ends up destroying her life. Her suppressed emotions are roused by the offer, and she loses all sense of morality as a result of the experience. She perceives her wishes as fulfilled through the prism of a nefarious offer. This is the time of her life when she has gone insane for money and has unwittingly become brutal enough to murder someone for the sake of money. Her desire for money overwhelms her nerves, causing her to lose her temper and even her sense of self. When she becomes greedy, she goes against her husband's wishes and presses the lethal button to obtain money. Given that the button is the focal point of the story, it plays a pivotal role in the demise of Norma's existence. That is why the writer makes effective use of this word in the title, repeating it several times to emphasise the significance of the word in the title. Instead of the word button causing her death, her desires and greedy nature are the ones responsible for her death.

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