

CHAPTER IV

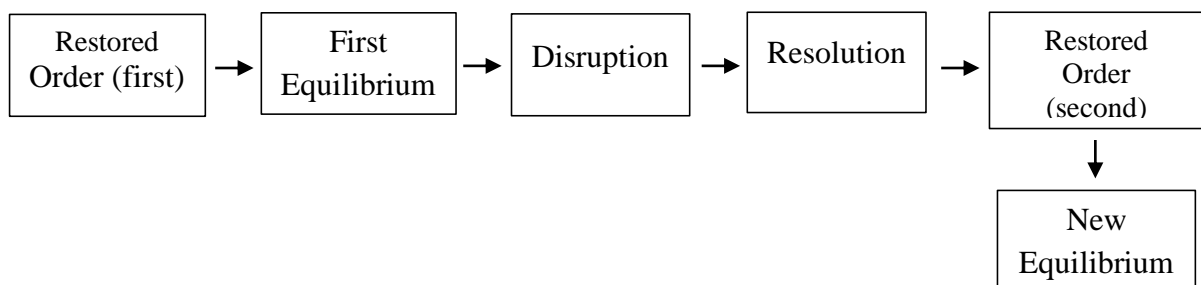
DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter is intended to answer the question based on the problem that the writer has mentioned in Problem Formulation. The writer matches the five intrinsic elements in Narrative Theory with the plot in the movie. The five intrinsic elements are proposed by Tzvetan Todorov in his Narrative Theory. The writer categorises the stages in the movie and explain which stages match the stages in Narrative Theory.

Most of the movies commonly use linear stages, from equilibrium until new equilibrium. But, in *Jennifer's Body*, the first stage that is used is Restored Order stage. In Restored Order stage, the main character, Needy, works on her own to find a way to solve the problems that she is facing.

Jennifer's Body seems to have two main characters, Jennifer, and her best friend, Needy. But, in the beginning of the movie Jennifer has already been possessed by a demon after she is brutally murdered by the boys from the band. The boys killed her, eventhough it is still unsure whether she was dead at the time or not. The demon possessed her body, and the conflict starts.

The stage order in *Jennifer's Body* is as follows :



While the stage order of Narrative Theory proposed by Todorov is below:

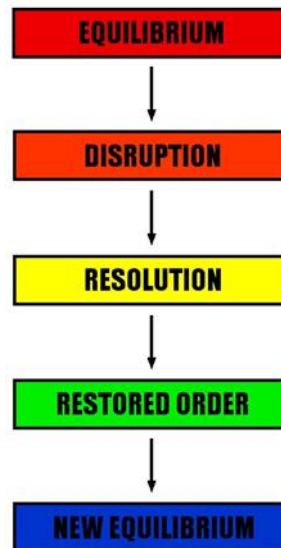


Figure 4.1 The stage order in Narrative Theory proposed by Todorov (Todorov, T; Weinstein, A, 1969)

4.1 The Restored Order (First Part)

Restored Order stage is a stage when the main character is aware that he or she is having a problem, and they try to get their life back to normal and try to solve the problem. It is still unclear whether the main character in this movie is Jennifer Check or Anita “Needy” Lesnicki in the beginning of the movie. Based on the title, *Jennifer’s Body*, the main character of the movie is Jennifer. But, after Needy tells the story from her monologue, it is almost a certainty that Needy is the main character, while Jennifer is a supporting character. Jennifer is dead in the middle of the movie.

Jennifer’s Body is a unique movie that the audience is hard to identify who the main character of this movie is. Jennifer and Needy seemed to be protagonists in the beginning of the story, but after the disruption stage, when Jennifer and Needy have a conflict, and Needy tries to stop Jennifer from killing more people.

Common movies put the Equilibrium stage in the beginning of the movie. But, instead, the director of the movie, Karyn Kusama, puts Restored Order in the beginning. The director wants the audience to get the “dark” ambience since the beginning of the movie.

The movie starts at noon. The music makes it even more mysterious. The movie starts with a monologue told by a woman, who is later in the movie, known as Anita “Needy”. She sews something in a ward in mental hospital. In a monologue, she tells that she receives a lot of letters from people telling that she has to atone and follow Jesus so everything will be alright, but she does not believe them. She says that people think she is crazy, and she says they think she is a trash. But, by the looks of her, she is not like a crazy person. It is because she still knows how to brush her hair and makes something like a crochet. She is still mindful of everything that she does and can concentrate well. She keeps her hair neat, and ties half of her hair back. Later in the movie, the audience will know that Needy is diagnosed of having hallucination (Figure 4.2), but people with mental illness will hallucinate all day and can not make crochet. She still knows how to make a crochet and still can think clearly and focus on what she is doing.

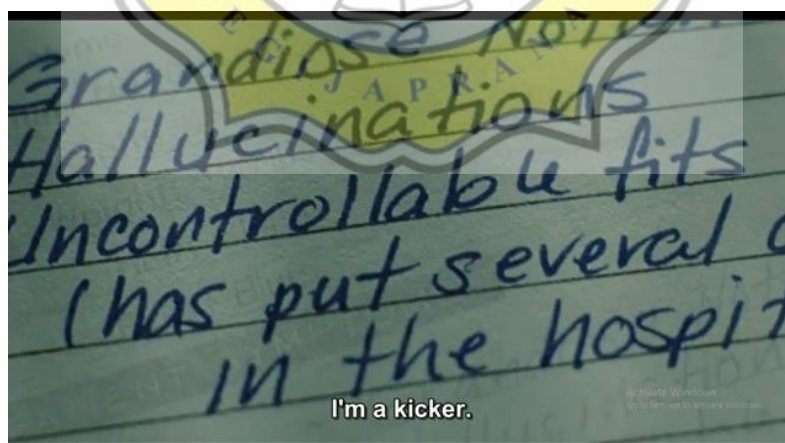


Figure 4.2 Needy is diagnosed to have a hallucination (02:00)

According to WHO (n.d.), someone who is mentally healthy can cope with her or his stress, and can work productively to contribute to others. If she suffers from mental illness,

she would try hard to be calm and to just get up and do simple activities, like taking care of herself. While the room of a person with mental illness is usually messy, her room looks neat. She must clean it and tidy it up regularly. Then, a nurse breaks in to her room and tell her that the break time has started since 5 minutes ago. According to Medical News Today (2020), poor mental health condition usually affects a person in doing their activities. Someone who has mental illness will not be able to do their activities. Other crazy people, cannot be reminded, instead, they would just go wherever their mind wants them to go, because their minds and their bodies usually are hard to be synchronized and they are hard to focus. Needy, however, she knows exactly where to go when break time comes and does not get lost.



Figure 4.3 Needy makes a crochet in her room in a mental hospital (00:37)

The next scene is when she fights a nurse and she kicks a nurse who wants to check on her. She is later put in solitary confinement because of it.



Figure 4.4 Needy kicks a doctor who checks on her (02:19)

From the information in the scenes, the writer knows that the movie from 00:37 until 03:35 is Restored Order stage because it starts in a noon scene. The main character, Needy, is aware of the problem that she has and she wants to fix it. Restored Order stage usually takes place in the hands of police or other authorities. But, in this story, because the main character, Needy, tries to solve the problem by herself, the police do not arrest the antagonist because the only person who is aware that the normality has changed is Needy. No one would believe a daughter of a cadet, Jennifer, has committed a crime, so, instead, she is put in a mental hospital to cure her illness because she is suspected to have committed a crime. Therefore, the first stage in this movie is Restored Order stage. Even though the audience have not known what happened before, but Needy or other characters must have done something very bad that Needy is the one who has to bear the consequences.

Another reason why the movie from 00:37 until 05:28 is Restored Order stage is because Needy tells that even though anyone tells her that she should follow Jesus, no one will be back to life and everything that has happened cannot be cancelled. She cannot live her life normally like she used to. It means that someone already passes away by the time she tells that. In the next scene, it is explained why she cannot live normally like she used to.

In the Restored Order stage, the story is a rewind from when Needy gets to the mental hospital and the things that happened before she is in mental hospital.



Figure 4.5 Needy tells that no one will be back to life even if she decides to follow Jesus

(01:29)

In 02:58, the narrator, Needy, tells that she was not always messed up and looking crazy like that. She explains that she once was a normal person. Because night is a typical horror movie ambience, the next scene comes in an eerie night ambience. A woman, that is, later in the movie, known as Jennifer, is laying down in bed. She reads and writes something when the television turns on. Jennifer is looking pale and sick, she wears short pants and a T-shirt.

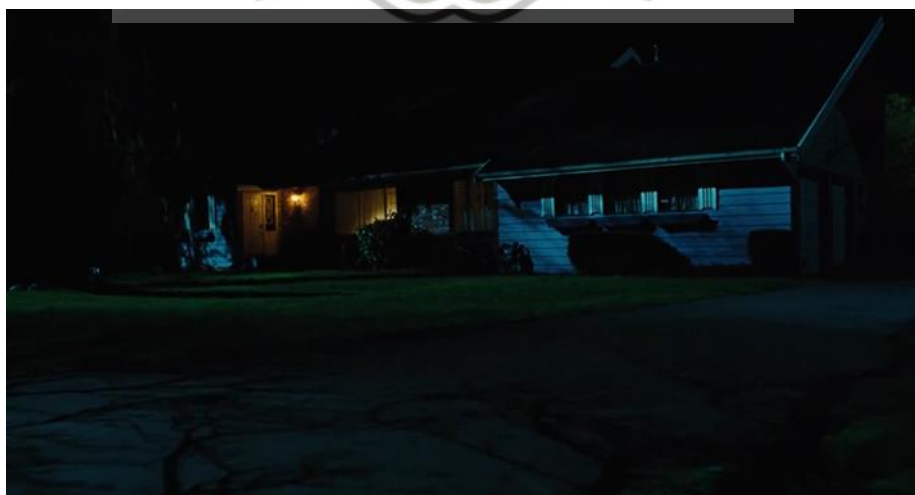


Figure 4.6 Eerie night ambience outside Jennifer's house (04:20)



Figure 4.7 Jennifer writes something. She looks sick. (05:06)

Suddenly, a woman shows up. She is Anita “Needy” Lesnicki. She is wearing hoodie jacket, she glares at Jennifer through the window.



Figure 4.8 Needy tells that Jennifer didn't look that rough (05:28)

In her monologue, Needy tells that Jennifer did not always look that rough. It means, she is sick because something has happened to her before and it's not her ordinary looks. It means that it is not the beginning of the story. That is why the scenes from 00:01 until 05:28 is The Restored Order stage. The next scene is when Needy introduces Jennifer, her best friend, and her boyfriend, Chip, and the movie flash backs to the events from 2 months ago.

From the beginning until the end of the movie, the rest of the movie is told from Needy's point of view. That is because Needy likes to write a journal about her own experience. This also indicates that the whole story is seen from Needy's point of view.

4.2 The First Equilibrium

First Equilibrium is a stage when there is a normal state of life. The main character and another supporting characters have a normal life in this stage. First Equilibrium becomes the second stage in this movie. In this movie, this stage takes place after Restored Order as the first place.

First Equilibrium stage starts when there is an introduction about the place where the main characters live in and the story happens. It is in Devil's Kettle, Minnesota. The narrator, Needy, tells that the name, Devil's Kettle, was named after a waterfall with a mysterious hole on the side. Devil's Kettle is where the story occurs.

Unlike the previous scenes, the ambience of this scene is far from eerie and dark. The ambience of this scene is cheerful. Jennifer also looks very pretty in a cheerleader suit, when she dances with her group and waves her hand to Needy. They smile when they see each other.

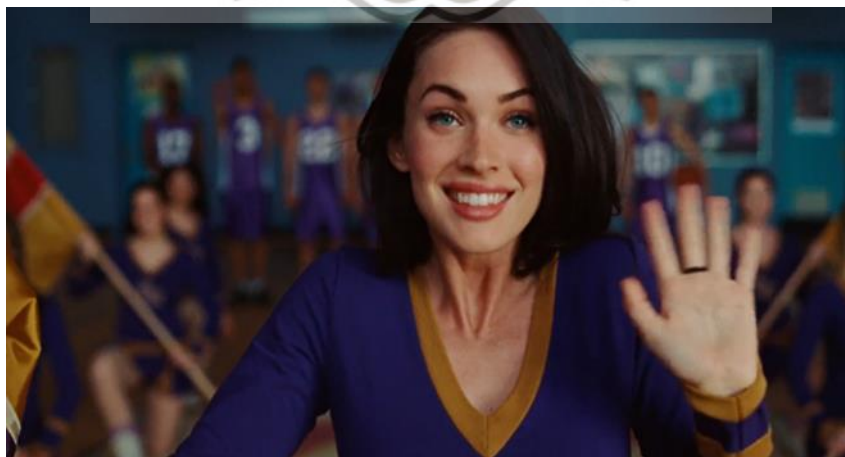


Figure 4.9 Jennifer waves back at Needy (06:11)

Needy tells that they were once normal people. Her boyfriend, Chip, became a drummer in a marching band when a basketball game is about to begin. They were just Devil's Kettle high school students. Her friends did not even believe that Needy and Jennifer were only best friends, they thought Needy and Jennifer's relationship is more than that. They think they are gay couple because their relationship is very close. They do not have something in common, they do not share same interest and hobby, but they are like sisters, Jennifer even suggests what Needy should wear when they wanted to hang out.

The next scene is when Jennifer invited Needy to go out with her to see a band from the city called Low Shoulders. Jennifer wanted to meet the vocalist of the band.

Needy and Jennifer have never met the men from Low Shoulders before. As a fan of Low Shoulders, Jennifer introduces herself to Nikolai, the lead singer of the band.



Figure 4.10 Jennifer introduces herself and Needy to the lead singer of the band (12:15)

Out of curiosity, Needy asks the lead singer why he wants to hold a show in a small town like Devil's Kettle, while he lives in a city. The lead singer says that they want to reach more fans in Devil's Kettle.



Figure 4.11 Needy asks why they want to perform in a small city (12:39)

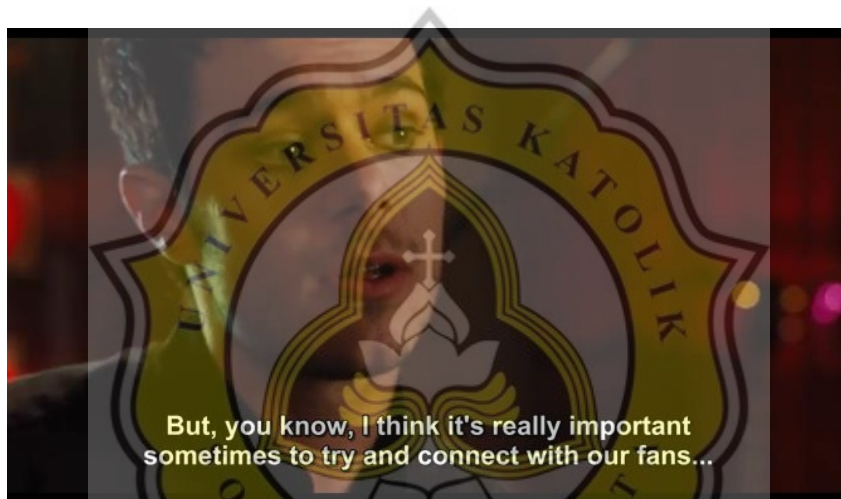


Figure 4.12 Nikolai tells that they want to connect to their fans in small towns (12:44)

Hearing the lead singer and the bassist of the band talking about Jennifer, Needy looks back at them and suspicious of the men.

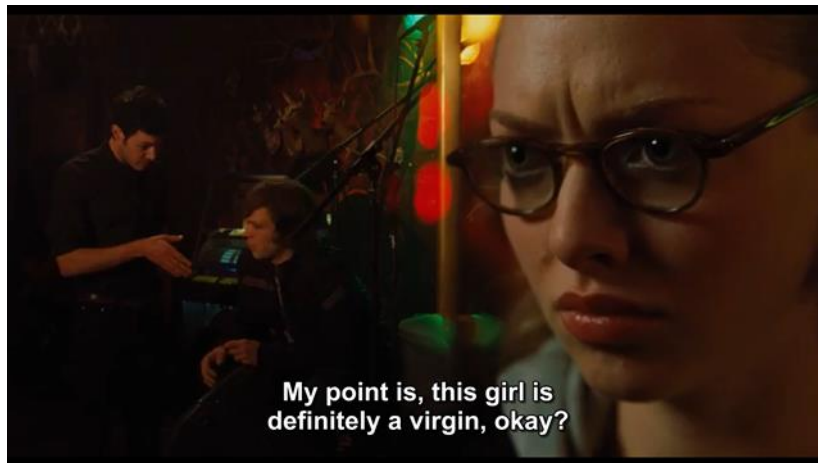


Figure 4.13 Needy is suspicious of the men because they talk about Jennifer

(13:45)

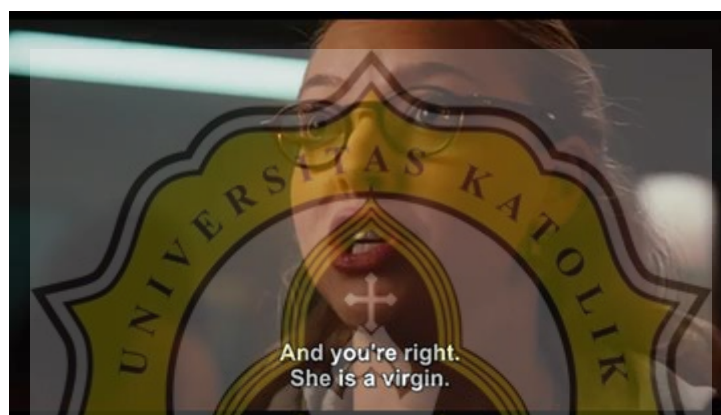
From the information in the scenes, the writer knows that the scene from 05:29 until 13:59 is the First Equilibrium stage because it starts when the narrator tells that they were once normal teenagers. She tells that Jennifer was not that messed up like the scene which Jennifer lays down in bed and looks pale. It means that the story starts when Needy, Jennifer, and Chip were normal students who studied at Devil's Kettle High School. The problem starts to show up when Jennifer and Needy go to Melody Lane bar, where a band from the city, called Low Shoulders performs.

4.3 The Disruption

Disruption stage is a stage when there is a disruption in the characters' normal life and the problem shows up. In this movie, it starts when people in Devil's Kettle are murdered tragically after a bar is burned. One of the causes of the disruption in this movie is a group of men who try to sell a virgin woman's soul to Satan. They do it to be exchanged with money and popularity, because they want to become more popular and rich. Instead of sacrificing the right woman needed to hold the ritual, they sacrifice Jennifer, who admits to Needy that she has lost her virginity.

There, Nikolai, the lead-singer of the band, and the bassist have a conversation. Needy, accidentally, hears their conversation. Needy misunderstands the meaning of their conversation. She thinks that the band perform in Devil's Kettle just because they want to search for a girlfriend who want to sleep with them.

When she hears that Jennifer is being talked about, Needy comes to them and scolds them. She tells them that Jennifer is still virgin, but she will not want to sleep with strangers like them.



Figures 4.14 Needy tells Nikolai that her friend, Jennifer, is still a virgin (14:10)



Figure 4.15 Needy scolds him and tell that Jennifer wouldn't want to sleep with him (14:13)

Needy's misunderstanding is the cause of the main problem. That is because Nikolai, the lead singer, thinks that he can sacrifice Jennifer's soul to Satan, because she is still virgin. Needy, confirms to Nikolai that Jennifer is still a virgin. Then, Needy tells Jennifer that the

lead-singer wants to sleep with her and thinks that Jennifer is still virgin. But, Jennifer herself says that she is not a virgin anymore. Here is where the disruption starts.

When the band are still performing their song, there is an accident. A short circuit burns a cable. Suddenly, the flame burns the bar, and the bar is burst into flame. The visitors try to get out of the bar before the whole bar falls down. Some of them, get trapped in between the burnt ruins. Some of them survive with injuries and can get outside. Needy, finds a way to get out through a small window in the bathroom. When they are outside, they meet the men from the band who already get out of the bar. Nikolai gives Jennifer a drink because she looks like she is in shock. The lead singer, Nikolai, persuades Jennifer to go with them to have fun. Jennifer is still in shock, and she is not fully aware that they have bad intention towards her. But, because she likes him, and she goes with them. Needy tries to stop her from going with them, and she tells her to go to a fast-food restaurant, but Jennifer does not listen to her.



Figure 4.16 Jennifer is dragged to the van (18:59)



Figure 4.17 Jennifer is in the van with the men (19:16)

The men get her with them and in a van. That is the last time when Needy sees her friend before Jennifer is possessed by Satan.

Needy gets back home and calls Chip. She is too afraid to let Jennifer go with the men. Needy tells him everything, from the burnt bar until Jennifer going with the men whom they have just met in the bar.

Suddenly, the bell in her house rings. No one stands in front of the door. Needy gets into her house again and meets Jennifer in the kitchen. Her clothes and mouth are stained with blood. She looks as if she gets in an accident, with no injuries. She looks pale. She quickly grabs the fridge and takes out raw meat. She eats the raw meat voraciously. She vomits black prickly fluid after she roars at Needy with weird voice.

Needy tries to grab her phone, but Jennifer walks toward her and tries to bite her neck. Something whispers in her ear, and she leaves Needy's house, leaving Needy shocked and alone.

In her daydream, she remembers the moment when she and Jennifer were kids. They are best friends and they were normal, until last night she met a completely different Jennifer. She met a girl she has not known before, her face covered with blood, shoved her, and tried to bite her.



Figure 4.18 Needy cured Jennifer's wound when they were kids (26:51)

Needy is used to being with Jennifer very much, but she is aware that her best friend does not behave normally like she used to. That is why she remembers her childhood with Jennifer. No matter how annoying her best friend is, Jennifer never shoved her and never meant to hurt her. The tragedy in the bar still gets Needy in shock, too. People in Devil's Kettle are having such great loss in Melody Lane tragedy. Even though Jennifer acts as if nothing happens.



Figure 4.19 Needy asks Jennifer, and Jennifer replies the same question (27:21)

After the accident in the bar, students in Devil's Kettle High School die tragically one by one. The victims' limbs are ripped and eaten by someone. Police investigate this case and many people presume that the students are eaten by a cannibal.



Figure 4.20 A student is found dead in the wood (36:52)

The scenes from 14:00 until 40:35 is The Disruption stage because the problems that the main character, Needy, faces not only disrupt her normal life, but also the lives of people who live in Devil's Kettle. Devil's Kettle was a peaceful place for people who live in it. In the scene in Figure 4.24, Chip says that when one person dies in Devil's Kettle, people will mourn for him/her for days. It means that there are not many people who live in Devil's Kettle, but when one of them die, it feels like time stops. Needy says that she feels guilty just by breathing.



Figure 4.21 Chip talks to Needy about people mourning in Devil's Kettle (29:37)

4.4 The Resolution

The Resolution is a stage where the main character starts to be aware that she/he has problems.

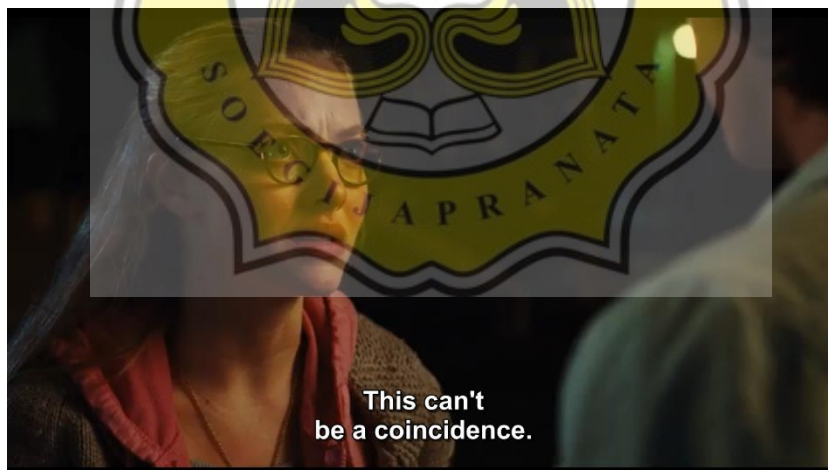


Figure 4.22 Needy says the accidents in Devil's Kettle are somehow related (40:37)

The main character, Needy, starts to notice that she has problems. She thinks that the accident in the bar the night before and that day when her friend is killed are related. Even though Chip tries to calm her down and says that the bad thing is going to be over and it can not get worse, she still feels anxious about it.

Needy cannot hold her anger when her friend says that Low Shoulders, the band that perform when the tragedy happened, are American heroes.



Figure 4.23 Needy's classmate disagrees with her about Low Shoulders. (43:34)



Figure 4.24 Needy insists Low Shoulders did not help anybody in the tragedy (43:42)

Needy argues with her friend who says that Low Shoulders are heroes. For Needy, they only use people in Devil's Kettle to become more popular after the tragedy in Melody Lane, and yet they only donate a small amount of money to the families who are affected by loss (of the fiery tragedy and murder).

One night, Jennifer admits to Needy that when the tragedy in the bar happened, she is dragged to the woods by the boys and was killed. This is why the scene from 40:36 –

01:12:45 is The Resolution stage. That is because Needy is more convinced that Jennifer is possessed by Satan and kills the students in her school.



Figure 4.25 Jennifer admits that the boys have killed her (01:01:46)

But, she was not really killed because she was resurrected and becomes stronger than she was. Needy, regrets that she let Jennifer go with the boys from the band, just to be sacrificed to Satan. Another poor fate happens to another Devil's Kettle students after Jonas Kazelle. Now, it's Colin Gray who coincidentally shows up after Jennifer is wearing-off and starving. He is killed by Jennifer easily. Needy almost crashes her in the street when Needy drives alone the night when Colin Gray is killed. The difference between Jennifer before she was possessed by Satan and after she was possessed by Satan is she gets more aggressive when she is with boys. She gets more energy from Satan that possessed her. She gets prettier and stronger when she is full. Needy even admits that.



Figure 4.26 Jennifer looks gorgeous while other students are grieving (41:16)



Figure 4.27 Needy and her friends attend the funeral of Colin Gray (01:10:54)

Colin Gray's death makes Needy think that she needs to take action in order to stop Jennifer from killing and eating more people. After Colin's death, she starts to make a plan about making a trap for Jennifer.

4.5 The Restored Order (Second Part)

The scenes in First Restored Order stage are a set of scenes that happened after The Second Restored Order stage, because The First Restored Order stage is a snippet of what happens after Needy tries to solve the problems on her own. Because the supporting

character, Chip is known to be dead in the beginning of the story, The Second Restored Order tells how and why Chip dies and Needy is in a mental asylum.

Needy is making a plan to make Jennifer weak. The first thing she does when she learns about devil possessing Jennifer is she tells Chip everything about Jennifer. Needy stops Chip from going to the dance, because she knows that Jennifer is going to eat more boys in the dance.



Figure 4.28 Needy tells Chip that Jennifer is possessed and eats boys (01:14:59)

Chip does not believe what Needy says. He is the only person that Needy tells about Jennifer. Chip who does not understand what happens only follows Needy's plan because she asks him.

Needy and Chip is preparing to come to the dance just because they want to watch Jennifer and prove that Jennifer is eating boys. Jennifer knows what Needy has told to Chip. When Chip is walking alone to the dance, she approaches him. She manipulates Chip and says Needy is manipulating him and cheating on him. She takes Chip to an abandoned house, and eats him.

Needy who already arrives in the party, waits for Chip. She starts to be anxious when Chip has not arrived at the party. She goes to Chip's house and his mother says that he already goes. She goes along the street to find Chip and makes sure he is safe. But, when she

arrives at the abandoned house, Chip is already bitten and bleeding. She and Chip only can make Jennifer weak for a while by stabbing her in the stomach. Then, Jennifer goes.



Figure 4.29 Chip says he should have believed Needy (01:31:58)

Needy fails to save Chip. He is dead. Needy is frustrated to see Chip die. She goes back home with grudge in her heart to avenge Jennifer for killing Chip. She goes to Jennifer's house and looking at her through the window.



Figure 4.30 Needy glares at Jennifer (05:17)

Needy glares at Jennifer when she is looking at students' book to decide whom she wants to eat next. Usually, she chooses athletic boy, like Jonas Kazelle, even though Colin Gray is an exception because Needy likes him, so Jennifer chose Colin because of Needy.

The next boy she wants to eat are another athletic and handsome boys. Chip has another exceptional reason why Jennifer decides to kill him. Because he is the only person that Needy tells about Jennifer possessed by Satan. Jennifer wants no one to know her secret, besides the boys from the band and Needy.

The reason why the scene from 01:12:46 – 01:37:43 is The Restored Order because it continues the first Restored Order stage in the beginning of the story.

Jennifer and Needy get into a fight. Jennifer bites Needy's neck. Needy stabs Jennifer in her heart.



Figure 4.31 Needy stabs Jennifer in her heart (01:37:11)

The second Restored Order stage ends when Needy stabs Jennifer.

4.6 The New Equilibrium

The New equilibrium stage happens as the consequences after the main character attempts to solve the problems. The normality in The First Equilibrium is changed because of The Disruption, and the main character tries to get her life back to normal by killing the antagonists, one of the antagonist characters is Jennifer.



Figure 4.32 Jennifer's mother finds out that Jennifer is already dead (01:38:10)

The New Equilibrium stage starts at 01:37:44 when Jennifer's mother finds out that her daughter, Jennifer, is dead in her room. After she finds out that Needy kills Jennifer, Needy is arrested and put in mental hospital. People think she has a mental illness, because she kills her best-friend and nobody believes her story. The doctor has misdiagnosed her as having hallucination, when she tells exactly real story.

Needy has changed the normal life she used to live because she has killed Jennifer, and now she is known as a murderer and a person who has mental illness.



Figure 4.33 Needy meditates in a solitary confinement (01:38:38)

One night, when she kicks a nurse, she is put in a solitary confinement and she escapes the hospital. She plans to kill one more time. She decides to kill the boys from the band who causes all the mess, they are Low Shoulder band members.

Needy has lost people that she loved, including Chip and Jennifer, and many other innocent people who were killed by Jennifer. She also is put in a mental hospital and known as a murderer because of the chaos that the boys made.

Needy kills the boys from Low Shoulders in a hotel when they are having a party. Needy changes the normality by killing the people who cause the chaos. Her life never gets back to normal, but she ends the chaos by killing the people who cause the chaos.

