

## CHAPTER III

### THE ANALYSIS

In studying and describing main characters begin, by determining the characters outstanding traits. A trait is quality of mind or habitual made of behavior. In this chapter, each of main characters is analyzed based on physical appearances, what they say about themselves, what other people say about them, and environmental setting.

#### 3.1 Physical Appearances

- **Lorna Polk**

Lorna Polk is 28 years old the main character in novel Altar of Eden. She has one brother and sister. She is quite person, responsible and hard work. She is a veterinarian and had worked since her completing postgraduate. She works in veterinary hospital and zoo-and-wildlife medicine.

“It was a big position to fill, especially for someone only twenty-eight and just out of her residency. Her responsibility - the frozen genetic bank - held the promise of pulling endangered species back from the brink of extinction through artificial insemination, embryo transfer, and cloning. Yet, despite the weight of her responsibility, she loved her work and knew she was good at it.” (Rollins,2010:12)

She also likes play with animal that she find in trawler fish and read the Bible in her spare time. She felt calm and blessed when she read the Bible.

“She had spent most of her time here and was glad to do it. After all the death, there was a balm in spending time with the animals, to get them settled, examined, and fed.” (Rollins,2010:42)

“Mathew 19:14

She had to look up that particular Bible verse. When she did so, it left her smiling. She found it entirely fitting.

Let the little children come to me, and do not binder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

Lorna stared across at the joyful play and youthful innocence. Her smile grew as she took it all in.” (Rollins,2010:394)

She loves Jack. When Jack was seriously ill, she took care of Jack and she's afraid of losing Jack.

“Jack brains was on overdrive. So, Lorna is going to drug him, send him into a coma and keep him there until a medevac helicopter arrives.” (Rollins,2010:383)

“Lorna had gone with him during that flight, explaining to the doctors about his conditions.” (Rollins,2010:387)

“She had spent the night in the same seat with Jack, holding Jack’s hand, talking to him, and praying.” (Rollins,2010:388)

- **Jack Menard**

Jack Menard is a agent of the U.S. Border Patrol which working with Lorna Polk to uncover a mystery in a fishing trawler shipwrecked on a island. He is a tall man with six feet tall and he has a remarkable appearance. Appearances that can captivate women.

“The agents parted to reveal a tall man similarly attired in dark green trousers and a matching long-sleeved work shirt, casually rolled to the elbows. He finger-combed his black hair, damp with sweat, and secured a black baseball cap in place. He has blue-gray eyes”. (Rollins,2010:21)

“His hair wet and combed back.” (Rollins,2010:394)

- **Exotic Animals**

There are some exotic animals in the novel. They are the animals (characters) that support the plot story in the novel Altar of Eden. The exotic animal is Cebus Apella Brown Capuchin Monkeys, Burmese Python, Parrot, and Cub.

- ❖ **Cebus Apella Brown Capuchin Monkeys**

Cebus apella is a type of animal that comes from South America, brown, small but teenager, and they are twins.

“Cebus apella, brown capuchin monkeys native to South America. Their faces and chests a softer tan, their heads capped in black. They were so small he could have cupped one in the palm of his hand. The full coloring suggests they’re adults. They’re way to small. Pygmy versions of the breed and they are the Siamese twins”. (Rollins,2010:23)

- ❖ **Burmese Python**

A snake with a leg of 15 feet, it always rolls around a clutch of eggs, scales, and looks like a form of atavism that is caused by the accidental recombination of genes.

“A large glass-walled terrarium that held a fifteen-foot Burmese python curled around a clutch of eggs. The snake looked ordinary enough until its coils slid more tightly around the eggs and revealed two pairs of folded vestigial legs, scaled and clawed, remnants of its lizardlike evolutionary origin.” (Rollins,2010:24)

“It looks like a severe form of atavism.”

“Atavism is where a genetic trait, lost for generations, reappears in an individual”. (Rollins,2010:25)

#### ❖ **Parrot**

The parrot has no feathers it caused when baby parrot first hatch, they're featherless or covered only with a light down. And also the parrot has the ability to memorize the numbers in English and the numbers mentioned like mathematical constant pi.

“That aspect of the parrot – the ability to mimic – remained intact. It began to screech a string of numbers in English...*three one four one five nine two six five*... Those are the first five digits of the mathematical constant pi”. (Rollins,2010:26)

#### ❖ **Cub**

The newborn cub has the size of a teenager, has no teeth with only gums, no skin pigment, has the size of a Siberian tiger and the genitalia is a male.

“They looked newly opened, suggesting the cub was only a couple of weeks old or maybe even younger—juvenile features—stubby rounded ears, underdeveloped whiskers-supported her assessment of its newborn status. But

what was throwing her off was its size. It had to weigh fifteen or twenty pounds, large enough to be seven or eight weeks old.” (Rollins,2010:30)

“The infant’s weight to estimate the size of the adult which have canine milk teeth, the fangs growing proportionally, upper fangs curving and extending beyond the lower jaw. This is the cub of a saber - toothed cat”. (Rollins,2010:31)

### **3.2 What they say about themselves**

- **Lorna Polk**

She felt that she was beautiful when she looked in the mirror. When she looked in the mirror she throwback when she was in school. At the time she was still in school, she looked innocent. Now she's turned into a beautiful girl.

“My blond hair – normally primly braided - had been pinned back into a rough ponytail this morning. Several flyaways only added to her already disheveled appearance. Even my black – framed glass sat askew on the bridge of my nose. At the moment I looked like a drunken college student returning from a Mardi Gras Party.” (Rollins,2010:13)

### **3.3 What other people say about them**

Lorna said that Jack had transformed into a handsome and charm man who can captivate the women who see him.

“His lips, full but definitely masculine, shifted to a harder line as he gave the barest nod.” (Rollins, 2010:20)

“His hair wet and combed back, like he’d just stepped out of the shower – though he still had a day’s worth of stubble over his chin and cheeks.” (Rollins,2010:394)

When Lorna came to Jack’s house, Jack’s father immediately judged Lorna and told to Jack that Lorna is a nice girl and Jack’s also has a similar assessment with his father.

“She seemed like such a nice girl,’ his father mumbled around his pipe.

“They were just kids, Jack offered lamely. He had promise never to tell anyone other than the judge the truth.

“His father stared at Jack. The shine in those ayes suggested his father suspected there was more to the story.” (Rollins,2010:66)

And not just Jack Father who judges Lorna like that but Jack Mom too. She said that Lorna is a pretty girl. Jack Mom likes to her personality moreover she had been took care of Jack when he was seriously ill. So, she was already considered a family member in Jack family

“Lorna turned the family. Jack’s mother patted her arm. ‘You go on in dear. You’re family now, too. Besides, if my boy wakes, he could see a pretty face you first.’ (Rollins,2010:388)

### 3.4 Environmental setting

- **ACRES**

Acres is Lorna's place of employment, the Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species, is a real facility, located in a remote location alongside the Mississippi River. It's not open to the public, they have the staff's wonderful efforts to preserve endangered species. They do indeed have an 'frozen zoo,' where genetic material is stored in effort to help sustain and protect this fragile heritage. And the researchers there have been doing cutting-edge work into cloning as means of preservation.

“The Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species occupied more than a thousand acres downriver from New Orleans. Though associated with the city's zoo, ACRES was not open to the public. Sheltered within a hardwood forests, the grounds included a few outdoors pens, but the main facility was a thirty-six-thousand square foot research building that housed a half-dozen laboratories and a veterinary hospital. The facility's frozen zoo, twelve tanks of liquid nitrogen that preserved sperm, eggs, and embryos from hundreds of endangered species: mountain gorillas, Sumatran tigers, Thomson's gazelles, colobus monkeys, cape buffalo.” (Rollins,2010:12)

“ACRES was one of the nation's leading facilities involved with cloning. In 2003, they had been the first to clone a wild carnivore, an African cat named Ditteaux, pronounced Ditto for obvious reasons. And in the coming year, the facility was about to begin the commercial cloning of pets as a method to raise funds for their work with endangered species.” (Rollins,2010:49)

- **New Orleans**

New Orleans is a major United States port and the largest city and the located in southeastern Louisiana, and developed on both sides of the Mississippi river. The heart of the city and French Quarter is on the north side of the river as it curves through this area. The city and Orleans Parish are coterminous. Before Hurricane Katrina, Orleans Parish was the most populous parish in Louisiana.

“The storm had striped vegetation, sent creeks overflowing their banks, and even floated an alligator into someone’s swimming pool. Luckily the worst of the dying hurricane had struck farther west. Still, with such downpours, Mother Nature seemed determined to turn Orleans Parish back into swamplands.” (Rollins,2010:11)

“After hurricane Katrina, most people in New Orleans knew that Insignia.” (Rollins,2010:13)

Lorna's family also lived in New Orleans in the 19th century. During the war of 1812, her great grandfather only seventeen at the time, had abandoned the British army during the Battle of New Orleans and made his home in the new burgeoning frontier city.

“The Polk family was one of the first to build in the oak – shadowed glen of New Orleans’s Garden District. After selling plantation, the family settled permanently in the district. Over the generations, the Polk mansion became respected as a gathering place for military generals, legal scholars, and countless men of science and letters.” (Rollins,2010:18)

- **Audubon Zoo**

Audubon Zoo is also located in New Orleans, Louisiana. It is located in a section of Audubon Park in Uptown New Orleans, on the Mississippi River side of magazine street. Some of the exhibits include gorillas, orangutans, and the Louisiana swamp exhibit. It is also home to a rare white alligator with blue eyes.

“The facility’s frozen zoo, twelve tanks of liquid nitrogen that preserved sperm, eggs, and embryos from hundreds of endangered species: mountain gorillas, Sumatran tigers, Thomson’s gazelles, colobus monkeys, and cape buffalo.” (Rollins,2010:12)

- **Bayou**

Bayou is a body of water typically found in a flat, low-laying area, and can be either an extremely slow-moving stream or river or marshy lake or wetland. Bayou are commonly found in the Gulf Coast region of the southern United States, notably the Mississippi River Delta, with the states of Louisiana and Texas being famous for them. A bayou is frequently an anabranch or minor braid of a braided channel that is moving much more slowly than the main stem, often becoming boggy and stagnant.

“It was a dense mass of bottomland forests, marshes, and swamps, encompassing millions of acres of the Mississippi River Delta.” (Rollins,2010:32)

Bayou is also hometown of Jack family and place where they spent their time until death.

“Ahead, his family home rested on one of the small islands in Bayou Touberline. The lands was really no more than a hillock pushing out of the black water, fringed by mats of algae and edged by saw grass. The house sat on the crown on the island, a ramshackle constructions of rooms assembled more like a jumbled pile of toy blocks. Each marked additions and extensions built as Menard clan had grown over the past century and a half. Most rooms were now empty as modern life lured the younger generations away, but the core of the ramshackle structure remained, a sturdy old stacked-stone home. It was there his parents still lived, well into their seventies, along with a smattering of cousins and nieces and nephews.” (Rollins,2010:62)

“He’d been raised in the bayou, where family and clan held sway far more than any rule of law. His own family earned their income through shrimping and fishing...and through a few less-than-legal enterprises on the side.” (Rollins,2010:32)

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the main characters of *Altar of Eden* in this paper, character is one of important elements in novel, besides theme, plot, setting, and point of view.

Characters are the persons of presented works of narrative who convey their personal qualities through dialogues and action by which the reader or audience understand their through, feelings, intentions, and motives. Characters can affect the reader and give positive or negative impacts.

The characteristic of the main characteristic are various. If we talk about characteristic, it means we talk about quality of mind and habitual mode of behavior or personality.

In James Rollins's Novel *Altar of Eden*, there are three main characters that support the story in novel. They are Lorna Polk, Jack Menard, and Exotic animals.

1) Lorna Polk, she is a kind person. She is a veterinarian and works in veterinary

hospital and she has one brother and sister.

2) Jack Menard, he is tall and handsome man. He is a agent of the U.S. Border Patrol

and he assigned to uncover a mystery in a fishing trawler shipwrecked on a island.

3) Exotic Animals, is animal smuggled which in trawler fish, such as Cebus Apella

Brown Capuchin Monkeys, Burmese Python, Parrot, and Cub.

ALTAR OF EDEN is a science thriller and the science is based on reality even while the story is fiction, the theme in this story is adventure and from the novel Altar of Eden we can get the teaching and knowledge of a thing we have never known before.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

The writer hopes that this paper will make the readers understand more about characters in Altar of Eden and the readers will be interested in reading this novel.

This paper also can be used as guidance to the other students in analyzing novel, especially the main characters. The writer hopes that the reader or other students can read the novel, understand the story then analyze other elements of literary work such as theme, plot, point of view, setting in Altar of Eden novel. Under any circumstances, there will always be the love that managed to change everything for the better.