



**BOOK REVIEW OF
KAREN HAWKINS' *SLEEPLES IN SCOTLAND***

A FINAL PROJECT

In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements
For S-1 Degree in Literature
In English Department, Faculty of Humanities
Diponegoro University

Submitted by:

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2014**

PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states that this final project is compiled by her without taking the results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, S-3 degree and diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Life is beautiful.

Love is wonderful.

Giving is powerful.

(Ippho “right” Santosa)

This project is dedicated to my beloved family.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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The writer realizes that this project is still far from perfect. She, therefore, will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this project better.

Finally, the writer expects that this project will be useful to the reader who wishes to know the review of the novel *Sleepless in Scotland* written by Karen Hawkins.

Semarang, January 2014

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

People are created in pairs: a man is paired with a woman. When two persons feel that there is love between them, they can make a plan to build a family through a marriage. According to Oxford dictionary, "family is a group consisting of one or two parents and their children, and close relation" (1983:154). In purpose to build a good family, a couple should love each other. In other words love is the most important element of a good family.

In addition, a good family consists of family members. Each of the member has different roles. One of the family members is a wife who also has a role as a mother. As a wife and a mother, a woman's tasks in a family are not easy. She is responsible to manage her family, such as supporting her husband, taking care of the children and managing all of the household stuffs at the same time. She gives her love only for her family.

Love often becomes a theme in many novels. Karen Hawkins's *Sleepless in Scotland* is one of them. This novel is about a romance between Caitriona Hurst and Hugh MacLean. At first, they do not know each other, but they are forced to marry because they are trapped together in a cart. It is forbidden because when a man and a woman are in a same place at the same time, it breaks the social law. During togetherness they face many obstacles to get their true happiness, and the biggest problem is Hugh's children from his former mistress. In this novel, the reader will see how Caitriona struggles to make Hugh and his children love her. It

is interesting to review this novel because the novel gives the readers deep comprehension about love and moral values.

1.2 Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is writing a book review of Karen Hawkins' *Sleepless in Scotland*. In particular, the objectives of this book review are :

1. To discuss the theme of Karen Hawkins's *Sleepless in Scotland*.
2. To describe the strengths and the weaknesses of the novel.

2. Biography of Karen Hawkins and Summary of *Sleepless in Scotland*

2.1 Biography of Karen Hawkins

Karen Hawkins is an American author who was born in Tennessee in 1946. She has two sisters and one brother. Hawkins earned a Ph.D. in political science and spent time teaching political science at a small college in Georgia. She studied writing by joining the [Romance Writers of America](#) and attending their workshops and conferences. Before she published, she won *Romance Writers of America* chapter and national contests for her work, allowing her to gain feedback and critiques from actual editors. With this feedback, she refined her craft and sold her first book in 1998. Most of Hawkins's books are historical romance novels. She now publishes two books a year. Hawkins was also the driving force behind the two *Lady Whistledown* anthologies, developing the idea, gaining a publisher, and organizing the intertwined parts of the books. She also has a beautiful son and a daughter who inspire her to write and for whom she enjoys making sandwiches. At this time, she lives in Florida, the United States of America.

2.2 Summary of *Sleepless in Scotland*

Caitriona Hurst is very fond of her beautiful but sometimes dumb twin sister Caitlyn. Caitlyn is careless and sometimes her attitude causes serious risks. Therefore, when Citriona discovers that Caitlyn plans to elope with Alexander MacLean, she plans on stopping it. Because Caitriona knows that MacLeans are well-known as womanizer. Caitriona plans to jump into MacLean's carriage, but she does not find Alexander. She is astonished when she finds Alexander's brother, Hugh who wants to ruin Caitlyn's plan and wants to save his brother too.

The result is that Caitriona and Hugh are discovered and, in order to keep her good name, Hugh tells her that they must marry. At first, Caitriona demurs. It is impossible for her to marry this stranger, but she realizes that her scandal will affect her brothers and sisters, so she agrees to marry Hugh and go with him to Gilmerton Manor, Scotland.

Caitriona and Hugh turn out to be very compatible in the bedroom where they communicate very well, but outside the bedroom their communication runs not so well. Caitriona wants to be Hugh's partner in every way, but he wants her to stay at home, making sure meals are on time and everything is in order. Caitriona feels disappointed by this, but she is wise enough not to mess her new family and plans to bide her time. However, Caitriona is taken aback when Hugh introduces her to three girls, his daughters, and they are not happy about their father having a wife. The girls do anything to get rid of Caitriona from Gilmerton Manor and from Hugh's life. However, Caitriona is quite a dear. She is smart, sensible, and practically perfect. Anything that the girls do cannot make Caitriona

give up and go away from Gilmerton Manor. She and Hugh's daughters soon begin bonding. Due to Caitriona's love to Hugh and the girls, she can make the girls accept her as their mother. She finally becomes the real lady for Hugh MacLean.

3. Review of *Sleepless in Scotland*

This review consists of the discussion of theme, strengths, and weaknesses in the novel *Sleepless in Scotland*.

3.1 Themes of *Sleepless in Scotland*

Love is a feeling toward other people that will make someone do anything for the ones s/he loves. *Sleepless in Scotland* does not only tell about love between a couple but also tells about family love. The readers will find love between Caitriona, Hugh, and his three daughters. At first, Caitriona and Hugh do not love each other, but along their togetherness Caitriona can make Hugh in love with her because of her capability as a good wife with good personality. At the same time, Caitriona realizes that she cannot stay far from Hugh. She adores Hugh's physic and warm attitude. Moreover, both of them are passionate in bed, and it makes them yearning to meet each other. Caitriona does not only grab Hugh's love but also his three daughters. She wants to be part of Hugh MacLean, but his daughters refuse. Caitriona at first tries to get closer to the daughters through her patient in facing their stubbornness. She knows that the kids are afraid of losing their father's love after he gets married. Finally, she can prove that the daughters will always get Hugh's love and hers. Their love brings them to find

their real happiness as a family. Readers can learn from this novel that love can conquer all obstacles.

Anamika's article, *How to be a Good Wife to Your Husband-12 Qualities a Man Looks for in His Woman*, article describes about what a wife should do to treat her husband nicely. She identified twelve qualities of a good wife. Here are some qualities of a good wife : being pleasant, treating husband with respect, communicating, being supportive, and not nagging. It is important to give her husband space and keep him happy in bed. In addition, a wife can plan a surprise, express love and appreciation without being shy and prepare herself and the house. As a wife and mother, Caitriona meets some of the qualities. To express her love, as a wife and a mother for three daughters who do not like her, Caitriona is busy to maintain the house and serve Hugh's daughters. Although she is very busy and tired, she never forgets to keep Hugh happy in bed. Every morning and every time Hugh wants to spend time together with Caitriona, she never refuses. It is one of Caitriona's love and affection expressions for Hugh. Caitriona also often plans surprises for Hugh and the girls, such as cooking their favorite food. Caitriona is also honest, loyal and dedicated to her husband. She can be an example of a good wife for readers of *Sleepless in Scotland*.

3.2 The Strengths and the Weaknesses of Karen Hawkins's *Sleepless in Scotland*

Novel *Sleepless in Scotland* has its strengths and weaknesses. The strengths are the author's light words, element of mystery, the setting of time and places,

and family and moral values. The weaknesses of this novel are vulgar description about sexual activity, the illogical explanation about Hugh's life, missing part of Catriona's family, and the predictable ending.

3.2.1 The Strengths of *Sleepless in Scotland*

The strengths of *Sleepless in Scotland* that can be found are the light words, an element of mystery which the author inserts in this novel, the setting, and the values contained in the novel, such as family and moral values.

First, the author uses light words that are easy to understand. Therefore, the readers are not bored in reading the whole story in this novel.

Second, the author inserts an element of mystery in this novel. The element of mystery is about Hugh who has been cursed by his ancient's rival. The MacLean's members can make a hard rain and storm when they get angry. It can make the readers getting curious about what will happen. That is why the readers will keep reading this novel. The author also evokes readers' empathy by giving the desire on the characters in struggling for their faith. In this novel, the readers are stimulated by Caitriona Hurst's and Hugh MacLean's motivation. At first, Caitriona wants to prevent Caitlyn's recklessness, and Hugh wants to save his brother from Caitlyn, Caitriona's twin. However, both Caitriona and Hugh are ensnared in their plan. They must marry to obey the rules of the society. The author asks the readers to worry and care about what will happen after that and how they carry on their household. The curiosity is answered when the author tells details of their life after getting married. They live in Gilmerton Manor to save

their good name. However, along their togetherness Caitriona's desire is not only saving her good name but also being part of MacLean family.

Third, the author uses setting of time in 1600s and setting of place in London and Scotland. It is interesting because people at that time are pictured as still respecting good manner and having high awareness of moral values. Furthermore, they have a unique custom, that is when people know there are a woman and a man together in a cart, they have to marry to avoid bad news. After they get married, Hugh's brings Caitriona from London, a big city in which information can spread fast, to Scotland, a rural area in which information spreads later. Therefore, in Gilmerton Manor, Caitriona feels lonely because Scotland is remote and quiet.

Fourth, *Sleepless in Scotland* does not only give love values but also moral value to the readers. This novel has setting of time in 1600s when people still have good manner and high awareness of moral values. It can be seen in the main character, Caitriona who keeps her virginity until she gets married. Another example is Nora, Caitriona's grandmother, who shows how to be good parents who give attention and advices to her family.

Finally, the author wants to show about characteristics of a good wife as described in Caitriona's personality. It is interesting how the author tells about the relationship between Hugh and Caitriona. Hugh does not involve Caitriona in his works as a usual family. It is different from Caitriona's parents who have good cooperation in their jobs, decide everything together, and care to one another. However, she approves her love to Hugh MacLean and his daughters by good

treatments although the daughters refuse her to be their mother. The readers, especially women readers, can make Caitriona as a good model to be a good wife.

3.2.2 The Weaknesses of *Sleepless in Scotland*:

The weaknesses that can be found in the novel *Sleepless in Scotland* are the irritating description of sexual activity, the indistinct explanation about Hugh's life, missing part of Caitriona's family, and the predictable ending.

In this novel, the author describes about Hugh and Caitriona's sexual activity explicitly, as if love was not important in a marriage. In this novel, the readers know that only physical caring that can bound a marriage, so romance is unnecessary. For Eastern readers, it will be annoying and make them feel uncomfortable because the Eastern culture and Western culture are different. Sex is assumed as a taboo and impolite conversation among Eastern people while *Sleepless in Scotland* clearly describes sexual activity between Hugh and Caitriona.

Furthermore, there are puzzling story in *Sleepless in Scotland* about Hugh's daughters. It does not make sense since Hugh as an upper class man and highly regarded has three illegal daughters. The three girls are the children of Clarissa, a woman with whom Hugh had an affair when he was eighteen. If they are his children, it is illogical and unbelievable because it shows how ill-mannered he is as a nobleman that he can have illegal kids, not only one but three.

This novel does not explain about Caitriona's family clearly. It just tells about her family in the beginning and the reader will guess what happen with Caitriona's family after she marries Hugh. It does not explain about Caitriona's

mother, whether she is still alive or not. Caitriona's family is responsible to give Caitriona help, but there is only Nora who helps her.

It is boring when readers can predict the end of a story. It is common for romantic stories to have the main characters fall in love, have a problem and live happily with their family ever after at the end of the story. *Sleepless in Scotland* has the same pattern. At first Caitriona and Hugh do not love each other. Along with their togetherness, they fall in love, but Hugh's daughters do not agree. Because of Caitriona's kindness, they can eventually accept Caitriona, and finally Hugh and Caitriona live happily. This plot is similar to other romantic stories which the readers can predict the end of the story. The readers will be bored if they can predict the end of the story before they finish their reading. *Sleepless in Scotland* will be more interesting if it has an unpredictable story.

4. Conclusion

Every work is imperfect. It has strengths and weaknesses. *Sleepless in Scotland* brings love as its theme, and it has some strengths and weaknesses.

The strengths are that the author has a good choice of words, raises the suspense through an element of mystery and the conflicts among the characters that make the readers more interested. The novel tells interesting customs in the 1600s in England. It brings love value and moral value through the main characters in the story that can make the readers realize how to get a good life and live in society. The readers also can apply the love and moral values, for example, the way a woman becomes a good wife in real life, so that s/he can get happiness in life.

The weaknesses of this novel are the author's description about sexual activity and indistinct Hugh's daughters. The description about sexual activity is too explicit. It is little irritating for some people, especially for Eastern readers. Moreover, there are some unclear stories in this novel about Hugh's life and incomplete description of Caitriona's family's roles. Hence, it makes the readers get incomplete story and forces them to imagine or think what happened before. Unfortunately, the readers can guess the end of the story. The predictable ending contributes to the weakness of the novel.

Overall, this novel has a good story. Although, the writer suggests that the readers must be adult readers since this novel basically is an adult romantic novel. This novel is not appropriate for children, but it is useful for adult readers since they can learn about life, especially love and moral values.

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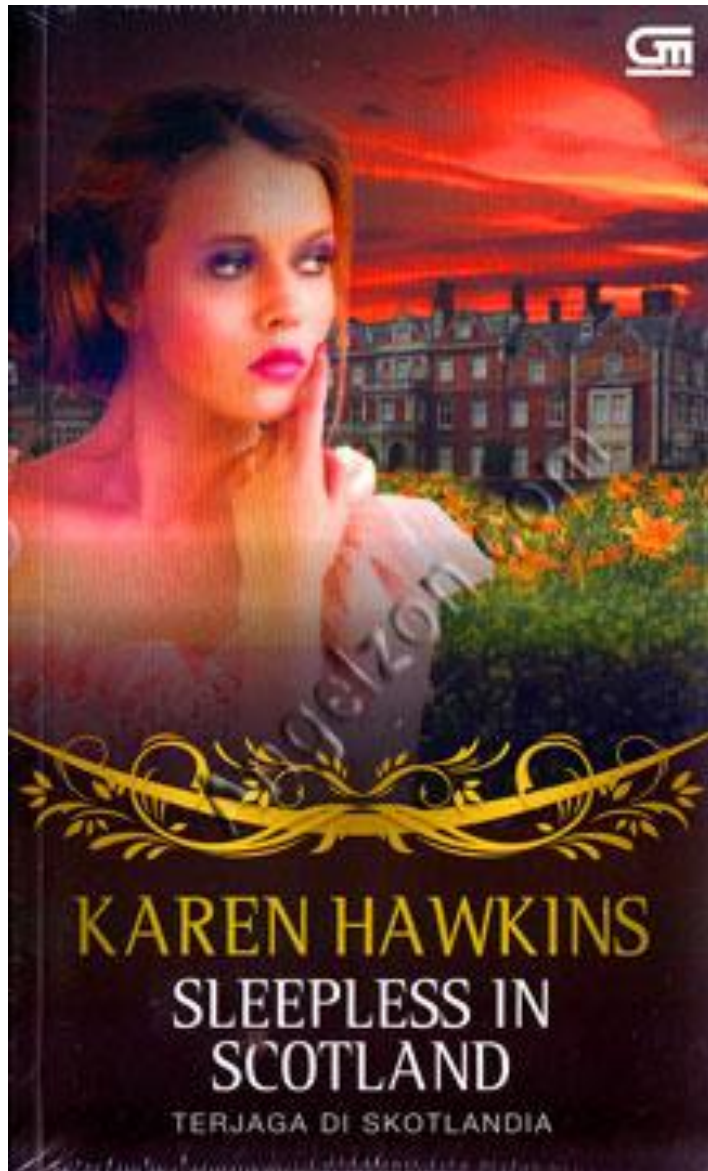
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 : Front cover of Karen Hawkins' *Sleepless In Scotland*



Appendix 2 : Publication Details of Karen Hawkins' *Sleepless In Scotland*

SLEEPLESS IN SCOTLAND

by Karen Hawkins

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