

Perseverance for Survival amidst Abduction in Lisa Gardner's *FIND HER*

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Abstract- Many criminal cases are lodged across the world which deal with brutality exercised by psychopaths and psychologically affected victims. Criminal behaviour is difficult to explain. It describes behaviours that could be harmful to a person or their possessions. Usually, the law comprises penalties for this immoral behaviour. Criminal activities are seen in some people who revolve into criminals after an attack. To secure our life there are some survival techniques human beings should learn in order to lead a secured life. Survival is a word that means a continuation of life or existence even after enduring troubles. Every life in the world even plants and animals has their own survival strategies to protect themselves from predators. Similarly, humans can develop their own strategies to survive in challenging circumstances or acquire skills that will enable them to flee from predators. Here the leading character Flora Dane educated herself on some survival strategies after being a victim for 472 days abduction and seduction. Flora's initial captivity changed her completely. She once being a victim of abduction, tries to build her own survival strategies to help other victims to free themselves from criminal psychopaths and complicated circumstances. Gardner expertly connects Flora's past with her present, weaving a complex mystery. This gripping novel Find Her shows that even upright people can experience horrible situations recurrently. Flora Dane overcame her troublesome circumstance with the sole intention of mastering all the lethal techniques required in order to ensure that she is never caught again. This article analyses when and why Flora Dane in Lisa Gardner's Find Her learns survival techniques and how she uses those techniques throughout the struggles of her life.

Indexed Terms- Confusion, Crime, Psychology, Survival, Trauma, Victim.

I. INTRODUCTION

Lisa Gardner is the author of more than 20 suspense novels that have been published over 30 countries. Her pen name is Alicia Scott. *Find Her* by Lisa Gardner introduces us to Florence "Flora" Dane, a young woman who is kidnapped in Florida during spring break when she is a college student. A serial sexual predator named Jacob Ness kidnapped Flora, he tortured, abused, repeatedly assaulted, and imprisoned her in a pine coffin for 472 days but she survived. Flora is a survivor. However, within the first a few chapters of the book, she is kidnapped again five years later.

D.D Warren an FBI agent who is being restricted on her duty due to an injury investigates Flora's disappearance, and flashback of the instigation she suffered at the hands of Jacob Ness. She encounters Flora at the spot where Devon Goulding is killed. Devon Goulding, a Boston bartender and bodybuilder who kidnapped Flora for the second time is burned to death by her invention of chemical reaction in his garage. The question of whether she is a victim or a reckless vigilante remains unanswered. Flora refuses medical attention at the scene and will only talk to her FBI victim advocate, Samuel Keynes, who seems to understand her better than others, he cannot fully comprehend what Flora has endured. She desires to return many missing girls to their homes and bring other culprits in front of law.

While she is kidnapped for the second time and confined in a dark room she found a collection of empty gas cans as well as two plastic jugs. With the smell she identified that one is a gallon jug and

another is antifreeze. She takes the antifreeze and moves it to the wooden table. She finds out a shovel against the wall with renewed vigor she places the plastic binding against the blade and rubs vigorously. Flora does not mind of being tired she feels an adrenaline rush and begins to search thoroughly in the trash. Then when the man comes towards her she however manages to grip the packet within her palms grabbed empty jug of antifreeze. She then moves towards the cracked concrete floor, opened the garage door. She then releases the grip of the packet, grabbed antifreeze jug first pins it between her feet then uses both her hands to press down the child safety lock and twist. Placing the antifreeze to the side shook the packet setting the crystals to the bottom. When the man approaches her closely she sprays it on his face and it gets splashed into his exposed skin and potassium permanganate sticks there. Then the tendril of smoke passes from all over his face, hair and eyelashes, he then took his hands to the face thus the chemical reaction happened and the bartender's face burst into flame. "I didn't plan on what happened I hear myself say. But I was prepared. And I handled the situation. This guy, he's hurt other girls, Mom but not anymore. He's done."(Gardner 93) Flora already knew that she was going to do something no matter how worse the situation was and with her five years of practice she succeeds to save herself. "One way or another, I was getting out of this. I'd do whatever it took to survive."(23-24)

Readers can learn from the view that, whether Flora is currently a victim, an offender, or something intermediate. When the Detective D.D. of the homicide unit learns what Flora has been up to, she is incensed. She is not only putting herself in danger, but she may also endanger the lives of others. With this instance DD Warren could not bear the rage and she feels the need to personally point the finger at Flora and make the police to question her. Then it appears as Flora has vanished yet again and the story reaches the climax where she finds that she is now being kidnapped by the most dangerous predator who is none other than the daughter of Jacob Ness, Natalie. Flora somehow finds a piece of glass as a weapon when Natalie has a piston in her hand. They will have a bloodied battle together. Flora tries to survive with all her strength and at the end DD Warren comes to the spot and shoots Natalie while

Natalie shoots at Flora.

"A plastic straw, however, can be a useful weapon. I found one in the pile of garbage closest to me. I bend it in half, then tucked it between the index and the middle finger of my left hand. Folded, the straw is sharp enough and rigid enough to make it a decent jabbing weapon. Catch an opponent in the eye or, better yet, slam into the hyoid bone at the front of the throat, and you can inflict some damage."(425)

After escaping from the hell, Flora Dane just wants to learn the lethal talents required to ensure she would never be abducted again. She trains herself to survive out of all the fatal circumstances from a training class where she goes after being rescued from the 472 days of abduction. That is the only place she visits. She is facing post traumatic stress disorder at this time and she refuses to meet even her own mother and brother. She feels life as a blank page and places herself in a complex situation. She only has an aim that she should help some victims who is captured by fraud like Jacob Ness. So she pleads to prepare herself to be a physically and mentally powerful woman. Flora also saved the life of Stacy Summers who was also kidnapped by Devon Goulding. "I saved a life, I remind myself as I whack the ancient faucet off. Another girl is safe because of me. Another animal is off the streets."(91) At the end with the help of her survival techniques and bravery Flora helped to save herself and some other girls from human predators. "And I'm about to do what I do best: whatever it takes to survive."(423)

Malala Yousafzai is a living example of a victim survivor who opposes the Pakistani Taliban when she was a young girl and demanded that girls should be allowed to be educated. In 2012, a Taliban gunman shot her in the head, but she survived with her potency. She was the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. "We realize the importance of our voices only when we are silenced."(Yousafzai)

CONCLUSION

The novel *Find Her* centers on the character Flora Dane. She was an optimistic girl capable of doing

things what she thought of and facing problems despite her disparaging situations. She held her heart firm. After facing all the molestation and rage she didn't let the light in her fade away. Despite from being continuously seduced for 472 days kept in a coffin size box, she learned survival techniques in order to save herself and other girl victims. Flora was a bold and brave girl who took the initiative to murder the bloodsuckers who abduct and torture girls for fun. Flora has demonstrated to the world that women can do anything, even in the most difficult circumstances. The protagonist not only possesses power but also inspires women to be tough and fearless in the world. She established herself as an independent person by learning her own survival techniques. The novelist through the character Flora Dane emphasized the necessity for a sheer sense and determination even at worst times. She showed us the way to survive and lead life even after tragic adversities.

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