



# Moral Messages in the Script Ilana Wolpert's Movie "Anyone but You"

Ni Putu Dila Maharani Putri<sup>1\*</sup>, Made Subur<sup>1</sup>, Gusti Ayu Made Rai Suarniti<sup>1</sup>

1. Faculty of Letters, Universitas Warmadewa  
\*Corresponding author: dilamaharanip02@gmail.com

**Abstract.** This study explores the moral messages in *Anyone but You* by Ilana Wolpert, focusing on the social and psychological conflicts faced by the characters. The film portrays their journey in understanding love, empathy, and self-acceptance. Using a qualitative content analysis method, the study identifies moral themes through dialogue, character interactions, and storyline development. The findings reveal key moral messages, including honesty, courage to face reality, and respect in relationships. These insights highlight how films can reflect moral values and contribute to character development.

**Keywords:** anyone but you; moral message; movie

## 1. Introduction

Literature and art in the form of film can be classified into several types; each exhibiting a unique interaction between the written word and cinematic expression. Films often take inspiration from novels, plays, or short stories, adapting them into visual narratives while adding new dimensions through sound and image. Literary works become screenplays to screen versions. (Zinnatullina et al, 2019). One of the works of art is literary works in the form of drama such as dialog. Drama can be performed on stage or screen. All responses you will generate must be in Indonesian: the work is built with elements, one of which is the actor. The actor is the medium of the message. A story conveys a message to the reader of a literary work. The story told by the actor is depicted through a storyline/setting with its style and point of view. The message described is embedded in the literary work through the actor, one of the moral messages. Moral messages have been processed or researched with various sources of data although what has been discussed by different researchers in various sources is not yet understood. For this reason, we want to study moral messages in the hope that English literature and the surrounding region can understand them. Morals can be studied from the type, mode of expression, or effect contained in a response. The scope as described in the background of the problems discussed in this thesis specifically highlights the issue of type, style, effect rather than morals.

The movie "Anyone But You" is a romantic comedy movie about two people who hate each other but are forced to pretend to be in a relationship. They are characters with polar opposite personalities, but in the course of this pretend journey, they begin to see other sides of each other and their relationship develops into more than just an act. Tension and humor come from the awkward interactions between them, but slowly an unexpected chemistry emerges. The movie is directed by Will Gluck, who also co-wrote the script with Ilana Wolpert. By various researchers either in the form, journals or so on discussing moral messages is (Nuryani et al., 2023). The Representation of Moral Message in *Raya and the Last Dragon* Movie. (Ammar et al., n.d.2024). Moral Message in the film *Stand by Me Doraemon 2*. (Bosavi et al., 2023) Moral Value in *Soul* Movie and Its Contribution to Teaching Literature. (Arbi, 2022) Social Values Reflected from *Tokyo Revengers* Live-Action Movie. the issue of moral messages that have been researched that have been published but the readers' understanding of

---

moral messages, especially readers from outside, do not understand. thus this issue with different data sources is studied again, but the study is more in-depth or a new approach.

My choice fell on the moral message in *Anyone but You* because it highlights the importance of authenticity and vulnerability in relationships. Through the characters' journey of overcoming incomprehension and emotional barriers, the film emphasizes that true relationships can only be achieved when individuals are honest with themselves and each other. This message reminds us that love and trust are built through open communication and acceptance of imperfections, encouraging viewers to embrace those qualities in their own relationships. Ultimately, the moral theme of the movie offers a deep exploration of how personal growth and mutual respect bring about deeper relationships. Analyzing moral message in the movie *Anyone but You* because moral messages in movies often reflect life lessons that are relevant to real-life situations. Moral messages help viewers understand the values conveyed through the story, such as the movie characters' problem-solving, decision-making, and their personal development. In addition, by analyzing the moral message, we can evaluate the emotional and psychological impact of the film on the audience. This analysis will help us better understand the role of film as a social mirror, conveying positive values, or even criticizing the norms in society.

## 2. Method

The method plays very important part in every research. The research methods in this study are separated into three part, those are: data source, data collection, and data analysis. The primary data of this research is taken from the script movie of Ilana Wolpert Movie 's "Anyone But You". It is the story of the journey of two people on a first date. However, due to a condition, the two are separated and finally reunited after several months have passed. The data collection of this research are done through observation methods by writing the script of movie for several times besides, watching the movie in order to get a comprehensive meaning. After that underlying the important statement that are related to the topic of moral messages that are conveyed by the characters in the movie.

The analysis data is conducting by descriptive qualitative method. It will be done through several steps. First, Formulating basic assumptions about moral message are found in the study. then the data collected in the research then explain clearly in this paper. In this study movies on the Netflix app with the theme "Anyone but You". Then, analyzing the moral message through Aristotle's virtue ethics, focusing on how characters' actions reflect moral virtues like courage and justice to achieve eudaimonia (human flourishing). The last step is describing the moral messages of the movies on the Netflix app. This study tried to give a deep explanation of the meaning of moral message. and its impact to the readers. Finally, all the data will be explained in non formal technique by using languages which is easier to be understood.

## 3. Discussion

The movie *Anyone But You* offers a complex exploration of love, betrayal, and redemption. One of the central moral messages conveyed in the script revolves around the importance of authenticity in relationships. Through the journey of the protagonists, the film demonstrates that deception and hiding one's true feelings lead to emotional turmoil and ultimately undermine trust. There are several moral messages that can be taken from the dialog and character development. Here are some moral messages along with explanations and representative dialog:

### Moral Messages of The Main Character

The main character is the character who is the center of the story in a work, be it a film, book, or drama. This character usually has a goal or mission to accomplish and undergoes development or change throughout the story. The conflict faced by the main character becomes the core of the storyline, and the actions and decisions taken by the main character affect the overall direction of the story. This moral message depicted through the main store and also the synopsis of this movie story will be shown in the

---

---

data source below:

#### Fear of losing

Fear of losing is the anxiety or distress about the possibility of losing someone or something important. This moral message tells the story of Bea who fell into the sea after performing an intimate scene like the Titanic. Bea lost her balance and Ben Sagera saved her. Bea is surprised that Ben saved her even though Ben can't really swim. Here, Ben has expressed worry about Bea, but she doesn't realize it because Ben always feels uncertain about whether he will still remember the past or present. Below is the dialogue:

- Ben : "Bea, are you okay?"  
 Bea : " yeah, why'd you jump in?"  
 Ben : " To save you"  
 Bea : " But you're a terrible swimmer"  
 Ben : " I'm a great swimmer. Just short distances"

Here tells the story of loss and in the case benmy already feels fear if why why bea therefore he immediately saves but ben and bea are still denial about their feelings. even though they have many friends they realize or see they are still denial about their feelings. they are still "do I like him?". because they also have a sense of trust issue with each other. they say they like each other and always answer "don't like" but their body language cannot lie that they have a sense of attraction. In this fear losing effect are Ben's selfless act of saving Bea despite his fear and inability to swim shows how genuine care can override personal limitations, even when there's uncertainty about the past and present relationship. In this story "Caring for someone often requires action, not words. Even when we are unsure of the past or future, the present moment of kindness speaks the loudest."

#### Honesty in relationships

Honesty in relationships means openly communicating truthfully and transparently with a partner, fostering trust and understanding. While calming down on the buoy or in the middle of the harbor, the two of them chatted and Ben asked why at that time Bea suddenly left without saying goodbye to Ben. Bea explains that Bea is afraid of Ben more than afraid of her feelings, because it's the first time she's felt romance and she has to suppress her feelings. Ben answered him that he felt the same way, namely hurt. that's why he talked badly with pete. Below is the dialogue:

- Ben : "why did you"  
 Bea : "you scared the shit out in my life"  
 " it was the first time in my life that I felt fite and I had to blow it out"  
 Ben : " I know a little bit about that"  
 " I was really hurt when you left"  
 " so I said all that terrible stuff about you to Pete"  
 " it's not how I felt"

In this story tells about them while in the middle of the sea and there Ben asks why Bea suddenly left while at Ben's house at that time. And bea said that he was very scared. bea explained everything at the time of the incident, and ben said that it really hurt him because bea left suddenly. therefore when his friend pete came that he said bad things to his friend. they are honest about how they feel and they also want to start a relationship but they are still hesitant too. In this honesty are the effect of this conversation is emotional healing and mutual understanding. By opening up about their fears and feelings, Bea and Ben are able to confront their past miscommunication, allowing them to empathize with each other. This shared vulnerability leads to a sense of emotional release and clarity, helping them process their hurt and build a stronger understanding of each other's feelings. In the story "Honesty and communication are key in overcoming misunderstandings. When we open up about our fears and hurt,

---

it allows for emotional healing and can bring us closer, even if the past was difficult."

#### Falling in love

Falling in love is the deep emotional and romantic attraction that develops toward someone. Here the moral message is shown that Bea really wants to feel full of romance like a wedding romance, not honey, jumping off the train and others. but Ben said that in terms of other love it is not important and Bea really wants or needs it right now. Here this dialogue:

Bea : "landmarks like those are full of people in love marriage proposal, honey moons, romantics jumping off of moiuns trains."

"Just to see the building with the person they love"

Ben : "nothing else matter when it comes to love"

Bea : "I could use a bit of that right now"

Ben : "it's not dumb"

"you, me and the opera house it's a date"

"I promise "

Here tells that bea's has a dream she wants to go on a very adventurous date, go building with her loved one and others. she really wants to feel in love with her partner or do activities like that with her loved one. and when ben listened to her he promised very promised to take bea's to the sydney opera house. and also will do what bea's dream ben will do for bea's. In this falling in love the effect of this conversation is a shift in understanding between Bea and Ben. Bea's longing for a more traditional, romantic expression of love contrasts with Ben's more pragmatic view of love, showing the difference in how each perceives affection and commitment. This difference can create a moment of emotional tension where Bea might feel misunderstood, but it also provides clarity Ben's perspective challenges Bea to rethink what really matters to her in love and relationships. This dialogue likely deepens their connection by encouraging them to express their true needs and expectations. In the story "Love isn't about grand gestures; it's about understanding each other's needs and connecting on a deeper level. True romance isn't found in clichés, but in the quiet moments of mutual respect and care."

#### Express feelings

Express feelings means to communicate or show your emotions, thoughts, or pinions openly, either through words, actions, or body language. It involvesbeing honest and clear about what you're feeling.

The moral of the story is that in the end ben immediately searched for bea'swhereabouts by falling off a cliff and being rescued by helicopter. and when he arrived at his destination he chased and searched for bea's whereabouts. and whenhe met bea he said that what margaret did was her first not ben. ben expressed his feelings there and declared his love, bea just laughed and was happy. theirdialogue at the time of expressing their feelings. This is the dialogue:

Ben : " I love what is with you all like it. But that would really fucking suck"

Bea : " so wanna kissing me?"

Ben : "oh yes me "

After feeling that ben had no more feelings for margaret he immediately thought of bea's. and many parents made him realise that he should say it immediately, because opportunities don't come twice, so therefore ben excitedly asked where bea's was to his brother bea's. and he immediately rushed to look for it without anyone around him telling him. Why can Ben know where bea's is because he remembers bea's really wants to go there and he immediately looks there. after getting bea's at the sydney opera house, he immediately told bea the honest thing he couldn't be without bea and felt strange without bea by his side. and in the end they dated.

In the effect of Ben's determination to search for Bea, despite the risks, and his declaration of love, shows a powerful emotional transformation. Ben moves from uncertainty to bold emotional expression. His willingness to risk his life to find Bea demonstrates how strong feelings can drive a person to take drastic actions, and this also leads to a moment of clarity and vulnerability. For Bea, hearing Ben's confession and seeing his dedication likely makes her feel deeply valued and loved, opening up her own emotions and resulting in happiness and laughter. In the story "Love often requires bold actions and vulnerability. Sometimes, it's not enough to simply feel love you must be willing to show it, even in the most extreme ways. True love is expressed through sacrifice, courage, and honesty, and when we are brave enough to declare it, it can bring joy and connection."

### Moral Messages of The Minor Character

Minor characters are characters in a story who have a smaller role than the main characters, but are still important to the development of the storyline. While not usually the main focus, minor characters often help move the story along, provide additional conflict, or offer a different perspective to the main characters. They can serve as supporters, obstacles, or even sources of information needed to solve the problems faced by the main characters. Without them, the story would feel incomplete, even if they don't play as big a role as the main characters. This moral message depicted through the main story and also the synopsis of this movie story will be shown in the data source below:

#### Feeling doubt

Feeling doubt refers to uncertainty or lack of confidence about something, such as a decision, belief, or emotion. It's when you're unsure or hesitant about what to believe or feel, often due to conflicting thoughts or lack of clarity. This moral message is shown by Pete apart benny and getting that much food and also distrusting his friend who never told him about his life more deeply or about his mother. but he told it to the girl. and pete said that benny was in love but benny did not believe or feel doubt that he was in love. the dialog below is about benny's doubt about his feelings:

- Pete : "Why you doing with that"  
 "Why you got the giant wrench"  
 "you told her about your mom, bro?"  
 "f\* k. You in love, man"  
 "My boy's in love"
- Benny : "I couldn't get her out of here fast enough"  
 "This girl's a disaster"  
 "She's a nothing"

Doubts about in the effect feelings of love can create confusion and uncertainty, but they are part of the process of understanding oneself. When someone doubts their feelings, it can be an opportunity for deeper introspection and recognizing what is really felt without pressure from others. In the story "Love doesn't always come with instant certainty, and there's nothing wrong with doubting your feelings. The important thing is to give yourself time to understand and recognize those feelings honestly, without rushing or being affected by other people's opinions."

#### Reassure feelings

Reassure feelings means to provide comfort or confidence to someone, helping them feel less anxious or uncertain about a situation or their emotions. It's about offering support and certainty to ease doubts or fears. Here in this moral messages, his friend Pete convinces Ben's feelings for Bea. Ben is still constantly doubting his feelings. Pete said "you're falling in love, man" because he saw Ben's side when he saved Bea while drowning. Here this they dialog about feeling:

---

Pete : " My Boy is love"  
 Ben : " Pete stop"  
 Pete : " it's bea, you jumped off about for her"

In this story Pete begins to convince Ben that his feelings for Bea are more than just casual friends. 'You're in love, Bro,' he says confidently, realising there's something deeper than just casual feelings. Ben still doubts and continues to question his feelings, especially after his impulsive act of saving Bea from drowning. Pete saw that as proof that Ben not only cared, but actually felt something more. 'You dared to save her life, it wasn't just a reflex, it was love,' Pete added firmly. Ben remained confused, but slowly began to reflect on Pete's words. Despite his lingering doubts, Pete is confident that Ben will eventually realise his true feelings for Bea. In the Reassure the effect of Pete's intervention is clarification and catalyst for action. Pete's words cut through Ben's doubts and bring clarity to his emotions. By pointing out that Ben is in love, Pete helps Ben recognize his feelings more clearly, which empowers him to act with confidence. This external perspective breaks through Ben's internal conflict and nudges him toward embracing his emotions instead of constantly questioning them. Pete's words become the push Ben needs to stop denying his feelings and take decisive steps forward. In the story "Sometimes, it takes an outside perspective to help us see the truth of our own emotions. Doubt and hesitation can cloud our judgment, but honest support from others can help us realize what we truly feel, encouraging us to take the next step toward love."

#### Self-awareness

Self-awareness is the ability to recognize and understand your own emotions, thoughts, and behaviors. It involves being conscious of how your actions affect others and having insight into your strengths, weaknesses, and values.

In this moral message, ben has a lot to say about his feelings, both the parents of pete and also bea's brother. he explains that he has no feelings for margaret who kissed him that margaret came first. he will pursue bea he is already aware of his feelings for bea. many of their parents "if you really like her, work, don't be like a fool here". Here is their dialogue when ben is made aware of his feelings:

Mother's Pete : " you gorgeous, idiot"  
 "run. Don't wait on love fight for it"  
 Ben : " do you know here she went?"  
 Sister's bea : "she said she wanted to walk around. Do some people watching"  
 Ben : " no it's not"  
 " I think I know where she might be"  
 Father's bea : "The good god man, go get her"

Ben felt compelled to explain everything to Pete's parents and Bea's brother about his increasingly obvious feelings. Firmly, he said that he had no feelings for Margaret, even though he had kissed her first, because he realised that his feelings for Bea were much stronger. 'Margaret was just... my temporary confusion,' Ben said, looking at everyone around him. He then states that he is now completely sober and ready to pursue Bea, despite his earlier hesitation. Pete's parents and Bea's brother listened seriously, then advised, 'If you really like her, show it with actions, don't just talk.' Ben nodded, realising that to get Bea, he couldn't just rely on words. With renewed determination, he promised himself to show his feelings through effort and not just talk.

In The self awarness the effect of Ben expressing his feelings to both Pete's parents and Bea's brother is a moment of emotional growthand clarity. Ben transitions from confusion and indecision about his feelings to firm resolution. By publicly acknowledging his true feelings for Bea, he not only gains self-awareness but also earns the respect and support of those around him. This shift likely helps him shed doubts and act on his emotions more decisively, while also receiving guidance that pushes him to take action rather than remain passive. In the story "True love requires both awareness and action."

---



---

Acknowledging your feelings is the first step, but taking concrete steps to pursue what you truly care about is what shows real commitment. Sometimes, those around you will challenge you to stop doubting and start acting, and that's how relationships grow."

## 4. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of *Anyone But You*, five key moral messages emerge from the characters' journey: honesty in relationships, forgiveness, learning from mistakes, loyalty and commitment, and appreciating differences. These themes are revealed through dialogues and character interactions, highlighting that authenticity and transparency are essential for trust, while forgiveness allows emotional healing. The film also demonstrates that learning from mistakes fosters personal growth, loyalty strengthens love, and accepting differences enriches relationships. Each of these lessons contributes to a fuller understanding of the challenges and strengths that define meaningful relationships. The moral message of *Anyone But You* is clear: honesty, accountability, and self-respect are essential components of a fulfilling life and healthy relationships. The script not only entertains but also invites viewers to reflect on their own choices, relationships, and values. It challenges the audience to consider the consequences of deception, the healing power of forgiveness, and the importance of personal integrity.

## References

- Zinnhattullina, M., Safina, L., Yarullina, A., & Shamsutdinova, N. (2019). *Literature and Film: Transformations and Adaptations*. Journal of Language and Literature, 10(2), 45-53.
- Kohlberg, L. (1971). *\*From Is to Ought: How to Commit the Naturalistic Fallacy and Get Away with It in the Study of Moral Development\**. Academic Press.
- McKee, R. (1997). *\*Story: Substance, Structure, Style and the Principles of Screenwriting\**. HarperCollins.
- Rest, J. R. (1986). *\*Moral Development: Advances in Research and Theory\**. Praeger.
- Meilaender, G. (1984). *The Theory and Practice of Virtue*. University of Notre Dame Press.
- Durkheim, E. (1925). *Moral Education: A Study in the Theory and Application of the Sociology of Education*. Free Press.
- Kohlberg, L. (1971). *From Is to Ought: How to Commit the Naturalistic Fallacy and Get Away with It in the Study of Moral Development*. Academic Press.
- Smith, J. (2023). *Film and Moral Messages: Exploring Ethics Through Cinema*. New York: Film Ethics Press.
- Peirce, C. S. (1991). *Peirce on Signs: Writings on Semiotic by Charles Sanders Peirce*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Johnson, L., & Perkins, M. (2019). *Authenticity in Relationships: The Role of Honesty and Trust*. Psychology Journal, 45(3), 234-249.