

ABSTRACT

Mochamad Ramdhan. 1195030139. Locked Room Formula On Rian Johnson's *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery* (2022). An Undergraduate Thesis. English Literature Department. Faculty of Adab and Humanities. State Islam University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. Advisor 1: Dr. Hj. Ruminda, M.Hum. Advisor 2: Hasbi Assiddiqi, S.S., M.A.

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his research analyzes how *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery* (2022), directed by Rian Johnson, applies and reimagines the classic locked-room mystery formula, particularly through the roles and dynamics of its central characters. Grounded in Edgar Allan Poe's Locked-Room Theory and McKee's Character-Driven Narrative Theory, the study explores two main questions: (1) how the film constructs the key elements of the locked-room mystery, and (2) how the characters contribute to this construction through their motivations, actions, and interactions. Using a qualitative descriptive method and scene-by-scene analysis, the findings reveal that *Glass Onion* creatively adapts the genre's conventions, such as spatial confinement, limited access, the illusion of an impossible crime, and logical resolution, into a modern setting using technology, metafiction, and satire. The findings illustrate that the locked-room framework is introduced gradually through symbolic and physical enclosures, including the puzzle box invitation, the isolated island setting, and technological surveillance. These elements construct a sense of confinement while foreshadowing deeper narrative layers. Simultaneously, character behavior intensifies the mystery's complexity. Benoit Blanc is the rational detective figure, but the true narrative force lies in the ensemble cast, whose secrets, rivalries, and deceptions create red herrings and narrative misdirection. Characters

such as Miles Bron, Helen Brand, and the inner circle demonstrate that the mystery is driven as much by psychological tension and social performance as plot mechanics. Ultimately, the study concludes that *Glass Onion* honors and subverts the locked-room tradition by using character interactions and non-linear storytelling to blur the line between appearance and truth, offering a postmodern reinvention of the classic detective genre.

