

## CHAPTER II

### BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR AND SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY

#### A. Biography of Daphne du Maurier

Daphne du Maurier, an author, was born on May 13, 1907 in London, England. She was from a family of artists. Her grandfather, George du Maurier, was a famous caricaturist. Meanwhile, her mother, Muriel Beaumont, was an actress, and her father, Sir Gerald du Maurier was an actor. She was the second of three sisters. Her younger sister was Angela du Maurier, also an author, and her older sister was a painter named Jeanne du Maurier.

Daphne du Maurier was taught to write at home, and then went to school in Paris. She began writing articles when she was 19 years old. She wrote a lot of famous novels, among which are many those have been adapted into films, including “Rebecca”. Her novels included “I’ll never be Young Again” (1932), “The Loving Spirit” (1931), and “The Progress of Julius” (1933). She did not only write novels but also a lot of short stories, plays, and biographies. Her works tell about women, usually those who are strong and dominating men, as shown in her novels “My Cousin Rachel” and “Rebecca”.

Many of her works were written at Menabilly, a very big house of hers that has been legendary since 17<sup>th</sup> century located in Cronwall, Western England. She liked to stay there as she could feel free and was able to do anything she wanted. She could write, walk, wander, hike hills, as well as sail on her own boat so that she could get so many inspirations to be written in her works. Many of her

works were inspired by her own personal life. For instance, in *Rebecca*, it is told that Rebecca has some special affairs with some guys all at once. “Rebecca” is one of her novels about love. It was published in 1938 that famed her name. In her own life, she also had a relationship with a married guy, named Christopher Puxley. A fact in another novel is also inspired by her own life is “Manderley”. Manderley is Menabilly in her real life. In 1932 Daphne du Maurier moved to Cannon Cottage as she married to Frederick Browning. They were living in there for 2 years until her death on April 19, 1989.

### **B. Synopsis of the Story**

People have a dream and a dream is the fruit of the process of thought of the unconsciousness as well as feeling in the daily life. It was also what Daphne du Maurier, the author of “Rebecca”, experienced in 1938. She became an enthusiastic writer. She had a dream about husband and wife who underwent a love full of falsehood. By dreaming, Maurier was inspired to write a novel. The novel was named “Rebecca”. Rebecca came as a romance strong with love story. In a conversation in the story between Maxim de Winter and Rebecca prior to her death, Rebecca says that she gets pregnant by another man, not de Winter’s own flesh and blood.

Maxim de Winter is a husband that has never felt happy when marrying Rebecca. They runs the days as a man and wife that hate each other. Maxim feels that Rebecca is cruel and egoistic that manipulates all people around her, so that they believe as she is a perfect and a model wife. Maxim has been frequently hurt

by Rebecca as she has special relationships with many men. At that time, Maxim de Winter has lost his mind that makes him kill his wife.

His hurt is what makes him lose control so that he does something not necessary. In spite of his love to her that remains in his heart, he tries to forget her.

Since the death of Rebecca, Maxim de Winter tries to open his heart to another woman. The name of the narrator is not mentioned, but she is a 20 year-old woman, meanwhile Maxim de Winter is a 42 year-old widower. Two weeks after starting a relationship, they get married and go to Manderley, England, for the honeymoon. When they arrived at Manderley house, Maxim's new wife very loved the place. Unfortunately, Mrs. Danvers, the housekeeper, is very ruthless to her. She doesn't like the presence of the new mistress in the house because, for her, the one and only mistress is Rebecca despite her death.

When the second ball at Manderley is held, Maxim de Winter's wife plans to give a surprise by wearing a very beautiful gown, so she can get praise from her husband, and all the guests who come to the ball will get fascinated by her beauty. But, the opposite happens when Maxim de Winter's wife descends the steps and everybody sees what she is wearing. All eyes are on her. They are very surprised that the gown she wears is exactly the same as what Rebecca wore in the previous ball, prior to her death. Instantly, Maxim gets mad at his wife and directly asks her to change clothes she is wearing. Maxim de Winter really feels upset by what his wife has done in that evening. He even doesn't want to sleep in the same room with his wife. He has never expected that she does it.

Maxim de Winter realizes that he is too easy to get mad with the one he loves. Thus, since then, he regrets what he has done as it would be bad for her. Maxim de Winter says “I really love you and I apologize for all my mistake.” However, days after, Maxim de Winter still really loves his first wife for what she has made Manderley becomes beautiful.

