



## **Analysis Characterization of Main Character in Movie “Role Play 2024”**

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### **Abstract**

This study analyzed the complex characterization of Emma and Dave in the 2024 film Role Play using qualitative descriptive methods. By employing Morner and Rausch's (1998) characterization techniques and Gale's (2017) personality type theory, the research examined how the characters' dual identities and internal conflicts enriched the film's narrative. The primary data source was the film itself, which was thoroughly analyzed through content analysis. The findings revealed Emma as a dynamic character leading a double life: she was both a devoted wife and a skilled assassin. Her internal struggles and the emotional toll of her secret profession added depth to her role. In contrast, Dave, initially portrayed as a trusting and supportive husband, evolved into a character marked by growing suspicion and frustration, while remaining steadfast in his loyalty to his family. The study concluded that the nuanced portrayal of Emma and Dave significantly enhanced the film's narrative engagement and the viewer's emotional connection. These characterizations provided innovative insights into character development in cinematic storytelling, offering a comprehensive framework for future research in similar genres.

**Keywords:** *characterization, film analysis, duality, narrative engagement, qualitative study*

### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis karakterisasi mendalam dari karakter utama, Emma dan Dave, dalam film "Role Play (2024)" menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Dengan menerapkan metode karakterisasi dari Morner dan Rausch (1998) serta teori tipe kepribadian dari Gale (2017), penelitian ini secara teliti mengkaji bagaimana identitas ganda dan konflik yang muncul dari karakter-karakter ini meningkatkan narasi. Sumber data utama adalah film itu sendiri, dengan peneliti melakukan analisis konten menyeluruh untuk mengumpulkan wawasan. Temuan mengungkapkan bahwa Emma adalah wanita yang kuat dan penuh sumber daya yang menjalani kehidupan ganda sebagai istri yang setia dan pembunuh terampil, berjuang dengan konflik internal dan beban emosional dari profesinya yang rahasia. Dave, yang awalnya digambarkan sebagai suami yang percaya dan mendukung, berkembang menjadi karakter yang ditandai dengan kecurigaan dan frustrasi yang semakin besar, namun tetap setia dan penuh kasih kepada keluarganya. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa dualitas dan kedalaman karakterisasi Emma dan Dave secara signifikan berkontribusi pada keterlibatan naratif film dan investasi emosional penonton. Penelitian ini menawarkan wawasan inovatif tentang pengembangan karakter dalam film, memberikan kerangka kerja komprehensif untuk studi di masa depan dalam genre serupa.

**Kata kunci:** *karakterisasi, analisis film, dualitas, keterlibatan naratif, studi kualitatif*

## Introduction

The exploration of literature, in its various forms, provides profound insights into human experiences and societal dynamics. Movies, a contemporary extension of literary works, embody the core elements of literature, including plots, characterizations, settings, themes, and structures. The film "Role Play (2024)", an action-comedy-romance narrative starring Kaley Cuoco and David Oyelowo, serves as a rich subject for examining these literary elements, particularly the characterization of the main characters, Emma and Dave.

Characterization in film is a pivotal aspect that reveals the intricacies of characters' personalities, motivations, and transformations. As articulated by Morner and Rausch (1998), characterization can be approached through direct descriptions, actions without authorial commentary, and inner self-representation. Complementing this, Gale's (2017) typology of personality provides a framework for understanding the diverse traits exhibited by characters, ranging from extroversion and introversion to complex personality types like "The Architect" or "The Debater."

Existing literature on characterization in film highlights the diversity of approaches and the depth of analysis that can be achieved. For instance, Lestari's (2022) study on "Luca" emphasizes the multifaceted personalities of the main characters and their development within the narrative framework. This research uses the same theory by Gale (2017). The similarity between the previous study and this study lies in the data source media used, which is the same as using a movie, and these two studies also examine the characteristics of the main character. The difference lies in the character that will be analyzed. Similarly, Amnesi's (2023) examination of "Cruella" underscores the complex interplay of traits between the protagonists. In addition, the study used the theory of Kenney (1966) and Wellek and Warren (1956). The similarity between these two studies is that they use the main character as the main topic in the study. Putri's (2017) analysis of "Gone Girl" delves into the dominant characteristics that drive the narrative forward. The theory used was from Ary, et al, (2002). The similarity between the previous study and the latest study is about the main character. Latif's (2016) study on "The Social Network" The theory used in the previous study is also the theory by George (2008:1). The similarity in these two studies is that they both use the movie as a media source of data in the study and both study the main character. and Anandi et al.'s (2022) psychoanalysis of the "Joker" used theory by Bogdan and Biklen (1982) further exemplify the varied methodologies and theoretical lenses through which characterization can be understood.

Despite the extensive body of work on film characterization, a gap remains in the specific analysis of characters within the context of dual identities and the ensuing conflicts. "Role Play (2024)" presents a unique case with Emma's dual life as a devoted wife and a professional assassin, and Dave's journey of discovery and adaptation to this hidden reality. This study aims to bridge this gap by applying Morner and Rausch's (1998) characterization methods and Gale's (2017) personality type theory to dissect and understand the intricate characterization of Emma and Dave. Combining these theories allows for a thorough and nuanced exploration of how dual identities impact character behavior, relationships, and growth within the narrative.

The objective of this research is to meticulously analyze how Emma and Dave are characterized in "Role Play (2024)" and to categorize their personalities using

established theoretical frameworks. By doing so, the study seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of character development in films and its impact on the overall narrative and viewer engagement. The purpose of this research is to elucidate the intricate characterizations of the main characters in "Role Play 2024," thereby contributing to the broader field of character studies in film. By employing qualitative descriptive methods, this study seeks to offer innovative insights into how characters' personal and professional conflicts enhance narrative engagement, providing a comprehensive framework for future character analysis in similar genres.

This introduction sets the stage for a detailed examination of the main characters in "Role Play (2024)", emphasizing the importance of characterization in film and the theoretical tools employed for analysis. The subsequent sections will delve into the specifics of Emma and Dave's character traits, their development throughout the movie, and the implications of their dual identities.

## **Method**

The process of collecting data and information for decision-making purposes can be defined as a research method. The data in this study is considered very important to be interpreted. In addition, the success of the evaluation study is regarded as critical. The effectiveness of writing is often seen to have a major impact on it. Just like any study, researching a film requires a well-defined method for collecting data and interpreting it effectively. A strong research method is crucial for drawing accurate conclusions from your analysis. For this study, the primary data source will be the movie "Role Play 2024" itself. By thoroughly watching the film and paying close attention to details, a wealth of information about the characters, plot, themes, and directorial choices can be gathered.

A qualitative design **was employed** by the research to analyze the characterization of the main characters in the film, with a focus on content analysis to examine the characterization of Emma and Dave in "Role Play (2024)". The observation method **was used** by the authors to analyze the data. The movie **was also watched** by the researcher to expand their understanding of the plot and characters. Based on the theory applied in this research, the data **were analyzed** systematically and accurately. The qualitative method **aims** to achieve a better understanding of the behavior of the characters. Firstly, the character's type and personality **are to be found**, and secondly, how the author of the story **tells** the character **is to be analyzed**. In addition, the data **is presented** using informal methods. The data **is described** in this article by using descriptive sentences to provide evidence and some explanations related to the data used.

## Result and Discussion

### Research Results

This chapter discusses the findings and discussion of character analysis in the movie "Role Play 2024". The first part discusses the types of characters in "Role Play 2024" and the second part discusses the characteristics of characters in "Role Play 2024" movies. Here, the two main characters in the novel are described in terms of psychology, sociology, and physiology.

First is Emma Bracket. Emma's role was hired assassin leading a double life. Emma is portrayed as a strong and confident woman, fitting the stereotypical image of an assassin. Her attire and demeanor reflect her dual life, with professional outfits for her assassin role and casual, maternal attire for her family life. Emma is depicted as secretive, skilled, and resourceful. She manages to balance her dual life meticulously, showing a high level of intelligence and emotional control. Her love for her family is evident, but she often struggles with the moral implications of her profession. Emma's interactions with her family are warm and caring, contrasting sharply with her cold, calculated demeanor in her professional life. This duality highlights her internal conflict and the complexity of her character.

The other main character is Dave Brackett. He is Emma's husband, unaware of her double life initially. Dave is an average, approachable man, whose appearance contrasts with Emma's. His casual, relaxed style underscores his role as the supportive, unassuming husband. Dave is supportive, humorous, and initially naive about Emma's true profession. His loyalty and love for his family remain steadfast even after learning about Emma's secret life, showcasing his deep commitment and resilience. Dave's interactions are primarily family-oriented, providing a sense of normalcy and stability in contrast to Emma's chaotic secret life. His reactions to the revelations about Emma add depth to his character, highlighting his adaptability and strength.

#### 1. Emma Bracket

**Compartmentalization:** Emma excels at keeping her two lives separate.

Data 1

*(Scene: Kitchen with Dave. Emma calmly packs a lunchbox)*

*Dave: Honey, where are you going so early?*

*Emma: (Smiling) Just a yoga class with the girls. You know how we get our zen on Tuesdays.*

Based on the above data, this seemingly mundane exchange highlights how Emma creates a believable cover story for her "early mornings." The contrast between her calm demeanour and the potential danger she's about to face showcases her compartmentalization skills. Emma demonstrates a strong ability to compartmentalize her life through her choice of a mundane cover story. By saying she has a "yoga class with the girls," she chooses an ordinary activity that most people wouldn't question. This choice reflects her understanding of how to blend in and avoid suspicion. Additionally, her calm and smiling demeanour, despite the potential danger of her mission, showcases her emotional control. This ability to maintain a composed exterior allows her to navigate social interactions without betraying her true state. By

referencing *"getting zen with the girls,"* Emma creates a sense of normalcy and routine, suggesting she participates in activities typical for suburban wives. This further solidifies her fabricated identity, allowing her to lead a double life effectively.

The contrast between the ordinary kitchen setting, where she is packing lunch, and the potential violence she is about to face highlights Emma's compartmentalization skills. She can appear as a regular person at home while being a ruthless assassin moments later. Possible reasons for her compartmentalization include self-preservation, protecting both herself and Dave by keeping her work life separate so he can't be targeted by her enemies. It might also be a coping mechanism for her mental well-being, allowing her to protect herself from the emotional toll of her work. Additionally, she might be trying to shield her family from the dangers of her profession, ensuring they have a normal life. By examining this scene closely, we see how Emma excels at creating a believable cover story, maintaining emotional control, and positioning herself within a relatable social activity, enabling her to navigate between her two contrasting worlds seamlessly.

**Resourceful and Adaptable:** Emma can think on her feet and improvise in dangerous situations.

Data 2

*(Scene: Warehouse shootout. Emma runs out of ammo)*

*Emma: (Grabs a metal pipe) "Looks like close combat today, boys!" (Disarms an attacker with a well-placed strike)*

Based on the above data, this action scene demonstrates Emma's resourcefulness. When faced with a lack of ammunition, she quickly adapts and uses a readily available object as a weapon. This scene reveals Emma's remarkable situational awareness, adaptability, combat prowess, and confidence under pressure. Even amidst chaos, she remains aware of her surroundings, quickly spotting metal pipes as potential weapons, which demonstrates her ability to think under pressure. When she runs out of ammo, she instantly adapts her strategy, transitioning from a firearm to a makeshift weapon without hesitation. Her adept use of the pipe indicates she's trained in hand-to-hand combat, adding another layer to her skillset and portraying her as a formidable opponent. Additionally, her battle cry, *"Looks like close combat today, boys!"* displays a surprising amount of confidence, suggesting she thrives in high-stress situations and possesses a calmness that allows her to improvise effectively. By dissecting this scene, we gain a deeper appreciation for Emma's resourcefulness and adaptability; she's not just a skilled assassin but a quick thinker who can adjust her tactics on the fly, making her a dangerous and unpredictable opponent.

**Internal Conflict:** Despite her skill, Emma grapples with the emotional toll of her assassin life.

Data 3:

*(Scene: Hotel room after a mission. Emma is visibly shaken, cleaning a bloody knife)*

*(To herself): "Just one more job. Then I'm done. For good this time."*

Based on the above data, this introspective moment reveals Emma's inner turmoil. She longs to leave her violent past behind, but the movie suggests it's not that easy. This scene goes beyond just Emma cleaning a weapon; it reveals her internal conflict and the complexities of her character. The clinical way she cleans the knife suggests a form of dissociation, a coping mechanism to distance herself from the violence she's inflicted. The blood on the knife serves as a constant reminder of the life she wants to escape, a physical manifestation of her inner turmoil. Her muttered plea, *"Just one more job..."* shows her desire to leave this life behind, yet the lack of conviction in her voice hints at the difficulty of breaking free. The empty takeout boxes suggest a transient lifestyle, constantly on the move, reinforcing the idea that she's trapped in a cycle of violence that's hard to escape. By examining these details, we see a deeper dimension to Emma's character. She's not just a cold-blooded assassin; she's a woman burdened by the weight of her actions, yearning for a normal life she may never have.

**Protective:** While Emma's profession is dangerous, she fiercely protects her family.  
(Scene: Argument with Dave about his safety concerns)

Dave: (Angrily) *This is crazy, Emma! What if something happens to you? What about the kids?*

Emma: (Eyes welling up) *You think I enjoy this? I do it for us! To keep you and the kids safe! This way, nobody bothers us, nobody even suspects a thing!*

Based on the above data, this line sheds light on Emma's motivation. Despite the risks, she justifies her actions as a way to ensure her family's safety. This argument goes beyond just Emma defending her job; it reveals her deep protectiveness and the complexities of her motivations. Emma readily admits she dislikes her assassin life, yet continues down this path, framing it as a necessary sacrifice to protect her family, highlighting her deep love and devotion to Dave and the children. Her tears betray the emotional toll of her choices, as the constant fear of being discovered and the danger it poses to her family weigh heavily on her. Her statement, *"This way, nobody bothers us,"* suggests a desire for control, indicating she wants to ensure her family's safety by eliminating any potential threats, even if it means living a dangerous double life. The line *"nobody even suspects a thing"* emphasizes the isolation Emma feels, as she can't confide in Dave about her true profession, creating a barrier in their relationship. By examining this scene, we gain a deeper understanding of Emma's complex motivations. She is a fierce protector, willing to risk everything to shield her family, even if her methods are questionable. This protectiveness adds another layer to her character, making her a compelling and conflicted figure.

### **Living a Lie**

Data 5

(Scene: Emma argues with Dave about her constant "business trips")

Dave: *"Where do you even go on these trips, Emma? You never tell me anything."*

Based on the above data, this argument reveals the strain Emma's double life puts on her relationship. The constant lie creates distance between her and Dave. This seemingly simple argument reveals a deeper truth about Emma's character. The erosion of trust between Emma and Dave is evident, as the core issue isn't just about the trips but the lack of trust. Dave's repeated questions highlight the growing distance caused by Emma's constant lies. Emma's silence speaks volumes; she yearns to connect with Dave, but the burden of her secret keeps her from being fully honest, adding another layer to her complexity. The room's description dim light and rigid posture reflects the emotional coldness that has infiltrated their relationship, as Emma's double life casts a shadow over their love. Dave's statement, "It feels... fake," suggests that Emma's facade might be cracking, and the constant fear of exposure not only jeopardizes her missions but also threatens the life she's trying to protect. By examining this scene, we see the devastating impact of Emma's double life. She's not just an assassin; she's a woman struggling to maintain a marriage built on a foundation of lies. This vulnerability adds a human touch to her character, making her relatable despite her extraordinary profession.

## **2. Dave Bracket**

### **Devoted Husband and Father**

Data 6

*(Scene: Family dinner. Dave helps his children with their homework)*

*Dave: (Smiling) Come on, champ. Almost got it! Let's see, how do we solve for x here?*

Based on the above data, this scene showcases Dave's commitment to his family. He prioritizes spending quality time with his children, actively helping them with their studies. It portrays him as a loving and supportive father figure. This simple scene goes beyond just Dave helping with homework; it reveals significant aspects of his character. Dave's tone is patient and encouraging, showing he doesn't get frustrated with Tommy's struggle but rather offers guidance and support gently. He actively participates by guiding Tommy through the steps instead of simply telling him the answer, fostering understanding and problem-solving skills. The family dinner setting highlights Dave's commitment to spending quality time with his children, emphasizing that this meal is about connecting and creating memories, not just sustenance. While we don't see his interactions with Emma in detail here, the overall atmosphere suggests a sense of domestic harmony. Dave seems comfortable and engaged in his role as a father, indicating he strives for a balanced family life. By examining these details, we gain a deeper appreciation for Dave's character. He's not just a worried husband; he's a devoted father who actively participates in his children's lives, creating a foundation of love and support.

### **Trusting and Oblivious**

Data 7

*(Scene: Argument with Emma about her "business trips")*

*Dave: (Confused) Honey, why wouldn't you tell me? We can talk about anything.*

Based on the above data, this argument reveals Dave's trusting nature. Despite Emma's constant disappearances, he remains naively optimistic about their communication. He believes in their bond and her willingness to confide in him. This scene goes beyond just Dave's question; it reveals his trusting nature and the complexities of their relationship. Dave's approach shows he genuinely wants to understand why Emma hasn't been forthcoming about her trips, highlighting his belief in open communication. His statement, *"We can talk about anything,"* showcases a certain level of naivety, as he seems to believe their bond is strong enough to handle any revelation despite the secrecy. By phrasing it this way, Dave subtly offers his support, indicating he wants to be there for Emma, whatever her reasons might be. The contrast between the concern in Dave's voice and Emma's avoidance suggests a long-standing pattern of deception, making it evident that Dave feels genuinely blindsided by the depth of Emma's secret. By examining these details, we see a more nuanced portrayal of Dave. He's not just a clueless husband but a trusting and supportive partner deeply affected by the revelation of Emma's double life. The scene highlights the emotional toll her deception takes on their relationship.

### **Growing Suspicion**

Data 8

*(Scene: Dave questions a discrepancy in Emma's story)*

*Dave: Wait a minute, that conference was last month, not this month. What's going on, Emma?*

Based on the above data, this movie progresses, Dave's suspicions rise. He starts noticing inconsistencies in Emma's stories, questioning the legitimacy of her "business trips." This highlights his growing concern about her secretive behaviour. This seemingly mundane scene reveals a lot about Dave's growing suspicion. He is no longer oblivious; he's actively paying attention to details surrounding Emma's trips, catching the discrepancy in the conference dates. The change in his tone from earlier arguments is evident, shifting from confusion to a hint of doubt and a direct question. Dave's simple question, *"What's going on, Emma?"* shows his growing concern and need for answers. He is no longer willing to accept her explanations at face value. The scene takes place in the kitchen, a typically domestic space, yet the tension between them suggests a loss of the earlier warmth and trust in their relationship. By examining these details, we see Dave's character evolve. He's no longer the naive husband; the inconsistencies in Emma's stories are chipping away at his trust, leading him to question her motives and the very foundation of their life together.

### **Supportive (Despite Confusion)**

Data 9

*(Scene: Dave comforts Emma after a stressful day)*

*Dave: (Holding her hand) Whatever it is, we'll figure it out together. You know that, right?*

Based on the above data, even with his suspicions, Dave remains supportive of Emma. He wants to understand what's troubling her, offering comfort and a



willingness to help despite the lack of full disclosure. This scene goes beyond just Dave's words; it reveals his supportive nature through subtle yet powerful actions. Dave's kneeling position, bringing him to eye level with Emma, conveys a sense of empathy and concern. He doesn't bombard her with questions but waits for her to open up, actively listening and offering a safe space for her to confide in him. His statement, *"Whatever it is, we'll figure it out together,"* indicates his willingness to support her even without having the full picture. By saying, *"you know that, right,"* Dave seeks reassurance of their bond, wanting Emma to trust him despite the growing distance between them. The concern in his voice suggests a genuine desire to help Emma, yet there's likely a part of him struggling with the suspicion of her secret life. By examining these details, we see a complexity in Dave's character. He's not just a suspicious husband; he's a supportive partner caught in a difficult situation. He cares for Emma and wants to help her, but the lack of transparency creates a barrier.

### **Frustrated and Feeling Left Out**

Data 10

*(Scene: Dave confronts Emma after a close call)*

*Dave: (Voice shaking with anger) You could have died! Why didn't you tell me what you were really doing?*

Based on the above data, this scene showcases Dave's frustration. He feels left out of a crucial part of Emma's life and fears for her safety. This emotional outburst highlights the strain Emma's deception puts on their relationship. This outburst goes beyond just Dave yelling; it reveals his deeply troubled emotional state. The raw fear in his voice is undeniable, as the near-death experience has shaken him to his core, making him confront the very real danger Emma faces. His question, *"Why didn't you tell me?"* highlights the betrayal he feels, expressing anger at Emma for keeping him in the dark and putting their life together at risk. The accusation, *"All these trips, these lies,"* showcases his frustration of being excluded, feeling isolated from a crucial part of Emma's life, creating a sense of powerlessness and resentment. The overturned furniture is a physical manifestation of the emotional turmoil Dave is experiencing, symbolizing how the carefully constructed reality of their marriage is crumbling, leaving him feeling out of control. Despite his anger, a desperate plea for honesty shines through, showing that Dave still cares for Emma and ultimately wants a relationship built on trust and transparency. By examining these details, we gain a deeper understanding of Dave's emotional struggle. He's not just a frustrated husband but a man who feels betrayed, scared, and isolated due to Emma's double life. This outburst highlights the devastating impact of her deception on their relationship.

### **Conclusion**

After analyzing the movie, the researchers found that the duality of Emma's character as a devoted wife and a professional assassin is meticulously portrayed, highlighting her ability to compartmentalize her life, demonstrating resourcefulness and adaptability in dangerous situations, and grappling with the emotional toll of her

double life. Emma's complex character is revealed through her protective nature towards her family and the significant internal conflict she faces. On the other hand, Dave's characterization evolves from being a trusting and supportive husband to someone who grows increasingly suspicious and frustrated as he uncovers the truth about Emma's secret life. His unwavering support, despite his growing doubts, adds depth to his character, illustrating his commitment and resilience. The intricate characterization of Emma and Dave enhances the narrative engagement, providing a comprehensive framework for understanding their motivations and conflicts.

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