

BIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS HARRIS

The following biography of Thomas Harris here is taken from an article in theguardian.com that made by Cowley (2006:1).

Thomas Harris was born in 1940 in Jackson, Tennessee. He is the only child of an electrical engineer of modest means who died in 1980. After graduating from Baylor, a Baptist university in Waco, Texas, where he studied English, he worked as a reporter on a local newspaper. In the late Sixties, he moved to New York to take up a job at Associated Press. There, he excelled as a crime reporter, showing an unusual curiosity in the finer details and nuances of the crimes he wrote about, no matter how bleak. Harris has an intimate knowledge of police procedure and of homicide investigations and the psychology of the murderer. In 1975, Harris published his first novel, *Black Sunday*, a rather conventional thriller about a spectacular plot by terrorists to commit mass murder during the Super Bowl in Miami. The book was no more than a minor success until it was sold to Hollywood, as were, respectively, each of Harris's subsequent novels, *Red Dragon*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Hannibal* and, now, *Hannibal Rising*. The sale of the film rights of *Black Sunday* freed Harris from journalism to become a dedicated writer of fiction.

SYNOPSIS OF *HANNIBAL RISING*

The following synopsis below is summed up by the researcher from the novel *Hannibal Rising* by Thomas Harris that was published on 2006.

The main source of this final project is a novel created by Thomas Harris, *Hannibal Rising*. It tells about Hannibal Lecter's childhood and how he can be a genius psychopathic cannibal such as appeared in the previous novels.

Hannibal Lecter was lived in Lecter castle at Lithuania that built by Hannibal the Grim along with his parents, a little sister named Mischa, private tutor called Mr. Jakov, and some servants. He has a perfect life until Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa, a code name for invasion of Nazi German to the Soviet Union during World War II that started on 22 June 1941.

The Lecter family are forced to evacuate from the castle, they move to a hunting lodge in the forest. They survive in the forest for about three and a half years. But the peacefulness has to end after a group of hungry soldiers from Nazi that disguised as Lithuanian army attack the lodge. Everyone in the lodge was dead except Hannibal and Mischa.

The disguising Nazi soldiers which are Vladis Grutas, Zigmus Milko, Bronys Grentz, Enrikas Dortlich, Kazys Porvik and Petras Kolnas take Hannibal and his sister as their prisoners. Therefore, if the army from Nazi's enemy check the lodge, they have some reason and get away from the death.

When the hard winter comes, they start to lack of food and catch flu, including Hannibal and Mischa. In the middle of suffering time, the soldiers take a terrible choice. Unfortunately, Hannibal does not remember what exactly happened there except that they separated Mischa from him. Not long after that, a group of Russian army with tank attack them. Grutas and his friends escape from the lodge except Kazys Porvik, he trapped in the collapsing lodge. Hannibal success to survive and helped by the Russian army.

The eight years old boy had to go back in Lecter castle that turned as an orphanage. He always get nightmares about terrible abstract scenes in the lodge, even though the tragedy made him 'mute' but he manages to scream his sister's name until make Monitor Petrov hates him. Hannibal know that there was something terrible happened in the lodge that took Mischa's life yet he cannot remember clearly what was that exactly, these thoughts turned him as a gloomy introvert kid. He always gets bullying from another orphan but instead of Hannibal, the bullies will be the one who are injured.

Fortunately his uncle, Robert Lecter, picks him up from the orphanage and adopted him. Robert Lecter and his wives, Lady Murasaki, then bring Hannibal to psychiatry, they want to know why Hannibal does not want to talk and try to find out what happened to Mischa. However, the psychiatry says that they just need to

give him love and peacefulness because the condition of Hannibal was still fragile.

Everything is going well, even though Hannibal is still 'mute' but he already regards them as his dearly family, Robert and his wives never treat him as a different person, until a butcher named Paul Momund insults Lady Murasaki. The event makes Hannibal angry, he attacks the butcher but some police stops them. When Robert hears this, he also try to attack the butcher, yet because of his weak heart, the death already comes to him before he has time to avenge his wives' insult.

The death of Robert Lecter triggers the hiding madness inside Hannibal's soul. He then kills Paul Momund, cut off his head, slices both of his cheeks, then presents it in front of the altar. He satisfies after committing that and for the first time he finally can sleep in peace without nightmare, even though he is only thirteen years old at the time.

Lady Murasaki knows it, but she tries to hide it from the police and warns him to never do that again. Unfortunately, Hannibal does not have any plan to stop, especially when he is accepted in a medical school and Lady Murasaki asks him to live in school's dorm so he will be able to act more freely.

The duty of being a medical student leads Hannibal into a new knowledge. He then finds a way to 'investigate' himself and remember what actually happened to Mischa and whoever committed it. Afterwards, Hannibal chases the murderers of his sister, kills them one by one, and eats the cheeks of one of them, just like what they did to his dear sister.

Lady Murasaki begs to Hannibal to give Grutas, the leader of Nazi soldiers, to the police but when Grutas says that he also ate the soup made from his sister, Hannibal goes mad. He kills Grutas right in front of Lady Murasaki. It makes her sad and disappointed, so she rejects Hannibal's love. She left Hannibal and went back to Japan. Meanwhile the lonely Hannibal could not stop his action, he went to America to hunt the last murderer of his sister and continued his life there as a doctor and psychiatry.

CHARACTERS OF *HANNIBAL RISING* BY THOMAS HARRIS

The following characters of *Hannibal Rising* below are taken from the novel itself (Harris, 2006):

1. Hannibal Lecter

He is the oldest son of Count and Madame Lecter. He lost his parents and his sister Mischa when the World War II was almost over. He is eight years old when his uncle takes him from the orphanage. After the traumatic events, Hannibal suffer post-traumatic stress disorder, he is always haunted by nightmares about the event that killed his sister.

2. Mischa Lecter

Mischa is Hannibal's little sister. She loves 'Das Mannlein' song and often asks his brother to sing it for her. She is sick when Grutas and his friends decide to cannibalize her. Mischa's death is a major impact on the future of Hannibal, because he loves his little sister so much.

3. Robert Lecter.

Hannibal's uncle. He took over of nobility as 'Count Lecter' after his brother (Hannibal's father) died. Robert is a great artist. Robert has a weak heart, he suddenly died during an argument with the butcher who had insulted his wife.

4. Shikibu Murasaki / Lady Murasaki

She is the daughter of a Japanese Ambassador to France. She and her family moved after his hometown, Hiroshima, bombed by American's soldiers. After her husband death and Chiyoh's leaved, Hannibal is the only family she has. Lady Murasaki likes Hannibal as an adult male. At the end, she has to reject the decaration of Hannibal's love.

5. Paul Momund.

He is a butcher who insulted Lady Murasaki when she is going to the market with Hannibal. Many people do not like him because of his bad attitude. Hannibal kills him when the butcher fishes in the river. His figure is similar enough with the man in Hannibal's nightmares, that is why Hannibal's desire to kill Paul become

more greater, besides due to avenge the Paul's insult on his aunt. Paul Mamound is Hannibal's first victim.

6. Group of Nazi soldiers

There are five Nazi soldiers that kill Hannibal's family and eat Mischa, they are Enrikas Dortlich, Zigmās Milko, Petras Kolnas/Kleber, Kazys Porvik, and the leader Vladis Grutas.

7. Inspector Popil

He is sent from Paris to investigate the death of Paul Momound. His speciality is war crime, but then he becomes interested on Hannibal. In one side, he wants to protect Hannibal because he knew that the boy is suffered from the war, but on the other hand, he also feels scare, because he already knew that Hannibal can be a dangerous monster. Popil have some feeling to Lady Murasaki, but he does not confess it to her, because he knows that Hannibal and Lady Murasaki is falling in love each other.

8. Chiyoh

She is Lady Murasaki's faithful servant. Her age is almost same with Hannibal. Chiyoh has a cousin in Hiroshima named Sadako who is dying of radiation poisoning.