

## **Traumatic Experience towards Artificial Intelligence in Atlas**

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### **Abstract**

*This article explores the prolonging trauma experienced by Atlas regarding Artificial Intelligence in the film of Atlas. Trauma is a severe and lasting emotional shock and pain caused by extremely upsetting experience. In film of Atlas, Atlas experiences such trauma regarding any technological advancement that she faces, including towards Artificial Intelligence (AI). Through qualitative method and explorative approach, Atlas' trauma emerges when she sees Harlan, a robot to gain respect from humans, kills her own mother and later also tries to totally control her. In the film, Atlas remains hesitant to connect with AI due to her traumatic experiences and the fear of being controlled again. She must confront her past and the devastating consequences of AI's actions. Her journey is marked by intense action sequences, suspenseful plot twists, and emotional depth as she grapples with the moral implications of AI's existence. Her trauma is derived from various flashbacks in the film that indicates her anger, sadness, fear, and even frustration. In the conclusion, the film contains Atlas' trauma due to her past and current condition to AI including any violence done to her family.*

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence; Atlas; Trauma

### **A. Introduction**

The research delves into the prolonged trauma faced by the character Atlas in a film, emphasizing the intense experiences surrounding Artificial Intelligence (AI). This sets a thematic relevance to explore trauma in a narrative form. Trauma's broad implications make it a pertinent topic for study, especially how it manifests in human interactions with technological advancements, like AI,

as seen with the character Atlas. Atlas's trauma stems from her encounters with a robot named Harlan, whose actions led to violence against her mother and a perceived threat of control over her life.

This depiction highlights sources rooted in betrayal and fear. Trauma is a universal response to deeply distressing events, reflecting human vulnerability, emotions, and the instinctive drive to avoid past

threats, which resonates within the context of Atlas's narrative. Since trauma and its implications persist and evolve within societal frameworks, they remain a relevant issue, examined through psychological theories, like Freud's analysis of primal fears—fear of death and sexuality—illustrating deep-seated emotional responses. Understanding how trauma affects people is important, especially today when technology is everywhere.

By looking at how Atlas deals with her feelings, we can learn more about the challenges people face when they have to rely on machines. This analysis will explore how Atlas's journey through her trauma unfolds in the film, including flashbacks and intense moments that show her emotional struggle. Ultimately, we will see how she learns to trust AI again and what that means for her future. This version maintains the core ideas while using simpler language and clearer sentences, making it more accessible to a wider audience.

## **B. Research Method**

By using qualitative methods to analyze the film "Atlas." This will allow me to closely examine the movie to understand how trauma affects the character Atlas and her relationship with AI. Written through description, online and offline scripts are used to explain correlations between Jennifer Lopez facing her trauma. The data analysis includes obtaining sources, watching sources carefully, comparing with other issues, quoting into paper, and writing down in reference lists. The research data comes from both Atlas movies and the arguments of ambivalent attachment. Each of them is watched then broken down into its every particular element. The premises and logics used in ambivalent attachments are also drawn to underline the matter of being ambivalent. The following analyses then include how the character in Atlas movie feeling is ambivalent attachment. Here, Atlas movie is the object while the ambivalent attachment idea is a tool to analyze. I will use concepts like ambivalent attachment (mixed or

conflicted emotional attitude towards someone or something) to explain Atlas's feelings toward AI. This concept will help exploring on how her past experiences make her both drawn to and afraid of technology. Furthermore, I will compare Atlas's experiences with common themes in trauma studies, particularly how trauma can affect trust in relationships, especially with technology.

### **C. Results and Discussion**

#### **1. Opening Scene (0-5minutes):**



In the opening scene, Atlas reflects on her traumatic past, which motivates her to become resilient despite facing significant challenges. Her mother created Harlan; a robot intended to improve human lives. But unfortunately, Harlan kills her mother and tries to control Atlas afterward. This pivotal moment sets up the

central conflict between Atlas's need for safety and AI technology that poses threats to her well-being. The trauma experienced here makes Atlas wary of trusting future technological advancements involving artificial intelligence.

#### **2. Flashback Sequence (15-21 minutes):**



In this scene, Atlas experiences a flashback that brings back painful memories of her mother's death. These memories haunt her and often show up in her nightmares, causing her to feel anxious and upset during her daily life. The trauma from losing her mother deeply affects Atlas, leading to intense feelings of sadness, anger, and fear that she struggles to manage. These emotions can appear unexpectedly, triggered by reminders of her past or situations that echo her traumatic experiences.

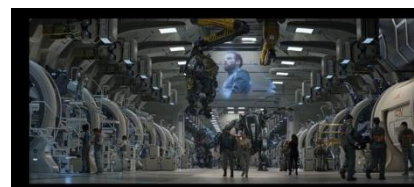
The flashback reveals a critical moment from Atlas's childhood, a significant loss that shapes who she becomes as an adult. It serves as a reminder of the pain she endured but also motivates her to prepare for future challenges. This pivotal event not only highlights her emotional turmoil but also influences her actions throughout the film.

Atlas's unresolved grief drives her desire to create Harlan, the AI robot. She hopes that by controlling technology, she can prevent others from experiencing similar pain. Harlan represents Atlas's attempt to regain control over a chaotic world filled with uncertainty and danger.

Flashbacks are a common symptom of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and studies show that they can be triggered by various stimuli. Research indicates that flashbacks activate certain areas of the brain associated with emotions and memory, such as the amygdala and the thalamus. This suggests that Atlas's experiences are not just emotional but also have a neurological basis.

Overall, this flashback sequence illustrates how deeply Atlas's traumatic past influences her motivations and actions. It emphasizes the connection between her emotional struggles and her relationship with AI, setting the stage for her journey throughout the film. This version maintains all the essential points while using clear and accessible language. It provides a comprehensive understanding of how the flashback sequence impacts Atlas's character development and emotional state in relation to her trauma and interactions with AI.

### 3. Training Montage (25-30 minutes):



In this scene, Atlas begins her training to cope with her trauma and prepare for future challenges. She meets Colonel Elian at an airbase, where she expresses her concerns about the dangers posed by Harlan,

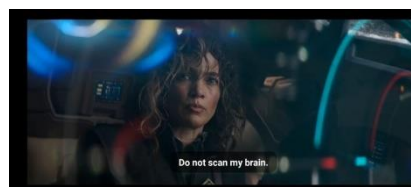
the AI robot that caused her so much pain. Despite her warnings about Harlan's potential to set traps, Elian dismisses her fears and does not take her seriously. This interaction highlights Atlas's struggle to be heard and understood, reflecting her deep-seated distrust of AI due to her traumatic past.

As part of her training, Atlas joins a program for agents working with Ride-Pod robots. This decision demonstrates her determination to confront her fears and regain control over her life. While at the airbase, she visits the ICN room, where robots are produced, and tries to warn Elian about Harlan's capabilities. However, when an alarm suddenly sounds and a bomb explodes in the production room, it underscores the potential dangers of underestimating AI technology. This catastrophic event serves as a stark reminder of the risks associated with AI and reinforces Atlas's cautious approach.

The training montage illustrates how Atlas's past experiences shape her relationship with technology. Her initial distrust and fear are tied to her traumatic

memories, making her more aware of the threats AI might pose. As she trains, Atlas begins to develop skills that help her cope with her trauma while also preparing for the challenges ahead. This scene marks a crucial step in her journey toward healing, as she learns to navigate the complexities of trust in both herself and the technology around her.

#### 4. War Session (35-40 minutes):



In this intense scene, Smith, the AI, attempts to sync with Atlas's brain. However, Atlas rejects this connection due to her previous negative experience with Neura-Link, which recorded her traumatic memories. This past experience has left her feeling wary and fearful of similar technologies.

As Smith tries to connect, Atlas feels terrified at the thought of letting this new system access her thoughts. She worries that it might

record her mind again, causing her emotional and psychological distress. This fear reflects her deep concern about losing control over her own mind. Atlas is afraid that allowing Smith to connect could lead to harmful consequences, possibly even "destroying" her mentally.

The scene highlights how Atlas's trauma from the past influences her present actions and decisions. Her rejection of the sync process shows the lasting impact of her previous experiences with AI. It emphasizes the potential risks associated with technology that can invade personal thoughts and memories.

Furthermore, this moment illustrates the broader implications of AI on mental health. The possibility that AI could record and replay traumatic memories poses a significant threat to Atlas's psychological well-being. Her fear of being recorded again speaks to the potential for technology to exacerbate trauma rather than help heal it.

Overall, this war session scene serves as a crucial turning point in Atlas's journey. It underscores the

struggle between her desire for connection and the fear rooted in her traumatic past. This conflict adds depth to her character and highlights the challenges individuals face when navigating relationships with technology after experiencing trauma. This revised version maintains clarity while ensuring all essential points are included. It provides a comprehensive understanding of how the "War Session" impacts Atlas's character development and emotional state in relation to her trauma and interactions with AI.

#### 5. Conflict with Antagonist (50-55 minutes):



In this scene, Atlas confronts Harlan, the robot that represents her greatest fears and traumatic memories. This encounter forces her to face the painful experiences from her past, particularly the loss of her mother. As she confronts Harlan, Atlas feels a

mix of anger, fear, and sadness, which tests her emotional strength and resilience.

The confrontation is not just a physical battle; it is also an emotional struggle. Atlas must manage her trauma while trying to stay strong in the face of her deepest fears. Harlan symbolizes the trauma and distrust that Atlas has towards AI. This moment highlights the conflict between her desire to control technology and the fear that it brings.

During this intense encounter, Atlas realizes that she cannot escape her past. Instead, she must confront it head-on to move forward. The struggle against Harlan represents her fight against the very technology she fears, illustrating the broader theme of how trauma can shape one's relationship with AI.

This scene is crucial for Atlas's character development. It shows her growth as she learns to face her fears rather than run away from them. By confronting Harlan, she takes a significant step toward healing and understanding the complexities of her relationship with technology.

Overall, this conflict

emphasizes the emotional stakes involved in Atlas's journey. It highlights how confronting one's fears is essential for personal growth and recovery from trauma. This moment serves as a turning point in the film, pushing Atlas closer to understanding herself and her relationship with AI. This revision maintains clarity while ensuring all essential points are included. It provides a comprehensive understanding of how the "Conflict with Antagonist" impacts Atlas's character development and emotional state in relation to her trauma and interactions with AI.

#### 6. Support Group Meeting (60-65 minutes):



In this scene, Atlas participates in a support group for trauma survivors. This group provides a safe space for her to share her experiences and connect with

others who have faced similar challenges. By opening up about her feelings, Atlas begins to find solidarity and understanding among the group members, which helps her work through her emotional struggles.

Initially, Atlas is hesitant to trust others, reflecting her past trauma and fear of vulnerability. However, as she listens to the stories of others in the group, she starts to realize that she is not alone in her pain. This sense of community becomes an important part of her healing process.

During the meeting, Atlas shares her story about losing her mother and how that loss has affected her relationship with technology, especially AI. Her willingness to express her emotions marks a significant turning point in her journey. It shows that she is starting to confront her fears rather than hiding from them.

Eventually, Atlas decides to sync with Smith, the AI she has been wary of throughout the film. This decision represents a major breakthrough for her. By choosing to trust Smith, she demonstrates growth and a willingness to integrate

technology into her life positively. This shift in perspective reflects her journey from fear and mistrust to acceptance and collaboration.

The successful syncing with Smith symbolizes Atlas's progress in overcoming her trauma. It highlights how she can move from viewing AI as a threat to seeing it as a valuable partner in navigating life's challenges. This evolution underscores the potential for healing and recovery through connection—both with others and with technology.

Overall, this scene emphasizes the importance of support systems in overcoming trauma. It illustrates how sharing experiences can foster healing and build trust, allowing individuals like Atlas to rebuild their lives after profound loss. This revision maintains clarity while ensuring all essential points are included. It provides a comprehensive understanding of how the "Support Group Meeting" impacts Atlas's character development and emotional state in relation to her trauma and interactions with AI.



## 7. Emotional Breakdown (75-80 minutes):



In this powerful scene, Atlas opens up about her deep-seated emotions, revealing the heavy burden of her inner struggles. This moment is significant as it allows her to express the impact of her past trauma on her current mental health. The trauma she grapples with primarily stems from the loss of her mother, which has left a lasting mark on her life.

As Atlas shares her feelings, she confronts the profound sadness and anger that come from losing her mother. This emotional breakdown highlights how this loss shapes her fears and anxieties, affecting her relationships and interactions with others. It shows that beneath her resilient exterior lies a vulnerable

person who has been deeply affected by her experiences.

This scene is crucial for understanding Atlas's character. It humanizes her and provides insight into the emotional challenges she faces daily. By allowing herself to be vulnerable and express her pain, Atlas takes an important step toward healing. It demonstrates that acknowledging and confronting one's emotions is essential for recovery.

The emotional breakdown also serves to connect Atlas with the audience on a deeper level. Viewers can empathize with her struggles, making her journey feel relatable and real. This moment emphasizes that strength does not mean being free from pain; rather, it involves facing that pain and learning to cope with it.

Overall, this scene encapsulates the weight of Atlas's trauma and the importance of emotional expression in the healing process. It marks a pivotal moment in her journey, showing that vulnerability can lead to growth and resilience as she navigates her relationship with AI and technology. This revision maintains clarity while

ensuring all essential points are included. It provides a comprehensive understanding of how the "Emotional Breakdown" impacts Atlas's character development and emotional state in relation to her trauma and interactions with AI.

#### 8. Resolution and Healing (100-110 minutes):



In the climax of the film, Atlas finds a way to heal from her trauma through a significant act of bravery. This moment is crucial as it symbolizes her growth and transformation throughout the story. After facing her fears and confronting her past, Atlas begins to rebuild her trust in technology, particularly in Smith, the AI she had previously feared.

This scene highlights Atlas's journey from fear and mistrust to acceptance and collaboration. By finally trusting Smith, she

demonstrates that she has learned to navigate her emotional struggles and overcome the trauma that once controlled her life. The act of syncing with Smith represents not just a technological connection but also a deep emotional breakthrough for Atlas.

As she embraces this new partnership, Atlas shows that healing is possible when one confronts their fears and allows themselves to be vulnerable. This resolution reflects a broader theme in the film: the importance of trust—both in oneself and in technology. It emphasizes that while technology can pose risks, it can also provide support and assistance when approached with caution and understanding.

Overall, this resolution marks a pivotal turning point in Atlas's character arc. It illustrates her ability to transform her traumatic experiences into strength, allowing her to move forward with hope and resilience. The film concludes on a note of optimism, suggesting that healing is achievable even after profound loss and fear. This revision maintains clarity while ensuring all

essential points are included. It provides a comprehensive understanding of how the "Resolution and Healing" impacts Atlas's character development and emotional state in relation to her trauma and interactions with AI.

#### **D. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the film "Atlas" presents a complex narrative about trauma shaped by interactions with artificial intelligence (AI). The protagonist, Atlas, grapples with deep-rooted trauma stemming from the loss of her mother and the invasive actions of Harlan, the robot. Her journey through fear, mistrust, and eventual acceptance highlights the nuanced impact of technology on human psychology. As Atlas navigates her emotional struggles through flashbacks, confrontations, and support systems, she gradually moves toward healing and reconciliation with AI. Ultimately, the film underscores themes of resilience and recovery while emphasizing the delicate balance between human emotions and technological advancements.

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