
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

By: Sam, Alex, and Emma

Nurse Ratched is a control freak...

What is a control freak?

Control Freak (psychology-related slang) is:

An individual who **attempts to undermine other people** based on how one **dictates everything** is done around them.

OR

A person who feels an **obsessive need to exercise control** over themselves and others and to take command of any situation.





How?

Nurse Ratched controls others with psychological manipulation.

Psychological Manipulation: a type of social influence that aims to change the behavior or perception of others through abuse, deceptive, or underhanded tactics.

3 common types of manipulation:

- **Victimhood**
- **Guilt-Baiting**
- **Manipulation of Facts**

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Our Claim: Nurse Ratched was a control freak who used manipulation to obtain her “dictator-like” power.

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**10 times Nurse Ratched took
complete control, lost
complete control, and
manipulated others...**

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Manipulation

— Scene 1:

“The nurse started steadily bringing in clippings from the newspapers that told about wrecked boats and sudden storms on the coast” (Kesey, 209).



Scene 2:



“The nurse got the wondering started by pasting up a statement of the patients’ financial doings over the last few months” (Kesey, 262).

Scene 3:

“It might be beneficial that he receive some shock therapy--unless he realizes his mistakes. All he has to do is *admit* he was wrong” (Kesey, 280).



Scene 4:



“What worries me, Billy...is how your poor mother is going to take this” (Kesey, 314).

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**Needed
Control**

Scene 1:

“So she really lets herself go and her painted smile twists, stretches to an open snarl, and she blows up bigger and bigger” (Keseey, 5).



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Scene 2:

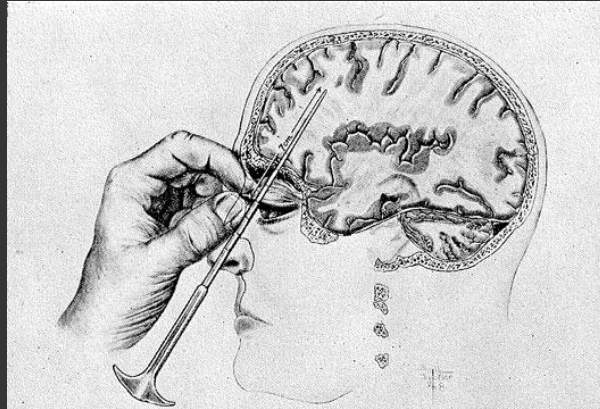
“The Chief’s vote makes 21! And by God if that ain’t majority I’ll eat my hat.”



“‘The meeting was closed,’ she says” (Keseey, 142).

Scene 3:

“Chart at the bottom that said in heavy black letters, MCMURPHY, RANDLE P. POST OPERATIVE. And below this was written in ink, LOBOTOMY” (Kesey, 321).

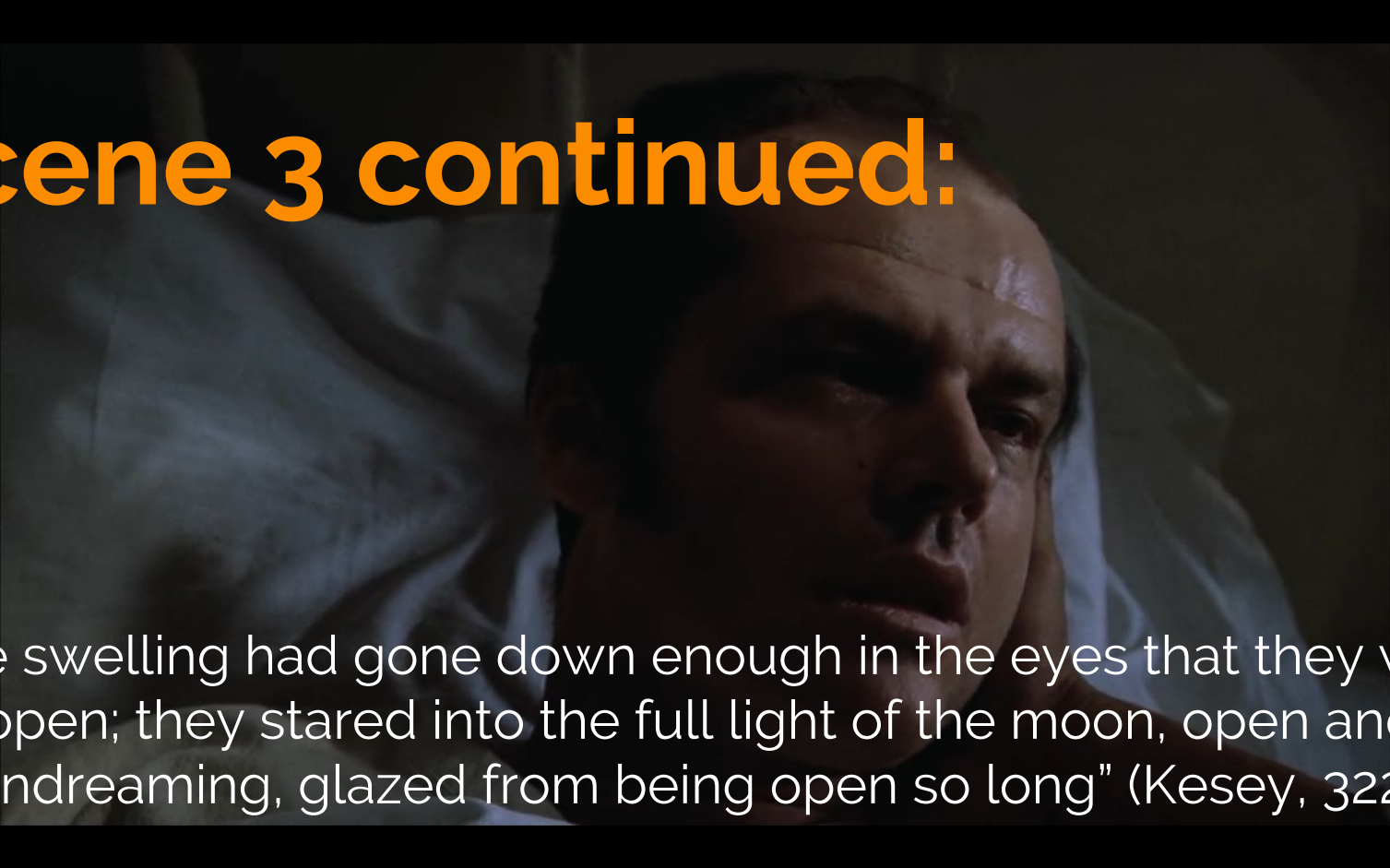


Lobotomy:

Lobotomy: a surgical operation involving incision into the prefrontal lobe of the brain, formerly used to treat mental illness.



Scene 3 continued:



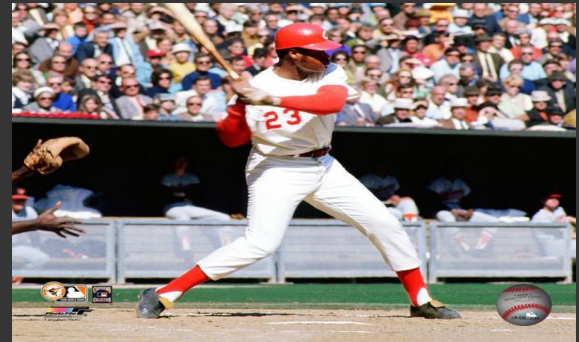
“The swelling had gone down enough in the eyes that they were open; they stared into the full light of the moon, open and undreaming, glazed from being open so long” (Kesey, 322).

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Lost Control

Scene 1:

“And we’re all sitting there lined up in front of that blanked-out TV set, watching the gray screen just like we could see the baseball game clear as day, and she’s ranting and screaming behind us” (Kesey, 144).



Scene 2:

“The glass came apart like water splashing,
and the nurse threw her hands to her ears”
(Kesey, 201).



In conclusion...

Nurse Ratched is a control freak that uses different manipulation tactics to gain control.

Who can define what a control freak is?

Can you think of any other movie/book characters that are a control freak or use some of the different types of manipulation?



Citations

Ni, Preston. "14 Signs of Psychological and Emotional Manipulation." *Psychology Today*, Sussex Publishers, 2015, www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/communication-success/201510/14-signs-psychological-and-emotional-manipulation.

