

Love and Belonging Needs in Dustin Thao's *You've Reached Sam*

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19320111@student.uin-malang.ac.id**ABSTRACT**

*This study aimed to find the love and belonging needs experienced by the main character in fulfilling her needs in *You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao. According to Maslow (1943), the needs for love and belonging created a human bond, as humans were social creatures who craved interaction with others. The data source was a novel entitled *You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao, published in November 2021 with Wednesday Books. Thao's *You've Reached Sam* was a novel that contained many characteristics of the Hierarchy of Needs. This research fell into the category of literary criticism by applying a psychological approach and using Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory, which focused on Love and Belonging Needs. Furthermore, the researcher used the reading technique and classified data based on problems related to the research. From this study, two main results were found. First, the researcher identified four forms of love and belonging needs in the novel: friendship relationships, family relationships, romantic relationships, and social activities. Second, the main character fulfilled her love and belonging needs through mutual partners. The researcher found three individuals who fulfilled the main character's needs for love and belonging, as depicted in the novel: her boyfriend Sam, her mother, and her best friend Mika.*

Keywords: *Hierarchy of Needs, Love and Belonging Needs, Psychological Approach*

INTRODUCTION

The first chapter of the study is an introduction which includes an overview general in the preparation according to the title. This section discusses the brief background of the study, the research questions and the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the practical contribution to knowledge or significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, previous studies and research gap, and review of related literature.

Love and loss are two things that have their own time. Everyone has a different love story, some go their way, some don't go as expected. In reality human life cannot last eternally. The love story shown in the novel *You've Reached Sam* is of course relevant to everyone's love story that everyone will lose a loved one at some point; it could be a friend, family member, or romantic partner. Making peace with fate is the best option rather than fighting the fate that has been determined as shown in the novel *You've Reached Sam*, a novel that teaches how important it is to say goodbye.

You've Reached Sam is the debut novel by Dustin Thao, Dustin Thao is a Vietnamese-American writer based in Southern California. He graduated from Amherst College with a B.A. in Political Science, and is in a Ph.D program at Northwestern University. He writes contemporary young adult fiction *You've Reached Sam* is his YA debut published in November 2021 with Wednesday Books. The characters chosen in the novel *You've Reached Sam* experience a very complicated situation in their love story. This makes the romantic genre in the novel clearly visible, this novel invites the reader to dissolve in the twists and turns of the love of a pair of lovers in the characters in this novel. The strength of the problems discussed in the story, the differences in many narratives, and many additional features make it one of the most well-liked novels on social media.

This topic is interesting to discuss because the feeling of love is a feeling that all individuals have, the process of getting love is also passed in the same way. Therefore, this topic is very interesting to be discussed in this study. The individual's need to feel affection as well as a feeling of belonging and being owned makes the researcher use Abraham Maslow's theory of love and belonging needs (1943) to analyze this novel. The need for love is a reciprocal need such as loving and being loved, giving affection to others and receiving affection from others (Retnaningtyas, 2007).

Maslow (1943) explained why humans fall in love. Love is divided into two, namely Deficiency Love and Being Love. Deficiency love is a feeling of love caused by a deficiency, namely making oneself the focal point, whereas Being Love tends to have no intention of taking advantage of the person who loves. Love is essential for preventing issues like loneliness, despair, and anxiety. It is crucial that people experience love and acceptance from others. Through friendship, romantic partners, social activities, family relations, social communities, workplace groups, etc., one can fulfill these needs. Maslow (1943) explains relationships with friends, family, and lovers on a personal level are important. Maintaining good mental health is crucial to meeting social requirements for love, affection and belonging. It is possible for someone to overcome loneliness and be happier. Satisfying extra wants is facilitated by strong relationships or bonds with others.

Several previous studies were used to support this research. Some of them researched using a psychological approach with the same theory of the hierarchy of needs. (Ronie & Hellystia, 2019) in the novel *Flawed* by Cecelia Ahern used the same methods to analyze the novel. This study was intended to find out which hierarchy of needs had been fulfilled by the main character. (Soraya, 2018) in the novel *Little Earthquakes* by Weiner was interested in analyzing the character's power to fulfill the hierarchy of needs. (Praditya & Wulandari, 2019) in the novel *Divergent* by Veronica Roth explored how the characters achieved self-actualization after all of the basic needs were met one by one. The researchers depicted each basic need in order to reach the highest needs. After satisfying those basic needs, the researcher then reached self-actualization. (Pangastuti & Murtiningrum, 2021) in the movie *500 Days of*

Summer analyzed the fulfillment of the main character's needs and how self-actualization characteristics were portrayed. (Kaur, 2018) attempted to describe Maslow's need hierarchy theory as a motivational framework.

Several other previous studies applied the hierarchy of needs theory with a focus on love and belonging needs. (Farlina & Khaleda, 2019) in the novel *The Girl on the Train* analyzed how the main character attempted to fulfill these needs by riding the train every day and how she sought safety and love and belonging needs using Maslow's theory. (Permana et al., 2021) in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green exposed how the main characters yearned to fulfill their love and belonging needs over other needs. (Lumbantoruan & Evyanto, 2021) in the novel *Persuasion* by Jane Austen examined love and belonging needs, focusing on how humans strive to meet these needs and the effects of their absence. (Ruth & Satria, 2020) in the novel *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes explained three sources of love and belonging: family, friends, and intimacy. (Hatuaruk & Rudianto, 2022) in the movie *500 Days of Summer* found data related to love and belonging needs, such as intimacy and friendship.

Based on previous studies, even though many researchers have analyzed Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, no one has applied this theory to the novel *You've Reached Sam*. This research is expected to provide new insights into Maslow's theory within this novel, particularly in the aspect of love and belonging needs. Additionally, this study aims to offer readers an understanding of love and belonging needs in literary works and the ways these needs can be fulfilled.

In this study, it was important to use the hierarchy of needs theory with a focus on love and belonging needs. The situations and feelings of the characters in this novel symbolized love and belonging needs. The constraints and struggles of the main character's love also became reasons why the researcher focused this study on love and belonging needs in *You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao.

After describing the background above, the researcher aimed to answer the problems of the study below: 1) What are the love and belonging needs of the main character found in Thao's *You've Reached Sam*? 2) How does the main character in Thao's *You've Reached Sam* fulfill the love and belonging needs in her life?

RESEARCH METHOD

The research methodology used in this study was described in this chapter. The researcher explained how she examined the novel in this chapter. It contained the research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis.

This study was part of literary criticism because it explored the hierarchy of human needs in literary works. The researcher located this study to analyze the literary work *You've Reached Sam* written by Dustin Thao as the object. In conducting this research, the researcher applied a psychological approach to studying human needs in literary works. Then, the researcher applied the most appropriate theory after determining the issue, namely the theory of Human Motivation by Abraham Maslow (1943), called the hierarchy of needs. The researcher analyzed the love and belonging needs of the main character and the ways to fulfill these needs.

The data of this research used a novel entitled *You've Reached Sam* written by Dustin Thao, published in November 2021 with Wednesday Books. This novel contained 239 pages with 18 chapters. The research data were presented in the form of words, phrases, sentences,

paragraphs, and dialogues. All data were taken from the novel *You've Reached Sam*, which showed the love and belonging needs faced by Julie as the main character.

In this research, the researcher took several steps to collect data. To collect data, the researcher followed these steps. The first step was reading the novel using the close-reading method to understand the story at a glance. The second step was discovering primary data related to research problems by underlining, highlighting, and making notes. The third step was classifying the data according to Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, focusing on the love and belonging needs. Then, this data was used in the data analysis process to uncover the love and belonging needs with the purpose of answering the research problem in this study. The data were collected and examined by the researcher after being obtained from various sources. In this case, there were several steps that the researcher formulated to conduct this systematic analysis. The first step was identifying available data related to love and belonging needs. The second step was classifying the data that indicated the love and belonging needs theory that the main character in *You've Reached Sam* had and how she fulfilled them using Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. The third step was interpreting the data that had been identified. The last step was concluding the research by drawing a conclusion and answering the research questions. As a result, using a psychological approach and the hierarchy of needs theory, the main character's love and belonging needs in *You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao were discovered.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

This chapter provided the results of data analysis to find the answers to the problems of the study about the love and belonging needs and how the main character fulfilled her needs. This chapter was divided into two parts. The first part explained the love and belonging needs of the main character found in this novel. The second part discussed the main character's ways of fulfilling her needs.

Love and Belonging Needs of the Main Character Found in Thao's You've Reached Sam

From the analysis of the researcher, it was described that there were love and belonging needs of the main character found in the novel *You've Reached Sam*. The main character, named Julie, was a woman who struggled to realize her well-planned dreams for her life. Julie faced a long and complicated journey of finding love and belonging in several aspects of her life. According to Maslow (1943), the third-level needs, love and belonging, involved the desire to establish interpersonal relationships and belong to a group. Love and belonging could come from many sources. People might have met these needs through friendships, family time, social activities, romantic relationships, and community activities. So, from here, it could be told how Julie searched for her love and belonging needs.

Friendship

Abraham Maslow (1943) stated that people needed love and belonging from friendship. They felt they had to be recognized and have a place in social organizations, work environments, relationships at school, and society. Love and belonging offered help to individuals to have certainty in their ability to contribute appropriately to decision-making that advanced community progress in various communities within society.

Datum 1

Without saying anything, Jay slides a box of mango slices in front of me. A sympathy offering. I smile at him and take a slice. Then Jay pushes a bag of homemade cookies toward me, along with those mini green tea Kit Kats that he knows are my favorite. They're his favorite, too. I try to push them back but he insists. "How about we split it," he says. He's always been sweet this way.

Rachel smiles at me. "We missed you, Julie," she says.

"We've been thinking about you. We're glad to have lunch with you again."

"And we miss Sam, too," Jay says mournfully. "We're really sorry... about what happened." (Thao, 2021, P. 45)

Based on the quotation above, the main character in the novel, Julie, had school friends who cared about her; they were Yuki, Rachel, and Jay. Julie shared a table with her friends in the canteen. They missed the moments with Julie after she had not been to class for a long time. Jay welcomed her by offering Julie's favorite food; he knew Julie well. Rachel and Yuki stated that they missed Julie and that they were worried too, but they were grateful to have Julie back and have lunch together. They were also concerned about the death of Sam, Julie's boyfriend. After Julie returned to school and met them, she felt she still had support from her friends because many other school friends blamed her for Sam's death. Jay, Yuki, and Rachel were Julie's friends who faithfully accompanied, understood, and provided support to her until the end of the story. Maslow (1943) stated that regardless of the size of their social group, people needed to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance. Julie felt that way from them—her friends.

Family

Abraham Maslow viewed being appreciated and recognized in the family and environment as a way to feel comfortable and satisfied. This was just like what happened to the main character in the novel *You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao. A crucial factor in explaining why people fell in love was family. Values, family interactions, and even parents' religion influenced how intimate their relationships should be when they became involved with other people as adults. If their parents did not teach and model their needs well and harmoniously, they would ultimately lack values and hope in their relationships in adulthood.

Datum 2

"Sometimes I wish I could skip a few years into the future to see where I end up. So I don't waste all this time planning things out, only to have none of it go right."

"That's not a way to live life," my mother says, her hands gripping the wheel. "Always worrying about what comes next, instead of living in the moment. I see this in a lot of my students. And I'm seeing it in you..." She looks at me. "You're living ahead of yourself, Julie. Making decisions, and wanting things done, only to set up the future."

"What's so wrong with that?"

"Life will pass right by you,..." (Thao, 2021, p. 220)

The datum above showed that Julie was talking about her worries about the future, where all the plans she had built well did not work out as she had expected. Julie's mother encouraged her to believe that life would end up offering more than she wanted. Julie's mother felt that many children Julie's age felt the same way; she had seen that at the school where she taught, and now in her own daughter. She wanted Julie not to be pessimistic or give up. Even though Julie experienced disappointment, she wanted her to stay enthusiastic about rebuilding her plans because she believed that beautiful things would come for her daughter. Julie's mother tried to influence Julie to enjoy how fate took her, to keep trying, and to keep making future

decisions, as life would pass by Julie. Family relationships, along with other aspects of human interaction, were increasingly seen in terms of mental well-being and personal happiness (Horwitz, 2007).

Romantic Relationship

According to Abraham Maslow in (Koltko-Rivera, 2006), the love needs of a partner were the requirement for love, for respect, for self-respect, for fellowship, for self-fulfillment, for singularity, for cherishing, and so on. This also happened to Julie and Sam, not as ordinary teenagers but with the chemistry they had created between them, which could not be broken even by death.

Datum 3

"It's okay," I say to ease him. "I'm just glad you picked up the phone." "I'm glad you called me," he says. "Thought I'd never hear from you again. Tears form behind my eyes. "I thought I lost you forever. I missed you."

"I missed you, too. I missed you infinity." (Thao, 2021, p. 52)

Based on the quote above, it could be seen that Julie and Sam had a conversation on the telephone. Julie was grateful that they still had a connection to be together after Sam's death. This was, of course, strange for Julie because how could they not be separated by death? Julie continued to be haunted by that question, but Sam never got an answer to her question. The most important thing for Julie was that Sam had returned to her, even for a moment. Julie was grateful that Sam picked up the phone, and Sam as well. She thought she would never hear Sam's voice again, and she really missed her boyfriend. Sam also missed Julie infinitely, and they were complementary to each other. According to Maslow (Griffin, 1994), love is an effort to satisfy a need by understanding particular special people.

Social Activity

According to Abraham Maslow (1943), the need for love and belonging involved feeling loved and accepted. This also included the need to feel part of a social group. Importantly, these needs encompassed both feeling loved and having feelings of love towards others. The same thing happened to Julie and her work environment. Julie worked part-time at a bookstore and had good relationships with her coworkers and boss. The work environment was like a second family for Julie because they truly loved her. This was evident in the quote below, when after Sam's death she had stopped working and eventually decided to return. Her boss and coworkers welcomed her back and accepted her with warmth and understanding.

Datum 4

I stare down at the journal, thinking about this. "I'll try, Mr. Lee. Thank you for this. And I'm also sorry for not letting you know I was gone-"

Mr. Lee holds up a finger to stop me. "No apologies necessary." He opens the bookcase door and gestures toward the store. "The books welcome you back."

I always feel at home when I'm in the store. I could spend hours and hours in here. There's a comfort in being surrounded by walls of books. (Thao, 2021, p. 59)

Based on the quote above, it could be seen that Julie's boss, Mr. Lee, supported Julie's revival by allowing her to return to work at her bookstore. Mr. Lee understood Julie's situation

because he had witnessed the change in Julie's life, so he welcomed her new chapter. Mr. Lee greeted Julie very warmly and kindly, making her feel at home and allowing her to work in a comfortable environment surrounded by good people. As Maslow's theory (1943) stated, regardless of the size of their social group, people need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance.

The Main Character's Ways to Fulfilling Love and Belonging Needs in Thao's *You've Reached Sam*

The novel *You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao presented the main character, Julie, a woman who struggled to continue her life despite many challenges. Julie was surrounded by many people who loved her. Based on the researcher's analysis above, Julie found the need for love and belonging through friendships, family, romantic relationships, and social activities. However, the many forms of needs found did not guarantee that these needs would be fulfilled. According to Maslow (Goble, 1987), the need for love and belonging had to be based on sincerity. For one to truly understand love, they had to give and receive. One had to be able to create love in order to better understand it. A relationship could not be separated from reciprocal conditions. In family relationships, friendships, companionship, and romance, everything required a reciprocal response so that the relationship could run in harmony. In short, the existence of a relationship meant that a 'mutual connection' had been established between the parties involved in the relationship.

Julie is Giving Love and Belonging Needs to Other People

Giving love to others was one of the concepts in Maslow's theory (1943). Giving love involves trying to fill the void by understanding and accepting the chosen other person. The principle of giving was a form of effort by each individual in a relationship to always provide the best for the continuity of the relationship, regardless of the response from their relationship partner. The point was to always try to understand the partner's expectations and strive for the best.

Boyfriend

Datum 5

"I wish you were here," I say. "I wish you were lying right next to me. I wish I could look over and see you smiling back. I wish I could run a hand through your hair, and know you're real. I wish we could finish school and graduate together. So we can finally leave this place like we always planned, and find an apartment somewhere, and figure out the rest of our lives together so I don't have to do it alone. I wish you were alive again and I wish I had picked up the phone that night, so that all this would be different, and everything would go back to before..." (Thao, 2021, p. 114)

Based on the quote above, it showed that Julie's expression of feelings for Sam indicated that Sam was part of all her plans. When Sam was gone, Julie hoped that all her plans could return to the way they were before, when Sam was by her side. The data above illustrated how much Julie trusted Sam, as she wanted to finish school and graduate with him, complete her plans together, such as leaving Seattle and studying in a big city, having a comfortable place to live for the two of them, and perfecting everything together—not alone as it was now. Julie wanted Sam to live again and be by her side like before. Julie gave love to Sam by inviting him

to be part of her future plans, just like Maslow (Poston, 2009) stated, a person can feel a sense of love and belonging when they put effort into establishing a relationship with another person. The need for a love partner was included in this.

Mother

Datum 6

My mother and I have connected again. We've spent these last few weeks together, having dinner every night, watching TV in the living room, shopping, and taking weekend trips to the beach-things we used to do. She said she missed spending time with me. I didn't realize how much I missed it, too. (Thao, 2021, p. 220)

Based on the quote above, Julie gave love to her mother when both of them felt they no longer had time to spend together. Julie's mother worked as a lecturer at a university in their city. Even though she divided her time between her daughter and her work, her mother always made time to prepare breakfast for Julie before she went to school. Julie, who was also busy solving the problems in her life one by one, rarely had much time at home. She had returned to work at the bookstore and spent a lot of time outside the house. As a result, she and her mother missed their time together. When that moment arrived, Julie gave all her attention to her mother, and her mother did the same. They spent time together and did their favorite activities again, such as having dinner every night, watching TV in the living room, shopping together, and spending weekends with trips to the beach. Those were the moments that Julie and her mother missed, and they reconnected, fulfilling each other's needs. According to Maslow (Griffin, 1994), love is an effort to satisfy a need by understanding particular special people, just like Julie and her mother, who made efforts to fulfill their longing for moments together.

Best Friend

Datum 7

But once I reconnected Mika and Sam again, it became so much more than that. Mika looks like herself again, and the two of us are spending more time together. I think the call gave her the peace of mind she needed and a new starting point to heal. And now that there are no secrets between us, it feels like we can finally be there for each other. (Thao, 2021, p. 157-158)

Based on the quote above, it shows that Julie gave her love to her best friend and her boyfriend's cousin, Mika. Julie gave Mika the opportunity to talk to Sam on the phone, even though Sam had forbidden it because it would jeopardize their second chance. However, Julie still wanted to bring Sam and Mika together via telephone, regardless of the risk it posed to her. Mika, who initially didn't believe how Sam could come back to life on the phone, slowly began to believe it, even though it didn't make sense to her. After Mika and Sam were connected, Julie and Mika's relationship improved, and they spent more time together, becoming best friends again. They strengthened and calmed each other. Their friendship was rekindled, with no secrets or misunderstandings like before. As Mika told Julie at that time, after losing Sam, she didn't want to lose Julie too, and Julie kept her promise to Sam that she would look after Mika for him. Their meeting began because of Sam, and their friendship was reconnected because of Sam. They spent many moments together, sharing happiness and supporting each other (Maslow, 1943).

Julie is Getting Love and Belonging Needs from Other People

In addition, to fulfill love and belonging needs and to receive feedback from Julie's love, it was necessary for her to get love in return. Receiving love is a way to relieve the pain of loneliness and rejection. Each individual will enter the Initiating phase when they begin interacting with other individuals as the start of a relationship. In this phase, individuals not only place hopes or expectations on the others they meet, but also raise certain stereotypes and judgments (Knapp, et al., 2013).

Boyfriend

Datum 8

"It's too cloudy out. You can't see anything. I thought this would work. I wanted to surprise you," he says. I squint at the sky. "Surprise me with what? Stars?"

"No. I wanted to show you Saturn's rings. For that story you're writing in class. You said you wished you could see it so you could describe it better." He leans down, checking the lens of the telescope again. "Dang it."

"I can't believe you went out of your way to do this."

"I emailed the astronomy department at the university and everything," he tells me. "And they're only letting me borrow the telescope for tonight."

"Sam..." I whisper, and touch his back.

"Thank you for this," I whisper. "But you didn't even get to see it."

"I'm good with my imagination." We both smile. (Thao, 2021, p. 40-41)

Based on the quote above, it shows that Sam gave Julie an extraordinary surprise. Sam took Julie somewhere to spend the night together. As usual, Julie was always happy when she was around Sam, but this time she was shocked by Sam's surprise. Julie was taken to a place where there was a telescope pointed at the sky. Unfortunately, the sky that night was cloudy, so the surprise couldn't be seen from the telescope. Sam's goal in making a surprise for Julie was so that Julie could see Saturn's rings, because Saturn's rings were Julie's idea for a writing assignment in her class. Julie once said that she wanted to see Saturn's rings so she could write about it better, but she didn't expect that Sam had put so much effort into fulfilling her seemingly ridiculous request. Sam even wrote a message to the astronomy department at the university, and they allowed him to borrow the telescope for his girlfriend, Julie. Maslow (Poston, 2009) said that a person can feel a sense of love and belonging when they put effort into establishing a relationship with another person, and the need for a love partner is included in this. Even though the sky was cloudy and it was difficult to see Saturn's rings clearly, Julie felt that Sam was really trying everything to make her happy, and Sam always succeeded in making Julie feel loved and cherished.

Mother

Datum 9

Her fingers tap against the wheel. "Is there anything else on your mind?" she asks after some silence. "You know you can always talk to me."

"It's Sam..." I tell her.

"I'm still thinking about him. About how he won't get to finish school or graduate with us, you know? I mean, how am I supposed to think about college and the rest of my life, when his was cut so short? I know it's not good for me. But I keep wishing he was still here."

My mother turns to me, and runs a hand through my hair. "I do, too," she says softly. "And I wish I knew what to say to make things better, or at least tell you how to go through this, Julie. But the truth is, no one experiences grief the same way, and we all come out of it differently. It's okay to wish for those things, and even imagine him here with you. Because those moments inside our heads are just as real as anything else." "Don't let anyone tell you otherwise..." (Thao, 2021, p. 221)

Based on the quote above, it showed that Julie's mother had a deep talk with her daughter. Julie's mother invited Julie to talk about whatever was in her head, sharing the thoughts that were bothering her. Julie answered honestly about her relationship with Sam. Julie was used to discussing anything with her mother openly, but what Julie went through when she lost Sam, not many people understood Julie's true feelings. About herself and Sam and all their beautiful plans, which had to be stopped and replaced with new plans. Julie said how she felt about college and the future if she still felt grief. Very feelingly, Julie's mother did not blame the feelings that Julie expressed, instead she validated those feelings. Julie didn't have to let go of Sam, it was okay if Julie put Sam in her heart, but she had to help Sam live somehow. According to Maslow (Goble, 1987), the need for love and belonging must be based on sincerity. For us to truly understand love, we must give and receive. We must be able to create love in order to better understand it. This was reflected in Julie's mother, who loved her child so much and knew about Julie's true feelings. The mother's love given to Julie from birth until then was able to understand Julie's feelings better than anyone else. Her mother would be the number 1 person in supporting Julie's continued life.

Best Friend

Datum 10

We both smile. I have a sip of coffee.

Mika touches my hand. "I missed you," she whispers, giving me a squeeze.

"I missed you, too." As much as I tell myself I like being alone, I feel a rush of relief to see a familiar face. To see Mika again. (Thao, 2021, p. 7)

Based on the quote above, it could be seen that after what happened, Mika couldn't lie to herself that she missed Julie. Mika and Julie had the same emotions after losing the person they loved, Sam. These unstable emotions made their relationship strained. But Julie invited Mika to go to a cafe and improve their relationship. They loved each other in every part of their lives. Mika was willing to defend and fight with her friend for badmouthing Julie, and Julie also promised Sam to continue to be there and look after Mika for him. They fulfilled each other, both wanting to fight for a long time. A friendship that didn't want to lose each other, their true friendship, showed how much the size of their social group, people need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance (Maslow, 1943). It was not unusual for them as individuals to expect something from other individuals in the same relationship. Loving each other and communicating feelings to each other was the way an individual felt loved in the way they wanted to be loved. With this mutual feeling, it made a relationship feel equal to each other. The importance of equal feelings was so that one individual did not feel like he or she loved another individual less or more. This was what made a relationship run healthy.

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

Based on the quote above, it could be seen that after what happened, Mika couldn't lie to herself that she missed Julie. Mika and Julie shared the same emotions after losing the person they loved, Sam. These unstable emotions had strained their relationship. However, Julie invited Mika to a café to improve their bond. They loved each other deeply in every aspect of their lives. Mika was willing to defend and fight for her friend against those who badmouthed Julie, and Julie promised Sam to continue to be there for Mika, looking after her for him. They fulfilled each other's emotional needs, both wanting to fight for their friendship in the long run. Their friendship, which didn't want to lose each other, reflected a true bond, highlighting how much people need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance within their social groups (Maslow, 1943). It wasn't unusual for them, as individuals, to expect something from each other in the same relationship. Loving each other and communicating feelings was the way each felt loved in the way they wanted to be loved. With this mutual understanding, it made their relationship feel balanced and equal. The importance of equal feelings ensured that neither person felt they loved the other less or more, which was essential in maintaining a healthy relationship.

The researcher of this study hope that it will be useful for readers and increasing awareness of the love and belonging needs. This study only focuses on the topic love and belonging needs in aspect of psychology. This novel is very related to the issues experienced by today's generation of young people. As a result, the researcher suggests the application of a psychological approach. The researcher is aware of this thesis still has many shortcomings, therefore the researcher would be happy if that happened used in further research on different topics and can be useful for theory that has been used.

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