

**LOVE AND BELONGING NEEDS OF MAIN CHARACTER IN  
DUSTIN THAO'S *YOU'VE REACHED SAM***

**THESIS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG**

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DUSTIN THAO'S *YOU'VE REACHED SAM***

**THESIS**

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**2023**

## STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled “**Love and Belonging Needs of Main Character in Dustin Thao’s *You’ve Reached Sam***” is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

Malang, 13 November 2023

The researcher



Vinsa Erelia Izza

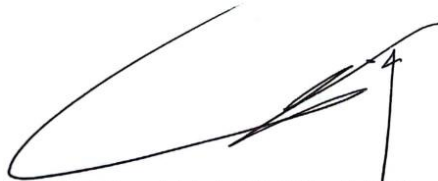
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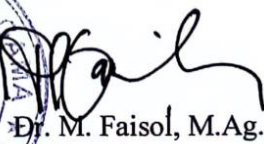
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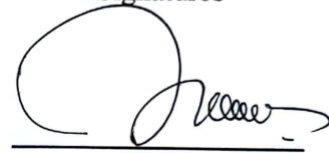
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## **MOTTO**

*“We’ll find a way, we always have. If there’s no way, let’s draw the map, a whole map again. So, no worries”*

- RM of BTS -

*“All questions in our heads don’t have to be answered now, it takes time. Just be sure that Allah will also give the best answer at the best time”*

- Myself -

## **DEDICATION**

I proudly dedicate this thesis to myself who was able to go through the chaos in my life to write this thesis.

Myself who was able to complete this thesis by working hard to maintain my mental and physical health from many disturbing factors.

For all the invisible struggles that can change me into my newest self,

I definitely win.

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Gratitude and praise the researcher prays to Allah SWT for his blessing and mercies, which give me health and strength. Also, my peace and salutation are always blessed upon Prophet Muhammad SAW, who led us out of the darkness into the light. Because of the blessing and merciful of God, finally I can finish this thesis entitled “Love and Belonging Needs of Main Character Dustin Thao’s *You’ve Reached Sam*” as the requirement for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S.) at Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

Assistance from various parties who have provided support, encouragement, direction and prayers for me to complete my thesis cannot be separated from the creation of this thesis. Therefore, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my beloved parents, Endro Suyono and Almh. Dwi Indar Sriwahyu Retnani, I would like to say thank you for all the countless love for me and thank you for being the reason for achieving my degree. Also, my stepmother Yeni Ernawati thank you for giving me a lot of support and encouragement. To my beloved grandmother, Yasminah, I would like to say thank you for the endless prayers for me.

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Humanities, also all lecturers of English Literature who provided a lot of knowledge from the first semester to the end of this semester. To my advisor, Dr. Muzakki Afifuddin, M.Pd., thank you for the guidance, support, and suggestions and time for me in working this thesis so that it can be completed and written well.

My sincere gratitude goes also to my supporter friends, Riska, Izzah, Muhim, Vella and Nurrisca, thank you for the existence and happiness given to me during the process of my thesis. To my online encouragement, all BTS members and Rayyanza Malik Ahmad, thank you for the presence which can brighten my day on every bad day I have. Last but not least, I wanna thank me, I wanna thank myself for always trying to build a beautiful journey to make an extraordinary history.

Suggestions and constructive criticism are highly welcomed in this thesis. The researcher hopes that this thesis will be useful and informative for readers, as well as researcher.

Malang, 13 November 2023  
The researcher



Vinsa Erelia Izza  
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## ABSTRACT

**Izza, Vinsa Erelia** (2023) Love and Belonging Needs of Main Character in Dustin Thao's *You've Reached Sam*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Dr. Muzakki Afifuddin, M.Pd.

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

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This study aims to find 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 of love and belonging creates a human bond and humans are social creatures that crave interaction with others. The data source is a novel entitled *You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao, published in November 2021 with Wednesday Book, Thao's *You've Reached Sam* is a novel with many characteristics of the Hierarchy of Needs. This research is in the category of literary criticism by applying a psychological approach and using Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory which focuses on Love and Belonging Needs. Furthermore, the researcher uses reading technique and classifying data based on problems related to research. From this study, it is found two results of this study. First, the researcher found four forms of love and belonging needs in this novel, such as friendship relationships, family relationships, romantic relationships, and social activities. Second, the main character fulfills her love and belonging needs through mutual partners, the researcher found three people who fulfilled the main character's needs for love and belonging as told in the novel, namely from her boyfriend Sam, from her mother, and from her best friend Mika.

## ABSTRAK

**Izza, Vinsa Erelia** (2023) *Kebutuhan Cinta dan Rasa Memiliki dari Tokoh Utama dalam You've Reached Sam* karya Dustin Thao. Tesis Sarjana. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing Dr. Muzakki Afifuddin, M.Pd.

*Kata Kunci: Hierarki Kebutuhan, Kebutuhan Cinta dan Rasa Memiliki, Pendekatan Psikologis*

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Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan kebutuhan cinta dan rasa memiliki yang dialami tokoh utama untuk memenuhi kebutuhannya dalam novel *You've Reached Sam* karya Dustin Thao. Menurut Maslow (1943) kebutuhan akan cinta dan kepemilikan menciptakan ikatan antar manusia dan manusia adalah makhluk sosial yang mendambakan interaksi dengan orang lain. Sumber datanya adalah novel berjudul *You've Reached Sam* karya Dustin Thao yang diterbitkan pada bulan November 2021 bersama Wednesday Book, *You've Reached Sam* karya Thao merupakan novel dengan banyak ciri Hirarki Kebutuhan. Penelitian ini termasuk dalam kategori kritik sastra dengan menerapkan Pendekatan Psikologis dan menggunakan Teori Hirarki Kebutuhan dari Abraham Maslow yang berfokus pada Kebutuhan Cinta dan Rasa Memiliki. Selanjutnya, peneliti menggunakan teknik membaca dan mengklasifikasikan data berdasarkan masalah yang berkaitan dengan penelitian. Dari penelitian ini ditemukan dua hasil penelitian ini. Pertama, peneliti menemukan empat bentuk kebutuhan cinta dan rasa memiliki dalam novel ini, seperti hubungan persahabatan, hubungan keluarga, hubungan romantis, dan aktivitas sosial. Kedua, tokoh utama memenuhi kebutuhan cinta dan rasa memiliki melalui timbal balik pasangan, peneliti menemukan tiga orang yang memenuhi kebutuhan cinta dan rasa memiliki tokoh utama seperti yang diceritakan dalam novel, yaitu dari pacarnya Sam, dari ibunya, dan dari sahabatnya Mika.

## مستخلص البحث

إيزا، فينسا إريليا (٢٠٢٣) الحاجة إلى الحب والانتماء للشخصية الرئيسية في لقد وصلت إلى سام بقلم داستن تاو. أطروحة البكالوريوس. برنامج دراسة الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية مالانج. المشرف د. مزكي عفيف الدين. دكتوراه في الطب.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المدخل النفسي، التسلسل الهرمي للاحتياجات، احتياجات الحب والانتماء

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يهدف هذا البحث إلى معرفة الحاجة إلى الحب والانتماء التي تعيشها الشخصية الرئيسية لتلبية احتياجاتها في رواية لقد وصلت إلى سام للكاتب داستن تاو. وفقاً لماسلو 1943 فإن الحاجة إلى الحب والانتماء تخلق روابط بين البشر والبشر مخلوقات اجتماعية تتوق إلى التفاعل مع الآخرين. مصدر البيانات هو رواية بعنوان لقد وصلت إلى سام للكاتب داستن تاو والتي تم نشرها في نوفمبر 2021 مع كتاب الأربعماء لقد وصلت إلى سام للكاتب تاو وهي رواية تحتوي على العديد من خصائص التسلسل الهرمي للاحتياجات. يندرج هذا البحث في فئة النقد الأدبي من خلال تطبيق المدخل النفسي واستخدام نظرية هرم الحاجات لإبراهام ماسلو والتي تركز على الحاجة إلى الحب والانتماء بعد ذلك، يستخدم الباحثون تقنيات القراءة ويصنفون البيانات بناءً على المشكلات المتعلقة بالبحث. ومن هذا البحث تم التوصل إلى نتيجتين. أولاً، وجد الباحثون 4 أشكال من احتياجات الحب والانتماء في هذه الرواية، مثل علاقات الصداقة، والعلاقات الأسرية، والعلاقات الرومانسية، والأنشطة الاجتماعية. ثانياً، تقوم الشخصية الرئيسية بإشباع حاجة الحب والانتماء من خلال المعاملة بالمثل، وقد وجدت الباحثة 3 أشخاص يحققون حاجة الشخصية الرئيسية من الحب والانتماء كما ورد في الرواية. وهم من صديقته سام، ومن والدته، ومن والدته. أفضل صديق ميكا.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The first chapter of the study is an introduction which includes an overview general in the preparation according to the title. The researcher arranges chapters for each content which is divided into five chapters, namely background of the study, research question, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

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 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 partner, social activities, family relations, social communities, workplace groups, etc., one can fulfill these needs. Maslow (1943) explain 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 research using a psychology approach with the same theory of the hierarchy of needs, there are (Ronie & Hellystia, 2019) in the novel entitled *Flawed* by Cecelia Ahern, the researchers used same methods to analyzed the novel, this study is intended to find out what are the hierarchy of needs that have been fulfilled by the main character. (Soraya, 2018) in the novel entitled *Little Earthquakes* by Weiner, the researcher interested to analyze the character power to fulfill the Hierarchy of Needs. (Praditya & Wulandari, 2019) in the novel entitled *Divergent* by Veronica Roth, the researchers achieved self-actualization after all of the basic needs were met one by one. The researcher does this by depicting each basic need in order to reach the highest needs, after those basic needs have been satisfied one by one, then researcher reached self-actualization. (Pangastuti & Murtiningrum, 2021) in the movie *500 Days of Summer*, the researchers analyze first, the fulfillment of the main character's needs, and second is the self-actualization characteristic portrayed by the main character. (Kaur, 2018) this study makes an effort to describe the need hierarchy theory, a motivational theory put forth by Abraham Maslow.

Several other previous studies using hierarchy of need's theory with the same level love and belonging needs, such as (Farlina & Khaleda, 2019) in the novel *Girl on the Trains*, the researchers analyzed the main character tries to fulfill by riding the train every day and how she fulfills her safety and the love and belonging needs using Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs. (Permana et al., 2021) in the

novel entitled *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green, the researchers exposed that the main characters yearn for fulfilling their love and belonging needs instead of the other needs. (Lumbantoruan & Evyanto, 2021) in the novel *Persuasion* by Jane Austen, the researchers try to examine the Love and Belonging needs. This research purposes about humans that will meet the needs and effects of if these needs are not met. (Ruth & Satria, 2020) in the novel *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes, three needs for love and belonging that are present in this study would be explained to the researchers. Family, friends and intimacy love are the sources of those. (Hatuaruk & Rudianto, 2022) in the movie *500 Days of Summer*, the researchers found data on aspects of the love and belonging needs such as data from intimacy and data from friendship.

Based on the previous studies, even though many people have researched the hierarchy of needs theory, no one has ever applied this theory to the object of the novel *You've Reached Sam*. This research is expected to give new views from Maslow's theory in this novel, especially love and belonging needs, provide an overview to readers regarding the need for love and belonging in a literary work and ways to fulfill the need for love and belonging.

In this study, it is important to use the theory of hierarchy of needs with a focus on love and belonging needs. In this novel the situations or feelings of the characters have their own meaning to symbolize love and belonging needs, the constraints and struggles of the main character's love are also the reasons why the researcher focuses this study on the love and belonging needs in the novel *You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao.

## **B. Problems of the Study**

After describing the background above, the researcher aims 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?

## **C. Significance of the Study**

This study is useful for readers. This research helps readers understand about Hierarchy of needs theory by Abraham Maslow, readers are expected to be able to learn about friendship, romantic partner, social activities, family relations, social communities, workplace groups, and be able to understand literature from various sides such as love and belonging needs. The researcher also hopes that by studying the hierarchy of needs, people can see the mutual love and need for each other in a relationship that is reflected in the content of the story and hopefully this research can be useful, used as a reference for the next researcher.

## **D. Scope and Limitation**

The target of this research is to investigate the hierarchy of needs. Exactly in this case, the research limited to the literary work of the novel *You've Reached Sam* by Dustion Thao with Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory which focuses on the love and belonging needs includes (relationships and sense of connection) by the main character.

### **E. Definition of Key Terms**

The researcher would like to clarify and define the key terms in order to prevent issues with misunderstanding and incorrect interpretation of the research findings.

1. Love and belonging are needs that are based on a sense of love and belonging in order to be accepted by the people around them or their environment. Humans need to relate to one another, which is the foundation of these needs.
2. Hierarchy of needs is a theory created by Abraham Maslow which describes how people behave in terms of their basic needs for life and growth, which are arranged in accordance with their interests.
3. Psychological approach is a way of looking at psychology towards various phenomena and dimensions of behavior both individually, socially and environmentally.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

This chapter refers to the description of the literature relevant to this study. The first discussion is Psychological Approach. The second discussion is Maslow's Theory. The third discussion is Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. The final discussion is Love and Belonging Needs.

#### **A. Psychological Approach**

The study of behavior and thought processes is known as psychology. The analysis of a particular author's work using a psychology point of view is known as psychological literary criticism. This psychological approach criticize the author of the work or the characters in it. This aids the reader's understanding of the author's motivations and the character (Welek, 1956).

In this study, the psychological approach was employed by the researcher since the research indicates that the themes covered are pertinent and align with the topic under discussion. Literary psychology is an approach that focuses on psychological aspects and addresses the human psyche. According to a psychological analysis, literature serves to reflect humanity in a fair and timeless manner or, at the very least, to suggest that literary works attempt to explain human existence (Hardjana, 1994).

Psychology is an academic discipline that delves further into human thoughts, behavior, and mentality. This field of study looks into human mind and the motivations behind our actions and behaviors. The study of psychology is

frequently used to resolve issues or identify suitable answers in a wide range of intricate human endeavors. Even in terms of health, certain medical diseases might lead to psychological issues or personality disorders.

Sigmund Freud founder of the psychoanalytic school in the field of psychology, proposed a psychological approach for analyzing a character's conduct in order to investigate their childhood, family, fixations, history, conflicts, and traumas. But rather than being addressed explicitly in the work, these facts are frequently hinted at through symbols, images and dreams. As a result, these critiques occasionally offer the reader hints to help them understand symbols, settings, and actions that are challenging to interpret. Welek (1956) contend in *Theory of Literature* that readers understand the psychological veracity of characters in plays and novels. Occasionally a character or scene appears to support a psychological theory that the writer is aware of or unaware of.

The psychological approach pertains to the understanding of diverse facets of human behavior, encompassing matters pertaining to everyday life such as family, education, employment, and mental health care. Lastly, the researcher wraps up by talking about psychology and how it fits into literary works, particularly when examining the author's creativity, thoughts, and emotions in all the works that are based on different kinds of experiences.

## **B. Maslow's Theory**

Abraham Harold Maslow is one of the famous psychologists who developed the humanistic theory, Maslow has an interest in studying human behavior and personality, this theory is called the hierarchy of need theory. "Abraham Maslow

propounded the theory of human needs which is popularly known as Maslow's hierarchy of needs in human environment in the society" (Aruma and Hanacor, 2017). This theory includes that humans have levels of needs in their lives. Maslow considers humans as individuals who move towards their desires according to their potential. "Maslow believe that every person has a strong desire to realize his or her full potential, to reach a level of self-actualization" (Mawere et. 2016). Individual life with unique self-actualization tendencies and aimed at enhancing experiences that lead to growth within the self.

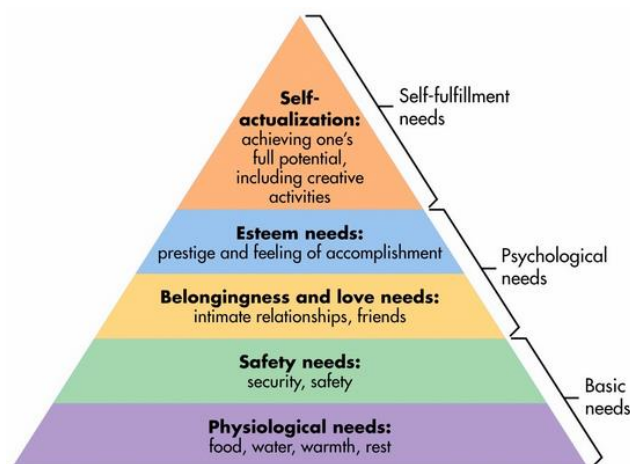
The Abraham Maslow's theory was applied by the researcher in this study. One of the psychological theories that can be helpful for motivating someone to achieve their daily needs is Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory. The idea behind Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory is that there are some needs that an individual will prioritize over other needs. Abraham Maslow used this as an illustration when creating his theory of the hierarchy of needs.

The level of needs that must be met by every human being is listed in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory. There are five levels of needs in this theory, and each level's needs must be satisfied. Some wants are more significant than others, and people are motivated to fulfill them, according to Maslow (1943, 1954). Physical survival is our primary need, and it will always drive our actions. After we reach that level, we are motivated to reach the next one, and so on. The level of hierarchy of needs starts from Self-actualization, Esteem Needs, Belongingness and Love Needs, Safety Needs, and Physiological Needs. Researcher will only focus on 1 level in this theory, namely Belongingness and love needs in this study. Abraham

Maslow offers his perspective on the motivations for seeking love at this level. Abraham Maslow describes how this feature came to be because it is founded on feelings of extreme depression, loneliness, anxiety, and sadness. Love that can have a positive effect on both sides, such as love that is tangible and for which there is no desire to reciprocate but only encourages the other person in becoming better, is typically demonstrated when a person forms a friendship with another person or group.

### C. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Maslow (1943) used a pyramid with multiple levels to symbolize the hierarchy of needs. Self-actualization was more significant than physiological needs demands in terms of importance. There are five levels of needs in this theory, and each level's needs must be satisfied.



McLeod, S. (2023). Maslow's Hierarchy Of Needs. Simply Psychology.  
<https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html>



### 1. Physiological Needs

It is a basic human need, the most fundamental and necessary need for any human to survive is physiological. An individual's drive at this level stems from their innate need to survive. Humanity cannot survive if this need is not satisfied. These needs include food, water, air, housing, clothing and sex.

### 2. Safety Needs

It is a need for protection for the human body. A person's need to feel safe and secure in their surroundings and in their life is connected to their demands for safety. For them to live in safety and comfort, people must be shielded from criminal disruptions. Motivation comes from the need for freedom from fear, stability, law, order, and protection from the elements.

### 3. Love and Belonging Needs

It is a need based on a sense of love and belonging in order to be accepted by the people around them or their environment. These requirements stem from people's demand for interpersonal relationships. Friendship, intimacy, trust, acceptance, and the ability to give and receive love and affection are a few examples.

### 4. Esteem Needs

It is the need to outperform others by obtaining a better degree. People strive for more position, prestige, and renown. People are highly competitive and have a strong desire to outperform one another in their endeavors. Maslow separated it into two categories: the need for one's own esteem needs from

others (e.g., status, prestige) and the need for one's own self-esteem (dignity, accomplishment, mastery, and independence).

#### 5. Self-actualization Needs

It is a need rooted in a person's desire to better themselves in light of their abilities and potential. To demonstrate to oneself that he is capable of doing so, to reach his full potential, to find fulfillment, and to chase peak experiences, a person must express himself in a particular activity.

### **D. Love and Belonging Needs**

According to Maslow (1943) the principle of the hierarchy of needs, love and belonging are the third level needs. The needs related to social components of society, such as the need to experience love and affection and to own property rights, are under the third level of needs. Abraham Maslow offers his perspective on the motivations for seeking love at this level. Abraham Maslow describes how this feature came to be because it is founded on feelings of extreme depression, loneliness, anxiety, and sadness. Deficits at this level of Maslow's hierarchy may affect a person's capacity to form and sustain emotionally meaningful relationships in general, such as friendships, intimacy, and family. Maslow said that regardless of the size of their social groups, people need to feel accepted and like they belong.

An individual is the owner of two different kinds of love: Deficiency love and Being love. The deficiency love type refers to someone who experiences love as a result of a shortage. Deficiency love is frequently described as a feeling of love that centers on oneself. On the other hand, being love is a method of assessing someone without intending to take advantage of a loved one. The best types of love

are those that don't want to possess, simply encourage the other person to become better, and have a favorable effect on both parties.

People who have lost abilities at this level will feel bored and unhappy even though their other needs are fulfilled. One will experience emotions such as despair, unworthiness, loneliness, suffering, and separation, which leads one to explore various avenues for satisfying their want for love. According to Maslow (1943), two individuals need to be involved in giving and receiving love, affection, and a sense of belonging for there to be a romantic connection. Someone who has had their needs for love met would feel loved, joyous, satisfied, proud, and overwhelmed by delight.

## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHOD

The research methodology used in this study is described in this chapter, the researcher explains how she examines the novel in this chapter. It contains the research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis.

#### A. Research Design

This study is part of literary criticism because it explores the hierarchy of human needs in literary works. The researcher locates this study to analyze the literary work *You've Reached Sam* written by Dustin Thao as the item. 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 analyzes love and belonging needs of the main character and the ways to fulfill these needs.

#### B. Data Sources

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 contains 239 pages with 18 chapters. The research data are presented in the forms of words, phrases, sentence, paragraph and dialogue. All data is taken from the

novel *You've Reached Sam*, which shows the love and belonging needs faced by Julie as the main character.

### **C. Data Collection**

In this research, the researcher took several steps to collect data. Therefore, to collect data researchers involve the following steps. The first step is reading the novel using close-reading method, read the novel to understand the story at a glance. The second step is discover primary data related to research problems by underlining, highlighting, and making notes. The third is classification of data according to the Abraham Maslow's theory hierarchy of needs which focus on one level love and belonging needs. Then, this data is used in the data analysis process to uncover the love and belonging needs with purpose to answer research problem in this study.

### **D. Data Analysis**

The data was collected and examined by the researcher after being obtained from various sources. In this case, there are several steps that researchers formulated to do this systematic analysis. The first is researcher identify available data related to love and belonging needs. The second step is to classifying the data that indicates the love and belonging needs theory that the *You've Reached Sam* main character had and how to fulfill it using Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. The third step is the researcher interpreted the data that has been identified. The last is concluding the research by drawing a conclusion and answering the problems of the study. The result, using psychological approach, hierarchy of needs theory, main

character's love and belonging needs in *You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao could be discovered.

## CHAPTER IV

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter provides the result of data analysis to find the answer to the problems of the study about the love and belonging needs and how the main character fulfill her needs. The researcher analyzes a literary work in the form of the novel entitled *You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao (2021) using Abraham Maslow's theory of hierarchy of needs, especially love and belonging needs. This chapter is divided into two parts. The first part explains love and belonging needs of the main character found in this novel. The second part discusses about the main character's ways to fulfilling her needs.

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

From the analysis of the researcher, it describes that there are love and belonging of the main character found in the novel *You've Reached Sam*. The main character named Julie is a woman who struggles to realize her well-planned dreams for her life. Julie faces a long and complicated story of finding love and belonging in several aspects of her life. According to Maslow (1943), the third level needs, love and belonging, involve the desire to establish interpersonal relationships and belong to a group. Love and belonging can come from many sources. People may meet these needs through, Friendships, Family time, Social activities, Romantic

relationships, Community activities. So from here, it can be told about Julie finds for her love and belonging needs.

## 1. Friendship

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

There are several incidents that occur related to friendship in the novel *You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao. Based on his writing, it is found forms of love and belonging in the friendship between Julie and her friends in her social life. This may be known from the way Julie realizes that her friends are always there for her and are very valuable to her life.

It can be seen in the quotation below when Julie and her school friends share table to eat lunch in the canteen:

### ***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." (Page 45)*



Based on the quotation above, the main character in the novel Julie has school friends who care about her, they are Yuki, Rachel, and Jay. Julie shares a table with her friends in the canteen, they miss the moment with Julie after Julie hasn't been to class for a long time. Jay welcomed by offering Julie's favorite food, he knew Julie well. Rachel and Yuki stated that they missed Julie and 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 she met them, Julie felt she still had support from her friends, because many other school friends blamed her for the death of Sam, her boyfriend. Jay, Yuki and Rachel are Julie's friends who faithfully accompany, understand and provide support to Julie until the end of the story. Maslow (1943) stated how much the size of their social group, people need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance. Julie felt that way from them, her friends.

In the novel, it can be seen that apart from their support for Julie. They also help solve Julie's problems with Mika, Sam's cousin. This can be seen in this quotation below:

***Datum 2.***

*At the end of lunch, the three of them walk me to my next class. Before I head in, Yuki says something. "You know, maybe we can do something else for Sam. Something special to honor him by."*

*"That's a great idea," Rachel says, nodding. "And we can bring Mika. too. The five of us, together."*

*I think about this. Something special for Sam. To honor him by. "Like what?" I ask. They all glance at each other, looking uncertain. "We'll think of something," Jay promises. I smile at them. "Thank you. I don't know what I would do without you guys." (Page 96)*

Based on the quote above, it can be seen that Jay, Yuki and Rachel had a special idea to honor Sam's death. They did this to repay Julie's regret to Mika for

missing Sam's funeral because of Julie's unstable mental. That's what made Mika disappointed with Julie because she didn't come to her cousin's funeral as if Julie had disrespected Sam. So, Rachel had idea to invite Mika so that her 5 friends will no longer have misunderstandings and they can be together again. Jay, who agreed, promised to think of ideas about what they would do. Yuki, Rachel, and Jay really want the friendship of these 5 people not to be broken. Julie, who heard this idea, felt surrounded by friends who loved her in any situation. This is one of the examples from Friendship based on Maslow's theory (1943) where they do effort each other for keep their relationship in long time.

In the same circle of friends, Mika, Julie's best friend expresses her affection emotionally when Julie visits her house to resolve their misunderstanding. This can be seen in this quotation below:

***Datum 3.***

*"You know when it happened.. when Sam died.. I remember thinking, how are you and I going to get through this? What are we going to do, you know? I kept waiting for you to text back, return my call, and show up at the door. But you never did. You didn't even want to see me" her voice gives out, as if she's holding back tears. "It was like when I lost Sam, I lost you, too." (Page 147-148)*

Based on the quote above, it shows that Mika was devastated when his cousin died, and she hoped that Julie would be there for her. Mika, who really loves Julie, hopes feedback from her concern, such as replying to her messages, returning her calls, and visiting her house, but Julie doesn't do that. Mika's efforts were approved by Maslow (Poston, 2009) A person can feel a sense of belonging when they make an effort to want to be in a relationship with other people. After Sam left, Mika felt that Julie had also left her. Julie denied all of this, because Julie also promised Sam to look after Mika, his cousin. After Sam's death, Julie didn't feel

lost because Julie and Sam still had a second chance in this life. It sounds strange that's why she's been silent all this time but that's what Julie was trying so badly to explain to Mika.

On the other hand, there is a character named Tristan, Julie's friend who also tries to get her attention through his words and behavior. It can be seen in the quotation below:

***Datum 4.***

*"No. There's another film I wanted you to see." Tristan takes my hand, and leads me out of the tent. "You're gonna love it."*

*"Space Ninjas?"*

*"I wish."*

*"What's the rose for?"*

*"Oh it's for you," he says, blushing again. "It was my mom's idea But you don't have to take it, if you don't want to."*

*I smile and take the rose. (Page 194)*

Based on the quote above, it can be seen that Tristan is Julie's friend. They have a good friendship and they admire each other's hard work. Tristan's work will be featured in the festival and Julie is happy to hear about it. It seen that Tristan deliberately offered Julie festival tickets and Julie accepted them as a form of support for Tristan, finally they both left. In the midst of their activities, it can be seen in the quote that Tristan brought roses to Julie, Tristan's mother's idea. Tristan's concern for making Julie take the flowers appreciates his efforts to make her happy. And it's true that Tristan brought Julie to feel happy there to forget the chaos in her mind for a moment. This is one of the examples from friendship based on Maslow's Theory (1943) where they spent a lot of time for together, they also share their happiness for each other.

In the same circle of school friends, there is someone named Oliver, Sam's best friend. He tries to get closer to Julie and often invites her to hang out. This can be seen in this quotation below:

***Datum 5.***

*"Thanks for seeing the movie with me."*

*"I'm glad I went."*

*Before we part ways, Oliver notices the roses. He leans forward to touch one.*

*"Careful," I say. "It might bite."*

*He smiles as he plucks a rose from the hedge. For a second, I think he might give it to me. But he doesn't. He just holds on to it. (Page 102)*

Based on the quote above, it shows that Oliver invited Julie to watch a film and he was happy that Julie agreed. Oliver is Sam's best friend, but not very close to Julie. After Sam's death, he tried to become closer friends with Julie, because they both understood Sam better. Oliver always tries to talk about Sam every time he meets Julie, about his sadness at losing his best friend. Oliver also often invites Julie to hang out and in the end Julie agrees because of his good intentions to cheer up Julie and the effort he shows to build a relationship like Maslow's theory.

## **2. Family**

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

There are several events that occur related to family in the novel *You've Reached Sam*. The researcher found forms of love and belonging in Julie's family, including mother, father and Julie. This can be seen from the harmony of Julie's family who really love her and are very valuable in her life.

This can be seen in the quotation below when Julie asks her mother for permission to return to school after not attending class for a long time and her mother is worried about her only daughter:

***Datum 6.***

*"Mom, listen, I'm fine."*

*"But Julie "*

*"Please."*

*"Are you sure?"*

*"I promise I am, okay? You don't have to call anyone." I don't want her to worry about me. I can deal with this on my own.*

*"Alright then," my mother sighs. "If you say so." She cups my face with her hands, running her thumbs along my cheeks, and tries to smile. (Page 4)*

Based on the quote above, it can be seen that Julie's mother wanted to call someone at Julie's school and her mother said that they would understand if Julie needed more time. But Julie forbade her mother from calling because Julie was sure that she would be fine. Julie's mother, who loves Julie very much, is still worried about not wanting her child to feel down at school, in the end she tries to trust her daughter with her bodily interactions with Julie. Like Maslow's statement above, Julie feels appreciated and recognized by her mother. This creates a sense of acceptance among the family.

On the other hand, there is Julie's father, Julie's father who spends quality time with his daughter and makes efforts to make Julie have fun. It can be seen in the quote below:

**Datum 7.**

*As the others head back home that night, I decide to stay in Seattle to spend the rest of the weekend with my dad. He's been asking me for weeks to come visit him. The second he steps out of his car to pick me up, my eyes start watering. I forgot how much I missed him. He's always known how to make things better without needing to ask what's wrong. He even called my mom, asking if I could skip school so we can spend another day together. We do all my favorite things-have pancakes at the diner in Portage Bay where we used to live, drink pour-over coffee in Pioneer Square, and visit my favorite bookstores on 10th Avenue. Being away from Ellensburg was exactly what I needed after all. (Page 210)*

Based on the quote above, it shows that Julie's father does not live at home with Julie and her mother in Ellensburg, Julie's father lives in Seattle for his work. Julie and her father meet to spend the weekend between father and his beloved daughter. Julie claims that her father knows how she feels without Julie telling him. This shows how close the bond between father and daughter is, which is also what makes Julie miss her father. They spent quality time in Seattle doing Julie's favorite things and visiting Julie's favorite places. They really had fun enjoying the moment together and tried to forget everything that happened in Ellensburg for a while. According to Maslow (Horwitz, 2007) Family relationship, along with other aspect of human interaction, were increasingly seen in terms of mental well-being and personal happiness.

Another proof of the quote from Julie and her mother is when Julie is confused and worried about how fate will take her in the future It can be seen in the quote below:

**Datum 8.**

*"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,." (Page 220)*

The seventh datum shows that Julie is talking about her worries about the future, where all the plans she built well did not work out as she expected. Julie's mother encourages her to believe that life will end more than she wants. Julie's mother felt that many children Julie's age felt the same way, she saw that at the school where she taught, and now her daughter. She wants Julie not to be pessimistic or give up. Even though Julie received disappointment, she wanted Julie to be enthusiastic about building her plans again, because she believed that beautiful things would come for her daughter. Julie's mother tries to influence Julie that enjoy how fate takes her, keep trying and keep making future decisions, life will pass by Julie. Family relationship, along with other aspect of human interaction, were increasingly seen in terms of mental well-being and personal happiness (Horwitz, 2007).

### **3. Romantic Relationship**

According to Abraham Maslow in (Koltko-Rivera, 2006) the love needs of a partner are the require of love, for respect, for self-respect, for fellowship, for self-fulfillment, for singularity, cherish and so on. This also happens to Julie and Sam, not as ordinary teenagers but with the chemistry they create between Julie and Sam that cannot be broken even by death.

There are several things that happen related to romantic relationship in the novel *You've Reached Sam*. Based on the analysis, forms of love and belonging needs were found between Julie and her boyfriend, Sam. This may be known from their feelings of love for each other and how they plan their dreams for the future

by continuing to be together. A healthy relationship that supports each other is depicted in this novel, that's why Sam's death greatly affects Julie's continued life, but because of their strong bond they have a second chance, even if only briefly. What is impossible can happen because of the connection between the love of the two of them.

This can be seen in the quote below when Julie and Sam get a second chance after his death to connect again via telephone. Sam picks up Julie's call and they express their feelings to each other:

***Datum 9.***

*"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." (Page 52)*

Based on the quote above, it can be seen that Julie and Sam had a conversation on the telephone. Julie is grateful that they still have a connection to be together after Sam's death. This is of course strange for Julie because how could they not be separated by death? Julie continues to be haunted by that question but Sam never gets an answer to her question. The most important thing for Julie is Sam has 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 infinity and they are complementary to each other. According to Maslow (Griffin, 1994) show love is an effort to satisfy a need by understanding particular special people.

Another proof of Julie and Sam's quote is when Julie wants to make sure that they will never leave each other again. Seen in the quote below:



**Datum 10.**

*"You won't just leave again?"*

*"I promise, Julie. I'll stay as long as I can."*

*I shut my eyes for a moment and try to find comfort in this. I don't ask Sam any more questions. I don't want it to ruin this beautiful day. A breeze stirs petals along the grass. When I open my eyes, i look up through the branches and catch the sun glimmering like silver coins through the cherry blossoms.*

*"I wish you were here with me," I whisper.*

*"I wish I were there, too." (Page 63)*

The text above shows that Julie is very afraid of Sam leaving her again, and Sam promises that he will stay as long as he can. They both know that the connection between them will not last forever but they are afraid of losing each other like before. This second chance makes Julie's life work again, because she finds peace in Sam. She wanted to keep her composure longer so that things would be easier for Julie to do. Julie's life is very complete if Sam is near for her, his girlfriend. This is an example of a romantic person based on Maslow's Theory (1943) where the presence of a romantic partner can make him or her a complement to the partner.

On the other hand, Sam and Julie are on their last day of connection via telephone. They express their feelings to each other for the last time. It can be seen in the quote below:

**Datum 11.**

*"I love you, Julie. I want you to know that."*

*"I love you, too." Some static comes through the line. I have to say what I need to say faster.*

*"Thank you, Sam. For everything you've done. For picking up the phone because I needed you. For always being there for me." (Page 227)*

Based on the quote above, it shows that Julie and Sam made a telephone call one last time because their second chance was running out. Julie, who really needed Sam, didn't expect to have a second chance, because of that her life started to shine

again because Sam was always there for her, Julie could still feel the love of her boyfriend. Julie loves Sam very much, and Sam also loves Julie very much, their love is what builds that connection. Even if it doesn't last long, no one will be able to separate their feelings in two universes. 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.

#### **4. Social Activity**

According to Abraham Maslow (1943), the need for love and belonging involves feeling loved and accepted. This also includes our need to feel part of a social group. Importantly, these needs include feeling loved and feelings of love towards others. The same thing happened to Julie and her work environment. Julie works part time at a bookstore and has good relationships with her coworkers and boss. The work environment is like a second family for Julie because they really love Julie. This can be seen in the quote below when after Sam's death she did not work and finally decided to work again, her boss and her work accepted her back and welcomed her well.

***Datum 12.***

*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. (Page 59)*

Based on the quote above, it can be seen that Julie's boss, Mr. Lee, supports Julie's revival by returning to work at her bookstore. Mr. Lee understands Julie's

situation because he witnessed the change in Julie's life, so he welcomes Julie's new chapter. Mr. Lee welcomed Julie very friendly and well, allowing Julie to work like she was at home because of the good people and comfortable environment. As in Maslow's theory (1943) stated how much the size of their social group, people need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance.

### **B. 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 has the main character, Julie. A woman who struggles to continue her life from many problems. Julie is surrounded by many people who love her. Based on the researcher's analysis above, Julie finds the need for love and belonging through friendship, family, romantic relationships and social activities. However, the many forms of needs found do not guarantee that these needs will be fulfill. 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. A relationship cannot be separated from reciprocal conditions. In family relationships, friendships, companionship, and romance, everything requires a reciprocal response so that the relationship can run in harmony. In short, the existence of a relationship means that a 'mutual connection' has been established between the parties involved in the relationship. Everything requires a reciprocal response so that a relationship can run in harmony. In short, the existence of a

relationship means that a 'mutual connection' has been established between the parties involved in the relationship.

According to Maslow (Goble, 1987) with the appropriate principle of 'giving and getting', the relationship will be balanced because each individual will try to fulfill each other's partner's needs. In a relationship, implementing a principle is important. With principles that are firmly adhered to by both parties, harmony and goals will be achieved in the relationship. Not only that, principles can also play a role so that couples can understand each other. Give each other, receive each other, mutual commitment to harmonize an existing relationship. A relationship will not be a burden on one party, but will be borne together by everyone involved in it. In the ways Julie fulfills her love and belonging need, there are two ways, first is Julie give love to other people and second is Julie receive love from other people. She is getting and giving love and belonging to people who provide feedback to each other such as her boyfriend, her mother and her best friends.

### **1. Julie is Giving Love and Belonging Needs to Other People**

Giving love to others is one of the concepts of Maslow's theory (1943). Giving love is trying to fill the void by understanding and accepting the chosen other person. The principle of giving is 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 of our relationship partner. The point is, always try to understand partner's expectations and try for the best.

Not only do we apply the principle of giving, we can also set boundaries and express clear desires to our partner. Our partner will understand much more about

what we want to receive in the relationship. We will also be able to understand what our partner wants in the current relationship. So, it will not be impossible to create a romantic relationship that is reciprocal or not one-sided. No one prioritizes their own interests, but rather prioritizes mutual interests. There is also no need to sacrifice themselves too much to achieve a certain goal that is expected in a relationship, but rather 'mutually' try to achieve it. When we fall in love with the person we choose as our relationship partner, of course there are expectations that we give to our partner. In this analysis, the researcher will show data that Julie gives her love and belonging needs to people who provide feedback to Julie as well.

a. Boyfriend

***Datum 13.***

*"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..." (Page 114)*

Based on the quote above, it shows that Julie's expression of feelings for Sam is that Sam is part of all her plans. When Sam is gone, Julie hopes that all her plans can return to the way they were before, when Sam was by her side. The data above shows how much Julie trusts Sam, Julie wants to finish school and graduate with Sam, complete her plans with Sam, 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 is now. Julie wants Sam to live again and by her side like before. Julie gives love to Sam by inviting her lover to be part of her future

plans, just like Maslow (Poston, 2009) said 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 is included in this.

Another proof of the quote above is when Julie spends her day listening to voice mail from Sam in every activity. Seen in the quote below:

***Datum 14.***

*I listen to the message again. I listen to it on the way home, and several more times before I fall asleep. I listen to it the next morning when Mika comes over and I replay it for her. I listen to it again that night and the day after that. I listen to it on the days I miss Sam most and want to hear his voice again. I listen to his voice mail until I have it memorized, and I don't need to play it anymore. (Page 230)*

Based on the quote above, it shows that Julie has difficulty letting go of her feelings because her love is bigger than her awareness. Julie listened to Sam's voice mail, which was the last time she heard Sam's voice again, which is why the recording was always playing. Julie allowed herself to spend days listening to Sam's recordings, starting on the way home, before going to bed, after waking up, and also the times when she missed Sam. Julie always played it until the day she memorized it and didn't need to play it anymore. In fact, after Sam died, Julie's love never left him, she still keeps her love until the day she doesn't know when. Just like Maslow said above, giving love to others requires effort to feel loved and feel owned.

**b. Mother**

***Datum 15.***

*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. (Page 220)*

Based on the quote above, Julie gave love to her mother when she and her mother felt they didn't have time together anymore. Julie's mother works as a lecturer at a university in her city, even though she divides her time between her daughter and work, her mother always makes time to make breakfast for Julie before going to school. Julie, who is also busy solving the problems in her life one by one, rarely has much time at home. Julie has also returned to work at the bookstore, she spends a lot of time outside the house. so that she and her mother also missed each other's time together, when that time came, Julie gave all her attention to her mother, as did her mother. She and her mother spend time together and do their favorite things again, such as having dinner every night, watching TV in the living room, shopping together, and spending weekends with trips to the beach. Those are the favorite things that Julie and her mother miss, and they are connected again, they fulfill each other. According to Maslow (Griffin, 1994) show love is an effort to satisfy a need by understanding particular special people, just like Julie and her mother, making efforts to pay for the longing for moments together.

c. Best Friend

***Datum 16.***

*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. (Page 157-158)*

Based on the quote above, it shows that Julie gives 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 forbade it because it would be dangerous for their

second chance. But Julie still wants to bring Sam and Mika together via telephone whatever the risk for her. Mika, who at first didn't believe how Sam came back to life on the phone, slowly started to believe it even though it didn't make sense to her. After Mika and Sam were connected, Julie and Mika's relationship was also better than before, they spent a lot of time together, became best friends like before, strengthened and calmed each other. Their friendship shines again, there are no secrets between them, there are no misunderstandings like before. As Mika said to Julie at that time, after losing Sam, she didn't want to lose Julie too and Julie also keeps her promise to Sam that she will look after Mika for him. Their meeting started because of Sam, and their friendship was reconnected because of Sam, where they spent many time for together, they also share their happiness for each other (Maslow, 1943).

## **2. Julie is Getting Love and Belonging Needs from Other People**

In addition, to fulfill love and belonging needs and to get feedback from Julie's love, it is necessary to get love. Receiving love is a way to relieve the pain of loneliness and rejection. Each individual will enter the Initiating phase when they will start interacting with other individuals as the beginning of a relationship. In this phase, each individual not only places hopes or expectations on other individuals they meet, but also raises certain stereotypes and judgments (Knapp, dkk., 2013).

Our partner will understand much more about what we want to receive in the relationship. We will also be able to understand what our partner wants in the current relationship. So, it will not be impossible to create a romantic relationship



that is reciprocal, aka not one-sided. In this analysis, the researcher will show data that Julie getting her love and belonging needs from other people to fulfill her needs.

a. Boyfriend

*Datum 17.*

*"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. (Page 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. It was a shame that 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 in writing in her class, Julie once said that she wanted to see Saturn's rings so she could write it better, but she didn't expect that Sam had put the effort into his ridiculous request. Sam even wrote a message to the astronomy department at the university and they letting Sam borrow the telescope to, for his girlfriend, Julie. Maslow (Poston, 2009) said 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 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 Julie happy and Sam always succeeds in making Julie feel loved and owned.

Another proof of the quote above is when Sam gave Julie a beautiful surprise that Julie would never forget on his second chance with Julie. Seen in the quote below:

***Datum 18.***

*I take a few more steps out, letting my hand glide along the foxtails as soft as feathers. It doesn't take me too long to realize why he brought me here.*

*"Barley..." Sam whispers in my year. "Just like from the song."*

*A breath escapes me. "Sam... " is all I get out.*

*"How did you find this place?"*

*"I wandered off the trail and found it one day," Sam says. "It reminded me of the song I always play for you. The one you listen to when you write. I know you've been having some trouble thinking lately. I thought that, maybe if you saw it in person... the fields of gold... it would inspire you to write again."*

*"Why didn't you bring me here sooner?"*

*"I was waiting for the right moment to show it to you. I had it all planned out. It was supposed to be special. I didn't know I would run out of time."*

*"Is it how you imagined it in the story?" he asks.*

*"It's so much more." I say. "Thank you for this." (Page 111)*

Based on the quote above, it shows that Sam brought Julie to show his surprise and the aim was always so that what Julie saw could inspire Julie for her writing. Now, he directed Julie through his phone call to go somewhere. A beautiful place that was exactly the same as their favorite song, where she saw that place the song was playing. A golden field with the sun about to set, a surprise that made Julie wonder how he found a place as beautiful as this, a place that reminded her of the song that Sam often sang to her, a song that Julie even played when writing, and now she saw a beautiful place depicted in that song. Sam wanted to take Julie to that place to wait for a special time, until he ran out of time to make it happen. The gold fields that Sam wanted inspired Julie to get up to continue writing, beyond what Julie had imagined, and again, Sam always succeeded in making Julie feel his

love. Person can feel a sense of love and belonging when they put effort into their relationship (Maslow, 1943).

b. Mother

*Datum 19.*

*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..." (Page 221)*

Based on the quote above, it shows 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 is used to discussing anything with her mother openly, but what Julie went through when she lost Sam, not many people understand 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 doesn't have to let go of Sam, it's okay if Julie puts Sam in her heart, but 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. Reflected in Julie's mother who

loves her child so much and she knows about Julie's true feeling. The mother's love given to Julie from birth until now is able to understand Julie's feelings better than anyone else. Her mother will be the number 1 person in supporting Julie's continued life.

c. Best Friend

***Datum 20.***

*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. (Page 7)*

Based on the quote above, it can be seen that after what happened, Mika couldn't lie to herself that she missed Julie. Mika and Julie have the same emotions after losing the person they love, Sam. These unstable emotions made their relationship strained. But Julie invites Mika to go to a cafe and improve their relationship. They love each other in every part of their lives. Mika is willing to defend and fight with her friend for badmouthing Julie, and Julie also promises Sam to continue to be there and look after Mika for him. They fulfill each other, both want to fight for a long time. A friendship that doesn't want to lose each other, their true friendship, how much the size of their social group, people need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance (Maslow, 1943). It is 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 is the way an individual feels loved in the way they want to be loved, with this mutual feeling, it makes a relationship feel equal to each other. The importance of equal feelings is

so that one individual does not feel like he or she loves another individual less or more, this is what makes a relationship run healthy.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The final section of this document includes a summary of the research findings and suggestion. The conclusion summarizes the researcher's answers to the research questions and the theoretical significance of the study as presented in the preceding chapter. Furthermore, this chapter provides a suggestion for future researchers who will use the same study object as this one, namely Dustin Thao's novel *You've Reached Sam*.

#### A. Conclusion

From the analysis, it is concluded that the main character finds several forms of love and belonging needs, namely from the friendship relationship between Jay, Yuki, Rachel, Mika, Tristan and Oliver. Then the researcher discovered family relationship between Julie's parents, her father and mother. Then, in a romantic relationship with her boyfriend, Sam. Last, social activities in Julie's work environment, namely Julie's boss, Mr. Lee.

Next, the researcher finds out how the main character fulfills her love and belonging need. In order to fulfill her needs, the main characters must give and get her love and belonging needs, so that to fulfill that it must be mutual partners. The researcher found three people who fulfilled the main character's needs for love and belonging as told in the novel, namely from her boyfriend Sam, from her mother, and from her best friend Mika.

## **B. Suggestion**

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 focus 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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## CURRICULUM VITAE



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