

**QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S PURSUIT OF LOVE AND
BELONGING NEEDS IN JULIA QUINN'S
*QUEEN CHARLOTTE***

THESIS

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM
MALANG
2025**

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THESIS

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Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S)

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2025**

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I state that the thesis entitled “**Queen Charlotte Pursuit of Love and Belonging Needs Julia Quinn’s *Queen Charlotte***” 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.

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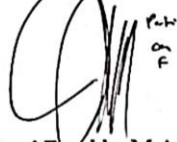
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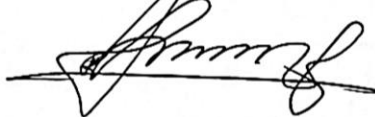
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MOTTO

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ (الانبياء : ٨٧)

“There is no deity except You; Exalted You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers.” (Al-Anbiya : 87)

DEDICATION

This thesis proudly dedicated to:

The love of my life, Ayah Nazaruddin, S.E., M.Si., and Mama Siti Husniyah,

My dearest sister, Izza Tsuroyya Syifa, S.Akt.

My kind and wise advisor, Ma'am Asni Furaida, M.A.

All of my precious friends who always run with me

The most wonderful fictional character, Queen Charlotte, and

the brilliant author behind her, Julia Quinn.

And to myself, Shabrina Zahrina Zhafarina, for keeping the stars shine.

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ABSTRACT

Zhafarina, Shabrina Zahrina (2025) *Queen Charlotte's Pursuit of Love and Belonging Needs in Julia Quinn's Queen Charlotte*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Asni Furaida, M.A.

Keywords: Hierarchy of Needs, Love and Belonging Needs, Queen Charlotte

Love and belonging are part of the essential human needs that influence how individuals form emotional bonds and feel accepted by others. These needs are part of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs (1943), placed at the third level, and are often fulfilled through family, friendship, romantic, and social connections. This study analyzes how the love and belonging needs are portrayed and fulfilled through the character of Queen Charlotte in Julia Quinn's *Queen Charlotte* (2023). The novel illustrates the emotional struggles of Queen Charlotte, a young woman sent away from her homeland to become the Queen of Great Britain, who faces isolation, loneliness, and a deep longing for connection. This research applies a psychological approach using Maslow's theory, focusing on two research questions: what are Queen Charlotte's challenges in fulfilling her love and belonging needs, and how these needs are eventually fulfilled throughout the story. The method of this study is literary criticism, with the data taken from the novel through close reading, categorized, and analyzed based on Maslow's theoretical framework. The findings showed that Queen Charlotte experienced love and belonging through romantic, friendship, family, and social relationships. However, various emotional and structural barriers, such as duty, status, distance, and discrimination, hinder her from forming mutual connections in most of these areas. Only her relationships with King George, Agatha Danbury, and Brimsley display a balance of giving and receiving love, suggesting that Queen Charlotte's love and belonging needs are only partially fulfilled.

مستخلص البحث

زهفرينة، صبرينا زهرينة 2025 سعي Queen Charlotte وراء احتياجات الحب والانتماء في رواية "Queen Charlotte" لجوليا كوي رسالة جامعية. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة إسلام نيجيري مولانا مالك إبراهيم مالانج. المستشار اسني فرايدا، ماجستير في الآداب.

الكلمات المفتاحية: احتياجات الحب والانتماء، هرم الاحتياجات، شارلوت

الحب والانتماء جزء من الاحتياجات الأساسية للإنسان التي تؤثر على كيفية تشكيل الفرد للروابط العاطفية وشعوره بالقبول من قبل الآخرين. تُعد هذه الحاجة جزءًا من تسلسل الحاجات عند Abraham Maslow (1943)، وتقع في المستوى الثالث، وعادةً ما يتم تلبيتها من خلال علاقات الأسرة، والصداقة، والرومانسية، والاجتماعية. تحلل هذه الدراسة كيف يتم تصوير وتلبية حاجة الحب والانتماء من خلال شخصية Queen Charlotte في رواية (2023) *Queen Charlotte* للكاتبة Julia Quinn. تصور الرواية صراع Queen Charlotte العاطفي، وهي شابة أرسلت من موطنها الأصلي لتصبح ملكة إنجلترا، ثم تواجه العزلة، والوحدة، والحنين العميق للارتباط العاطفي. تستخدم هذه الدراسة المنهج النفس مع نظرية Abraham Maslow، وتركز على مسألتين رئيسيتين: ما هي التحديات التي تواجهها Queen Charlotte في تلبية حاجة الحب والانتماء، وكيف يتم تلبية هذه الحاجة طوال القصة. الطريقة المستخدمة هي النقد الأدبي، حيث تم الحصول على البيانات من خلال قراءة معمقة، وتصنيفها، وتحليلها بناءً على الإطار النظري لـ Maslow. أظهرت نتائج الدراسة أن Queen Charlotte حققت حاجة الحب والانتماء من خلال العلاقات الرومانسية، والصداقة، والأسرة، والمجتمع. ومع ذلك، فإن العديد من العوائق العاطفية والبنوية، مثل متطلبات المكانة، والمسافة، والواجب، والتمييز، أعاقَت تشكيل روابط متبادلة في معظم هذه العلاقات. فقط في علاقتها مع King George، وAgatha Danbury، وBrimsley، وجدت Queen Charlotte توازنًا بين العطاء وتلقي الحب، مما يدل على أن حاجتها لم تُلبَّ بالكامل.

ABSTRAK

Zhafarina, Shabrina Zahrina (2025) *Perjuangan Queen Charlotte dalam Memenuhi Kebutuhan Kasih Sayang dan Rasa Memiliki dalam Novel Queen Charlotte Karya Julia Quinn*. Skripsi. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Dosen Pembimbing Asni Furaida, M.A.

Kata Kunci: Hirarki Kebutuhan, Kebutuhan Cinta dan Rasa Memiliki, Queen Charlotte

Cinta dan rasa memiliki merupakan bagian dari kebutuhan dasar manusia yang memengaruhi cara individu membentuk ikatan emosional dan merasa diterima oleh orang lain. Kebutuhan ini merupakan bagian dari hierarki kebutuhan Abraham Maslow (1943), berada di tingkat ketiga, dan umumnya dipenuhi melalui hubungan keluarga, persahabatan, romantis, serta sosial. Penelitian ini menganalisis bagaimana kebutuhan akan cinta dan rasa memiliki digambarkan dan dipenuhi melalui karakter Queen Charlotte dalam novel *Queen Charlotte* (2023) karya Julia Quinn. Novel ini menggambarkan perjuangan emosional Queen Charlotte, seorang wanita muda yang dikirim dari tanah kelahirannya untuk menjadi Ratu Inggris, yang kemudian menghadapi isolasi, kesepian, dan kerinduan mendalam akan koneksi emosional. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan psikologis dengan teori Abraham Maslow dan berfokus pada dua rumusan masalah: apa saja tantangan Queen Charlotte dalam memenuhi kebutuhan cinta dan rasa memiliki, serta bagaimana kebutuhan tersebut terpenuhi sepanjang cerita. Metode yang digunakan adalah kritik sastra, dengan data yang diperoleh melalui pembacaan mendalam, dikategorikan, dan dianalisis berdasarkan kerangka teori Maslow. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Queen Charlotte mendapatkan kebutuhan cinta dan rasa memiliki melalui hubungan romantis, persahabatan, keluarga, dan masyarakat. Namun, berbagai hambatan emosional dan struktural, seperti tuntutan status, jarak, kewajiban, dan diskriminasi, menghalanginya untuk membentuk koneksi timbal balik dalam sebagian besar hubungan tersebut. Hanya dalam relasinya dengan King George, Agatha Danbury, dan Brimsley, Queen Charlotte mengalami keseimbangan antara memberi dan menerima cinta, yang menunjukkan bahwa kebutuhannya hanya terpenuhi sebagian.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The first chapter of the study is the introduction, providing a general overview related to the title. The researcher organizes the study into five sub-chapters, which include the background of the study, research questions, significance of the study, scope and limitations, and the definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Behind the darkness of depression and loneliness, love and emotional support are often become the way that can save someone from the worst despair. Depression triggered by loneliness and heartbreak is often the reason behind a person's tragic decision to end their life. According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2021, more than 720,000 people worldwide die in suicide case, every year. In dealing with cases of depression and loneliness that lead to suicide, research shows that strong emotional relationships or affection can be a bright path that can be taken. Love is a fundamental aspect of human life that influences our emotional and psychological well-being. Burunat (2019) states that love is not just an emotion, but a basic need on par with eating and sleeping.

The presence of love helps a person build defenses against depression, anxiety, and feelings of helplessness (Lim, Eres, & Vasan, 2020). Love and support from family, friends, or partners play an important role in providing a sense of meaning and hope for survival (Tietjen & Furtak, 2021). Thus, it becomes crucial

to explore the various ways and sources through which love can be obtained, so that individuals can fulfill their emotional needs and improve the overall quality of life.

Love and emotional relationships often grow within the circle of family, friendships, and romantic relationships. The family provides the initial foundation for individuals to understand the meaning of love and feel stable emotional support. Friendships, on the other hand, allow individuals to share experiences and form more relaxed and open bonds. In romantic relationships, emotional closeness and mutual understanding create a sense of security based on love (Grevenstein et al., 2019). Although building good relationships requires effort, especially when it comes to effective communication, healthy relationships are key to an individual's well-being. According to John and Julie Gottman in *The Natural Principles of Love* (2017), good relationships improve mental and physical health, while providing valuable emotional support. In line with this, Maslow (1943) emphasized that love is a basic need, and individuals will strive to obtain it for their emotional well-being.

This desire to fulfill love and affection from other people is needed by everyone, including the most powerful queens and kings in this world. In the novel entitled *Queen Charlotte*, Julia Quinn succeeded in inserting the story of the journey of an English queen, namely Queen Charlotte, in fulfilling her love needs. *Queen Charlotte* is a prequel to the *Bridgerton* novel series set in London in the Regency era. This story focuses on the romance between Queen Charlotte and King George III which began with a business arrangement between the two families, which was actually opposed by the two main characters. Even so, the wedding still had to take

place and Princess Sophia Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Queen Charlotte's real name before marriage, still had to travel a long way to get to London.

Problems became even more complicated when King George III left Queen Charlotte alone at Buckingham Palace on her wedding night. This creates confusion and feelings of loneliness in Queen Charlotte even though she actually has a personal assistant who is ready to follow her anywhere, namely Brimsley. She spent the following days together with servants and palace guards, without the presence of her husband, family or friends because she was forbidden to socialize and hold banquets for her courts. Queen Charlotte felt such deep loneliness that she finally began to take steps to throw away her loneliness.

The novel *Queen Charlotte* is the latest work, inspired by the Netflix original series with the same title, by the #1 New York Times best-selling writer, Julia Quinn, which was first released in 2023. Julia Quinn, the pen name of Julie Pottinger, is a famous American writer who has worked in the historical romance fiction genre for almost 29 years. The Netflix series *Queen Charlotte* got so much public attention and made this novel version also blew up among romantic-historical-genre's fans. Even though it is one of a cliché-genre-novel, Julia Quinn succeeds in presenting an epic romantic story between the king and queen of England with a beautiful plot. The main characters are portrayed realistically, and some of the conflicts they face still relevant to today's problems. As the title suggests, these novel focuses more on Queen Charlotte's struggle in dealing with loneliness due to King George's mental condition and the distance between her

family because they live in another continent. The theme of Queen Charlotte's loneliness and emotional struggle in this novel highlight one of the fundamental human needs, love and belonging, which is an essential part of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Maslow emphasized that once physical and safety needs are met, humans naturally seek meaningful relationships with others to feel loved and accepted (Maslow, 1943). This is what is seen in the character of Queen Charlotte, where her struggle is not only about love for her husband, but also her attempt to find a place in a world that often feels empty and distant.

This novel is suitable to be examined by using the theory Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow, especially at level love and belonging. Maslow explained in his book *A Dynamic Theory of Human Motivation* (1958) that people would look for love, emotional connection, and social approval after their fundamental needs, such as safety and physiology, are satisfied. This novel's protagonist is a queen, who's the basic needs such as food and safety have obviously been satisfied, however she feels alone and isolated because of her emotional separation from those closest to her. This highlights how crucial it is to fulfill the need for love and belonging. Maslow underlined that these needs involved not only by romantic partnerships but also a feeling of acceptance in the family and social environment. According to Maslow's theory (1943), a lack of fulfillment of needs for love and belonging can cause emotional and psychological instability. When a character fails to meet his needs for love and affection, she feels emotional isolation, which affects her behavior and choices in the story.

The love and belonging that the researcher used in this research is one of the levels in the hierarchy of needs theory. Hierarchy of Needs is a theory that talks about basic human needs which was first introduced by Abraham H. Maslow, an American psychologist. Furthermore, he breaks down the hierarchy of needs into five levels: physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, self-esteem, and self-actualization. Humans must fulfill other levels below to reach the highest level. In this research, the researcher focuses on the love and belonging needs found in Queen Charlotte as the female protagonist in this novel. According to Maslow (1943), the need for love can be fulfilled not only from the love that an individual gets from another individual, but also the love that an individual gives to another individual.

Numbers of previous literatures are used to strengthen this research and the researcher divides these articles into two main categories. The first category is the theory which was used to analyze the character of literary works, hierarchy of needs. These literary works provide a framework for analyzing the main characters in both a novel and a film through a literary psychology lens. Several articles used the hierarchy of needs to research characters in novels, such as Sitepu & Putri (2020); Alaydrus, Valiantien, & Fatimah (2024); Virginia & Satria (2022); Rudyanto, Prifantini, & Hidayah (2022); Zhao (2024). Apart from that, this theory has been used for examining how movie characters fulfill their hierarchy of needs too, such as in Alifah, Probawati, & Kuswahono (2023); Pangastuti & Murtiningrum (2021); Citra, Natsir, & Astuti (2020).

The researcher also provides several previous studies which used only love and belonging needs level to support this research. Just like previous studies in the previous paragraph, love and belonging needs are also used to analyze a character from a novel or film. Several articles examine the fulfillment of love and belonging needs for characters in novels, such as in Lumbantoruan & Evyanto (2021) and Permana, Wedawati, & Rizqan (2021). Meanwhile, several articles used this theory to analyze characters in films, like Sianipar & Jasmaya (2019) and Hutaeruk & Rudianto (2022). These studies have the same focus; finding out what aspects of love and belonging needs the characters in the literary work have and how these characters fulfill their love and belonging needs.

The second category is research which used the same object, *Queen Charlotte* by Julia Quinn. Previous studies reveal that the *Queen Charlotte* series has attracted attention in linguistic research, particularly focusing on the Netflix adaptation based on Julia Quinn's novel *Queen Charlotte*. Several studies have employed various linguistic approaches, including discourse analysis, stylistics, and identity representation. For instance, Amani and Setiarini (2023) explored stylistic features in character dialogues, Nabilah and Candria (2023) examined power representation through language, and Alfatih and Dahlan (2024) analyzed pragmatic phenomena in conversations. These studies provide a significant foundation for understanding how the *Queen Charlotte* narrative utilizes language to convey themes and character development.

Based on the previous studies described above, there has been no research that specifically analyzes the novel *Queen Charlotte* by Julia Quinn using Abraham Maslow's theory. In other words, no studies have been found that concentrate on fulfilling Queen Charlotte, the female protagonist of the novel, needs for love and belonging. According to Maslow's theory, this need takes place at the third stages of the Hierarchy of Needs and has a close connection to an individual's emotional need for acceptance and love in interpersonal and societal contexts. Therefore, the researcher chose to combine this theory with the object of study because these two things have a strong connection, that highlight interpersonal relationships. Thus, the researcher believe that this research is able to give a relevant perspective in understanding character development and emotional motivation through Maslow's theoretical framework.

This research focuses on the role of love and belonging needs in Queen Charlotte's life. The researcher aims to identify Queen Charlotte's challenges in fulfilling her love and belonging needs as depicted in the novel and to examine how she fulfills these needs on her own. This study is expected to serve as a gateway for future research exploring similar themes using Maslow's theory or analyzing this literary work from different perspectives. Future researchers are encouraged to expand on this study by investigating other psychological needs from Maslow's hierarchy or comparing Queen Charlotte's experiences with those of characters in other literary works to provide a deeper understanding of human emotional needs.

B. Problems of the Study

Following the background description, the researcher aims to answer the study problems presented below.

1. What are Queen Charlotte's challenges in fulfilling her love and belonging needs as portrayed in Julia Quinn's *Queen Charlotte*?
2. How does Queen Charlotte fulfill her love and belonging needs as portrayed in Julia Quinn's *Queen Charlotte*?

C. Significance of the Study

This research offers readers insights into the application of Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory to human beings, particularly concerning the need for love and belonging. Through the analysis of Queen Charlotte's behavior and expressions depicted through narration and dialogue, this study explores the character's efforts and emotional complexity in dealing with loneliness. In addition, this study aims to prove how the main character pursuit her psychological needs, love and belonging, and are all the aspects of love and belonging needs could be totally fulfilled by the main character. The researcher hopes this research could be useful for further research, in same field theory or object.

D. Scope and Limitation

The focus of this research is on analyzing love and belonging needs in Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory, using the novel *Queen Charlotte*

(2023) by Julia Quinn as the primary source. The main focus of this research is on the character of Queen Charlotte, who is portrayed as a female character who seeks a way to fulfill the needs of love and belonging through relationships with family, friends, and partners. The limitations of this research include only the psychological aspects related to these needs and do not include other levels of needs or historical contexts beyond those found in the novel.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. **Hierarchy of Needs:** The hierarchy of needs is a psychological theory developed by American psychologist Abraham Maslow. Maslow wrote this theory for the first time in *A Theory of Human Motivation* his book which was published in 1943. This theory explains that humans have multiple desires. Physiological needs, safety and security, love and belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization are the five levels of human needs. According to Maslow and Lewis (1987), these needs must be satisfied one after the other and cannot be satisfied all at once.
2. **Love and Belonging:** Love and belonging needs are the third level of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. These needs will be pursued by an individual when physiological needs and safety needs have been fulfilled. Love and belonging needs are a person's desire to get emotional support and affection from a relationship (Maslow, 1943). This emotional support and affection are not only obtained from romantic relationships by

partners, but also family relationships, friendships and also acceptance from social society (Maslow & Lewis, 1987).

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter explains the theories and literature related to this research. The discussions include four main topics: Psychology of Literature, Humanistic Psychology, the Hierarchy of Needs theory, and Love and Belonging Needs.

A. Psychology of Literature

The psychological approach in literature emphasizes its cognitive and emotive value, arguing that literary works such as novels and dramas provide insights into human nature that rival or even surpass those found in psychological studies. Prominent figures like Karen Horney recommend authors such as Dostoevsky, Shakespeare, Ibsen, and Balzac as valuable sources of psychological understanding due to their nuanced portrayals of human introspection and behavior. E. M. Forster, for example, highlights the novel's ability to reveal the introspective lives and motivations of characters, which often originate from the author's own psychological reflections. These inner dimensions indicate the connection between psychological phenomena and the process of character development (Wellek & Warren, 1956).

Psychological criticism in literature is deeply rooted in the analysis of characters' motivations, emotions, and behaviors. Sitepu and Putri (2020) asserts that readers, when engaging with literary characters, often ask questions similar to those they would pose about real people in their lives, such as friends or family. This shared human complexity bridges the disciplines of psychology and literature, as both delve into the depths of human emotions and experiences. Alaydrus,

Valiantien, and Fatimah (2024) emphasize that just like real individuals, literary characters possess unique feelings, emotions, and personal histories, which makes psychological criticism a compelling tool for character analysis.

Wellek and Warren (1956) outline four primary ways in which the relationship between psychology and literature can be explored: analyzing the psychological aspects of the author as an individual, examining the creative process, investigating the psychological dimensions of characters in the work, and understanding the impact of literature on readers. These approaches reflect the multifaceted connection between the two fields, where literature not only mirrors psychological phenomena but also contributes to understanding them (Citra et al., 2020).

However, while the psychological approach offers rich insights, it has also faced criticism. Wellek and Warren caution against reducing literature to mere psychological biography, which could overshadow its aesthetic value. They emphasize the need for balance, arguing that psychological analysis should amplify rather than diminish the literary and artistic dimensions of the work. This view aligns with the broader definition of literature as an artistic medium, as clarified by Klarer (2018), who distinguishes literary texts from everyday documents based on their aesthetic and artistic qualities.

Literature also serves as a reflective medium for human psychological experiences. Nurhasanah et al. (2023) describe how authors often channel emotional and psychological phenomena into their characters, making literature a resource for exploring human psychology. Furthermore, the psychological

approach extends to examining the reader's emotional engagement with the text, as Virginia (2022) highlights. This includes investigating how literary works evoke emotional resonance and symbolic understanding in readers.

Psychology of literature offers a dynamic framework to explore the interplay between human psychology and artistic expression. By analyzing the psychological dimensions of authors, characters, creative processes, and reader responses, this approach enriches both literary studies and psychological understanding, providing profound insights into the complexities of human nature.

B. Humanistic Psychology

Humanistic psychology is a psychological perspective that focuses on the study of the whole person, emphasizing individual potential and self-actualization. Unlike traditional psychoanalytic and behaviorist approaches, it values subjective experiences, personal growth, and the inherent goodness of individuals. This approach highlights the importance of free will, self-awareness, and personal responsibility in shaping behavior and experiences (Rowan & Gluberman, 2017). Central to humanistic psychology is the belief that human values, creativity, and the search for meaning play a crucial role in achieving psychological well-being and fulfillment. This perspective has influenced numerous fields, including therapy, education, and organizational development, promoting a holistic understanding of human nature and potential.

Abraham Maslow (1943) underscores the vital role of psychology in addressing humanity's most pressing challenges, asserting that psychologists hold a unique responsibility in shaping the future of the human race. He believes the

survival and progress of humanity hinge on understanding and improving human behavior, placing psychology at the forefront of efforts to ensure a better world. Central to this vision is the focus on fostering goodness and addressing the roots of negative traits by studying psychological health alongside illness. By understanding what drives people to become their best selves, psychologists can cultivate positive qualities and resolve harmful tendencies. Maslow (1956) further envisions a transformative approach to psychology that explores human potential at its peak. He argues that by studying individuals' highest achievements and aspirations, psychology can shift from merely treating dysfunctions to creating a culture that nurtures personal growth, fulfillment, and self-actualization, ultimately reshaping how we view human nature

Humanistic psychology emerged as a response to the limitations of psychoanalysis and behaviorism, which were criticized for their overly deterministic views of human behavior. Often referred to as the "third force" in psychology, it offered an alternative approach that celebrated human potential and creativity (Walgito in Mustofa, 2022). Abraham Maslow, a prominent figure in this field, brought a unique perspective by focusing on human motivation and the factors that drive individuals toward growth and fulfillment. Unlike Carl Rogers, who emphasized therapeutic practices, Maslow was more concerned with theoretical aspects. His interest in understanding human development was shaped by personal experiences, such as the birth of his first child, which inspired him to challenge reductionist explanations of child development (Rudyanto, Prifantini, & Hidayah, 2022).

Maslow's perspective stood out because he viewed humans as inherently good and capable of positive growth. He argued that cultural conflicts and the influence of primal instincts could hinder this potential but believed in the possibility of transcending these challenges (Maslow, 1954). Unlike earlier psychological theories, which often focused on the darker, instinctual aspects of human nature, Maslow sought to highlight the positive dimensions. He proposed that human behavior is driven by motivation aimed at achieving happiness and satisfaction. This approach shifted the focus from dysfunction to understanding the strengths and aspirations that define humanity (Lestari et al., 2019).

Central to Maslow's theory is the concept of the hierarchy of needs, which explains human motivation as a progression through different levels. At the foundation are basic physiological needs, followed by safety, love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualization at the apex. Maslow believed that humans are motivated by a tendency to actualize, maintain, and improve themselves (Maslow, 1943). This drive for self-actualization involves realizing one's potential, pursuing meaningful goals, and becoming the best version of oneself. Internal conditions, such as motivation, play a crucial role in this process, guiding behavior and shaping experiences (Ghozali, 2020).

Humanistic psychology's emphasis on positivity, personal growth, and intrinsic motivation has had a lasting impact on psychology and beyond. By prioritizing the unique potential of individuals, it has inspired more empathetic and empowering approaches in various domains. Its focus on understanding the human

experience holistically continues to influence contemporary discussions about mental health, personal development, and the pursuit of a meaningful life.

C. Hierarchy of Needs

Abraham Maslow expanded his ideas by introducing the hierarchy of needs, a theoretical framework that explains human motivation as a sequential progression of needs arranged in a hierarchical structure. This hierarchy categorizes human needs into five distinct levels, starting with the most fundamental requirements for survival and advancing toward more complex and aspirational goals associated with personal growth and self-fulfillment (Maslow, 1943).

Maslow (1954) emphasized that every individual has the right to pursue self-actualization, the realization of one's identity and potential. However, societal conditions often pose challenges, rejecting individuals' efforts to express their talents and capabilities. Such rejection can leave people feeling deprived of psychological fulfillment, potentially leading to mental health issues and behavioral imbalances. These needs, both physical and psychological, are innate and fundamental to human existence (Lumbantoruan & Evyanto, 2021). The five levels of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, as outlined in his seminal work (1943), are summarized below.

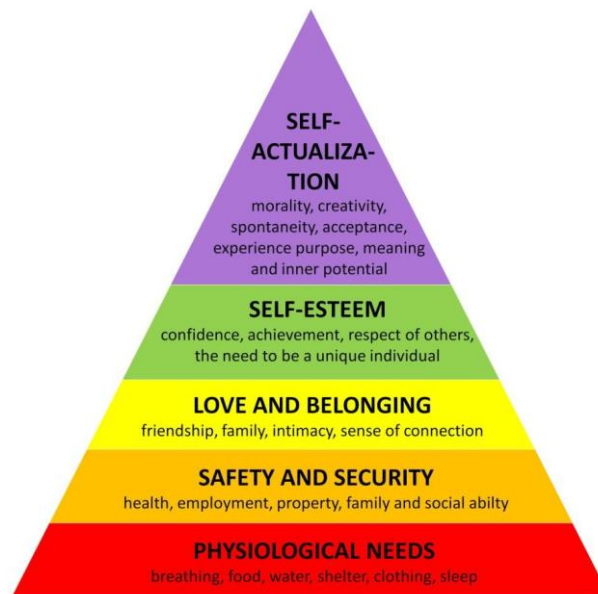


Diagram 1. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (McLeod, 2024)

The diagram above illustrates the five levels of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Starting from the lowest level, physiological needs and safety needs represent the most fundamental human requirements for survival and stability. Moving upward, love and belonging as well as esteem needs fall under the category of psychological needs, emphasizing the importance of emotional connection and self-worth. At the top of the hierarchy is self-actualization, which signifies the pursuit of personal growth and fulfillment, representing the pinnacle of self-fulfillment needs (Virginia, 2022).

1. The Physiological Needs

Physiological needs form the foundation of Maslow's hierarchy, encompassing essential requirements for survival, such as food, water, sleep,

shelter, and homeostasis. These are the most dominant needs, driving behavior and focus when unmet (Sitepu & Putri, 2020).

Maslow highlights their critical role in survival, noting that unmet physiological needs can monopolize a person's consciousness, making other motivations secondary (Maslow, 1958). For instance, hunger can override all other interests, as obtaining food becomes the individual's sole focus. While these needs can often be addressed in isolation, they also intersect with psychological or emotional needs; for example, hunger may be alleviated partly through comfort or support rather than food alone.

2. The Safety Needs

Once physiological needs are met, safety needs become the primary focus, reflecting the human desire for stability, predictability, and protection from harm. These needs include physical security, shelter, emotional stability, and freedom from danger (Maslow, 1943).

Maslow explains that when safety is a dominant concern, individuals often prioritize risk avoidance or seek out protective figures. This behavior is seen in children clinging to parents for reassurance or adults gravitating toward strong leaders during times of crisis (Citra, Natsir, & Astuti, 2020). However, an excessive focus on safety can lead to neuroses, where individuals develop compulsions to impose order or control over perceived.

Those with a history of fulfilled safety needs, resilience is more likely to develop, allowing them to adapt to challenges. Maslow (1943) emphasizes that fulfilling safety needs creates the psychological stability required for higher

pursuits, such as forming relationships or achieving personal growth (Yunadi, Kuncara, & Valiantien, 2020).

3. The Love and Belonging Needs

The need for love and belonging reflects the human desire for connection, acceptance, and meaningful relationships. These needs include familial bonds, friendships, romantic attachments, and a sense of belonging to a community or group. Fulfillment involves both giving and receiving love, extending beyond romantic relationships to encompass social connections in various forms. Meeting these needs fosters emotional security and purpose, while their absence can lead to loneliness, isolation, and psychological challenges (Maslow, 1954).

Maslow (1943) emphasized the complexity of love and belonging needs. Love goes beyond physical intimacy, focusing on emotional closeness, trust, and acceptance. People seek relationships that transcend superficial interactions, providing a deeper sense of connection. In today's world, these needs are expressed not only through family and friendships but also in virtual communities and social networks (Lumbantoran & Evyanto, 2021).

Disruptions to these bonds, such as losing a loved one or facing social rejection, can have serious psychological effects (Hutauruk & Rudianto, 2022). In some cases, individuals might compromise their identity or values to gain social acceptance, illustrating the powerful influence of this need. Conversely, those who form healthy, supportive relationships are better equipped to navigate life's challenges and pursue higher-level goals, such as self-esteem and self-actualization.

4. The Self-Esteem Needs

After fulfilling the need for love and belonging, individuals turn to esteem needs, which center on self-respect, recognition, and a sense of achievement. Maslow categorizes these needs into two types: inner esteem, derived from personal competence and independence, and external esteem, which comes from validation and recognition by others.

Inner esteem reflects confidence in one's abilities, mastery of skills, and independence. It provides intrinsic satisfaction and resilience, empowering individuals to face challenges effectively (Maslow, 1943). This internal sense of accomplishment strengthens a person's self-belief and fosters personal growth. External esteem, on the other hand, depends on respect and recognition from others. This can include admiration from peers, acknowledgment in the workplace, or broader societal appreciation. Achievements like promotions or public accolades reinforce an individual's sense of worth and significance within their community (Virginia & Satria, 2022).

The fulfillment of esteem needs promotes psychological well-being and a strong sense of purpose (Maslow, 1954). It cultivates confidence, usefulness, and capability, enabling individuals to pursue higher aspirations. Conversely, unmet esteem needs can lead to feelings of inferiority, lack of motivation, or behaviors aimed at compensating for perceived inadequacies, such as seeking excessive external validation.

5. The Self-Actualization

At the top of Maslow's hierarchy is self-actualization—the drive to realize one's full potential and become one's best self. This need is not solely about achieving success but about fulfilling personal capabilities and expressing one's true identity. As Maslow famously stated, “What a man can be, he must be” (Maslow, 1943)

Self-actualization is unique to each individual, shaped by personal talents, passions, and life circumstances. For some, it might mean excelling in art or science; for others, it could involve being an exceptional parent or contributing to their community. Regardless of the path, self-actualization represents the pursuit of meaning and purpose (Zhao, 2024). Achieving self-actualization depends on fulfilling all prior needs, including physiological, safety, love, and esteem (Maslow, 1958). Yet, it is not a final destination but an ongoing journey of growth and discovery. Maslow noted that self-actualization is relatively rare, as it requires overcoming societal pressures, fears, and self-doubt.

D. Love and Belonging Needs

The need for love and belonging represents the third level in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. These needs emerge after physiological and safety needs are fulfilled, driving humans to seek connection, care, and acceptance. According to Maslow (1943), individuals deprived of love and belonging experience loneliness, sadness, and a sense of unworthiness.

Maslow emphasized that love and belonging involve both giving and receiving love (Sianipar & Jusmaya, 2019). Both being loved and the ability to love are essential for psychological health and self-actualization. Maslow asserts that individuals are more likely to achieve mental well-being when they are loved, as deprivation of love often leads to psychological challenges. Furthermore, he highlights that the capacity to love others is equally important, as it fosters a deep sense of connection and fulfillment (Maslow, 1954). This dual importance is particularly evident in self-actualizing individuals, who naturally express love and are open to being loved without internal conflicts or inhibitions. Maslow's findings suggest that love is not only a fundamental human need but also a defining trait of psychological health and maturity.

Failing to meet these needs can lead to emotional distress, even if other aspects of life, like work, are stable. Individuals may feel isolated and disconnected, reinforcing the human necessity for belonging and acceptance, whether from family, friends, romantic partners, or larger social groups (Lumbantoruan & Evyanto, 2021).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter explains the methodology used in this research, covering key parts like the research design, data sources, data collection methods, and data analysis. Each part is clearly laid out to guide the study and help achieve its goals.

A. Research Design

This study employed literary criticism to explore social phenomena related to the love and belonging needs experienced by the main character in literary works. Drawing on Wellek and Warren's (1956) perspective, the researcher adopted a psychological approach that examines psychological principles and their application in literature. Specifically, the study applied Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, focusing on the level of love and belonging. It investigated the manifestations of love and belonging needs and the processes through which the main character in Julia Quinn's novel *Queen Charlotte* fulfilled these needs.

B. Data Source

The primary source for this research is Julia Quinn's novel *Queen Charlotte*, published in May 2023 by Harper Collins as a spin-off to the renowned *Bridgerton* series, which is widely recognized within the historical romance genre. This novel, containing 326 pages and organized into 34 chapters, served as the basis for the study's data collection. The data are derived from textual components such as words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, and dialogues that reflect the depiction of

love and belonging needs as experienced by Queen Charlotte, the novel's main character.

C. Data Collection

The data collections in this research process involved several systematic steps. First, the researcher employed the close-reading method to thoroughly read the novel and gained an overall understanding of the storyline. Next, the researcher identified primary data relevant to the research questions by underlining, highlighting, and taking detailed notes. In the third step, the collected data were classified according to Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, specifically focusing on the love and belonging level. Finally, these data were utilized in the analysis process to explore and interpret the depiction of love and belonging needs, aiming to address the research questions posed in this study.

D. Data Analysis

The researcher collected and analyzed the data systematically through several structured steps. Initially, the researcher identified relevant data pertaining to the love and belonging needs of the main character in *Queen Charlotte*. In the next step, the data were classified according to Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory, specifically focusing on how the main character exhibits and fulfills the need for love and belonging. Subsequently, the researcher interpreted the classified data to uncover deeper insights and patterns related to these psychological needs. Finally, the research concluded with a comprehensive summary that addressed the study's research questions. The findings, utilizing a psychological

approach and Maslow's theory, revealed the love and belonging needs of the main character in Julia Quinn's *Queen Charlotte*.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter presents the findings and analysis of the research, which are directed toward answering the two research questions. The data were collected from the primary source, a novel titled *Queen Charlotte* (2023) by Julia Quinn, and analyzed by using Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory (1943), with a focus on the love and belonging needs level. The analysis concentrates specifically on what are the challenges and how Queen Charlotte fulfilled her love and belonging needs throughout the story.

Before examining the psychological aspects of love and belonging, it is important to acknowledge that Queen Charlotte's physiological and safety needs are already fulfilled. As a queen, she lives in a palace with secure access to food, clothing, healthcare, and constant protection, which ensures her basic survival and physical safety. These foundational needs do not present significant conflict in the narrative and are not the focus of the study. In contrast, love and belonging needs cannot be fulfilled through wealth, title, or royal status. This level of need requires meaningful emotional connection and reciprocal affection. Queen Charlotte's status does not guarantee fulfillment in this area, as emotional closeness must be both received and given to truly fulfil the need.

The discussion is divided into two parts. The first part addresses the first research question, what are Queen Charlotte's challenges in fulfilling her love and belonging needs as portrayed in Julia Quinn's *Queen Charlotte*. The second part

continues with the analysis of the second research question, how does Queen Charlotte fulfill her love and belonging needs as portrayed in the novel.

A. Queen Charlotte's Challenges in Fulfilling Love and Belonging Needs

The Love and belonging needs are not fulfilled merely by receiving affection from others; they require mutual understanding, trust, and the willingness to give love as well. For Queen Charlotte, meeting these needs is not a simple matter of status or title. As a queen, she lives under intense scrutiny and pressure, often surrounded by formality rather than genuine connection. In order to feel truly loved and accepted, she must first offer that love to others and work to build meaningful bonds. This sub-chapter explores the efforts Queen Charlotte makes to fulfill her love and belonging needs through giving affection, support, and emotional presence to the people around her. It also highlights the internal and external challenges she faces along the way; feelings of loneliness, personal doubts, and the limitations imposed by her royal position. Through these struggles, we see how difficult it can be for someone in her place to find the emotional closeness that every human being needs. The following section will explore the various challenges experienced by Queen Charlotte in fulfilling her love and belonging needs.

1. Romantic Intimacy

Romantic intimacy involves emotional closeness, mutual vulnerability, and a sense of deep connection between romantic partners. Queen Charlotte and King George's relationship represents a unique portrayal of romantic intimacy, where the

desire to be seen and be loved as an individual, not only as a royal partner, is deeply evident.

Yet, Queen Charlotte is facing some challenges to get what she needs. One of the earliest challenges Queen Charlotte faces in fulfilling her love and belonging needs is building an emotional bond with her husband, King George. After being married, Charlotte was left alone in Buckingham Palace in their wedding night without any explanation from King George. Leaving alone with unfamiliar place, people, even the dishes, is making Charlotte desperate. She needs to make an emotional bond as a partner should be. So, she wrote him a letter, to get him back, and as he come back she tries to show understanding and patience in order to keep him by her side, as reflected in this datum below.

Datum 1

"You live for the happiness and the misery of a great nation," she said softly.

"Charlotte—"

"No." She laid a gentle hand on his arm.

"I am saying I understand. You live for the happiness and the misery of a great nation. That must be exhausting. And lonely.

You must feel caged. No wonder you spend so much time in the garden." (p. 175)

Rather than offering pity or detachment, Charlotte gives him a gentle affirmation. She sees George not as a king, but as a man carrying immense pressure, and she makes an effort to understand what he feels. This moment of emotional support shows how deeply she wants to be part of his inner world. Maslow (1954) explained that a person can feel a sense of love and belonging when they put effort into establishing a relationship with another person, and that the need for a love partner is included in this. Charlotte's words and actions reflect this exact effort. By

reaching out to George in this way, she not only supports him, but also builds a meaningful connection that helps fulfill her own emotional needs as someone who longs to love and be loved in return.

Another emotional support was given by Charlotte when King George touches her cheek after he did gardening.

Datum 2

She traced that little line of dirt with her thumb.

"Sorry," he said quickly. "I—"

"No," she said, covering her hand with his.

"I like it. It's honest." It felt like him. Just George. (p. 174)

In this scene, Queen Charlotte interacts with King George during a moment of quiet vulnerability. She notices a small line of dirt on his hand, an imperfection that reflects his true, unpolished self. When George apologizes, Charlotte stops him and gently covers his hand with hers, saying, "I like it. It's honest." Her words and gesture signal a significant emotional effort to connect with George not as a king, but as a man.

This moment reflects Charlotte's conscious attempt to offer acceptance and intimacy, two important aspects of love and belonging needs. According to Maslow (1943), fulfilling these needs requires genuine emotional engagement and authenticity. Charlotte's willingness to embrace George's imperfections shows her desire to establish a deeper connection based on emotional truth rather than status or duty.

Charlotte's effort to preserve her emotional bond with George begins to show progress when he agrees to accompany her to a social event, something he had always avoided. His willingness to attend reflects a growing trust and openness, shaped by Charlotte's steady acts of love and acceptance. However, this milestone

does not erase Charlotte's fear that George might leave her again. His longstanding insecurity and discomfort in public spaces become the next challenge she must face. As someone who understands the depth of his inner struggle, Charlotte continues to offer emotional reassurance by standing firmly by his side. She clings to her belief in their bond, striving to be his anchor through his instability, as reflected in the following datum.

Datum 3

She rose to her tiptoes and gave him a peck on the cheek.

Someone gasped.

"Only a true wife would do that before an audience,"

George said quietly. (p. 179)

This datum shows that Charlotte chooses to express love not only in private, but being surrounded by an audience that expects formality and restraint from a queen. Her action is not grand, but it is brave and meaningful. It signals to George and everyone watching that she stands beside him as a loving partner, not just a ceremonial figure. This kind of outward affection reflects her emotional investment in the relationship. As noted by Maslow (1954), the act of showing love particularly within a romantic partnership plays a significant role in fulfilling the need for emotional connection and belonging. Charlotte's willingness to break social expectations to express affection reinforces the strength of their bond and shows that she contributes actively to their emotional closeness. Giving this kind of love helps affirm her role not only as queen, but as someone deeply committed to her husband.

Although their marriage finally continues with a gesture of affection and vulnerability, the intimacy between Queen Charlotte and King George does not

immediately deepen. Shortly after their emotional connection begins to grow, George suddenly withdraws without offering any explanation, leaving Charlotte confused and emotionally abandoned. At the same time, she finds herself pregnant with the future king, which only intensifies the pressure and limitations placed on her as a queen. Isolated within the confines of the palace and burdened by expectations, Charlotte experiences deep loneliness with no emotional support from her husband. Her public role demands strength and composure, yet privately she struggles with feelings of rejection and helplessness. After enduring this emotional distance for several months, Charlotte eventually reaches a breaking point. Frustrated by the lack of answers and longing for connection, she decides to go to Kew and confront her husband. This decision in datum below reflects her determination to reclaim control over her personal life and seek the emotional bond she desperately needs in order to feel truly loved and accepted.

Datum 4

"Is it that you do not believe that I could love you?" she asked.

"Because I do. I love you, George.

I love you so much that I will do as you wish."

[...]

"George," she implored,

"I will stand with you between the heavens and the earth.

I will tell you where you are."

"Do you love me?" (p. 251-252)

This moment occurs after Charlotte's persistent emotional efforts to reach George finally bring them to a vulnerable confrontation. Despite being hurt and left in the dark by her husband, Charlotte chooses to offer him unconditional love. Her declaration, "I love you, George. I love you so much that I will do as you wish," demonstrates the depth of her emotional investment. She expresses her

willingness to prioritize George's needs above her own. This act of selflessness reflects Charlotte's struggle to give love in a one-sided relationship, which Maslow identifies as a fundamental challenge in fulfilling the need for love and belonging. Her final line, "I will stand with you between the heavens and the earth. I will tell you where you are," suggests her desire to be a source of emotional grounding for George, even in his most unstable moments. However, George's hesitant question, "Do you love me?" reveals how distant and unsure he still feels about receiving that love, underlining the difficulty Charlotte faces in building mutual emotional connection.

This scene also captures how giving love, while essential, is not always met with equal emotional openness, making the fulfillment of Charlotte's need for love and belonging even more challenging. Whereas, Maslow (1943) believed that love and belonging are also met when individuals feel needed and purposeful in their relationships. Charlotte's love becomes an act of emotional giving, an anchor for George and a reflection of her role as a partner who offers not only affection, but strength. Her words express both reassurance and sacrifice, showing how her own sense of belonging is shaped by her desire to protect and love someone fully, even when it is difficult.

Queen Charlotte faces several challenges in fulfilling her love and belonging needs through romantic intimacy. Her husband's emotional instability and tendency to withdraw create a constant sense of uncertainty, making it difficult for her to build consistent closeness. She often feels isolated, especially during her pregnancy, when George disappears without explanation. Despite her efforts to

offer affection, understanding, and support, Charlotte struggles with the lack of emotional reciprocity and openness from George. Her position as queen also limits her freedom to express vulnerability, forcing her to remain strong while facing repeated rejection. These obstacles make her pursuit of romantic connection both emotionally demanding and deeply fragile.

2. Friendship

Friendship is an essential form of love and belonging, especially for someone who finds themselves alone in an unfamiliar environment without the presence of family. Maslow (1943) emphasizes that the need for love and belonging includes the presence of friendship. Individuals seek acknowledgment and inclusion in various social settings such as communities, workplaces, educational environments, and broader society. The existence of friendship is not only affirms one's social identity but also fosters a sense of worth, enabling individuals to participate meaningfully in collective actions and decision-making that support communal well-being.

Queen Charlotte longs for genuine companionship, yet her role as the Queen of Great Britain restricts her ability to form ordinary friendships. Her royal status imposes strict expectations on how she should behave, including who she can interact with and how. This limitation is evident during her honeymoon, when King George unexpectedly leaves her alone. In her isolation, Charlotte considers inviting her court to keep her company, but the idea is deemed inappropriate given the occasion. Being on her honeymoon, such a gesture would not align with royal

decorum, and she must endure her loneliness in silence. Her desire to have friends like any other person is real, but the throne prevents her from reaching out freely.

The same barrier applies to her relationship with Brimsley. Despite their emotional closeness, there are unspoken rules that neither of them can easily break. For example, Brimsley never walks beside her, even when Charlotte expresses the wish for him to do so. His refusal is not due to a lack of affection, but out of respect for the rigid boundaries of their roles. Charlotte's status creates distance in relationships that could otherwise feel personal. Still, she does not give up. She expresses her care, communicates her wishes, and makes subtle efforts to foster closeness with the people around her, showing her determination to fulfill her emotional needs despite the limitations of her position.

Even though Queen Charlotte is aware that her position as a queen limits her ability to form personal relationships freely, she still makes efforts to fulfill her love and belonging needs by seeking genuine connections. In her loneliness, she invites Lady Agatha Danbury to accompany her in the palace and offer her to be her friend. This moment illustrates Charlotte's willingness to open herself to emotional closeness beyond formal and political obligations. Her offer of Agatha as a friend reflects an intentional act of giving emotional connection, a core aspect of fulfilling love and belonging needs. This is clearly shown in the following datum.

Datum 5

Charlotte stared at her. For a very long time. And then finally, in a voice that belonged to a girl, not a Queen, she said, "You will be my friend?" (p.236)

In this scene, Queen Charlotte extends a rare and meaningful offer of friendship to Lady Agatha Danbury. Her question, "You will be my friend?" is not

a casual inquiry, but a sincere gesture that carries emotional burden, especially coming from someone with the highest status in the land. Spoken “in a voice that belonged to a girl, not a Queen,” Charlotte's words strip away the authority of her title and expose her personal vulnerability. Despite being the most powerful woman in the world, Charlotte initiates a connection with Agatha not as a monarch, but as a lonely young woman in need of companionship.

This moment highlights one of Queen Charlotte’s major efforts in fulfilling her love and belonging needs. As Maslow (1943) states, such needs involve both giving and receiving love and emotional connection. In this case, Charlotte actively gives emotional openness and trust by asking someone to stand beside her as a friend. The challenge lies in the imbalance between her power and the personal isolation that comes with it, making this act of reaching out all the more courageous and meaningful. By setting aside the rigid boundaries of her position, Charlotte takes a vulnerable step toward forming a genuine, mutual relationship.

Before openly asking Agatha Danbury to be her friend, Queen Charlotte had already shown sincere care and support toward her. As showed in this datum below.

Datum 6

Charlotte met Agatha's eyes. Silently, she said, I am here.

We will not fail. Aloud, she said,

“Your home is exquisite, Lady Danbury.

We are so grateful for your invitation.” (p. 177)

This moment is more than polite conversation, it is a public display of support and trust. Charlotte uses her presence as Queen to validate Agatha’s position and to send a message to others in attendance. Her actions offer reassurance and emotional backing to her friend. Maslow’s theory highlights that love and belonging also grow through companionship and loyalty, especially when people feel

supported in difficult moments. By choosing to show up and stand with Agatha, Charlotte gives more than words; she offers her trust, her influence not to exclude Agatha, and her emotional presence.

As a queen, her presence served as a statement that Lady Danbury belonged within the inner circle of nobility, despite the racial and social prejudices of the time. Through this act, Charlotte offered more than royal endorsement; she extended emotional validation and acceptance. These efforts reflected her affection and desire to form a bond, not only as Queen to subject, but as woman to woman. Such gestures demonstrate Charlotte's way of giving love and belonging, keeping Agatha to be her side.

The challenge Queen Charlotte faces in forming a bond with Brimsley closely mirrors the one she experiences with Agatha, both shaped by the constraints of social hierarchy. As a queen, Charlotte is expected to maintain distance from those of lower status, making it difficult to build genuine personal relationships. However, in Brimsley's case, the emotional connection comes more naturally. His duty requires him to accompany her constantly, which over time fosters familiarity, trust, and emotional intimacy. Despite this closeness, their relationship is still restricted by boundaries, Brimsley never walks beside her, even when she asks, out of respect for royal protocol. This shows how the limits their ability to fully express friendship. Yet, within those limits, Charlotte, who has emotional connection with him, still could give affection and emotional appreciation, treating Brimsley as more than just a servant, but as someone she genuinely trusts and cares for.

The datum below shows Charlotte is giving care about Brimsley's safety.

Datum 7

"You cannot come with me," she said.

"I must remain by your—"

"No," she said, cutting him off. "You will be blamed if you accompany me. You must stay here."

"But—"

"I will not allow you to take my punishment." (p. 232)

Charlotte's words reflect deep emotional concern. She acknowledges the risks Brimsley faces and chooses to carry the consequences alone rather than let him suffer for her choices. This protective response is a clear expression of care and respect. In Maslow's framework, giving love and support to others, especially through protective actions, can contribute to one's own sense of connection and belonging. By prioritizing Brimsley's safety over her own need for comfort, Charlotte shows that her relationship with him is built not only on service and loyalty, but also mutual care.

Queen Charlotte's journey to fulfill her love and belonging needs is marked by emotional efforts that are often obstructed by her royal status and personal circumstances. In her romantic relationship with King George, she struggles with loneliness, rejection, and the challenge of building intimacy with a husband who repeatedly withdraws due to his mental health. In friendships, her position as Queen creates invisible walls, making it inappropriate for her to freely form bonds or seek comfort from others. She longs for companionship but is expected to remain distant, composed, and self-contained. Even when she finds potential connections with Agatha Danbury and Brimsley, her attempts are limited by rigid societal roles and palace protocols. These challenges reveal that fulfilling love and belonging needs requires more than presence or proximity; it demands mutual openness, emotional

safety, and freedom from imposed boundaries, many of which Charlotte cannot easily escape.

3. Family

Queen Charlotte encounters significant challenges in fulfilling her love and belonging needs within her family. From the outset, Charlotte's familial foundation is unstable. Both of her parents passed away when she was young, and her older brother, Adolphus, who served as her guardian, became increasingly absorbed in his royal duties. Instead of offering emotional support, Adolphus arranged Charlotte's marriage to King George without her full understanding or consent, prioritizing political alliance over her autonomy. After the marriage, Charlotte's relocation to a foreign country further intensified her isolation, cutting her off from her only remaining close relative and severing the last thread of familial intimacy from her past life.

As a result, Charlotte instinctively seeks familial connection in her new environment, placing her hope in Princess Augusta, her mother-in-law. However, this relationship presents its own emotional challenges. Rather than welcoming Charlotte with the warmth of a mother figure, Augusta treats her more like a machine, someone whose sole purpose is to produce the next heir to the throne. Charlotte's individual needs, feelings, and identity are often dismissed, particularly in moments when Augusta exerts her authority to control Charlotte's actions and decisions. Compounding this dynamic is Augusta's implicit racial bias, which subtly reinforces distance and mistrust between them. Instead of embracing

Charlotte as family, Augusta regards her as an outsider, unworthy of full inclusion due to her background and skin color.

These conditions deprive Charlotte of the opportunity to give or receive affection in a familial context. Her royal title, rather than elevating her emotionally, further restricts her ability to form natural, personal bonds with her new family members. She is left with no space to express vulnerability, build mutual trust, or participate in shared familial warmth. Thus, unlike her friendships or romantic relationship, Charlotte's attempts to fulfill her love and belonging needs through family are entirely thwarted, not by lack of desire or effort, but by structural barriers, emotional coldness, and unspoken prejudice within the family she was forced to enter.

4. Society

One of the most significant challenges Queen Charlotte faces in fulfilling her love and belonging needs lies in her disconnection from society. Queen Charlotte's connection with the broader society is marked by distance and limitation. As a monarch, one might assume that her position places her at the center of public life; however, during the early phase of her marriage, Charlotte is largely isolated from social events. Her honeymoon period lacks public appearances, and her husband, King George, is notably reluctant to attend social gatherings such as royal balls or public ceremonies. This absence from society not only restricts Charlotte's visibility but also diminishes her opportunities to form emotional bonds with the people she rules.

Moreover, Charlotte's arrival in England puts her in a difficult position within society. She comes from another continent, doesn't speak the language fluently, and looks different from the British royal family. As a young queen in a new and unfamiliar land, she faces the risk of being rejected or treated as an outsider. Being accepted by the people around her, especially in the upper class, is not something she can take for granted.

Due to these constraints, Charlotte struggles to express care and solidarity toward her subjects in meaningful ways. Love and belonging needs, according to Maslow (1943), involve reciprocal emotional connections, which cannot be cultivated without interaction and presence. The Queen's limited exposure to society creates an emotional gap between her and the people, making it difficult for her to offer affection, receive public validation, or feel a sense of inclusion within the larger social structure. Despite her symbolic role as the mother of the nation, the reality of her experience is defined more by protocol and restriction than by connection and mutual acceptance.

Queen Charlotte's journey in fulfilling her love and belonging needs is marked by a series of profound emotional and situational challenges. In her romantic relationship with King George, she faces emotional distance and uncertainty due to his mental health struggles, which make it difficult for her to maintain consistent intimacy. Although she tries to express her affection and loyalty, George's unpredictable behavior often leaves her feeling abandoned and alone. In terms of friendship, Charlotte's royal status becomes a barrier to forming genuine connections. While she longs for companionship, strict social norms and

expectations prevent her from freely building bonds. Despite this, she manages to foster meaningful relationships with Agatha Danbury and Brimsley, though even these are constrained by status and protocol.

Her family ties, once a potential source of emotional comfort, become strained due to distance and obligation. Having lost her parents at a young age and living apart from her brother Adolphus, Charlotte experiences emotional detachment from her kin. The presence of Princess Augusta, her mother-in-law, fails to fill the void, as Augusta treats her as a machine for producing heirs rather than as family. Lastly, her connection with society is the most limited of all. Her isolation during the honeymoon period, coupled with George's absence from public life, leaves her with little to no opportunity to interact with or serve the people as a queen. Among all these, her inability to build reciprocal bonds with family and society proves to be the most paralyzing. These areas offer no space for her to give emotional connection, making them the most challenging parts in fulfilling her love and belonging needs.

B. The Fulfillment of Queen Charlotte's Love and Belonging Needs

The novel *Queen Charlotte* by Julia Quinn presents a main character who experiences emotional challenges not only from her royal duties, but also from her personal longing to be seen, loved, and connected. As someone who is placed in a new country, a new culture, and a marriage she barely understands, Charlotte struggles to find her place both privately and publicly. The analysis in the previous section showed that Charlotte's need for love and belonging was portrayed through her relationships with her husband, her companions, and society. However, the

presence of these figures does not automatically mean that her needs were fulfilled. Maslow in Sianipar and Jusmaya (2019) explained that love and belonging must be based on sincerity and mutual connection. People do not only find belonging by being loved, but also by giving love, showing loyalty, and expressing care to others. These reciprocal actions help individuals feel emotionally grounded and valued in return.

Having explored the various challenges Queen Charlotte faced in giving love and building emotional bonds with others, the next focus lies in examining whether those efforts resulted in mutual emotional connections. According to Maslow (1943), the fulfillment of love and belonging needs depends not only on the ability to offer affection and acceptance but also on the experience of receiving them in return. Mutuality becomes essential, only when love is both given and reciprocated can this psychological need be truly fulfilled. Therefore, this subchapter will analyze how Queen Charlotte's love and belonging needs are eventually met through the responses she receives from others. The discussion is categorized into four parts: receiving love from her romantic partner, her friends, her family, and society at large.

1. Romantic Intimacy

In addition to giving love, fulfilling love and belonging needs also requires receiving love from others. Receiving love helps reduce feelings of loneliness, rejection, and emotional isolation (Lim, Eres & Vasan, 2020). For Queen Charlotte, who enters a new life as a royal figure in a foreign land, emotional support from others becomes essential. Feeling loved allows her to feel safe and accepted in the

roles she is expected to carry. When a person begins to build relationships, they often bring certain expectations and emotional needs into that connection.

Queen Charlotte and King George's relationship represents a unique portrayal of romantic intimacy, where the desire to be seen and loved as an individual is deeply evident. Despite the pressures of royalty, Charlotte longs to be recognized as a woman, a wife, and a partner in love, not only as the Queen of Great Britain. This human need to feel emotionally close, accepted, and cherished by a romantic partner becomes crucial in Charlotte's psychological well-being. The following quotation illustrates how this need is fulfilled through George's tender gesture and choice of words during a vulnerable moment between them.

Datum 8

"I am so very, very sorry, Your Majesty."

He reached down and took her hand, tugging her back upright.

"Not Your Majesty. George."

His mouth made a funny line, and for a moment he looked almost flustered.

"I mean, yes, Your Majesty. But to you, George." (p. 41)

The quotation reveals Charlotte's acceptance from King George that tries to strip away formalities and affirm his emotional closeness with Charlotte by asking her to call him "George" instead of "Your Majesty." This small but meaningful request shows George's desire to be intimate and equal in their private relationship, emphasizing that their connection transcends royal roles. George's slightly flustered expression and awkward clarification "But to you, George" further highlight his vulnerability, which opens the space for a more personal, affectionate bond. By offering his hand and correcting her address, Charlotte was invited into a private sphere where love is more important than status. According to Maslow (1943), intimacy and affection within romantic relationships are essential in fulfilling love

and belonging needs. In this moment, Queen Charlotte experiences that sense of belonging, not to the monarchy, but to a man who wants to be loved by her as George, not as a king. This interaction confirms her emotional importance to him and affirms the strength of their romantic bond.

Although their marriage begins with a gesture of affection and vulnerability, the intimacy between Queen Charlotte and King George does not immediately deepen. Shortly after their wedding, George deliberately distances himself from Charlotte by leaving her alone in the palace without any explanation. He hides the truth about his mental illness, fearing that exposure to his condition would harm her or diminish her view of him. This separation leaves Charlotte feeling confused, isolated, and emotionally abandoned in a new environment where she has no allies and barely knows her husband. Her love and belonging needs begin to go unmet, and the disconnection casts a shadow over their early relationship.

However, when George knew from his servant, Reynold, that Charlotte feels profoundly lonely, he tried to acknowledge her emotional needs. He sent her a thoughtful gift, a Pomeranian dog, accompanied by a short but heartfelt note.

Datum 9

*"The King has sent you a gift, Your Majesty.
It is waiting in the foyer. And there is a note, ma'am."
He handed it to the Queen.
[...]
"I never want you to feel alone," Agatha read.
She cleared her throat. "George R." (p. 90)*

This gesture, though indirect, holds deep meaning for Charlotte. After enduring emotional distance and abandonment, the note "I never want you to feel alone" becomes a powerful validation of her feelings. It offers her a glimpse of comfort and recognition from the one person whose presence she longed for most.

For Charlotte, this message is not merely a kind phrase, it is a lifeline that affirms her worth and emotional needs. Although George still keeps his distance, Charlotte receives this gesture as a sign that her pain has been seen, and her longing for connection is beginning to be acknowledged.

Maslow (1943) stated that, feeling seen, cared for, and emotionally safe are key indicators that a person's love and belonging needs are being met. In this context, the King's note acts as a symbolic embrace, it tells Charlotte she is not forgotten, that her presence matters, and that George wants to protect her from emotional isolation. It is a small but crucial moment of intimacy that lays the foundation for their reconnection.

These intimate emotional exchanges are also supported by George's habit of expressing verbal affection. His words of praise and admiration are not just compliments, but affirmations of love that directly speak to Charlotte's emotional needs. Such verbal affirmations help solidify the emotional connection between them and allow Charlotte to feel seen and cherished.

One of the earliest examples occurs on their wedding day, when George and Charlotte dance together for the first time. Amid the grandeur of the ceremony, George lowers the emotional distance between them by offering heartfelt admiration.

Datum 10

"Is not beauty in the eye of the beholder?"

"If it is, then you are the most exquisite creature ever to be born, for I am the one beholding you." (p. 53)

The intimacy of this compliment reveals George's immediate attraction and emotional investment in Charlotte. His words are not mere flattery; they affirm her

importance to him in a deeply personal way. Charlotte's genuine smile in response suggests that this moment makes her feel accepted and valued. Instead of seeing herself as a political pawn in an arranged marriage, she begins to sense her emotional significance to her new husband. This experience aligns with Maslow's theory that love and belonging needs are met when individuals feel emotionally recognized by others, especially through honest, affirming communication.

A similar moment unfolds later in their marriage, just before they dance at the ball in Buckingham Palace. George is visibly awestruck as he sees Charlotte dressed for the evening.

Datum 11

"Look at you," he said. "You are a rare jewel." (p. 298)

Charlotte's emotional closeness with George is further strengthened by his sincere admiration, which reassures her of her place and value within their relationship. For Charlotte, these compliments are not merely romantic—they affirm her identity and worth in a role that often demands her to suppress her emotions. According to Maslow (1954), individuals flourish when they are valued not just for their actions, but for who they truly are. George's consistent praise offers Charlotte the emotional recognition she longs for, reinforcing her sense of belonging and fulfilling her deep need to be seen, understood, and loved within their intimate partnership.

As their emotional relationship strengthens, Charlotte and George also begin to unite in purpose and identity. Their bond evolves beyond romance into a deep partnership built on mutual reliance. This is first visible when they attend Lord and Lady Danbury's ball and speak of their shared mission to reform society.

Datum 12

"We are a team," he said. "Are we not?"

"We are. We shall do great things."

"Together."

"Together," she agreed. (p. 178)

In this moment, George acknowledges Charlotte not just as his wife, but as his equal, a partner in both love and leadership. That sense of shared identity continues throughout their marriage, especially as they prepare to become parents. In a tender scene, George touches Charlotte's belly and reaffirms their unity.

Datum 13

"This time we are together. We are one."

He touched her belly. "We are three."

"We are three," she agreed. (p. 276)

This statement is more than a reflection of their growing family it signifies a complete emotional reunion between husband and wife. In this scene, Charlotte experiences that emotional anchoring, being seen, needed, and valued as both a partner and a mother-to-be, fulfilling one of the most fundamental human needs for connection and emotional rootedness.

Another sense of belonging needs also portrayed when George admitted Charlotte as his wife clearly as in this data below.

Datum 14

"You are my wife,"

he finally said out loud." (p. 136)

Datum 15

She rose to her tiptoes and gave him a peck on the cheek.

Someone gasped.

"Only a true wife would do that before an audience,"

George said quietly.

"Am I a true wife?"

"Forever," he vowed. (p. 179)

This exchange signals George's public and personal acceptance of Charlotte, not just as queen, but as the woman he chooses and loves. His vow of "forever" grants Charlotte a sense of security and significance in the relationship. Within Maslow's hierarchy, such moments of deep mutual recognition help individuals feel emotionally anchored and valued in their intimate bonds, fulfilling their need to belong in both private and social spheres.

The clearest expression of love that Queen Charlotte receives comes when King George finally confesses his deepest feelings. After a long period of emotional distance, his words reflect sincerity, vulnerability, and a powerful emotional release.

Datum 16

*"I love you." The words sounded as if they'd been ripped from his soul.
He'd been holding this back, denying his own heart.
She could see it in his eyes as they filled with tears.
"George," she whispered.
"No, let me finish. From the moment I saw you trying to go
over the wall, I have loved you desperately. I cannot breathe when
you are not near. I love you, Charlotte." He took her face in his hands.
"My heart calls your name." (p. 252)*

This moment is significant not only because of the words themselves, but because of the emotional intensity behind them. George does not simply say "I love you" he pleads, confesses, and finally lets himself be fully seen. For Charlotte, who has spent much of her marriage feeling uncertain, isolated, and unloved, this outpouring is transformative. It gives her the emotional reassurance she has long needed. Maslow's theory notes that the need for love is fulfilled when individuals are not only physically supported, but emotionally affirmed, when they are told, clearly and honestly, that they are cherished. George's confession satisfies this need. It gives Charlotte clarity, security, and the deep emotional connection she has been searching for throughout their relationship.

Following George's verbal declaration of love, his emotional commitment is further demonstrated through a powerful act of companionship during one of Charlotte's most vulnerable moments, childbirth. Despite the rigid protocol that prohibits men from entering the birthing chamber, George defies this rule to be by Charlotte's side.

Datum 17

"My darling," he said, taking her hand. "I am here now."

She managed the wobbliest of smiles. "I don't want to do this."

"Too late, I'm afraid."

He gave her a smile of his own, trying to offer strength through good cheer.

"But I am with you. I would take the pain if I could." (p. 280)

This moment highlights how George places his emotional responsibility toward Charlotte above social convention. His presence is not only a source of comfort, but a declaration that her wellbeing matters more than public appearance or protocol. According to Maslow (1958), love and belonging are nurtured through deep, personal connections where individuals feel seen, prioritized, and supported. George's refusal to stay distant in this critical moment affirms Charlotte's significance in his life, reinforcing her sense of belonging and emotional safety in their marriage.

This action is more than a break from tradition; it is a profound expression of support and presence. In doing so, George not only validates Charlotte's emotional and physical experience but also reinforces their bond as equal partners. relationship.

2. Friendship

Queen Charlotte's need for emotional support and loyalty is also fulfilled through her close bond with Brimsley, her most trusted companion. In a moment of frustration and emotional vulnerability, Charlotte lashes out over the lack of support she feels from those around her, especially from Princess Augusta. She turns to Brimsley, expressing her disappointment and expecting him to take her side. His response is brief but deeply meaningful.

Datum 18

"I can understand this of her," Charlotte said, throwing her arm out in a violent motion toward Princess Augusta's sitting room.

"She is selfish. She cares only for the Crown.

But you were supposed to be on my side."

"I am, Your Majesty." (p. 200)

This brief exchange, though simple, carries emotional weight. Charlotte's frustration reveals her longing for allies she can trust, and Brimsley's immediate and calm reassurance by *"I am, Your Majesty"* confirms his loyalty. His presence and words offer emotional safety, something Maslow highlights as a key element in fulfilling love and belonging needs. Being "on her side" means more than doing his duty, it's about validating her feelings, being emotionally available, and offering a kind of quiet, unwavering friendship. In this simple affirmation, Charlotte receives the loyalty and understanding she longs for in an environment that often feels cold and isolating.

Maslow (1943) emphasized that one's love and belonging needs are not only fulfilled through emotional intimacy but also through the reliable presence of those who stand by us in moments of doubt or despair. Brimsley's response

offers her exactly that: stability and emotional grounding. Another proof that Brimsley being loyal and care to Queen Charlotte is showed as datum below.

Datum 19

"You cannot come with me," she said.

"I must remain by your—"

"No," she said, cutting him off. "You will be blamed if you accompany me. You must stay here."

"But—"

"I will not allow you to take my punishment." (p. 232)

Charlotte also receives love from Agatha Danbury, who becomes one of her closest companions. In a moment when words fail, Agatha expresses her care through a simple but meaningful gesture.

Datum 20

Agatha squeezed Charlotte's hand.

She had no words; a gesture would have to do. (p. 237)

This small act of physical touch becomes deeply personal. Agatha offers comfort not through speeches or formal reassurances, but through presence. This aligns with Maslow's concept of love and belonging as needs fulfilled through emotional closeness and physical expressions of connection. Even a small act like holding someone's hand can signal empathy, loyalty, and emotional safety. For Charlotte, this wordless moment is a quiet confirmation that she is seen, valued, and not alone.

Moreover, Queen Charlotte also receives verbal supports from Agatha, which make her feel accepted and be heard by someone.

This moment reveals just how profoundly Charlotte has been denied in her life. Her reaction, blank confusion followed by quiet astonishment, shows that she is unaccustomed to being asked what she wants, especially within a royal system that places duty above personal feeling. Maslow (1943) states that love and

belonging needs involve feeling seen, heard, and emotionally validated. By simply asking what Charlotte wants, the other person acknowledges her as a full human being with feelings and choices, not just a symbol of monarchy. This affirmation of her inner world is a crucial form of emotional connection, reinforcing that she is worthy of care and consideration beyond her role as queen.

Agatha's empathetic response to Charlotte's confession strengthens this emotional bond. She listens, affirms Charlotte's feelings, and offers quiet support. According to Maslow, such understanding and acceptance are essential signs that a person's love and belonging needs are being nurtured. In this moment, Charlotte is not a queen fulfilling her role but a woman being seen and comforted by a friend.

Agatha Danbury does more than offer companionship, she stands by Queen Charlotte in some of her most difficult and vulnerable moments. One such moment is during Charlotte's labor, where Agatha provides emotional reassurance and helps calm her fears.

Datum 21

"You are the strongest woman I know," Lady Danbury said. (p. 282)

This short but powerful statement becomes a verbal anchor for Charlotte. In a moment filled with pain, fear, and pressure, being reminded of her strength helps her feel supported and seen. According to Maslow (1943), emotional validation like this, especially when offered in times of distress, helps meet the love and belonging needs by making individuals feel respected, trusted, and emotionally held. Agatha's encouragement reinforces the bond between them, and shows that Charlotte is not alone in carrying the emotional weight of her role as both queen and woman.

The emotional support Queen Charlotte received from both Agatha Danbury and Brimsley confirms the fulfillment of her love and belonging needs through friendship. Agatha not only stands by her side during vulnerable moments, such as childbirth, but also offers emotional validation through gestures of reassurance and presence. Similarly, Brimsley's unwavering loyalty and quiet understanding serve as a consistent source of comfort and connection. These relationships reflect mutual emotional investment, where Queen Charlotte is not only able to express care and affection, but also receive it in return. In contrast to the formal and isolating environment of the palace, these two friendships provide Charlotte with a sense of safety, acceptance, and emotional grounding. Their consistent companionship and sincere concern validate Charlotte's role not just as a monarch, but as a person worthy of affection and trust, fulfilling her fundamental psychological need for belonging.

3. Family

Compared to the other forms, Queen Charlotte receives significantly less fulfillment of love and belonging needs from her family due to the numerous emotional and situational challenges she faces. Her relationship with her brother, Adolphus, is dominated by duty and political strategy, not emotional closeness. Instead of offering comfort or support, Adolphus arranges her marriage as part of a diplomatic alliance, prioritizing the interests of their province over her personal well-being. The absence of genuine affection or intimacy in this familial bond reflects a failure to meet the emotional foundation that defines love and belonging in Maslow's hierarchy. With no remaining parental figure and a sibling relationship

rooted in obligation, Charlotte finds herself emotionally distanced from her family, making it difficult for her to receive the kind of care, understanding, and emotional connection that love and belonging needs require.

Moreover, the royal family also treats her with similar detachment. Princess Augusta, the King's mother, sees Charlotte as someone who must secure the future of the royal bloodline. She is expected to produce heirs, not to be embraced as a daughter-in-law or as a person with emotional needs. According to Maslow (1943), love and belonging are not simply about being part of a family structure, they require affection, acceptance, and emotional recognition. While Charlotte initially receives none of these, her effort to love George eventually shifts Augusta's perception. In the final part of the story, Charlotte's genuine love and commitment lead to a moment of rare validation, one where Augusta finally offers her the respect and acknowledgment she had long been denied.

Datum 22

*But then his mother said,
 "I have only ever wanted him to be happy."
 "He is happy," Charlotte said.
 "You make him happy."
 [...]
 "Thank you," his mother said to Charlotte.
 She swept into a curtsy, the deepest he had ever seen her perform.
 She looked up at Charlotte and said, "Your Majesty." (p. 302)*

This exchange marks the first time Augusta acknowledges Charlotte not just as a tool for royal succession, but as someone who has brought true happiness to her son. Her words and gesture showed emotional significance, especially considering her position and pride. Addressing Charlotte with the title "*Your Majesty*" in such a deliberate and respectful way reflects a newfound acceptance that goes beyond royal protocol.

Charlotte's relationship with family shows that being part of a family doesn't always mean feeling loved or supported. Her bond with Adolphus feels more like a duty than real affection, and the royal family mostly sees her as someone who has a job to do. Even so, the moment when Princess Augusta finally shows her respect proves that recognition and care can still grow, especially when it's earned through real love and loyalty.

4. Society

Queen Charlotte's position as monarch places her at a distance from ordinary society, yet it also gives her the power to shape how she is perceived and included within it. In the context of Maslow's theory, love and belonging needs can also be fulfilled through a sense of acceptance and recognition from one's broader social environment. Despite early isolation and limited interaction with the public, Queen Charlotte gradually begins to receive acknowledgment and respect from the nobility and society at large. This growing acceptance reflects her success in gaining a sense of belonging, not merely through status, but through the emotional influence and leadership she demonstrates.

Society's acceptance becomes an important sign that Charlotte's not just tolerated as a queen, but appreciated as a person. The turning point in how society sees her is shown in a moment where people from different social groups come together and recognize her place among them. The following analysis explores how societal recognition contributes to the fulfillment of her emotional needs, particularly by showing signs of mutual respect and validation. connection.

Datum 23

*“Old ton and new ton. United. Another united couple
 joined them on the floor; and then another.
 Then came the Smythe-Smiths, and after that an old ton couple,
 and before long the dance floor was full.
 Some couples were a blend of old and new, some were not,
 but they were all dancing the same minuet.” (p. 177)*

This scene takes place during a major social event where members of the traditional British elite (*old ton*) and newer, more diverse families (*new ton*) gather together in the same space. The moment they all join on the dance floor symbolizes a rare but meaningful display of unity. For Charlotte, who comes from a different background and has long been seen as an outsider, this collective gesture shows that she is beginning to be accepted, not just as a ruler, but as part of the community. In Maslow’s theory (1943), the sense of belonging includes being welcomed into social groups and feeling included in collective moments. This unified dance reflects more than politeness, it suggests that society is beginning to embrace Charlotte’s presence and leadership. Taking part in the same tradition, side by side, marks a social shift where difference is no longer a barrier to connection.

Charlotte’s relationship with society shows that acceptance doesn’t always come easily, especially for someone seen as different. At first, her background, appearance, and status as an outsider put her in a vulnerable position. But over time, her presence and influence help bring people together, slowly shifting public perception. The unity she witnesses at the ball becomes a quiet but powerful sign that she is no longer seen as separate, but as someone who belongs. This sense of belonging in a wider social group supports the idea that human connection is not limited to personal relationships, it also includes being embraced by the community around us.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

This study aimed to explore the forms and fulfillment of love and belonging needs as portrayed through the character of Queen Charlotte in Julia Quinn's *Queen Charlotte*. The first research question examines the challenges Queen Charlotte faces in fulfilling her love and belonging needs as portrayed in *Queen Charlotte* by Julia Quinn. The findings reveal that Charlotte encounters various emotional and structural obstacles in giving affection and establishing emotional bonds. In her romantic relationship with King George, mental illness, emotional distance, and royal protocols hinder her from forming deep intimacy early in the marriage. Within friendships, her royal status limits her ability to form genuine connections, as seen in her initial loneliness and restricted social movement. Similarly, in the context of family, her emotional ties are strained due to the death of her parents, the political detachment of her brother, and the cold, racialized treatment from her mother-in-law. Lastly, her societal role as queen creates a gap between her and the public, reducing her chance to connect with others on a personal level. These constraints illustrate that despite her willingness to give affections, external and internal factors often prevent her from fully expressing it.

The second research question focused on how Queen Charlotte's love and belonging needs are eventually fulfilled. The results showed that her emotional needs are met primarily through her romantic relationship with King George and her close friendships with Agatha Danbury and Brimsley. Over time, she receives

genuine care, acceptance, and verbal affirmation from George, particularly through his emotional confessions and actions during vulnerable moments. Similarly, Agatha and Brimsley offer emotional stability and support, creating mutual bonds that transcend hierarchy and duty. On the other hand, Charlotte's love and belonging needs from family and society are only partially met. The lack of emotional reciprocity from her brother and mother-in-law, coupled with limited interaction with the public, leaves those areas emotionally underdeveloped. Thus, Charlotte's needs are fulfilled only in relationships that offer true mutual connection.

In conclusion, Queen Charlotte does not fully achieve complete fulfillment of her love and belonging needs. While she finds emotional closeness and balance in a few meaningful relationships, particularly with her husband and trusted friends, many aspects of her emotional world remain unmet. Her efforts to love and be loved are met with partial success, largely shaped by institutional roles, social expectations, and personal limitations. This demonstrates that fulfilling love and belonging needs requires not only the presence of others but also emotional vulnerability, mutual trust, and the freedom to connect without restriction, things Charlotte only finds in select, deeply personal relationships.

B. Suggestion

The researcher hopes that this study can be useful for readers and contribute to a deeper understanding of love and belonging needs, particularly through the lens of psychological theory. This thesis focuses specifically on how those needs are portrayed in the character of Queen Charlotte using Maslow's hierarchy of

needs, especially at the third level. Since the novel reflects emotional issues that are still very relevant to modern audiences, such as loneliness, the search for connection, and emotional isolation, a psychological approach was chosen to analyze these elements.

This research, however, is limited to the love and belonging needs of one character only. Therefore, future studies are encouraged to expand the scope of analysis. Further researchers may choose to explore other characters in the novel, such as King George, whose psychological struggles are equally compelling and could be studied through the same theoretical lens. Another suggestion is to examine Queen Charlotte's journey through the next levels of Maslow's hierarchy, such as esteem needs or self-actualization, which could offer insight into her growth as a woman and a queen. This study is far from perfect, and the researcher warmly welcomes any continuation or development of this topic to strengthen and diversify the theoretical application.

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CURRICULUM VITAE



Shabrina Zahrina Zhafarina was born in Banyuwangi on December 28, 2002. She graduated from MAN 1 Jember (MANPK) During her college life at Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, she actively participated in various student organizations and committees, both at the department and university levels. ELSA became the stair where she could develop her organizational and leadership skills, which later supported her involvement in other events and committees. In addition to her organizational experience, she also sharpened her academic skills through the faculty-based Reading and Writing community and contributed to the editing process of *LILICS* journal. She also had the opportunity to take part in the faculty's I-Yes program, where she accompanied international students from various countries. In the final year of her academic journey, she chose to fully enjoy the process of writing her thesis while preparing herself to face a real life after graduate.