

CHAPTER 4

THE REFLECTION OF CURIOSITY AND REVENGE ON A VERY GREER CHARACTER IN MEGAN MIRANDA'S NOVEL *THE LAST HOUSE GUEST* THROUGH EXTRINSIC APPROACHES

In this chapter, the writer will analyze the novel through extrinsic approaches. In the previous chapter, the writer has explained the intrinsic element such as, characterization, plot, and setting, which is used to discuss chapter furtherly. In this chapter, the writer uses the concept of Dimension of Curiosity and revenge. The purpose of this chapter is in order to prove my assumption of this novel.

4.1 Analysis of Curiosity Concept

In this section, there is one character that will be analyzed based on the curiosity dimension of Kashdan theory, quotes by David Disabato namely Joyous Exploration, Deprivation Sensitivity, Stress tolerance, Social curiosity, and Thrill-seeking. As David Disabato quotes in his journal that Curiosity is there is a feeling of interest in a situation where a potential exists for learning. There is a desire to seek out novel experiences - to see what happens, to find out how one will react, or discover how others react. Therefore this section will analyze the dimension of curiosity of Avery Greer's actions that show their characterization.

4.1.1 The Relation Between Avery Greer and Dimension of Curiosity

Through this concept, there are Five Dimension of Curiosity and the writer will analyze one by one about it all. The purpose of this part is to get the relationship between Avery Greer and Dimension of Curiosity so the writer will prove my assumption.

In this novel, Avery Greer is a clever, responsible, curious, and alert girl. In the summer of 2017, the Loman Family held a Plus One Party at their rental property, Blue Robbin. Sadie hasn't come to Plus One's party yet. Avery gets news that Sadie found at Breaker Beach. Avery becomes curious about the mystery of Sadie's death. Avery does things that show five dimensions of

curiosity. That is Joyous Exploration, Deprivation Sensitivity, Stress tolerance, Social curiosity, and Thrill-seeking.

4.1.1.1 Joyous Exploration

This dimension is the archetype of curiosity as a motivational drive for finding new experiences. People who have the Joyous Exploration Dimension must show high initiative, have tenacity in learning and growing, be open in experience and have positive emotions in learning new information or experiences. Through characterization in this novel, Avery is a person who is always curious to find out the mystery of Sadie's death and the cause of her parents' accident. This dimension appears after she gets the news from the police officers who come to the party plus one telling that Sadie has been found at Breaker Beach.

“The taller cop had a hand on Parker’s arm. “Your sister was found on Breaker Beach...”The room buzzed, and Luce’s hands went to her mouth, but I still wasn’t sure what they were saying. What Sadie was doing on Breaker Beach? I pictured her dancing, barefoot. Skinny-dipping in the ice-cold water on a dare. Her face lit up from the glow of a bonfire we’d made from driftwood. Behind us, half the party continued, but the noise was dropping. The music, cut. “Call your parents,” the officer continued. “We need you to come down to the station.” “No,” I said, “she’s . . .” Packing. Getting ready. On her way. The cop’s eyes widened, and he looked down at my hands. They were gripping the edge of his sleeve, my fingertips blanched white. I released him, backed up a step, bumped into another body. The dots on my phone—she had been writing to me. The cops had to be wrong. I pulled out my phone to check. But my question marks to Sadie remained unacknowledged. “ (Miranda, 2019: 12)

The joyous exploration of Avery can be seen when Avery gets news from the police that Sadie has been found at Breaker beach. Avery cannot believe that Sadie commits suicide by jumping on a cliff and finds at Breaker Beach. Avery becomes curious about Sadie's death because Parker says that Sadie is still packing and a while ago before police officers arrive, Avery sends a message to Sadie. She sees dots signs that Sadie is writing an answer but stops. Therefore, Avery finds out the truth about the mystery of Sadie's death.

You, Luciana, and Parker each arrived at the party separately. How did that go again? I was there first. Luciana arrived next. Parker arrived last. Here, a pause. And Connor Harlow? We heard he was at the party. A nod. A gap. Connor was there, too. I told them about the message, showed them my phone, promised she'd been writing to me when all of us were already at the party together. How many drinks had you had by then? Detective Collins had asked. And I'd said two, meaning three. He tore a sheet of lined paper off his notepad, wrote out a list of our names, and asked me to fill in the arrival times as well as I could. I estimated Luce's arrival on the time I'd called Sadie and Parker's on the time I'd sent the text, asking where she was.

Avery Greer—6:40 p.m.

Luciana Suarez—8 p.m.

Parker Loman—8:30 p.m.

Connor Harlow—?

I hadn't seen Connor come in, and I'd frowned at the page. Connor got there before Parker. I'm not sure when, I'd said. Detective Collins had twisted the paper back his way, eyes skimming the list. That's a big gap between you and the next person. (Miranda,2019: 19)

Another joyous exploration dimension of curiosity is when Detective Collins interviews Avery after a day of Sadie's death. He accuses Avery because of the pause and the big gap between Avery and the next person on the Plus one party's arrival list. Detective Collins also mentions the name of Connor who says he goes to the party but Avery does not know whether Connor comes to the party so that makes Avery curious about the puzzle of the mystery of Sadie's death so Avery investigates the Loman family's house to find the truth about Sadie's death.

4.1.1.2 Deprivation Sensitivity

People have a high score on Deprivation sensitivity, people who have abstract and complex ideas, quickly solve problems, and look for the information needed so as not to lose the knowledge gap. Avery's character is included in this dimension. It can be seen when Avery finds Sadie's hand phone that is never finds because it may disappear into the sea and slips out from her hand when she jumps, but Avery successes to find Sadie's hand phone in the Blue Robbin master bedroom because Sadie has a strong curiosity to find information. Avery unlocks Sadie's hand phone to get information. And then she checks her inbox, there is no message from anyone

except Avery. The call log is empty, after which Avery checks Sadie's e-mail. Sadie has two email accounts. The first account is used as a work account but has been inactive for a long time since her death, while the second account is used as a personal account but there are no signs of danger. Then Avery opens a photo gallery, there are some photos of Avery around Littleport like Sadie with a sea view, Sadie with Luce in the swimming pool, Parker and Luce who are having dinner. Avery is surprised so she stops scrolling because there are a picture of Connor and Sadie on the boat. This makes Avery curious about them. Avery asks whether this photo was a detective Collins question at that time. Connor comes to the party around 8:10 pm but Avery does not see him because she is busy calling Sadie.

I Plugged Sadie's Phone into my laptop, copying her photos. The drive. I peered through the window beside my front door in time to see Parker stepping out of his idling car to slide open the garage door. I folded the list of names and times I'd just copied down, slid it carefully into my purse (Miranda, 2019: 92)

The quote above shows the Deprivation Sensitivity of Avery's character. It can be seen when Avery finds some photos on Sadie's hand phone then she transfers the files to her laptop. Avery folds the note she had just copied quickly because Parker has just arrived and he will open the garage door.

It was the story of who I had been until the moment I met Sadie Loman, and I chose her. My life in her hands, restructured, recast. No longer adrift or alone. This was my journal from a time in my life I would have rather forgotten—but which had colored everything that followed. When I had sunk beneath the surface and all I wanted was to slide deeper into it, like there was something I was chasing, waiting at the bottom. You could tell where I had been by the destruction in my wake. Within these pages, I could see exactly where I'd lost Connor, where I'd lost Faith, and where I'd lost myself. (Miranda, 2019:152)

Another Dimension of Sensitivity Deprivation of curiosity is when Luce finds Sadie's note in the trash can beside the kitchen after Avery's interview with Detective Collins. They put in on the counter. Avery didn't believe it belongs to Sadie because Sadie does not write much. She keeps notes on her hand phone. Avery becomes curious and he wants to finds out about the note. Avery finds a box in Parker's trunks when she wants to take her hand phone then she opens it.

There is a purple journal. it matches Sadie's note but the journal and note belong to Avery. A story about Avery's life that is ruined in her life. Sadie's note in the counter is Avery's handwriting her anger, and her revenge.

I scrolled through the mortgage history now on my laptop with a fresh eye. It seemed that in the years before her death, my grandmother had paid a low monthly sum on automatic withdrawal. But earlier, she used to pay more. There was a line in the timing, a before and after, when the mortgage payment had dropped significantly. When she'd paid it down with one large lump sum. Here. Here it was. Money going out. A piece of evidence left behind after all. I traced the date, finger to the screen. It was the month after my parents had died. And I finally understood what Sadie had uncovered. The thing tying me to the Lomans. The cash payment she had found. It was a payoff for the death of my parents. (Miranda, 2019:301).

The quotation above also shows Deprivation of Sensitivity. It can be seen when Avery finds a check is cancel from asset box belonging her grandmother and then she brings to her computer to read the routing number and the results match the routing number and bank account that Sadie hides. It can be seen from the date, month, and fingerprint. The Loman family pays Avery's grandmother in return for the death of Avery's parents.

I flipped open the bound folder marked Medical. Inside were the records from private doctor visits coordinated by people like the Lomans—home visits, so they wouldn't have to wait in the lobby of urgent care. Anything, for a price. The first thing I saw was the record for Sadie's strep test two summers ago. Behind that, an angry rash from a reaction to her new sunscreen. Then a cough that lingered in Grant until Bianca made the call herself, surprising him when the doctor showed up mid-workday. Courses of treatment, a history for their records. I moved back in time, years passing until a word grabbed my attention—stitches. It was only one sheet, scarce on details. Parker's name and date of birth. A diagnosis of laceration. A treatment summary. There was a note about signs to watch out for, a possible concussion. A prescription painkiller. A referral to a plastic surgeon should he need one. (Miranda,2019: 318)

The above quote also shows The Deprivation of Sensitivity. It can be seen when Parker has a scar on his face but he claims that he has a scar from a fight in his youth but Avery does not believe him so he finds out about the truth. Avery investigates the entire room in Blue Robbin. She finds a doctor's visit history folder for the Loman family on Grant Loman's desk. There Avery finds a history

of Parker's treatment with a diagnosis of laceration, prescription pain killers, and the suggestion of plastic surgery. It turns out that Parker's scar is the cause of the accident between him and Avery's parents but he hides it.

4.1.1.3 Stress Tolerance

This dimension is about the willingness to embrace the doubt, confusion, anxiety, and other forms of distress that arise from exploring new, unexpected, complex, mysterious, or obscure events that often evokes a motivational conflict. Avery feels curious but at the same time, she also feels anxious.

And," I said, taking out my phone, my hand shaking, "proof that Sadie was hurt at the party last year. Detective, she was there." I pulled up the photos I'd just taken, handed him my phone, the words tumbling out too fast. Trying to walk him through the course of events—the bloodstain from the bathroom, my belief that someone had taken her from the house, wrapped her in a blanket, lost her phone in the process. They used my car. My trunk," I said, a sob caught in my throat. "The crime scene was there. Not here. She didn't jump." (Miranda, 2019:321)

The quotation above shows Avery feels anxiety because she finds a form of a rust-colored bloodstain, a circuit breaker, and a blanket in the trunk of her car that shows Sadie has killed by someone but she also feels curious about it and then she takes a photo the pieces of evidence to give to the police. Sadie's death is not on a cliff or a breaker beach. There is torture on Sadie in the bathroom after that they use Avery's car.

4.1.1.4 Social Curiosity

On the social dimension of curiosity, people want to know what other people are thinking and doing by observing, speaking, or listening to conversations with the aim of gathering information from second-hand sources. Avery meets Connor at the dock to get information about Connor's photo with Sadie on the boat. Avery gets information that they go on a tour together to several islands. One of the islands is Horseshoe. Avery asks Connor to go to the island. Avery finds a silver flash drive in the wooden brown box then Avery hides it from Connor.

My God, this was hers. This was definitely hers. My hands shook as I inserted it into the USB port of my laptop, waiting for the folder to pop

up. There was only one file inside, a JPEG, and I leaned closer as I opened it. It was a screenshot, a long horizontal bar with two rows in a spreadsheet, slightly out of focus, all blown up on my screen. Sadie had majored in finance, interned with her father in the process. Before she died, she'd been working with the cash flow of his company. There were three columns, each containing a string of numbers, but only one made sense: the one with a dollar amount—\$100,000. The other two I recognized as bank account and routing numbers. Account numbers. Payments. Something she'd felt the need to hide away, outside the reach of all of littleport. But there wasn't enough information. No names, no dates. It all meant nothing in a vacuum . (Miranda, 2019: 214)

The quotation above shows the social curiosity of the Avery character. It can be seen when Avery wants to know everything about Sadie. This dimension is to find out some evidence to reach by observing and talking to Connor. Avery becomes curious about the Flash drive. She puts the Flash drive into the USB port of her laptop. Avery found several Payments that are hidden by Sadie. The first payment of one hundred thousand dollars and other payments only shows a bank account and routing number with no clear information.

'You didn't know she was fighting with Parker Loman and took a swing at him? "No. No. I mean, I saw her there. I knew she was upset. I knew she was there to confront Parker, but I told her to leave. I sent her home. Jesus, she was furious with me, probably still is. Accused me of being a traitor. She didn't know why I was there. "Well, you missed it. The fight. She was pissed and took a stone pillar to his head. She missed Parker and hit the window instead." (Miranda, 2019:261)

The quotation above also explains the curiosity dimension of social curiosity. It can be seen dialogue above between Avery and Connor. Connor knows Faith comes to the Party at 9 p.m. She fighting with Parker. Faith is trying to hit Parker in the head with a stone pillar but misses, instead of hitting the window. As it turns out Faith has been entering one of the Loman's properties, Sunset Retreat with a key but she denies being the one who has been ransacking the Loman's properties.

4.1.1.5 Thrill-Seeking

People who have this dimension, People who are willing to take physical, social, and financial risks to get various, complex and intense experiences. Avery makes his decision to become a dimension of curiosity

that ends in it is stages. The incident is the time when she chooses the decision to take her own risk. Avery meets with Detective Collins after the Sadie dedication ceremony. Avery gives a file containing a medical file belonging to the Loman family. Detective Collins reads it but he pretends not to understand then he flicks the lighter, the file catches fire and falls into the trash. All files were burned by Detective Collins.

The evidence had burned. My phone. The flash drive. It was all gone. But I'd copied the file of the flash drive to my laptop. And I'd transferred Sadie's photos from her phone as well. Officer Chambers looked surprised at the mention of Sadie's phone- it seemed that Ben Collins had kept this information to himself, never mentioning discovery of the phone to anyone else. (Miranda, 2019:335)

The quotation above shows the character of the Thrill-Seeking Avery Greer. It can be seen that Avery brave takes to risk to herself. Avery meets with Detective Collins to provide the medical files belonging to the Loman family. All the evidence is burned by Detective Collins but Avery looks calm because she has the files copied on her laptop and she has transferred the Sadie Photos on her laptop so Avery can provide the evidence to the police station.

In The winter last year, I'd sold everything I had to the Sylvas. A strip of plots up on the overlook that I'd been holding on to for myself. All hidden under the name of an LLC. I'd started investing years earlier with the money from the sale of my grandmother's house. Cash from the Lomans themselves when they bought my grandmother's place. Bianca was the only one who ever asked where my money had gone. Grant, it seemed, wasn't paying attention (Miranda,2019:340)

Another Thrill-Seeking dimension of curiosity is when Avery sells everything which she has. She bravely to take the financial risk to a new life with Faith. They open a joint venture, renting out their new properties.

4.1.2 The Relation Between Dimension of Curiosity to Revenge

All of the above explanations prove that Avery has a curiosity about the mystery of Sadie's death relates to the five dimensions of Todd B Kashdan's citation, which is quoted by David Disabato namely Joyous Exploration, Deprivation Sensitivity, Stress Tolerance, Social Curiosity, and Thrill-seeking. The line shows the process or effort that explains curiosity that results in revenge. According to Karina Schumann and Michael Ross which

are stated in their article, in acts of revenge, individuals respond to mistakes by harming the transgressor. Revenge can also refer to the urge to pay wrong; thus a person can have revenge in his heart. Revenge is motivated by a yearning to see a transgressor suffer. According to the equity theory cited by Karina Schumann, Revenge may enable victims to reduce their distress by restoring equity with the transgressor. Similarly, Frijda (1994: 274) observed that one of the most infuriating aspects of being unjustly harmed is the awareness that, “he walks in pleasure and I in suffering”. Revenge does not undo the harm, but it can restore the balance of suffering between the victim and the transgressor. Revenge can also help restore the balance of power between the victim and the transgressor (Frijda, 1994). By inflicting harm, transgressors imply that their victims are unworthy of respect. Through revenge, victims can restore their self-worth by showing they are not powerless (Frijda, 1994). Through the characterization of this novel, Avery is a person who is always curious to know the mystery of Sadie's death, and then she investigates the house of the Loman family to get information a year after Sadie's death. During the investigation, Avery acquires about the secrets that the Loman family hides. Loman's family pays her grandmother for the death of Avery's parents. Then Avery gets evidence that Sadie is killed by someone, and Detective Collins kills her. Detective Collins kills Sadie because he wants to protect himself. Sadie knowing that Avery's parents died due to an accident with Parker. Detective Collins is paid by Grant Loman to protect Parker and claim that it is a single car accident. Avery wants the Loman family to pay for what they have done especially Parker. Avery feels hurt. Avery loses the people that she loves. Avery wants Parker in prison, Avery wants Parker to get justice.

I want to scream. Wanted to scream the truth to the world and watch them fall because of it. I wanted them to pay for what they had done. (Miranda, 2019:303)

The quotation above shows that Avery's revenge on the Loman family. Avery wants them to pay for their mistakes. Avery wants to see them suffer.

“You killed my parents” I said. Loud enough that others could hear. Not only Officer Chambers but the people who had gathered, watching. Connor, Faith, Grant and Bianca. Parker winced, shaking his head, though we both knew the truth. “I know you did. And Sadie is dead because she found out, too” All these people. I’d lost could be traced back to him, and I wanted him to pay. Parker kept shaking his head. He remained silent, as his father had instructed. Even as he was told to stand. Even as the handcuffs clinched behind his back. Parker ‘eyes drifted side to side as he was led through the crowd, as if desperate for someone to fix this.” (Megan Miranda,2019:334)

The quotation above is another analysis that shows the relationship between the dimensions of curiosity leading to revenge. It can be seen when Avery shows her revenge in front of the people making Parker ashamed for what he has done. Avery wants Parker to pay for what he does but Parker does not admit his mistake. Police officers handcuffs his hands and takes him to the police station

4.2 The Relation of Dimension of Curiosity and Revenge to the plot

The concept of the dimension of curiosity and revenge is relating to one character in "The Last House Guest" Dimensions of curiosity and revenge appears throughout the plot in this novel because Avery Greer is the main character in this novel, the plot from exposition to resolution tells how Avery shows curiosity in the mystery of Sadie's death until Avery revenge to Parker because he that causes the death of Avery's parent. In the exposition, Avery is worrying about Sadie who has not yet come to the Plus one party holds every summer at Blue Robbin, a rental property owned by Grant Loman suddenly Luce came, and then Avery comes near Luce to ask about Sadie. Luce say that Sadie is still packing and Luce only picks up by Parker. Avery sends a message to Sadie but there is no response from her but Avery sees dots like Sadie writes an answer and then stops. At midnight, two police officers come to talk to Parker. They interrogate Parker about Sadie, they asked what Sadie wears the last time he sees her then they records information from Parker, Avery, and Luce. And they say that Sadie is found at Breaker Beach. The day after Sadie's death, Detective Collins meets with Avery. He asks Avery to explain the chronology of the incident based on the time of arrival. Detective Collins tears a paper for Avery to write the arrival time for the Plus one party, then the detective reads it. The detective felt a pause and a big

gap between Avery and the next person. The detective also asks Connor whether he comes to the Plus one party because he hears the news that Connor comes to the party but Avery does not know. Avery becomes curious about the mystery of Sadie's death. Finally, Avery decides to find out the truth a year after Sadie's death. Avery investigates Loman's house to get information.

The dimension of curiosity helped another plot, namely in the complications and crisis stage that is when Avery finds Sadie's hand phone in the Blue Robin master bedroom. Avery and Sadie have the same hand phone model so Sadie's hand phone can be connected to Avery's Charger. Avery checks her inbox, Avery doesn't see messages from anyone except Avery. The call log is also empty, then Avery opens Sadie's e-mail. Sadie has two email accounts. The first account is used as a work account but has been inactive for a long time since her death. Her second account use as a personal account, Avery does not see signs of danger so Avery continues to check Sadie's photo gallery, Avery finds several photos with a background in Littleport. Then Avery is surprised to see Connor's photo with Sadie on the boat. Avery becomes curious about them. The climax when Avery finds a flash drive that revealed some payments hidden by Sadie. The first payment of one hundred thousand dollars and other payments can only be seen from a bank account and routing number with unclear information. Then Avery notes the routing number to find out the owner of the money. Avery found an asset box belonging to her grandmother, Avery finds a check that is canceled then Avery brings the check to the laptop to read it. The Loman family paid for her grandmother to return for the death of Avery's parents. The situation becomes more complicated when Avery sees her car parks at Sunset Retreat facing out then Avery checks it. Avery finds a gold shoe and a worn belt. Avery looks surprised then she thinks Sadie has been at the Plus one party but there is someone who takes her away to Avery's car. Avery becomes curious, she decides to find out about it. Sadie was killed by someone in the bathroom. It can be seen when Avery finds rust-colored bloodstains, circuit breakers, and blankets. There is torture on Sadie in the bathroom and then Sadie was taken to Avery's car. Detective has been paid by Grant Loman to protect Parker and claims that The Avery family accident is a single car accident. Detective Collins who kills Sadie because Sadie knows

the secrets of them. Sadie wants to disassemble but Detective kills her to protect himself.

The falling action and resolution show revenge. It can be seen when Avery has successes in gathering evidence of Sadie's death and the cause of his parents' death to the police station even though the original evidence is burned by Detective Collins but Avery has a copy of the file. Avery wants to revenge. Avery wants them to pay for their mistakes Eventually, Parker's hand is handcuffed and takes to the police station and Avery starts a new life by sells everything she had to the Sylva family last winter, and then she has invested with cash from Loman family and she starts a joint venture with Faith to rent out their new property in Littleport.

4.3 The Relation of Dimension of Curiosity and Revenge to the Setting

As the main setting, Blue Robbin, The Loman's Guest House, Sea Rose, and the bathroom at Blue Robbin are places that reflect Avery Greer's theories about the dimensions of curiosity and revenge the first time the story in this novel when Avery at a Plus one party held by the Loman family at Blue Robbin. Avery is worried about Sadie who has not arrived yet. While Parker and Luce have arrived at the party. Avery sends a message to Sadie but there is no response from her but Avery sees the dots mark as Sadie is typing the answer but stops. At midnight, two policemen come to talk with Parker. They said Sadie had been found at Breaker Beach and the situation becomes quiet and tense. Avery wonders if Sadie has jumped off a cliff and was found on Breaker's beach. After a day of Sadie's death, Detective Collins interviews Avery at the Loman guest house. The detective asks Avery to tell the chronology of the incident. He tears a piece of paper for Avery to write names and times according to the time of arrival plus one party then the detective reads it. The detective feels there are a pause and big gap between Avery and the next person. Avery becomes curious to find out about the puzzle of the mystery of Sadie's death.

While setting as an antagonist is when Avery returns to Sea Rose, Avery inserts a flash drive into her laptop's USB port. Flash drive contains some payments hidden by Sadie. The first payment of one hundred thousand dollars and

other payments does not have clear information. Avery only finds routing numbers and bank accounts. Then Avery notes the routing number to find out the information. Avery has a strong curiosity, Avery manages to find the recipient of the money. Loman's family pays her grandmother in return for Avery's parents' death. Detective Collins kills Sadie in the bathroom. He has tortured Sadie and taken her inside Avery's car. It can be seen when Avery found some evidence such as circuit breakers, rust-colored blood stains, and blankets. Detective Collins kills Sadie because she wants to reveal a secret and Detective protect by himself. Parker is the cause of the accident of Avery's parents. Avery finds a medical file that shows Parker have a scar in his face because the car accident. And Setting as revealing character is when Avery finds all the evidence which showing Sadie is killed by Detective Collins and Avery learns that the Loman family has paid her grandmother for the death of Avery's parents. Avery turns into a revengeful figure. Avery wants them to suffer and pay for what they have done and Parker is imprisoned

