

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

In this study I used two methods to examine the *Hide and Seek* novel: intrinsic and extrinsic. This allowed me to uncover various elements related to the novel's content. The intrinsic approach involved analyzing elements like plot, character development or characterization and the setting, which all contribute to the themes discussed in this study. The extrinsic approach was used to apply theories related to domestic violence, its categories, and the theory of trauma resulting from domestic violence, connecting them to the actions and dialogues of characters like Joana, and Cynthia throughout the novel.

Psychological violence or abuse and financial or economic abuse are two types of domestic violence that are portrayed in the novel through characterization in action of Joana Stedman as first-person participant and Cynthia Kirk from the first-person participant's point of view. While the type of setting that portrayed in the novel is only one type of setting, which is the setting as a means of revealing character.

In the novel *Hide and Seek*, the psychological and financial or economic abuse inflicted upon Joana Stedman during her childhood by her mother, Cynthia Kirk, remains an enduring and poignant aspect of Joana's character. Cynthia's actions represent a vivid portrayal of how abuse within a family can have long-lasting consequences on an individual.

Psychological abuse, manifested through Cynthia's neglect and emotional abandonment, created a traumatic atmosphere for Joana's upbringing. Cynthia, a mother who is also a babysitter, smoker, heavy drinker, and drug user, frequently neglects Joana, who was still young and in need of adult supervision. Cynthia often shifts the blame for the death of Lila, Joana's foster sibling, onto Joana when she was only ten years old. Cynthia sees Lila's death as a reduction in her source of income, as she was paid for looking after Lila when she was still a toddler. Her mother's indifference and inability to provide emotional support left Joana feeling neglected and insignificant. These experiences are ingrained in Joana's character, as they continue to affect her self-esteem, relationships, and overall psychological well-being. The scars of her mother's psychological abuse have become a part of her identity, influencing her actions and reactions throughout her life.

Furthermore, Cynthia's financial and economic abuse played a pivotal role in Joana's formative years. Neglecting Joana's basic needs, financial support, and emotional nurturing, Cynthia channeled her resources into destructive habits such as addiction. Her time away from home, partying instead of attending to Joana, leads her to spend the salary earned as a babysitter on alcoholic drinks and narcotics rather than buying food or essential items for Joana. The consequences were profound; Joana often had to resort to desperate measures to satisfy her basic needs, such as stealing food and wearing ill-fitting clothes due to Cynthia's misuse of their financial resources.

That part presents a stark portrayal of how psychological and financial abuse can cast a long shadow over an individual's life. Joana's character serves as a testament to the deep and lasting impact of such abuse, influencing her actions, relationships, and the very core of her identity. Cynthia's actions, whether through neglect or economic control, have left an indelible mark on Joana's character. It is a reminder of the importance of recognizing the profound impact of abuse and the imperative need for support and intervention to break the cycle of abuse and its enduring consequences.

The trauma that Joana endured in her childhood left her with deep emotional scars. This trauma is evident in several parts of the novel. Joana's reactions and emotions when she recalls that night when Lila was critically ill illustrating the lasting impact of her trauma. Images of a blonde-haired, blue-eyed child continue to haunt her. Joana's trauma is divided into three categories: impersonal trauma, interpersonal trauma, and attachment trauma.

The enduring impact of trauma, encompassing impersonal trauma, interpersonal trauma, and attachment trauma, has left an indelible mark on the character of Joana Stedman. Impersonal trauma, stemming from the tragic loss of Lila, acted as an inciting incident that initiated a sequence of events. Joana's young age and limited understanding at the time led to her carrying an unjust burden of guilt for Lila's passing. This impersonal trauma serves as a foundation for the deeper layers of her psychological wounds. Interpersonal trauma followed, as her own mother, Cynthia Kirk, subjected her to emotional neglect and exposed her to adverse experiences during her formative years. The loss of trust in a mother who was supposed to provide love and security further compounded Joana's trauma. The culmination of this tumultuous upbringing is seen in the profound attachment

trauma that ensued. Attachment trauma, often rooted in the childhood experiences of emotional and psychological violence by close individuals, is strikingly embodied in Joana's character. Her early exposure to traumatic events, such as the responsibility for Lila's death, created the foundation for her attachment trauma. The profound ramifications of these experiences molded Joana into a person plagued by relentless guilt and self-blame. Throughout the narrative, we witness her internal struggle with unresolved emotions and her persistent feelings of responsibility for Lila's death. These experiences infiltrate her adult life, culminating in her intense emotional reaction when faced with the striking resemblance between Lily and Lila. The trauma weaves its intricate threads into her character, manifesting in her relationships, behaviors, and, most significantly, her inner world.

Joana's character serves as a poignant example of how different forms of trauma can intricately shape an individual. The unhealed wounds of her past, comprising impersonal trauma, interpersonal trauma, and attachment trauma, contribute to her complex character. The depiction of her trauma highlights that the impact of these experiences is not confined to a specific category but rather interwoven, affecting every facet of her existence. This part showcases how understanding the multifaceted nature of trauma is vital in comprehending its profound, enduring influence on an individual's character.

Based on this research, hopefully more people will gain a better understanding of domestic violence and recognize that it can take various forms. Domestic violence is a severe issue, and its effects can be long-lasting. Domestic violence can lead to various forms of trauma if not addressed early. As a researcher, I suggest further research employing the same theoretical framework, approach, and subject matter to examine various facets. Alternative perspectives such as domestic violence, trauma, structuralism, and others can also be relevant to these facets. Subsequent researchers can utilize this identical theory and methodology to assess different pieces of literature.