CHAPTER III

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN DIANA PALMER "COLTRAIN'S PROPOSAL"

In this chapter, the writer wants to analyze the character development and conflict seen on Coltrain and Louise character. In order to make this chapter more organized, the writer divided this chapter into three parts. The first part is about the portrayal of Coltrain's character development. The second part is about the portrayal of Louise's character, and the last is about the conflict between Coltrain and Louise.

3.1 The potrayal of Coltrain's character development

3.1.1 Coltrain's character as a cold and unpleasant

His real name is Jeb Coltrain. Every body calls him Coltrain. But, his close friends call him Copper. He is a young doctor in the Jacobsville medical clinic together with Louise Blakely. He is one of the surgeons. He has high skill. At the beginning, Coltrain is characterized as a cold and unpleasant, person :

"Why are you here on Saturday? I'm supposed to be doing rounds today for both of us," he asked sharply. *Here he goes again, practicing Coltrain's First Law...jump to conclusions*, she thought. She didn't grin, but she felt like it.
"I wound up at a car accident scene," she began.
"The hospital pays EMTs to work wrecks," he continued, glaring at her while hospital personnel came and went around them.
"I did not go out to—" she began hotly.
"Don't let this happen again, or I'll have a word with Wright, and you'll be taken off staff here. Is that clear?" he added coldly. Wright was the hospital administrator and Coltrain was medical chief of staff. He had the authority to carry out the threat. (Palmer 7)

Coltrain as a cold and unpleasant character was presented through Louise's point of view. Louise's disappointment to Coltrain is seen from the citation above when Louise unexpectedly witnessed the little boy's accident and then accompanied him to the hospital. Dr. Coltrain asked her many times and spoke to her sharply without any subtle words and drew arbitrary conclusions. It is because Louise does not on her shift at the hospital that day. From Coltrain's response to his partner above, he wants Louise obey him as the medical chief of staff at the hospital.

His personality also can be seen by examining how he expresses his feeling through his words. His unpleasant attitude towards his partner shows that he cannot control his emotion:

He spared her a cold glance. "You look unprofessional," he said curtly. "At least have the grace to dress decently if you're going to cruise around with the ambulance service." He just looked at her. "They don't need any new EMTs…" "…" "There was an accident in town. I was in the café, so I gave assistance. I don't need to hang out with the ambulance crew for kicks, Doctor! And how I dress on my days off is none of your—" she almost turned blue biting back the curse "*—business*, Doctor!" (Palmer 9)

Louise went to the hospital wearing her casual clothes because that time

she was off duty. However, Coltrain did not care about the fact. He said that

Louise looked unprofessional because of her clothes. Louise tried to explain that

she just witnessed the little boy injured, while Louise was having lunch in the

cafe. When one of the people called an ambulance, Louise accompany the little

boy to the hospital. But, Coltrain still would not listen to the words of Louise,

because the hospital was already providing emergency official and she did not

need to "cruise around with ambulance service." (Palmer 9)

How much Coltrain resents his partner is also seen when he mocked

Louise as a person who was "cold as ice" and that she would "freeze any normal

man to death" (9):

"Frostbitten," he pronounced. "No wonder Drew Morris doesn't take you out. He'd need a blowtorch, wouldn't he?" he added with a meaningful, unblinking blue stare.

"Maybe so, but you'd need a grenade launcher," she retorted without thinking.

He lifted an eyebrow and gave her a look that held mingled contempt and distaste. "You'd be lucky." (Palmer 9)

Coltrain expressions to Louise is very fierce with an imperious gaze full of

hatred. He retorted that Louise would never get married because of her cold

personality. He also mocked her that it was not any surprise that Drew Morris

never ask her out. Drew Morris is one of Louise's close friends who works at the

hospital. He also the one who gave news to Louise that Jacobsville hospital are in

need of partners and coincidentally Louise wanted to have the opportunity to work

in her own hometown.

Coltrain's attitude is still as cold as he was in the previous week:

He'd been stiff with her this morning, probably because he was still fuming over the argument they'd had about his mistaken idea of her weekend activities. Accusing her of lollygagging with the EMTs for excitement; really! (Palmer 13)

From the quotation above, it shows that the characterization of Coltrain is still as usual. On Monday, the Coltrain attitude towards Louise was very stiff. He seemed to try find Louise fault. He was alleged that Louise flirts with emergency personnel. However, what Coltrain did not realize was that Louise actually had a crush on him.

The more her partner in the medical practice ignored and antagonized her, the harder she had to fight her dreams about him. She didn't want to get married; she didn't even want to get involved. (Palmer 13)

The quotation above shows that every single day, Coltrain's attitude

towards Louise becomes more fierce. He acted more than enemies and always

ignore what has been done by her. His attitude made Louise thought that her

dream about Coltrain will not be realized, and she did not want to get married.

Coltrain has made her down.

One day, Louise accidentally heard Coltrain's conversation with Drew

Morris. They both argued about Coltrain's past experience that made him hate

Blakely family:

She picked up the receiver absently, her finger poised over the designated line. But when she pressed it, before she could say a word, the sentence she'd intercepted accidentally blared in her ear in a familiar deep voice. "...told you I wouldn't have hired her in the first place, if I had known who she was related to. I did you a favor, never realizing she was Blakely's daughter. You can't imagine that I'll ever forgive her father for what he did to the girl I loved, do you? She's been a constant reminder, a constant torment!"

"That's harsh, Copper," Drew began.

"It's how I feel. She's nothing but a burden here. But to answer your question, hell no, you're not stepping on my toes if you ask her out on a date! I find Louise Blakely repulsive and repugnant, and an automaton with no attractions whatsoever. Take her with my blessing. I'd give real money if she'd get out of my practice and out of my life, and the sooner the better!" (Palmer 14)

The quotation above tells the reason on Coltrain's hatred towards Louise.

Actually, the person whom Coltrain hated the most is Dr. Blakely. But when he

know that Louise is the daughter of Dr. Blakely, he furiously vented his hatred

towards her. Blakely was a renowned physician and an expert in the field of surgery. Before Dr. Blakely died, he worked in the same hospital with Coltrain. coltrain hated Louise's father because the woman whom he loved has been seduced by her father. In fact, it is impossible to forgive the deeds done by her father. Since Louise works in the same hospital as he is, it reminded Coltrain with the past even and made him truly tormented. Although Drew argued that Coltrain had been not fair with Louise, Coltrain answers that the same injustice also happened to him. With Louise at the hospital, it became more burden for him. Coltrain saw Louise as a woman who is disgusting and annoying and nothing appealing. He also said that he would be relieved once when she was out of practice and out of his life as soon as possible.

The cold and unpleasant character of Coltrain make Louise decide to stop working at the hospital:

She typed out a neat resignation letter, put it in an envelope and went to place it on Dr. Coltrain's desk. It was lunchtime and he'd already left the building. He made sure he always did, probably to insure that he didn't risk having Lou invite herself to eat with him. (Palmer 14)

After writing the resignation letter, Louise went to a local cafe to have "black coffee" and "a small salad." (Palmer15). When Louise was about to finish her coffe, Coltrain walked toward her, looking "furiously angry." He "slammed the opened envelope" in front of Louise, saying : "What the hell do you mean by that?" he demanded in a dangerously quiet tone. (Palmer 15)

Coltrain's reaction for Louise resignation showed his resenting feling towards her. He asked her the reason for her leaving. When Louise answered that "[she'd] rather not discuss [her] private business in public," Coltrain "walked her over to Jacobsville's small town square, to a secluded bench in a grove of live oak

and willow trees." (Palmer 15)

"This is private enough," he said shortly. "Why are you leaving?" "I signed a contract to work with you for one year. It's almost up, anyway," she said icily. "I want out. I want to go home." "You don't have anyone left in Austin," he said, surprising her. "I have friends," she began. "You don't have those, either. You don't have friends at all, unless you count Drew Morris," he said flatly. (Palmer 15)

The quotation above tells Louise reason for her resignation. She told

Coltrain that her contract with the clinic or hospital was for one year and that the time was almost up. She told him that she wanted to go home, although Coltrain insisted that she had no friends anywhere.

Coltrain tried to make Louise stay despite his act that looked hateful

towards her. Louise argued that from the beginning she already felt that Coltrain

never wanted her in the practice. She also told her that she became sure about it

when she over heard Coltrain's conversation with Drew Morris. Louise's

explanation surprised him. It can be seen in the quotation below:

His eyes flashed oddly. "You heard what I said?" he asked huskily. "You heard…all of it!" he exclaimed. He was remembering what he'd told Drew Morris in a characteristic outburst of bad temper. He often said things in heat that he regretted later, but in the past five minutes, he'd learned disturbing things about her without a word being spoken. He'd hurt her. He didn't realize she'd cared that much about his opinion. (Palmer 16)

The conversation above tells Coltrain's recall on what he was saying to

Drew Morris. He was remorse fully what he said about Louise. He did not think

that Louise attitude which always looked strong in front of him was just like a

mask. Coltrain realized that he had been troubling Louise self esteem and hurt her.

Coltrain was feeling really regret, but Louise ignored what he said and saying:

"You've hated me from almost the first day we worked together. Most of the time, you can't even be bothered to be civil to me. I didn't know that you had a grudge against me from the outset..." She hadn't thought about that until she said it, but there was a subtle change in his expression, a faint distaste that her mind locked on. His jaw tautened. He didn't like saying this. "The girl I wanted to marry got pregnant by him. He performed a secret abortion and she was going to marry me anyway." But the medical authority had other ideas, and they invited him to resign." (Palmer 17)

Louise thought since the first day of work, Coltrain was often disrespectful and always blamed what was done by Louise. Even since the beginning Coltrain seemed very objected of her presence. Louise was very surprised by Coltrain's attitude that suddenly changed just like that. She immediately asked him on what's actually happening, that he really hated her. At first, Coltrain hold the words that he did not want to say. But then he thought that perhaps it was better if she told Louise. It has already one year that Coltrain hide and pretend that the incident had never existed. He did not want to remember the events that was very painful for him. But finally Coltrain told her the story with tensed face. Her father impregnated a woman whom supposed to marry Coltrain. The woman had an abortion, but she still wanted to marry Coltrain. Because of the incident, the leadership of the hospital requested Louise's father to resign from the hospital.

Coltrain's anger for what Louise father did was the reason of his hatred towards her. He had been acting very much rude but, unexpectedly, Louise seemed to always fight back. She refused to lose:

"You were made of stronger stuff than I imagined," he agreed. "You wouldn't back down an inch. No matter how rough it got, you threw my own bad temper back at me."...

"It's been a long time since anyone around here stood up to me like that," he added reluctantly. (Palmer 17)

Coltrain was actually very surprised by Louise's attitude which was very firm. She never gave up although Coltrain's attitudes were always cold and unpleasant. Louise remained patient and steadfast to the arrival Coltrain's temper. Coltrain has never found anyone who dares to face when he is angry, that everyone in Jacobsville itself would be back and away. Coltrain can not imagine seeing a woman as strong Louise.

He stared at her unblinkingly. "A year. A whole year, being reminded every day I took a breath what your father cost me. There were times when I'd have done anything to make you leave. Just the sight of you was painful." He smiled wearily. "I think I hated you, at first." (palmer 17)

The quotation above explains, how during the year he was reminded of the cruel acts done by Louise's father. Coltrain felt like he wanted to do any act that make Louise resign from the hospital. Coltrain's heart was in pain when he saw the daughter of a man who destroyed his happiness. That was why he thought that he hate her.

However, when Coltrain saw Louise cry, he felt surprised that "he caught

his breath." He had seen her in any modes of emotion, but not with tears:

He'd never seen her cry. His lean hand shot out and touched the track of tears down one cheek, as if he had to touch them to make sure they were real. (Palmer 18)

The quotation above shows that Coltrain is not as cold as he might look.

He was moved when he saw Louise cry. He even tried to wipe her tears, although,

just like usual, Louise "jerked back from him." (18)

Coltrain's attitude towards Louise is not always cold. In an occasion he

even praises her of being a good doctor:

[Coltrain said] "You're a good doctor," he said flatly. "You've earned your place here." (Palmer 18)

Coltrain said those words above quotation when Louise asked whether he

had found someone to replaced her. It was the first time Coltrain said that Louise

was a good doctor and she deserved to stay at her place. The quotation above

shows that Coltrain also is caring that he also acknowledged Louise's ability in

medical field.

In the Rotary Club dinner, Louise came with Drew. She did not expected

to see Coltrain there. Coltrain looked disturbed when he saw Louise came with

Drew and how she let Drew come near her:

Drew held her arm as they entered the hall, and Lou was disconcerted to find Dr.Coltrain there.

Coltrain wasn't looking at her, though. His pale, narrow eyes had lanced over Lou and he was watching her closely. He hadn't seen her hair down in the year they'd worked together. She seemed more approachable tonight than he'd ever noticed, but she was Drew's date. Probably Drew's woman, too, he thought bitterly, despite her protests and reserve. "Copper 's got a new girl, I see," Drew said with a grin. "That's Nickie Bolton," he added. "She works as a nurse's aide at the hospital." She smiled up at him with warm eyes. "You're a nice man, Drew." Across the room, a redheaded man's grip tightened ominously on a glass of punch. For over a year, Louise had avoided even his lightest touch. A few days ago, she'd thrown off his hand violently. But there she stood not only allowing Drew to hold her hand, but actually smiling at him. She'd never smiled at Coltrain that way; she'd never smiled at him any way at all.

"Everyone knows you hate her," Nickie said pleasantly. "It's common gossip at the hospital. (Palmer 19)

The quotation above show how Coltrain became jealous to see Louise get

so close to Drew. Coltrain was very angry and jealous when he saw Louise smile

at Drew and allowed Drew to hold her hand. It is because Louise never smile at

him let alone allowed him to hold her hand. Nickie tapped Coltrain not to see

Louise seriously. Nickie already understood how his attitude towards the woman.

Everyone in the hospital thought that Coltrain hated Louise. It already become the

common gossip in the hospital.

3.1.2 Coltrain's character care with Louise's

However, Coltrain's anger and jealosy stopped when he found out that

Louise missed the work because she was sick:

He got his medical bag and went back into the bedroom. She was pale and she had a fever. He turned off the electronic thermometer and checked her lungs. Clear, thank God.

Her pulse was a little fast, but she seemed healthy enough. "A virus," he pronounced.

He helped her up, noticing the frailty of her body. She didn't seem that thin in her clothing, but she was wearing silky pajamas that didn't conceal the slender lines of her body. He supported her to the door, and watched the door close behind her.

Minutes later, she opened the door again and let him help her back into bed.

He watched her for a minute and then, with resolution, he picked up the telephone. He punched in a number. "This is Dr. Coltrain. Send an ambulance out to Dr. Blakely's home, 23 Brazos Lane. That's right. Yes. Thank you." (Palmer 23)

From the quotation above, it shows that Coltrain's attitude now is very

different. He very cares with Louise. When Louise is sick, he is very afraid with

her condition. He takes care and checks her condition. Although it might because

he is a doctor that Coltrain feels the need to take care of her, Coltrain actually

starts to feel sympathy towards Louise. He wanted to know the reason of her left

hand got broken. He also started to let Louise know about himself:

He chuckled softly. "You don't like me, do you?" he asked through pursed lips. "I've never given you any reason to. I've been alternately hostile and sarcastic since the day you came here." (Palmer 24) The quotation above shows that Coltrain tried to tell Louise that he was

not always that rude. Coltrain wanted to show that his personality is not always

cold, but he also has a caring side that never been seen directly. He was from the

begining always hostile and cynical.

Coltrain's caring self can also be seen when Louise was discharged from

the hospital:

The next day, Lou was allowed to go home. Drew had eaten breakfast with her and made sure that she was well enough to leave before he agreed with Copper that she was fit. But when he offered to drive her home, Coltrain intervened. His partner, he said, was his responsibility. Drew didn't argue. In fact, when they weren't looking, he grinned.

Copper carried her bag into the house and helped her get settled on the couch.

"I'm going to have some soup later," she murmured without looking at him. "I'm not hungry just yet. I expect you are."

"I could eat." He hesitated again, watching her with vague irritation. "Will you be all right?"

It touched him deeply that she was so vulnerable to him. He could have cursed himself for the way he'd treated her, for the antagonism that made her wary of any approach now.

He looked down at her flushed oval face with curious pleasure. "Don't try to come in tomorrow if you don't feel like it. I'll cope."

"I'm sorry that I've made things hard for you. I hope you'll reconsider leaving."

Coltrain's care towards Louise is expressed when he intervened Drew's

offer to take her home. Although he argues that it is his responsibility to take care

of his partner, Drew's reaction of what Coltrain said implied something else; that

Coltrain is actually care about Louise aside from their partnership. His care is also

expressed when he asks whether Louise will be okay of being alone in her

apartment. He even apologizes for his bad attitudes.

Two weeks before Christmas arrives, Jacobsville hospital is scheduled to

hold a christmas celebration on Friday night. Louise has not planned to go, but

Coltrain insists that she must go and that he will pick her up in the next hour:

The annual hospital Christmas party was scheduled for Friday night, two weeks before Christmas so that the staff wouldn't be too involved with family celebrations to attend.

Lou hadn't planned to go, but Coltrain cornered her in his office as they prepared to leave that afternoon for the weekend.

"The Christmas party is tonight," he reminded her.

"I know. I'm not going."

"I'll pick you up in an hour," he said, refusing to listen when she tried to protest. "I know you still tire easily after the virus. We won't stay long." "What about Nickie?" she asked irritably. (Palmer 29-30)

The quotation above shows that Coltrain wants Louise to attend the

Christmas celebration. In fact, he is very care about her. He would pick her up,

because he knows that of Louise's condition is not fully recovered after the sick

ness. Louise, however, reject his enticement using Nickie as the excuse. She also

tells him that "It wouldn't look good to have [them] arrive together," she said. "It

would give people something to talk about."(Palmer 30)

In the Christmas celebration, Louise rushed to go home. But Coltrain

prohibit her. He could not let her go because he wanted to know about her feeling

towards him. He followed her to the parking lot and forced her to answer his

question:

"How *do* we feel about each other, Lou?" he replied quietly, and watched her expression change.

"We're enemies," she returned instantly.

"Are we?" He searched her eyes in a silence that grew oppressive. His arms fell to his sides. "Come here, Lou."(38). . .

"Tell me how your wrist got broken, Lou," he said matter-of-factly. She stiffened.

"Oh, a layman wouldn't notice, it's healed nicely. But surgery is my business. I know a break when I see one. There are scars, too, despite the neat stitching job. How did it happen?" (Palmer 40)

Coltrain's question on how Louise's wrist got broken surprised her. She did not expect that Coltrain would notice. His attention started to make Louise wary, especially when Coltrain "tugged her toward his car" after saying that they were going to be friends, though it was "a year too late" (42)

Coltrain's attitude greatly changed, he tried to show his caring attitude towards Louise until Louise absolutely had no doubt of what has been done by Coltrain. However, new problem arose when his former fiancee showed up in the hospital as the head nurse:

The night she'd had supper with her tacitum partner had been something of a beginning. But Dana's arrival had nipped it all in the bud. He'd turned his back on Lou and now he only spoke to her when it was necessary and about business. (Palmer 46)

The quotation show about Coltrain's attitude that seemed to be back as his former state, a cold and unfriendly person. He did not pay attention to Louise and spoke very little to her.

However, what actually happened was that Coltrain felt uncomfortable with the competition between Dana and Nickie to get his attention. They even "almost came to blows the other night about who got take Dr. Coltrain a file,". . .(Palmer 47). When he came to Louise on Saturday morning, Coltrain told her that "Nickie and Dana are becoming an embarrassment." (50). When Coltrain told her about his past, Louise felt that Coltrain past is the same as her own past:

What sort of family life had *he* grown up in? she wondered. It was, in some ways, like her own upbringing. "What a pity that we can't choose our parents," she remarked.

"Amen." His broad shoulders shifted against the wall. "I was in a temper already, and Drew's phone call was the last straw. It irritated the hell out of me that you liked him, but you jerked away from my slightest touch as if I might contaminate you." (Palmer 50)

Those sentences above indicate that Coltrain was very jealous when he

saw Louise was very close to Drew. He was also dejected because he thinks

Louise like Drew, while actually Louise did that because of her "fierce, painful

attraction" toward him. (Palmer 50)

3.1.3 Coltrain's character having brave to propose Louise's

What Louise did not know was that Coltrain also had a feeling for her. He

tried to stop her for leaving and "a crazy idea hopped into his mind." (50). He

asked her for engagement pretending that it was to make Dana and Nickie give up

on him.

"Engaged isn't married," she began.

He put a finger over her lips, and he looked solemn. "I know that. Will you let me finish? We can be engaged until the first of the year, when I can afford to take a little time off for a honeymoon. We could have a New Year's wedding." (Palmer 56)

Louise was surprised to hear Coltrain talking about engagement. However,

Coltrain kept reassuring his words to Louise. Coltrain words above showed his

sincerity that he really wanted to be engaged before having their wedding on New

Year.

When Coltrain and Louise do the rounds at the hospital, Coltrain's former

fience (Dana) is waiting for him just like usual:

They made rounds together the next morning at the hospital, and as usual, Dana was lying in wait for Coltrain. But this time, he deliberately linked Lou's hand in his as he smiled at her. "Good morning," he said politely. Dana was faintly startled. "Good morning, doctors," she said hesitantly, her eyes on their linked hands. "Lou and I became engaged yesterday," he said. (Palmer 57)

The quotation above tells that Coltrain wanted to show Dana that he's

already engaged to Louise. He did not want anyone to disturb them. Dana said

that she wished to be together with him again. However, Coltrain reject it:

"And I had such high hopes that you and I might regain something of the past."

"The past is dead," he said firmly, his blue eyes steady on her face. "I have no inclination whatsoever to revive it." (Palmer 57-58)

Coltrain would not remember his past again. He also had no intention to

revive it. Now Coltrain just wanted to be with Louise. He hoped Dana do not

disturb them again.

Dana, however, mocked their engagement since she did not see any ring at

Louise's left hand. Coltrain argued that "when Louise make up her mind what sort

she wants, [he]'ll buy her one,..."(58). Thus, at the lunch time, Coltrain told

Louise that they would "take some time off this afternoon for lunch and shop for a

ring,..."(59).

Unexpectedly, in the jewelry store, they met Jane Burke. She is a former

lover Coltrain. However, the woman is already married:

Then, despite her arguments, they drove to a jewelry shop in downtown Jacobsville. As bad luck would have it, Jane Burke was in there, alone, making a purchase . . . (59) "For Lou," Coltrain said. "We're engaged." He spoke reluctantly, which only made Lou feel worse. Jane's shocked expression unfroze Lou's tongue. "It's just for appearances," she said, forcing a smile. "Dana and Nickie have been hounding him." Coltrain glared at her. He wasn't certain what he'd expected, but she made the proposal sound like a hoax. He hadn't asked her to marry him to ward off the other women; he'd truly wanted her to be his wife. Had she misunderstood totally? (Palmer 60)

From the quotation above, we can see that Coltrain really wanted to marry of Louise. He wanted everyone to know that they are already engaged. But Louise did not admit it, that it's just pretend, she is not sure about the event, because Dana and Nickie still chase him.

Coltrain worried Louise's misunderstanding that he still had a feeling for

Jane. He tried to convince Louise that he is serious with the engagement. But,

Louise did not give him any chance and it made him more worried:

He went back to work, uncomfortably aware of Lou's calm demeanor. She didn't even look ruffled after all the turmoil. Of course, he remembered that she'd been crying like a lost child in the department store after Jane's faux pas. But that could have been so much more than a broken heart. . . He'd missed most of his chances there. But if Drew could convince her to come to a farewell party, on neutral ground, Coltrain had one last chance to change her mind about him. That was his one hope; the only one he had. (Palmer 63)

Coltrain feeling was very disorganized, he almost lost all his chances. He

thinks that only Drew who can convince her. Because Drew was Louise's only

friend who is most intimate. That's the only hope for Coltrain to change Louise

feeling. He does not want all of his marriage plan with Louise to fail.

When he finally got the chance, Coltrain explained to Louise that there is

no woman who can captivate Coltrain except Louise. Not even Jane. He then gave

her pressents to assure her that he loved her so much:

"but Jane just never interested me like that. It was too big a part of marriage to take a chance on, so I gradually stopped seeing her. . . He didn't speak. He just looked at her. After a minute, he picked up the two parcels he'd put under the tree and handed them to her. "But it's not Christmas," she protested. "Yes, it is. Open them." She only hesitated for a minute, because the curiosity was too great. She opened the smallest one and inside was a gray jeweler's box. With a quick glance at him, she opened it, to find half a key chain inside. She felt her heart race like a watch. It was half of a heart, in pure gold.

"Now the other one," he said, taking the key chain while she fumbled the paper off the second present.

Inside that box was the other half of the heart.

"Now put them together," he instructed.

She did, her eyes magnetized to the inscription. It was in French: *plus que hier, moins que demain.*

"Can you read it?" he asked softly.

"It says—" she had to stop and clear her throat "—more than yesterday, less than tomorrow."

"Which is how much I love you," he said. "I meant to ask you again tomorrow morning to marry me," he said. "But this is as good a time as any for you to say yes. I know you're afraid of marriage. But I love you and you love me. We've got enough in common to keep us together even after all the passion burns out, if it ever does. We'll work out something about your job and children.

I'm not your father and you're not your mother. Take a chance, Lou. Believe me, there's very little risk that we won't make it together."

He hadn't known if he could get her to stay or not, but he would have shown her his heart all the same.

It touched her as a more expensive present wouldn't have. (Palmer 80-81)

Coltrain used the presents to express his feeling for Louise. He convinced

her that they both love each other and that their marriage is going to be a happy

one. Therefore, he did not want to stay long engaged. Thus, Jane's party became

their wedding party:

"No long engagement," he groaned against her mouth. "I can't stand it!" "Neither can I," she admitted. "Next week?". . .The going-away party that Jane Burke threw for Lou became a congratulatory party, because it fell on the day after Coltrain and Lou were married. (Palmer 81)

3.2 The potrayal of Louise's Character Development

3.2.1 Louise's character as a strong and tolerant

Her real name is Louise Blakely, every body calls her Louise. She is a young doctor in the Jacobsville medical clinic, but before worked in Jacobsville, she has worked in Austin medical clinic. Because he wanted to work in the hometown of her parents. She is a good general physician. There are many children who like the way of her handling the patients. At the beginning, Louise is characterized as a strong person:

"Cold as ice, aren't you?" he drawled mockingly. "You'd freeze any normal man to death. Is that why you never married, Doctor?" "Frostbitten," he pronounced. "No wonder Drew Morris doesn't take you out. He'd need a blowtorch, wouldn't he?" he added with a meaningful, unblinking blue stare. "Maybe so, but you'd need a grenade launcher," she retorted without thinking. He lifted an eyebrow and gave her a look that held mingled contempt and distaste. "You'd be lucky."

The remark was painful, but she didn't let him see that. Her own eyebrows lifted. "Really?" (Palmer 9)

Louise as a strong character was presented when Coltrain mocked her that

she would never get married because of her cold personality and there is no

surprise that Drew Morris never ask her out. He also retorted that held mingled

contempt and distate. But Louise character is still strong. Although Coltrain says

very painful words, she did not feel annoyed, she laughed and walked to her car.

When Louise heard the conversation between Coltrain and Drew on the

phone, about Coltrain's past experience that made him hate Blakely family, she

tried to take the news rigidly, even though her heart was very hurt:

"Lou! It's Drew Morris," came the reply. "I hope I'm not catching you at a bad moment?"

"No." She cleared her throat and fought to control her scattered emotions. "No, not at all. What can I do for you?"

"There's a dinner at the Rotary Club Thursday. How about going with me?"

She and Drew occasionally went out together, in a friendly but not romantic way. She would have refused, but what Coltrain had said made her mad. "Yes, I would like to, thanks," she said. (Palmer 14)

The quotation above showed that Louise was able to hide the bad situation,

although her heart was very hurt. She could still be rigid to facing him, and she

also tried not to show the real situation to others. Moreover, when she had

returned to check the medical patient, she still face them friendly. Though her face

looked a little red, she did not show her feelings. "She went back to her patient,

her color a little high, but no disturbance visible in her expression." (14)

Louise is also characterized as quite and shy. She tended to be alone and

unable to interact cleverly to others:

It would have been nice if she'd had someone to talk to, she thought wistfully, about this latest crisis. She sat alone in the local café, drinking black coffee and picking at a small salad. She didn't mingle well with people. When she wasn't working, she was quiet and shy, and she kept to herself. It was difficult for strangers to approach her, but she didn't realize that. She stared into her coffee and remembered every word Coltrain had said to Drew Morris about her. He hated her. He couldn't possibly have made it clearer. She was repugnant, he'd said. (Palmer 14-15)

Louise as a quite and shy character was presented through her attitude that

prefers to be alone when she was not at work. It shows that Louise was very

closed person. She is not easyly to express her feelings to other people, so it is

very difficult for someone to approach her.

When she over heard Coltrain's conversation with Drew Morris. Louise's expression surprised. She realized that her arrival made Coltrain disturbed, in Coltrain's eyes Louise is very disgusting. Therefore, Louise decide to stop working. She did not want to fight about it:

She held up a hand. "Let's not argue about it," she said, sick at knowing his opinion of her, his real opinion. "I'm tired of fighting you to practice medicine here. I haven't done the first thing right, according to you. I'm a burden. Well, I just want out. I'll go on working until you can replace me." She stood up. (Palmer 16)

The quotation above shows that Louise did not want to argue anymore about things that are obviously said by Coltrain. she felt that her arrival was just a burden. Therefore Louise resigned to stop working. but, she will continue to work until Coltrain find a replacement. The words show that Louise has a strong character. She was able to hold back her hurt feeling. Louise did not want her medical patients left alone. She will go when it is already getting her successor even though she has made a resignation letter. Because, at first Louise has signed a letter of agreement for a year so she still has a chance to work.

Coltrain himself is also aware of Louise's attitude that is very rigid and strong. It can be seen when Coltrain mocked her and always blame her acts. Even Coltrain was always angry with her:

"You were made of stronger stuff than I imagined," he agreed. "You wouldn't back down an inch. No matter how rough it got, you threw my own bad temper back at me." He rubbed his fingers absently over the car keys in his pocket while he studied her. "It's been a long time since anyone around here stood up to me like that," he added reluctantly. (Palmer 17)

From quotation above Louise never gave up although Coltrain's attitude were always angry towards her and he always insult her. But, Louise remained patient and steadfast to the arrival of Coltrain's temper until he can not imagine

seeing a woman as strong Louise.

Louise's rigidity can also be seen when everyone in Jacobsville would

resign away when Coltrain was angry:

She knew that without being told. He was a holy terror. Even grown men around Jacobsville gave him a wide berth when he lost his legendary temper. But Lou never had. She stood right up to him. She wasn't fiery by nature, but her father had been viciously cruel to her. She'd learned early not to show fear or back down, because it only made him worse. The same rule seemed to apply to Coltrain. A weaker personality wouldn't have lasted in his office one week, much less one year, male or female. (Palmer 17)

Louise never gives up and is always rigidin facing every problem. She is

the girl that is soft and quiet. In the past, her father was cruel to her, so since

childhood she has learned not to show a sense of fear or retreat, because it only

gets worse. That rigid attitude is always practiced by Louise to face any problem.

Beside strong attitude, Louise is also a caring person. When Louise was

sick, she was worried about her medical patients who accumulate and there would

be no one to handle:

She groaned and lay back. Patients were stacking up and she knew that Brenda had probably had to deal with angry ones all day, since Dr. Coltrain would have been operating in the morning. Everyone would be sitting in the waiting room until long after dark, muttering angrily. (Palmer 24)

When Louise remember the accumulated medical patients, she wanted to

go working, since she belived that no one takes care of her medical patients.

Hospital officials were busy doing their respective duties. From the words above,

it can be seen that Louise has very high caring attitude. Until Coltrain himself

realizes that Louise was a good doctor in practice:

"You had a fine practice..."

"Too fine. I never slept or took vacations. You've eased the load. You've made yourself indispensable. You have to stay." (Palmer 25)

From quotation above shows that Louise was good doctors in handling

medical patients. She deserves to be retained. Coltrain himself who begin hated

her, forbid her resignation.

Besides good practice, Louise is also famous as a good doctor. Many

medical patients like her. Especially pediatric patients:

She was back at work the day after her return home, a bit shaky, but game. She went through her patients efficiently, smiling at the grievance of one small boy whose stitches she'd just removed.

"Dr. Coltrain doesn't like little kids, does he?" he muttered. "I showed him my bad place and he said he'd seen worse!"

"He has," she told the small boy. She smiled at him. "But you've been very brave, Patrick my boy, and I'm giving you the award of honor." She handed him a stick of sugarless chewing gum and watched him grin. "Off with you, now, and mind you don't fall down banks into any more creeks!"

"Yes, ma'am!" (Palmer 28)

Louise returned to work, although her condition was not fully recovered.

However, she is still strong enough to serve patients more efficiently. She heard

the complaints of pediatric patients who said that Dr. Coltrain did not like

children. His service was less sympathetic to the condition of the medical patient.

Since the arrival of Louise, he was no longer dealing with pedriatic patients, so he

did not know much about them. He was more concerned with adult patients,

especially handling surgery. In the quotation above shows that Louise is a patient

person. She is able to face with all matters under any circumstances. Louise is also

clever in persuading medical patients with a very nice way.

Louise was very gentle woman. She did not want her heart broken because of man. Louise has been traumatized by Coltrain attitude. Although now Coltrain attitude was changed:

Lou didn't want to be anybody's second-best girl. Besides, she never wanted to marry. It had been better when Coltrain treated her like the enemy. She wished he'd go back to his former behavior and stop looking at her mouth that way. She still tingled remembering the heat in his blue eyes. A man like that would be just plain hell to be loved by. He would be addictive. She had no taste for addictions and she knew already that Coltrain would break her heart if she let him. No, it was better that she leave. Then she wouldn't have the anguish of a hopeless relationship. (Palmer 29)

Quotation above explains that Louise did not want to be a spare lover. She

was traumatized by Coltrain attitude who always treated her arbitrarily. Now

Cotrain began to change habit. He began to care for Louise. However, Louise did

not want to be hurt a second time. It is better if Coltrain treat her as an enemy. It

shows that Louise is very weak in the relationship of love. She did not want to

suffer from a hopeless love.

When Coltrain forced to pick up Louise to attend Christmas celebrations,

Louise refused, she did not want to hurt other girl who loves Coltrain. Moreover,

she knows they are going out:

"I know. I'm not going."

"I'll pick you up in an hour," he said, refusing to listen when she tried to protest. "I know you still tire easily after the virus. We won't stay long." "What about Nickie?" she asked irritably. "Won't she mind if you take your partner to a social event?"...

"Yes, I do," he returned curtly. "We both belong to the hospital staff, and nothing will start gossip quicker than having one of us stay away from an annual event. I do not plan to have any gossip going around here at my expense. I had enough of that in the past, thanks to your philandering father!"

She gripped her coat, furious at him. "You just got through saying that you didn't blame me for what he did." (Palmer 29-30)

Louise is the type of person who is very tolerant. She did not want anyone to get hurt by her. Because she already knew what it felt to be broken hearted. Louise refusing Coltrain to leave for the Christmas celebration together. However, Coltrain forced her and said the words that should not be spoken again to Louise. Coltrain now repeat it again, until Louise angry with him. Louise was the first time dared to fight back toward Coltrain.

Coltrain is trying to reconcile. He told that Ben Maddox will attend to Christmas celebrations. He is a former colleague at the Jacobsville hospital coming from Canada. He recently installed a vast computer network that deals with the medical networks worldwide. In addition, he also provided information on a network computer systems are in use in his own practice:

He became less rigid. "Ben Maddox is going to be there tonight. He's a former colleague of ours from Canada. He's just installed a massive computer system with linkups to medical networks around the world . . . (Palmer 30) She was animated tonight, talking to Ben about the computer setup as if she knew everything there was to know about the machines. "Copper, you've got a savvy partner here," Ben remarked when he joined them. "She's computer literate!" (Palmer 31)

From the quotation above that Coltrain wanted Louise not to be angry with him and is willing to attend the celebration of Christmas. Because he knew that Louise is an expert in high technology. And finally Louise came to the celebration of Christmas. She met Ben Maddox. Louise looked eagerly talk with Ben Maddox about the computer system as if she knew everything about the machines. It shows that Louise is very intelligent and easy to forgive the mistakes of other. Moreover when she saw Coltrain was drinking alcohol too much she was worried to him: She was so shaky that she wondered how she was going to drive home. Then she wondered, with even more concern, how *he* was going to drive home.

"You shouldn't drive," she began hesitantly. (Palmer 34)

From the quotation above that Louise has caring attitude towards Coltrain,

though her heart was often hurt by him. It is show that Louise good person and

care to all of the people. Regardless of whether who is a good person or not

toward her.

On Christmas celebration, Coltrain suddenly kissed Louise casually, to those on surprised to see them. Nickie saw them with annoyance. Louise itself is very confused with the attitude that she never see in Coltrain she used to know:

Lou drove home in a similar daze, overcome by the fervor of Coltrain's hard kisses. She couldn't understand why a man who'd always seemed to hate her had suddenly become addicted to her mouth; so addicted, in fact, that he'd followed her to her car. It had been the sweetest night of her life, but she had to keep her head and realize that it was an isolated incident. If Coltrain hadn't been drinking, it would never have happened. (Palmer 35)

Although Louise has a feeling for Coltrain, but she never show it.

Therefore, Louise took the time as the sweetest night. But Coltrain attitude will remain unchanged. She dealt with the casual attitude, becauses he realized that it's just a rare incident and the circumstances of Coltrain being drunk. From the words above shows that Louise did not want her self hurt.

When Louise at work all of the hospital employees including Drew put more attention than usual. Until Louise felt uncomfortable and wondered what was wrong with them. Suddenly Drew asked about the celebration of Christmas, because he could not attend. However, the question is to mock her, Drew says that he regrets not see Coltrain was kissing Louise. He was very surprised how they could do that, because everyone knows that they never got along and Coltrain also

very hate her. Louise was very confused and asked Drew who is spreading these

rumors:

"Nickie," he said, confirming her worst nightmare. "She was watching, apparently, and she's sweet on Copper. I guess she thought it might turn him off you if there was a lot of gossip about what happened. Rumors fly, especially when they're about two doctors who seem to hate each other.".

Lou clutched a clipboard to her lab jacket. She didn't smile. "I understand you've been feeding the rumor mill. I'll give you some good advice. Stop it while you can."

By now, Nickie's face had gone puce. "I never meant...I was kidding!" she burst out. "That's all, just kidding!"

Lou studied her without emotion. "I'm not laughing. Dr. Coltrain won't be laughing, either, when he hears about it. And I'll make sure he knows where it came from."

"That's spiteful!" Nickie cried. "I'm crazy about him!" (Palmer 36)

The qoutation above tells when Louise is looking for Nickie to discuss the

rumors that have been known even became the talk of Jacobsville hospital. Louise

confront Nickie calmly and without showing the face of emotion. She even

advised Nickie that she would never try anything that "subject him to the

embarrassment you have with all this gossip if you really cared." (36) The

statement showed that Louise was not easy to hurt the other person, even if that

person has hurt her. She is able to patience herself.

3.2.2 Louise's character angry with Coltrain's

The next day, when Louise entered the office and face the raging patient,

Coltrain standing at the door with an angry face. Louise guessed that he had heard

rumors about them that are scattered in the hospital. As usual of Coltrain cold

attitude, he did not ask first who shared the actions can be guessed by Louise. He

would allege that Louise is the one who shared:

The next morning was Monday, and Lou went into the office to come faceto-face with a furious partner, who blocked her doorway and glared at her with blue eyes like arctic ice.

"Now what have I done?" she asked before he could speak, and slammed her bag down on her desk, ready to do battle.

"You don't know?" he taunted.

She folded her arms over her breasts and leaned back against the edge of the desk. "There's a terrible rumor going around the hospital," she guessed.

His eyebrow jerked, but the ice didn't leave his eyes. "Did you start it?" . .

"Gladly, when you stop making stupid accusations!"

He glared at her and she glared back.

"I was drinking!"

"That's it, announce it to everyone in the waiting room, why don't you, and see how many patients run for their cars!" she raged.

He closed her office door, hard, and leaned back against it. "Who started the rumor?" he asked.

"That's more like it," she replied. "Don't accuse until you ask. I didn't start it. I have no wish to become the subject of gossip." (Palmer 37-38)

From the quotation above, Louise fight Coltrain back. She was very angry

with him, accusing anyone easily. It made Louise angry and did not want to hear

Coltrain careless charge, until she hid behind his office door. Coltrain was still

curious. He asked her who exactly share these rumors. Then Louise replied calmly

that it is better if Coltrain ask her first about who started the rumour and not just

directly accused her as he likes. It shows that her heart is very tender Louise can

not be touched by the rough words.

Louise did not like to show her feelings. "She hate having him know how

much she wanted him"(39). Louise the one that is not easy to talk about happy or

sad feeling. It shows that Louise is very taciturn. Coltrain himself also admitted

that Louise did not like to show her feelings "I've noticed that," he returned. "You

avoid sharing your feelings" (Palmer 41). Moreover, not only Coltrain who said that Louise did not like to show his feelings, Drew also knew that Louise is a person who does not like to blunt in showing her feelings. "He didn't add that it was really three, and that Copper had been watching Lou surreptitiously ever since she and Drew entered the restaurant. But of the three women, Lou was the only one who wasn't blatantly chasing him." (Palmer 48) it shows that Louise is quite people.

Coltrain realized that Louise is an asset in Jacobsville hospital. From the first time she worked, Coltrain as the head of the hospital staff, gave her very hard work. But the more he demand, the more Louise gave:

"I realize that." He smiled. "You were an asset, after I got over the shock. You never complained about long hours or hard work, no matter how much I put on you. And I put a lot on you, at first. I thought I could make you quit. But the more I demanded, the more you gave. After a while, it occurred to me that I'd made a good bargain. Not that I liked you," he added sardonically.

"You made that perfectly clear."

"You fought back," he said. "Most people don't. They knuckle under and go home and fume about it, and think up things they wish they'd said. You just jump in with both feet and give it all you've got. You're a hell of an adversary, Lou. I couldn't beat you down." (Palmer 43)

From the quotation above Louise never complained, despite the overtime

work and hard work, not considering any heavy load that is given to her. Until

Coltrain himself realized how lucky he is to have a tough partner, never complain

and always concede in handling the job. Since the childhood, Louise has been

taught not to always complain and still struggle not to despair. That is always

remembered in Louise mind.

After Christmas Day, in accordance with the initial agreement and the letter of resignation, Louise will leave Jacobsville hospital. However, Coltrain prohibit her:

"Of course I do," she assured him. "And when I leave, things will settle down, I'm sure." He scowled. "What do you mean, when you leave? How will that help? Anyway, we'd already agreed that you were staying." "We agreed on nothing," she returned. "I gave you my resignation. If you tore it up, that's your problem. I consider it binding." (Palmer 50)

Coltrain forbid her not to leave work at the hospital of Jacobsville.

However, Louise remained in her own mind. She will stay away from the hospital, although her resignation letter has been torn by Coltrain. Louise had filed a reason of resignation, but she was still waiting until there is someone to replace her. It is because Louise is worrying with the medical patients very much. But now it was time for her to leave the hospital of Jacobsville, which corresponds to the earlier agreement that has been signed and said that the contract is for one year.

Louise remembered the words Coltrain says to Drew about her. Coltrain then explained everything and suddenly he told her about his past. Louise was very surprised and wondered, that Coltrain past is similar with her past "What sort of family life had *he* grown up in? she wondered. It was, in some ways, like her own upbringing. "What a pity that we can't choose our parents," she remarked." Coltrain also realized that she had so much in common:

He caught a strand of her hair and wound it around his finger. "You're a wonder," he corrected, searching her eyes. "I didn't realize we had so much in common. Funny, isn't it? We've worked together for a year, but I've found out more about you in the past two weeks than I ever knew." "That goes for me, too." (Palmer 54) When Louise admits that she also loves Coltrain, she thinks that she is just a Coltrain's affair and there is no prospects to be together with him:

She admitted. "I love you. But not enough to be your mistress." "I know that." "Then it's hopeless."

He laughed mirthlessly. "Is it? I thought I mentioned that we could get engaged." (Palmer 56)

Louise smiled when she heard Coltrain that says about engagement. Louise said that she did not want to be like her mother, she thinks that her marriage is very scary. The experiences when she was child make Louise afraid of everything related to marriage "She was afraid of everything marriage stood for because of her upbringing." (57) It shows that Louise had trauma of seeing her mother constrained by her father. She did not want the same fate with her mother.

When Coltrain asked her to go with him to a jewelry store, unexpectedly, they met Jane Burke. She is a former lover Coltrain. When Coltrain said that he would be engaged to Louise, Jane was very surprised and as if mocking Louise until she said goodbye to leave them before the tears rolling. However, a few minutes later Louise came out of the rest room where she hid herself while crying: A minute later, a subdued and dignified Lou came out of the small room, her chin up. Her eyes were slightly red, but she didn't look as if she needed anyone's pity. (Palmer 61)

Louise is a woman who is so strong. Even though her heart was deeply hurt, she still does not want anyone to know when she is sad. Louise did not have feelings for revenge to Jane, even though she was hurt

by her. Instead, she defends Jane when her husband, named Todd Burke, was

angry because he saw his wife with Coltrain which is her former lover:

Lou studied his glittery eyes for a moment, oblivious to the other two occupants of the cubicle. It was amazing how quickly things fell into place in her mind, and at once. She leaned against the examination couch. "Dr. Coltrain is the most decent man I know," she told Todd Burke. "He isn't the sort to do things in an under-handed way, and he doesn't sneak around. If you trusted your wife, Mr. Burke, you wouldn't listen to old gossip or invented tales. Small towns are hotbeds of rumor, that's normal. But only an idiot believes everything he hears."

Coltrain's eyebrows had arched at the unexpected defense. "Thanks, Lou," Jane said quietly. "That's more than I deserve from you, but thank you." (palmer 69)

From the quotation above Louise is very kind, she defended and tried to

explain everything to Todd Burke. Coltrain was very surprised to hear the defense

of the unexpected done by Louise. She did not have a mind for revenge on Jane.

3.2.3 Louise's character accepting Coltrain proposal

After Louise heard Coltrain's explanation about their past relationship, she

became realize that Coltrain was never interested to marry Jane. She also became

sure that Coltrain tells the truth of her being the only woman who can captivate

him. Therefore Louise admitted that she was also falling love with him:

"I never dreamed that it was like that for you, with her," she said, dazed. "I mean, you and I...!"

"Yes, indeed, you and I," he agreed, nodding. "I touch you and it's like a shot of lightning in my veins. I get drunk on you."

"So do I, on you," she confessed. "But there's a difference, isn't there? I mean, you just want me."

"Do I?" he asked gently. "Do I really just want you? Could lust be as tender as this? Could simple desire explain the way we are together?" "I love you," she said slowly. "Yes," he said, his eyes glittering at her. "And I love you, Lou," he added quietly. (Palmer 80)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Louise finally admits her true feelings towards Coltrain. However, Louise was still in doubt that Coltrain love is only physical. She became sure when Coltrain answer clearly that he really loved Louise and not just because of her lust. Then she accept his proposal with nodded. "She couldn't manage the word. She nodded, and the next instant, she was in his arms, against him, close and safe and warm while his mouth ravished her lips." (81)

3.3 Chronology of Coltrain's and Louise's development

3.3.1 Coltrain's meet Luoise's

Coltrain and Louise as the main character of *Coltrain's Proposal*. Coltrain is a surgeon and also chief of staff at the hospital. He has a partner named Drew Morris. Drew Morris has a friend named Louise Blakely. Beside as friend Drew also very know a lot about the Louise family. Louise was the daughter of a surgeon and renowned special in Jacobsville hospital, the name is Dr. Fielding Blakely, which hometown of her parents. But they have long moved to Austin. Louise also is a doctor , she worked in the hospital of Austin as a general practitioner. But Drew had called and told her that Coltrain are looking for partners, and incidentally Louise was also eager to work in the hometown of her parents. Then, a minute later Coltrain asked her to join and work after an interview. Since the beginning of working Louise must be prepared her mental every meet Coltrain. Because have conflict between them. Coltrain felt hate with Louise, he did not like her father. Because, he was destroying his life. The woman whom Coltrain wanted to marry was pregnant because of him, secretly she had an abortion and would remain married Coltrain.

3.3.2 Conflict between Coltain's and Louise's

The conflict between Coltrain and Louise happens along their character development. At the beginning of the story, both Coltrain and Louise are being enemy to each other. The cold personality of Coltrain always makes him in clash with Louise who has hard-headed personality. It can be seen from the following quotation :

He spared her a cold glance. "You look unprofessional," he said curtly. "At least have the grace to dress decently if you're going to cruise around with the ambulance service." She stopped and looked up at him without expression. "I wasn't cruising anywhere. I don't have a boat, so how could I cruise?" He just looked at her. "They don't need any new EMTs…" "You shut up!" she snapped, surprising him speechless. "Now you listen to me for a change, and don't interrupt!" she added, holding up her hand when his thin lips parted. "There was an accident in town. I was in the café, so I gave assistance. I don't need to hang out with the ambulance crew for kicks, Doctor! And how I dress on my days off is none of your— " she almost turned blue biting back the curse "*—business*, Doctor!" (Palmer 9)

Louise's attitude was never reputed by Coltrain. He always mocked and

blamed what Louise had done. Louise was usually just quiet because every time

she wanted to open her mouth to respond to Coltrain's talk, he had already moved

away and Louise was often talking to herself.

But this time was different. She snapped at Coltrain and responded to what

he said. They are being the enemy. Others people also say that Coltrain and

Louise are less friendly "Other people had commented on his less than friendly behavior toward her." (13)

Since the first time Coltrain did not like Louise. Anything done by Louise was never truly reputed as Coltrain knew that Louise is the daughter of Dr. Fielding Blakely. He was destroying his life. The woman whom Coltrain wanted to marry was pregnant because of him, secretly she had an abortion and would remain married Coltrain. That was very bitter memory for Coltrain:

"The girl I wanted to marry got pregnant by him. He performed a secret abortion and she was going to marry me anyway." He laughed icily. "A fling, he called it. But the medical authority had other ideas, and they invited him to resign." (Palmer 17)

The quotation above shows that Coltrain did not believe with Louise because of her father's fail. Coltrain also thought that Louise was reasonable to treat him coldly and therefore, he hated Louise.

Another conflict between Coltrain and Louise happens is influenced by gossip spreads in the hospital about the kiss that Coltrain did to Louise. The gossip makes all employees at the hospital in shock and pays attention that they do not normally do. The gossip which is shared by Nickie makes Coltrain misunderstand with Louise:

She folded her arms over her breasts and leaned back against the edge of the desk. "There's a terrible rumor going around the hospital," she guessed. His eyebrow jerked, but the ice didn't leave his eyes. "Did you start it?" (Palmer 37)

From quotation above, it shows that Coltrain's direct accusation makes

Louise angry "And so you should!" she said enthusiastically. "Marry you? I'd

rather chain myself to a tree in an alligator swamp!" (37) from the words above it

seemed that Louise is no longer wants to see Coltrain. Because he has accused

Louise casually without asking first.

The big conflict happens between Coltrain and Louise is mainly relied on

the misunderstanding. However, there were still a lot of sweet scenes. One of the

writer's favorites is when Coltrain and Louise go shopping for an engagement

ring, they met Jane who was Coltrain's former lover. Coltrain said that he would

look for an engagement ring. Jane was very surprised and asked for whom, but

Coltrain's answer in grudgingly intonation make Lou out:

Then, despite her arguments, they drove to a jewelry shop in downtown Jacobsville. As bad luck would have it, Jane Burke was in there, alone, making a purchase. . . .(59)

"For Lou," Coltrain said. "We're engaged."

He spoke reluctantly, which only made Lou feel worse. Jane's shocked expression unfroze Lou's tongue. "It's just for appearances," she said, forcing a smile. "Dana and Nickie have been hounding him." Coltrain glared at her. He wasn't certain what he'd expected, but she made the proposal sound like a hoax. He hadn't asked her to marry him to ward off the other women; he'd truly wanted her to be his wife. Had she misunderstood totally? (Palmer 60)

The words of Coltrain above make Louise thinks that what happens

between them is just a sham engagement and she is not sure about the event. It is

because Coltrain is always reluctant when talks about his past proposal to Jane.

Evenmore, Dana and Nickie still chase him. It is very complicated.

3.3.3 Coltrain's and Louise's becomes married

Louise is a woman who is so strong. Even though her heart was deeply

hurt, she still does not want anyone to know when she is sad. Louise did not have

feelings for revenge to Jane, even though she was hurt by her. Instead, she defends Jane when her husband, named Todd Burke, was angry because he saw his wife with Coltrain which is her former lover:

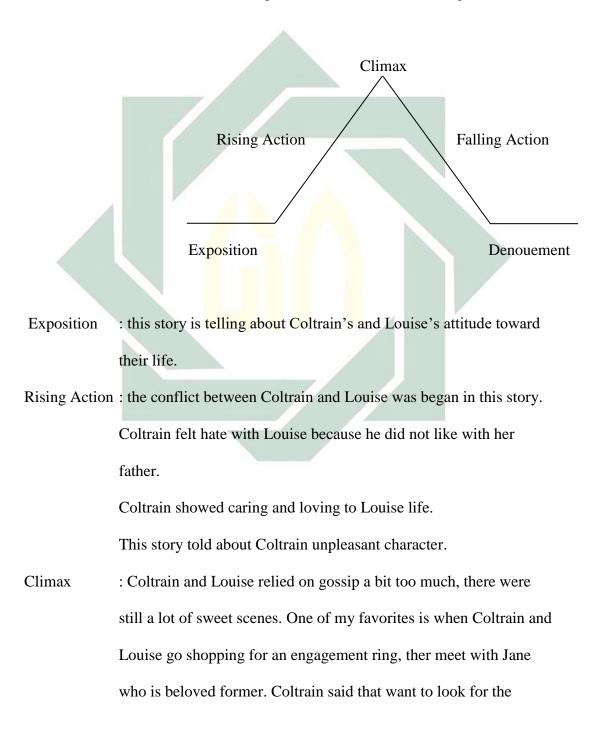
Lou studied his glittery eyes for a moment, oblivious to the other two occupants of the cubicle. It was amazing how quickly things fell into place in her mind, and at once. She leaned against the examination couch. "Dr. Coltrain is the most decent man I know," she told Todd Burke. "He isn't the sort to do things in an under-handed way, and he doesn't sneak around. If you trusted your wife, Mr. Burke, you wouldn't listen to old gossip or invented tales. Small towns are hotbeds of rumor, that's normal. But only an idiot believes everything he hears." Coltrain's eyebrows had arched at the unexpected defense.

"Thanks, Lou," Jane said quietly. "That's more than I deserve from you, but thank you." (palmer 69)

From the quotation above Louise is very kind, she defended and tried to explain everything to Todd Burke. Coltrain was very surprised to hear the defense of the unexpected done by Louise. She did not have a mind for revenge on Jane.

After Louise heard Coltrain's explanation about their past relationship, she became realize that Coltrain was interested to marry Jane. She also became sure that Coltrain tells the truth of her being the only woman who can captivate him. Then Louise also admitted that she was also falling love with him. Finally, they becomes married

The story between Coltrain and Louise shows as a story of love in general. The main characters have the same rope that almost meet, but did not meet wellmet. As well as a pact to meet in a crowded place where Louise waited at the end and Coltrain waiting at the other end. Since the beginning, the two of them seemed to have a different feeling. Actually, it's just that each one of them to show it in the wrong way and capture the feelings of another one by one. And when they are almost together, there are the conditions that make Louise became unsure and withdrawn from Coltrain, but in the end he chooses to propose Louise and she accepted his propose.



The General Description of Plot in Coltrain's Proposal

engaged his ring. Jane very surprised and ask for whom, but Coltrain answer with grudginly intonation and make Lou out.

Falling Action: after Louise heard Coltrain's explanation about their past relationship, she became realize that Coltrain was interested to marry Jane. She also became sure that Coltrain tells the truth of her being the only woman who can captivate him. Then Louise also admitted that she was also falling love with him.

Denouement : finally, in the end he choose to propose Louise and she accepted his propose.