

## CHAPTER III

### ANALYSIS

The focus of this chapter is to answer all the statements of the problem in chapter one. This chapter is divided into two parts. First, this research analyzes the character of Holly Kennedy. Second, this research analyzes types and also the way Holly Kennedy undergoes her defense mechanism in Cecelia Ahern's *Ps. I Love You* novel.

There are six types of defense mechanism that are used by the major character Holly Kennedy, found in *Ps. I Love You* novel. Each type will be analyzed by using Sigmund Freud's defense mechanism theories. It includes the types, and how the main character performs the defense mechanism itself.

#### 3.1 Holly Kennedy's Characters

##### 3.1.1 Brave

Characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation. Indeed, so intense is our relationship with literary characters that they often cease to be simply 'objects'. Through the power of identification, through sympathy and antipathy, they can become part of how we conceive ourselves, a part of who we are (Bennet and Royle 60).

According to main characters of a story, human personalities are familiar to us. If the story seems "true to life," we generally find that characters act in a reasonably consistent manner and that the author has provided them with motivation: sufficient reason to behave as they do. Should a character behave in a sudden and unexpected way, seeming to deny what we have been told about his or her nature or personality, we trust that there is a reason for this behavior and that sooner or later we will discover it (Kennedy and Gioia 73).

In *Ps. I Love You*, Holly Kennedy is the main character because Holly's story from the beginning until the end of the story. Holly Kennedy is also a brave character. In the Club Diva, she was a participant in karaoke contest. Even she had embarrassing experience but she did Gerry's request.

.... Holly took one last look at her reflection in the mirror, washed away her smudged mascara lines, took a deep breath and charged toward the door like a woman on a mission. She opened the door to her adoring fans, who were all facing it and chanting her name. They all began to cheer when they saw her, so she took an extremely theatrical bow and headed toward the stage to the sound of claps and laughter and a yell from Sharon saying, "Screw them!" (85).

.... The DJ took the microphone from her hand and managed to say between laughs, "Please give it up for the incredibly brave Holly Kennedy!" This time her family and friends were the only people to cheer. Denise and Sharon approached her with cheeks wet from tears of laughter.... (86).

From the previous quotations above, Holly was panic and fear to stand up on stage and face everyone. But when Sharon came to the toilet and gave Holly advise and support, holly finally took a deep breath and braved herself like a woman on a mission and stand up on the stage and finished singing. After singing,





Ciara and said to her that is was an attractive photo and told her mother to put Ciara Photo on the fireplace. And Holly also had a great relationship with her brother Jack. He was only two years older than her so they had always been close when growing up, and he had always been very protective to her. Their mother had called them her “two little elves” because they were always getting up to mischief around the house (this mischief was usually aimed at their eldest brother, Richard).

.... “But my car's parked on the other side of the River Liffey of course!” Holly forced a smile. “Just joking of course,” he added. “It's just outside the house . . . it will be safe, won't it?” he asked seriously. “I think it should be OK,” Holly said sarcastically. “There doesn't seem to be anyone suspicious hanging around the cul-de-sac in broad daylight today.” Her humor was lost on him. “How's Emily and Timmy, sorry, I mean Timothy?” That was an honest mistake for once....(60).

.... “I better motor on so and get back to work,” he announced, standing up and exaggerating a stretch as though he had been sitting down for hours. “OK then.” Holly was relieved. “You better leave while your car is still there.” Once again her humor was lost on him; he was peering out the window to check. “You're right; it's still there, thank God. Anyway, nice to see you and thank you for the tea,” he said to a spot on the wall above her head (61).

That was Holly's birthday day, Richard came to Holly's house by bringing a potted mini Phalaenopsis orchid and made Holly feel shocked because that was a rare occurrence Richard visited her house. Actually, since they were child Holly was not closed enough with her older Brother (Richard). She thought Richard was born with a serious illness of being an eternal old man. His life revolved around



still breathing, to checked that her husband was still with her. She would do anything as long as she could be together with her husband forever.

.... Holly began to stand up to leave her sister in peace when all of a sudden Ciara burst into tears. Holly quickly sat back down and wrapped her arms protectively around her younger sister. Holly stroked Ciara's silky pink hair while her sister cried quietly (129).

.... She didn't like the sound of this guy at all for hurting her sister. Holly smiled at her encouragingly. "Then do you think that maybe he's not the right kind of person for you?"....(130).

"Oh, never mind that silly bitch," Holly said angrily. "You are an excellent father and a loyal husband," she said strongly and realized she meant every word of it. "Timmy and Emily love you because you're fantastic with them, so don't mind what that demented woman says to you." She wrapped her arms around him and hugged her brother while he cried. (206,207).

Holly also loved her family. She did not want anybody hurt her sister and she did not want to her family sad or had difficulties. She was so angry with Ciara's ex-boyfriend, that he made Ciara Cried and she never saw her sister like that before. When holly saw Ciara cried she was directly sat back down and wrapped her arms around her sister proctectively.

Holly was also really sad when she heard her oldest brother, Richard lost his job and separated with his children and his wife Meredith. Meredith left him because Richard did not have a job and she told him that he was a pathetic man who could not even look after his own family. And that made Richard break down and also made Holly really angry to Meredith. So that, Holly wanted to punch her in the face.





.... But ever since she had begun opening the envelopes he didn't feel dead to her. It was as though he were just away on holiday and writing her letters, so he wasn't really gone....(64).

From the quotations above, because of the letters that she got from Gerry. She felt that Gerry was still with her and still alive. But in fact, she knew that Gerry was dead but she was still could not accepted that reality. It is called Denial when Holly rejected that Gerry was gone. She felt pass through the letters she got from Gerry, she felt that Gerry was still alive. Holly used denial because she did not want to accept the fact that Gerry was dead.

When Holly bought some chocolates and milk in mini market that was near from her house, he met Rob when he helped Holly to put all the things that she already bought from the mini market because her plastic bag ripped. When Holly got back into her car, and Rob came to her and asked her to got some coffee but when he saw a ring that Holly wore. And he thought that it was a wedding ring so he run away.

Holly continued to twist her rings around on her finger. At what point should she take her wedding ring off? Gerry was gone almost five months now, so when was the appropriate time to remove her ring and tell herself she wasn't married anymore? Where was the rulebook for widows that explained when exactly the ring should be taken off? And when it finally did come off, where would she put it, where should she put it? In the bin? Beside her bed so she could be reminded of him every single day? She plagued herself with question after question. No, she wasn't quite ready to give up her Gerry yet; as far as she was concerned, he was still living (133,134).

From the quotation above, Holly still felt tied with Gerry because of the ring. She was not ready to give up with Gerry because she felt Gerry was still alive. She felt that Gerry was always with her, smiled at her and saw her.

In some night Holly went back from the restaurant with Daniel and Daniel give her fare to her home. And Daniel showed his feeling to Holly but Holly tried to ignore it and Daniel started angrily and said about the letter, he said this letter was Gerry and this letter was his rival. Those words really broke Holly's heart and made her angry.

Her heart beat wildly and her head spun, even her body was telling her this wasn't a good situation to be in. It was panicking for her, allowing her to see that danger was ahead. This felt wrong, it all felt so wrong. "I can't, Daniel, I'm married! I love Gerry!" she said in a panic (305).

She took the envelope from his hand and hugged it close to her heart as tears rolled down her cheeks. "Gerry's not gone," she sobbed. "He's here, every time I open these, he's here." There was a silence as Daniel watched her crying. She looked so lost and helpless, he just wanted to hold her. "It's a piece of paper," he said, softly stepping closer to her again. "Gerry is not a piece of paper," she said angrily through her tears. "He was a living, breathing human being that I loved. Gerry is the man who consumed my life for fifteen years. He is a million billion happy memories. He is not a piece of paper," she repeated (306).

From the quotation above, Holly was really panic when Daniel showed his emotion and said about the letter that really made Holly break down. For Holly, this was not just a paper, this letter was Gerry. Through this paper Holly felt

Gerry was still alive and still with her, and this paper is everything for Holly. Eventhought, she knew that Gerry was dead, she would not accept this fact.

### 3.2.2 Displacement

Displacement is the redirecting of axienty feelings, thought feeling or anger feeling to a person or object. Displacement is often used when someone cannot express their anger feelings in a good manner to the person they are directed at.

When Gerry was dead, Holly always lived alone at home and that made Holly often feel lonely and sad. When Holly was alone she often imagined Gerry, imagened that Gerry was with her. And she also always waited when she could open the next letter. She thought that in the past she lived for Gerry and now she lives for Gerry's letters.

She tried to find a routine she could happily fall into so that she felt like she belonged in her body and her body belonged in this life, instead of wandering around like a zombie watching everybody else live theirs while she waited around for hers to end (92).

From this quotation above, Holly showed her displacement, while waiting for the next letter Holly tried to find a routine that could make her forget her frustation, her sadness, her loneliness for a moment. Sometime Holly visited her family, hangout with her besfriends or just watched television at home to directed her sadness and her loneliness.

In some night, Denise invited Holly to have dinner together in restaurant. When Holly arrived at the restaurant she felt doubt she would get in or not because she knew Danies also invited her friends that also brought all their partners and Holly thought she could not sit with all of them. But Daniel caught her up when Holly tried to escape and offered her to get in the resturant together.

When Holly and Daniel wanted to got back home. Holly met Gerry's parents outside the restaurant. And Gerry's Parents looked at Daniel and ignored him, they thought Holly could live happily after their son was dead and that made Gerry's parents feel angry at her and ignored Daniel.

They would have been happy then. But they hadn't, and now they probably thought she was having a great life without their son. Well, screw them, she thought angrily, pushing down on the horn again (249).

Holly felt so guilty to Daniel because when Gerry's parents met Daniel at the restaurant they just passed by and got in the restaurant and ignored Holly and Daniel. Holly pushed down on the horn heavily and cursed at the driver in front of her to let out her anger. She was mad at herself for feeling that she had been caught in a bad situation when there was really nothing to it. Holly thought they should see her miserable feeling and live the perfect life as a grieving widow and they would have been happy then.

Denise informed Holly that Tom bought a table for this year to celebrate the christmas ball they went to every year. And Denies wanted Holly to join with them but Holly rejected and said this year she could not join the party because she

was busy. They started to argue each other and Holly was mad because of Danies's words. Actually, Holly avoided this party because she felt little bit difficult for her to going to a place that Gerry and her had been going together for the past ten years.

You might not understand this, Denise, but funnily enough I would find it a bit difficult, to say the least. So don't book a ticket for me, I am perfectly happy staying at home," she yelled and slammed the phone down. She burst into tears and lay her head down on the desk as she sobbed. She felt lost. Her best friend couldn't even understand her (283).

"Shit!" she swore, swiping some papers off her desk as she realized she had smudged foundation, mascara and lipstick all along the sleeve of her 'sensitive white shirt (284).

When Holly finished expressing her feeling to Dennies. Holly slammed the phone down and cried. She felt lost and she felt that her best friend could not even understand her. And she was more angry and swiping some papers off her desk when she realized, she smudged her white shirt with all of her makeup.

In the midnight after Holly came back from Declan's Show at the pub. Holly sat at her kitchen table nervously drumming her fingers on the wood. She gulped back her third cup of coffee and uncrossed her legs. Staying awake for just two more hours had proved to be more difficult than she thought. After another cup of coffee Holly was bouncing off the walls. The small hand of the clock seemed to be auditioning for a part in Baywatch with its slow-motion run around the dial, but eventually it struck midnight. Once again she slowly turned the envelope over and treasured every moment of the process. She carefully tore open



Holly, her family and her bestfriends went to Daniel's club to watch the documentary film about Holly and her bestfriends. Declan made this film to join the competition and the winner of the film would appear on the television. Girls and the city, was the named of Declan's film and this film was really funny so Declan won the competition and his film would appear on the television. All of his family came to the Daniel club to watch together to show their supports to Declan.

She didn't want to be alone anymore, and she didn't want her family seeing the loneliness she tried so hard to hide from them. She just wanted Gerry back and didn't care about anything else. She didn't care if he came back and they fought every day, she didn't care if they were broke and had no house and no money. She just wanted him. She cried as though months of built-up anguish were all tumbling out at once (115).

After watching this film, Holly hid in the small room. She cried because in the part of that film showed when Holly cried in the toilet. This on embarrassing moment for holly and made her feel sad also. She tried so hard to hide her sadness and her loneliness from her family. She did not want her family to see that she did not want to make her family and her bestfriends were worried anymore. She wanted them to think and feel that she was fine.

In the morning, at the hotel room Holly could not sleep because last night she drank to much to celebrate Denise's hen party. Holly felt so dizzy, and she felt queasy and she decided to go to the toilet. Holly felt like she wanted to wake up Sharon and Denise, she needed someone to talk, she wanted to share all her

sadness that she could not talk with someone else. But Holly saw both of them were sound asleep so Holly canceled her plan.

Yes, she had finally managed to drag herself out of bed every morning, yes, she even managed to get dressed most of the time. Yes, she had succeeded in finding a new job where she had met new people, and yes, she had finally started buying food again and feeding herself. But no, she didn't feel ecstatic about any of these things. They were just formalities, something else to check off on the "things that normal people do" list. None of these things filled the hole in her heart; it was as if her body had become one great jigsaw, just like the green fields with their pretty gray stone walls connecting the whole of Ireland.

She had started working on the corners and the edges of her jigsaw because they were the easy bits, and now that they were all in place she needed to do all the bits in between, the hard parts. But nothing she had done so far had managed to fill that hole in her heart; that piece of the jigsaw had yet to be found. Holly cleared her throat loudly and pretended to have a coughing fit just so the girls would wake up and talk to her. She needed to talk, she needed to cry and she needed to vent all her frustrations and disappointments about her life (271).

Even last night Holly and her bestfriends had fun so much but in fact Holly did not felt really happy. She felt like yesterday she and her bestfriends celebrated her hen party but now all of her life was changed. She really wanted to wake up Sharon and Denise to talk about her sadness and her frustation but she could not do that. This was Denise's hen party, and she would not damage this moment with all of her complaints and her unhappy thoughts.

### 3.2.4 Projection

Projection is an attribute of a person's undesirable thoughts, feelings or impluses onto another person who does not has these undesirable thought or



feeling. He or she may project these when the thoughts or feeling are considered unacceptable for the person to express.

In the morning, Elizabeth always called Holly to make sure Holly condition was fine. She was always afraid to wake her up yet always felt relieved to hear her breathing, and always felt calm when she knew her daughter could pass the frightened shadow of the night.

She “ummed” and “ahhed” throughout the conversation, listening but not hearing a word. “It’s a lovely day, Holly. It would do you the world of good to go out for a walk. Get some fresh air.” “Um, I suppose.” There it was again, fresh air—the alleged answer to all her problems. “Maybe I’ll call around later and we can have a chat.” “No thanks, Mum, I’m OK.” Silence. “Well, all right then . . . give me a ring if you change your mind. I’m free all day.” “OK.” (8).

Every night after Gerry was dead, Holly almost fell into a fitful sleep in the early hours of the morning. She cried every night because she missed Gerry and she felt so lonely to live alone in this house since Gerry has been dead. And every morning her mother always called her with the same question. Eventhough she was not fine, she always said she was fine but it was just to make her mother not too be worried about her because she could imagen her mother's concerned face, eyebrows furrowed, forehead wrinkled with worry.

When Holly opened Ciara’s room, she found her sister cried on the floor with holding a photo album. Immidiately, Holly hug and calmed her sister down when Ciara started to cry again. Ciara told her, that she had a stupid fight with her ex-boyfriend Matthew. Ciara said she was leaving and Mattew said he was glad.



even as a child she would run across the road to the beach if she was upset and needed to think. Her parents knew that when she went missing from the house they would find her here by the sea (26).

From the quotation above, it shows that Holly Kennedy performs her regression. Suffer from a loss husband that she really loves brings her in stressful condition. When she was sad and she was upset she always looked out to the sea or went to the sea like she always did when she was a child. She always be calm by looking out the sea.

It was eight o'clock when Holly finally drove up her driveway, and it was still bright. She smiled, the world never felt quite so depressing when it was bright. She threw a chicken curry into the microwave and sat down to wait at the kitchen table. Outside on the road she could still hear the kids playing happily.

She always used to love when the bright evenings came; Mum and Dad would let them all play outside longer, which meant she wouldn't have to go to bed till later than usual, and that had always been a treat for them all (133).

Eventhought Holly was not child anymore, when the bright evening came, it also still could make Holly happy like she was child. This moment was enough to make Holly feel happy from the little incident today.

In the morning, she woke up early and got excited from her dreams of success, she had a quick shower, beautified herself and walked down to her local library to look up jobs on the Internet. When Holly finished and shut down the



### 3.2.6 Sublimation

Sublimation is simply the channeling of unacceptable impulses, thoughts and emotions into more acceptable ones.

Holly came to her mother's house to converse with Declan about his film that really made Holly feel mad. Because the part of this film showed Holly when she was sad and unhappy. And she thought that Declan should not film that part.

“So is it OK?” Declan asked Holly, afraid he had upset his sister. Holly threw him a look. “I thought you would like it, Hol,” he said worriedly. “I might have liked it if I had known what you were doing,” she snapped back. “But I wanted it to be a surprise,” he said genuinely. “I hate surprises,” she said, rubbing her stinging eyes (116).

From the quotation above, Holly showed her anger and her disappointment to Declan by using satire. Honestly, Holly would have thought it very deserving of the award. Parts of it had been funny, she agreed, and she did not mind so much the bits of her and her friends being so silly, it was more the sneaky shots of her unhappiness that bothered her. She tried so hard to hide from everyone but now everyone saw her unhappiness. If Holly knew it would become like this, at the first time she would not permit Declan to film them.

In the morning, when Holly and her friends Sharon and Denise had Holiday to Celebrate Denise's hen party. They sat through an incredibly annoying half hour session of aerobics with the instructor yelling out the movements into the headpiece. When it was finally over they announced a water polo tournament

was about to take place, so the girls immediately jumped up and headed over to the beach for some peace and quiet. They were lounged on their inflatable rafts in the sea.

“Well, he grew up in Dublin and joined the army, then he left and moved to Galway where his family owns a pub, then he met Laura, they were together for seven years, were engaged to be married, but she cheated on him so they broke up and he moved back to Dublin and bought Hogan's.” Holly caught her breath. “Don't know much about him, do you?” Denise teased. “Well, if you and Tom had paid the slightest bit more attention to us the other night in the pub then maybe I wouldn't know so much about him,” Holly replied playfully (172).

Holly and her bestfriends lounged on their inflatable rafts and talked about many things. And when Holly started to talk about Daniel, Denise teased Holly by saying Holly knew much about Daniel. And Holly teased Danies back, because when at the pub Denise always talked to Tom, and very close to Tom until both of them ignored Daniel until Holly came. So, Holly and Daniel talked much about anything and that made them being closed.

In the morning, when Holly woke up early and got excited from her dreams of success, she had a quick shower, beautified herself and walked down to her local library to look up jobs on the Internet. When Holly arrived at the Library and she sat down at the computer to start hunting for job. Forty minutes later she shut down the computer happily, made her way to the librarian and placed her ten euro on the desk. The woman tapped away on the computer and ignored the money on the counter.

The lady thought about the dilemma. “Well, usually we don't allow people to leave the premises without paying, but I suppose I can make an exception.” She smiled and then added quickly, “As long as you stand just in front of the entrance there.” “Where you can see me?” Holly said sarcastically (197).

Holly realized she did not bring enough money to pay. and they started to argue. Finally, Holly took her phone to call someone for help. But the women pointed to the NO MOBILE PHONES sign on the counter. Holly fed up and asked the women to permit her to go outside to use the phone and the woman permit her with dilemma. And said to Holly, as long as Holly stand in front of the entrance and Holly gave sarcastically response to the woman.

