

**COOPER CLAY'S CONFLICT IN KAREN M. MCMANUS'
*ONE OF US IS LYING***

THESIS



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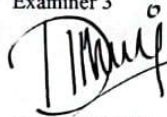
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ABSTRACT

Putri, K.K.A. (2022). *Cooper Clay's Conflict in Karen M. McManus's One of Us is Lying*. English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M.Hum.

Keywords: Conflict, Problem Solving, Teenager, Characterization

This study aims to analyze the types of conflicts that Cooper Clay, one of the main characters in *One of Us is Lying* novel, faces. This research also focuses on how Cooper Clay deals with the conflicts. The researcher poses two research questions in this thesis: 1) how are conflicts in Cooper Clay's life as a high school teenager depicted in *One of Us is Lying* novel? And 2) how Cooper Clay deals with the conflicts in the novel?

In this study, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method. The researcher used the theory of conflict by Lynch-Brown and Nurgiyantoro to describe the types of conflicts. Meanwhile, the theory of problem-solving by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry helps to elaborate on how Cooper Clay deals with his problems.

The results showed that the conflict emerged in Cooper's life as an inner conflict, such as the sense of doubt and fear he experienced for hiding his actual identity as a gay high school student. In addition, Cooper Clay is involved in external conflicts with several of his friends, investigators, and father. It may have happened because of the lies he had committed to maintain his good image during this time and his career as a good student at school and a baseball athlete. Meanwhile, in dealing with conflicts, Cooper does not always directly solve them. He tends to procrastinate, feel reluctant to fix the problems, and even run away from problems. However, in the end, he solved all the problems and took the risk of his actions.

ABSTRAK

Putri, K.K.A. (2022). *Konflik Cooper Clay dalam One of Us is Lying Karya Karen M. McManus*. Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Dosen Pembimbing: Sufi Ikrim Sa'adah, M.Hum.

Keywords: Konflik, Penyelesaian Masalah, Remaja, Karakterisasi

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa macam-macam konflik yang dihadapi oleh Cooper Clay sebagai karakter utama, bagaimana dia dalam menyelesaikan konflik-konfliknya, dan bagaimana kepribadiannya berdasarkan sikap yang ditunjukkan dalam menghadapi dan menyelesaikan setiap konflik. Peneliti mengajukan 2 pertanyaan penelitian di tesis ini: 1) Bagaimana konflik dalam kehidupan Cooper Clay sebagai remaja SMA yang digambarkan dalam novel *One of Us is Lying*? Dan 2) bagaimana Cooper Clay menangani konflik dalam novel?

Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Peneliti menggunakan teori konflik Lynch-Brown dan Nurgiyantoro untuk menggambarkan jenis konflik, dengan siapa Cooper terlibat, dan teori pemecahan masalah oleh American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry menjelaskan bagaimana Cooper Clay menangani masalahnya. Dalam novel ini, peneliti menemukan dan menggunakan kutipan-kutipan yang sesuai dengan topik analisis dalam penelitian skripsi ini.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa konflik yang muncul pada karakter Cooper dari dirinya sendiri sebagai konflik batin seperti rasa ragu dan takut yang dialaminya karena menyembunyikan identitas aslinya sebagai seorang gay dan sebagai siswa SMA yang terlibat dalam kasus pembunuhan. Selain itu, ada juga konflik eksternal karena Cooper Clay terlibat konflik dengan beberapa temannya, penyidik, dan keluarganya. Ini mungkin terjadi karena kebohongan yang dia lakukan untuk menjaga citra baiknya selama ini dan mempertahankan karirnya sebagai siswa yang baik di sekolah dan juga sebagai atlet bisbol. Sementara itu, dalam menghadapi konflik, Cooper tidak selalu langsung menyelesaikan setiap masalah yang muncul. Ia cenderung suka menunda-nunda dan merasa enggan untuk menyelesaikan masalah bahkan lari dari masalah. Dan pada akhirnya, dia menyelesaikan semua masalah yang ada dan mengambil risiko atas tindakannya.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Klopčič (2017) affirms that conflict can arise within us because conflict is part of human nature. That is why everyone who is fights for something always faces conflict. Conflict can occur between a person and himself and between someone and another person. Following Boulding (1988), conflict is a common occurrence. It can be found worldwide, where individual and species conflict is a significant factor. It can be found all over the human world, and all social sciences study it. From the explanation, conflict is a situation that everyone must experience without exception.

Adolescent life is a phase in life where teenagers enjoy fun times with family and friends. They also enjoy exploring and doing new things. Teenagers usually spend a lot of time with their friends at school. A survey conducted by Family Lives research cited by Silver (n.d.) shows that most teens rank friends as one of the three most important things. This shows how close a teenager's relationship with his friends is. As Cummins (n.d.) points out in Science Courses, while healthy teen relationships can have a positive impact on self-esteem, they can also create problems in teens' lives. Some researchers have found that romantic involvement in adolescence reduces academic performance. From this relationship, of course there will be conflicts and problems faced by teenagers.

In addition to conflicts with family at home, adolescents will experience conflicts with friends at school. These conflicts include school violence or bullying, relationship problems, peer pressure, and jealous teenage friends. These conflicts can arise because teenagers spend a lot of time in school, so they have a lot of time to meet and interact with their classmates.

Conflicts faced by teenagers can occur both at school and at home. Problems at home occur between adolescents and their parents for certain reasons, such as problems with grades at school, bad habits that continue to be carried out or repeated, pressure from parents, and other problems. Apart from parents, problems can also occur with younger and older siblings. However, teenagers may have conflicts with other family members as Smout (2020) stated that it is common for parents and teenagers to disagree. Conflict occurs naturally between people, so that it can happen. Teenagers experience many changes in hormones and the brain, leading to conflict.

One literary work that raises a conflict in teenage life is *One of Us is Lying* by Karen M. McManus. The novel, published in 2017, is one of the popular novels on the New York Times best-selling list. The story revolves around four high school students who one afternoon witnessed firsthand how one of their friends died. It eventually made the four of them suspects in the incident. As teenagers, apart from having to deal with conflicts with family, girl/boyfriends, peers, with him/herself, the four of them also have to deal with the police,

detectives, and the mass media who continue to find out who is behind the death of their friend named Simon.

Several studies have been conducted about the novel *One Of Us Is Lying*. Mahugh (2020) analyzes the writing style and thematic connections, Chansit (2021) examines the depiction of peer rejection and vengeance, while Andhara (2019) explores the multiple points of view in the novel.

The researcher prefers to analyze the character of Cooper Clay than the other three characters who are the main characters in the novel for two reasons. After reading the novel several times, the researcher was interested in the characterization that the author created and showed Cooper Clay because his character is described as a teenage boy from a good family. He is considered a perfect boy because he has never made a serious mistake. He is also famous in his school as a baseball athlete and the perfect lover of Keely. People know him as a good boy. In addition to these reasons, the researcher is interested in how Cooper deals with his problems, which in real life, many people may do the same thing by lying to show self-perfection.

This study aims to provide new knowledge about conflicts with family and peers faced by high school adolescents in the novel *One of Us is Lying*. Regarding previous research on this novel, not much research has been done on this novel, which mainly discusses the intrinsic elements. The researcher did not find any research related to the conflict of high school teenagers suspected of being the killer in this novel while conducting this research.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

1. How are conflicts in Cooper Clay's life as a high school teenager depicted in *One of Us is Lying* novel?
2. How Cooper Clay deals with the conflicts in the novel?

1.3 Significance of Study

Theoretically, the researcher hopes to provide additional studies and references for the academic community related to the conflict in teenage life. In addition, practically, the researcher also hopes that readers can understand and be aware of what conflicts high school teenagers may face with the people around them and how they are likely to face these problems.

1.4 Scope and Limitations

The scope of this research is a novel by Karen M. McManus entitled *One of Us Is Lying*. This research is limited to analyzing Cooper Clay's conflict as a high school teenager and how he faces and resolves each conflict.

1.5 Research Method

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the methodology, research design, data sources used, data collection, and data analysis.

1.5.1 Research Design

The study used the descriptive qualitative method that explains the procedures for analyzing, interpreting, and presenting data (Creswell, 2018, p. 255-256).

1.5.2 Data Source

The researcher used two data sources in this study, namely primary data and secondary data. The primary data source is a novel entitled *One of Us is Lying*, and secondary data sources include previous research, journals, and books related to the topic.

1.5.3 Data Collection

In collecting data, the researcher took several steps as follows:

- 1) The researcher read the novel four times to fully understand the novel and identify the issue to discuss.
- 2) The researcher collected data related to Cooper Clay's character.
- 3) The researcher classified the data showing the conflicts Cooper Clay faced and how he dealt with the conflict.
- 4) The researcher collected secondary data about teenage conflict and theory from journals, previous studies, and books to support the analysis.

1.5.4 Data Analysis

1. The researcher analyzed the conflicts experienced by Cooper Clay in the novel *One of Us is Lying*.
2. The researcher depicted how Cooper Clay faces and resolves conflicts using the theory of psychological aspect.
3. The researcher concludes the research results.



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CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter contains the theoretical framework used by the researcher in analyzing the novel and some previous findings related to the research topic.

2.1 New Criticism

New criticism is an approach to literary works that emphasizes literary analysis based on the literary work itself without involving other factors, both the author and the reader. According to Carter (2006, p. 26), this approach developed in American literary criticism in the late 1930s to 1950s and grew rapidly because of the much sympathy it received from leading critics. At first, the New Critics focus on poetry that is considered to have a unique entity, cannot be expressed other than as it should be, and cannot be paraphrased (Carter, 2006, p.27). But in practice, the New Criticism concentrates on the text in elaborating and identifying the intrinsic elements, two of them being conflict and characterization. Since conflict is part of the plot, a brief discussion of the plot is also included in the following sub-discussion

2.1.1 Conflict

Glatch (2021) argues that a plot is a series of interconnected events, each of which contributes to or influences the other in some way. Based on his argument,

conflict is one element that makes up the plot. In this study, the researcher only focuses on conflict.

Conflict itself is an essential part of the plot. A conflict that can create tension and excitement to keep the reader engaged is a sign of a good plot (Lynch-Brown et al., 2014). With good conflict writing and selecting the appropriate type of conflict, the reader will feel involved and continue to read out of curiosity when reading a literary work. Conflict is always related to several questions, such as: what is the reality; What is wrong; in the future, what are you most afraid of; and it was better in the past (Galtung & Fischer, 2013).

Conforming to Kenney (1966, p. 21-22), there are four types of conflict in a work of fiction. However, the researcher only uses three types of conflict to answer the first research question about the conflict experienced by Cooper Clay, the main character in the novel *One of Us is Lying*.

2.1.1.1 Person Against Self

This kind of conflict is also known as man vs. himself, as Kenney (1966) stated in his book *How to Analyze Fiction*. To achieve a goal or overcome a traumatic event, the main character must overcome inner drives and personal tendencies (Lynch-Brown et al., 2014). They further stated that this conflict is essential to the surrounding narrative of adolescence.

2.1.1.2 Person Against Person

This conflict occurs when there is a rivalry between the two characters. Person-to-person conflicts include conflicts between peers, sibling rivalry, and stories of children rebelling against adults (Lynch-Brown et al., 2014). (Lynch-Brown et al., 2014).

2.1.1.3 Person Against Society

People against social is a conflict that arises because of the relationship between humans and social contact between humans, which then raises several problems such as oppression, squabbles, labor, or problems in other social relations (Nurgiyantoro, 2009, p. 124). One of the conflicts with society is being hated by the community and being hunted by the mass media.

2.1.2 Characterization

Abrams & Marpham (2015, p. 48-49) explain that characterization is a method that the researcher uses to characterize a character in a narrative text by telling and showing these characteristics through what a character says and does. In addition, the author can also show characteristics through what a character thinks, inner responses, and feelings. From the description, it can be seen that characterization is a description of a character through what is done, said, thought, and a character's response to something. The researcher employs characterization to help analyze how Cooper Clay decided on the problem-solving types since the researcher believes that Cooper's personality affected how he solved his problems.

According to Abrams and Harpham, characterization has two methods: showing and telling.

2.1.2.1 Showing

Abrams & Harpham (2015) elaborate that the author presents the characters talking and acting in showing (also known as the dramatic method), leaving it entirely up to the reader to infer the motives and dispositions behind what they say and do. The author may depict not only a character's external speech and actions but also their inner thoughts, feelings, and reactions to events.

2.1.2.2 Telling

In the telling method, the author steps in authoritatively to describe and often evaluate the characters' motivations and dispositional qualities. The purpose of the author's descriptions of the characters is to support and broaden the inferences that the readers draw from what has been shown (Abrams & Harpham, 2015).

2.2 Psychological Approach in Literature

Dwinastiti (2013) argues that the psychological approach is the one that most directly leads to a significant increase in the meaning of a literary work. The author's imagination is usually emphasized when discussing psychology and its role in literature because all literary works are inspired by personal experience. Although not all paths of psychology in literary analysis are followed to arrive at

an understanding of literary works, we must be willing to use psychology to discuss probability to some extent.

When a teenager has to face various conflicts, one of the things that is needed is motivation to face and resolve all conflicts. There are several kinds of motivation in humans. As Tumba (2017) cited, Bernhard in 1953 explained that psychological theory comprises attitudes and human motivation. Appetites, wants, emotions, feelings, attitudes, and social motives are all factors that can motivate humans. This approach is used to base the discussion on adolescent problems and how they deal with problems

2.2.1 Teenage Problems

Teenage problems are one of the stages of development that occur between the ages of 13 and 19, during which time they face real problems and tremendous external and internal struggles. School pressure, parental pressure, hormonal changes, and other issues may be encountered (Shah, 2017). At that point, parents and others must take a cautious approach by providing guidance and holding discussions with teenagers about how to resolve the conflicts they face because what conflicts they face and with whom they are involved are very diverse.

2.2.1.1 Between Teenagers and The Parents

Pharm (2021) states that teenagers undergo many physical, emotional, and intellectual changes. At this age, the teenager may be dealing with many problems. They may constantly be at odds with their parents because they want to assert their independence and control over their lives. Some examples of conflicts

between adolescents and their parents are lack of proper communication, contradicting their parents' beliefs, setting expectations high, and so on (Pharm, 2021).

2.2.1.2 Between Teenagers and Peers

Peer conflict is defined as hostility or disagreement among peers. Conflict with peers does not tend to involve violence that leads to serious harm, occurs unintentionally, and appears only on rare occasions. Nonetheless, it is not ruled out that the conflict involved violence. Engaged teenagers usually express regret and attempt to solve their problems (Sidorowicz & Hair, 2009).

2.2.1.3 Between Teenagers and Society

Teenagers must interact and mingle with society to thrive in social situations. Conflicts between the community and the youth, on the other hand, are not uncommon. As a result, society plays an important role in shaping individual character and setting a good example in conflict resolution. It influences the youth's ability to live with others, their concepts of right and wrong, and their overall outlook on life (Holden, 2018).

2.2.2 Teenage Problem Solving

Adolescents frequently behave, make decisions, and approach problems differently from adults. According to research, the brain continues to grow and develop throughout childhood, adolescence, and into the early stages of adulthood. Commensurate to The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

(AACAP) in 2017, brain-in-action images in adolescents show how they behave when making decisions or solving problems differently than adults. That is why they become receptive and emotional.

Teenagers are more likely to act impulsively, get involved in all kinds of accidents, and engage in dangerous behaviour based on their stage of brain development. Adolescents often act relentlessly to consider the consequences of their choices. They can still make wise decisions and distinguish between right and wrong. (AACAP, 2017).

2.3 Review of Related Studies

In this section, the researcher describes several studies that have been carried out previously on the novel *One of Us is Lying*. This review is necessary so that the researcher can innovate in their research.

In 2021, Chansit researched the novel *One of Us is Lying* in his journal article entitled *Subjectivity and Revenge in Karen M. McManus's One of Us Is Lying*. He uses Lacanian theory of subjectivity and desire to analyze the plot of revenge among teenagers and its origins in Karen M. McManus' *One of Us Is Lying*. His research showed that the teenagers in the story failed to seek revenge, driven by the will of others. The failure occurs because nature is not obtained from the desire itself.

Andhara (2019) analyzed the intrinsic element in the novel in her thesis entitled *Multiple Point of View in Karen M. Mcmanus's One Of Us Is Lying*. The purpose of this research is to find out the level of point of view of each of the

main characters in the novel and the reasons behind the choice of using multiple points of view using the theory of multiple points of view and levels of points of view. The researcher analyzed the data using descriptive qualitative methods. The results show that the four main characters in this novel have their level of points of view. The researcher concludes that this novel uses two points of view, the first-person point of view and the third-person point of view.

Based on several studies above, the researcher found similarities and differences with the research to be studied. In a study using the same novel, the researcher found that studies discussed the intrinsic elements in the novel *One of Us is Lying*, and one of them discussed the plot. In a study conducted by Andhara in 2019, she examined the point of view of the four main characters at once so that the discussion and findings were less detailed because she did not focus on only one character. Meanwhile, the researcher focuses on examining conflicts and solving problems from one character only so that the discussion and findings are more detailed.

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CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

The researcher divided the discussion into two parts in this chapter. The first topic of discussion is the various types of conflicts that Cooper Clay has encountered. The second discussion then focuses on resolving conflicts.

3.1 Cooper Clay's Conflict

In this novel, Cooper Clay faces three types of conflict. The first type of conflict is person against self. It is a conflict that occurs in Cooper. In this conflict, the character tends to experience inner conflict because he has to face a dilemma because of something. The second conflict is a person against person. It is a conflict that involves two characters in a problem where in this case, Cooper has conflicts with several characters, such as his family and classmates. The third conflict, person against society, is where Cooper faces conflict with society because he is suspected of being a murderer and when the truth about himself is revealed. To provide the context for the analysis, the researcher believes it is necessary to include a brief synopsis of the novel.

Cooper Clay is a high school boy whose life begins to change when he, Bronwyn, Addy, and Nate witness one of their friends, Simon, dies while they are together in a room. It puts Cooper and his friends as suspects in the murder. As a result, Cooper's school life began to change, and he had to deal with the police, investigators, lawyers, and others. This situation impacted his personal life, which

was initially normal to unusual because his house was frequently visited by the mass media, who wanted to cover and conduct interviews with him. Suddenly, Cooper and his friends became the talk everywhere and even got the nickname the *Bayview Four*. Therefore, the task of Cooper and his friends is to help each other to prove to everyone that none of them committed or planned the murder of Simon, and together they find out who the real killer of Simon is. “I’m not ashamed of Kris. I’m not. But it’s complicated. Thing is, I didn’t realize I could feel that way about a guy till I met him. I mean, yeah, I suspected. Since I was eleven or so.” (McManus, 2017, p. 168).

From that situation, Cooper faces various conflicts that he must resolve. The first conflict that the researcher discusses is the conflict within oneself, also known as the person versus self. This conflict focuses on a single character who is going through internal turmoil. Similar to how Cooper felt and experienced. In analyzing this type of conflict, the researcher focuses on Cooper’s dilemma because he is gay.

3.1.1 Cooper Clay Against Himself

One type of conflict that frequently arises is internal conflict within the character. Lynch-Brown (2014) noted that the main character has personal tendencies and inner drives. Cooper Clay, one of the main characters in *One of Us is Lying*, had to deal with various conflicts in his senior high school life and at home.

The first situation that puts Cooper in a dilemma is when Keely, his fake girlfriend, comes to the house to meet him because she wants to have partner time. However, at almost the same time, Cooper gets a message from his boyfriend saying he misses Cooper and Cooper promises to call him later. “I duck my head to hide the grin that’s suddenly tugging at my mouth, and text back... Keely isn’t only beautiful... A genuinely sweet girl. Every guy at Bayview wishes he were me.” (McManus, 2017, p. 35). Cooper experienced an inner conflict at that time, choosing between Keely and his boyfriend. Before he replied to the message, he realized that Keely was an extraordinary girl for him, but he did not really love the beautiful girl and even had an affair with another man.

The second situation that put Cooper in conflict with himself was when one of Cooper and Keely’s friends became suspicious of Cooper when someone called him even though Cooper’s friends were all having lunch. The caller was Kris, Cooper’s boyfriend, who forced Cooper to lie about who Kris was in front of his friends. “I didn’t answer for a few seconds too long, then too soon. “Just, um, a guy I know. From baseball.” My whole face felt hot and prickly when I took the call...and sent it to voicemail.” (McManus, 2017, p. 88). Cooper could not let his friends know that the caller was his boyfriend. He did not want everyone to know that he was gay since it would jeopardize his career as a baseball player.

The following situation that put Cooper in a dilemma was whether to tell who Kris was or continue his lying scenario. It happened when one of his friends, Vanessa, was still grave about the identity of someone who called Cooper at lunchtime. “Vanessa raised an eyebrow. “A boy who spells Chris with a K?” “Yes.

He's ... German." God. Stop talking. I put my phone on pocket and switch to Keely. (McManus, 2017, p. 88). To avoid the questions and increase Vanessa's suspicion of him, Cooper, who desperately hoped that Vanessa would stop asking him, finally turned his attention to Keely so he would not look suspicious.

"And Keely was right—I was much more worried about that than about our relationship. I owe you a better apology than my half-hearted apology. But I don't know how to give it." (McManus, 2017, p. 137). In this situation, Cooper feels between feeling relieved and guilty after breaking up with Keely. Cooper finally chose after his grandmother advised him that it was okay if Cooper did not love Keely even though she was a good girl. Cooper is relieved that he is no longer betraying Keely. Still, he also feels guilty to her for not clearly explaining why Cooper asked to break up, and during their relationship, Cooper did not treat Keely well because he thought more about himself and his baseball.

After breaking up with Keely, Cooper intended to tell his family first about him being gay, and his relationship with Kris before the news about him was revealed or even spread outside the media. This situation made Cooper experience inner conflict as he felt doubt and fear about telling the truth about himself in front of his family, not because Cooper was ashamed of being gay since he had been aware of it since the age of eleven. The problem is that his family all this time thought Cooper was straight because he had dated several girls. Even Cooper's father hated gay people and couples. So it was pretty complicated for him in this situation.

"I'm not ashamed of Kris. I do not. But it's complicated. The thing is, I didn't realize I could feel that way about a guy until I met him.

I mean, yes, I suspect. Since I was eleven years old or so.” (McManus, 2017, p. 168).

Even though he does love Kris, Cooper has not been able to admit it to anyone due to various considerations, such as his baseball career and how his family would react. His grandmother guessed correctly that Cooper looked happy when Kris contacted him, and he felt like himself when he was with Kris. Unlike when he was with Keely, he felt like a robot.

“I can’t admit that to anybody yet ... Nonny was right. My stomach does flips when Kris calls or texts me ... And when I’m with him I feel like a real person, not the robot Keely called me: programmed to perform as expected.” (McManus, 2017, p. 169).

The following situation that puts Cooper in a dilemma is when his father reacts badly to the news of a gay baseball player. It makes Cooper’s guts shrink even more to tell if he is also gay and even has a boyfriend.

“...we saw a news story about a gay baseball player, he snorted in disgust and said, Normal men shouldn’t be dealing with that bullshit... If I told him..., seventeen years of being the perfect child would be gone in an instant.” (McManus, 2017, p. 169).

The situation in the following excerpt represents a time when Cooper felt like revealing who he was before Simon’s unpublished entry revealed it. “I hadn’t let myself think about that since Simon died;..., I acted like a jerk because I couldn’t deal with who I was. And the worst part is, even after all this—I still can’t.” (McManus, 2017, p. 170). But as if he wasn’t prepared for the reaction he would receive, he continued to hold himself back and still couldn’t pinpoint who he was. And finally, he continues to hide behind his mask because he doesn’t have the guts to take off the mask and continues to be a person known to have a good image.

The truth about Cooper is slowly being revealed. He was starting from Simon's previously encrypted entry shown by Detective Chang, who asks about the validity of the writing. This situation left Cooper having to choose between admitting if it was true or delaying as much as possible from telling the truth. Because so far, what Simon posts in his application is known to be valid, although sometimes it causes real problems. Detective Chang seemed to want Cooper to admit it, but Cooper was too shocked to answer. So the news has not been confirmed by Cooper, and he managed to leave before answering. "Every part of me feels frozen except my eyes, which can't stop blinking. This is what I was afraid I'd see weeks ago." (McManus, 2017, p. 181).

Until the news about him and Kris dating was revealed, he had never once introduced Kris to anyone, including his family. It put Cooper in a rather tricky situation. He wanted to take Kris home but feared his father's response and reaction. Cooper and Kris then had a secret relationship even though Kris's parents did not mind his sexual orientation. It made Cooper feel bad for Kris even though Kris never pressured him.

"Another conversation that'll kill some part of me. Kris has been out since junior high. His parents are both artists and it was never a big deal... He's never pressured me, but sneaking around isn't how he wants to live." (McManus, 2017, p. 184).

The following situation is an inner conflict that Cooper experiences when he admits who he is to his family. He finally got the courage to say he was gay before his family and took it seriously. The grandmother immediately believed her grandson's words, not Pop, Cooper's father. His father thought he was joking because he laughed at Cooper's words. Cooper was hesitant to admit that what he

said was not a joke. As if not ready for his father's reaction, Cooper finally confirmed his father's assumption that what he said about him being gay was just a joke.

“Cooper is not joking.” “Course he is,” Pop says, still laughing. I watch his face, because I'm pretty sure it's the last time he'll look at me the way he always has. “Right?”...but when he sees my face his smile dims. There it is. “Right, Coop?” “Wrong,” I tell him.” (McManus, 2017, p. 185).

Cooper is undecided about what he should choose and do when his grandmother asks him to take Kris to dinner and introduce him to the Cooper family. “You should bring that boy of yours by sometime for dinner, Cooper.” I try to picture my father making conversation with Kris over chicken casserole. “Pop would hate that.” (McManus, 2017, p. 207). He liked the idea and imagined his father and Kris having a conversation. Then he woke up from his hallucinations. After all, Cooper knew his father would not want him because he never liked a gay partner, even though it was his son. It discouraged Cooper from taking Kris to dinner at his house even though he wanted to.

The moment when the truth about Cooper and his relationship with Kris was known, Cooper felt unaccustomed and awkward when they spent time together outside. It is because he was used to spending time with Kris in secret, “I found myself keeping my distance from Kris when we walked from my car... because I didn't want people guessing what we are to each other. I hate that part of me. But it's there.” (McManus, 2017, p. 224). In that situation, he felt happy because he could be with Kris outside, but he also still felt afraid if other people realized that they were a gay couple. Cooper does not seem to have the courage to

look like a typical couple yet. This situation creates a conflict within Cooper. He feels a dilemma about acting like a couple in public or keeping it a secret even though the people closest to him already know the truth about him and Kris.

3.1.2 Conflict Between Person Against Person

The second type of conflict that the researcher has analyzed is the conflict between a person against a person. As Lynch-Brown (2014) explains, this type of conflict is a conflict that arises because of a rivalry between 2 characters. This conflict usually appears in every story in a novel. This conflict can be in the form of the main character in conflict with other characters. The researcher analyzed the conflicts between Cooper and his friends, family, partners, and other characters. In this section, the researcher divides them into sub-sections according to which characters are involved in conflict with Cooper.

3.1.2.1 Cooper Against Peers

Cooper against Simon

The conflict with Simon occurred because of Simon's desire for revenge. Simon felt hurt by Cooper's actions to Simon which eventually led to a murder case at the school.

The first situation where Cooper came into conflict with Simon was when Simon and three other friends were in the detention room because of some problems. Cooper saw how arbitrarily Simon was, doing whatever he pleased and saying words that provoked emotion or even sparked an argument. Simon was known for this kind of character, and it bothered Cooper, "I was voted king, so

maybe I'm next on his list to harass, or whatever the hell he's doing." (McManus, 2017, p. 15). Cooper was worried that he would be Simon's next target to harass because they were at the same event.

In the detention room, while Simon was talking about Bronwyn, Cooper wondered if Simon's *About That* app had something about her, "... I wonder if he's got something on Bronwyn for that stupid app of his. I hate that thing. Almost all my friends have been on it at one point or another, and sometimes it causes real problems." (McManus, 2017, p. 16). On the other hand, Cooper hates the app because its posts caused real problems. In addition, many of Cooper's friends have become victims of the application.

Besides hating the app, Cooper feared that Simon would know his secret and reveal it in *About That*. "And if I'm being honest, I'm pretty freaked at what Simon could write about me if he put his mind to it." (McManus, 2017, p. 16). Although Simon had never written a post about Cooper, of course, there would be a possibility that one day Cooper's name would be written on the news page at *About That*.

Cooper felt that Simon knew if Cooper was gay. Therefore Simon tried to approach Cooper to find out Cooper's other secrets. "I'd barely known Simon, only talked with him...a few times. But anytime I got near him I'd worry about him learning my secret. I was sure that Simon ... realized I was gay and was putting the moves on me." (McManus, 2017, p. 169). Even though he only spoke a few times with Simon because they weren't very close, Cooper was sure that Simon had somehow realized that Cooper was gay.

In the end, it was revealed the reason Simon got Cooper stuck in a complicated situation in the case he was involved in. The conflict between Cooper and Simon started because Simon felt insulted when Cooper crossed out his name at Vanessa's party. The treatment he got from Cooper hurt his self-esteem, so he deliberately got Cooper into a conflict with him. As for Cooper, he deliberately blocked Simon's name because, at the prom, Simon pulled Cooper's body close to him and hugged him tightly, making Cooper panic and worry if Simon realized he was gay and then spread the rumour about that. So, at the party, Cooper asked Vanessa not to invite Simon so that Cooper did not have to meet or interact with him to keep his secret safe and not be exposed.

“Cooper got Simon blacklisted from Vanessa's after-prom party. Even though Simon was on the court and everything. He was so humiliated that he was not only not invited, but actually not even allowed to go. Everyone was going to be there, he said.” (McManus, 2017, p. 233).

Cooper against Keely

With Keely, the conflict arose because Cooper chose to break up with her so that he could be with his boyfriend. Meanwhile, Keely did not want to break up with him since Cooper was her only shield from her abusive ex-boyfriend.

The conflict began when Cooper decided to break up with Keely without giving her an apparent reason. Keely thought Vanessa had told Cooper something about Keely, so Keely tried to convince Cooper that what happened to her with another man happened before they dated. Even though Cooper never knew

Keely's secret, his reaction, which was neither curious nor surprised, made Keely angry because she seemed to be ignored by Cooper.

"She looks at me expectantly, and my blank expression seems to make her mad. Keely waits a beat before giving a sarcastic little laugh. "...You're not even a little bit curious. You're not worried about me, or protective of me. You just don't give a shit." (McManus, 2017, p. 136).

The conflict continued when Keely finally told Cooper that she had been in love with Nate before they dated. "I hooked up with Nate," she says abruptly, eyes locked on mine. And I have to admit, that surprises me. "At Luis's party the last night of junior year." (McManus, 2017, p. 136). A new fact that Cooper only knew at that time, he was quite surprised but did not feel jealous. He thought it was not a big problem and did not give a meaningful reaction because he did not love the girl.

Keely's anger peaked after holding it in for a long time. She expressed all her annoyance at Cooper all this time. Keely felt she had sacrificed everything for Cooper and chose him over other boys, but Cooper did not care about Keely. Both were equally popular, but Keely felt that more people voted for Cooper over her ever since she was with Cooper, making Keely feel insignificant when Cooper never meant to.

"Oh my God, Cooper...You seriously could not care less...I stopped doing anything with Nate...Simon would've given anything if I'd chosen him. People always pick you, don't they? They always picked me, too. Until you came along and made me feel invisible." "Keely, I never meant—" (McManus, 2017, p. 137).

3.1.2.2 Cooper Against the Investigators

Cooper was involved in a conflict with investigators because the investigators asked him to provide more information about Simon's death case without the assistance of lawyers and parents. In addition, conflicts also arise between Cooper and the investigators when the entry that reveals his secret is discovered.

The first situation that led Cooper to conflict with investigators was when Budapest Officers interviewed him at the beginning of Simon's case. Cooper, who was at the time of the incident, was asked to take an EpiPen for Simon but did not get anything, making him suspected of having planned this so that Simon would not be saved. "Officer Budapest kept asking me about the missing EpiPens and how long I was by myself in the nurse's office. Almost like he thought I might've done something with them before Ms. Grayson got there." (McManus, 2017, p. 35). The Budapest officer suspected Cooper because he thought Cooper had been looking for an EpiPen for too long, but he could not find one. So that made the Budapest Officer think Cooper did this on purpose as a form of his plan to kill Simon.

In the next conflict, a detective showed Cooper an unreleased draft of Simon that mentions that Cooper's performance appeared to have been intentionally improved throughout the show's season. It leads Cooper to think that Detective Chang would consider himself cheating to enhance his performance as an athlete. Detective Chang only said Cooper had made a mistake that tarnished his clean record without specifying the error. Meanwhile, Cooper felt he had done

nothing wrong and was only accused of a murder that has not been proven if he was the culprit.

“You’re a good kid, Cooper. Your record’s spotless till now...You made one mistake and you got caught. That’s scary. I get that...”
 “ I’m not sure which mistake he’s referring to...But as far as I know, I haven’t been caught at anything. Just accused.” (McManus, 2017, p. 66).

The conflict escalated when the investigators discovered Simon’s unpublished draft. In the draft, it was written that Cooper has a boyfriend who is a male model named Kris. In front of Detective Chang and his lawyers, Cooper was too shocked to read the draft even though he had expected it to be revealed sooner or later. Cooper still could not admit if the news about him being gay is true, which finally makes Detective Chang plan to dig deeper into Cooper’s personal life, contacting concerned people such as Kris and Keely to find out the truth of the draft. He did not want that to happen but still couldn’t admit it at the time, and it was depressing him.

“...Detective Chang leaves, he makes it clear they’ll be digging deep into my life over the next few days. They want Kris’s number...They want to talk to Keely, too... they need to understand my actions in the weeks leading up to the murder...They’ll make my life miserable until I cave from the pressure.” (McManus, 2017, p. 182).

3.1.2.3 Cooper Against His Father

Between Cooper and his family, especially his father, Cooper experiences conflict because Cooper’s father doesn’t like gay couples, but it turns out that Cooper is.

Cooper's conflict with his father began when Detective Chang showed Simon's unpublished draft about Cooper being gay and having a boyfriend. "What was all that about?" Pop asks. "What took so long?"... "There's new evidence," I say woodenly... "...What's that?" "Let's wait till we're home." "This serious, Coop?" Pop glances at me. "You in trouble?" "Let's wait," I repeat." (McManus, 2017, p. 183). Cooper's father did not know about it when they were in the car on their way home from the police station. Cooper's father, curious about what new evidence led to Cooper having to come to the police station again, continued to urge his son to tell the truth. However, Cooper was trying to hold on to the answer to his father's question because he was not ready to tell the truth about him being gay.

After trying his best to keep his secret, Cooper's father discovered his son's true identity. Cooper's father's attitude and treatment then began to change.

"We catch sight of the news vans. "Goddamn it," Pop mutters. "Here we go again. Hope this was worth it." "What was worth it?" He pulls around a news van...and yanks the key out of the ignition. "Your choice." Anger flares inside me...how he spits them out without even looking at me." (McManus, 2017, p. 207).

When Cooper and his father were almost home, they saw a lot of vans from the mass media who wanted to cover Cooper about his gay news. Cooper's father was annoyed with all of that and thought that this happened because Cooper chose to be gay and finally made the mass media fill his house again. Cooper certainly did not accept that because he did not want to continue being news reporters' targets.

3.1.3 Conflict Between Person Against Society

Similar to person vs. person, person vs. society is an external conflict. The distinction between the two types of conflict is that a person-vs-person conflict occurs when two individuals are at odds with one another. In contrast, the conflict between a person and a large number of people is known as "person vs. society." People versus society is the last type of conflict the researcher examines in Cooper Clay's life. In this section, the researcher examines conflict following Nurgiyantoro (2009), which states that this type of conflict is due to the relationship created between humans in social life and then causes problems such as oppression, war, clashes, and other social problems. Based on the concept, the researcher can find and know the social conflicts faced by Cooper Clay, for example, the mass media Cooper must face and the public's perception and response to it.

Cooper's first situation in conflict with the social community and mass media crews began when Cooper was suspected of being one of Simon's killers. The situation made him the centre of attention of many people, as when he attended Simon's funeral after his baseball game. He felt uncomfortable constantly in the spotlight, however he realized why people focused on him.

"I feel exposed, and people have already been staring at me enough this week. If it were up to me I'd go home and spend a quiet evening watching baseball..., but there's no way I can miss Simon's memorial service when I was one of the last people to see him alive." (McManus, 2017, p. 55).

In the next situation, just before Simon's funeral began, there was an update from Tumblr. "My heart starts hammering and my stomach clenches...this

one's written like the person was actually in the room when Simon had his attack. Like it was one of us." (McManus, 2017, p. 56). There it is written in detail how Simon's condition was attacked because of an allergy to peanut oil, and his life could not be saved. Simon's situation was, of course, only known to the people with him at the time, none other than Cooper, Bronwyn, Addy, and Nate. It will make the public assume or even believe that any of the four people deliberately killed Simon and did not admit it until then.

The next quotation shows how Cooper is more worried about the reaction from colleges that offer him a full scholarship because of his impressive baseball skills. He thought more about it than college recruiting strategies. Many colleges offered him scholarships, nevertheless because Simon's death case is still ongoing and he is still being investigated, he is worried that the offer will gradually disappear because he does not know how long he will continue to be suspected. In addition, Cooper is also thinking about the reaction from college campuses that offer him a scholarship if Simon's application publishes news or secrets.

"It's not a draft strategy I'm concerned about. That's how this college reacts if the stuff on Simon's app comes out. Or if... I continue to be investigated by the police. What is all this? bids will dry up, or am I innocent until proven guilty? I'm not sure if I should tell Coach Ruffalo all this." (McManus, 2017, p. 88).

Cooper feels his life has changed since he was involved in a murder case at school. "My life isn't mine anymore. It's been taken over by a media circus." (McManus, 2017, p. 154). His life seems to have been seized by the mass media, which almost every day looks for him by visiting Cooper's house. Cooper thinks his life is a source of spectacle and the center of attention these days. A house full

of mass media crews is a common thing for Cooper. He didn't want to be constantly chased by the media, but there was nothing he could do about it. At times like this, he can only dodge as best he can.

Cooper, who was suspected of being one of the perpetrators of Simon's murder and finally put him in a murder case, realized that this made many people hate him. His three other friends were also suspected of being murderers, and of course, many people wanted them to be sentenced to prison for this case. "That might be the weirdest thing about all this. Plenty of people hate us and want us in jail, but there are just as many—if not more—who love us." (McManus, 2017, p. 154). However, Cooper received information from his younger brother, Lucas, that Cooper has a large number of fans on social media, whose number continues to grow. They are the people who defend Cooper and do not believe that he is a murderer because Cooper is known as a child who has a good image. The fans are also loyal to giving their support to Cooper.

In the following excerpt, Cooper has to confront the news reporters. "The attention slows sometimes, but it never really stops...but as soon as I arrive a pretty, dark-haired woman with a face full of makeup hurries toward me... I've been followed again." (McManus, 2017, p. 154). To avoid being constantly visited by reporters at his house, Cooper decides to escape by going to the gym with Luis. But when he arrived at the gym, he was followed by a reporter who wanted to interview him. The public's attention to him because Simon's case seems endless even though he tries his best to avoid it.

After escaping from reporters who followed him to the gym with the help of Luis, who asked him to swap clothes and cars so Cooper wouldn't be recognized, he decided not to go straight home because the media might be waiting for him. "When I'm downtown I circle for half an hour, still paranoid someone's following me." (McManus, 2017, p. 155). Even though he had gone far from the gym, Cooper felt paralyzed when it turned out that reporters were still following him even though he had changed his clothes and car. This situation makes it very difficult and uncomfortable to be outside, even far from the environment where he lives.

To avoid the mass media crew waiting for him at home, Cooper decided not to go home at that time. After wandering for fear of being followed by reporters, he finally chose Kris's residence as a haven for the night. "But Cooper-and-Kris only exists in the bubble of his apartment. Moving it anywhere else scares the hell out of me." (McManus, 2017, p. 169). In addition to taking cover and hiding from the mass media crew, Cooper wanted to meet Kris so they could spend time together. Because their relationship was hidden from the public, especially when Cooper was under investigation, it was impossible for him to go out with Kris.

Cooper prepared best for the crowds of reporters who wanted to cover him after finishing his baseball game. "They're dying to talk to me. I brace myself when a camera lights up as I leave the locker room, waiting for the woman with the microphone to cycle through the usual half-dozen questions." (McManus, 2017, p. 205). Cooper seemed used to the situation where reporters and camera

operators came to him wherever he was. Even though he's had it often and perhaps sick of it, Cooper tries his best to deal with them and does not respond. He seemed to be used to the camera beam, the microphone being held out for him, and the dozens of questions waiting for his answer and response.

3.2 The Way Cooper Clay Deals with His Problems

In this section, the researcher analyzes how Cooper Clay deals with every problem that arises by using the problem-solving theory described by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) in 2017. Adolescents tend to be different from adults in their behaviour and decision-making because adolescents are more emotional, act impulsively, and act without thinking about the consequences. The researcher examines how Cooper's attitudes, actions, and thoughts are when he is faced with various problems that arise from various sources that he must solve in his way by determining what action he should take or choosing between the available options. This description is conducted based on the characterization concept of Abrahams & Marpham (2015).

3.2.1 Telling Trusted People the Most Important Secrets

Cooper returned home from the police station after he learned that the investigators had obtained new evidence showing the secrets that Cooper kept. Before his family was shocked by the news, he ventured to tell them before the investigators revealed it. "I've run out of filler words. Nonny taps her cane on the floor like she wants to help me along. "I'm gay." (McManus, 2017, p.184). Hesitant and concerned about how his

family might react, he still tells what new evidence investigators have found about Cooper.

Before news of him being gay was made known to his schoolmates, Cooper decided to tell Addy first because he was the person Cooper trusted and relied on at the time. “Cooper stares at me...before he replies, “I’m gay.” “Oh.” It doesn’t register at first, and then it does. “Ohhh.” The whole not-into-Keely thing suddenly makes sense.” (McMannus, 2017, p.186 & 187).

When visiting Nonny, his grandmother, in the hospital, Cooper tells her what happened to him. He tells her that the police investigated him and how Simon’s case developed. “I tell her everything”—“I didn’t do what they say, Nonny. I didn’t use steroids and I didn’t hurt Simon.” (McManus, 2017, p.106). Nonny’s sincere attitude made Cooper pour out his heart to Nonny, who faithfully listened to whatever Cooper said. He, who previously kept his feelings to himself, became more open and honest with Nonny because he felt he had found the right person to tell his story, especially since he was the suspect in the murder.

Based on the problem-solving theory of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), in dealing with his problems, Cooper tries to tell his grandmother and Addy what secret he has. He also told what he had been feeling to the two people he trusted the most. Cooper seems to have a place to complain and pour out his heart when he feels restless and dizzy with all the things he has to face.

3.2.2 Trying to Solve and Deal with His Problems

The first situation where Cooper faced a problem and had to deal with it started in the detention room when Simon had a seizure due to allergies, which he initially thought was part of Simon's acting. Still, his thoughts changed, and he noticed that Simon was really in pain after Cooper saw and heard Bronwyn's reaction. Because Bronwyn's voice became increasingly panicked, Cooper finally started to move to try to save Simon, who was showing an allergic reaction. Cooper's attitude, which does not easily trust Simon, can be seen in the quote stating that Cooper did not act immediately when his friend was in pain and thought Simon was playing his drama.

“...He drops the cup, and I roll my eyes at his attempt at drama. Even when he falls to the floor, I still think he's messing around. But then the wheezing starts. Bronwyn's on her feet first, then kneeling...Her voice goes from concerned to panicky, and that's enough to get me moving.” (McManus, 2017, p.16).

Cooper, who already realized that Simon's condition was not acceptable, tried to calm him by saying he would be fine because he would soon receive medical help. “You're okay, you're gonna be okay. We're gettin' help.” I can hear my slowing, thickening like molasses. My accent always comes out hard when I'm stressed.” (McManus, 2017, p.17). Cooper did this because he has a personality that cares about the people around him, including his friends, as can be seen from the quote above shows how Cooper's attitude is. Cooper looks sincere and stressed at that moment because he wants to help Simon, but there is nothing he can do but try to calm and reassure Simon that medical help will arrive soon and he will be okay.

After finishing his baseball game, Cooper rushed to attend Simon's funeral. There Cooper meets one of his long-lost friends, Leah. The girl tells Cooper that no one can stand gossipers like Simon. Cooper confirmed this but did not try to defend Simon. Cooper did this on purpose because he knew very well that the time and place were not suitable for discussing the truth about Simon's bad attitude. Cooper is a teenage boy who is good at reading his surroundings and understands if he does not act and say carelessly because he is in the public spotlight. Things could get worse if Cooper did or said the wrong thing.

“Nobody could stand him, but they're all holding candles like he's some kind of martyr instead of a gossipy douchebag.” She's not wrong, but now doesn't seem like the time to be that honest. Still, I'm not going to try defending Simon to Leah.” (McManus, 2017, p.55).

Cooper tries to approach Jake at Olivia's party to resolve the misunderstanding between them regarding Cooper's attitude, which seems to defend Addy, who had an affair, rather than Jake, who Addy betrayed. “I try anyway. “How're you doing? Been a lousy few days, huh?”...You mad at me for something, Jake?”...“Sorry, man. That makes it even worse, huh?.” (McManus, 2017, p.118). Cooper asked Jake carefully if Cooper had done something wrong that made him angry. After talking for a while, Cooper discovered why Jake was furious and hated what Addy did to him. Jake is traumatized by his mother's affair with Jake's father in junior high school when his initially fine family exploded and fell apart like a grenade had been thrown. It made Cooper regret and later apologize to Jake for what had happened. Cooper quickly realized his mistake and

felt guilty for Jake because he didn't know him well and didn't understand what Jake was going through and feeling.

Because it was impossible for Cooper to have a love relationship with two people at once, Cooper finally chose to continue his relationship with Kris and broke up with Keely. He decided to stop hurting Keely, whom he had betrayed all along. In addition, Cooper also wants to protect Keely from the investigators and the mass media that Cooper is dealing with. Cooper's conscience could not bear to see this beautiful, kind, sincere girl in love. He continued to lie and cheat. Cooper realizes he does not deserve too good Keely when he's gay and has a boyfriend. Apart from not loving Keely, Cooper also does not want to keep hiding the facts from Keely by constantly lying, ultimately making Cooper release Keely so that that perfect girl can be happy without lies and betrayals.

“There's no good place to break up with someone, but at least their livingroom is private and they don't have to go anywhere afterward. So that's where I give Keely the news...“Keely's great in a dozen different ways but not for me, and I can't drag her through all this knowing that.” (McManus, 2017, p.135).

After being involved in an argument with Keely, who was curious about why Cooper wanted to break up, Cooper finally chose silence after hearing Keely tell the truth about him while they were dating. “We're at the point where nothing I say will be right. “I'm sorry, Keely.”(McManus, 2017, p.136). Cooper did this silence because he did not blame what Keely had said about him not protecting Keely and paying attention to him, and it made him realize his wrong attitude all this time. Cooper feels guilty for not treating Keely well and causing the girl to

feel hurt and upset. Cooper apologized even though it would not be enough for Keely.

After an unpublished draft containing news about a gay Cooper having a model boyfriend became known to investigators, Cooper took the initiative to tell Kris what had happened. “I need to tell Kris what’s happening, but I don’t dare text him. I should go to his apartment and explain in person.” (McManus, 2017, p.184). He planned to go to Kris’ apartment to tell and explain everything to him directly before Kris became the target of the investigators and the mass media after the unpublished draft spread unexpectedly. Cooper wants to protect Kris and doesn’t want his boyfriend to be shocked, scared, and confused because he has to deal with investigators because of his relationship with Cooper.

What Cooper had been afraid of all along had come true. His sexual orientation and relationship with Kris were finally revealed. “My phone’s filled with text messages, but the only ones I care about are a string from Kris. Other than a quick visit to warn Kris about the police and apologize for the oncoming media onslaught,” (McManus, 2017, p.206). When everyone called him, Cooper did not care about anything or anyone and only thought about Kris. He loves his boyfriend very much and cares about him very much. Cooper is reluctant to make Kris worry about Cooper and becomes annoyed with the investigators and the media, who will go after him for questioning his relationship with Cooper. Cooper shows this attitude with his intention to come to Kris to apologize for involving him in the alleged murder case Cooper is facing.

Simon's death case is finally solved after the real liar is exposed and Cooper is found not guilty in the case. Now that it's all over, Cooper intends to meet up briefly with Keely. Cooper showed his goodwill by sending a message to Keely first to find out how she was and intending to meet her to apologize sincerely in person. Cooper feels indebted to Keely for what he has done and apologizes for Keely being involved and dragged into the chaos of Simon's murder case. Even though he does not have a special relationship, Cooper still shows his good attitude and regrets toward his ex-girlfriend.

“Partly because I owe her an apology, and partly because she's been sucked into this mess too, even though the police tried to keep her name out of Simon's confession. I texted her earlier in the week to see how she was doing.” (McManus, 2017, p.243).

Budapest officer immediately investigated Cooper and three other people regarding Simon's death. He first looked at the chronology of events before Simon experienced allergies and seizures. “Does anyone remember where Simon got the cup from?” Officer Budapest prompts... “I remember,” I volunteer. “He got the cup from a stack next to the sink.” (McManus, 2017, p.23). His friends gave unsatisfactory answers, and Cooper finally admitted that he saw and knew how Simon first drank the water before he fell to the floor. Cooper told whatever he knew and witnessed on that fateful day to show and prove that he was not Simon's killer because he did not do anything to him and did not do anything suspicious.

After a long silence, Cooper spoke up after the Budapest Officer suspected that Simon's death was a premeditated murder prepared by Cooper, Nate, Addy, and Bronwyn. “I know I'm quiet for too long. “Nate and I never even spoke

before last week,” I finally say. “And I sure as heck never talked to the girls about this.” (McManus, 2017, p.66). Cooper, who does not accept being accused of conspiring with his friends to kill Simon, finally begins to defend himself by explaining how close he is to Addy, Bronwyn, and Nate. Cooper said this because he felt innocent in this case and told the truth about what really happened without hiding it.

Cooper confessed to Detective Chang without even being asked after he told him that Cooper had made a mistake that investigators knew about. “I didn’t cheat,” I tell Detective Chang. “And I didn’t hurt Simon.” (McManus, 2017, p.66). Cooper said these words because he did not feel he had done anything wrong in Simon’s case. Cooper, who did not commit any wrongdoing, tries the truth he knows and tries to tell and convince Detective Chang that he is innocent in Simon’s case.

Investigations on Cooper continued until Detective Chang became suspicious and then found out who had the idea to put the cell phone in the bag, which eventually made Cooper and four of his friends end up in the detention room together. “Listen. I don’t know who did that, but ... isn’t it something you should look into? Like, were there fingerprints on the phones? Because it feels to me like maybe we were framed.” (McManus, 2017, p.66). Cooper, who from the start felt that the incident was a trap, bravely and frontally gave his opinion to the investigators regarding the cellphones and fingerprints for them to investigate further. By providing these opinions and ideas, Cooper hopes that the perpetrators

who framed him and his friends can be identified because Cooper feels he did not put his cellphone in his bag.

Ready or not and willing or not, Cooper must attend Simon's funeral. Apart from being classmates, Cooper was one of the people who witnessed the seconds before Simon had a seizure due to allergies and then died. "If it were up to me I'd go home and spend a quiet evening watching baseball with my brother and Nonny." (McManus, 2017, p.55). Cooper had to attend the event even though he did not want to. That is because Cooper does not like being the center of attention, especially after the mass media put Cooper and his friends in the spotlight since they were involved in Simon's case and suspected they were the killers. Even though he wanted to go home and spend time with his family, Cooper still showed his good attitude, condolences, and responsibility to send Simon to his final resting place.

Since becoming one of the murder suspects, Cooper has withdrawn from the world of social media not further to attract the attention of people who might be looking for, stalking, or even watching Cooper on social media. "I try not to go online more than I have to." ... "Everyone says, *Just keep your head down*. I've been trying, but once you're under a microscope nothing slips by people." (McManus, 2017, p.154). Cooper did his best to avoid the mass media by not using social media too often so the mass media couldn't contact him. However, he would still be caught even if he tried to escape. Cooper did not give up so easily and kept trying to dodge.

To avoid being visited by the mass media at his house, Cooper goes to the gym to escape and exercise. But when he got there, Cooper realized that he was being followed again by a news reporter. “My heart sinks because I’m familiar with her type. I’ve been followed again... I don’t answer, brushing past her through the gym’s entrance.” (McManus, 2017, p.154 & 155). Cooper did not answer the reporters who asked Cooper response because many people supported him in Simon’s case and believed that Cooper was innocent because he was a good boy who never made mistakes. Cooper did it not to create new problems or even make things worse. He is cautious in his words and actions because everything about him is being watched and watched by many people.

Luckily Cooper has a good friend like Luis, who helps him get out of the gym without having to be followed by the media again because Luis offers to Cooper that they swap clothes and cars, so they do not recognize which Cooper is real and not. Although Cooper initially hesitated to do it for several reasons, in the end, he accepted Luis’ offer. For him, there is nothing wrong with trying Luis’s idea to escape, and it turns out that this method succeeded in making Cooper escape from media attacks, although it didn’t continue like that.

“I’m about to tell him that’ll never work. His hair’s a lot darker than mine, and he’s at least a shade tanner. Then again, with a long-sleeved shirt and a cap on, it might not matter. Worth a shot, anyway.” (McManus, 2017, p.155).

Having managed to get away from the gym, Cooper decided not to come home that night to avoid the media that might be waiting for him at home. Strolling around town for a few hours, thinking about what he should do then and where he should hide, Cooper finally decides to go to Kris’s apartment by staying

hidden behind Luis' hat, sunglasses, and clothes. Being paranoid about being followed by someone, Cooper hurried up the escalator hoping no one would recognize him. "I duck into the elevator and take it to the top floor, letting out a sigh of relief when it doesn't stop once." (McManus, 2017, p.156). Kris's apartment seemed to be a safe place for him to avoid the media because there was no way they would come to that place unless they followed Cooper out of the gym. In addition, a frightened Cooper wants to take refuge in Kris and tell his boyfriend everything because it has not been easy for the two to meet since Simon's case started. After all, Cooper is still being investigated.

Cooper prepared himself for the media attacks after his baseball practice because he had gotten used to being bombarded with questions and cameras. But he was surprised after hearing a question posed by one of the reporters. "Bayview Police are saying you're no longer a person of interest. Can you tell me how that feels?" "Um ..." Nope. I can't. Or won't. Same difference. "Excuse me." (McManus, 2017, p.205). Surprised by the question, Cooper's reaction showed that he had just found out about the news. Since he was too nervous about the news about Nate, it did not make him lose control and gave a response to the good news for him. Cooper has good self-control, so he does not slip up in front of the media and does not give any response.

Cooper faced a situation where he had to meet his lawyer and his father, yet, at the same time, he also had to talk to his coach to discuss his college enrollment. "I'm torn, because I'm pretty sure Pop would want me to do both at the same time. Since that's not possible, I follow Coach Ruffalo and figure I'll

make it quick.” (McManus, 2017, p.88). Cooper did not focus on making appointments and finally made him realize that he made appointments with two different people simultaneously, and he could not choose one because both were important to him. Cooper is a wise young boy, so he can make the right decisions by still meeting with his coach even though he cannot stay long and then continue the meeting with his lawyer, which will be a little late.

Referring to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) problem-solving theory, in dealing with some of the problems above, Cooper is depicted trying to solve and deal with the problems he faces by doing what he feels is right and showing his sense of responsibility as a boy.

3.2.3 Looking For a Temporary Escape

At lunchtime, Cooper got a call from Kris while Vanessa was holding his cell phone. Suddenly this made Vanessa wonder who was calling Cooper when all his friends were gathering for lunch. “My whole face feels hot and prickly as I take the phone from Vanessa and send it to voice mail. I wish like hell I could take that call, but now’s not the time.” (McManus, 2017, p.88). Cooper hoped to answer the phone but could not because it would make his friends more curious and suspicious. The situation makes Cooper prefer to postpone his conversation with Kris than he has to be caught in front of his fake girlfriend, Keely, and his friends. Since Cooper was not a very good liar, the situation caused him to panic enough, and there was a reaction in him who was worried that the truth about the caller would be revealed.

Cooper tries to avoid interacting with and meeting Simon as best, even if it means asking Vanessa not to invite Simon to the after-prom party after Simon tries to approach Cooper by hugging him in the bathroom. “I freaked out so bad, I had Vanessa disinvite him to her after-prom party.” (McManus, 2017, p.167). Cooper did this because he was afraid that Simon would discover and realize that Cooper was gay, and things would get worse if Simon wrote it down on his *About That* page. That’s why he reduced his intensity to facing Simon, known to be good at finding out and then revealing someone’s biggest secret.

What Cooper had hoped for regarding the investigation into the cell phone poorly ended after Detective Chang informed Cooper of the results. “There’s no forensic evidence to suggest anyone else was involved. Our focus is on the four of you.”... Which finally gets me to say, “I want to call my parents.” (McManus, 2017, p.66). After his efforts seemed futile and he had no idea what to say, Cooper asked Detective Chang if he could call his parents. A frustrated Cooper tries to find help by contacting his parents so they can tell Cooper what he should do at that time. The moment where he and his friends are increasingly suspected because of the evidence that points to them.

Cooper got a call to come to the police station that night because investigators said they had found new evidence about Cooper. He went to the police station accompanied by his lawyer, Mary, and his father. Cooper suddenly felt nervous after hearing Detective Chang’s words. “Detective Chang says politely. “It’s mainly a privacy issue for Cooper.” The way he says that makes me nervous, and I look to Mary for help.” (McManus, 2017, p.180-181). Detective

Chang's words made the previously relaxed Cooper nervous with the new evidence he was about to see. Cooper, who does have a secret that he keeps hidden and has not been revealed until then, is worried that the evidence Detective Chang means is evidence that shows that he is gay and has a boyfriend. His guts shrunk for a moment, and through his eyes, he begged for help from Mary to help him because, at that time, he was afraid that something bad would happen.

Following the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) in 2017, in dealing with some of the problems above, Cooper is described as trying to avoid seeking temporary learning because he still does not want to face his problems. He did this because it was possible to continue to cover up the truth that he had been hiding from everyone.

3.2.4. Avoid to Face and Solve His Problems

Keely's anger grew even more so that Cooper's reaction eventually led Keely to think Cooper wanted to break up with him because he was on steroids. Cooper then interrupts Keely's words by admitting he did not use them. "I've never used steroids," I interrupt, suddenly angry... "I'm gonna go." I stand abruptly, adrenaline coursing through me as I stalk out her door before I say something I shouldn't." (McManus, 2017, p.137). After realizing he had said what he should not have said, the furious Cooper walked out of the living room and left Keely. He worries that his anger at Keely will make him tell the truth that he is hiding from everyone, including Keely. That's why he avoided further debate to protect his secret.

Cooper, who realized he was gay at eleven, was forced to keep the truth to himself. He did this to be a professional baseball athlete who could be the family's pride like his father wanted and hoped for. Therefore, Cooper dated several girls hoping he would no longer be attracted to men. He did this so that his sexual orientation did not contaminate or even disturb and hinder his baseball career. Cooper is a good child and obedient to his parents; that is why he buried his desire to date men and focused more on his career as an athlete to make his family proud. However, after meeting Kris, Cooper's deep interest and feelings that he had buried resurfaced. Cooper finally finds his happiness with Kris and feels like a real man when he is with Kris.

“Thing is, I didn't realize I could feel that way about a guy till I met him. I mean, yeah, I suspected. Since I was eleven or so. But I buried those thoughts as far down as I could because I'm a Southern jock shooting for an MLB career. (McManus, 2017, p.106)

Investigators questioned Cooper for an hour regarding new evidence from Simon's unpublished draft alleging Cooper's sexual orientation and relationship with Kris. “And I can't waltz out of here after being interrogated for an hour and tell my father nothing's changed.” (McManus, 2017, p.182). Cooper, who had kept these facts a secret from everyone, including his family, was afraid to meet his father, who was waiting for him to finish being interrogated. During this time, Cooper's father knew and considered Cooper to be a good son, obedient to his parents, and there was nothing strange about him. Because the investigators had exposed his lie, Cooper became afraid of his family's reaction, especially his father. In addition, Cooper is worried that his father will be disappointed and hurt

if his career as an athlete is destroyed after the media exposed news about him being gay and having a boyfriend.

Cooper seemed unable to meet and accept questions from his father regarding what had happened during the investigation. Cooper's father, curious as to why his son took so long to investigate due to new evidence, asks Cooper what happened and if Cooper is in trouble. But Cooper did not answer questions from his father directly. He tried to hold off as long as possible to tell his father what new evidence investigators had found. Cooper's timid nature and doubts about what he said arose in the situation because he was not brave and tough to tell his family he had a boyfriend because he was gay. Investigators already knew that from Simon's unpublished draft.

"There's new evidence," I say woodenly. "... What's that?" I can't. I can't. Not just the two of us in this car. "Let's wait till we're home." "This serious, Coop?" Pop glances at me... "You in trouble?" My palms start sweating. "Let's wait," I repeat." (McManus, 2017, p.183).

When he and his father get home, the whole family is waiting for the news that Cooper will share regarding the new evidence found. Cooper's family seems ready to hear good information about Cooper from the murder case that trapped him, yet, Cooper does not dare to tell the truth. Cooper only said the good part to his family, and that made his family happy and relieved, especially his dad.

Cooper then became speechless when asked whether he was cleared of charges. His mind went blank because of the truth that he had been holding back for so long that he had to tell his family immediately. He was silent for a few moments before answering the question he was most afraid of because he was not ready for

the reaction from his family to know that the good boy they loved and were proud of was a gay man who even had a boyfriend.

“There was an entry on Simon’s site that was encrypted before the police got there. I guess it’s what he originally meant to post about me. Nothin’ to do with steroids.” “I knew it!” he says triumphantly. “They clear you, then?” I’m mute, my mind blank.” (McManus, 2017, p.184).

After mustering up the courage to admit the truth, Cooper finally said what Simon had discovered about him. He then wrote in an unpublished draft of his application. By trying to be brave and gentle, Cooper finally reveals the truth though not all of it. Even though he could not bear to look at his parents with bated breath at that thrilling moment, Cooper Clay had become a brave child and was ready to take the risk. However, his father laughed at it because he thought it was just a joke, which made Cooper admit that he was just joking because Cooper was not ready for his father’s reaction and for the rest of his family to be considered him a gay boy.

“Well”...“Simon. Somehow. Found out. That...“I’m gay.”... “Cooper is not joking.” “Course he is,” Pop says, still laughing. “Right?” His eyes slide over to mine...but when he sees my face his smile dims. There it is. “Right, Coop?” “Wrong,” I tell him. (McManus, 2017, p.184 & 185).

Following the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in 2017, Cooper tries hard to avoid not solving and dealing with his problems such as not being honest and open with his family about who he really is in dealing with problems with his family. Cooper did this because he was scared and was not prepared to see his family's reaction if they found out he was gay. Cooper did not want to be a bad boy for his family; therefore, he decided to reveal the truth.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

One of Us is Lying is a young adult novel that tells how a high school teenager got involved in a criminal case because he witnessed a friend dying and finally died while they were in one place. That happened to Cooper Clay, where he had to deal with the police, investigators, lawyers, and the media because he was suspected of having premeditated Simon's murder. He also needs to deal with his family because of the secret he had kept for a long time to maintain a good image.

The research found that the main cause of Cooper experiencing inner conflict with himself was too afraid to show the world that he was gay and dated a man secretly. Thus, Cooper still dated a popular girl in his school to create an alibi that he is a normal guy who likes girls. In addition, Cooper was also involved in conflicts with other people such as peers, family, investigators, and the mass media. The researcher found that conflicts with peers are misunderstandings over an attitude that causes hostility and attempts at revenge, romantic relationships, and infidelity. The conflict between Cooper and the investigators was caused by Cooper, who was depressed, afraid, and stressed because he was constantly considered a murderer. Cooper's conflict with his family is when he does something that his father hated but still does it at the risk of his good image and baseball career. Meanwhile, the conflict with society occurs because Cooper feels

that his personal life is very exposed by the mass media, which always follows him wherever he goes.

In analyzing how Cooper deals with problems and how his personality is based on his attitude and thinking in dealing with each problem, it shows that Cooper tries a lot to face and solve his problems in his own way based on his thinking as a high school boy. Cooper also shows an attitude of seeking temporary escape before he really has to face his problems and also avoids facing problems for fear of the risks he might have to face. In addition, Cooper is actually a good boy, has never been in trouble before, cares about those closest to him well, is obedient, self-sacrificing, loves his family and partner very much, and is very careful with his attitude and words.



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