

**KENNA'S PROBLEM AS AN EX-PRISONER IN THE  
NOVEL *REMINDERS OF HIM* BY COLLEEN HOOVER**

**THESIS**



UIN SUNAN AMPEL  
S U R A B A Y A

**BY:  
FADHILATUL FAJRIAH  
REG. NUMBER A73219054**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF ADAB AND HUMANITIES  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN AMPEL  
SURABAYA**

**2023**

## DECLARATION

I am the undersigned below:

Name : Fadhilatul Fajriah  
NIM : A7321954  
Department : English Literature  
Faculty : Adab and Humanities  
University : UIN Sunan Ampel

declare that the thesis entitled:

**Kenna's Problem as An Ex-prisoner in the Novel *Reminders of Him* By Colleen Hoover**  
is my own work, and not a plagiarism/fabrication in part or in whole.

If in the future it is proven that this thesis results from plagiarism/fabrication, either in part or whole, then I am willing to accept sanctions for such actions in accordance with the applicable provisions.

Surabaya, 30 May 2023

Who makes the statement

  
The red circular stamp contains the text "METERAL TEMPEL" and "132AJX575717457". The yellow rectangular stamp contains the text "METERAL TEMPEL" and "132AJX575717457".

Fadhilatul Fajriah

Reg. Number. A73219054

## APPROVAL SHEET

KENNA'S STRUGGLE TO GET SOCIAL RECOGNITION AS AN EX-PRISONER IN THE NOVEL *REMINDERS OF HIM* BY COLLEEN HOOVER

by  
Fadhilatul Fajriah  
Reg. Number A73219054

approved to be examined by the board of examiners of the English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya

Surabaya, 30 May 2023

Advisor 1



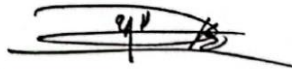
Itsna Syahadatud Dinurriyah, M. A  
NIP. 197604122011012003

Advisor 2



Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M. A  
NIP. 199203062020122019

Acknowledged by  
The Head of the English Literature Department



Endratno Pili Swasono, M.Pd  
NIP. 197106072003121001

## EXAMINER SHEET

This is to certify that the *Sarjana* thesis of Fadhilatul Fajriah (Reg. A73219054) entitled **Kenna's Problem As An Ex-prisoner in the Novel *Reminders of Him* By Colleen Hoover** has been approved and accepted by the board of examiners for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra (S.S.)*, English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

Surabaya, 9 Juni, 2023

Board of Examiners:

Examiner 1

Itsna Syahadatud Dinurriyah., MA  
NIP. 197604122011012003

Examiner 2

. Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, MA  
NIP. 199203062020122019

Examiner 3

Dr. Abu Fanani, SS, M.Pd.  
NIP. 196906152007011051

Examiner 4

Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M. Hum.  
NIP. 201603318

Acknowledged by:

The Dean of the Faculty of Adab and Humanities  
UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya



Mohammad Kurjum, M. Ag  
NIP. 196909251994031002



**KEMENTERIAN AGAMA  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA  
PERPUSTAKAAN**

Jl. Jend. A. Yani 117 Surabaya 60237 Telp. 031-8431972 Fax.031-8413300  
E-Mail: perpustakaan@uinsby.ac.id

**LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI  
KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS**

Sebagai sivitas akademika UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : FADHILATUL FAJRIAH  
NIM : A73219054  
Fakultas/Jurusan : ADAB DAN HUMANIORA / SAstra INGGRIS  
E-mail address : fadhilatulfajriah1@gmail.com

Demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, menyetujui untuk memberikan kepada Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif atas karya ilmiah :

☒ Sekripsi ☐ Tesis ☐ Desertasi ☐ Lain-lain ( ..... )  
yang berjudul :

KENNA'S PROBLEM AS AN EX-PRISONER IN THE NOVEL *REMINDErs OF HIM* BY  
COLLEEN HOOVER

beserta perangkat yang diperlukan (bila ada). Dengan Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif ini Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya berhak menyimpan, mengalih-media/format-kan, mengelolanya dalam bentuk pangkalan data (database), mendistribusikannya, dan menampilkan / mempublikasikannya di Internet atau media lain secara *fulltext* untuk kepentingan akademis tanpa perlu meminta ijin dari saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis/pencipta dan atau penerbit yang bersangkutan.

bersedia untuk menanggung secara pribadi, tanpa melibatkan pihak Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, segala bentuk tuntutan hukum yang timbul atas pelanggaran Hak Cipta dalam karya ilmiah saya ini.

Demikian pernyataan ini yang saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Surabaya, 24 Juni 2023

Penulis

(Fadhilatul Fajriah)

## ABSTRACT

Fadhilatul F. (2023). *Kenna's Problem As An Ex-Prisoner in the Novel Reminders of Him by Colleen Hoover*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors (I) Itsna Syahadatud Dinurriyah, M. A., (II) Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M. A

The main purpose of this study is to examine Kenna's characteristics as a woman with ex-prisoner status and how her problem as a woman who experiences injustice due to her ex-prisoner status in the novel *Reminders of Him*. This research focuses on two main topics that will direct the discussion as follows: (1) How is Kenna's characterization described in *Reminders of Him*? (2) How is Kenna's problem as a woman who experiences injustice due to her ex-prisoner status in the novel *Reminders of Him*?

This study analyzes the the main character by using new criticism in the field of character and characterization to gain a deep understanding of the problem. This study also applies post-structural feminism theory to analyze Kenna's problems as a woman who has experienced injustice due to her status as an ex-prisoner. The qualitative descriptive method provides a clear and systematic description of the problem being investigated.

The results of the study show that there are several characteristics of Kenna as the main character, namely simple, tough, persistent, hard-working, sociable, and sincere. The following result shows that a woman with the status of an ex-prisoner like Kenna gets a lot of injustice, which makes her feel marginalized. Kenna's status as a woman with the title of ex-prisoner is considered a bad thing, whereas if a man gets the title of ex-prisoner, it's as if he is given a badge of honour like trash but badass, addict but tough, thief but impressive. Women with ex-prisoner status are only labelled negatively, such as trash, prostitutes, thieves, killers, and all bad things. The criminal label given by society to Kenna made her experience many problems, such as not getting custody of her daughter, not being allowed to meet her daughter, and finding it difficult to get a job which greatly affected Kenna's life.

**Keywords:** problem, social recognition, justice, equality, experience inside of the prison.



## ABSTRAK

Fadhilatul F. (2023). *Kenna's Problem As An Ex-Prisoner in The Novel Reminders of Him by Colleen Hoover*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors (I) Itsna Syahadatud Dinurriyah, M. A., (II) Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M. A

Tujuan utama dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengkaji karakteristik Kenna sebagai seorang perempuan dengan status mantan narapidana dan bagaimana permasalahan Kenna sebagai seorang perempuan yang mengalami ketidakadilan akibat status mantan narapidana dalam novel *Reminders of Him*. Penelitian kali ini berfokus pada dua topik utama yang akan mengarahkan diskusi sebagai berikut: (1) Bagaimana karakteristik Kenna digambarkan dalam novel *Reminders of Him*.; (2) Bagaimana permasalahan Kenna sebagai seorang perempuan yang mengalami ketidakadilan akibat status mantan narapidana dalam novel *Reminders of Him*.

Penelitian ini menganalisis karakter tokoh utama dengan menggunakan kritik baru dibidang karakter dan karakterisasi untuk mendapatkan pemahaman yang mendalam tentang masalah tersebut. Penelitian ini juga menerapkan teori poststructural feminism untuk menganalisis tentang permasalahan Kenna sebagai seorang perempuan yang mengalami ketidakadilan akibat status mantan narapidana. Metode deskriptif kualitatif digunakan untuk memberikan gambaran yang jelas dan sistematis tentang masalah yang diselidiki.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat beberapa karakteristik dari Kenna sebagai tokoh utama, yaitu simple, tough, persistent, hard-working, sociable, and sincere. Hasil selanjutnya menunjukkan bahwa seorang perempuan yang memiliki status sebagai mantan narapidana seperti Kenna banyak mendapatkan ketidakadilan dan membuatnya merasa terpinggirkan. Status Kenna sebagai seorang perempuan dengan gelar mantan narapidana dianggap hal yang buruk, padahal jika laki-laki mendapatkan gelar mantan narapidana, seakan diberi lencana kehormatan seperti sampah tapi badas, pecandu tapi tangguh, pencuri tapi mengesankan. Perempuan dengan status sebagai mantan narapidana justru hanya diberi label pada sisi negatif, seperti seorang sampah, pelacur, pencuri, pembunuh, dan semua hal yang buruk. Label kriminal yang diberikan masyarakat kepada Kenna membuatnya mengalami banyak masalah, seperti tidak mendapatkan hak asuh anaknya, tidak diberi kesempatan untuk bertemu anaknya, dan susah untuk mendapatkan pekerjaan yang sangat berpengaruh pada hidup Kenna.

**Kata Kunci:** perjuangan, pengakuan sosial, keadilan, kesetaraan, pengalaman didalam penjara.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Inside Cover Page .....	i
Inside Title Page.....	ii
Approval Sheet.....	iii
Examiner Sheet .....	iv
Declaration .....	v
Acknowledgment .....	vi
Abstrac .....	vii
Abstrak.....	viii
Table of Contens .....	ix

### CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study .....	1
1.2 Statement of Problem.....	8
1.3 Objectives of the Study .....	8
1.4 Significance of the Study .....	8
1.5 Scope and Delimitation of the Study .....	9
1.6 Definition of Key Terms .....	9

### CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 New Criticism .....	11
2.2 Character and Characterization.....	13
2.2.1 Character .....	13
2.2.2 Characterization .....	15
2.3 Feminism.....	17
2.4 Post-Structural Feminism.....	19

### CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Research Design.....	22
--------------------------	----



3.2 Data Collection.....	22
3.3 Data Source .....	23
3.4 Data Analysis Technique .....	23
CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS	
4.1 Kenna’s Characterization .....	24
4.1.1 Simple .....	24
4.1.2 Tough .....	27
4.1.3 Persistent .....	29
4.1.4 Hard-Working .....	31
4.1.5 Sociable .....	33
4.1.6 Sincere.....	35
4.2 Kenna's problem as a woman who experiences injustice due to her ex-prisoner status in the novel <i>Reminders of Him</i> .....	37
4.2.1 Not Getting Custody of Her Daughter .....	38
4.2.2 Not Allowed To Meet Her Daughter .....	41
4.2.3 Difficult To Get A Job .....	45
4.2.4 Society’s Perspective On Former Prisoner .....	47
CHAPTER V CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS	
5.1 CONCLUSION.....	51
5.2 SUGGESTION.....	54
REFERENCES.....	56

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

*Reminders of Him* is a novel by Colleen Hoover, published in the first half of 2022. This work is one of many literary works that raise the issue of life from the point of view of inequity to women who are ex-prisoners. Women with ex-prisoners status experience injustice from society, which makes them seem marginalized just because of their status. The status of ex-prisoners owned by a woman is labeled as an evil that makes women with ex-prisoner status experience injustice in living their lives. By presenting an epic story about the problems of women with ex-prisoner status, the novel *Reminders of Him* is in great demand by the general public. The public is very interested in how Colleen Hoover describes the problems of a woman with ex-prisoner status living their life (Lauren, 2022). By adopting a different genre than before, *Reminders of Him* is the latest novel from Colleen Hoover which is also popular among novel enthusiasts and even ordinary people.

Colleen Hoover's popularity as a novelist continues to increase, making her return with her latest work and attracting much sympathy from the general public. By lifting a genre different from previous works, *Reminders of Him* is the latest novel by Colleen Hoover, which has also become popular among many people. In this novel, Colleen Hoover bravely depicts the problems of life, which are represented in the problems of women who experience inequity due to her ex-prisoner status. Colleen Hoover's intention in publishing this story was to

represent how a woman who has the fate of the main character in the novel voices her rights as a woman who is an ex-prisoner. As she stated in her thanks of novel, *"There are people like Kenna everywhere, in every town. People who feel alone in the world, no matter where they're located"* (Hoover, 2022. p. 281). With this idea, Colleen Hoover wants to show how a woman whom ordinary people look down upon because of her status as an ex-prisoner makes women get inequity, and their existence is unappreciated.

*Reminders of Him* novel raises the issue of women who have been marginalized because of an incident in the past that has made her an ex-prisoner. In the novel is told that women with ex-prisoner status do not have the freedom to express themselves and as if their existence is not recognized because they are seen as bad women. Women's freedom deserves their proper position so that women can live freely and happily without being bound by anything (Tolstoy, 1961 cited in Dwiputri, 1997). Women should get fair treatment regardless of their status. However, in that novel, women with ex-prisoner status are not valued in many aspects, such as in the aspect of work where it is difficult to accept women with ex-prisoner status because they are considered to have poor quality well. The novel begins with the background of the life of the main character, Kenna, who is an ex-prisoner. Kenna's status was obtained because of her tragic past, which caused her boyfriend to die on the night of the accident that befell them. That night, a blizzard came down and made the roads slippery, causing an accident in their car. At that time, Kenna was in the driver's seat, while Scotty, Kenna's boyfriend, sat in the passenger seat. This made Kenna sued by Scotty's

parents and demanded a 5-year prison punishment because they were thought to have killed her boyfriend. If traced more deeply at the night of the accident that happened to Kenna and her boyfriend, Kenna was indeed the one who caused the car to get into an accident because Kenna was in the driving position on the night of the accident. However, there are small things that are not known to the public, including Scotty's parents, about what happened on the night of the accident that happened to Kenna and her boyfriend. Kenna was initially reluctant to drive, but Scotty forced Kenna to drive that night. Not only that, at the time of the accident, Kenna intended to ask for help from other people by walking the streets with a confused mind that only thought about Scotty. Unfortunately, luck was not on Kenna's side because instead of getting help to help Scotty, Kenna actually arrived at her apartment and passed out there overnight. Kenna woke up in the morning with various misunderstandings that had happened to her. Kenna's mind is completely messed up about Scotty leaving her, which makes Kenna resigned to all the accusations that Scotty's parents have placed on her. Kenna did not even care about the judge ordering her to hire a lawyer. She could not eat or drink and lamented her life alone without explaining what happened, which might lighten her punishment.

Kenna was in prison for 5 years, and in a state, she was already pregnant with Scotty's baby. Scotty's parents, who found out about this, have revoked Kenna's rights as a mother ever since. After being born, Kenna's baby was carried and taken directly by Scotty's parents, and Kenna was not given the right to care for her or even breastfeed her. Five years later, Kenna's life is labeled as an ex-

prisoner. Additionally, Kenna, who is a woman incidentally, is not given justice because of her status. Kenna accepts unfair behavior from family and society, which greatly affects her life. It is as if Kenna's existence were not considered, and even Scotty's parents, who are now taking care of Kenna's child, are reluctant to bring Kenna to meet with her daughter because Scotty's parents do not want their granddaughter to know that her mother is an ex-prisoner. In this novel, Colleen Hoover describes that society and even the closest or nearest people to it can easily judge and ridicule a person's status. This has led to inequity for people without them knowing it because they feel their existence is not valued.

*Reminders of Him* is one of the interesting novels among novel enthusiasts because it raises the issue of gender inequality in the main female character, who has status as an ex-prisoner (Lesli, 2022). Being a popular novel that is liked by many people, in this case, the researcher found that the novel was also widely discussed in online communities such as Twitter and made this novel have a high reading interest because of the raised issue. Many readers of this novel give a good review; first, Kelly (2023) was impressed with this novel because of Kenna's struggles in meeting her child despite her status as an ex-prisoner. According to her, Kenna is tough because she has been separated from her son since birth. Another review came from Wasimlmaan (2023), who was amazed by the novel's plot. He added that overall the plot of this novel is very touching. It also made him think that Colleen Hoover gave magic in the novel because the words used have a beauty that makes the reader feel enchanted and enter the story. Then, there is Hilani (2023), who is also impressed by the beauty

of the words and plot of the novel. She also said that Colleen Hoover is very detailed in making plots to make the reader feel as if they are also entering Kenna's world, which is full of struggles. Furthermore, besides the reviews on Twitter, the researcher also found other reviews from websites, such as Natasha (2023), who said that Colleen Hoover's skill in writing her novels is evident in the novel *Reminders of Him*, which has become an epic novel that presents a sense of humanity to the main female character and captivates the reader before the whole story is even revealed. Not only that, but Buono Jules (2023) also said that the theme used by Colleen Hoover is very deep and complex, which makes the story seem alive and memorable. In her review, Dipidiff (2022) also said that Colleen Hoover's works are worth reading because Colleen Hoover always presents a new side in her work, such as in the novel *Reminders of Him*, which also represents women voicing their rights and equality.

Many positive reviews from readers of the novel made the researcher curious about the novel. After reading it, the researcher found an interesting issue: society treats the novel's main female character unfairly. It gets gender inequality because of her status as an ex-prisoner. The main female character in the novel gets inequality due to her ex-prisoner status. Kenna's destiny as a woman and a mother who holds the status of an ex-prisoner is considered an embarrassment to the surrounding community. It is labeled as inappropriate to have custody of her child. This is inversely proportional to men who hold the status of ex-prisoners. Men seem to be given a badge of honor like trash but badass, addicts but tough, thief but impressive, while women are only labeled on the negative side, such as

trash, whores, thieves, killers, and all the bad stuff (Hoover, 2022, p. 20). This gave rise to overlapping societal strata between women with ex-prisoner status and men with ex-prisoner status. This kind of societal assessment gives rise to gender inequality experienced by women. The novel *Reminders of Him* emphasizes that society favors men with ex-prisoner status as tough and impressive figures and considers women with ex-prisoner status as figures with a bad image.

Kenna's character in the novel *Reminders of Him* depicts a woman who is tough and persistent. Kenna's toughness is proved by never giving up on getting gender equality despite her status as an ex-prisoner. Living with the title of ex-prisoner is difficult, especially with Kenna's position as a woman. Women, who are generally known to have graceful personalities, do not deserve the title of ex-prisoner. Kenna is treated unfairly by the local community because of her status as a woman with the title of ex-prisoner. Nothing wrong if women have the title of ex-prisoner because everyone must have made mistakes. Besides that, the main character in the novel has also changed to become a better person by sincerely building a new self-image, even though it is difficult to do because of unfair treatment from society. From this, it reflects that women also have the right to freedom in their lives. Women also want to demand gender equality from society regardless of their background.

The inequality experienced by the main character in the novel is very relevant if it is related to the theory of post-structuralism feminism. Post-structuralism feminism is understood as an effort to liberate women to be



recognized from the hierarchical social system that relates to the positions of men and women (Prasetyo, 2010, p. 02). By relying on post-structuralism feminism, women will be given the freedom to define themselves not according to the views of others. The inequality experienced by the main character in the novel reflects how the issue of gender inequality dominates the views of society in assessing, looking at, and treating someone. The novel also highlights the main character's struggle to demand gender equality from the surrounding community. Many women with ex-prisoner status in the novel are not appreciated, and even Kenna, the novel's main character, has to change her name to "Nicole" so that people do not demean her. With that status, Kenna obtained gender inequality from a prominent society.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in examining the problems of the main character who gets inequality due to gender inequality contained in the novel *Reminders of Him* as the object of the research by using the theory of post-structuralism feminism. The lack of research on this novel raises the gaps that researcher can use to get answers to this research. Not only that, but the researcher is also interested in the problems of the main female character in fighting for her justice as a woman who is considered one eye because of her status. The researcher wants to show that women have the right to have freedom and get rights that should be theirs without being based on male standards.

Another reason why the researcher uses the novel as an object of study is because of the characteristics of Kenna, the main character of this novel. Regardless of all the inequality she has received from her family and society, Kenna remains

persistent and does not give up easily in fighting for her rights as a woman, regardless of her status as an ex-prisoner.

From the background of the study, the researcher presents the research question below:

### **1.2 Statement of Problem**

1. How is Kenna's characterization described in the novel *Reminders of Him*?
2. How is Kenna's problem as a woman who experiences injustice due to her ex-prisoner status in the novel *Reminders of Him*?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

In line with the problems of the study above, this study aims to

1. To describe Kenna's characterization in the novel *Reminders of Him*.
2. To examine Kenna's problem as a woman who experiences injustice due to her ex-prisoner status in the novel *Reminders of Him*?

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The researcher hopes this research can contribute both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is expected to broaden the reader's knowledge about the application of post-structuralism feminism theory which is used to analyze the problems of the main female character as a woman who experiences injustice due to her ex-prisoner status in the novel *Reminders of Him*. Practically, this research is expected to be an example of the problems of the main character of the novel in getting justice for gender equality for women who must get the same rights as human beings regardless of their status. Not

only that, but the researcher also hopes that this research can be correlated with social conditions which make women entitled to have freedom in life and get the rights that should be hers.

### 1.5 Scope and Delimitation of the Study

The scope of this research focuses on the main character's problem as a woman who experiences injustice due to her ex-prisoner status in the novel *Reminders of Him*. This research also focuses on analyzing the characters and characterizations of the main characters contain in the novel *Reminders of Him*. The researcher also narrows the research subject by providing research limitations only by analyzing the main female character as an ex-prisoner in the novel *Reminders of Him* by Colleen Hoover.

### 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To clarify the key terms used in this study, some definitions are put forward:

- **Problem:** a condition for which a solution has not been found. Or it can also be called a situation that is difficult to handle or control because of its complexity (Seel, 2012) .
- **Social recognition:** a fundamental aspect for one's well-being. Social recognition can also be defined as obtaining recognition from a group of one's status (Bjarnason, 2009, p. 36).
- **Justice:** Justice is an action that must be balanced with one another because one individual may think that he is fair, but other individuals may not necessarily think he is fair (Apeldoorn et al., 1978, p. 11).

- **Equality**: the idea of special respect for each individual by providing equal treatment to help achieve certain factual circumstances (Capaldi, 2002, p. 01).
- **Experience inside of the prison**: Some people are willing to get caught accidentally and go to prison to serve a punishment even though those people are not guilty of their accusations (Santoso cited in Agustin, 2016).



## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

In this chapter, the researcher provides the literary theory used to analyze the novel *Reminders of Him*. The researcher uses two literary theories as tools to help analyze the data. First, the researcher uses a new critical theory to understand the main character's characterization. In the second theory, the researcher uses the theory of feminism post-structuralism to analyze the inequity to women experienced by the main character due to their status. Therefore, this theoretical framework is presented in detail to understand the concept of post-structuralism feminism better.

#### **2.1 New Criticism**

New criticism emphasizes the understanding of the text itself, or it can be said as a theory that focuses on analyzing the true meaning of a text based on the text itself (King, 2008, p. 225). The New Criticism theory is used to analyze the intrinsic elements of the text and does not focus on external elements. The New Criticism movement is intended to oppose the previous movement, which studied literary texts based on biographical and historical contexts. The previous movement was more concerned with texts based on extrinsic texts rather than focusing on the main source of the text itself. Besides that, new critics consider that a lot of pressure is aimed at putting forward New Criticism because the previous theory is considered to have deviated from the main concept of a literary text (Hickman, 2012, p. 93). In America, New Criticism is known as the "close

reading" method, which focuses on straightforward and detailed reading methods, and has also become a teaching standard in literary studies (Tyson, 2006, p. 135).

Besides that, New Criticism emphasizes the components of literary works, which are the basis for understanding a literary work consisting of formal elements of the text, namely symbols, characterizations, themes, plots, etc. (Tyson, 2006, p. 137). Thus, this theory will ignore several other elements, such as historical background, the author's biography, the author's experience, and other external elements. In the aspect of new criticism, the writer dissects various text components, such as characters, plots, themes, points of view, etc., with the method of careful reading of a literary text novel which is used to understand what the text means (Mulyaningrat, 2022, p. 10). Therefore, careful reading is done so that every part of the literary text is noticed because all parts are important in a literary text.

As a new theory, new Criticism has received a lot of opposition from various parties who continue to accuse that new Criticism ignores many of the core aspects of literature itself, such as history, philosophy, ideology, and other factors that influence the formation of literary experience (Searle, 2018, p. 01). These accusations arise because the new Criticism focuses almost exclusively on interpreting the text itself. Explicitly, the power of New Criticism is proven to be very influential in literary studies, which are involved in forming cultural values. This is also a unifying effort of various modernisms, which provides the basis for the importance of practicing literary Criticism professionally (Searle, 2018, p. 01).

By conducting research using the New Criticism approach, the research will be related to the intrinsic elements of a literary work, such as theme, setting,

plot, and characterizations in a literary work. It implements that new criticism formulates no limits in terms of interpretation. The point of view of the new critics gives freedom for a broad interpretation of the various aspects they study. Researchers in this study apply a new theory of criticism to reveal the personality of the main character named Kenna in the novel *Reminders of Him*. The use of New Criticism by researchers is useful for analyzing problems based on the text itself because researchers consider it important to look at all aspects of a text from a literary work rather than aspects outside the text. The New Criticism theory used by researchers will focus on Character and Characterization.

## **2.2 Character and Characterization**

### **2.2.1 Character**

One of the important elements for building a literary work so that a literary structure is formed is the intrinsic element (Hutagalung, M.S & Effendi, S. 1996, p. 109). The intrinsic element has various aspects that can form a literary structure. one of which is the character. The character represents a character in a drama or narrative work which the reader interprets as a character with moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities depicted through their words and actions (Abraham. M. H, 1999, p. 32-33). The characters shown in a drama or narrative will play a major role in the continuity of the storyline because all their actions and words will reflect how the character is played. Welch (1990. p. 02) says that the character of each figure is a person contained in a story that has the uniqueness of the figure's character itself. Therefore, the character of a story in a literary work will be a picture of a human character that can animate a storyline so that the intent and purpose of the writer will reach the reader. In a novel or drama, the



character of a figure is an important component because it relates to all the events that occur in a literary work. In his book, *A Glossary of Literature*, (Abraham. M. H, 1999, p. 32) says that a character becomes a person's representative in a narrative literary work, interpreted by readers as someone with moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities. Therefore, the figure's character will reflect their personality, which can be reflected in the actions and dialogues presented in a novel.

Characters are the core points of the story ideas presented. Foster (1990) says that there are two kinds of character distribution in novels. These, namely flat characters, refer to the types of characters with dynamic and unchanging or stable characteristics built from the beginning to the end of the story. Meanwhile, the next character is a round character that is depicted as a character that is shown as a form of embodiment of a more complex idea, which is common for this type of character to give a surprise in the continuity of the story plot. Apart from the distribution of characters in a novel, characters become part of self-identity which also becomes one of the supporters of the presented story. A person's character will reflect how moral that person is. As in the view of Richard Gill (1995, p. 127) says that "*character is someone who is described in a literary work has an identity and identity that is formed from conversations, appearances, names, actions, and thoughts that appear in the head*". It can be defined that the characters in a literary work will symbolize their identity, which is represented in their speech, appearance, and behavior, which will affect the storyline. Not only that but characters in literary works can also attract public attention because they

can be related to the personality of someone in real life, which has many similarities.

Besides that, the characters created by the author can also be distinguished in another way, namely the protagonist and antagonist characters. Laurence Perrine, (1974, p. 42) states that an identical protagonist is a central or core character, while an antagonist is a characterization created to fight the protagonist. From this, the protagonist tends to be the center and has thoughts that align with the storyline. In contrast, the antagonist is the opposite, with characteristics opposite to the storyline and different thoughts from the main character. These two characters are important in a story because both are the subject matter of the story's core that raises story conflicts that are useful so that the storyline develops properly following the goals the author wants to convey to the reader.

### **2.2.2 Characterization**

Besides characters, one of the intrinsic elements in literary works such as novels, plays, and short stories is characterization. Characterization is closely related to the characters in which both are connected. Characterization is the author's way of describing or representing a character. More clearly, characterization leads to a description of how the character looks, which aims to convey to the reader how the character presented is depicted (Murphy, 1972, p. 161 cited in Hardiyanti, 2022). That is, the presence of characterizations is a form of description of the characters that will be presented by the author to the readers so that they know the ins and outs of each character. Not only that, but the characterization is also useful so that the readers can feel the existence of each character in a real way. The characterization of a character in a novel or short

story must be clearly defined so that the reader can know the character of each character, which also impacts the storyline.

The author's way of expressing the characterization of characters in a work of fiction is useful for analyzing the development of the characters (Bennet Andrew, 2004, p. 65). There are two different approaches that writers usually use in characterizing their characters. These two ways, namely direct and indirect characterization or characterizations, can be a depiction of characters by the author either directly or indirectly. The description of nature directly can be revealed through dialogue or come from another character's perspective. An indirect depiction can be through action, word, or response from another character to an existing problem.

Direct characterizations are usually described in detail by the author through dialogue or narrative displayed directly, as in the case of physical ownership in a story. This can be done through a narrator or other supporting character, or it can also be through the definition of the main character itself. Not only that, according to Charters (2011, p. 58), explaining that direct characterization can be done through other external things, such as explaining a name or other open comments. In direct characterization, the author openly wants to show the reader a clear definition of how the characters in the story. The author wants the reader to understand how the characters are described clearly.

Furthermore, the indirect characterizations need to be described in detail so the reader needs to understand the character of each figure more. In indirect characterization, the author does not explicitly describe each character's nature, attitude, and behavior (Nurgiyanto, 2007, p. 198). The characterization method is

indirectly used by the author to describe the character through a conversation, behavior, and thoughts that imply the character's character. In indirect characterizations, the author shows the reader, which aims to help understand the character's personality and its influence on each character. Indirect characterizations in a literary work can be done in several ways, such as speech, thoughts, actions, and appearance (Burroway, 2007, p. 54). Therefore, an understanding of the description of each character needs to be understood carefully from each character's behavior and words, which will affect how the readers evaluate each character. The description of each character will also affect how the reader understands the storyline because the characterization of each character will have a big role in each of the storylines presented.

### **2.3 Feminism**

Feminism is the movement of a group of women to obtain gender equality and fight for women's rights. According to Moeliono et al. (1993, p. 241) state that feminism is a movement of a group of women who demand full equality between men and women covering various aspects of life, such as in the cultural, economic, political, and social fields. Therefore, the feminist movement is very important for women because through this movement women can voice their rights and demand gender equality.

Besides that, Feminism is bound to women's struggle against discrimination regarding gender differences and becomes a support for gender equality to improve the position of women in society (William Outhwaite, 2008, p. 313). From this, it can be seen that there are unequal conditions between women and men which result in gender inequality and the position of each gender.

Not only that, this movement demands full equality of rights between women and men. Women want fair treatment from society for each gender without differentiating one another. This is done because many overlapping strata are found in society that occur due to gender differences between men and women. As the opinion of Montagu, n.d.(1953, p. 23) *"almost every society has a belief that men are higher and women are lower, women also consider that belief to be true because they believe what happened"*. Society should be fair without differentiating between the roles of men and women because the two genders have the same position without being superior. However, people's perceptions of acting following gender equality are still far from fair, which will raise the issue of gender inequality.

Many common people who favor men must have the dominant nature of women. Men are given a higher position than women in social, cultural, and economic terms (Pinem, 2009:42). Men have placed above, while women get injustice by having to be under men. Not only that, feminists do not agree that differences in appearance, such as body size, between men and women are considered one factor that supports men being superior to women (Tyson, 2006, p. 86). This gave rise to a movement to get gender equality for the community so that there is no feeling of being marginalized by both genders.

Society tends to believe that men have superior advantages, such as being competitive, active, strong, competent, and confidence compared to women (Handayani & Novianto, 2004, p. 163). Such an assumption makes women feel degraded without being allowed to express themselves. Feminism aims to obtain equality for women and men. Feminism wants to fight for a sense of humanity for

women and the struggle to gain full independence for women. Feminism does not mean women fighting against men, but Feminism is more emphasizes the struggle against the masculine perspective, which has become a common thing in society so that it is considered the right thing.

As an ideology that aims to create social equality and a world for women to express themselves, the feminist movement has developed into several streams, such as liberal Feminism, Radical Feminism, Socialist Feminism, and modern post-structural Feminism. In this study, the researcher only focused on the flow of post-structuralism feminism, which was used as a theory to help analyze research data. The researcher uses post-structuralism feminism to analyze the issue of feminism experienced by the main character in the novel *Reminder of Him*. The main character in the novel wants recognition without feeling marginalized from society besides her status as an ex-prisoner.

#### **2.4 Post-Structural Feminism**

As a post-modern ideology variant, the post-structural feminism movement also carries ideas from post-modern discourse. Post-structural feminism is also referred to as the third wave of the feminism movement, which is expected to provide a breakthrough for women to gain recognition in the social sphere. Unsuccessful with the first and second waves, a new feminist movement, namely the third wave, emerged known as post-structural feminism. The post-structural feminism movement emerged in the 1980s as a reaction from women against the existing feminist movement but was unable to break the perfect goal (Prasetyo, 2010, p. 138). Not only that, post-structural feminism is aimed at

emancipation from the struggles of feminists through various discourses and social systems.

Post-structuralism feminism aims to liberate women from the hierarchical social system related to men's and women's positions (Prasetyo, 2010, p. 02). By relying on post-structuralism feminism, women will be given the freedom to define themselves not according to the views of others. Feminist post-structuralism theory focuses on how individuals are made into gender subjects. Post-structuralism feminism emphasizes the analysis of texts and conversations that show how power relations are built that provide normality, rationality, and naturalness in any gender binary (Gannon & Davies, 2005, p. 36). This means that power will greatly influence the gender binary between masculinity and feminism. Post-structural feminism decides on a theoretical framework where gender and sexuality are unavoidable things that are determined through language, social, and cognition structures that make post-structural feminism not get freedom from discursive constitutions and also freedom in oneself (Davies, 2008).

Post-structural feminism assumes that women are more meaningful if they can define and express themselves freely, not because of other people (Susanti Aida, Rizqi, 2002, p. 47). Women are valued more if they can define the power of feminism without looking at other gender standards. The post-structural approach to feminism makes women want to be recognized and valued regardless of differences in gender positions that have dominated society's views. Not only that, Post-structural feminist thinking emphasizes the contingent and discursive nature that is connected to the social construction and subjectivity of each gender. The



post-structural feminism principle emphasizes the idea of liberation carried out to fight the power structure and deconstruct patriarchal ideology in the social life of a society that adheres to phallogocentric principles and replaces them with a new order in which women are more recognized and able to express themselves from the shackles of the social system.

Furthermore, based on the explanation above, this study decided to employ the principles of feminism, especially post-structural feminism, as the theory used. The practical use of post-structural feminism is used to investigate the post-structural feminism experienced by the main female character in the novel *Reminders of Him*. The researcher found several aspects that follow the specifications of post-structural feminism, such as the non-recognition of a woman's position in society because of her ex-prisoner title. The researcher uses this theoretical framework because it is considered the most suitable for analyzing the main character in the novel *Reminders of Him*, who experiences problems of inequity in expressing herself and her existence that is not recognized because of her status as an ex-prisoner. The main character wants recognition from society without feeling marginalized because of her ex-prisoner status.

## **CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD**

### **3.1 Research Design**

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach to present data that focuses on words or sentences rather than numbering. Qualitative research is a research procedure that produces descriptive data that prioritizes detailed words Bogdan and Taylor (1975). Qualitative research methods are focused on analyzing selected data from selected literary works as research materials or objects.

### **3.2 Data Collection**

In collecting data in this study, there are several techniques used by researchers in collecting data to obtain significant data with accurate results. Some of the techniques used by researchers are as follows.

1. The researcher read the entire story of the novel carefully and intensively which is useful for understanding the core of the story in depth.
2. The researcher makes a data table of all dialogue narratives in the form of words and sentences that are relevant to the problems studied in the novel *Reminders of Him*.
3. The researcher then classifies the collected data based on the personality characteristics of the main character and contributions to post-structuralism feminism and then interprets each quote found.
4. The researcher collects additional sources relevant to the theory used from books, journals, and articles that support data analysis.

### 3.3 Data Source

The data sources used by the researcher are divided into two different sources, namely primary data sources and secondary data sources. In the primary data source, the data taken by the author comes from the narrative or dialogue from the novel *Reminders of Him* which is the main source of this research. Whereas in secondary data sources, data comes from journals, articles, books, theses, and the web that is relevant and useful to support the analysis of the research conducted.

### 3.4 Data Analysis Technique

1. The researcher identified selected data that shows the main character's personality and the main character's problems as a woman who experiences injustice besides her status as an ex-prisoner in the novel *Reminders of Him*.
2. The researcher then marked each type that represents the main character's personality and problems as a woman who experiences injustice besides her status as an ex-prisoner in the novel *Reminders of Him* in textbooks.
3. After that, the researcher classifies the data based on the theory of post-structuralism feminism and characterization theory.
4. Then the researcher analyzed the data using qualitative methods to find the exact definition and meaning of each quote.
5. Finally, the researcher explained the findings of the analysis descriptively and then concluded the results of the analysis.

## CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the researcher provides explanations to answer the research problems. The first analysis explains the types of characterization possessed by the main character, namely Kenna. The second analysis shows Kenna's problem as a woman who experienced inequality due to her ex-prisoner status by relying on the theory of post-structuralism feminism. The analysis is explained as follows:

### 4.1 Kenna's Characterization

In this sub-chapter, the researcher discusses the characterization of Kenna as the main character depicted in Colleen Hoover's novel *Reminders of Him*. Kenna's characterization leads to her personality as a woman with the status of an ex-prisoner. Some of Kenna's personalities found by researchers in the novel include simple, tough, persistent, hard-working, sociable, and sincere. A discussion of Kenna's characterization is presented below:

#### 4.1.1 Simple

Simple is the right word to describe Kenna's characteristics. The novel *Reminders of Him* explains that Kenna is a simple woman who does not live in luxury. Simplicity keeps people from struggling with complexity. According to Wijaya (2014, p. 117), simplicity is a habit of a person's personality to behave modestly according to her abilities and needs, or it can also be defined as something that is not excessive and does not have an element of luxury. Simple will reflect behavior in everyday life as a person who does not overdo it. A simple personality will make someone only concerned with things according to their needs. The simple scope can include material and financial capabilities, such as

food needs, housing forms, vehicles, and style. In the novel, Kenna is shown as a simple woman who does not overthink luxury in her appearance. Kenna prioritizes what her needs are compared to obeying her appearance style.

The simplicity of a person can be seen in the way that person looks because someone's appearance will show how their image. In the novel *Reminders of Him*, Kenna's appearance is described as that of a simple woman character, which can be seen in how she looks. In her daily life, Kenna prefers to dress as simply as possible and does not show a person who is busy taking care of her appearance. Not only that but Kenna's humble demeanor can also be seen in how the place where she lives looks. Kenna prefers a simple and not too-luxurious residence for her to live in. As it says in the quotation:

There's a couch in the living room, but that's all there is. A small living room, an even smaller kitchen, and no dining room. No bedroom. It's an efficiency apartment with a closet and a bathroom so small the toilet touches the tub (Hoover, 2022, p. 04).

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that Kenna is a person who does not want to worry too much about her residence. Because instead of choosing to live in an apartment with many luxurious facilities, Kenna prefers to live in an apartment with minimal facilities. Kenna chose an apartment with a small space that did not have a bedroom. Kenna sleeps only on a mattress without a bed with a soft mattress. Additionally, Kenna's apartment only had a small kitchen and no dining area. From that, Kenna's simplicity can be seen in the appearance of her residence. With makeshift furniture, Kenna feels comfortable living in her apartment because, for Kenna, the apartment is just a place to rest, so she does not need too many luxury properties that she does not need.

Another simple characteristic of Kenna can be seen in how she dresses for everyday activities. Kenna, in her daily life, prefers to wear simple clothes that are comfortable for her to wear. Kenna likes to wear T-shirts for her days, which she uses both inside and outside the house, rather than lavishly dressed, which is far from Kenna's characteristics. As it says in the quotation:

She's wearing a faded Mountain Dew T-shirt and jeans, but the green in the shirt matches the green in her eyes with such perfection it's as if she put all her effort into finding the perfect color of T-shirt when I'm pretty sure she gave that shirt no thought at all (Hoover, 2022, p. 15).

The quotation above shows that Kenna is a simple woman who does not want anything more than the clothes she wears. In Kenna's daily life, she only wears a T-shirt and jeans for her activities. Kenna does not seem to care about how she looks, because she prioritizes comfort over a luxurious outfit that does not make her feel comfortable. Kenna's simplicity will reflect her attitude because a person's straightforward attitude will reflect that person's humility (Alfian, 2021). Because it simply reflects a humble attitude that does not want to get attention or praise from others.

I should have dressed better. I'm in jeans and the same Mountain Dew T-shirt I had on yesterday. It was the cleanest outfit I had, but now that I'm looking down at myself, I want to cry. I don't want to meet my daughter for the first time while (Hoover, 2022, p. 63).

The quotation above shows that Kenna only wears what makes her comfortable, even if it is not new clothes. Kenna truly reflects on the person she is and does not want to overdo it in showing herself. Simple characteristics will reflect a simple lifestyle as well. A simple lifestyle that is carried out continuously and becomes a habit parallel to the income earned. The lifestyle of a simple

person will prioritize primary things first compared to secondary things or prioritize things that are a priority rather than following desires (Sulpiani, 2020, p. 20) because the principle of simple people is that they want to be simple. They prioritize what is important to them rather than something that is not important.

#### **4.1.2 Tough**

Tough is the attitude of someone strong in facing various problems in life. According to Kobasa, (1979, p. 37), a tough characteristic functions as a source of resilience for a person in dealing with complicated life events and problems. Another characteristic found by a researcher in Kenna's portrayal of the character is a tough attitude. Kenna's tough attitude is reflected when she faces various problems that occur to her. Kenna's toughness in dealing with issues makes her strong in all the problems that arise because a person's tough attitude will be able to survive in the complicated situations they face. As Kobasa's opinion (cited in Andini 2008, p. 07) says, someone with a tough characteristic is committed to facing all the obstacles that exist. Therefore, people with tough characteristics will be able to survive in all situations and conditions because they have committed to being ready to face any problem.

As an ex-prisoner, Kenna has overcome many obstacles that make her tough. The status of an ex-prisoner has made her have received many barriers that have made her resilient to the many problems she has faced. Kenna's tough personality was formed because of the many existing issues, and Kenna overcame them. As a woman who has the status of an ex-prisoner, of course, Kenna has many problems both in the social and personal spheres. As it says in the quotation:



Crying seems to be the only thing left in life that I'm good at. Crying and making bad decisions. And, of course, I'm good at writing you bad poetry. I'll leave you with one I wrote on the bus ride back to this town. "I have a daughter I have never held. She has a scent I have never smelled. She has a name I have never yelled. She has a mother who has already failed (Hoover, 2022, p. 39).

The quotation above shows that Kenna is a character with tough characteristics; Kenna is a mother who has been separated from her child since Kenna gave birth to her. Kenna is a mother who never touches her child and never knows how her child smells. This makes Kenna a tough person because Kenna remains strong through all the problems that come her way. Kenna is not easy to feel weak about what is happening in her life because of her tough spirit.

Additionally, the various problems that come to Kenna make Kenna have a tough personality in every situation. Kenna's tough characteristics make her strong in facing any issues that exist. Kenna has gotten used to the problems that come her way because of her toughness. As it says in the quotation:

She's responsible for the accidental death of someone she was in love with. As if that wasn't hard enough, she went to prison for it and was forced to give up her own child. She finally shows back up hoping to meet her, and you do God knows what with her in your truck, and then you prevent her from meeting her daughter, and then you tell her to fuck off (Hoover, 2022, p. 83).

In the quotation above, it can be seen that various problems had come to Kenna, such as when Kenna had to take responsibility for the death of her boyfriend that she did not bear and gave herself to prison. Then Kenna also experienced difficulties meeting her child because of her ex-prisoner status, which made her consider it inappropriate to complete and even get custody of her child. Kenna's various problems keep her strong because Kenna does not give up on existing issues. Kenna's toughness made her feel strong because a person's tough

attitude is a form of defense that is done to overcome difficulties (Grotberg, 1955, p.15). This will make a person survive problems because of the dominant spirit of toughness that makes a person feel strong in every issue.

#### **4.1.3 Persistent**

In addition to Kenna's tough characteristics, Kenna also has a persistent characteristic in every problem that exists. Kenna does not give up easily in the face of the problems that befall her life. Kenna's persistence shows that she wants to achieve the success that exists. Because persistence is a behavior possessed by someone to show persistence and enthusiasm in achieving a desired goal (Duckworth, 2007). Persistence is accompanied by a very strong motivation to achieve something you want to get. The concept of persistence is related to perseverance, ambition, resilience, and also hardiness. Not only that, but a person's persistent characterization also reflects that the person will try harder in facing challenges to achieve the goals to be achieved as a form of self-satisfaction. Therefore, a persistent characteristic that person has will make that person willing to fight as much as possible to provide success for herself.

In the novel *Reminders of Him*, the writer describes another characteristic Kenna possesses as the main character: persistence. Kenna's persistence proved in her desire to achieve something, an example of Kenna's persistence when she shows it in terms of work. Kenna does not give up quickly on getting a job despite her background as an ex-prisoner. Kenna is persistent in getting the job she wants. Kenna wants to succeed in getting a job besides her status as a female ex-prisoner. Kenna's persistence in getting a job show that she can get a job as a form of welfare as an ex-prisoner. As it says in the quotation:

I've been to six different places trying to find a job, and it isn't even ten in the morning yet. They've all gone the same. They give me an application. Ask me about my experience. I have to tell them I have none. I have to tell them why (Hoover, 2022, p. 46).

The quotation above shows that Kenna's persistence can be seen as a person who does not give up easily. She is persistent in getting what she wants and is willing to work hard to get a job, as stated in the quotation above. Kenna persistently struggle to find work in many places, although her status as an ex-prisoner made it difficult for her to get accepted into many jobs. This does not make Kenna give up easily. She consistently wants to achieve what she wants without giving up on circumstances.

Other quotations also show Kenna's persistence in getting the job she wants. Kenna does not easily give up even though many companies reject her because of her ex-prisoner status, such as:

I don't own this place, or I'd raise it." She leans forward and lowers her voice. "You know, you can probably get a job at the Lowe's warehouse. They pay twice that starting out." "I tried online last week. They won't hire me with my record (Hoover, 2022, p. 51).

The quotation above shows that Kenna has tried various platforms, such as online platforms to get a job, but all Kenna got was rejection. With her persistent attitude, Kenna does not give up easily. Kenna is still trying to find a job that will accept her with a persistent and unyielding attitude. Kenna's persistence which she maintained, also yielded maximum results because with solid determination and enthusiasm, as well as a spirit of persistence to achieve something big, Kenna got what she want. It was proven that with this persistence, Kenna could get results according to her efforts, like Kenna could get a job.

#### 4.1.4 Hard-Working

Hard-working is a term that is often used for people who work as hard as possible to get the desired target. Elfindri (2012, p. 102) said that hard workers will not easily give up because they have a strong will to achieve their goals and aspirations. Therefore, people who have hard-working souls will be passionate and tireless to achieve success as the goal they want. Hard workers will make someone do as much as possible to work with potential within them to achieve the desired goal. Also, according to Muzdalifah (2013, p. 09), some of the concepts possessed by a hard worker are completing tasks within the allotted time and exerting all abilities to achieve the goals achieved. Therefore, hard workers must be competent in managing time because they will work at a predetermined time.

In the novel *Reminders of Him*, the character Kenna is also described as a person who works hard. Hard work is proven by Kenna not only working in one place but also working in other places. Kenna worked in both places very diligently and earnestly. Kenna can manage her time at work and complete work according to the time specified. Not only that, Kenna does both jobs very well without making mistakes because of Kenna's strong, hardworking soul which requires Kenna to work to the fullest. As it says in the quote:

“Did you just now get off work?”

“Yeah, someone called in, so I worked a double.”. The grocery store closes at nine, and it likely takes her an hour to walk home. “You probably shouldn’t be walking home this late.” (Hoover, 2022, p. 109)

The quotation above shows that Kenna is the type of hard worker. She does not only rely on working in one place but also works part-time in other places. Kenna worked hard to show her ex-boyfriend's family that Kenna was

capable of being an established mother in any way, and Kenna wanted to show that she could get custody of her child back because she was able to provide for her child. Kenna worked very hard at both of her workplaces. Kenna does both jobs well and can work according to certain conditions to the maximum tirelessly because Kenna is aware that there are specific goals that she must achieve.

Additionally, Kenna's hardworking attitude show when she has to get used to working overtime. Working overtime means working outside the time it should be. This implies that Kenna's character is a hardworking figure. As it says in the quotation:

I finish my work and wipe everything down for a final time. It's half past midnight and I have no idea how much longer Ledger has until he's finished. I don't want to bother him, but I'm too tired to walk home, so I wait for the ride (Hoover, 2022, p. 147).

The quotation above shows that Kenna is a diligent hard worker. Kenna's hard work is proven by taking on overtime jobs. By working hard, Kenna continues to do her job well and earnestly. Kenna does all the work tirelessly and does everything well. Because the attitude of a hard worker shows a serious effort to overcome all obstacles by completing tasks as well as possible (Yaumi, 2016, p. 94). A hard worker will show sincerity and not play games in doing something because hard work has the principle that they must do every activity well by offering their best side in doing the job. Hard workers also have the skills to exert their best abilities and have the expertise to set the correct time according to the specified working hours. A hardworking attitude makes Kenna not leave her job until it is finished. Kenna does all the work neatly and adequately, following applicable regulations. As written in the following quotation:

And I have no idea how much longer Ledger has until he's finished. I don't want to bother him, but I'm too tired to walk home, so I wait for the ride. I wash dishes faster than they come back to me, so between bouts of dirty dishes, I've been reorganizing the shelves, the stockroom, and all the dishes in the cabinets (Hoover, 2022, p. 141).

The quotation shows Kenna has done an excellent job and can manage her time. Kenna does not complain about her career because she knows there is a goal she has to achieve behind her hard-working attitude. Kenna did all her duties well and finished the job according to the allotted time. Kenna's mindset is to finish her work correctly and without any complaints. She knew the work was essential to her and had to put her heart into it. A person with a hard-working personality will always keep pursuing the desired goals and carrying out tasks despite obstacles. The attitude of hard work from within a person arises from a decisive and directed motivational factor. In the novel *Reminders of Him*, Kenna's character is hard-working because she wants to show that she can have a decent life despite her status as an ex-prisoner.

#### **4.1.5 Sociable**

According to (APA, n.d.), a sociable is a person who is easy to get along with or can be called a person who is friendly in socializing. Sociable can be a term for people with a high socialization spirit, so getting along with new people is easy. People with sociable personalities will quickly adapt to the social environment because they can easily find new topics that familiarize them. Sociable souls will find it easy to establish relationships, such as in friendship because the concept of sociability creates fun discussion topics so that new people will feel comfortable talking.



Being easy to get along with someone is one of the attitudes of someone easy to get along with in terms of association, such as greeting each other and respecting when communicating (Pratiwi et al., 2021, p. 53). Also, people with a sociable attitude will quickly help others because of their great caring spirit for others. Therefore, people with sociable characteristics will find it easy to pay attention to each other because they do all actions sincerely and are prejudiced against ordinary people. In the novel *Reminders of Him*, Kenna is also described as a character with a sociable characteristics. Kenna is the type that quickly gets along with new people because she quickly adapts to new environments. As it says in the quotation:

“Are you coming to the lunch on Sunday?”

“What lunch?”

“We’re having a small lunch here for Mother’s Day; I told Lady Diana to invite you. I feel the sting in the mention of that holiday. I’ve tried not to think about it. It’ll be the first time I’ve experienced it outside of prison and in the same town as Diem.”  
(Hoover, 2022, 158)

The quotation above shows that Kenna is a person who is easy to get along with new people. The quotation shows that Kenna is the type who quickly gets along with new people, like Lady Diana's family, as Kenna's new apartment neighbors. Kenna's sociable attitude was seen when Lady Diana's mother invited Kenna to have a meal together on Mother's Day, even though at that time, Kenna and Lady Diana's mother had just met for the first time. Still, they immediately seemed close and comfortable with each other. Sociable personalities make it easy for someone to establish a relationship because they will consider each other comfortable so that they will be able to form a good relationship.



Sociability in Kenna is also shown when Kenna quickly gets along with her new co-workers. As it says in the quotation:

“Ignore her,” Aaron says. “Mary Anne craves gossip as much as she craves tomatoes.”

She laughs. “It’s true. I like to talk shit. I don’t mean anything by it; I’m just bored.”

“Why was his wedding called off?” I ask her. Apparently, she’s not the only curious one in this kitchen (Hoover, 2022, p. 143).

The quotation above shows that it was easy for Kenna to get along with her co-workers in her new place. Kenna is easy to form good relations with new people at work and easy to get along with. It is easy for Kenna to feel comfortable with each other with her co-workers in her new place. With a sociable characteristic, Kenna easily adapts to new people, making her feel comfortable in new environments. Because basically, people that have sociable personalities are easy to find fun topics of discussion that will make people around them feel comfortable.

#### **4.1.6 Sincere**

Sincere is defined as a form of acceptance of what happened. Sincerity is closely related to one's inner intentions because sincerity is directly related to accepting and carrying out all provisions from God (Yunasril, 2005, p. 8).

Therefore, a person's sincere personality will make that person steadfast and patient in facing every problem.

In the novel *Reminders of Him*, Kenna's character is also described as sincere in accepting all trials in her life. Kenna sincerely agrees with all kinds of obstacles that make it difficult for her and lives it with patience. as stated in the quotation:

Your family was told I walked home and fell asleep, but that's not exactly what happened. I'm almost positive I fainted from shock because when the cops beat on my bedroom door the next morning and I opened my eyes, I was on the floor (Hoover, 2022, p. 215).

In the quotation above, it can be seen that Kenna is a person who sincerely accepts all kinds of problems in her life. The quote above shows that Kenna sincerely agrees with all sorts of accusations given by Scotty's parents, Kenna's boyfriend, for the accident that happened to Kenna and Scotty and accused Kenna of being the mastermind behind the murder. Kenna sincerely accepted all the accusations Scotty's parents gave, which they did not know about what happened on the night of the accident. Kenna's sincere characteristics make her accept what happened. With this sincere attitude, Kenna accepted that she had to go to prison for five years on the accusation given, because Kenna was considered a murderer who had to pay for what she had done to the death of Scotty, her boyfriend.

Other quotations also explain how Kenna has a sincere characteristic when accepting all the consequences of a misunderstanding that happened to her. As it says in the quotation:

They pulled me into the interrogation room two more times over the next twenty-four hours. I hadn't slept, I was heartbroken, I couldn't eat or drink anything. I just wanted to die. And then, when they told me you would still be alive if I had just called for help, I did die (Hoover, 2022, p.217).

The quotation above shows that Kenna had been blamed for the death of her boyfriend, which led to Kenna being punished for the accusations given by Scotty's parents, Kenna's boyfriend. However, on the other hand, Kenna was not against her, but Kenna willingly accepted what was accused of her. Everyone seemed to corner and also blame Kenna for what happened to Scotty. Kenna could

only get what was charged with her because Kenna herself did not have sufficient evidence against her, so Kenna could only face all problems with sincerity and patience. Kenna's character in the novel *Reminders of Him* illustrates how sincere a person is for what happens in her life.

#### **4.2 Kenna's problem as a woman who experiences injustice due to her ex-prisoner status in the novel *Reminders of Him*?**

As an ex-prisoner, Kenna has experienced various problems in her life because many people consider ex-prisoner to be criminals. Many problems that come to Kenna are also supported by Kenna's status as a woman deemed inappropriate as an ex-prisoner. The image of women who hold the position of ex-prisoner seems to have been considered a bad thing, and their presence also seems not to be considered in public life. The injustice experienced by women with ex-prisoner status makes them demand recognition. Because even though they have ex-prisoner status, women still have the right to get their rights and freedom.

In the novel *Reminders of Him*, Kenna, an ex-prisoner, experiences many injustices that make her feel marginalized due to her status. Kenna's position as a woman makes her considered inappropriate to hold the title of ex-prisoner because women are generally known to have graceful and kind personalities, which is regarded as the opposite of Kenna's current position. The local community mistreats Kenna because of her status as a woman with the title of ex-prisoner. Kenna's struggle as a woman who has the status of an ex-prisoner is full of obstacles and problems that come her way. Various issues that arise

significantly affect Kenna's life because these problems significantly impact Kenna herself.

#### **4.2.1 Not Getting Custody of Her Daughter**

Kenna's problem, who has the status of an ex-prisoner, is when she is not given custody of her biological child. Kenna was not given the right to care for her child, the child she had just given birth to because the prison's provisions did not allow an inmate to care for her child. Additionally, Kenna's rights as a mother were revoked when she was still pregnant with her child. Scotty's parents, Kenna's boyfriend, had fought over custody of their grandson when they heard Kenna was pregnant. Scotty's parents did not want Kenna to get custody of their child because it was considered inappropriate for someone with a bad personality to babysit a child. As it says in the quotation:

They started fighting for custody the day they were told I was pregnant. The baby didn't even have fully developed lungs, but they were already fighting for its first breath. I lost the custody battle before Diem was even born. There aren't many rights a mother has when she's sentenced to several years in prison (Hoover, 2022, p. 57).

Based on the quotation above shows that Scotty's parents had fought for custody of their grandson when they discovered Kenna was pregnant. Scotty's parents fought so that they would get custody of their grandson because they did not want Kenna, who is an inmate, to take care of their grandson. Scotty's parents judged Kenna as the wrong person because they thought Kenna had caused their son an accident. With Kenna's condition like that, of course, this supports Scotty's parents to immediately fight for custody of their grandson because they think that Kenna is inappropriate to take care of their grandson. Not stopping the struggle

for child custody, Scotty's parents also filed a petition to terminate Kenna's custody as a parent because Kenna was considered a bad person and was considered unable to raise her child. As it says in the quotation:

I didn't realize how desperate I would one day become, though. We had gone almost three years without speaking when I reached out to her from prison. I was desperate. I was seven months pregnant, Grace and Patrick had already filed for custody, and because of the length of my sentence, I found out they were also petitioning for termination of my parental rights (Hoover, 2022, p. 89-90).

The quotation above shows that Scotty's parents will permanently terminate Kenna's rights as a mother. Kenna is not given her rights as a mother in total, which means that Kenna is also not allowed to meet her son. Scotty's parents were tough on Kenna because they did not want their grandson to be in the hands of the wrong person. They did not want their grandson to be raised by the woman who had killed their son. Scotty's parents had assumed that Kenna was the first culprit in their son's death. They had branded Kenna a murderer who did not even deserve to see her daughter. Even if you look at the actual incident, Kenna cannot be entirely blamed for Scotty's death because the accident that Kenna and Scotty experienced was entirely due to the incident caused by the slippery road. As it says in the quotation:

Your family was told I walked home and fell asleep, but that's not exactly what happened. I'm almost positive I fainted from shock, because when the cops beat on my bedroom door the next morning and I opened my eyes, I was on the floor (Hoover, 2022, p. 215).

From the quotation above, it can be seen that the accusations given by Scotty's parents are not entirely true. Scotty's parents had thought that Kenna was their son's killer because of Kenna's position in her apartment sleeping the night

after Kenna and Scotty were traveling and had an accident. Even before that, Kenna was desperately looking for help here and there in a state of shock due to seeing her lover, who was seriously injured. This incident shook Kenna considerably, and without realizing it, Kenna walked towards her apartment and fainted after arriving there. Kenna awakens to the various misunderstandings and accusations that Scotty's parents placed on her. As it says in the quotation:

when the cops beat on my bedroom door the next morning and I opened my eyes, I was on the floor. I noticed a small puddle of blood on the floor next to my head. I must have hit my head going down, but I didn't have time to inspect it because police were in my bedroom and one of them had his hand on my arm and he was lifting me to my feet (Hoover, 2022, p. 215).

The quotation above shows that Kenna passed out the night of her accident with Scotty after walking over to get help in her state of deep shock. Kenna walked down the street, and without realizing it, she arrived at her apartment and fainted there. Kenna wakes up in the morning with various misunderstandings, which leads her to be charged with the death of her boyfriend. Kenna was accused of being the killer of her lover because Kenna, at that time, was the driver of the car that Kenna and her lover were riding in. From the start, Kenna had been forced by Scotty to drive that night due to their drunken state. Unfortunately, unexpected events came their way. The car they were driving had an accident due to slippery roads. The accident instantly left Scotty dead and Kenna injured but still alive. After realizing that Scotty was unconscious, Kenna was shocked and confused about what to do. With a perplexed mind, Kenna walked the streets and hoped to get help to help her lover. But Kenna's expectations did not match her expectations. In the middle of the night, Kenna walked until, without realizing it,



she arrived at her apartment and passed out all night. Kenna's situation has led to a misunderstanding of the death of her lover.

Kenna accepted the accusation from Scotty's parents because of Kenna's condition, which was in deep shock because she had to lose her boyfriend. Kenna could only surrender to what happened. As it says in the quotation:

I had planned to give an allocution statement, but I was too weak and too broken, so, when it came time for me to stand up and speak, I couldn't. Physically, emotionally, mentally. I was stuck in that chair, but I tried to stand. I was stuck in that chair, but I tried to stand (Hoover, 2022, p. 220).

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Kenna no longer has the energy to say what happened because her mind was really messed up, thinking only of her boyfriend. Kenna's situation made her have to serve five years in prison as a result of being accused of the death of her lover. Not only that, but Kenna's situation also made Scotty's parents think Kenna was a criminal. So when they found out about Kenna's pregnancy, Scotty's parents immediately took custody of their grandson and revoked Kenna's rights as a mother because they considered it inappropriate to care for her child.

#### **4.2.2 Not Allowed To Meet Her Daughter**

Kenna's problem as a woman and a mother who holds the status of an ex-prisoner is also seen when she is not allowed to meet her biological child. With Kenna's status as an ex-prisoner, Scotty's parents do not want to reunite their grandson with her mother, who is an ex-prisoner. Kenna was not given the right to meet her biological child since her child was born. Kenna was not given the right to breastfeed her baby because Scotty's parents took the baby straight away. As it says in the quotation:



Depending on the circumstances, some mothers are allowed to pump, and their breast milk is stored and delivered to their baby. I wasn't one of the lucky ones. I wasn't allowed to pump, and I wasn't allowed anything that would help my milk dry up (Hoover, 2022, p. 76).

The above quotation shows that Kenna is a mother who cannot breastfeed her child. Not only that, but Kenna was also not given the right to feel how a mother's emotion feels when she succeeds in giving birth to her baby into the world. That happened because of Kenna's status as a prisoner who was not allowed to raise her biological child. Kenna was imprisoned for five years because she did not know the form of her biological child. Scotty's parents, who raised Kenna's children, were very strict about keeping their grandson away from her biological mother because of Kenna's bad image in their eyes. Scotty's parents did not want Kenna to take their grandson because they thought Kenna was a criminal who could have a bad influence on her grandson. The situation when Kenna was not allowed to see her child was also seen when Kenna managed to get out of prison for five years. As it says in the quotation:

She quickly refocuses and then starts digging in her purse for her keys. That's when I see Kenna. That's when Kenna sees me.

"Hurry," I say, my voice low. Grace's hands are shaking as she starts clicking her key fob (Hoover, 2022, p. 119).

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that Ledger, Scotty's best friend, tried to tell Grace, Scotty's mother, who at that time was taking Kenna's child, to leave quickly from the convenience store where Kenna worked. They acted very quickly to keep Kenna from meeting their child because they did not want anything bad to happen to Diem, Kenna, and Scotty's daughter. Grace, Scotty's mother, looked shocked when she saw Kenna. Grace does not want Kenna, the woman who killed her child to be present in her grandson's life and cause trouble.

Other quotes also show that Kenna was not allowed to meet her daughter because of the bad past that had befallen Kenna and her lover. It was as if Kenna's request was not considered due to Grace's fear that Kenna would take her grandson from her. As it says in the quotation:

Kenna gets close enough to their car to tap the back of it and plead,

“Wait! Grace, wait! Please!”

Grace doesn't wait. She drives away, and it's painful to watch Kenna debate on running after the car. When she finally realizes she isn't going to stop them, she turns around and looks at me (Hoover, 2022, p. 120).

The quotation shows that Grace tried to keep Kenna from meeting her child even though Kenna had begged her. Grace did not want her grandson to meet her mother. Grace's mind had been filled with a bad image of Kenna for killing her son. Grace does not wish for the same incident to happen again, in which Grace has to lose her loved ones. Scotty's parents' fear was based on their trauma of losing their child, which left them with deep wounds. Scotty's parents needed time to deal with the trauma of losing their biological son. This is a form of fear and alertness if Kenna returns to Scotty's parents' life again. They do not want to reopen old wounds with Kenna's presence again. As it says in the quotation:

It wouldn't benefit Patrick or Grace having to share custody of Diem with you. It would bring a level of stress to their lives that I'm not sure they can emotionally handle. And Diem . . . would it benefit her? Because right now, she has no idea anyone is even missing from her life (Hoover, 2022, p. 131).

The quotation above shows Kenna's presence in Scotty's family's life was very unexpected. Because Kenna's presence is feared to cause old wounds to the

Scotty family, which is also feared to stress the Scotty family by coming back. Kenna's return to get custody of her child again caused great concern for the Scotty family, who also opened up about their emotional trauma at having to lose their son. This made the Scotty family expressly provide any means to protect custody of their grandson and keep them from meeting Kenna, her biological mother. Kenna's return from prison and her determination to regain custody of her child became a threat and a big fear for the Scotty family because they still think that Kenna was the cause of their child's death. For now, they also do not want to lose the grandson they have cared for all this time.

Scotty's family does not want the significant trauma of losing Scotty to return, especially Scotty's parents, who, for now, have made peace with their lives. Making peace with life as a result of old, bitter wounds is a challenging thing. Therefore, the Scotty family does not want Kenna to return by destroying the peaceful life they have built as much as possible from a dark past trauma. As it says in the quotation:

... but you would change the peaceful existence they've worked so hard to build since Scotty died. The stress your presence would bring to Patrick and Grace would be felt by Diem, no matter how hard they tried to hide it from her (Hoover, 2022, p. 132).

The quote shows that Kenna's presence back into Scotty's family life will significantly destroy the peaceful and happy life they have worked so hard to build since Scotty's death. They have struggled to live their good lives by trying to recover from the trauma of losing their child. Therefore, the peace they had built made Ledger, Scotty's best friend who is very close to the Scotty family, not want to be broken by Kenna's arrival to reclaim custody of her child. Ledger did not

wish for Kenna's presence to open old wounds that Scotty's family was trying to cover up to be destroyed by Kenna, who had been considered Scotty's killer. Ledger did not want Kenna's presence to make the Scotty family lose their happiness and peace, which could lead to experiencing a high level of emotional stress which would also affect their grandson.

#### **4.2.3 Difficult To Get A Job**

Having the status of an ex-prisoner certainly makes Kenna labeled a woman with a bad image. Kenna's status as an ex-prisoner made her experience many difficulties in living her life, such as finding a job. Kenna was rejected a lot in the world of work because of her status as an ex-prisoner which made her considered a criminal. Many people think Kenna is a bad person in every way because she is an ex-prisoner. Because of that, Kenna will be immediately rejected due to her status as an ex-prisoner which makes her considered bad in any way. As it says in the quotation:

I'll have to say it this week when I look for a job. They'll ask, "Have you ever been convicted of a crime?" I'll have to say, "Yes, I spent five years in prison for involuntary manslaughter." And they'll either hire me or they won't. They probably won't (Hoover, 2022, p. 20).

The quotation above shows that Kenna would fail even a job interview due to her status as an ex-prisoner. Because many companies prefer not to hire ex-prisoner because they do not want to suffer losses in the future, Kenna, who has the status of an ex-prisoner, already has a wrong impression as a criminal—coupled with the position of Kenna, who is a woman. A woman supposed to care

for herself with gentleness does not deserve the title of ex-prisoner. Therefore, many prefer to refuse Kenna in terms of work rather than bear the bad risk.

Other quotes also suggest that many companies would outright reject Kenna due to her status as an ex-prisoner. Kenna is considered a woman with a bad image and cannot work properly because of her status as an ex-prisoner. As it says in the quotation:

Minimum wage. Ridiculous, I know. I don't own this place, or I'd raise it. You know, you can probably get a job at the Lowe's warehouse. They pay twice that starting out.

"I tried online last week. They won't hire me with my record."  
(Hoover, 2022, p. 51)

The quotation above shows Kenna has been rejected even on online job platforms due to her ex-prisoner status. Kenna's position like that made her rejected by many companies because they did not want to risk hiring Kenna as a woman with ex-prisoner status. Many people have assumed that ex-prisoners do not deserve decent jobs because they have been labeled people with bad personalities. Even though not everyone with an ex-prisoner has a lousy personality. Kenna, as an ex-prisoner, is considered to have a bad attitude that can affect the work environment and cause work chaos if the company accepts Kenna.

Kenna's struggle to get a job as a woman with the status of an ex-prisoner faces many obstacles. Kenna has tried many places to get a job, but many of these places rejected Kenna because of Kenna's ex-prisoner status. As it says in the quotation:

I've been to six different places trying to find a job, and it isn't even ten in the morning yet. They've all gone the same. They give me an application. Ask me about my experience. I have to tell them I have none. I have to tell them why (Hoover, 2022, p. 46).

The quotation above shows that Kenna has submitted job forms in six different places but all of these places have rejected Kenna. Kenna has been rejected by various companies because of Kenna's position as a woman and an ex-prisoner. The above quotation also shows that Kenna has been denied interviews when she mentions her background as an ex-prisoner. The company does not want to employ an ex-prisoner who is considered a criminal especially since she is a woman. Kenna's ex-prisoner status makes it difficult for her to get the job she wants. Kenna's rejection at several companies due to her status is considered a barrier for Kenna to get a job.

#### **4.2.4 Society's Perspective On Former Prisoner**

Status as an ex-prisoner owned by someone will raise assumptions about how that person is assessed. With the status of an ex-prisoner, many people will view someone as bad even in all respects. Because society has assumed that the image of someone with ex-prisoner status will reflect that person is terrible, or it can be said that a person with ex-prisoner status is a criminal. In the novel *Reminders of Him*, society views of someone with the status of an ex-prisoner is considered a bad person and does not deserve freedom like humans in general. Because their status as ex-prisoner will automatically limit them from expressing themselves and living like other human beings. The novel reflects the different treatment from society regarding freedom for ex-prisoner to live their life. Society

in the novel further assesses men and women who are ex-prisoners. These differences give rise to inequality for women who have the status of ex-prisoners.

Therefore, the overlapping stigma from society in the novel *Reminders of Him* towards men and women who have status as ex-prisoners creates injustice for a people. These differences can also be a barrier for people because they feel disadvantaged even with the same status. Society seems to assess each gender with the status of their ex-prisoners. As it says in the quotation:

There's a double standard for women, even behind bars. When women say they've been to prison, people think trash, whore, addict, thief. But when men say they've been to prison, people add badges of honor to the negative thoughts, like trash, but badass, addict, but tough, thief, but impressive (Hoover, 2022, p. 20).

The quotation above shows a different stigma for men and women with the status of ex-prisoners. The novel shows how the difference in society's assessment of men and women who are ex-prisoners. Men whose status as ex-prisoners are as if given a badge of honor such as trash but badass, addicts but tough, thieves but impressive. Meanwhile, if women say they are ex-prisoners, they will immediately be labeled negatively, such as trash, prostitutes, thieves, killers, and all bad things (Hoover, 2022, p. 20).

As the main female character, Kenna gets unjustified because of her ex-prisoner status. Kenna received a lot of unfair treatment because of her position as a woman and a mother but her status as an ex-prisoner. Kenna's destiny, as a woman and a mother who holds the status of an ex-prisoner, is seen as an



embarrassment to the surrounding community and is labeled as inappropriate for custody of her child because of her status. As it says in the quotation:

“Didn’t expect you to look like this.”

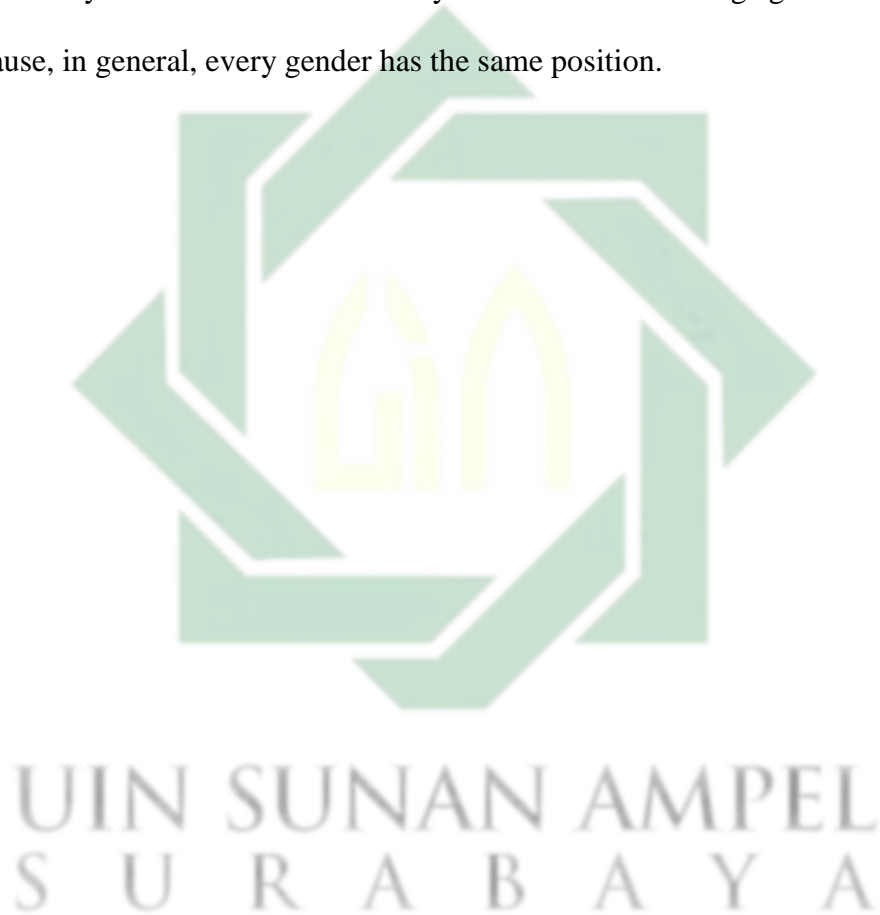
People think women who go to prison have a certain look. That we’re a certain way. But we’re mothers, wives, daughters, humans. And all we want is to just catch one fucking break. Just one (Hoover, 2022, p. 46).

The quotation above shows that society has given a different assessment of women, especially Kenna, an ex-prisoner. They provide the assumption that women with status as ex-prisoners have a different appearance, leading to the opposing side. Even though a woman with the status of an ex-prisoner like Kenna is also an ordinary human who can also be a mother, wife, and child, society should be able to act fairly without discriminating between women and men ex-prisoners. Kenna, a woman with the status of an ex-prisoner, has the right to get justice without having to distinguish between status and has the right to get her rights as a woman and a mother.

Overlapping strata in society towards men and women whose status as a woman should be eliminated because it can be detrimental to one party. However, this assessment has been embedded in the minds of society so that there appears to be an injustice for one of the people, especially women, to get their rights. As it says in the quotation:

But when men say they’ve been to prison, people add badges of honor to the negative thoughts, like trash, but badass, addict, but tough, thief, but impressive. There’s still a stigma with the men, but the women never get out with stigmas and badges of honor (Hoover, 2022, p. 20).

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that the overlapping stigma against men and women who are ex-prisoners is attached to the public mind. The views that favor one of these groups have been embedded in the minds of society, which raises the issue of gender inequality in the social environment. This injustice will affect how society evaluates and treats someone who influences their life. Society should be able to act fairly without discriminating against each other because, in general, every gender has the same position.



## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

#### **5.1 CONCLUSION**

*Reminders of Him* is a novel Colleen Hoover published in the first half of 2022. This novel was written to raise the problems of life from the perspective of injustice to women who are ex-prisoners. In the novel, Kenna, as the main character, experiences injustice due to her status as an ex-prisoner. The injustice that Kenna received impacted Kenna's life and greatly affected her life. With the status of an ex-prisoner, Kenna as a woman seems to be marginalized and is not considered to exist because she is regarded as a criminal. Even Kenna's condition as a woman and a mother who holds the status of an ex-prisoner is considered shameful and inappropriate to get custody of her child back.

Previously in this study, the researcher had found the characteristics of the main character Kenna, which led to her personality as a woman with the status of an ex-prisoner. Several of Kenna's personalities found by researcher in the novel include simple, tough, persistent, hard-working, sociable, and sincere. Kenna's characteristics reflect how she acts in her daily life. Having status as an ex-prisoner does not make Kenna behave like a criminal because many people have assumed that people with status as ex-prisoner have bad personalities. This is very different from Kenna's characteristics, as one of the characteristics of Kenna is to have a simple attitude. Kenna lives a life of simplicity that is far from luxurious. Kenna's simplicity can be seen in her house's simple shape and everyday clothes.

Furthermore, the characteristics of Kenna found by the researcher are tough. The former status of difficulties has made her have received many

obstacles that have made her resilient to her many problems. Kenna's tough personality is formed because of the many existing problems, and Kenna can overcome them. Another characteristic that Kenna possesses as a main character is her demonstrable persistence such as when it comes to work. Kenna does not give up easily on getting a job despite her status as an ex-prisoner behind it. Kenna's persistence proves that Kenna can get a job besides her ex-prisoner status. The other characteristics possessed by Kenna are hard work. Even though she has the status of an ex-prisoner, it does not prove that Kenna is a bad person when it comes to work. Kenna's hard-working spirit proved by working hard not only working in one place but also working in other places. Kenna worked in both places very diligently and earnestly and was competent in managing her time at work and completing work on time. In addition, Kenna's characteristic is a friendly demeanor. Kenna is described as a character with an easy-going or sociable personality. A type like Kenna is the type that easily gets along with new people because she easily adapts to new environments. For example, Kenna easily gets along with her new neighbors and co-workers. The next characteristic found in Kenna's character is sincerity in accepting all trials in her life. Kenna sincerely accepts all obstacles that make it difficult for her and lives it patiently.

In addition to analyzing Kenna's characterization as the main character, the researcher also analyzes Kenna's problems as a woman who has experienced injustice due to her ex-prisoner status by relying on the theory of post-structuralism feminism. Being an ex-prisoner, Kenna gets a lot of injustice, which makes her feel marginalized. Kenna's status as a woman with the title of ex-prisoner is considered a bad thing, whereas if a man gets the title of ex-prisoner,

it's as if he is given a badge of honor like trash badass, addict but tough, thief but impressive. This is inversely proportional to women who have the status of ex-prisoner like Kenna. Society's perspective has labeled someone with the title of ex-prisoner as a criminal, especially a woman like Kenna. Kenna, a woman with the title of ex-prisoner, will be labeled as negative, such as trash, prostitute, thief, killer, and all bad things, even though Kenna obtained Kenna's status as an ex-prisoner, not because Kenna was a criminal but because Kenna had been responsible for the accident that occurred Kenna and her lover, which caused Kenna's lover to die. Kenna accepted all court decisions by going to prison for five years even though the death of her lover was not entirely Kenna's fault. Taking responsibility for the death of her girlfriend reflects that Kenna is a good person who cannot be compared to other criminals. Likewise, Kenna does not deserve to be compared to male criminals who are given badges of honor such as trash but badass, addicts but tough, and thieves but impressive. Kenna is an excellent and impressive figure in her own right because of Kenna's responsibility to go to prison and get herself an ex-prisoner, even though Kenna cannot be entirely blamed for the death of her lover. These differences result in injustice for a group, especially women like Kenna because they will feel very disadvantaged and greatly affect their lives because of society's poor judgment about them.

The disadvantages experienced by women like Kenna, who has the status of an ex-prisoner, have made her experience many struggles in her life because her status has made Kenna a criminal. Some of the problem the researcher found against Kenna, the main character in the novel *Reminders of Him*, are not getting custody of their children, not being allowed to meet them, and having difficulty

getting a job. Some of the struggles that Kenna faced occurred due to the different perspectives of society on a man and a woman with the status of an ex-prisoner. The public's perspective has judged that men with ex-prisoner status will be given special treatment. In contrast, women with ex-prisoner status will be immediately branded as bad in any way that is detrimental to them. Relying on post-structuralism feminism, women will be given the freedom to define themselves not according to the views of others. Women want to demand gender equality from society without mutual superiority and give freedom to each individual to express themselves regardless of background.

## 5.2 SUGGESTION

In this study, the novel as a literary work can be analyzed using the new criticism approach and also Post-structural Feminism as has been analyzed by the researcher who discusses the characterization of the main character and also the injustices experienced by the main character who holds the status of an ex-prisoner. In this study, the researcher only analyzed the main character's problems as a woman who experienced injustice due to her ex-prisoner status. Therefore, further researchers can analyze other conflicts in the story using another approach because many aspects of literacy can be used as objects in research. As an example, in terms of the main character's existence as a woman with the status of an ex-prisoner, using the theory of existentialism. The researcher suggests readers read *Reminders of Him* because the novel has an excellent plot and can provide values and life lessons for readers, especially on how to respond to someone with

ex-prisoner status. Likewise, the researcher hopes this research will be helpful and valuable as a reference for further research.





## REFERENCES

- Abraham. M. H. (1999). *A Glossary Of Literary Forms*.
- APA. (n.d.). *APA Dictionary of Psychology*. Retrieved May 14, 2023, from <https://dictionary.apa.org/sociability>
- Apeldoorn, L. J. van, Sadino, O., & Supomo, 1903-1958. (1978). *Pengantar ilmu hukum*.  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Pengantar\\_ilmu\\_hukum.html?hl=id&id=A1csAAAACAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Pengantar_ilmu_hukum.html?hl=id&id=A1csAAAACAAJ)
- Bennet Andrew. (2004). *An introduction to literature criticism and theory (Andrew Bennett, Nicholas Royle) (z-lib.org) (1)*.
- Bjarnason, T. (2009). *Social recognition and employees organizational support: the impact of social recognition on organizational commitment, intent to stay, service effort, and service improvements in an Icelandic service setting* (Issue 37).
- Burroway, J. (2007). *Writing fiction: a guide to narrative craft*. xiv, 433.
- Capaldi, N. (2002). The meaning of ‘equality.’ In *Patients, Power and Responsibility* (Issue 1). <https://doi.org/10.1201/9781315377193-9>
- Davies, B. (2008). Feminism/ Poststructuralism. *ResearchGate*, 318–325.  
<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Susanne-Gannon>
- Dwiputri, S. M. (1997). Pandangan Leo Tolstoy terhadap Wanita. In *Jurnal edisi khusus* (Vol. 2).
- Gill, R. (1995). Mastering English Literature. *Mastering English Literature*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-349-13596-7>
- Hardiyanti, F. N. (2022). *THE LIBERAL FEMINISM VALUES IN WOMEN CHARACTERS BY ALICE HOFFMAN’S THE RED GARDEN THESIS*.
- Hickman, M. B. (2012). Rereading the New Criticism. Introduction. In *Rereading the New Criticism*.
- Hoover, C. (2022). *Reminders of Him*. Montlake, Seattle.
- King, C. K. (2008). *From: Culturol Theory : The Key Thinkers , eds . Andrew Edgar and Peter NliV. January 2008, 9–12*.
- Kobasa, C. S. (1979). Personality Social Psychology. *Archives of Toxicology*, 59(1), 16–20. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00263951>

- Perrine, L. (1974). *Literature: structure, sound, and sense*. 1508.  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Literature\\_Structure\\_Sound\\_and\\_Sense.html?hl=id&id=BOhXAAAAAYAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Literature_Structure_Sound_and_Sense.html?hl=id&id=BOhXAAAAAYAAJ)
- Moelino, Anton M. 1993. *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*. Jakarta: Balai Pustaka.
- Montagu, A. (n.d.). *The Natural Superiority of Women* - Ashley Montagu - Google Buku. Retrieved May 14, 2023, from  
[https://books.google.co.id/books/about/The\\_Natural\\_Superiority\\_of\\_Women.html?id=WiRwzdafGEC&redir\\_esc=y](https://books.google.co.id/books/about/The_Natural_Superiority_of_Women.html?id=WiRwzdafGEC&redir_esc=y)
- Mulyaningrat, D. E. A. S. (2022). *FATAL MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT REFLECTED IN ED BOWIE'S NOVEL NATURAL PREDATORS OF MAN*.
- Murphy, M. J. (1972). *Understanding unseens: an introduction to English poetry and the English novel for overseas students*. 23.  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Understanding\\_Unseens.html?hl=id&id=Cuu\\_HAAACAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Understanding_Unseens.html?hl=id&id=Cuu_HAAACAAJ)
- Nurgiyanto, B. (2007). *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*.
- Prasetyo, B. K. (2010). Jurnal komunitas. *English and Literature Journal*, 7(1), 2.  
<http://journal.unnes.ac.id/nju/index.php/komunitas%5Cnhttp://dx.doi.org/10.15294/komunitas.v7i1.3622>
- Pratiwi, S., Nugraheni, T. W., & Mulyadi. (2021). Potret Perubahan Karakter Ramah dan Percaya Diri pada Anak Usia Sekolah Dasar di Kampung Wisata Pelangi Semarang. *Icee*, 51–59.
- Searle, L. (2018). New Criticism. *ENGL A337 Critical Approaches to Literature*, 3–30. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351049887-1>
- Susanti Aida, Rizqi, A. (2002). *REPRESENTASI UNSUR FEMINISME POST-STRUKTURALIS TOKOH UTAMA "AINUN" PADA FILM HABIBIE & AINUN 3 SERTA POTENSINYA SEBAGAI SUPLEMEN BAHAN AJAR SOSIOLOGI DI SMA*. Pendidikan Sosiologi, 4.
- Tyson, L. (2006). *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide*. Second Edition. In 4 th.
- Wirda, S., & Puwarno. (2019). STRUGGLE I N JUN' ICHI WATANABE' S NOVEL BEYOND THE BLOSSOMING FIELDS Sri Wirda and Purwarno. *Jurnal of Language*, 1(1), 65–77

Agustin, H. (2016). *Pakar: Belum Ada Aturan Ganti Rugi Soal Sudah Dipidana Ternyata Tak Bersalah*. Hukum Online.  
<https://www.hukumonline.com/berita/a/pakar--belum-ada-aturan-ganti-rugi-soal-sudah-dipidana-ternyata-tak-bersalah-lt579f58b720ddb>

