

**FFRIENDSHIP AND BETRAYAL IN JOYA GOFFNEY'S
NOVEL *EXCUSE ME WHILE I UGLY CRY***

THESIS



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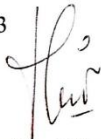
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ABSTRACT

Dita, R. N. C (2025). *Friendship and Betrayal in Joya Goffney's Novel Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: (I) Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M.Hum., (II) Dr. Abu Fanani, S.S., M.Pd.

This study aims to analyze friendship and betrayal in a novel entitled *Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry* by Joya Goffney. This research discusses the dynamics of the main character's friendship, Quinn, which seems ideal but holds potential conflicts. Quinn's most significant conflict is the betrayal committed by her close friend, Destany. The betrayal causes a rift in their relationship and affects Quinn's emotional journey and character growth. This issue is interesting to research because it reflects social realities relevant to teenagers today, especially regarding trust, identity, and self-recovery. This study addresses two issues: first, how the betrayal in Quinn and Destany's friendship is depicted in the novel *Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry*, and second, how the betrayal affects Quinn's life.

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method, applying a textual analysis approach to interpret the themes of friendship and betrayal in the novel *Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry*. The researcher analyzes the elements of friendship and betrayal depicted in the novel using the New Criticism Theory, focusing on intrinsic aspects such as character, characterization, and character development. The data are collected through dialogues and quotations from the novel.

The results of this study show that Quinn and Destany's friendship is close but fragile. Quinn often feels unable to fully be herself, especially in terms of her identity as a black woman. Meanwhile, Destany often takes actions that indirectly reinforce stereotypes and discrimination against Quinn's identity as a black woman. In addition, Destany also betrayed Quinn by spreading the contents of Quinn's journal due to a misunderstanding that was never communicated openly. Destany's betrayal greatly impacts Quinn's life journey and character growth. She let go of her toxic friendship with Destany and started new, healthier friendships with Olivia, Carter, and Auden. In addition, she transforms into a stronger, braver, and more honest person.

Keywords: friendship, betrayal, character development

ABSTRAK

Dita, R. N. C (2025). *Persahabatan dan Pengkhianatan dalam Novel Joya Goffney, Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: (I) Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M.Hum., (II) Dr. Abu Fanani, S.S., M.Pd.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis persahabatan dan pengkhianatan dalam novel berjudul *Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry* karya Joya Goffney. Penelitian ini membahas tentang dinamika persahabatan tokoh utama, Quinn, yang terlihat ideal namun menyimpan potensi konflik. Konflik yang paling signifikan yang dialami Quinn adalah pengkhianatan yang dilakukan oleh teman dekatnya, Destany. Pengkhianatan tersebut menyebabkan keretakan dalam hubungan mereka dan mempengaruhi perjalanan emosi dan pertumbuhan karakter Quinn. Isu ini menarik untuk diteliti karena merefleksikan realitas sosial yang relevan dengan remaja saat ini, terutama mengenai kepercayaan, identitas, dan pemulihan diri. Penelitian ini membahas dua isu: pertama, bagaimana pengkhianatan dalam persahabatan Quinn dan Destany digambarkan dalam novel *Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry*, dan kedua, bagaimana pengkhianatan tersebut mempengaruhi kehidupan Quinn.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, dengan menggunakan pendekatan analisis tekstual untuk menginterpretasikan tema persahabatan dan pengkhianatan dalam novel *Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry*. Peneliti menganalisis elemen-elemen persahabatan dan pengkhianatan yang digambarkan dalam novel dengan menggunakan Teori Kritik Baru, dengan fokus pada aspek-aspek intrinsik seperti karakter dan penokohan. Data dikumpulkan melalui dialog dan kutipan dari novel tersebut.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa persahabatan Quinn dan Destany terlihat dekat namun rapuh. Quinn sering merasa tidak bisa sepenuhnya menjadi dirinya sendiri, terutama dalam hal identitasnya sebagai perempuan kulit hitam. Sementara itu Destany seringkali melakukan tindakan yang secara tidak langsung memperkuat stereotip dan diskriminasi terhadap identitas Quinn sebagai perempuan berkulit hitam. Selain itu, Destany juga mengkhianati Quinn dengan menyebarkan isi jurnal Quinn karena kesalahpahaman yang tidak pernah dikomunikasikan secara terbuka. Pengkhianatan Destany sangat berdampak pada perjalanan hidup dan pertumbuhan karakter Quinn. Ia melepaskan persahabatannya yang penuh racun dengan Destany dan memulai persahabatan baru yang lebih sehat dengan Olivia, Carter, dan Auden. Selain itu, ia bertransformasi menjadi pribadi yang lebih kuat, lebih berani, dan lebih jujur.

Kata Kunci: persahabatan, pengkhianatan, pengembangan karakter

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