

A Literary Darwinian Perspective on the Resilience of Human Relationships in Colleen Hoover's *All Your Perfects*

Roddiyah¹, Gindho Rizano^{2*}, Marliza Yeni³

¹⁻³English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Andalas, Padang, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author's Email: gindhorizano@hum.unand.ac.id

Article History:

Submission: September 08, 2025 | Revision: October 18, 2025 | Accepted: October 25, 2025

Abstract

Background: Human relationships, especially in the context of long-term romantic partnerships, are subject to various survival challenges. In *All Your Perfects* by Colleen Hoover, the characters Quinn and Graham navigate the challenges of infertility through their evolving relationship. Literary Darwinism, inspired by evolutionary psychology, serves as the theoretical foundation to explore the resilience of human relationships. **Aims:** This study employs a literary Darwinian perspective on the resilience of human relationships in the novel *All Your Perfects* by Colleen Hoover, focusing on the challenges of infertility. **Methods:** The research employs qualitative methods to analyze *All Your Perfects* through the lens of literary Darwinism. The study examines the characters' motives for mate selection and their use of imagination as a coping mechanism within the context of infertility. Primary data is drawn from the novel, while secondary data includes sources from evolutionary psychology and literary criticism. **Result:** The study reveals that Quinn and Graham's relationship is anchored in mutual dependence, emotional support, and shared experiences. Despite their infertility, their commitment to each other remains strong, largely due to their ability to navigate challenges through imagination. The characters' evolving perceptions of their relationship highlight how imagination fosters resilience and long-term survival in relationships. **Implication:** This research underscores the importance of understanding human mating preferences and the role of imagination in sustaining relationships, especially in the face of fertility challenges. It suggests that literary Darwinism offers valuable insights into human behaviors, providing a deeper understanding of relationship dynamics in literature. Further research could expand on the application of evolutionary psychology in contemporary romantic literature.

Keywords: Literary Darwinism, Infertility, Human Motives, Imagination, Mate Selection

Introduction

Humans have their own particular reasons or criteria for seeking partners, especially when looking for long-term partners through marriage. Basically, the discovery of that kind of partner can occur due to sexual attraction between two humans, which originates from human sexual preferences. Then, the value of reproductive success is to give birth to offspring that appear as a product of adaptation in humans. Furthermore, human preferences are shaped to address adaptive problems related to survival, as the primary purpose of life, since the inception of human civilization, has been to survive and reproduce successfully. Therefore, it is not questioned anymore that as humans, we need to have certain criteria for finding a partner to survive because mating is strategic and the strategies are used to solve specific problems to achieve successful mating (Buss, 2016:6). In fact, the mechanism for the development of human adaptive goals is the

DOI: 10.70036/cltls.v2i4.219

ISSN 3030-3664 (online), <https://citrus.buxdu.uz/>, published by Bukhara State University

Copyright © Author (s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY)

same as the evolution of psychology, which means that evolutionary psychology influences the human brain to respond to various things adaptively. Additionally, literature is a significant factor that influences the human brain.

According to Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in their book *Theory of Literature* (1973), literature serves as a reflection of human life, as it portrays human feelings, thoughts, and perceptions. The literary theory that simultaneously examines human nature in evolutionary psychology and literature is called literary Darwinism. According to Joseph Carroll in his book entitled *Reading Human Nature: Literary Darwinism in Theory and Practice* (2011), literary Darwinism has emerged as the most dynamic new movement in literary study in the past few years. Literary Darwinism generally examines human motives related to survival through fictional characters, such as those found in novels, and posits that these motives are the fundamental life goals that influence human behavior (Carroll, 2011:157).

Many literary works emphasize the survival of complex love relationships in human life, providing readers with valuable lessons about human resilience in overcoming and finding solutions to the problems they face. In Darwinian literary studies, resilience refers to the capacity of a fictional character to adapt and survive over time, similar to what species do in Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. In the context of literary works, resilience can refer to the defense of human relationships, such as in the contemporary romantic novel *All Your Perfects*, written by Colleen Hoover. *All Your Perfects* is a novel that explores the challenges of a marriage facing an uphill battle. The story revolves around the theme of survival in a marriage, exploring how its characters, Quinn and Graham, navigate their relationship through adversity. Quinn and Graham's marriage is tested as they struggle with infertility and the emotional toll it takes on them.

The novel *All Your Perfects* has been discussed in numerous reviews. The first is from the review of Saimah Haque on the website *Off the Shelf*, entitled "Colleen Hoover's All Your Perfects is an Emotional Roller Coaster", which was published in 2018. In the review, she acknowledged that Colleen beautifully weaves a story in the past and present that shows the emotional roller coaster that exists in a marriage, wherein the story describes the narrative of what happens after "happily ever after." She explains that the novel describes how Graham and Quinn fall in love and then how they face obstacles that threaten their marriage after 7 years (Haque, 2018).

A review from Amy Alessio entitled *All Your Perfects*, which was published on the website Booklist in 2018. In the review, Amy noted that although the details of infertility are very realistic, the sadness cannot detract from the heartwarming love story, as the two find their way back together after being on the brink of divorce. With the evocative style of Hoover, readers will feel the emotions of this story while sympathizing with Quinn and Graham, who each made mistakes. The insensitive comments from others and the pain of her siblings' repeated pregnancies highlight their difficult journey very clearly. Amy said that many stories about infertility end with a miracle baby, but the novel *All Your Perfects* was different, and it was refreshing to know that Hoover took a different approach (Alessio, 2018).

In general, the novel *All Your Perfects* by Colleen Hoover, Quinn and Graham, the main characters in the story, fail to have children of their own because of Quinn's infertility. Not only that, they even fail to adopt the child because of Graham's past criminal record. These

shortcomings do not miraculously lead to the end of their marriage in divorce; instead, they can resolve their adaptive problems. In the end, they decide to continue a long-term relationship and choose to live together until they grow old, surrounded by their loved ones, in the hope of being happier. Selecting the right partner is what ultimately helps build the resilience of their relationship and provides a meaningful narrative to their lives after they have gone through many problems. In this study, the writers explore the basic human motives behind seeking a long-term mate and the role of imagination in the main characters, Quinn and Graham, in the novel. Hence, the writer aims to determine the reasons why choosing the right partner and utilizing imagination can enhance human resilience in the face of difficulty.

Literary Darwinism was inspired and emerged from evolutionary Psychology. Evolutionary psychology is a theoretical approach that examines issues of cognition and behavior from a modern evolutionary perspective. The main goal of this new discipline is to understand the mechanisms of the human mind/brain from an evolutionary perspective (Buss, 2015:3). After the existence of evolutionary Psychology, the Evolution of Desire appeared, which was popularized by David Buss, who is related to literary Darwinism, especially about human motives in looking for their mate. This field has witnessed a significant surge in new scientific research related to human mating and has garnered considerable attention. This theory provides a new perspective regarding why humans find certain traits and mates attractive, why humans cheat, and provides a fairly comprehensive picture of men's and women's sexual strategies.

More precisely, literary Darwinism is a combination of literary criticism and evolutionary studies, such as evolutionary psychology and the evolution of Desire, which argue that biological organs and the human mind have evolved through adaptive processes using natural selection. Likewise, literature, in particular, is the result of the evolution of the mind and reflects the species' adaptation to the world. Literature, narrative, and fiction contribute to human survival and can also be understood as media in which human nature is reflected, such as producing offspring, avoiding danger, gaining power, and making alliances; these are the basic themes in literary works (Rizano & Yeni, 2022:65).

Besides that, literary Darwinism also examines the meaning of literary works, such as novels, by looking at motives in cultural contexts and other aspects through experiences. Joseph Carroll divided basic human motives into twelve parts: 1) Survival (fending off imminent physical danger or privation), 2) Finding a short-term romantic partner, 3) Finding or keeping a spouse, 4) Gaining or keeping wealth, 5) Gaining or keeping power, 6) Gaining or keeping prestige, 7) Obtaining education or culture, 8) Making friends and forming alliances, 9) Nurturing, 10) Aiding non-kin, 11) Building, creating, or discovering something, 12) Performance routine task to gain a live hood (Carroll, 2011:157).

Species vary in life span, in certain species, the organization of basic biological processes will form a typical "life history" pattern and form the human life cycle as reproductive needs. Joseph Carroll does not specifically mention the human life cycle in his book, but he mentions it clearly through his lecture entitled "The Evolutionary Foundations of Literature" in 2017 and divides the human life cycle into seven parts: 1) Survival, 2) Growing up, 3) Sex and Love, 4) Family, 5) Community, 6) Alien and Enemies, 7) The life of the Mind ("The Evolutionary

Foundations of Literature”). The lives of characters in literary works and real life often face a similar cycle, from survival to encounters with aliens and enemies. Then, there is an interesting cycle to examine: imagination or the life of the mind, which greatly influences human survival, including the resilience of romantic relationships.

The life of the mind is a form of evolutionary psychology that involves thinking about oneself and others, which can occur simply by sitting quietly without expending energy, allowing the brain to work unconsciously. This is the key to autobiographical memory, specifically the reflection on the past, projection into the future, and the perspective of others. The term “the life of the mind” was then developed by Carroll into a broad discussion, which was then called “imagination.” All of human actions occur within an imaginative structure that includes people’s vision of the world and place in the world, internal conflicts and concerns, relationships with the world and other people, relationships with nature, and whatever spiritual forces are being imagined (Carroll, 2011:28). In his article entitled “Imagination, the Brain’s Default Mode Network, and Imaginative Verbal Artifacts” in 2020, Joseph Carroll mentioned that imagination has three cores of processes named simulation, mental time travel, and perspective-taking.

Simulation is the basis for both mental time travel and perspective-taking. Simulation is widely understood as a prerequisite form of “representation” for all imaginative experiences. This activity involves projecting future scenarios and imagining what others think, which requires a person to have a mental representation (Carroll, 2020:38). Mental time travel forms the basis for conscious awareness of personal identity as a continuous stream of experiences over time. Mental time travel is a simulation that can be captured on film. Mental time travel utilizes episodic memory to comprehend the current scenario and construct possible future events (Carroll, 2020:38). The latter, perspective-taking, forms the basis for an imaginative awareness of other people as conscious agents driven by desires, fears, thoughts, and beliefs. It assumes that humans are ultra-social and therefore need to negotiate the human social environment by imagining other people’s perspectives, including understanding their beliefs and values, responding to their feelings, anticipating their thoughts, and evaluating their motives (Carroll, 2020:39).

Ultimately, the Perspective of Literary Darwinism and the role of evolutionary studies can help deepen the analysis of the novel *All Your Perfects* by Colleen Hoover. The purpose of this study is to reveal the human motives behind seeking mating criteria to maintain a relationship with an infertile partner, as described in the Quinn and Graham relationship. This research also presents another important aspect that influences the resilience of Quinn and Graham’s relationship, namely the role of the characters’ imagination function. In fact, the result of imagination is hypothesized to have an impact on the resilience of husband-and-wife relationships to changes in behavior that pursue a happier life, even without children, which will result in a higher chance of survival and successful reproduction. In consequence, the writers believe that Colleen Hoover formed the main character in the novel to illustrate that long-term relationships with the right partner can help humans survive despite difficult situations.

Method

DOI: 10.70036/cltls.v2i4.219

ISSN 3030-3664 (online), <https://citrus.buxdu.uz/>, published by Bukhara State University

Copyright © Author (s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY)

In conducting this study, the writers use qualitative methods. The qualitative method is used to understand people's beliefs, experiences, attitudes, behaviors, and interactions. This method is suitable for presenting this research since the qualitative method looks into the meaning, perspective, and motivation, typically has a small sample, and focuses on historical documentation, observation, etc. (Pathak & Kalra, 2013:1). The qualitative method is for information that cannot be counted or easily expressed using numbers because it consists of texts that involve a detailed understanding of the complexity and context of the research (Hox & Boeji, 2005:593). Therefore, the writers use the qualitative method because the analysis of literary Darwinism in *All Your Perfects* has a high level of complexity and understanding of the research context.

In conducting this study, the authors also employ the library research method, supplemented by primary and secondary data. Generally, library research is an investigation that the writer can control from start to finish. Like scientific experiments, library research is a structured form of inquiry that employs specific tools, rules, and techniques (George, 2008:1). In a general sense, the library research method is a process for achieving reliable solutions to problems through planned and methodical data collection, analysis, and interpretation of literature sources. This research comprises two sources of data: primary data and secondary data. Primary data are original data collected for a specific purpose, whereas secondary data are collected for different purposes (Hox & Boeij, 2005:593). The primary data used in this research is the novel *All Your Perfects* by Colleen Hoover. Meanwhile, the secondary data in this research is taken from several evolutionary psychology books, Darwinian literary books, journals, and online articles that support an understanding of topics related to literary Darwinism.

In this data analysis, the writers first read the entire novel to understand each hidden meaning contained in the novel *All Your Perfects* by Colleen Hoover, which related to the research questions and research objectives. Then, the writer searches for and identifies the human motives regarding mating selection in the novel. Apart from that, the writer analyzes the literary work using literary Darwinism and focuses on how the mating criteria for Quinn and Graham to be able to retain their marriage and imagination in influencing the resilience of human relationships in the novel. Lastly, since this study uses qualitative methods, the results of this study will be presented descriptively through a series of words or sentences.

Results

A. Mating Criteria and Problems in Quinn and Graham's Relationship

Human preferences (criteria) for the success of mating stem from the idea of sexual selection in evolutionary biology, which then developed into the field of evolutionary psychology and literary Darwinism. According to literary Darwinism, men generally look for features of psychical appearance and features of behavior in women because these two things are considered the main factors determining women's reproductive values (Buss, 2015:139). On the other hand, women tend to be more complicated when choosing a partner because they have far more criteria than men. Women often look for potential resources, social or economic status, emotional support, love, kindness, commitment in a long-term relationship, and so on as proof of a man's suitability as an investment product for their offspring. Hence, Colleen Hoover, through her novel *All Your Perfects*, presents Quinn and Graham's romantic relationship along the journey of the twists and turns of their marriage.

1. Basic Mating Criteria for Quinn and Graham

DOI: 10.70036/cltls.v2i4.219

ISSN 3030-3664 (online), <https://cltrus.buxdu.uz/>, published by Bukhara State University

Copyright © Author (s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License

(CC BY)

As a male, Graham clearly shows his attraction to Quinn's physical attractiveness, primarily her beautiful face. Graham once said that his ex-girlfriend, Sasha, was ugly and indirectly told Quinn that she did not have to worry about things like insecurity. On the other hand, at every opportunity, Graham always admires Quinn's beauty, "*I immediately turned around to go change, but he grabbed me and told me I looked really beautiful*" (15). Besides that, Graham also adores Quinn's smile and Quinn's other physique; he praises Quinn's smooth skin and how stunning she looks (Hoover, 2018:206). The illustration indirectly reveals that Quinn is still young, which in literary Darwinism is considered a characteristic of a woman who has reproductive health. Graham also admires Quinn, who in the story is described as a dependable woman, meaning that Quinn has the quality of always being by her partner's side in both joy and sorrow. Lastly, Graham really adores the characteristics of Quinn, who is full of kindness. This is proved by how Quinn treats him when they visit Quinn's mother's house.

As a female, Quinn exhibits the criteria for her partner in Graham, which are largely the same as those in literary Darwinism. Graham is a kind and dependable man. Graham is always there for Quinn and encourages her when they are both cheated on by their respective partners. Despite the fact that in literary Darwinism, women tend to determine men based on wealth, prestige, and power, Quinn does not prioritize it all because women have more complex criteria for their partners (Buss, 2016:32). Even though Graham is not clearly depicted as a wealthy person, he is not unemployed and does not have a job. He is a responsible man who works as an accountant for a company downtown (Hoover, 2018:88). Graham is also not a prestigious figure and lacks power, but he is honorable, intelligent, and has a genuine heart (Hoover, 2018:87).

Besides, Quinn loves Graham because of his actions that indicate his love for her. The act of love demonstrates a partner's commitment to a long-term relationship and plays a crucial role in sustaining relationships, regardless of the circumstances (Buss, 2016:60). Quinn admires Graham's character, who consistently shows attention and displays acts of love towards Quinn in every situation. She feels that only Graham is able to make her feel loved and admired by the way he looks at and talks to her (Hoover, 2018:72). In addition, Quinn is impressed by how Graham willingly makes her bed (Hoover, 2018:45). Furthermore, most of Graham's acts of love are proven through emotional support. Emotional support is another form of love that indicates commitment in a long-term relationship (Buss, 2016:59). In this case, Quinn is impressed by Graham, who consistently supports her and advises her not to focus too much on her insecurities after what Ethan did (Hoover, 2018:118). In some conditions, Quinn also loves Graham's physical character, who is not only handsome but also strong with good body shape (Hoover, 2018:74). The appearance and physical characteristics of a man identify their ability to protect their partner (Buss, 2016:54). However, after all, their successful mating is not only based on basic mating criteria, but also problems arise in their marriage.

2. Mating Problem and Specific Criteria for Retaining Their Marriage in an Infertile Condition

The basic mating criteria mentioned above are not sufficient to guarantee successful mating in human relationships. There is an important aspect that has always been human nature in establishing a relationship called reproductive success. The advantage of a long-term committed relationship with one female is increased survival through reproductive success (Buss, 2016, p.

DOI: 10.70036/cltls.v2i4.219

ISSN 3030-3664 (online), <https://cltls.buxdu.uz/>, published by Bukhara State University

Copyright © Author (s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License

(CC BY)

71). In this case, Quinn and Graham fail to have offspring or biological children because of Quinn's infertility. However, they eventually decide to stay together and retain their marriage because of other specific criteria or motives that can be taken into consideration.

The first similarity is that Quinn and Graham share. The search for similarity in a mate in evolutionary psychology and literary Darwinism can help humans solve their adaptive problems (Buss, 2016:52). Both Quinn and Graham have the same reproductive success conditions. Quinn, who is infertile, of course, will not be able to produce biological offspring, but Graham, even though in the story he can be categorized as a man who has absolutely no health problems, he plays a role in thwarting the desire to adopt a child as a replacement for their offspring because of his past criminal record. This similarity enables them to support each other and cooperate for mutual benefits (Buss, 2019:258). The second one is the character that Quinn has. She has stable emotions and high maturity in dealing with problems, which is considered the most valued preference or criterion in a partner (Buss, 2016:47). Although Quinn is often described as a woman who is always covered in sadness and depression because of her condition, she never vents her emotions to other people. She can still remain calm and relaxed when she looks after Caroline's daughter. This demonstrates that Quinn exhibits a mature and selfless trait towards the Graham family (Hoover, 2018:214). Seeing Quinn's closeness to his family, Graham is increasingly determined to retain his marriage despite Quinn's condition. This is because by retaining their marriage, they will be able to solve other important adaptive problems, such as maintaining kin networks, cooperation, and alliances.

As with Graham, Quinn also has specific mating criteria that lead her to decide to retain their marriage despite Graham's shortcomings and infidelity. Quinn loves Graham's attitude, which always provides her with energy, time, effort, and material resources. In literary Darwinism, women tend to look for men who provide resources and avoid men who do not provide them any resources (Buss, 2016:37). In this case, Graham always uses all his efforts and energy to make Quinn forget everything about her infertility. He also provides material resources to Quinn, and regardless of what happens to their household, Graham continues to go to work to meet their household needs (Hoover, 2018:147).

B. The Role of Imagination in Influencing the Resilience of Human Relationships in Colleen Hoover's *All Your Perfects*

In long-term relationships, humans tend to have several criteria for finding the right partner, ensuring that the mating can last a long time. However, the basic criteria, both general mating criteria and specific mating criteria in finding and retaining a partner, cannot fully guarantee the success or resilience of human relationships, especially in infertile conditions such as Quinn and Graham's relationship. Upon analyzing the story in depth, it becomes clear that the character's imagination also has a significant impact on the resilience of their relationship. This imagination leads to the construction of the human brain through experiences with a partner in the past, which can affect the life and sustainability of long-term relationships even in difficult conditions. The role of this imagination is then slowly able to foster behavior change in the form of personality improvement.

1. The Benefits of Imagination on the Resilience of Quinn and Graham's Relationships

The story between Quinn and Graham begins with their accidental meeting in the past, which leads them to share the same sad and happy memories that continue to accompany their love story until they reach the level of marriage. At first, Quinn and Graham met in an incident in the past due to the affair of their respective partners in Quinn's ex-fiancé's apartment. This incident made Graham consider Quinn as his savior and assume that, being together with Quinn, he would be fine no matter what would happen in the future, *"When your presence somehow brought me to the brink of smiling during the worst moment in my life, that I know everything would be fine"* (209). Besides that, the success of Graham and Quinn in creating good memories together in the past certainly has an impact on the resilience of their future relationships, especially for Graham. This is because he continues to process beautiful memories in his mind that make him decide to continue to commit to staying with Quinn.

In fact, Graham is a character who struggles the most to retain their marriage by always doing simulations to anticipate the storm that will occur in their marriage. This can be proven through his efforts to make a wooden box in his father's garage a few years ago and fill out several love letters he wrote to Quinn. The wooden box is successful in becoming their marriage survival kit or a game system that can save their marriage. The initiative to write the letter stemmed from a process of mental time travel, where Graham continually evaluated his memory, which had failed him in his previous relationship with Sasha and his current state with Quinn, to anticipate all the potential problems they might face in their future marriage. Graham creates the wooden box containing the letters as part of a game system with several rules that both parties must follow. The regulation stipulates that they are allowed to open the wooden box only at two fundamental times: before their 25th wedding anniversary and when their marriage is on the verge of collapse. They will also open the box in the event of a relationship emergency, such as divorce (Hoover, 2018, p. 201). Through that letter, Graham wants Quinn to do the same thing, which is to always remember their perfect days *"But just as I want you to remember the perfect days, I should probably talk a little about our not perfect days too"* (212).

Graham also constructs a simulation in his own mind regarding Quinn's fear. He discovers what makes Quinn uncomfortable around people who prompt him to subconsciously meditate on the perspective-taking method. As a result, Graham enters Quinn's inner thoughts and understands her fear of questions about children. Additionally, Graham always relies fully on the system they have made for their marriage survival kit. Briefly, the letters in the wooden box are a real form of the product of imagination, because all things human include the result of human imagination (Carroll, 2011) which is the results of the construction beautiful memories in Graham's mind.

2. The Benefits of Imagination in Changing Behavior and the Meaning of Life for Quinn and Graham

The life of Graham's mind, as reflected in the happy and bad memories contained in the letters, managed to make their love struggle not in vain. The evaluated memories prompt Graham and Quinn to finally change their behavior, leading to self-improvement and a newfound understanding of life's meaning, which serves as their motivation to become better versions of themselves as human beings.

In the beginning, Quinn thinks that a successful marriage and a happy ending for couples is a marriage where there are biological children, "The thought of us becoming parents fills me

DOI: 10.70036/cltls.v2i4.219

ISSN 3030-3664 (online), <https://citrus.buxdu.uz/>, published by Bukhara State University

Copyright © Author (s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License

(CC BY)

with an overwhelming amount of love for him” (229). Through the letter that Graham writes, Quinn engages in perspective-taking by considering Graham’s perspective and attempting to understand Graham’s thoughts about their situation. She then realizes how great Graham’s determination and belief in the resilience of the couple are depicted in the category of 5 moments — that no matter how many problems approach them in marriage, it would still be less than the perfect days that would pass (Hoover, 2018:210). After evaluating Graham’s perspective and motive for continuing to retain their marriage, Quinn’s mind began to build the same determination. In short, Quinn, who was initially pessimistic about the continuity of their marriage, began to feel optimistic that they would find happiness together. Then, Quinn, who was initially obsessed with being a mother, began to change his views after reading Graham’s letter. She apparently had another desire before being dominated by the desire to become a mother, which was the desire to become a writer, to see the world, and learn a new language (Hoover, 2018:235). Starting from there, Quinn has become a person with self-confidence and dares to face her fears regarding people’s questions about children.

Evaluating how frustrated they were to retain their marriage while on the verge of divorce due to infertility and infidelity issues left a positive impression on Graham and Quinn’s minds. Graham begins to realize how good and generous Quinn is, still willing to forgive his mistakes, which makes him believe that he has married the right partner. Besides that, Quinn even begins to follow Graham’s survival method by writing a letter in the wooden box to her husband, and she will open it for the right reason.

Overall, the gloom of their lives, which always focuses on the issue of infertility, allows them to find the meaning of life and contributes a lot to the resilience of their marriage. Quinn and Graham begin to love and appreciate every little child around them, and also really love pets. They even adopt a puppy and take care of him like their own child by treating him like a human baby, “*Guess who used the bathroom twice so his daddy and mommy can get a few hours of sleep?*” (245).

The concept of imagination also makes them realize the true meaning of life by staying together. By staying together, they can build companionship and establish cooperative relationships in facing life’s problems amid infertile conditions, as they will focus more on themselves without any external bonds. Without children to tie them down, they will be free to move wherever they wish (Hoover, 2018:235). Quinn and Graham gracefully accept the conditions of being childless in their marriage, because, after all, being childless by these conditions actually allows them to find other valuable life meanings, such as loving children more, loving animals, and others.

Conclusion

As a couple that represents a long-term relationship, Quinn and Graham have successfully illustrated human relationships that have achieved success in terms peace and happiness. They both appreciate the intrinsic value that exists in each other, such as dependability, intelligence, kindness, and so on. As a couple, they also emphasize the similarities in marital problems, called failure in reproductive success (unable to have children), which led them to be able to work together and understand each other. Even though neither of them has offspring, whether biological or adopted, they can survive by relying on the life of the mind to achieve self-improvement and behavioral changes. In this field, imagination is a human activity in meditation to anticipate life, especially in

the future. In this case, Graham demonstrates that long-term relationships often necessitate a system or marriage survival kit to anticipate and address marital problems. The results of this imagination make Graham's struggle, which is greater than Quinn's, not in vain, when Quinn finally chooses to retain their marriage and make changes in behavior and self-improvement.

A marriage relationship without children presents challenges for Quinn and Graham. However, it also leads to something commendable, where they appreciate life and can live in companionship because they focus solely on the happiness of both of them, without anything binding them, such as children. Generally, this study provides an understanding for readers, especially those who have the same problems, about how important it is to apply the principles of evolutionary psychology to life, both in terms of mating criteria and the role of imagination to get a better life, and understanding that life is not only for reproduction, but also for companionship.

Originality Statement

The author declares that this article is their own work and to the best of their knowledge it contains no materials previously published or written by another person, or substantial proportions of material which have been accepted for publication in any other published materials, except where due acknowledgment is made in the article. Any contribution made to the research by others, with whom the authors have worked, is explicitly acknowledged in the article.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare that this article was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Copyright Statement

Copyright © Authors. This article is published under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license. Anyone may reproduce, distribute, translate, and create derivative works of this article (for both commercial and non-commercial purposes), subject to full attribution to the original publication and authors. The full terms of this license may be seen at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>

References

- Abrams, M. H., & Harpham, G. G. (2009). *A glossary of literary terms* (9th ed.). Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- Alessio, A. (2018, June 1). Colleen Hoover's *All Your Perfects* is an emotional roller coaster. *Booklist*, 114(19–20), 47+. Gale Academic OneFile. Retrieved November 11, 2023, from <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A546287543/AONE?u=anon~61cc1969&sid=googleScholar&xid=d3070243>
- Buss, D. M. (2015). *Evolutionary psychology: The new science of the mind* (5th ed.). Pearson.
- Buss, D. M. (2016). *The evolution of desire: Strategies of human mating*. Basic Books.
- Carroll, J. (2020). Imagination, the brain's default mode network, and imaginative verbal artifacts. In *Evolutionary perspective on imaginative culture* (pp. 31-47).
- Carroll, J. (2011). *Reading human nature: Literary Darwinism theory and practice*. Sunny Press.
- Haque, S. (2018, September). Colleen Hoover's *All Your Perfects* is an emotional roller coaster. *Off the Shelf*. Retrieved November 10, 2023, from <https://offtheshelf.com/2018/09/Colleen-Hoovers-all-your-perfects-is-an-emotional-roller-coaster>

- Hoover, C. (2018). *All your perfects*. Atria Books.
- Hox, J. J., & Boeij, H. R. (2005). Data collection, primary vs. secondary. In *Encyclopedia of social measurement* (pp. 593-599). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/BO-12-369398-5/00041-4>
- George, M. W. (2008). *The element of literary research: What every student needs to know*. Princeton University Press.
- Pathak, V., Jena, B., & Kalra, S. (2013). Qualitative research. *Perspective in Clinical Research*, 4(3), 192-194. <https://doi.org/10.4103/2229-3485.115389>
- Rizano, G., & Yeni, M. (2022). An overview of Darwinian literary studies: A new science-based approach to literature. *Vivid Journal of Language and Literature*, 11(1), 65-69.
- Smith, J. (2006). Review of *Literary Darwinism: Evolution, human nature, and literature*. *Victorian Studies*, 48(3), 573-574. <https://doi.org/10.1353/vic.2006.0138>
- Taherdoost, H. (2021). Data collection methods and tools for research: A step-by-step guide to choose data collection technique for academic and business research projects. *International Journal of Academic Research in Management*, 10(1), 10-38. <https://hal-03741847>
- Taylor, R. (1981). *Understanding the elements of literature*. St. Martin's Press.
- Wellek, R., & Warren, A. (1973). *Theory of literature*. Penguin Books.
- Western Civilization, Texas Tech University. (2023, November 11). *The evolutionary foundations of literature*—Joseph Carroll. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epxToSYYP0s&t=2097s>