

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

One of the famous novels in the world is *Where We belong* by Emily Giffin. The novel was released by St. Martin's Press on July 24, 2012. The author of five blockbuster novels, Emily Giffin, delivers an unforgettable story of two women, the families that make them who they are, and the longing, loyalty and love that bind them together. The story simultaneously covers the lives of Kirby Rose and Marian Caldwell, two completely different people who have one very important thing in common. *Where We Belong* follows the story of two women, Marian Caldwell, a 36 year old TV producer in New York, and 18 year old Kirby, a high school senior in St. Louis who are bound by a secret. *Where We Belong* is a 2012 New York Times bestselling chick-lit novel by Emily Giffin. *Where We Belong* has been optioned to become a film, with Giffin serving as producer. The book is narrated partly through the perspective of Kirby Rose, and is Giffin's first novel with a teenager as a main character.

Emily Giffin is a graduate of Wake Forest University and the University of Virginia School of Law. After practicing litigation at a Manhattan firm for several years, she moved to London to write full time. The author of five *New York Times* bestselling novels, *Something Borrowed*, *Something Blue*, *Baby Proof*, *Love the One You're With*,

and *Heart of the Matter*, she now lives in Atlanta with her husband and three young children.

Where We Belong has two heroines: Marian Caldwell, a successful television producer who gave up a child for adoption when she was eighteen, and Kirby Rose, the girl Marian gave away, now eighteen herself who bound by a secret. The book is narrated partly through the perspective of Kirby Rose, and is Giffin's first novel with a teenager as a main character.

Kirby is a disaffected teen, envious of the attention her sister (her parents' biological child, born after they adopted Kirby) gets. She wonders who her biological parents were after overhearing her parents worrying about what kind of people may have conceived her.

Kirby's appearance on Marian's doorstep is unexpected. Marian hasn't met Kirby since she gave her away, and though she left her contact information with the adoption agency, she has never told anyone but her mother about her pregnancy. That she kept it secret from Peter (Marian's boy friend), from her own father, and from Kirby's biological father makes it hard for her to cope with Kirby's reappearance in her life.

After Kirby met Marian, she met her biological father, Conrad. When Marian and Kirby met Conrad, Peter has left Marian. What will happen after Kirby met her biological parents, it's very interesting. This novel is full of secret.

Where We Belong is very early by fans of Emily. In general, *Where We Belong* is interesting, but quick and light. Nothing overly complicated or

deep. Even if all problems aren't solved, by the end of the book, the reader knows that everyone is going to be okay. But that isn't a bad thing, if you know what you are getting into.

Many readers still really appreciate Giffin's willingness to move away from the typical love-triangle plot and tackle a slightly more messy, nuanced situation.

Where We Belong receives enthusiastic reception from the readers, mostly it receives good responses, for example:

Seattle Times said that Emily Giffin's *WHERE WE BELONG* is a literary Rorschach test. The book, while thoroughly entertaining, will also prod readers to examine choices they've made in their lives. It will compel them to muse about things they'd like to do over, to do differently, to do better and gracefully examines themes of identity, family and forgiveness.

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/where-we-belong-emily-giffin/1107039077#product-commentaries-1>

The analysis is focused on the past experience of the main character which is known as Marian Caldwell. There are four reasons why the writer is interested in studying this novel; first is because it is a big novel from New York Times Bestselling Author (Emily Giffin). Second is because it is an emotionally powerful story. Third is this novel tells the story of youth. Fourth is because this novel tells about the legacy of adoption.

The first reason, *Where We Belong* is a big novel from New York Times Bestselling Author (Emily Giffin). *Where We Belong* is a 2012 New York Times bestselling chick-lit novel by Emily Giffin. The novel was

released by St. Martin's Press on July 24, 2012. The author of five blockbuster novels, Emily Giffin, delivers an unforgettable story of two women, Marian Caldwell, a 36 years old TV producer in New York, and 18 years old Kirby, a high school senior in St. Louis who are bound by a secret. The families that make them who they are, and the longing, loyalty and love that binds them together.

The second reason, *Where We Belong* is an emotionally powerful story. Giffin combines highly conceptual plots, innovative story structure, and spectacular character-development into each of her novels. *Where We Belong* is an emotionally powerful story that will ring true with women who have given a child away and with those who grew up wondering where they came from. Giffin may be working with a premise and plot that is fairly simple, but there's nothing lightweight about the emotional turbulence she creates. *Where We Belong* is a deeply absorbing novel and even has some romantic moments. The emotional center of the books is Marian and her journey, rather than Kirby's. This is a book about the importance of being truthful, both with others as well as with oneself. *Where We Belong* is Giffin writing at her best. It's especially good because of the heightened emotional stakes that come along with parenthood as the story's primary relationship.

The third reason, this novel tells the story of youth. The book is narrated partly through the perspective of Kirby Rose, and is Giffin's first novel with a teenager as a main character. There is an interesting contrast

between the teenage Kirby and the teenage Marian, shown through flashbacks. Marian had a better sense of direction than Kirby as a teen, she was less willing to express her individuality and more eager to please other people, especially her parents. Kirby is a disaffected teen, envious of the attention her sister (her parents' biological child, born after they adopted Kirby) gets. She wonders who her biological parents were.

The fourth reason, this novel tells about the legacy of adoption. Emily says she knew early on that the book would be about belonging. Inspired by the power of secrets - when it's justified to keep them and how they change us - she chose to explore those themes through the secretive circumstances of an adoption.

The writer uses the psychoanalytic criticism theory as an approach to analyze this novel, because psychoanalytic criticism theory is the most appropriate theory which discusses social historical background. There are many problems for Marian Caldwell, one of them is her past experience, that appears in this novel, which relates to her secret in her life. So, the writer gives the title : **THE INFLUENCE OF PAST EXPERIENCE ON PERSONALITY REFLECTED IN EMILY GIFFIN'S *WHERE WE BELONG* NOVEL (2012) : A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM.**

B. Literature Review

There is literature review related to *Where We Belong* (2012) novel written by Emily Giffin that researcher got in another country. He is Sue Corbett, in his article published on July 30, 2012, entitled “adoption fiction”. He told about Kirby Rose who finally knows that her parents who have taken care of her until she grows up apparently are not her biological parents. There is no literature review related to *Where We Belong* (2012) novel written by Emily Giffin at least among university in Central Java such as UMS, UNS, etc. Probably, because the novel was released by St. Martin's Press on July 24, 2012 so still a few Indonesian people who read this novel and use this novel as an object. The writer uses psychoanalytic criticism to analyze the data and using *Where We Belong* novel as an object.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of the study, the writer proposes the problem:

How is the influence of past experience on personality reflected in Emily Giffin's *Where We Belong* Novel (2012) using psychoanalytic criticism?

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research on analyzing the influence of past experience on personality reflected in Emily Giffin's *Where We Belong Novel* (2012) based on a psychoanalytic criticism.

E. Objective of the Study

In carrying this research the writer formulates the objectives of the study as follow:

To analyze the influence of past experience on personality reflected in Emily Giffin's *Where We Belong Novel* (2012) using a psychoanalytic criticism.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of this study will be distinguished into two benefits:

1. Theoretical benefits

The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and contribution the development of the knowledge, an academic reference by other researchers to conduct further research and particularly the literary studies on *Where We Belong* novel.

2. Practical benefit

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another university who have interest with literary study on the novel from a Psychoanalytic Criticism.

G. Research Method

There are five points related to research method. There are type of the study, object of the study, type of the data and data sources, technique of the data collection and technique of the data analysis. Those parts can be understood by the explanation below.

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer used library study. It is library research while data sources are using literary data. Library research begins when the writer needs information to solve a problem, to fulfill her purposes (to collect materials for use in intensive research projects). This is because all of the sources (the written sources) can be obtained from library and other website. To analyze the influence of past experience on personality, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative method.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is the influence of past experience on personality reflected in Emily Giffins *Where We Belong* novel (2012). It is analyzed by using a psychoanalytic criticism.

3. Type of the Data and Data Source

There are two data sources that are needed to do this research, namely: primary data sources and secondary data sources. Primary data sources is *Where We Belong* novel (2012) written by Emily Giffin.

Then, secondary data sources are other sources related the study, such as library, website, bookstore, dictionary, some books that support the analysis.

4. Technique of Data Collection

The methods of collecting data are novel and note taking. She gets some data by reading the novel, reading the synopsis of the novel, determining the character that will be analyzed, taking note of important thing both primary and secondary data source, classifying and determining the relevant data, browsing on internet to search information, etc. From all data, she takes note in important parts and uses in her research paper.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with structural elements of the novel on the influence of past experience on personality reflected in Emily Giffin's *Where We Belong* novel (2012).

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of "The Influence of Past Experience on Personality Reflected in Emily Giffin's *Where We Belong* Novel (2012)" is as follows:

Chapter I is introduction, which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective

of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and research paper organization.

Chapter II comprises of the underlying theory, which presents the notion of psychoanalytic, structure of psychoanalytic, structural elements of the novel, and theoretical application.

Chapter III deals with structural elements of the novel that will be analyzed. Those are character and characterization, setting, plot, points of view, theme, and style.

Chapter IV deals with the main analysis. After having prior knowledge of the story, the reader can focus on the influence of past experience on personality reflected in Emily Giffin's *Where We Belong* novel (2012)

Chapter V is the last chapter. After analyzing the influence of past experience on personality reflected in Emily Giffin's *Where We Belong* novel (2012), the researcher will write the conclusion about her analysis and suggestion for the novel. Conclusion consists of her conclusion about the influence of past experience on personality reflected in Emily Giffin's *Where We Belong* novel (2012). Then suggestion is her advice to the readers about the approach they can apply in their research if they are interested in analyzing *Where We Belong* novel (2012).