

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Falling in love is miracle and wonderful, when the feeling is mutual, it is like heaven on earth. The researcher shows this love to whoever cares. However, people think being too affectionate in public is not the best way to express love, as it shows a lack of general etiquette that some people may find distasteful. When you and your main squeeze make out in front of people, they are likely to feel uncomfortable. Especially if loving a partner excessively it is very unnatural and very detrimental because people who have fallen in love, they will do anything for the partner and anyone who is loved. For example first, if the partner has no money and the researcher are willing to give a money to the partner, and it is very excessive. Secondly, when the partner dies and the researcher not willing and are thinking of ending life because feel no one loves more than the partner and are think cannot live without the partner because of a deep love.

Everyone is entitled to love and be loved because basically humans are given a sense of affection towards each other or the opposite sex, but if the researcher are still school age and status as a student, exactly have to focus is learning, because it is not time the researcher think of love to the opposite sex because it can disturbing concentration to learn and can have a very bad impact, because basically education is very important to future so that later the researcher can reach the ideals in the future, if the researcher study diligently and work hard. Because later there is a time where the researcher are allowed to fall in love with the opposite sex when the researcher are adults, have a mature mind and can be responsible for what the researcher do.

**P.S. I Love You** is Irish writer Cecelia Ahern's first novel, published in 2004. The book reached No. 1 best-seller status in Ireland for 19 weeks, the United Kingdom, Germany the United States, and the Netherlands. Cecelia Ahern was born on September 30, 1981 in Dublin, Ireland. She is the daughter of the former Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern. On 14th December 2009 it was announced that Cecelia had given birth to her first child with partner David Keoghan, a girl named Robin. She was secretly married on 11 June 2010 in Kildare, Ireland. Cecelia was a member of the Irish pop group Shimma who finished third in the Irish national for the Eurovision Song Contest in 2000. She attended Griffith College Dublin and obtained a degree in Journalism and Media Communications. **P.S. I Love You** is her first novel when she was twenty-one. It was published in 2004.

Holly Kennedy is a beautiful, smart and kind woman; she married with her love of her life. His name is Gerry, he is a passionate, sincere, and funny. He is an Irishman. So when Gerry's life is taken by an illness, it takes the life out of Holly. The only one who can help her is the person who is no longer there. Nobody knows Holly better than Gerry. So it is a good thing he planned ahead. Before he died, Gerry wrote a series of letters to Holly that will guide her to live her life, not only through her grief, but in rediscovering herself. The first message arrives on Holly's 30th birthday in the form of a cake, and to her utter shock, a tape recording from Gerry, who proceeds to tell her to get out and "celebrate herself". In the weeks and months that follow, more letters from Gerry are delivered in surprising ways, each sending her on a new adventure and each signing off in the same way; **P.S. I Love You** Holly's mother and best friends begin to worry that Gerry's letters are keeping Holly tied to the past, but in fact, each letter is pushing her further into a new future. With Gerry's letters as her guide, Holly embarks on a journey of rediscovery in a story about marriage, friendship and how a love so strong can turn the finality of death into a new beginning for life.

The problem caused by having excessive affection for the couple in this novel is when Gerry died of a disease that gradually grabbed the happiness of Holly. The only people who can help him and the people he rely on are gone. He thinks no one can understand anything other than Gerry, because only Gerry is the one who fully loves him with all his faults. He mourned all day, crying whenever he remembered Gerry, which means all the time. She dreamed of Gerry, picturing her face, wearing Gerry's coat, which really scented Gerry, playing their memorable songs, calling Gerry's phone, just to listen to Gerry's voice through the mailbox. He felt his life stop when Gerry died.

Until finally, a bundle of letters from Gerry to Holly was present and gave a beam of light in her dark life. Gerry left poking letters with the names of the moon on the front of the envelope. Gerry left the letters Holly had to open each month, according to the month's name. Holly could not believe how Gerry suffered from a brain tumor and lay in bed writing these letters. But it was Gerry's writing and Gerry's signature and he knew he might have some inkling that he was not going to be with Holly again for the next few months and Gerry did not want to leave Holly alone after his death. So began the life of the new Holly with a bundle of letters containing Gerry's requests, her surprises and her wishes for Holly. Holly feels Gerry watching her every time she reads the letter looks at her with affection as usual and never leaves her.

Based on the **P.S. I Love You** novel there are several public response. The positive response first by [Tea Jovanović](#) on [Jan 26, 2013](#) "*Read it still in manuscript and fell in love... I knew it would be bestseller... One of my favorites among the books and authors I discovered as editor and bought rights for Serbia*". The second by [Jenny](#) on [Feb 22, 2009](#) "*I enjoyed this book. It was an easy read. I was able to put myself in the shoes of the main character. The older I get the more painfully aware I become of our fragile hold on life, and I felt myself putting myself in Holly's shoes. A poignant and honest look at grief and life after losing the love of your life*". The third

by [Andrea](#) on [Nov 07, 2017](#) “*OMG this book made me cry, I loved how Gerry love so much Holly that helped her to go over his death, With those letters he expresses his love, she was so depressed because she loved Gerry but she emerges from her cocoon to live again*”. Not only a positive response but also having a negative response first by Gwen) on Mar 27, 2016 “*eh. I just didn't find this book very interesting. The topic could have been interesting but the execution was kinda slow & uninspired*”. The second by [Brightness](#) on [Jul 07, 2012](#) one of those rare instances where I liked the movie better. Maybe that had something to do with Gerard Butler though”. The third by [Jana](#) on [May 17, 2009](#) “*I really didn't like this book. Obnoxiously badly written and I just couldn't understand it. The slow parts, supposedly sad parts and happy parts, everything was just ... awful and plain. It was the first book in a long time that I didn't finish*”.

This book reached No. 1 best-seller status in Ireland for 19 weeks, the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, and the Netherlands. A book with the international bestseller and this book have been adapted to various languages and also have been adapted to the Indonesian language published by PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama Jakarta in 2005 and translated by Monica Dwi Chresnayani.

The first time the researcher read this novel the researcher was immediately interested in the plot of the story that the researcher thinks romantic and touching because the theme is romance. This novel is different from the novel in general, the researcher think this novel is a good novel because full of the stories which is very touching and sweet. This novel tells of a life journey of a woman left behind husband which she loved forever and finally she slumped and mourn her husband's departure, because how much love the husband to his wife so that he wrote a letters to his wife before he died and he want to keep her from falling for his departure and he wanted her to feel that he would always be there beside her.

The researcher interested with this novel because this novel uses a simple language and easily understood by the readers and the sentence is also not long and coherent, very easy to understand for beginners who are learning English for not using difficult words.

In this novel the researcher uses the third person's perspective because it can be known from the first sentence "Holly held the blue cotton sweater to her face and the familiar smell immediately struck her, an overwhelming grief knotting her stomach and pulling at her heart" and it shows that the novel this is taken from the experience of others.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Based on the description in the above research background, there are several problem statements that can be formulated as follows.

1. What are the characteristics of Holly Kennedy's personality?
2. What tragedy makes Holly Kennedy's life uncontrollable?
3. How did excessive affection impact Holly Kennedy's life?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Relating to the problem statement, the writer decides an objective of the research as follows:

1. To know the main characteristics of Holly Kennedy's personality.
2. To find out what tragedy makes Holly Kennedy's life uncontrollable.
3. To look for excessive affection impact Holly Kennedy's life.

#### **1.4 Benefits/Advantages**

The benefit of the study are :

a. The result of this study the authors hope to help to provide reference, information by other researcher to conduct further research and especially literature study of the novel.

b. The researcher hopes this research can help other students in Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta or other universities who have an interest in the study of novel literature.