

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Angelo Surlmelis's *The Dangerous Art of Blending In* was his debut novel which portrays his real story and covers a real social topic. This novel portrays Evan Panos as a homosexual living in a Christian-Greek household and heterosexual society. Evan goes through various twists and turns in life to be able to come out as gay.

Evan's relationship with his parents plays a significant role in developing his homosexuality. The absence of Evan's parents' role makes him distance himself from his parents. In addition, Evan's mother plays an essential role in the trauma he has experienced, especially dealing with the opposite sex. Thus, it makes Evan choose to stay away from women and be more attracted to the same sex. The signs of Evan's homosexuality are further visible when he is attracted to Gaige, Evan's study partner at the Bible Camp, and Henry, Evan's close friend.

Evan's homosexual development receives various responses from those around him. The responses that Evan gets in the story are an actual representation of society's responses to the homosexual community. There are objections and exceptions to homosexuality in the public sphere. Homosexuals tend to be discriminated, receive wrong prejudice, and are often even harassed in public by anti-homosexuals. However, the positive side of society is that most people are starting to understand and be aware of this issue and support homosexuality. In Evan's life, he has gone through six stages of identity formation before admitting his homosexuality. It starts with Evan's confusion about his sexuality until he

proudly can live as gay. Finally, Henry as Evan's partner fulfills his role by always supporting and loving Evan.