

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **CONCLUSION**

Leda is an independent and intellectual woman with limited time to work because of the responsibility of child care. Likewise, Nina, a mother herself, frequently seems depressed due to the challenges of motherhood. Either Leda or Nina are classified as round-type characters since they have complex personalities as a result of the challenges and responsibilities of motherhood. Their shared experiences of motherhood struggles cause them to experience emotional turmoil. Consequently, the demands and contradictions of motherhood also generate feelings of guilt within them.

Leda's guilt resurfaces during her vacation in Greece as she observes Nina and Elena's close bond, reflecting her past relationship with her daughters. This observation triggers memories of Leda's motherhood struggles, including the overwhelming responsibilities and lack of support, causing her emotional distress. Similarly, Nina grapples with her maternal responsibilities, facing similar challenges and a lack of support from her husband. The pressure to meet societal expectations of a "good mother" weighs heavily on both Leda and Nina, leading to feelings of guilt, such as internal struggle that shape their actions and thoughts, and perception of themselves as feeling of failure as a mother.

Leda and Nina confront the guilt they carry as mothers through distinct way. Despite having previously acknowledged her guilt, Leda continues to grapple with it.

She confronts her guilt head-on by acknowledging and accepting those feelings and maintaining her relationship with her two adored daughters. She resolves by letting go of past or present mistakes, forgiving herself, and committing to a different path of self-improvement in her relationships with her daughters. Thus, at least it makes her have a good relationship with her daughter after she abandoned them for three years, and she tries to be a real good mother for them to atone for her guilt. Nina, unlike Leda, adopts a more preventive approach to managing her maternal guilt. She tends to withdraw emotionally from her daughter, Elena, to prevent the overwhelming feelings of guilt from surfacing. By detaching herself emotionally, Nina seeks to protect herself from the pain of guilt and the fear of failing as a mother.

In actual reality situations, the guilt associated with motherhood often goes unrecognized. Rather than acknowledging the emotional impact it takes, individuals often perceive motherhood as a demanding role with inherent responsibilities and challenges. This stems from the societal pressure on mothers to embody the ideal of a "good mother," adhering to unrealistic expectations. These relentless demands contribute to the emergence of guilt among mothers, leading to a subconscious sense of burden that can manifest in both emotional and physical distress.