

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

This research thesis analyzes the psychosocial development of Nina Riva, the main character in the novel *Malibu Rising* by Taylor Jenkins Reid, by exploring its intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Through the intrinsic elements, it can be seen that Nina is described as someone who concerns about her siblings' enjoyment, someone who is nurturing, lonely, and struggling to find herself. The conflicts she experiences, both internal and external, significantly shape her development. Among them, external conflicts with Mick Riva and Brandon Randall play a dominant role, serving as social factors that push Nina towards critical emotional growth. The findings highlight that Nina's personal evolution is not only rooted in her internal struggles, but also heavily influenced by her social environment.

Furthermore, the external elements are analyzed through the lens of Erik Erikson's psychosocial development. Nina's journey is characterized by struggles in the identity against role confusion stage and the intimacy against isolation stage. During adolescence, Nina fails to resolve her role confusion, as her identity is largely shaped by external demands and family responsibilities rather than personal exploration. This unresolved stage continues to influence struggles in her young adulthood, where she initially experiences isolation, rejects false intimacy, and continues to drive for true intimacy. However, despite the previous unresolved role confusion, she eventually reaches a positive resolution in the intimacy against

isolation stage. She begins to embrace emotional intimacy, not through romantic partnership, but through caring for herself.

Importantly, Nina's development also shows a deviation from Erikson's original framework. While Erikson believes that intimacy is usually achieved through romantic relationships, she finds intimacy through self-care and deep emotional independence. This deviation stems from her traumatic experiences with certain male figures in her life: abandonment by her father as an adolescent, and her husband's infidelity as a young adult. These external traumas disrupt her trust in romantic intimacy and lead her to a nurturing relationship with herself.

Overall, Nina's psychosocial development illustrates that external social forces are as important as internal psychological struggles in shaping one's growth. Her story shows that psychosocial development is a dynamic interplay between self and society, and that healing and identity formation can take alternative paths beyond the initial framework.