

BIPOLAR DISORDER EPISODES ON THE PROTAGONIST'S CHARACTER

IN JENNIVER NIVEN'S NOVEL *ALL THE BRIGHT PLACES*

A THESIS

BY

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UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

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MEDAN

2024

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**SUBMITTED TO
THE FACULTY OF LITERATURE
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM SUMATERA UTARA MEDAN
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF *SARJANA SASTRA*
IN ENGLISH LITERATURE
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alhamdulillahirabbil'amin.

All praise belongs to **Allah SWT** for His blessings, so that I can complete my thesis entitled “Bipolar Disorder Episode on the Protagonist’s Character in Jenniver Niven’s Novel All The Bright Places”. This thesis was prepared as one of the requirements to obtain the degree of *Sarjana Sastra* at Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara (UISU), Medan. The writing of this thesis can certainly be completed because I received a lot of help, guidance, and support from many parties. Therefore, on this occasion, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to:

1. **Dr. Purwanto, S.S., M.A.**, the Dean of the Faculty of Literature, and **Dr. Ely Ezir, M.S.**, the head of the department.
2. **Dr. Muhammad Ali Pawiro, M.A.** as the supervisor who has provided guidance, direction, and support that is very meaningful during the process of preparing this thesis.
3. All lecturers of the Faculty of Literature who have become great educators and have provided invaluable knowledge during my studies.
4. For my beloved family who always provide endless prayers, motivation, and support so that I can become a successful person. Beloved mother **Fera Wati Purba**, beloved father **Supratman**. My sister whose support never breaks even though we are separated by distance, **Arya Kamaria**. Don't worry, I will definitely be a successful person and certainly earn your respect.
5. To my best friends who have always given me encouragement and meaningful help over the years, as well as a place to share laughter, sadness, and all the good things. **Ladya Cherilla, Achmanuddin Berutu, Yussuf Faulandi, Fitra Andira Wardana, Syafna Ananda, Silvi Hendriyani, Jelita Raihana, Indah Renjani Pasaribu.**

6. Last but not least, I would like to thank myself for doing this hard work, for believing that I can do what I am afraid of, for not giving up, for believing in myself, for being willing to keep trying, and thank you for being myself.

Lastly, I realize that this thesis is far from perfect. Therefore, constructive criticism and suggestions are highly expected for future improvements. Hopefully, this thesis can provide benefits for readers and become a meaningful contribution to the field of literature. Thus this preface is delivered. Thank you.

Medan, 19 July 2024
The writer,

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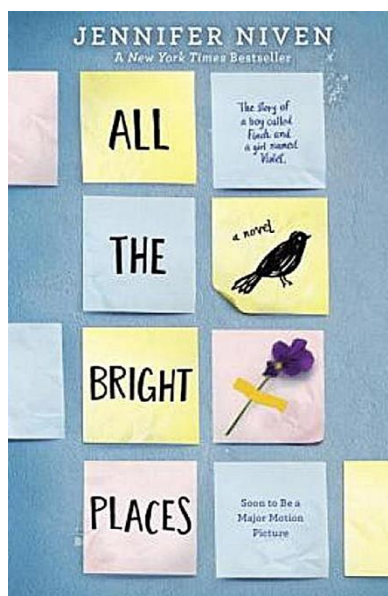
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Appendix

1. Novel



"**All the Bright Places**" is a young adult novel by Jennifer Niven that explores themes of mental illness, love, and loss. Here is a brief synopsis of the novel: The story centers around two high school students, Theodore Finch and Violet Markey. Finch is fascinated by death and constantly thinks of ways he might kill himself, but he also searches for the "bright places" in life that make him want to stay alive. Violet, on the other hand, is struggling with the recent death of her sister and is finding it hard to return to her normal life.

The two meet on the ledge of the school bell tower, both contemplating suicide. Finch manages to talk Violet down, and they form an unlikely friendship. As they work on a school project together, visiting various landmarks in their home state of Indiana, their bond grows deeper, and they start to fall in love. Through their journey, Violet begins to heal and rediscover the joy in life, largely due to Finch's unwavering support and infectious enthusiasm. However, Finch's own battle with his mental health continues to worsen. He becomes increasingly erratic and distant, and his behavior starts to spiral out of control. Despite Violet's attempts to help him, Finch ultimately succumbs to his struggles.

The novel concludes with Violet mourning Finch's death but also finding a way to honor his memory by continuing their project and seeking out the bright places in the world. The story is a poignant exploration of the impact of mental illness, the power of human connection, and the importance of seeking help.

Key Themes:

- **Mental Health:** The novel portrays the complexities of mental illness and the difficulties of understanding and supporting those who suffer from it.
- **Grief and Healing:** Violet's journey from loss and despair to healing and hope is a central theme.

- **Love and Connection:** The relationship between Finch and Violet illustrates how love can be transformative and healing.
- **Hope and Despair:** The contrast between the characters' outlooks on life underscores the fine line between hope and despair.

Characters:

- **Theodore Finch:** A troubled, charismatic boy fascinated by death but also intensely alive in moments.
- **Violet Markey:** A girl grappling with her sister's death who learns to find joy again through her relationship with Finch.

Setting: The story is set in a small town in Indiana, with various local landmarks playing a significant role in Finch and Violet's project and relationship.

2. Author of the Novel



Jennifer Niven is an American author known for her compelling and emotionally resonant works, particularly in the young adult genre. Here is a brief biography:

Early Life and Education:

- Jennifer Niven was born on May 14, 1968, in Charlotte, North Carolina, and later moved to Richmond, Indiana.
- She graduated from high school in 1986 and attended Drew University, where she earned a degree in English and Creative Writing.
- Niven later obtained her MFA in Writing from the American Film Institute.

Career:

- Niven began her writing career with non-fiction, publishing "The Ice Master" in 2000, which tells the story of a doomed Arctic expedition. The book was well-received and established her as a serious author.
- She followed up with another non-fiction work, "Ada Blackjack: A True Story of Survival in the Arctic" (2003), which also garnered critical acclaim.

Transition to Fiction:

- Niven's debut novel, "Velva Jean Learns to Drive," was published in 2009 and is set during the Great Depression in the American South. This novel became the first in a series, followed by "Velva Jean Learns to Fly" (2011) and "Becoming Clementine" (2012).
- Her first young adult novel, "All the Bright Places," was released in 2015. The book deals with themes of mental illness, love, and loss and was inspired by her own experiences and the loss of a close relative to suicide. The novel received widespread praise and won several awards.
- "All the Bright Places" was adapted into a Netflix film in 2020, starring Elle Fanning and Justice Smith, bringing Niven's work to an even larger audience.

Subsequent Works:

- Niven continued to write for young adults with "Holding Up the Universe" (2016), which explores themes of self-acceptance and personal growth.
- Her most recent works include "Breathless" (2020), a coming-of-age story about first love and self-discovery.

Personal Life:

- Jennifer Niven is known for her dedication to mental health awareness, often engaging in discussions and activities that promote understanding and support for mental health issues.
- She is also active on social media, where she interacts with her readers and advocates for issues important to her.

Influence and Legacy:

- Niven's work has resonated deeply with readers, particularly young adults, for its honest and heartfelt portrayal of difficult topics.
- Her writing style is characterized by emotional depth, well-developed characters, and a focus on real-life issues that affect young people today.

Jennifer Niven's contributions to literature, especially in the young adult genre, have made her a significant voice in contemporary fiction, and her books continue to inspire and touch the lives of readers around the world.