
The Impacts of The Apparition of Charley Bonetto's Dead Mother in Mitch Albom's *for One More Day*

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Abstract

The '*For One More Day*' novel was written by Mitch Albom on which was first published in the USA in the English language in 2006. The novel contains the impacts of of the apparition of Charley Bonetto's dead mother. The data will be analyzed based on Edmund Gurney' theory of apparition. The data from this thesis are all taken from the novel *For One More Day*. The writer uses the descriptive qualitative method to analyze this research. By using the choosen method, the writer has to read the novel before hand and afterwards collecting the data which are related to her study. The objectives of the study are to show the impacts of the apparition of his dead mother portrayed in the novel and how apparition seen in the novel. The quotations, actions, and conversation from the novel become the source of the data. It concludes that the apparition gives a positif impact in life.

Keywords: *Apparition, Dead Mother, Positif Impact*

INTRODUCTION

There was some kind of definition of what literature is. Literature is one of the main fields of language, by reading literary work. Literature reflects the views of the authors themselves. Sometimes, it shows the society life condition at that time. Literature is closely related to the fine arts that refer to a beautiful writings.

Literature is always attract the writer. All literary works have their own beauty. It is because literary works are the feelings of the literature writers themselves. The feelings may be love, hatred, anger, sadness, happiness, jealousy, and any other kinds which are then formed into a fiction. These feelings are finally combined as one to be a very beautiful literary work.

There are many kinds of literature works. The literary works are basically divided into three big parts. They are poetry, prose and drama. Poetry consists of poems, while prose consists of short stories, novels, and other kinds. In her study,

the writer picked Mitch Albom's collected stories entitled *For One More Day* as the topic. For sure, the writer had her own reason why she was interested in the topic. The writer was attracted to analyze *For One More Day* because the novel was interesting. This topic has never been discussed by UMI students. Therefore, the writer wants to fill a gap by raised this topic as her thesis title.

Novel analysis generally uses the character as an object that can be seen as human. One of the novel that get people's attention, especially in the year 2006 is *For One More Day*. The novel was released on September 26, 2006. The novel has horror genre and starring Charley Bonetto as the main character.

This novel was written by Mitch Albom. Mitchell David "Mitch" Albom (born May 23, 1958) is an American author, journalist, screenwriter, dramatist, radio and television broadcaster, and musician. Having achieved national recognition for sport writing in the earlier part of his career, he is perhaps best known for the inspirational stories and themes that weave through his books, plays, and films.

One of Albom's notable works is *For One More Day* which is true story. This novel begins with Charley Bonetto himself who talked to Mitch Albom in the morning. All encounters and conversation in the book are also true events, which is about apparition.

For One More Day is the story of a mother and a son, and a relationship that covers a lifetime and beyond. They lives in Pepperville Beach. It explores the question: what would you do if you could spend one more day with someone? As a child, Charley "Chick" Bonetto was told by his father, "you can be a mama's boy or a daddy's boy, but you can't be both". So he chooses his father. At that time, his mother named Posey divorce with his father named Len. The causes of their divorce because Len is known have an affair with another woman. Gianna Tusicci is another wife of his father, Len. They have a son. But in this case, Charley Bonetto doesn't know the cause of their divorce and doesn't know that he has another brother.

In few years, his father left him and let him live alone. His mother didn't care about him too. He lives alone and no one noticed him. Charley's getting older and he decides become a baseball player. Baseball becomes his everything in his life. In young age, his father told him about baseball. Charley pursues a professional career in the sport primarily to please his father. Charley gets a new job and get much money to support his life. He becomes a salesman. Charley fall in love with a beautiful woman named Cathrine. He asks Cathrine to be his wife and they merried. They have one daughter named Maria. After a long time, Roberta, his sister, told him that their mother was died. She died of a heart attack at age seventy-nine.

A year after his mother died, he did the dumbest thing he've ever done financially. He let a saleswoman talk to him into an investment scheme. The saleswoman was young and good-looking. Charley gets stupid. They met three times to discuss the proposal. After that he drank more. He keep on drinking. He slept badly and ate badly. In this case, money became a problem. Cathrine and Charley fought constantly about money. And over time, their marriage collapsed.

What finished him, what pushed him over the edge, strange as it sounds, was his daughter's wedding. Maria, his daughter, didn't invite him to her wedding ceremony. Charley gets a difficult things in his life. there are some conflicts in his

life. Charley is a broken man. His life has been crumbled by alcohol and regret. He loses his job. He leaves his family. He hits bottom after discovering his only daughter has shut him out of her wedding. And he decides to take his own life and going to end his life. He makes a midnight ride to his small hometown, with plans to do himself in. But upon failing even to do that, he staggers back to his old house, only to make an astonishing discovery. His mother, who died eight years earlier, is still living there, and welcomes him home in Pepperville Beach as if nothing ever happened. Charley gets hallucination in his life. He can see his dead mother and talk to her. They meet in the kitchen. He did a lot of things with his dead mother. At the end of their meeting, his mother told him to change his life and become a good one. They spend time together in one day.

What follows is the one “ordinary” day so many of us yearn for, a chance to make good with a lost parent, to explain the family secrets, and to seek forgiveness. Somewhere between this life and the next, Charley learns the astonishing things he never knew about his mother and he sacrifices. And he tries, with his tender guidance, to put the crumbled pieces of his life back together.

The writer interested in researching on “The impact of the Apparition of Charley Bonetto’s Dead Mother in Mitch Albom’s *For One More Day*”. From the explanation above, the writer would like to analyze the apparition of his dead mother can give a positif impact in Charley’s life.

METHOD

Participants / subject / population and sample (Level 2)

This study is a qualitative literary analysis focusing on the main character, Charley Bonetto, in the novel *For One More Day*. The subject of the study is the psychological experience of the character, particularly his interaction with the apparition of his deceased mother. The data consist of narrative texts, dialogues, and descriptions found in the novel.

The main instrument of this research is the researcher herself, supported by textual analysis techniques. Additional instruments include note-taking and document analysis to identify relevant quotations, narrative events, and psychological elements related to the apparition phenomenon.

Data analysis procedures

The data were analyzed through several steps. First, the novel was read thoroughly to gain a comprehensive understanding of the story. Second, relevant data related to the apparition and character transformation were identified and categorized. Third, the data were analyzed using a psychological approach to interpret Charley’s experiences. Finally, conclusions were drawn regarding the impact of the apparition on his life.

FINDINGS

The findings of this study reveal that the apparition of Charley Bonetto’s dead mother plays a significant role in his psychological transformation.

Table: 1 Types of Impact of the Apparition on Charley Bonetto

Type of Impact	Description	Frequency
Emotional Healing	Reduces guilt and regret	High
Self Reflection	Encourages understanding of past	High
Behavioral Change	Motivates positive life decisions	Medium
Family Reconciliation	Restores relationship values	High

Sub findings

First, the apparition appears as a realistic interaction where Charley communicates directly with his deceased mother. This suggests a strong psychological projection influenced by guilt and longing.

Second, the apparition provides Charley with an opportunity to revisit past memories and understand hidden truths about his family, particularly his mother's sacrifices.

Third, the experience leads to a significant transformation in Charley's personality. He becomes more aware of his mistakes and is motivated to rebuild his life.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study highlight the important role of apparitional experiences in literary narratives, particularly in shaping character development. The apparition of Charley's dead mother can be interpreted not as a literal supernatural event, but as a psychological manifestation of guilt, regret, and unresolved emotional conflict. This supports the psychological theory that hallucinations or apparitional experiences may function as coping mechanisms in individuals experiencing extreme emotional distress.

From a psychological perspective, Charley's encounter with his mother represents a process of internal reconciliation. His subconscious mind constructs the figure of his mother as a source of comfort, guidance, and forgiveness. This allows him to confront his past mistakes, accept reality, and ultimately move toward emotional recovery. Therefore, the apparition serves as a symbolic bridge between past trauma and present healing.

Furthermore, the study confirms that literary works often use supernatural elements to represent deeper psychological truths. In this case, the apparition symbolizes maternal love, forgiveness, and unconditional support, which are essential factors in Charley's transformation. This aligns with previous literary studies that emphasize the role of emotional relationships in character development.

Practically, this study suggests that readers can interpret similar literary phenomena not only as fictional elements but also as reflections of real human

psychological experiences. The novel demonstrates how confronting past regrets and accepting forgiveness can lead to personal growth and positive change.

However, this study also raises broader questions. One important issue is whether apparitional experiences should always be interpreted psychologically, or whether they can also be viewed as cultural or symbolic narratives influenced by belief systems. Additionally, further research could explore similar themes in other literary works to compare how different authors represent psychological transformation through supernatural elements.

In conclusion, the apparition in *For One More Day* plays a crucial role in transforming Charley Bonetto from a broken individual into a more self-aware and emotionally healed person. The study confirms that such experiences, whether real or symbolic, have significant implications for understanding human psychology, literature, and personal development.

CONCLUSION

After reading and studying the novel, *For One More Day* the write comes to conclusion the character take a very big part in the major character's life during the role of the story. Thoroughly, especially through Chapter IV above, the writer comes to some conclusions as follow:

The apparition of the novel can give some impacts of Charley Bonetto's life. He can hear his dead mother's voice. He knows how his dead mother appear. They meet in the old kitchen in his house. He still confused why his mother come to his life. They make a conversation and talk to each other.

The apparition of his dead mother can give him a chance to do something. There are so many events that Charley can do with his dead mother. He knows about his dead mother's friend, Rose. He knows Rose and his mother likes a hair do and make up. He also knows the reason why his mother divorced. He gets information about the badness of his father. Everything is revealed when Charley with his mother. He knows everything.

The apparition of his dead mother can change Charley's life to be better. Charley knows that he's wrong. He make himself so bad. His life destroyed by alcohol and regret. Charley promise to his mother that he can be a good one. And also his dead mother asks Charley to be a better person.

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