

# NORA'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AFTER APPARENT DEATH IN MATT HAIG'S *THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY*

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## ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the development of Nora's character after the apparent death in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*. The data of this study is taken from the words and dialogues in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library* that shows the characters and character development of the main character, Nora. The writer uses psychological approach and focuses on apparent death because she wants to analyze character development happens to Nora after apparent death. The result of the analysis, first the character of Nora easy to dispirited, negative thinking, pessimist, ungrateful, and always blame on herself for everything happens. the second is apparent death in *Midnight Library* influences Nora's character. The third, the writer finds the character development in Nora that she becomes happier, positive thinking, always grateful, optimistic, and always assumes everything that happens in life is a good lessons for life.

**Keywords:** *character development, apparent death, character*

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Human is regarded as the most perfect of God's creatures. In life, human certainly has a purpose in their lives to win or achieve. In the process of achieving a purpose in life, the human journey of life is not always easy and smooth. They are often confronted by challenges, obstacles, and even persistent problems that cause stress, pain, and depression. If someone gives up in the process of achieving their goals in life out of self-confidence and lacks the will of the spirit, then they will lose and get nothing so that they can even think to end their own life. Therefore, they should try to solve their problems or try to get out of the way when they can.

Someone who has overcome obstacles and survived his life problems will be a stronger and better person because he has learned from previous experiences. According to Hurlock, no one is born in this world with a definite character as a person, because human character can be influenced by some factors and also can improve or develop over time by being influenced by social life, social conditions, environmental, and social

activities around them in their early lives, (Hurlock, 1974). So, human character can develop over time over life.

Human has different characters from one another. According to Murphy, people's characters can be seen from their mannerisms and habits. These could illustrate how a character is inherent in a person, (Murphy, 1972). So people is very easy to figure out how the character are just by looking at what they do, how they act, how they speak, and how they respond to every situation. The human character can describe and show what or how those people really are. Character encompasses all that is present in every person, such as how to behave, how people have their appetites and attractions, how they think, what to believe in and all the qualities that make a person a unique being. Many believe that character traits acquired by a person are essentially influenced by genetic and environmental factors. But over time, the human character can also develop depending on the circumstances, conditions, and everything experienced in life.

The character of each human being can develop over time. The character of each person is also not the same, since the way of life that each person has varies from one person to another. They have different characteristics that make them appear unique in their ways. The person's character can develop by being affected by a variety of factors in life, such as the environment in a community, the experiences experienced, social associates, and so on. Humans often discover new things in their lives that make their journey filled with challenges and obstacles. The person who tries to deal with the problems of his life and tries to make it through the challenges he has, when he makes it through that means he will grow up to be better and stronger. The process of how they deal with the problem will shape and develop their character, in other word, is that they learn firsthand from the experience they have. Character development can also be found in any human figure in a novel. Kennedy explains that the character in a literary work is an imaginary person of the writer in a story, (Kennedy, 1983). Characters in novels also experience things that make their character grow. It is influenced by events and times experienced by the characters.

Apparent Death is rarely discussed, Koehler described people who experiences apparent death as drowning and being taken into sapces that looks like a house, (Koehler, 2015). In Midnight Library, Nora experiences drowning and suddenly she is in a place that looks like a big house, but it is the Midnight Library. In this Midnight Library, all books provide different opportunities to try another life that she likes to live and try the life that she might have regretted before. The book helps to illustrate how Nora's life

going to be and what might be happened if Nora makes different choices. In her chance to try different versions of life, Nora learns a lot of new things and begins to think that there is no perfect life. Nora realizes that any decision can be made, but it will never be able to determine the final results. She even realizes that she does not ready to die. Finally, after Nora has been through a lot and learns a lot of interesting facts about life, her desire to live becomes stronger and it finally brings her back to her root life. Nora is finally able to come back to life despite her dying condition and has to be taken to a hospital. Now, Nora finally begins to see positive things in her life and she begins to appreciate everything that exists and happens in her life. She enjoys her life and always lives happily because everything that happens in life is not depressing at all, but that is inspiring.

Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library*, tells about the main character, Nora, who lives with disappointment and regret. She always worries about her life and always thinks that her life is a mess. When things do not go as she plans, she gets mad at herself and feels desperate. She thinks that everything she does always fails and goes wrong, her moves feel like a mistake and she thinks that it is her fault. One time, she wants to end her life because she feels that she no longer has any goals to achieve in life, even a small goal has gone. She feels that no one needs her or her help anymore. Finally, she decides to kill herself to put an end to all the worries and regrets in her life.

But Nora wakes up in a slightly odd library with an awful lot of green books, from dark to clear green. In the library, Nora meets Mrs. Elm, an old woman librarian from her past school. Mrs. Elm explains to Nora that they are in the Midnight Library which is between life and death.

The writer is interested in analyzing apparent death in Nora Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library* novel because of how the development of Nora's character happens in her life. The development of Nora's character is influenced by the experiences and events that she has experienced in the midnight library while she is between life and death. It is very interesting to discuss, therefore the writer wants to analyze Nora's character.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background of the study, several problems could be formulated as follows:

1. How is Nora's character described in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*?
2. How is apparent death expressed in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*?
3. How is Nora's character development in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Related to the problem statements above, there are some objective of the research as follows:

1. To find out Nora's character that described in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*.
2. To find out the expression of apparent death in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*.
3. To know how Nora's character development in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*.

### **1.4 Scope and Limitation**

In Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*, there are several topics that can be discussed, such as plot, character, setting, and theme, but the writer limits on the character. In analyzing this research, the scope is about character development. The writer primarily gives a limited focus on the development of Nora's character after apparent death that she experiences in the night when she is at the library in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*.

### **1.5 Significance of the study**

By doing this research, the writer hopes that theoretically, this study will provide more insight or knowledge that can help the readers to understand about how to analyze character development in a novel. And practically the writer hopes that this study will give another perspective to the readers about the apparent death that may influence character development.

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **2.1 Review of Related Studies**

In this study, the writer takes some references from the previous study by some of the researchers. There are several previous studies related to this research. The first previous study is conducted in the field of literature by students majoring in English Literature, University of 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya. The title of the previous study is *the Role of the Environment Towards Character Development in Jenoyne Adam's Resurrecting Mingus* (Esnaeni, 2010). In this previous study, the writer analyzes the character development of Mingus in *Adam's Resurrecting Mingus* written by Rina Esnaeni. There are differences between the previous study above with this thesis, the writer in the previous study takes the data from *Jenoyne Adam's Resurrecting Mingus*, but in this thesis, the writer takes the data from Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library*. There are also some similarities between the previous study and this thesis. Both writers analyze character development of the main character in the story, both uses descriptive qualitative method. But this thesis more focuses on the character and psychology, so this thesis uses psychological approach. While in the

previous study the writer focuses on Mingus' character and the setting of the story uses intrinsic approach.

The second previous study was done by Putri. This study entitled *The Characterization of the Main Character in Gone Girl Film* which aims to find out the characterizations and the most dominant characteristics of Amy Elliot Dunne in the film, (Putri, 2018). The writer collects the data from all the utterances of Amy's dialogues and monologues which are transcribed into 39 selected sentences. The study found that there are Amy's characterizations, such as intellegent, perfectionist, insecure, liar, vengeful. And the most dominant of Amy's characterization is liar. The similarity between this thesis and the previous study above is to find out the characterization of the main character using descriptive qualitative. The differences are the data, the previous study takes the data from film, but this thesis takes the data from novel. This study also uses the documentary technique to collect the data.

Another related study is "the Magic of Howl's *Moving Castle: An Analysis of Character Development in a Fantasy Novel*". This study aims to analyze the development of major character that influenced by magical events in Diana Wynne Jones' *Howl's Moving Castle*, (Utami, 2018). The simirativity between the previous study above and this thesis is the writer analyze the character development of the main character. And the differences are in this previous study, the writer more focuses on the magical events that influenced the character development. The writer also uses the qualitative approach, Nikolajeva's magic laws and Tolkien's function of fantasy to analyze the data. The data takes from the words, phrases and sentences that reflect events with magical happenings in Diana Wynne Jones' *Howl's Moving Castle*. In this thesis the data taken from the sentences, paragraphs, and dialogues that shows the development of Nora's character.

The last previous study was done by Hasanah, entitled "Character Development of Agatha Prenderghast in Cody Kimmel's *Paranorman* Novel". In this previous study, the writer found the influence of intrinsic elements on Agata's character Development that explains about how the beginning until the ending of Agata's character, (Hasanah et al., 2018). There is similarity between the previous study above and this thesis, both of the studies aims to analyze the character development taken from Novel. There are differences between the previous study above and this thesis. In the previous study above the writer is more focuses on the character development of a female antagonist in Cody Kimmel's *Paranorman*, but this thesis is more focuses on the character development of the main character in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*. The theory used also different, in the previous

tudy above the writer uses Kenan's Characterization Theory and Chatman's Structuralism Theory, but in this thesis the writer uses Perrine's Character Development Theory.

## **2.2 Character and Characterization**

### **2.2.1 The Definition of Character**

According to Kamisa (1997, as cited in Kasandra et al., 2019), people's character is the behavior, mental, and attitudes that are formed by their life process that is not the same for every person. Every people in this world are experiencing different life experiences in their life which make them behave, move and respond in different ways too. So that makes people have a different character from one another that makes them unique and different.

Putri explains that a character is someone who makes an appearance, someone portrayed by a writer through conversation, action, thought and emerged with a fictional name as an identity, (Putri, 2018). In the stories, the character is also shown how they talk and interact with each other and also explain where they come from. So it's easy for readers to better recognize the characters in fiction than recognize people in real life because the characters in the fiction are clearly explained and portrayed.

#### **a. Types of Character**

According to Forster In fiction, there are several types of characters. Forster introduces the two types of characters that are found in literature, which are flat characters and round characters, (Forster, 1927). The Flat character does not make any change in the story. We can conclude the character in just a few sentences. For example, if we know that a certain character is a criminal, then at the end of the story he's still a criminal. Whereas round character has a big role in the story that always make changes and develop the story. So, in the story where the main character usually changes from a bad person into a good person or from a good person into a bad person means they have the round character.

According to Perrine, there are two types of characters that can also be classified in fiction, which are static characters and dynamic (developing) characters, (Laurence Perrine et al., 2018:145). In the story, the static character is the character that does not change at all. The static character is the same person from the beginning of the story until the final story. Unlike the dynamic character, the dynamic character is the character of a person that can change because of some reason. The dynamic character had the change of character, personality, and

also different personality. So in short, someone who has the static character will behave the same and will not change, but someone who has the dynamic character will change in the end.

### **2.2.2 Characterization**

In a literary work, the researcher described a figure or person in the story or literary work by characterization. Characterization helps the researcher to describe and develop the characters of the person in the story. Characterization is also used to create the person's image in the story. In this research, the researcher uses the theory of character and characterization to identify and find out Nora's characteristics as the main character. The process of characterization carried out in a certain way can create characters in a fictional story that is unique to the person or figure of the story.

According to Perrine, there are two approaches used in the characterization by the author of the fictional story, that is direct characterization and indirect characterization, (Laurence Perrine, Greg Johnson, 2018:143). In the direct characterization, the characters are explained through the narrator, other characters, or the character itself. This is explained directly about the information of background, plot, and setting in context so that the reader can directly understand. While indirect characterization explains the characters' image from the effect of one character to another. This characterization is usually used in a movie, where it shows how the character act, speaks and thinks in every situation.

Murphy described the several methods of characterization, which are through the personal description, character as seen by another, speech, past life, the conversation of others, reactions, direct comments, thoughts, and mannerisms, (Murphy, 1972).

## **2.3 Psychology of Literature**

Literary psychology is one of the literary studies that uses a psychological perspective to study literature, (Dastmart, 2012:4). In other words, literary psychology is used to read and interpret literary works, writer, and reader through the theory and psychological point of view. Psychology and literature both study the same subject, which are behaviour, interaction, and activity of human. But, in psychology, human behaviour viewed as the manifesting of human psychic activity and in literature, human behaviour viewed as the work of art created by author with language and imagination. Thus, there is a clear

relationship between psychology and literature. This is so because literature is the outcome of an author's creativity, imagination, and the expressions. As a result, the authors can utilize psychology to choose characters for their story and characters they create can aid the storyline.

#### **2.4 Apparent Death**

Koehler described people who experience apparent death as drowning and being taken into spaces that look like a house, (Koehler, 2015). Apparent death is an experience where someone is transferred into another life. They appear to be dead, but they are still alive. Every people who experience apparent death will experience a psychological change, (Apandi, 2014). Apparent death makes people who have experienced feel better about their life. They will accept their life and themselves. They will think their root life is better.

#### **2.5 Character Development**

In fiction, the character is created by the writer. They play a crucial role in the course of the story. According to Coles cited from Utami, all of the intrinsic elements (plots, character structures, backgrounds, themes, etc.) are connected to the character. All of the intrinsic elements would help the character in its development over time in a story, (Utami, 2018:75). Character development is a process of change or growth that occurs or is experienced by personality and character behavior to identify and describe certain characteristics.

The character in the story can always develop or change. The character change and development in the story can also be affected by some reasons. According to Perrine, the change of the character in the story got to qualify some conditions, such as the change of the character must be affected by the conditions and circumstances experienced at the place of the character, and individual characters in the story must consistently follow dramatized stories, and the time given in the story must be sufficient for the change of the character and still reliable, (Laurence Perrine et al., 2018:146).

Basically, the change of character in each individual human does not occur suddenly and in a short time. It also happens in fictions, good fiction always gives the moment where each character can develop over time in the story, influenced by certain conditions. In this research, the researcher used the theory of character development which is used by the researcher to know the reasons for Nora's character development from her past life.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### **3.1 Research Design**

In this study, the writer uses the methodology of descriptive qualitative because the writer collected the data from Matt Haig's *Midnight Library* where the data used and gathered are contextual, data of words or images and not numbers. According to Fraenkel, qualitative research is used to analyze things through explanation and description, such as activities, situations, conditions, and relationships of humans, (Fraenkel et al., 2011). The method that is used in this research is library research to explain the main character's character development.

### **3.2 Literary Approach**

In this study, the writer uses literary psychological approach to analyze the development of Nora's character in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library* novel. According to Emir, literary psychology is an approach that used to analyze psychological aspect and concern of human mind in literary works through psychological perspective, (Emir, 2016). This approach is used to analyze psychology on a person in a story also describes the real human life. Psychology and literature both analyze humans behaviour and character, but psychology analyze the real humans created by god, whereas literature analyze the humans created by the writers based on their imagination.

### **3.3 Instruments**

The instrument in this study is the writer herself. The writer works as the data collector and data analyzer to find the valid results of the character development of the main character in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*.

### **3.4 Source of Data**

The data of this study is taken from the words and dialogues in Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library* novel that shows the characters and character development of the main character, Nora. the novel published in 2020 and contains of 299 pages. This novel tells about the development of Nora's character after she experiences apparent death. There are also supporting sources obtained as references that has taken from books, journals, articles, internet sources that discussed about character development.

### **3.5 Data Collection Procedure**

In this study, the writer collects the data through several steps. The first step is choosing *the Midnight Library* novel as the object analysis. The second step is reading the novel to make a better understanding of the story. The last step, the writer identifies the

data by taking notes from the words and dialogues of the characters in the story that shows the development of Nora's character.

### **3.6 Data Analysis Procedure**

The writer uses several steps to analyze the data in this study. First, the writer is classifying the data based on the research problems. And then the writer analyzes the data using the theory of character development. After that, the writer makes conclusion based on the findings.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

In this study, the writer analyzed the development of Nora character in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*. The discussions in this study will be divided into three parts. The first part explains about how Nora's character is at beginning of the story before she experiences something big in her life, the second part explains about the condition and magnitude of Nora's life that influences the development of her character in which she is between life and death, and the last part explains about how the development of Nora's character after she experiences apparent death that completely change her life when she is in the midnight library after she decides to die. These three parts are connecting each other which explains about the process of Nora's character development in Matt Haig's *the Midnight Library*.

### **4.1 Nora's Character.**

Nora is a woman of about thirty years old, or rather is thirty-five years old who works at String Theory, a music store, as a store clerk and sometimes she gives piano lessons to a customer. Nora does a good job at her job, until one day her cat died and she has to take care of it all night, makes her late for work.

Nine and a half hours before she decided to die, Nora arrived late for her afternoon shift at String Theory.

"I'm thirty-five."

"You've got so much going for you. You teach people piano..." Neil said, (Haig, 2020:18-19).

The quotations above show that Nora is the worker at the String Theory. Nora has been at string theory for years. In her thirty-five years old, she has been doing a lot of stuff and always tries to do a good job at string theory, including gives the piano lessons for her customers. She has not even decided to move or quit from her current job. It is not because she really loves her job, but because she does not really have any other choice. The writer also discovered the fact that actually Nora is afraid to try new things and she does not even have the courage to make any decision. Nora is always so pessimistic about everything

she is doing and everything that might be happened or will be happened to her. Basically, Nora is just afraid of survives her life.

“I don’t think your problem was stage fright. Or wedding fright. I think your problem was life fright.” Ravi said, (Haig, 2020:25)

... Nora didn’t know. She’d been petrified of motherhood. The fear of a deeper depression. She couldn’t look after herself, let alone anyone else. (Haig, 2020:26)

In the above quotations, Ravi says that in fact, what Nora is afraid of is just afraid to live her life. Nora’s fear always comes because she is not confident about herself or her life. She always worries about her future and her past too. Nora worries about the outcome or the result of what she is doing and she is afraid of what will happen in the future. Nora always worries if everything will not go according to her plan, she worries that the results later will not as good as her wishes. Her constant concern keeps her negative thinking and makes her even more depressed and feels stressed.

“I’m feeling much better, generally”, she lied. “It’s not clinical. The doctor says it’s situational depression. It’s just that I keep on having new... situations. But I haven’t taken a day off sick for it all. Apart from when mum... Yeah. Apart from that.” (Haig, 2020:19)

In the quotation above, it shows that Nora always tries to hide the anxiety, depression, and stressed that are present or appear in her life. She tries her best not to seem weak or looks like a mess by others, but that makes her even more and more unsure about herself. Nora often avoids talking to talk to others, especially strangers. This makes it really difficult for her to adapt and interact with her surroundings.

Nora shook her head. Wishing it would fall off. Her own head. Onto the floor. So she never had to have a conversation with a stranger ever again. (Haig, 2020:19)

The worries and regrets that appear in Nora’s life are just too deep. This makes Nora loses her inner trust and confidence. She tends to avoid people, mostly strangers, to talked to and does not even has courage to speak up for herself. Her mind is filled with the negative things that she is dwelling on, herself, which can make her condition even worse because she refuses to share her pain and her feelings with others.

In her days, Nora feels that bad thing are coming into her life continuously, everyday. She lost her cat and she is dismissed from where she worked. Her side jobs as a piano teacher and medicine take fro Mr. Benerjee has also been replaced by someone else. So she feels that her life is completely useless and mess. She feels that no one needs her or her help anymore.

Whole hours passed by. She wanted to have purpose, something to give her a reason to exist. But she had nothing. Not even the small purpose of picking up Mr. Banerjee's medication, as she had done that two days ago. She tried to give a homeless man some money but realised she had no money. (Haig, 2020:28)

That was it, no one needed her. She was superfluous to the universe. (Haig, 2020:30)

In the quotations above, Nora has lost her everything that gives her reasons for being in the world and keep survive her life. For all this time, Nora has been survived to keep living her life continuously despite the pressures and and trials of life that she felt or endured. Losing things that makes a reason for her to stay alive, makes her feels that she also loses her chance to lives a good life and to be useful.

One of the reasons for her to live her life is to take care for her cat, but her cat died and it is found by a man on the side of the road. She tries to do a good job in her working place, so that she can get good sallary from that even though her sallary is not enough to pay her rent sometimes. But now Nora is also dismissed from her job, makes her lost her income.

She couldn't even manage 'cat owner'. Or 'one-hour-a-week piano tutor'. Or human capable of conversation'. (Haig, 2020:31)

In her life, right now, Nora feels that she has nothing left to hold on to and that she has nobody else by her side, even just to exchange news. Nora thinks that maybe nobody cares about her or her existence anymore. Her existence seems to matter no more to anyone or even herself.

Nora went through her social media. No messages, no comments, no new followers, no friend requests. She was antimatter, with added self-pity. (Haig, 2020:31)

In the quotation above, it shows that Nora tries to open up her social media, looking for reasons to keep her valuable, desirable and important. Yet there is not a single sign of anyone seek or want her. There are no ne messages or notices on her social media. Nora feels that everything is useless and she feels sorry for herself.

Whenever Nora feels that her life is bad or sucks, she tries to compare herself with others. She will compare her life to others life. But when she looks at the lives of other, she feels that she is the only one who is unlucky in this world. Nora feels that people around her is luckier, because they can do the things they wanted and can have the time to enjoy their life and enjoy themselves.

She went on Instagram and saw everyone had worked out how to live, except her. She posted a rambling update on Facebook, which she didn't even really use any more. (Haig, 2020:31)

The above quotation indicates how Nora feels that the movements that made and occurred in others' lives are always moving faster. She feels that she is the only one who has no improvement in her life. She becomes more and more confused and begins to feel no gratitude for her existence and what she had again.

Nora blames herself again, feeling that she is the most useless person in the world. Everything she does always feels like a mistake to her. She feels that no matter what she tries, it will not work. Her mind is filled with the illusion of failure in life.

Every move had been a mistake, every decision a disaster, every day a retreat from who she'd be imagined she'd be. (Haig, 2020:31)

What Nora feels right now has been the line of her life. It is enough for her to survive. She does not want to try to be worthwhile or to have life that she thinks is perfect again, because in her opinion, the more she tries, the more she will fail in her life. Nora becomes desperate, so she begins to decide to end her life.

She knew only one thing with absolute certainty: she didn't want to reach tomorrow. She stood up. She found a pen and piece of paper.

It was, she decided, a very good time to die. (Haig, 2020:32)

In the above quotation shows how Nora really wants to end her life because she thinks that if she does, she will not worry about the things of her future life. Things that she thinks will be possible to bring bad for her. She decides not to think about tomorrow anymore.

#### **4.2 Apparent Death on Nora's Character**

Death is never going to be the answer to every problem. After Nora decides to end her life, she hopes that she will be free of all the problems and anxieties of her life. But after Nora tries to end her life, Nora wakes up in a place that looked like a library. Nora also notices someone that looked similar with her past school librarian, named Mrs. Elm.

For there, right in front of her, was her old school librarian. (Haig, 2020:37)

"What is this place? Where am I?"

Mrs. Elm smiled a very friendly kind of smile. "A library, of course."

"It's not the school library. And there's no exit. Am I dead? Is this the afterlife?"

"Not exactly," said Mrs. Elm. (Haig, 2020:38)

The above quotation indicates that after her suicide attempt, an extraordinary one happens to Nora. In this case, as the theory of apparent death, Nora experiences drowning.

As the concept that tells the person who is drowning in apparent death usually experience to be in a space or house, Nora wakes up in a place that looks like a library. She meets with Mrs. Elm, a librarian from her past high school. Mrs Elm tells Nora that she is in the library now. Nora is growing more and more confused, she is wondering if she is dead or not. Mrs Elm explains to Nora that Nora is not actually dead, she is not dead yet.

Nora, who decides to give up on her life and chooses to die, is in fact still trapped in a place called the Midnight Library. Nora has not dead yet, she is not dead or alive. She can still feel everything, but she cannot go anywhere. Because she is actually in between life and death.

“Oh, it is real, Nora Seed. But it is not quite reality as you understand it. For want of a better word, it is *in-between*. It is not life. It is not death. It is not the real world in a conventional sense. But nor it is a dream. It isn’t one thing or another. It is, in short, the Midnight Library.” (Haig, 2020:42)

Nora can not believe that she is not really dead. She is still in the world between her life and her death. When Nora knows the fact that she has not really died, it makes her realize that she has failed again. She realizes that she has never done anything right, everything she does has always been a failure, she even fails to die.

Even death was something Nora couldn’t do properly, it seemed.

“So why am I not dead? Why has death not come to me? I gave it an open invitation. I’d wanted to die. But here I am, still existing, I’m still aware of things.”(Haig, 2020:39)

In the quotations above, shows that Nora has failed again, even when she tries to go to her death. She wakes up in the Midnight Library somewhere between life and death. The library is a little different, it has endless rows and rows of books full of them. Mrs Elm explains that as long as the library in the middle of the night exists, Nora can’t just die. So that is why Nora still can feel and remember everything.

There are a lot of offers that Mrs Elm gives to Nora. Mrs Elm gives many opportunities to Nora to keep continue her life. Mrs Elm explains to Nora that every book on the shelf has different chance for Nora to try. Nora is able to change her ways and live her life differently. There are many choices she can make so that she can make changes in the regret of her life. She will be given the opportunity to choose another regrettable decision in her past.

“Between life and death there is a library,” she said. “And Within that library, the selves go on for ever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have

lived. To see how things would be different if you had made other choices... Would you have done anything different, if you had the chance to undo your regrets?" (Haig, 2020:39)

"Every life contains many millions of decisions. Some big, some small. But every time one decision is taken over another, the outcomes differ. An irreversible variation occurs, which in turn leads to further variations. These books are postals to all the lives you could be living."

"You have as many lives as you have possibilities. There are lives where you make different choices. And those choices lead to different outcomes. If you had done just one thing differently, you would have a different life story. And they all exist in the Midnight Library. They are all as real as this life."(Haig, 2020:41)

The quotations above explains that in the Midnight Library there are many things that Nora can try to find her best life, there are many chances for her to try some great possibilities in life. In this library, there are many options offered to make a difference, but Nora is always afraid to try. She is even afraid to try living the best version of life for her. Her thoughts are always filled with worries and the shadows of the regrets of her past. She has failed many times, so she is always afraid to try something. Nora feels that she has wasted so many of the possibilities of her life.

Mrs Elm tries to convince Nora once again, she offers Nora to try some different decisions to make in her life. Live a life with other decisions than what she has ever made in her life. Mrs. Elm really hopes that Nora will soon find the right choice in her life and can ease her remorse and her bad memories in her past life.

"If you have found a life you truly want to live, then you get to live it until you die of old age. If you really want to live a life hard enough, you don't have to worry. You will stay there as if you have always been there. Because in one universe you have always been there. The book will never be returned, so to speak. It becomes less of a loan and more of a gift. The moment you decide you want that life, really want it, then everything that exists in your head now, including this Midnight Library, will eventually be a memory so vague and intangible it will hardly be there at all."(Haig, 2020:49)

In the above quotation, Mrs Elm says that Nora can choose a new decision to be able to try to live a new life the way she wants to. If Nora has found the right and the perfect life for her, then she will stay there like she has always been. When she really wants that life, then all the memories she has now, including when she is in the Midnight Library will erase itself.

This offer to try out the new life is very appealing or interesting to Nora. Of course she wants to try to relive a past that she was sorry to fix, but she still feels apprehensive.

Nora worries that she is going to get a worse life than the real life she has just left behind. She worries that she can not even get back to this place, the library in the middle of the night.

Nora tried to get her head around this, “ So, how do I return to the library? If I’m stuck in a life even worse than the one I’ve just left?”

“It can be subtle, but as soon as disappointment is felt in full, you’ll come back here. Sometimes the feeling creeps up, other times it comes all at once. If it never arrives, you’ll stay put, and you will be happy there, by definition. It couldn’t be simpler. So: pick something you would have done differently, and I will find you the book. That is to say, the life.” (Haig, 2020:49)

In every life that has to offer, Nora can always decide where she is going to be. The books in the Midnight Library can help Nora to choose a life that she wants to try. When she has found the perfect life for her, she can either stay there, or come back to the Midnight Library when she gets disappointment in that life. Mrs Elm explains that when Nora feels complete disappointment, then she will immediately return to the Midnight Library to choose and try another life she wants. But if the disappointment does not come to her, then she will still be there and live a happy life without thinking about her past. So Mrs. Elm suggests Nora immediately choose which life she wants to do differently. Nora has to choose the most prominent regret in her life, to repeat it by taking a different decision.

Nora then chooses to change her decision where she had chosen to leave Dan. Nora is sorry, so she really hopes to have a life where she is still with Dan and never leave him. Nora hopes to make up for what she thinks is wrong. So she hopes to continue her relationship with Dan and she can help him pursue his dream, in which Dan hopes to build a Pub in the country that they will live in.

She remembered chatting late at night with Dan about his dream of owning a quaint little pub in the country. His enthusiasm had been infectious, and it had almost become her dream too. “I wish I hadn’t left Dan. And that I was still in a relationship with him. I regret us not staying together and working towards that dream. Is there a life where we are still together?”(Haig, 2020:49-50)

Nora then started living her life together with Dan. She successfully manages to adjust well in her new life. Everything was going well at first. But as time goes on, Nora begins to discover things that she does not expect. There are some things that are not in her imagination, everything just out of her expectation. It is like the fact that her Pub venture is not doing too well and they were still in debt to the bank. The other fact that hurts Nora is

that Dan having an affair with another woman, the fact that Dan also has bad traits and behaviour that Nora has never known before.

Nora begins to feel a sense of disappointment in her, as her life of choice does not work out the way she has expected. The life together with Dan does not work out and everything does not go the way she hoped. So Nora begins to fade from that life because she felt disappointment over things not working out the way she had imagined. Finally she is back to the Midnight Library.

She reached the bathroom. Switched a light on. There were tingles in her arms and legs and torso. Like electric static in search of a station. She was fading out, she was sure. There wasn't long left here. The disappointment was complete.

*This was not the life she imagined it to be.*

And the moment after that she was back, somewhere inside the Midnight Library, and Mrs Elm was staring at her from a small distance away with a curious smile. (Haig, 2020:66)

The above quotations show how Nora returns to the Midnight Library again because she feels the disappointment in her choice. The new life she has chosen does not turn out as she expected, and it is so far from what she has expected. So Nora begins to feel that even she tries again and again, she will definitely fail. Nora feels that her life is bad because wherever she tried to live, there is always her in her life. She thinks that the only problem is herself. Nora thinks she is a bad person and brings nothing in life but bad luck. This slowly makes Nora fade away and return to the Midnight Library.

“In fact, I'm sure it would be a relief. I'm not useful to anyone. I was bad at work. I have disappointed everyone. I am a waste of a carbon footprint, to be honest. I hurt people. I have no one left. Not even poor old Volts, who died because I couldn't look after a cat properly. I want to die. My life is a disaster. And I want it to end. I'm not cut out for living. And there is no point going through all this. Because I am clearly destined to be unhappy in other lives too. That is just me. I add nothing. I am wallowing in self-pity. I want to die.” (Haig, 2020:69)

The above quotations show how another failure once again comes to Nora's life. The failure that comes to Nora's life stops Nora from trying out other things. She does not want to try living any other version of life again. Nora thinks that no matter what life she will live or lead, she will still fail and feel disappointed. Mrs Elm, who discovers that Nora's disappointment is overwhelming, decides to persuade her to try a different life. Mrs Elm hopes that Nora keeps trying and decides to choose the right life for her. So that Nora can finally have the joy of her life.

After a long conversation between Mrs Elm and Nora, Mrs Elm gets Nora to try again. Then Nora expresses her desire to try a new life again this time. She wants to live a life where she really takes care and keeps Voltaire, her cat, staying at home and not letting the cat go out. Nora wants the life where she is really be the good cat owner.

“Okay. I’d like to see the life where I kept Voltaire indoors. *My* Voltaire. I’d like the life where I didn’t try and kill myself and where I was a good cat owner and I didn’t let him out onto the road last night. I’d like that life, just for a little while. That life doesn’t it?” (Haig, 2020:70)

In the next life, Nora wants to try the life where she does not decide to kill herself and keeps her cat, Voltaire. Nora feels sorry that she has let her cat out of the house and it is found dead by a man on the side of the road. So Nora plans to keep her cat as good as possible by staying indoors and not letting her cat go out.

When Nora is in that life, the life she choose this time, Nora can not find her cat that easily. She looks everywhere for it, she tries to find her cat in every places in her house, until finally she find it motionless under the bed. She touches her cat, it feels so cold, then she realizes that her cat is dead in this life too. Nora is shocked and finally returns to the library in the middle of the night.

The cat wasn’t moving

But the moment she touched his cold body she knew, and she was flooded with confusion. She immediately found herself back in the Midnight Library, facing Mrs Elm,, who was sat this time in a comfy chair, deeply absorbed in one of the boks.

“I thought every life exists.”

“Every *possible* life. You see, it turns out that Voltaire had a serious case of” she read carefully from the book – “*restrictive cardiomyopathy*, a severe case of it, which he was born with, and which was destined to cause his heart to go at a young age.”(Haig, 2020:72)

In the quotations above, shows how Nora is suprised seeing her dead cat, even in this life. Nora choose the life where she can keep her cat in the house, but she finds the cat also dead. Mrs elm explains to Nora that there is no life where Voltaire still lives, because Voltaire basically had a serious disease that he was born with. In fact, Nora’s cat is not dead because the cat is being hit by a car. The cat is dead because the illness that the cat has had. So even Nora has taken care of her cat so much, her cat will still die, and it is not Nora fault.

Nora still does not understand why she has to go to that life, even though her cat is dead. Mrs Elm tells Nora that in Nora’s root life, the cat has the best life, the better life

than in any other life. From then on, Nora understands that she is not the bad cat owner. She has taken care of her cat really good and full of love. So Nora's regret is slowly begins to fade.

Nora was hot with agitation now. "That's even worse! You sent me into that life *knowing* Volts would be dead. And Volts *was* dead. So, nothing changed."

Mrs. Elm's eyes twinkled again. "Except you."

"Well, you don't see yourself as a bad cat owner anymore. You looked after him as well as he could have been looked after. He loved you as much as you loved him, and maybe he didn't want you to see him die. You see, cats *know*. They understand when their time is up. He went outside because he was going to die, and he knew it."

"He loved you, Nora. You looked after him as well as anyone could. Go and look at the last page of *The Book of Regrets*."

Once she had flicked to the last page, she saw one of her very last regrets - "I was bad at looking after Voltaire" - slowly disappear from the page. The letters fading like retreating strangers in a fog. (Haig, 2020:73)

In the quotations above, it show how disappointed Nora is when she sees her cat, Voltaire, even dying in another life. Nora feels there is no change in her new life, but Mrs Elm explains that the change does not happen in her life or even her new life, the changes happen to her. Nora, who has learned that her cat has serious illness from birth, eventually begins to stop blaming herself. Slowly her remorse begins to fade and she does not think of herself as the bad cat owner anymore.

Nora, who initially wants to give up and refuse to try living another new life to fix her past and remove her regrets, now her curiosity begins to grow. She begins to become more and more curious about the other lives that surround her.

As time stood still, Nora's curiosity about the lives around her slowly grew. It turned out to be near impossible to stand in library and not want to pull things from the shelves. (Haig, 2020:75)

Nora's curiosity about other lives that might be perfect and the best for her slowly begins to emerge and grow. It can be seen from the quotations above, Nora wants to know if there is a life for her that really suits her. Hence, Nora decides to try to choose a life she has regretted by making a decision that differed from her past decisions.

Nora begins by choosing a life where she should have gone to live with Izzy, her best friend, in Australia to see a whale together. Nora starts to imagine good thing will be happen, she imagines some fun things to do with Izzy. Then, after Nora has tried to enter

that life, her life is not as good as she has expected. It does not turn out the way she has hoped and imagined.

Nora couldn't help thinking how different this life was to her imagined version of it. She had pictured herself and Izzy on a boat near Byron Bay, marvelling at the magnificence of humpback whales, and yet she was here in a small pot-scented apartment in Sydney, with a conspiracy theorist as a flatmate who wouldn't even let her near a cat. (Haig, 2020:85)

In the above quotation, explaining how Nora's chosen life is exactly the opposite of what she has expected. Nora, who is supposed to live with Izzy in Australia to see humpback whale, in fact, she has been living with a strange person in little Sydney flat. She does not even see Izzy in this life.

In this life, Nora knows the fact that Izzy has actually died. Izzy died in a crash on her way to Nora's birthday. The news of Izzy's death shocked her very much, because she feels it is so real.

"What happened to Izzy?"

Nora realised she had just asked the question out loud.

Jojo looked confused. "Izzy? Your old friend Izzy?"

"Yeah."

"The one who died?"

The words came so fast Nora could hardly absorb them.

"Um, what?"

"The car crash girl?"

"What?" (Haig, 2020:85)

"Oh my God", she whispered to herself, feeling faint. "Oh, Izzy."

She knew that Izzy wasn't dead in all her lives. Or even most of them. But in this one it was real, and the grief Nora felt felt real too. The grief was familiar and terrifying and laced with guilt. (Haig, 2020:86)

In the quotations above, it explains that Nora's chosen life is not as good as she has expected and hoped. The main purpose of Nora's choice in this life is to live with Izzy, she does not want to let Izzy down because she refuses to stay together in Australia. Nora hopes that she can have a good time with Izzy to see a humpback whale, but in fact Izzy is dead in that life. That reality makes Nora feel surprised and disappointed. So, Nora goes back to the Midnight Library.

The life that Nora chose next is the one she does not want to disappoint her father. She wants to continue her career as a swimmer, she hopes that she would never give up on her dream of being a swimmer. Nora imagines that if she listened to her father, she will become a successful swimmer. And that is right, in that life, Nora's life is a complete success. She becomes a very famous and accomplished swimmer, her career is doing

well. But, in that life, her father turns out to betray her mom and her family have bad relationship.

Here, in this life she was in now, she had pursued a career to keep him happy, while sacrificing her own relationships, her own love of music, her own dreams beyond anything that didn't involve a medal, her own *life*. And her father had paid this back by having an affair with this Nadia person and leaving her mother and he still got terse with her. After all that. (Haig, 2020:102)

The above quotations shows that Nora choose her career as the professional swimmer is to keep her father happy. She leaves everything that she likes to not letting her father get disappointed. But her father betrays her family, he has an affair with a women, named Nadia, and leave Nora's mother. This let Nora down once again. Nora really loves swimming, but this life makes Nora unhappy. She does not want to live in the life full of betrayal, where she tries to please someone but she still gets disappointed.

In the next life, Nora tries to live as an arctic researcher. She is still unsure whether she will like this kind of life, lives as an arctic researcher. But she sometimes thinks that this life might be fun, it will feel different. So she wants to try to be in that life.

Nora sighed. She still had no idea what she wanted. But at least the Arctic Circle would be different.(Haig, 2020:120)

Nora, who decides to live as an arctic researcher, is in charge of tracking changes and estimating the average rates of accelerated climate change in the polar regions. At one point, she is confronted by a critical situation where her life is nearly in danger. Nora who acts as a spectator alone, while other researchers go to track climate change, being forced to confront a big polar bear. She has to prepare her eyes on polar bears in order to warn other researcher and save herself from the polar bear by scaring the bear. In this situation, Nora come to realize the shocking fact that she actually does not want to die.

Eventually a survival impulse kicked in and Nora raised the signal pistol and fired it, and the flare shot out like a tiny comet and disappeared into the water, the glow fading a long with her hope. The creature was still coming towards her. She fell to her knees and started banging the ladle against the saucepan and shouted at the top of her lungs.

“BEAR! BEAR! BEAR!”

“LIBRARY!” Nora screamed. “MRS ELM! PLEASE SEND ME BACK! THIS IS THE WRONG LIFE! IT IS REALLY, *REALLY* WRONG! TAKE ME BACK! I DON'T WANT ADVENTURE! WHERE'S THE LIBRARY?! I WANT THE LIBRARY!”

... And it became astoundingly clear to her, finally, in that moment:  
She didn't want to die.

And that was the problem. In the face of death, life seemed more attractive, and as life seemed more attractive, how could she get back to the Midnight Library? She

had to be disappointed in life, not just scared of it, in order to try again with another book.

There was death. Violent, oblivious death, in bear form, staring at her with its black eyes. And she knew then, more that she'd known anything, that she wasn't ready to die. (Haig, 2020:133-134)

In the quotations above, it explains how Nora is confronted by critical situation where she encounters a large polar bear that will eat her. She does her best to stay alive, she shouts and hit everything to make some noise. But it makes her realize that her desire to stay alive only distances her from the disappointment, which make her fail to go to the Midnight Library. Nora can not go back to the Midnight Library because the more she wants to be alive, the more she is far from the disappointment. This convinces Nora that she is not really to die. It shocked her more than anything because all she can think before was death.

A little later, Nora still does not feel satisfied with her chosen life. She is back at the Midnight Library again this time. Then she tries to choose living with music. She chose to gain her own way by staying on a band, The Labyrinths, the band that created by her brother Joe. Nora thinks if she does not leave the band, she will not make her brother disappointed with her. Nora always does not want to let anyone down, especially Joe. So she tries to live a life where she was popular with the band, The Labyrinths.

“Hmm. Yeah. Right.” Nora tried to think. She looked out at the stage. She saw a giant video screen with the words THE LABYRINTHS flashing and rotating out to the roaring crowd. Wow, she thought. *We're big*. Proper, stadium-level big. She saw a keyboard and the stool she had been sitting at. Her bandmates whose names she didn't know were about to walk back on stage. (Haig, 2020:157)

In the above quotation, it shows how big and popular “The Labyrinths” is. In this life, The Labyrinths is really famous and successful. The band has huge fans even all over the world. At first, Nora's life is just fine, it is wonderful life for her. She is famous and has a lot of people around her and even loves her, until one day, however, she notices the painful fact. The fact that her brother, Joe, is not there. Joe is dead of an overdose in that life. It sends Nora back to the Midnight Library, shocked and disappointed.

Marcelo looked sad for her. “You know, it's only been two years since his death... his overdose...” (Haig, 2020:178)

“Oh no,” she said. “Oh Joe... oh Joe... oh...”

And the grand hotel bar disappeared. The table, the drinks, Joanna, Marcelo, the sound guy, the hotel guests, Ravi, the others, the marble floor, the barman, the waiters, the chandeliers, the flowers, all became nothing at all. (Haig, 2020:179)

The quotations above describes how Nora's disappointment make her life disappear from her sight at that moment. The harsh reality of her brother's death make the life disappear along with everything inside, including everyone in it. Nora goes back to the Midnight Library and meet Mrs Elm again.

Once again, Nora almost gives up her life. But Mrs Elm convinces her once more. There are many other things and other lives that Nora has to try. Mrs Elm explains that the terrible things that happened in Nora's lifes also give a lot of lessons, where Nora begins to think and realizes the small things that are inside her, because the best way to learn is by living a life. Eventually Nora tries many other lives again, where she can be anything, she became different people and lives with different people too. She can learn all kinds of things in the life she will be tried.

At one point, she find a life that she think is the best and perfect for her. Nora becomes a mother, becomes a wife and living a happy life in her little familly. Everything is so perfect and she loves it. She begins to adjust in her life, she learns everything about her and her familly there. But suddenly she comes back to the Midnight Library without feeling disappointed or even regrets nothing. She is happy there, but still comes back to the Midnight Library.

“Why aren't I still there? Why aren't I there? I could sense it was happening but I didn't want it to. You said that if I found a life I wanted to live in – that I really wanted to live in – then I'd stay there. You said I'd forget about this stupid place. You said I could find the life I wanted. That was the life I wanted. That ws the life!”(Haig, 2020:255)

In the above quotation, it explains how Nora does complaining Mrs Elm about her comeback in the Library. She feels unfair because Mrs Elm has ever said that if Nora find the best and the perfect life for her, then she can stay there forever without thinking and worrying about anything, including the moments when Nora in the Midnight Library. But Nora comes back to the Midnight Library when she living her happy life.

The fact that Nora returns to the Midnight Library is because she really likes that life. Nora is too in love with that life, and that makes her desire to stay alive is stronger. Nora's desire to stay alive makes her return to the Midnight Library and finally bring her back to her root life.

### **4.3 Nora's Character Development**

Nora has learned a lot of things when she was in the Midnight Library, the place between life and death. Nora's experience to tries a lot of kinds of life has gradually lead her to change. Nora looks at herself differently and kindly. The reaction of Nora about the death is different now. Nora, the one who really wants to die at first, now wants to be alive so bad. She wants to tries out the possibilities that might be happened in her root life.

“The fact that you have so thoroughly changed your attitude towards dying.” (Haig, 2020:154)

“You have clearly made some progress, I can tell. You seem to realise that life could be worth living, if only you found the right one to exist inside.” (Haig, 2020:155)

The quotations above show that has made a great progress in herself. She begins to react differently to death. In every opportunity she has to try various kinds of life, she has learned many things and has known many things that she has never known before. The regrets Nora has felt also slowly fades away because she knows the truth, such as the reason why her cat has died and the facts that has happened when shedecides to choose another decisions in her life.

The growing desire to live drive Nora back to her root life. Nora has found something worth living for. That make Nora realize that in life, human beings can have so much possibillities that exist with keep trying and living. So Nora decides to stay alive and lives her life in her root life.

“It all makes sense. You came back here this time not because you wanted to die, but because you want to live.this library isn't falling down because it want's to kill you. It's falling down because it is giving you a chance to return. Something decisive has finally happened. You have decided you want to be alive. Now go on, live, while you still have the chance.” (Haig, 2020:259)

In the above quotation shows how Nora returns to the midnight Library even though she has found the right and the perfect life for her. Nora goes back to the Midnight Library because Nora really has the strong desire to stay alive. So her powerful desire drive her to the Midnight Library and give her another chance to live her life in her root life.

In the lives she has tried in the Midnight Library, Nora begins to learn how she should look at herself. Nora begins to accept herself completely and unburden herself by forgiving herself. She also begins to realize that there is no easy way of living. Everyone

has their own difficulties in their life. So Nora thinks there is no need to compare her life with that of anyone else.

“I think it is easy to imagine there are easier paths,” she said, realising something for the first time. “But maybe there are no easy paths. There are just paths... Every second of every day we are entering a new universe. And we spend so much time wishing our lives were different, comparing ourselves to other people and to other versions of ourselves, when really most lives contain degrees of good and degrees of bad.” (Haig, 2020:177-178)

Nora starts to appreciate that in all her life, there must be various trials to come. Everyone also has difficulties and problems in their own life. So Nora decides to love herself more for who she is.

All of Nora’s experiences makes her more grateful for what she has today. Nora looks at her life with a more positive side and begins to realize that the negative thoughts she is always thinking are a barrier to her becoming the best version of herself. Now Nora is more optimistic and hopeful than ever. She now sees everything in her life more as inspiring.

She could have been all those amazing things, and that wasn’t depressing as she had once thought. Not at all. It was inspiring. Because now she saw the kinds of things she could do when she put herself to work. (Haig, 2020:261)

Nora is better able to see that every experience give both, a lesson and an inspiration life now. Nora believes that every event has a reason. She realizes that her roots life is more reasonable and she is grateful that all of her closest people are alive.

Nora is now starting to see the good in her life. There are a lot of people around her who cares about her, and Nora does not realize that now, because she has been so overthinking about negative things before. Nora is being more confident with her life and she is living a full of happiness in her life right now.

“Yesterday I knew I had no future, and that it was impossible for me to accept my life as it is now. And yet today, that same messy life full of hope. Potential” (Haig, 2020:269)

A lot of changes as to how Nora looks at her life, she is the one who is pessimistic about her life at first, but now she lives with full of hope and optimism. Nora is grateful for her situation and her life now. Each life has its challenges, and that is what makes life more interesting. It can also make people more grateful for the good that comes in even the smallest of ways, people just have to live and enjoy their life.

## CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the writer concludes the study of Nora's character development in *the Midnight Library*. Basically, human has different characters from one another. Human's character can develop as time goes on. The development of human's character can be influenced by the circumstances, conditions, and everything they have been experienced in their lives. In the literary works, the writers also create characters that are representations of human being in real life. The characters that exist in the literary works also experience the development of character as the story goes.

In *the Midnight Library*, the main character, Nora, experiences the development of character. This is influenced by the conditions when she is in the moment between life and death. Therefore, the writer analyzes the *Midnight Library* which focuses on the main character in the story. The writer uses the intrinsic approach to analyze Nora's character development. The development of Nora's character is due to everything that happens in her life. So the writer uses intrinsic approach because the intrinsic elements (plots, character structures, backgrounds, themes, etc.) are connected to character.

Nora, the main character in *the Midnight Library*, is a woman who always complain about everything happen in her life. Dhe always compares herself, and her life to another people's life. She thinks that everyone is luckier and happier than she is. If something does not go as she has expected or hoped, she always wants to give up and blame on herself. This makes her feel depressed and stressed, so that she never see anything in the positive ways in her life. Her life becomes really messy, and her days become really bad. She lost her job, she lost her side job too, she lost her purpose to help others, and even her path is died. Therefore, Nora feels desperate and decides to end her life so that she does not need to continue living the next day.

When Nora decides to end her life, she suddenly wakes up the *Midnight Library*, the place that turns out to be between life and death. That is when Nora is shown the various life she can choose. She can choose the life where she can make a different decision on her regrettable past in order to get a better life. In reality, though, her chosen life does not go as she hoped, it does not go well. There are no good life for her. Nora even experiences a critical condition where she faces death with her own eyes. It makes her realize that she is not ready for the death, she is not ready to die. There are also many lives that make Nora learn about the meaning of gratitude. In every lives that she chose in the *Midnight Library*, Nora knows the fact that some of her closest people are dead. She also living a succesful life, but there are too much betrayal and pain accopmany. Nora becomes more aware that her root life is

actually better. In the last life she has tried, Nora actually has the best and the perfect life for her, but she can not stay there because her desire to live grows bigger and strong. So she finally come back to her root life again. Now she lives passionately and without remorse. After everything she has experiences in the Midnight Library, she is more able to appreciate herself and see things in the positive ways. Nora no longer compares her life and herself with others, since she has come to understand that everyone has their own problems in their lives, and it makes life more interesting and inspiring to her. So now, nora is more optimistic and confident living her life. She believes that she can reach all of the possibilities in her life if she put herself on work. And now she is enjoying her life as good as she can because she knows that any decision can be made, but she can not determine the results.

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