



# Kenna And Ledger's Forgiveness As Realization Of Reconciliation In Colleen Hoover's *Reminders Of Him* Novel

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## Abstract

This study explains about how the realization of reconciliation is seen by Kenna and Ledger's forgiveness in a novel entitled *Reminder's of Him* by Colleen Hoover in 2022. The writers on this article use qualitative method which can help the reader to explore more about the context of the object. This forgiveness shows how Kenna and Ledger can forgive each other and move forward into better future. The analysis look at how Kenna tries to reach forgiveness in order to escape from her past memories while Ledger wants Kenna forgive him for what he has done to her. In conclusion, the writers confirm that Kenna and Ledger get their better relationship while forgive each other and move forward into reconciliation.

**Keywords:** Colleen Hoover, Forgiveness, Realization of Reconciliation, Relationship, Reminders of Him

## INTRODUCTION

Sincere forgiveness in the people are the process of reconciliation in order to get the better relationship (Maluleke, 2020). Reconciliation also has a meaning as the process of restoring relationships of the people and resolving the problems or struggles between people or society, in order to letting go the sense of revenge and making a better choice to move forward. Reconciliation is also a process of taking an end of resentment between two groups, in order to apply a process of healing and rehabilitation between offenders and victims (Galtung, 2005). Understanding the experiences of both offenders and victims affords an honest conversation of the actions.

Reconciliation takes place as genuine forgiveness from offenders and can give an chance to victims to being heard. On the other hand, victims also need to require a way to be forgiven, which can be a good way to receive a good relationship. This way focuses on repairing the harmness which caused by conflict and change to good communication of relationship (Galtung, 2005). Reconciliation serves dialogue sessions of offenders and victims where both can express their emotion, and allow to understanding each others. Forgiveness has also been examined by creating further harmony and deep supportive connections among people within their interpersonal relationship (McCullough in Sandage, 2010).

In this study, the writers use a novel entitled *Reminders of Him* by Colleen Hoover which was published in 2022. The novel tells the story of Kenna Nicole Rowan, a young woman and the main character of this story. The second character is Ledger, a local bar owner and close friend of Scotty, Kenna's ex-boyfriend. Kenna lives in suffer, misery, regret, and fear in order to find her, Diem. She has done many kinds of thing in order to get a sincere forgiveness from Scotty's parents. Ledger, as the character who has connection with Kenna because he plays the main part of Kenna to get forgiveness from Patrick and Grace. He also gives a sincere forgiveness when he recognize that Kenna is the suspect of Scotty's death. This novel explores the journey of Kenna and Ledger in order to find forgiveness and reconcile the good relationship between them and Scotty's parents.

## METHOD

This writers of this study use a qualitative method to examine certain concept and written data which lead to understand the object of the study. It explains the realization of reconciliation from Kenna and Ledger in Colleen Hoover's *Reminders of Him*. The data of this study is obtained by reading the whole content of the novel and reading the story of Kenna and Ledger. This study serves quotations from the novel and the sources in order to support the analysis of this study. Content analysis of this study is used as the technique of data analysis to understand Kenna and Ledger's forgiveness in Colleen Hoover's novel.

## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

### Analysis of Kenna and Ledger's Realization of Reconciliation in Colleen Hoover's *Reminders of Him*

The writers in this study explore Colleen Hoover's *Reminders of Him* through Kenna and Ledger to understand the realization of reconciliation in Colleen Hoover's novel by examining Kenna and Ledger's dialogues and interactions with other characters. The analysis focuses on identifying Kenna and Ledger's forgiveness by using the result of coding the dialogues to show the reconciliation represented by Kenna and Ledger in Colleen Hoover's *Reminders of Him*.

#### Data 1

"I want to apologize, I want to escape." (Chapter 7, Page 45)

In this statement, Kenna is aware that a bartender is Ledger, Scotty's best friend. Kenna covers her true identity and goes by her middle name "Nicole" (Hoover, 2022). When Kenna recognizes Ledger, she wants to apologize, but she is also terrified that Ledger will be upset with her. She tries to escape from her difficulties, but it is not easy when Ledger knows Scotty died because of her.

#### Data 2

"My hope is that they've found a silver of forgiveness for me through my daughter." (Chapter 9, Page 67)

In this statement Kenna wants Patrick and Grace to forgive her. She also hopes that they will forgive her while they have been taking care of her daughter (Hoover, 2022). It can also be said that Kenna's daughter symbolizes her desire for forgiveness. The "silver of forgiveness" on this statement has a meaning as a sincere forgiveness.

#### Data 3

"One so heartbreaking there's a possibility it will never be forgiven." (Chapter 9, Page 67)

Kenna's statement means that when people have been heartbroken or harmed, there is an opportunity that they will be forgiven (Hoover, 2022). Kenna also feels that in some situations, the concept of forgiveness becomes complicated. If someone is deeply hurt, forgiveness can be impossible to achieve. Kenna believes that Forgiving is never an easy task even if there is always just one possibility of it happening. That is why Kenna believes there is still possibility for her reconciliation and forgiveness.

#### Data 4

"I went from hating you, to liking you, to wanting the world for you..." (Chapter 31, Page 220)

This statement explains the way Ledger gets started to change his feelings toward Kenna. He begins by hatred and gradually transforms into affection to Kenna (Hoover, 2022). Ledger understands what happened to Kenna. This makes Ledger open his heart to Kenna more because he knows all the problems Kenna has gone through. He understands what Kenna feels Ledger wants the best for her Kenna. His desire is about how making a better future connection for Kenna and her daughter.

#### Data 5

"The forgiveness I was hoping had found its way to them never made it here." (Chapter 9, Page 76)

In the words of Kenna, forgiveness can be found anywhere. She also believes that forgiveness can be shared by anyone for any particular reasons (Hoover, 2022). Forgiveness is the way for people to move forward to reconciliation. Kenna understands that it is almost impossible for her to be forgiven, however she stands optimistic that it will happen sooner or later. Forgiveness frequently takes a time and effort to Kenna in order to take it.

#### Data 6

"They still hate me. Apparently so does everyone else in their lives." (Chapter 9, Page 76)

In this statement, Kenna has an assumption that Patrick and Grace, which are Scotty's parents still hate her (Hoover, 2022). Patrick and Grace do not want to talk to her because they know that Kenna is a person who is already in Scotty's death accident. Patrick and Grace have decided not to care about what happened on Kenna. Everyone refers to people who are located with Patrick and Ledger. So, everyone in their lives does not like Kenna since they know she is the leading suspect in Scotty's murder. Everyone seems to judge her and increase their hatred for her.

#### Data 7

"I don't know how she can go from hating me to forgiving me in such a short amount of time." (Chapter 40 Page 300)

This statement shows how Grace starts to forgive Kenna. She is shocked that Grace is able to move from hating her to forgiving her. Grace immediately hugs Kenna and starts to cry (Hoover, 2022). This line also demonstrates when a person has forgiven themselves and begins to build relationships, they will ask for forgiveness from the person they hurt. This line also shows that forgiveness sometimes gets obtained without concern for time.

**Data 8**

"I'm sure it's a small chance, but it's still a chance." (Chapter 17, Page 117)

In this statement, Kenna believes she has a chance to see her daughter. She believes that even though it is a small possibility to get a forgiveness from Patrick and Grace (Hoover, 2022). If people have already forgive their selves, there is still a chance for victims to be forgiven. She knows Ledger has empathy for her. Kenna is making a commitment to get sincere forgiveness from Ledger and Scotty's parents.

**Data 9**

"... So, forgive me if those feelings sometimes overlap." (Chapter 31, Page 220)

In this statement, Ledger asks Kenna for forgiveness for something he has done. Ledger recognizes that his treatment and attention might have made Kenna feels uncomfortable (Hoover, 2022). Ledger says "overlap" means that Ledger does not hate Kenna, but sometimes he hates her. This statement also means that Ledger progressively open his heart toward Kenna moves forward to reconciliation.

**Data 10**

"Maybe I shouldn't avoid him." (Chapter 17, Page 117)

In this statement, Kenna has an opinion that there will be a bad idea if she avoids Ledger. If she does that, she cannot have a chance to meet her daughter. Therefore, she does not want to avoid Ledger (Hoover, 2022). The way she refuses to not avoid him, it symbolizes that she moves forward to reconciliation. Reconciliation needs forgiveness to get a better relationship between offenders and victims.

**Data 11**

"Some of us are more willing to forgive than others." (Chapter 32, Page 231)

In this statement, Ledger gives an advice of forgiveness. Ledger recommends the other people to be more kind and to forgive others (Hoover, 2022). Even if it is difficult to deal with, forgiving is needed for reconciliation. Reconciliation can lead to a better future and good connection in people's relationships.

**Data 12**

"I had killed you and everyone going to miss you." (Chapter 33, Page 246)

This line presents Kenna's letters to Scotty (Hoover, 2022). She feels bad for what she has done to Scotty. Car accident make Kenna stuck in regret. She cannot forgive herself because of that accident. She understands what has happened and she is ready to deal with the consequences. These are absolutely essential to both people and herself. When she understands the consequences, it can lead her to move forward to reconciliation.

**Data 13**

"It was my fault..." (Chapter 33, Page 246)

This statement shows the situation that describes how Kenna recognizes her mistakes. She also feels what happened to Scotty in the past and realizes that she has not been right (Hoover, 2022). When Kenna confessing her feelings, she can be able to forgive herself. She is prepared as well to take on the reconciliation and move forward to get forgiveness.

**Data 14**

"I just tuned it all out somehow by just repeating that phrase over and over in my head. I'm sorry, Scotty. I'm sorry, Scotty. I'm sorry, Scotty." (Chapter 33, Page 252)

This statement shows Kenna's letters to Scotty. She feels so guilty for what has been done to Scotty (Hoover, 2022). She mentions it repeatedly since she believes that what she just committed is unacceptable and she lives in regret. Her regret controls her mind and cannot make her minimize her revenge to herself. This line shows how her suffers make her to move forward and forgive herself and move forward to a reconciliation.

**Data 15**

"I only hope one day our daughter will forgive me, too. And your parents." (Chapter 33, Page 254)

This statement shows how Kenna wants to be forgiven by Scotty's parents and Diem. Kenna hopes that one day her daughter will give Kenna a forgiveness for her and her father, Scotty, for what has happened (Hoover, 2022). She wishes for the greatest future for dealing with those issues. Her hoping represent how Kenna progressively move to reconciliation.

**Data 16**

"Then maybe, by some miracle, I can start to forgive myself." (Chapter 33, Page 254)

Kenna hopes for a miracle that allows her to forgive herself (Hoover, 2022). Kenna is in the position of sadness. Kenna believes in reconciliation mainly because it allows her to keep open to forgiveness. Kenna believes in

repairing her relationship with Scotty's parents, particularly because sincerity encourages her to remain open to forgiveness. She is going to find a miracle as her next opportunity. She will try to reach for a miracle as her next hope.

#### Data 17

"I definitely don't hate her anymore." (Chapter 35 Page 272)

This statement shows Ledger move to a reconciliation. Ledger begins to forgive Kenna and wishes to start a positive relationship with her (Hoover, 2022). This line also explains that Ledger start to open his heart and lead him to forgive Kenna. When his mother thinks about if he fell in love with Kenna, Ledger simply replies that he does not hate her. Better reconciliation takes the form of transforming from hatred to love.

#### Data 18

"I do nothing. Because I feel so guilty. I'd let him punch me a million more times, and I still wouldn't defend myself." (Chapter 37 Page 282)

This statement shows how Patrick is full of anger. Patrick feels angry because he cannot accept Kenna lives beside their family and Ledger. Ledger has a desire to repair the relation between Kenna and Scotty's parents. Ledger several times makes Patrick punch him because he assumes it will take away his guilt, and he knows he deserves it (Hoover, 2022). He does not need to fight back because he does it in order for Kenna and Scotty.

#### Data 19

"I didn't hit him back because I deserved this." (Chapter 37 Page 283)

Ledger does not punch Patrick back because he becomes aware he deserves it (Hoover, 2022). He develops a relationship with Kenna, which truly causes pain to Patrick and Grace. He hopes that the conflict will result in reconciliation in the days to come.

#### Data 20

"We go forward", she says. "That's it. It's that simple. I forgive you and you forgive me, and we go forward together and give the little girl the best life we can give her. Okay?" (Chapter 40 Page 308)

This line illustrates Kenna achieve her forgiveness from Scotty's parents. Kenna's sincerity and desire makes her be able to get forgiveness (Hoover, 2022). Kenna and Grace finally forgive each other for the reason of Kenna's daughter, Diem. Diem is the one truly important thing to them because they do not want something bad happened again in their family (Hoover, 2022). Grace believes that this is what Scotty wants.

### The Significance of Realization of Reconciliation in Matter of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is defined as a decrease in negative thoughts and feelings and an increase in positive ones toward an offender or another (Toussaint, 2023). It also means letting go of negative emotions and thoughts toward someone and replacing those feelings with good thoughts. When individuals forgive someone for doing something wrong, they recognize that something terrible has happened to them and indicate a desire to move forward from the accident. Forgiveness also represents helpful actions and feelings which move from resentment to more good feelings by overcoming the desire to take action against the issues (Wade et al., 2008). Forgiveness focuses on finding a solution to cease having unpleasant thoughts and emotions about other people.

Reconciliation additionally means letting go of resentments and making the right choice to go forward (Galtung, 2005). Forgiveness is a process that requires time and effort. It is not about forgetting the offense caused by the offenders, but about releasing the burden of negative emotions and going forward with reconciliation and recovery. Forgiveness can result in the deep changes required for reconciliation while also meeting defined basic equality standards (Amaya et al, 2023).

Moreover, according to Maluleke (2020), reconciliation is the process of restoring connections between people and resolving issues in order to begin the reconciliation process. The incoming reconciliation is also closely related with forgiveness as the decision to let go of resentment or rage toward someone who has hurt, while also emphasizing apologies to help people rebuild their connection. This strategy focuses on releasing negative emotions and deciding to let go of the past in order to move forward in reconciliation. Reconciliation can result in to forgiveness.

### Discussion of Kenna and Ledger's Realization of Reconciliation in Colleen Hoover's *Reminders of Him*

In this section, the writers examine the narrative of Kenna and Ledger's forgiveness in Colleen Hoover's *Reminders of Him* that shows the realization of reconciliation. These explanation are explained below;

**In data 1**, the quote above explains Scotty's death still makes Kenna live in misery and regret. She uses her middle name as a reason to make people who know Scotty, not recognize her as well. The way she asks for forgiveness, is the one reason why forgiveness in humans is required for the healing process to get started (Maluleke, 2020). People often stay with sad memories for fear of making the same mistakes or harming others again and they always focus on their past experiences in order to protect themselves against possible hurt, which makes it difficult to move forward and trust again.

**In data 2**, the quote above explains Silver of Forgiveness means “a hope to be forgiven”. Kenna considers that what has been done to Scotty cannot easily be forgiven because of Scotty’ death, Kenna is on his side. Kenna always looks for a way for her to be forgiven. Sincere apologies can help Kenna feel heard and to encourage reconciliation. Reconciliation is also a process that ends conflict in order to help with healing and rehabilitation (Galtung, 2005). Kenna needs to discover a way to forgive, which can be an important move towards building a stronger relationship with Scotty's parents, underlining apologies to enhance further rehabilitation of relationships.

**In data 3**, the quote above explains Forgiveness can be one of the most challenging emotional processes for people. If trust has been broken down, forgiveness can be difficult since bringing back trust requires time and work. Forgiveness does not mean forgetting, but rather an adjustment in the victim's perspective on the offense that is committed (Amaya et al, 2023). Kenna thinks that people may be unable to forgive because they are afraid of trusting someone again after being injured. People who have already suffered heartbreak will not learn from their mistakes and will continue to hurt others. Hurtful memories are various painful and concerning situations that can cause negative feelings like sadness, rage, or fear.

**In data 4**, the quote above explains According to Maluleke (2020), reconciliation is the act of restoring ties and resolving conflicts between groups of people. Sincere forgiveness in humans is required for the process of reconciliation to begin. For reconciliation to take place, Ledger's sincere apologies can provide Kenna with an opportunity to be heard. On the other hand, Kenna must find a way to forgive, which can be a powerful start toward a healing connection with Ledger and Scotty's parents. Reconciliation also means letting go of hatred and making a positive decision to move forward in order to leave behind painful memories, underlining apologies to enhance further rehabilitation of relationships as stated by Ledger in the above quotation.

**In data 5**, the quote above explains Kenna believes that true healing and peace come from forgiving others and repairing the connection, rather than holding on to past accidents. Maluleke (2020) mentions that reconciliation is the process of putting back human relationships and resolving problems so that the reconciliation process can get started. Forgiveness is making the choice to release resentment or hate toward someone who has wronged, underlining apologies to enhance further rehabilitation of relationships. This method is more about releasing bad emotions and choosing to let go of the past to move in reconciliation. Reconciliation can be a key to forgiveness.

**In data 6**, the quote above explains When people decide to hate Kenna, the thesis writer concludes that hatred usually grows from unresolved pain or trauma and makes it difficult to forgive or understand the situations. Negative experiences for those who are harmed can cause powerful negative feelings toward others (Argembeau et al., in Burnell et al., 2020). That treatment can additionally produce negative memories, which can have an effect on a person's mental health. Rejection and betrayal from groups can bring back memories of angry and traumatic events and make long-term emotional consequences.

**In data 7**, the quote above explains This statement expresses Patrick and Grace's route towards forgiveness. Grace asks for forgiveness unplanned because, in moments of emotional clarity, she realizes that holding onto anger or resentment is more hurtful to their own peace than letting go. Forgiveness and revenge are regarded as universal reactions, with forgiveness evolving as a result of successful relationship restoration (Schumann et al., 2021). Grace says that they do this to protect Diem. They do not want to lose Diem in the same way that they lost Scotty. A transformation of grace makes a desire to restore harmony generally leads to forgiveness, as it gives a way forward with greater emotional freedom and understanding.

**In data 8**, the quote above explains Ledger's healing process can be progressive, and Kenna has no power for what percentage of Ledger will forgive her. Forgiveness often depends on a person's emotional state (Jones, 2018). If someone is deeply hurt, they may need time to process their feelings before they are ready to forgive. Understanding why the other person acted the way they did can make it easier to forgive. If Ledger can see the reasoning behind Kenna's past actions, forgiveness may feel more possible and lead to a more open mind to forgive.

**In data 9**, the quote above explains Ledger considers that his treatment toward Kenna makes her fall in pain. Empathy enables persons who are guilty to seek and receive forgiveness (Ramsey in Song, 2020). Ledger wants to make a good relationship with Kenna, but his feelings still overlap. It means he cannot decide if he forgives or hates her. This method focuses on correcting broken relationships created by conflict and developing the future partnership (Galtung, 2005). It may provide dialogue sessions for Ledger and Kenna to express their feelings, which allows for understanding and responsibilities. Letting go of hurtful past experiences promotes emotional healing by supporting people in processing and moving from painful memories to positive memories. As a result, it can promote a healthier mental state, underlining apologies to enhance further rehabilitation of relationships.

**In data 10**, the quote above explains Forgiveness does not make people weak (Jones 2018). A lot of people believe that forgiving is a sign of weakness. But, in real life, forgiveness is a strength. Kenna is still struggling to reconcile her past and move forward. Kenna realizes that in order to forgive someone, Ledger must have good emotional thinking and be able to move past memories. In such a case, forgiveness can be powerful because it allows people to take control of their own emotions and reactions, rebuild relationships, and rebuild trust. Because of this, Kenna is unable to distance herself from Ledger.

**In data 11**, the quote above explains Sincere forgiveness helps with personal healing by helping people to make room for growth, and renew their commitment to each other. When faced with unwelcome memories, people sometimes want to clear them from their minds (Noreen et al., 2020). Forgiveness is also about letting go of resentment



and the desire for revenge, while revenge is often a reaction motivated by a desire for justice. People forgive because they share feelings with the person who is treated badly by them and fully understand the reasons for someone's action.

**In data 12**, the quote above explains Kenna wants to move on from her past into the great future of her life. She wants to restore relationships with Scotty's parents and Ledger as a resolve. Reconciliation is also a process that attempts to resolve conflict in order to help with the healing and restoration of those who have been hurt (Galtung, 2005). On the other hand, in order for reconciliation to take place, Kenna's sincere apologies can provide her with the opportunity to feel heard by Patrick and Grace. This strategy can enhance Kenna's sense of connection by exposing her past hurts, and want to move forward positively with Scotty's parents.

**In data 13**, the quote above explains Kenna feels down for what happened to Scotty. In her letter to Scotty, she really does not want to kill him. Her hurtful memories make her unable to forgive herself and it makes her stuck on regret. When confronted with painful experiences, or even reminders of such memories, people commonly want to remove them from their thoughts (Noreen et al., 2020). In this quotation, it will give her the power to take control of her emotional responses rather than letting past experiences control their feelings.

**In data 14**, the quote above explains repeating sorry illustrates that Kenna really wants to escape from her hurtful memories. Hurtful memories are painful and disturbing situations that make negative feelings like hurt, rage, or fear can occur as a result of physical and emotional experiences from the past. Memories of tragic accidents in Kenna's life cause connected emotions and feelings that she prefers to ignore (Noreen et al., 2020). On the other hand, Kenna needs to find a way to forgive herself, which can maintain her emotions to be better.

**In data 15**, the quote above explains Kenna expresses her hope that Diem and Scotty's parents are likely to someday forgive her. Kenna who asks for forgiveness has an ability to confess her mistakes and accept responsibility for her actions. Forgiveness can be viewed as a positive method to reducing various risks and increasing societal harmony (Burnette in Liu, 2020). Her actions demonstrate a desire to repair connections and heal emotional traumas, underlining apologies to enhance further rehabilitation of relationships. Asking for forgiveness is an important step toward better reconciliation because it includes accepting a person's crimes.

**In data 16**, the quote above explains the miracle of forgiveness is the transformational ability to heal either the giver and the receiver. Forgiveness has the ability to free Kenna from the weight of anger and past hurts, and also helping her to be free of emotional pain and find peace. Forgiveness does not care about rejection as it focuses on underlining apologies to enhance further rehabilitation of relationships (Philips et al., 2022). Maintains Kenna's peace of mind, allowing her to move forward with new hope and sincerity for her pain.

**In data 17**, the quote above explains in this line, Ledger starts to reconcile her hatred to forgiveness. Forgiveness in this line takes a part as medicine for Ledger to repair the relationship between him and Kenna in order to give a good impact for them. Forgiveness also can restore one sense in a relationship, in order to find wholeness, rather unconditional forgiveness to others, and make people move forward in their recovery (Philips et al., 2022). It is done by Ledger in underlining apologies to enhance further rehabilitation of relationships.

**In data 18**, the quote above explains Ledger realized the consequence of his action. The way he does not punch Patrick back shows that he is in the position of recall in Worthington theory. Worthington (2005) mentions that when people on this stage, they will face other people who get hurt and they will try to explain the situation before coming to forgiveness. This stage includes maintaining the forgiveness process over time, as feelings of hurt and resentment can rise again.

**In data 19**, Ledger realized the impact of what he has done. The fact that he does not punch Patrick back illustrates that he avoids revenge because he understands that holding onto these emotions will ultimately end at Kenna not receiving her forgiveness. So, he chose to let go as a healthier option. According to Worthington (2005), when people reach this stage, they will meet other people who have been injured and try to clear up the issue before deciding to forgive. This stage involves continuing the forgiveness process as time passes, as beliefs of hurt and resentment may come back to life.

**In data 20**, the quote above explains at this point, Grace wants Kenna to be in her family and together taking care of Diem. This situation also represents a reconciliation that brings Kenna to be forgiven. Galtung (2005) states that Reconciliation is also a process aimed at putting an end to conflict into forgiveness. People get reconciliation through forgiveness because they want to restore the peace and trust in their relationships. Reconciliation provides an opportunity to rise aside previous hurts and restore the relationship between Kenna and Grace.

## CONCLUSION

For the summary of this analysis in Colleen Hoover's *Reminders of Him*, it shows the realization of reconciliation from Kenna and Ledger. After she get out from prison, she faces many kinds of struggles such as misery, fear, and regret. Scotty's death makes Kenna cannot live in peace. Kenna her reconciliation by facing many consequences that she must take. Ledger, the side character who plays the part of this story also do the same thing. He progressively changes his desire from hating to liking Kenna. Reconciliation makes Kenna and Ledger can be able to reach the better relationship and move forward to bright future.

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