

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

It is generally known that discrimination is one of many things that people either see, hear about, do, or experience in their social life. Discrimination is “the practice of treating somebody or a particular group in society less fairly than others” (“Discrimination”). The only cause of discrimination is stigma. Stigma means “negative feelings that people have about particular circumstances or characteristics that somebody may have” (“Stigma”). Therefore, it is a fact that “discrimination occurs when stigmatization is acted on by concrete behaviors such as exclusion, rejection, or devaluation” (Abbey et al. 2).

One community in particular that has been discriminated due to the stigma is the HIV+ community. This community has been alienated and misunderstood because society has the stigma that the community could easily spread the virus and threaten their lives. HIV+ community is a group of people who are infected with HIV. HIV is an abbreviation for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It attacks cells’ immune system that gradually weakens one’s immune system (“What Are HIV and AIDS?”). These people who are infected with the virus are not only struggling with their health condition but

also with the discrimination that they receive from people in general who are also known as society.

One contemporary author who has written a story about HIV discrimination is Camryn Garrett. Camryn Garrett is a young African-American writer. She started her writing career professionally since she was 13 years old as a reporter for *TIMES* for Kids (Tamola). She tells a story about an HIV+ teenager who experiences discrimination due to stigma in her novel, *Full Disclosure*. By delivering such a story in *Full Disclosure*, she could be seen as a great author considering that she is still at her young age. From praises that she has gained from this novel, one of the reviews states that “Garrett’s debut novel not only successfully tackles discrimination through the lenses of race, sexuality, and having HIV, but also shows the possibility of living a full life despite it all” (“Full Disclosure”).

*Full Disclosure*, the novel that I have chosen to discuss in this thesis, tells the story of Simone, a girl who is born HIV+. Her condition is threatened to be exposed which brings a possibility for her to be discriminated by society. This novel delivers an eye-opening story for the readers to know more about the HIV+ community. Though this is Camryn Garrett’s debut novel, she is able to bring a delightful story filled with hilarious humor and enlightening messages.

Since this novel shows dissidence between society and the HIV+ community, I would like to discuss the conflicts. Conflict is defined as “the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction” (Shaw 91). There are two types of conflicts to be discussed in this thesis. They are social conflicts and inner conflicts. Social conflict is a “struggle between man and man” (91). As for inner conflict, it is “a struggle between desires within a person” (91-92). Therefore, conflict is

a suitable literary element to discuss the discordance between the HIV+ community and society in this novel.

The approach used to conduct this research is the formalism approach. Formalism approach is an approach that focuses on the work itself to find its value and meaning (Guerin, et al. 351). Thus, for this research, *Full Disclosure* by Camryn Garrett is considered enough to be discussed without using any external source.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The problems that I would like to discuss are:

1. What kinds of conflicts that happen in the novel?
2. What causes the conflicts?
3. What are the resolutions of the conflicts?

### **Purpose of the Study**

From the problems mentioned, the purposes of this research are:

1. To show and explain the kinds of conflicts happen in the novel.
2. To show the causes of the conflicts.
3. To show whether the conflicts are solved or unsolved.

### **Method of Research**

In this thesis, I use library research as the method to gather all the necessary data. The first step is reading the novel *Full Disclosure* as the main source. After reading the novel, I analyze the conflicts in it using formalism. Then, I retrieve some

useful data from books and the Internet to complement the discussion in the thesis. I end this thesis by drawing a conclusion from the discussion.

### **Organization of the Thesis**

The thesis is going to be arranged into 3 chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which includes Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. The second chapter is the analysis of social and inner conflicts in Camryn Garrett's *Full Disclosure*. The last chapter is Chapter Three, which is the Conclusion. The thesis is also going to be complemented with Bibliography and Appendices, which consists of the synopsis of *Full Disclosure* and the biography of Camryn Garrett.

