THE REFLECTION OF THE AUTHOR’S LOVE, FRIENDSHIP 
AND CAREER PORTRAYED IN THE CHARACTERS AND 
PLOT IN LAUREN CONRAD’S SWEET LITTLE LIES

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements 
for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra 
in English Letters

By

MELISA INDRIANI
Student Number: 054214110

ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAMME 
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS 
FACULTY OF LETTERS 
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY 
YOGYAKARTA
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Defended before the Board of Examiners
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Prof. Dr. I. Praptomo Baryadi, M.Hum
Experience: that most brutal of teachers.
But you learn, my God do you learn.

“C.S. Lewis”

Every great dream begins with a dreamer.
Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.

“Harriet Tubman”
This is for my beloved Papah and Mamah,

Thank You
Gracias
Dank U
Danke
Merci Beaucoup
Grazie
Obrigado

TERIMA KASIH
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Melisa Indriani
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Yogyakarta, February 6th 2012

Melisa Indriani
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Yogyakarta, 6 Februari 2012

Melisa Indriani
STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

I declare that the thesis I have written does not contain any works or parts of the works of other people, except those cited in the quotation as any academic paper should.

Yogyakarta, February 6th 2012

Melisa Indriani
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ABSTRACT

MELISA INDRIANI. The Reflection of the Author’s Love, Friendship, and Career Portrayed in the Characters and Plot in Lauren Conrad’s Sweet Little Lies. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2011.

There are a lot of aspects that help build the literary work. One of them is the author’s life experiences in certain parts. They can affect the way she describes the characters and plot. The novel, Sweet Little Lies shows the example of how an author’s life experiences in love, friendship, and career can help characterizing the characters and developing the plot of the story.

The objectives of the study are finding out the description of the characters in the novel by using the fact that is given in the story, analyzing how the plot is constructed, and finding out how the author’s love, friendship, and career portrayed in the characters and the plot.

The writer uses library research as the method of the study. The writer gathered the data collection from published books and online or internet sources. Biographical Approach is applied because this thesis discusses about how an author’s love, friendship, and career can give a big influence in how she arranges her literary work, the writer finds this approach is the most suitable to be used.

The result of this analysis shows that the author’s love, friendship, and career are giving the influence in characterizing the characters and developing the plot. After analyzing and getting the description of the characters then the writer relates them with the author’s herself and her friends’ characteristics in the real life. The author’s love, friendship, and career in the real life are relating with the plot in the story. Each event in the author’s real life, particularly concerning her love, friendship, and career are proven to playing their part in constructing the plot. Their contributions can be seen from the conflicts in the story: the betrayal, the situation behind the camera in the reality show, and the scandal. Although the story is not exactly the same with the author’s experience but it can be seen how the author implicitly shares her real experiences mix with fiction through the characters and the plot. The plot develops through the complication and climax they make.
PLAGIAT MERUPAKAN TINDAKAN TIDAK TERPUJI

ABSTRAK


Tujuan dari penulisan skripsi ini adalah untuk menemukan deskripsi tokoh-tokoh dalam cerita, menganalisa bagaimana alur cerita dibangun, dan menemukan bagaimana kehidupan percintaan, persahabatan, dan karir si pengarang digambarkan dalam tokoh-tokoh dan alur cerita.

Penulis menggunakan metode pustaka sebagai metode penelitian. Penulis mengumpulkan data dari buku-buku yang diterbitkan dan sumber media online atau internet. Biographical Approach diterapkan karena tesis ini membahas tentang bagaimana kehidupan percintaan, persahabatan, dan karir si pengarang memberikan pengaruh yang besar kepada mereka dalam menyusun karya sastranya maka penulis merasa bahwa pendekatan inilah yang paling tepat untuk digunakan.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

A work of literature might represent something or anything. There are a lot of works of literature that picture the real social conditions in certain era. The authors can even bring out their life pictures through them, intentionally or unintentionally.

Esther Lombardi (2009) in her article at *Classic Literature, About.com*, defined the literature as a term used to describe written or spoken material. Broadly speaking, “literature” is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction.

Thus, the readers might have their own imagination and interpretation about the work of literature that they read. An author may not draw the real conditions that happened in his or her life, but in the work of literature that he or she makes, an author can add some fictional things or events based on his or her imagination to make the work of literature becomes more interesting to read.

The reflections on the author’s characteristics may appear in the descriptions on the characters’ characteristics that he or she describes on the novel. While the events or a thing which are happened in the author’s real life can be seen in the plot that the author arranges.
In some way, if the author were a famous person, the readers can easily connect the story line in his or her novel with his or her real life. For instance, in their love, friendship, career, or family aspects.

Conrad’s *Sweet Little Lies* tells about two young girls who lives in LA in the search of their dreams and future, Jane Roberts and Scarlett Harp who suddenly became very famous since they decided to join the cast of *L.A. Candy*, a reality TV show of the *PopTv*. While in fact, Conrad herself is a reality TV star of the two MTV’s reality shows, *Laguna Beach Season 1-2* in 2004-2006 and *The Hills Season 1-5* in 2006-2009.

*Sweet Little Lies* is a follow up of her first novel *L.A. Candy* which was published on June 16, 2009, also published by HarperCollins Publisher. For 6 weeks it topped the list of New York Times Best Selling Novel. This novel setting is in Hollywood empire.

Hollywood glamorous life style has been one of the most significant inspirations to many people, especially to those who live in the big cities, since a very long time ago. Those who are infected with such things are mostly young people who tend to adore their Hollywood stars and in so many ways likely to imitated their way of life.

There are unlimited entertainments that Hollywood offers to its fans. Even each of the day the new stars are born in the jungle of hope and dream, and it seems so unstoppable. In Hollywood the scandals are like spices and the gossips are spread widely like the smoke blown by the wind, and it is so difficult to the Hollywood Crews (celebrities) to escape from the eyes of the media.
As Conrad wrote her novels, many criticisms came to her. It is said that her novels are none other than the copy and paste of her real life experiences. There are some characters in this novel that have similarities with the people around Conrad, even with Conrad herself. In other words, the critics made a disparage judgment on Conrad’s creativity and ability on writing a literature project.

Therefore, based on the criticisms toward this novel, the writer thinks that it is very interesting and challenging to study about Conrad’s love, career, and friendship problems and characteristics as the author, which may be reflected in this novel.

There are some things that the writer also finds interesting and challenging at the same time in discussing this novel in a thesis. First, it is very challenging to learn somebody’s personality and life background in effort to know how far those things are in influencing her literature work on how she describes her imaginary characters’ characteristics and builds the plot of the story.

B. Problem Formulation

This study is aimed to analyze the reflection of the author’s life in the main characters and the plot, therefore the writer has formulated three problem formulations, they are:

1. How are the characters in the novel described?

2. How is the plot in the novel constructed?
3. How do the characters and the plot reflect the author’s love, friendship and career?

C. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem formulation, there are three objectives in this study. The first objective is to analyze the description of the characters in the *Sweet Little Lies*. The analysis will be done by reading and studying the story.

Afterward, the second objective is about finding how the plot in the novel constructed also by reading and studying the whole story using the appropriate theory.

Finally, the last objective is to analyze how the author’s love, friendship, and career reflected through the characters and the plot in the story. This analysis will be done by referring to the author’s biographical review and relate it to the characters and the plot of the story.

D. Definition of Terms

This part discusses the definition of terms that can help the reader understands this study easier. The first term that the writer thinks need to be defined is plot. C.S. Wyatt in *tameri.com* defines plot as the series of events providing conflict within a story. The plot is sometimes called the “spine” of a story. The plot is the action, while the story is the emotions associated with the action (2010).
The second term is main character. According to Abrams in *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, character is defined as the person presented in dramatic or narrative work, who is interpreted by the readers as being endowed with a moral and disposition qualities that are expressed in what they say, the dialogue and what they do the action (1981: 20).

The last term that will be defined is characterization. The definition of characterization according to Hugh C. Holman and William Harmon in *A Handbook of Literature*, is the way to create of imaginary persons so that they exist for the for the readers as life like (1986:81).
CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Review of Related Studies

The negative judgments comes through Conrad’s novels, from her first novel *L.A. Candy* to *Sweet Little Lies* which is the follow-up of her first novel. The critics said that these two novels were made based on the copy and paste of her real life experience. Some said that *Sweet Little Lies* is a portrayal of her real life that she already shared with the whole world in her reality show, *The Hills* (2006-2009).

First, a note of apology if you've come to this review having never heard of "The Hills" as I will talk openly of the parallels between the book and the "reality" that spawned it. Chances are if you are on this page, you know, but if by some chance you don't, please look it up on Wikipedia and then return later (Taylor, 2010).

By what Taylor had stated in his review toward this novel, it can be seen clearly that he really thought that Conrad’s storyline in this novel is very similar with what was on *The Hills*.

"Sweet Little Lies" picks up less than a week after the first book's cliffhanger, with reality superstar Jane Roberts (a thinly-veiled interpretation of Conrad) on a self-imposed exile with Madison (Heidi). Madison had released photographs of Jane cheating on her boyfriend Jesse (Jason) to Gossip Magazine then whisked Jane away before her best friend Scarlet (another side of Conrad's personality) could warn her (Taylor, 2010).

Again, Taylor interpreted Jane Roberts, which is the main character on this novel, as “the thinly-veiled interpretation of Conrad”. He seemed sure that Jane Roberts is a reflection of Conrad herself. Moreover, some of Conrad’s friends and
enemy are also taking part in this novel as Conrad describe Haidi Montag (her friend who turned into enemy) as Madison, and her boyfriend Jason as Jesse.

If the writer talks about Conrad’s *Sweet Little Lies*, it is also interesting to see how the critics thought about her first novel, *L.A. Candy* in which for the very first time she introduced Jane Roberts and pals.

“This is what makes L.A. Candy intriguing. We get to find out what goes on behind the scenes to everything “The Hills” refused to show us. I would assume, there is barely a person who will read this book who didn’t watch “The Hills”. In “Hills” tradition the book ends on a cliff hanger that will have you looking up when the next book in the series comes out.” (Eissenberg, 2010).

Jessica Eisenberg got a little more positive toward *L.A. Candy*, which was Conrad’s first shot in writing. She kindly thought that by reading Conrad’s first novel the readers can be able to see how things going on behind the scenes on a reality show. However, she also thought that there is a similarity between Conrad’s novel and her reality show, which both are having a cliff hanger ending.

Different from Robert Taylor and Jessica Eisenberg’s reviews, Mechele R. Dillard, an examiner from Atlanta Young Adult Literature Examiner, reviewed this novel based on how good the novel is to readers below 17 years old. Dillard tended to see this novel as a guide for the young teenager to learn about the dating world through how Conrad reveals Jane Roberts’ experience in dating a bad guy, Jesse.

“Many parents will find the plot twists and turns to be a bit much for the recommended 14-and-up age group; 16-and-up is probably a better number. One might assume that, in this type of teen-racy novel, the problem would be sex, maybe even drugs. But, the biggest issue in is not these vices, or really even the constant underage drinking and persistent over-drinking. Rather, the difficulty is the ongoing abusive relationship between Jane and Jesse. And, hopefully, Conrad’s honest portrayal will
inform and educate younger readers who are just beginning their journey into the dating world, and will give them the confidence and understanding to prevent them from becoming victims themselves.” (Dillard, 2010).

B. Review of Related Theories

There are two theories that related with the topic in this thesis that the writer uses to answer the problem formulation. The theories are:

1. Theory of Character and Characterization

In characterizing a character an author can present either directly or indirectly. In indirect presentation, the author presents the character’s personality from how the characters acts, talks, or how they interact with the other, while in direct presentation, the author tells about the character’s straightly in the sentence or by the dialogue of the other character (Perrine.1974:68). It means that the readers can observe the character’s characteristics through the character’s statements, how the characters’ look like, whether they have any nervous habits, and by looking at the other character’s statement.

Almost the same with Perrine, M.H Abrams in A Glossary of Literary Terms also said that the author can present characters in two techniques from the narration; showing and telling. All the emotion, morality, desire and any other qualities that their character feel may mirrored on these description. The readers are able to understand the change of a character easily through the author’s cleverness in making such dialogues and description of their fictional characters.

“Characters are the persons presented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with moral, dispositional, and emotion qualities that are expressed in what they say –the dialogue- and by what they do –the actions-. The ground in the characters’ temperament, desires, and moral nature for their speech and actions are
called their motivation. A character may remain essentially ‘stable’ or unchanged in outlook and disposition, from the beginning to the end of the work or may undergo a radical change, either through a gradual process of motivation and development or as a result of a crisis. Whether a character remains stable or change, the readers of a traditional or realistic work expects ‘consistency’—the character shouldn’t suddenly break off in a way not plausibly grounded in his or her temperament as we have already come to know it.” (Abrams, 1982:2)

According to Roger B. Henkle in Reading the Novel: an Introduction to the Techniques Interpreting Fiction character is divided into two; major and minor character.

Character can be described as major and secondary characters. Major characters are the most important and complex characters in the novel. They can be identified as such through the complexity of their characterization, the attention given to them (by the author and other characters) who deserve out fullest attention because they perform the key of structural function. Secondary characters are characters who perform more limited functions. They are limited in ways that the major characters are not. They may less sophisticate, so that their responses to the experience are less complex and interesting (1965:60).

To conclude, in the whole part of the story, the main characters are the key that hold the main role, without them the story will not be interesting, while the secondary characters’ role is not as significant as the main characters. The secondary characters are not given much room in the story because the focuses mostly spend to the main characters.

While in Understanding Unseen; as Introduction to English Poetry and the English Novel for Overseas Students, M.J. Murphy classifies that there are nine ways of how an author presents the characters to make the readers understand their description, they are:
a. Personal Description

To describe the personal description, the author can reveal a person’s appearance (the face, skin, eyes, hair) and clothes (the shirt, pants, skirt, coat). For understanding the character’s personalities clearly, the author tries to convey the characters by using adjective.

b. Character as Seen by Another

The author tries to describe the character by using the opinions and point of view of another character. So, the readers can get the image of characters from another one directly.

c. Speech

The author can give to the readers an insight into the characterization through what that character says. It can be described whenever a character speaks, having some conversations with another, puts forward an opinion, so the character can gives some clue about the characterization revealed through the speech between the others.

d. Past Life

The reader can learn something about a character’s past life. Here, the author can give some clues related to the events at that time that have helped to shape a character’s personality. The author uses the direct comment, such as the person’s thought, through the conversation each other or the medium of another person.
e. **Conversation of Others**

Through the conversation between other people, characterization can be described in some characters. The reader can also get some clues from the author about a character’s personality through the conversations of other characters.

f. **Reactions**

The author can also give the readers a clue to a character’s personality by using how the character gives his acts to various situations and events that happen at that time. The readers can use the situation and events to describe the characterization.

g. **Direct Comments**

The author can describe or comment on a person’s character directly. By using direct comments, the author gives the opinion about the character.

h. **Thoughts**

The author can give us direct knowledge of what a person is thinking about. Using the character’s thought, the readers can see the author’s imagination through the character’s mind.

i. **Mannerism**

The author can describe a person’s mannerisms, habits or idiosyncrasies which may also tell us something about his character (1972: 161-173).

---

2. **Theory of Plot**

A novel will be interesting and worth reading if the plot is well-constructed. An author has to know how to arrange a strong and good plot to help
the readers understand the conflicts happened in the novel. Here, the writer thinks that plot is holding one of the most important substances in making a novel worth reading and interesting.

Contrary to many general-purpose dictionaries, a plot is not the main story of a work. A plot is the series of events providing conflict within a story. The search for a murderer is a plot. Surviving a natural disaster is a plot. A plot can be summarized without specific names or settings. The plot is sometimes called the “spine” of a story. The plot is the action, while the story is the emotions associated with the action (Wyatt, 2010).

Wyatt states clearly that plot is different from the story. The plot is more like a process of how the story told. He made an example, in the story of a murderer, the murderer is the story, while the plot is the process of searching for the murderer.

A story is built upon the conflicts created by a plot, unless the work is experimental or philosophical. A writer selects a setting for the plot and then throws in a few detailed characters. With a plot, setting, and characters, the story can begin. A story sits on a plot; it is the emotional reactions of and choices made by various characters or groups. We use stories to convey our values, morality, and social structure to the young, new members, and to reinforce the existing membership. (Wyatt, 2010)

A story of a novel is very dependent by the plot that created by the author. Basically the story follows the plot, not the contrary. If the plot is already created then the story will follow the plot and the arrangement of the story will be well-read if the story follows the process in the plot, which is from the first conflict to another. The arrangements of the plot are: the prologue, the beginning, the middle, the end, and the epilogue.

While Abrams states in his book *A Glossary of Literary Terms* that “plot in a dramatic or narrative work is constituted by its events and actions, as these are rendered and ordered toward achieving particular emotional and artistic effects
(1982: 159)”. He also adds that this explanation is simple and understandable, because the actions (including verbal discourse as well as physical actions) are performed by particular characters in a work, and the means by which they are exhibit their moral and dispositional qualities. A plot is the order of the story and plot is different from the story. When we talk about story we will say that first this happens, than that, than etcetera. While when we talk about plot we will talk about the order of the story, from the beginning, the middle, the climax, and the ending of the story.

The beginning initiates the main action in a way which makes us look forward to something more; the middle presumes what has gone before and requires something to follow; and the end follows from what has gone before but requires nothing more; we are satisfied that the plot is complete (1982: 161).

Abrams defines that based on Aristotle’s pattern that plot is a continuous sequence of beginning, middle, and end. As stated above, the plot must have a pattern that leads the readers from one event to another. More specifically, Abrams also defines the pattern of plot based on Gustav Freytag in *Technique of the Drama* (1863), which is knows as a Freytag’s Pyramid. Here, Freytag describes plot as a five-act play as a pyramid shape consists of an exposition, rising action (which Aristotle calls this complications), climax, falling action or resolution, and denouement or conclusion (1982: 161-162).

Murphy in Koesnosoebroto (1988: 36) explains that an exposition shows the points of attack initiates the action; showing the main character in conflict with self, others, nature’s forces, or social forces. The rising action or complications make the problem more difficult to solve; the climax presents the
opposing forces at the apex of their struggle; the resolution settles the outcome of
the conflict; and the denouement or conclusion terminates the action.

C. Review on Lauren Conrad’s Love, Friendship, and Career

Since the main discussion of this study concerns the life of Conrad,
specifically her love, career, and friendship, which are reflected in the characters
and plot of the novel, the writer thinks that it is necessary to make a review on
Conrad’s biography, specifically focusing on her prominent characteristics, love
life, career, and friendship.

Conrad’s birth name is Lauren Katherine Conrad. She was born on
February 1st, 1986 in Laguna Beach, California. Conrad is the older daughter of
Jim Conrad and Kathy Conrad.

As she grew up, she then had a great passion in fashion design since the 7th
grade. After graduating from Laguna Beach High School, she decided to attend
Academy of Art University and major in Fashion Design. However, she thought
that the school and San Francisco were not a good fit for her, so she decided to
move back to California and entered FIDM (Fashion Institute of Design and
Marchendising) in Irvine. That was the time when she stared her reality show The
Hills on MTV after 2 years she stared her first reality show, Laguna Beach in
2004-2006 and became an intern in Teen Vogue Magazine for several years.
Conrad is a “know what she wants and know what to do-type of woman”. She has
a strong will to catch her dream as a successful fashion designer. She is also the
type of not easily giving up woman. For instance, when her clothing line, LC.
*Collections*, got bankrupted in 2008 she continued to make another step and made another clothing line in 2009, titled *Paper Crown*. However this clothing line became more successful than the previous one (laurenconrad.com).

She really respects the sense of friendship and protective to her friends. For example, when she knew that her best friend who is also her roommate, Audrina Patridge, got hurt by her boyfriend, Justin Bobby, she came to Justin Bobby and asked him to be nice to her friend (*The Hills Season* 4, 2008).

Her personal life and privacy has become the media consumption ever since she became a reality TV queen, until now. Nowadays she is not only a reality show superstar and young Hollywood starlet; she is also a fashion designer of her own clothing line, *LC Lauren Conrad*, and a spoke person for *Mark by Avon*.

Even though she lived in a wealthy family, she does not become a spoiled girl. She enjoys earning her own money. In her reality show, she shared her little secrecy to her fans, her love life, career, and friendship (The Internet Movie Database; imdb.com, 2009).

Her love life became the top issues in the gossip media. Her first famous boyfriend who was also her co-star in *Laguna Beach*, Stephen Colletti, was her long time best friend. They were dating in the high school for two years. After Colletti, Conrad dated Jason Wahler who also joined her as a co-star in *Laguna Beach* and *The Hills* season 1. Their relationship was last more than 2 years. After her relationship with Wahler, Conrad dated Brody Jenner, the son of Bruce Jenner (an actor who was the winner of the Olympic gold medal in decathlon in
1976) and Linda Thomson a famous socialite. Her present boyfriend, Kyle Howard, is an actor who lives in Los Angeles. They have been dating for 2 years since 2009. Braden, is believed as Kyle Howard by the critics.

Her best friend, Lo Bosworth whose characteristics resemble Scarlett’s character in Sweet Little Lies, is her best friend since in elementary school. Conrad former roommate and best friend, Heidi Montag, who made a rumor about Conrad’s sex tape with Wahler is believed to become Madison in Sweet Little Lies. On The Hills Season 2 (2007), Conrad and Montag's friendship deteriorated, as Heidi was increasingly spending her time with her new boyfriend, Spencer Pratt. Both Pratt and Montag were the people who spread this sex tape rumor for the first time and finally apologized to Conrad in front of the camera on The Hills season 4 (2008). By February 2007, Audrina Patridge became Conrad's roommate after Montag moved into a separate apartment with Pratt.

D. Theoretical Framework

The writer tries to apply the theories and the reviews above to answer the problem formulation. The Theory of Character and Characterization and The Theory of Plot and Story are indeed very useful and helpful in guiding the writer to examine and analyze the problems.

The characters’ characteristics can be able to analyze by understanding the theory of character and characterization. Meanwhile, the theory of plot and story make it easier for the writer to see the relation between an event to another. So, there will be a synchronize in analyzing the process of the conflict in the novel.
While the reviews are helpful in giving the writer the guidance to understands the literary work in different point of view. The comparisons of one review to another are the best way to see how rich the literary work is, if seeing from different point of view. Thus, the writer is able to compare her review with other critics’ reviews.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

A. Object of the Study

The object of the study of this thesis is Lauren Conrad’s second novel. This novel is the follow up of her first novel, *L.A. Candy*, which was published on June 16, 2009. *Sweet Little Lies* was published on February 2010. The publisher of this novel is HarperCollins Publisher.

Lauren Conrad is the #1 *New York Times* Best Selling Author for both of her novels who makes a good start as the new comer author. *Sweet Little Lies* was topped the *New York Times* best selling list for more than 6 weeks. That was a quite good start for a newly writer.

Basically, some people think that *Sweet Little Lies* is “loosely” based on Lauren Conrad’s experiences as a reality show superstar of two of *MTV* big hits reality shows, *Laguna Beach* (Season 1 and 2 in 2004-2006) and *The Hills* (Season 1-5 in 2006-2009).

This novel consists of 309 pages with 42 chapters. Each of the chapters filled with interesting stories that related from one chapter to another.

Basically the stories are about friendships between all the characters and Jane Roberts’—the main character of this novel— love life. Jane Roberts was the average girl next door until she and her best friend Scarlett Harp, landed their own reality show, *L.A. Candy*.
Their lives were getting more complicated ever since. It was too difficult for Jane and Scarlett to escape from the media sensation. Jane and her love triangle with Braden and Jesse, and Scarlett with her secret boyfriend, one of the *L.A. Candy* crews, Liam.

The conflict in this novel was begun when the racy pictures of Jane and Braden exposed to the Gossip Magazine and it made she feels guilty with her boyfriend Jesse, because in fact Braden is Jesse’s best bud.

**B. Approach of the Study**

There is only one approach that the writer uses in this thesis that is Biographical Approach. Since this thesis discusses about how an author’s love, friendship, and career can give a big influence in how she arranges her literary work, the writer finds this approach is the most suitable to be used.

In this approach it is believed that the work of literature is the reflection of an author’s life. The author’s life can helps the readers to be more thoroughly comprehend the work.

Proponents of the biographical approach assert the necessity for an appreciation of the ideas and personality of the author to an understanding of the literature object. (Profitt., 1971)

Biographical critics contend that by understanding the author’s life and experiences the readers can get the better value of a text. However, a biographical critic must be careful not to take the biographical facts of an author’s life too far in criticizing the works of that author.
A biographical critic task is to explicate the text by using insights gained from knowing details about the author's life. The focus is still on the text, but in light of biography—not the other way around.

By using this approach, the writer gains some understandings about Conrad’s life background and her experiences that influence her in creating the characters and plot of the story in this novel.

C. Method of the Study

This thesis is a library research since all the sources that the writer collected were written, from library and online media. Using the library method the research will complete the data from the books. All the sources that the writer used in analyzing this thesis were significant.

In order to find the understanding about the author’s life in general and her love, friendship, and career experiences specifically, the writer used biographical approach. By using this approach, the writer could be able to see some characteristics of the author and how her love, friendship, and career experiences gave the significant influences in her literary work.

The theories applied in this thesis were also very important in giving brief assists to the writer in analyzing the plot of the story and characters’ characteristics in the novel.

In analyzing the study the writer uses the novel, *Sweet Little Lies*, by Lauren Conrad as the primary source. Then the secondary source will be able to give some support information from the other books, such as *A Glossary Literary*
PLAGIAT MERUPAKAN TINDAKAN TIDAK TERPUJI

Terms by M.H. Abrams, The Anatomy of Prose Fiction by Koesnososbroto, Literature: Structure, sound, and Sense by Laurence Perrine, A handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature 4th Edition by Wilfred L. Guerin, Technique of the Drama: An Exposition of Dramatic Composition and Art by Gustav Freytag, and the e-book of L.A. Candy. Since this novel is a new novel that was published in 2010, there are not many printed books that can be used to support the writer in making this thesis. Therefore, the writer uses more on-line articles than printed books, as long as the on-line articles are reliable sources.

To find the influences of Conrad’s characteristics that influence her imaginary characters’ characteristics, the writer focused on her biographical background. The writer read on line sources to find out the latest update about Conrad and also watched her two MTV reality shows, The Hills and Laguna Beach. Those methods were very helpful for the writer.

The reviews of the related studies were used in order to enrich the writer’s knowledge about this novel based on other people’s point of view. The writer used internet or on-line media such as People.com, imdb.com, hill2city.wordpress.com, examiner.com, amazon.com and sports.jrank.org. Besides on-line media, the writer also watched the DVD of Laguna Beach season 1 and The Hills Season 1-5.

To analyze the novel, there were some steps conducted by the writer. As the first step the writer read and reread the story for so many times to understand every detail of the story in the novel clearly. After that, the writer found the interesting relations between the author’s real experiences in her life with the
story line and character in the novel. The writer found the problems then formulated it into the details.

The second step that the writer did was looking for some data to support the understanding of the thesis discussion. Here the writer tried to understand the theories of character and characterization that would be applied in this analysis. This step applied to help the writer described the characterization of the characters in order to answer the first problem formulation.

The last step that the writer did was observing Conrad’s biography to see how it influenced the arrangement of the plot in the novel and how it revealed through the characters’ characteristics. In this step, the writer found out the description of Conrad’s love, friendship, and career, included her professional career as reality TV star and as an intern, and friendship through the description of the story and characters’ characteristics, also the plot of the story in the novel. This last step was very useful and helpful in finding the answer of the second problem formulation. Then, after the problem formulations had been answered, the writer drew the conclusion from the analysis.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

This chapter answers the three problem formulations as stated in the first chapter. The analysis will also be divided into three parts. The first part consists of the description of characters; the main and minor, in *Sweet Little Lies*. The second one consists of the explanation of how the plot constructed in the novel and the last one consists of the portrayal of author’s love, friendship, and career revealed through the characters and the plot of the novel.

A. The Descriptions of the Characters

This part of the analysis will study the description of the characters. There are some characters considered as the main and minor characters in *Sweet Little Lies* that will be analyzed. There are three major characters: Jane Roberts, Scarlett Harp, and Madison Parker, and there are four minor characters: Jesse Edwards, Braden James, Caleb Hunt, Hannah Stratton, and Diego.

The writer has some reasons of analyzing these major and minor characters. Those three characters bring out the main conflict in the novel. While the rest minor characters give many influences to the major characters, then the characterization of minor characters is also included to this analysis.

Some of the characters’ characteristics in this novel were described in the previous series of *Sweet Little Lies*, which is Conrad’s first novel, *L.A. Candy* which published by HarperCollins on June, 2009. While in *Sweet Little Lies* some
of the characters’ characteristics are not described any further, especially the characteristics of the minor characters. The writer analyzes these characters based on their personal description, speech, character as seen by another, conversation with others, and their mannerism.

1. Major Characters

a. Jane Roberts

Jane Roberts is the main character in this novel. She was only a nineteen-year-old ordinary girl before she landed her own reality TV show, *L.A. Candy*, on *PopTV*. She is originally coming from Santa Barbara, California. The introduction of this character is describing in *Conrad’s* first novel *L.A. Candy* while in *Sweet Little Lies* there are more descriptions on Jane’s personality and life history before she joined the casts of *PopTV*’s new reality show, *L.A. Candy*.

Her life used to be so normal. A little boring but wonderfully normal. When she and her best friend, Scarlett Harp, had moved to L.A. from Santa Barbara after high school… (p. 3)

Of course the show ended up being a hit, and soon after the series premiere in October, Jane found herself unable to walk into a restaurant or down the street without someone recognizing her. Magazines called her “America’s Sweetheart”. Blogs called her … well, other things. Her face was everywhere. (p. 4)

The Roberts is a normal and nice family (p. 15). Jane is the first daughter of The Roberts, she has two little sisters, Lacie, sixteen and Nora, fourteen (p. 51). Jane is a type of a “know-what-she-wants and know-what-to-do” girl. She wants to dress everybody up and organize parties. Jane’s decision to move to Los Angeles was because she wanted to be an intern for a big and famous event
planner, Fiona Chen, who specialized in celebrity weddings and parties. To a
casting person of *L.A. Candy* she once said that she had moved to L.A. “to be
uncomfortable”, means she feels ready to leave all the good stuff offered by her
parents in Santa Barbara, to be more independent. (p. 90).

In the previous series of *Sweet Little Lies, L.A. Candy* page 5, the narrator
describes Jane as a very bright young girl whose head is always planning,
imagine, and simmering with creativity. Jane always wants to make everything
looks perfect or at least makes the whole things in her life reflect who she is and
her passion in organizing things. She is girl with rich imagination. That is why she
likes to try something new. Nonetheless, as an active-young girl with tight
schedules, Jane is not a neat and well-organized type of girl, she is not really good
in making things clean and neat. Nevertheless, Jane is not a type of a careful girl if
it is has something to do with taking care of domestic work, such as taking care of
dirty dishes in the sink, and putting trash into its place. In general, Scar tended to
be much neater and more organized than Jane (p. 27).

As for her strong characteristics, Jane loves to live a simple life. She is the
type of an innocent girl, who has positive attitude at almost all the time. Trevor
Lord, the producer of *L.A. Candy* finds her as his find of the decade.

Sweet, natural, vulnerable, she was a person everyone could relate to. She
was pretty, but not too pretty. She liked to go out, but she didn’t like to get
wasted or do drugs. She worked hard. She was loyal to her friends. She
came from a close-knit family. (p. 46)

Speaking of Jane’s weakness is that she is too quick to trust someone. In
this case, from the story, the narrator tells the readers that Scarlett (Jane’s
roommate) had been warned Jane for so many times that Madison is not a good
person that can be friends with them, but unfortunately Jane did not want to hear Scarlett’s warning about Madison.

*Call me! Where are you? I’m so worried about you! Call me!* There were other messages, too—along the lines of *Get away from that crazy bitch Madison ASAP!* (p. 14).

*I have to talk to you about Madison ASAP!*

....

What did Scar mean, she had to talk to her about Madison, ASAP? That seemed so random. Jane knew that Scar told Madison was a shallow, pretentious bitch, who only looked out for herself. No emergency there. Like all of Scar’s opinions, she wasn’t shy about voicing it. But as far as Jane could tell, Madison had always been friendly to Scar, inviting her to parties, spa outing, and more. (p. 29).

“Scar, please don’t lecture me about Madison again. She’s my friend. You need to accept that.” (p. 159)

“I mean, I’m sick of your negativity about Madison—and Jesse too. You need to learn how to be nice with them. Or, if you *can’t* be nice to them, at least stop being such a bitch all the time.” (p. 160)

Jane knows that Scarlett does not want her to trust Madison, but instead of listening to what Scarlett had warned to her, she keeps on going out and be good friends with Madison. That is all because she sees that Madison always has her effort in order to win Scarlett’s heart by offering some interesting girl stuff to Scarlett.

THANK YOU FOR CABO! U SAVED MY LIFE! IM SO LUCKY TO HAVE YOU AS A FRIEND. MERRY XMAS! LUV U, JANE (p. 32)

The above text that Jane sends to Madison pictures how her feelings about Madison’s great effort to make her she feels better at their escaped to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Based on this, it can be concluded that Jane is a person who is easy to be deceived, moreover because she tends to have her positive thought about people.
She only takes a judgment based on people’s appearance and act. She does not like to investigate people. In this case, that what happens with her on her decision to trust Madison instead of believing in Scarlett, her long time best friend.

Jane’s histories on guys with her first love, Caleb Hunt, a guy whom she dated during high school also had been told previously in the first series of this novel *L.A. Candy* page 13. However, this relationship did not work and Caleb himself had finally ended it, saying that it was not working and that he didn't want to ruin something that had once been great, while Scarlett’s theory was that Caleb had been cheating on Jane at Yale, but that was only a theory because Scarlett never found any proof (p. 18). Move in L.A Jane met this guy, Braden James, who is a professional actor. Jane thinks that she has crush on Braden. Unfortunately, Jane feels that she is not ready to be hurt anymore since she knows that Braden has an on and off girlfriend, Willow. Then, she meets Jesse Edwards, a bad boy who is son of superstar actor Wyatt Edwards and Katarina Miller (p. 47). She soon falls in love with Jesse, even though she realizes that she is also has a crush on Jesse’s best friend and roommate, Braden.

Jane finds herself weak when it comes to boys and relationship. She can easily have a crush with somebody. In this case, Jane problems are she falls in love with Jesse and at the same time she also likes or may be, also in love with Braden. Although in the end she chooses to have a serious relationship with Jesse rather than with Braden. The main reason why she chooses Jesse rather than Braden is because she thinks that Braden can not show who Willow is, Jane thinks that Braden does not want to lose Willow. That is why when she meets Jesse, she
is totally sure about her decision on choosing Jesse as her serious date.

“So what did you do?” Hannah asked her.
Jane smiled and blushed. “Jesse and I hung out.”
“Really?”
“Yeah.” Since dinner at Beso last Monday, Jane had gone out with Jesse almost every night. (p. 146).

Jane still converses with Jesse even though she knows that Jesse has another woman whom he dated after the scandal leaked to the public.

She is also a little bit of a naïve girl who does not want to think negative about other people. She likes to blame herself for any mistakes happened in her life, even though other people know that is all not hers.

“I just want to forget about the pictures and get on with my life. I’m the one who messed up here. Not Jesse. And definitely not Madison. She pretty much saved my life…” (p. 64).

Even when Jesse told her that Madison is the one who should be responsible in leaking the picture of her and Braden, Jane still has her own positive thought about Madison.

“Madison’s the one who should be sorry. She’s lying to you; don’t you know that? She’s the one who gave the pictures to Gossip. Didn’t Scarlett tell you?” (p. 134).

As an intern who works for a famous event planner, Fiona Chen, Jane is a hard worker and she has a high responsibility toward her job. She does not want to ruin everything because she knows that working for a big and famous event planner like Fiona is a once in a life time chance. So, when she realizes that her over one week absence with no permission to her boss it makes she feels really nervous.

Riding up to her office in a crowded elevator, Jane felt butterflies in her stomach. And not a good kind. She hadn’t been to work for over a week,
and she was really nervous about facing Fiona. She had sent her boss a quick email yesterday, saying that she would be back in the office on Monday. (p. 68)

Jane has so much respect to Fiona. She respects and honors her as her boss and moreover as her mentor in her career. That is why she feels very nervous when she has to meet Fiona and explain her reason why she was not going to work for over a week.

Jane sat down on one of Fiona’s prized Eames chairs, set her bag on the floor, and waited. She mentally braced herself for the worst; *Your behavior has disgrace this entire company! You’ve made one mistake too many! You’re fored! You’re –* (p. 74).

Fiona proceeded to give Jane more instructions about the assignment, while Jane took notes in her nearly eligible shorthand. When Fiona was finished, Jane said, “Great. I’m on it. I’m really excited about working on this project.” (p. 75)

The above quotation from the novel, it can be seen that Jane is a type of high responsible girl. She is smart and knows how to deal with her task as an intern in Fiona Chen office. She knows that when she has done something awful she has to take the risk, whatever it is.

From the characterization of Jane that the writer finds in this novel, Jane can be concluded as a bright girl, royal to her friend, easily fall in love with guy (she has a weakness when it comes to guys), she is natural, hard worker, and honest, and a little bit naïve.

b. Scarlett Harp

Scarlett is Jane’s best friend. The two had been practically inseparable since kindergarten and Scarlett had been very protective of Jane (p. 6). She and
Jane have a very different personality even though these two are best friends. Despite the fact that she refused to brush her hair or wear anything fancier than jeans, she was gorgeous.

Scarlett was stunningly beautiful, but she was way too smart, opinionated, and out there to appeal to a general audience; (p. 46).

Scarlett has a brilliant brain and she likes to study harder to challenge herself academically (p. 156). She moves to L.A to go to The USC. Despite her normal and simple look, she still looks gorgeous because her beauty comes from her outer appearance and from her inner beauty too.

Scarlett has problems in trusting somebody new. She likes to judge or investigate people from the way they talk and their appearances. She is not reluctant to say something bad about a person in front of their nose.

For one thing, Jane liked their L.A. Candy costars—Madison and another girl named Gaby Garcia—and Scar didn’t. Scar often make a bitchy remarks about them, on- and off- camera, which was so uncalled for. Also, Scar didn’t approve of Jane’s relationship (now ex-relationship) with Jesse because of his histories with girls…and drinking…and drugs…and girls. (p. 7).

Scarlett’s parents are both doctor. Her mother, Mrs. Harp is a shrink, while her father. Mr. Harp is a surgeon. Scarlett does not feel comfortable being in her own family. She thinks that Jane’s family is more normal than her family (p. 15). She does not like being with her family because she thinks that her parents are too stiff, being with her own family does not feel like being in a real family, but more like being with people who are too busy to take care of their own business instead of sharing story and happiness.

Scarlett could spend Christmas at The Robertses’ house instead of jetting of to Aspen; Jane’s family was actually normal (in a good way) and nicer
than her own family. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts didn’t sit in total, icy silence at the dinner table, CNN in the background, cutting their forty-dollars rib-eye steak. They didn’t spend more time on the phone with their patients than with each other. They didn’t psychoanalyze their children with comments like, *So, Scarlett—do you think your choice go to USC rather that to Harvard or Columbia has to do with your unconscious fear of success?* (p. 15).

The writer thinks that Scarlett’s rebellious behavior has something to do with her family background. She sometimes becomes very stubborn and for so many other times becomes very suspicious about somebody. Which is not happen to her best friend Jane, whom she thinks come from a more normal family that tend to live life normally as parents and children.

Different from Jane, Scarlett is more guarded if it comes to guys. She likes to take control of her relationship instead of being controlled by guys. In the previous series of *Sweet Little Lies, L.A. Candy* novel on page 2, Scarlett is a type of a playgirl, she is famous for giving guys the wrong name, or the wrong phone number, or both—deliberately, so she wouldn't have to see them again. If it turned out the next morning that she actually *liked* the guy and wanted to see him again, she would tell him she had been too wasted the night before to get her contact info straight. Scarlett is a type of girl who is not easily falling in love with somebody. However, she enjoys having a one night relationship just to have fun.

She does not like to keep secrets from her friend (p. 17). As for a friend, Scarlett is a kind of protective friend. She likes to be honest with her friends about her feelings with them. She does not want to see her friend gets hurt.

Scarlett was starting to get a bad feeling. “Janie? Be honest. You’re not seriously thinking about getting back together with Jesse, are you? I don’t care how hot or charming or rich he is; you and I both know that deep down, he’s a mess, and – “. (p. 119).
From the above dialogue the writers thinks that Scarlett is a real type of a guardian angel to her best friend. She is good at reading somebody’s behavior and heart. Every time she meets new people she likes to investigate them first before she decided to believe in them or could she get along with them in a kind of friendly way.

Scarlett is not a kind of girl who likes to go shopping or doing women’s stuff, like going to saloon, having manicure or pedicure. One thing for sure that she is different from other *L.A. Candy’s* costars, Madison, Gaby, even Jane.

Scarlett knew the panic on Dana’s face meant she’d caught it and was thinking that if they wanted to find a salon to film in, they would have to call and set that up now.
Scarlett held up her nails, two of which were broken.
“No, I’m good. You go without me.”
“Well that’s no fun!” Gaby complained. (p. 13)

Scarlett feels comfortable only with jeans and t-shirts instead of wearing dresses. In chapter 31, there is dialogue between Gaby and Scarlett. When Gaby asks her whether she has minidress or not, Scarlett opens her closet and shows it to Gaby, there is no minidress, they are only jeans and tees, and they are mostly black (p. 228).

Not only smart and very natural, she is a type of a tough young woman. She can cover her feelings whenever she feels sad about things. She does not easily cry over her trouble.

And another second later, Scarlett did something she never, ever did. She burst into tears. (p. 161).
It can be seen that as a young girl who lives in a big city, with all those stressful relationship problems that she and Jane have she can control her emotion properly.

She will be all herself near somebody she likes or she feels comfortable to be with. Besides Jane and Jane’s family, Scarlett likes Liam, one of the L.A. Candy’s cameramen. Scarlett adores his blue eyes (p. 18) and his light brown wavy hair, and his slender but well-sculpted torso. Liam has his plus points in front of Scarlett’s opinion about a guy, he is funny, nice, cute, and knew his Bronte sisters. Scarlett thinks that it is a dangerous—and irresistible—combination, especially for a voracious reader like her. Scarlett pays her attention to Liam especially because Liam shares the same interest with her; Liam also likes reading some of her favorite books, such as One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Middlemarch by George Elliot. It is the reason why she notices him (p. 19). At Liam’s words, Scarlett felt the warm, nervous, and giddy feeling in the pit of her stomach. (p. 105).

Scarlett and Liam’s relationship is not something that she likes to share with other people, even with Jane, because of the contract with PopTV does not allow their stars have a special relationship with PopTV’s crews.

Through Scarlett’s characterization, most of all describes Scarlett as a positive girl. She is very honest to herself and does not like to hide her feelings. In friendship, she is a real best friend, not only best friend for cameras. She does not like to keep long resentment or anger to other people. For instance like her friendship problem with Jane because of Madison, Scarlett feels so ready to
forgive Jane although in the beginning Jane chose to not trust her about what she said about Madison.

“D told me tonight that she was the one behind the pictures. He found a bunch of emails between her and Veronica, on Veronica’s computer.”
“Seriously?”
“Yeah. They were pretty awful.”
“Ohmigod. I’m so sorry, Jane.”
“you’re sorry? I’m the one who should be sorry. I should have believed in you from the beginning.” Jane smiled bitterly. (p. 292).

The above dialogue between Jane and Scarlett describes how nice and sympathetic Scarlett is. Even though she has the right to be upset with Jane, she is not angry to Jane. She feels sorry and sympathy for her best friend’s misery.

c. Madison Parker

Madison Parker is a type of a very Hollywood girl. The Hollywood lifestyle reflected in her, completely. She never goes anywhere, not even to the beach, without spending an hour and a half getting ready (p. 1-2). She is known as a daughter of The Parkers by the whole casts of L.A. Candy, the zillionaire real-estate developer. Although in fact she was not as rich as it is, based on the exposure of a mysterious who claimed knows all about Madison’s real life.

To: Veronica Bliss
Re: Madison Parker

Madison isn’t who she says she is. Interested? (p. 125)

Madison’s physical appearance is explained a lot in previous series of this novel, L.A. Candy. She is very ambitious and tricky; she will do anything to get what she wants.
Madison was not like other girl. She used to be, before the surgeries and before Hollywood— but no longer. She had worked hard to get where she was, and she couldn’t stop now. (p. 282).

So, the narrator tells the reader through Madison’s characterization that she has a strong ambition that leads her to be a negative person. She can not stand being herself; she prefers to be somebody else so that other people will like her. She is a very fake person, her fakeness characterize through her personality and even her appearance. She is the person behind all the bad publicities about Jane and Braden’s pictures scandal.

She sometimes feels not sure about what she is doing to Jane, but she often encourages herself that she has done some cruel things for the good reasons, so that she can replace Jane as the star of *L.A Candy*.

After all, it wasn’t like she was *hurting* Jane. Sure, Jane was upset now, but she would get over it. Any publicity was good publicity, right? If no one knew who Jane Roberts was before, they sure did now. And if Jane ended up with really minor story line because of this—or off *L.A. Candy* altogether—then it was for the best. Hadn’t she told Madison the entire time they were in Cabo that she wished she’d never signed on to do the show? Madison was just helping Jane get what she wanted. Besides, Jane was not meant to be the star of *L.A. Candy*. She didn’t even what it. Madison, on the other hand, *need* this, and would never take it for granted. Paparazzi was part of the job. Madison would never have run away from a scandal. (p. 33).

Madison keeps these things on her mind, she is innocent and she is doing all of those cruel things to Jane for some good reasons, and she is in some way helping Jane get out from *L.A. Candy*. This, she makes to free herself from guilt.

Madison works extra hard to make herself becomes the main star of *L.A. Candy*. She is dying to be one. She pretends herself as a good—good friend of Jane.
Madison knew that the puppy idea would win her points with Jane. She had no idea that she would basically be hitting the jackpot.

“Yeah. I’m serious. What are you doing tomorrow? You wanna go dog shopping?”

“Yes! Madison, I love you!” Jane leaned over and gave Madison a big hug.

“Love you, too, sweetie!” As Madison hugged her back, she shifted a few inches to the right—just enough so that the cameras had her profile in their sights, and not Jane’s. Monopolizing the frame was hard work, almost as hard as coming up with the clever lies. Fortunately for Madison, she was really good at both. (pp. 167).

Madison’s manipulative and spiteful behavior is no longer doubt. She can manipulate her face, her smiles and her speeches to impress Jane. At this point, Madison is not stupid, she is an expert in making somebody’s life mess up. Her initiative to come to Veronica Bliss, the chief editor of Gossip Magazine to bring out Jane’s scandal proves that she is a really shady person.

TO: VERONICA BLISS  
FROM: MADISON PARKER  
SUBJECT: WTF

You promised me that if I got you pictures of Jane, you would publish an article about me. You call the tiny mentions about the grooming habit of “Jane Roberts’s friend and confidante” an article about me???? WE HAD A DEAL (p. 123).

The email above is the email that Madison sends to Veronica Bliss. She is dying to have publicity on Gossip. She is mad with Veronica for she thinks that Veronica does not keep her promise about making an article about her after she gave Jane’s newest photos from her escape in Cabo.

There are at least four times in Sweet Little Lies when Madison shows off her fake smiles. She is very good at this too. Somehow, this makes Scarlett feels so sick about her.
“Madison, there’s a paparazzo over there.”
“Really?” Madison plastered on a smile and glanced around, “Where?”
(p. 11).

“Hey, Scarlett.” Madison gave her a fake smile. “Jane didn’t tell me you were coming. You want a drink?”
“I don’t need a drink, you pathetic, two-faced, lying bitch. What I need is the truth.”
Madison’s fake smile never left her face. “About what?”
“About the fact that you gave those pictures to Gossip. I want to know where you got them. And why you did it.”
Madison looked away, chuckling. “Guess I was wrong about you needing a drink. You’re already drunk—or crazy—or both.”
“No, you’re the one who’s crazy,” Scar spat out. “How could you do that to Jane?”
“I didn’t do anything to Jane. I love her like a sister. I already told you”—
Madison glanced at the camera—
“Jesse’s the one who gave those pictures to Gossip.”
(pp. 82-83).

Madison turned to Jane, faking a smile. “Soooo, how are things with Jesse?” She forced herself to sound as chatty and girlfriend-y as possible.
(p. 152).

“How are things going with you and Scar, anyway?” Madison said, her voice full of fake concern. (p. 153).

It is clearly described that through the above dialogues between Scarlett and Madison; Madison’s characterization are fake, cruel, and tricky. She is a type of a woman who clever in creating fake story and fake smiles, also good at fabrication the facts.

However, deep down in her heart, Madison realizes that she is a lonely girl. She does not have real friends, never have any of them.

Madison had almost relaxed into normalcy with Jane. Madison had never had a best friend growing up. In some ways, ironically, Jane is the closest thing to a best friend she’d ever had. (p. 32).
Nonetheless, because of her cruelty she does not hesitate to get rid of Jane and create bad publicity about Jane. Madison does not like to be the number two. She has to be the number one, whatever it takes.

2. Minor Characters

a. Jesse Edwards

Jesse Edwards is a son of two Hollywood superstars, Wyatt Edwards and Katarina Miller. He is a bad boy with bad habits; he has bad histories on girls, drinks, and drugs. He is a Hollywood playboy, who was always in some tabloids with a starlet on his arm. He likes going to parties, as in – and out—of—rehab (p. 47).

He is a very handsome guy; no girls will not like him because he is hot and always dressed so well (p. 111). Jesse does not mind to have himself signs the contracts with PopTV to film him in L.A. Candy, since he has a special relationship with Jane, its main star.

Because he comes from a high class family of Hollywood’s socialite, he does not feel awkward when he has to face camera.

“How ‘bout a kiss, Jesse?” one of the photographers shouted. 
<em>Yeah, right.</em> Jane waited for Jesse to close her door and go around the car to the other side. But instead, he leaned in and kissed her on the lips—not just a quick, friendly kiss, but a long one. The cameras went crazy. It was so nice kissing Jesse again…. Or it would have been, anyway, if it weren’t for the fact that they were not alone. They were absolute opposite of alone. <em>Guess Jesse knows exactly how to act for the cameras, too, Jane thought</em> (p. 136).

Jesse is a type of a woman pleaser; he knows how to treat a woman so that a woman will feel comfortable when they near him.
Even so, as a man Jesse has his weakness. He can not stand being betrayed by his girlfriend, just like most men do. When he finds a fact that Jane still hangs out with Braden, he gets mad at Jane, brutally.

Jesse reached into his pocket, pulled out a pack of cigarettes, and shook one into his mouth. Jane hadn’t seen him smoke weeks. But she didn’t have it in her to fight with him about that, either. “Everybody thinks you’re so sweet and perfect,” he sneered as he turned onto La Brea, fumbling for the lighter. “It’s such bullshit.” “I’ve never claimed to be perfect, Jesse. I –“ “No, you’re far from perfect, Jane. You’re a slut.” (p. 204).

The above dialogue shows that Jesse feels broken heart when he knows that Jane still met Braden frequently. He thinks that it is not fair for him to be treated this way by Jane and Braden. Even though he tries to calm himself by smoking his cigarette, it can not stop or prevent him from swearing Jane, and calls her a slut, which is a quite mean word to say to Jane.

Jesse does not like to be betrayed, moreover by his own friend and girlfriend. He can easily lose control when he mad. He has a difficulty in controlling his anger. For instance, when Jesse lose control he drives his car at the top speed and continues to yelling at Jane, asks him to get out of his car (p. 206).

b. Braden James

There is not much explanation about Braden in *Sweet Little Lies*. However, the explanation about him is more described in the previous series of *Sweet Little Lies, L.A. Candy*. He is described as a professional actor who was born in Pacific Palisades. He is a good friend and roommate of Jesse Edwards. Braden is not as dandy as Jesse. Braden once had an on—and –off girlfriend,
Willow. In *Sweet Little Lies* the author does not tell any story between Braden and Willow. All the romances between them were all remained in *L.A. Candy* which is the first series of *Sweet Little Lies*.

Bradon characterizes as a man who is not dying for attentions. He prefers to keep his private life private. He is different from Jesse who does not mind to sign the contract with *PopTV* to film his private life in *L.A. Candy*. Braden has steadfastly refuses to sign a release to be filmed (p. 52), so that he does not exist in *L.A. Candy*, in spite of the fact that he has an important role in Jane’s problems.

Bradon follows his agent’s instruction to not singing the release concerning that he is a professional actor who works in a serious film, not in a reality show. It will not bring good image for him.

Bradon’s sweets characteristic is shown in how he treats Jane. He can not stand to see Jane cries. Braden is the only person who Jane can rely on when she has a fight with Jesse, she knows that Braden can understand her (p. 207).

She could call Madison—or maybe Gaby—but they already hated Jesse, and she didn’t want them to know he had just dropped her off on a street corner. She didn’t want anyone to know.

Then she took a deep breath and reluctantly called the only person she knew would understand.

Braden picked up after three rings. “Jane?” he said, sounding surprised. She must have come up on his caller ID.

“Hey, Braden, I’m so sorry to bug you, but I didn’t know who else to call.”

(pp. 207).

Braden is a caring person, his sweet and sympathetic characteristics make him as the gentleman in this novel. He is always positive and understand how to calm Jane and makes she feels like she is being understood and protected.
C. Caleb Hunt

Caleb Hunt was Jane’s ex boyfriend in high school. He comes from Santa Barbara and he is a student of Yale University. His relationship with Jane did not work because of the long-distance. However, according to Scarlett it was not because of it, but it was because Caleb was cheating on Jane (p. 18). Jane was enjoying their long-distance relationship, but apparently Caleb was not. At the end of his freshman year Caleb called it quits and he told Jane that he wanted to take a break (p. 57). However, even though they are exes, their friendship still running and Caleb still cares about Jane.

Caleb’s characterizations are mostly described based on another character’s opinion because he rarely appears on the dialogue. Based on those things the writer sees that he is a caring and very sympathetic person. The example is when he calls Jane on Christmas’ eve to shows his attention and empathy to Jane about Jane—Braden’s scandal on Gossip.

“Janie?” Caleb was the only person who ever called her that besides Scar. “Hey. Am I catching you at a bad time?”
“Hey, hi, Caleb,” Jane said casually. Although casual was the last thing she was feeling. The sound of his voice could still make her heart race, after all this time. “Nope, I’m just hanging out.”
“You home for the holidays?”
“Yeah. Are you?”
“For now. I’m leaving tomorrow morning for Vail, though.”
“Sounds fun.”
“Hope so. Listen, Janie,” Caleb said. “I’m calling because I’d heard some stuff, and I was worried about you. Are you doing okay?”
Jane realized that Caleb had seen the Gossip pictures. Along with everyone who had internet access or a TV set or who stood in grocery checkout lines. “Yeah, I’m doing okay.”
“You want me to beat anybody up?” (p. 58).
From the above dialogue, the author tries to give the readers clear picture of how caring and lovely Caleb is to Jane. He knows exactly how Jane’s feeling about the Gossip pictures even though Jane tries to cover her feelings from him. He just such a nice guy to Jane who is unfortunately can no longer becomes her boyfriend anymore.

d. Hannah Stratton

Hannah is Jane’s coworker at Fiona Chen’s office. She comes shortly after Jane. Hannah’s characterization describes through mostly through Jane’s opinion. According to Jane, she is a nice person and a good listener, too. Based on Jane’s point of view the readers recognize Hannah as a lovely and positive young woman who fits the type of a good friend list.

Jane smiled at Hannah. Hannah had started working at Fiona Chen Event shortly after Jane had. She was one of the nicest people Jane had met in L.A., and she was a good listener, too. In fact, Jane used to confide her a lot about Jesse—not just because of her listening skills but because she was one of Jane’s only friends who actually liked Jesse. (p. 77).

Hannah is a very private person. She does not like to share everyone about her private life, not even to Jane who is almost every single day meeting her. Hannah never mentioned her friends, her—everyday-friends by name. She never opened up about herself. Jane does not know anything about Hannah’s non-work life (p. 146).

Hannah in fact, does not fit with any of the L.A. Candy’s things. She is actually only does what Dana, the L.A. Candy’s director told her to do so. However, deep down in her heart, Hannah does not approve Jane’s relationship
with Jesse, as what Jane acknowledge earlier, it was just her deception to Jane as a part of her acting to satisfied Dana and Trevor—and of course to make L.A. Candy more fun and interesting to watch.

“Maybe he’s ready to forgive you. You two love each other. You belong together, right?” (p. 89).

The above statement is Hannah’s statement to Jane when she tries to convince Jane that Jesse Edwards is a good guy and he is the right guy to Jane. But, this does not come from her heart.

“I have to tell you something,” Hannah began.
“Sure.”
“I…well…all those things I’ve been saying to you about Jesse? How you should be together? I didn’t mean any of it.”
“I don’t understand.”
“Trevor and Dana told me to say that stuff,” Hannah blurted out. “They told me that I should convince you to stay with Jesse. They said that you could be kind of dramatic about your relationships, and that he was actually great guy.”
“What?”
“I’m so sorry!” Hannah cried out. “I went along with it for a while because you seemed really into him. But then I started seeing that maybe he wasn’t so good for you. It seems like he drinks a lot. And Saturday night I ran into him at Crown Bar with this girl.” (p. 221).

The dialogue above describes Hannah as a sympathetic girl. She can not stand lying to her friend, and even to herself. That is why she confesses everything to Jane, how concerned she is with Jane, and how bad she feels about Jane being with Jesse, a guy with the alcohol and girls habits.

e. Diego

Diego is the last minor character that will be analyzed in this first part of the analysis. There is just a little description of Diego that the author illustrates in
this novel because besides he is just a minor character; the introduction to this character is given more in this novel’s previous series, L.A. Candy.

Diego is the assistant of Veronica Bliss, the chief editor of Gossip who delivered Jane-Braden pictures which later become the media scandal. Diego also tries his best to figure out who is the person behind all the drama in Jane’s life. Diego is very sincere about his intention to help Jane so that all the drama soon be over.

“I’ve gotta tell you, sweetie, I’ve been digging around trying to figure out how she got those pictures.”
Jane gulped. Did she want to hear this, or didn’t she?
“Did you find anything?” she said hesitantly.
“Nothing. She’s super-secretive. Like FBI—and—CIA secretive. But I’m working on it. I promise I’m gonna get to the bottom of this.”
“Kay, thanks.”
“Another thing. Listen, baby cakes, you’ve gotta whip your publicist into shape. I know you’ve got a lot going on right now. But those covers and headlines are killing you. No offense; ya know I’m just looking out for you.” (pp. 92).

He is unlike his boss, Bliss. Instead of being cruel and evil to Jane, Diego helps her to go through all the problems she faces by introducing her with RJ, a super-cool agent, and to Samantha, a publicist.

“Jane! This is an emergency! You can’t be as big a star as you are and not have representation—especially with the media barracudas circling you. What are you doing New Year’s Eve?”
“I think we’re all going to a party at h.wood. We’re filming.”
“Perfect, I’ll swing by there too. And I’ll invite some friends to come with, R.J. is one of the best agents in the business. And Sam is a great publicist who is amazing at saving images.”  (p. 93).

The above conversation between Jane and Diego shows that Diego is a nice, kind, friendly, and curious person. He does not like to see his friend get into
trouble; he will do whatever it takes to help his friend because he is a sincere person. He is also characterized as a sympathetic man.

Diego holds an important role in the story line of Sweet Little Lies. It is because he is the key that opens all about Madison’s cruelty to Jane. He digs information as much as possible, to find out who is responsible behind Jane-Braden’s pictures. He is the first person that Jane trusts when it comes about Madison’s action to her. That happens because Diego, unlike Scarlett—who only uses her prejudice to judge Madison—, comes along with real hard evidence. He can show Jane all the emails that Madison sent to his boss, Bliss.

D reached into the pocket of his leopard-print smoking jacket and extracted several pieces of paper, folded in quarters. “I’m so sorry, sweetie. I found these emails on Veronica’s computer, like, an hour ago. I started digging around when I saw her in Veronica’s office today.” (p. 277).

Madison? Jane clamped her hand over her mouth to keep from screaming. There was no way. This had to be a joke. D was making this up. Someone was making this up. Madison was one of her best friends, and she would never do something like this to Jane. In fact, Madison was the one who had gotten her through the whole ordeal, after the story broke. D squeezed her hand. “I know. You can’t believe it, right? I couldn’t either, at first. Keep reading it.” She did. (pp.278-279).

Diego’s natural compassion and understanding are the descriptions of her positive quality as a good-friend. It can be seen from what he says to Jane to calm her down. He does not offer this fact to Jane to add her burden, but he just wants to help her to see things that are going on clearly and in the right point of view. So that Jane realizes who deserves her trust and who does not. Diego’s main purpose is just to set all the things right and bring out the justice and happiness in Jane’s life.
B. The Plot Construction in the Novel

The second part of the analysis is about the plot construction in *Sweet Little Lies*. The theory that will be applied in this part of the analysis is Gustav Freytag’s pattern of plot known as *Freytag’s Pyramid*, which cited by Abrams (1982: 161-162) in his book, *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Freytag describes plot as a five-act play as a pyramid shape consists of an exposition, rising action (which Aristotle calls this complications), climax, falling action or resolution, and denouement or conclusion. Also based on Aristotle’s theory of plot which says that plot is a continuous sequence of beginning, middle, and end; and based on Wyatt’s theory which states that plot is different from the story. The plot is more like a process of how the story told; the writer will try to analyze the plot construction of the novel. Furthermore, the writer will also use Murphy’s theory on a good plot has to have the exposition in the beginning, complications and climax in the middle, and resolution or falling action and conclusion or denouement at last.

1. Exposition or Introduction

*Sweet Little Lies* begins its story with the introduction of the conflict in this novel that is Jane’s runaway to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, with her *L.A. Candy* costar, Madison, to escape from the media spotlight and her disastrous love life (p. 2). This conflict is the follow-up of the conflict in the previous series of this novel, *L.A. Candy* (HarperCollins: 2009).
Jane still regrets her carelessness at the night when she let the curtain in her bedroom open and let a photographer took the pictures of Braden and her together in an inappropriate condition. Jane feels shocked and confused when their pictures ended up all over the internet for everyone in the world to see (p. 5).

While she feels sad and shocked about it, Madison promises that there will be no photographer around the private resort and her parent’s condo in Cabo (p. 2). Jane feels safer in Cabo since she can not stand the media publicity about her scandal pictures with Braden, she really needs a break from the paparazzi even more she does not have enough guts to face her parents, Jesse, Trevor Lord (the producer of L.A. Candy), and some random reporters. Luckily, there is no cell reception at Madison’s parents’ exclusive condo in Cabo (p. 5).

The unlucky Jane still does not realize that Madison, the only person whom she can trust at the moment, is the person behind her problem. While Jane tries to enjoy her Cabo trip, she is not aware of Madison’s cunning plan toward her. Jane does not realize that Madison had invited a photographer to take her picture during her escape in Cabo.

But Jane didn’t finish her sentence. She was distracted by a strange movement behind a palm tree about thirty feet to the right of her. She shifted in her chair, trying to see.

*Click, click, click.* A middle-aged guy in aviator shades stepped out from behind the tree, angling his super-long telephoto lens—at her. “Oh my God!” Jane cried out, instinctively shielding her face with her hand. She grabbed her towel and beach bag and jumped to her feet. “Madison, there’s a paparazzo over there.” “Really?” Madison plastered on a smile and glance around. “Where?” (pp. 10-11).

Here, the author introduces the main conflict in the story to the readers. The main character—Jane—does not realize that she is in a bigger disaster caused
by the antagonist, Madison; again she has to face another problem. She can not face anyone right now, not even Scarlett—her best friend—and moreover her family and Jesse, her ex-boyfriend and Braden’s best friend.

While the readers already know from the very beginning that Madison is the real antagonist, the author invites the readers to enjoy the larger conflict that will be presented in another part. This will be more interesting with Scarlett’s involvement to expose Madison’s evil actions.

Desperate to track Jane down, Scarlett had asked Gaby if she knew the location of Madison’s parents’ condo… or had any contact info for the Parkers. But Gaby had been clueless, as usual. Although it was surprising that she wasn’t more informed, since she and Madison always seemed to be hanging out. Scarlett has also Googled the Parkers but had turned up nothing. Which was kinda strange, given the fact that they were supposedly zillionaire real-estate developers or whatever (p. 16).

The above narrative shows how concern Scarlett is about Jane, because she knows that Madison is shady and sly. The story that the author introduces in the exposition also becomes the opening events that will arouse and in the end will make the readers trapped into the story and welcoming them to the larger conflicts as the story develops into another part.

2. Rising Action or Complication

This part of the analysis will discuss the rising action or complication that the main characters (the protagonists) faced. After the relative calm of the exposition, there is a gradual rising of the tension and the conflict in the story. The protagonist is usually deeply involved in this, struggling with other people and their own ability to handle the tension. Jane has to face the bigger conflict with
Madison and the conflict within herself. Jane still does not realize if Madison is the villain in the story. She believes in Madison, even though her best friend, Scarlett can not trust Madison and wants her stop being friendly with Madison, she keeps on believes that Madison is a good friend. Scarlett always thinks that Madison can not be trusted, shallow, pretentious bitch who only looked out for herself (p. 29).

Madison tries to brainwash Jane and manipulate her. She tries to make Jane and Scarlett hate each others. In the previous series of this novel, L.A. Candy, in the last chapter, Madison had slandered Jesse and Scarlett, Jane’s boyfriend as the person who spread the photos of Jane and Braden, but to Scarlett and Jane, Jesse had said that Madison was the person who was behind the bad publicity about Jane; and to Jane, Madison said that Scarlett was the one who gave the photos to Gossip.

“Madison thinks either you or Scar gave them to Gossip magazine. Which is crazy, I know, but—“
“Madison?” Jesse cut in. His jaw clenched angrily. “She said that? Are you fucking kidding me?”
Jane was stunned by Jesse’s furious response and wished she could go back to three minutes ago, before she had said anything. “Okay, okay,” she said, holding up her hands. “I’m sorry I brought it up.” She had been 99.9 percent sure of his innocent before. She was 100 percent sure now.
“Madison’s the one who should be sorry. She’s lying to you; don’t you know that? She’s the one who gave the pictures to Gossip. Didn’t Scarlett tell you?” (p. 134).

There is a dialogue between Scarlett and Jane in chapter 8 that makes the readers notice their argument about Madison. Here, can be seen how Scarlett really hates Madison and does not approve Jane’s friendship with her, also how
naïve Jane is to trust Madison and does not even want to hear Scarlett’s opinion about it.

“Janie? Listen carefully to me, okay? I’m really, really sorry to have to tell you this, but Madison is the one who gave those pictures of you and Braden to *Gossip.*” There. She had said it. She sat back, waiting for Jane’s reaction. Would Jane burst into tears? Start screaming? Pick up the phone and call Madison and end their friendship right then and there? But Jane did none of those things, she gave Scarlett an icy smile. “Oh, really? You know what’s funny? Madison said the same thing about you. I’m getting tired of your stupid feud. You’re two of my best friends. Can’t you at least try to get along? It’s getting old, Scar.” (p. 63).

Jane tries really hard to make Scarlett approve her friendship with Madison. She even wants Scarlett to be friends with Madison. Jane feels really sad when Scarlett and Madison, who are two of *her best friends* can not get along each others.

In the other hand, Scarlett and Madison feud getting more serious. Scarlett can not accept Madison’s cunning behavior, moreover because she knows the real fact about how shady Madison is to her and Jane. So in the 10th chapter of this novel at the STK Scarlett confronts Madison and directly shows how much she hates this girl.

“No, you’re the one who’s crazy,” Scar spat out. “How could you do that to Jane?”
“I didn’t do anything to Jane. I love her like a sister. I already told you.”— Madison glanced at the camera—“Jesse’s the one who gave those picture to *Gossip*.” (p. 83).

There is an awkwardness shown in the above dialogue. In this dialogue, Madison accuses Jesse that he was the one who spread the photos to *Gossip*, while to Jane she said that Scarlett is the one who did it. So it is clearly seen how cunning Madison is.
The complication of the conflict next happens to Jane and Scarlett’s friendship, because Madison manipulates Jane point of view about Scarlett and in the other hands Jane always wants Scarlett and Madison become friends. Scarlett believes from the first place that Madison is the trouble maker and the center of the problem in Jane’s and her life. The result of the conflict between Jane and Scarlett is when Jane decides to out of their apartment and moves in with Madison. It makes their friendship gets worse.

“What is wrong with you?” Jane cried out. “I can’t believe you’re saying these things. Seriously, I don’t even know you anymore!”

“That makes two of us, because I don’t know you anymore, either!”

Jane got up and paced around the room. After a moment she stopped and turned around. “Well, maybe we should take a break from living together,” she said in a trembling voice.

“Fine!”

“Fine!” (p. 161).

Therefore, to make Jane believes in her she tries really hard to prove that Madison is really shady and provocative then shows all the hard evidence about Madison’s cunning plan. Luckily, she finds someone who can help her to prove all this and he is Diego, Veronica Bliss—the chief editor of Gossip—who is Bliss’ assistant. Diego promises to Scarlett that he will do whatever anything to find the person who spread the photos of Jane and Braden. This part is the beginning of the climax in the next part of the analysis.

3. Climax

The conflicts between Jane and Scarlett because of the manipulative Madison and all the rumors about Braden-Jane-Jesse, which is also caused by Madison that had already been told and described in the previous part are reaching
its climax in this part of the analysis. The climax occurs when finally the truth is revealed. All of Madison’s lies and deception are revealed one by one.

Murphy’s theory related to the climax states that, “the climax presents the opposing forces at the apex of their struggle” (1988: 36). Here, the climax of the middle part reach its apex when Jane—after so many times being told by Scarlett and Jesse that Madison is the person who leaked her photos with Braden to *Gossip*—finally opens her eyes and believes them after Diego in the end brings the evidence showing the email histories between Madison and Veronica, which all email contents are all about Madison shares information about Jane to Veronica, his boss. Diego shows all the emails and even though Jane refuses to read it she keeps on read the emails.

There was another email, too, dated back in December, in which Madison had emailed her Cabo address to Veronica, adding, “Your guy shold be able to find us on the beach, or else on the balcony of our condo.” Jane’s thought flashed to the photographer who had ambush them on her last day. So *that* was how he had tracked them down. It all made sense now. There were other, more recent emails about her and Jesse—and Braden, too. And there was one dated just four days ago, in which Madison informed Veronica that she couldn’t get her the details she needed, after all. The details about what? But it didn’t matter. Jane had read enough. (p. 280).

The above narrative shows how Jane shocked after all this time she refused to believe in Jesse and even Scarlett about Madison. Now she knows what to do after finds out this fact from Diego, the reliable source.

As the result, Jane confronts Madison about this though Madison fabricates story that her blackberry was stolen and it is not her who writes emails to Veronica and does shady things to Jane. She tries to convince Jane that she is innocent, but Jane is already sick of her explanation.
“I’m calling the movers first thing tomorrow,” Jane informed her in an ice-cold voice. “They’ll get the rest of my stuffs, and my furniture, too.”

“Movers? What are you talking about?”
Jane pressed 1. “I saw the emails, Madison.”

“Emails? What emails?”

“The emails between you and Veronica Bliss. About the pictures and everything else.”

It took every ounce of willpower for Madison to maintain her composure at the moment. Inside, she wanted to scream and lose it and kill someone. How the hell had Jane gotten all those emails? Damn it. God damn it! On the outside, however, she managed to tilt her head and smile a little, as if she were befuddled and maybe even a tiny bit amused (p. 283)

The above dialogue between Jane and Madison shows how upset Jane toward Madison’s lying scheme. This is apex of the conflict in this novel.

4. Falling Action or Resolution

After everything that she is been through Jane finally realizes her mistakes and comes to Scarlett to apologize for all the things that she had done to her.

“I came here to apologize.”

“Apologize?”

“Yeah. Because you were right about Madison.”

Scarlett stared at her in disbelief. She had been waiting forever to hear those words. “How’d you… what made you change your mind?”

“D told me tonight that she was the one behind the pictures. He found a bunch of emails between her and Veronica, on Veronica’s computer.”

“Seriously?”

“Yeah. They were pretty awful.”

“Ohmgod. I’m so sorry, Jane.”

“You’re sorry? I’m the one who should be sorry. I should have believed you from the beginning.” Jane smiled bitterly (p. 292).

Soon after that, their friendship comes back to normal as it used to be and even better. Scarlett feels so happy to have Jane back to her, her old Jane whom she loves very much. Jane confesses her mistakes for not trusting and listening to Scarlett’s advice on Madison and Jesse, she feels horrible and guilty;
nevertheless Scarlett forgives her and feels sorry for her. Everything in their relationship comes back to normal and Jane moves in again with Scarlett to their nice apartment that PopTV gave to them.

5. Denouement or Conclusion

In this part, the readers are expecting the satisfactory and believable solution of the complication in the end. The story presents a happy ending because Scarlett and Jane finally friends again. Jane finally come back to their apartment and apologizes to Scarlett for her mistake.

“So I’m guessing you need a place to live?” Scarlett said. “Because I’ve been looking for a roommate, and if I remember correctly, you’re pretty good roommate material. Except when you leave coffeemaker on everymorning…or eat my leftover to mein…or shrink my favorite navy V-neck in the dryer.” Jane cracked up. “Ha, ha. I get it; I’m an awful roommate. But, Scar, I think I’m the best you can do.” Scarlett laughed and gave a little shrug. “You’re probably right.”

“What about Tucker? Can he live with us, too?”

“Sure. He and I are besties now. See?” Scarlett leaned toward him, and he started licking her face. (p. 293)

In the other hand, Madison, the antagonist as the result of her evil plans to Jane, has to face her own karma. In the end of the story, Madison gets a picture of herself at fifteen-year-old long before she had the plastic surgery, from an anonymous. The mysterious sender threatens her that he will sell the photo to the highest bidder unless she makes her first bid to win it.

I’VE BEEN WATHCING YOU ON TV, AND I KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE. IF YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KEEP THINKING YOUR NAME IS MADISON PARKER, IT’S GOING TO COST YOU. THERE ARE PLENTY MORE PHOTOS WHERE THIS CAME FROM. THE WILL BE SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. I’M GIVING YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE FIRST BID (p. 302).
In the last part of the novel Jane seems very happy because she can hang out with Scarlett and moreover her ex boyfriend, Caleb. She hopes she can start her life fresh and no boys will be included for now.

C. The Portrayal of Author’s Love, Friendship, and Career Revealed through the Characters and the Plot of the Novel

In this part of the analysis the writer will analyze how the author’s love, friendship, and career are revealed through the characters and the plot of the novel. The writer will divide the analysis based on each character and its similarity with Conrad’s background; specifically in term her love, friendship, and career. Next, the writer will analyze how Conrad’s background also influences the plot in the novel.

Before going further on the analysis, firstly the writer will introduce Conrad’s short biography. Conrad’s birth name is Lauren Katherine Conrad. She was born on February 1, 1986 to Jim and Kathy Conrad. She is the first daughter in the family where she has a sister named Breanna and a brother named Branden. She is originally born and raised in Laguna Beach, California and has grown up in the public eye as the star of MTV’s hit series Laguna Beach Season 1-2 (2004-2006) and The Hills Season 1-5 (2007-2009).
1. Conrad’s Love, Career, and Friendship and the Characters in the Sweet Little Lies

Firstly, the analysis will be started by analyzing the main characters; they are Jane Roberts, Scarlett Harp, and Madison Parker. Secondly, by analyzing the minor characters; Jesse Edwards, Braden James, Caleb Hunt, and Hannah Stratton. The writer will linked the information on Conrad’s love life, friendship, and career and how they are affected in those characters.

a. Jane Roberts

Jane is the main character and the center of the story in this novel. Conrad describes her as a 19-year-old ordinary girl who originally born and raised in Santa Barbara, California, before she landed her own reality TV show, L.A. Candy. Just like Jane, Conrad also originally from California though she is not from Santa Barbara but from Laguna Beach. The other similarity is Conrad also just an ordinary Laguna Beach girl before Adam Divello, the producer of MTV’s hit series Laguna Beach and The Hills found her in 2004 and gave her the chance to have her own reality show, Laguna Beach (2004-2006) and The Hills (2006-2009). The reality shows suddenly became phenomenal among the teenagers in the US.

"It really was presented to us like a documentary," Conrad tells USA Today. "Nobody thought it was going to blow up like it did...definitely a different way to grow up." (People.com).

The above is Conrad’s statement about her first reality show in 2004 Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County. In the novel, Jane, moves from Santa
Barbara to Los Angeles to work as an intern to one of the biggest event planner in Los Angeles, Fiona Chen. In fact, this also happened to Conrad. She moved to Los Angeles because she continues her study at FIDM (Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising) and while studying she was applying for an internship at Teen Vogue. While working for Teen Vogue, Conrad met an intern fellow Whitney Port and started to become a good and even best friend to her, just like Jane in the novel in which she has a nice intern friend, Hanna Stratton. Until this part the reader can see the similarities between Conrad and Jane in term of career.

In the reality show from 2004 Laguna Beach Season 1, Conrad’s love life was exposed when in the reality show she was dating her high school friend Stephen Coletti. In the novel, Conrad also tells the readers about Jane’s old flame Caleb Hunt, the man whom Jane dated during her high school time. Conrad does not expose the story between Jane and Caleb in detail in Sweet Little Lies. Besides Caleb, Jane also has dated Jesse Edwards whom parents are a famous couple in Hollywood (p.47). While in the reality, Conrad also had experienced a short relationship with Brody Jenner, the son of Bruce Jenner the winner of the decathlon in the 1976 Olympic Games (sports.jrank.org) and Linda Thompson, an American actress and song-writer. Jane’s last crush in the novel is Braden James whom occupation is an actor. It is the same like in the reality that Conrad has been dating an American soap opera actor, Kyle Howard from 2009 (UsWeekly.com). Conrad also shares the same hard situation with Jane, when in 2007 there was a rumor spread about her sex tape with ex-boyfriend Jason
Wahler, which also happens with Jane in the novel when her racy pictures with Braden James leaked in public.

In LA Jane shares her room with Scarlett Harp, her best friend, which in fact Conrad also shares her apartment with her best friend, Heidi Montag. Among others the girls in L.A. Candy, Madison Parker, Gaby Garcia, Scarlett Harp, and Hannah Stratton, Jane is chosen to be the main star of it so in every episode of the reality show, she becomes the narrator of the story, just like Conrad herself in Laguna Beach and The Hills.

Conrad really respects her friends and the friendship they have. When interviewed with Glamour Magazine she talked to Laurie Sandell about her friendship with her girlfriend.

**GLAMOUR:** It’s our Friends Issue, so let’s get right to it: What do yours mean to you?

**LAUREN CONRAD:** Everything! There are six of us: Lo, who is my roommate; Whitney; my other roommate, Maura; Britton and Natania; and Jillian, whom I’ve known since kindergarten. When I’m upset they build me up, and if I’m getting a little too involved, they bring me back (www.glamour.com).

Her view on friendship is just like Jane, who really appreciates the meaning of friends.

b. **Scarlett Harp**

Scarlett is Jane’s best friend. She is very close to her since their kindergarten day. She is very smart and beautiful. Scarlett is also Jane’s roommate in LA. In her real life, Conrad made friend with Heidi Montag whom became her roommate in her LA apartment before their feud.
So, Scarlett can be related to Montag in term of this condition. However, 
*Conrad’s* best friend, Lo Bosworth also has the same characteristics with Scarlett, 
she is also smart, love to speak her mind, and good-looking. She also shares room 
in LA with *Conrad*.

Was best friends with Lauren Conrad on "Laguna Beach". However, after 
starting college, the two grew apart. But Lo returned to "The Hills" during 
Season 3, and she and Lauren are now sharing a house for Season 4. 
(imdb.com)

She is also very protected to *Conrad* regarding to *Conrad’s* feud with 
Haidi Montag, her former friend, and Montag’s husband Spencer Pratt. In the 
 novel, Scarlett is entering University of Southern California, while in fact Lo 
Bosworth is entering UCLA, and became a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma in 
that university (imdb.com). This character is closely related to these two people in 
*Conrad’s* real life, Montag and Bosworth.

c. **Madison Parker**

Madison is the person behind Jane and Braden’s scandal photo issue. This 
character if related with *Conrad’s* real life can be very similar with the figure of 
Haidi Montag. Obviously this is because this is like the sex tape rumor *Conrad* 
blames Heidi and her boyfriend Spencer for creating (hills2city.wordpress.com).

Word spreads that Conrad made a sex tape with ex-boyfriend, Jason 
Wahler, but they both adamantly deny the rumors. And Conrad soon 
predicts that Montag and Pratt started the sex tape rumor. Pratt posts 
vulgar comments about Conrad on his Web site: "It's sad that she 
destroyed the sex tape...[It] would have made her real famous." 
(people.com)
The other similarity between those two is both of them are obsessed to have the perfect look or appearance. In chapter 41, page 299-302 it is revealed that Madison Parker is not as cute as she is now when she is 15. While in the real world Montag decided to did ten procedures of plastic surgery in one day in November 10, 2009.

I thought about it for several years and I waited until I had the finances and really thought about it and was old enough to really make a mature decision." (people.com).

Are you happy with you body now?
I love my body! I still feel a little fragile, but I've never felt more beautiful and sexier. I didn't know I could have this much confidence (people.com).

The second statement is Montag’s statement when Jennifer Garcia from People asked her about her feeling after the surgery.

d. Jesse Edwards

The fans of MTV’s hit reality show The Hills are surely familiar with Brody Jenner figure, the son of Bruce Jenner, the gold winner of Decathlon in 1976 Olympic Game, and Linda Thomson, a socialite, song-writer, and a famous Hollywood actress (people.com). Jenner’s figure may give little influence to Conrad in creating this character. Since, in the novel Jesse is also described the son of famous Hollywood couple Wyatt Edwards and Katarina Miller (p.470). The difference between Jenner and Jesse is Brody is not a drinker or a player.

Conrad and Jenner were seeing each other in 2007.

Jenner, 23, finally hits the big time when he begins "seeing" The Hills star – and former Laguna Beach good girl – Lauren Conrad (right). "I don't know what you consider dating, but we're seeing each other, we're having a great time with it," Jenner tells PEOPLE. With The Hills becoming the most-watched program for MTV, questions loom regarding the show's authenticity – specifically the flirting coupledom between
Jenner and Conrad. "No matter what the speculation, it is all real," Jenner tells the Canada’s eTalk (people.com)

Above is Jenner’s statement about his relationship with Conrad and his statement regarding to The Hills authenticity.

e. **Braden James**

Since Conrad is a famous figure, so it is not difficult to see who are the people around her life who can give influences to her work, especially in her novels. In this novel Conrad seems getting some influence from her real life boyfriend, Kyle Howard who is a soap opera actor. Braden is described as a serious actor that is why he does not want to sign the contract to make any appearance in L.A. Candy. It also happens with Howard, he does not even a single time appear on Conrad’s The Hills Season 5 in 2009 on which Conrad and him are already in a relationship at that time.

Lauren's real-life beau, actor Kyle Howard (My Boys), will not be featured, in the series. Why? He's contractually obligated to stay off other shows (other than My Boy). (bbad.forumotion.net)

f. **Caleb Hunt**

Conrad’s former boyfriend Stephen Colletti is the closest figure to be the inspiration for Conrad when she created this character. In the novel, Caleb was Conrad’s boyfriend in high school in Santa Barbara, while in the reality Colletti is also Conrad’s ex boyfriend and they were dating during high school in Laguna Beach. In the novel, Caleb decided to broke up with Jane because he thought that their long-distance relationship was not going to work since he went to Yale
University (p. 18). While in the real life, Colletti also decided to end the relationship between Conrad and him also because of the long-distance relationship that he thought would not work since he went to San Francisco State University while Conrad was still in high school (www.mtv.com/shows/laguna_beach/season_1/series.)

g. Hannah Stratton

Jane meets Hannah through her job at Fiona Chen Events and they subsequently become good friends who share their personal lives, much like Conrad and Whitney. They met for the first time through their job at Teen Vogue in the first episode of The Hills Season 1.

LC arrives for her first day at Teen Vogue, where she meets Whitney, another intern who has also arrived for her first day. They are shown to their desks, somewhere in the middle of hallways full of clothes. Opulent it's not, but both girl are definitely excited. The above statement is Conrad’s statement about her friendship with her girlfriends when interviewed by Glamour Magazine. The above statement is Conrad’s statement about her friendship on her interviewed with Glamour Magazine on April 2, 2001 with Laurie Sandell (http://www.tv.com/shows/the-hills).

2. Conrad’s Background on Love, Career and Friendship and the Plot in the Sweet Little Lies

In this part of the analysis it is very important to firstly take a look at Conrad’s background in order to relate all the similarities between what had happened with Conrad in the real life and how it may influence the plot of the story. Wyatt (2010) stated that an author selects a setting for the plot and then throws in a few detailed characters. So, based on Wyatt’s theory the writer will
analyze how *Conrad* selected the arrangement of the story through the setting and the characters in her novel based on her own life experience, especially her love life, friendship, and career. Thus, the writer needs to find the similarities between the story in the novel and *Conrad’s* real characteristics, friends, and experiences in her life.

The first similarity is the setting of the novel. *Conrad* chose Los Angeles, California as the main setting where the story goes in *Sweet Little Lies*, in which *Conrad* herself lives in L.A.

The second similarity that the writer finds can be seen in how *Conrad* describes Jane, the main character. Jane was an ordinary girl before she joins the cast of a reality show of the *PopTv’s L.A. Candy*, just the same with *Conrad* before she jumped in her first reality show debut on *MTV* in 2004, *Laguna Beach*. After that, she continued to make a lot of cash by again joining *MTV’s The Hills Season 1-5* from year 2007-2009. In the novel *Conrad* more or less tells the readers about how it feels like to be a star of a reality TV show through Jane’s story.

The third similarity between *Conrad* and Jane that the writer finds is they both happen to start their career as an intern in L.A. *Conrad* was an intern in *Teen Vogue Magazine (The Hills Season 1, 2007)*, while Jane is described as an intern in Fiona Chen event planner. So, both Jane and *Conrad* are sharing the same occupation in the real life and in *Conrad’s* imaginary story. Until this, the writer sees the similarities of setting, occupation or career, and how *Conrad* and Jane
related in their status as the reality TV star. The plot of the story is developed through these three similarities in the prologue or the introduction of the story.

Next, the fourth similarity is what had happened in Conrad’s and Jane’s love life. In the novel, Conrad describes Jane as a new comer in the Hollywood’s showbiz environment where she has to be prepared for any positive or even negative publicity about her private life. In the L.A. Candy Jane’s romance becomes the media consumption when the press finds out that she has a special relationship with Jesse Edwards, the son of a famous Hollywood’s couple. This also happened with Conrad when in the third season of The Hills in 2008 she dated Brody Jenner, the son of Bruce Jenner who is a gold winner of Olympic Game and Linda Thomson, a socialite-song-writer, and actress. It is told that Jane also has an ex-boyfriend, Caleb Hunt, when she was in high school who broke up with her because they could not stand a long distance relationship when he had to continue his study at Yale University while Jane still in Santa Barbara. It is strange because Conrad also experienced just the same thing with her imaginary character. Conrad broke up with Stephen Colletti, her boyfriend in high school, because he had left her in Laguna Beach, California to go to San Francisco to continue his study at USC (Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County Season 1: 2005).

The fifth similarity that also influences the plot of the story in Conrad’s novel is the conflict. In Sweet Little Lies, Conrad brings out the main problem in Jane’s life started when the racy pictures of Braden and her leaked in public and the person behind this scandal is Jane’s best friend whom she met in her reality
show, Madison Parker. This conflict is also happened to Conrad in 2007 while she filming *The Hills Season 3*. The difference was the case in Conrad was when the sex tape scandal rumor started to appear in public through her best friend, Heidi Montag, who was also took part in Conrad’s reality show *The Hills*, and her boyfriend, Spencer Pratt’s confession. This rumor made Conrad’s and Montag’s friendship broken.

The last similarity is about the friendship issue in the novel and in Conrad’s real life. In the novel Conrad tells the readers that Jane has a best friend named Scarlett Harp who is she adores so much. In the novel Conrad describes Scarlett characteristic as a smart and pretty girl who is not hesitate to speak her mind. While in the real life Conrad herself has a best friend whose characterization is similar to Scarlett, she is Lo Bosworth. She was Conrad’s roommate (*The Hills Season 3-5, 2008*) who was also joining the casts of *The Hills, Conrad’s* reality show. In fact, Bosworth went to UCLA and became the member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority (www.npcbruins.com/kappa-kappa-gamma). In the novel Jane has an intern friend who is happen to be her best friend at work at Fiona Chen’s event planner, Hannah Stratton, while in fact Conrad also met her friend whose inspires her to create Hannah’s character named Whitney Port (*The Hills Season 1-4, 2007-2008*). Conrad’s ex-best friend and also ex-roommate, Heidi Montag, who was a spreader of the sex tape rumor of Conrad and her ex-boyfriend Jason Wahler has a very similar characteristics with Madison Parker in the novel. Montag is famous for her addiction on plastic surgery where she ever did 10 cosmetic surgery procedures in the same day in
year 2010 (www.stars-plastic-surgery.com), she did this procedure because she was obsessed of being perfect (people.com). Just like Montag, in the novel Madison is also obsessed of being perfect (p. 301). When she was a teenager she was not as attractive as she is now.

Another similarity between these two is Madison is the one who spread a rumor about Jane—Braden’s picture scandal in this novel. These three main characters are the most prominent and similar to what is actually happening in Conrad’s life. The writer thinks that Conrad herself, Lo Bosworth, and Heidi Montag are the three who are inspiring Conrad in creating the idea of the story and conflict also influencing the plot of the novel.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This chapter contains the conclusion of all the analysis in the previous chapters. The analysis is based on three problem formulation. The first problem formulation is about the how the characters are described, the second is about the development of the plot, while the last one is about the influence of the author’s love, friendship, and career to the plot and characters in the story.

The first problem formulation shows the characteristics of the characters. There are eight characters that are analyzed, they are; Jane Roberts, Scarlett Harp, and Madison Parker as the three main characters. The last five are the minor characters, they are; Jesse Edwards, Braden James, Caleb Hunt, Hannah Stratton, and Diego. Jane is the center character in the novel. She is a nineteen-year-old nice, type of a good-friend girl, and vulnerable when it comes to boys. She has a great work ethic for a girl at her age, she works as an intern at Fiona Chen’s event planner. She is an ordinary turns into a star girl after she joins the PopTV’s new reality show, L.A. Candy. The next character is Scarlett. She is Jane’s best friend. Scarlett is a good-friend type, smart and in fact she studies in the USC, she likes to speak her mind straightly, and she is not easily to trust a person. The last main character and also the antagonist in the story is Madison. Madison is a fake, manipulative girl, she likes to be perfect and in order to reach the perfection she will do anything. She is envied Jane because Jane is chosen to be the major figure in their reality show. So, she makes a mean plan to change Jane’s image from an
American sweetheart into the American bad girl by giving the racy picture of Jane and Braden to Gossip magazine.

The first minor character is Jesse Edward. He is a Hollywood playboy the son of a famous Hollywood couple, Wyatt Edwards and Katarina Miller, handsome and very attractive. He has a dark history of drugs and alcohol. The second minor character is Braden James. He is a professional actor who does not seek fame and has idealism. That quality proven when he refuses to sign the contract with PopTV and does not interested in making appearance in their reality show. He has a great passion in acting. He suddenly becomes well known because of his scandal with Jane, the main star of LA. Candy. His sympathetic and charming attitude makes Jane has a crush on him. Next minor character is Caleb Hunt. He is Jane’s ex boyfriend. He still friends with Jane even though they are no longer in a relationship. He is still being supportive to Jane when he knows that Jane has a big problem on her racy photos scandal. Next minor character is Hannah Stratton. Hanna is Jane’s co-worker at Fiona Chen’s event planner and co-cast in LA Candy. Hannah is an honest and a good friend. The last minor character in this novel is Diego. He is working at Gossip magazine as the chief editor’s assistant. He is a very genuine man to Jane because his intend to find out the person behind all the Jane—Braden’s scandal. Finally, he is becoming the important man to end the conflict in this novel, because he finally finds out the mastermind of the scandal.

The second problem formulation is about the plot construction. The introduction of the story is Jane’s escape to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. She is
accompanied by Madison, her fake girlfriend whom she thought being genuine to her. Jane still does not realize that Madison is the one who is creating the whole mean plan to her. Jane’s best friend, Scarlett, who knows this fact from the beginning, tries to tell Jane and convince her about this fact but Jane refuses to believe her. The complication and the action are rising when Madison, on the other hand, tries to brainwash and manipulate Jane and she wants Jane and Scarlett hating each other. Madison tells Jane that Jesse and Scarlett are the actors behind the photo scandal. This makes Jane—Scarlett’s friendship is broken. However, luckily for Scarlett she has somebody who is willing to help her to reveal the truth, and the person is Diego. The complication reaches the climax when Diego finds the emails history between Madison and his boss. Then, he shows all this emails to Jane and that is when Jane finally finds out and realizes that Scarlett and Jesse is right about Madison. After she finds out everything she confronts Madison about it, and decides to move out from her apartment and back to move in with Scarlett. The story’s falling action or resolution is when Jane and Scarlett’s friendship finally reunites. Jane apologizes to Scarlett and her apology is accepted. Soon they become roommate again. The story’s conclusion or denouement is when the story presents a happy ending, the evil is losing the battle. That is what the readers are expected. The protagonists can fix their problems and the antagonist faces her karma. An anonymous send her the picture of her when she was 15-year-old, long before she transforms into gorgeous Madison and the anonymous intimidates her if he wanted to spread this photo to the public unless Madison gives him some amount of money.
The last problem formulation is about the influence of the author’s love, friendship, and career to the plot and characters in the story. The writer finds that *Conrad’s* real life especially in her love, friendship, and career aspects give the influence in the plot and characters. All the characters that the writer analyzes in this thesis are the characters which have the closest similarity with the real people in *Conrad*’s life and even similar with *Conrad*’s herself. Nevertheless, there is one character in the novel, Diego, that is not having any similarity or relation with *Conrad* but this character plays an important role in the climax of the story. *Conrad* herself is mostly similar with Jane, the center character in this novel. In the real life, *Conrad* also has a booming reality shows, *Laguna Beach* and *The Hills* from 2004-2009. She is the main figure in those two reality shows, just like Jane who is the main star in *L.A. Candy*. She is also has a problem in friendship when one of her best friends, Heidi Montag betrayed her by saying to the media that she has a sex tape with her ex boyfriend. That is also what happening in the novel, when Jane is betrayed by Madison the person whom she trusts by spreading the racy photo of Braden and her to Gossip magazine. Heidi Montag is the person who the writer finds has the closest similarity with Madison Parker besides in fact she is *Conrad*’s former best friend and the spreader of *Conrad*’s sex-tape gossip, both Heidi and Madison are dying for perfection. Scarlett Harp, Jane’s best friend is closely similar to Lo Bosworth characteristics. Lo is *Conrad*’s best friend, they are friends for a very long time. Lo is also *Conrad*’s roommate in LA and her co-star in *Laguna Beach Season 1-2* (2004-2005) and *The Hills Season 1-5* (2006-2009). Lo is a smart girl just like Scarlett, she studies in UCLA while in the novel
Scarlett studies in the USC. Another real figure in Conrad’s real life who is also closely related with the character in the novel is Brody Jenner. His figure is closely similar with Jesse Edwards whom a son of Hollywood famous couple, just the same with Brody who is the son of Bruce Jenner and Linda Thompson, two famous figures in Hollywood. Conrad’s ex boyfriend, Stephen Colletti is also similar with one of the characters in the novel, Caleb Hunt. In the story, Caleb is breaking up with Jane because of the long distance relationship when he has to continue his study to the San Francisco State University while on the other hand Caleb, in the story has to leave Jane in Santa Barbara because he has to continue his study to Yale. The last person who the writer thinks inspires Conrad to create Hannah Stratton based on the analysis is Whitney Port. Whitney is also works as an intern with Conrad at Teen Vogue magazine and she is also Conrad’s co-star in The Hills. Hannah in the story is an intern in Fiona Chen’s, also Jane’s co-star in L.A. Candy.

Conrad illustrates some of the characters in the novel look similar with herself and even the people in her life, especially her friends. The plot in the novel is also somewhat similar with what she had gone through in her life. The writer finds that an author can create the fiction based on her own experience and she can play her imagination on it, it depends on the author creativity so that the story is not just a copy and paste of her real life story, just like what happen in Conrad’s Sweet Little Lies.
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APPENDIX

SUMMARY OF SWEET LITTLE LIES

*Sweet Little Lies* is divided into 42 chapters. It talks about the friendship, love, and career of some young girls in Los Angeles or Hollywood who have their own reality show.

Jane Roberts was the average girl next door until she and her best friend Scarlett Harp landed their own reality show. But life on cameras is complicated and not as easy as they wanted to be.

When *Gossip Magazine* leaked racy photo of Jane and Braden in its new edition, Jane tries to escape from the spotlight by going to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico with her *L.A. Candy* costar, Madison. She turns to her for help but it turns out that Madison is the cause of the chaos in Jane’s life.

Too bad for Jane, because of her naivety, she refuses to believe in Scarlett who tells her about Madison’s malicious intent to her although not only Scarlett who tells that about Madison, but also Jesse. She believes that Madison is a good person once Scarlett or Jesse gets to know her.

At work, Jane tries to impress her boss by working so hard and tries to make amend on her *Missing in Action* to Cabo. Luckily for Jane, her boss gives the appreciation for her effort. At work Jane meets Hannah who becomes her best friend since then.

Jane's love life does not go smoothly. She sticks in a relationship with Jesse who has problems with drugs and alcohol. Jane eventually has to decide to
break up with Jesse due to his bad behavior. While during her broken heart moment her ex boyfriend Caleb always gives his support to Jane.

At the end of the story Scarlett’s effort to prove and give evidence of Madison’s evil plan to Jane finally succeeds. By the assistance of Diego, the assistant of the chief editor of Gossip Magazine, who provides the evidence of emails between Madison and his boss, finally Jane realizes her mistake.

Jane confronts Madison and shows the emails. Madison refuses the accusation and wishes that Jane would believe in her. Finally Jane’s friendship with Scarlett returns to normal where they love, believe, and respect each other.

As the author of Sweet Little Lies, television star and former MTV’s reality show queen, Conrad seems like to share her experiences as a reality superstar to the readers. There are many similarities between the characters in this story with Conrad herself and people in her life. In her real life Conrad also once rumored to has a sex tape with her ex boyfriend. In fact the person behind this rumor is nothing but her best friend and costar on The Hills, Heidi Montag.