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Gender Disparities towards Gender in *It Ends with us* by Colleen Hoover

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Abstract

This research delves into Colleen Hoover’s novel “It Ends With Us” to unveil the manifestations and repercussions of gender-based violence and the protagonist’s efforts to overcome adversity. Focused on the character Lily Bloom, the study utilizes a descriptive analysis method, exploring intrinsic theories alongside extrinsic theories like gender and feminism. The findings highlight Lily’s encounters with various forms of gender-based violence, including child abuse, physical assaults, domestic violence, pornography, and rape, as well as their physical and psychological impacts. Ultimately, Lily triumphs over her challenges by improving her financial situation, embracing independence, ending her abusive relationship through divorce, and embracing single parenthood, supported by both internal and external factors in her journey towards a better life.

Keywords: Feminism, Gender, Gender-Based Violence.

Margaret Colleen Fennell, known by her pen name Colleen Hoover was one of the best young American writer according to the New York Times Magazine with the title “1 New York Times Bestselling” and translated in twenty languages .She deals with difficult topics like domestic violence. American author renowned for her novel “It Ends With Us,” which soared to the top of the bestseller list in 2023 and was subsequently adapted into a feature film. Hoover’s works have earned her acclaim as a skilled and attractive novelist. “It Ends With Us,” published under a romantic guise, became a sensation in the Romance and Young Adult fiction genres, much like her previous book “Ugly Love” from 2014, each boasting millions of copies sold. Released in August 2016, Hoover’s novel features a first-person narrative by an unreliable female protagonist grappling with psychological trauma.

Based on these problems the feminism Movement emerged. According to An act of violence is an attack on the physical and psychological Integrity of a person and can be in the Form of violence against one particular sex Caused by gender differences (Fakih, 2013: 17). Humm (in Arivia, 2006: 180) said that violence against women is very frequent and common. He said that violence against women occurred in the product of patriarchal society.

Such condition as mentioned above and also illustrated in Colleen Hoover “It Ends With Us” Lily Bloom is an independent figure, But has psychological trauma. During her Teenage years, she became a victim of Domestic violence that occurred between Her parents. Because of this, she grew up As a woman who hated her father because He always behaved rudely towards her Mother. Not only that, Lily also kept her Distance from her mother because she Often remembered how her mother had Remained loyal to her father even though There were so many bad treatments that her Mother had experienced. Lily’s life also Changes when she is stuck in an abusive Relationship, just like her mother Experienced. In the process of making her Choice between surviving or leaving, Lily Also experiences a series of inner conflicts And gender-based violence in her life.

The journey of Lily Bloom, who relocates to Boston to escape her troubled past. There, she meets Ryle Kincaid, a successful neurosurgeon, and they embark on a passionate romance. However, as their relationship evolves, Lily becomes aware of Ryle’s volatile temper and controlling tendencies. Despite her attempts to justify and forgive his behavior, Lily finds herself ensnared in a cycle of abuse reminiscent of her father’s violence. Throughout the novel, Lily struggles with conflicting emotions, torn between her love for Ryle and her longing to break free from the abuse. As she confronts the painful realities of her past and present, Lily must make challenging decisions to safeguard her well-being and future. “It Ends With Us” delves into themes of love, resilience, and the bravery required to liberate oneself from toxic relationships.

Hoover stated That the idea of the novel “It Ends With Us” Was actually based on her personal Experience. Indirectly, Hoover was a Victim of this kind of abusive relationship When she was little, that was experienced By her mother. Gender-based violence is a pervasive issue that affects individuals worldwide, and it is a central theme in Colleen Hoover’s novel “It Ends With Us.” Through the protagonist Lily Bloom’s harrowing journey, the novel provides a poignant exploration of the complexities surrounding domestic abuse and its profound impact on survivors (web). Lily’s story begins as she seeks to escape her tumultuous past and build a new life in Boston. However, her aspirations are soon overshadowed by the emergence of an abusive relationship with Ryle Kincaid, a successful neurosurgeon. As their romance unfolds, Lily discovers troubling signs of Ryle’s volatile temper and controlling behavior. Despite her initial attempts to rationalize and forgive his actions, Lily finds herself trapped in a cycle of abuse reminiscent of her own father’s violence.

The novel delves deeply Into the dynamics of gender-based violence, portraying the insidious ways in which it can manifest within intimate relationships. Ryle’s behavior reflects the pervasive societal norms and power imbalances that perpetuate such violence, highlighting the intersectionality of gender, power, and control (web). Throughout the narrative, Lily grapples with conflicting emotions as she navigates the complexities of her abusive relationship. Her internal struggles mirror the experiences of many survivors, who often face immense pressure to justify or downplay their abuser’s actions. Hoover sensitively portrays Lily’s journey towards self-awareness and empowerment, illustrating the courage it takes to confront and break free from the cycle of abuse.

“It Ends With Us” also sheds light on the ripple effects of gender-based violence, illustrating it can reverberate through generations and impact familial relationships. Lily’s own upbringing and her father’s history of abuse contribute to her internalized beliefs and perceptions of love, complicating her efforts to navigate her current situation. Ultimately, the novel offers a powerful message of resilience and empowerment, urging readers to confront the realities of gender-based violence and advocate for change. By amplifying the voices of survivors and challenging societal norms, “It Ends With Us” encourages dialogue and action towards ending the cycle of abuse and fostering a culture of respect and equality.

Hoover's "It Ends With Us" provides a compelling portrayal of gender-based violence through the lens of domestic abuse. Through the protagonist's journey, the novel offers insight into the complexities of abuse dynamics and the profound impact it has on survivors. By shining a light on these important issues, the novel prompts critical reflection and dialogue, ultimately advocating for a world free from gender-based violence.

The novel challenges traditional gender roles and stereotypes through its portrayal of male characters who defy societal expectations and exhibit vulnerability and emotional depth. Lily's journey towards self-awareness and independence serves as a feminist narrative, as she grapples with societal pressures and expectations while striving to assert her own autonomy. Her decision to break free from the cycle of abuse and prioritize her own well-being reflects a feminist stance against the normalization of violence within relationships. Additionally, "It Ends With Us" addresses broader feminist themes such as the objectification of women, the double standards imposed on female sexuality, and the importance of female solidarity and support networks. The novel portrays female friendships as sources of strength and empowerment, emphasizing the significance of women lifting each other up in the face of societal oppression. Moreover, By presenting a nuanced depiction of masculinity, "It Ends With Us" encourages readers to reconsider conventional notions of gender and power dynamics within relationships. Overall, "It Ends With Us" offers a feminist perspective on issues of abuse, agency, and empowerment, highlighting the resilience of women in the face of adversity and advocating for gender equality and social change. Through its portrayal of complex female characters and their struggles, the novel contributes to ongoing conversations about feminism and the importance of women's voices and experiences in shaping a more equitable society.

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