



## Behind the Vow: Factors and Portrayals of Failed Marriage in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 10 April 2026

Revised 30 April 2026

Accepted 22 May 2026

Available online

<https://talenta.usu.ac.id/lingpoet/>

E-ISSN: 2745-8296

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#### How to cite:

Balqis, W. A., Sumbayak, D. M., & Putri, D. M. (2026). Behind the Vow: Factors and Portrayals of Failed Marriage in The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo. *LingPoet: Journal of Linguistics and Literary Research*, 7(2), 236–245.

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### ABSTRACT

Understanding literature is not as simple as it appears. Each person has their own interpretation of the literary works themselves. The research aims to analyse failed marriages portrayed in Taylor Jenkins Reid's 'The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo' and find out what are the factors of the failed marriage in the novel, how the failed marriage is portrayed in the novel and how the characters deal with the failed marriage in the novel. The researcher used descriptive qualitative research, and the data were formed by words and sentences from *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel. The research revealed that the factors of failed marriage are career development, infidelity, expectation gap, and selfishness. Meanwhile, the failed marriage is portrayed using a first-person point of view with two narrators switching back and forth; also, the characters deal with the failed marriage by having a conflict with him/herself, the environment, and another person. *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* depicts Evelyn's struggle to conceal her true self while striving to become a celebrity and shape the public's perception of her. To love forward in her career, Evelyn develops increasingly complicated lies and deceptions throughout her marriages.

**Keywords:** Descriptive Qualitative Analysis, Failed Marriage, Intrinsic Analysis, The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo

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## 1. Introduction

Novels offer numerous narratives and characters who represent and go through recognized human experiences, whether they are ordinary, spectacular, or even common. Through its author's visionary and prophetic insights, a novel also addresses every aspect of human behavior, includes personal emotions such as love, sadness, and public emotions. As novel is one of the most widely enjoyed literary works, when a person reads a novel, their interpretation is not limited to the story told in the text. Their position as a reader will cause the imagination to 'go on vacation' to depict the novel's precise embodiment.

As a living creature, in specific, human, marriage is one phase of life that people will most likely go through. In general, marriage can be described as legally recognized union, usually between man and woman. This bond often connected with love, tolerance, and harmony. Marriage is a legal contract between two individuals to form a sexual, productive, and reproductive union. Through the marriage, this union is recognized by family, society, religious institutions, and the legal system (Waite, 2005).

By this time, the definitions of marriage will keep on evolving, from the opposite sex into the same sex marriages are happening to this day. People must not only assure that marriage contains the defining element of sexual complementary represented by the union of a man and a woman, but also that it contains the elements of mutual faithfulness, and more importantly the bond of permanence. Regardless of its gender, as

long as the two people find themselves attracted to each other and decided to form a permanent relationship, willing to declare their love and commitment to each other, and be legally marry. It should be acknowledged as marriages also (Spaht, 1998). In this regard, Cherlin (2004) further argues that marriage has undergone a cultural transformation in modern Western societies, shifting from a practical institution to a deeply personal relationship centered on individual fulfillment and self-development.

With all the changing concept of marriages, consequently, marriage has become a “throw-away-commodity,” even perceived by some as mere household garbage to be used and thrown out (Busari, 2011). It appears that the vow "until death do us part" is no longer sacred and be the foundation of marriage, but only lasts as long as the mates “wants" are met. And if there is a failure of one partner to fulfill the requirements (typically financial and sexual) of the other, it causes a failed marriage. In fact, there are several factors that contribute to a failed marriage. According to Amato (2010), rising divorce rates across many societies reflect broader shifts in marital expectations, with individuals increasingly unwilling to remain in unsatisfying unions. In fact, there are several factors that contribute to a failed marriage. However, not all unsuccessful marriages ended with divorce. Some married couples decide to separate beds or even go back to their parents' household. However, getting a divorce is obviously the final process in exiting a failed marriage.

Based on Glaser (2002), in an unhealthy marriage, partners do not communicate openly and honesty disappears. There are so many things that may go wrong in a marriage. Failed marriage can be caused by various factors such infidelity, career, selfishness and some others as presented in (Zainab, 2019), some factors are expectation gap, difference of opinion and psychological deprivation, break in communication, sexual incompatibility, unemployment, childlessness, differences in interest, or age at marriage. Jahan et al. (2017) similarly categorize the causes of marital failure into individual, interpersonal, and socio-economic dimensions, suggesting that no single factor alone determines the collapse of a marriage, but rather a complex interplay of multiple variables.

Several previous studies have examined themes related to gender, identity, and marriage in literary works, providing a foundation for the present research. Suharni (2021) analyzed gender performativity and subversive bodily acts in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* using Judith Butler's theoretical framework, while Rosmiati (2022) investigated gender discrimination and patriarchal oppression affecting female characters in the same novel through a radical feminist lens. Similarly, Inkeröinen (2022) explored the representation and development of queer identities among the novel's three main characters within the socio-cultural context of Hollywood from the 1950s to the 1980s. Shifting to the theme of marriage, Zainab (2019) examined marital failure as a social reality in Sidney Sheldon's *The Other Side of Midnight* by applying the theory of factors involving failed marriage proposed by Jahan et al. (2017), which is also adopted in the present study. Furthermore, Veysel (2022) analyzed failed marriage and spinsterhood as symbolic feminist concepts in Victorian novels by George Eliot and Elizabeth Gaskell. Although these studies have collectively addressed gender discourse, discrimination, queer representation, and marital failure in various literary contexts, none has specifically focused on failed marriage as the central issue in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, thus indicating a clear research gap that the present study seeks to address.

The research is limited on the analysis of failed marriages portrayed in Taylor Jenkins Reid 'The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo' novel which released on 2017. The writer focuses in analyzing failed marriages of the main protagonist of the novel, Evelyn Hugo who been married seven times in the novel. The writer does not discuss other point outside failed marriages, the factors behind the failed marriages, how the failed marriages portrayed in the story and how the characters deal with the failed marriages in the novel. This literary research uses intrinsic elements from *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel. Intrinsic elements of literature are: plot and structure, character, conflict, setting, point of views, style, symbol, irony, and theme (Diyanny, 1990). The writer chose the intrinsic approach to be used for analyzing failed marriage portrayed in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel because the intrinsic elements are interrelated to one another and as the elements that develop literary works from inside. Intrinsic elements used in this literary research is limited into character, setting, plot, theme, and point of view.

Analyzing literary works can help the readers benefit as an adequate knowledge about intrinsic approaches to analyze a novel focused on society phenomenon such as failed marriage and give the readers a better understanding of intrinsic elements through a novel analyzing. The writer hopes the findings of this

research can be useful for readers and future researchers to know more about failed marriages in a novel and other people who are interested in the same field. This is also important for wider knowledge in analyzing literary works and develop theories in intrinsic approaches. It is expected to increase the understanding towards literary works to other people who interested to analyze any other literary analysis in the near future.

## 2. Method

The writer employed a descriptive qualitative method for this research. The method of choice for this research was the qualitative descriptive study, which provided straight descriptions of phenomena. Such study proved especially useful for researchers who wanted to know the who, what, and where of events (Sandelowski, 2000). The primary source of data for this research was the novel *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, written by Taylor Jenkins Reid, which consisted of 400 pages and was published in 2017. The phrases, words, or sentences were taken as the data. However, the writer focused only on data that pointed to failed marriages in the novel, and the data obtained was analysed based on the four phases of data analysis (data collection, data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing) described in Miles et al. (2014).

Data condensation during the research involved focusing on or choosing the data that were present in the written-up field notes, interview transcripts, documents, and other empirical materials that made up the corpus. Data that proved to be irrelevant and unrelated was discarded. The data were displayed after being detected and categorised according to Diyanny (1990) and Zainab (2019). Additionally, the final part of the analysis involved stating clearly how the data examined demonstrated the subject of interest. The conclusion was continuously analysed, and its validity was verified to draw insights about the failed marriage depicted in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

## 3. Results and Discussions

The results and discussions regarding failed marriages were portrayed in the novel *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*. The discussion focused on how the factors of failed marriages were portrayed in the novel and how the characters coped with these challenges. This analysis employed intrinsic approaches, including plot, point of view, conflict, and character development. Additionally, the theory regarding the factors that contributed to failed marriages was utilised. The results and discussion were described below.

### 3.1 Factors of Failed Marriage in Taylor Jenkins Reid's *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*

Table 1 Factors of Failed Marriage in Taylor Jenkins Reid's *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*

No	Evelyn's Husbands	Factors of Failed Marriage
1	Ernie Diaz	Career Development
2	Don Adler	Infidelity
3	Mick Riva	Selfishness
4	Rex North	Infidelity
6	Harry Cameron	Expectation Gap
7	Max Girard	Infidelity and Expectation Gap

Table 1. presented above shows the factors of failed marriage in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* novel. Based on Zainab (2019), there are four different factors that caused the failed marriage in Evelyn Hugo's marriages that will be explained briefly after. During her marriage with Ernie Diaz, her very first husband, Evelyn starts her career as an actress. Then she asks for a role. But her studio said she was not the right type. Evelyn then made a huge change in herself so that her career can grow, she bleached her hair, she loses weight, she got rid of the New York in her English, even made publicity photos. It's finally possible for her career to grow, but it's better if she went on a few dates with some guys like Don Adler. This is where Ernie Diaz became a problem since he is Evelyn's husband.

"Is that going to be a problem?" Harry asked. He wasn't going to mention Ernie directly, because he knew he didn't have to. Not a problem," I said. "Not at all." Harry nodded. He handed me a business card. "Call Benny Morris. He's a lawyer over in the bungalows. Handled Ruby Reilly's annulment from Mac Riggs. He'll help you straighten it out." I went home and told Ernie I was leaving him." (Reid, 2017: 31-23). The quotation indicates that for her career to grow, the fact that Evelyn is married might be a problem for her in the future. That is why Harry suggest her to contact a lawyer and ended her marriage with Ernie.

In her marriage with Don Adler, they are genuinely happy to be around each other. That was until the premiere night for *Little Women*, Evelyn and Ruby were speaking. Ruby revealed to Evelyn that her husband is cheating on her. Evelyn starts seeking for Don; she enters into every door on the second floor until she finds Don, who she was looking for. Don was putting on his shoes while a woman in a beaded gold gown put hers on. Don followed Evelyn as she ran outside and advised her to discuss things at home. Evelyn then encounters Harry and hurried over to him, leaving Don on the stairway. When they arrived at Sunset Boulevard and Evelyn's pulse calmed, they began to talk.

"I'm leaving Don," I said. Harry nodded, unsurprised. "I'm happy to hear it," he said. "But I hope you know the full extent of what it means." "I know what I'm doing, Harry." I was wrong. I didn't know what I was doing. "Don's not going to take it sitting down," Harry said. "That's all I mean." "So I should continue this charade? Allow him to sleep around and hit me when he feels like it?" (Reid, 2017: 76).

Quotation above indicate that Evelyn finally decided to give up her marriage with Don, she did not want Don casually sleeping around and hit her whenever he feels like to anymore. This is where her marriage with Don failed.

Married in December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1961. Mick Riva was her husband with the shortest time span. They both are not in love. Evelyn is using him for scandal since she messed up big time for holding Celia's hand in Mick Riva concert and a couple witnessing it. She scared it might become a big scandal and ruin both her and Celia's career. So, she is using the fact that Mick Riva was interested in her and trying to take as many attentions as she can. She needs a scandal with Mick Riva and she makes it happen. She manipulates Mick with her acting prowess so that after the first lie, he grows tired of her and loses interest in her. Because a man like Mick Riva always finds a woman less attractive after having sex with her, regardless of how beautiful she is.

"Honey, I had a great time," he says. You nod. "But we were so drunk." He speaks as if he's talking to a child. "Both of us. We had no idea what we were doing." "I know," you say. "It was a crazy thing to do." "I'm not a good guy, baby," he says. "You don't deserve a guy like me. I don't deserve a girl like you." It's just so unoriginal and laughably transparent, feeding you the same line he fed the papers about his last wife. "What are you saying?" you ask. You put a little spin into it. You make it sound like you might start crying. You have to do this because it is what most women would do. And you have to appear to him the way he sees most women. You have to appear to have been outsmarted. "I think we should call our people, baby. I think we should get an annulment." "But, Mick—" He cuts you off, and it makes you mad, because you really did have more to say. "It's better this way, honey. I'm afraid I can't take no for an answer." (Reid, 2017: 106-107).

This is the part where his impulsive marriage with Mick ended as she hoped. She once again sacrificing herself for the sake of herself, her fame, and her loved one, Celia St. James. She feeds society with her marriage scandal so people did not realize what is really happening on real-life. Not only in her marriage with Don, infidelity also appear in Evelyn's marriage with Rex North, her fourth husbands. For Evelyn, her relationship with Rex built entirely on box office. It was fake and full of manipulation, but it was the beginning of her peak popularity. He is on the same page as Evelyn, to the point where he was willing to do anything, even a marriage stunt.

"I'm in love," Rex said when we were finally alone. It was perhaps the very last thing I ever thought he'd say. "In love?" I asked. He laughed at my shock. "It doesn't make any sense. Trust me, I know that." "With whom?" "Joy." "Joy Nathan?" "Yes. We've seen each other on and off through the years. You know how it is." ..... "So what should we do?" I asked. "Well," he said, breathing deeply, "Joy and I would like to marry." (Reid, 2017: 126).

Quotation above shows the situation where Rex confessed to Evelyn that he was in love, with Joy Nathan, and they would like to marry. This is the factor that caused Evelyn and Rex marriage ended.

Evelyn and Harry were engaged the same year that she and Celia received a Best Actress nomination for *Carolina Sunset*. Her emotions are completely Celia's, despite the fact that she was engaged to Harry. Evelyn and Harry Cameron were wed on August 14, 1967. Celia tried her best not to feel envious on the wedding day, despite the fact that she knew everything was a lie. Celia got utterly inebriated during the ceremony. Celia and Evelyn were head over heels in love, while Harry and John were head over heels in love. Two males who are married to two women who are also sleeping together. That is everything that occurred.

John suddenly died of a heart attack in 1980. It does not make any sense for all of them since John was the most athletic and fit among all of them. And when he left Harry, Celia, Evelyn, and Connor. He ripped a hole in their life the size of a giant. Harry struggled for weeks to even leave his bed, and when he did, it was to sip bourbon. He was frequently cruel and rarely sober. Evelyn understood that the only way to get Harry to start living his life again was to surround him with Connor and work. Following that, Max Girard gave her a piece of artwork that he was having problems getting manufactured. It was called All for Us.

“The next morning, I woke up as an Oscar winner with a precious six-year-old eating room service in my bed. There was a knock at the door. I grabbed my robe. I opened the door. In front of me were two-dozen red roses with a note that said, “I have loved you since I met you. I have tried to stop. It will not work. Leave him, *ma belle*. Marry me. Please. XO, M.” (Reid, 2017: 166)

Based on the quotation, it can be seen that Max Girard frankly proposed Evelyn with a letter when he’s clearly knowing that Evelyn was Harry’s wife. When Evelyn told Harry about it, he was thinking that nothing would change between them if they are having a divorce. For Harry, there are plenty good reasons for them to get divorce, and not many cons except that he won’t call her his wife anymore.

Looking to (Zainab, 2019), the main reasons of why Harry and Evelyn marriages was come to an end is because of Expectation Gap. Harry expectation to stay in marriage with Evelyn is gone, he marries Evelyn to live freely with John while Evelyn live freely with Celia without having to afraid about how they will get caught by the society eventually, and now that he’s gone, there are no good reasons for him to stay in marriage.

After 15 years of marriage with Harry, Evelyn finally married to Max Girard in 1982. Moving along the plot, at first Evelyn do feel it was peaceful when there is nothing to prove, nothing to hide. But the next morning, when she woke up, she expected to see Max’s smile on his face, but to her shocking, instead of a smile, what she saw is he looked stoic, as if he had been staring at the ceiling for hours. She later asks him what on his mind, and beyond her expectations, Max answering with “this is not how I imagined it” she asked him what did he imagine, and he answered “I imagined a glory life with you.”

It only took Evelyn four months to realise that Max was only capable of loving the concept of Evelyn Hugo and had no desire to even try to love her. Based on the plot, Celia played Lady Macbeth in a 1988 film adaption. She also received the Best Supporting honours. Just as Celia was about to turn away from the microphone to finish her winning speech, she said, "And to anyone tempted to kiss the TV tonight, please don't chip your tooth." After putting her palm to her face, Evelyn noticed that she had started to cry. As he stroked her back, Harry grinned at her. "You should call her," he said. "Burial of hatchets is always a good idea." Instead, she wrote a letter. By that time, Evelyn stayed in touch with Celia as she was unexpectedly replying to Evelyn’s letter.

The morning Evelyn left for the airport in order to meet Celia, Max slept in late. Evelyn did not bring all her letters with Celia, in exact, she could not decide whether to bring it or not. She puts all the letter in a box at the back of her closet. As she was about to leave, she realized she might be needing the letter and decided to bring it, she made her way upstairs and walked to the bedroom, and there, in her closet, was Max.

“You were going to cheat on me?” “I was going to leave you,” I said. “I think you know that. I think you’ve known that for some time. I am going to leave you. If not for her, for me.”  
 .....Wow,” he said. “Incredible. I married a dyke.” “Stop saying that,” I said. “Evelyn, if you have sex with women, you are a lesbian. Don’t be a self-hating lesbian. That’s not . . . that’s not becoming.” “I don’t care what you think is becoming. I don’t hate lesbians at all. I’m in love with one. But I loved you, too.” “Oh, please,” he said. “Please don’t try to make me any more of a fool than you already have. I have spent years loving you, only to find it meant nothing to you.” “You didn’t love me for one goddamn day,” I said. “You loved having a movie star on your arm. You loved getting to be the one who slept in my bed. That’s not love. That’s possession” (Reid, 2017: 180).

Quotation above shows the arguments between Max and Evelyn. Max starting an argument with Evelyn and she finally confronted him for being not in love with her even for once, since she knew Max only loves the idea of Evelyn Hugo, the Hollywood movie queen. Based on [6], it can be seen that the factors of failed marriage between Evelyn and Max is because of infidelity, along with expectation gap. Evelyn do choose to leave Max not just because of Celia, but also because she realized that Max did not even love her, Max only

love having a movie star on his arm. He loved getting to be the one who slept in her bed. That’s not love. So, she chooses to chase the love of her live, and trying to get Celia’s back.

### 3.2 Failed Marriage Portrayed in Taylor Jenkins Reid’s *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*

Table 2 Failed Marriage Portrayed in Taylor Jenkins Reid’s *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*

No	Failed Marriage Portrayed	in <i>The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo</i>
1	Point of View	First Person
2	Narrators	Two narrators switching back and forth (Monique as present-day narrator and Evelyn as past event narrator)
3	Monique Grant POV	Provide insight, sympathizes
4	Evelyn Hugo POV	Wants the world to understand her point of view

Based on Diyanny (1990), stories with narrators who participate in the action are presented from a first-person point of view. Diyanny (1990) also stated that in a story with objective point of view, the writer shows what happens without directly stating more than readers can infer from its action and dialogue.

“I’ve spent the past few days researching everything I can about Evelyn Hugo. I was never a big film buff, let alone interested in any old Hollywood stars. But Evelyn’s life—at least the version on record as of now—is enough for ten soap operas.” (Reid, 2017: 13).

In *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, the story started with Monique Grant point of view, Monique opens the story with first-person point of view with her as the narrator. The plot continues to develop with first-person point of view as Monique starting to ask her more about her husband’s chronologically, starting with Ernie Diaz. And that is how the stories moving along as the narrator also changing with Evelyn Hugo. Evelyn Hugo’s point of view is thought to be more dominating in the novel. Because the majority of the stories in this novel are told from her point of view as the primary character. Evelyn recounts her prior experiences during this interview. Evelyn first-person point of view remove the observations and distortions of other such as Monique Grants and allow Evelyn to tell her story on her own terms. There are frequent breaks in Evelyn’s point of view narrating to provide the reader a glimpse of how Evelyn’s story is affecting Monique Grant as she deals with uncertainty and tough choices regarding her work and her recently ended marriage.

Monique Grant is the first character are introduced to; she is a reporter who is contacted by Evelyn Hugo to write her biography. Monique starts as a tame and meek girl who is not assertive. As the story goes on, it can be seen that Evelyn rub off on Monique as she becomes more assertive in her job and relationship. Monique learns how to take in some of Evelyn’s ferocity during her conversation with her, and she aspires to be as fearless as Evelyn and to live a life deserving of the name her late father gave her. Also sympathizes towards Evelyn true tale.

“This stings. Hard. I know how it feels for people to assume things about you, to prescribe a label for you based on how you appear to them. I have spent my life trying to explain to people that while I look black, I am biracial. I have spent my life knowing the importance of allowing people to tell you who they are instead of reducing them to labels.” (Reid, 2017: 72).

Quotation above shows how Monique reacted and trying to understand what is going through in Evelyn’s life. Over the span of the many days of interviews, Monique discovers that she and Evelyn share a lot in common. Her chat with Evelyn teaches her a few things, one of which is the possibility that, in order to protect her loved ones, she may have committed a morally questionable act as well. She also learns that sometimes, failed marriage is the right play, when you end a marriage, you might sleep free. Furthermore, the main character and primary narrator of the novel, Evelyn Hugo is a highly complex and nuanced character, with her controversial yet convincing attributes being both the reasons for her buoyant uprisings and success as well as her tumultuous downfalls.

“If I’m going to tell you about my life, if I’m going to tell you what really happened, the truth behind all of my marriages, the movies I shot, the people I loved, who I slept with, who I hurt, how I compromised myself, and where it all landed me, then I need to know that you understand me. I need to know that you will listen to exactly what I’m trying to tell you and not place your own assumptions into my story.” (Reid, 2017: 19).

Quotation above shows Evelyn intention to recount the events of her past in the biography. She wants to tell the world what was really happened. She wants the world to understand from her point of view. To make that happened, she wants Monique to understand her, and not to make any assumptions into her story so that the reader will get from her point of view. She really intends to tell the world her life story; a story that no doubt includes the gritty truths behind her career and her marriages and her image.

Portraying the story behind her seven marriages. The main thing that Evelyn wants to let the public know is Evelyn has had seven official weddings and one incredibly intimate, secret union with Celia. Each of these unions is unique; although some are satisfying and meet the requirements of both partners, others are controlling and harmful. Evelyn also frequently insists on keeping her relationship with Celia a secret so they both have the greatest amount of freedom to pursue the occupations they desire. On the other hand, Evelyn's fame and fortune grant her a great deal of freedom, allowing her to do things like buy everything she wants, make the movies she wants to make, and support causes she believes in. But the consequences are she cannot openly live her life as a bisexual woman, which restricts her freedom. Evelyn wants to make it clear that; of all the things she did to protect her family, she would do every one again. And she would have done more, would have behaved even uglier, if she thought it could have saved them.

3.3 *Characters Deal with Failed Marriage Portrayed in Taylor Jenkins Reid’s The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*

Table 3 Characters Deal with Failed Marriage in Taylor Jenkins Reid’s *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*

No	Evelyn’s Husbands	Evelyn Hugo
1	Ernie Diaz, having a conflict with himself	Having a conflict with herself
2	Don Adler, having a conflict against Evelyn	Having a conflict against environment
3	Mick Riva, having a conflict against environment	Having a conflict against environment
4	Rex North, having a conflict against environment	Having a conflict against environment
6	Harry Cameron, having a conflict against Evelyn	Having a conflict against Harry
7	Max Girard, having a conflict against Evelyn	Having a conflict against environment

Conflict occurs when the main character struggles with either an external conflict or an internal conflict. There are three types of conflict, those are: the conflict of person against person, the conflict of person against environment, and the conflict of person against himself or herself as in (Diyanny, 1990). Ernie Diaz is Evelyn’s very first husband. Separated because Evelyn decided to chase her career development. With the help of Harry and Sunset Studio, Evelyn made up her mind and decided to tell Ernie that she is leaving him.

“I went home and told Ernie I was leaving him. He cried for six hours straight, and then, in the wee hours of the night, as I lay beside him in our bed, he said, “Bien. If that’s what you want.” The studio gave him a payout, and I left him a heartfelt letter telling him how much it hurt me to leave him. It wasn’t true, but I felt I owed it to him to finish out the marriage as I’d started it, pretending to love him. I’m not proud of what I did to him; it didn’t feel casual to me, the way I hurt him. It didn’t then, and it doesn’t now.” (Reid, 2017: 31).

Based on presented quotation, it can be seen that Ernie is having a conflict with himself dealing with their failed marriage as he's hurting and crying for six hours straight. Yet, he let Evelyn leave her if that what she wants even if it's hurting him. Meanwhile for Evelyn, also having a conflict with herself, she did not proud with what she did to Ernie and write him a heartfelt letter. It never felt okay for her to hurt Ernie like that.

"Let me guess," I said. "I'm getting a divorce." "It would appear you are." "On what grounds? I assume his lawyers didn't check the boxes for adultery or cruelty." "Abandonment." I raised my eyebrows. "Clever." "The grounds don't matter. You know that." "I know." "You should read through it, have a lawyer read through it. But there's essentially one big highlight." "Tell me." "You get the house and your money and half of his." I looked at Harry as if he was trying to sell me the Brooklyn Bridge. "Why would he do that?" "Because you are forbidden to talk to anyone at any time about anything that happened during your marriage." "Is he also forbidden?" "Harry shook his head. "Not in writing, no." "So I can't talk, and he can blab all over town? What makes him think I'll go for that?" (Reid, 2017: 78-79).

Presented quotation shows Don is having a conflict with Evelyn when dealing with failed marriage as he tries to shut Evelyn using money and putting her career at stake. He is ruining Evelyn's life, careers, and buys her silence with a house and less than a million dollars.

"I did it once, I can do it again," I said to him as we walked to the door. "I can build the whole thing back up from scratch. I was going to lose everything I had built my life on. Everything except the money. I still had the money. And that was something. And then I realized there was something else waiting for me, something I wanted that I was free to have." (Reid, 2017: 79).

Meanwhile, Evelyn is having a conflict with the environment as her career is getting ruined by Don. She can do nothing except for accepting everything that Don's do to ruin her career because she has no bigger power to fight Don. But despite all that happening, Evelyn is still going strong and confident that she can made her way all the way there and build her whole career once again.

"Sub Rosa Photo Moment, December 4, 1961: That's right! Evelyn Hugo and Mick Riva got married! And to make matters even crazier, they promptly filed for an annulment. The booze seemed to have gotten to their heads—and in the morning, clearer heads prevailed. With a string of failed marriages between the two of them, what's one more?" (Reid, 2017: 108).

In Evelyn and Mick Riva marriages, they having a conflict with environment. Since they both are getting what they want, the only conflict they receive is the public opinion towards them, especially Evelyn. They are both getting gossiped and became the talk of the news because of their impulsive wedding and sudden annulment for getting married under influence. Married for professional purposes, due to Rex infidelity, Evelyn's brain is kicking into high gear thinking how to deal with it. Evelyn suddenly got an idea. The idea is to make both she and Rex looks bad by saying that they both had an affair. Evelyn with Harry, and Rex with Joy. It makes them looks bad, but it will sell the ticket to their last movie together.

"The image printed in the papers the next week was tawdry, scandalous, and shocking. It showed us with swollen faces and looks of guilt, Harry's hand clearly on my breast. The next day, everyone was printing headlines that Joy Nathan was pregnant. The four of us were the talk of the nation. Unscrupulous, unfaithful, lustful sinners. Carolina Sunset set a record for the longest stay in theaters. And to celebrate our divorce, Rex and I shared a pair of dirty martinis. "To our successful union," Rex said. And then we clinked our glasses and drank." (Reid, 2017: 131).

Furthermore, for this couple, both Evelyn and Rex North are having a conflict with environment. As presented from the quotation, everyone was printing headlines about the news of their affairs, the news of Joy Nathan's pregnancy. And they four are unscrupulous, unfaithful, and lustful sinners. They were the talk of the nation.

"You do what you want. If you don't want to be with Max, don't be. I'm just saying that there are some fairly good reasons for us to get divorced. And not many cons, except that I won't call you my wife anymore, which I've always been so proud to do. But we will still be as we've always been. A family. And . . . I think

it would be good for you to fall in love with someone. You deserve to be loved that way.” “So do you.” Harry smiled sorrowfully. “I had my love. And he’s gone. But for you, I think it’s time. Maybe it will be Max, maybe it won’t. But maybe it should be somebody.” “I don’t like the idea of divorcing you,” I said. “No matter how meaningless it might actually be.” (Reid, 2017: 170).

Dealing with Max notes that led their marriage to an end. Harry and Evelyn is having a conflict towards each other as they having two different opinion. Harry lets Evelyn do what she wants, if she wanted to be with Max, then be. If she does not, don’t be. Meanwhile, for Evelyn, she does not the idea of divorcing Harry, no matter how meaningless it would be.

“Evelyn, stop,” Max said. “Think about this. It makes no sense. You can’t leave me. I could make one phone call and destroy you. I could tell anyone, anyone at all, about this, and your life would never be the same.” He wasn’t threatening me. He was simply explaining to me what was so clearly obvious. It was as if he was saying, Honey, you’re not thinking clearly. That won’t end well for you. “You’re a good man, Max,” I said. “I can see you being angry enough to try to hurt me. But I’ve known you to at least try to do the right thing most of the time.” “And what if this time I don’t?” he said. And there, finally, was the threat.” (Reid, 2017: 180).

Dealing with their failed marriage, for Max Girard, the idea of leaving Evelyn is making him mad. He is having a conflict with Evelyn herself; he tries to get Evelyn back to his side and bad-mouthing her. While Evelyn, she is dealing with the environment since the public is making the news about Max Girard bad-mouthing her. It can be seen from the news that he is so angry to the point he just saying anything he can to get back at her. Max even saying Evelyn is a cheater, lesbian, and says that she owes him her Oscars. It’s clear that Max really angry, his comments certainly sound like sour grapes. She once again become the talk of the town because of Max.

#### 4. Conclusion

The results and discussion explain the failed marriage portrayed in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*'s novel. The discussion covers the factors contributing to failed marriages, how these factors are portrayed in the novel, and how the characters cope with their own failed marriages. The analysis employs intrinsic approaches, including plot, point of view, conflict, and character. And using the theory about factors of failed marriage. The analysis indicates that there are several different factors for how Evelyn's marriage can fail; some are failing because of infidelity, career development, selfishness, and expectation gaps.

The failed marriage is also portrayed using a first-person point of view with two narrators that switch back and forth, which are Monique Grant and Evelyn Hugo, Evelyn recounts her prior experiences during this interview, starting in around 1952 when she is 14 years old and completing in about 2000 when Celia St. James passes away. Evelyn’s intention in telling her story to the world is that she wants to tell the world what was really happened. She wants the world to understand from her perspective. The interview between the two narrators, Evelyn Hugo and Monique Grant, affects Monique as she reacts to and understands Evelyn’s point of view. Monique learns several things after hearing Evelyn's story, which also influences her perspective on divorce, especially since she is currently facing her own failed marriage.

Furthermore, the characters' responses to the failed marriage vary; for instance, Ernie cries for six hours straight while trying to understand Evelyn. Don is trying to ruin Ev’s career. Mick appears indifferent because he ultimately gets what he wants. Rex and Evelyn are celebrating their divorce together. Harry who stays the same and still is in contact with Evelyn and still considers her as a family. Max, who is upset and trash-talking Evelyn, is even telling the press that Evelyn is lesbian.

*The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* depicts Evelyn's battle to hide her actual nature while attempting to become a celebrity and shaping and controlling the public's view of her. When Evelyn falls in love with Celia, her attempt for a fulfilling, honest love relationship clashes with her desire to have the career of her dreams. She understands that her love for Celia endangers the public image she has worked so diligently to create, an image that requires her to maintain traditional heterosexual norms and live up to gender stereotypes. Evelyn marries husbands she rarely loves in an effort to prevent harm to Celia and her own career, believing that these marriages will help her maintain the public image necessary for her professional success while protecting Celia from societal backlash.

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