

### **The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers.**

Upon reading this story, the readers are introduced to John Singer and Spiros Antonapoulos, the deaf-mutes who live together. Singer is a tall, very diligent and attentive person while his friend Antonapoulos is the total opposite. He is lazy, fat, and very selfish but he is a good cook. They two would walk to work together and parted to their own workplace and meet again after they have finished. For 10 years they live together despite some incidents that happened which result to Antonapoulos being sent to asylum. It happens after Antonapoulos gets sick and after he has recovered, he starts to steal and bump into people on the street. Singer has to take responsible of all Antonapoulos' inconsiderate doings to the extent that he has no longer money and has to borrow from his jeweler. As a reader, this puzzles me how Singer can stand living with that kind of person, but at the same time I salute his love towards their friendship that I can see he is just not bothered at all by the personality of his friend. Also, this gives us a glimpse of what kind of person Singer is, as well as Antonapoulos.

After living with Antonapoulos, Singer moves to somewhere near the town and rent a room in Kelly's family house. He then gets to know Biff, Jake, Mick, Dr. Copeland and others, and this is when the story revolves around these characters. This story is told narratively from different people point of view – sometimes Biff's, Mick's, Singer's and so on so we get to know thoughts of different people everytime. Biff Brannon is café owner, married to a woman named Alice. Singer always comes to his café and would eat the same thing as he writes on his note since he cannot talk to Biff. However, Biff is more interested with a drunken man whom he describes as weird, from head to toe. His name is Jake Blount. Jake is a regular customer for New York Café – Biff Brannon's café. He is a true supporter for revolt, hence his violent attitude and abrasive manner. Alice does not like him because he is drunk all the time he comes to their café. Jake meets Singer at this café and started to tell about his life to the man, who is literally deaf.

Looking through Biff's characteristics, he is more likely like Singer. He is quiet, observant and isolated from other people, even his relationship with his wife is not the typical lovey-dovey kind of relationship, eventhough we can see more of his 'feminine' side after his wife is dead. Biff is impotent – at least with Alice he said but we can see his desire of having his own children when the story is narrated through his point of view. Biff later has sexual

attraction to Mick, a female teenager who is also a regular customer at his café. Sometimes the relationship is like a father-daughter relationship but most of the time Biff treats Mick a little bit different from everyone else. His feeling becomes stronger after Alice is dead, although he would still remembers her and wears her perfume as a remembrance of their memory together. Mick was once did not come to his café and he would go to her house to see if she is there, and that for me is a bit perverted for a man to go to a girl's house just for that cause. In this story, Biff is considered as major character as we can through his point of view, what he does in his life, how he sees his customer including Singer, the deaf-mute and also Mick, the girl whom he has feeling to.

Mick is a rebellious teenager in her transition from childhood to adolescence. Many argue that she can be the protagonist, rather than Singer. Her full name is Mick Kelly. Her family rented a room for Singer and there is where most of the characters in the story would go to and pour their heart out to Singer since he is a very good 'listener'. Eventhough he is deaf, he can read lips very well as well as he is literate and able to write so that people can communicate with him easier. Mick is a girl who really loves music. She would go to the richer part of the town where every house has a radio and sits in the shrubbery while she is listening to the music. She would be in particular house where she knows listens to music as her own. Her love towards music is also shown when she climbs up the roof of unattended house and decided to sing until she hears her brother crying in the car. Mick Kelly also loves hot chocolate and she gets it from Biff's café. Biff is kind enough to charge a nickel instead of a dime for her favourite drink. In this story, Mick meets Harry, a Jewish boy whom they both are attracted to but are too shy to confess at first. They have a mock fight and the skinship somehow triggers them to feel something, and to the point that they have sex for the first, and the last time. After that, Harry goes somewhere else because he feels that their different religions will not take them anywhere and Mick survives her live without getting pregnant by that incident.

The existence of Dr. Copeland brings up racism issue in this story. Dr. Copeland is a black man who stands up for education as to raise the black society. During this time the story is set to, segregation is still an issue in which they cannot avoid from. Other than that, he is able to receive enough education and devotes his life to being a doctor. He has two children, Portia and Willie. Willie is caught and sent to prison and receives a punishment that causes his both legs to be amputated. He is locked in a freezing cold room together with his

friends, with their feet tied up to their heads. By the time they are brought out, Willie's feet are swollen due to the cold and nothing can be done about that. Dr. Copeland is devastated to hear about that and tries to take the issue to the authority but instead he is arrested in jail for saying 'bad words' to the sheriff when they do not want to help him with his son's case. This raises attention to Jake and Jake is kind enough to offer help. However, many disagree of the offer because they think that it would not help and only adds to the trouble. Dr. Copeland is an example of a black man who uses education to raise awareness about the issue of racism. He sometimes gets too involved when it comes to this particular issue to the extent that he struck his wife with a hot iron when she does not give the respond he wanted prior talking about the issue. That is also why his wife, Daisy leaves him with the two kids. Nonetheless, his character helps us to see a different story rather than what surrounds Singer and the other major characters.

This story ends with Singer shooting himself after he knows that Antonapoulus died in the asylum. His tragic death left everyone with nowhere to talk to as he was a very good listener to their problems even with his disability of hearing – or maybe that is why people choose to talk to him. I somehow feel sad because Singer has everything – career, friends, a place to stay but he chooses to end his life in such a way as a 'tribute' to his friendship with Antonopulus. Maybe he feels that there is no longer reason why he should continue his life when his best friend has already gone. Anyhow, this book is full with emotions; sad, happy, touched, anger, frustration, love, and of all the things, the friendship between Singer and Antonopoulus is the one to be looked upon, as Singer can value his friend although they are both deaf-mute and never have real conversation together, even when Antonapoulus does bad things only to be caught and Singer has to pay for him, at the end he still loves him. This is similar to Biff and Alice, even though they do not have much usual husband-wife conversation, Biff still loves her and this can be seen after she is dead when he starts sewing things and wears his wife's perfume.