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Lars Reflection

In the movie, *Lars and the Real Girl,* Bianca and Lars both helped each other out while also bringing each other down. There are both pros and cons to the relationship between the couple. Below I will further explain how Bianca helped Lars achieve eudaimonia as well as hold him back.

*Lars and the Real Girl* was a movie about a man, Lars, who lived in the garage of his brother’s house. He lived all by himself and kept to himself most of the time. His brother, Gus, and sister-in-law, Karen, often invited him over to the house for meals, however, he usually declined. One day while at work, Lars’ co-worker introduced him to a website that sold sex dolls. Lars decided to order one for himself, although his intentions were not to use it for sex. Instead, Lars thought she was an actual person and treated her as his girlfriend. At first, Gus and Karen were worried and took him to the doctor. The doctor concluded that Lars may be delusional, and said that the best way to help Lars was to play along. Gus, Karen, church members, and other citizens of the community all helped to make Bianca seem as real as possible. Over time though, Lars slowly started to catch feelings for another co-worker, Margo, and tried to fade Bianca out because he did not want to break up with her or cheat on her. First Bianca got sick and then eventually Bianca died. Additionally, Aristotle’s eudaimonia is human flourishing throughout one’s whole life. Below I will connect the two ideas together.

Bianca’s purpose in Lars’ life was to keep Lars company and be there for him. She helped him to achieve eudaimonia in many ways. First, she was a good listener. Lars often talked through different scenarios with her, and asked her questions about what she wanted to do or about her opinions. Because Bianca could not talk, she was up for whatever. Also, Bianca was a love doll. Although Lars did not use her for this purpose, she was always there for him in that way. Lastly, Bianca was there for Lars in the fact that it made him the least vulnerable because she could not leave him. Bianca existed for Lars, to make his life worthwhile. All the activities that Lars did with Bianca were done well and done to benefit Lars. That is part of the idea of eudaimonia, to do activities well and worthwhile. She was the reason that he accomplished goals such as talking to people and going over to Gus and Karen’s house for meals. But there are also things that Lars needed that Bianca could not give him. For example, Bianca was plastic. She was not a real person. She could not give advice or even have a conversation with Lars, even though he thinks she could. In addition, I feel as though the couple would often have people stare at them when Lars pushed Bianca in a wheelchair in public. The feelings that Lars had for Bianca could not reciprocated both physically and mentally. Finally, she was completely dependent on people. Because she could not walk, bathe, or dress herself on her own, she was completely dependent on other people to help her. While the family, friends, and community members were happy to help because they cared about Lars, it was a huge commitment for them. Bianca held Lars back from a lot of things, which is why eventually he decided to have her die. Overall, I think she was holding him back from major life things, such as getting married, having a family, and doing fun activities such as going on vacation. Lars wanted to achieve eudaimonia in his life and he just was not getting that accomplished with Bianca by his side.