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**The Seducer**

**Ⅰ. Seducers “life”**

The *Diary of the Seducer*, written by Kierkegaard entails the life of a Seducer. His life is suspenseful and stressful because he goes to great lengths to make a young girl fall in love with him. He watches her and even crosses paths with her multiple times (vol.1, pg.50), and still chooses to intervene in her life through others and not directly himself at the beginning when he notices her. In this paper, I will argue why the Seducer’s life is neither attractive or compelling because he uses the wrong means when trying to make Cordelia fall in love with him.

**Ⅱ. Knowledge of Text**

In the Diary of the Seducer, the seducer is the main character and his overall goal throughout the diary is to try to get a young girl named Cordelia to fall for him. She is seventeen years old, and he is far older. He uses different methods to try to sneak his way into Cordelia’s life, many of which may seem absurd. Cordelia lives with her aunt, due to the loss of her parents.

**Ⅲ. Seducer’s life is unattractive**

The Seducers life is full of chaos and suspense due to the many tactics he uses to try to get to know Cordelia. To begin, he refers to Cordelia multiple times in the diary as a “child.” (vol.1, pg.44) This made me feel uncomfortable just as a reader because of her character in the diary. It is unattractive to me that he refers to her as a child when he is utterly in love with her. Even though their ages are quite far from another, I still see no reason for him to use the term child when talking about her because he does not love her as he should a child. Furthermore, when he goes to the exhibition to see her, he approaches her out of sympathy and good graces (vol. 1, pg.43) because she is upset that her date did not show. He gets her information by stalking the police directory (vol.1, pg.44). I believe the seducer is almost mentally disturbed, he even suggests in the diary absurd things about his mind and soul. He compares his mind with a “turbulent sea, swept by the storms of passion,” and he compares his soul to a “boat that buried its prow deep in the sea, as if in its terrible speed it would rush down into the depths of the abyss (vol. 1, pg.45). A man of normal mentality would have introduced himself, and even though he may not have succeeded in obtaining the same information he did from the police directory; I believe that for a relationship to succeed, the beginning of the relationship is the most important because it sets the foundation for the couple to build upon as time passes. The relationship between Cordelia and the Seducer was doomed from the beginning because he tries to get her to fall in love with him using all the wrong ways. He also brings in Edward as a suitor for his mere gain but describes their friendship in the diary as “a true friendship,” which is absurd seeing as he only befriended him to get closer with Cordelia. He chooses Edward because he is in love with Cordelia and it is also a convenient choice since Cordelia visits the home of the wholesale where Edward is the son of the house (vol. 1, pg. 52). I suppose the Seducer’s main reason behind bringing in a suitor to get closer to Cordelia and her family is because he believes he will not be accepted by her aunt. This is not true, Cordelia’s aunt gives him consent and he ends up engaged to Cordelia (vol.2, pg.61). Moreover, the Seducer say’s “A young girl does not develop in the sense that a boy does; she does not grow, she is born. A boy begins to develop at once and takes a long time for the process; a young girl takes a long time in being born, and is born full-grown (vol.1, pg. 46).” If he believes a girl is born at full maturity, then he should also believe that she will be able to tell who she wants to love. Instead, of introducing himself right away, and expressing how he feels towards her he stalks her and manipulates his way into her life which is contradicting to the fact he believes she is “full-grown.” The life of the seducer is not appealing because he puts himself through such great lengths to get Cordelia to fall in love with him, only for an engagement with no intention of marrying her. The seducer believes the in the aesthetic life everything is light, but then once the ethical comes along it becomes boring (vol. 2, pg. 58). I believe he chooses the aesthetic way of love because he does not want a long-term relationship due to it becoming boring, but he will never have lasting happiness only moments of it, if he does not commit ethically to a relationship with someone. His relationship with Cordelia ends only after a short amount of time due him not having pure intentions. This way of love is unappealing to me because I do not understand how if you could be so in love with someone as he was with Cordelia you could not want a long-term relationship with that person.

**Ⅳ. Seducer is Still Able to Love**

Many would probably agree with my argument that the Seducer’s life is not attractive nor appealing because he is missing the long-term factor in his love life and I believe this is an essential part when in a relationship. However, an individual might disagree and say that you could find happiness in the Seducer’s way of life because he is still able to fall in love, but the long-term factor is unappealing to him. I do not agree with this because the way that he goes about obtaining love with Cordelia in the diary is creepy due to him stalking her and sneaking his way into her life (hence not a good way to fall in love). Another might say that his life is appealing because they agree that relationships get boring after time, but that is when a couple must remember why they fell in love with each other in the first place and remember how much they have grown and obtained together as a couple. For example, if two individuals have married, had kids, and built a house their love may seem boring, but I believe it would be easier to work things out rather than to split up. A couple cannot expect their love to flourish as it did at the beginning of their relationship because marriage and long amounts of time is most likely to result in routine, and while this may become boring, they must remember how much they love one another.

**Ⅴ. Conclusion**

In conclusion, I believe the Diary of the Seducer written my Kierkegaard portrays more of a love game, than true love. I believe the relationship with Cordelia and the Seducer did not work out because he is so intent on sticking with the aesthetic way of love. He evens admits in the diary that he had never observed this condition in himself to which he is referring to erotic (vol. 1, pg. 53). I believe he felt the fear that an erotic person in love would at the beginning of the relationship and this overall pressured him to stick more towards his aesthetic way of love. If an individual goes into a relationship with intentions of it not lasting long, the relationship will never be allowed to flourish at full compacity, nor will the love between the two individuals.