

Existence Woman In Gathering Moon Short Story In On Lovina Work Yvonne De Fretes

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the existence of women in the short story collection Bulan di Atas Lovina by Yvonne De Fretes through the lens of existentialist feminism. The research employs a literature study method, utilizing data collection techniques such as reading, note-taking, and textual documentation. A descriptive approach was applied to analyze and interpret the findings, focusing on the portrayal of women's autonomy, freedom, and personal choices within the narrative. The analysis reveals that the short stories depict women as working individuals who maintain independence while experiencing love, reflecting the balance between personal freedom and emotional attachment. Furthermore, the study identifies both explicit messages, which are directly communicated through narrative elements, and implicit messages, which are embedded in character interactions, plot developments, and underlying themes. These messages highlight women's struggles, self-determination, and empowerment in the context of contemporary society. Overall, the findings demonstrate that Yvonne De Fretes' short stories provide a nuanced representation of women's existence, emphasizing autonomy, self-realization, and agency, in alignment with existentialist feminist theory. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of women's roles and experiences in literature, offering insights into the complexities of female identity, freedom, and empowerment.

Keywords : Women, Existentialist feminism, Autonomy, Freedom, Empowerment

How to Cite: Kadek Sintya Purnama Dewi, & Jalu Norva Illa Putra. (2025). Existence Woman In Gathering Moon Short Story In On Lovina Work Yvonne De Fretes. *Journal of Media, Sciences, and Education*, 4(2), 88–91. <https://doi.org/10.36312/jomet.v4i2.118>



<https://doi.org/10.36312/jomet.v3i4.118>

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Introduction

Short stories are a form of concise prose literature that convey the life, experiences, and conflicts of characters in a brief yet meaningful way (Ahmed, 2022; Brown & White, 2022). Unlike novels, short stories often focus on one central theme or conflict, combining intrinsic elements such as plot, character, and theme with extrinsic elements such as social and cultural context (Lopez & Cruz, 2023; Singh, 2024). One recurring theme in modern literature is the existence and role of women, particularly in relation to patriarchal structures that have historically limited their social, cultural, and personal freedoms (Patel, 2024; Torres, 2023). The marginalization of women, including their treatment as secondary citizens or objects, has prompted literary works to explore women's struggles for equality, autonomy, and recognition (Johnson, 2023; Chen, 2024). These struggles are not only individual but also social, as women negotiate relationships with family, society, and larger cultural systems (Garcia, 2023; Ahmed, 2022).

In literature, women's existential challenges are often represented through characters' desire for freedom and self-determination. Feminist existentialist theory, inspired by Simone de Beauvoir, emphasizes that women seek to assert their identity beyond socially imposed roles and biological constraints such as menstruation, pregnancy, and child-rearing (Adella et al., 2025; Aulia & Efendi, 2025). These issues are prominent in short stories, where the concise narrative form allows authors to focus on the internal experiences of female characters while also reflecting social realities (Latifah et al., 2025; Martinus & Marsih, 2022). Short stories can therefore serve as a microcosm for broader societal debates about gender equality and women's autonomy (Munarlis & Nugroho, 2021; Lopez & Cruz, 2023).

The short story collection *Bulan di Atas Lovina* by Yvonne De Fretes is an illustrative example of this literary engagement with women's existential struggles (Adella et al., 2025; Safitri et al., 2024). Comprising fifteen stories, the collection explores themes of love, friendship, identity, and social expectation, centering female characters navigating professional, social, and emotional challenges (Ratu Riwu Ratu et al., 2023; Purnami & Pramono, 2024). Among these characters, working women—both married and unmarried—emerge as the primary focus, as their lives reflect contemporary tensions between personal desire, societal expectation, and existential freedom (Putera & Arianto, 2025; Johnson, 2023). These narratives highlight how women balance the pursuit of autonomy with relational obligations, addressing questions of agency, identity, and self-realization (Ahmed, 2022; Singh, 2024).

Existentialist feminism provides a theoretical framework to understand these literary representations. According to this perspective, women are subjects capable of choice and freedom, yet constrained by social structures that limit their full human potential (Patel, 2024; Torres, 2023). Literary works employing existentialist feminist insights often depict the inner conflicts of women striving for recognition and equality, emphasizing both psychological and social dimensions of their experiences (Brown & White, 2022; Chen, 2024). In short stories, this manifests in characters' reflections, dialogues, and decision-making processes, revealing how gender norms influence daily life and self-perception (Garcia, 2023; Lopez & Cruz, 2023).

The existence of women in literature also intersects with cultural, religious, and ethical frameworks. In many short stories, women's roles are portrayed against local cultural expectations, exploring how traditional norms interact with modern ideas of equality and independence (Adella et al., 2025; Lestari et al., 2024). For instance, women characters may navigate professional careers, romantic relationships, and familial responsibilities while asserting personal choice, which mirrors real-life tensions faced by women in patriarchal societies (Martinus & Marsih, 2022; Latifah et al., 2025). By examining these narratives, researchers can gain insight into both societal perceptions of women and the transformative potential of literature to challenge entrenched inequalities (Munaris & Nugroho, 2021; Johnson, 2023).

The short story as a literary form is particularly suitable for exploring women's existential issues because of its concentrated focus on specific events or conflicts (Ahmed, 2022; Brown & White, 2022). Unlike novels, which may span multiple subplots and characters, short stories allow authors to create vivid, nuanced portraits of individual women, their motivations, and their struggles for autonomy (Lopez & Cruz, 2023; Singh, 2024). The brevity of the form also emphasizes symbolic and thematic depth, encouraging readers to reflect on social issues such as patriarchy, gender inequality, and the psychological experiences of women (Patel, 2024; Torres, 2023).

Existing research demonstrates the relevance of existentialist feminism in literary analysis. Scholars have used this framework to examine novels, short stories, and other literary forms to highlight women's agency, relational dynamics, and resistance to social norms (Adella et al., 2025; Aulia & Efendi, 2025; Ratu Riwu Ratu et al., 2023). Furthermore, literary studies reveal that women's existential struggles are closely tied to broader societal issues, such as labor participation, marital expectations, and educational opportunities (Putera & Arianto, 2025; Safitri et al., 2024). These analyses underscore the potential of literature to both reflect and influence societal attitudes toward women (Johnson, 2023; Chen, 2024).

In sum, the short story collection *Bulan di Atas Lovina* provides a rich field for analyzing women's existence through an existentialist feminist lens. The study focuses on female worker characters, examining their experiences in love, work, and social interaction, as well as the messages conveyed regarding gender equality, autonomy, and respect (Ahmed, 2022; Brown & White, 2022; Lopez & Cruz, 2023). By exploring these narratives, this research aims to contribute to both literary scholarship and public understanding of women's existential struggles, fostering appreciation for the value and agency of women in society (Singh, 2024;

Patel, 2024; Torres, 2023).

Method Study

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method, which is appropriate for analyzing literary texts in depth and exploring their meaning and contextual significance (Ahmed, 2022; Brown & White, 2022). Descriptive qualitative research focuses on providing a detailed understanding of a phenomenon, rather than measuring variables statistically. In this research, the main objective is to explore the existence of women in the short story collection *Bulan di Atas Lovina* by Yvonne De Fretes through an existentialist feminist perspective (Adella et al., 2025; Aulia & Efendi, 2025).

The primary data source of this research is the short story collection *Bulan di Atas Lovina*, which consists of fifteen short stories addressing women's experiences, particularly female worker characters, and their struggles with social, cultural, and personal challenges (Ratu Riwu Ratu et al., 2023; Safitri et al., 2024). The short story serves as a rich literary source for examining existentialist feminist themes, including women's autonomy, identity, and relational dynamics with others and with God (Johnson, 2023; Putera & Arianto, 2025).

In this research, the researcher serves as the main instrument, a common approach in qualitative studies in literature where the researcher's interpretation is central to data analysis (Chen, 2024; Lopez & Cruz, 2023). Supporting instruments for data collection and analysis include books, stationery, digital devices, and laptops, which assist the researcher in organizing, coding, and analyzing the texts systematically (Patel, 2024; Singh, 2024).

The data collection method applied is a qualitative literature review, which allows the researcher to systematically examine and interpret textual content within its social and cultural context (Garcia, 2023; Torres, 2023). To ensure that the data collected is relevant to the research objectives, purposive sampling is employed. Only short stories that feature female worker characters and address the themes of love, freedom, and existential struggles are selected as the focus of the analysis (Latifah et al., 2025; Martinus & Marsih, 2022). This sampling technique is widely used in literary qualitative studies to select texts that provide rich, relevant insights into the research problem (Munaris & Nugroho, 2021; Lopez & Cruz, 2023).

Data analysis in this study is conducted using descriptive methods, including three stages: data collection, data analysis, and conclusion drawing (Ahmed, 2022; Brown & White, 2022). In the first stage, the researcher thoroughly reads the selected short stories, taking notes on significant narrative elements such as characterization, plot, conflict, and thematic content related to women's existence (Adella et al., 2025; Safitri et al., 2024). In the second stage, the researcher interprets these elements using an existentialist feminist lens, identifying how female characters exercise agency, negotiate social constraints, and pursue autonomy (Johnson, 2023; Putera & Arianto, 2025). In the final stage, conclusions are drawn by synthesizing the findings, highlighting both explicit and implicit messages about women's identity, freedom, and relational dynamics (Chen, 2024; Torres, 2023).

This research method allows for an in-depth understanding of the literary representation of women and provides insights into broader social issues, including gender inequality and patriarchal oppression, as reflected in the short story collection (Patel, 2024; Singh, 2024). By employing a descriptive qualitative approach, the study not only examines textual content but also considers the social and cultural implications of women's existential struggles, contributing to both literary scholarship and feminist discourse (Ahmed, 2022; Brown & White, 2022; Lopez & Cruz, 2023).

Results and Discussion

The analysis carried out in this study is to describe the results of female characters. worker Which is at in Love And Woman free, as well as mandate Which found in the four short stories in the short story collection *Bulan di Atas Lovina* by Yvonne de Fretes. The short stories

are entitled "The House on the Corner", "A Pair of Ear Studs for Mother", "Treading the Twilight Days", "Evening Drizzle in Ubud".

A. Love Woman Worker Which Already Marry

A woman's love can be demonstrated through words, actions, or other forms of attention that demonstrate caring. A woman's presence in love is seen when she positions herself as a wife and mother. In research, This found two title short story Which including in Woman worker Which Married that is entitled "House in Bend That" and "Step Day Day Late afternoon", that is as follows.

1. The short story "The House on That Bend" tells the story of a working woman named Yenny, who sells snacks. She lives a simple life with her family. husband Which named sir Agi. Own House Which comfortable And wide was Yenny's dream, like the house around the corner. The house had a spacious and beautiful yard. Yenny's love for Mas Agi emerged when she realized that what was determined by social standards, such as a house that looked beautiful on the outside, would make her life happy. This was because Yenny met her high school friend, Irma. The owner of the house Yenny dreamed of was Irma. At that time, they met on the street and chatted at a restaurant. While at the restaurant, Irma took a sip of her almost finished drink and said.

"Not everything that looks beautiful is also beautiful in its contents. In this case, the material thing means nothing." (p. 16).

Quote in on show that What Which thought about Yenny about House which exists in bend That it turns out Wrong. In the beginning He think House Which seen beautiful the outside holds a lot of happiness. Based on that, she realized that it was better to live simply than to have a complete and happy family. The love Yenny gave was sincere, genuine, and accepted her partner for who they were.

2. Short story second is "Treading Days Late afternoon". Figure I is figure the woman who told in short story the. He Work as administrator garden. Figure I failed weave his wedding Because difference view And No each other understand. Even though they are in different cities, she still remembers the little things about her husband. Time passes so quickly, the character Aku feels her longing for her ex husband And his son. I Which own characteristic caring, No will Forgetting memories with her loved ones. Even though they're separated, she still loves and remembers little things about her ex-husband. While dressing up in the character's room, I said, " Silence – silent I even want to visible special in eye Bye. Wasn't I once called the sweetest fairy? Dahyo. What does she look like now? Her hair must be starting to turn gray like mine. Or maybe she goes to the salon regularly. To get it dyed. Dahyo has always been a *sweetheart* . I smile to myself remembering that." (Pp. 29-30).

The quote above shows the character Aku's love for her ex-husband. Still remembering him things small to person Which loved is form attention And Affection for a previous partner. (Arini, Ni Nyoman; Putra, I Nyoman Darma; Bhaskara, Gde Indra. 2021)

B. Love Woman Which Not yet Marry

Love for an unmarried woman is a form of love where she positions herself as an adult. This means that women have a choice. life on himself Alone. There is two title short story Which is Love unmarried working women, namely "A Pair of Earrings for Mother" and "Evening Drizzle in Ubud".

1. The short story "A Pair of Earrings for Mother" features a working woman named Yerinah. She works as a nurse and a seamstress. The love Yerinah gives... is Love to family. He willing sacrifice for the sake of Mother And third Her younger sister, Yerinah, is the backbone of the family. Being the backbone is a form of caring for the family.
2. Short story " Drizzling Evening in Ubud" own figure Woman worker named Yadila. She works as a hotel department head. Yadila, who is over 30 years old, still keeps busy with work. Many men remain memorable in her life. When Yadila loves a man, she is willing to sacrifice herself to make time to meet Riza at the hotel. This is evident in the following quote.

“Couldn’t Riza have made an effort to attend, just as he himself had dared to put forward an excuse not to attend the marketing seminar as a continuation of the international tourism exchange?” (Artawan, Gde. (2020).

The quote above demonstrates Yadila's love for Rizana. She takes time out of her busy schedule to spend time with Riza. This love manifests itself in the sacrifice of self-sacrifice. This is a manifestation of Yadila's love for Riza.

C. Woman free

In a way overall there is four figure Woman that is, Yenny, figure I, Yadila, and Yerinah which is found in the short story collection *Bulan di Atas Lovina* by Yvonne de Fretes in Woman free. Form Woman free Which found fourth The characters are the same. All four characters are completely self-sufficient. All four characters demonstrate individuality, possessing the right and ability to choose their own actions according to their desires. The characters Yenny, Aku, Yerinah, and Yadila demonstrate that they are free women because they are able to make decisions and participate in various aspects of life. Fourth figure the prove that Woman can like men include working, giving love, and expressing opinions.

D. Mandate

Mandate Which there is in study This shared on two that is, mandate implied And written mandate.

1. Written mandate

The explicit message is the written message contained within a work. The message found concerns women's love in everyday life. Women's love in everyday life is directed toward the opposite sex, family, and God. Love Woman to against type own message that Love That is things about trust, faithfulness, sacrifice, And reception. Matter the found in the six short stories mentioned above.

2. Implied message

Mandate implied is message Which No written in something work literature. Mandate What was found was a mandate of courage to determine life choices and sacrifices for women.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the short story collection *Bulan di Atas Lovina* by Yvonne De Fretes, two main conclusions can be drawn. First, regarding the existence of women, the study highlights the depiction of working women who navigate both love and independence. The female characters are portrayed as balancing personal desires with social and relational responsibilities, reflecting the experiences of both married and unmarried women. Their lives demonstrate a pursuit of freedom that is not absolute or without boundaries but is understood as liberation from patriarchal constraints and the ability to make independent life choices (Ahmed, 2022; Johnson, 2023). In this context, freedom involves autonomy over personal decisions, self-determination, and the opportunity to define one’s own identity, while still maintaining ethical and social awareness (Lopez & Cruz, 2023; Patel, 2024). This nuanced representation shows that women’s freedom in literature is interconnected with societal roles, responsibilities, and moral expectations.

Second, regarding the messages embedded in the stories, the analysis identifies both explicit and implicit forms of communication. Explicit messages are directly conveyed through dialogue, narrative events, and character reflections, often highlighting the importance of respecting women’s existence, acknowledging their agency, and valuing gender equality (Adella et al., 2025; Safitri et al., 2024). Implicit messages, on the other hand, are conveyed through symbolic actions, plot development, and thematic undertones, encouraging readers to reflect critically on social norms, patriarchal structures, and the moral and existential experiences of women (Aulia & Efendi, 2025; Ratu Riwu Ratu et al., 2023). Together, these messages contribute to the literary and educational significance of the short story collection,

providing insight into women's struggles, choices, and empowerment within a cultural and social framework.

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