

The Psyche, Inner Conflicts, and Development

A damaged psyche is often the result of inner conflicts that remain unresolved. Both characters Anna from H. Briscoe's "The Scream," a story about a girl attempting to conquer her greatest fear, and Daniel from "Schrodinger's Baby" by Charlie Fish, a tale of a man who falls victim to a series of unfortunate events have experienced psychologically damaging events throughout their lives, making them the people they become. Their clear anxieties over their fears and their underlying frustrations with people in their surroundings help them to develop mentally and emotionally.

Fear has a negative effect on the body and brain, and is often caused by events from the past. Anna has a prominent fear of heights, shown when the narrator describes "the plane flight from Gatwick [being] a nightmare for her" (Briscoe). It seems that she has been plagued by this fear for a long time, as she and her family know that going on a roller coaster would cause her to become ill, because that is how crippling her fear can be. Anna goes on the roller coaster eventually, in her desperation to get the belongings that her sister seems to have misplaced. Daniel also has a deep fear, this being his wife's reaction to his incompetencies in childcare. In his desperation to make sure the baby he had left alone in his flat is still alive, he "[tries] to haul [himself] up onto the porch roof" (Fish) so he can crawl through a window after locking himself out of his home. He does his best, but fails, and ends up in the hospital. His perseverance in trying to fix the mistakes that lead up to his ultimate failure show how terrified he is of what his wife will say to him, which also kick in some paternal instincts that he did not have before. He likely has been on the receiving end of criticism by her, and his need to keep her happy could

stem from a need to keep her with him. In conclusion, while both these characters' fears lead them to uncomfortable situations, these phobias help them to develop mentally and emotionally.

Frustration is also linked to the psyche, being both a helping tool and cause anger and resentment. Anna's frustration with her sister's negligence causes her to go on the roller coaster which she fears so much, making her conquer her fear. When Anna's sister tells Anna that she has lost the bag containing their passports, money, and other various important objects, Anna's irritation is shown clear when she speaks to her sister "very slowly and deliberately" (Briscoe), as if trying to remain calm. This resentment makes her go on the roller coaster, evolving her in the process. Daniel seems to have a certain amount of frustration and dissociation towards his baby in the beginning of the story, "hardly [being able to] tell if [the baby is] alive apart from [the] relentless ticking [of the breathing monitor]" (Fish). This shows a severe lack of fatherly instinct frustration with his newfound duty. He seems to resent the baby slightly, and because of this he goes through a series of unfortunate events that lead him to care for the baby's safety and well-being. Because he decided to leave the baby alone, he ends up in turmoil which would not have happened without that uncaring nature he starts with. This means he progresses in the story as well. All in all, inner frustrations can prompt mental and emotional progression.

While Daniel and Anna may not enjoy the predicaments they go through, these circumstances have caused them to improve emotionally and psychologically, which ends up being for the greater good. To conclude. Daniel and Anna's grievances and deep fears incite them to develop as characters.