

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 Joe Goldberg's Possessive Behaviors

This chapter describes the characteristics of Joe Goldberg's possessive behavior towards his girlfriend, Guinevere Beck, and how his possessiveness developed into abusive actions. The possessive behaviors are being a stalker, being a jealous person, and having obsessional personalities.

4.1.1 Joe is a Stalker

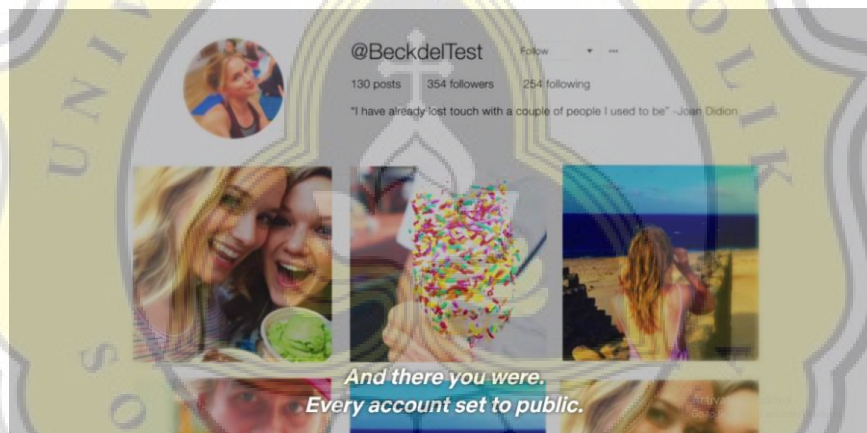
a. Joe's stalking Beck

In this series, Joe Goldberg's most noticeable characteristic is being a stalker, a creepy one. He is intrigued by everything about Beck, so he makes her his main target. Joe, throughout the series, is a true genius at stalking his targets, both online and in real life. He begins stalking her on social media and using technology, such as tapping Beck's phone, in order to follow her whereabouts and to know about her friends' backgrounds and intentions. Most stalkers can follow their love object around (stalk), cyberstalk them, break into their houses, and engage in other behaviors in an effort to establish a mutual relationship, such as sending letters and calling his love object's phone (Meloy, 1998). In this series, Guinevere Beck, the woman Joe meets at the bookstore, is clearly his main target. Joe, who is obsessed

with Guinevere Beck, tries to discover more about her. In order to get close to her and establish a relationship, he physically stalks Beck's closest friend, Peach Sallinger, and cyberstalks Beck's other friends in order to keep track of her. He becomes possessive because of his love for Beck. Joe may appear to be a dangerous stalker, yet his sweet manner and charming appearance help him to manipulate a lot of people.

Figure 1

Joe Cyberstalks Beck's Social Media



(Krieger, 2018, Episode 1 min 7:31)

Joe Goldberg's actions of stalking his main target, Guinevere Beck, have been shown since the first episode. At the bookstore where he works, Joe Goldberg meets Guinevere Beck, a book writer, for the first time. Joe begins to show interest in her as they talk and develop a connection because of their same interests in books. He falls in love with Beck. Out of curiosity, he starts to stalk her social media to gather all the

information. The scene in Figure 1 shows Joe finds Beck's social media for the first time.

Joe Goldberg stalks Beck in many ways. One of which is by cyberstalking her. He uses his laptop, and logs into social media. Joe begins typing "Guinevere Beck" right away, and finds her profile photo. It seems as if stalking has become a way of life for him since he does it effortlessly without showing difficulties. He then sees a number of Beck's photos taken with her family and friends. Throughout the series, the audiences always hear Joe Goldberg's thoughts which is narrated by himself. The audiences get to hear what he thinks and feels about Beck, although he never says them out loud. For example, when Joe discovers Guinevere Beck's name on social media, as shown in Figure 1, he immediately thinks, "And there you were. Every account set to public. You want to be seen, heard, known. Of course, I obliged (Krieger, 2018, ep. 1 min. 7:31) ."

Joe is satisfied that he can get every detail about Beck through her social media, as all of her information is available online. Joe learns more about Beck through social media, such as what she does daily and how she interacts with her closest friends. Joe becomes more obsessed with her and wants to make her his girlfriend.

Joe's other way of stalking is by stalking Beck physically. When Joe finds a photo of Beck's apartment, he stalks her more intensely. When Beck who regularly updates her social media accounts with her daily activities, uploads a photo of herself holding a cardboard box in front of the apartment where she had just moved in and

added the caption "Moving into my new apartment! #throwbackthursday", Joe wants to know where it was taken. He puts Beck's apartment photo into Google search and finds the address from the photo. Joe is definitely professional at stalking. He sounds delighted after he gets Beck's address. He thinks, "The next thing our little friend the Internet gave me was your address (Krieger, 2018, ep. 1 min. 8:40)" As a result, he is able to visit Beck's apartment and sees her again in person. Joe finds that Beck's apartment having huge windows and no curtains, which allows him to see Beck from the outside. He walks slowly across Beck's apartment, and occasionally stops to look at her through the window. Joe's daily life after that is to follow Beck wherever she goes, from yoga classes to college. He is even aware of Beck's schedule, including when she has to go to college and when she has to teach yoga.

Figure 2

Joe Follows Beck to Her College



(Krieger, 2018, Ep. 1 min. 10:05)

It is not enough for Joe to know Beck through social media; he also starts following her around without Beck noticing. Figure 2 shows Joe Goldberg stalking Beck to her college wearing a hat, carrying a bag like a student, and pretending to be on the phone. He tries to be as inconspicuously as possible since, like most stalkers, he does not want his targets to feel like they are being followed. Joe does not want to be caught since he wants to establish a relationship with Beck and does not want to lose her if she finds out he had been stalking her all along. He also wears the same outfit when following Beck to a restaurant to meet her friends. Joe sits in a spot where he can see and hear their conversation, but he cannot be noticed.

Besides following his love object around, Joe is also incredibly bold to break into Beck's apartment. He pretends to be Beck's boyfriend who calls the gas company to check for gas leaks when Beck is not home. Joe comes there when the gas company guy was about to leave so he can stay there longer. He does so because he wants to learn more about Beck's life. Joe looks around the apartment to see how Beck manages to live alone. He thinks, "I just need to know who you really are. Besides a broke poetry student in a subsidized apartment you could never afford (Krieger, 2018, ep. 1 min 24:41)." From what he is thinking when he enters Beck's apartment, he shows his curiousness about Beck's life, such as what is she doing and how she manages to live alone in an apartment. When he is looking around the apartment, he finds Beck's laptop and opens it. He starts to stalk everything on Beck's laptop, including a gallery of her selfies and her group chats with her friends. He reads the group chats as he is curious and finds Beck sends a message to the group

chat that says: "Wow. Just met a human male who actually reads. Alert the media. What if it's finally for me to date someone good for me?" Joe is definitely delighted after reads that, as shows in Figure 3.

Figure 3

Joe seems Happy after Reads the Chats



(Krieger, 2018, Ep.1 min. 27:49)

Joe appears surprised and delighted to read Beck's text. He has no idea that Beck is also attracted to him. The way he thinks, "Thank you for letting me know. I wasn't crazy after all (Krieger, 2018, ep. 1 min. 27:52)" proves that he is happy to know that Beck feels the same. He thinks that stalking and breaking her apartment is not a waste of time as he feels satisfied to get to know how Beck feels for him. Joe who is now aware of Beck's feeling for him, becomes less eager to miss the opportunity to approach her and wants her to be his girlfriend. He thinks that the opportunity to establish a relationship with Beck is getting easier. That is what makes Joe's feeling develops into possessiveness as he does not want others to get in the

way of approaching Beck. He continues to stalk Beck including following her when she goes out with her friends. Not only stalking her physically by following her around, Joe is also cyberstalking her by synchronizing her phone. He does it by pretending to help her when she walks home and collapses after drinking too much. Joe, who is following her, deliberately steals Beck's phone which she drops on the floor or which is on the floor. However, he makes her believe that she has lost it. Knowing that Beck buys a new phone the next day gives Joe idea to synchronize her new phone to the old one. By synchronizing her phone, he can access everything from Beck's new phone. As he puts all his efforts to approaching Beck, in the end Beck becomes more interested in him. They manage to establish a relationship afterwards.

b. Joe's stalking Peach

Joe who is now in relationship with Beck tries to do everything to not let other people interfere their relationships. Unfortunately, Joe feels uncomfortable with Beck's best friend, Peach Salinger, who really adores her. Peach has been suspicious about Joe since Beck invites him to her party. She suspects Joe for stealing one of the books in her room where she previously met him. Joe indeed stole the book. Aware that Peach has negative thoughts towards him, he tries to find out Peach's true feeling about him. He confirms Peach's hatred when he reads her reply to a message in the group chat. When Beck talks about her relationship with Joe, Peach responds, "Enjoy it while it lasts." Upon learning Peach's message, Joe becomes more possessive of

Beck. He wants to keep her away from Peach. He has a feeling that Peach's unsupporting attitude will complicate his relationship with Beck. He thinks,

“It's really too bad. The one whose approval you crave most isn't my big fan. I can return the book, of course, never had any intention of keeping. And if that's not enough.. If peach still has a problem.. Well, every relationship has its obstacles to overcome, right? I won't let her get in the way of us, Beck. I won't. (Krieger, 2018, ep. 4 min. 41:04)”

The quotation shows that Joe decides to stalk Peach to make sure that she does not become an obstacle to his relationships.

Joe considers Beck to be his property where he has the rights to make Beck always with him. Joe's act relates to Lowney & Best's statement (as cited in Canter & Ioannou, 2004) that stalker made it clear that the victim was still “his property” and if he could not have her no one could. It describes ‘plain male possessiveness’. As he believes that Peach can be a problem in their relationships, he becomes worried that Beck will reject him and choose Peach. Therefore, in order to keep him updated with Peach's activities, he begins to stalk her. Joe starts following Peach during her morning run. He also runs behind her but keeps a safe distance, so Peach will not be suspicious. While running, he thinks, "This is torture, but I have to know what we're up against. I need to get into her head (Krieger, 2018, ep. 5 min. 11:29)." This proves that he wants to keep an eye on Peach to know what she is doing and thinking about Beck. His way of stalking Peach is the same with that of Beck; he follows her everywhere, strolls across the street while she goes shopping, and also wears his

baseball hat so he does not look suspicious. After following her, Joe finds out that Peach always brings her laptop wherever she goes. Joe becomes attracted to see what inside the laptop is and why it looks really important to her. Joe steals the laptop without hesitation. He begins to access everything in the laptop until he finds a 'B' folder, which contains numerous photos of Beck. Joe then realizes that Peach is the target he must eliminate because she is also obsessed with Beck.

The next day, Joe stalks Peach while she is jogging. He attempts to murder Peach by hitting her in the head with a rock and knocking her down. Even so, Joe does not feel guilty because Peach will continue to be a problem in his relationship if he does not get rid of her. He is willing to do anything even committing violence because of his possessiveness towards Beck. He expects to have all of Beck's love and attention. Therefore he feels disappointed when Peach survives and still alive, which means that Beck will spend more time with Peach. His worry turns out to be true since Peach asks Beck to accompany her to an unknown safe house. Joe immediately googles where the Salingers live and goes to see them.

Figure 4

Joe Sneaks into Peach's House



(Krieger, 2018, Ep. 6 min. 19:25)

Joe sneaks into Peach's house after he finds the location (Figure 4). He carefully hides in a place where he can watch Peach's movements and figures out what she is going to do to Beck in such a large house with just the two of them. Then, Joe overhears Peach asking Beck to accompany her to Paris. Joe becomes mad upon hearing this and wants to prevent it from happening. As he believes that Beck belongs to him, he will not allow Peach to take her away. While hiding in the house, he finds a gun that he intends to use against Peach. Unfortunately, after hiding and spying them all night, Peach caught Joe the following day, resulting in an argument between the two of them. After seeing Joe with a gun, Peach attempts to escape. Unfortunately, she fails to escape Joe's shooting and dies.

In short, Joe Goldberg's possessive behavior, which he is unaware of, qualifies him as a harmful stalker. As a stalker, Joe has two ways to learn about his targets. One of his ways is cyberstalks, which is monitoring his targets on social media to learn about their background information, and another way is physically stalk them by following them everywhere to know about their activities. In this series, Joe's stalking targets are his lover Beck and Beck's best friend, Peach. Joe's main goal to stalk his first target, Beck, is because he is obsessed with her and wants to establish a relationship. He starts to cyberstalk Beck through social media to know about her personal information, including what she is currently doing, and where she lives and studies. After cyberstalking Beck, Joe physically stalk her by following her

everywhere to know about her activities and with whom she meets. Meanwhile, for Joe's second target, Peach, he cyberstalks and physically stalks her because he aims to get rid of her, since she does not support his relationship with Beck. Joe's fear of losing Beck affects his underlying emotions and desires, which include anger, jealousy, envy, possessiveness, and aggressive impulses to harm the targets.

4.1.2 Jealousy

Joe Goldberg's jealousy underlies his possessive behavior in this series. Jealousy is both simple and complex. Simple that it is interpreted as a sign of love, and complex that it entails a mix of feelings alien to the spirit of love, such as selfishness, possessiveness, anger, and resentment. Joe's jealousy is both simple and complex (Brown, 2014). It is simple because it can be interpreted as a sign of his love for Beck, as he does not want to lose her. On the other hand, it is complex because he has feelings of selfishness and anger towards the people that make him jealous. Joe is jealous with the fact that Beck has a boyfriend, Benji Ashby, and a best friend who also obsessed with her, Peach. Joe's jealousy shows selfishness since he desires Beck's love and full attention. As a result, Joe is unable to control his anger towards Peach and Benji who makes him jealous and then he murders them. This matches Brown's theory which posits that some people require abuse, even brutality, to satisfy a need or to gain love in return (Brown, 2014).

a. Jealous towards Benji

Since the beginning of the episode, Joe shows his jealousy as he develops feeling for Beck. As explained previously, Joe, who wants to establish a relationship with Beck decides to stalk her. When he stalks Beck, he startles for a second when a man jumps out of the taxi and rushes towards Beck's apartment. Joe becomes confused and wonders who the man is, he thinks, "Uh, Beck, who the fuck is this? (Krieger, 2018, ep. 1 min. 13:40)" The man turns out to be Benji, Beck's boyfriend. Joe's reactions after seeing Benji are similar to those of a jealous boyfriend. Joe believes that approaching Beck will be difficult if she is still dating Benji. Joe starts to learn about Benji and finds that he is a drug addict who often hangs around with other women. Knowing that Benji is not a good person, Joe thinks that he is more worthy of Beck's love and wants to replace Benji.

Another scene of Joe's jealousy is when Joe follows Beck. He overhears Beck voicemailing Benji, because she worries about him. Joe feels jealous and upset because Beck worries about Benji, he thinks, "It is annoying. You're not thinking about us, you're thinking about him. I kind of thought I took care of that for you, Beck (Krieger, 2018, ep. 2 min. 03:05)" The way Joe thinks shows that he wants Beck to care about him, not Benji. Therefore, Joe desires to replace Benji in Beck's life and gets rid of him. Joe is both jealous and envious of Benji because Benji can get Beck's love and affection. Joe's jealousy and envy are in line with Brown's theories which mentioned that jealousy is also related to envy, which is the feeling that

one should possess what others have or to be in their place. It is frequently flavored with anger at privation when objects belonging to others are thought to be unjustified or that a person has more worthiness for what others possess. Joe feels that it is unfair that Benji receives Beck's love and affection despite the fact that Joe is better than him. Joe, who desires to replace Benji, plans to get rid of him. He thinks, "... I kind of thought I took care of that for you, Beck" shows that he is going to do something harmful to Benji. Joe intentionally arranges a meeting with Benji as a customer to discuss the business that Benji is currently running and trying to fool him. The day they meet, Joe hits Benji in the head with a heavy hammer until he passes out, brings him to a soundproof glassbox of Joe's bookstore basement and locks him in. After locking him for a few days, Joe knows he has no alternative but to murder Benji. Joe feels that his effort to keeping Benji away from Beck and murders him as his sign of love for Beck. He feels satisfied as he manages to make Beck forgets about Benji and chooses him. It can be proved from the way he thinks, "I have to say, things are looking pretty good for us, post-Benji (Krieger, 2018, ep. 3 min. 01:29)."

b. Jealous towards Peach

After Joe manages to get rid of Benji, he seems relieved that no one is going to interfere their relationships, until Peach shows up. Joe, who is now in a relationship with Beck feels both jealous and envious of Peach since Beck constantly shows more concerns and spends a lot of time with Peach. Joe becomes upset when Beck has to leave him to spend time with Peach. Furthermore, Joe knows that Peach

also obsesses with Beck. He realizes that Peach will interfere his relationship with Beck. Because of his jealousy, Joe is afraid that Peach may force Beck to reject him. Joe do not want to let that happen and plan to get rid of Peach.

Joe then begins to stalk Peach to learn more about her. There is a scene where Joe is following Beck and Peach in an unknown house. After overhearing that Peach invites Beck to Paris, Joe tells Peach, "Take the ticket, Peach. Go to Paris. Clear your head. Find a nice French girl. 'Cause you know, deep down, she's never gonna love you the way you love her. She's never gonna do it. You can't have her (Krieger, 2018, ep. 6 min. 38:50)" Joe tries to convince her to forget about Beck. The way he says, "You can't have her" means that he wants Peach to know that Beck belongs to him and she should not love anyone else. Joe's jealousy clearly shows his love and selfishness. He is obsessed with Beck and wants her to love and chooses him. Joe then becomes harmful because of his jealousy. He uses violence to overcome his jealousy. He cannot resist his anger and murders Benji and Peach for making him jealous.

In conclusion, Joe's jealousy is both simple and complex. It is simple since Joe obsessed with Beck and considers it as a sign of his love for Beck. Because of his love for Beck, Joe's jealousy is a response of his emotion to the fear of losing her. He becomes anxious as he is afraid if Beck rejects and abandons him. Joe's jealousy clearly shows his selfishness and insecurity, since he is envious of Benji and Peach, who get Beck's love and attention. Joe's selfishness in seeking Beck's undivided love and attention makes him unable to control his anger at Benji and Peach and murders

them. Therefore, Joe's jealousy is also complex, as it involves feelings of anger, selfishness, and possessiveness toward the people that make him jealous. Joe uses violence to Benji and Peach because he believes that they can be a threat to his relationship.

4.1.3 Obsessional Personality

Joe Goldberg's obsession about Beck underlies his possessiveness. Obsessions are unwanted and disturbing intrusive thoughts, images, or impulses that lead to anxiety or distress (Doron et al., 2012). Having obsessive personality makes Joe for having the obsessional themes, which involves fears, doubts about another person's feelings for him, and a desire for "rightness" in his relationship. Throughout the series, we get to hear Joe's thoughts. His obsessive thinking is also linked to his fantasies about his love target, Beck. Oettingen (as cited in Valshtein et al., 2020) defined fantasies as "free-flowing thoughts and images depicting future events that vary in valence, depending on whether the imagined future is idealized and desired (positive) or feared and undesired (negative)." Joe continually imagines what he wants to happen in his future with Beck, like how his life with Beck will be after dating and marriage. He even becomes overthink about other people.

Because he is obsessed with Beck, he is anxious that others will disrupt their relationship. His desire to have Beck has left him with imaginative thoughts about how their relationship will be. In the scene where he breaks into Beck's apartment, for example, he thinks:

“When we live together, your place won’t be a pigsty. I’ll clean for us. And you won’t eat all this frozen shit. I’ll cook for you every day. I promise. I’ll even do your laundry. And take care of your favorite books. I’ll make our bed every morning (Krieger, 2018, ep. 1 min. 24:54)”

Joe believes that he can make Beck to be his girlfriend. Although they are not dating yet, he is already imagining what he will do and how he will take care for Beck if they live together in the future. His fantasies about Beck are so intense that he believes it will come true. By having a relationship with her, he will be able to fulfill his desire. However, the fact that Beck still has a boyfriend, Benji, makes him difficult to have her. Joe thinks that Beck certainly does not deserve to love someone like Benji. His desire to have Beck is clarified by his need to get rid of Benji first. This is proven by the way he thinks:

“You are special. You’re talented. You’re passionate. You’re smart. Expect in the ways you are really not. Like not locking your phone. And falling for men like Benji. You know better, but you can’t stop. Because, well, because everyone needs someone. What you really need is someone to save you. I can help, Beck. Let me help you (Krieger, 2018, ep. 1 min 40:08)”

Joe finds that Beck has charming, smart, and talented personality which makes him fall deeper for her. With her charming personality, Beck should not fall in love with a person like Benji. Joe believes that he is way better than Benji and more worthy of Beck's love. Therefore, he plans to keep Benji away from her by locking him up in a soundproof basement. Joe does so with the hope that Beck will forget

Benji. However, keeping Benji away from Beck is not enough, because she becomes worry after Benji disappears. Knowing that fact, Joe feels upset. He thinks, "It is annoying. You're not thinking about us, you're thinking about him (Krieger, 2018, ep. 3 min 03:05)" Joe thinks that his efforts to lock Benji in the basement are useless because Beck cannot forget Benji. Joe, on the other hand, cannot resist his obsessive thinking over Beck. Rachman (as cited in Valshtein et al., 2020) defined obsessive thinking as thoughts, images, and impulses characterized by catastrophic misinterpretations and overvaluations. The way Joe thinks, "You're not thinking about us," shows that he expects Beck will notice his presence and pay more attention to him rather than Benji, who has disappeared. Joe expects Beck's full attention, although they are not dating yet. His obsessive thinking—the imaginations about her— leads him to demand more from his future relationship, despite the fact that they are still strangers.

His obsession over Beck makes him anxious to lose her. He expects to gain all of her attention and love. Joe must get rid of Peach and Benji because they are trying to interfere with their relationship. Because his obsession about Beck makes him jealous of other people, Benji and Peach become the victims of his violence. Walker (1995) stated that most offenders who stalk and harass victims are obsessed by getting their own needs met and will not or cannot stop the obsessive thinking that may result in the compulsive behavior. Joe, who wants to establish a relationship with Beck, hopes that everything will go smoothly without the distractions of other people. As a result, he is always suspicious of Benji and Peach, who are also attempting to

disrupt his relationship with Beck. His obsessive thoughts and fantasies about his relationship lead him to expect the attention and love. Therefore, Joe cannot control his anger when dealing with Benji and Peach, who try to destroy his plans. He gets rid of them. Joe is satisfied if they leave Beck's life because nothing will bother him any longer. His enjoyment is shown in how he thinks after successfully hitting Peach's head in the park:

“I would never hurt a woman. But she was a dangerous, flash-hungry harpy. She forced my hand. I had to, Beck. I had to. I am not a bad person. She was going to ruin you. But you're safe now. Thanks to me. I just want you to live your best life. It's brave, what I do for you. How many guys will do anything for the person they love? Honestly, Beck. You're lucky to have me (Krieger, 2018, ep. 5 min. 42:12)”

Joe thinks that he has done the right thing to eliminate the person who ruins his relationship. He does not realize that his obsession leads him on the wrong track. He believes that Beck will be happy if he does that as his sign of love and concern about her.

In summary, Joe's obsession towards Beck makes him difficult to quit having fantasies and doubts about her. Since Joe is obsessed with Beck, he protects Beck obsessively and tries to control her social life as if she was a possession. Joe expects his relationship with Beck to go as smoothly as he imagines. Therefore, Joe is jealous of Benji and Peach whom he believes will interfere his chance to approach Beck. Joe's delusional jealousy leads him to believe that Beck has returned his feelings for

him, even if Beck has not yet made it true. Joe's obsession leads him to have concerns about the "rightness" of his relationship. He wishes Beck will truly adore him. His obsession also linked to his fears of abandonment, which he is afraid of Beck's rejection. He is accused of having anxiety thoughts and fantasies about love, which leads to having possessive behavior.

4.2 Joe Goldberg's Abusive Actions

Joe Goldberg's innocent and charming appearance covers a stalker and harmful serial killer. Throughout the series, the writer learns more about Joe's obsession with the concept of love, and why he resorts to violence to prevent the fate of his romantic interests. Joe has been an orphaned since he was a child. As a child, Joe was routinely ignored and even physically mistreated. Joe's mother, Sandy, who was assaulted by his father, surrendered Joe to Child Protective Services, claiming she was unfit to care for him. She surrendered Joe after he shot and killed his violent father one night. As a result, Joe was assigned to the Irving Group Home in New York State. Mr. Mooney, a bookshop owner, eventually adopted him. Mr. Mooney looked after Joe and even hired him at the bookstore. Joe experienced a lot of trauma as a child, so it is no wonder that Joe has an obsession with love. His desire to be loved and adored by the women he pursues comes from an underlying love addiction, as do his efforts to isolate them from their friends and other aspects of their lives. Joe

is almost always eager to manipulate situations in order to acquire his romantic partners' love and trust.

Joe is portrayed as a charming individual with many hidden dark sides, especially his possessive behavior, in this series. His possessive personality, which is motivated by a desire to be loved and adored by Beck, leads him to have abusive behavior. Joe, who is afraid of Beck's rejection him, decides to commit violence to Benji and Peach physically and verbally. Bowlby (as cited in Sonkin & Dutton, 2013) stated that the control of batterers is exercised because of a fear of abandonment. The risk of battering becomes very high when it comes to insecurity, jealousy, possessiveness, manipulative, and mean when he does not succeed (Walker, 1995).

Joe's first victim is Benji, who makes him jealous. As previously mentioned, Joe physically attacks Benji with a heavy hammer and locks him in a soundproof glassbox of his bookstore basement.

Figure 5

Joe Locks Benji in a Soundproof Glassbox



(Krieger, 2018, Ep. 2. min. 05:19)

From the scene (Figure 5) Benji gets confused and terrified after waking up in a glassbox with his head covered in blood. He tries to shout for help from others, but no one can hear him. Wondering what happens to him, Benji simply accused Joe for kidnapping him for money and continuously begging Joe to get him out. Benji then realizes that Joe locks him up because of Beck after he recognizes Joe who brings Beck home, Benji says:

“Oh, shit! That’s where I know you from. You were in the cab. Beck’s cab! She said your name. It’s Jimmy. No. It’s Joe! Do not tell me you’re doing this for Beck. She’s not my girlfriend. You can have her. Take her (Krieger, 2018, ep. 2 min. 07:17)”

According to what Benji says, he is doing everything he can to save himself. If Joe's purpose in locking him up is to establish retaliation with Beck, Benji promises that he will help Joe as long as he can escape. Benji is so frustrated that he attempts to persuade Joe to save him. Benji's words shows that Benji does not truly love Beck, despite Beck's sincere concern for him. This makes Joe even more eager to punish Benji because he does not deserve Beck's love. Joe verbally assaults him by using his power and control over Benji to make him do what he says. As a result, Benji suffers psychologically, causing him to become extremely anxious and appear as if he is insane for not making him out of there alive.

Figure 6

Benji Shows His Desperation



Source: (Krieger, 2018, Ep. 2 min. 35:43)

The scene in Figure 6 proves that Benji get mentally abused as he shows his desperate action. He messes up the glassbox by tearing and scattering all of the books. Benji lays on the floor sobbing and shouting to Joe, “You left me here to die! You left me to die. Enough of this. Just kill me!” Benji feels that he has suffered enough to be there and cannot take it any longer. His mental condition is worsening as a result of his prolonged imprisonment. Benji desperately asks Joe to murder him if he really wants to rather than tormenting him. Knowing that Benji is about to give up, Joe feels even more eager to get rid of him. As a result, the last thing he does to Benji is to murder him by combining his drink with enormous amounts of peanuts which Benji has allergic to. His jealousy turns to anger, which leads to abusive behavior. Joe feels satisfied after he manages to get rid of Benji. Without Benji, Beck can easily forget him and gives love and attention to Joe instead. Joe believes that

solving the problem violently, like what he does to Benji, is the right and proper solution.

The next victim of Joe's abusive action is Peach Salinger. As previously mentioned, Joe and Peach are rivals to win Beck's affection. Peach, Beck's best friend who adores her, turns out to have a long-standing crush on Beck. Meanwhile Joe, as a boyfriend who wants Beck's undivided love and attention, tries to keep Beck away from Peach. Knowing that Peach always wins Beck's attention, Joe begins to stalk Peach and plans to hurt her. Joe worries that Peach will persuade Beck to reject him since Peach does not support their relationship. Therefore, Joe follows Peach on her morning run and hits her head with a rock until she passes out.

Figure 7

Joe Hits Peach's Head with a Huge Rock



(Krieger, 2018, Ep. 5 min. 41:36)

The scene in Figure 7 shows Joe is holding a huge rock which he uses to hit Peach's head until she passes out. He is standing there looking at Peach who is lying

down with her head covered in blood. Joe immediately runs away from the crime scene, thinking that he murders Peach. Even after that, Joe has no regret, he thinks:

“Oh. She’s dead. Of course she’s dead. She fell. An accident. Happens all the time. She was running and she fell. Into a rock. Over and over again. Okay, let’s be real, she was attacked. Someone attacked her. But maybe they had a good reason, right? (Krieger, 2018, ep. 5 min 41:41)”

Joe believes it is acceptable to hit Peach with a rock since Peach is a threat in his relationship that he must eliminate. Joe thinks that what he does to Peach is because he loves Beck and wants to protect her. He feels satisfied doing this because when Peach disappears, Beck will not reject him, and she will give her love and attention fully. Unfortunately, the fact that Peach survives bothers Joe. Peach suffers from psychological trauma as a result of the physical attacks. It causes Peach to be cautious and suspect that she has a stalker who can danger her life. Therefore, Peach invites Beck to her unknown house without knowing that Joe secretly follows them. The next morning, after Beck leaves the house, Joe gets caught by Peach, which then leads to an argument. Peach points a gun towards Joe, knowing that he is her stalker all along. As they argue, Joe says " Take the ticket, Peach. Go to Paris. Clear your head. Find a nice French girl. Cause you know deep down she's never gonna love you the way you love her." Hearing Joe says that, Peach becomes shivers and Joe manages to escape. Peach chases him down and shoots him in the leg. She approaches Joe and she assumes that he is unconscious or dead, then she turns her back to return to the house on that assumption. Joe, on the other hand, is actually

acting dead to fool Peach. When Peach is about to return to the house, he chases her. When he grabs the gun from Peach, she fights back. Later, a gunshot is heard, and Peach gets killed in the moment.

After Joe manages to get rid of Benji and Peach, unexpectedly, Beck becomes the last victim. Beck finally found Joe's abusive behavior, particularly against Benji and Peach. Beck discovers a box containing Benji and Peach's belongings which Joe keeps-on the ceiling of his bathroom. Beck is afraid of Joe and desperately wants to leave his house. Joe has to hit her and takes her to the glassbox after he realizes that Beck knows his secret. As mentioned by Walker (1995), batterers are reported to be seductive and charming, when they are not being violent, and the women fall for their short-lived but sincere promises. Joe manipulates Beck with his charming and gentle appearance. Beck gets attracted with Joe, without realizing that behind his charming appearance lies a harmful stalker and psychopath.

Figure 8

Joe locks Beck in a Glassbox



(Krieger, 2018, Ep. 10 min. 03:12)

The scene in Figure 8 shows Beck who gets confused when she wakes up in an unknown glass box. Beck's feelings for Joe changes from love to fear, resentment, and disappointment. Joe hopes Beck will understand that what he has done is to show his love. Joe tries to convince Beck to trust him and not abandon him after discovering what he has done. Joe says:

“Everything I have done, I have done for you. Benji was a murderer. He killed an innocent kid. He was dangerous for you. And Peach, she was obsessed. She needed to own you, to trap you, to make you her pet. And what happened once she was gone? You blossomed. You were published. Honestly I’m terrified sharing this with you. But, if we’re being honest, your life has been better since you met me. You just didn’t know how or why until now. Beck, I love you. And loving someone means you will do anything for them (Krieger, 2018, ep. 10 min. 07:34)”

According to what Joe says, he wants to control Beck’s psychologically by making her believe that Benji and Peach are not as good as she thinks. Joe tries to convince Beck to change her mind about him, whom she believes is dangerous, by convincing her that he has done the right thing to Benji and Peach. Beck, who is aware of Joe's nonsense thinking, begins to cry and feels more terrified. She is afraid that Joe may violate her. Beck suffers mentally as a result of her isolation. She

continues to cry and begs him not to kill her. Beck attempts to escape by also convincing Joe that she believes him. Beck says:

“I get it now. You did everything for me. No one has ever loved me the way you love me. I mean, you gave me everything. You take care of me. And no one has taken care of me before. I know I’m better with you than without you (Krieger, 2018, ep. 10 min. 36:48)”

Beck says that because she has to save herself by making Joe believe that she will never leave him after what he has done. After Joe opens the door and comes to her, it turns out that he is fooled by Beck who manages to turn the position and lock him up. Beck says:

“You are insane. Yeah, I lied. I cheated. But I didn’t stalk you. I didn’t hit you. I didn’t kill people. I didn’t do any of this! What gives you the right? You thought that I would be grateful? You are the bad thing. You are the thing that you should have killed. You are not special. You’re broken. I could never love you (Krieger, 2018, ep. 10 min. 39:57)”

Beck's high-pitched tone indicates that she is extremely irritated by Joe's misbehavior. She does not think that what Joe did is his sign of love. She feels bad for loving someone like him. Joe's actions affect Beck psychologically, causing her to become fearful, frightened, nervous, and frustrated. Furthermore, because Beck is trapped in the glassbox, she cannot think clearly and only think of a way out. Unfortunately, Beck fails to escape. When she attempts to escape, Joe opens the

glassbox with his spare key and chases her. Joe is confronted with the haunting reality that he will have to commit murder once more.

Joe uses his power and control to abuse the victims both physically and verbally. He conducts violence as a result of his childhood trauma. It is related to his childhood trauma in which his parents abandoned him. Joe was raised without enough affection; therefore, when he grows up, he constantly seeks attention and love from others. Moreover, he witnessed his father being abusive to his mother. As a result, he believes that violence could easily solve problems. Because he could not protect his mother when he was a child, he feels that he must take care of the person he loves. When he meets Beck, he becomes obligated to protect her, which causes him to become possessive. He is always trying to keep Beck away from the people he is jealous of. Joe believes that committing violence and murdering those people are the best option he can think of. His abusive actions affect the victims both physically and psychologically. He uses power and control over other people to do what he wants because he thinks he is stronger than them. He appears to have lost his ability to feel empathy with others, instead, he has no obvious emotions or attachments to the common norms.