Herby He

When Eddie loses Marguerite, he thinks the passion he has for Marguerite is lost. Eddie believes, “I lost everything. I lost the only woman I ever loved.” Eddie cries to Marguerite about how he had lived without love for years. Eddie believes love only exists between people that are physically existing and can be there for each other. Marguerite, however, believes “lost love is still love; it only takes a different form.” Even after Marguerite has passed, Eddie still loves her, meaning the love is preserved but only in Eddie’s memories. Since all the memories Eddie builds with Marguerite are stored in his mind, he can go back anytime to retrieve the feeling. In Marguerite’s point of view, love is like an object that follows the law of conservation: its sum does not decreases or increases corresponding to the changes in the environment, it merely changes forms. Marguerite further clarifies it by saying that as the feelings of love in real life decreases, “another heightens. Memory.**Memory becomes your partner**. You nurture it. You hold it. You dance with it.” Eddie used to dance with Marguerite. Since Marguerite only exists in memory now, Eddie can find a similar feeling in his mind.

Although Marguerite’s words seem rational and flawless, I think it’s an oversimplification of the concept of love and memory. Memory is a recording of personal experiences, it’s not guaranteed to be accurate and definitely cannot be increases or “heightens” just because something important happened later in one’s life. Furthermore, memory and love are two irrelevant concepts. Love is a momentary pleasant feeling or affection that cannot be stored, and it elapses once the interaction is over. Memory is the record of events in one’s mind that last for a long time. These two concepts are entirely different since love is triggered by external stimuli such as the interaction with another person, while memory involved only one person and can be easily modified. Part of love is being able to interact with the person either face to face or through other mediums and achieve mutual connection. Only thinking about someone but not interacting with them is not love; its only a unique feeling because the other person does not shares the excitement with you. Thus, love cannot exists in memory. Memory only provides a way for someone to recall his/her personal feeling, but not a place to store love. You can replay a particular event hundreds of times in your head, yet it won’t become love. Additionally, memory often distorts or fades as time goes on, making one’s recalled sentiment unreliable. People might re-experience similar emotions as they remember an event, but that emotion is fallacious. Memory can be especially affected by severe events that happened, death, for instance. Normally when someone passes away, people will only remember the good things he/she did and has only positive emotion while neglecting anything terrible. XXX, a rapper that passed away in 2018, is a perfect example. When XXX was alive, he was often criticized by the public for his inappropriate lyrics and violent assault to his pregnant girlfriend. However, after he passed, almost everyone, even the people that hated him, titled him as an extremely talented musician and neglect all the bad rumors. This could happen to anyone’s memory, including Eddie’s. Before Marguerite passed, Eddie might have more complicated feelings towards her; after she passed, only the good qualities or memories remain, making Eddie’s memories not accurate. This perception of love from memories mustn't be the love that Eddie once experienced if even the memory itself is wrong. Marguerite says memory becomes your partner because it carries lost love. But lost love itself is not real love, it’s only a distorted feeling emerged form memories. So memory cannot be your partner.