

**PERSONA AND SHADOW OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN
LEIGH BARDUGO'S *SIX OF CROWS***

THESIS

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK
IBRAHIM MALANG
2025**

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THESIS

Presented to
Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S.)

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2025**

STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled "*Persona and Shadow of the Main Character in Leigh Bardugo's Six of Crows*" is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

Malang, 12 June 2025

The researcher



Siti Farhatus Saidah

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MOTTO

“Hidup memang tidak selalu memberi jalan yang mudah, tapi setiap perjuangan yang dilalui adalah tanda bahwa kita sedang berjalan menuju sesuatu yang berharga. Di saat merasa lelah, kita perlu ingat bahwa perjuangan kita tak sekedar untuk mencapai tujuan, tapi juga bagaimana kita belajar menjadi sosok yang lebih bijak dan kuat di setiap perjalanan.”

(Ning Hj. Nuvisa Rizqid Diiny El-Ulya)

دَرْبُ قَلْبِكَ عَلَى الْعَفْوِ دَائِمًا، وَاشْفِ جُرْحَكَ، وَأَكْثِرْ مِنَ الدُّعَاءِ، وَاتَّقِ أَنْ قَدَرَ اللَّهُ هُوَ دَائِمًا الْأَفْضَلُ

Latih hatimu selalu memaafkan, sembuhkan lukamu, perbanyak berdo'Fa. dan percaya takdir-Nya selalu yang terbaik.

(Ust. Abdul Shomad)

“The only way to achieve the impossible is to believe it is possible”

– Charles Kingsleigh (Alice in Wonderland)

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my parents, who always support and pray for me. My success to date would not exist without their prayers. May Mum and Dad always be healthy and live long lives.

For my brother, thank you also for accompanying a little sister who does not understand many things, thank you for helping and always striving for success in writing this thesis.

For my friends, especially the students of Pondok Pesantren Khaira Ummah, thank you for entertaining, accompanying, and encouraging each other; without you, I may have felt lonely while writing a thesis.

Finally, thank you to a man with NIM 0167 for always encouraging and supporting me while writing this thesis and always convincing me that I could do it until the end.

Of course, I do not forget. I dedicate this thesis to myself. Thank you for surviving until now. You are great, and you managed to show that you are capable. You still have a long way to go. Live well!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillahirobbil' alamin, all praise belongs only to Allah SWT, the Lord of the Universe, who has given His grace to all creatures in the universe, so that the author can complete this thesis entitled “Persona and Shadow of the Main Character in Leigh Bardugo’s Six of Crows”. Sholawat and greetings are offered to the Prophet Muhammad SAW, who has brought us from the age of darkness to the age of light.

Thanks to the help, guidance, and prayers of various parties, this thesis can be completed. My gratitude goes to the Rector of UIN Malang, Prof. Dr. H. M. Zainuddin, M.A., the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Dr. M. Faisol, M.Ag, the Head of the English Department, Ribut Wahyudi, M.Ed., Ph.D., and my advisor, Muhammad Edy Thoyib, M.A., who has provided direction and guidance in completing this thesis.

My special thanks go to Gus Hirshi Anadza, M.Hub. Int. and Ning Hj. Nuvisa Rizqid Diiny El-Ulya as my caregivers at Ponpes Khaira Ummah. My gratitude also goes to my parents, my dearest brother, and the man who accompanied me during my thesis. Thank you for your support, love, and prayers. As a family I love and am proud of, you give me the strength to complete this thesis.

Finally, this thesis is far from perfect. Therefore, I expect positive and constructive suggestions and criticisms from all parties to improve this thesis. From all parties, so that this thesis becomes better.

Malang, 12 June 2025

Siti Farhatus Saidah

ABSTRACT

Saidah, Siti Farhatus (2025) *Persona and Shadow of the Main Character in Leigh Bardugo's Six of Crows*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

Advisor: Muhammad Edy Thoyib, M.A.

Keywords: Persona, shadow, archetype, literary psychology.

This study discusses the concepts of persona and shadow of the main character in Leigh Bardugo's novel *Six of Crows* using Carl Gustav Jung's archetype theory. This study aims to analyze the forms of persona and shadow displayed by Kaz in his thoughts and behavior. This study uses a literary psychology approach with a focus on persona and shadow as two important concepts in the formation of character personality. The novel *Six of Crows* serves as the data source for this study, with information collected from the narrative and dialogue. Data was collected by reading and noting important sections, which were then evaluated using Jung's theoretical framework. The findings show that Kaz's personality as a smart and manipulative and indifferent leader serves as a protective strategy against his past trauma, but his shadow emerges as feelings of trauma, revenge, and cruelty. These two concepts result in a multifaceted character. This study found that the relationship between persona and shadow is crucial in defining a character's identity and behavior.

مستخلص البحث

السعيدة ,سيتي فرحة (2025) شخصية وظل الشخصية الرئيسية في رواية "ستة من الغربان" للكاتبة لي باردوغو. خطة البحث. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي. كلية العلوم الإنسانية. جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية مالانج.

المشرف: محمد إيدي طيب، الماجستير

الكلمات المفتاحية: الشخصية، والظل، والنموذج الأصلي، وعلم الأدب النفسي.

يناقش هذا البحث مفهوم الشخصية والظل في الشخصية الرئيسية في رواية "Six of Crows" لكتابة Leigh Bardugo باستخدام نظرية النموذج الأصلي لـ Carl Gustav Jung. يهدف هذا البحث إلى تحليل شكل الشخصية والظل الذي يظهره كاز في أفكار الشخصية وسلوكها. ويستخدم هذا البحث منهج علم الأدب النفسي مع التركيز على جوانب الشخصية والظل كمفهومين مهمين في تكوين شخصية الشخصية. مصدر البيانات لهذا البحث هو رواية "Six of Crows"، مع جمع المعلومات من السرد والحوار في النص. وكانت الطريقة المستخدمة في جمع البيانات هي قراءة المقاطع ذات الصلة وتسلط الضوء عليها، ثم تم تحليلها باستخدام الإطار النظري لـ Jung. تظهر النتائج أن شخصية كاز كقائد كاريزمي ومتلاعب هي بمثابة آلية دفاعية ضد صدمته السابقة، بينما يتجلى ظله في مشاعر الاستياء والحزن الذي لم يحل، وانعدام الثقة العميق بالآخرين. ويخلق هذان المفهومان شخصية معقدة. ويخلص البحث إلى أن التفاعل بين الشخصية والظل يلعب دوراً مهماً في تشكيل هوية الشخصية وسلوكها.

ABSTRAK

Saidah, Siti Farhatu (2025) *Persona and Shadow of the Main Character in Leigh Bardugo's Six of Crows*. Skripsi. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

Advisor: Muhammad Edy Thoyib, M.A.

Keywords: Persona, shadow, arketipe, psikologi sastra.

Penelitian ini membahas konsep persona dan bayangan pada karakter utama dalam novel *Six of Crows* karya Leigh Bardugo menggunakan teori arketipe Carl Gustav Jung. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bentuk persona dan bayangan yang ditampilkan oleh Kaz dalam pikiran dan perilakunya. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan psikologi sastra dengan fokus pada aspek persona dan bayangan sebagai dua konsep penting dalam pembentukan kepribadian karakter. Novel *Six of Crows* menjadi sumber data dalam penelitian ini, dengan informasi yang dikumpulkan dari narasi dan percakapan. Data dikumpulkan dengan membaca dan mencatat bagian-bagian penting, yang kemudian dievaluasi menggunakan kerangka teoritis Jung. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa kepribadian Kaz sebagai pemimpin yang cerdas, manipulatif dan sikap acuh tak acuh berfungsi sebagai strategi perlindungan terhadap trauma masa lalunya, namun bayangan dirinya muncul sebagai perasaan trauma, balas dendam dan berbuat kejam. Dua konsep ini menghasilkan karakter yang multifaset. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa hubungan antara persona dan bayangan sangat penting dalam mendefinisikan identitas dan perilaku karakter.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER	i
STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP	ii
APPROVAL SHEET	iii
LEGITIMATION SHEET	iv
MOTTO	v
DEDICATION.....	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	vii
ABSTRACT	viii
مستخلص البحث	ix
ABSTRAK	x
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	xi
CHAPTER I.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
A. Background of the Study	1
B. Problem of the study	4
C. Significance of the study	4
D. Scope and limitation.....	5
E. Definition of key terms.....	5
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	7
A. Psychology of Literature	7
B. Carl Gustav Jung's Archetype.....	8
C. Persona	12
D. Shadow	14
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD	18
A. Research design	18
B. Data source	18
C. Data collection	19
D. Data analysis.....	19
CHAPTER IV FINDING AND DISCUSSION	20
A. Persona of the main character	20

B. Shadow of the main character	35
C. The influence of persona and shadow on Kaz Brekker's personality	49
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	57
A. Conclusion	57
B. Suggestion	58
BIBLIOGRAPHY	59
CURRICULUM VITAE	62

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the background of the study, problem of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the study

Archetypes are shadow phenomena of ancestors that originate in the collective unconscious and influence individuals' lives. Carl Gustav Jung, one of the psychological figures who introduced the concept of archetypes, emphasized the collective unconscious and used personal experiences to package the personality. According to Jung (1968), an archetype is a symbol, term, or pattern of behaviour that is universally performed. It is a model for others to imitate or emulate, and archetypes often appear in myths and narratives across different cultures. Jung stated that archetypes reside in the collective unconscious and play an important role in understanding ourselves and our environment. According to Jung, archetypes are divided into several kinds, such as Anima-animus, Great Mother, Hero, Self, Persona, and Shadow (Falsafi et al., 2011). Of all these archetypes, the researcher only focuses on examining two archetypes, namely Persona and Shadow.

Persona is the identity or image a person presents to the outside world in real life and literature (Jung, 1968). Persona refers to the personality displayed that society accepts to fulfill social expectations. However, if one puts too much emphasis on persona, one may lose one's identity and become dependent on society's expectations. In contrast, shadow is an unconscious thought that includes

weakness, deficiency, or distress (Jung, 1968). Shadow is the dark side of one's personality that is not consciously acknowledged, rejected, or recognized. The shadow includes negative aspects and traits that are rejected or hidden because they do not fit the self-image that one wants to maintain.

Six of Crows is a literary work with a persona and shadow on the main character. This novel is about a group of young criminals assigned to steal in an impossible place to penetrate. The heist is led by Kaz Brekker, known as Dirty Hands and Dregs, and his reputation as a lick and ruthless criminal. His personality serves as a shield from which to socialize in the dangerous city of Ketterdam. The experience of his older brother's death traumatized him, which shaped the dark side of his personality. As such, this shadow drives the protagonist to violence and manipulation to cope with the pain of losing his brother, as well as making him often caught up in revenge that threatens himself and his crew.

Archetypes, such as *F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby*, are often used in literary works. In the character of Jay Gatsby, there is an archetype of a hero who fights against his destiny. *Black Magician* by Trudi Canavan has many situational archetypes as researched in (2020). A shadow archetype in the novel *The Woman in the Window* by A.J Finns has been researched in (2020). Furthermore, in the novels *Shatterday* by Harlan Ellison and *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk, there are persona and shadow archetypes in the main characters.

Several previous studies have examined "*Six of Crows*" through different theoretical lenses. Ranaputri and Noorman (2020) analyzed the depiction of power

dynamics in Leigh Bardugo's young adult novel *Six of Crows* based on Foucault's theory of power. Reza and Nitisari (2022) compared the virtues and strengths of Kaz's character and Nina's character in the novel *Six of Crows*. Widiastri et al. (2023) analyzed the characteristics and origins of sociopathy in Kaz Brekker from a psychoanalytic point of view.

In addition, research on persona, shadow, and hero has been done. Siregar (2022) explored the protagonist in the Hunger Games novel through Carl Gustav Jung's archetype theory framework, specifically focusing on the concept of Persona and Shadow. Rahayu and Suprayogi (2023) attempted to uncover the archetypes of Persona and Shadow in the characters in Sally Rooney's novel *Normal People*. Galang (2021) found that Keiko exhibited an enlarged ego shadow stemming from her childhood, which resulted in her becoming a loner. Gunanda and Puspita (2022) analyzed Kevin's personality and shadow. Lestari (2021) explored the character of Wade Watts in Ernest Cline's *Ready Player One* to provide a detailed analysis of the hero archetype based on Carl Jung's theory. Altabaa and Zahari (2022) investigated the archetypes found in the story of Hansel and Gretel by the Brothers Grimm. Rahmawati et al. (2024) Explores the hero archetypes of the protagonists in the film *A Study in Scarlet*, using Carol Pearson's prominent theory of hero archetypes.

Among the existing studies above, three examine the novel *Six of Crows* with different theories and approaches, and several other studies examine archetypal themes such as persona, shadow, and hero. Moreover, no one has used the object of the novel *Six of Crows* in the theme of persona and shadow. This

research explores how Kaz's persona and shadow relate to other characters and how Kaz fights his persona and shadow throughout the story. The researcher chose this novel as an object because, based on the complexity of Kaz Brekker's character, it reflects the dynamics between persona and shadow. As such, the novel offers many layers of meaning that can be explored in depth in the context of character analysis. In addition, persona and shadow play an important role in shaping a person's character in various situations. Therefore, this study uses this theory to understand how persona and shadow influence the main character's actions in the story.

In addition, the researcher interest in the life challenges of the main character in the novel drives the analysis of persona and shadow. Analyzing persona and shadow in the context of Kaz Brekker's psychological struggle for survival makes this a fascinating area of research. Therefore, research on the persona and shadow of Kaz Brekker's struggle for survival in this novel is an interesting topic.

B. Problems of the study

Based on the background that has been explained, the formulation of this research problem is as follows:

1. What are the persona and shadow of the Main Character in Leigh Bardugo's *Six of Crows*?
2. How do persona and shadow influence the main character's personality in Leigh Bardugo's *Six of Crows*?

C. Significance of the study

This study has two research benefits, namely theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research focuses on archetype theory which focuses on character

analysis in terms of persona and shadow. This research analyzes how persona and shadow are portrayed in Kaz Brekker's character in Leigh Bardugo's novel *Six of Crows*. Practically, the results of this study help future studies in analyzing the novel *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo. This research is also expected to help readers of Leigh Bardugo's *Six of Crows* understand how archetypes are depicted in Kaz Brekker's character.

This research also has real-life relevance, especially for young readers who may face challenges similar to those faced by Kaz. By understanding this character's journey, readers can find a mirror for self-reflection, increase empathy for others experiencing hardship, and be inspired to confront trauma and find a path to healing and personal growth.

D. Scope and limitations

The scope of this research focuses on analyzing the persona and shadow of the character Kaz Brekker, to explore how his personality and shadow affect Kaz Brekker in the story. However, this research has limitations, namely the focus on the main character, Kaz Brekker. Although other characters may be mentioned, they will not be the main focus of the analysis.

E. Definition of key terms

Archetype: An archetype is a symbol, term, or pattern of universally performed behavior that serves as a model for others to emulate or model for themselves. Archetypes often appear in myths and narratives in various cultures (Jung, 1968).

Persona: Persona is an individual's attempt to fulfill societal expectations and traditions shaped by the needs of archetypes. The persona functions as a mask

designed to give a certain impression in response to social pressures, but it can also lead to the loss of one's true identity (Jung, 1968).

Shadow: Shadow is the unconscious mind, including weakness, deficiency, or distress. The shadow symbolizes a person's animalistic instincts. This archetype plays a role in generating spontaneous, wild and creative energy. (Jung, 1968, as cited in Alwisol, 2009).

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the literary theories used. An explanation of the psychology of literature, the second point explains archetypes, followed by persona, and shadow.

A. Psychology of Literature

Literature is a social institution that uses language, a creation of society, as its medium (Wellek & Warren, 2016). They also point out that the truths found in literature reflect what exists outside of literature. Therefore, literature functions as a reflection of society, describing behaviors and norms that can only emerge in the context of society, with text as the medium of language. On the other hand, psychology is a scientific discipline that systematically investigates and attempts to explain observable behavior and its relationship to the internal mental processes that occur within humans (Aras, 2015). Thus, psychology is a lens through which literature can be studied, as it explores human behavior and norms represented in literary works.

Psychology of literature is a multidisciplinary field approach that studies the relationship between psychological theories and texts in literature (Dar, 2022). The discipline aims to understand how literature reflects, influences, and shapes human behavior, emotions, and thought processes. Researcher can uncover deeper meanings and insights into the human condition by examining characters, themes, and narratives from a psychological perspective. This methodology allows for a

broader interpretation of literary works, considering the psychological impulses behind characters' behaviors and the emotional reactions they evoke in readers.

Furthermore, Wellek and Warren (2016) assert that literary psychology encompasses the psychological evaluation of the author as an archetype or as a unique individual, the investigation of the creative process, the analysis of the psychological types and principles found within literary works, and the study of literature's influence on its readers. The dreams, perceptions, and consciousness levels of the author are important since the themes they tackle might mirror their personal traits (Aras, 2015). At the same time, psychoanalytic criticism focuses on characters as representations of the world and existence, aiming to present them as models that reveal the essence of life (Aras, 2015).

B. Carl Gustav Jung's Archetype

An archetype is a symbol, term, or pattern of behavior that is universally performed. It serves as a model for others to emulate or model for themselves. Moreover, archetypes often appear in myths and narratives in various cultures (Jung, 1968). The collective unconscious is evident in the recurring themes, images, and figures known as archetypes. Carl Gustav Jung, a Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, conducted research that intersected with various fields such as archaeology, anthropology, philosophy, literature, and religious studies. His insights led to significant developments in psychology and psychiatry (Leigh, 2011). Among his notable psychological concepts are archetypes, synchronicity, psychological complexes, the collective unconscious, as well as introversion and extroversion. Jung identified the collective unconscious as a fundamental aspect of psychological

study. This implicit unconscious encompasses universal themes inherent throughout human existence.

Jung proposed that human personality comprises various elements, including behavior and emotions, whether they are recognized or not. His theory of personality is founded on the belief that the mind or “psyche” consists of both conscious and unconscious levels (Hardanto et al., 2019). Jung highlighted that the most significant aspect of an individual's subconscious mind is not derived from personal experiences but from the collective human history. This idea is what Jung called the collective unconscious. By broadening the concept of the unconscious to incorporate the collective unconscious, the conscious level encompasses the ego, which primarily serves as a filter for different life experiences and acts as the organizer and protector of the personality's integrity.

Due to our egos, despite undergoing various transformations, we maintain a sense of self-continuity and personal identity (Mas, 2007) . Jung posited that to avoid various mental disorders, a healthy individual must have a connection to both the personal unconscious and the collective unconscious. The elements within the unconscious are referred to as archetypes and are considered universal influences on human behavior. According to Jung, a healthy individual should be connected to the personal and collective unconscious to prevent mental disorders (Eisold, 2002). Jung identified four primary archetypes: Persona, Anima-Animus, Shadow, and Self. Additionally, these archetypes expand into others such as the Great Mother, Wise Old Man, Child, Trickster or Magician, and Hero. Within each individual,

multiple types of archetypes exist, and each archetype influences their behaviors and interactions with others.

1. **Persona:** The Persona archetype acts like a mask. These masks are presented to the public to reveal a different aspect of a person, contrasting with their true self (Schultz & Schultz, 2005). The term persona denotes the mask that actors wear to portray different characters to their audience. Jung applies this concept in a similarly meaningful way. The persona archetype represents the façade we adopt to present ourselves as someone other than our true selves. Jung argues that personas are essential because we must perform a variety of roles in life to thrive in educational settings, workplaces, and social interactions. While personas can have positive implications, they also pose risks. We might start to mistakenly believe that our personas are a true reflection of our identity. Instead of simply assuming a character, we might fully embody that character. Consequently, other dimensions of our personality may be stifled and unable to grow.
2. **Shadow:** The Shadow represents the darker aspect of an individual. Unlike the persona, this shadow resides in the unconscious. It manifests as feelings like hatred, jealousy, anger, distrust, fear, and other negative traits. People often conceal their shadows to prevent others from recognizing their darker sides (Feist & Feist, 2013). The shadow isn't inherently bad; however, since it exists beyond one's conscious awareness, it can influence behavior without a person recognizing it, particularly when feelings are strong. Confronting and incorporating the shadow is crucial for healing and

personal development, as it helps individuals connect more deeply with their complete psychological truth.

3. **Anima-Animus:** The Anima is the archetype that embodies the feminine aspects of a man. Anima can exist within a male, typically shaped by his experiences or surroundings from birth to adulthood. Conversely, the Animus represents the masculine traits present in a woman (Hardanto et al., 2019). The anima and animus are archetypes symbolizing the feminine side of men (anima) and the masculine side of women (animus). Both emerge from the shared experiences of the opposite gender residing in the unconscious mind. In men, the anima often manifests as suppressed feelings, instincts, and emotional awareness, while in women, the animus appears as logic, strength, and rational thought that may not always be apparent. As mentioned in the explanation of Carl Jung, “The animus corresponds to the paternal Logos just as the anima corresponds to the maternal Eros” (Jung & Hull, 1959). These archetypes are significant in personal relationships and the journey of individuation, as they connect the conscious mind with the unconscious. When the anima and animus are unacknowledged or repressed, they can lead to emotional projections onto a partner or other idealized individuals, which obstructs healthy relationships. Conversely, when they are recognized and incorporated, they contribute to the individual's psychological completeness.
4. **The Self:** The Self is an archetype characterized by its own identity. It represents the ultimate aim of personality growth, with one's self serving as

a pathway to individuation (Schultz & Schultz, 2005). The self represents the core and entirety of one's personality, encompassing both conscious and unconscious elements. Achieving the Self is the ultimate aim of the individuation journey, where an individual harmoniously integrates all parts of themselves, such as the persona, shadow, and anima/animus. The Self represents the essence of our true identity. Direct engagement with the Self is not possible; instead, it is realized through symbolic experiences and profound activities like dreams, introspection, and psychological change. When an individual connects with the Self, they gain a deeper understanding of themselves and also feel a sense of connection to a larger significance, both in their personal and spiritual lives.

C. Persona

The term persona is derived from Latin and means face or mask. According to Jung (1968), Persona is the identity or image that an individual presents to the outside world in real life and literature. Every individual wears a mask that adjusts to their surroundings. Persona arises instinctively; each displays it differently, and the masks we exhibit to others are crafted to create a specific impression and conceal our genuine selves (Braga, 2016). Jung likened a persona to an actor using a mask to obscure their face during a theatrical performance. This persona represents a person's character that is on display in the world, and it exists within our subconscious while being recognized by society. The persona acts as a mask to hide our authentic character. Our true character resides in our shadow. As the saying

goes, do not focus solely on the outer appearance but consider the inner self (Hardanto et al., 2019).

While personas play an essential role in shaping human identity, avoiding overdoing the public image by presenting the whole self is important. If we are too aligned with our persona, we risk losing our individuality and hindering the journey toward self-realization. It is important to recognize the importance of others. However, over-identification with a persona can lead to a disconnect from the authentic self and a continued dependence on the expectations of those around us. Jung argued that humans must balance external demands and the authentic self to maintain psychological well-being. Neglecting one's individuality will reduce one's value in society (Feist & Feist, 2013).

The persona acts as part of the ego, embodying aspects that relate to the external world (Singer, 1994). Personas are not authentic; they signify a balance between the individual and society's expectations regarding appropriate behavior. Personas are important because "they complete the individual in such a way as to enable the beholder to gain a clear perception of the person's character" (Singer, 1994). However, beyond personas, there is a hidden side of our personality that we do not consciously share with others, which can be called "shadow." Cultural norms, societal values, and the impact of the community influence persona.

Persona also intricately defines the relationship between human consciousness and societal goals. Generally, the persona is closely related to how a person behaves socially (Ryckman, 2007). Individuals use their personas to adapt and succeed under certain conditions. Personas are important as they allow us to

perform various life roles (Jafarzadeh, 2012). Jung stated that individuals are often willing to adopt different identities to meet societal expectations. The persona represents a complex interplay between personal awareness and societal influences; it essentially acts as a mask meant to create a specific perception among others while simultaneously hiding the individual's authentic self (Jung, 1966). Personas are used to project a certain image to others, but they also hide a person's true self. As a result, if someone becomes too attached to their persona (such as always trying to appear strong, intelligent, or friendly), their personality may become inauthentic and potentially lead to internal conflicts. From the above explanation, it can be concluded that personas can influence an individual's character if they become too attached to their persona.

D. Shadow

According to Jung (1968), shadow is the unconscious mind, including weakness, deficiency or distress. The shadow is the dark side of an individual's personality, which is not consciously acknowledged, rejected or recognized. When individuals present themselves to the outside world, the unconscious part of their personality exists. The shadow embodies the archetype of darkness associated with the qualities it represses and tries to hide from others (Utami, 2015). Shadows represent aspects of personality that reside in the unconscious—the part of the mind that lies outside an individual's conscious awareness. The unconscious functions as a psychological space where experiences, impulses, and emotions that are not acknowledged by the individual are stored, including painful memories, forbidden desires, and negative traits that conflict with the self-image one wishes to project.

The shadow is not merely a repository of “darkness,” but also contains elements of the self that are suppressed because they are considered contrary to personal social or ethical values.

In this context, Jung emphasizes that the shadow encompasses weaknesses, deficiency or distress. Weaknesses refer to aspects of the self that are considered weak or difficult to control, such as fear, vulnerability, or emotional dependence that is hidden from others. Deficiencies refer to moral, spiritual, or emotional inadequacies within a person, such as difficulty forming healthy relationships, lack of empathy, or a decline in human values. Distress captures painful internal experiences such as trauma, deep sadness, feelings of loss, and unresolved anger. As a result, the shadow serves as a dwelling place for parts of the self that the individual prefers not to confront consciously, and it is this rejection that gives the shadow significant influence over unconscious actions. Trauma, vengeful desires, and destructive tendencies are all part of this psychological shadow, and if left unaddressed or unintegrated, they can develop into destructive influences on a person's character. This shadow archetype encapsulates our true nature, keeps it hidden, and reflects an individual's authentic personality. This archetype generates insecurity and fear regarding the possibility that others might uncover our true character. The shadow often contrasts with societal expectations.

The shadow is instinctive and irrational but is not necessarily evil, even when it might appear to be so (Jung, 1968). It can be ruthless in conflict and empathetic in friendship. The shadow is significant as a source of premonitions, in understanding one's unexplained actions and attitudes (and the reactions of others),

and for learning how to accept and integrate the more problematic or disturbing aspects of one's personality. The concept of shadow archetypes pertains to the parts of ourselves that we often reject. The shadow embodies the most undesirable elements of our character that we prefer not to reveal. The method used to hide someone's shadow traits can be described as adopting a subconscious mask or persona that deceives others, including ourselves, about our genuine identity. The more extensive and dominant the persona, the more we connect with it, leading to the necessity of suppressing other important facets of our personality. This clear insight into consciousness aids in the reinforcement of our fragmented self-identity.

This shadow archetype can trigger unsettling thoughts, feelings, and actions typically frowned upon by society. The shadow embodies the most obscure and darkest elements of our personality, including various harmful and destructive characteristics such as sexual abuse, rage, envy, vengeance, and other unethical behaviors. In contrast, the individual's shadow often remains concealed. The shadow is a counterpoint to one's authentic self or identity (Ekaputri & Fanani, 2022). Jung indicated that shadow theory highlights a crucial aspect of individuals' mental wellness and illegal conduct. Naturally, the shadow can lead to effects that are not only harmful but also beneficial. The positive features of the shadow frequently arise during times of creativity and spontaneity (Ryckman, 2007). The shadow represents a moral dilemma that tests the entire ego-personality, as becoming aware of it requires significant moral effort. Acknowledging the shadow means recognizing the darker elements of one's personality as both existing and genuine (Jung & Hull, 1959). The shadow represents the hidden and dark aspects

of a person's personality. According to Jung's explanation, recognizing the existence of the shadow has a significant impact on the integrity and development of personality, because it directly challenges the ego and requires moral courage to face it. It can be concluded from the above explanation that the shadow can influence an individual's character or personality.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter describes the object and research methodologies, explains data collection and analysis methods, and provides information about the data sources used.

A. Research Design

This study employs a literary criticism to analyze the research data. Literary criticism is a branch of literary studies that evaluates literary works (Bardi et al., 2025). Furthermore, it also contributes to the broader analysis and interpretation of literature. This study aims to identify personas and shadow archetypes associated with the main characters in the novel. Therefore, literary criticism is suitable for this study to look deeper into the characters and interpret their behavior. This study uses a literary psychology approach to bridge between archetypes, discussing psychology and literature and uses Carl Jung's archetypes focusing on persona and shadow to understand the main character. Therefore, this approach is suitable for answering the research question about what influences the main characters' actions throughout the narrative.

B. Data Source

The main source of this research is the novel *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo (Bardugo, 2015). *Six of Crows* was first published in 2015. It was published in America by Henry Holt and Co. and has 5 chapters and 465 pages. The researcher

used the hard file (novel) version. The data is in the form of dialog and narrative text related to persona and shadow.

C. Data collection

The data collection process involves several interconnected steps. First, the researcher read the novel *Six of Crows* carefully to understand the plot, characters, and themes. During the reading, the researcher marks passages that illustrate the archetypal qualities of Persona and Shadow Kaz Brekker, including related dialog, actions, and descriptions. After marking, researchers record data related to the identified archetypes. These notes include direct quotes from the novel along with a preliminary analysis of how each archetype is represented in Kaz's character. Ultimately, the collected data be categorized according to their archetypes to assist the researcher in the following analysis stage.

D. Data Analysis

1. Processing the data that matches the characteristics of persona and shadow archetypes.
2. Analyze the data corresponding to the persona and shadow archetypes based on Carl Jung's theory.
3. Summarize the data based on Carl Jung's persona and shadow archetypes.

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the findings and discussion regarding the persona and shadow of the main character in Leigh Bardugo's novel *Six of Crows*. Its objective is to address the research questions posed in the prior section. The researcher examines Kaz Brekker's persona and shadow archetypes through the lens of Carl Jung's archetypes. Furthermore, the discussion explores how the persona and shadow influence Kaz Brekker's character in the story. It also includes evidence to support the analysis.

A. Persona of the main character

Leigh Bardugo's *Six of Crows* presents Kaz Brekker as a main character notable for his cleverness, determination, and status as Ketterdam's most feared criminal. As the head of the Dregs, Kaz has already won the respect and dread of Ketterdam's authorities, entrepreneurs, and criminals at an early age. He goes by the moniker "Dirtyhands," which represents his willingness to commit heinous and cruel deeds that others shun in order to accomplish their goals. Kaz grew up in the Ketterdam area, a booming city known for its illegal activities, business, and political intrigue. The area is rife with corruption, power struggles, and intrigue, and one's ability to survive, manipulate, and wield power is as important as one's financial standing. Kaz is shown to be ruthless as well as incredibly clever and perceptive in the harsh setting of Ketterdam. He learns to mask his emotions, avoid vulnerability, and construct a persona that can thrive in a brutal world.

While a persona serves to hide one's true identity, it has the function of representing how one presents oneself in front of others. In displaying this persona, Kaz presents himself as intelligent, perceptive and emotionally detached. From his persona, Kaz uses his manipulative nature with his ability to influence the way of thinking, actions and circumstances of people around him. Kaz is very good at keeping his emotions in check, utilizing his knowledge and insights for his plans to achieve his goals. But on the contrary, behind his intelligence, Kaz has a strategy that has been designed to achieve his goals and get rid of his rivals. Kaz also has a way of thinking to strategize plans to be carried out in the future, and estimate the results of his profits. However, behind the personality that Kaz shows above, he always keeps his distance from the people around him, his allies, including his team. He rarely displays his calm personality in public, so as not to appear vulnerable.

The researcher analyze Kaz Brekker's persona and shadow forms displayed through dialogue, narrative determination and some relevant actions in the story. In this analysis, we focus on Kaz's manipulative, intelligent and cold persona.

1. Manipulative

Kaz Brekker is not just another criminal or the head of a gang of thieves who relies solely on force and hostility. He is a master tactician who uses his sharp mind, carefully controlled emotions, and exceptional skills to understand individuals and situations. Instead of using physical threats or overt intimidation, Kaz manipulates people by using subtle body language, tone of voice, controlled politeness or purposeful rudeness, and expertly crafted facial expressions. One of

his biggest advantages in Ketterdam's criminal underworld is the character he creates to conceal his genuine intentions. In this way, it is evident that Kaz's manipulation goes beyond straightforward verbal deceit; it entails establishing a façade of control that leads people to feel in charge of the situation when, in fact, they are being affected by Kaz's authority.

Kaz brekker has a calm, firm and wise nature in making plans and shows his ability to assess the situation and influence people around him who see him by using his cunning character. In the conversation below, Kaz politely answers and accepts Per Haskell's offer. However, the answer is not a sign of Kaz's obedience, but rather it is Kaz's way and tactic to reject the assumption of his true intentions. Kaz's polite attitude aims to be seen as an obedient person. But, on the contrary, he has a plan that is not the same as his interlocutor. With his obedient attitude, he gives a good impression to Per Haskell, from his attitude he can deceive others who make them submit and do very good manipulation. For Kaz, the nature and attitude of the persona form helps him in forming a shield against his past wounds and to maintain his reputation.

This becomes evident in the dialogue when Inej recognizes that Kaz's looks indicate social manipulation instead of merely being a style choice:

“You’re smart, Brekker, but you need to learn patience.” “Yes, sir.” The old man barked a laugh. “Yes, sir. No, sir,” he mocked. “I know you’re up to something when you start getting polite.” (Six of Crows, p.55)

Kaz's initial reply, "Yes, sir," appears to be courteous and compliant, but within the context of their discussion, it signals to Per Haskell that Kaz is planning something. After thinking about it, Per Haskell realized that Kaz's obedient and polite nature was just a way to hide a plan. From the sentence "I know you're up to something when you start getting polite" it can be concluded that Kaz's unusual nature and attitude indicate that there is something or a plan behind it, and if the plan happens then there will be trouble coming. This indicates that Kaz possesses a deep understanding of the psychology of those he interacts with. He is aware that his typically blunt and rude attitude would raise red flags if he suddenly became polite. Thus, he employed the shift in demeanor as a diversion. In doing so, he manipulates the dynamics of the interaction, allowing the other person to feel in command while he orchestrates everything behind the scenes.

Kaz's tactic of manipulation is particularly potent because he avoids using direct threats or coercion. Instead, he allows the other person to sense they are in charge, which prevents alarm. This also highlights that Kaz is not just intellectually astute, but also emotionally and socially savvy. He skillfully knows when to yield and when to strike, executing both actions with remarkable precision. Furthermore, Kaz's manipulation extends beyond mere language; it also encompasses non-verbal cues and facial expressions. Per Haskell's "barked a laugh" indicates that he is well-acquainted with Kaz, enough to recognize that the display of politeness is a strategy. This underscores that Kaz's manipulative behavior is not unfamiliar or unexpected; it is a habitual pattern, though often challenging to anticipate. Through the short exchange in the aforementioned quote, it becomes evident that Kaz Brekker

demonstrates his cleverness in wielding politeness as a manipulation device. Rather than simply feigning humility, Kaz succeeds in fabricating an illusion of control that makes the other person feel superior, while in reality, they are subtly led to where Kaz intends for them to go. This characteristic makes Kaz one of the interesting characters by carrying out criminal actions that are coated with adventure, through words that attract attention and are polite, making him not have physical conflicts with anyone, he can win the fight in a harmless way.

Kaz Brekker represents his commanding and shrewd character by portraying himself as the ruler of human cravings, particularly greed, while also showcasing his distinctive ability to sway the feelings and convictions of others, guaranteeing that he retains power. Inej says “Greed is your god, Kaz” which shows that Kaz is driven by greed and thirst for power making it an important point. Kaz refutes Inej’s statement and explains how Kaz views the tendencies of those around him.

“Greed is your god, Kaz.” He almost laughed at that. “No, Inej. Greed bows to me. It is my servant and my lever” (Six of Crows, p.34)

Kaz shows that he has changed to his self-interested enemy as explained earlier, by making greed and avarice as a tool used to influence the environment around him. This shows a metaphor that shows how Kaz controls himself and his desires. He can carry a heavy burden using greed as his cleric tool. This also highlights Kaz’s ability to control situations on a broader scale; he understands human behavior and nature, the way they act and how to exploit this insight. While greed can change a person, Kaz chooses to control it. In addition to controlling his

own desires, he also understands how to exploit the desires of others to help strengthen his position. This reflects a uniquely sophisticated and philosophical method of manipulation, making him someone who clearly understands interpersonal psychology as well as being strategically savvy. Not only that, but Kaz's influence goes beyond in-depth conversations or discussions. He demonstrates authority in more sophisticated and practical ways, such as providing Jesper with tools that help him stay focused and engaged in the activities he is doing. In this context, Kaz ensures that his team has good emotional awareness and mental readiness.

"You look exhausted. Will you sleep at all tonight?" Jesper just winked. "Not while the cards are hot. Stay and play a bit. Kaz will stake you." (Six of Crows, p.53)

The words "Kaz will stake you" have two connotations. Though a closer look reveals the hierarchy Kaz has established inside his gang, initially it seems to be lighthearted conversation among close friends. Apart from his official leadership obligations, he also makes sure his colleagues feel comfortable and safe. Kaz gives card capital to Jesper, so supporting him both financially and emotionally. Kaz also knows that physical and psychological challenges might hinder performance. He advises rest to underline that the momentum is still positive and indirectly suggests a rule of "no sleep tonight" since "the cards are still hot." This shows a rather efficient approach to simultaneously maintain discipline and team spirit.

Kaz actively seeks to establish connection, trust, and understanding rather than imposing his will on others. This behavior greatly affects Kaz Brekker's

reputation as a very gifted manipulator—in theory and in fact. Real leadership requires the capacity to understand and influence people, not only have a great plan. Two instances of this are his belief that wealth benefits him and his capacity to keep the team motivated and involved in an apparently casual but purposeful manner. Kaz Brekker shows a rare mix of emotional and intellectual intelligence, proving he is not only a master manipulator but also an artist who draws influence from personal relationships.

2. Intelligent

The earlier debate is essential in underlining Kaz Brekker's role as a clever manipulator in theory and reality. Good leadership calls for not only solid plans but also the ability to understand and affect others. Kaz best illustrates this by claiming to profit from greed and then applying apparently straightforward but deliberate tactics to keep the team driven and focused. Kaz Brekker shows that he is not only a master manipulator but also an artist who finds strength in relationships with others by his special mix of emotional and intellectual clarity. Apart from being a great adversary or charismatic leader, Kaz Brekker is said to have exceptional genius in the spheres of intellect, emotion, and strategy. His intelligence is shown by his ability to create complex plans and effectively run his team. But what really sets him apart is his great awareness of people, which enables him to take advantage of every contact, feeling, and subtlety to obtain a tactical advantage.

Kaz has a calm yet very effective manner that suggests his intelligence consists in both cunning and sharp awareness of his surroundings.

Kaz Brekker distinguishes himself among the characters in the story by proving his capacity to read people, control his emotions, and make logical decisions. Kaz's analysis of his social contacts amply illustrates his intelligence. Unlike using physical force or overt threats, he uses more subdued techniques, exerting the necessary psychological pressure at the ideal moment and in the appropriate environment.

"You see, every man is a safe, a vault of secrets and longings. Now, there are those who take the brute's way, but I prefer a gentler approach—the right pressure applied at the right moment, in the right place. It's a delicate thing." (Six of Crows, p.39)

Kaz views his interactions with other people in these exchanges as artistic creations rather than hostile acts. He sees people not only as distinct individuals but also as a collection of flaws, aspirations, and secrets that could be altered with the correct strategy. This demonstrates an advanced form of analytical intelligence; he is able to identify psychological patterns in addition to understanding individuals. The phrase "the right pressure" suggests that Kaz is cognizant of the situation.

He knows when to apply pressure, exercise patience, and take action. This ability plays a crucial role in his achievements in the criminal arena, where information is extremely valuable. Kaz steers clear of torture and costly measures to reach his objectives; by grasping the nature of his conversants, he can penetrate their defenses while still being polite. Furthermore, this perspective emphasizes Kaz's belief that intelligence is his greatest strength, which he has honed into a precise instrument. His awareness of his own intelligence heightens his threat. Not only does Kaz possess strong psychological and emotional intelligence, but he also

shows considerable practical and tactical intelligence when faced with big decisions, such as taking on dangerous missions that offer great rewards. While his choices may seem impulsive, they are actually based on thorough analysis.

“Thirty million krugr.”

Van Eck nodded. “Thirty. The deal is the deal.”

“The deal is the deal,” Kaz said. They shook.” (Six of Crows, p.50)

Kaz’s choice to take on the assignment which was highly risky and had never been successfully completed by anyone showed that he was not only intellectually astute but also adept in practical and tactical matters. He understood the significance of money while recognizing the need for calculated risks. Beneath his succinct remark lies a complicated reasoning: he evaluates the chance of success, gauges the possible loss, and weighs all alternatives before presenting a clear statement: “A deal is a deal.”

This type of intelligence is both practical and applicable. Kaz avoids getting bogged down by idealism or emotional issues. He focuses directly on the essential points and bases his decisions on facts, experience, and sharp instincts. The capacity to analyze complex information quickly and arrive at the right conclusion is a hallmark of practical intelligence and Kaz excels in this area. Through the different interactions and choices analyzed above, Kaz Brekker demonstrates that his intelligence is not solely intellectual but also deeply emotional, although he rarely reveals either side. With his knack for deciphering people as if they were safes awaiting a code to unlock, his strategic use of emotions to exert influence, and his seemingly impulsive yet highly calculated decisions, Kaz showcases his intelligence in every facet. He is not only a strategist but also an astute observer of

human behavior, which is what renders him such a chilling, captivating, and unforgettable character in the narrative.

In Ketterdam's criminal landscape, intellect is the most prized commodity, and no one wields it better than Kaz Brekker to shape reality to his advantage. In *Six of Crows*, there is a reference to one of the initial instances in which Kaz starts to formulate a complex plan that will serve as the cornerstone of their grand scheme during the operation in Fjerda. This incident demonstrates Kaz's fortitude and mental toughness as well as his capacity to reason much beyond what most people would consider to be the norm. By combining lying, perception manipulation, and shrewd cooperation, Kaz created a situation that was so plausible that even his enemies had no reason to question its veracity.

Kaz Brekker showcased his cleverness by crafting an elaborate disguise plan and utilizing Nina's talent for creating fake injuries to make it seem like Muzzen had been injured. This illustrates his ability to harness creativity and teamwork to produce scenarios that have a significant psychological and visual impact. Kaz's ability to turn reality into a fiction is one of his most unique strategies. Kaz uses the more ethereal yet potent domain of perception and belief to influence others when money or threats are ineffective. Here, without resorting to violence, he attempted to persuade the Fjerdan sailors that Muzzen had suffered torture as a result of his unlawful activities. This method employed Grisha's skill, especially Nina Zenik's, to create the appearance of harm.

“He scrunched up his face, bracing for the pain. “I can take it.” She rolled her eyes, then lifted her hands, concentrating. With a sharp

slice of her right hand over her left, she snapped Muzzen's ribs." (Six of Crows, p.85)

At first glance, this scene might appear straightforward, yet a closer examination uncovers Kaz Brekker's remarkable intellect. Initially, Kaz realizes that participating in real physical violence will create evidence that is hard to conceal and may endanger the mission. Nevertheless, to convince the Fjerdan sailors that Muzzen had faced "punishment," credible physical evidence was required. This is where Kaz leverages Nina's Heartrender abilities, not to heal, but to create a convincing illusion of an injury that feels genuine. Kaz possesses a keen understanding of the human body as well as the brain's response to pain and trauma. He realized that with appropriate facial expressions, body language, and reflexive actions, Muzzen could be made to believe he was genuinely injured, while the onlookers would also be persuaded that retribution had already occurred. This demonstrates a multifaceted form of intelligence that combines analytical, emotional, and practical skills.

Furthermore, Kaz exhibited an impressive capacity to construct a narrative that would resonate with his target audience of Fjerdan sailors. He knew they would be looking for evidence of violence, so he designed them that way. The belief in it is what matters, not whether it is real or just a myth. Kaz's genius is not in reality, but in his desire for believe. This situation also illustrates Kaz's keen insight into the strengths and shortcomings of his teammates. He acknowledges Nina's capabilities and trusts that she can execute the strategy successfully. This further showcases Kaz's social and leadership qualities, as he possesses not only

intelligence but also the ability to harness the potential of his entire team. Kaz Brekker distinctly positions himself as an exceptionally astute individual, merging tactical, emotional, and intellectual aspects with his meticulously crafted disguise methods. He weaves a narrative so engaging that it holds the ability to mislead anyone by blending deception, manipulation of perception, and a profound comprehension of human psychology. This transcends mere logical reasoning, representing a distinctive fusion of creative and practical ingenuity that characterizes Kaz Brekker as the main character in this story.

3. Indifferent (ignorant)

One of the most fascinating aspects of Kaz Brekker's persona in *Six of Crows* is his capacity to maintain composure under pressure, even in intensely emotional circumstances. According to the investigation, Kaz developed a thick wall between himself and the outside world as a result of major changes brought on by prior trauma, which also shows that this manner is an intrinsic feature. By hiding signs of emotional sensitivity like melancholy, empathy, or compassion, Kaz uses his composure as his main weapon. This tactic not only shields him from other people's suffering but also ensures that he never shows his own frailties. Kaz Brekker embodies a self-assured and distant character that he purposefully created after experiencing a life-altering experience that caused him to avoid all forms of emotional vulnerability, such as sadness and relationships.

One of the most moving and essential elements of Kaz's icy personality ties back to his past. In this conversation, exploring Kaz's feelings and thoughts shows

that he is not fundamentally unemotional; instead, he became this way because of harsh and traumatic life events. This forms the foundation for Kaz's character growth, shaping him into an individual who is entirely rational, disciplined, and avoids displaying any signs of weakness.

“The child he’d been had died of firepox. The fever had burned away every gentle thing inside him. Survival wasn’t nearly as hard as he’d thought once he left decency behind.” (Six of Crows, p.274)

This statement powerfully illustrates Kaz’s transformation. He not only forfeited his childhood due to illness but also experienced the “death” of all that was gentle within him. Phrases such as “burned away” and “left decency behind” indicate that this change was neither natural nor easy, but rather a deliberate choice to survive in an extreme manner by suppressing all empathy and vulnerable feelings that could expose him to enemy attacks. Kaz's frigid demeanor is the outcome of a resolute decision to refrain from feeling anything that might render him weak. In the harsh and brutal criminal environment of Ketterdam, Kaz opted to become an unyielding rock, unaffected by either wind or storm. He no longer permits himself to experience pain, sadness, or hope from any emotion that could leave him open to vulnerability. It forms a highly intricate mental defense, constructed from trauma and life experiences that mold him into the individual recognized as Kaz Brekker, the cunning manipulator and leader who conceals his true self.

Nevertheless, this detached demeanor is not merely a relic of the past; it is consistently manifested in Kaz's everyday existence, particularly in his dealings with his former allies. A striking example arises when Kaz faces Haskell, the ex-

leader of the Dregs gang, who is upset about the demise of one of their members, Big Bolliger, who had previously been part of Kaz's group.

*"I don't like it, boy. Big Bolliger was my soldier, not yours."
"Of course," Kaz said, but they both knew it was a lie.
Haskell's Dregs were old guard, con men and crooks from another time. Bolliger had been one of Kaz's crew—new blood, young and unafraid. Maybe too unafraid." (Six of Crows, p.55)*

This moment truly tests how effectively Kaz has constructed his detached persona. Despite Bolliger being one of the "new blood" as his loyal and courageous subordinate, Kaz displays no sorrow over his demise. He calmly concurs with Haskell's assertion, even though they both understand it to be untrue. This reaction is not merely a defensive stance or a political tactic, but an outright denial to exhibit emotion in response to the death of someone he once held dear. Kaz not only mastered his self-control but also distanced himself from typical emotional reactions. He was aware that showing sadness or concern could be seen as a sign of weakness by those he interacted with. Therefore, he opts for silence, maintains an expressionless demeanor, and even tells lies without hesitation. This showcases his complex emotional intelligence, as he comprehends that emotions exist but strategically decides not to convey them. Additionally, this conversation further illustrates that Kaz maintains a rigid internal hierarchy in his interactions with others. He divides the individuals in his life into two groups: "old guard" and "new blood," and even within the latter, he often refrains from developing deep connections. Kaz employs this approach as a means of self-protection: he prioritizes establishing professional relationships over personal ones, which shields him from the sorrow of loss that could distract him from his goals.

Kaz Brekker's hesitance to offer convincing assertions, establish unrealistic hopes, or deliver the emotional backing usually given by friends and leaders is a crucial characteristic to recognize in his personality. The relationship between Kaz and Inej illustrates this dynamic, demonstrating how Kaz's strength acts as both a shield and a means to bond with others. Kaz decides to provide the straightforward, genuine truth instead of offering empty promises. This lays the groundwork for a strong trust between Kaz and Inej, although some may perceive it as indifference. When Kaz Brekker converses with Inej, he reveals a pragmatic and emotionally detached nature by denying to offer misleading assurances of joy or safety, emphasizing that he values the harsh truth over the fantasies linked to his carefully constructed persona. Crucial instances in their talks arise when they touch on delicate and intimate topics. In a confusing and ambiguous scenario, Inej finds it difficult to determine whether Kaz is genuinely being honest or merely deceiving her. However, Kaz's answer is not meant to reassure her with kind words or lofty assurances. Rather, he gently and firmly underlined her worries.

This isn't ... it isn't a trick, is it?" Her voice was smaller than she wanted it to be.

The shadow of something dark moved across Kaz's face.

"If it were a trick, I'd promise you safety. I'd offer you happiness. I don't know if that exists in the Barrel, but you'll find none of it with me." For some reason, those words had comforted her. Better terrible truths than kind lies." (Six of Crows, p.269)

This conversation marks a significant shift in the relationship between Kaz and Inej. At first glance, Kaz's reply might come across as not just emotionally distant, but potentially disrespectful. When Inej inquires if this is a deception, common reasoning would suggest that Kaz should promptly reject the idea and

provide reassurances of his trustworthiness. However, Kaz does something quite unexpected; he doesn't dismiss the possibility of it being a trick, but instead, describes how such a deception would feel if it were real, coupled with promises of salvation and happiness.

This illustrates Kaz's detached demeanor, as he doesn't require others' approval, has no need to make anyone feel at ease, and never pretends to be someone else. He refrains from using emotions as a manipulative tactic, unlike many antagonists. Rather, he eliminates them so they do not hinder his objectives. In this scenario, Kaz presents himself as a keeper of truth, rather than a guardian or a savior. What's intriguing is Inej's response after hearing Kaz's words. Even though Kaz's comments may seem harsh and heartless, Inej feels safe. In his discourse with Inej, Kaz Brekker exemplifies the authentic power underlying his composed exterior, which signifies emotional detachment and a steadfast commitment to forthrightness, even in the face of discomfort. By eschewing insincere assertions regarding joy or emancipation, Kaz cultivates a degree of trust that transcends mere civility. Inej experiences a sense of security not due to Kaz exhibiting his allegiance, but rather because she comprehends that, within a milieu replete with deceit and subterfuge, she is confronting the truth with a genuineness that epitomizes the most profound form of affection that Kaz Brekker is capable of offering.

B. Shadow of the main character

Kaz's sibling, Jordie, succumbed to the plague subsequent to their deception and abandonment, which necessitated their survival on the streets, ultimately

inflicting profound psychological trauma upon him. The present disposition of Kaz has been significantly shaped by this calamitous event. Alongside the loss of his closest companion, he was also compelled to witness his brother's demise while being surrounded by the deceased. His pervasive resentment and apprehension regarding the establishment of emotional relationships and engaging in sexual activities are rooted in this unresolved tragedy that lies deeply embedded within him.

Another essential component of Shadow Kaz is the desire for vengeance. He seeks vengeance rather than justice. His hatred for those who destroyed his family drives the drastic decisions he makes. Additionally, the guilt stemming from Jordie's death continues to torment him. Even though he was very young when the tragedy took place, Kaz bears the burden of a younger brother who believes he failed to safeguard his sibling. According to Carl Gustav Jung, the shadow represents one of the archetypes within the human psyche, embodying the darker aspects of one's personality that are frequently suppressed, denied, or remain unconscious. The shadow holds painful feelings and experiences, destructive urges, and aspects of the self that do not align with the idealized persona the individual has created. In Kaz Brekker, this shadow manifests as profound trauma, desires for revenge, and unvoiced feelings of guilt.

1. Trauma and the desire for revenge

Kaz Brekker's shadow side reflects the deepest, darkest part of his psyche that presents wounds, fears, and unconscious urges that he suppresses in his daily life. In Carl Jung's theory, a shadow is a hidden aspect of ourselves that often

contains sides deemed inappropriate, irrational, or dangerous by consciousness. For Kaz, his shadow was primarily shaped by childhood trauma and the tragic loss of his brother, Jordie.

One quote that illustrates the trauma and revenge of Kaz's shadow appears at this moment:

"Touching the bare flesh of his ankles had filled Kaz with revulsion. He kept seeing the white bodies of the Reaper's Barge, feeling the ripe bloat of Jordie's skin beneath his hands." (Six of Crows, p.275)

This quote refers to Kaz's initial traumatizing experience of having to touch his own brother's corpse after the outbreak. The moment not only left emotional scars but also created a physical trauma so intense that he was no longer able to touch human skin directly without disgust and panic. According to Jung, this is a direct representation of shadow, a painful experience that is suppressed but still appears in symptoms or avoidance, such as the gloves he always wears. Kaz's shadow also contains a desire for revenge against Pekka Rollins, the person he holds responsible for Jordie's death. This impulse becomes a dark "fuel" that drives many of Kaz's decisions, from building up Dirtyhands reputation to forming a premeditated long-term plan to destroy Rollins. The shadow is not just about hatred; it also contains distrust, a sense of lost identity, and a need to control the environment in response to past powerlessness. As such, Kaz's shadow is not just a separate element of his personality but an unconscious force that continues to shadow and shape his actions. He lives with unhealed wounds and turns them into control, violence, and suspicion of the world. Kaz's survival is improved by this shadow, but his ability to love and trust is also hampered. Kaz Brekker is depicted as profoundly reserved, emotionally

detached, and ostensibly devoid of feelings within the narrative of *Six of Crows*. Nevertheless, beneath his composed exterior lies a complex interplay of anguish that has profoundly influenced his identity. Kaz's emotional defenses begin to exhibit subtle fractures, predominantly manifested through flashbacks to earlier experiences, interruptions in his dialogues with his brother, and a fleeting acknowledgment of Jordie's absence. This trauma transcends mere historical injury. But, instead a “shadow” that persists, affecting his every decision, his relationships with others, and how he leads his life.

Kaz Brekker's relationship with his sibling, Jordie, alongside the distressing recollections that emerge unpredictably, signifies his psychological scars, suggesting that notwithstanding his attempts to disregard them, his history continues to exert a significant influence on his present. The muted journey home shared by Kaz and Jordie represents a critical juncture in their discourse. The weight of the emotions they bore was clearly portrayed, even though they were silent. This ostensibly ordinary occurrence offers a profound understanding of how trauma can endure, even when it is not verbally recognized.

“Kaz and Jordie said nothing to each other, not on the walk home or as they climbed the stairs to their little room in the boarding house. They sat in the growing gloom for a long time. Voices floated back to them from the canal below as people went about their evening business.” (Six of Crows, p.185)

This scene is impactful because it employs the absence of sound as a representation of unexpressed sorrow. Kaz and Jordie don't need words to demonstrate that an event has occurred; their silence effectively communicates a sense of grief, hopelessness, or even apprehension about the future. The

environment literally becomes darker as night approaches, serving as a potent visual metaphor for how trauma has infiltrated their hearts like an inescapable night mist. Furthermore, the loud sounds from the canal below them highlight the contrast between the ongoing outside world and the internal lives of the two orphans, which have come to a halt. This vividly illustrates the emotional isolation that trauma survivors often feel; while others continue with their day-to-day activities, they remain ensnared in a perpetual cycle of suffering. Even though the narrative does not provide explicit details about what transpired with Jordie, this wordless exchange is sufficient for the reader to understand that Kaz's bond with his brother is central to his identity today. The trauma has yet to be fully disclosed, but its remnants are already being sensed.

Kaz's troubled history is reflected not just in his exchanges with Jordie, but also emerges through vivid, significant recollections. Amidst major plans and team relationships, Kaz unexpectedly recalls seemingly simple moments that hold deep significance for him, memories that demonstrate that despite his efforts to move on, the past remains very much present in his thoughts.

"Bright flashes of memory sparked through Kaz's mind. A cup of hot chocolate in his mittened hands, Jordie warning him to let it cool before he took a sip. Ink drying on the page as he'd signed the deed to the Crow Club." (Six of Crows, p.352)

Kaz's traumatic history is not only reflected in his interactions with Jordie, but it also emerges through vivid, significant memories that feel incredibly real. Amid major plans and team dynamics, Kaz is suddenly struck by simple memories that carry immense meaning for him, reminding him that despite his attempts to move on, the past remains ever-present in his thoughts. This recollection sharply

contrasts with Kaz's established persona of being cold, logical, and entirely rational; in this moment, we see a softer side of him as a child guided by his brother, who still cherishes the warmth of a cup of hot chocolate and the joy of togetherness. However, this memory is swiftly followed by the recollection of signing the club's documents, symbolizing the transition from childhood to the brutal and unforgiving reality of adulthood.

This serves as a clear illustration of how trauma operates within the human psyche, not only manifesting as intense flashes of fear or painful memories, but also through cherished memories that suddenly feel unreachable because a vital piece is missing. The remembrance of Jordie encompasses not just the loss of a brother, but also the loss of childhood, innocence, and faith in a fair world. Moreover, the mention of the business documents indicates that trauma never truly disappears. Even during productive and professional moments, Jordie's presence looms, reminding Kaz that no matter what successes he achieves, they cannot fill the void left by what was taken from him.

One of the most crucial moments in this chapter occurs when Kaz finally reveals some information about Jordie, though it's brief and in an unexpected situation. Inej, who is already quite close to him, is caught off guard by this spontaneous confession. This marks the moment when Kaz's buried trauma begins to surface, but he quickly shuts it down.

"Pekka Rollins killed my brother." He didn't have to see Inej's face to sense her shock. "You had a brother?" "I had a lot of things," he muttered." (Six of Crows, p.178)

This moment is essential for understanding Kaz's character. Until now, readers have only been able to speculate about his troubled past, but this time he offers a glimpse, albeit a small one. He names Pekka Rollins, his past adversary, as the individual accountable for his brother's death, emphasizing that his enduring resentment transcends monetary issues; it revolves around the loss of the most significant person in his life. Nonetheless, Kaz's following remark, "I have many things," indicates a common defensive response from him. Instead of elaborating on his story or expressing deeper emotions, he wraps up the discussion with a sarcastic and uninspired tone. This reaction illustrates a common coping mechanism among trauma survivors, where overwhelming feelings lead them to trivialize these emotions through humor, irony, or anxiety.

To Inej, this may appear as a rejection. However, it indicates that the trauma still lingers and Kaz has not fully faced it yet. The shadow continues to wield influence, and he is unable to integrate it into his current self. Amid the silence shared between the brothers, the painful fleeting recollection, and the brief recognition of Jordie's murder, this perspective reveals the lingering shadow of Kaz Brekker's trauma that still governs him. The past resurfaces via memories, fleeting interactions, and his defensive stance, despite his best attempts to repress and dismiss it. These shadows represent Kaz's past wounds as well as the core of his personality, which has been shaped by grief, resentment, and a strong will to live.

2. Revenge

Kaz Brekker's obsession with exacting revenge on Pekka Rollins exposes his sinister nature. This hatred isn't just a bad emotion Kaz has; it's the main driving force behind everything he does, especially the risky things he does for Van Eck. His desire for vengeance on Pekka Rollins drives all of his acts, despite his many efforts to defend them with rational arguments and financial goals. Kaz Brekker shows that his hatred for Pekka Rollins goes beyond just rage or resentment. It evolves into a profound obsession that hangs over him, becoming an overwhelming force that shapes all his strategies and choices as a means of revenge.

When Matthias, who is not very close to Kaz, understands that there are more important problems at stake than the professional quarrel between Kaz and Pekka Rollins, it is the clearest proof that Kaz's resentment goes beyond a basic grievance. This realization is significant because it emphasizes how, even to an outsider, Kaz and Pekka's relationship appears to be very personal and goes beyond simple rivalry.

“Matthias felt sure that Kaz Brekker hated Pekka Rollins, and it wasn't just because he'd blown up their ship and hired thugs to shoot at them. This had the feel of old wounds and bad blood.” (Six of Crows, p.158)

The narrative presents a persuasive external perspective on the dynamics of Kaz and Pekka's relationship. Matthias, who typically maintains an impartial stance and frequently harbors skepticism regarding the intentions of others, eventually comprehends that this particular situation encompasses far more than mere physical altercations or property destruction. He employs expressions such as "old wounds" and "dirty blood," which symbolize profound, unhealed traumas and fractured

relationships from the past. The narrative elucidates that Kaz's animosity originates from a history of unresolved emotional injuries in addition to contemporary incidents. Kaz endeavors to obscure his profound fury behind an impassive facade, yet those in his vicinity remain acutely aware of the burden of his animosity. This enduring aura is not entirely hidden; it emanates a tangible force that exerts a significant emotional toll on all individuals within its proximity.

Matthias sees things from the outside, but Kaz's inner monologue shows how deeply the resentment affects his goals and state of mind. In this passage, we glimpse Kaz's imagination as he envisions a future where Pekka Rollins approaches him in a diminished state, pleading for a favor, and Kaz holds the authority to either grant or deny it.

“One day Rollins would come to Kaz on his knees, begging for help. If Kaz managed this job for Van Eck, that day would come much sooner than he ever could have hoped. Brick by brick, I will destroy you.” (Six of Crows, p.62)

This vision is not simply a fanciful desire. It is a vivid and potent image, almost like a strategic blueprint. Kaz not only seeks to defeat Pekka but aims to obliterate her entirely, reducing her to a position where she must rely on him. This represents a symbolic form of revenge; he desires not just Pekka's demise or failure, but to occupy the core of that devastation. He longs to be the deity in Pekka's narrative, determining his enemy's fate with his own hands. The darker aspect of this situation is that Kaz understands that collaborating with Van Eck is the quickest route to realizing that ambition. In this case, wealth and stature are merely superficial justifications, with the underlying goal being personal vengeance. This

is a clear instance of the shadow overpowering the ego; Kaz believes he is acting logically, but in reality, he is driven by intense emotional impulses and lacks complete control.

However, the culmination of this ominous darkness comes when Kaz contemplates the possibility of Pekka being finished off by someone else-such as Fjerda's executor. Kaz's response to such a thought is truly shocking, as he would not be satisfied if it were not his own hands that carried out the retribution.

“If Pekka Rollins was put to death by some nameless Fjerdan executioner, then none of this would matter.” (Six of Crows, p.277)

The above narrative sentence is Kaz's most sincere admission of his thirst for revenge. It is not merely Pekka's death that matters to him, but the means, especially his involvement in it. Kaz does not just want Pekka to disappear from the face of the earth; he wants to be the main actor in her revenge. If Pekka dies without Kaz's direct involvement, all the risks and efforts he has taken will be in vain. This shows that Kaz's quest for revenge is more than just justice or retribution, it becomes a matter of pride and mastery. He needs to show that he is stronger, more cunning, and more powerful than Pekka. If there is no such validation, he fears that his identity as a leader, manipulator, and victim of Pekka's actions will never be completed.

This shadowy influence is powerful because it not only drives Kaz's actions, but also shapes the principles he values. For Kaz, success is not defined by wealth or status; it revolves around Pekka's downfall, and he is determined to be present when it happens. By analyzing Kaz's relationships with others, his internal

dialogue, and his thoughts on Pekka's death, it becomes clear that his hatred for Pekka Rollins is not just a part of Kaz's persona; it acts as the fundamental motivation that drives all his actions. This hatred from Kaz is not just an infatuation, it's a deep psychological need that allows him to feel that he is holding on to something following the death of his brother and his past. Though Kaz remains ignorant to the full extent of this shadow, it can be seen in every choice he makes on the course of the narrative.

3. Cruel

In In the dark, criminal underworld of Ketterdam, sympathy is often replaced by fear as the cornerstone of power. Kaz Brekker, the protagonist, is driven by scheming and manipulation to get one over on those around him, whom he regards more as tools than sentient beings with feelings or goals of their own, and to establish relationships based on tactical rather than purely emotional thinking. He had an especially dark part of him that causes unseen pain but is deeply felt in his perspective on other people as means to an end in the grand scheme. By considering individuals as tools to exercise control, manipulate, and, if need, change into heartless agents of cruelty, Kaz Brekker exposes his evil character rather than as friends or supporters. One pivotal moment that best captures this attitude is when Kaz acknowledges that he is “dependent” on Inej but quickly rejects the idea that he actually has faith in her. In a narrative filled with interconnected emotions, Kaz chooses to keep his distance, not because he lacks the capacity to feel, but due to a past trauma that makes him hesitant to accept vulnerability.

“Kaz gave an irritated shake of his head. To say he trusted Inej would be stretching the point, but he could admit to himself that he’d come to rely on her.” (Six of Crows, p.34)

This quote clearly demonstrates how Kaz builds relationships with others; he operates without trust, but depends on people. He protects his emotions but understands who he can trust. This method acts as a safeguard while also being a form of quiet cruelty, as he regards those near him as nothing but instruments, depriving them of their identity as individuals with feelings, aspirations, and weaknesses. For Inej, this confession might conceal a feeling of disappointment. For Kaz, this is a tactic to keep control that frees him from emotional ties that could hinder his objectives. The repercussions are more profound, establishing a setting where people nearby have only two options: to be worthy or not. This is a complicated type of psychological mistreatment that isn't executed through cruel words or bodily harm, but by refusing to acknowledge others as individuals with intrinsic worth.

Kaz's harshness extends beyond his personal connections. In a wider perspective, he regards the entire Dregs gang similarly, seeing them as beings to be dominated, influenced, and managed, while failing to acknowledge their deeper motivations or feelings. He not only has no trust in them; he also fails to create loyalty through emotional connections.

“Kaz relied on the fact that the Dregs were all murderers, thieves, and liars. He just had to make sure they didn’t make a habit of lying to him.” (Six of Crows, p.31)

This remark demonstrates Kaz's perspective on leadership. His teams were created not due to moral values or human connection, but rather through emotional distance: as they were all offenders, it was essential to structure who could mislead him. Though this perspective might appear illogical, it demonstrated great effectiveness in the criminal setting he lived in. From a psychological perspective, this represents a harsh type of cruelty. Kaz not only declined to build trust; he intentionally removed the chance for good faith to grow. He does not penalize dishonesty due to its moral implications, but because it disrupts his capacity to keep control. This serves as an evident instance of hidden manipulation, where a structure is created that compels others to act wrongly, either as victims when they oppose or as offenders when they agree. Additionally, the film highlights Kaz's past trauma that has influenced him to become a person who is wary of human kindness. If he believes that everyone is dishonest, he will work to be the best among them, necessitating the elimination of all vulnerabilities, such as empathy.

Through his connection with Inej and his role as the leader of the Dregs, this examination uncovers one of Kaz Brekker's most malevolent traits: a quiet ruthlessness, which surfaces not through physical violence, but in how he views others as mere pieces in the game he has orchestrated. Kaz not only distrusts others, but he also has difficulty viewing them as wholly human. In an already harsh and merciless world, this emotional detachment is what renders Kaz so fearsome; he doesn't have to cause pain directly to ruin someone, but merely acts as though they possess no emotions.

Kaz Brekker unveils his sinister nature as an emotional manipulator, employing his composure and quietude to evoke profound fear, illustrating that psychological torment can be much more frightening than physical harm. A key point in the chapter emerges when Inej understands the extent of Kaz's power, conveyed through a mere nod. The fear linked to Kaz arises not only from his position as the head of the Dregs gang but also from how he has shaped his character to appear calm, aloof, unpredictable, and nearly emotionless. This is what renders him so fearsome.

“Kaz wanted Rollins brought low. He wanted him to suffer the way Kaz had, the way Jordie had.” (Six of Crows, p.140)

The narrative above carries a profound symbolic significance. With just a glance and a slight nod from Kaz, Inej instantly experiences discomfort, as illustrated by the phrases “unease snaked through her” and “twisted into an anxious, rustling coil.” These metaphors involving snakes and knots depict a fear that doesn't burst forth abruptly, but instead subtly creeps in and resides within, causing ongoing emotional turmoil. Notably, the narrator describes Kaz as “the toughest, scariest thing walking the alleys of the Barrel” not for his physical might, but for being the most elusive and least compassionate individual. Even more unexpectedly, Inej depends on that fear. This presents a complex contradiction where the fear of Kaz becomes a basis for trust. His steadiness means he can always be relied upon not to exhibit vulnerability, which, in their world, equates to a type of strength.

This narrative not only illustrates Inej's fear but also reflects how Kaz molds his identity. He has risen to leadership not only because of his strategic skills but also due to his deliberate choice never to show weakness, even to those closest to

him. It's a form of psychological cruelty in which Kaz doesn't need to inflict harm directly to make others feel threatened. By merely being present, silent, and observant, he already instills a sense of insecurity in others. In the brief yet significant exchange between Kaz and Inej mentioned above, it becomes evident that Kaz's darker tendencies are not solely expressed through physical aggression, but also through his silence, composure, and the total mastery over how others perceive him. The dread he instills isn't a result of his direct actions, but rather from what he chooses to conceal. This is what rendered him so menacing. Kaz appears like a dreadful shadow, eternally haunting Ketterdam, and anyone who risks getting close to him will instantly sense a tension and fear in the air from just his stare.

C. The influence of persona and shadow on kaz brekker's personality

Kaz Brekker is a very complex character who has had a rough past and a difficult childhood, making him the way he is now: with a strong moral of survival against all odds in Ketterdam underworld. He is known to be a sharp-witted, sharp, distrusting leader. But the revenge that drives him is a very real source of pain, based on the loss of his brother, Jordie, and one that he can't seem to shake behind his rugged exterior. Kaz has built a cruel and impersonal public image known as Dirty Hands in order to insulate himself from overwhelming emotions and romantic connections. Because of this barrier, he is able to manage his circumstances, build a good reputation, and remove himself from others. At the same time, he employs harsh measures due to his regret and fear of betrayal.

1. Persona influence

Kaz's tactic for negotiating the difficult terrain of Ketterdam is his resolute and analytical approach to things. He adopts a serious and quiet posture to conceal his sensitive side. Kaz creates this identity in response to his circumstances, giving rise to his seemingly reasonable, aloof, and calculating exterior. This façade gives him social standing and psychological comfort, which is especially important in Ketterdam's difficult environment. Kaz's ability to control how people see and understand him is an important component of his personality, as the following quote makes plainly clear.

“The cane became a part of the myth he built. No one knew who he was. No one knew where he came from. He’d become Kaz Brekker, cripple and confidence man, bastard of the Barrel.” (Six of Crows, p.352)

This quote demonstrates that Kaz not only develops an identity for himself but also builds a particular legend. The stick he carries represents not just his injury, but also an aspect of his identity that he utilizes to inspire fear and garner respect. Essentially, Kaz's character acts as both a means of survival and a source of social power. He shapes others' perceptions of him as an erratic, threatening, and extremely clever person. This fosters a gap between him and the world around him, reinforcing his also seemingly crafty and controlling character.

Kaz further bolsters his persona by cultivating myths about himself, including the rationale behind the gloves he consistently wears:

*“Why do you wear the gloves, Mister Brekker?”
“Choose one,” Kaz replied as he slipped into the darkness. “They’re all sufficiently true.” (Six of Crows, p.50)*

Kaz sidesteps providing a definitive response to the inquiry, allowing the puzzle to develop. This is an astute strategy in persona creation: by allowing multiple interpretations, he enhances his influence over the story concerning himself. Her unclear reply demonstrates how Kaz employs imagery as a means of control. He develops a persona and integrates it into a larger strategy to influence and uphold his social status. In this effort, his clever and deceitful persona is strengthened, prompting him to predict others' actions and maintain the pretense that he has no weaknesses. Moreover, Kaz uses the alias Dirtyhands to conceal his real intentions. He wants people to believe that his motivations stem from monetary benefits, image, or commercial opportunities—when, in truth, the primary influence behind his choices is rooted in profound personal resentments and fixations.

“I create opportunity.”

“A bawd and a murderer—”

“I don’t run whores, and I kill for a cause.”

“And what cause is that?” “Same as yours, merch. Profit” (Six of crows, p.38)

This dialogue illustrates how adept Kaz is at using language to craft an image of a pure opportunist. Instead of directly denying negative claims, he opts to provide logical and objective responses, allowing the listener to feel that he can be trusted due to his defined principles. In truth, those principles serve merely as a facade for a more sinister agenda. This exemplifies how the 'Dirty Hands' persona bolsters his identity as a master deceiver: there’s no need for him to lie outright; he simply selects his words carefully to make falsehoods appear truthful. This persona is what renders Kaz unpredictable and ensures he remains one step ahead.

In addition to being a medium of communication, it represents Kaz's vision of the world as a transactional one in which everything, including trust and lives, is exchangeable. He protects himself from vulnerability by portraying himself as a predator, ensuring that he is never mistaken for prey. Kaz also has a smart communication style when he speaks. He does not attempt to conceal the fact that he has participated in hostile behavior. Instead, he portrays these actions as rationally motivated. By doing so, he shows himself as objective and capable, two qualities that contribute to his reputation as a cool-headed yet dependable criminal boss. Kaz's characterization as a result of Barrel's abusive childhood characterizes his personality. In addition to admitting his roots, he cherishes them as an important part of who he is, distinguishing him from others. This method not only assists in building emotional distance but also underlines that he has a better awareness of the world's tough truths than anybody else.

"You're from the suburbs, aren't you, Geels? Came to the city to try your luck?" He smoothed his lapel with one gloved hand. "Well, I'm the kind of bastard they only manufacture in the Barrel." (Six of Crows, p.28)

The narrative above serves not only as a satire for others but also as a means for Kaz to highlight his identity as a product of a cruel and unforgiving world. When he asserts that only children like him can emerge from the Barrel, he reveals that he is a result of a harsh environment. His survival is not due to sheer luck, but rather his quick thinking and instinct for survival. However, beneath that confident and somewhat arrogant exterior lies a more profound significance, which leads Kaz to view himself as a "monster", someone ill-suited for the normal world yet highly dangerous and effective in the shadows. He leverages his dark past to reinforce this

image so that people do not anticipate any softness or vulnerability from him. This allows him to maintain distance and shield himself from emotional harm. By shaping his carefully designed persona, which includes a cane that represents strength, his exact and intentional manner of speaking, and his proud recognition of his grim past, Kaz has succeeded in creating a version of himself that he is able to manage and showcase to others. This persona serves as a shield against previous trauma and a means to influence people around him. Ironically, the more he strengthens this persona, the further he separates from his authentic self.

2. Shadow influence

The Shadow embodies the unconscious aspects of an individual's personality, encompassing thoughts, emotions, and desires that are hidden or rejected because they are considered unsuitable for the public persona one portrays to others. In Kaz Brekker's instance, this Shadow comprises enduring trauma, deep-seated bitterness, marked self-centeredness, and a reluctance to express emotions. These characteristics come to the forefront through transactional encounters, obsessions with vengeance, and the suppression of feelings such as empathy and vulnerability. Since Kaz has not fully integrated this Shadow into his conscious identity, it continues to influence him, creating a false sense of power while hiding a fundamental fragility. Kaz Brekker's Shadow manifests as resentment, selfishness, and unresolved trauma, impacting many of his decisions as he attempts to conceal them with a detached and logical facade, leading to significant internal turmoil and making him a complex and tragic figure. A clear sign of Kaz's active Shadow appears when Nina Zenik realizes that even though he previously rescued and aided

her, his motivations were not selfless. He acts based on his conviction that Nina Zenik has prospective worth, which exemplifies Kaz's Shadow's transactional and self-serving mindset.

“Feeling anything for Kaz Brekker was the worst kind of foolishness. She knew that. But he’d been the one to rescue her; to see her potential. He’d bet on her, and that meant something—even if he’d done it for his own selfish reasons.” (Six of Crows, p.164)

This research sheds light on how Kaz's colleagues see their connection with him. They know that every act of kindness Kaz performs serves a hidden purpose, and he seldom does anything without them. However, this reality provides significance to all of his acts of charity. Despite his apparent self-centeredness, Kaz's actions had a significant impact on others; he demonstrated courage by believing in someone's abilities, providing aid, and extending trust.

This is a psychological reflection of Kaz's shadow self. He finds it difficult to openly show affection or concern, opting instead to convey it in a manner that seems unemotional or deliberate. He employs emotional connections as a way to exert control—providing a hint of hope while remaining distant. This tactic evolves into a complex defense mechanism, ultimately causing distress for those in his orbit, as they can never truly ascertain whether Kaz cares or is merely manipulating them. Shadow Kaz is also reflected in his perception of others, who he views not as individuals with emotions but rather as resources or liabilities. Often, before he even gets to know someone, Kaz quickly evaluates whether that person is worth "investing" in, disregarding their emotional or physical well-being. He assesses from a standpoint of utility rather than compassion.

“He recognized some of them. He’d hoped to recruit the Heartrender Nina Zenik at some point, but now she looked like she might not last out the month—all jutting bones, dark hollows, and trembling hands. Seemed he’d dodged a bad investment there.” (Six of Crows, p.401)

This statement clearly illustrates Kaz's detached and strategic nature. He perceives Nina not as a person in distress, but rather as a failed “investment.” If he was once intrigued by her potential due to her skills, now his interest wanes simply because he recognizes her vulnerabilities. This is the moment when Kaz's darker nature surfaces—a perspective that regards others not as individuals, but as mere instruments or resources. Beyond that, it also reveals how Kaz views himself. He has experienced his own lowest moments, feeling completely shattered and possibly once deemed worthless. Yet, he transformed himself into someone “worth investing in.” Consequently, he has little patience for those who haven't accomplished the same feat. In his view, life is unforgiving, and survival is reserved for the strong. Regrettably, Kaz remains fully committed to this belief system. The fact that Kaz muses over the ramifications of Pekka Rollins being killed by someone other than himself is among the most disturbing aspects of his eerie personality. This finding highlights Kaz's intense obsession with getting even. For him, seeking revenge has evolved into more than just an objective; it is now an essential component of who he is.

“Wasn’t this what he wanted? But he needed this. He’d fought for this. It wasn’t the way he’d imagined, but maybe it made no difference. If Pekka Rollins was put to death by some nameless Fjerdan executioner, then none of this would matter.” (Six of Crows, p.277)

In this narrative, Kaz's darker motivations are finally revealed: his primary ambition isn't wealth. Instead, what truly fuels him is his quest for vengeance for

his brother, Jordie's, death. Kaz is also compelled to exact this revenge on his own. For him, this has evolved into a strong emotional bond rather than merely an objective. However, he frequently uses logical defenses like prestige or money gain to conceal his genuine motivations. This exposes an underlying internal tension that is unnoticed by the person since it functions covertly from within. Although Kaz might think that his goals are primarily focused on strategy and financial gain, on a deeper level, he is seeking to regain the control and self-worth he lost after Jordie's passing. It is this inner turmoil that propels him, even if he is largely unaware of it and because of this, he remains susceptible to emotional upheaval that could strike at any moment. Through his conversations with Nina, his treatment of his team, and his thoughts regarding his feud with Pekka Rollins, chapter 4 explicitly illustrates how profoundly this inner struggle affects Kaz's existence. Ego, trauma, and unresolved obsession are some of the components of the shadow that propel her forward in spite of the emotional burden she carries. Outsiders perceive Kaz as strong and unflappable. However, in reality, he is the one most influenced by the wounds he conceals from himself. This complexity is what renders Kaz not only a compelling character but also a tragic and very relatable one in *Six of Crows*.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter includes a conclusion and recommendations. The conclusions are drawn from the data presented in the earlier chapter. Furthermore, this study offers advice for readers, particularly for future researchers who wish to explore topics using the same theoretical framework as this study.

A. Conclusion

The purpose of this research is to investigate Kaz Brekker's persona and shadow in Leigh Bardugo's *Six of Crows*. Using Carl Gustav Jung's archetype theory, this study shows how Kaz constructs a persona to protect himself from his tragic past and earns a solid reputation in Ketterdam's criminal underworld. His shadow, on the other hand, exhibits grief for his brother Jordie's death, hostility for Pekka Rollins, and difficulty articulating his thoughts. Kaz's personality is influenced by the combination of his ego and shadow, making him multifaceted, ambiguous, and neither entirely good nor terrible. Two facets of Kaz Brekker's identity are represented by his external persona and his inner darkness. The external image he projects to project strength, assertiveness, and dominance in a criminal setting is reflected in his persona. But underneath this exterior is his shadow, which is rife with suppressed feelings, anguish, and rage that constantly shapes his ideas and behavior. These two components make Kaz neither a clear-cut villain nor a hero, but rather an individual grappling with internal strife. He longs to survive while also desiring to heal from the wounds of his past. By analyzing his persona and shadow, we can gain a better insight into how traumatic events and difficult

situations mold Kaz's perspective, impact his choices, and influence his relationships with others.

B. Suggestion

In this research, the researcher only focuses on Persona and Shadow in the character of Kaz Brekker from the perspective of Jung's archetype theory, this study has several limitations that could be expanded upon in future research. Primarily, this analysis is centered on a single main character, Kaz Brekker. Future investigations are encouraged to explore other figures in *Six of Crows*, such as Inej, Jesper, or Nina, to gain a more comprehensive insight into the archetypal dynamics within the narrative. It is anticipated that this will serve as a useful reference for both casual readers and scholars in comprehending fictional characters through a psychological lens. This approach can enhance the appreciation of literature as a means of delving into the human psyche and providing novel insights into how trauma and personality shape individual behavior.

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