CHAPTER 3

Brynn's Conflict in These Things Hidden by Heather Gudenkauf

This chapter presents the results of research and discussion of the conflict in *These Things Hidden* by Heather Gudenkauf through the psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud. Here the writer analyzes about Brynn's character. Specifically the writer wants to make an analysis on the causes and the effect of her conflict and how she solve her problem. The cause of conflict is inability to convey the real problems, different treatment from her parents and her peer. Then the effect of conflict is self-hatred, hatred her sister, hard to forget the past events and lack of confident. And the end of the story, the way Brynn face the problem is Brynn commits suicide to pay her guilt.

Brynn's Character

Before going to the analysis, it is better to know about Brynn's character in *These Things Hidden* novel by Heather Gudenkauf.

1. Introvert

Closed personality is also shown by Brynn when she was fifteen and her sister was in jail, Brynn never told her problem that she experienced. She chose to keep silent land save her anger and change it to sadness.

"Brynn never got mad, ever. It was like she could store her anger in a little box until it got so full it had nowhere to go and it morphed into sadness." (Gudenkauf 14) From the statement above we can see that Brynn is an introvert for her private things and keeps her problem without telling it to her sister or the closest ones.

When her sister and grandma asked about how her condition was after her sister was in jail, Brynn always told them that she was fine. Even though everyone knew if Brynn is the most sad one. Her grandma as her closest one could not persuade Brynn so that she can tell her problem.

"No, she never talks about it," my grandma answers sadly. "I wish she would, though. At least with her doctor. Keeping things bottled up inside doesn't do anyone any good. I'll tell her you called, Allison. You take care of yourself, okay?" (Gudenkauf 130)

From the statement above we can see that even though Brynn goes to the session with her doctor, she still does not tell anything about her problem that she had.

2. Strange

Brynn is a simple girl who has curly brown hair. She is quiet different with her sister who has almost perfect looks. When she was young, Brynn tends to act differently as no other people. She did strange thing such as plucking the fine, dark hair from her arms one by one until the skin was red and raw, "Whenever Brynn's hand moved toward her face, our mother's hand would fly out and slap it away. "Do you want to look strange, Brynn?" she would ask. "Is that what you want? For all the other little girls to laugh at you?" (Gudenkauf 14). From the statements above we can see that her mother treated Brynn roughly. When the children make mistakes parents

should not slap their children, because at that time Brynn was still small, she did not realize that the act was hurting herself.

Her family often reminded Brynn not to do that strange attitude again. But she always found another way to punish herself. She bit her nails until nothing left, she bit her inside cheek, scratched and picked at sores and scabs until they festered.

"I always knew I was a little different from the other kids, but I never thought I was *strange* until my mother said this. I started looking at myself in the mirror to see if I could see the oddness that others saw in me." (Gudenkauf 17)

From the statement above, Brynn starts to realize if her attitude is so peculiar for people around her. Another thing that is done by Brynn when she was young is she likes to collect a small solid soap when her father went to business matter. She always brought that soap in pouch and pretends as if she was giving a piece of cheese. And she named it Mousie, and she brought it everywhere. "I do remember. So stupid when I look back, but Mousie was the closest thing to a pet that I ever had when I lived at home." (Gudenkauf 184). From the statement above we can see that when Brynn was a child, she was doing peculiar things.

3. Unconfident

Having a sister who has almost perfect looks and loved by many people especially in school makes Brynn becomes lack of confident. Her sister is an amazing person whom Brynn has. Her sister is clever, athletic, popular, and beautiful.

Meanwhile Brynn herself is short and there is nothing special on her. "I wasn't the perfect girl like she was, and I never will be." (Gudenkauf 24). From the statement

above Brynn considers herself as unconfident person and thinks that she is not able to do like her sister.

Her sister's perfection feels that she does not deserve to be compared with her sister. Her sister always protects Brynn if she is in school, this situation makes Brynn feel less confident with her sister. Brynn's unconfidence is as quoted below:

I was always the one who needed my sister, the one who needed protection from neighborhood kids, my parents, teachers. Myself. And she never, ever let me forget it. It had been so long since she'd helped me willingly. No, there was always eye rolling, big sighs and shakes of the head. It's not like it was hard for Allison to help me out. Everything came easily to her. But as we grew older and the differences between us grew more obvious, she always had a way of making me feel small and simple." (Gudenkauf 169)

The striking difference between Brynn and her sister has always received the attention of her school environment. A two-year age difference makes them both within a school. After her sister went to jail, everyone was watching Brynn badly.

"After Allison was arrested, people whispered about me behind their hands, looked at me as if I was a freak. When the teachers weren't around, someone would say something obnoxious. I never got used to the comments, but I learned how to deal with them. I learned not to make eye contact, kept my head down. I made sure to move with the crowd, stayed to the edges of the hallway, but still the words felt like sharp blows. How's the murderer doing in prison? You're sister isn't such hot shit now, is she? Are you a baby killer, too?" (Gudenkauf 148)

The treatment from her schoolmate makes Brynn fee uncomfortable and unconfident. Brynn had tried to disregard them, but Brynn was not used to hearing bad comments about her. Having her friends kept talking about these is what Brynn

has to face after her sister goes to jail this situation creates conflict in Brynn's self because she has to bear all that has happened.

3.1 The Cause of Brynn's Conflict

The researcher learns that there are several problems coming from her self.

The internal factor is caused by her inability to convey the real problems, while the external factors consist of different treatment from her parent and different treatment from her schoolmates. Brynn often gets mock and insult from them.

a. Internal Factor

The internal factor that causes the occurrence of conflict on Brynn is her inability to convey the real problems. Conflicts experienced by Brynn stems from the many pressures she experienced. The closed nature of Brynn's characteristic made her depressed and desired to escape from the problems facing it.

"How I wanted him to pull me close and tell me everything was going to be all right. I wanted him to hold my hand in his and ask me about the night that Allison gave birth. I wanted to tell him how I was there, how I wiped her forehead and encouraged her to push and held her baby girl in my arms. But on Allison's orders, I'd told my parents and the police that I was in my room listening to my iPod, that I never heard a thing." (Gudenkauf 94)

The quotation above tells about Brynn's experience when she witnessed her sister gave birth then the baby is dead because her sister, Allison, asks Brynn to evacuate her baby, the Brynn goes to the river. She has an intention to drown the baby in the river. When Allison asks about the baby, Brynn can not say anything because she realize that she was misunderstanding with her sister's command. Allison

only wants her to evacuate the baby from her face, instead of making the baby gone forever. After what happened that night Brynn really wants to tell her parents and the police about the events. But Brynn could not tell it all and chose to keep the secrets themselves.

Conflict experienced by Brynn in above quotation is due to the unbalance between her *id* and *superego* then causing conflict within the *ego*. The way the *id* works in accordance with the principle of pleasure contradicts the workings of the *superego* that work according to the rules or norms that exist (can recognize good and bad).

The *id* of Brynn in above quotation is shown by the desire of Brynn to be free from the problems she has felt caused by the death of her sister's baby, but the desire to escape from the problem contradicts the *superego* in Brynn shown by the nature of Brynn who alwayls obeys her sister to not tell anyone. That imbalance then causes the emergence of conflict in Brynn in which the *ego* in Brynn is needed to work based on logic in interpreting the reality shown by the decision of Brynn to keep granted of her sister's words even though it is not in accordance with her wishes. Because Brynn stays to follow her sister's words it makes her soul suppressed and creates an internal conflict within herself.

The conflict in Brynn's self caused by her inability to convey the problem is described through a sketch she made.

"I get up again, swallow my medication, adding an extra two pills to make up for the doses I missed the past few days and pull out my sketch pad.

Climbing back into bed, I begin drawing, my hand moving as if on its own. Dark clouds, a river, my sister, a baby...and me. Watching it all." (Gudenkauf 63)

Keeping the matter secret makes it possible to only express everything through the pictures she made in the drawing book. Brynn's memory about the incident that she covers from everyone is poured through the picture.

Dark clouds, a river, her sister, a baby and her written on the quotation above have their respective descriptions. Dark clouds is the atmosphere of the night when her sister gave birth, the river is the place where Brynn drowns the baby, the baby is the daughter of her sister who accidentally drowns, and her sister is another witness when the incident took place. Of all the characters described in Brynn's sketch can be interpreted that Brynn feels the pressure she brings herself and she can only it pour into a drawing sketch.

b. External Factor

The external factors which cause a conflict over Brynn are showed by the different treatment from her parent which seems to have less support over Brynn. Her parent injustice treatment makes a deeper conflict over Brynn because her parent loves her sister more. The perfect figure of her sister makes her got more attention from their parent, "My parents had no sympathy for me. "Brynn," my mother said. "Grow up. Of course Allison wants her own room. It would be strange if she didn't." (Gudenkauf 17). The quotation above shows that Brynn has experienced the unjustice treatment from her parents since she was ten years old. The statement of her mother

towards Brynn shows that her parents did not give Brynn chance to be in a room with her sister. It showed that the relationship between Brynn and her parents is not close.

Besides not getting an equal treatment from her parents, Brynn also feels the feeling of becoming the unwanted child. In her sadness, Brynn really wants her father to come, hug her and hold her hand to calm her down. However, what she wants is not going as she expected, when her father's respond is just quiet. It can be seen in this quotation:

"..., but he just stood in the door way and looked at me, deep disappointment on his face. And I knew then that I would never, ever be the person my parents wanted me to be. The next day, when I tried to go into Allison's bedroom, I found the door locked. My parents didn't even find me worthy enough to sit among my sister's things." (Gudenkauf 94)

From the statement above, Brynn wants to show that she wanted to get noticed by her father but in she can not do anything about that. The pressure that is felt by Brynn from her parents is causing a conflict within her own self. Moreover, the force from her mother to enter the summer course is also becoming a pressure to her because what was commanded by her mother is not in accordance with what she wanted.

"I graduated smack-dab in the middle of my class and the day after graduation my mother enrolled me for summer courses at St. Anne's College. I tried, I really did. But whenever I stepped into the classroom an overwhelming feeling of dread would wash over me. My chest would tighten and the pounding of my heart would thump in my ears. I rarely lasted more than five minutes in the classroom and then I would run." (Gudenkauf 95)

The *id* here is Brynn does not like compulsion from her mother, then the *superego* gives the consideration that studying is an obligation that every child should live for a better future. The *ego* within Brynn as the executor chooses to keep all the rules and routines she does not like. Brynn's decision ultimately provoked a conflict, because Brynn did something that was not her will but on the basis of moral considerations that made her powerless to reject.

Brynn's desire to get affection from her parents is showed when she is moving to her grandmother's house. When the night comes, she really misses her parents and wonders if her parents also feel the same thing like her. It can be seen in the quotation below: "Briefly, before I drifted off to sleep, I wondered if my parents would miss me. I didn't think so. Their grief in losing Allison had consumed them." (Gudenkauf 96).

Aside from getting bad treatment from her parents, Brynn also gets different treatments from her peer. Her perfect sister made her always compared to her older sibling by her schoolmates and even her teacher. They ask questions that make Brynn feel depressed.

Growing up, teachers were always saying, You're Allison Glenn's little sister, aren't you? Are you as smart, athletic, funny (you can insert your own adjective here) as your sister?

Well, no, I'm not. *I'm not my sister*, I want to shout. I am nothing like her and never will be. But nomatter how hard I try, no matter how far away I go, Allison is always there. It always comes back to Allison. (Gudenkauf 54)

The anger of Brynn on the quotation above reveals that Brynn actually feel depressed of the judgment from her teacher. Brynn's feeling of her teacher negative judgment is depicted by Brynn expression that often shows if she is different from her sister, but her attempt to say it does not change anything. Wherever she goes, she always followed by her sister's reflection.

The uncomfortable feeling when she was in college also happen to Brynn when she feels like people around her always saying a negative concern behind her back.

"... I tried to go to St. Anne's College, tried to keep up with my classes, tried to make friends, but whenever I walked into the classroom a wave of panic would come over me. It always started in my ears, a strange buzzing sound that would trickle down my throat and out toward my fingertips, leaving them numb. My chest would tighten; I couldn't catch my breath. The instructors and students would gawk at me and I would stare back until they seemed to melt before my eyes. Their ears would slide down their cheeks, their lips would dribble down their chins, until they were nothing but fleshy puddles." (Gudenkauf 24).

The quotation above shows that Brynn is under pressure by people around her. Brynn /could not do a normal thing in her campus environment and all the people say a negative thing about her behind her back. And all those negative concerns create a conflict inside Brynn.

3.2. The Effect of the Conflict

The effect of the conflict faced by Brynn consists of hard to forget the past, self-hatred, and hatred for her sister, ignorant to her parents, and lack of confident.

a. Self-Hatred

Self hatred is the effect of the conflict caused by the inability to convey the real problem. Her weakness and incapacity in dealing with problems make her became a self-loathing person. Brynn's self hatred is expressed in the following quotation:

"What would I say? I'm sorry I'm not my sister? That I was tired of tiptoeing around the edges of my world trying to please everyone, but pleasing no one, especially myself? That I still couldn't get the vision of that baby girl's soft bluish skin out of my mind, of her tiny fingers and toes, and that haunted me more than anything?" (Gudenkauf 95)

The quotation above shows that Brynn has already tired over her effort, and it makes Brynn hates herself who seems to be so weak because of all her feeling including her fear, shock, and all the bad emotions inside her. Brynn's hatred over her own weakness revealed by Brynn to herself.

Self-hatred is also caused by the nature of her who likes to succumb to her sister. When she was young and she was playing a doll, her sister took the doll that was brought by Brynn. Meanwhile Brynn only held a flawed doll that its face was drawn mustache by permanent marker. She only took that pity doll to be played with her sister as if that doll was her first choice, "Brynn never seemed to mind. I could have swiped the new doll right out of her hands and the expression on her face wouldn't change." (Gudenkauf 14)

From the statement above we can see that Brynn is so loving her sister, until when she plays a doll, she is willing to succumb for her sister. But when she is an

adult, Brynn does not want to succumb anymore. Because of since the accident that is experienced by her and her sister, it becomes hard for her to forgive her sister. She also does not want to reply or take a call from her sister when her sister is in jail.

"There was a time I would have given anything to be a real sister to Allison, to be close with her like we were when we were little. In my ueyes, she could do anything." (Gudenkauf 16)

The statement above we can see that Brynn is patient enough for facing her sister, but when she is an adult, she does not want to succumb anymore for her beloved sister.

b. Hatred for Her Sister

The effect of Brynn conflict is she hates her sister. This is as the effect of her inability to convey the problem. The dislike of her sister made Brynn begin to ignore her sister. Her indifference was a form of Brynn's disappointment with her sister who had made Brynn live under pressure.

"Allison has written to me letter after letter, saying the same thing over and over again. *I'm sorry*, she writes, as if that will fix everything. Sorry for what? I want to ask her. Sorry for treating me as if I was a pesky irritation? Sorry for making me help you give birth? Sorry for making me keep your secrets? I don't even open her letters anymore; I throw them in the bottom drawer of my dresser. It hurts, doesn't it? I want to ask her. It hurts to need help and it hurts to have to beg for it. Sorry, sorry, sorry. I used to say it all the time. For everything. Not anymore." (Gudenkauf 169)

In the quotation above we can see that Brynn expressed her frustration by not reading the letters her sister sent from prison. Brynn did not want to read or write a

letter because for Brynn the letter sent to her could not change anything and made Brynn hate her sister.

Brynn hates her sister very much because the pressure she's been through is the result of her sister. Brynn's hatred of her sister can be seen in the following quotation:

"I knew I should go to her, help her back to the house, but at that moment I truly hated my sister. Hated everything about her, hated her for being perfect, and smart and beautiful, for getting pregnant and expecting me to keep it a secret." (Gudenkauf 123)

The *id* rejection of discomfort is influenced by the *superego* which is the weighing between good and bad. *Id* in here is Brynn does not like the deal made by her sister, then the *superego* is to give consideration that helping a sister is a duty that must be undertaken by each younger sister to help out in trouble. So the *ego* the executor chooses to keep helping her sister in a matter she does not like. Brynn's decisions ultimately lead to conflict because she does something that is not in accordance with her will but on the basis of moral considerations that make her powerless to make a rejection.

Another hatred of Brynn toward his sister happens when her sister brought Brynn over her sister's problem once again. And it makes Brynn more angry over her sister Allison. "If anyone has the right to cut Allison out of my life, it's me. She pulled me into her lies and secrets and I've been drowning in them ever since. Now here I am, getting caught up in the whole mess again." 192

From the statement above, it can be seen that Brynn is really angry over what Allison did toward her. The expression of Brynn's anger can be seen that Brynn wanted to get rid of Allison from her life. Because her sister makes Brynn suffer a lot for five years.

c. Hard to Forget Past Events

The effect of the conflict caused by Brynn inability to convey the real problems is hard to forget the past events. Brynn's life was shattered after the incident she had experienced. Indirectly this statement came from of her sibling who realized that after the night of birth Brynn's life becomes a mess. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"Then my envy is replaced by guilt. Brynn deserves all the fun she can possibly get. I know she had to deal with the fallout from my arrest, that she was bullied and made fun of because of what I had done. That she almost ended her life over it." (Gudenkauf 130)

Given the events that Brynn has experienced, making her into a state of distress every day. She kept thinking of the time when her sister was taken by the police. And the incident of a drowning baby still can not escape from Brynn's memory.

The event when her sister gave birth can not be forgotten by Brynn. Every day she always remembers the face of the baby she had drowned. It was like a parasite sticking to Brynn's mind.

"I try not to think too much about the details of that night. But it was the only time in my whole life that my sister asked for my help. This I remember, this small detail I think about at night when I can't sleep. That night my sister needed me." (Gudenkauf 169)

The quote above illustrates that Brynn is depressed. After her sister went to jail Brynn could still remember in detail about the events that night. Brynn had trouble sleeping because she kept remembering it.

Meeting people and they are always asking about her sister, is also one of the causes of Brynn's inability to forget the past event. Because their questions invite memories that they do not want to remember anymore. It is very difficult to be lived by Brynn.

"I want to say, I know. I know how you feel. I want to take his hand in mine and ask, Do you see her at night when you close your eyes? Does she cry out to you in your dreams and sometimes when you're awake, even? Do people stare and look at you strangely because sometimes you think of her and you can't do anything but stand there and cry over a little girl who didn't even have a name? Do you ever wonder how your life might have been different if you weren't in Linden Falls that night?" (Gudenkauf 179)

This quotation clearly show that Brynn is very tortured about the baby incident. When she was confronted by questions concerning her sister, Brynn wanted to say something like the quote above. However Brynn can not say all of this, which makes Brynn has conflict with herself.

Another thing that makes Brynn can not forget the past is when she called the police. The act of calling a police officer was not to make her sister in a problem, but at the time Brynn could not think straight and was suspicious of the woman's baby.

"It was bad enough having my sister taken away by the police, but what made it worse was that it was my fault that she was arrested. I was the one who panicked and called the police. I didn't mean to get Allison in trouble. But I hadn't slept since the night she gave birth. All I could think about was that baby. It just wasn't right that she was so cold and wet in that river, and I couldn't stop shivering and I couldn't catch my breath." (Gudenkauf 135)

In the quotation above, there is a remorse experienced by Brynn. She felt that calling the police had made matters worse, because Brynn would remember the night's events alone it is. Because before her sister went to jail, her sister asked do not to tell the incident to anyone else.

d. Ignorant to the family

Different treatment from her parent is one of the cause of conflict in Brynn's self. After her sister went to jail, it does not make Brynn become the most important in her family. Then the effect of the conflict caused by the different treatment is Brynn ignorant to her family.

Brynn parent's injustice in giving out affection is shown when their favorite daughter was involved in a problem. The incident had a bad effect on Brynn. Brynn's existence was increasingly unrecognized by her father and mother.

"Come off it, Allison," Brynn snaps angrily. "You can't stand that I'm going to stay at Mom and Dad's and you're stuck at some halfway house. You can't stand that I'm the one doing well, the one that Mom and Dad are proud of now...."

"Proud of you? Mom and Dad have erased you. Just like they erased me. Have you even been at the house yet?" Brynn's face crumples. I know I should stop talking, but I can't. "They removed every picture of you. Not just the pictures of me, Brynn. You, too."

"Whatever," Brynn says halfheartedly, and I know I've hurt her feelings." (Gudenkauf 182)

Her sister's recognition of Brynn being removed in the family indicates that Brynn is no longer in the family. It has long been if Brynn was not recognized in her own family, and if the father and mother tidy up pictures of Brynn she no longer cared. The demeanor of Brynn that she becomes to ignorant her parents indicates that Brynn is tired of her parents' attitude. And she chooses to regardless such a thing.

"How could I not have known? How could my parents not have known? They are not stupid people. But they are selfish people. The minute Allison and I weren't who they wanted us to be, they wanted nothing to do with us. I knew early on that I'd never be what my parents wanted. But Allison. Allison did everything right. Everything. Until she made a stupid mistake. Now it's like she doesn't exist to my parents anymore." (Gudenkauf 192)

The above quotation shows that Brynn has not been recognized in the family for a long time. Brynn's expression actually shows a sense of disillusionment with both parents. Brynn regretted that if she had not been recognized for a long time why her father and mother had done the same to her older sister who had been the proud child of them.

When Brynn and her family was in chaotic situation, Brynn was transferred to her grandmother's house in the New Army. Brynn's parents could not bear to see Brynn who always tries to kill herself whenever it is possible.

"I met Missy the November after I moved to New Amery. I came to live with my grandmother in September. I was so sad and lonely; I spent the first two months in New Amery sitting in an extra bedroom in my grandmother's house, crying and sketching in my journal, and trying not to kill myself." (Gudenkauf 42)

The quotation above illustrates that when Brynn brought to her grandmother's house she was very sad and did not know what to do. A suicide attempt made when Brynn was still living with her parents, leaves her parents confused on what to do with Brynn. And moving Brynn to her grandmother's house was the right choice, because there she could do what she could not do in her house. Like raising animals, Brynn's father and mother strictly forbid Brynn to take care of anything inside the house. While at grandma's house, Brynn can keep dogs and cats.

"Animals are so much easier to deal with than people. I learned that a long time ago. My parents never let me have a pet—too furry, too messy, too time-consuming. Every time I brought home strays, I would hope, pray, that they would let me keep them. Just once." (Gudenkauf 23)

From the statement above we can see that Brynn does not care if she is ignored by her parents and sent to her grandmother's house. Because at her grandmother home, Brynn can do what she wants without fear of being scolded by her mother or follow what her mother wants. At her grandmother home is Brynn felt comfortable and felt better even though her move did not solve the problem.

The ban on keeping animals is part of the superego role. The conflict between the id and the superego creates an inner conflict. The occurrence of such conflicts because the id who want to keep animals must follow the rules applied by the superego. Superego here plays a role to obey the rules made by his parents who should naturally still be implemented. In this case the superego in Brynn is more

powerful than the id. Superego mastery then makes the ego to consider decisions that do not cause trouble to Brynn.

e. Lack Of Confident

Different treatments from her peer then make Brynn become lack of confident. In addition to being treated badly by her classmates, Brynn also received a bad treatment from her sister's best friend in school. They bothered Brynn who was walking down in a quiet hallway. Brynn then realized that she would get into trouble if she met those people.

"My second mistake was my hesitation. I should have just kept walking, kept moving forward with my head down. But I didn't. My feet did a ridiculous stutter-step and Chelsea and her friends cackled at my awkward dance. They circled me, hands on hips with elbows jutting out like the wings of crows and looked down on me scornfully." (Gudenkauf 148)

The quotation above tells about Brynn's express on when she meets her sister's best friend. Brynn's hesitation made her weak in front of her seniors. Brynn can not do anything when she is surrounded by her senior. Brynn can only be silent listening to their reproach.

Facing the seniors during a meeting at the school is part of the *superego*. The conflict between the *id* and the *superego* creates an inner conflict. The occurrence of such conflicts is because *id* wants to be separated from the her seniors. *Superego* refers to the truth that honoring seniors is what the juniors do.

In this case the *superego* in Brynn is more powerful than the *id. Superego* makes the *ego* to consider decisions that do not cause trouble or suffering for Brynn.

The *ego*'s consideration of staying with the senior makes the inner self of Brynn depressed.

"Sour," I said before I could stop myself. Their laughter stopped suddenly. Their faces relaxed in confusion but then their eyes narrowed even more. Black angry slits. "Shhh," I said out loud to myself. "Shut up. Don't talk." I knew I was acting strangely, but I couldn't help myself. (Gudenkauf 149)

The quotation above gives an idea that Brynn's soul is depressed. *Id* encourages her to be angry and protest over all the treatment she has received so far. The *ego*'s decisions slowly disappear when she finds herself increasingly urged by her senior. Brynn's desire to escape from her senior encircling turned into anger and there was no longer any reason for her to honor her seniors. Anger in Brynn which once was in the subconscious came up and mastered the *id*. The *id* ignorance of *superego* rules makes Brynn finally choose to express her irritation to her senior. This is because the *ego* on Brynn weakens so as to make the *id* more dominate.

3.3. Brynn Face the Problem

Id is very powerful in the form of conflict resolution by Brynn in the novel These Things Hidden by Heather Gudenkauf. It is shown when Brynn shut herself off from others by not revealing the real thing. Brynn's closed personality conducted by Brynn cause a pressure that makes her unable to think clearly and make reckless action by committing suicide. Id works for her failure to convey her problem and then makes her want to solve the problem by suicide. The following is form of Brynn conflict resolution in the novel These Things Hidden by Heather Gudenkauf's.

Form of conflict resolution made by Brynn when she was under the pressure of her sister. She thinks that her sister is causing the pressure Brynn's been experiencing all along. The covenant made between her sister and herself made Brynn unable to tell the truth to her closest people. This can be seen in the following quote:

"No, she never talks about it," my grandma answers sadly. "I wish she would, though. At least with her doctor. Keeping things bottled up inside doesn't do anyone any good. I'll tell her you called, Allison. You take care of yourself, okay?" (Gudenkauf 130)

From the conversation between her grandmother and her sister in the quotation above indicates that Brynn deliberately did not want to tell about her past to her grandmother or the treating doctor. The way Brynn shut everyone down is her form of conflict resolution.

The injustice in getting affection from the parents, and the news of his sister's freedom coming out of prison makes Brynn experience tremendous anxiety. The reason of Brynn's experienced anxiety was fear if her sister pulled her back into the same problem. Brynn's rejection of her sister's freedom made her intend to do things that endanger her life, as in the following quote:

"I stared at my mother's bottle of sleeping pills for several hours until I finally got up the nerve to twist off the cap and pour the capsules into my hand. They were smaller than I thought they would be, and I had to smile at the thought that something so lightweight could end the pain." (Gudenkauf 95)

The quotation shows if Brynn do things so she can forget the incident in her past it. Her decision on taking the sleeping pills was to get her mind distracted by

things that invited her to remember the past. Fear of remember that makes Brynn take pills.

"I think I would have been successful in killing myself if my mother hadn't come in search of her sleeping pills. She found me unconscious in bed, the pill bottle next to me. When I awoke I was in the emergency room, having my stomach pumped. After a few days I was on my way to New Amery to live with my grandmother." (Gudenkauf 95)

The height of anxiety felt by Brynn encouraged her to do things that could endanger her safety. Brynn's irrational expressed through dangerous acts like the quotation above is Brynn's emphasis and feelings for her anxiety and put her in the unconscious. This is evidenced by Brynn's attitude who unceasingly tried to commit suicide when she failed to perform the reckless action.

Another thing Brynn did to forget her past was drinking alcohol. Brynn hoped the effects of alcohol could make her life return to normal.

"I take the bottle and go into my bedroom. I sit on my bed, take a big swallow of wine from the glass and wait. Wait for the effect of the alcohol's smooth warmth to spread to my legs, my fingertips. Wait for it to numb my thoughts. It was stupid, really. To think that I could start over." (Gudenkauf 96)

The form of pleasure that Brynn sought was the only way she could refresh her mind from all the problems she had with her past, although she did not know for sure the bad effects she would get when doing things she did not deserve.

"Even though alcohol is more effective than any antidepressant in helping me forget the night Allison gave birth, I still remember running back toward the house, Allison calling after me." (Gudenkauf123)

For the statement above Brynn clearly explains if alcohol is more effective than an antidepressant, but it does not work enough to get rid of the baby's incident that haunts her. The form of Brynn conflict resolution in this novel is when Brynn tried to kill Joshua, as in the following quote:

"I struggle to my feet, Joshua's limp body heavy in my arms, and move toward the sound of the running water. "Oh, you are so much heavier than she was," I whisper in his ear. I can almost hear the crickets chirping, hear the rush of the river, feel the summer breeze against my neck. "Finally, finally," I tell him, "you can be together." And I lay him in the water, gently, lovingly, offering Joshua to his sister." (Gudenkauf 219)

Joshua is the twin of Allison's baby that drown by Brynn. Since Joshua is also the unwanted child, Allison and Brynn bring him to Allison's boyfriend's house and ask him to take care of Joshua. The feeling of guilt that Brynn felt for five years, made her want to end it all in her own way. The quote above shows that the decision taken by Brynn is the best decision when she faces a difficult situation. She decides to drown Joshua in the backdrop of the bath with her guilty feelings for separating Joshua from her twin sister whom she had drowned five years ago. Her guilty feelings made her do such a bad thing.

Brynn's inability to solve her troubles made her haunted by her feelings.

Brynn's eagerness to live freely without thinking about what had happened in her past should be hampered by the sudden appearance of her sister and tell her if the baby's she was helping at the time was still safe. This led to Brynn's other motives for taking the time to meet back with her sister and go to see Joshua, "As I pack my things for

my trip to see my father—to see Allison—I wonder if I'm doing the right thing."
(Gudenkauf 178)

Brynn's step was correct, because it meant Brynn wanted to quickly solve the problem with her sister. Although in the end when Brynn met her sister, Brynn could no longer suppress her emotions. As in the following quotation:

"I'm sorry, Brynn." I reach out for her sleeve to stop her from leaving and she jerks away from me, but not before I get a glimpse of the red scratches up and down her arm.

"You're sorry?" she cries in disbelief. "Do you know what I see each and every time I close my eyes at night?"

"Brynn," I say miserably. "I know. I see her, too."

"No," Brynn says in a low, chilling voice. "I don't think you do. And now you want me to meet that little boy? Her brother? You want me to relive this all over again?" Brynn shakes her head wildly.

"I wanted... I thought..." I say lamely. "I wanted to tell you about Joshua. Show him to you."

"What do you think you're going to do?" she asks sharply as we walk down the darkened street toward her car.

"I thought maybe you would help me decide what I should do," I say self-consciously." (Gudenkauf 182)

Based on the quotation Brynn looked very angry at her sister. Brynn's anger was because her sister came to her to ask for her help once more. Brynn's anger also includes the *id* form, Brynn's desire to vent her emotions to her sister she can finally do. A rule of honor to the older sister in accordance with the work of the *superego* is no longer valid, because the impulse of *id* is too big. Brynn's feelings of anger and disappointment made her ignore the rules set by the *superego*, so the *ego* decided to

vent anger with her sister. This is done by the *ego* forced by the *id* so that the *ego* begins to weaken and make the role *id* more dominate.

The final form of Brynn conflict resolution which is the end of the story in this novel is when she actually decided to commit suicide. The decision she took was as a form of the way she paid for all the mistakes Brynn had kept for herself.

"When I step off the edge I feel a scrambling panic. I hit the cold water and it fills my ears, my nose, my mouth. I try to cry out for my sister, but my words become bubbles and rise to the surface silently. When I stop thrashing, stop struggling, I see her. So perfect, so tiny, just like I remembered her. "He's coming," I tell her, reaching my hands out to hers. "He'll be here soon." And as I cradle her in my arms we sink, slowly, peacefully, to the river's bottom, to wait." (Gudenkauf 234)

In this statement appears that Brynn's decision to commit suicide is something that the *ego* can not really accept. Brynn's unacceptable behavior by the *ego* is seen from her decision in committing suicide without thinking of the effect her family received if she committed suicide.