### **CHAPTER 4**

### **ANALYSIS**

In this chapter, the writer wants to analyze the psychological problems and anxieties seen on John Bristow character. By firstly examining on his character, the writer hopes to gain profound knowledge about the character of John Bristow clearly. After having fundamental background of John Bristow character, then through studying his characterization more instensely is intended to reveal his psychological problems and anxieties. The writer uses Sigmund Freud's theory on personality dynamic and anxiety in order to reach the goals of the study. Also the writer uses prespective from Al-Qur'an to reflect *The Cuckoo's Calling* to the story of *Habil and Qabil*.

# 4.1 John Bristow as Flat Character

The Cuckoo's Calling is delivered using third-person point of view which Robert Galbraith as the narrator who narates all the events and experiences. She is able to tell us the thoughts and feelings of every character that appears. In this story, John Bristow is told as the flat character who is a minor character in a work of fiction who does not undergo substantial change or growth in the course of a story. He exists just when he has correlation with the major character, Cormoran Strike.

John Bristow is a character of an adopted child, he has an adopted sister, he has a girlfriend, also he is a lawyer as it is evident from the following mention of Robin, the secretary of Cormoran Strike, a detective:

Lula Landry was adopted by Sir Alec and Lady Yvette Bristow when she was four. She grew up as Lula Bristow but took her mother's maiden name when she started modeling. She has an older brother called John, who is a lawyer. The girl waiting outside is Mr. Bristow's girlfriend and a secretary at his firm. They work for Landry, May, Patterson, the firm started by Lula and John's maternal grandfather. The photograph of John Bristow on LMP's home page is identical to the man you're talking to. (Galbraith 29).

This means that John Bristow is an ordinary man. Just like the other man, he has a family, job and also a girlfriend. John Bristow is pretty rich, because he wears nice suit, tie, watch and shoes which all looks expensive.

The prospective client followed Robin into the room. The immediate impression was favorable. The stranger might be distinctly rabbity in appearance, with a short upper lip that failed to conceal large front teeth; his coloring was sandy, and his eyes, judging by the thickness of his glasses, myopic; but his dark gray suit was beautifully tailored, and the shining ice-blue tie, the watch and the shoes all looked expensive. (Galbraith 25).

"I'm a pretty rich man, Strike. Sorry to be crass about it, but there you are. My father left me a sizeable trust fund. I've looked into the going rate for this kind of thing, and I would have been happy to pay you double." (32).

John Bristow also says that he pays double for the job, he asks Cormoran Strike to reveal his sister death. John is the second adopted child. These following sentences states that John has one brother and sister.

"You wouldn't remember me, it was years and years ago...but I think you were friends with my brother Charlie. Charlie Bristow? He died—in an accident—when he was nine"

"I—this isn't easy. Firstly, you should know that my sister is—was—Lula Landry." (Galbraith 26).

Those sentences explain that John has one brother named Charlie who died when he was nine and one sister named Lula Landry who also died. John feels sad and depresses when he lost all the member of his family. His dad also already died, and he lives only with his mother who has cancer and dying.

"It's just been a dreadful time," he whispered, taking deep breaths. "Lula...and my mother's dying..."

"She's given up completely since Lula died. It's broken her. Her cancer was supposed to be in remission, but it's come back, and they say there's nothing more they can do. I mean, this is the second time. She had a sort of breakdown after Charlie. My father thought another child would make it better. They'd always wanted a girl. It wasn't easy for them to be approved, but Lula was mixed race, and harder to place, so," he finished, on a strangled sob, "they managed to get her. (Galbraith 27).

John does not believe that Lula really committed suicide and hires

Cormoran Strike to investigate; he hired Cormoran because he was a
schoolmate of John's late brother Charlie, who died when he fell into a quarry
while bicycling.

"They say my sister killed herself. I don't believe it."

"Yeah," said Bristow, dabbing the end of his nose with the wet handkerchief. "Well, I'm not denying that Lula had problems. She put Mum through hell, as a matter of fact. It started around the same time our father died—you probably know all this, God knows there was enough about it in the

press...but she was expelled from school for dabbling in drugs; she ran off to London, Mum found her living rough with addicts; the drugs exacerbated the mental problems; she absconded from a treatment center—there were endless scenes and dramas. In the end, though, they realized she had bipolar disorder and put her on the right medication, and ever since then, as long as she was taking her tablets, she was fine; you'd never have known there was anything wrong with her. Even the coroner accepted that she had been taking her medication, the autopsy proved it.

"But the police and the coroner couldn't see past the girl who had a history of poor mental health. They insisted that she was depressed, but I can tell you myself that Lula wasn't depressed at all. I saw her on the morning before she died, and she was absolutely fine. Things were going very well for her, particularly career-wise. She'd just signed a contract that would have brought in five million over two years; she asked me to look over it for her, and it was a bloody good deal. The designer was a great friend of hers, Somé, I expect you've heard of him? And she was booked solid for months; there was a shoot in Morocco coming up, and she loved the traveling. So you see, there was no reason whatsoever for her to take her own life." (Galbraith 28).

Those sentences make John looks that he really loves Lula. John tells about Lula's personality and her daily activities. John also says that Lula does not show that she would take her own life. That is why he cannot accept the reality that he lost his sister.

### 4.2 The Motif that Leads John Bristow Killing His Brother and Sister

John Bristow is filial to both parents. He took care of his mother who is ill. He is only adopted, but he is doing well.

"John, I don't want to alarm you, but I think that both you and your mother could be in danger."
Bristow's little bleat of nervous laughter sounded thin and unconvincing. Strike could see Alison standing fifty yards

away, her arms folded, ignoring Robin, watching the two

"Yeah, I think I do—but I still need to speak to your mother before we wrap this up."

Bristow looked as though he wished he could drink the contents of Strike's mind. His myopic eyes scanned every inch of Strike's face, his expression half afraid, half imploring.

"I must be there," he said. "She's very weak." (Galbraith 403).

Those sentences tell that Cormoran wants to investigate John's mother. John lets him to investigate his mother and make sure that he is also there when Cormoran do it. These scenes give evidence that John Bristow is helping the other people, Cormoran and his mother. He helps Cormoran to gain information from his mother, and he helps his mother to make sure that his mother is strong enough to answer all the questions from Cormoran later. In these situations, John Bristow tries to satisfy his superego through becoming a good man.

This is suitable with Sigmund Freud's superego theory. First, Hall says:

"The superego is the part of personality that represents the moral standards of the society as conveyed to the child by the parents. The function of superego then is prohibit what is morally wrong and promotes what is morally right. She also uses the German word which is used by Sigmund Freud for superego which is "iiberich". Iiberich means that "over the I". In other words, there will be no their own private business or advantage for the people (416).

<sup>&</sup>quot;You—you can't be serious?" said Bristow.

<sup>&</sup>quot;I'm very serious."

<sup>&</sup>quot;But...does...Cormoran, are you saying you know who killed Lula?"

John is willing to help Cormoran meet his mother but, John must be there too. It looks like that John is a good man but there is a reason behind that. John does not want Cormoran asks his mother about question that brings John into a danger. John also does not want Cormoran to check around his house because there is something hidden there.

"I told you,' he said, the colour waxing and waning in his thin face as he pointed a bony finger at Strike, "I told you quite clearly that I didn't want you to see my mother without me present!"

"Don't you even want to know what I found today in your mother's wardrobe?"

"You went—you went inside my mother's wardrobe?"

"Yeah. I wanted to have a look inside those brand-new handbags Lula got, the day she died."

Bristow began to stutter:

"You—you..."

"The bags have got detachable linings. Bizarre idea, isn't it? Hidden under the lining of the white bag was a will, handwritten by Lula on your mother's blue notepaper, and witnessed by Rochelle Onifade. I've given it to the police." Bristow's mouth fell open. For several seconds he seemed unable to speak. Finally he whispered:

"But...what did it say?"

"That she was leaving everything, her entire estate, to her brother, Lieutenant Jonah Agyeman of the Royal Engineers." "Jonah...who?"

"Go and look on the computer monitor outside. You'll find a picture there."

Bristow got up and moved like a sleepwalker towards the computer in the next room. Strike watched the screen illuminate as Bristow shifted the mouse. Agyeman's handsome face shone out of the monitor, with his sardonic smile, pristine in his dress uniform.

"Oh my God," said Bristow. (Galbraith 425).

In those sentences Comoran finds the important thing that is a note written by Lula. Lula leaves all her wealth to her biological brother, Jonah

Agyeman. John looks shock. John looks that he does not know about Jonah. His acting serves his selfish that need unconsciously. He shows his id which looks like he is on shock after hearing what Cormoran said. This scene has been explained in Sigmund Freud's id theory that an id pushes the person to obtain pleasure without concern for the other's need. This situation shows indirectly the id of John Bristow. However, John has to look shock when Cormoran says about Jonah. Jonah is Lula's biological brother. He is a soldier. John knows about Jonah and he does not want Jonah gain all Lula's wealth.

Bristow drew breath in a loud gasp.

"They all said I was deluded," he almost shouted. "But I wasn't bloody deluded at all!"

"No, John, you weren't deluded," said Strike. "Not deluded. More like bat-shit insane."

Through the shaded window came the sounds of London, alive at all hours, rumbling and growling, part man, part machine. There was no noise inside the room but Bristow's ragged breathing.

"Excuse me?" he said, ludicrously polite. "What did you call me?"

Strike smiled.

"I said you're bat-shit insane. You killed your sister, got away with it, and then asked me to reinvestigate her death." "You—you cannot be serious."

"Oh yeah, I can. It's been obvious to me from the start that the person who benefits most from Lula's death is you, John. Ten million quid, once your mother gives up the ghost. Not to be sniffed at, is it? Especially as I don't think you've got much more than your salary, however much you bang on about your trust fund. Albris shares are hardly worth the paper they're written on these days, are they? (Galbraith 426).

Cormoran states that John is insane because he kills Lula but asks

Cormoran to reinvestigate the case. At those sentences John will gain the

million from Lula's death. It looks that John kills Lula because of money. The

meaning of those sentences above can be an example in Daniel Cervone's elucidation about Sigmund Freud's id and ego theory. Cervone states that id is without reason logic, values, moral or ethic, in sum the id is demanding, impulsive blind, irrational, asocial, selfish and pleasure loving (84). In this scene, John serves the need of his id by killing his sister, Lula. John is selfish and becomes irrational because of money. He also unloved by his mother because of Lula.

In addition, John also serves his id by killing Lula's friend, Rochelle. The proof is in following sentence:

"And you killed her, just the same way you killed Charlie, just the same way you later killed Rochelle: you pushed her, hard and fast—maybe you lifted her—but she was caught by surprise, wasn't she, just like the others? (Galbraith 437).

In those sentences, John is very successful in fulfilling his desire. John is discovered in expressing hid id. He kills his sibling, Charlie and Lula also kills Rochelle to serves his id. John cannot control his ego, and this explanation matches with Freud's theory when he says that the ego sometimes is called the executive agency of the personality because it controls action selects the features of the environment to which a person will respond and decide how the person's needs can safely be satisfied. It serves as the mediator between the demands of the id and the demands of the environment (408). It means John's id wins over his ego, because he cannot control his ego and serves his id by killing Rochelle.

There is another example in which is ego's smartness in serving both his superego and id through using his acting by asking Cormoran to investigate his sister' suicide case.

"What exactly is it that you would like me to do for you?" Strike asked.

Bristow replaced the cup shakily on the desk, then gripped his hands together tightly.

"They say my sister killed herself. I don't believe it." (Galbraith 24).

Even police already says that Lula's case is suicide, but John insists that Lula is killed by someone. At the first, it seems that John really loves Lula. John superego cannot be stopped easily when he faces the big obstacle. His ego strategizes to continue the actualization of the strong superego's push. Then acting as a good man is the option which is his ego chooses. John Bristow wants to show the society/ people around him that he is a nice man. The society may think that John is sad of his sister's death. But the fact is, John knows Lula has a biological brother, Jonah and also Lula is leaving everything to him. That is why John wants to trap Jonah to be the criminal. He asks Cormoran, because he thinks that Cormoran is easy. He thinks Cormoran just a clumsy detective. If Cormoran can be directed easily, John could let Cormoran find out about Jonah and Jonah will be the criminal.

From the first subchapter, the writer can conclude that John Bristow's ego struggle hardly in order to satisfy his id and superego. According to Dennis Coon in his explanation about Sigmund Freud's personality dynamic, it is

important to have a delicate balance of power among the three (id, ego and superego) (475). Now, from the analysis, the writer sees that John Bristow is not in health personality. As the result of his psychological problem, John Bristow experiences difficult times.

Sigmund Freud has made a formula that the threat of intra psychic conflict, for instance between id (drives) and superego (conscience) might generate anxiety that signals the ego to mobilize defenses (52). John Bristow's ego, id and superego are involved in an intra psychic conflict then as the unavoidable result, he experiences difficult times (anxieties).

### 4.2.1 John Bristow's Anxiety

John Bristow's character have severe psychological problem during his life. This subchapter analysis will be mainly focusing on the anxiety of John Bristow. In this case, the writer would like to figure out John Bristow's anxiety. Therefore, the writer analyzed the types of anxiety that John Bristow's experienced.

#### **4.2.1.1 John Bristow's Reality Anxiety**

John Bristow experiences reality anxiety because of bad traumatic experiences in his childhood. This bad traumatic past time comes from the outer part of himself that it apparently becomes part of his reality anxiety.

Thus, it is said that John Bristow starts to have his fear since he lives with his family.

First, John Bristow undergoes reality anxiety because he gains his fear ever since he was a childhood and knowing that he was unloved by his mother.

"No matter how much you've fawned over your mother, and played the devoted son, you've never come first with her, have you? She always loved Charlie most, didn't she? Everyone did, even Uncle Tony. And the moment Charlie had gone, when you might have expected to be the centre of attention at last, what happens? Lula arrives, and everyone starts worrying about Lula, looking after Lula, adoring Lula. Your mother hasn't even got a picture of you by her deathbed. Just Charlie and Lula. Just the two she loved." (Galbraith 433).

Therefore, one of the causes of John Bristow's reality anxiety is because of the rejection of his mother resulting to his lack of being loved just like what the children should have. Being under a condition of an adopted child with good looking siblings, John Bristow feels anxious. Thus, it ends up with he kills his brother and sister. Because the source of this anxiety feeling is derived from John Bristow's outer world, i.e. his family and the unhappy condition by being rejected, we can conclude that John Bristow's anxiety is said to be a reality anxiety.

In addition to the rejection feeling by his mother, John Bristow's reality anxiety is also aroused by his being hated by his uncle, Tony. Tony also has important role in raising him. He wants John out of their lives.

"Tony knows you did it, doesn't he? All that bullshit about the hard, cruel things he said after Charlie died. Tony was there; he saw you cycling away from the place where you'd pushed Charlie over. Did you dare him to ride close to the edge? I knew Charlie: he couldn't resist a dare. Tony saw Charlie dead at the bottom of that quarry, and he told your parents that he thought you'd done it, didn't he? That's why your father hit him. That's why your mother fainted. That's why Tony was thrown out of the house after Charlie died: not because Tony said that your mother had raised delinquents, but because he told her she was raising a psychopath." "But Tony couldn't face a family scandal. He kept quiet. Panicked a bit when he heard they were adopting a little girl, though, didn't he? He called them and tried to stop it happening. He was right to be worried, wasn't he? I think you've always been a bit scared of Tony. What a fucking irony that he backed himself into a corner where he had to give you an alibi for Lula's murder." (Galbraith 435).

Here, we can see that how Tony hates John because of his action kills

Charlie. Tony knows there is something wrong about John. It also shows how
he worries about Lula.

Overall, it is clear from the discussions above that John Bristow has experienced reality anxiety; he undergoes some traumatic incidents throughout his childhood. He starts to gain his fear since he was a child due to his bad unpleasant experience which results from being unloved by his mother and going through unsatisfying life in his family. Furthermore, this unhappy childhood continues in his life until he commits some crimes.

### 4.2.1.2 John Bristow's Neurotic Anxiety

Besides reality anxiety, John Bristow apparently experiences neurotic anxiety as well. The main reason why John Bristow is said to experience neurotic anxiety is because his fear actually comes up from his own intuition or his thought. This instinct-based fear can be seen in his bad thought, intense irrational fear and panic reaction. All these forms of neurotic anxiety

experienced by John Bristow are actually the result of his experience during childhood. Therefore, in this part of the discussion, John Bristow's neurotic anxiety will be further explored heavily based on the different forms of his anxiety that is the character's intense irrational fear and panic reaction.

#### **4.2.1.2.1** Intense Fear

Intense fear is the indicator why John Bristow is said to experience neurotic anxiety. The intensity of this character's fear is out of all proportion to the actual danger of the object of which he is afraid.

His fear passes his consciousness and makes him become helpless. For instance, as Cormoran Strike says about John, he always loses by his better-looking sibling which is stated in the quotation below.

"And that in itself must have felt great, John, didn't it? The idea of being the only child, at long last? And never losing out again to a better-looking, more lovable sibling?" "Fuck you," snarled Bristow. "Fuck you, Strike. What do you know about anything, with your whore of a mother? What was it she died of, the clap?" (Galbraith 434).

It shows that from the beginning Cormoran knows that John feels being lost by his siblings. As a result, this situation really alerts John about the threat that his siblings are dangerous to him. In short, it is clear that although people around him do not actually become a threat to him, he fears that they will do something bad to him.

Then, his fear is also irrational because the mainspring of his anxiety is actually in his own consciousness rather than in the external world, that is the

fear of having no someone who loved him also. An example that indicates his intense and irrational fear to the external world is when he kills his sister. His sister is a model which is so rich, beautiful and being loved by everybody and John does not have it. So that is why he also wants to have all of those, Lula's wealth, charm and love, to make it his own.

"I expect the idea of the murder started to germinate then, all those hours you were alone, in all that luxury. Did you start to imagine how wonderful it would be if Lula, who you were sure was intestate, died? You must've known your sick mother would be a much softer touch, especially once you were her only remaining child. And that in itself must have felt great, John, didn't it? The idea of being the only child, at long last? And never losing out again to a betterlooking, more lovable sibling?" (Galbraith 434).

From the above quotation, it is soon apparent that John Bristow is really anxious about losing his mother's love. It is because John realizes that his mother love and care about his sibling so much, so he has to kill his sibling and so all the attention will be on him. This crime is not going to happen if John's fear of losing his mother's love not too deep. Therefore, we can say that John Bristow's anxiety is so intense that finally he kills his own sibling.

#### 4.2.1.2.2 Panic Reaction

Besides his intense irrational fear, the second indicator of John Bristow's neurotic anxiety is also observable from his panic reaction. This reaction, which appears suddenly, happens when he fears of Cormoran Strike which is found out his true color. Cormoran Strike finally finds out that John kills his

own sister, Lula. He also knows that John kills Lula's friend, Rochelle. As Cormoran says in this sentence:

"You put every obstacle you could in the way of me finding Rochelle," Strike went on, as though he had not heard Bristow. "You pretended you didn't know her name, or where she lived; you acted incredulous that I thought she might be useful to the inquiry and you took photos off Lula's laptop so that I couldn't see what she looked like. True, she could have pointed me directly to the man you were trying to frame for murder, but on the other hand, she knew that there was a will that would deprive you of your inheritance, and your number one objective was to keep that will quiet while you tried to find and destroy it. Bit of a joke, really, it being in your mother's wardrobe all along.

Strike saw Bristow's tongue flick around his mouth, moistening his lips. He could feel the lawyer's fear. (Galbraith 427).

It is clear from the quotation above that John really gets panic for two things. The first, he gets panic when Cormoran looks for Rochelle and investigates her about Lula. John afraid that Rochelle will says the truth that John is not the heir of Lula. That's why John kills Rochelle. Even though Rochelle does not realize that John is the killer. She just wants money from John, and John think that Rochelle will bring him into a danger. The second John gets panic is when Cormoran knows that John is the killer. As a result of this panic reaction, John is moistens his lips and Cormoran feels his fear. This panic reaction forces him did something like that because he tensed in that condition.

## 4.3 The Reflection of Habil and Qabil story in *The Cuckoo's Calling*

In this last sub-chapter, the writer tries to find a reflection the story of *Habil and Qabil* in the Al-Qur'an to the novel *The Cuckoo's Calling*.

Sigmund Freud already states about personality dynamic which are id, ego and superego. In the Al-Qur'an there are perspectives about *akal*, *qalbu* and nafsu or idea, heart and lust. In *The Cuckoo's Calling* the character of John Bristow reflects the character of Qabil. John and Qabil kills his own brother; John kills Charlie and Lula meanwhile Qabil kills Habil. Qabil achieves his wish by serves his nafsu that is why he kills Habil. Just like John Bristow who serves his id. This proves that the theory of Sigmund Freud that talks about id, ego and superego already exist in the Al-Qur'an whereas Al-Qur'an given to Prophet Muhammad long time ago.

Robert Galbraith or J.K. Rowling wrote *The Cuckoo's Calling* in the 2013, even though she is non Muslim, but this story reflects to the story of *Habil and Qabil*. It is a proof that Al-Qur'an indeed for anyone, wherever and whenever. Allah creates Al-Qur'an for all people in the world. People who read and follow everything in the Al-Qur'an will live well because Al-Qur'an is life guidance.

The readers can take some lessons from *The Cuckoo's Calling* and also from the story of *Habil and Qabil*. Murder will always occur if people serve their id/ *nafsu*. *Qalbu* is the moderator between *akal* and *nafsu*. Qabil is

controlled by *nafsu* and kills Habil. He cannot use his logic because his *akal* lost to his *nafsu*.

It can be learned from the story of *Habil and Qabil*, the first murder in the world, that man should keep his heart from spiteful. If envious controls human emotion and feeling, he/she will be able to do bad things to others and even to his/her own families. *Naudzubillah*.

