

**ALINA STARKOV'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN
LEIGH BARDUGO'S NOVEL *SHADOW AND BONE*
THESIS**



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ABSTRACT

Ragatama, R.Y. (2021). *Alina Starkov's Character Development in Leigh Bardugo's Novel Shadow and Bone*. English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities. UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Dr. Abu Fanani, S.S., M.Pd

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The novel *Shadow and Bone* tells a woman named Alina Starkov whose life changes after discovering a great power within Alina Starkov, who was once just an ordinary woman, now has to try to become strong to protect her male friend and fight Darkling, who wants to use her power. This study discusses the main character who tries to accept and develop his potential in order to become a strong figure. This study aims to explain the characteristics of Alina Starkov, the influence of Baghra in Alina's personality development, and how Alina fights Darkling.

In conducting this research, the researcher uses the theory of New Criticism. This study uses a qualitative method to analyze the novel *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo as the primary reference. The researcher collects data through quotes in the novel that explain what the main character goes through until she becomes a strong woman.

The results obtained from this study characterization of Alina Starkov are: cowardice, insecure, overthinking, and weak. Baghra was influential in Alina's personality development. The trigger factors for Alina's personality development are Strong Motivation and Significant People. Alina manages to master her powers and becomes a strong female main character to defeat Darkling.

ABSTRAK

Ragatama, R.Y. (2021). *Alina Starkov's Character Development in Leigh Bardugo's Novel Shadow and Bone*. Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora. UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Dr. Abu Fanani, S.S., M.Pd

Kata Kunci: Teori Kritik Baru, Kuat, Pengembangan Kepribadian

Novel *Shadow and Bone* bercerita tentang seorang perempuan bernama Alina Starkov yang kehidupannya berubah setelah mendapati ada kekuatan besar dalam dirinya, Alina Starkov yang dulunya hanyalah wanita biasa sekarang ia harus berusaha untuk menjadi kuat agar bisa melindungi teman lelakiinya dan mampu melawan Darkling yang ingin memanfaatkan kekuatannya. Penelitian ini mendiskusikan tentang karakter utama yang berusaha menerima dan mengembangkan potensi dalam dirinya agar bisa menjadi sosok yang kuat. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan karakteristik Alina Starkov, pengaruh Baghra dalam pengembangan kepribadian Alina, dan bagaimana Alina melawan Darkling.

Dalam melakukan penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan teori kritik baru. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif yang berfokus pada analisa novel *Shadow and Bone* karya Leigh Bardugo sebagai acuan utama. Peneliti mengambil data melalui kutipan-kutipan dalam novel yang menjelaskan tentang apa yang dilalui oleh karakter utama sampai akhirnya menjadi wanita yang kuat dan mandiri.

Hasil yang didapat dari penelitian ini karakterisasi Alina Starkov adalah: pengecut, tidak percaya diri, terlalu banyak berpikir, dan lemah. Baghra berpengaruh dalam perkembangan kepribadian Alina. Faktor pemicu perkembangan kepribadian Alina adalah motivasi yang kuat dan orang-orang yang signifikan. Alina berhasil menguasai kekuatannya dan menjadi karakter utama wanita yang kuat untuk mengalahkan Darkling.

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INTRODUCTION

The novel above mainly focuses on Alina changes from a woman who always depends on Mal and hides her strength until finally, Alina becomes Grisha, a woman who is independent and strong to act alone in overcoming her problems. Alina as the main character in this novel has a very important role and has a big influence on the readers. The author presents a female character who grows into a stronger woman than before. The theory of new criticism which focuses on character and character development is closely related to the presentation of characters by the author.. Furthermore, every human being can think and act rationally as well as women (Dinurriyah 2014, p.71). In female characters also have potential that grows as the story progresses. This study focuses on one literary work in the form of a novel entitled *Shadow and Bone*.

2. How does Baghra influence Alina's personality development?
3. How can Alina defeat Darkling?

1.3 Object of the Study

According to the statement of problems, this study has three objectives that can be stated as follows:

1. To describe the beginning of Alina Starkov's characterization in the novel *Shadow and Bone*.
2. To describe the influence of Bhagra on Alina's personality development.
3. To show how the way Alina defeat Darkling.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to benefit the reader, especially about women's independence. It is one of the most important things for women. Because by being independent, women can become anything without male intervention, which can also minimize a woman being a puppet of men's control. The researcher hopes that this research can inspire English Department students of the State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya in researching literary works. The researcher also hopes that this research is useful as a reference for anyone who wants to research the novel *Shadow and Bone*. The researcher hopes that this research can be used as a reference for action in practice. Women must be themselves and not depend too much on others because they can become strong women.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is limited to the analysis of the novel written by

1.6 Method of the Study

The researcher used a descriptive qualitative method as the method of this research. The qualitative method analyzes the meanings of the text and describes things in the text by interpreting. The researcher chose to use the New Criticism as the main theory.

1.6.2 Data Source

1.6.3 Data Collection

1. Reading a novel entitled *Shadow and Bone* as primary data.
2. Rereading the novel to find gaps in the research that has been done.
3. Making notes of what has been obtained in primary and secondary data.

The New Criticism theory has several research methods other than a close read. There are four research methods in the theory of new criticism, among others, read carefully, empirically, autonomy, and concrete (Bertens 2013, p.22). As previously discussed the close read method which prioritizes reading accuracy, other techniques also have their differences. The empiric method on the theory of new criticism is a research method that emphasizes observations more than assumptions. The autonomy method is a method that focuses on the intrinsic elements of literary works, including focusing on the author. The last method is the concrete method. This method is almost the same as autonomy, which focuses on the intrinsic elements that make literary works come alive.

licitly. The purpose of the new criticism theory is to find the implied value of each word that makes up a literary work. Like the human body which consists of various parts, a literary work can also be analogized like this. If words are arranged in such a way and the formal elements form the structure, if this is continuous, a complete literary work will be formed. This for

structure is used in new criticism research. Although the theory of new criticism focuses on literature in text form, this theory also does not ignore the cultural elements and moral values contained in the text (Dinurriyah 2014, p.20-21). Because after all, authors writing literary works must have different backgrounds in terms of culture and moral messages to be conveyed. This culture and moral message are conveyed automatically when the author writes every word in the process of writing a literary work, therefore these two things are not ignored by the theory of new criticism. As with formal elements, these two things form the shape of a literary work.

If the intrinsic elements in literary works are related to formal elements, the extrinsic elements in literary works are historical and social factors. The background of the author from the period of life and social conditions in the surrounding environment can affect the formation of literary works (Wellek 1949, p.19). In general, the author expresses what is experienced and what is around him through literary works, this is what is called the extrinsic element, while the intrinsic element is used to beautify the author's experience which has been poured so that it has aesthetic value.

As explained above, there are several formal elements in literary works, one of which is characterization. This element relates to character who make a story come alive and have a coherent path or plot from beginning to end. Because the characters in the story will be the center of attention of the reader. This study will only focus on characterization and character development. Because the researcher assesses the conflict in the novel by Leigh Bardugo is related to the

freedom of a woman to act and be herself.

2.1.1.1 Character

The characters are created by the author to be the actors of the story, so that the story can run from beginning to end. Characters are also used by the author to display lifestyle and moral values through dialogue in the story (Abrams 1981, p.32). There are two types of characters in literary works, the first is a major character. This character has a large portion of the story and becomes the center of the story. Usually, this character will be faced with various conflicts and will develop over time. While the second is a minor character, this character is a supporting character of the major character. Their appearance only becomes a supporter or complement to a story.

Major characters in literary works are protagonists or characters who appear at the beginning of the story until the end of the story, while minor characters are called antagonists. In addition to being a character who has a small portion in the story, the antagonist character can also be called the opponent of the protagonist character. The antagonist character is often depicted as a villain who hinders the protagonist from achieving his goals. But at the same time, the antagonist character can make the protagonist develop. Minor characters have two kinds of influence on the major characters or the storyline. The first influence, minor characters can make major characters develop like living beings in the real world. This influence is a big influence because it will have an impact on the storyline. But there are also minor characters that do not have any effect. They are shown only to be a sweetener of the story.

The depiction of the character is taken from basic human nature, namely good and bad. Because in this way, readers can understand or distinguish each character from their actions or values in their lives in the story. In addition, by giving certain characteristics to each character, it will be easier for the reader to imagine and represent the character in real life in their imagination. Through characters, writers can enter messages, ideology, and experiences so that they can be conveyed to readers. Character is a person created by the author of the story and formed with important moral, intellectual, emotional qualities so that it has a characteristic in dialogue (Abrams 1981, p.33). It is this aspect of character building that usually connects each individual reader. Readers can feel or feel suggested that the characters in the story are the same as themselves, both in terms of thought, way of speaking, or emotions.

The researcher decides to use this theory because the researcher wants to analyze the main characters in the novel *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo. The main character in this novel is described as a woman who does not have the freedom to express her feelings and control her strength, so she becomes a weak woman who is too dependent on a man to experience slavery. In addition, this theory also analyzes the process experienced by the main character who tries to release her feeling to Mal and become a strong and free woman.

2.1.1.2 Characterization

There are two ways authors describe the characters in their stories. The first way, the author will describe directly how the character looks starting from the way he dresses, stature, and the nature of the character. The second way, the

The characterizations written directly by the author are much easier and clearer for the reader to see, while the characterizations described through interactions between characters require a deeper thought process for the reader (Murphy 1972, p.167-169). The reader will only be given instructions in the interaction or dialogue of each character and the characterization process is carried out individually by the reader. The way of thinking of each individual will also affect the characterization of each of these characters if it is not raised directly by the author.

2.2 Personality Development

[illegible]

studies. The researcher found three studies using new criticism theory and two studies using the novel *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo as the object of research.

First, Nur Annissa (2020) The researcher analyzed the Heterotopia of the Little Palace in the novel Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo. The researcher uses Foucault's concept and focuses on knowing the creation of 'space' created by Darkling and its relationship to this site. The researcher referred to the Little Palace building, where Darkling and the other Grishas lived and trained. This study also highlights power relations as a struggle for control of space, as proposed by Foucault. Researchers managed to find that 'space' can be realized by Darkling, who utilizes the domain during a control battle with Alina Starkov. In addition, researchers also found four of the six characteristics of Heterotopia found in the Little Palace.

Second, Kitzen (2019) The researcher analyzes Russian references in several youth novels, one of which is *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo. The researcher underlines the use of Russian-ness references both from the depiction of the world in the novel and the use of sounds in Russian. The researcher refers to the use of Russian references in language, place settings, cultural aspects that reflect Russia, and geographic and demographic depictions. As a result, the researcher found several Russian references in several youth novels, especially *Shadow and Bone*. Both in naming the characters, describing the locations in *Shadow and Bone*, and the nicknames used to represent Russia, even the main characters' names also have Russian elements.

Fourth, Gobinskaya (2020) the researcher focuses on analyzing three negative spaces in the novel *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo. The three negative spaces referred to by the researcher are the cultural, political, and dynamic factors of Russia. To conduct the research, researchers focus on each word that has a meaning corresponding to the three spaces.. As a result, the researcher found that some words which when interpreted in Russian have different meanings from those presented in comics. The names of each character also represent a certain meaning when interpreted in Russian.

Fifth, Annika (2021) in this study, the researcher focuses on the identity formation in and around the Young Adult fantasy genre novel. In addition, the researchers combined three research methods such as genre

analysis, close reading, and fandom analysis. As a result, the researcher compared the three novels like *Divergent*, *Shadow and Bone*, and *The Hunger Games*. The researcher found that the characters in these three novels were shaped by their social life, the people closest to them. and events in the novel.

From the five previous studies described above, the researcher did not find any other researchers who analyzed Alina Starkov's character development in Leigh Bardugo's novel *Shadow and Bone*. The first, second, fourth, and fifth previous studies analyzed the novel *Shadow and Bone* but only focused on the relationship between Darkling and Alina, the shape of the Little Palace, the Russian references found in the novel, and identity formation. Meanwhile, the third previous study used different new criticism theories.

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

This chapter discusses the research above problems. The characterization of Alina Starkov, the influence of Baghra on Alina's personality development, and how Alina can defeat Darkling.. Data were collected and analyzed in the manner described in the previous chapter. The discussion focuses on what Alina Starkov went through and becoming a strong character. As an analogy in the real world, Alina, who used to be a cowardly woman who didn't dare to express her feelings, turned into a brave woman who was able to fight her enemy. In this case, it can be related that women in the real world can turn into strong women with the influence of various factors. After becoming strong, a woman can show those who look down on her that she is a strong and tough person.

3.1 The Description of Alina Starkov

Alina has been with Mal since they met at the orphanage. Although there are many other children in the orphanage, Alina and Mal prefer to spend time together. Alina and Mal's age is not far apart, this is what makes Alina feel comfortable playing with Mal. Besides, Alina hasn't made any friends since her parents left. For Alina, Mal is someone who can quickly restore her mood for the better. Alina entered the orphanage not at the same time as Mal, Alina met Mal indirectly when Alina was being bullied by other orphans.

3.1.1 Coward

The feeling of being a childhood friend slowly turned into a sense of love. Their togetherness developed into liking, Alina likes Mal, but she cannot say it

know her true feelings. Alina is afraid that Mal doesn't have the same feelings as her, Alina prefers to hide her jealous feelings. Therefore, Alina often feels restless to the point of not sleeping.

I hesitated by the door. This was the hardest part of being around him—other than the way he made my heart do clumsy acrobatics. I hated hiding how much the stupid things he did hurt me, but I hated the idea of him finding out even more. I thought about just turning around and going back inside. Instead, I swallowed my jealousy and sat down beside him (Bardugo 2012, p.23).

Mal also has the same feelings towards Alina. He also made several sentences explaining that he needed Alina by his side. “You know I’d be lost without you” (Bardugo 2012, p.24). Instead of understanding Mal's words, Alina does not know because she thinks Mal is a reliable tracker, and there is no way she could get lost.

Alina is too busy with her feelings without trying to understand Mal's true feelings for her. Alina was afraid that Grisha's seduction would tempt Mal, but she tried to eliminate that thought. She even convinced herself that Mal never paid attention to her and always considered their relationship a friend.

Would that black-haired Grisha girl sneak out of the pavilion to meet Mal? I pushed the thought away. It was none of my business, and really, I didn't want to know. Mal had never looked at me the way he'd looked at that girl or even the way he looked at Ruby, and he never would. But the fact that we were still friends was more important than any of that (Bardugo 2012, p.26).

Alina's indecisive feeling makes her uneasy and not free because there are feelings that haunt her. On the one hand, she thinks that Mal only sees their relationship as friends. But on the other hand, Alina wonders how long her friendship will last. She can only hope that the differences in the fields they take can keep them apart until they eventually become strangers to each other.

3.1.2 Insecure

Alina never knew that within her, there was an enormous enough power, enough to fight Volcra in Shadow Fold. But because Alina did not know it from a young age, this power could not be summoned by Alina. Unlike the other Grishas, who can control her powers, Alina has no conscious control over how to use her powers as weapons or protection for her. This power appears spontaneously when Alina feels threatened. Alina is aware that light is emerging from within her, but she does not feel that light is her strength. When Alina is attacked by Volcra while crossing the Shadow Fold with Mal and the troops, Alina tries to surrender when Volcra approaches her and tries to lead her into the darkness. As Alina resigned herself to her situation, a burst of light appeared in Alina's vision. Instantly she was unconscious, Alina only knew that after she saw the burst of light, Volcra removed his claws from his shoulder and fled. After Alina felt something coming out of her body, she immediately fell unconscious.

I closed my eyes as a sudden, piercing flood of light exploded across my vision. It seemed to fill my head, blinding me, drowning me. From somewhere above, I heard a horrible shriek. I felt the volcra's claws loosen their grip, felt the thud as I fell forward and my head connected with the deck, and then I felt nothing at all (Bardugo 2012, p.31).

When Alina came to her senses, she was already outside the Shadow Fold, but several soldiers pointed guns at her. Alina also sees Mal not beside her. Alina is confused by what happened, she can only remember that Volcra attacked her ship, and many died. Alina did not know why when she realized she had been held at gunpoint by the soldiers. Alina tried to find Mal by asking the soldiers, but no one answered. Even one of the soldiers told Alina to stand up and walk out of the ship. Walking past the survivors, they stared at Alina with piercing gazes.

After getting out of the ship, Alina realized that she and her ship had never passed the Shadow Fold, Alina returned to Kribirsk.

Walking with the soldiers made Alina look like a prisoner in her regiment.

Alina tried to remember what happened inside the Shadow Fold. She was confused about what she had done, Alina felt that she did not violate the protocol. She even reordered the events she remembered until a burst of light finally came out. Alina feels she should receive intensive treatment like the other victims because she was injured from the Volcra attack. She could only obey the soldiers' orders with him to find out what happened.

My mind was whirring, searching for answers and finding nothing. Had I done something wrong in the Fold? Broken some kind of military protocol? And how had we gotten out of the Fold, anyway? The wounds near my shoulder throbbed. The last thing I remembered was the terrible pain of the volcra's claws piercing my back, that searing burst of light. How had we survived? (Bardugo 2012, p.34)

The soldiers brought Alina before Colonel Raevsky to report. Colonel Raevsky had asked about Alina, but when Alina answered that she was a mapmaker, Colonel Raevsky emphasized his question so that Alina was confused about the answer. Colonel Raevsky then led Alina to a black tent which was none other than the tent belonging to the top brass of the Second Army, Darkling. Inside Darkling's tent, Alina, busy being fascinated by Darkling's physical appearance and looked younger than her, received an uneasy glance from the Grisha girl watching her. They were whispering and laughing while looking at Alina. The Grisha saw Alina as a prisoner, though she had made a mistake and would soon be punished by Darkling. Alina felt that her current appearance was far from worthy, especially now that she was facing the head of the Second Army, Darkling. The

testimony. Mal explained what he saw there, Mal could also see a bright light, but Mal tried not to believe the light was coming out of Alina's body. Mal assured Darkling that it was from Alina, he must have known because they were from the same village.

When Darkling asked Alina about her opinion, Alina denied that the light was coming from her. She felt like he had done nothing and didn't know how she could survive. At that moment, Alina fainted, so she did not understand what had happened. Alina thinks taking her is a mistake.

I swallowed. My throat was dry and my heart was careening from beat to beat, but I knew I had to speak. I had to make him understand that I'd had no part in any of this. "There's been some kind of mistake," I said hoarsely. "I didn't do anything. I don't know how we survived" (Bardugo 2012, p.42).

Not wanting to waste any more time, Darkling approached Alina and asked her to roll up her sleeves. Alina was afraid of what Darkling would do, but the Darkling convinced her not to be scared because he would only do a little testing on her hands. After Alina rolled up her sleeves, Darkling took out a small knife to slightly scratch Alina's skin and held her hand. Alina endured the pain from the scratch of Darkling's knife. Then Darkling unleashed his power to shroud the room with his darkness. Alina was scared and begged him to stop, but Darkling kept holding her hand until finally, a white light emerged from Alina's body.

Alina can see the faces of people who previously doubted Alina was amazed by the power that came out of Alina's body. The people who once did not believe that Alina was the Sun Summoner were motionless. They could not believe that they had finally found the hope of destroying the Shadow Fold. Alina actually couldn't believe what she was experiencing. But after seeing the light

coming out of her body herself, Alina didn't think she could do that.

Pain and fear rushed through me. I cried out. The thing inside me roared to the surface, speeding toward the Darkling's call. I couldn't stop myself. I answered. The world exploded into blazing white light. The darkness shattered around us like glass. For a moment, I saw the faces of the crowd, their mouths wide with shock as the tent filled with shining sunlight, the air shimmering with heat. Then the Darkling released his grip, and with his touch went that peculiar sense of certainty that had possessed me. The radiant light disappeared, leaving ordinary candlelight in its place, but I could still feel the warm and inexplicable glow of sunshine on my skin (Bardugo 2012, p.44)

After learning that Alina was a Sun Summoner, Darkling let go of his grip, and then the light from Alina's body faded and disappeared. This makes Alina confused about what to do because she was previously an ordinary woman who grew up in an orphanage in Ravka. But now, she is the Sun Summoner who has been awaited by many to destroy the Shadow Fold. Besides that, with the revelation of Alina's power, she becomes a Grisha.

What Alina experienced can refer to what often happens in the real world. When she found out about that hidden talent, she did not feel happy and tended to see it as something normal. In some cases, women tend to be more humble when praised for their hidden talents. Alina Starkov's strength can be compared to a hidden talent. Alina Starkov is described as a woman with a hidden talent, but when that talent emerges, Alina feels that she can't do anything. Alina feels that she is doing normal things when others judge her as having a hidden talent.

3.1.3 Overthinking

After Alina's true identity was revealed, Alina felt a sense of rejection because she felt that if she became Grisha, Mal would be disappointed with her. She felt that Mal would think she had been lying all along to look the same as

Mal. Alina tries to deny that she is a Grisha or Sun Summoner. Even though she saw for herself that her body could emit a bright and warm light, Alina still thought that what Darkling had done was a mistake. Alina felt that she was an ordinary girl and a mapmaker, but everything changed when she entered the Shadow Fold. The power that suddenly appears makes Alina feel disbelief and cannot accept that she is different from Mal.

Alina's fear and mindset, which assumes that nothing will happen, makes Alina a woman who rejects this hidden talent. Alina did not have the confidence to accept this hidden talent. Although Alina saw that she could do that talent, Alina assumed that she did it. This humble nature could be a barrier to honing that talent. This trait is often experienced by women these days, they do not want to admit that they have a hidden talent, just like Alina experienced, fear and a mindset that considers it normal are the obstacles to this hidden talent.

Alina kept trying to convince Darkling that she wasn't the Sun Summoner. But Darkling, who carried out the test, firmly believed Alina was the Sun Summoner. Darkling and people who saw it emit light thought Alina was the Sun Summoner, Grisha, to destroy Shadow Fold and reunite Ravka. There is a sense of insecurity in Alina. The view of people who think that Alina has great power to save them becomes a burden for her. What's more, Alina has always been with Mal, she was afraid that if Mal left, she would not be able to solve all the problems alone.

“Wait!” I protested, but the Darkling was already turning away. I grabbed hold of his arm, ignoring the gasp that rose from the Grisha onlookers. “There’s been some kind of mistake. I don’t ... I’m not ...” My voice trailed off as the Darkling turned slowly to me, his slate

eyes drifting to where my hand gripped his sleeve. I let go, but I wasn't giving up that easily. "I'm not what you think I am," I whispered desperately (Bardugo 2012, p.45)

I leaned forward, looking desperately from Ivan to Fedyor. “I’m not what you think I am. I’m not Grisha. What happened in the Fold ... I don’t know what happened, but I didn’t do it.” “And what happened in the Grisha tent?” asked Fedyor calmly. “I can’t explain that. But it wasn’t my doing. The Darkling did something when he touched me.” Ivan laughed. “He didn’t do anything. He’s an amplifier.” (Bardugo 2012, p.53)

Darkling did not do anything, but she had the power to amplify Grisha's power.

Even touching Darkling could release Grisha's power that he touched. What

happened to Alina was because Alina already had the power of the Sun

Summoner inside her, but Alina refused or could not bring out her power.

Therefore, to prove his strength Darkling had to test Alina directly. Ivan explains that Darkling is a living amplifier, as he can amplify the powers of other Grishas.

On the way to the Little Palace, Alina was always filled with worry.

Various questions popped up in her head, she was afraid that later she would not

be able to bring out her power, and what would happen to her if she failed in

bringing out her power in front of the king and queen. Besides that, Alina feels

that she has lost the figure of Mal. She thought about Mal's fate and felt regret that

she did not get to say goodbye to him. Alina is apprehensive about her fate if she

cannot bring out her powers.

But on the other hand, Alina refuses that she is a Grisha. Alina also looks

confused about her feelings for Mal. She feels that separating from Mal will make

her unable to imagine her figure, but Alina is also worried about what will happen

to Mal after her departure.

What would happen to me when we reached the Little Palace? What would happen when I couldn't do what they wanted me to do? It wasn't wise to disappoint kings. Or Darklings. I doubted they'd just send me back to the regiment with a pat on the back. I wondered if Mal was still in Kribirsk. If his wounds had healed, he might already

have been sent back across the Fold or on to some other assignment. I thought of his face disappearing into the crowd in the Grisha tent. I hadn't even had a chance to say goodbye (Bardugo 2012, p.62)

In the Little Palace, Alina received outstanding service like a princess.

Everything was prepared well to look beautiful in front of the king so that Alina could look beautiful. Alina does not want service like a king's daughter. She could not enjoy all of that because all she could think about was the lack of confidence in showing her strength. Alina still doubted whether she was a Sun Summoner. Alina is confused about demonstrating her power in front of the king and queen. Previously, Alina could take it out because Darkling was beside her and touched her. Alina does not know what to do to get her power out. But in her worries, Darkling tried to convince Alina that she could do it.

I felt as if I'd been dunked in ice water. "But I don't know how to—" "This isn't fair," I whispered angrily. "I don't know what the King thinks I can do, but it isn't fair to throw me out there and expect me to just ... make things happen." (Bardugo 2012, p.83)

While walking towards the king and queen, Alina tried to calm herself and focus on what she would do next. Alina tried to dispel her fear by observing the surroundings. After being in front of the king and queen, Darkling introduced Alina as the Sun Summoner. When instructed by the king to show her strength, Alina was confused and slowly advanced before the king. Darkling grabbed one of Alina's hands in her confusion, and Alina sensed Darkling's call. If previously Alina tried to restrain her power, this time she let it out until finally the throne room was illuminated by Alina's power.

In this case, Alina seems to have no power over her strength. Alina continues to be helped by Darkling to bring out her power. This makes Alina a weak Grisha woman and always depends on others even though Alina should

have tried to bring out the power of her own accord. Because if she cannot control her power, Alina won't change from before. Alina realized that she could not yet bear the title of Grisha or Sun Summoner. Alina is aware of her inability to bring out her power. Still, those who have seen her ability to summon the sun are already very sure that Alina is the Sun Summoner. As a Grisha, Alina must wear a Kefta to signify that she is a Grisha. Darkling wanted Alina to wear a Kefta in the same color as her, black. But Alina refused because, according to her, she was not worthy of wearing the same color or position as Darkling.

Alina did not want herself to be above the other Grishas. She felt it would be very unfair if the previously nobody person then became the boss for the other Grisha. “Well, I don’t want to be high above all others” (Bardugo 2012, p.89). Alina could have agreed to wear a black Kefta. All of the Grishas desperately wanted to get the same Kefta as Darkling. But Alina was very sure to wear the blue Kefta. Alina does not want to stand out in front of people. Moreover, she cannot master her powers yet.

While in the Little Palace, Alina feels lonely even though she meets many new people, such as Genya, Darkling, and Grisha. But Alina felt she had no friends in the Little Palace. This is what makes Alina always miss her life as an ordinary woman. Even though Alina enjoys all the services in the Little Palace, Alina still hopes that it never happens. Alina hopes that everything is just a dream; when she wakes up, she can see Alexei, still alive, and Mal, fine. Alina's rejection is due to her longing to be by Mal's side. She felt that if she were not with her best friend, everything would feel lonely.

Maybe I would wake tomorrow and find that it had all been a dream, that Alexei was still alive and Mal was unhurt, that no one had tried to kill me, that I'd never met the King and Queen or seen the Apparat, or felt the Darkling's hand on the nape of my neck. Maybe I would wake to smell the campfires burning, safe in my own clothes, on my little cot, and I could tell Mal all about this strange and terrifying, but very beautiful, dream. (Bardugo 2012, p.93)

After sleeping in restlessness because she wanted to return to her previous life,

Alina woke up and prepared to put on her dark blue Kefta. Alina cannot believe that she is now a Grisha when wearing it. But Alina prefers to think of this Kefta as just an outfit. Alina still did not want to be too quick to think of herself as Grisha. Before Alina had her training, Genya accompanied her to tour the Little Palace and told her what rooms were there. Genya also introduced Alina to several people until finally, Genya escorted her to Baghra's residence.

3.1.4 Weak

Alina, who previously had not been able to control her strength, had to undergo some exercises to bring out her strength without anyone's help. Alina will be assisted by several trainers, an older woman named Baghra. Baghra sees Alina as the Summoner of the Sun or the hope of the people to destroy the Shadow Fold. Baghra, a living amplifier just like Darkling, touched Alina and saw her power firsthand. But when she told Alina to bring out her power, Alina could not do it.

Baghra taunts and beats Alina with his wooden stick several times every time Alina fails to summon her powers. Several times Baghra tried to help Alina by holding her hand to get her strength out, but when Alina tried to get her strength out, Baghra let go of her grip, and Alina's strength immediately disappeared. The second exercise that Alina had to follow was combat training with a trainer named Botkin.

Alina felt that fighting training would be much easier than practicing power control with Baghra. But all the same, Alina has difficulty following Botkin's training and directions and is often hit. Botkin directly trains Alina, he even invites Alina to partner with him to fight with him.

When we returned to the training rooms, the other Summoners paired off for sparring drills, and Botkin insisted on partnering me. The next hour was a blur of painful jabs and punches. “Block!” he shouted, knocking me backward. “Faster! Maybe little girl likes to be hit?” (Bardugo 2012, p.108)

After training with Baghra and Botkin, Alina's body ached all over, and she even had a hard time getting out of bed. Alina spent the days with challenging and exhausting training. Alina still cannot master strength and cannot master the fighting techniques taught by Botkin. Baghra helps Alina to practice her breathing so she can control her strength. Even Baghra gives her tea so Alina can relax while practicing with her. But none of them worked. Like when she trained with Baghra, Alina also got hard training while with Botkin. Alina is often trained to run around the Palace, run into the forest, and do other physical exercises. Botkin also trains Alina's body and shapes her mentality by insulting Alina's thin, weak and small body.

My daily failures with Baghra were matched only by the torture that Botkin put me through. He ran me all over the palace grounds, through the woods, up and down hills until I thought I would collapse. He put me through sparring drills and falling drills until my body was covered in bruises and my ears ached from his constant grumbling: too slow, too weak, too skinny (Bardugo 2012, p.114)

Undergoing a very strenuous and exhausting exercise made Alina unable to sleep well. Being on a luxurious and soft mattress did not make Alina's sleep quality good. Alina's appearance had also become disheveled due to the effects of strenuous training. Baghra had told Alina that her messy sleeping pattern made

her unable to summon her powers, and she had a hard time following combat training. Alina used too much strength to deny her true identity as a Grisha. This is what makes it difficult for Alina to bring out her power. Alina is aware of it, but she is currently stuck. Alina cannot be a free and strong woman because her strength is drained every night. She has trouble sleeping, refuses everything that happens, and does not enjoy the process of training with Baghra and Botkin.

Besides, Alina did not want to get together with the other Grishas in the Little Palace. She prefers to be friends with Genya than mingle with other Grishas. Alina does not want the other Grishas to know that she cannot summon her power. Alina was afraid Darkling would be disappointed to see her Sun Summoner fail to bring out her power. Alina's burden is huge, apart from Darkling, the King and Queen, Alina also feels burdened because of the people who rely on Alina for their hopes. Alina's suffering is compounded by a very deep feeling of longing for her old life, especially for Mal. While at the Little Palace, Alina never got any news about Mal. This is what triggers Alina's peace of mind. She could not be free to hone her strength because she was stuck with her thoughts on Mal.

Alina writes letters to Mal every day. But not a single letter was answered by Mal. Even though Alina just wanted to know the news from Mal. This feeling of longing that cannot be conveyed makes Alina shackled by her feelings. If he could let go of everything, he could become a powerful Grisha that even surpassed Darkling's strength. Alina hopes Mal's arrival at the Little Palace to just visit her. But it was very difficult to realize because not everyone could enter the

Little Palace.

I'd written to him every week, care of our regiment, but I hadn't heard anything back. I knew the post could be unreliable and that his unit might have moved on from the Fold or might even be in West Ravka, but I still hoped that I would hear from him soon. I'd given up on the idea of him visiting me at the Little Palace. As much as I missed him, I couldn't bear the thought of him knowing that I fit into my new life about as well as I'd fit into my old one (Bardugo 2012, p.119)

Alina's days are getting worse with Zoya's appearance. Zoya was one of the Grishas who had teased Mal during his time in the Second Army. Zoya is not a good Grisha, because she once insulted Alina, who came from an orphanage in Keramzin. Not only that, Alina was then paired with Zoya by Botkin in combat training. Despite initially losing, Alina clearly remembers every instruction from Botkin during the fight to immobilize Zoya. However, Zoya cheated by throwing Alina with her wind power. Alina suffered a fracture in her left back and made her need to be treated intensively by healers. When Alina was being treated, the apparatus visited her and explained that the residents had built an altar to worship Alina the Sun Summoner somewhere. Alina did not believe what the apparatus said because she was neither a priest nor a religious leader. But the apparatus explains that Alina has turned into the savior of society to free them from the Shadow Fold.

Hearing the words of the apparatus, made Alina even more burdened. Since she could not control her powers yet, if she continued to fail, not only Darkling would be disappointed. But Baghra and the entire Ravka community would be disappointed to learn that the person they were hoping for failed to master her powers. The increased burden made Alina unable to enjoy all the training process. All the pressures from feeling homesick for Mal and her old life

to the expectations of the wider community and physically draining exercises make Alina feel depressed. She could not be a free and detached Grisha.

My hands were shaking. I wanted to dismiss the Apparat's ramblings as nonsense, but I couldn't. Not if people were really praying to the Sun Summoner, not if they were expecting me to save them. I remembered the Darkling's dire words beneath the broken roof of the barn. The age of Grisha power is coming to an end. I thought of the volcra, of the lives being lost on the Shadow Fold. A divided Ravka won't survive the new age. I wasn't just failing the Darkling or Baghra or myself. I was failing all of Ravka (Bardugo 2012, p.126)

As Alina was about to train again with Baghra, she heard Darkling arguing with Baghra in her hut. When Alina peeks at them, Baghra notices Alina is there and tells her to come in with the excuse that she does not want the heat in her hut to come out. Darkling plans to find an amp for Alina. Hearing this, Alina was pleased because the presence of an amplifier meant that she could more easily draw out her power. But actually, Baghra is not pleased about this because it will only make Alina weak. After all, she would not be able to summon her power. Precisely with Alina being able to control her strength and adding an amplifier will make Alina much stronger.

Darkling plans to give Alina an amplifier that comes from Morozova's deer. Deer are believed to be mythological animals. However, Darkling believes that Morozova's deer do exist. Darkling plans to find Morozova's deer and take its antlers to be used as necklaces or amplifiers for Alina. The necklace will be the most powerful amplifier ever. Darkling prefers to give Alina an amplifier rather than relying on Alina's power without an amplifier. Darkling's words successfully lulled Alina, so she agreed to use the amplifier to help Darkling destroy Shadow Fold. Because Baghra disagrees with Darkling's plan to give Alina an amplifier,

Baghra. But Baghra did not immediately believe it. Baghra could feel something deeper, making it hard for Alina to accept reality. With all the luxuries Alina received, especially being by Darkling's side, all of these things were wanted by everyone, but Alina still couldn't feel comfortable. "She was right, of course. I knew very well that I was homesick for my best friend. But I wasn't about to tell her that" (Badugo 2012, p.139). Baghra realizes Alina that being a Grisha is the same as being a mapmaker. There is no difference in being something, everything must have its advantages and disadvantages. When Alina was about to leave Baghra's hut, Baghra called her and asked Alina where she was going and who was waiting for her outside. Immediately Alina felt slapped by Baghra's words. Mal's absence of direct news made Alina realize that she was alone and could no longer return to her past. Alina realized earlier that part of her wanted to go home with Mal and the other part hoped that everything was a misunderstanding, and Darkling sent her back to the Second Army.

Training those talents won't be easy without the inner will to hone hidden talents. Alina, who previously did not recognize this talent, finally experienced difficulties in practice. Moreover, suppose there is an element of coercion in practicing a talent, as a woman who has a hidden talent. In that case, the willingness to practice it must come from herself so that the body will enjoy each process more, and it will be easier to train that talent. Alina is often seen attending training with Botkin and Baghra, even Alina often reads books in the library to hone her skills. But Alina has no will in her. Alina did it all because Darkling and Genya told her to. Alina trains daily and reads so many books that it is difficult to

sleep because there is an element of compulsion. Alina didn't want to do any of that. In addition, his desire to be with Mal is also a barrier for him to hone his skills. As a woman much older than Alina, Baghra advises nothing to regret hidden talents. According to Baghra, Alina should be happy because she is a woman who has talent. A woman with a skill can make herself equal to men. She can even become independent from men if men do not own her talent.

Baghra was right. I'd thought I was making such an effort, but deep down, some part of me just wanted to go home to Mal. Some part of me hoped that this had all been a mistake, that the Darkling would realize his error and send me back to the regiment, that Mal would realize how much he'd missed me, that we'd grow old together in our meadow. Mal had moved on, but I was still standing frightened before those three mysterious figures, holding tight to his hand. It was time to let go. That day on the Shadow Fold, Mal had saved my life, and I had saved his. Maybe that was meant to be the end of us (Bardugo 2012, p.142)

After Alina tried to let everything go and accept everything that happened, including her power, for the first time, Alina felt at peace and tried to summon her power which she had ignored and buried deep inside. Without Baghra's help and hard work, Alina could bring out the light from within her body. Even the light she gave off was much warmer and stronger than before. Because of Alina's efforts, the power that comes out of Alina's body is much purer than with the help of Amplifire or Darkling and Baghra.

After Alina made peace with the situation, she experienced many changes. Alina is much more confident about hanging out with the other Grishas and can train together to control her powers even better. Alina does not find it difficult anymore to bring out her power. Even Alina, it is much easier to manage her current strength. Apart from that, another change is that Alina does not have

trouble sleeping anymore. Alina sleeps much better and sounds less so that she feels more refreshed in the morning.

Alina often experiences pain while training due to the blows from Botkin and Baghra. Alina felt her body was crushed because the exercise portion was too heavy for her. Even Alina felt that her training with Botkin and Baghra was torture because she did not enjoy the practice. But after she mastered her strength and tried to let it all go, Alina was able to practice freely, even though she loved her training with Botkin and Baghra. Alina can absorb all the techniques taught and can practice them smoothly.

Botkin, who used to dislike Alina because she was too skinny and couldn't do anything, now really likes Alina because she is a diligent and obedient student. Not only that, but Alina is also enjoying her training with Botkin even more. She didn't complain as she used to, in fact, there was no longer any fear that appeared on her face. Baghra also felt it, Alina was much better than before, although Alina was only able to release her power on a small scale, Baghra felt Alina's changes were enough to make her much stronger and the will to accept herself as Grisha had emerged.

3.2.3 Significant People

Alina's life became more accessible after letting go of what had happened to her. Even though Alina could summon her power, it was not enough to make her a strong Grisha. Alina still has to train together with Baghra to master even greater powers. As a teacher, Baghra only gave input and allowed Alina at all costs to continue to exceed her limits. “Do you think the world cares if you do

your best? Do it again and do it right” (Bardugo 2012, p.144). Baghra wants Alina not to be complacent with the progress she is currently making. Therefore, Baghra always advises Alina to go beyond her limits and continue to develop. Alina also feels that her training with Botkin is getting more and more fun. If previously Alina always failed to practice and could not do anything, after she gave up everything, Alina was able to overcome all the challenges given by Botkin easily and became stronger in fighting. In addition, Alina gets a glove with a glass made by the Fabricator to direct the power of her light into the enemy's eyes. Alina also received a gift from Botkin, a knife made of Grisha steel.

Alina tries to be strong every day, Baghra also always gives instructions to Alina to continue to improve her ability to summon light. Alina is not bothered by Baghra's advice, she feels that Baghra is helping her become stronger. But Darkling felt that was not enough and preferred to give Alina an amplifier from Morozova's deer even though Alina could be stronger without the amplifier.

“You’ve been on the Shadow Fold, Alina. You know what we’re up against.” I felt suddenly stubborn. “I know that I’m getting stronger every day. If you give me a chance—” Again, the Darkling shook his head. “I can’t take that kind of a chance. Not with Ravka’s future at stake.” (Bardugo 2012, p.149)

Alina has let Mal go and has not thought too deeply about Mal's condition. But Alina is faced with her relationship with Darkling. After Darkling kissed her, Alina often lost focus in training and made Baghra angry. Alina realized that she had fallen for Darkling, and that it could affect her activity with Baghra. Alina will again demonstrate her power at the royal winter celebration event in front of the nobles and the other Grishas. If previously she needed help from Darkling, Alina could efficiently emit light to illuminate the ballroom. Everyone is stunned

to see Alina's strength and is increasingly convinced that Alina is their savior.

I heard people laughing and crying. That feeling of disquiet twisted through me again. These people believed that I could save them. What would they think when they learned I was good for nothing but parlor tricks? But these thoughts were only dim flickers. It was hard to think of anything but the fact that, after weeks of ignoring me, the Darkling had hold of my hand and was pulling me through a narrow door and down an empty corridor (Bardugo 2012, p.169)

Alina felt a little worried because she could see firsthand how much hope

people put on her. Moreover, at this time, she had not been able to master her strength to a large extent. When Alina returns to the Little Palace, Alina meets Mal with his entourage, who finds the location of Morozova's deer. Mal came to the Little Palace to report the location of the deer to Darkling. Alina was amazed to see Mal, she was happy but also confused because of Mal's cold nature. Alina, who realizes Mal's changes, is increasingly convinced that Mal doesn't consider Alina as her best friend anymore. Instead, Mal thought that Alina was doing well in the Little Palace with Darkling. Mal also saw that Alina was currently with Darkling, starting from the clothes, jewelry, and appearance, Alina already looked the same as Darkling.

When Alina returns to her room to mourn Mal's departure, Baghra appears from the secret door in Alina's room. Baghra then gave clothes to Alina and told her to leave the Little Palace. Baghra explains that she saved Alina from the grasp of Darkling, who wanted to make her a slave. Darkling had his intention when he was going to give Alina an amplifier. Instead of wanting to see Alina become strong, Darkling wanted to make Alina his strength to make Volcra in Shadow Fold come out freely and become Darkling's troops.

The land that the Unsea covers was once green and good, fertile and

rich. Now it is dead and barren, crawling with abominations. The Darkling will push its boundaries north into Fjerda, south to the Shu Han. Those who do not bow to him will see their kingdoms turned to desolate wasteland and their people devoured by ravaging volcra (Bardugo 2012, p.181)

Alina doesn't believe Baghra at first, but finally, Baghra explains that she is

Darkling's mother. Baghra also explained that it was Darkling who created the

Shadow Fold. Baghra has the same power as Darkling. Darkling was being nice to

Alina only, to use her power to overwhelm Ravka completely. After hearing

Baghra's explanation, Alina realized that she would not help Darkling carry out

his plan. Because according to Baghra if Darkling manages to find Morozova's

deer and make a necklace for Alina, Alina will submit to Darkling, and Darkling

can have control over Alina's power. After Alina realized that all of Darkling's

treatment of her was insincere, Alina was willing to leave the Little Palace and

immediately move away to western Ravka.

Baghra assures Alina that she is now much stronger than before and

crossing the Shadow Fold alone is not difficult. Alina is now different from

before, with fighting skills and survival methods, Alina is no longer afraid to

travel alone. Alina has also been able to bring out her strength if there is an

enemy. “Endless days of training with Botkin meant I knew the groundswell. I

was grateful for every sweaty hour as I jogged over lawns and between trees”

(Bardugo 2012, p.188). All this hard work in training has paid off for Alina. If

previously she depended on Mal or Darkling, now Alina can travel alone. Alina

tried to recall the route when she first came to the Little Palace. Alina decided to

sneak into the trunk of the horse carriage and hide there until the carriage stopped

in a small town. While spending the night, Alina thought that everything Baghra

Week event, Alina and Mal are about to be robbed by two people. Alina is held captive by one robber, and one of the robbers points a gun at Mal. Alina immediately took out her power and reflected it into the robber's eyes, who was aiming at Mal so that Mal could push him against the wall. Then another robber was also blinded by Alina, and Alina immediately used her knee to make one of the robbers' noses bleed.

He lunged. I twisted the mirror, and bright light shot into Longface's eyes. He hesitated, throwing his hand up to block the glare. Mal seized his chance. He leapt to his feet and grabbed hold of Longface, throwing him hard against the wall. Lev loosened his grip on me to raise Mal's rifle, but I whirled on him, bringing the mirror up, blinding him. "What the—" he grunted, squinting. Before he could recover, I slammed a knee into his groin. As he bent double, I put my hands on the back of his head and brought my knee up hard. There was a disgusting crunch, and I stepped backward as he fell to the ground clutching his nose, blood spurting between his fingers (Bardugo 2012, p.211)

Alina can rely on her strength to fight off the robbers despite Mal's presence. Even Alina can help Mal, who has been cornered at gunpoint. Alina became a much stronger woman than before. She managed to absorb all the knowledge he got from his rigorous training with Botkin and Baghra. Mal, who saw Alina's change, was confused about where Alina had learned to fight before. Alina explained that it was her hard work while in the Little Palace.

Alina continues her journey with Mal to look for Morozova's deer. Alina and Mal exchange stories a lot when they travel. Until they finally confess their feelings for each other. Alina does not think much about how Mal knows her feelings. Even though Alina still loves Mal, Alina does not put that feeling forward.

I thought that I'd given up on Mal. I thought the love I'd had for him

belonged to the past, to the foolish, lonely girl I never wanted to be again. I'd tried to bury that girl and the love she'd felt, just as I'd tried to bury my power. But I wouldn't make that mistake again (Bardugo 2012, p.227)

Alina has decided to become a woman who is not shackled to feelings of love and expects too much from someone. Alina tries to become a strong woman who focuses on her strength and becomes Grisha, who will fulfill people's hopes in destroying Shadow Fold. Alina was happy because Mal had told her the truth, but Alina did not want to fall into her feelings again and lose focus, let alone leave her strength again.

3.3 Alina Use Her Power to Defeat Darkling

Instead of quickly getting the stag's antlers Morozova, Alina gets resistance from Darkling, who ambushes her and wants to kill the stag. Darkling tries to kill the deer, but Alina protects the deer with her. Previously, Alina had asked Mal if they were caught. Mal had to kill Alina so Darkling could not get what she wanted. When Alina asks Mal for that, Mal cannot do it and becomes Darkling's prisoner. Alina, who is still protecting the deer, is faced with two choices: saving Mal and becoming Darkling's slave or letting Mal be killed and Alina getting the power of Morozova's deer. Alina, who saw that Mal could not do anything, was finally forced to obey Darkling's wishes and become his slave.

Two of the Darkling's guards had hold of me while Mal struggled between two others. "Be still or I'll kill you where you stand," Ivan snarled at him. "Leave him alone!" I shouted. "Shhhhhh." The Darkling walked toward me, one finger held to his lips, which were curled into a mocking smile. "Quiet now, or I will let Ivan kill him. Slowly." Tears spilled onto my cheeks, freezing in the cold night air (Bardugo 2012, p.230-231).

Darkling then killed the deer and took its antlers to make a necklace. Alina does not want to obey Darkling's wishes, but she has to do all Darkling's orders so

that Mal does not get killed. With the help of his troops, Darkling managed to attach the necklace and implant it in Alina's collarbone so that the necklace would be used forever. Alina tried to use her strength to fight Darkling, instead of getting great power from her amplifier, Alina could not bring out her power. However, when Darkling grabbed Alina's shoulder and summoned light, Alina's body immediately reacted with the intensity of bright light.

Darkling had offered Alina what she should do to Mal. Darkling deliberately did not kill Mal to take advantage of Alina. Alina begged Darkling not to hurt Mal. Alina does not want Mal to die for helping her against Darkling. To convince Darkling, Alina explained that she would gladly become his slave if he freed Mal. Alina would be willing to help Darkling in any way. But on the other hand, if Darkling kills or injures Mal, Alina will not hesitate to hunt down Darkling and will swear to kill her at any cost.

“Because the collar can’t give you what you want,” I said recklessly. I had only one thing with which to bargain and it was so little, but I pressed on. “I have no choice but to serve you, but if Mal comes to harm, I will never forgive you. I will fight you any way that I can. I will spend every waking minute looking for a way to end my life, and eventually, I’ll succeed. But show him mercy, let him live, and I will serve you gladly. I will spend the rest of my days proving my gratitude.” I nearly choked out the last word (Bardugo 2012, p.247). Since Alina can’t bring out her powers yet, Alina will do anything to

protect Mal and save Mal from Darkling's clutches. Alina is willing to give up her freedom so that Mal can be separated from Darkling. But Darkling wouldn't let Mal off just like that. Darkling had already planned to take Mal across the Shadow Fold with him and Alina. Darkling will use Mal as bait for Volcra.

Darkling explained that it was punishment for a traitor. Alina is only allowed to

meet with Mal once to say goodbye.

Darkling takes Alina and Mal on a voyage across the Shadow Fold. Alina had to be by Darkling's side because Darkling would need Alina to keep Volcra away from the ship. Instead of destroying the Shadow Fold, Darkling used her dark power to expand the Shadow Fold further. The people in the west port of Ravka ran in panic as darkness devoured them and turned them into Volcra. Everyone who saw Darkling disagree, but they were afraid to go against it.

After expanding Shadow Fold, Darkling instructed to return to Ravka. But Darkling told his aide to get Mal out and was left in the Shadow Fold. He heard that Alina felt angry and tried to rebel by hitting his adjutant's jaw hard. But the other bodyguards immediately restrained Alina. “Without thinking, I turned on Ivan and punched him hard in the jaw” (Bardugo 2012, p.259). Alina tried her best to bring out her strength but to no avail. When Alina saw Mal was already in the dark and heard her scream, Alina again thought of the stag Morozova who Darkling killed. Alina's dreams about the stag often appear, Alina thinks it only haunts her, but actually, the stag wants to show Alina's true strength because Alina has spared the stag's life. Alina made up her mind and recalled everything that Baghra had taught her. If Alina's power of light was previously separated from her because Alina chose to suppress that power, this time, the power was separated from Alina again due to Darkling's shackles.

I had spared the stag's life. The power of that life belonged to me as surely as it belonged to the man who had taken it. I gasped as understanding flooded through me, and I felt that invisible grip falter. My power slid back into my hands. Once more, I stood in Baghra's hut, calling the light for the first time, feeling it rush toward me, taking possession of what was rightfully mine. This was what I had

been born for. I would never let anyone separate me from it again (Bardugo 2012, p.260)

Alina's strength returned to her grip and Alina managed to emit a much bigger light than before. Alina's strong determination to make a necklace that should have made her a slave turns into an amplification of the power of light. The light from Alina's body managed to reach Mal and made Volcra, who was about to take Mal lost. Darkling was confused and tried to attack Alina with her dark power but failed. Darkling ordered the Grishas to attack Alina, but Alina's great power could make a sword made of light. The Cut technique previously could only be mastered by Darkling.

I raised my hand and brought it down in a blazing arc, slashing through the air. An earth-shaking crack echoed through the Fold as the sandskiff split in half. Raw screams filled the air and the volcra shrieked in their frenzy. I grabbed Mal's arm and threw a dome of light around us. We ran, stumbling into the darkness, and soon the sounds of battle faded as we left the monsters behind (Bardugo 2012, p.263)

Alina tried to convince the people to help her against Darkling, but everyone just fell silent. Without thinking, Alina ran to Mal and kept the light away from Skiffsand. Darkling tried to threaten Alina to come back to him. But Alina didn't care about Darkling anymore. With her power, Alina split Darkling's Sandskiff in two. Alina lowered the light to cover herself and Mal, and then they walked away through the darkness towards the other side. Alina, who was just a clumsy woman, is now a Grisha who is independent in action and very strong with her current strength.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

In this chapter, the researcher will present the conclusions from the research carried out in the above chapter. Alina Starkov, as the main character in the novel *Shadow and Bone*, Alina, born as an ordinary girl from an Orphanage, finds herself having the power to summon the sun within her. She never thought that she was a Grisha. Alina went through many processes to finally become a strong woman and defeat Darkling.

The researcher found that Alina Starkov's characterization are coward, insecure, overthinking, and weak. Alina prefers to keep her feelings hidden and becomes Mal's friend. In addition, when her latent power emerges, Alina cannot accept that power and thinks that everything directed at her is a mistake. Alina's refusal pays off when she has to train her strength. Alina couldn't bring out her power and only depended on Darkling. Not only that, Alina, who does not have the sincerity of her heart in accepting her power, has difficulty in practicing and mastering her strength. Alina got nothing from her training apart from fatigue and severe pain.

Baghra's influence on Alina's personality development is the strong motivation he gives to Alina and Baghra becomes an important person in Alina's development to be strong. As someone who often sees Alina trying to bring out her strength, Baghra sees Alina as a burden that prevents her from bringing out her strength. Baghra realized that Alina was not serious in practice. Alina didn't seem to enjoy every process of her course. Even though Baghra trains Alina hard,

she convinces Alina to discuss what has happened. Baghra helps Alina to practice with a sincere heart. Baghra assures Alina that being a Grisha is not something to regret. Whatever is in oneself must be accepted and honed to be maximal and valuable. Alina is aware that she misses being beside Mal. Her worries with the expectations of big people prevent Alina from mastering her potential. After Alina made peace with all her problems, minor by little Alina could master her power.

Alina decides to find the antlers of Morozova's stag before Darkling. Still, Darkling has followed them and manages to take the antlers of Morozova's stag to be used as a slave necklace for Alina. Alina and Mal are brought to Shadow Fold by Darkling to carry out his evil plan. Alina recalled her efforts to train her strength. Moreover, the power of summoning the sun was hers. Finally, Alina managed to bring out her much greater strength than before and fought Darkling and saved Mal. Alina then took Mal to a safe place away from Darkling.

Alina's story can inspire women today who often feel insecure with themselves and difficult to convey their feelings to others. Even though this is based on a fictional novel, Alina, who has a hidden power, can be compared to a hidden talent in a woman. In the real world, women should not have to be afraid if they have certain skills because if they are honed wholeheartedly, they can become weapons to live a more decent life and equal status with men. Denying the potential in oneself is the biggest obstacle to filling that potential. Potential can only be appropriately honed if the person who has the potential enjoys every process of practice and strives to exceed the limits of self, just like Alina, who could master her power to defeat Darkling and protect her loved ones.

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