

7 SPHERES OF ACTION IN NETFLIX SERIES SHADOW AND BONE S1 (2021): A VLADIMIR PROPP'S THEORY PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract: *Seven spheres of action is a theory made by Vladimir Propp. The researcher analyzed the role of characters that appear in the Netflix series Shadow and Bone with this theory. The research method used is descriptive qualitative method. The result of this research shows there are six out of seven spheres of action that appear in this story which are: Alina Starkov as hero, King Pyotr as dispatcher, Baghra as donor, General Kirigan and Genya Safin as false hero, Malyen Oretsev, Zoya Nazyalensky, and The Crows (Kaz Brekker, Inej Ghava, Jesper Fahey) as helper, General Kirigan, Arken Visser, Dreesen, and General Zlatan as villain. The spheres of action the princess and her father did not appear in this series.*

Keywords: *Seven spheres of action, Vladimir Propp, Series, Shadow and Bone.*

INTRODUCTION

In literary works, especially fiction, there are many genres in it. One of them is the high fantasy genre. High fantasy is a subgenre of fantasy. According to J. R. R. Tolkien in Aquino (1977), Fantasy is a particular genre that is about creating an imaginary alternate world, the other world being the land of fairies. Although his stipulation for fantasy literature to create another world entirely eliminates stories of old gods on Earth, stories that end in dreams, and any literature that has a basis in reality. Tolkien's definition extends to include myth and fairy tales in addition to modern or "pure" fantasy. The term "fantasy literature" refers to works, primarily novels, that posit an imagined alternate world.

Presently, fantasy fiction is multilayered and covers a wide range of literary subgenres, such as classic fantasy, magical realism, dark fantasy, scientific fantasy, historical fantasy, paranormal romance, and more. High fantasy, also commonly referred to as epic fantasy or heroic fantasy, is presumably the most popular subgenre of fantasy fiction. Fantasy genres are famous not only in novels but also in movies. The medium has grown to the point where fantasy films are produced and have gained recognition for their near-realistic depictions of magic and the supernatural. The Harry Potter series, The Lord of the Rings trilogy, and The Chronicles of Narnia are some of the most famous fantasy films in the world. These movies do a lot to flare interest in reading fantasy literature (Prasannan, 2018).

Nowadays, many networks such as Netflix exist in the entertainment world. Netflix is a streaming service that offers a wide variety of award-winning TV shows, movies, anime, documentaries, and more on thousands of internet-connected devices. There are hundreds of original contents that can be streamed by anyone everywhere add-free, unlike content on the television.

Shadow and Bone is a Netflix series adapted from the Young Adult Fantasy Fiction New York Times Best Seller with the same title as the series written by American writer Leigh Bardugo. The Netflix series is

actually a mix of two novel series; Shadow and Bone trilogy and Six of Crows duology which is joined with other one book series, King of Scars duology, in one universe known as Grishaverse. This movie series was first released on Netflix on April 23rd. 2021 for season 1 and March 16th. 2023 for season 2 while the release of season 3 remains unknown.

Shadow and Bone Netflix version season 1 tells about an orphan girl, Alina who lived in an orphanage with her best friend Mal, later on, found out that she is a Grisha. According to General Kirigan, Grisha is the one who practices little science. The power they possess is not magical. This is science. They didn't just conjure themselves out of thin air. They manipulate what already subsists. This story takes place in Ravka. According to Bardugo (2017), Ravka is a monarchy ruled by the Lantsov dynasty and is protected by two branches of the military: the first Army, composed of ordinary and frequently ill-equipped soldiers, and the second Army, a military force of Grisha soldiers sworn to protect Ravka. Exhausted by centuries of war with Fjerda to the north, and the Shu Han to the south, Ravka is itself divided by the Unsea (or the Shadow Fold) which separates West Ravka and East Ravka. The story begins when the Grisha's skiff gets attacked by volcra (the monsters who live inside the fold) when sailing across the fold from East Ravka to West Ravka thus the Darkling found a Grisha that had been sought for a long time, the Sun Summoner, Alina Starkov.

This movie series has won 1 award in 5 nominations. Shadow and Bone won 2021 ReFrame Stamp IMDBPro: Top 200 Most Popular TV Titles, nominated in 2022 CAFTCAD: Best Costume Design in International Feature or TV, 2021 IFTA Award: Best Visual Effects, 2021 Dragon Award: Best Science Fiction or Fantasy TV Series, 2021 People Choice Awards, USA: The Sci-Fi/Fantasy Show of 2021.

The researcher decided to use Shadow and Bone Netflix series as a source of data because the researcher is very interested in dark fantasy-themed stories. With this research, the researcher wants more fantasy movie to be recognized that fantasy movie is not always about Harry Potter. Also, this series was nominated and won an award. This series has not been analyzed by other researchers using Vladimir Propp's theory.

The researcher uses Shadow and Bone Netflix Series as object data to produce a research based on Vladimir Propp's theory perspective, 7 Spheres of Action. The researcher analyzed the role that the characters played in the progression of the story related to Propp's theory. The aim is to understand more about 7 Spheres of Action based on Vladimir Propp's theory in this series.

Research about narrative functions have been done before. Sa'id (2020) conducted research about Narrative Functions of Luc Besson's "LUCY" 2014. Then, Pratiwi (2020) analyzed morphology of Folktale in Riwayaqna Marakarma. The last one, Hadi (2022) studied about seven spheres of action in a Simple Favor movie. The difference between the previous research and the current research was in the movie used as the data source.

RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this research is the descriptive qualitative method. Sugiyono (2008) states descriptive qualitative research is a research approach based on the concept of postpositivism that is commonly used to conduct studies on natural objective conditions with the researcher acting as a major instrument. Descriptive research, as stated by Sugiyono (2012), covers a study conducted to establish the value of an independent variable, or a combination of (independent) variables, without conducting comparisons or associating with other variables. In his book, Creswell (1994) defines qualitative research as an investigation approach for comprehending a social or human problem that is based on constructing a comprehensive, holistic picture with words, relaying specific viewpoints of informants, and taking place in a natural context.

Based on Vladimir Propp's theory, the researcher employed a descriptive qualitative method to determine the 7 Spheres of Action in Shadow and Bone Netflix series (2021). With this context, the researcher discovered the phenomenon by examining its characteristics and qualities. Regarding the character's actions, descriptive qualitative research may be relevant.

The source of data that the researcher used is a Netflix series entitled Shadow and Bone Season 1 directed by Mairzee Almas, Dan Liu, Jeremy Webb, et al. This series was released in 2021 and produced by Netflix with 8 episodes. The data were taken from the scenes, dialogue, and behavior of the characters in the Shadow and Bone series.

Documentation techniques were used by the researcher in order to examine the seven spheres of action that appeared in the series Shadow and Bone Season 1. The data were collected by the following steps:

1. Watching a total of 8 episodes of the Shadow and Bone series.
2. Reading the transcript of the series to find the seven spheres of action.
3. Taking screenshot and note that appears as spheres of action elements.

The researcher used descriptive qualitative that answers the questions like ‘what’, ‘why’, and ‘how’. As a result, data were analyzed by the steps below:

1. Categorizing each character into seven spheres of action.
2. Analyzing and describing the previous step.
3. Concluding the result.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the result that had been analyzed, the researcher found six out of seven of Vladimir Propp’s spheres of action in the Netflix series Shadow and Bone Season 1. The result shows six spheres of action which are stated in the table below; the spheres of action the princess and her father did not appear in this series.

Table 1. Spheres of Action in the Netflix series Shadow and Bone Season 1

| No | Spheres of Action | Character(s) | Total |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------|
| 1 | Hero | Alina Starkov | 1 |
| 2 | Dispatcher | King Pyotr | 1 |
| 3 | Donor | Baghra | 1 |
| 4 | False Hero | General Kirigan, Genya Safin | 2 |
| 5 | Helper | Malyen Oretsev, Zoya Nazyalensky, The Crows (Kaz Brekker, Inej Ghava, Jesper Fahey) | 5 |
| 6 | Villain | General Kirigan, Arken Visser, Dreesen, General Zlatan | 4 |
| 7 | The Princess and The Father | - | - |
| Total Characters | | | 14 |

1. The Hero

A hero is one who fights against the villain to find peace. Alina Starkov is the main character, protagonist, and hero in Shadow and Bone. She lived in Orphanage at Keramzin after her family might be killed during the war. Alina is described in the Shadow and Bone novel as an unattractive girl, even sometimes ugly with bland brown hair. Alina Starkov later accidentally found out she is a Sun Summoner, the rarest and most powerful Grisha that ever exist.

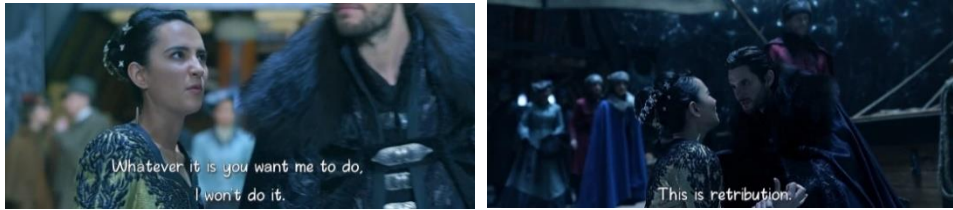
Scene 1: S1-E7 The Unsea (23:36-25:05)



Transcript 1:

Kirigan: You asked for this yourself, when we met. To transfer your gift to someone who could use it.
 Alina : I can use it now.
 Kirigan: You know so little. You’ll learn.
 Alina : I know things. General Kirigan, is it? Or is Aleksander a fake name, too?
 Kirigan: Careful with your words, Alina. Consider whose life is in your hands.
 Alina : You said you’d let him go.
 Kirigan: I said I would heal him. What happens next is up to you.
 Alina : None of this has been up to me!
 Kirigan: Do you know the only thing more powerful than you or me? The two of us. Together. Together, we can end all wars. We can protect our own. Is that not what you want?
 Alina : Are we destroying the Fold?
 Kirigan: We can do anything. Together.

Scene 2: S1-E8 No Mourners (14:47-16:05)



Transcript 2:

Kirigan: You've seen what the Sun Summoner can do. Now bear witness to what I can do... with her power.

Alina : Whatever it is you want me to do, I won't do it.

Kirigan: You've done your part. Now I shall do mine.

[General Kirigan uses his power to expand the fold towards the town]

[People in the city screaming]

Soldier : Retreat. Retreat! Retreat!

Alina : What have you done? [gasps]

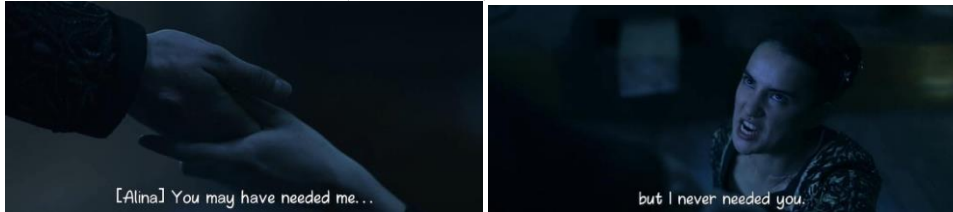
[Alina uses her power to stop the fold for being expanded]

Kirigan: No, you don't.

[General Kirigan stop her]

Kirigan : They are traitors who tried to kill you. This is retribution.

Scene 3: S1-E8 No Mourners (22:56-24:02)



Transcript 3:

Kirigan: It's just you and me now, Alina. And we are all we need, anyway.

Alina : You may have needed me... but I never needed you.

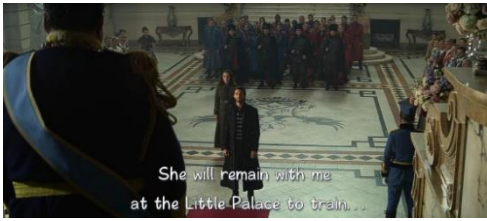
According to Vladimir Propp (1968), the hero is a character that tends to be looking for something or attempting to solve a problem. In this story, Alina Starkov is a Sun Summoner whom the people of Ravkan believe is their savior. She is the only one who can tear down the shadow fold with her power of the sun. The king believes with tearing down the fold, Ravka will be united again and the war between regions will come to an end (transcript 4). Propp's theory also said that a hero is the person who fights against the villain. Alina Starkov opposes the Villain who is the general that has trained her, General Kirigan. Propp's theory also said that the hero has a close relationship with the dispatcher. In this story, Baghra is the dispatcher and she is the trainer of the Grisha. She trained Alina too and turns out Baghra is General Kirigan's mother. Baghra informs Alina that General Kirigan, her son will only abuse her power and make it his own weapon, not to tear the fold.

2. The Dispatcher

The dispatcher is a character who assigns the hero to complete some mission. King Pyotr is the dispatcher in *Shadow and Bone*. King Pyotr or Alexander III is the King of Ravka. When Sun Summoner had been founded, General Kirigan bought Alina, the Sun Summoner to the Grand Palace. He presented the Sun Summoner and her power to the King and Queen. The king then ordered Alina to destroy the fold with her power.

King Pyotr fits the role of the dispatcher in this story because he is the king of Ravka and the Grisha also work for the king. He rules the Ravka and made Kirigan the general and leads the Grisha. When the Sun Summoner was presented by General Kirigan, the King was mesmerized by the power. The Ravkan has been waiting for the Sun Summoner for centuries. They believe and worship the Sun Summoner and call upon them a *sankta* (saint). The king assigns Alina to destroy the fold but General Kirigan said, Alina is not ready yet. So, the king entrusts General Kirigan to train Alina until she can destroy the fold.

Scene 4: S1-E3 Making at The Heart of The World (13:55-16:19)



Transcript 4:

Queen : Then what are you?

Kirigan: She is Alina Starkov... the Sun Summoner, *moya tsaritsa*. She will change the future. Starting now.
[General Kirigian summoning the shadow]

Kirigan: Now call the sun.

[Alina summons the sun]

[audience gasping]

[audience clapping]

King : Bravo! Bravo! How long will she need?

Kirigan: Destroying the Fold will be no easy feat. She alone may not be able to do it. She will remain with me at the Little Palace to train... undisturbed.

King : Then train her quickly. Our wars have been a noble pursuit, but this chatter from the West about becoming a sovereign nation, that needs to stop. The sooner we are one country again, the better. Agreed...

As stated by Propp (1968), the dispatcher is a character who sends the hero on the assignment and plays an early role in the plot. The dispatcher appears in episode 3 of the story which is an early part of the storyline. In Propp's theory, this character could be a family member like a mother or father. It could also be the 'princess's father' who assigns the hero a series of quests to complete. There is no princess and princess's father in this story, but theoretically, the princess's father is the King. The dispatcher in this story is the King of Ravka. In transcript, the King asks General Kirigan, "How long will she need?" instead of assigning the mission directly to the hero, because everyone already knows that the presence of the Sun Summoner is to tear down the fold. The King ordered General Kirigan to train her quickly. The faster she could tear down the fold, the better.

3. The Donor

The donor is a character that gives the hero something special in order to help the hero complete the mission. In this story, the donor gives important information to the hero. Baghra is the donor in *Shadow and Bone*. Baghra is an instructor for the Grisha. When Alina joined Grisha, she is the one who train Alina until she can summons the sun by herself without General Kirigan's help. Turns out that Baghra is General Kirigan's mother. She told Alina the truth about who General Kirigan actually is. She then tells Alina to run from General Kirigan.

Baghra fit the role of the donor because she told Alina the truth behind General Kirigan's story. Baghra shows Alina the life of her son- general Kirigan's past life hundred years ago. After Alina knows that General Kirigan is the Black Heretic (The one who created the fold), Baghra tells her to hide from General Kirigan because in the end, he will just use Alina to make him stronger that he could rule the world if he got Alina's power.

Scene 5: S1-E5 Show Me Who You Are (42:36-45:01)



Transcript 5:

Alina : Whatever's wrong, I should go back and find Alek... General Kirigan. I'm sure he can help.

Baghra : I'm trying to save you from Aleksander. He intends to expand the Fold and use it as a weapon. That's what he created it for in the first place.

Alina : The Black Heretic created the Fold. Hundreds of years ago, and it was a mistake. Maybe you're dehydrated from all the heat in your hut. He wanted me to train so I could get stronger.

Baghra : Did he? Or did he want you distracted by dreams of your future with him? Did he want you dependent on him, on his Fabrikator's tricky little gloves?

Alina : No. No!
Baghra : Child, Aleksander is the Black Heretic. He chose a nobleman's name to hide after he made the Fold.
Alina : You're lying.
Baghra : Look at me, girl.
Alina : You can... But only Kirigan's bloodline... You're his mother.
Baghra : My son tried creating his own army with merzost. He didn't think about the people who lived there, what such power would do to them. Turned them into the twisted, evil things that attacked you.
Alina : The volcra were men?
Baghra : And women. Children. I warned him there'd be a price.
Alina : That happened centuries ago!
Baghra : He's had many names, served many kings, faked countless deaths, waiting for you. With you at his command, he'll be able to enter the Fold and weaponize it as he always planned. He'll be unstoppable. He told me he wanted to make the country whole again. He's had centuries to master lying to naïve girls. Did he tell you how lonely he was? Give you a glimpse of the wounded boy? He isn't a boy at all. He is eternal. And you never stood a chance. Do you think this was just about you? He's been obsessed with power... with hunting all of Morozova's creatures. You nearly gave him the Stag. And I'm telling you, you must hide.

According to Propp (1968), the donor provides something such as information and/or a weapon or offers the hero a magical object. As the transcript above, Baghra gives complete information regarding who General Kirigan truly is. Her information is valid because she shows Alina her power. She can summons shadow which only Kirigan's bloodline can do. She knows everything because she is the mother of General Kirigan. According to Propp, the donor also assists the hero on his or her journey. Because of this information, the hero can continue the mission. Because of this information, Alina runs from General Kirigan and knows if she's with General Kirigan, instead of clearing the mission, she will make everything worse because all this time she's been working with the villain who planning to do evil things.

4. The False Hero

False hero is a character that is seen as a good character but later on, found out that he is a bad guy. General Kirigan is the false hero in *Shadow and Bone*. He is the leader of the second army, the King himself appointed him to be the general and lead the Grisha. General Kirigan is the one who showed the King that Alina Starkov is a sun summoner. Since General Kirigan is the Darkling (he can summons shadows) and Alina Starkov is a Sun Summoner, they are supposed to work together.

General Kirigan is fit for the role of false hero because at first, he acts good towards Alina. He even makes Alina accept that she is a Grisha and makes Alina willing to destroy the fold together with him. But when the time has come, instead of destroying the fold, general Kirigan wants to make the fold his weapon. He betrayed Alina. He intends to control Alina's power to conquer the world. Not to destroy the fold together like what he said to Alina.

Scene 6: S1-E2 We're All Someone's Monster (30:05-31:00)



Transcript 6:

Kirigan : Whatever their original mission was, they must have diverted to find you. That's why I'm traveling with you.
Alina : They're that scared of you?
Kirigan: I think they're more scared of you.
Alina : Why?
Kirigan: What your power means to us. You may well be the first of your kind, but we've always had a name for you. For what we hope you can do. Enter the Fold. Destroy it from within. With proper training, some amplification, you could be the...
Alina : No!
Kirigan: No, what?
Alina : I don't want any of this. Why can't you get rid of it?

Kirigan: Do you think I haven't tried, Miss Starkov? If I enter the Fold, I'm a beacon for the volcra. All I can do is make it worse.

Scene 7: S1-E4 Otkazat'sya (09:44-10:46)



Transcript 7:

Kirigan: I have devoted my life to undoing the great sin of my forebearer, but I am never seen as the solution. Only as a reminder of the problem. And they always need someone to blame.

Alina : That's why you look at me like that, isn't it? I'm your solution. Only, if I fail... they'll turn on me. And I'll be the brand-new Heretic.

Kirigan: If you believe anything g... believe I will not let that happen.

Alina : I appreciate the sentiment, but...

Kirigan: I shall be right by your side. You and I are going to change the world, Alina.

Scene 8: S1-E8 No Mourners (10:24-10:57)



Transcript 8:

[Inside the fold, volcra screeching]

Alina : Do something.

Kirigan: No. Remember who's driving. Your power is mine now.

[people murmuring]

Passengers : What's he doing? What's going on?

Genya Safin is the false hero in *Shadow and Bone*. Genya is a tailor for the Queen. She was at first the one who welcomed and accompanied Alina when Alina join the Grisha. She was always there for Alina even though Alina feels a little relief because she does not believe in Grisha but she has Genya. But later Alina found out that Genya had been spying on her.

Genya fits the role of a false hero because Genya always acts nice towards Alina. She helps Alina a lot even though she is one of the most trusted people in the little palace to Alina. When Alina knows that Genya works for the king to spy on her, Alina asks her to stop obeying the general Kirigan but she refuses. Genya is loyal to General Kirigan and she is willing to do anything because she does not have a choice. She is also the one who keeps all the letters that Alina writes to Mal and hides the letter from Mal so they never receive each other's letters.

Scene 9: S1-E4 Otkazat'sya (08:05-08:20)



Transcript 9:

Kirigan: Is your room satisfactory?

Alina : Well, I've never had warming stones put in my bed before. I'm glad to have Genya. I'm just not sure I understand where this road leads.

Kirigan : I do know how you feel, Miss Starkov. When I was a boy, I used to run away and hide here.

Scene 10: S1-E7 The Unsea (30:16-32:23)



Transcript 10:

Alina : You said Kirigan gifted you to the Queen when you were 11. Does that mean... You were a spy for him.

Genya : I tried to warn you.

Alina : “Be careful of powerful men”? You should have included devious women. The King’s illness, we can assume you had both the inclination and the proximity to make that happen? My letters to Mal, you never sent them.

Genya : I had no choice.

Alina : Except that you did. And you chose to betray our friendship.

Genya : I was a whipping girl for the Queen and a Grisha without a color. I... Choosing friendship over survival was not a luxury I could afford.

Alina : I know what it means to be an outsider struggling to survive. And it’s no excuse.

Genya : I used to struggle. I used to try... to fight him off. That never worked in my favor. I waited for years for my chance of revenge. To finally bring him a fight that he cannot... That he cannot fend off. I never expected it to come to this. Here. Wouldn’t you have done the same if you were me?

Alina : The King deserves every bit of your vengeance. But Kirigan does not deserve your loyalty. He is just as responsible for your position.

Genya : I am his soldier. We all are.

Alina : We are his pawns. Nothing more.

According to Propp (1968), the false hero is initially viewed as a good figure, but later in the story, is revealed to be evil. A traitor. As the transcripts below, both General Kirigan and Genya have Alina’s trust. General Kirigan and Genya seem like a good person to Alina. Both of them is the one who spends most of the time with Alina in the palace. She does not really close to everyone in the palace but General Kirigan and Genya. The reason why General Kirigan acts good to Alina is just because he wants her power. He wants to use Alina’s power to do wicked things. Meanwhile Genya, she is always close to Alina because she actually spying on her. She stated that she is General Kirigan’s soldier. She does not have any other choice but to betray their friendship.

5. The Helper

The helper is a character that helps the hero complete the mission. Malyen Oretsev is the helper in *Shadow and Bone*. He was lived and raised together with Alina in the orphanage. He is Alina’s best friend since their childhood. Before Alina join Grisha, they both were placed in the first army- made up of non-Grisha soldiers. He then got separated from Alina when Alina joined Grisha. He has been feeling suspicious about General Kirigan. Since he is just a first army, he could not meet the Grisha who stays in the little palace. He is willing to do anything like being a volunteer to a dangerous mission to get an invitation to the little palace as a gift.

Mal is fit for the role the helper because he is willing to sacrifice anything to meet Alina and help her because he has been suspicious of the Grisha and General Kirigan. When he meets Alina in the woods, he helps her to find the stag- an amplifier to make the power become stronger- before General Kirigan find it. Mal is also the one who fights with General Kirigan till he lost in his own shadow (the fold).

Scene 11: S1-E4 Otkazat’sya (02.29-03:27)



for the one who can find Morozova's Stag.



[Mal] I'll do it.

Transcript 11:

Bohdan: Pathfinders, a new open assignment has come down from Os Alta. Every unit north of Chernast is tasked with volunteering a tracking party. General Kirigan is offering a visit all the way to the Little Palace for the one who can find Morozova's Stag.

Mal : [monolog] And then there it was. I knew the drawing was yours.

Bohdan: That's right, the ancient, mythical creature. Except in the flesh, if you please. So, volunteers.

[all chuckling]

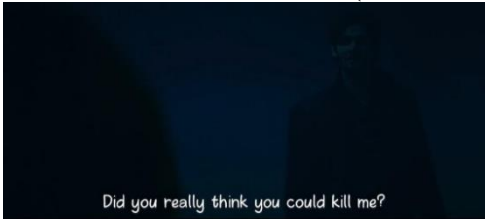
Dubrov: The Black General has finally lost it.

[all chuckling]

Bohdan: Wasting our soldiers on Second Army nonsense. Now they have a Sun Summoner, all the old folk tales are back on the table.

Mal : I'll do it. I'll go.

Scene 12: S1-E8 No Mourners (26:27-26:40)



Did you really think you could kill me?



Your past will do it for me.

Transcript 12:

[Kirigan and Mal fighting]

[blade swishes]

[Mal grunts]

Kirigan : I've survived for centuries. Did you really think you could kill me?

Mal : I don't have to kill you, Darkling. Your past will do it for me.

[volcra shrieking]

Zoya Nazyalensky is the helper in *Shadow and Bone*. Just like Genya and other Grishas, she is General Kirigan's subordinate. She is loyal to the king and General Kirigan. She is envious of Alina because since Alina joined Grisha, general Kirigan always is with her. But when she knows General Kirigan's true intention, she helped Alina fight general Kirigan.

Zoya fits the role of the helper because in the end, she also helps Alina from General Kirigan. After seeing that General Kirigan betray them in front of her eyes, she no longer wanted to be loyal to General Kirigan anymore and sided with Alina instead. Even though she said to Alina that she still does not like her, she still wants Alina safe from General Kirigan

Scene 13: S1-E8 No Mourners (18:40-20:17)



Help me stop him.



Zoyal

Transcript 13:

Feliks : Zoya, what are you doing? The general wants us to stay put.

Inej : Get us out of here. Now!

[Inej and Feliks fighting]

Feliks : Do you think I need special power to end your life, Wraith?
Alina : [whimpering] Mal...
Diplomat: General Kirigan, this will only turn the world against you and all Grisha. You'll be seen not as a savior, but a heretic.
[people groaning]
[people killed by heartrender]
Kirigan: Shame. I'll have to give that speech again now.
[Inej and Feliks grunting]
[wind gusting]
Zoya : Help me stop him.
[wind gusting]
Kirigan : Zoya? ZOYA!

Scene 14: S1-E8 No Mourners (32:28-33:07)



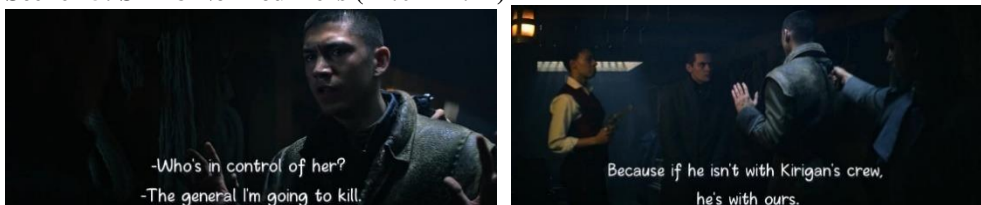
Transcript 14:

Zoya : You can't stay in Ravka. The Apparat will try to keep his power. Blame this on all of us. The people will turn on Grisha again. You need to find new allies.
Alina : Then I'll come back... and reclaim our country.
Zoya : I still don't like you... but I'm grateful for you. So, remember this. Saints become martyrs before they get to be heroes. So... stay alive.
Mal : They'll have to get through me first.
Zoya : You need more than bullets and bravado to survive the people hunting you now.

The Crows (Kaz Brekker, Inej Ghava, Jesper Fahey) is the helper in *Shadow and Bone*. The Crows is a trio criminal from Ketterdam- an industrious trading hub city. When the news about Sun Summoner had already found spread everywhere, they at first have a mission to kidnap the Sun Summoner to get 1 million Krug- the currency of the Kerch- from Dreesen as the prize. But in the end, they help Alina instead of kidnapping her.

The crows fit the role of the helper because even though their original mission was to kidnap the hero for money, turns out that it is them who also helped Alina from General Kirigan along with Mal and Zoya. Because they were originally supposed to kidnap Alina, as the replacement from Alina, she gives them gemstones from her sankta accessories jewelry that can cover their loss.

Scene 15: S1-E8 No Mourners (12:07-12:44)



Transcript 15:

Jesper : Who's this? Who are you?
Inej : A stowaway. Why pick this of all skiffs?
Mal : To kill the general and save Alina.
Jesper : I'll ask again.
[gun cocking]
Jesper : Who are you?
Mal : Mal Oretsev.
Kaz : You know Alina?
Mal : I do.
Kaz : Who's in control of her?

Mal : The general I'm going to kill.
Kaz : Inej, give him his gun.
Inej : Why?
Kaz : Because if he isn't with Kirigan's crew, he's with ours.

Scene 16: S1-E8 No Mourners (28:59-30:02)



Transcript 16:

Inej : I've never met a Saint before.
Alina : I've never been a Saint before.
Inej : Wherever you are, whatever you need... my hand is yours.
Alina : I like that hand with a dagger in it. I couldn't hold onto yours, so take mine as a replacement. It's not much, but it'll fend off a bully or two.
Inej : I know just what to name it.
Jesper : Step one for any good plan, a change of clothes. It's worked for me. Here.
Mal : Thank you.
Alina : So... will you still be trying to kidnap me?
Jesper : 'Course not.
Kaz : Have you found religion, too?
Jesper : No, it's just... [sighs] I'm exhausted. Besides... it'd be bad form to kidnap someone after they saved your life.
Kaz : You are quite valuable, you know?
Alina : So is this.
Kaz : I saw this on a portrait of one of the queens in the Little Palace.
Alina : It's not a gift. It's to keep quiet about who I am. Where I go from here.
Kaz : The deal is the deal.

Based on the theory by Proop (1968), The hero is assisted by the helper(s). The assistant could be a sidekick, or they could appear at the beginning of the film or along the hero's journey. Mal has been there with the hero since their childhood. They are friends for a long time. In this story, their friendship never broke. Mal never stops trying to reach her friend, Alina. In transcript 11, he even volunteered for a dangerous mission just to meet Alina. In transcripts 12,13, and 15 the helper Mal, Zoya, and the Crows together help the hero Alina fight against the villain, general Kirigan. Even Zoya does not like Alina, after all, that happened in the skiff knowing General Kirigan is evil, gives some advice to Alina and tells her to stay alive (transcript 14). In transcript 15, the Crows are not on Alina's side yet, they still thinking about the plan to kidnap Alina safely because they witnessed General Kirigan's evil doing. But in the end, Kaz and Alina have a deal to not kidnap Alina anymore and keep quiet about her. Kaz also receives the gemstone as a deal (transcript 16).

6. The Villain

The villain is an antagonist character who is against the principal of the hero. The villain act and do things to gain something for his own sake. General Kirigan is the villain in *Shadow and Bone*. He is the one who creates the fold but acts as a general who trains Grisha, especially Alina to destroy the fold. He betrays everyone. He actually just going to use Alina's power once he got it.

General Kirigan fits the role of the villain because, in the end, he got an amplifier that connected to Alina so he can control Alina's power as he wished. His true intention was not to destroy the fold with the power of the sun, but he made the fold as his weapon that would make him be the most powerful person. Alina could not do anything since General Kirigan had taken over the control of her power.

Scene 17: S1-E7 The Unsea (41:36-43:28)



Transcript 17:

Kirigan: Everything that I have done, everything that I have ever done, has been to make Ravka safer, to make Grisha safer!

Alina : Did you think Genya was safe when you placed her under the King's watch? Am I to believe that you will show Baghra mercy? I could have made Grisha safe, but you never gave me a choice.

Kirigan: Perhaps. But you have given me one. A chance to make amends. To finally win. The Fold was not your mistake...

Alina : The Fold was no mistake!

Kirigan: I never intended for it to be the blight it's become. Or for men like the King or Zlatan to exploit it for their own gain.

Alina : You put this collar on me to exploit my power for your gain!

Kirigan: For us. To help us conquer the Fold together. You and me. You cannot do this on your own. And neither can I.

Alina : We could've had this. All of it. You could've made me your equal. Instead, you made me this. You don't care who suffers, as long as you win.

Kirigan: Fine. Make me your villain.

Scene 18: S1-E8 No Mourners (13:00-13:16)



Transcript 18:

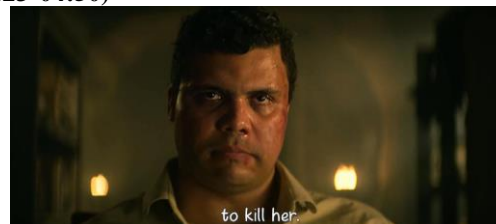
Alina : Why this half measure? Why just carve a tunnel? You have me. You have this. Destroy the Fold. You said we could.

Kirigan: And why would we destroy the Fold? It's the greatest weapon that we've got.

Arken Visser can be said as a minor antagonist in the story but he is also the villain. He at first works with the crows to kidnap Alina but Kaz secretly knows that Arken has another plan so Kaz leaves him behind in the end. He was found by General Kirigan and he reveals that instead kidnap Alina alive, he will kill Alina.

Arken Visser fits the role of the villain because he has a secret mission which is to kill the Sun Summoner himself to get a bigger prize than just kidnapping. Turns out, Arken Visser is the Conductor who transported people through the fold using a train. When he was busted by General Kirigan, he offers to team up with him to kill the Sun Summoner Alina. Unfortunately, Arken met the wrong person. General Kirigan would never kill Alina because she is important to him. Arken Visser ends up dead in General Kirigan's hand.

Scene 19: S1-E6 The Heart Is an Arrow (03:23-04:50)



Transcript 19:

Kirigan: My guess, you struck a deal with these three thieves to kidnap Alina Starkov. But you have a stronger relationship with a certain West Ravkan general who has notions of ruling his own country. So long as the

Fold separates him from us. So, you made another deal. You put on a disguise. And you played at being assassin.

Arken : That's right. The prize to bring her back to Ketterdam was a million, split four ways. But Zlatan offered me the same number... to kill her. So... give me half that, I'll get revenge for you. I can get close to Zlatan.

Kirigan: No. I think I'll handle that myself.

Arken : But I can help. Tell me how I can help.

Kirigan: You already have.

Dreesen also just takes a minor role in the story. Dreesen is a wealthy merchant in Ketterdam. He is the one who assigns the crows to kidnap Alina and gives one million krugge in return. He is included as the villain because he is planning to be a Sun Summoner kidnaper and going to use her for his benefit. Also, he killed an innocent boy whom he promised to set the boy free after giving him important information regarding the Sun Summoner.

Scene 20: S1-E1 A Searing Burst of Life (43:27-46:17)



Transcript 20:

Milana : Tell me what happened in the Fold. What saved you?

Alexei : You won't believe me, but... it was a Sun Summoner.

Dreesen: Who was it?

Alexei : If I tell you, you'll set me free?

Dreesen: You have my word. I'll set you free. You're in Ketterdam now, Alexei. You can go anywhere in the world from here. Just imagine. Come on.

Alexei : Her name is... Alina Starkov.

Dreesen : Alina Starkov? Good boy. Show me the manifest. Perfect.

Alexei : You'll set me free now?

Dreesen : Thank you. Of course.

[Gunshoot]

Dreesen : Hmm. We are now the only people west of the Fold with this information. My ship sails for West Ravka at dawn. If you can prove that you have a way through the Fold and back, I'll put you on that ship with an advance. If you don't, I'm giving this job to Pekka Rollins.

Kaz : Give me a day. I'll have a plan.

Dreesen : You have until sunrise, then your ship will have sailed, Mr. Brekker. The prize is one million krugge. Now bring me Alina Starkov.

General Zlatan is the villain even though he barely shows up in the story, everyone knows that he is the bad guy. He is the general of Novokribirsk (part of west Ravka) who opposes the king. He is the one who assign Arken to kill the Sun Summoner but Arken failed so he ordered his soldier to kill Sun Summoner because according to him, Sun Summoner is a threat to their independence. He does not want the fold to be torn down because after the fold is gone, Ravka will be united again. Ever since the fold split Ravka into East Ravka and West Ravka, he wants West Ravka completely separated as an independent nation which is contradictory to the King of Ravka's rule.

Scene 21: S1-E8 No Mourners (13:56-14:23)



Transcript 21:

Ostap : Sir, your thoughts?

Zlatan : Lead with diplomacy. We welcome the Black General and his escort. But when they're docked, when they're close, kill everyone on the skiff.

Ostap : But the power on display here, it means they have the Sun Queen. Are you giving the order to kill her too?

Zlatan : I already did. But Arken failed me, so we'll do it ourselves.

Ostap : Sir, she could destroy the Fold.

Zlatan : Then she is a threat to our independence.

In the theory of Propp (1968), villain is the character who opposes and has function to fight or struggle with the hero. General Kirigan, Arken Visser, Dreesen, and General Zlatan are against the hero. In this story, the hero plays an important role as the Sun Summoner. Because of the power of the sun that the hero has, she is targeted by many people. The villain General Kirigan wants to take over the hero's power to conquer the world. The villain Arken Visser and Dreesen wants to kidnap the hero for money. The villain General Zlatan wants to kill the hero for the sake of his independence and safety. The five of them want to seize the hero- because of how powerful the hero is- for their gain that makes them the villain.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Shadow and Bone is a Netflix series adapted from the best-selling novel with the same title as the series written by Leigh Bardugo and released on April 2021. Vladimir Propp's Seven Spheres of Action is suitable to be used in the analysis of this movie series. Based on the analysis, the researcher found six out of seven spheres of action that showed up in the series Shadow and Bone. Those six spheres are Alina Starkov as hero, King Pyotr as dispatcher, Baghra as donor, General Kirigan and Genya Safin as false hero, Malyen Oretsev, Zoya Nazyalensky, and The Crows (Kaz Brekker, Inej Ghava, Jesper Fahey) as helper, General Kirigan, Arken Visser, Dreesen, and General Zlatan as villain. While the spheres of action the princess and her father did not appear in this series.

Suggestion

Even though this research is far from perfect, the researcher hopes that it will be useful for readers to deepen their knowledge of the 7 spheres of action by Vladimir Propp's theory. The researcher hopes that this research will be informative for the next researcher who would like to study the same problem and even might be improved to the better research.

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