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*White Oleander (1999) by Janet Fitch and The Memory Keeper's
Daughter (2005) by Kim Edwards:*
A Psychoanalytical Reading

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I dedicate this work to:

My beloved Parents Lounes and Nouara

My beloved sisters Dahbia and Karima

My dearest niece Thafath

To my brother in law Yousef

To my lovely best friends Lila and Mohamed

Lynda MERRAD

I dedicate this work to:

My beloved parents Mokrane and Cherifa

My beloved sister Sarah

My beloved brother Massi

My beloved uncle Hacene

To all my best friends

Ghania ABBOUD

To all those who supported us to achieve this work

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Abstract

The present dissertation is a psychoanalytical study of the two novels *White Oleander* (1999) by Janet Fitch and *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* (2005) by Kim Edwards. Our main interest is to analyse the character's state of mind and their psychological development, as well as the examination of their past experiences and how it affected their present, additionally highlighting each one's distinct personality and individual peculiarities. For this purpose, we have relayed on two main theories which are the *Archetypes of the Collective Unconscious* by Carl Gustav Jung and *Matter and Memory* by Henry Louis Bergson. The major concern of these theories lies in the fact that it helps us to discuss the psychoanalytic background of the characters during their lives in order to comprehend their responses, behaviours, and the impact of their history on their present.

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General Introduction

Psychology is identified as scientific study of the nature and dynamics of the human psyche. At the beginning, it was a sub-branch of philosophy but in the 19th century, it developed to an independent and separate science. Its purpose is to examine how the mind works and how it affects behaviour; Psychology helps people reach and determine the origins of their thoughts and feelings and better understand their behaviour. According to The American Psychological Association, “*psychology embraces all aspects of the human experience, from the function of the brain to the actions of nations, from the child development to the care of the aged.*”¹

Psychoanalysis is a branch of psychology that was developed primarily by Sigmund Freud. It is based on the analysis of the human psyche. It is a method of treating mental disorders, shaped by psychoanalytic theory, which emphasizes unconscious mental processes and it is sometimes described as “depth psychology”². Psychoanalysis is also used to apply to literary works aiming to examine the character’s attitude and personality and give an insight of their psychological development in order to provide people a higher comprehension about the character.

In this regard, we assume that the topic of our dissertation holds the significance of psychoanalysis in understanding a literary work. The major concern of this memoir is to study and discuss the two novels, *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch and *The Memory Keeper’s Daughter* by Kim Edwards from a psychoanalytical approach, by analysing the personalities of the characters and exploring their past experiences and how it affected their psychological state. Therefore, this research will take into account all the important events that the characters went through throughout their journey. To accomplish this, we would seek help from two different theories: the first one is *The Archetypes of the Collective Unconscious* by Carl Gustav Jung and the second one is *Matter and Memory* by Henry-Louis Bergson.

Review of Literature

Throughout our reading of literature written about *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch and *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards, we have noticed that they have been approached from different perspectives. For instance, in the thesis of "*The Feminine sublime in violent Contemporary American Fiction*" (2017) wrote by Emily Rose, and the *Feminist Reading of White Oleander* (2012) developed in the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies, Faculty of Arts Building, University of Warwick we see that both of them developed the theme of feminism according to the characters of *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch. In the first work, *White Oleander* was included among five novels; these five novels, which span a decade at the close of the twentieth century, and which may not otherwise be considered particularly feminine in nature, all embody Freeman's feminine sublime experience.³ This thesis will analyse these movements thematically, focusing specifically on the movement toward obscurity, and the movement toward terror, with obscurity and terror both being ruling principles of the traditional and feminine sublime experiences.⁴

The second one, is concerned with how Janet Fitch interpreted the characters according a feminist reading. The work developed the point of view of Janet by stating that it is a man's world and women have to live according to their own rules or they have to face the consequence by suffering and hurting them. Fitch evokes a sense of rebellion by the implicit homosocial and perhaps even homosexual relationships developed between her female characters, showing that women do not have to conform to the expectations of society, and that they are in fact capable of progressing without the aid of men.⁵

A research has been carried out by Anmaria Inmira Redy on *Caroline's Motivation to be a Foster Mother to a Down Syndrome Girl as seen in Kim Edward's The Memory Keeper's Daughter* (2012). She analysed Caroline's character and what motivated her to take care of a Down syndrome girl. She raised two problems the first one is how Caroline's character is

defined in the novel and the next one is what motivated Caroline to be a foster mother to a Down syndrome child. The author has relied on the psychological approach to find out the motivation employing as well as Klarer's theory (1999) of character and characterization and the theory of motivation. Throughout her analysis, she found in the first problem that Caroline's character is portrayed as responsible, loving, calm, competent, sensitive, brave, and smart. Dealing with the second problem, which is Caroline's motivation, Anmaria Inmira used *Affiliative* and *Achievement Motivation*. The writer found three motivations; the first one is Caroline's responsibility after David Henry refuses to take care of Phoebe. The second one is the protection needed by Phoebe from Caroline. The last one is Caroline's need for having a good relationship with others. ⁶ Indeed, in the achievement motivation the writer argued that Caroline's desire for a better life could only be fulfilled in a family. She illustrated how her love for Phoebe surpassed that of a mother for her own child.

Another analysis has been written on the same novel entitled "*A Memory Keeper's Daughter*" *A Sociological Perspective Analysis Research Paper* available on IvyPanda (2019). This analysis intends to examine the novel through a sociological perspective and how social elements lead to the suffering of the characters. It has been said that families with Down syndrome children are treated differently, because society views that it is a shame to have such a child. For this reason, David delivered his daughter to an institution with Caroline to avoid judgments and shame, but Caroline suffered from social discrimination and prejudices. To finish with, the characters in the novel are aware of their social circumstances, they find themselves mostly helpless to make decisions that go against the dictates of the society. In David's case from the beginning to the end, he lives in fear of his secret coming out. The implications would affect his family first and foremost. ⁷

Issue and Working Hypothesis

Throughout the long research we have made on the two novels *White Oleander* and *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* and after what we have mentioned in the review of literature we found that the research and the articles already made about them were least interested in psychoanalysis. We chose these two works because both of them were narrating a story of broken family. Thus, our goal is to analyse the personalities of the characters of each novel to get to know more about their inner self and to understand their behaviours. Additionally, exploring their past and how it influenced their present and their mental health.

To accomplish our purpose, we used the theory of *The Archetypes of the Collective Unconscious* evolved by Carl Gustav Jung, which aims to better understand the individual's personality by analysing their behaviour and attitudes. Besides, Henry Bergson's *theory Matter and Memory* which clarifies how the past can influence the present and alter individual's future.

In addition to these theories, we have mentioned some other psychologist like Alfred Adler, Erich Fromm and Dr Pritchard that made reference to psychological disorder to better explain and explore the mental health of the characters.

Methodological Outlining

This research report is organized according to the IMRAD format: the introduction, method and materials and lastly the result and discussion. The first section of our dissertation includes a general introduction to our topic and review of literature. Regarding the method and materials section, we resumed Carl Jung's theory *The Archetypes of the Collective Unconscious* and Henry Louis Bergson's theory *Matter and Memory*. In addition to this, we presented two literary works starting by the biography of authors then the summaries of the two novel. The third section is the result, which is concerned with the outcomes and the findings. The last section is the discussion, which is devoted into two chapters; the first chapter is about the analysis of the two novels according to the Jungian theory, the second one is about memory and

psychological disorder according to Henry Bergson's theory. We have finalized our memoir with a general conclusion that summarized all what we have dealt with.

Endnotes

- ¹ MedicalNewsToday, What is the Psychology and what does it involve?
<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/154874#:~:text=The%20APA%20adds%20that%20it,are%20not%20quite%20the%20same.>
- ² The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, Psychoanalysis
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- ³ Emily Rose, *The Feminine Sublime in Violent Contemporary American Fiction* (2017), 5
www.The_faminine_sublime_in_violent_contemporary.pdf
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- ⁵ *Feminist Reading of White Oleander*, the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies, Faculty of Arts Building. University of Warwick, 2012.
<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/currentstudents/undergraduate/modules/fulllist/first/en123/cwl-litcrit/whiteoleander/review/>
- ⁶ Anmaria Irmina Redy, *Caroline's Motivation to Be a Foster Mother to a Down Syndrome Girl as Seen in Kim Edwards' The Memory Keeper's Daughter*. (Santa Dharma University, 2012), Xiii <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/80764929.pdf>
- ⁷ IvyPanda, *A Memory Keeper's Daughter*: A Sociological Perspective Analysis Research Paper, 2019 www.ivypanda.com/essays/a-memory-keepers-daughter-a-sociological-perspective-analysis/

Method and Materials

1. Method

1.1 Carl Gustav Jung's Theory

Carl Gustav Jung regarded as the founder of analytical psychology or the Jungian analysis. Jung at the beginning was a supporter of **Sigmund Freud** the founder of psychoanalysis, after they met; they influenced each other and made a close relationship. They were collaborating on the same vision of human psychology until Jung discovers the collective unconscious and had a disagreement that cost their friendship. However, they parted ways where Jung continued his discovery with developing the human **psyche** and contributes to the creation a new **psychic mechanism** which is the dialogue between the conscious and the unconscious called **The Transcendent Function**.

“It is a process and a method at the same time [italics added]. The production of unconscious compensations is a spontaneous process; the conscious realization is a method. The function is called “transcendent” because it facilitates the transition from one psychic condition to another by means of the mutual confrontation of the opposites”.¹

According to Jung the transcendent function permits the individual to beat his attitude to arrive to a new one. Later on, was the emergence of a new process, which is the **Individuation**. Jung means by Individuation that the individual distinguishes himself from others and grows to a renewed person whose psychological difficulties are currently transcended.² To Jung the psyche is divided into two main parts the first one is, **The Conscious**, according to Jung it is a field of awareness. It is composed of all what the person had experienced through memories, thoughts, emotions and everything the person is aware of, it represents the **Ego**. Second part, is the **Unconscious** as well, was categorized into two main sections, **The Personal Unconscious** which is quite similar to Freud's definition because it represents all the memories forgotten and repressed. It is the hidden dark side in the individual psyche.³ The other one, is **The Collective Unconscious** which is the deepest part of the unconscious and the most original and controversial contribution to personality theory. According to Jung, the collective unconscious

is a universal version of the personal unconscious, holding mental patterns, or memory traces, which are shared with other members of human species. However, Jung identified new materials to help understand individual's personality called the **Archetypes**. The archetypes are used to learn and know more about your inner self, inner thoughts, feelings, desires, to arrive to a more stable and healthier psyche after the struggle and complication in order to attain their new self. The Jungian psychology suggested that the archetypes were **archaic** forms of innate human knowledge passed down from our ancestors; they represent **universal patterns** and images that are part of the collective unconscious.⁴ Jung believed that each archetype plays a role in **personality** but he identified four main major archetypes, which are:

a) Persona

In Jung's own words, the persona is *"a kind of mask, designed on the one hand to make a definite impression upon others, and on the other to conceal the true nature of the individual"*.⁵ Jung applied the term Persona, explicitly because in Latin, it means both personality and the masks worn by Roman actors of the classical period. It expresses the individual roles played. The persona archetype is how the individuals present themselves to society and their environment. It is defined as the masks that individuals use to adapt into various situations; it conceals the real self, presenting themselves as someone different to who they really are. People use it to please others but this leaves negative traits that contradict their real self and forming their shadow.

b) The Shadow

According to Jung's analytical psychology, the shadow as a concept comprises everything the conscious personality experiences as negative. Jung states that it is the unknown dark side of the personality. Jung adds: *"The thing a person has no wish to be"*.⁶ It involves inferiorities and insecurities which everybody has but would rather not know for example looking weak or socially unacceptable even being evil. The shadow plays an important role in balancing the overall psyche. A weak adaptation of the shadow results in a low level of

personality. People who do not look at their shadows directly project them into others. To truly grow us a person one must integrate their shadow and balance it with their persona.

c) The Anima/Animus

According to Carl Jung in every man's psyche there is an unconscious feminine side called **Anima**, which is the personification of all of feminine psychological tendencies, while in every woman's psyche there is an unconscious masculine side called the **Animus**. In every man there is a woman, and in every woman a man. Carl Jung confirms, *"If the personality is to be well adjusted as harmoniously balanced, the feminine side of man's personality and the masculine side of woman's personality must be allowed to express themselves in consciousness and behavior"*.⁷ Jung suggested that this discouragement of men exploring their feminine aspects and women exploring their masculine aspects served to undermine psychological development.

d) The Self

As Jung (1929/1967) states *"If the unconscious can be recognized as a co-determining factor along with consciousness then the centre of gravity of the total personality shifts its position. It is then no longer in the ego, which is merely the centre of consciousness, but in the hypothetical point between conscious and unconscious. This new centre might be called the self"*.⁸ It is the part of the psyche, which organizes and directs all other elements of our psyche. Jung viewed it as the psyche's central archetype it is the centre of all consciousness and unconsciousness; it is also the archetype of unity and totality.

1.2 Henry-Louis Bergson's theory

Henry Bergson was one of France's most prominent turn of-the-century philosophers interested in problems of psychology.⁹ He was influenced by many philosophers like **William James**, **Immanuel Kant** and **Charles Darwin**. He was a professor lived in France. The range of his psychological interests was astonishing and included consciousness, perception, habits, memory, the aphasias, dreams, laughter, intuition, time perception, brain functions, multiple

personality disorder, the *Deja vu* experience, and much else besides.¹⁰ In **1896**, he published his second greatest major work called **Matter and Memory** which was a reaction to the book *The Maladies of Memory* by Theodule Ribot. Ribot claimed that the findings of brain science proved that memory is lodged within a particular part of the nervous system.¹¹ Bergson was opposed to it. His main interest in that work was to form a solution to the mind–body issue, he also seemingly felt obliged to develop a detailed theory of memory. He defines the **Memory** as:

. . . memory, laden with the whole of the past, responds to the appeal of the present state by two simultaneous movements, one of translation, by which it moves in its entirety to meet experience, thus contracting more or less, though without dividing, with a view to action; and the other of rotation upon itself, by which it turns toward the situation 7 of the moment, presenting to it that side of itself which may prove to be the most useful.¹²

Bergson claims that when people escape and run from their memory, the past will always be there because the past is an active agent, which comes out to meet the present. According to Bergson when the person cannot get through some past experiences, his past will always affect his present. Each individual has infinite memories but only few of them are chosen to remember. In his theory **Matter and Memory**, he describes how past can return at any time and memories are not only turned up when the individual wants that but also when they avoid it and run from it. The past remerge through an act called **remembering**. This last, is an act that led the individual to recapture his past in case he wishes or desires it, or by something external that presses him to do that. Bergson explains that, remembering is only caused by **current perception** or **reminder**, then a **series of images** and **past perception** become reachable to the rememberer, but these **memory images** must be equivalent or similar to the current cue.¹³ Bergson highlights on the **concept of Images** where he associates this word Image to the senses where he says “*Here, I am in the presence of images, in the vaguest sense of the word, images perceived when my senses are opened to them, unperceived when they are closed. All these images act and react upon one another*”.¹⁴ Bergson, therefore, went deeper in the distinction he makes between **soul** and **body**. Bergson state:

Yet there is one of them which is distinct from all the others, in that I do not know it only from without by perceptions, but from within by affections: it is my body. I examine the conditions in which these affections are produced: I find that they always interpose themselves between the excitations that I receive from without and the movements which I am about to execute, as though they had some undefined influence on the final issue. ¹⁵

Therefore, the body is a performer that responds to the influence of the objects by which it is surrounded. It grabs actions from the external Influences, and convey them into internal mechanism. For Henry the body is considered as an ordinary image among all the images that exists, the unique difference between them is that the body has the ability to react over the outsider stimulations.

Moreover, Henry Louis gave an original meaning to memory. He maintains that it is not just a faculty of repetition or reproduction of what happened. For that reason, Bergson appointed that the past reappear under two different forms: in **motor mechanism** and in **independent recollections**. The first, assume that the recognition of the past action stands in the action itself. It is associated to people used to a specific kind of automatic behaviour that they get through repetition. Bergson takes the example of the lesson learned by heart; to learn by heart is to create a cerebral mechanism, a habit of the body position of the whole action. ¹⁶ This type of memory rests on our will to remember it or not. Bergson adds: *“The memory of the lesson, which is remembered in the sense of learnt by heart, has all the marks of a habit. Like a habit, it is acquired by the repetition of the same effort.”* ¹⁷ The second type of memory, which is **the independent recollections** also called the **personal memory** is natural and spontaneous and it has any marks of habit. It registers images and events of everyday life as they appear in time and space without ignoring any detail. It pictures the past as it is. Bergson says: *“Its image was necessarily imprinted at once on the memory, since the other readings form, by their very definition, other recollections. It is like an event in my life; its essence is to bear a date, and consequently to be unable to occur again.”* ¹⁸ Whereas motor mechanism is constructed of **repetition** and **habitude**, independent recollections is unable to be repeated however, it **revokes an image**.

2. Materials

2.1 The Biography of the Authors

a) The Biography of Janet Fitch

Janet Fitch's full name is *Janet Elizabeth Fitch*, born in November 1955 in Los Angeles. She grew up in family of various readers especially her father. Every week Janet went with her father to the library to pick up books to read. At the age of 21, she started having new goals. Janet hoped to become more than a reader; she aimed to become historian, to write her own books, she didn't want to spend her life reading book from the library. Janet wished for more exciting, adventurous and glorious life. Afterwards she started writing short stories and went to film school and wrote screenplays but she didn't succeed they were awful. Despite all that, she became stronger, she didn't quit even after this failure, and she continued what she always wanted to do in her life. Later on, Janet started writing fiction and kept learning more and more until she published her first novel *White Oleander* in 1999. *White Oleander* was nominated as the first national bestseller and Oprah's Book Club selection; it has been translated to twenty-four languages, also had been made into a film in 2000. It was at this point, where *Janet Fitch* started her brilliant career as a writer and published three other famous and exciting novels.

b) Biography of Kim Edwards

Kim Edwards is a writer, novelist, short story writer and educator; she was born on May 1958 in Killeen Texas. She grew up in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York and graduated from Colgate University. She went to Fred Bush and told him about his dream of becoming a writer; he listened carefully and saw something on her. She started working with Fred Bush in creative writing classes also as a student in the living writers where she earned an MFA in fiction and an MA in linguistics. She went to Iowa, where she lived and studied in Asia for five years and that is when she began to publish short stories. She is the author of a short story collection "*The Secrets of a Fire King*" 1997 which was a finalist for the

PEN/Hemingway Award, published in journals that include the Paris Review, Redbook, Chicago Tribune, and Plough shares. She has received many awards for the short story as well. *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* was her first novel in 2005, which was chosen as the Book of the Year by USA Today for 2006.

2.2 Synopsis of the Two Works

a) Synopsis of Janet Fitch's *White Oleander*

The story is about a young girl named Astrid left by her father before she was old enough to remember him. She lived and grew up with her single and brilliant headstrong poet mother; she was very strong, independent woman. The novel goes around Astrid's journey through different foster homes after her mother committed murder by poisoning her lover Berry, when she discovered that he was cheating on her with another young woman.

Astrid's story was so complex and difficult she went through a lot to find her own way. Her life with her mother was complicated, special and happy they. But after her mother ripped away things changes. Each time Astrid left in foster home she gets in more rough and complicated situation. Her first foster mother Starr was an alcoholic stripper but then born again Christian. She wanted as all costs to do the same for Astrid. She was a girl who gets attached and adapt easily so, she did it. After, Astrid went to see her mother in Jail, Ingrid was angry with her, she started reminding her what they used to be and what they used to call themselves, they were free, powerful and special. A later date, Astrid started an affair with Starr's boyfriend which leaded Starr to shot her and run away with her boyfriend Ray.

After recovering, she was transmitted to another foster home, Marvel Turlock who only uses Astrid as servant who does work for free and wasn't acting like a mother at all. She was still hurting but she did not care about her. Marvel was racist and hated her neighbours especially Olivia Johnstone who was a black woman, she warned Astrid to not talk or have any relation with her but Astrid couldn't resist her elegance and mysterious life. Astrid tried everything to have a conversation with her and she succeeded, she learns about Olivia's life

more like when she knew that she makes her living with pleasing man. Astrid was very interested and curious about her, she saw her as beautiful and powerful woman who has everything she wanted without loving or having a man in her life. Olivia was the role model for Astrid, she even imagined herself living the same life, she compared her even to her mother she was excited to know more about her. When charismas come, Astrid sneaks over Olivia's house but Marvel caught her as a result she hit her and called the child services and then she left without being able to say goodbye to Olivia.

Thereafter, she was sent to another foster mother called Amelia Ramos. Amelia's house was like prison and torture, she had a beautiful big house with several girls, and she starves them and feeds them only in weekdays. Astrid was forced and obliged to hunt through trash to find something to eat for surviving. Astrid's new caseworker finally helped her to escape Amelia's hell. Later on, she directly sent to a new foster home where the couple used to live in long distance relationship. Astrid as usual gets adapted to her new family specially the foster mother Claire. They loved each other so much until the day where Astrid discovers that her mother was in contact with Claire. Later, they decided to visit Ingrid because she wanted to. At that day, Claire had a direct conversation with Ingrid alone and at this point, everything started to change. Consequently, Claire started a bad fight with her husband where he decided to send Astrid back, but she didn't want to. On the same day, she committed suicide. Astrid went visiting her mother and starts accusing her that it is all her fault. Astrid knew that her mother was manipulating, she was very good with her words, and that she was jealous. Then, she announces her mother that she will not visit her again.

Astrid returned to the Mac, where she met Paul and tells her that as he turns eighteen he will on to another place, and ask her to join him but she refused. Then, comes another foster home, they were Russians immigrants, Rena her foster mother along with Niki and Yvonne who was pregnant, and they were very tough and dangerous girls. In this period, Astrid started becoming another person she changed her appearance with black hair, harsh makeup and black

clothes. During this time, her mother's lawyer Susan comes to see her and ask lying for her mother in court, in exchange of offering anything she wants. Astrid at the beginning refused but after she had a conversation with Rena she changed her mind and decided to visit her. Astrid surprises Ingrid for the last time in prison, she demands answers about her past in exchange for testifying that Berry committed suicide. Ingrid told her everything truthfully. After she knew all the truth about her past she begged her mother to not testify and letting her go, but she refused.

When the day comes, she went with Paul to her mother's trial as she waits to testify suddenly everyone leaves the courtroom and when she goes to see what happened Susan explains that her mother instructed her to not call Astrid to testify. Astrid and Ingrid looked at each other as she led away. Paul asks her what happened, and she says that her mother let her go. After Yvonne had her baby, Rena left. Her baby was taken away, so Astrid decided to stay with her until she recovers. Then, another girl moved with Rena so she helped her out and learned about the thirteen years old Tasha. Two years later, Astrid became blond again, living with Paul in Berlin, Germany, showing her art, which represented all her life journey. After nine years, one morning Paul brings a newspaper article on her mother's release. In that article, claims that Barry committed suicide and that Ingrid was innocent. She was so happy for her mother's freedom.

Finally, Astrid searched about her father Klaus Anders and found him, so she went to his house and he introduced her his two children and he told her that he was glad that she become an Artist, he offered to stay with him and live together but she didn't accept his offer and went back with Paul to their house. She secretly wanted to stay with her father and wanted to see her mother, but she none of them happened.

b) Synopsis of ‘*The Memory Keeper’s Daughter*’ by Kim Edwards

The novel introduces the story of a successful doctor named David Henry who was married to a beautiful woman named Norah; the couple were expecting their first child. After the birth of the first healthy baby boy Paul, David was surprised to find that his wife is carrying twins. As soon as, the second baby Phoebe delivered, David noticed immediately that she has Down syndrome. Therefore, this fact brought him to his past where he recalls the memory of his sick sister who passed away because of heart condition at the age of twelve, and her death traumatized his childhood and haunted all his family. She directly thinks about Norah and how much this fact will break her that is why he knew that if he keeps his daughter he will cause his family the same kind of intense grief her sister did before. As a result, he decided to send secretly his second baby under Caroline’s care to an institution for those diagnosed conditions; his intention was to save his family. He lied on his wife and told her that their second child was dead at birth but he was unconscious about how much that secret will lead into traumatic and tragic consequences on his family.

After years, David struggled with the guilt of his lie and the fact that he abandoned his daughter. In the other side, Caroline followed the instructions given by David and took the girl to the institution. When she arrived, she was shocked and horrified by the bad conditions and how careless the institution was. So she decided to bring back the girl and not to leave her in such horrible place, instead she disappeared and moved away to take care of her as her own baby. In one hand, Norah was in despair because she couldn’t handle the death of her daughter and the feeling of emptiness she felt. She became incredibly depressed and started drinking as the best way to forget. Similarly, Paul grew up feeling that his parents were always missing someone as he felt distance and a lack of connection between them. Therefore, this anger progressed into passion for guitar. In the other hand, David felt pressure because of all what he carried and experienced in his past so as consequence he preferred isolating himself a never

confess his secret to anyone even that it made him suffer every day. The entire family couldn't succeed to overcome this tragedy and to come together as a whole.

The novel concludes with David's death. Where, Caroline decided to searched after Norah and tell her everything about Phoebe. After her visit and her confession about everything, Norah and Paul were so happy for their reunion with Phoebe and they directly started to create bounds and relation with her. So, Paul decided to take a job in Pittsburgh to reconnect with his sister while his mother moved away to France to live with her new husband.

Endnotes

- ¹ Cited in: Jeffery. C. Miller, *The Transcendent Function: Jung's Model of Psychological Growth Through Dialogue with the Unconscious* (U.S: State University of New York, 2004), 56.
- ² *Individuation the Persona the Shadow and the Self* <https://youtu.be/uhAeXyVDDTc>
- ³ Introduction to Carl Jung – the Psyche, Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious https://jOKzUSOb_uc
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- ⁵ C.G. Jung, *Two Essays on Analytical Psychology* <https://www.goodreads.com>
- ⁶ *The shadow – Carl Jung's Warning to the World* <https://youtu.be/OhzBoOdZNpY>
- ⁷ Cited in: Jeffery. C. Miller, *The Transcendent Function: Jung's Model of Psychological Growth Through Dialogue with the Unconscious* (U.S: State University of New York, 2004), 66.
- ⁸ Ibid, 70
- ⁹ McNamara Patrick, *Bergson's Matter and Memory and the Modern Selectionist Theories of Memory* (215-231. Massachusetts: Academic Press, Inc, 1996),
- ¹⁰ Ibid, 215
- ¹¹ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matter_and_Memory
- ¹² McNamara Patrick, *Bergson's Matter and Memory and the Modern Selectionist Theories of Memory*, 215-231 (Massachusetts: Academic Press, Inc, 1996), 228
- ¹³ Ibid, 221
- ¹⁴ Ibid,
- ¹⁵ Henri Bergson, *Matter and Memory*, 1896. Trans. Nancy Margaret Paul and W. Scott Palmer (London: Allen and Unwin, 1911).
- ¹⁶ Ibid
- ¹⁷ Ibid
- ¹⁸ Ibid

Results

Throughout our interpretation of the two books, Janet Fitch's *White Oleander* and Kim Edwards's *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* and after a brief introduction about our research and the interesting works that we cited in our literature review, we have distinguished that there was a lack of analysis when it comes to the psychoanalytical perspective. Specially, what is related to personality, behaviour and mental health of the characters. This last, led us to come up with applying two different theories, which are the Jungian theory of psychology basing on *The Archetypes of the Collective Unconscious*, which aims to better understand, illuminate and analyse the character's road and life process. The second is the Bergsonian theory *Matter and Memory*, which attempts to explore the past experiences of the characters and how it affects their present.

In chapter one, we analysed nearly all the important characters of the two literary works and we found that each one of them may lead to special and interesting psychological lens. We noticed that all the characters had their own characteristics that made them unique and different. In this part of our research, we exposed and detected what are their personality types using *The Archetypes of Collective Unconscious* of Carl Gustav Jung and we found out what led them to build such personality. The Jungian theory made it easier to find out what was the hidden parts of the true personality of the characters in the two literary works.

In chapter two, we realized that the majority of the characters of the two novels *White Oleander* and *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* went through a severe and painful past that affected their mental balance. Using the Bergsonian theory *Matter and Memory* we brought out the light to better understand the inner self and the behaviour of the characters. We discovered that all the flashbacks and thoughts they had from their past experiences caused them psychological disorder. According to each one of the characters, we selected some facts to include like obsession, hatred, betrayal, stealing, and failure, in order to portray more about their psychological state.

Discussion

Chapter One: Analysing Both of the Characters of *White Oleander* and *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* According to the Jungian Theory

This chapter of our dissertation intend to analyse the characters of both the novels *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch and *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards according to their psychoanalytical level. By depending on analysing the psychological features of each of characters sighting to define and understand their personality types and behaviour throughout their journey.

A) Analysing the Characters of Janet Fitch's *White Oleander*

In *White Oleander*, Janet Fitch used special characters each one of them may lead to question their inner self. When reading the novel we shall perceive that the two main characters Ingrid and Astrid Magnussen are the most complex, confusing and interesting characters in the story.

Janet Fitch's *White Oleander* is based on two main characters, which are literally different but related at the same time because it is a mother daughter story. Ingrid was young girl when she falls in love with a man who left her pregnant and never comeback. She suffered from abandonment, after Astrid was born, she left her in a foster home but after a year, she came back and took her. This is where Ingrid made a new powerful personality, she depended on herself only; she was a brilliant artist. She didn't need a man she was courageous and powerful and creative and this aspect are included in positive male characteristics. This is where we can relate it to the anima animus by Carl Jung as he defines it: "*the Anima as an important archetypal structure that holds the feminine aspects of man; its counterpart, the animus, similarly holds the masculine aspects of women.*" ¹ When we start reading the novel we realize that Astrid was describing her special mother. Ingrid according to Janet, is a very complicated character, she made it so complex. Janet Fitch in her writing described Ingrid as strong

independent woman; she raised a child alone without the need of her father or any other man. Ingrid depending on the novel has strict rules and she lived according to them, she never breaks any rule how matter what. She knows how things works and she believed that everything she decides or do is the right thing. According to Jung in every woman there is masculine side and in every man a feminine side. In the novel, Ingrid hated man she couldn't accept the fact that she needed a man or that a woman can't succeed without their help. *"It was exactly the kind of thing she hatred the most, a woman as man's anything."* ² Astrid said. She believed that men are useless and no man is worth it like when she said *"Men", "No matter how unappealing, each of them imagines he is somehow worth."* ³ Ingrid has a very strong negative animus Michael Gruber states that:

It is an animus, she decides, the representation of the Logos in the female, as the anima is the representation of Eros in the male. In its negative aspect it is opinionated, conventional, banal, self-righteous, argumentative . . . In its positive aspect, it conveys spirit, feistiness, the capacity for reflection and self-knowledge, the capacity to handle philosophical and religious ideas at the higher levels. ⁴

Carl believed that if an individual cannot accept his inner self he would never understand his or her personality, to have a stable mental health you have to understand first your inner you. Jung states *"The animus of the woman is not so much the repressed Masculine as it is the repressed Other, the unconscious Other that she has been prevented from living out."* ⁵ The animus is often represented as something dark and mysterious. Ingrid is a very cold and distant woman she always loved to be on her own, she sometimes forgets that she is mother; this is a powerful example of male negative animus. *"My mother was not in least bit curious about me. I often wondered what she thought I was, a dog she could tie in front of the store, a parrot on her shoulder?"* ⁶ Astrid said.

Ingrid was such an influencer she used to manipulate her daughter and foster mothers even from jail, she finds her satisfaction when hurting people and showing them their weakness and breaking them down mentally and emotionally. Despite her aesthetic beauty, she is toxic and dangerous to others, even the relationship she had, as mother and daughter were toxic. Janet

Fitch made Astrid as the narrator of the novel. We see that the story begins with Astrid describing her mother and how she admires her because of her strength and independence. Astrid unlike her mother was little girl who submitted to every single thing she asks for. Everything she does is for her, just to make her proud, she was so shy, calm, and lonely, at least this is what we thought at the beginning of novel. However, after her journey she made the reader confused. The girl that were like her mother's mirror had become somebody else. Actually, the reader will notice that Ingrid wanted to create another toxic version of her. Astrid always felt guilty about her mother, she always thought that her mother was doing everything for her even her work at magazine, she assumes:

I didn't look up. I knew the only reason we were here was because of me. If it weren't for me, she wouldn't have to take jobs like this, she would be half a planet away, floating in a turquoise sea, dancing by moonlight to flamenco guitar. I felt my quilt like a brand. ⁷

Astrid wanted to live a simple life full of love and attention; every time she wanted to do something, she did not have the courage to ask her mother for, because she was afraid of losing her. Astrid couldn't fit into other girls and dress like them because her mother was different and special from theirs. What Astrid looks like is what Carl Jung relates to Persona where he described this archetype as one of the important aspect of individual's personality. *"When we analyse the persona we strip off the mask, and discover that what seemed to be individual is at bottom collective; in other words, that the persona was only a mask for the collective psyche."*⁸ The persona controls the way we are and interact with the world. It is a functional complex that operates as an attitude, or a way of relating to the outer world. This is what Astrid was like, just to please her mother and have her attention; she repressed everything she wanted just to satisfy her.

Throughout the story, we see that all what she did before was all pretence, of wearing a little innocent girl's mask. The same thing happened with Starr her first foster mother, she was an alcoholic, drugged stripper but after meeting Ray her boyfriend, she wanted to become a

better version of herself to please him and be with him. Starr at the beginning was very nice and kind to Astrid even that she wanted her to become Christian to start new life like she did. Carl Jung explains that, when people use persona to please others they leave negative traits that contradict their real self these numerous objectionable parts get put into black big bag that we drag behind us and comprises to what he called the Shadow. Each individual carries a dark side and this side contains all the evil thoughts and feeling that we face all along our life. Jung defines:

The shadow is that hidden, repressed, for the most part inferior and guilt-laden personality whose ultimate ramifications reach back into the realm of our animal ancestors and so comprise the whole historical aspect of the unconscious.⁹

Astrid is filled with imagination and visions. She is a sensitive and often stays alone because of the absence of her mother. She couldn't fit into other girl's world because her mother raised her as unique and special and that she didn't look like any other girl. Astrid's shadow manifests itself through Ingrid. She protected her inner self by submitting to all her mother's rules and wants. She was an introvert character. All what her mother raised her for was in fact creating her shadow aspects. Astrid grows up in the shadow of her mother and guardians, and eventually she comes to a point in her life where she wants to break free of their influence and explore her own identity. She wrote and painted her inner thoughts about how she felt, think, and the things she wanted to do but she could not.

According to Janet Fitch Astrid is condemned in her mother's world but after her mother jailed she became a different person even her mother was shocked and was against all the things she has done; she wanted to build her own life but every time she tries to fit in her new home, something happens. Astrid was traumatized by the fact that she hadn't a father she didn't know anything about him, she was curious about him but she never told her mother about it because she was afraid that her mother will leave her too so she repressed all of it in her. She said, "*I never told my mother I wanted a father.*"¹⁰ Astrid had her father as her weakness this is what lead her to project her wants into liking older men and having desires towards them. The first

man that she falls into was Ray the boyfriend of her foster mother. In the meanwhile, Starr started to feel that there was something going on between them. At first, she continued to act like there was nothing happening but then she started accusing Astrid that she is coming for her man. Astrid started convincing her with Jesus that there is nothing between them and she saw him just like a father but Starr rejected everything she told her.

She was a Christian, but she wasn't acting on faith, on goodness. "What about charity?" I said, like a falling man reaching for branch. "Jesus would give me a chance". She stood up. "I'm not Jesus," she said. "Not even close." ¹¹

Astrid was obsessed by Ray and her sexual desired feeling towards him, what she felt for him wasn't love but was obsession. Astrid finds her sexuality at the age of thirteen with Ray, when she started her relationship with him she begins to go far away, from what her mother taught her to be. When Ingrid was with Barry, Astrid kept imagining them together especially in an intimate way. When the reader gets deeper in the story, he may find out that Astrid even at the beginning had a sexual desire that she repressed and won't admit because she didn't have any other choice. What her mother did with Barry, made her has a sexual feeling like when she said:

She held her head to one side, moving closer, touching her hair. I felt a rubber band stretching in my brain tighter and tighter, until they disappeared into his house. ¹²

Actually, she projected the things that she really wanted to do and fell into her mother. At first, she understood why her mother was so strict with her, especially after what Barry did to them; she confesses that she was just protecting her. After, her first affair she declares that her mother was selfish and kept everything for her and didn't want her to experience and live these lovely moments like when she said *"No. if she were free, I wouldn't be here. She would never have allowed me have this. She kept everything good for herself"*. ¹³ Her dark desires made her destroy her relation with her foster home who considered her like their daughter and sister. After Starr discovered what was really going on between them she started to act like a different person. Pretending to be someone you don't, will take you far away from what your true nature is like when Gustav affirms that the persona is *"a kind of mask designed on the one hand to*

*make a definite impression on others, on the other, to conceal the true nature of individual.”*¹⁴

Her faith was not enough to stop her from revealing her evil thoughts and what she actually was capable to do. Her darker side, which is her shadow, dominated her more than her Christian side. Her jealousy made her compare to Astrid that was like her daughter especially according to her beauty, mentioning that she was scared of getting old and becoming no longer attractive. This made her forget about her religion and start becoming crazy. She started drinking again and attempt to kill Astrid and nearly succeeded shooting her in the hip and shoulder, and run away with Ray leaving her son behind; Davey refused to go with them because if he leaves Astrid will die.

Throughout the novel, we perceive that Astrid did not regret her affair even after all the consequences she had to face. Astrid's second foster mother was such an interesting character. Marvel grew up and lived in capitalist society where women couldn't do what they really wanted. Women used to get married and have children and take care of them. When Marvel took Astrid, her propose was to have her like a babysitter and servant to her. Throughout what happened to Astrid in this house and after meeting Olivia who lived near Marvel's house; who was an independent, famous and single woman who everybody considered as a whore because men came to her house; her only purpose was to gain money and live in great conditions. She chose this life because she was living in a society dominated by man, *"it's man's world, Astrid,"*¹⁵ she said. The shadow of Marvel manifests itself through Olivia. She was actually jealous of her because she does everything she wants and that she was independent and used her beauty, femininity and sexuality as a weapon towards men, and they did appreciate it and left their women to get to her. Marvel hated her especially because she did not have children and husband to take care of.

Marvel hates her because she's pretty and doesn't have any kids to worry about. She's always calling her names nigger, whore. It's embarrassing, but what am I supposed to do, I'm just a foster kid.¹⁶

Marvel wanted at all cost to get her out of town and out of their society because she considers her as dangerous. Marvel, wanted her to get arrested but she couldn't because she didn't have any prove that she done illegal things, even she wanted Astrid to testify that she made her drink alcohol and that she had affairs in her house but Astrid rejected everything so they didn't take her. *"I could hear Marvel screaming."* *"Aren't you going to arrest her?"*.¹⁷ Astrid said.

Marvel didn't have a good relation with her husband she wanted to get his attraction by colouring her hair and making Astrid do cosmetic chores to her in secret just to keep him interested by pretending to look younger without effort. So all she did is project her miserable life into hating Olivia and Astrid. She hates the fact that she was a mother that was getting old and still have to take care of her children and husband. Janet introduced Astrid, Starr and Marvel as selfish characters who cares only about themselves and their desires.

Unlike, Claire who was the favourite foster mother to Astrid, she was kind and calm comparing with the other characters. Claire was the weakest character in the novel, she carries in her the shadow of her career's failure; she wanted to become a good actress but she couldn't succeed instead she was unsuccessful actress even her husband mocked at her *"God, you're such a bad actress," he said. "I'd almost forgotten"*.¹⁸ Her failure of being what she wanted to become made her depressed and broken. She turned all her attention to her husband and wanted to be the perfect wife for him and do anything to please him because she was afraid to end up alone. As young ones said that, the shadow describes those aspects of the personality that we choose to reject and repress. For one reason or another, we all have parts of ourselves that we do not like or that we push those parts down into our unconscious psyches. Claire was so broken and she knew that when she said, *"Take my advice. Stay away from broken people"*.¹⁹ Unfortunately, Claire was so weak she couldn't bear the fact that her husband left her and wanted to divorce her, so she committed suicide.

To sum up, Starr, Marvel and Claire did not accept their true self and deal with it in order to have a stable mental health. Unlike the two main characters who made it through their

struggling and succeeded to move on all along their journey. Ingrid after all accepted to give Astrid all the answers she needed to hear about her father and childhood. Astrid then made her chose between her and her freedom, where she told her that she would return to the person her mother knew, as the daughter that she raised and the person she wanted her to become, or to have her testify and get her out from jail. Ingrid eventually chose her daughter and stays in jail. This is where Astrid knew that her mother loved her and sacrificed her freedom for her so she did what she promises her mother as well.

At the end of the novel, we see that Ingrid made it through all and gets her freedom, here where Astrid was proudest of her mother's strength and independence. Astrid, came into a point in her life where she accepted her past and learned from it and knew that what her mother did to her and all what she lived in her foster homes were a part from her. Especially her mother's influence; she knew that all along her life she will carry the shadow of her mother in her and accept it. This is what Carl Jung called the self. The self is the archetype of unity and totality. Astrid gets to know more about her inner self and deal with it. Carl believes *that "Mistakes are, after all, the foundations of truth, and if a man does not know what a thing is, it is at least an increase in knowledge if he knows what it is not."*²⁰ After all the obstacles and the tragedies, she lived, she built a strong and independent personality where she experienced and accepted each part of her beginning from her past and desires and the bad things she has done. She found her father and solved all the questions that she needed.

The reader may notice and realize that Astrid was not the same person who was shy, calm and weak instead she become independent powerful women who make her own decisions. Latterly, we see that she made bags with her art where each one translated the period she experienced and lived in her foster homes. Astrid arrive at a point in her life where she assumed her past and was thankful for all what her foster mothers done for her even if it was bad, she was grateful for all of the experiences she had. Gustav Jung said, *"No tree, it is said, can grow*

to heaven unless its roots reach down to hell.”²¹ We can say that she accomplished what she desired and now she is satisfied of what she has.

B) Analysing the Characters of Kim Edwards, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*

In *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, Kim Edwards introduced David Henry the protagonist of the story as a complex character who was at the outset of the novel a successful doctor married to a woman named Norah. The couple were expecting their first child; they were so happy because their world will change. She gave birth to twins; the second baby was unexpected girl Phoebe who was stricken with Down syndrome. From this point, their lives changed completely, David was shocked, he immediately recalls his past, he remembered his sister June who suffered and died from Down syndrome, his mother's pain and all what his family passed through. Since that moment, David's personality changed a lot; he had not overcome the death of his sister and the misery of his past childhood that is why he was acting as if he was enjoying his new life with his wife and their new born child. In fact he finds himself playing a role that never correspond to his personality, and this makes reference to the **Persona** archetype by Carl Jung who defines it as a mask that conceals the true self of an individual, for him when we do not want to reveal the truth about ourselves, we act as like someone different. Carl Jung assumes that *“one could say, with a little exaggeration that the persona is that which in reality one is not. But which oneself as well as others think one is.”*²²

In the novel, David is described as a man who is pretending that he is suffering from the loss of his daughter but tries to be strong as viewed by his wife. The fact that, he kept a secret from his family and was afraid of telling the truth, he repressed his unacceptable action and chose to hide his true identity. He believed that he would lose his wife and even his son by revealing the secret. Inside this mask, David turned into another person who was dominated by his thoughts, he couldn't face the painful reality of his evil action, he was hypocrite over his family though

he pretended that everything is fine “*Things are fine right now*” he said.²³ David’s persona hides so deeply his true identity his fear of discovering his lie leads him to isolation, his psyche uses the persona to avoid questions and judgments.

As a result, these undesirable aspects of David’s personality forms his **Shadow**, which is defined by Carl Jung as the hidden part of human being ‘s psyche, as far as he refers this archetype to the collection of repressed aspects of our identity that we dislike and we would never confront, he states:

Everyone carries a shadow, and the less it is embodied in the individual’s conscious life the blacker and denser it is. If an inferiority is conscious, one always has a chance to correct it ...But if it is repressed or isolated from consciousness, it never gets corrected, and is liable to burst forth suddenly in a moment of awareness. At all counts, it forms an unconscious snag thwarting our most well-meant intentions.²⁴

All his unconscious repressed memories came to the surface of his conscious in order to hunt his thoughts and to private him from doing what is right for his family and for him as well. Consequently, he lost his sense of self and he was out of his mind; so he decided to protect his wife from the same pain his mother endured by sending Phoebe with Caroline, the nurse to an institution where she is going to receive a better care. He believes that this act will save his family from pain and grief. In fact, he was not aware that this decision will destroy and alter the life of each one of them, unfortunately, he was guided by his inner dark thoughts, which leads him to react so, and thus the reader may directly get access to his inner unconscious mind.

David is carrying a shadow that he does not admit; he was blinded by the fear and loss who made him unable to confront his inner thoughts and emotions. As far as, his shadow guided and pushed him after all to isolate himself from the other members of his family, his thoughts were dominated by the past experience he had as a child. A part of David’s personality is unconscious; his action seems cruel and selfish because he wanted to avoid pain for himself without taking into consideration Norah’s feelings and what she may become after believing the death of her daughter. He became cold towards his wife, he created a kind of wall between

them; he totally became another person, he got angry for no reason, even his son thought that he didn't care about them saying:

You and mom. What's wrong with you anyway? You live you do not care about anything. You don't have any joy. You just get through the day, no matter what you don't even give a damn about that guy Howard. ²⁵

Indeed, David struggled his whole life to keep the secret, it became too hard to handle. Elsewhere, he lived in trouble and guilt that hunted his life every day. He regretted his decision after all because he knew that all what was happening to his family was his fault, even when he discovered that his wife was having an affair with another man he remained silent and never discussed the matter. Instead he blamed himself as Kim Edwards states in the novel *"He'd kept this silence because his own secrets were darker, more hidden, and because he believed that his secrets had created hers"*.²⁶ David believes that his family live in pain because of him, but all these reasons never allowed him reveal his secret and say the truth. Even though he missed his daughter especially when Caroline told him that his daughter was growing in a good health, he regretted what he did, instead he kept living in the dark world he created which deprived him from enjoying moments of happiness with his wife and son, this lie coasted him his life and his family's happiness.

Throughout the novel, David compressed his guilt and his longing for his daughter to photography; he became fascinated with it, so he found photography as a way to cope with his lies and a way to trap every moment lost in his life. Kim Edwards used photography as a symbol of David's secrets *"Photography is all about secrets. The secrets we all have and will never tell"*.²⁷ David was constantly distant; he spent most of his free time in his dark room where he kept memories of his family and even those of his daughter. He was always trying to forget the night when he delivered his daughter away.

From what has been said above, the reader can notice that David's shadow cannot be corrected because it is repressed so deep in his unconscious mind thus, it is impossible to catch. After all, David knew that his family was falling apart because of his secrets and lies, but

unfortunately, he was dominated by fear. His harsh childhood, and his past memories in general which blocks him from reacting in the right sense to make things work, even when he decided to tell Norah the truth he was unable to face her, he preferred to isolate himself and spend time in his dark room rather than revealing his secret. However, we can say that David was living in his shadow until his death his fear ruined his life. From Jung's point of view, a person can get to the source of his problems only by hearing to the voices coming out from the unconscious mind and dialogue with them. Otherwise the problem cannot be solved which is clearly the case of David who was unable to make a dialogue between his conscious and his unconscious, the consequence of his act made him lose his sense of self and identity. Jung assumes:

The shadow is a moral problem that challenges the whole ego-personality, for no one become conscious of the shadow without considerable moral effort. To become conscious of it involves recognizing the dark aspects of the personality as present and real. This act is the essential condition for any kind of self-knowledge.²⁸

Caroline accepted to be part of David's secret and decision about Phoebe, her intention was not to help David but in fact it was more than that, she accepted his request because she had a weakness towards him. She loved him even before he got married to Norah but she did not tell him about her feelings. She took Phoebe because she knew that it is the best way to be with David so she decided to raise her as her own daughter. Caroline's "persona" appeared to hide her true intention and to behave normally trying to justify David's decision by his goodness. She always saw good things in him and the way he took care of his patients, Kim confirms saying "*This is why she had come to love him for his goodness*".²⁹ She knew that such decision was wrong and it will destroy the whole family, but David convinced her that it was the right decision he took to avoid grief and sadness to his wife. Indeed, Caroline spent her life alone having no one to share her days with, she was tired of her routine, she wanted to move somewhere and start living the life that she always wanted.

Caroline has often dreamed of having a baby and start a new chapter of her life with, so Phoebe was all what she needed. She did all what she could to build her a happy and comfortable

life; she even fought to get equal rights for Down syndrome children to attend public education, it was difficult for her to raise a child alone. She became over protective for Phoebe, then the fear of losing her started to emerge in her unconscious mind because her new life was related to Phoebe *“I can’t imagine my life without her”* she said softly³⁰. Caroline expected and imagined a life with David and his daughter, unfortunately things turned out differently. Her excessive love and worry for her forced her to protect the infant girl from anything and anyone even from her father David when he asked to meet her, for this reason she was terrified by the idea of taking away her daughter Phoebe. As a result, she stopped sending letters to David and let him disappear from their lives like she said:

I couldn’t lose her, I was angry with you for a long, long time, but by then I was mostly afraid that if you met her you’d take her away. That’s why I stopped writing. ³¹

Caroline never confessed her feelings to David, all what she hoped for and dreamed of; even the things that she couldn’t admit to herself were gone to her unconscious. This is what Carl Jung related to “Repression” which is the most important element that creates the shadow in individuals. After years, of struggling to forget him and accept the fact that she could not be with him and make her dream come true, until she made herself believe that he belonged to someone else and she had to assume her fate. When the time comes, she got to meet him and she revealed all what she was unable to tell him before and the things she repressed all over years *“I was in love with you”*, *“You know, I spent all sorts of time imagining a life with you”* she said. ³² She felt relief and anger at the same time after she saw his unexpected reaction and answer. According to Kim Edwards David was so harsh towards Caroline, he didn’t even care about hurting her feelings because at the very beginning he knew that Caroline loved him, that is why he used her, he took advantage of her love because he knew that she will accept his request whatever it takes.

David’s denial of his shadow affected negatively his soul and his sense of self, and that led to the suffering of his family elsewhere. Especially Norah who was struggling to accept

the loss of her daughter; Norah and Paul was living in David's lie for so long and this made them depressed. Norah and Paul were victims of David dishonesty and secrecy. In one hand, Norah was struggling to overcome the loss of her daughter she was living a miserable life surrounded with grief, and sadness she was living her depression alone. Therefore, the Shadow archetype is almost shaped in Norah's character it is indicated in the novel when Norah developed an attraction toward Howard during the vacation in Aruba she followed her desires. She remained making love in secret with him she could not deny her feeling. Norah went through a period of her life where she was fed up by trying to understand David's behaviour and to catch their marriage. After years, she preferred to look for her own personal liberation in some ways David was the only responsible for what happened to Norah. Jung assumes that: *"People will do anything, no matter how absurd, to avoid facing their own souls"* ³³. In fact, Norah did not feel any kind of guilt about her affair instead she looked after it as the result of years of humiliation, neglect, and pain therefore, she felt grateful for being close to someone else after years. Kim Edwards sates *"She went back to Howard again and again, even After David remarked about how many walks she was taking, how far she went"* ³⁴.

In the other hand, Paul grew up in the shadow of his parents, he was victim of secrecy, betrayal, isolation, anger and guilt all these have destabilized his life. He was trying to understand what was missing in the heart of his family, and why his parents were behaving differently as if they never loved each over. He struggled to convince his father to become a musician, but his father's disapproval made things difficult between them, he felt hated because of his father's disagreement to follow his dreams. He was dominated by thoughts and memory of his dead sister that he never knew and wondered what she would be if she is still alive, a lot of questions haunted him like what if he had a daughter or brother, what if his sister was still alive, what was going on with his parents? He discovered about his mother's affair during the vacation while he got angry over Norah and even over David because he kept silent. For years, Paul held his anger inside him and started taking drugs and smoking as a way to escape his pain

and dealing with his feelings because he was unable to change his family situation. His mother was always overprotective and worried about him, as a consequence of the trauma left by her dead daughter; she couldn't risk to lose him too.

When Norah did not succeed to overcome the loss of her daughter and move on, Bree her sister came over to support and be beside her; she wanted to help Norah to save her from sadness and depression. According to Kim Edwards, Bree is a self-made woman who lived according to her proper rules and decisions, after the experience she had with her ex-husband, she created and developed a new powerful independent personality. She never told anyone about her failed marriage even to her sister, instead she assumed what was happened and the scandal she did to her family and then moved on in her life. She did not take into consideration people's judgments and opinions.

Bree was a feminist a rebellious young woman who was totally free, Kim confirms *"She'd enrolled at the university, changing her name from Brigitte to Bree because she liked the way it sounded: breezy, she said, and free"*³⁵. From the Jungian point of view, the "Animus" archetype is appeared in Bree's personality as seen above. According to Jung, the psyche of a woman contains masculine aspects; it is referred as a part of gendered female's unconscious psyche or the hidden male within the female. Bree was always mocking on Norah's emotional side however, she wanted to help her sister move on and confront her fears and take control of her life by accepting to deal with what ones happened, she also pushed her to accept the job she found in order to be independent from her husband and successful. She wanted her sister to be the same as her, living according to what she really wants not what her husband wants. She influenced her with her thoughts about David when she said:

You know, I hate to say this, but David's just shutting himself away, locking up every feeling. And you're still trying to fill emptiness. To fix things. And you can't.³⁶

In fact, Bree encouraged Norah to go ahead and to stop getting permissions from her husband for every single decision. She believes that woman do not need to wait their husbands to decide for them what to do or what to think.

As a conclusion, each one of the characters struggled during their journey, David did not succeed in the process of self-realization, and it became impossible for him to admit all what he did and to accept his traumatic experiences and his past. He carried his shadow until his death, which enables him to get access to his inner self and to face his dark thoughts in order to become who he really is. Jung asserts, “*We cannot change anything unless we accept it. Condemnation does not liberate; it oppresses*”³⁷. In contrast, Norah lived in the shadow of her husband and experienced loss, pain, depression and isolation. After all, she managed to accept her past and what she lived during this journey. Dishonestly, after David’s death, Caroline finally decide to reveal the truth that Phoebe was alive during those entire years, and then Norah got so angry. At least, she felt that all her questions and broken pieces starts to make sense.

Therefore, during the coming years, she became powerful and independent woman; as a result, she created her new self, which defined by Carl Jung as the archetype of psychical totality of the wholeness and individuation. For him, the negotiation with one’s shadow is a lifelong process as part of our self-education; it means that if the shadow is ignored and misunderstood self-reconstruction could never be achieved. Indeed, Paul and Caroline reaches individuation through the struggling and the difficult life they lived. Paul reconstructed himself by accepting the difficulties he faced, and he finally get answers to all his questions, he learned to live the present moment and to enjoy the simple things in life, after meeting his sister he realized that differences could make people closer no matter what. To sum up, Norah, Paul, and Caroline succeed to transform their painful life into a successful and beautiful one. They left their past behind them and started a new life. Unlike, David who failed in the process of individuation, he lacked courage to admit his mistake and to confess the truth in order to liberate his soul; he was victim of his shadow and fears.

Endnotes

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- ³⁰ Ibid, 442
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Chapter Two: Memory and Psychological Disorder in *White Oleander* and *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*

The propose of this part of our dissertation is to examine the characters of the two novels Janet Fitch's *White Oleander* and Kim Edwards's *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* according to Henry Bergson's theory *Matter and Memory*. Bergson in his theory explained how past affect the present and how are they related, "*It is because the past does not simply follow the present but coexist with it*".¹ He developed in his theory the act of remembering, that some signals, which acts like reminders of what the character, had already lived and they come as thoughts, images or flashbacks of the experiences the individual had before that may haunt him all along his life. We shall perceive that nearly all the characters of the two works made it through a rough and harsh journey, which lead them to encounter psychological issues what leaded them to have particular, strange and atypical behaviour such as hatred, obsession, betrayal, sexual abuse, failure, stealing which are considered and viewed as psychological disorder. This last, may lead the character to live and accept his new beginning and get used to it, or it may lead him to self-murder.

A) Memory and Psychological Disorder in *White Oleander*

▪ Astrid

Janet Fitch introduced a story of Astrid; a young twelve years old girl left alone after her mother committed murder and went to jail. Her mother raised her according to her own beliefs and rules mentioning that her mother was selfish, manipulative, and capable of anything just to please her ego and get her satisfaction. Astrid grew up in cold conditions where she endured the absence of her father and a lack of affection from her mother; she was lonely. The only thing her mother taught her was to build a personality full of selfishness and manipulation. The fear of losing her mother made her submit to anything she says, she didn't even complain about it. After her mother was jailed, she felt a kind of sadness and anger because her mother did not think about

what is going to happen to her. Astrid then, was sent to a series of foster homes in each home she tries to build a new personality that suits with it, but in fact, all what her mother instructed her was living in her inner self. When we read the novel, we notice that all along her journey she had flashbacks of what her mother taught her to be. This flashbacks and thoughts she had is what Henry Bergson referred to in his theory Matter and Memory as remembering. Patrick McNamara explained:

When remembering is triggered via a current perception or cue, a series of images and past perceptions become available to the rememberer. These memory images must be related to the current perception—they must be similar or analogous to the current perception. In addition, all of those memory images which preceded or followed the past perceptions which are most similar to the current perception are also recalled. ²

Astrid grew up in a toxic environment the missing of the father and dominant mother who didn't gave her what parents should give to their children. She raised her like an adult when she needed affection, love, and protection she left her alone. Her mother was always talking about man and how women actually should trait them, she thought that it was the best thing to prepare her for, but she was wrong. Astrid couldn't live a simple childhood; her mother didn't give her the feeling of safety and attention instead she was always terrified by the thought that her mother will leave her, her fear traumatized her.

After a while, Astrid started becoming a different person. Her longing for freedom made her do awful things to the ones surrounding her. We see that when she was with her mother she was shy and calm she never asks her mother for anything the only thing she always does was submitting to her mother's wants but after her mother jailed the only thing she had was gone and she is no longer with her to tell her what to do. Astrid chose to find her own path alone she didn't listen to anyone anymore like when she wrote to her mother "*you couldn't stop it, mother. I didn't have to listen to you anymore*". ³ When we go deeper in the story we perceive that Astrid was using what her mother taught her when she needed that at first she rejected the idea of becoming like her but then she used the dark part that she injected into her mind. She become

selfish, manipulative and capable to do anything to get what she wants without caring about the consequences like when she said:

I thought of my mother. What she would do if she were me. She would not hesitate. She would spare nothing to have what she wanted. And thinking of her, I felt something flow into my emptiness like a flexible rod of rebar climbing up my spine. I knew it was evil, what I was feeling self-will, but if it was, then it was.⁴

Astrid's lack of affection made her have psychological disorder where the only thing she cared about was herself. For Kant egoism can contribute causally to mental disorder, and, more importantly, mental disorders draw attention to the nature and dangers of egoism in a particularly poignant way.⁵ Astrid started having an attraction to older man who were maybe as the same age as her father and the first man she falls into was her foster mother boyfriend, she seduced him until she had an affair with him. Astrid was evil she betrayed her foster mother the one who showed her kindness and bought her new clothes and her foster brother who loved her like his real sister, without even thinking of what is going to happen next.

Astrid was immature she was young and she was educated by a toxic mother that's why we can understand where her darkness came from; how is it possible that a young innocent shy girl is able to do these awful things. She was obsessed with that man "*Ray was my only thought, my singular obsession*".⁶ He was her only concern; the fact that he had an affair with her and he betrayed Starr made her proud of herself. She was cruel as her mother, she was satisfied by what happened to Starr, she said: "*Yet I had to admit there was a part of me that was proud, even exited that Ray couldn't get it up for Starr*".⁷ Astrid was a victim of difficult childhood she couldn't succeed to live in a safe and lovely atmosphere even in her series of foster homes.

▪ Claire

Claire was introduced by Janet as very kind and sensitive person. At the beginning of the story, she seemed so perfect and happy even Astrid was shocked because everything was unbelievable after all what she been through she thought that she found the perfect mother. When going deeper in the novel we found that Claire was so delicate, the fact that she couldn't

have children made her think that she was messing something so she brought Astrid home and built a great relationship with her everything was so awesome. Claire was a self-confident actress but unfortunately she wasn't good enough to continue her career, she was doing her best until society judged her and influenced her to become a different person from confident and fearless actress to shy and sensitive women who failed her career.

I got so tired of it. You spend hours getting ready, drag yourself to the call ethnic. Too classic. Too something. "Too ethnic?". her wide pale forehead, her glossy hair. "it means brunette." She smiled. One front tooth was crooked, it crossed just slightly over the other one. "too small means breasts. Classic means old. It's not a very nice business, I'm afraid. I still go out, but it's an exercise in futility." ⁸

Thus, she ran from society isolated herself from everything and settled with her husband in new house. They lived a long distance relationship because he was always working far away from home so she was lonely the entire time. Her past was hunting her, she felt inferior the fact that she failed her career and she was infertile made her mentally destabilized. Therefore, she wanted to make it up by being the ideal wife. According to Alder, the basic psychological element of neurosis was a sense of inferiority and that individuals suffering with the symptoms of this phenomenon spent their lives trying to overcome the feelings without being in touch with reality. ⁹ She was obsessed with her husband he was the only thing she had; she was extremely insecure especially when it comes to him. Enrich Fromm suggested that people develop certain personality styles or strategies in order to deal with the anxiety created by feelings of isolation. ¹⁰

Throughout the novel, we see that Astrid found out that Claire was stealing things from her husband and hidden them in a box under their bed. Claire has a very poor self-esteem with a weak personality; when she needed love and affection from her husband he wasn't there for her so in order to have his attention she stole things from him and kept them with her. In the meanwhile, Claire thinks that her husband is having an affair. Henry Bergson affirms that the convenience and the rapidity of perception are brought at this price but hence also springs every kind of illusion. ¹¹ *"I think Ron is having an affair,"* she said. ¹² Even Astrid notices Claire's

decreasing mental health from her stealing, her obsession with being the perfect, ideal wife, she knew that she was weak and hypersensitive.

She knew. There was something terribly wrong with her, all the way inside. She was like a big diamond with a dead spot in the middle. I was supposed to breathe life into that dead spot, but it hadn't worked. ¹³

Claire's past influenced her present and impacted her future the fact that she couldn't have what she wanted in her life made her depressed even that she had Astrid by her side she couldn't get through it. Adler believes that if a person is unable to compensate for normal feeling of inferiority, they develop an inferiority complex. ¹⁴ Claire had a very fragile personality she couldn't stand up for herself after all the past experiences and the breakdowns she had. She was easy to influence and dominate, when she went to visit Astrid's mother in jail, Ingrid puts images and insinuates Claire's mind that her hunches about her husband cheating are right. Her insinuation and illusion made her lose her mind as a consequence she starts drinking and accusing her husband with cheating, her accuse made him so seek of their relationship "*Christ I'm tired of your paranoia. I should have an affair, just to give you some basis. At least then I'd get the fun along with the crap.*" ¹⁵ He said. As a result, he decided to divorce her. Despite the entire request and please of Claire, he did not change his mind. Her husband was everything for her and losing him broke her and made her commit suicide. She died as unstable, unhappy alcoholic woman.

▪ Ingrid

Ingrid Magnussen was the most interesting and confusing character in the novel. Janet Fitch introduced her as an intelligent, strong and independent woman. Ingrid was very young when she had unexpected pregnancy who changed her entire life. When her partner who is Astrid's father knew that, he abandoned her. After Astrid was born, she left her at her neighbour's house because she could not accept the fact that she become a mother and she had to take care of a child especially after she was abandoned by her lover, so she run away. She could not bear that she was not free anymore and that she had responsibilities. Year after, she

came back to her and raised her according to her own principles. As we read the novel, we found that Ingrid actually considered Astrid as something she owned and made; she had to submit to everything she says. She wanted to build Astrid's personality as she wished; she was so selfish. Ingrid didn't care about others the only thing she cared about was herself. She had a complex personality, she was manipulative she wanted everything to happen exactly like she wanted; she had an arrogant attitude.

Throughout the story, the reader may distinguish that she was irresponsible, unreliable, dishonest, and often creates significant problems in other's life. The fact that Barry cheated on her she poisoned him without regretting anything; her sense of authority produced a feeling that she is entitled to punish those who do not provide her required respect, admiration or attention. Actually, all these aspects emerge in those having unstable mental health. Dr Pritchard suggested the term "mental insanity"¹⁶ to highlight the fact that these individuals were not mad by the standards of the day, yet had considerable differences in their attitudes, actions, ethics, morality, emotional embodiment, and reactions to situation. Ingrid satisfaction was hurting and manipulating weak people, Claire for example was sensitive and broken she used that to destroy her more. She wanted to be the only one her daughter cares about she could not handle the fact that she had to share her with someone else especially after she saw how much Astrid love her and had good chemistry with her; her jealousy made her cruel.

She smiled, slow and treacherous. "help you, darling? I'd rather see you in the worst kind of foster hell than with a woman like that." She reached up to push a lock of hair away from my face, and I jerked away.¹⁷

Erich Fromm claims that those individuals in order to satisfy their need to belong, they might seek out people who have low self-esteem or lie about loving someone they really do not care about. These types take what they need either through force or through deception and exploit other people to meet their own selfish needs.¹⁸ When Astrid found out about her childhood, she asked her mother for answers and Ingrid started to confess everything. She was obliged to narrate all her past events and explain them to her "*the past is still happening. It*

never stopped.”¹⁹ Astrid said. Bergson asserts that through the characters escape their memory, the past is always here since it the active agent that emerges to meet the present. Even after years of escaping reality and hiding the truth from Astrid the day comes and she had to face them ones and for all.

B) Memory and the Psychological Disorder in *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*

▪ David Henry

In the novel, Kim Edwards demonstrated how the past could alter the present; she used David Henry as a great example where she described him as being a complex character who suffered from loss and poverty in his childhood. He was ashamed of his past life because he came from a very poor family. He lived a harsh life full of misery and pain. At the moment he knew he had a daughter Phoebe who carried Down syndrome, he directly recalled his past, and his family sufferance. She reminded him of his sister her June “*When he imagined the daughter he'd given away, it was his sister's face he saw, pale her hair, serious smile*”²⁰. June died from heart defect because she had Down syndrome. Then, he realized that he did not conquer all his past memories, and that they haunted him. After years, he found that he was totally living in his past. He was traumatized by the fact that he had to encounter again; all what he had been through, so that he delivered Phoebe away. His past came back through flash backs, and images, which Henry Bergson identified in his theory Matter and Memory as the act of remembering he confirms that:

We are always steeped in a virtual infinity of images. The brain acts as a kind of inhibitory device which screens out most of these images, allowing only the useful to remain. These useful images we call the world, objects, everyday reality—and memories.²¹

In the novel, the memory of the past is viewed as being a burden, which threaten the character's lives, especially that of David. He wanted to run away from his painful past by sending his daughter to an institution in order to spare his family from grief particularly Norah

because he did not want her to endure what his mother endured when her daughter died. The memory of his sad mother still broke him every time he remembered her *“Still, he remembered the depth and endurance of his mother’s grief, the way she walked up hill to the grave every morning, her arms folded against whatever weather she encountered”*²². He was stressed and traumatized by those harsh memories. As a result, his past affected so bad on his decisions and actions. David believed that what he did will help him escape his thoughts and memories, he wanted to erase his past from his head by moving forwards into a new house where he could start a new life and live a prosperous future with his wife and his new born boy. Unfortunately all what he dreamed of did not happen things went differently. The past destroyed him he always struggled to forget, not only his painful childhood but also the day he delivered his daughter with Caroline to an institution. According to Bergson, the past can come back at any moment and memories are not only remerged when characters need that, but also when they escape it.²³

David was emotionally exhausted, because everything he did reminded him of an event of his life, like Paul’s musical talent reminded David of June since she had musical talent and she loved singing Kim said:

Slowly, slowly, David let himself relax into this darkness, closing his eyes, letting the music, Paul’s music, move through him in waves. Tears rose in his eyes, and his throat ached. He thought of his sister, standing on the porch and singing in her clear sweet voice; music was a silvery language it seemed she’d been born speaking, just as Paul had.²⁴

For this reason, he disagreed with the idea of letting Paul follow his dream of becoming a musician; he seemed to reject everything that reminded him of his hurting youth. As reported by Bergson most memories/remembers are not triggered by external cues. Rather memory has its own rhythms and laws—its own “agenda”.²⁵ The more David tried to run away and erase his memories the more he remembered them. Accordingly, we can say that *The Memory Keeper’s Daughter* is all about David’s memories damaged his present impact his future. Kim Edwards comes with the idea that the influence of the past experiences and spending one’s life

thinking about what has already happened will keep one from appreciating and enjoying the present moment and looking for a better future.

David's past was always present in his mind, and the fear of reliving it made him psychologically a destabilized and destroyed person, because he was unable to make a decision whether to reveal the secret which had altered all his family or keeping it. He became the prisoner of his own memories. Guilt and regrets submerged him; the more he hesitated to reveal the truth that Phoebe was alive all along those years the more it became complicated for him to say it. David was in depression, which is considered as a serious mental disorder, which affects negatively how individuals think, feel and act. David spent all his days at work and mostly in his darkroom where he kept his daughter's memories and pictures, he alienated himself from the rest of his family, he lost control of his mind and did not know what to think or do. His depression affected him and even the people around him.

The distressing events he witnessed in his past made him lose his identity and his sense of life, he was dominated by fear of repeating all those events. Then, He developed an obsession towards photography because he believed that it is the best way through which he could compress his guilt, he wanted to capture as much happy moments as possible hoping to cover the most painful one of his life. David was on the verge of weeping and after years of secrets and depression he returned to his old childhood house to live their alone where he died from heart attack.

▪ **Norah**

The memory keeper's daughter is a story of past experiences and memories that are perceived by the characters. For instance, Norah had trouble to remember what happened after the birth of her daughter, she was terrified by the fact that she lost her. So she moved with her husband and their new born child Paul to a new house in order to escape the memory of Phoebe. They believed that through moving to a new house would help them leave to their past behind and start a new beginning, but in fact the opposite happened for both of them. Norah still went

mostly every day to the old house in order to take pictures because every corner of the house reminded her of Phoebe, she was unable to live with the emptiness left by her daughter and to move forward in her life. The fact that she never saw Phoebe at birth affected her, so she organized a memorial service so that everyone would know that she existed, she wanted everyone to remember her, and she said once to her friend *"Her name was Phoebe. I want somebody to say her name. Do you hear me? She stood up. I want someone to remember her name."*²⁶

Norah's past followed her everywhere; she experienced grief, loss and longing all alone. She started drinking because she believed that alcohol would help her cope with the sorrow of her pain and put a barrier to her memories elsewhere. Throughout reading the novel, we can understand that Norah at first seemed not ready at all to get through her past; she still believed that there were unanswered questions regarding what happened to Phoebe. She always felt that she was still so close, as if she was just in the other room. While David tried his best to forget his Daughter Norah still wanted to remind him each time, she said:

It hasn't been the same since Paul was born and Phoebe was died. And yet you still won't talk about her. It's like you want to erase the fact that she existed.²⁷

According to Bergson the past is recalled through images, which are relived once they are remembered, they are seen in accordance with psychological time rather than the chronological one. After years, when her relationship with David was falling apart and things went wrong between them Norah memorized their first days of marriage when they used to be so happy in their life, she tried to understand what had been broken between them and what was going wrong. From the Bergsonian point of view, whenever we are trying to recover a recollection, to call up some period of our history, we become conscious of an act sui *genesis* by which we detach ourselves from the present in order to replace ourselves, first in the past in general, then in a certain region of the past-a work of adjustment, something like the focusing of a camera.²⁸

Norah struggled to forget the past and enjoy the present moments with her husband and child because she was bothered by it.

As a result, she experienced depression and became mentally traumatized. The depressing events she endured and the loss of her daughter made her crazy and weak; no one was able to understand her feelings and emotions. She went through difficult circumstances, and the distance between her and David affected her so hard. The lack of affection she felt drove her to betray her husband with other men. She first started developing an attraction towards Howard; the man they met in Aruba during their vacation and since that day, she did not stop meeting other men. She continued making affairs it was like an “*open door into her own possibilities, into what she believed was freedom.*”²⁹ Edwards stated. After all, Norah overcome her depression and failure, she did not forget her daughter but in fact, she managed to live with her absence. She preferred to let her past behind her and decided to follow her sister’s motivation, she became the owner of a travel agency, and she developed a new independent and strong personality for her own.

▪ Paul

Paul is a character who was haunted by memories and thoughts of his twin sister, he blamed himself for her death and he wished if he knew her, he was wondering what she might be if she was still alive. Paul was a victim of his parent’s grief, pain and past longing. He was always trying to understand the behaviour of his parents and what was going wrong between them. Paul grew up alone wishing to have a brother because he felt something missing at home. His mother believed that he was missing his sister even if he did not saw her she declared, “*He misses her*”, and then she added “*Nine months,*” “*Growing heart to heart. How could he not at some level?*”³⁰. Paul was stacked in the memory of his dead twin and the fact that the relationship of his parent was falling apart.

Paul elsewhere became obsessed with music, as a way to forget and escape his devastating life behind, he felt neglected by his parents; he knew that his parents were keeping

secrets and they were busy the entire time. Paul suffered from his father's oppression to follow his studies and to forget about music because he believed that with music he would never be successful in his life, because of the conflict had with his father this matter stressed him. Paul turned cold toward his mother and locked himself in his room remembering his mother's affair in Aruba and wondering why his father kept quiet about it. Paul started to act in abnormal behaviour and went into depression, which is considered as a serious mental disorder according to Kant, depression is the weakness of abandoning oneself despondently to general morbid feelings that have no definite object.³¹ Paul felt lost and empty so he started smoking *marijuana* with his friend Duke and played music to forget his pain, he even started stealing money from his father's studio, and his actions were the result of his parent's neglect. For William James, people confront events daily that create feelings of helplessness, pain, sadness, horror, and dread.³²

▪ **Caroline**

After years, Caroline met David and the memories started to come back to her mind in forms of flashbacks of that moment when she took Phoebe away. The image of the day in the clinic appeared when she saw David in the Museum Kim Edwards affirmed saying:

Caroline felt something strange happening with time, as if they were back in the clinic again all those years ago, the snow falling down outside They stared at each other without speaking, as if the room and all the people in it had fallen utterly away.³³

All those years, Caroline didn't forget David because she always dreamed that one day he would search after his daughter and even after her, but in fact it didn't happen, she disappeared but she wished he would find her even if she was afraid that he would take Phoebe from her. Even though she started a new life, a new beginning with Phoebe and she found someone who loved her but she still remembered the past and all the obstacles she went through to ensure the best living conditions for her adoptive daughter. Her love for David remained in her mind, she kept remembering the old memories she had with him, Kim Edwards assumed:

They looked at each other then, not speaking. Caroline had held him in her mind all this time like a photograph, a hundred or a thousand photographs. In each of these David, Henry was a young man full of a restless, determined energy.³⁴

Caroline knew that her intention to raise Phoebe was not totally pure; she agreed to keep David's secret so that she could achieve her goal of being a mother because all the time she dreamed of that. She was traumatized by the fact that David told her that Phoebe would have heart problems that is why she did her best to protect her she became obsessed with her. When David asked her about how his daughter is doing and whether her health is okay she directly remembered her past struggles and replied "*Her heart's fine*", "*Thinking of the early years of constant worry over Phoebe's health, all the trips to the doctor and dentists and cardiologists and ear, nose, and throat specialists*".³⁵ Caroline's inability to reveal the truth that she loved David years ago made her prisoner of her own thoughts, she had been searching for stability in her life for so long, and she suffered from loneliness and anxiety. From the Adlerian Perspective anxiety fuels itself on fear; the anxious person has a fear of not belonging.³⁶ He stated, "*Anxious people want to protect themselves from a single or repeated failure*".³⁷

Caroline was filled with the fear of losing her beloved Phoebe so she became overprotective to her, she was her first priority. Bergson claims that our personality, which was built up each moment with its accumulated experience, changes without stopping. By changing, it prevents any state, even if it seems the same as another, from ever repeating exactly.³⁸ Caroline experienced a high level of stress during her journey it was not easy for her to take care of Down syndrome girl. Despite all the difficulties she faced the past images she carried in her mind; she succeeded to deal with her stress and raised Phoebe in a healthy environment filled with attention and love. She did not expect all this to happen, but Phoebe changed her life and she was grateful and happy for raising her as her own daughter.

Endnotes

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- ¹⁴ Alfred Adler's Theories of Individual Psychology and Adlerian Therapy www.simplypsychology.org/alfred-adler.html
- ¹⁵ Janet Fitch, *White Oleander* (Little, Brown and Company, 1999), 278
- ¹⁶ JC Prichard's *Concept of Moral Insanity a Medical Theory of the Corruption of Human Nature* www.cambridge.org
- ¹⁷ Janet Fitch, *White Oleander* (Little, Brown and Company, 1999), 254
- ¹⁸ Kendra Cherry, *Fromm's Character Orientations* www.verywellmind.com/fromms-five-character-orientations
- ¹⁹ Janet Fitch, *White Oleander* (Little, Brown and Company, 1999), 426
- ²⁰ Kim Edwards, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* (Viking Penguin, 2005), 139
- ²¹ Patrick McNarama, *Bergson's Matter and Memory and the Modern Selectionist Theories of Memory*, 215-231 (Massachusetts: Academic Pres, Inc, 1996), 223
- ²² Kim Edwards, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* (Viking Penguin, 2005), 21
- ²³ Henri Bergson, *Matter and Memory*, 1896. Trans. Nancy Margaret Paul and W. Scott Palmer (London: Allen and Unwin, 1911).
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- ³⁶ Anxiety Viewed Through A Different Lens From Adlerian Theory <https://www.sharonelby.com/parenting/viewing-anxiety-different-lens-adlerian-theory>
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Conclusion

In conclusion, psychoanalysis is a significant theory, which is concerned with the personality organization, also it aims to explain and present the interaction between conscious and unconscious. The purpose of this research is to analyse and explore both novels of *White Oleander* (1999) by Janet Fitch and *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* (2005) by Kim Edwards according to two different methods, which are the Jungian theory of the *Archetypes of the Collective Unconscious*, and Henry Louis Bergson's Theory *Matter and Memory*.

Ultimately, after applying the analysis of both the literary works by focusing on the characters of each one in accordance with the theories we have previously mentioned and we come up with a larger comprehension of the two stories. We conclude that the authors introduced characters with complex personalities. With the help of the first theory, which is the Jungian Archetypes, we have found that their appearance does not show their real self and their true desires. According to the archetypes of anima and animus, persona and shadow, we succeeded to translate the characters' behaviour and attitude and go deeper in the interpretation of their personalities. Indeed, we introduced the characteristics of each one depending on their uniqueness and specialty. Therefore, in the final analysis we referred to the archetype of the self, where we set up the recognition of each one to their inner self and how they accepted their true nature and reach wholeness.

To end up with, we have used Henry Louis Bergson's theory *Matter and Memory* where he claims that the past can come back at any instant and that remembrances are not emerged when the character desires it but also when they escape it. In reference to both novels, we explored how the past experiences of the characters affected their present. Both Janet Fitch and Kim Edwards had the same view about the reappearance of the past in any given present moment through flashbacks, image, memories and remembrance. From this interpretation, we developed the concept of psychological disorder in each of the characters. The weighty

consequences of memories in forming the identity of the characters and the unexpected events of their previous life drove some characters into being mentally instable.

In the range of our dissertation, we could not analyse all the characters introduced by Janet Fitch and Kim Edwards and discuss more about the themes of their novels: *White Oleander* (1999) and *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* (2005). Consequently, we recommend other students interested in these sort of literary works to carry out this research with evaluating and discussing further the themes of each one from different other perspectives.

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