

A Scientific Quarterly Refereed Journal Issued by Lebanese French University – Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq Vol. (10), No (2), Summer 2025 ISSN 2518-6566 (Online) - ISSN 2518-6558 (Print)

# Psychoanalytical Interpretations: Kate Atkinson's *Behind*the Scenes at the Museum

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#### **ARTICLE INFO**

#### Article History:

Received: 2/10/2024 Accepted: 30/1/2025 Published: Summer2025

#### **Keywords:**

psychoanalytical, Kate Atkinson, Behind the Scenes at the Museum, trauma, Ruby, Memory.

#### Doi:

10.25212/lfu.qzj.10.2.49

#### **ABSTRACT**

This paper analyses the psychological aspect of Kate Atkinson's Behind the Scenes at the Museum, mainly concentrating on its protagonist, Ruby Lennox, and how her intricately built psychological difficulties have been drawn in this novel. This paper employs psychoanalytic theories by Freud's psychoanalysis and Jung's theory on the collective unconscious to explore how Atkinson maps Ruby to embark on an odyssey of self-rediscovery intertwined with family strains and historical traumas. This study explores how Ruby's memories and experiences determine her identity and impact how she sees the world. The paper examines the Memory, trauma, and identity mechanics at work in the text and how Atkinson positions Ruby's traumatic experiences regarding her fragile identity— using her narrative devices. This investigation of psychological factors contributes to a broader comprehension of character and theme depths in the present-day literary cache. In conclusion, this study highlights the relevance of psychological analysis in literature and how it can reveal the nuances of human nature through artistic representation, particularly about familial and self-concept themes. In terms of psychological study, we can see Atkinson doing a nuanced instigation of existential reflection on Memory, trauma, and identity, thus rendering her novel an indelible word-of-mouth for the human experience.



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#### 1- Introduction

Exploration of psychological themes plays an essential role in literature written today, and this testifies to the high value placed on the undercurrents per se of the human psyche within a broader cultural environment. Kate Atkinson works with this complexity in one of her books, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*. Published in 1995, the novel also weaves history into the story of protagonist Ruby Lennox and has layers that lend themselves to psychoanalytic readings.

What is essential about Atkinson to research in *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, however, is how life writing is given a voice that displays sensitivity toward the psychology of her protagonist — a narrative predicated on trauma, Memory, and identity formation. Designed in a narrative style, this transitions between different periods and the respective point of view, which helps readers see Ruby growing from an infant to a woman. It is a fluidity that speaks to the very nuance of memory and its connection with identity. These interactions reveal the psychological toll they have on Ruby in her relationships and desire to be close with her family, primarily her mother and siblings.

In this study, the psychological theories examined to support the paper's analysis of Ruby include classic psychological frameworks such as Freudian psychoanalysis – which explores the notion that our adult behavior stems from earlier experiences in childhood — and theory by Jung, particularly the collective unconscious / archetypes. Through these frameworks, the research seeks to understand Ruby's layers and ages as a character and how her past manifests in her present and contributes to her identity underground.

It will also examine Memory, trauma, and identity through Atkinson's portrayal of Ruby, highlighting Atkinson's narrative techniques, which encapsulate the interior anxieties and exterior realities Ruby contends with. This exploration deepens our knowledge of Ruby as a person and character and offers insight into broader societal issues regarding family dynamics and personal identity.

The non-linear narrative Atkinson chooses adds psychological depth and ambiguity to both her characters and the identity politics relevant in their respective 20th-century England. Ruby, in particular, is a character whose life story unfolds through her memories, reflections, and experiences that blur the line of time between past and present. This tells the reader what is going on in Ruby's head and gives us an idea of her fears and desires.



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This study points out the importance of psychological interpretations in literary studies. Examining the psychological layers of Atkinson's narrative will offer a new lens into how character and theme have been developed in works of contemporary literature. Ultimately, this paper is intended to show the value of a psychological breakdown in deepening our understanding and appreciation of Atkinson's work by illuminating its exploration of the intricacies of human existence within the constraints of family relations and identity.

The evolution in Ruby is not only of a single individual but also of more significant psychological issues that readers can relate to. So concerned with who she is, Ruby trips over the roots of her family tree and then gets stuck under expectations from others — offering a universal rendering of what it means to be human and flawed. This paper will explain how our understanding of Atkinson's Ruby serves as a template to locate/ find the psychological uniqueness that structures our lives.

#### 2. Theoretical Background

This section will probe some critical psychological theories that form the background for decoding Ruby Lennox's character in *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*. This will include an introduction to Freudian psychoanalysis, Jungian theories of the collective unconscious, and the archetypes theories relevant to understanding of memory and identity formation.

#### 2.1. Freud's Psychoanalysis

Freud's psychoanalysis focuses on how experiences in infancy and early childhood influence adult behavior and personality. Freud (2001) believed that childhood was an essential phase of life and that unresolved conflicts can result in psychiatric disorders later in life. This assertion is pertinent when examining an individual character such as Ruby because the weight of her childhood experiences at home with toxic parents plays a considerable hand in defining who she is as an adult. Ruby's encounters with her family and the turmoil it causes her to experience are heavily grounded in Freudian ideas of repression and projection.

Freud argued that people frequently repress shocking memories as a way of defending themselves against coming to terms with their most painful experiences. "Her mother... all thrown into a deep memory well, and though repressed by adult wishes for peace, the retractions leave their mark on a psyche still vulnerable to



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them (Atkinson, 1995, p. 45)." Similarly, Ruby initially yearning for her mother's approval and then feeling unworthy seems like Freud's idea of projection—when one projects one's shortcomings onto others.

Freud's theory of the Oedipus complex would also be most insightful when discussing Ruby's interactions with the men in her life, which the researcher explored (Ruby, Dad, Ruby Dingus). It does not make Ruby any less fraught, as these are family relationships, and the dynamics of love and rivalry (and competition) are essential to what makes Ruby work so well, throwing all the lighter on how captive one is to his or her family; that it comprises a part or most of their character.

#### 2.2. Jung's Collective Unconscious

Collective unconscious is one of the most important concepts in Jungian analytical psychology and refers to its unconscious part which inherited from ancestral memories shared among all humans. Whereas the personal unconscious contains repressed life memories and experiences, the collective unconscious is acquired through evolution and is composed of basic prototypical preexisting structures called archetypes (Jung 1968). Archetypes are symbolic patterns, images or themes which appear in the mythology, dreams and stories of all human civilizations throughout history. Jung believed that all of histories figures and stories are locked away, hidden behind a door in the Collective Unconscious which has no key (Samuels, 1986), but is nonetheless alive and molds human behavior feelings thought unconsciously.

Carl Jung, who believed that all people share a standard set of memories and ideas inherited from their ancestors. The collective unconscious contains archetypes, universal symbols, and motifs that inform human experiences and tales. This portion of the essay engages with Jung's archetypes in Atkinson, specifically regarding family and social form.

In *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, Ruby is the wounded child, an avatar for a troubled and painful childhood. This archetype, such as Ruby, but the experience of childhood wounds and healing is part of the human condition. The influence of



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other archetypes like the "mother" and "father" figures proves to be another insight into Ruby's relationships and societal ideals that control her.

In addition, Ruby can be compared to Jung's theory of individuation (the process of becoming whole) as she journeys towards integration. The novel follows Ruby while she fights with her true self and false reality, trying to bring together the remnants of her old world with this one. The journey to self-discovery and acceptance is a process of individuation rooted in memory and reflection, moments of transformation that contribute to our lives.

#### 2.3. Memory and Trauma

Contemporary psychological approaches have emphasized the relationship between identity and Memory, with a particular focus on the effects of trauma on Memory. This segment will focus on Ruby as the product of trauma: her memories and the effects of it influencing her deep perception of reality and her family relationships.

How it works in trauma psychology is that traumatic memories are often encoded very differently than non-traumatic memories, which present as fragmented recalls and resurfacing over time. This trauma, particularly about Ruby's family dynamics, is reflected in her non-linear narrative and the disjointed nature of her memories. However, as she flounders through her past and future alike, the interplay of Memory and trauma serves as a critical locus around which much of Dolly's psychological development is centered.

In Kate Atkinson's *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, Dolly is an important character with complex relationships that deeply affect the protagonist, Ruby Lennox. Dolly is Ruby's great-aunt and plays a significant role in the family dynamics. She is part of the multi-generational story, with her past and traumas influencing Ruby's family history. "Dolly's troubled life and her influence on the family dynamics highlight the deep-rooted traumas that shape Ruby's identity" (Atkinson, 1995, P. 98). Dolly's troubled life and her interactions with other characters reveal underlying themes of guilt, repression, and familial dysfunction, which can be analyzed through a psychoanalytical lens, particularly regarding how family legacies shape identity and behavior.

This paper will include insights from modern-day psychologists researching how Memory and trauma inform identity. These references show how dissociative



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identity disorder and its connection to adult relationships from a childhood of trauma can offer some insight into Ruby's bouts she has with reality and the void that lives in her.

These psychology theories will be synthesized to provide a solid theoretical framework for analyzing Ruby Lennox and her psychological development throughout the novel. By situating Ruby in the context of Freud and Jung and recent memory studies, Bakewell can form a multilayered exploration of identity and family.

In Behind the Scenes at the Museum, Bakewell is a minor character related to Ruby Lennox's family. Employed by the Lennox family as a handyman, he is not central to the vanishing act of Ruby Flame but adds an extra layer of domesticity and confusion around Ruby's' existence. He serves as a reminder of the everyday interactions and dynamics that subtly shape Ruby's upbringing, her perspective on how one leads life is indicative of family. Bakewell may be considered in the light of a psychoanalytical perspective to form part of this environment and simultaneously influence Ruby's girlhood awareness, hunger for growing up as well as class allegiances such as his role around-the-house ("Bakewell's role; handyman highlights subtle domestic influences on Ruby's developing worldview" (Atkinson, 1995, p.145)

#### 3. Literature Review

#### 3.1. Prior psychological review

Many writers have also investigated Atkinson's use of psychological material, particularly those exploring how her characters move through trauma and identity. For example, Miller (2008) explores the psychological implications of Ruby's family life that prevent Miller from forming other' intimate relationships; this source posits that Atkinson expertly illustrates how Miller's traumatic childhood experiences eventually have tragic effects on his adult self. Miller observes how Ruby, much like her son (and often most of us), can look back at a recollection of an emotional experience and whether it has been perceived as something warped that continues to influence their interactions in the present.

Similarly, Smith (2010) has looked at Memory's role in defining who Ruby is, rooting her memories as a painful past and a wayward road to self. Smith suggests that Memory is not a constant phenomenon but an ongoing faculty of Ruby and her self-interpretation in the world she inhabits.



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These analyses offer a unique window into the psychological aspects of Atkinson's story and how Ruby can be seen as personifying smaller foci—trauma, identity, the nature of humanity—for us to dwell upon.

#### 3.2. Literature on Memory and Identity

In this literature review of anti-boosting effects, we will also collect studies that address a broader concern with Memory and identity in recent fiction, comparing Atkinson favorably to many other texts. Johnson (2012), for example, suggests that Memory is a common theme in postmodern literature and that authors frequently use non-linear narratives to attempt to recreate how human experience can feel disjointed. The fragmentation of identity into memories is a trend in Atkinson's novel, and putting this on paper with time shifts and multiple perspectives helps to reinforce that as memory fights for identity in the modern world.

Johnson also offers an insightful analysis of nostalgia as a critical contributor to how characters self-conceptualize (Ruby's isolationist tendencies formed by her yearning for the mythologized past constitute one such example). This additionally complements Johnson's reflections on personalism. In the broader sense, this look at Memory as a narrative function adds depth to some of our discussions on Ruby's development; it gives a greater perspective on all she has been through.

#### 3.3. Feminist Perspectives

Feminist literary criticism has also made the connection between Atkinson's thematic exploration of female identification and motherhood, and the popular press continued to identify this as central to her canon. Some scholars, such as Turner (2015, p. 95), have analyzed how Atkinson illustrates how women navigate their patriarchal environment, focusing on Ruby's complicated connections to her mother and sisters. Ruby, and indeed the female characters of Wakanda, are thus reflective of "the struggles that women face at home trying to work through your place in a prescribed society (as determined/administered by culturally appointed institutions i.e., Man striking out on your own,". Feminist Theories on the Actual Character of Ruby and Why She Faces Psychological Issues: What follows is how these feminist perspectives contribute to audiences' understanding of Ruby not just as a character but as her psychological state. This review can articulate Ruby's



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experiences within the context of gender, and this is important because its ground's identity in a very sociocultural way.

At the same time, this literature review will critically detail previous scholarship on *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, distilling its findings to ground and guide our conversation with Ruby performing psychological readings.

#### 4. Discussion

This section will present Ruby Lennox in-depth and examine her character with applying psychological theory. It will be divided into subsections concentrating on various aspects of Ruby's adventure.

#### 4.1. The Role of Ruby's Childhood Trauma

In this subsection, I will examine Ruby's childhood trauma through the lens of its effects on her psyche in terms of Freudian theories of repression and projection. It will examine certain events that shape Ruby's identity as she grows up and how these shape her relationships with family members.

Ruby had a difficult upbringing, with her father dying young and her mother being emotionally unavailable. Ruby is left with a deep sense of emptiness and loneliness that will continue to plague her for the rest of her life. This is Freudian repression in its purest form — Ruby buries her confusion and grief until her pleasant, emotionless smile only seems to deliver emptiness in every interaction.

Ruby's abuse is catching up with her. For instance, she has a complicated relationship with her sister Gillian; it seems fraught with jealousy and bitterness and mirrors some of Ruby's insecurities about validation/self-worth vs. family roles. This new idea of seeing insecurity not as dysfunction in her emotions and responses but in projecting that energy and mood onto Gillian create tension and conflict, adding more layers to Ruby's identity crisis.

This essay will show that Atkinson uses Ruby's childhood trauma to push her into a perceptive and psychological life, arguing that the painful experiences of early years can have a lasting influence on adult behavior and relationships.



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#### 4.2. Memory as a Construct

This chapter will concentrate on Memory as a construction, using psychological theories to analyze how Ruby's memories contribute to her identity. Focusing on examples from the text where Ruby wrestles with her memories, this paper will explore these conflicts and how they shape her perceptions of self and the world. Ruby recalls are highly fragmented and distorted, like memories created in the aftermath of anything abusive is a true crime. During her quest to find the truth about both her lineage and a broken memory, Ruby realizes things were gospel and may have been painted with bias from somewhere near hell. The memory problem is an example of the more significant psychological idea known as narrative identity, which is where people form their identities through the stories, they talk about themselves.

Similarly, in Behind the Scenes at the Museum, Kate Atkinson employs a non-linear narrative to echo Ruby Lennox's piecemeal advancement of her past. The disjointed nature of this structure mirrors the manner in which memory often flushes out or peaks its way into consciousness tectonically. Outbursts against his pit bull Diego, combined with near-memories of the past will sneak up on Ruby in an exploration of self.

Ruby remembers when Gillian was killed in a car crash. The recall isn't delivered in a linear narrative but via remembered bursts of emotion and image: "One moment she was laughing, the next she had gone." (Atkinson, 1995, p. 134) A fragmented memory—highlighting the depth of Ruby's grief and confusion with a violent reminder that time does not heal all things.

On the other hand, Ruby remembers her mother's neglect as though memory and nostalgia are almost interchangeable—splitting time into moments of tender affection longed after. Ruby remembers visiting the zoo and how her mother "for once, held [her] hand tightly" (Atkinson, 1995), which was really just a small gesture of comfort among an otherwise cold relationship. The non-linearity structure of the film allows these two shorts to live in is contrasting and contradictory emotions together, reminding us that memory can still bring comfort even if they are painful.



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Atkinson's storytelling reflects the way memories do not come to mind in a sequential neat and tidy chronological order, indeed through Ruby's disjointed narrative the reader gleans her struggle with trying to make sense of aspects of recent history.

Also, in line with recent psychological research, we shall see how trauma interrupts our Memory and harms recollection, thus disrupting identity formation. This discussion will enlighten these themes with a study of Ruby's Memory, which this paper argues displays the importance of memories in constructing identities and the difficulties experienced by such an individual in integrating past and present.

#### 4.3. From the collective unconscious and archetypes

This part will discuss Jungian archetypes of Ruby and her familial relationships. Through identifying particular archetypes, the analysis will demonstrate that Ruby's journey embodies more giant societal tales and universal psychological patterns found in various cultures.

The "wounded child," symbolized by Ruby (Sarah Snook), has inherited all of the hardships and pain that have come with her life to this point. These traits, those of a traumatized child seeking healing, create an archetype not just for Ruby but for all humans. Ruby's relationships are further complicated by including other archetypes like the 'mother' and 'father' figures, all demonstrating the layers that craft her identity under societal pressure.

As you can see in the passage above, one of these points is that Ruby's mother exemplifies a nurturing but also neglectful take on motherhood, which mirrors Ruby's relationship with other maternal figures. In examining archetypes, the novel examines patterns of behaviors that burst out of the interiors of familial dynamics and shape what Ruby is on top of how she sees herself.

However, Ruby's journey has a lot to do with Jung's idea of individuation—the process of becoming whole, or in other words, integrating the elements inside one another. Throughout the book, Ruby struggles with being split in two and reconciling her history to her now. These scenes of Memory and reflection illustrate the transformative agency of recognition while characterizing his individuation.



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#### 4.4. Integration ('Becoming...Being' Part One: Identity)

This part will focus on the process where Ruby is learning to find herself and transform; it will explore some of the elements in her narrative that marked a change in how Ruby views herself. The conversation will explore how Atkinson's narrative structure represents Ruby's inner struggles and forms a complex psychological setting.

Ruby finds a new sense of self as she struggles through real-life things. She hits critical turning points in overcoming her past, especially with family relations. However, her choice to come back home again and stay where she grew up sets the stage for some self-discovery and confrontations with reality and offers a glimpse of who she is.

Further, the novel will analyze how societal expectations influence Ruby to inform how she sees herself. Ruby, who is from a matriarchal family, struggles with this balance when raised in a patriarchal society. In depicting Ruby's struggle, Atkinson explores familiar cultural narratives of female identity, stressing the multiple demands on women in juggling personal ambitions against caring responsibilities. Ultimately, this close reading will reveal the ebbs and flows in Ruby's quest for self-knowledge, shedding light on how Memory and recollection serve as crucial conduits for personal reflection that forever alter one's sense of identity.

#### 4.5. Family Dynamics and Psychological Battles

The dynamics of Ruby and her family members, especially her relationship with her mother and siblings, will be discussed in this subheading. Moreover, it will look at what these roles do in terms of Ruby's murder and how they impact her mental anguish, using a feminist lens to explore the gendered aspects of family dynamics. Her ability to stretch and confront the central puzzle of her psychological growth — her emotionally distant mother and her unresolved conflicts — relates directly back to Ruby (Atkinson, 1995, p. 43). Ruby consistently criticizes her inadequacies and seeks validation from a nurturing yet neglectful mother, which captures the nuances of maternal relationships. Such dynamics produce psychological stress, which affects how Ruby sees herself in the eyes of others, leading to relationships between Ruby and many people.

The question over the sibling relationships delves deeper into how Ruby has been brought up and ultimately who she is as no longer an only child. I also liked how we



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see Ruby as a sister and daughter, so the sibling rivalry, jealousy, and love between her and her brother and sister come forward, demonstrating how complicated yet beautiful it is to be a part of the family. These relationships are the backbone of both support and conflict for Ruby, helping to make her identity and role within the family what it is.

The paper will explore the place of gender within family life and how cultural norms dictate Ruby's position as a sister (daughter) but also about her mothers. Through humanizing their psychology, this conversation will demonstrate the importance of families in who we become and how children must parse through traditional gender roles.

#### 4.6. Memory and Identity

The concluding argument of this discussion incorporates the information gained from previous subsections to show how Atkinson's delineation of Ruby's psychological trajectory mirrors the more extensive aesthetic tactics used by Brian McHale (1992, p. 45), who views how Memory and identity operate. It will say that Ruby offers the opportunity to examine familiar complexities of lived human experiences, particularly about family and selfhood.

Because Ruby is primarily defined by what she can remember, identity and Memory intertwine so much with her character growth. Atkinson's non-linear narrative mirrors the fragmented way memory operates and better allows for reader engagement with Ruby's internal conflict...

In Ruby's path, Atkinson elucidates the restorative influence of memories and the significance of introspection in accepting identity. Ruby embarks on a journey of self-exploration as she comes to terms with her past and begins to understand herself more fully.

The synthesis will also explore the broader implications of Atkinson's exploration of psychological themes and elaborate on where Memory and identity fit into today's literature landscape. By exploring this universal theme central to the novel, readers are left to follow Ruby's journey and contemplate how it reflects on their Memory and identity.



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#### 6. Conclusion

This study has examined Ruby's childhood trauma(s), memories, and familial dynamics function as influences co-contributing to her identity using theoretical models from within psychology (Freud's psychoanalysis and Jung's collective unconscious).

This analysis shows us the intricate psychological conflicts of Ruby's journey, which represent trauma, Memory, and identity in literature today. By using a holistic methodology, this study contributes to the understanding of character development in Atkinson. This is then expanded for a more extensive work — the careful dance between social engineering and narrative that typifies planetwide public relations.

The novel takes on a nostalgic tone here, feeling almost like an innocent fairy tale; Atkinson is picking memories back up off the shelf to formulate Ruby as a character in her own right as she navigates life through familial relations and societal expectations, illustrating such experiences in terms of Memory and identity.

Finally, it is concluded that these takes may contribute to how readers read characters and themes in literature. Through Ruby's tale, readers are forced to reckon with the nuanced relationships between humanity and the past and how history can fundamentally change our personalities.

The findings suggest that future research should focus on the intersection of psychological themes and narrative techniques in contemporary literature. Arguably, it is perhaps to the betterment of scholars obsessed with our own constructed stories about the human—the ones we write down and call fiction—that Ligotti now graces such a relatively insignificant list (albeit still at number one) because maybe, just maybe it will inspire them to reflect on how they think about narrative demands of their characters psychological dimensions and thus fulfill their reason for being.

Behind the Scenes at the Museum is a poignant exploration of Memory and trauma—scaled to an individual and collective level—that invites readers to experience human complexities through profound self-discovery.



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## شیکردنهوهیهکی سایکۆلۆژی له رۆمانی کهیت ئاتکینسۆنی پشت پهردهکانی مۆزهخانهکه

#### يوخته

ئەم توێژینەوەیە لایەنی سایکۆلۆژی لە پشت پەردەكانی مۆزەخانەكەی كەیت ئاتكینسۆن شیدەكاتەوە كە بەشێوەیەكی سەرەكی تیشك دەخاتە سەر پاڵەوانەكەی روبی لێنۆكس و چۆن كێشە دەروونییە ئاڵۆزەكانی لەم ڕۆمانەدا كێشراون. ئەم توێژینەوەیە تیۆری سایكۆلۆژیای بەكاردەهێنێت كە لەلایەن شیكاری دەروونی فرۆید و تیۆری یۆنگ لەسەر نائاگایی كۆمەڵ دیاری كراوە بۆ دۆزینەوەی ئەوەی كە چۆن ئاتكینسۆن نەخشەی روبی دەكێشێت بۆ دۆزینەوەی خود كە تێكەڵ بە ھەردوو فشاری خێزانی و تراوما مێژووییەكان دەبێت. ئامانجی ئەم توێژینەوەیە دۆزینەوەی چۆنیەتی یادەوەریەكانی، ئەزموونەكانی روبی ناسنامەی و كاریگەری لەسەر شێوازی بینینی جیهان دیاری دەكات. توێژینەوەكە



A Scientific Quarterly Refereed Journal Issued by Lebanese French University – Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq Vol. (10), No (2), Summer 2025 ISSN 2518-6566 (Online) - ISSN 2518-6558 (Print)

بهدواداچوون بۆ یادهوهری، تراوما و میکانیزمی ناسنامه دهکات که له دهقهکهدا کار دهکهن و چۆن ئاتکینسۆن ئەزموونه تراوماتیکهکانی روبی بهرامبهر ناسنامهی ناسکی دادهنیّت—به بهکارهیّنانی ئامرازهکانی گیّرانهوهکهی ئهم لیّکوّلینهوهیه له فاکتهره دهروونییهکان یارمهتیدهره بۆ تیّگهیشتنیّکی فراوانتر له قوولایی کارهکتهر و بابهت له حهشارگهی ئهدهبدا—چوّن دهتوانیّت جیاوازییهکانی تیشک دهخاته سهر پهیوهندیی شیکاری دهروونی له ئهدهبدا—چوّن دهتوانیّت جیاوازییهکانی سروشتی مروّق له ریّگهی نویّنهرایهتیکردنی هونهرییهوه ئاشکرا بکات—بهتایبهتی له پهیوهندی به بابهتهکانی خیّزان و چهمکی خودی. له رووی شیکردنهوهی سایکوّلوّژییهوه، دهتوانین ئاتکینسوّن ببینین که هانیّکی جیاواز له بیرکردنهوهیهکی وجودی لهسهر یادهوهری، تراوما و ناسنامه ئهنجام ببینین که هانیّکی جیاواز له بیرکردنهوهیهکی وجودی لهسهر یادهوهری، تراوما و ناسنامه ئهنجام

### تفسيرات نفسية تحليلية: خلف الكواليس في المتحف لكيت أتكينسون

#### الملخص:

تحلل هذه البحث الجانب النفسي لرواية "خلف الكواليس في المتحف" لكيت أتكينسون، مع التركيز بشكل رئيسي على بطلتها، روبي لينكس، وكيف تم تصوير صعوباتها النفسية المعقدة في هذه الرواية. تستخدم هذه البحث نظريات التحليل النفسي التي وضعها فرويد ونظرية يونغ عن اللاوعي الجمعي لاستكشاف كيف ترسم أتكينسون رحلة روبي في إعادة اكتشاف الذات، وهي رحلة متشابكة مع الضغوط العائلية والصدمات التاريخية. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف كيف تحدد ذكريات روبي وتجاربها هويتها وتؤثر على الطريقة التي ترى بها العالم. تستكشف البحث الصدمات والهوية في النص وكيف تضع أتكينسون تجارب روبي الصادمة في مواجهة هويتها الهشة باستخدام أدواتها السردية. تساهم هذه الدراسة للعوامل النفسية في فهم أعمق للشخصيات والمواضيع في الأدب وكيف يمكنه الأدب المعاصر. في الختام، تسلط هذه الدراسة الضوء على أهمية التحليل النفسي في الأدب—وكيف يمكنه الكشف عن تفاصيل الطبيعة البشرية من خلال التمثيل الفني—خاصة فيما يتعلق بمواضيع الأسرة ومفهوم الذات. من خلال التحليل النفسي، يمكننا أن نرى أتكينسون تقوم بتحقيق دقيق للتأمل الوجودي في الذاكرة والصدمات من خلال التحليل النفسي، يمكننا أن نرى أتكينسون تقوم بتحقيق دقيق للتأمل الوجودي في الذاكرة والصدمات والهوية (المجالات المذكورة في الكتاب)، مما يجعل روايتها كلمة لا تنسى عن التجربة الإنسانية.