

**FATAL MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT REFLECTED IN ED  
BOWIE'S NOVEL *NATURAL PREDATORS OF MAN***

**THESIS**



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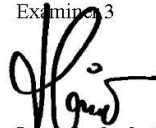
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## ABSTRACT

Mulyaningrat, D. S. (2022). *Fatal Mission Accomplishment Reflected in Ed Bowie's Novel, Natural Predators of Man*. English Department, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Dr. Wahju Kusumajanti, M. Hum.

**Keywords:** New Criticism, Plot, Predators.

This research aims to examine the plot of a novel titled *Natural Predators of Man*. This novel tells the story of the Russian troops' determination to carry out their duties despite being isolated in a castle with rough conditions because they encountered monsters and mysterious diseases. These findings are based on the storyline of a group of Russian soldiers who are tenacious in performing their duties as reconnaissance troops during the war of Russia against Germany.

This study employs a qualitative approach because it analyzes the novel's plot following the storyline. This research uses Gustav Freytag's theory to examine five elements of a plot: exposition, the emergence of conflict, the peaking of conflict, the decreasing of conflict, and the resolution of conflict. The researcher refers to the texts throughout the novel for the plot analysis.

The Russian soldiers' fight began when they found a castle. They were in a cold desert. The extremes of nature can only be overcome by willpower. This army knows how to survive. With clues in hand, Russian Soldiers decided to defend the castle after seeing the cruelty of German soldiers towards children in a castle. The children they protect and defend the castle are their natural enemies. The creature came from the children who ruthlessly killed Russian soldiers. The remaining four Russian soldiers find an escape by swimming to the surface. Then the four Russian soldiers swam ashore. From then on, the soldiers finally escaped the terror. Tragically at the end of the story, they had to swallow the bitter pill for the second time, after their hard struggle in carrying out their duties had to be paid for with their lives taken by their own country. The readers can glean some lessons from this. People can only do their best with all of the hard work they are putting in, hoping for the best. However, all they have is an attempt to go on. They might still be unsure of what it will ultimately become.

## ABSTRAK

Mulyaningrat, D. S. (2022). *Penyelesaian Misi Mematikan Yang Tercermin Dalam Novel Natural Predators of Man Karya Ed Bowie*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M. Hum.

**Kata Kunci:** Kritik baru, Plot, Pemangsa.

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengkaji alur sebuah novel berjudul *Natural Predators of Man*. Novel ini menceritakan tentang tekad pasukan Rusia untuk menjalankan tugas mereka meskipun mereka terisolasi di sebuah kastil dengan kondisi yang sulit karena mereka bertemu monster bersama dengan penyakit misterius. Temuan ini didasarkan pada jalan cerita sekelompok tentara Rusia yang ulet dalam menjalankan tugasnya sebagai pasukan pengintai selama perang Rusia melawan Jerman.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif karena menganalisis alur novel yang sesuai dengan jalan cerita. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori karya Gustav Freytag untuk mengkaji lima elemen plot: eksposisi, munculnya konflik, klimaks, berkurangnya konflik, dan penyelesaian konflik. Peneliti mengacu pada teks yang terjadi di seluruh novel untuk analisis plot.

Perjalanan tentara Rusia dimulai ketika mereka menemukan sebuah kastil. Mereka berada di gurun yang dingin. Kondisi alam yang ekstrem hanya bisa diatasi dengan kemauan keras. Tentara Rusia tersebut tahu bagaimana bertahan hidup. Dengan petunjuk di tangan, mereka memutuskan untuk mempertahankan kastil setelah melihat kekejaman tentara Jerman terhadap anak-anak di kastil tersebut. Anak-anak yang mereka lindungi, dan alasan mereka mempertahankan kastil adalah musuh mereka yang sebenarnya. Makhluk itu berasal dari anak-anak yang dengan kejam membunuh tentara Rusia. Empat tentara Rusia yang tersisa menemukan cara untuk melarikan diri dengan berenang ke permukaan. Kemudian keempat tentara Rusia itu berenang ke darat. Sejak saat itu, para prajurit akhirnya lolos dari teror. Tragisnya di akhir cerita untuk kedua kalinya mereka harus menelan pil pahit setelah perjuangan keras dan kegigihan mereka dalam menjalankan tugas harus dibayar dengan nyawa yang diambil oleh negaranya sendiri. Beberapa pelajaran dapat dipetik dari kisah ini adalah manusia hanya bisa melakukan yang terbaik dengan semua kerja keras yang dilakukan, berharap untuk yang terbaik. Namun, semua yang kita miliki adalah upaya untuk melanjutkan kehidupan. Kita masih tahu akan seperti apa akhirnya.

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## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of The Study**

An artistic of life imitation is imaginative literature. However, literary works changed over time. In retrospect, every new literary work alters the perception of the entire spectrum of literary history, as T. S. Eliot noted long ago (Pavel, 1985, p.8). Literature, in particular, seems to also claim 'truth' through the outlook on life that every artistically coherent work has (Wellek and Warren, 1956, p.25). Stories often combine made-up or exaggerated characters and situations with real-life feelings and morals.

A novel is an imaginative work that tells the whole side of the hard life of a person or several characters. Margaret Doddy says (1996, p.1) that approximately two thousand years have passed since the novel's first appearance in Western literature. Modern historians and critics who have defended the novel have stressed that it has taken precedence over other forms of literary expression. In some circles, it is treated as if its most important characteristic was its ability to act as a substitute, successor, or even a sort of legitimate usurper. (Doddy, 1996, p.2). Novels are a kind of prose that contains elements of characters, plots, and fictional settings that unfold human life.

A novel is a fictional prose narrative or table of considerable length (now usually long enough to fill one or more volumes). The author, characters, and actions representative of real-life of the past or present time are depicted in a plot of varying degrees of complexity (Hawthorne, 2001, p.102).

The plot is defined as a chronological series, interrelated and causal. The plot and story are different. Stories are narrative events presented in their chronological order, and they only arouse interest through their intrigue and mystery. In addition to narrative events, it is concerned with causality rather than just narrative content. (Forster, 1956, p.335)

Analysis of the plot in the book can show a story is put together in chronological order, and there is a cause-and-effect relationship that underlies the formation of a story. The plot is the structure of motion found in fiction or drama. In comparison, extrinsic elements are related to the outside world, such as sociology, culture, and history. Intrinsic elements are very supportive of integrity in literary works because this integrity is interrelated with one another. Intrinsic elements are related to the story's characterization, events, plot, message, point of view, and setting. The intrinsic element is a meaningful way to study literature, especially fiction. Readers cannot separate literary works from these essential elements.

This novel tells about the Russian troops on duty to eradicate the remaining German troops in their territory. Then these troops found a castle building filled with German soldiers with small children. They decided to return to their headquarters to report their findings to Colonel Gurov. Initially, their discussion has planned to bomb the building. However, Koliev told Gurov that small children were inside and decided to investigate the castle. Inside the castle, they encountered twelve frightened little children in a terrible condition. They chose to defend themselves in the castle and experienced a new problem over

time. This mysterious disease resulted in the victims of the Russian soldiers falling one by one. These troops are trying to survive and isolate themselves to find out where the source of the problem is. It turned out that the children showed corrupting the soldier's body. The researcher uses this novel because this novel is riveting in the story. After all, there was a war between Russian and German troops. However, they face the same problem; both sides encounter the monsters in the castle. There are no previous studies with the same novel because the researcher did not find any study in the novel, so this research is totally new. The researcher only focused on the storyline of one character's journey. However, in this study, the plot experienced by one group indicated that the plot was shared by many characters and was not focused on one character only. The research focuses on a group of Russian soldiers who experience similar events simultaneously. The following research questions are formulated with only one research question in light of the preceding discussion. (1) How is the depiction of the journey of the Russian army throughout the story in *Natural Predators of Man*?

## **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

1. To describe the Russian soldiers' journey throughout the story in *Natural Predators of Man*.

## **1.3 Significance of the Study**

Practically, the researcher hopes that the readers be careful about setting their expectations too high because reality does not always go hand in hand with our



expectations. Understanding how various factors influence human behavior gained through reading novels such as Ed Bowie's *Natural Predators of Man* will help readers better deal with life's challenges.

Theoretically, this research expects to develop knowledge in understanding literature through its intrinsic elements. This thesis is also likely to contribute to literary studies, particularly in the English Department of the Faculty of Humanities. The study of the plot helped the researcher understand the meaning of the literary work being studied.

#### **1.4 Scope and Limitation**

The researcher focuses on the novel written by Ed Bowie, *The Natural Predators of Man*, published in 2019; in this novel, many issues can be examined. However, the researcher limited the problem in this study. The researcher focuses on the plot to describe a group of Russian soldiers' efforts to complete their mission throughout the story. The researcher explains how the group meets its mission based on rough conditions. There are some elements in the novel, such as symbol, theme, point of view, character, and plot. However, the researcher only aims at the plot.

#### **1.5 Method of Study**

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the study method, starting with research design, data sources, and data analysis. The analysis uses the descriptive qualitative method because description relies upon non-numeric data. To develop



the interpretation of the data, which includes analyzing setting or individual description, data of categories or themes, and understanding or drawing conclusions based on the subject of the study about its meaning personally and theoretically. While analyzing the problem, the theory of New Criticism was used. The researcher selects *Natural Predators of Man* by Ed Bowie as the subject. The researcher will explain in detail the study method below for further explanation.

### **1.5.1 Research Design**

This study focused on the literary text *Natural Predators of Man* written by Ed Bowie. The researcher used the qualitative method that depended on the researcher's explanation and interpretation of the novel's data. The method that the researcher used helped comprehensively understand the data.

### **1.5.2 Data Source**

There are primary and secondary data sources. The primary data source was *The Natural Predators of Man* novel. The researcher uses secondary data sources containing previous research, journals, articles, and books related to this research to support the study. The researcher used these two data sources to conduct this study.

### **1.5.3 Data Collection**

This study follows the following steps to collect and analyze the data.

1. The researcher read the novel comprehensively to understand the whole story by using a data table to get the issue of the novel.
2. The researcher collected relevant quotations related to the study's objective, i.e., the Russian soldiers' journey through the plot ( exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution)
3. The researcher selected references to support the study, which supports the understanding of the plot.
4. He classified the data based on the elements in the plot.

#### **1.5.4 Data Analysis**

To conduct this study, the researcher did the step below

1. The researcher analyzed the first element of the plot by finding the remarks of the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution of the data based on the study's objectives.
2. The researcher analyzed the journey at each plot stage using the new criticism theory.
3. The researcher concluded the discussion.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 New Criticism**

The new criticism is an Anglo-American formalism that emerged in the early twentieth century and dominated education and science until the early 1960s. (Blackwall, 2007, p122) .The new criticism developed in response to the older schools of history and literature in the northern United States, which focused on the history and meaning of individual words, their relationship to foreign and ancient languages, comparative material, and the biographical status of authors. Influenced by German scientists in the 19th century, this approach was adopted.

New Criticism is generally considered to include the work of Eliot Richards and possibly Leavis and William Empson, as well as several prominent American literary critics, including John Crowe Ransom, WK Wimsatt Cleanth Brooks, Allen Tate Monroe Beardsley, and RP Blackmur. In particular, the American movement originated in the economically disadvantaged South in bloodshed and traditional farming, where T.S. Young Eliot first saw organic society. (Terry Eagleton, 1996, p.40). A close reading of a literary text novel is also necessary to understand the text in question. It is the process by which the author dissects the text's various components, such as its characters, plot, and theme (as well as the author's point of view and symbolism), among other things. In this study, the author approaches plot analysis through the lens of the new criticism, which serves as a theoretical framework. To analyze the data, the researcher applied both

character and characterization and the plot to depict the Russian soldier accomplishing the mission in the novel.

### **2.1.1 Character and Characterization**

Throughout a dramatic or narrative work, characters are individuals who are interpreted by the audience as having particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities based on inferences drawn from what they say and their distinctive ways of saying it in the dialogue and from what they do in action (Abrams, 2008, p.42). On the other hand, characterization represents individuals in narrative and dramatic works. Approaches such as direct attribute of traits in description or commentary and indirect or 'dramatic' methods that invite readers to infer attributes from characters' behavior, words, or appearance are all possible (Baldick, 2001, p37).

### **2.1.2 Plot**

According to Aristotle's mythos, a plot is a series of events and actions arranged and rendered in a specific way to achieve specific artistic and emotional results in a piece of work. Characters' moral and dispositional qualities are communicated through their actions (both verbal and physical) in a position of literature or drama. As a result, plot and character are two concepts that are intertwined.

An alternative definition of a plot is a detailed timeline of events that distinguishes it from a story. This point of view is how we sum up a piece of literary writing: First and foremost, a synopsis must explain how this relates to that, how causes and motivations are interconnected, and how all of this is represented, organized, and described visually (M.H Abrams, 1999, p.224). The plot is how a story develops, unfolds, and moves through time. In narrative or creative writing, the plot is the sequence of events that make up a story. The successive events can be thought of as a sequence of events linked together by associations.

This research uses Freytag's Pyramid plot analysis was first published in *Technique of the Drama* in 1894. German critic Gustav Freytag developed it. The plot of a five-act play typically takes a pyramid shape, with rising action, a climax, and a trough at the top and bottom of the pyramid (Freytag, 1894, p.115). Although the overall pattern described by Freytag applies to only a few plays, the words he used to describe it are frequently echoed by literary and dramatic critics. However, most people associate this dramatic final scene with tragedy. The French word *denouement* ("untying up") can refer to it in both comedic and dramatic situations. The symbol represents whether the protagonist succeeds or fails, how conflicts are resolved, and how misunderstandings are resolved. For the most part, the term "resolution" is used to describe the conclusion of a narrative. (M.H Abrams, 1999, p.227).

#### **2.1.2.1 Exposition**

Exposition is often a description of what has happened before the start of the action, describing the location and timing of the action and environmental characteristics. An Exposition, according to Freytag, is required at the outset of every story. Introduces the main fictional elements, such as setting, characters, and style; in this section of the story, all of the story's main characters are usually introduced in the exposition. The Exposition provides the reader with the necessary context to fully comprehend the following story to guide readers through each character's backstory. It reveals their interpersonal dynamics and their underlying motives and aspirations. After the exposition, there should be a "trigger incident," an event that sets off the story's central conflict. It is clear to the reader what they are aiming for and what they are willing to risk to get there. (Freytag, 1894, p.120). The section hopes that the reader will understand the story before the action from the exposition.

#### **2.1.2.2 Rising Action**

The story's rising action is the second central plot point. The conflict and climax of the story are described in this section. As the action stages increase, the story becomes more difficult to follow. There are several ways the protagonist can make things more difficult for themselves as they attempt to solve the problem. It is just that it is more challenging to accomplish. When a conflict reaches this point, the main characters are usually under tremendous pressure to achieve their objectives. The story will be more engaging if it has this tension. (Freytag, 1894 p.121). The action starts to kick in from the rising section, then later to the climax section.

### **2.1.2.3 Climax**

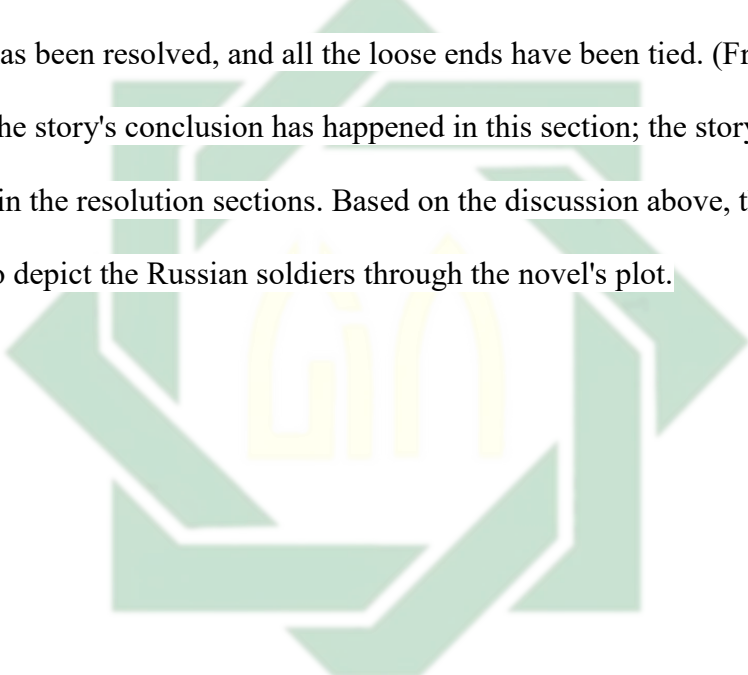
The climax of a story is not the end. The climax, according to Freytag, is the pinnacle of the pyramid. Problems that were laid out in the exposition are finally resolved in this section. There are many ways the protagonist's situation can change at this point in the story, either for the better or worse. It is common for writers to think that the climax of their stories should be short, fast, and action-packed. There is not a set formula for writing a climax, but some stories require this style. The part of the story piques the reader's interest and brings to mind all of the story's most meaningful events. The reader will become more engrossed in the account if the author takes the reader on a journey. This point is where things get exciting. (Freytag, 1894, p.128). The climax section is the top of the problems that will find all the issues, and the climax section is where the story becomes more excited.

### **2.1.2.4 Falling Action**

After the climax, the falling action takes place. Problems previously on the verge of boiling over will begin to calm down. Subplots or secondary antagonists linked to the primary antagonist can also introduce secondary conflicts. This section aims to keep the story's central problem from being solved straightforwardly. (Freytag, 1894, p.131). The falling action section occurred when the issue became cool down and started to come to an end of the story.

#### **2.1.2.5 Resolution**

The resolution of a plot signifies the conclusion of the story. The story ends with all of the character's issues being resolved. The story comes to an end; it is known as a resolution or denouement, both of which mean the same thing: to let go or untangle. The point is where the story ends, whether it is happy or sad, the conflict has been resolved, and all the loose ends have been tied. (Freytag, 1894, p.137). The story's conclusion has happened in this section; the story's ending is included in the resolution sections. Based on the discussion above, the researcher applied to depict the Russian soldiers through the novel's plot.



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## CHAPTER III

### ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the researcher tried to answer the research problem that finds the journey depicted Russian soldier in the novel *Natural Predators of Man*. The researcher focused on the characterization and plot to find the Russian soldiers' journey to carry out their mission. As discussed in the previous chapter, the researcher will identify the novel's exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution and then find how the Russian soldiers overcome the problem in each plot sequence. Before discussing the journey of the Russian soldier, the researcher needs to explain the novel briefly.

The novel tells about three Russian soldiers who were tasked to supervise the Russian territory. They were known as the 11th Army Guards Division. In the duty, they found a castle. Those Russian soldiers saw a little girl inside the castle. Unfortunately, they also found many Germans inside the castle and more children inside. They decided to back their base with more soldiers to investigate the castle. When the platoon arrived at the castle, strangely, all of the Germans' soldiers were gone, and, at this point, they found the children with burned skin and guessed it was the Germans' abuse. The Russian soldier decided to defend the castle, fearing the Germans retake the castle. After the Russian soldier occupied the castle, they encountered a mysterious disease. They would never have thought that the children brought the disease till they found that those children were the creatures that hunted them down. Finally, the Russian soldiers fought them off. It

was not easy to defeat them. However, they decided to find their way out from the creature with their remaining soldiers.

### **3.1 Insect Hunting**

The exposition describes how small Russian soldiers were deployed on their first mission. This research includes the Koliev, Badanov, and Laska activities as loyal Russian 11th Army Guards Division. At the beginning of their journey, a scout group was sent to clean up the remaining Germans in their territory along with the worst snowy weather, and then they were finally found a castle that hid many mysteries inside. This quotation shows the story as follows:

“Three hunters in the snow, three tiny pinpricks in a barren wilderness. Moving warily, watchfully, their hearts pounding, breathing heavily, sucking in icy air that burned the backs of their throats, then holding it a moment longer than they would in normal life to warm it and stop their lungs from freezing.” (Bowie, 2019, p1).

From the quotation above, three hunters looked small from afar in the vast winter wilderness, hunting insects. They have to fight the extreme temperature to conduct the mission. They had to manage their vital organs and work harder to keep them alive.

In the second world war in the northern hemisphere, there was a war between the Red Army and Germany. The three hunters were Red Army soldiers, equipped with greatcoats and rifles. The first hunters were named Uri Laska, Gregor Badanov, and Alexei Koliev as the group leader. They were hunting so-called insects, the German soldiers.

“They struggled on, creaking and crunching as they forced their way through thick, clinging snow, all the time their eyes fixed on the hilltop ahead and the tracks they were following: animal tracks, but not a wolf or

bear their quarry had no fangs or claws, but they knew from bitter experience it could be a hundred times more dangerous.” (Bowie, 2019, p3)

The hunter forced their way along thick snowy terrain. Their eyes fixed on the hill top ahead. The animal tracks they were searching for ”...ahead and the tracks they were following: animal tracks, but not a wolf or bear; their quarry had no fangs or claws, but they knew from bitter experience it could be a hundred times more dangerous.” (Bowie, 2019, p3). However, there is an oddity to these tracks. The tracks signs they were found do not belong to the dangerous wild animal. From their experience, it could be more difficult. They chased one of the natural predators of man, a human being. Human beings are far more dangerous than animals because humans develop great intelligence than animals. The meaning of this sentence is that the group was hunting German soldiers.

Uri Laska abandoned his friend, Koliev. He saw three desperate stragglers down in the valley below cut off from the retreating fascist army, struggling through the snow to reach the dense woodland on the far side of him. “Laska ignored him. Now, he could see them down in the valley below: three stragglers cut off from the retreating fascist army.

Wallowing desperately in the snow, struggling to reach the dense woodland on the far side.” (Bowie, 2019, p3). The three stragglers are the German soldiers, precisely what they are looking for. At the same time, Both Koliev and Badanov fired their rifles into the valley, but their shooting skills were not as good as their friend, Uri Laska. Later, the fascists escaped through the mists after the attack.

After wounding one of the Germans, Laska rushes forward to end the wounded soldier's fate. "Uri Laska raced ahead, pulling out a long knife as he descended on the wounded soldier, who started to scream and struggle madly." (Bowie, 2019, p4) Laska was executed with his long knife as he descended on the wounded soldier. Then the injured soldier screamed in fear and tried to resist Uri Laska's execution, and then the soldier was killed.

At the same time, Koliev looks at the trail of the third man, and he is found blood in the snow. "Koliev stared down at the trail of the third man. There was blood in the snow. 'He's wounded!' he cried, setting off into the mists at the edge of the woods. Come on!" (Bowie, 2019, p5). Koliev was sure that the blood belonged to someone severely injured, then he stepped ahead into the mists at the wood edge and invited his friends to follow him.

As he arrived, Badanov saw Koliev, who was bent over. At the same time, he also saw splattered blood in the vicinity. "Up ahead, the others were just indistinct grey smudges, even though they were only a few paces away. He sped up and joined Koliev, who was bent over, intently following a broadening trail of blood seeping into the snow." (Bowie, 2019, p5). At this moment, he thought one of his friends was injured. "Uh-huh?" the captain replied, not taking his eyes off the trail." (Bowie, 2019, p5) Koliev replied and said no to Badanov. He could assume what Badanov was thinking about, who believed that Koliev was bent over and injured. But by the same time, Koliev was still wondering about the splattered trail of blood; we could see that he was not taking his eyes off the path. "Koliev thought for a moment. 'Not yet,' he replied, still staring at the blood. 'Just a bit

further.' They trudged on blindly, their boots creaking in the snow.” (Bowie, 2019, p6). Koliev believes that the wounded soldier is still alive. Koliev was confident that the wounded soldier was not far from their location. The group then follows the bloody trail. As they continued on their way, the low visibility and thick snow on their path were making their way not easy.

Badanov felt they were being stalked as he observed the thickening fog inside the woods. On the edge of Badanov’s vision, “Badanov peered anxiously into the thickening fog: there were grey shadows out there” (Bowie, 2019, p6). As the group moved simultaneously, he saw moving shadows paralleling the group in the dense mists. Later, Badanov discovered that Koliev was missing “Suddenly he realized Koliev wasn’t with them anymore.” (Bowie, 2019, p6). Both of them, Laska and Badanov, were searching Koliev. However, they suddenly found a corpse that made them panic more than fear belonging to Koliev's body. “Oh, shit!’ he muttered frantically. ‘It’s a body. Aly... Oh, God! Aly!’” (Bowie, 2019, p6). After approaching the body, they discovered a dead German soldier that was found wounded and ran towards the woods. ‘Not the captain,’ Laska chuckled, peering over his shoulder. ‘That’s a German...’” (Bowie, 2019, p6). Initially, the group was looking for his captain, Koliev. Unfortunately, Badanov had an accident that knocked him down. When he struggled to keep his footing, he stumbled upon an object. Badanov realized he had found a dead body. Badanov feels shocked because he thinks that it is Koliev’s dead body. Badanov desperately tries to check in the freezing water by facing the body towards him. After he rolled the body, Badanov was shocked and terrified; after seeing the

body's condition, Laska was an optimist and told his friend Badanov that it was not their captain's body. After he said that, Laska peered over Badanov's shoulder and quickly realized that is one of the German soldier's dead bodies. With their optimism, Badanov yelled out in the woods, "Alyosha!" he cried. 'Where the hell are you?' (Bowie, 2019, p6). Knowing the body is not belong to Koliev, Badanov anxiously shouted for his captain, hoping there was an answer from Koliev. "Koliev's voice replied, from a long way ahead: 'Here! I'm over here!'" (Bowie, 2019, p6) Koliev heard Badanov's voice from a distance and replied to him by shouting his position.

When they climbed up, the fog in their path faded away, and suddenly they could hear Koliev's low voice giving his direction towards Badanov and Laska. "Almost at once, the fog started to clear, and at last they heard Koliev's voice: 'I'm here,' he said softly." (Bowie, 2019, p7). When they climb up, the fog in their path starts to fade away. Suddenly they can hear Koliev's low voice directing Badanov and Laska. "They found Koliev sitting atop a dune, staring out over a scene that none of them had ever witnessed before." (Bowie, 2019, p7). Badanov and Laska finally find their captain, Koliev. They were reunited at the top of the hill. Koliev was found sitting atop a dune staring at the beautiful scenery they had never seen before. Laska found something that caught his attention on the top of the mountain. "Look..." he muttered, pointing along the shore. The others followed his gaze. A dark, half-ruined castle hunched uneasily on the water's edge on the far side of a vast bay. (Bowie, 2019, p7)." Something draws Laska's attention out there. Laska tried to tell the others and pointed along the shore to

guide the interest. On the far side of a vast bay, they have seen a half-ruined castle standing in an unconvincing condition on the water edge. Later he asked his captain, “What do you think, captain?” he asked, scowling at it, pushing himself up with the butt of his sniper’s rifle. Koliev rose quickly to his feet. ‘Well, I suppose there’s only one way to find out,’ he replied, slinging his rifle over his shoulder and jogging down the dune with Laska following close behind.” (Bowie, 2019, p8). Laska asks his captain for comments; Laska wants to make sure Koliev is interested in checking it out or not. Initially, Koliev was sitting atop a dune, then quickly stood up from his seat, motioned he was also interested. Koliev was also curious about the half-ruined castle on the bay's far side. Koliev said there was only one way to find out, then jogging down the dune with Laska, they started to approach the half-ruined castle. Give the meaning. The only way to find out is to check it closely. Badanov speculated that the castle was already have been occupied by Germans

“Oh, thank you, Uri-fucking-Laska, thank you very much... ’ Badanov grumbled, batting the sand off his heavy, sodden greatcoat. ‘...Here I am freezing cold, piss wet through – and I’ll bet you a Rouble to a fucking Kopek that place is teeming with bloody Germans...” (Bowie, 2019, p8).

Laska spotted a half-ruined castle that was the perfect place for shelter, even though the condition of the building was damaged. They are in winter weather; their condition is cold and wet. Laska knows the group needs to seek shelter. Badanov depicts his cold conditions specifically; this sentence explains that Badanov feels happy because Laska finally found refuge for the group. Nevertheless, on the other hand, however, Badanov feels so tired of his current condition. He also can guess that Germans have already occupied that building.



Moreover, they will fight with their enemy again; he dares to bet Rouble to Kopek with Laska if their enemy, the Germans, occupied that half-ruined castle. The rouble is their money currency, and Kopek is a monetary unit equal to one-hundredth of a Rouble. The meaning of this sentence ‘...*I’ll bet you a Rouble to a fucking Kopek...*’ is Badanov dares to bet 1-100 of Rouble. However, still, they proceed toward the castle.

Not far from where he started walking, Badanov noticed his friends up ahead had stopped walking; he did not have any idea what was going on with his friends. Koliev and Laska were staring at a dense copse of the tall primitive object. “They were staring at a dense copse of tall, primitively- carved totems, set all along the water’s edge and facing out to sea.” (Bowie, 2019, p8). The shape of the objects is tall carved totems. The thing is set along the water’s edge and facing the sea. Badanov has no idea what he saw in front of his eyes. Then he found one of the reed ropes that stretched between them because he was curious and tried to examine it. He tried to shake one of them. “Badanov laughed and shook one of the reed ropes that stretched between them. Immediately, there was a clapping and clattering from hundreds of wooden clappers that hung from them.” (Bowie, 2019, p8). One of the reed ropes that Badanov shook raises clapping and clattering noise from the hundreds of wooden clappers. With the noise from the hundreds of wooden clappers spreading along the shoreline. Badanov picked one of them and threw it out at sea. “Well, they’re not doing an excellent job,” Badanov muttered, uprooting the nearest one and tossing it into the sea. But, as the totem floated, rising and falling with each wave, its jet-black, bulbous eyes stared back at him,



malevolently.” (Bowie, 2019, p8). Laska said it was only a scarecrow. Badanov thinks so; he thought the totems were just the scarecrows device and did not work properly, then he tried to grab and reach the nearest one and toss it into the sea. Badanov thinks it did not work properly because scarecrows are usually placed in the middle of the corn field to repel birds trying to eat the corns. But in that situation, it is non-sense why they set hundreds of ‘scarecrows’ all along the water’s edge. So that is why Badanov thinks that they are useless. After Badanov was thrown the totems into the sea, he realized the totems stared back at him with a scary depiction.

They can see a way to the Half-ruined castle from a far. There is a network of small dunes connected with narrow twisted gullies. The castle is enormous. As they approach the castle, “On the far side of the bay, the open shore gave way to a network of small dunes interlaced with narrow gullies that twisted and turned like a maze.” (Bowie, 2019, p8). The twisted gullies may affect their sight towards the castle. But each time they look at it, it still visibly comes closer. “Finally, they emerged from behind a dune and realized they were far too near the castle and within easy range of the battlements.” (Bowie, 2019, p8). The group realized that they had nearly arrived at the castle. When they peek from behind a dune, they recognize the castle was far too near and within easy range of the castle tower. After realizing they were far too near to the castle, the group then moved to hide behind a clump of reeds. After hiding behind a clump of reeds, Koliev scanned the castle wall with his binoculars, looking for any findings.

The discussion above shows that the Russian soldiers' journey started when they made their first mission to wipe out the remaining Germans and accidentally found the castle. They had encountered the harsh snowy wilderness. Only those who have the determination can defeat the extreme condition of nature. These soldiers were highly skillful to survive when the Russian soldiers did their initial mission to hunt down the remaining enemies in their territory.

### **3.2 Investigate the castle**

The rising action section of the story tells many stories when at first, the group of Russian found a little girl waving inside the castle. At this moment, they later discover further issues inside the castle. They have encountered Germans soldiers who were occupying the castle inside with the little girl; Koliev and Badanov, with their courage, decide to go back to their headquarters to report their findings while doing their mission. Before they managed to slip back to the headquarters, they also had an incident while crossing a village when they had to report their findings to Colonel Gurov back to the base. Both of them survived and arrived at the bottom. They discussed with colonel Gurov and major Orianen, Koliev and Badanov, who still wanted to defend the castle intact without being flattened by aircraft bombers; Gurov decided to investigate the castle with small arms reinforcement Russian soldiers. Koliev, Laska, Badanov, and other Russian soldiers explored the castle and then found a group of twelve children hiding inside the castle.

Their mission was a shift to investigate the castle under Gurov's command. While the Russian soldiers investigate the castle, they found nothing. The Germans were missing with the abnormal condition and left clues that confused the soldiers, primarily when they were found burned skin among the children. They guess it comes from Germans soldiers who occupied the castle with the children lately. The soldiers decide to defend their positions inside with the children because they have found the children were also Russians and fearing the other Germans soldiers were retaking the castle. Major Orianen joins the group with the film director, doctor, and nurses to take care of the children. In this section, the researcher found many findings of the issue that need to tell about because this section is crucial that affects climax. We need to know one by one that they discovered the problem. The analysis is as follows:

Badanov saw a girl at the high tower. After Badanov was discovered something at the tall building, Koliev started looking at it more closely. But he did not see anything that Badanov was seen before. "There's a girl up to the left," he said, pointing more urgently. "Waving a yellow cloth there." (Bowie, 2019, p9). Badanov gives a more specific location for Koliev to see. Badanov has sawed a girl with a yellow cloth. Laska was unsure that the girl could see them, mainly because they hid behind a red clump. Laska is curious and asks his friends if the girl was also seen in the group or not. "Do you think she's seen us?" Laska asked." (Bowie, 2019, p9). Koliev replied that he was sure the girl could see the group, then he passed his binoculars to Badanov. After Koliev gives Badanov the binoculars, Badanov can see the girl waving at them. "Oh, she's only little...."

Badanov waved back to her. ‘...Not much more than seven or eight, I’d say....’ He stopped as he saw her looking over her shoulder, seemingly terrified, and an unseen hand dragged her away from the window. “” (Bowie, 2019, p9). Badanov discovered that the girl was not much more than seven or eight years old. He waved back to her. Badanov stopped waving after realizing the little girl’s condition, which seemingly terrifies her. He worried about the little girl when he saw the girl was dragged away from the window by an unknown person. Koliev then invites the group to go there, sliding back down the dune and proceeding ahead to the castle.

“Running, crouched over, using the snow-topped dunes for cover, they managed to get to within a hundred meters of the castle. They were stopped by a shot that hissed as it slapped into the damp sand just ahead of them. ‘Damn,’ Koliev cursed as they threw themselves behind a clump of reeds. ‘Where did that come from?’ ‘Roof...’ Laska muttered, peering up at the battlement. ‘On the right. Standard issue – not a sniper.’” (Bowie, 2019, p9)

They proceeded ahead to the castle and managed to get to within a hundred meters of the castle. Then suddenly, they were stopped by a shot that missed into the damp sand just ahead of them “...they were stopped by a shot that hissed as it slapped into the damp sand just ahead of them.” (Bowie, 2019, p9). They threw themselves behind clumps of reeds to cover and did not know where the shooter came. With his keen eyes, Laska was found the shooter at the right of the battlement roof. “Roof...” Laska muttered, peering up at the battlement. ‘On the right. Standard issue, not a sniper.’” (Bowie, 2019, p9). He quickly recognizes the

shooter's gun. The shooter has used a standard weapon, not uses a sniper rifle.

That is why the shooter misses the shot.

After the shoot, the group was surprised to see a German soldier with empty hands appear from above the battlement. "They stared in amazement as two hands appeared above the battlement, followed by the figure of a German soldier."

(Bowie, 2019, p9). They saw the poor conditions of a figured German soldier that started to shout and wave at them. At this point, they discover that the Germans have occupied the castle. The Germans are still their enemy and set up Russian soldiers to approach closer for an easy target. "At once, the German bent down and grabbed his rifle. He managed to fire two shots" (Bowie, 2019, p10). It is a trap; the figured German then bent down and grabbed his rifle. The figured German tried to lure Badanov to get too close to the castle, drawing him to give the German a clear shot. Before Laska managed to shoot and kill the figured German right at his throat, he fired two shots at Badanov, which missed into the sand right at Badanov's feet. Laska fired his rifle toward the figured German, who was lured and tried to kill Badanov; after Laska fired his gun, hail gunfire came from every part of the castle. Badanov gets cover back into the reeds while the bullets fly around him. The group decided to retreat and scurried back the way they would come. "The Russians scurried back the way they'd come, not stopping until they were out of range. 'Too many for us,' Koliev said, breathing heavily." (Bowie, 2019, p10). The group continued to run away until they were out of range from the Germans. After being attacked by the Germans, they escaped by running away from the castle. That is why Koliev was breathing heavily. Koliev said too

many for them because the group was outnumbered and no match for the fight.

The group only consists of 3 people.

Escaping the gunfight and away from the castle, Koliev commanded Laska to stay and watch anything movement from the castle. Koliev chooses him because Koliev is famous in Laska. He is good both with his marksmanship skills and keen eyes; Koliev trusts him to keep an eye on the castle from a distance.

“Uri, you stay here, and keep an eye on things. We’ll get the others. Just watch, don’t do any- thing stupid — alright?” Laska nodded and started to survey the castle through his rifle sight. Koliev patted him on the shoulder then scuttled down the sandbank, with Badanov close behind.” (Bowie, 2019, p10).

Then Laska started to survey the castle through his rifle’s scope. From here, Koliev and Badanov decided to go to the 11th army guards division headquarters because they needed to meet their Colonel named Evgeny Gurov. Koliev patted Laska on his shoulder, then Koliev and Badanov continued to proceed back to the headquarters.

Initially, Badanov was questioning Koliev about their actual job. While Koliev, like his captain, tried to explain what they do as front-line soldiers, it is Colonel Gurov’s order. However, suddenly, he stops his conversation because he appears to see a group of objects inside the fog. “He stopped and peered into the fog, pointing to a group of low, rounded objects, no more than smudges on the skyline.” (Bowie, 2019, p11). Then he asked Badanov what he thought about the object. Badanov guessed that the objects were haystacks. Koliev could see the smoke from there; he was sure it must be a village. “No, look, there’s smoke. They’re huts. It must be a village.” (Bowie, 2019, p11). They have seen the hut’s

roof; smoke is coming from its chimney. At this point, they were found in the village. Badanov wisely suggests Koliev evade the town “Shouldn’t we go round it?” (Bowie, 2019, p11). As we know, Badanov and Koliev were keeping out of sight of the castle, meaning they were avoiding getting caught by anyone. Badanov was not sure the village was safe enough to cross. Then Koliev surveyed the town. He discovered that the terrain around the village was impossible to pass through. Then he decides to cross the village.

When Koliev crossed the village, he could feel they were being stalked by people who might be hostile. “They were almost through the village when an old man rushed out from one of the huts and shambled toward Koliev, brandishing a long, gnarled wooden staff.” (Bowie, 2019, p11). He could see figures who peeked and watched their every single move. Badanov and Koliev were almost through the village. However, suddenly from one of the huts, an older man rushed out toward Koliev from behind, and appeared threatening with a wooden staff.

“Weg da!’ he cried. ‘Hör auf! Go! Go from here!’ Koliev spun round — but he seemed momentarily transfixed, uncertain what to do. Badanov didn’t hesitate, though. In a reflex action he raised his rifle and fired three shots.” (Bowie, 2019, p11).

This quotation was the village incident that occurred. The old man cried in German languages, ‘Weg da!’ the meaning is ‘go’ and ‘Hör auf!’ the purpose stop it. The older man tried to stop and evict Koliev and Badaov from their villages. Because the more senior man knows both of them is a soldiers. Koliev turned back his body and appeared shocked and did not know what to do. However, Badanov did not hesitate against every single threat. Like Koliev said before, to not take any chances, especially Badanov is a loyal soldier, same as Laska does to



protect his companion. Badanov quickly raised his rifle and fired three shots, hitting the older man. “Badanov stared down at them as he walked past, still pointing his rifle at the old man.” (Bowie, 2019, p12). As he walked past to continue their journey back to base, Badanov still did not take any chance and still pointed his rifle at the older man suffering in the young woman’s arms that once helped comfort the older man.

Finally, both of them arrived back at their bases. Koliev tried to report his group findings. “I beg to report an organized pocket of fascist resistance.” (Bowie, 2019, p14). The group found a pocket of fascist or German resistance. Colonel Gurov was surprised by the report. Then Gurov wants to find out more by asking Koliev about his report in more detail about the exact location and asking him to calm down. Koliev pointed to the same spot on the map. “It’s here, sir.” Gurov glowered at it. ‘Sod it, Aly, that’s fifteen kilometers behind our line!’ (Bowie, 2019, p14). Gurov looks shocked when he looks at the map. Gurov was shocked after knowing the location of fascist resistance was fifteen kilometers behind their line.

Major Orianen suggested calling up an air assault, and he was so confident that would solve the problem. “Oh, just call up an air assault, colonel!” (Bowie, 2019, p15). After he stated that, his speech was interrupted by Koliev. Koliev interrupted Major Orianen's speech, saying there was a problem. Koliev tells what he has seen through binoculars when he first discovers the castle. “We think, that is to say, we know there are children in the castle. We saw a girl, she was signaling to us from a window.” (Bowie, 2019, p15). Koliev saw a girl from a window, then



shortly after, she was dragged back inside. Major Orianen did not care about the girl inside the castle; just because of one girl, they could not launch an attack on the castle. Major Orianen said they would understand the sacrifice they are making to rid the world of the fascist menace. Then Badanov tried to defend the castle intact because the little girl said that if they are already dead, they are dead, they will not feel anything after death, replied to Major Orianen. Koliev quickly controls the situation because of Badanov's attitude by giving additional information. "Experiments, sir. We think that maybe... I mean we don't know for sure but..." (Bowie, 2019, p15). Initially, he speculated that the castle might be one of those places that experiment. So he also tried to defend the castle intact without being bombed by aircraft. The discussion resulted in colonel Gurov agreeing to investigate the castle. "All right, Alyosha. Flush them out. Small arms only. Keep it clean..." (Bowie, 2019, p15). Gurov decides not to bomb the castle-like Orianen suggestions before. Gurov gives Koliev an order to clean out the castle from the Germans with small arms only.

Under Colonel Gurov's command, Captain Koliev, Badanov, and the other Russian troops marched back toward the castle that night. The weather outside was freezing winter with strong wind. The sounds of the wind that hit Badanov's face remind him of distant gunfire; he also remembers flashes of flickered fire from gun nozzle inside the castle window and battlements. The castle where his team was attacked previously is less than a kilometer away. "The chill wind that beat on his face brought the familiar clatter of distant machine gunfire. Staccato flashes flickered from the windows and battlements of the castle that was now less

than a kilometer away.” (Bowie, 2019, p17). Previously Laska was left behind by his group; Koliev ordered him to watch the castle. Koliev and Badanov, at that time, were back to their headquarters to report what they had seen about the waving girl at the castle. “Next to him, Uri Laska stared anxiously, impotently shivering with a combination of rage and intense cold. Koliev crawled up beside them.” (Bowie, 2019, p17). When the group tried to approach the castle, the German attacked them from every corner of the castle; they were outnumbered and then retreated.

Koliev, Badanov, and the rest of their company planned to raid the castle to investigate the building. Laska was waiting for his team outside the castle while the others moved up and stepped around. Koliev asks Laska to report what he has seen outside the castle. Laska said the Germans have still occupied the castle since sunset. According to Badanov, guess “Getting rid of the evidence” (Bowie, 2019, p17). They tried to dump the evidence inside the castle, so they tried to get there.

Koliev signaled the other troops to follow him and moved the castle forward. Koliev has found the drawbridge of the castle is down. “The drawbridge is down.” (Bowie, 2019, p18). Badanov said the Germans who occupied the castle were stupid. They should barricade every corner to defend them, especially since they were alone and only Germans inside the territory. Laska also discovered that the chains hanging from the castle walls were wrong. Hence, the gate is not entirely open.” Laska pointed at two unequal lengths of chain hanging from the castle walls. ‘It’s been broken see?’” (Bowie, 2019, p18). Koliev peered up at the battlement and did not find any sign of life. He was concerned about the evidence

inside, so they quickly needed to get there. Koliev plans to bring down the gate with anti-tank grenades to proceed inside with the rest of his group. Koliev orders Laska to blow up the bridges “Could you bring down the gate with a couple of anti- tank grenades?” (Bowie, 2019, p18). Then Laska agreed to proceed. While Laska checked the bomb fuses and was ready to run towards the castle, Koliev signaled the other to open fire. While Laska sprinted out from cover toward the gate, something would happen. “He hadn’t gone more than a dozen paces when it swung open, and a small clutch of children came running out of the castle, screaming frantically. They rushed up to Laska, surrounding him, clinging to him, crying pitifully.” (Bowie, 2019, p18). While Laska was rushing toward the gate, the gate swung open then a small group of children ran out of the castle in fear. They cry and surround Laska that making the other soldier confused. Koliev ordered Laska to bring them outside. “Get them over here!” (Bowie, 2019, p18). Laska forgets about his heavy grenade and brings the children back to the cover outside the castle for safety. The children were in terrible condition, freezing, frightened, and stared wide-eyed at the soldier. They seem to be traumatized and fear soldiers. “...their clothes were ragged and their faces grimy, but they were all engagingly beautiful.” (Bowie, 2019, p18). The soldier also saw them in terrible condition, their clothes were ragged, and their faces were dirty. However, on the other hand, they were all beautiful.

After they saw the gate is opened, Badanov tried to remind his captain what they had planned before, to go inside the castle. Koliev pointed to a group of soldiers from Theo’s platoon, signaled to go in. ‘Theo’s platoon can go in’

(Bowie, 2019, p19). Koliev's men are also still aiming their rifles to keep watch on the castle for any sign of resistance from their enemy. Theo's platoon entered the castle first. The scouting group had crossed the drawbridge then passed through the great wooden gate; a moment later, one signaled others from the battlements to go inside. "Moments later, one of them appeared on the battlements waving for the others to follow." (Bowie, 2019, p19). Koliev signaled the rest of the group to go inside the castle; then, he ordered Laska to babysit the children. Now Theo's platoon and Koliev's men inside the castle investigate the castle; later, Koliev was exhausted after checking the castle. Koliev sat down in the courtyard. Because they had checked the castle, searching for the enemy, but they could not find them. "...they'd realized there was no point, the castle was empty." (Bowie, 2019, p21). The soldiers cleared the first few rooms with the grenade, but they realized it was useless because the castle was empty. We also know that the castle was occupied by the Germans before. Theo's platoon had entered the building. First, Koliev sent them for scouting. Then Theo reported to him. He said there was no sign of the Germans. The group only found their remnants of presence, such as shell casings. Theo was confused because they could not find any supplies and weapons but only its remnants. "There's shell casings, though everywhere hundreds of them. There's been a real fire-fight here, but there's no sign of blood.'" (Bowie, 2019, p21). He thought there had been a fire-fight before, but strangely there was no sign of blood. Koliev and Theodor suspected the Germans were still present. "So, where are they?" 'Under the castle? Koliev nodded, thoughtfully. 'Could be. Check it out, Theo.'" (Bowie, 2019, p21).".

Both of them suspected their enemy was hiding under the castle. Theo also wants to show him something. Theodor asked him to follow.

“Oh, there’s another thing,’ Krassny said, rising wearily to his feet.  
‘Come here have a look at this.’ He led the captain up a set of broad stairs and into the castle keep.  
‘See?’ he said, pointing to one of the heavy oak doors that opened into a vaulted hall.  
‘It’s been practically hacked to pieces.’ Krassny pointed to a frenzied pattern of scored and splintered wood.  
‘Now look...’ He led Koliev through the door into the next room and pointed to the wall around the door, that was pock-marked with hundreds of bullet holes. The floor all around was thick with shell casings.” (Bowie, 2019, p21)

Koliev was led into the castle keep. Theo then shows him one of the heavy oak doors that opened into a vaulted hall; it seems to have been practically hacked to pieces. Theo shows Koliev about the rich oak doors condition that seems decimated. They found the walls around the door next room many pock-marked bullet holes with the floor all around with empty bullet shells. We can see there is a struggle once in the castle.

From outside the castle, Laska was babysit the kids. While Laska introduced himself, then Peter automatically recognized Laska’s name as Russian “We are ...Russian, Laska-uri-Laska.”” (Bowie, 2019, p22). The kids give Laska information that they are Russians too. One of the girls also provides additional information that they have been away long. Peter said the Germans also oppressed them. From here, they knew the kids were Russian. This information is crucial, and especially they were all Russian soldiers too. At first, the Russians suspected the Germans imprisoned the children first who discovered this evidence was Laska. “The fascists took them... to do their work on them,’ he replied, tenderly

holding up the boy's arm. 'Look, captain. Fresh burns! Laska found the children's arms were fresh burned.' (Bowie, 2019, p23). Laska is emotionally angry at the Germans who make those children like that. When Laska first encounters the children, he can see their worrisome conditions of children.

The Russian soldier decided to camp and defend the castle with children; they guard their fellow Russians. Suddenly the lieutenant saw the convoy of vehicles making its way up the treacherous, snow-covered road leading to the castle Orianen command. "The lieutenant pointed toward a column of trucks, rumbling along a rough, icy track that led to the castle." (Bowie, 2019, p26). A Willis jeep with a man in the front seat glaring ahead, his long leather coat undone and billowing theatrically behind him, stood at the head of the line of vehicles. A film cameraman hitched in the back seat and captured the entire moment on film.

The researcher's analysis in this section describes how the problem began to appear in the story; that is why the researcher entered the data in this rising action chapter. The first issue of this mission is about the children that later drifted with the Russian soldiers to investigate under Gurov's command. After they found the children in terrible condition, the Russian soldier made them decide to defend the castle. One of their concerns is when they found burned skin among the children; they guess it was because of the Germans soldiers. While the Russian soldiers defend the castle, unfortunately, they encountered a disease problem.

### **3.3 Secured the children**

The climax started when the soldiers secured the children. The Russian soldiers also encountered mysterious diseases. It infected them one by one. The children were the creature that hunted these Russian soldiers. From here can see their loyalty, courage, and survival skills were to be tested. They are fearless soldiers ready for combat in any conditions, but unfortunately, whom they faced was unmatched by them. Later Tatyana and Laska found a creature that was from the children. They discover a strange disease that corrupts human beings. The Russian group decides to isolate themselves and figure out how it happens. We know that these soldiers were very wise and careful to make decisions to accomplish their mission without any other problems carried out outside their country. This section also tells how their ongoing journey inside an isolated castle without supplies and encounter many problems to figure out how to survive the horror. At the peak of the climax, the Russians knew the creature came from the children and figured out how to fight off the creature. Koliev and others did not want the contagion to spread across the country, so they must resolve the problem.

After they camped at the castle, they started to find an issue; an unknown disease had infected some of the soldiers. Krassny and Tatyana were kneeling over they saw a soldier lying motionless on the stone floor in one of the sleeping chambers. Koliev rolled out of bed and dressed quickly before following Rostov to one of the sleeping chambers. Koliev looked at Leonid and was shocked, as we know he said, “his skin grey, cold and lifeless” (Bowie, 2019, p39). He had unknown been dead for several hours, but he turned so quickly his stage of death. None of anyone has any idea what happened to Leonid.



Moreover, again, they have two cases of an unknown disease involving one of Captain Koliev's men and the other affecting one of Tatyana's nurses,' she said. "We have two cases of an unidentified disease, one of Captain Koliev's men and one of my nurses" (Bowie, 2019, p40). Tatyana said it is the only point of contact for the virus, so she placed a quarantine on this location and everyone who lives there. The situation becomes a concern.

The soldiers were guarding the castle and quarantining themselves. They heard the snarling and racing of an engine in the distance, obscured by the whiteout of the snow. "They turned at the sound of an engine, snarling and racing, hidden in the distance by the white-out. After a few moments, the shadow of a jeep appeared on the track, the driver wrestling with its steering wheel, struggling to keep it moving through the thickening snow." (Bowie, 2019, p43). After a few moments, the shadow of a jeep appeared on the track, its driver struggling to keep the vehicle moving through the thickening snow with his hands on the steering wheel. As the car approached the gate, Badanov stepped forward and raised his hand to signal that it should come to a halt. It came to a halt, slewing sideways and sending a plume of snow into the air. A heavily-wrapped figure jumped out of the shadows and pulled his balaclava down. Later they discovered Tolya checked their teammates back in the castle. Soldiers and nurses agreed to quarantine the castle because of the disease; later, Badanov told Tolya they locked themselves inside it. "Can't do it. We're quarantined.' Tolya stopped in his tracks. 'What?' 'Sickness. We don't know what it is. Two cases so far.'" (Bowie, 2019, p43). Tolya was shocked by the report, and then he went back to the base with the

information to Gurov. The cases are rising; there are six more cases of the disease in their facility, another of nurses, four of Captain Koliev's men, and another Bulganin cameramen. The children were okay, and there are no cases where they have been infected, but still, they remain in isolation. From here, the Russian soldier became desperate. 'The issue is,' Tatyana said firmly. 'Our people are dying — we are dying — and we have no idea what's causing it.' (Bowie, 2019, p50). They still did not know where the disease came from.

The soldier becomes desperate; Major Orianen instructs their soldiers to kill the children because he suspects they are disease carriers. "No, no!" Orianen replied, shaking his head, his thoughts racing. 'We have to kill them all! That's what we should do!' (Bowie, 2019, p50). But Tatyana made another opinion: "If they are carriers and we've come into contact with them, that means we're probably all infected now. We have to stay here, no matter what." (Bowie, 2019, p50). They planned to survive by staying inside the castle because they were concerned about the disease. Koliev said, "We only brought rations for a couple of days which are all gone. And there are the children to feed..." (Bowie, 2019, p50). They knew the soldier was initially not ready for an extended mission. Then Koliev made a quick calculation about their supplies. "We've got food for... seven, eight, maybe ten days and hopefully Tolya's informed Gurov, so we can expect re-supply long before that. I'm guessing we're well-stocked for medical supplies..." (Bowie, 2019, p50). Koliev directed the rest of his fellow soldiers to manage their resources wisely. '...Fuel-wise, there's plenty of wood paneling we

can rip out and burn. And for electricity, there's an oil-powered generator. Theo — is it working OK?'" (Bowie, 2019, p51).

Cossack attacked the castle, but then both agreed to cease fire and discuss the reason for the attack. However, the cossack said that Koliev did not understand that they did not have any sickness. While the cossack traitor described the symptoms in detail, he asserted that they did not result from any illness. Tatyana turned around and looked him straight in the eyes, and replied. "To be honest, I'd rather believe the evidence of my own eyes than the words of some cossack traitor..." (Bowie, 2019, p59). Tatyana still did not believe the Cossack words because she still believed her own eyes. Tatyana showed Koliev the worst disease cases and decided to isolate them from another who was also injured by the attack. Koliev was shocked because of what he saw. "Koliev stared at him in horror. His skin was black and wrinkled, like some overripe and rotting fruit. His eyes stared up at the ceiling, bright white, drained of any color, only the jet-black pupils remained, flicking from side to side, as if in a nightmare." (Bowie, 2019, p60).

The condition is from those infected with the disease. The issue was not only stopped there. The soldiers discovered that for those customarily infected, the month of decomposition is only compressed into a few hours. But the infected patient was still alive. "Underneath the skin, there are no muscle, no capillaries, no nervous system, nothing. Months of decomposition compressed into a few hours and yet they're still alive..." (Bowie, 2019, p61). Tatyana decided to keep the secret from the rest of the soldiers when corporal Rostov suddenly found both

of them down in the isolation area; she worried others would panic and lower their morale. “Not necessarily, not if we’re vigilant. And certainly not if we keep our heads and we don’t panic. Now we three are the only ones who know anything about this room. So if I find word of this gets to the others, I will know exactly where to come, won’t I, corporal?” (Bowie, 2019, p61). From here, only a few of them know the worst cases. After a while, they found an explosion down in the cellars. Tatyana convened a meeting for two reasons. Tatyana first informs the current state of affairs and then tells future decisions to decide on a future course of action. From here, they realize their situation is not good. Initially, they think the fascists attacked the cellars, resulting in eight people being killed and a hole in the cellars. They tried putting the pieces together to assemble complete bodies for burial. However, there is nowhere to bury them because the ground is too difficult to dig. “We’re gathering together the parts to try and make whole bodies for burial. But, to be honest, there’s nowhere to bury them the ground’s too hard to dig...” (Bowie, 2019, p72). Krassny suggested that they be cast into the sea. Nevertheless, Tatyana rejected Krassny's suggestion because there is still a risk of contagion; she believed the disease must be in the final stages. Major Orianen also knows the current situation is worsening.

After the explosion, the soldier so curious about what was inside the tunnel. Then the film crew, one of them was Bulganin. “Koliev watched as they edged their way down, cautiously until the torchlight dwindled in the darkness and finally disappeared altogether.” (Bowie, 2019, p75). They were sent into a gaping hole that led into the tunnel to explore what lay beneath the castle. The crew film

was unfortunate; they encountered mysterious things inside the cave at this point. “The hapless film crew fired again and again into the darkness until their rifles were silent, empty. Bulganin clutched frantically for one of his grenades, wrenching it from his belt, his hands shaking uncontrollably.” (Bowie, 2019, p81). The crew film was wildly fired into the darkness because they were panicking and shaking. The film crew fired their rifle and threw a grenade frantically. We also know these men are not a soldier, physically and mentally, nor ready to fight. “He put his finger through the steel ring and pulled out the pin.” (Bowie, 2019, p81). The soldier is desperate, leaving blind inside the cave, then Bulganin suicide with his grenade. After the second explosion inside the tunnel, Krassny decided to explore the tunnel and found a painting inside the cave. ‘Now look,’ he spluttered, blinking the dust out of his eyes. “Just here: predatory native now, native means created, born, or natural and predatory....” Predator?’ Krassny nodded: ‘Natural predators... so the text reads: The Devil’s creatures...that once were the natural predators of men...’” (Bowie, 2019, p85). From Krassny's perspective, legend says the knight mixed their blood with the devil, then the church launched a crusade fight against them and burned every last of them.

The oddity began to feel at its peak when a nurse met the children with strange behavior. At this point, she was the first Russian who saw the children as actually the creature corrupting the human body one by one. Tatyana was shocked by the children's appearance, which suddenly changed into horror. “The girl turned to face her. She smiled her mouth impossibly wide her eyes obscured by dark shadows beneath her skin. She floated toward her, her thin white arms

outstretched, imploringly.” (Bowie, 2019, p92). The creature was floating approached Tatyana. However, the other nurses suddenly saw the creature in shock and then dropped a tray of instruments that made a loud noise that resulted in expelling the beast away. The second person who found this similar situation is Laska. Initially, Laska ran out his vodka. Then, he went back to the dormitory room to get another bottle of vodka. When he opened the door leading to one of the soldier's dormitory rooms, he saw a child crouched over a sleeping soldier. But while the children turned towards Laska, he was shocked by their appearance.

“The child turned, his mouth opened unnaturally wide. Laska watched in horror as a long black tongue detached from the soldier’s chest and slithered back into his mouth. Laska stared at him in disbelief.” (Bowie, 2019, p92). By this quotation, Laska thinks that the children are the disease carriers because he sees a long black tongue slithered back into Peter’s mouth, exactly like the disease where the infected person turned decomposed so quickly in hours.

One of the remaining Cossack survivors surrendered to Russian soldiers; he approached the castle and gave the Russians crucial information. The local people tried to keep them away from Cossack, but they still managed to castle. They first found the children inside the castle before the Russians discover it. “The children were here when we arrived. They said this place was an orphanage and their guardians had deserted them.” (Bowie, 2019, p100). The place was an orphanage, and their guardian abandoned them, leaving them behind. The Cossack survivor also said the skin burns are actually from the sunlight “They are averse to sunlight. It burns their skin.” (Bowie, 2019, p100). Initially, the Russians

suspected that the Germans were making them like that, but they knew they were wrong. When they started to lose people, the survivor said they sent search parties below, but only one returned. They had seen the creature was feeding on people. “You see, this black “sickness” it’s not a disease at all. It destroys the victim from within, while they are still alive, corrupting their flesh, but it doesn’t kill them. The creatures keep them alive to feed on them.” (Bowie, 2019, p100). Precisely like the Russians experienced before back in the isolation area, infected people are still alive when their bodies decomposed. From here, the soldier figures out how to fight the creatures. Kaledin, the survivor, said there was not much hope; the bullet affected the beast because the shot could not kill them. The only way to kill them is by the grenade blast and flame. “... a grenade can kill but only a direct hit...Our flame-throwers killed three, maybe four.’ (Bowie, 2019, p102). However, they still did not stand a chance to fight the creature. The peak of the climax section is when Koliev and others are surprised when he realizes the amount of Russians while the anxious soldiers and nurses that were gathered huddled together in the great hall. From this, they have survived this far from the disease, then Koliev figures it how to fight off the creature. Koliev and others do not want the contagion to spread across the country, so they must resolve the problem. ‘And the children?’ ‘Gone. Disappeared. All of them. ’Kaledin shook his head grimly. ‘They know.’” (Bowie, 2019, p103). As quoted, the creatures knew that the Russians already understood why one by one of the soldiers were infected. The creature was corrupted silently while the soldiers were sleeping.



In this section, all the problems in the story are found. The data and analysis presented describe the peak of the issues that occur in the story. From the data above, the Russian soldiers were infected by the disease one by one. Those who make them like this are the children that weaken the soldiers' morale. The remaining Russian soldiers struggled to survive with the remaining human resources and supplies, insisting on saving the children. The Russian soldier decides to conserve supplies and more cautious to survive in challenging conditions.

### **3.4 Fight to Survive**

The falling action section tells when the Russians finally know that these children are the creature that makes them sick. The soldiers figured out how to fight the creature with their remaining human resources and supplies and decided to abandon the mission and survive being hunted down by the creature. The Russians know from Kaledin, a remaining Cossack soldier giving crucial information about the children. They have planned to stay inside the castle, guarding each other until sunrise. The creature cannot be exposed to sunlight. Russians insisted on saving the children while evacuating the other, but later they realized the children had fooled them.

Koliev tells everybody that they are going to be attacked by a creature. They do not know any details about the creature because the only ones who have witnessed it so far are Tatyana and Laska. The creatures killed hundreds of fascists outside and inside the castle. They left only one survivor named Kaledin,

who told them what was happening. “They’ve already killed hundreds of fascists, and tonight they’ll be coming for us. We can’t escape out in the open they’ll hack us to pieces, just like the ones we saw this evening. So, we’re going to stay here and stand guard over each other until sunrise.” (Bowie, 2019, p103). They planned to stay inside the castle and survive guarding each other until tomorrow morning. The creature cannot be exposed to sunlight that will burn them, and we know this evidence when Laska first discovered one of the children's arms skin was burned. Kaledin also adds additional information about the creature that can move fast. “The first thing you need to know is that these creatures move fast, faster than the eye can see. At best, you’ll only manage to catch a glimpse of them.” (Bowie, 2019, p103). Quickly his words make others panic. Kaledin warned others that bullets only hurt the creature, but they couldn’t kill them.

“A direct hit from a grenade will blow them apart... pulled out a kerosine lamp. ‘...is that they burn. We can use these like Molotov cocktails. They’re our best chance. “ (Bowie, 2019, p103). The only thing that can kill the creature is direct grenade explosions and Molotov cocktails. Because they don't have Molotov cocktails, they used another option that works perfectly the same: kerosene lamps.

The creature is confirmed when one of the children, named Sophie, turns into a creature. Sophie killed one of the nurses that wanted to help her, who had tripped and fallen. The nurse flipped up into the air, and her limbs failed around. Koliev and the rest of the soldiers saw it; they all saw it. “Then, in the moment of her death, Koliev saw it; they all saw it. It hovered over its prey for an instant,

extricating a long, scythe-sharp arm from her body. Tall twice the height of a man and slender. Human and inhuman, its great black eyes bulged obscenely from its cold, implacable face. 'Shit,' Badanov muttered under his breath, "It's the totems they've come to life..." (Bowie, 2019, p104). Badanov quickly recognized that the creature's appearance was similar to the totems he found across the beach when Badanov tossed totems into the sea.

The Russians insist on saving the children, and they find a passage leading down to a rocky tunnel. They can hear Sophie's screams. "The stone-ground back reveals a passage leading down to a rocky tunnel with Sophie's piteous screams rising from far below." (Bowie, 2019, p106). Koliev ordered Theo or Krassny to evacuate men, women, and children out of the castle; Koliev said Tolya must pick them up. "Finally, Koliev shook his head decisively. 'Theo, you take half a dozen men to get the women and children out of here. Tolya can't be far away.'" (Bowie, 2019, p106). From this quotation, Koliev hopes that Tolya's last visit will come back to help them up. Koliev and his men do not believe what Kledin said that the children must stay. Koliev and the rest of his men saw the creature but still insisted on saving the children because the creature's human form still fooled them. At this point, the leading group split into two teams. One went into a rocky passageway to investigate beneath the castle. Another evacuated women, men, and children and prepared to getaway.

While Krassny and the nurses were helping to evacuate the children, they suddenly ran away and laughed. They realize they were fooled and split them from the rest of the remaining group. Knowing the children were running from the

Russians, they decided to make their way out without the children. “We’ve got to get out Tolya can’t be far...” He looked around, making sure his men were all with them. ‘Come on...’ he said, breaking into a run. ‘Down to the gate!’ (Bowie, 2019, p108). Then the group decides to go to the gate and escape with their trucks. “choking cloud of exhaust fumes. Rostov revved up the engine a couple of times, then rammed it into gear. Immediately the engine died.” (Bowie, 2019, p108). This group managed to get their trucks, but later they found the truck's engine was dead. They do not have any idea what is going on. Rostov tried again and again, but the engine wouldn't work. “His heart sank as he looked around at the other trucks. They were all the same.” (Bowie, 2019, p109). While others were listening, hopefully, the engine worked, and finally, they found all truck engines were dead.

Laska and his group down inside the rocky passageway finally found Sophia. They saw Sophia was half deforming into a creature. “The child’s face was starting to split as a new head emerged from beneath. It peeled away, hanging like a mask about to drop, but the face looked down on Laska and smiled.” (Bowie, 2019, p110). Sophia said to Laska that he was the kindest among all soldiers. ‘You were the kindest of them all, Uri-Laska,’ it said, still speaking with a little girl’s voice. ‘We will never forget you.’” (Bowie, 2019, p110). We also know because Laska, from the beginning, was babysitting the children and creating bonds among them. Laska emotionally reacted to the children's condition from when he discovered it. When Sophie moved toward him, Laska did nothing, and the creature embraced him lovingly. At the same time, a black tongue slithered

from Sophie's mouth towards Laska's breast. Then Badanov reacted by throwing kerosene at the creature to save Laska. "No!" Badanov cried, rushing forward and hurling his lantern at the creature but didn't ignite the flames. It shattered, showering the cavern floor with kerosene and glass. However, it didn't ignite." (Bowie, 2019, p110). It resulted from the end of Badanov's life, as Sophie's face turned hatred and fury. Then she launched herself on Badanov, killing him with his remains scattered around the cavern floor. After killing Badanov, Sophie tried to approach Laska again, but Laska had another plan. "...her tongue is probing for Laska's heart. Suddenly she stopped as her tongue struck something hard. She recoiled in confusion; Laska drew back his shirt to reveal a grenade, its pin removed, nestling next to his breast." (Bowie, 2019, p110). Laska sacrifices himself with his grenade, killing him and the creature. Laska has a bond with the children, and then he decides to kill himself along with one of the children. Badanov and Laska were killed by following down the rocky passageway from this far.

In this section, the problems that arise begin to be found solutions enliven in the story that leads to resolution. Finally, the Russian soldiers know these diseases came from children from the data above. The creature comes from the children viciously killing the Russian soldier, making them fall even more challenging because the mission is initially to evacuate the children. However, later, the Russian soldier needed to be evacuated from the castle. The Russian soldiers then have no other choices and plan to save their life in the castle from the creature.

### 3.5 Escape from the Castle

The separate group reunites and figures out how to escape together alive from the creature. They have served their country, orders, and a great spirit of saving the children, just like their first mission. No matter what they saw previously, the children turned into creatures and killed the rest of the remaining soldiers and nurses. However, later it sent all of them to be killed. The remaining survivors who escaped from the cave found themselves at the beach and running toward the woods. Last, the villager saved them and headed to Gurov with his men and arsenal, not far from there. The remaining survivors, Koliev, Krassny, Tatyana, and Ludmila, were executed following the complete annihilation order from the commissar. The field commander in charge was Colonel Gurov destroyed the castle with a dive bomber and destroyed the village. Luckily Koliev still survived while his body and three others and his friend were dumped into a ditch. Koliev later found the truck loaded with children that also looked weird in appearance, exactly like the children back at the castle who were sent into the very heart of Russia along with the contagion.

Krassny led the way to find escape, they arrived at watergate by only a few meters, but he had a bad feeling. “From here, it’s only a few meters to the watergate...’ He stopped in mid-sentence. ‘No. This is stupid.’” (Bowie, 2019, p111). Initially, they want to cross straight for the main gate, but Krassny expects the creature to be waiting there. Krassny then led his group up short stairways to overlook the entrance from a window. “The others watched in terrified fascination as a creature flickered into view every few seconds, lurking in the shadows,

waiting by the gate waiting for them. ‘It’s an ambush...’”(Bowie, 2019, p111). Everyone believed with their own eyes that Krasny’s feelings were right; the creature appeared there and waited for the group. Krassny and the group realize that there is no way out, then he decides to go upstairs until sunrise, which is only a couple of hours away. Krassny led his group to hold up the castle roof.

The castle was dark; unfortunately, they were lost and returned to the great hall where the children awaited them. “The nurse held the lantern up. Their hearts sank as they realized they were back in the great hall, right back where they’d started, and the children were waiting for them.” (Bowie, 2019, p112). Krassny and his group quickly herded his men to running towards double doors. However, the door slammed shut suddenly, and the soldier near the door was brutally killed. They ran in the opposite direction to save their lives and simultaneously experienced being hunted down by the creature, the only way Krassny was found in the great fireplace. “Krassny could see the great fireplace and the gaping black mouth of the passageway beyond. It was the last place he wanted to go, but he could feel they were being driven toward it, herded like cattle.” (Bowie, 2019, p114). Krassny felt that they were being driven toward that place. However, he and his group did not have a clear mind option to escape another way while behind them, one by one. The remaining soldier was being killed. Krassny then reunites with Koliev’s group. Koliev sees the Krassny group were all killed, leaving only Krassny and Ludmilla only; they desperately do nothing but only to run and save their lives. “Where’s everybody else?’ ‘All dead, and they’ve sealed the passage behind us.””(Bowie, 2019, p116). From here, Koliev and others



realized the main way to escape was being sealed by the creature, and they decided to go down the vast cavern. “So,’ Kaledin said, his voice heavy with resignation. ‘Now we come to the very heart of it.’” (Bowie, 2019, p116). Kaledin realized that they were now at the very heart of the creature’s lair. All of the Russians were stunned by what they were seeing. “Ahead of them, dozens of thick sinuous cords hung down from the darkness above . Each one was attached to a blackened human body, hanging, suspended agonizingly by the stomach, writhing on their pulsating cords.” (Bowie, 2019, p116). They found the creature’s victim in a terrible condition. While gazing around, Tatyana also found Major Orianen, who became the creature’s victim. Inside the vast cavern, the group encountered Peter, one of the creatures in human form. Peter said he was so grateful for the war between Russias and Germans that many visitors came to the castle. The creature fed on them because humans were their food sources. ‘We’re so grateful for your war, captain. We haven’t had this many....dinner guests....for years.’” (Bowie, 2019, p116). From here, we know their food from the Germans, and Russian soldiers were to make another new creature.” A faint light illuminated each cell, and each one contained a developing embryonic form.” (Bowie, 2019, p116). Koliev discovered the cavern ceilings. There were clusters of embryonic honeycomb forms of the creatures. Kaledin threw a grenade, the blast resulted in the shredding of the creature's human form, but it was unharmed. “Kaledin hurled a grenade. The blast tore away the last shreds of the creature’s human form, but it was unharmed.” (Bowie, 2019, p117). We know from previous experience that the only way to kill the creature is a direct explosion. The creature then launched

an attack on Kaledin. However, Ludmilla saved him with her lantern, resulting in the creature in flames but leaving only one lantern. The group can only throw a grenade into the darkness, hoping to block the creature away; luckily, the explosion works, and the creature screams and burns. The actions resulted in more and more creatures appearing, and they came from every gap and fissure in the rock advancing on them. 'There's too many!' Koliev yelled. 'There's got to be a way out!' (Bowie, 2019, p117). Krassny gazed around that might give him a clue to escape, but there was nothing. Luckily he spotted a different rock; it was the same as the cavern along the shore. They are running toward it with simultaneously throwing grenades behind them. However, at the same time, the creatures begin their pursuit. With the creature ahead of their way, they realized there was no way out. "Then there's no way out...." he said hopelessly. Gradually, step-by-step, they felt themselves being driven into a narrow dead-end chamber" (Bowie, 2019, p118). Resulting in them now at a narrow dead-end. One by one, the remaining Koliev's men were carried away and killed by the creature. Koliev packed all the grenades in one bag to order their last resort. "No, let me," he said softly, taking the grenade and closing his hand about it." (Bowie, 2019, p118). Kaledin, who does this action by grabbing a bag pack with explosives, results in his death after he rushes headlong at the creatures. The creature killed him before the bombs exploded.

The bomb then explodes deafening, the debris choking them, hoping the blast had saved them. However, unfortunately, the creature still advances toward the soldiers. Suddenly the creature's voice changed to alarm by deafening rumble,

resulting in a great crack appearing in the chamber ceilings with water poured in. Sheets of rock crashing down all around them make the creatures flee. With water-raising, Koliev felt driven upward, expelled from the cave; he could see the light above him. “He swam toward it desperately, forcing his arms and legs, his lungs bursting and in a single glorious instant he was above the water. He sucked in a great gulp of air. He was alive!” (Bowie, 2019, p119). Koliev then felt sand against his cheek, saltwater in his mouth, and then he discovered that he is now on the beach. He could simultaneously see three figures washed up at water’s edges. The remaining survivor is Koliev, Krasny, Tatyana, and Ludmilla.

On the beach, they found wood that they had previously entered before. “It’s wood,’ he cried. ‘They’re wood only wood.’” (Bowie, 2019, p120). From the beach, they decide to go inside the wood. Koliev meets a villager inside the woods that leads him to Colonel Gurov. ‘Your people are there not far.’ (Bowie, 2019, p121). The villager leads them to Gurov, and then the others tell Koliev that when he talks to Gurov, ordering him to destroy them all along with the castle. “Look, you know me, Evgeny, we’ve been together right from the start. I’m begging you destroy that castle! Now!” (Bowie, 2019, p122). Koliev and others insist on destroying the castle with artillery or aircraft without sending a petrol soldier back inside, fearing it will start all over again. When Tatyana said, “Flatten it, bomb it, shell it with everything you’ve got. Raze it to the ground.” (Bowie, 2019, p122) Colonel Gurov suddenly has a telephone call and asks others to go out. The telephone call is from the commissar; Gurov has ordered to execute complete annihilation. “Yes, commissar...” he muttered. ‘...Complete annihilation...

Exactly as you said... A whole company of shock troops, some of my best men....Survivors? Only four...' He frowned. 'Do you think that's necessary, commissar?....Very well, commissar.'” (Bowie, 2019, p123). After the call, Koliev and the other three hear a rifle shot split in the air, Krassny was killed instantly, shot in the head, Tatyana was shot in the breast. Koliev was hit in the chest, knocking him unconscious. At the same time, Ludmilla managed to escape across the courtyard, then fell sprawling to the ground and was killed. Koliev then awakens and gains consciousness when he feels a blast and rattle of machine gunfire. Later he found it was dark nighttime, and he had been unconscious for nearly a day because he was shot in the morning. Koliev saw Krassny, Tatyana, and Ludmilla's dead bodies dumped beside him in a drainage ditch. From there, he saw dive bombers reduce the castle to rubble, and also he saw the village was reduced to ruins. Russian soldiers came door to door, killing innocent villagers and burning their houses. One of the villagers who saved him back in the woods ran away towards him carrying her baby, but unfortunately, she was shot and killed. Koliev saw a truck pass by; then, he dropped back down into the ditch to remain unseen. Truck after truck packed with children passed when the child with a creature-like depiction “The flames illuminated their faces, each one a picture of fierce hatred. Then, slowly, as if bleached by the intense heat, their faces became translucent, revealing the black, bulbous, implacable eyes that lay hidden beneath.” (Bowie, 2019, p124). The truck carried the children out of place and headed out to the very heart of the Russian city along with the contagion.

Throughout the story, this research showed the Russian soldiers' journey to accomplish the mission that later ended tragically. From the data above, the researcher found from exposition that Koliev, Laska, and Badanov initially found the castle and asked to defend the castle from bombing because they had found a child inside. This section proved that these men were highly moral soldiers. The rising action showed how well their skills were going to be tested. While in the climax section, they were challenged by a mysterious disease, and still, this section showed they have a clear mind in the middle of rough conditions. The Russian soldiers decide to isolate themselves to isolate the disease as well. Finally, the falling action section showed how they figured out their conditions and how to fight their issues. The resolution section showed how the remaining soldier found their way out, but unfortunately, four remaining loyal soldiers were killed by Colonel Gurov's men. Luckily Koliev survived the execution. Koliev and the rest of the soldiers did not betray and run away from their duty to save the children. They knew that these children were the creature, but they insisted on saving them with their remaining faith. Nevertheless, finally, their journey ends to save themselves, leading them to their death.

In this section, the remaining five Russian soldiers were trapped and then decided to fight off the creature with the remaining explosives due to the sacrifice of one of the soldiers by explosives blast resulting in a cracked and the big hole in the cave ceiling. The four remaining Russian soldiers find a way to escape by swimming out to the surface. Later the four Russian soldiers swam into the beach. From this point, the soldiers finally escaped from the terror and then managed to

meet Colonel Gurov. Unfortunately, the commissar order has killed the four remaining soldiers. From the data above, the soldiers were loyal and had a tremendous spirit resulting in a very tragic ending to surrender their destiny to be killed. The mission once ordered were fail to save the children, but the remaining four completed the mission to escape themselves.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

This chapter concludes the data analysis in this research in the novel *Natural Predators of Man* written by Ed Bowie. The researchers use Freystag's theory and then the researcher summarizes the results of this study:

The exposition describes how small Russian soldiers were sent on their first mission and how they performed admirably. It includes the activities of the Koliev, Badanov, and Laska. They were loyal Russian 11th Army Guards Division soldiers at the start of their journey as a scout group. They were clearing out the last of the Germans in their territory until they were finally led to a castle with many mysteries hidden within it. The rising action section of the story tells many stories, such as when the group of Russians first discovers a little girl waving inside the castle. Moreover, how they later find additional issues within the castle during this time. After coming face to face with German soldiers who had taken over the castle and taken the little girl hostage. Koliev and Badanov, inspired by their courage, decided to return to their headquarters. Before they could slip back to the camp, they were involved in an incident while crossing a village, when they reported their findings to Colonel Gurov and returned to the base. Both of them were able to survive and make it to the ground. They discussed the situation with colonel Gurov and major Orianen, Gurov decided to order his army to investigate the castle with small arms reinforcement, which included Russian soldiers, under the influence of Koliev and Badanov, who still wanted to keep the castle intact rather than having it destroyed by aircraft bombers.



Koliev, Laska, Badanov, and other Russian soldiers investigate the castle and discover a group of twelve children hiding inside the castle; strangely. The remaining Germans who had gone missing had been found in strange circumstances and had left clues that left the soldiers perplexed. Due to the fact they discovered the children were also Russians, the soldiers decided to defend their positions inside with them to save and evacuate the children. Major Orianen joins the group and a film director, a doctor, and nurses to provide care for the children. In this section, the researcher discovered many findings on the issue to share with the audience. This section is critical because it impacts the climax. We need to know how they discovered the problem one by one to track them down.

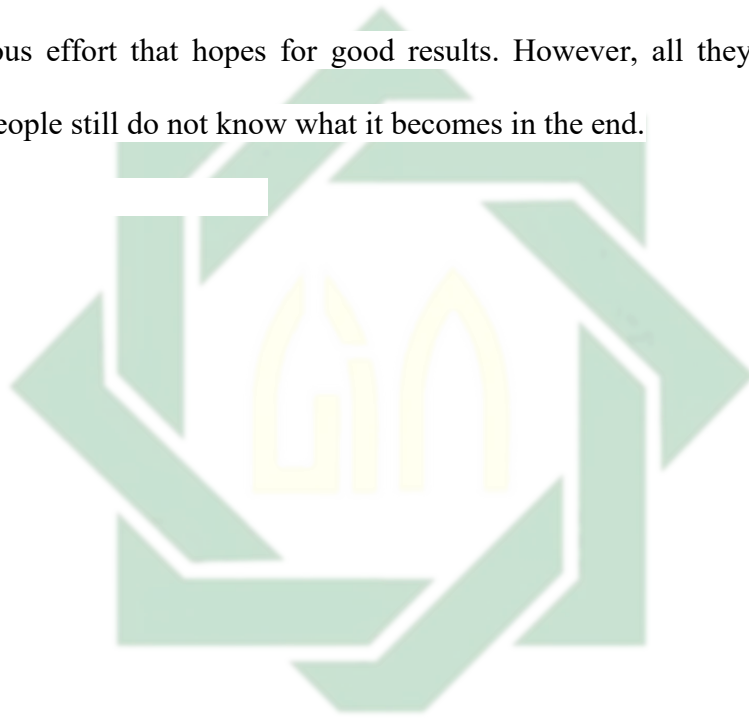
The story's climax began when the soldiers discovered mysterious diseases and were infected by the disorders. From this vantage point, it is clear that their loyalty, courage, and survival skills would be put to the test. They are fearless soldiers who are prepared to fight in any condition. However, unfortunately, the opponents they faced were far superior to them in every way. Later, Tatyana and Laska discovered a creature they believed to be from the children. They come across a strange disease that can corrupt human beings. The Russian group decides to isolate themselves and lock themselves in a room until they figure out what is happening because the Russian soldiers were worried carried out the disease outside. We can infer from this that these soldiers were extremely wise and cautious in decision-making. It also describes their journey inside an isolated castle without supplies, where they encounter numerous difficulties while attempting to figure out how to survive the horror.

Koliev and his colleagues do not want the disease to spread throughout the country, so they must solve the problem. When the Russians figure out how to fight the creature with their remaining human resources and supplies, the action section tells the story of that moment. The Russians knew Kaledin's status as a last-standing Cossack soldier providing critical information about the children. They intend to remain inside the castle until the sun comes up, watching each other. The creature is unable to be exposed to direct sunlight. Russians insisted on saving the children while evacuating the rest of the population. However, they later realized the children had duped them and abandoned the mission to evacuate themselves.

The Resolution section is when a separated group reunites and devises a plan to escape together in one piece. After serving their country, orders, and having the great spirit of saving the children, just like their first mission, no matter what they saw previously, the children turned into creatures and killed the remaining soldiers and nurses. However, later it sent all of them to be killed, and they were able to save the children. The remaining survivors who managed to escape from the cave ended up on the beach and running toward the woods. They were saved by a villager who took them to Gurov, not far away, with his men and arsenal. Following the commissar's order for complete annihilation, the last four survivors, Koliev, Krassny, Tatyana, and Ludmila, were executed by bullets. Colonel Gurov was the field commander in charge. He used a dive bomber to demolish the castle and destroy the nearby village. Fortunately, Koliev was still alive, while his body, along with the bodies of three others and his friend, were dumped into a ditch. From the story's ending, Koliev later saw trucks passing him were loaded with children who,

like the children back at the castle, had an unusual appearance. The children were sent into the heart of Russia, where Koliev discovered them at the end of the story. The initial mission was failed to save the children, but the Russian soldiers never failed to complete their mission to escape the castle.

There is a moral story to learn. People can do the best they can with the tremendous effort that hopes for good results. However, all they know is only trying. People still do not know what it becomes in the end.



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