



**BOOK REVIEW OF**  
***THE NAME OF THIS BOOK IS SECRET***  
**WRITTEN BY PSEUDONYMOUS BOSCH**

**A FINAL PROJECT**

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

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Submitted by:

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by her without taking the results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018

Zahra Arthami Marbun

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*“It’s not how good you are, it’s how good you want to be.”*

**(Paul Arden)**

*“Sometimes, our biggest disappointments lead us to our biggest blessings. Trust His plan even when you don’t understand the path.”*

**(Anonymous)**

*“Be patient over what befalls you.”*

**(Surah Luqman, Verse 17)**

*I dedicated this final project paper to my beloved parents, my younger sister, Uci, all of my family members, and all of my friends.*

*Thank you.*

**APPROVAL**

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**Written by:**

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On September 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

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I realize that this project is still far from perfect. I, therefore, will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this project better. Finally, I expect that this project will be useful to the reader.

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## INTRODUCTION

There are many genres of literary works such as romance, drama, action, satire, mystery, horror, and more. Mystery is one of the genres in book or novel that people are interested to read. As stated by Rachel Hosie in Independent UK (2017), people like to know something new and solve any problems; especially for children around 9-15 year-old. They are still in the stage of being curious of everything. According to M. P. Ossa in enotes.com (2010), he said that people love to solve problems and bring closure to situations. This is how brain naturally works. When people are presented a situation that seems easy to figure out and then all of a sudden people start to get some hints of something obscure lurking about, people jump to it and they try to use their intelligence to crack the mystery; and that is a natural curiosity.

*The Name of this Book is Secret* is one of The Secret Series fictional children's books. According to Kaffee Katz in Common Sense Media (2012), although this book is for children or teenager, some adult would love to read this book too. The Secret Series by Pseudonymous Bosch is a pentalogy novels inspired by the five senses of human which are Sight, Smell, Sound, Taste, and Touch. *The Name of this Book is Secret* is a mystery and adventure genre of book that targeted for young reader. The mystery genre is a fiction genre that is used by many authors for their books. In Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word "Mystery" comes from the Late Latin "Mysterium". It means "hidden religious truth revealed by God, religious rite, Eucharist," or "a secret thing". According to

Literary Terms (2015), mystery is a genre of literature that focuses on a mysterious situation that needs to be solved. The purpose of a mystery novel is to find some problems or puzzles and to make a feeling of resolution with the reader (Katie Surber, 2017). On the other hand, the adventure genre is a genre that the main character often has a mission and obstacle in his/her journey. Also, the adventure genre usually can be combined with many other genres (Mark Malatesta, 2014).

*The Name of this Book is Secret* was published by Little Brown and Company for Young Readers in 2007 and has 384 pages on it. It tells about the adventures of two children that have the same interest, Cassandra and Max-Ernest, as they investigate the mysterious death of the magician in their town, Pietro Bergamo. The sequel was published in late 2008, under the title *If You're Reading This, It's Too Late*. The third book of The Secret Series was released on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, with the title *This Book is Not Good for You*. The fourth book, *This isn't What It Looks Like*, was released on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010. And the last of The Secret Series' books, the fifth book, was released on September 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 and has title *You Have to Stop This*. All of The Secret Series books get the predicate of "New York Times Bestselling Novel".

*The Name of this Book is Secret* is written by Pseudonymous Bosch. As he mentioned in The New York Times (2016), Pseudonymous Bosch is his pen name. His real name is Raphael Simon. He said that for nearly a decade, he stays under the ridiculous name, Pseudonymous Bosch, to protect him from mysterious enemies. In his real life, Bosch is a gay that lived with a husband and two kids.

Moreover, this side of his life can be seen in the two characters in *The Name of this Book is Secret*, Larry and Wayne.

*The Name of this Book is Secret* written by Pseudonymous Bosch is really amusing. The writer chose this novel to be analyzed because it has a unique style of narrative and illustration, short side stories, some do-it-yourself pages, and "secret" information. The writer will give a concise summary and review such as the strengths and the weaknesses of this book.

**SUMMARY OF *THE NAME OF THIS BOOK IS SECRET***

The story of *The Name of this Book is Secret* begins with the narrator of the book gives a warning for the reader. Chapter one just has “xxx xxx” on it. Cassandra, eleven-year-old girl, discovers uncommon things which other people cannot comprehend. Cass enjoys predicting disaster; she is an expert in all things terrible and she sees evidence of them everywhere. Because of her habit, she likes to pack some items to help her survive if suddenly the disaster comes. However, none of the disasters she predicts happen, so that no one believes her predictions. But there are two people who paid attention to Cass’ predictions: Grandpa Larry and Grandpa Wayne. They are not Cass’ biological grandfathers. Both of her grandfathers are not around, so Cass’ mother asks Larry and Wayne to become Cass’ grandfathers.

Larry and Wayne live together in an old abandoned fire station near Cassandra’s house. They have an antiques shop and warehouse in the bottom floor of their house, meanwhile the living quarters are in the second floor where in the past, the firemen had slept in. Larry and Wayne have a blind and nearly deaf dog named Sebastian. But, he can smell splendidly so the people in the town called him “Sebastian the Seeing-Nose Dog”.

In one fine Wednesday when Cassandra comes to her grandfathers’ house for tea-time, Gloria, the famous real estate agent in the town, comes. She gives Larry and Wayne a redwood box, which is shaped like an old vintage briefcase. Inside the box, there are dozens of sparkling crystal vials, a small brass plaque

engraved with “The Symphony of Smells” and a notebook. She finds it from the house of magician called Pietro Bergamo. The magician already died strangely at his house several months ago. The box makes Cassandra really curious. And then, she meets with a boy from her school named Max-Ernest.

Meet Max-Ernest who is small for his age. He is typical of eleven-year old boy that likes to tell some jokes and riddles, and talk non-stop, even when no one is listening to him. None of his classmates laughs when he does it. But, he has a positive mind, so he never gets upset when people ignore or mock him. He is getting used to be treated like that. He lives in a house which is divided straight down in the middle, one side for each of his divorced parents who still live together. They frequently take him to the doctor to find out what makes him being hyperactive. Max-Ernest has a logical mind. He enjoys to study, makes observations, and thinks things through. He cuts every hair on his head the same length because he “doesn’t like to favor one hair over another”. When Cass wants to become his friend or mate to her adventure, he is very pleased; Cass is his very first real friend.

When Cass’ mother goes on a Hawaiian work-vacation trip and leaves Cass with Larry and Wayne, Cass and Max-Ernest’s mystery adventure begins. Cass enlists Max-Ernest's help to uncover the secret behind the “Symphony of Smells” and the hidden message in the notebook.

While they try to solve the mystery, they meet with a striking couple, Dr. L. and Ms. Mauvais; very wealthy and evil villains who like to wear white gloves, ride in a limousine, and have a weird interest in children. Occasionally, they

persuade the children with special gifts. Mr. L is tall and tan, has a very handsome face that have not any wrinkles, and he has very white teeth. And Mr. L's lady, Ms. Mauvais, is an almost perfect lady. She is almost tall as Dr. L, has a great body, always wears gold jewelry, has sparkling blue eyes, and her skin is very beautiful and smooth.

When Cass and Max-Ernest tries to rescue one of their classmates who go missing after Dr. L. and Ms. Mauvais visit to their school, Max-Ernest is kidnapped by them too. Cass notices the logo on the car that kidnapped Max-Ernest, The Midnight Sun, and she decides to go there to save her best friend. After get many problems and struggles, all of them can escape from The Midnight Sun with some helps from Owen, one of the servants in The Midnight Sun. Cass and Max-Ernest do more than solve a mystery, they learn about the true meaning of loyalty, bravery and friendship.



## **REVIEW OF *THE NAME OF THIS BOOK IS SECRET***

### **3.1. The Strengths of *The Name of this Book is Secret***

#### **3.1.1. Novel Appearance**

Pseudonymous Bosch's *The Name of this Book is Secret* is an interesting book to read, especially for children. The first impression that the reader usually discovers first for *The Name of this Book is Secret* is its cover. The cover of *The Name of this Book is Secret* is colorful and has a unique style of illustration. There is a magic hat that has smoke from it and the smoke is forming a question mark shape with the title of the book on the smoke. It represents of the smell which is the main topic in *The Name of this Book is Secret* book, and the question mark tells the reader about there will be many secret on this book. Not only from its cover, but also from the title of *The Name of this Book is Secret* that seems has many secret and can lure the readers to read it.

Inside of *The Name of this Book is Secret*, it has some catchy illustrations. These illustrations can help the reader to imagine and give a bit of explanation about what happen on the story line of *The Name of this Book is Secret*. The illustrations are made by Gilbert Ford.

#### **3.1.2. Bosch's Writing Style**

*The Name of this Book is Secret* is a fictional children's book and has 384 pages. *The Name of this Book is Secret* that becomes the first book in The Secret Series

has an easy language to understand. Many people not only the children, but also from many various ages read this book.

*The Name of this Book is Secret* and the other books of The Secret Series give an exciting feeling to the reader. When the reader read this book, it gives a great mystery and adventurous plot to attract the reader.

They had been walking along a winding street of the sort that creeps upward without you quite realizing it, and by now they were high up on a heavily wooded hill. They hadn't passed any houses for about forty minutes, and none were visible ahead (Bosch, 2007: 61).

It shows Cass and Max-Ernest's effort to fulfill their curiosity about the magician house who already dead, even though the journey to his house is really creepy for the age of Cass and Max-Ernest. However, they still continue their journey to the magician house because their curiosities are bigger than their fears.

The Midnight Sun, the place of Mr. L and Ms. Mauvais, has many secret codes on it. In chapter twenty-eight, it tells that Cass and Max-Ernest put a hard effort to think about the code in a door.

She was standing in front of a bronze door embossed with Egyptian hieroglyphs. The door was hardly hidden or secret, but it was much smaller than average, and partly blocked by books. It looked like the door to a safe, or perhaps to a tomb - a door designed to keep people out, not to let people in.

In the exact center of the door there was a large dial surrounded by the letters of the alphabet: a combination lock (Bosch, 2007:275).

It shows that the door is highly protected and it makes people that want or curious about the inside of the door cannot open it. But in the end, even though Cass and Max-Ernest are still young, they manage to solve the code in the door and the door is opened.

Besides the mystery and adventurous plot that exist inside *The Name of this Book is Secret*, Bosch writes this book with a good describe such as for the people, places, things, and more. It makes the reader can easily imagine what Bosch, as the writer of the book, wants to tell about, especially for children that usually still really like to imagine.

.....All they did was put slimy cucumber slices on your eyes and cold oatmeal on your face, but of course everybody loved the spa anyway because it was Amber's (Bosch, 2007:159).

In the quotation above, it tells the reader about how Cass, an eleven-year-old girl, thinks about spa in general when she looks at the name on the limousine which kidnaps Max-Ernest. The name on the logo is The Midnight Sun Sensorium and Spa. But in fact, The Midnight Sun Spa is not like Cass think of.

More to the point: if you are familiar with the layout of temples from Egypt's Middle Kingdom (roughly 2000-1600 BC), then you already have a sense of what the Midnight Sun looked like. In particular, the spa was an almost exact replica of a little-known temple to the Egyptian god Thoth..... (Bosch, 2007:183-184).

It shows about the first look from the outside of The Midnight Sun that Cass discovers from the car when she is going to The Midnight Sun. It is so different from what Cass thinks about spa in general. The Midnight Sun Sensorium and Spa is more look alike an Egyptian temple than a regular spa.

Perched on top of the pyramid was something that would have astonished even the most seasoned Egyptian explorer. It was lantern, but much more than a lantern. A perfect orb, it resembled nothing so much as a rising sun. Inside, fire danced every which way, as if fueled not by electricity or gas but rather by some unknown, supernatural source. Although the fire appeared gold at first glance, a longer look revealed a kaleidoscope of colors in the flames (Bosch, 2007:184).

Bosch writes this book with a really detail and interesting describe. The quotation above describes about the top of The Midnight Sun Sensorium and Spa. As a reader of this book, I can imagine and think about how great The Midnight Sun building is.

### **3.1.3. Characters**

Character has an important role in literary works especially novel or book, because character can give impact to the reader such as like characteristic, habit, moral value, etc. For example: Harry Potter, the main character in The Harry Potter Series books. He has a brave heart, has a good friendship with his friends, and has a good ability in magic. It gives a good impact to children or people who read The Harry Potter Series books. Also for the character in *The Name of this Book is Secret* too. Some characters in this book can give good impacts or examples to the reader, especially the children who read it.

First is the main character on this book, Cassandra. Cassandra or Cass is a very brave girl at her age. Even though she always make herself be in some trouble with her school principal because she likes to predict disaster that never appear and already makes panic all people in her school, her bravery to help her friends can become an example.

She told herself to stay calm, but doubts kept creeping into her head. Previously, she'd been so focused on getting into the Midnight Sun that she hadn't stopped to think what she would do once she got inside. Now that she appeared really to be on her way she wondered how she would find Benjamin - and how she would get him out (Bosch, 2007:180).

It tells that even though Cass is afraid and has many doubts on her head, she still wants to help Benjamin, her friend in school that is kidnapped by Mr. L and Ms. Mauvais, to get him out from The Midnight Sun. She tries to make herself calm in that situation when she is alone, and actually she does not know where The Midnight Sun is.

Besides of her bravery, Cass is a survivalist. She always brings her backpack everywhere, with many survival things on it.

Cass reached into her backpack again and pulled out a coil of rope. Working quickly and professional, she wrapped the rope around one of the lantern's steel supports, and tied it with two half hitches the way Grandpa Larry had once shown her. Then she dropped the free end of the rope through the skylight. It dangled over the fire, just out of reach of the flames. She tried not to look (Bosch, 2007:298).

It tells that Cass has a great skill to survive even though she is a young girl. Cass can do it just like an expert survivalist. This side of Cass can inspire to people, especially for young girl, to be brave and have a good skill in life.

By now, Cass suspected that most of his stories were exaggerated, if not entirely made up, but they always included useful information - like how to put up a tent in a sandstorm or how to milk a camel (Bosch, 2007:15).

By the quotation above, it tells that Cass has a positive mind. Even she knows that some stories from Grandpa Larry mostly were added with lies, she takes the useful information from Grandpa Larry's stories, not the lying part.

Second is another main character in this book, Max-Ernest. Max-Ernest is a boy who loves to talk a lot. He is so unstoppable unless the people around him are interjecting him.

You and I would probably burst into tears if our jokes met with such negative reactions, but Max-Ernest was used to it. He never let what other people said upset him (Bosch, 2007:26).

It tells that Max-Ernest also likes to tell jokes that are not that funny. However, he never angry because of the people that always underestimates him. He does not feel upset with his friends and other people who give him some negative comments that can make his heart pain.

With Cass, Max-Ernest joins to rescue Benjamin from The Midnight Sun. Not only pure, he also has a brave heart like Cass. Even though he feels a little bit scared, he cans help Benjamin at the end of their journey.

Next are Grandpa Larry and Grandpa Wayne. They are not Cass' biological grandfathers. Cass' mother asks to them to be Cass' grandpas because Cass' biological grandpas already passed away. And with a pleasure, they accept to be grandfathers for Cass. Grandpa Larry and Grandpa Wayne are best friends and they are live together. Only two of them who try to believe to Cass' predict.

Off all the people of the world, only to paid attention to Cass' predictions: Grandpa Larry and Grandpa Wayne (Bosch, 2007:14).

They do that because they love Cass as their granddaughter. They like to make Cass happy and comfort when Cass comes to their house.

Grandpa Larry wasn't British, but he'd spent time in England when he was in the army and he'd developed a serious tea habit. Cass thought Larry's elaborate tea rituals were a little silly, but she loved the cookies Larry made (he called them "biscuits") and the stories he told while their tea was brewing (Bosch, 2007:15).

That is how Grandpa Larry and Grandpa Wayne show their affection toward Cass. They treat Cass like their own biological granddaughter. Grandpa Larry likes to arrange tea time moment in their house because he knows Cass loves his stories and cookies made by him.

Other character who has good impact to the reader is Owen. Owen is one of a minor character in this book because his appearance is not that much like the other characters. Basically, Owen is a butler whom Cass meets soon after she arrives at The Midnight Sun Sensorium and Spa. He works in there.

“N-nice to m-meet you,” Owen stuttered. He smiled shyly. Cass breathed a silent sigh of relief. Owen, at least, was not very intimidating (Bosch, 2007:186).

It explains that Cass herself feels that Owen is not as intimidate as Mr. L; whereas they just meet for the first time. He has a strong stutter and appears to be very shy but friendly.

Cass and Max-Ernest soon discover that Owen is actually a spy of sorts. In the middle and the end of the story, Owen will help Cass, Max-Ernest, and Benjamin to escape from The Midnight Sun and takes them to Cass' grandfathers' house. Owen's most remarkable characteristic is that he can imitate other accents, instead of speaks normally. Like other staff of The Midnight Sun Sensorium and Spa, he looks handsome with tanned skin and some freckles in his face, but he does not have the wrinkled arms and hands because he still young.

The last character is the magician in town, Pietro Bergamo, that already dead. The magician is also a minor character besides Owen in this book. Even

though his appearance from the beginning until the end of this book is never show because he is already dead, his behavior or attitude seems fine.

“Wait, I’ve got it,” said Cass. “I know the magic word.” She looked directly at the speaker and very carefully pronounced the word “Please.” As if it heard her, the elevator groaned, and started to descend (Bosch, 2007:65-66).

The quotation above tells that the magician do not use some general magic words such as *Abracadabra*, *Hocus Pocus*, or *Open Sesame* like the other magician do, for the elevator in his house. Instead, he uses “Please” as the magic word for the reason of basic manner.

Nonetheless, as they walked around, Cass could feel the personality of the dead magician. The floorboards were worn in the places he had walked over and over. The closets showed his handprints. And the wood-paneled walls seemed to have a special sheen where his shoulders had rubbed against them.

“I think he was a nice man,” said Cass (Bosch, 2007:67).

Cass, who never meets the magician face-to-face before, can expect that the magician is a nice man. Cass can tell it from the view of the magician’s house that was described in the quotation above.

### **3.2. The Weakness of *The Name of this Book is Secret***

Besides from several strengths that the writer finds from *The Name of this Book is Secret*, this book also has some weaknesses side. As we know, this book is the beginning of The Secret Series, so there is too much introduction when we start to read this book on some beginning chapters. In comparison to another book from



The Secret Series, *If You're Reading this, It's Too Late*, tells the story to the point directly.

The story starts in a promising way, but Bosch, the author and the narrator in his book, always give some advices to stop reading this book. Bosch goes on and on about not reading this book because it contains a lot of secrets and he says that secrets are hard to keep so don't read this book unless the reader can keep a secret. It is an interesting way for the first few pages, then the writer wonders when the story of *The Name of this Book* would start. Almost in this entire book Bosch does this over and over again, and he says repeatedly that how he is not going to finish this book and the reader should imagine their own ending. The writer thinks this style of the plot that Bosch use is a little bit annoying for the reader. According to Theory of Plot by Aristotle, he defined plot as a continuous sequence that has beginning, middle, and end. He said that in the beginning, it has main action which is looking for something more. And then in the middle, the main action has to require something to follow and gets complicated. And at the end of the plot, all of the problem or main action is resolved. But for this book, Bosch does not follow the theory of plot properly. He just jumps in whenever he feels like it and can destroy the flow of the story. It may take the reader out of the story, interrupts the natural flow of things.

The writer also finds it strange that some of the illustration does not match with the descriptions that Bosch gives. One of the examples is the picture of Gloria Fortuna; the real estate agent's sign that described the woman has a toothy grin. However, in the illustration, her mouth was closed.

The writer thinks that this book is a little bit too much for children. In some chapters, the writer finds that the antagonists, Ms. Mauvais and Mr. L, order Cass to drink a glass which filled with monkey blood that can make people have long life and have a beautiful face.

## CONCLUSION

*The Name of this Book is Secret* is a fictional children book from The Secret Series that tells about a mystery and adventurous story of Cass and Max-Ernest. Bosch as the author and the narrator of this book gives a plot that can make the reader feel curious and cannot stop reading this book. It has like an addiction feeling when the writer reads it. *The Name of this Book is Secret* gets an honor from New York Times for Bestselling Novel. This book is popular among the children and some adult who like mystery and adventure.

Like other books, *The Name of this Book is Secret* has several strengths. First one is the novel appearance. This book has a good appearance and gives good impression to the reader. Second is Bosch's writing style. Bosch gives a fine plot that can give a thrilling feeling to the reader. This book has an easy language to understand too. The last is about some characters that have good behavior or characteristic which is can give the good impact for the reader.

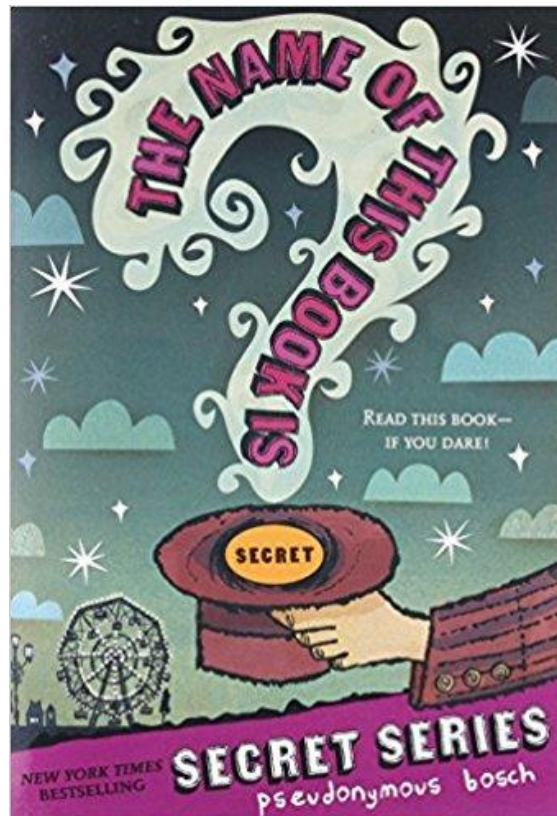
On the other hand, *The Name of this Book is Secret* also has some weaknesses. The first one is the narrator's advice and some part of the plot makes the reader feel a little bit annoyed. Second, the writer finds out that some of the illustration does not match with the descriptions. Last is some parts of this book are not appropriate to read for children.

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## APPENDIX

### Cover of the Book:



### Structure of Aristotle's Theory of Plot:

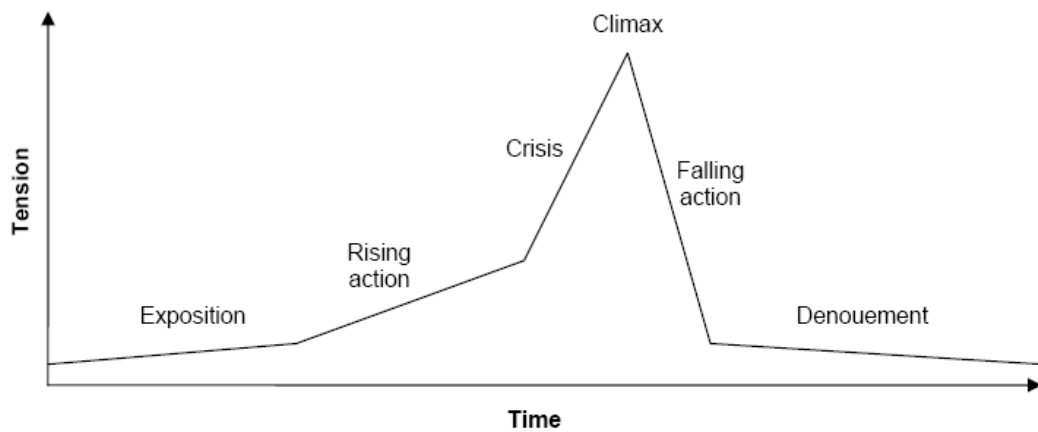


Figure 1.1. Aristotle's dramatic arc.