# Script

I will be doing a Jungian analysis on Tangled, the Disney Film version of Rapunzel.

The dreamer will be Rapunzel and I will be retelling the events of the movie while identifying the Shadow, Animus, and the Self figures and what they represent or could mean along the way.

We start out in the tower with it being the eve of Rapunzel’s 18th birthday, which puts her at a stage of life, when major changes typically happen. Her shadow, Gothel, who is the only mother type figure Rapunzel has had contact with, comes home who has the qualities of confidence, maturity, and knows her self-worth, which are all qualities that Rapunzel doesn’t have and that Gothel prevents her from having. Rapunzel is also beautiful both inside and out whereas her mother hides her ugliness using the magic in Rapunzel’s hair, which could tell us that even those who outwardly seem good don’t always have the best intentions in mind for you. Rapunzel’s dream is to see the Lantern Festival, which just so happens to occur on her birthday every year. She asks Gothel to go and see the festival to which, Gothel fights her on and sings Mother Knows Best. In this see, Gothel actively trying to keep Rapunzel locked away and isolated and seeding self-doubt in Rapunzel by insisting she knows best and that the world is a scary place that she wouldn’t know how to handle.

A little before this all happens, Flynn, her animus, who was stealing the crown and double crossed the Stabbington Brothers, happened upon Rapunzel’s tower, climbed and then was knocked out by Rapunzel after taking out the crown to admire it. Rapunzel is wary of Flynn at first because Gothel has told her before that men have pointy teeth and to be cautious of them. This could be a metaphor for purity culture. However, she is surprised at how non-threatening he is and notices he’s kind of cute. The crown is also a self-object because it represents her ties to the royal family.

This is also the first time the dreamer and animus meet. Flynn is the animus figure because he is a braver version of Rapunzel. He has the qualities of courage and confidence that Rapunzel needs to leave the tower. He is her first interaction with someone outside of Gothel, so helps her develop her own identity and learn to make decisions.

Once out of the tower, Rapunzel has a lot of guilt for defying her mother’s wishes but assures Flynn she is fine to continue the journey. Flynn takes her to a tavern where a number of Ruffians are. These Ruffians are some positive animus figures as Rapunzel gets them to sing about their dreams for the future, and Rapunzel starts to realize her power of persuasion and positivity.

The Royal Guards and Max, a royal horse with a disliking of Flynn, have caught up with Flynn, forcing him and Rapunzel to escape through a secret tunnel. Max is also a self figure much like the crown in that he also represents Rapunzel’s ties to the royal family.

The tunnel leads to quarry that collapses and flood, and in a feeling of doom, Flynn reveals his true name to Eugene. Rapunzel uses her magic hair to help them escape, which is the first time she uses it for herself. Afterwards, they set up camp and she uses her magic again to heal a cut on Flynn’s hand. Gothel has been tracking the two since they left the inn and when Flynn goes to get more firewood, she appears and tries to get Rapunzel to go back to the tower. Rapunzel thinks Flynn likes her so doesn’t want to leave, however, being her shadow Gothel tries to instill doubt in Rapunzel that Flynn only wants one thing and gives her the crown in a satchel. This part could also be interpreted back to purity culture, by saying men only want one thing. Rapunzel hides the satchel with the crown in it as Flynn returns.

The next morning, Max attempts to take Flynn but Rapunzel befriends the horse and convinces him to let Flynn stay. Today, we’ve reached the kingdom. Rapunzel is officially a woman and in the marketplace children braid her hair to keep it out of the way. Flynn has noticed this transformation finds himself growing fond of her. Max nudges Flynn on to dance with her, which can be interpreted as her subconscious acknowledgment that he does in fact return her feelings, since Max is a self figure.

When it comes time for the festival, Flynn purchases 2 lanterns and gets a rowboat for them. While watching the lights be released, Rapunzel reveals the satchel with the crown in it that she was hiding. Instead of just taking it like Gothel predicted, he put it aside and takes Rapunzel’s hands. Before they can kiss, Flynn spots the Stabbington brothers. He takes the crown to give to them, since he no longer cares about it and tells Rapunzel to wait on the shore. The Brothers have been conspiring with Gothel, and go to Rapunzel to tell her Flynn has betrayed her and ran off. The Brothers then try to kidnap her but Gothel steps in and knocks them unconscious, taking Rapunzel, who is in tears back to the tower. Here we see the seeds of doubt have sprouted as Rapunzel runs back to her mother and despite being a woman, who should have independence and confidence, reverts to an almost childlike state of needing her mother. The Stabbington Brothers themselves are themselves negative animus, as they try to kidnap Rapunzel.

Back at the tower, Rapunzel starts to notice the symbol of sun everywhere in her pieces of art. This same symbol was all over the kingdom and even on the lanterns. There was also a tile portrait in the marketplace of the Royal family that she recalls, which included a baby with golden hair and parents with brown. It with these revelations that she realizes she’s the lost princess and Gothel has been lying to her.

Flynn has made his way back to the tower, where Gothel stabs him and Rapunzel who is in chains, requests to heal him with the agreement that she would go freely with Gothel to a new place. Flynn then cuts off her hair as she tries to heal him, releasing the magic and turning her hair brown and setting Rapunzel free of Gothel who ages quickly and becomes a pile of dust. Flynn dies but Rapunzel heals him with her tear, which held the last bit of magic. They return to the Kingdom where they meet Rapunzel’s real parents. With her now brown hair, Rapunzel looks exactly like her mother, which is a sign that she is now home. Flynn and Rapunzel get married, and as it goes they lived happily ever after.

Some other things I would like to take note of but don’t exactly fit into the shadow, animus, and self archetypes is some outside symbolism. With Rapunzel being the dreamer, the tower that she is in is just as much an obstacle or representation of something that prevents her own self identity and growth as Gothel. The tower is the physical thing that isolates her and prevents outside interactions. Another thing that can be interpreted is that, the meeting of new people can open the door to a different experience, type of thinking, or new life, such as the encounters Rapunzel has with Flynn, the Ruffians in the bar, and the children in the marketplace.

Overall, this dream exhibits the trepidation, experienced by the journey and initial leaving of the tower, and gradual acceptance, such as finally see the sun symbols in the artwork around the tower of coming to age. It also shows a lot of the fear associated with starting a relationship. As mentioned the crown is a self figure, and when she hands it to Flynn on the boat can be interpreted as, what if I give myself to him and he rejects me. The dreamer has though in the end accepted maturity and starts a new life with Flynn.