

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having finished reading and analyzing the novel, I conclude that Jeffery Deaver's *The Bone Collector* is very captivating and thrilling. This book is so filled with tension that the reader will be curious with the outcome of the investigation and cannot wait to know who the killer is. The continuous tension makes this book have good elements of plot.

After analyzing the elements of plot of this novel, I conclude that this book has ten suspenses and nine surprises. One of the most important elements of plot is suspense. The suspense has started even from the very first page as the kidnapping begins. The readers constantly wonder about the fate of each victim who has been kidnapped. The first and second victims' deaths are described in gory and vivid language which makes the readers able to feel the victims' fear and the insanity of the perpetrator.

Deaver maintains the thrill throughout the story really well because after one suspense is revealed, the story continues with yet another suspense. The suspenses are piled up until they end with a shocking revelation. Even when the readers think that there will be no more surprises, yet another questionable suspense turns up. For example in the third suspense, the third victim is left

alone in a basement with one leg and forearm cut down to the bone. Suddenly the basement is filled with rats which are attracted with the smell of blood and bite her wounds. The readers do not instantly know what happens to the victim. The point of view is changed to the investigation on evidences and how the detective races against time to save the victim. The readers are not given time to take a break from the trepidation.

There are some suspenses that are directly answered by the surprises, but there are also some suspenses that are left with loose ends. The first, third, sixth, and seventh suspenses are left hanging without answers while in the second, fifth, and ninth suspenses, the surprises immediately reveal the truth.

All loose ends lead to the climax which is the revelation of the bone collector's identity and his motive in doing the crime. They are tied together in one surprise at the end of the novel. The readers are misled many times concerning the identity of bone collector; for example when a fingerprint is found in the crime scene in the fifth suspense. The readers will think that that is the end of the story, the perpetrator is finally got caught. Deaver, however, does not want the thrill to end just yet. Deaver always makes unexpected and unthinkable revelation of the final truth.

The most appalling surprise is the identity of the bone collector. Dr. Peter Taylor is a character that is mentioned only briefly throughout the book and he helps Rhyme to heal completely. The readers will never suspect him as a murderer. But everything is never as it seems because inside his mask as a doctor, Dr. Taylor keeps hidden vendetta against Rhyme.

As for the artistic unity, I find that the suspenses can be all answered by the surprises. Each of them has plausibility that can be accepted by the readers. One example of artistic unity which has good plausibility is the tenth suspense and the ninth surprise. Rhyme pretends to die in order to save himself from

Stanton. It is plausible because Rhyme is a very intelligent man with a good understanding of Stanton's condition. Rhyme uses Stanton's ambition of torturing Rhyme to eliminate him. He knows that he has a lot of disadvantages so he uses the blessing of his brain.

In conclusion, I can say that *The Bone Collector* is a good thriller novel. The tension is developed surely from the beginning and there are no unnecessary events happen. All events are collaborated well towards one climax in the end. All loose ends are eventually answered and tied together. As the result, the connection between the suspenses and surprises are acceptable and believable in building the artistic unity of the novel.

As one of the readers, I am of the opinion that in reading the novel, all the speculations and assumptions that the readers make to predict the truth are often far from right. There are a lot of events that the readers will never expect. Deaver manages to make the story progress like a roller coaster that never ends. Even when the readers think that the story is over, it turns out that another problem arises. The story is complex and unusual.

Deaver manages to make the readers feel the need to read it in one sit and finish the book immediately. He uses a lot of forensic terms to describe the evidence and although it may be confusing at first, it makes the readers understand how Rhyme is able to figure out the killer in the end. The story is told from different angles so the readers can understand what is going on in the killer's mind, the confusion of the detective, as well as the victims' fear the second they face their brutal deaths. The combination between twisted storyline and the writer's brilliance makes this novel worth reading.