

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the novel, I conclude that Stephen King has successfully created such a horror story that comes out of an ordinary situation. He creates a horrifying atmosphere from a seemingly normal and safe condition. He presents the readers with a what-if outline to attract the readers and keep them reading the novel. His main character, Paul Sheldon is placed in a what-if outline: “What will happen if Paul Sheldon, a famous author, has an accident and is saved by his number one fan?” This what-if outline is arranged skillfully through the elements of plot.

After analyzing the elements of plot of this novel, I come to a conclusion that there are ten suspenses and nine surprises. King creates the first suspense at the very beginning of the novel when Paul has a car accident. When it is revealed that he is saved by his number one fan, the readers are given a false sense of safety. At this point the what-if outline starts rolling. He keeps the tension of the story by creating one pair of suspense and surprise after another, making the readers excited to find out whether Paul can survive the ordeal his number one fan

puts him in.

Stephen King uncovers every possible thing that will happen to the main character, Paul Sheldon. The readers are constantly wondering about Paul's fate every time he does something to survive his number one fan's mood and wrath, as she holds Paul's fate and life. The punishments that Annie inflicts to Paul range from simply withholding his medicine to control him, to cruelly cutting his leg with an axe, which shocks the readers.

King maintains the readers' tension on each suspense by putting Paul in difficult situations and clearly surprises the readers with the outcome. Such situation can be seen in the third suspense, when Annie, being angry of the death of her favorite character in Paul's novel, gives Paul 2 difficult options. He has to choose between his priceless original manuscript and his medicine to keep him from the pain. To the readers' surprise, he chooses the medicine over his manuscript, and he burns it. Here, King puts Paul in a difficult situation through Annie's complete control over Paul with his medicine.

King creates totally unexpected situation to surprise the readers. For example, when Paul, despite his trauma and horror, manages to alert the policeman. The readers have already known that Paul is heavily traumatic because of Annie's torture, going so far as to cut Paul's leg to make him obey her. Still he can muster his courage and alert the policeman despite the following failure. Moreover, in the second surprise, Paul chooses to burn his manuscript for his medicine because he needs it to survive, yet in the ninth surprise, he burns his newly finished novel that Annie demands him to write, *Misery's Return*, because he wants revenge. It is totally unexpected for the readers because the novel is the

main reason why Annie keeps Paul alive all this time.

In the artistic unity, I find that all the suspenses are answered logically by the surprises. Each of them has plausibility that can be accepted by the readers. One example is the seventh suspense and the sixth surprise. Annie is angry on finding out that Paul has been sneaking out while she is away. Earlier in the sixth suspense Paul finds out that Annie is a psychopath who kills everyone that makes her angry or displeased. The readers are afraid that Paul will be the next victim. Surprisingly she does not kill him, only cuts and burns his leg. Her action of sparing Paul's life is obviously related to the fact that she still needs Paul to finish writing the novel she demands him to write.

In conclusion, I can say that *Misery* is worth reading. The readers can feel the horror over a normal what-if outline and unexpectedly see the twisted surprise here and there. There are no unnecessary events happen. The connection between the suspenses and surprises are acceptable and believable in building the artistic unity of the novel.

I am of the opinion that the characteristics of the antagonist, Annie, are interesting. On one hand, she gives hope to Paul by saving him from the accident, but later she manipulates him for her own sake. She turns out to be a cruel and violent woman. Her unexpected actions support the suspense and surprise very much, which makes the novel enjoyable to read.