

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Robert Galbraith's *The Cuckoo's Calling*, I conclude that Galbraith is successful in writing a detective story. He is able to make the readers curious about the outcome of the story when the detective in the novel, Cormoran Strike, does his investigation to reveal the truth behind a sudden death case of supermodel Lula Landry. The continuous tension makes the novel show effective elements of plot.

I find twelve suspenses and eleven surprises in the novel. The suspense starts from the beginning of the novel when Lula's adoptive brother – John Bristow – comes to private detective Cormoran Strike to re-investigate Lula's death although the police conclude that she jumps from her apartment's balcony three months before. The readers are made curious to continue reading the novel to find out what really happens in the last moments of Lula's life when there are evidences that Tansy Bestigui – Lula's neighbor – claims to see Lula being pushed by someone from her balcony, and a CCTV footage that records two men near the crime scene the night Lula dies.

Galbraith makes the readers suspect one of the characters before the surprises are revealed at the end of the story. In the eighth suspense, three people

whom Strike interviews suspect Evan Duffield – Lula’s boyfriend – as Lula’s murderer. Before Strike figures out if Lula is really killed or commits suicide, Lula’s friend from rehab, Rochelle, is found dead in the River Thames, which makes the readers wonder who kills her.

The tension increases when Strike discovers that Tansy really witnesses Lula being pushed by someone from her balcony in the second surprise. The evidence that Lula is killed leads the readers to the eleventh suspense, which becomes the most prominent suspense in this novel as the readers are made to question who Lula’s murderer is. Moreover, the tension does not stop there. When Strike finds out that Lula makes a will a few hours before she dies, the readers are made to question for whom the will is.

Galbraith makes the readers’ curiosity pile up when the surprises are revealed after the twelfth suspense appears. For instance, the fourth surprise reveals that Lula makes a will for her half-brother, Jonah Agyeman. Galbraith makes an unexpected revelation to the readers by presenting a fact that Lula has searched for her biological family and manages to find her half-brother before her death.

The sixth and ninth surprises are the most prominent surprises because the surprises reveal John to be Lula’s murderer and his motive in killing her. Besides, one of the men who are recorded on the CCTV footage is also John, who turns out to be near the crime scene because he just kills Lula. Galbraith manages to deflect the readers’ thought about Lula’s murderer by making Evan as a suspect. This disclosure is also unexpected to the readers because Galbraith estranges the

readers' suspicion that the person who comes to the detective is actually the real murderer so far.

As for the artistic unity, I find that all the suspenses are answered by the surprises at the end of the story. In the first suspense, for example, the readers wonder if Lula is killed or commits suicide and why John insists that Lula is killed. The suspense is answered by the second and eighth surprises when Strike figures out that Lula is killed by John, and John wants to frame Jonah as the murderer to prevent him from inheriting Lula's money if the will is found. The revelation of the suspenses is plausible and acceptable to the readers. Thus, the connection between the suspenses and surprises of the story are presented really well to create artistic unity.

In my opinion, Galbraith's success in writing *The Cuckoo's Calling* is seen from the elements of plot that move forward with growing tensions as the detective dives further into the case. He creates unexpected surprises when the least expected suspect turns out to be the murderer all along. In doing so, Galbraith can also make the readers discover surprising facts behind Lula's sudden death, that Lula actually has a half-brother and has made a will for him.

To conclude, I can say that *The Cuckoo's Calling* is an interesting novel. It tells a story about the mystery behind a sudden death of a famous supermodel named Lula Landry, which in the end reveals her adoptive brother to be her murderer. The suspenses and surprises in the novel are acceptable and plausible, and they connect really well in building the artistic unity of the novel. The propelling storyline and the unexpected surprises that come at the end of the story make the novel worth reading and analyzing.