

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

Having finished analyzing the novel, I conclude that the novel *The Girl on the Train* is captivating and worth reading. Paula Hawkins presents the readers suspenseful atmosphere from a mundane activity of people's life – commuting on a train. The characteristics of the central character, Rachel Watson, also play a role in building up the suspense. Rachel is portrayed as an unreliable character due to her drinking problem and thus her memory loss. This fact makes the readers wonder what actually happens in the story, which shows that the novel has effective use of elements of plot.

There are ten suspenses and ten surprises in the novel. The suspense starts from the beginning of the novel as Rachel wakes up in a terrible state without any recollection of what happens the previous night when she is drunk. When it is revealed that the night is the starting point of a missing woman case, the readers are made to question about Rachel's involvement in the case. The suspense does not stop there. Thus, the readers are made to continue reading the novel in order to find out more about the case.

Hawkins makes the readers suspect various people along the story, even Rachel who is the central character. For example, in the third suspense, Rachel cannot remember what she has done that Saturday night and the police come to her flat, stating that her name comes up during the investigation of the missing woman case. They suspect Rachel, who wanders around in her old neighborhood while being drunk, mistakes Anna with Megan and attacks her. Rachel thinks that the thought is stupid, but she herself is not quite sure about what she has done that night. Therefore, the readers are further made to doubt her.

Throughout the story, the suspense keeps piling up one after another. Then, there are revelations of the suspenses which are surprising to the readers. For instance, in the seventh surprise, it is revealed that Rachel turns out to be the key witness of the case. That night, Rachel only wants to meet her husband and ends up witnessing the moment when Megan enters Tom's car. The author tricks the reader to doubt the central character and comes up with a great twist about how Rachel is not the suspect, but the other way around; she is the key witness of the case.

Hawkins also creates unexpected revelation at the end of the story or the ninth surprise. It turns out that Tom is actually the suspect. He is the one who has an affair with Megan. That night, Megan reveals about her being pregnant and Tom kills her because he does not want to take responsibility after impregnating her. It is surprising because Tom, who is the least suspected and also considered as a minor character, is actually the perpetrator of the case. After the revelation, the readers will think that there will be no more suspense as it is revealed who the perpetrator is, which is the climax of the story. However, another suspense comes

up. In the tenth suspense, Tom decides to kill Rachel, who confronts him about the truth in her old house. They are involved in a fight until in the tenth surprise Rachel ends up stabbing Tom with a corkscrew she comes upon, which is surprising because she can turn over the dire situation in her favor. This shows that Hawkins uses an unexpected way to end the case as the closure of the story.

As for the analysis of the artistic unity, I find that all the suspenses in the novel are answered by the surprises, which are concluded at the end of the story. The artistic unity is weaved carefully in the plot to make the unexpected outcomes become reasonable and plausible through the investigation of the case. For example, in the fourth suspense, Kamal is suspected with the evidence found around his properties; such as Megan's hair and skin-cell in his house, and a small amount of blood on his car. Then, in the first and third surprises, it is revealed that he is not involved in Megan's disappearance. Megan actually has visited his house several times as a friend. One time, she also falls down and unknowingly leaves traces of blood on his car. Therefore, the evidence found on Kamal's properties can be justified.

In my opinion, the author is successful in tricking the readers to suspect several people and even the central character through the elements of plot. At the end of the story, there is a revelation of the real perpetrator who is actually the least suspected: Tom. The perpetrator himself is also interesting. He manipulates Rachel, who frequently has a blackout after being drunk, by telling her lies. He can make people around him and the readers believe that Rachel and the other suspects have a hand in the case to divert the suspicion from him. It is also revealed that Tom is not only manipulative but also violent. He kills Megan

because he does not want to take responsibility after impregnating her. In the end, he also decides to kill Rachel, who knows all the truth.

In conclusion, the novel is interesting to read because of the effective use of elements of plot. The author comes up with suspenseful events from mundane activity like riding the train. Then, the readers are tricked to have different expectation with the twisted surprises that come up to answer the suspenses. The connection between the suspenses and the surprises is also reasonable and plausible. Each event has a part in building the artistic unity of the story. There is no unnecessary event that happens in the novel. This fact shows how the elements of plot are weaved carefully and play a role in creating the unexpected outcome that makes the novel not only interesting but also worth reading and analyzing.

