

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSIONS

After reading and analyzing Agatha Christie's *The Body in the Library*, in this chapter, I would like to draw some conclusions. In the novel, I found 11 suspenses and 4 surprises. In my opinion, Christie has managed to captivate the readers' attention even from the very start with the first and the second suspenses of the novel. She writes the first and the second suspenses with an idea of a murder of an unknown young woman who wears a flamboyant attire found in an honorable conglomerate family's library. By creating such suspenses at the beginning of the story, where the victim is a stranger, the story becomes more interesting, since in other crime novels, the victim is usually someone who is known by people around him/her. The readers cannot help but feel hooked to the story as there is something that has already happened from the start. After knowing the fact that there is a murder of a Jane Doe, the readers will continue to read to find out the answers to the suspenses, which include the questions about who the victim and the murderer are.

Christie then reveals the identity of the unknown young woman through the first surprise. The unknown young woman is identified by her cousin, Josie Turner, as Ruby, a dancer from Majestic Hotel at Danemouth located 18 miles away from St. Mary Mead.

This revelation will shock the readers as they will not expect that the victim will be a dancer who works far from the place of the incidence and dies at an honorable conglomerate family's library. This revelation that Christie creates continues to bring the readers to keep reading as they need to know more about the answers to the suspenses.

After the first surprise, Christie cleverly starts to present the characters in different ways to make the readers suspect the characters as the murderer. In the third suspense, Christie presents Josie Turner with her strong alibi yet her weird behavior toward Ruby's death causes the readers to suspect Josie as the culprit of the murder. In the fourth suspense, Christie presents Mr. Barlett, the last person who is seen with Ruby along with his ambiguous alibi which causes him to be suspected as the culprit by the readers. In the sixth suspense, Christie presents Mr. Mark Gaskell as a person who has a strong alibi but also has a strong motive, which is money, which brings the readers to suspect Mr. Gaskell as well. In the eighth suspense, Christie presents Mr. Blake as the mysterious film man that occasionally dances with Ruby, and his unclear alibi causes the readers to suspect Mr. Blake too. In the ninth suspense, just like Mr. Gaskell, Mrs. Adelaide Jefferson is presented by Christie to have a strong alibi yet her hatred toward Ruby lets the readers suspect Mrs. Jefferson as well. With five suspects equally questionable and unpredictable, Christie makes the readers keep guessing until the end of the story to know who the culprit is.

Besides the suspenses above, Christie creates the fifth suspense and the second surprise that later on will help to bring a twist in the final surprise and shock the readers even further. She creates the fifth suspense with another murder that happens in a quarry two miles away from the hotel with the finding of a burned car occupied with an unknown burned corpse. The suspense is then answered by the second surprise, in which it is

revealed that the burned corpse is believed to be Pamela Reeves, a Girl Guide rally participant who is a stranger to everyone.

The fourth surprise is the most mind-blowing surprise. In this surprise, Christie brings a twist to the plot. She leads the readers to believe that they know the answers of part of the cases through the previous surprises but actually, not all of the surprises reveal the true answers. Christie leads the readers to believe that the corpse in the library belongs to Ruby in surprise number one, then she brings the readers to the second surprise that shows that the burned corpse belongs to Pamela Reeves. Yet, the twist is that the identities of the two corpses are actually switched. The body in the library who is believed as Ruby is actually Pamela Reeves disguised as Ruby, while the burned corpse is Ruby dressed in Girl Guide uniform and Pamela's school shoes. Christie uses Miss Marple's brilliant mind and careful observation as a means to reveal this true answer. In the seventh suspense, Christie shows the readers that Miss Marple is thinking that something is interesting about Ruby's nails and her case. It turns out that Miss Marple's thought leads to a logical explanation of the false identities. Christie is also able to give a logical and plausible explanation through Miss Marple that the culprit is Josie as she is the one who identifies the body in the library as Ruby while she knows the truth of the identity. Miss Marple also states that her partner is Mr. Gaskell, who has monetary motive, as it is revealed they have married to each other for a year.

In my opinion, after analyzing the suspenses, surprises, and the artistic unity, I have concluded that first of all, Christie has managed to create well-written suspenses and surprises. She brings tension through the suspenses and unexpected answers through the surprises. Second of all, the suspenses have a good pace that brings the readers to stay curious and keep on reading until the end of the story. In addition, this novel is worth

reading because the suspenses and surprises create a good artistic unity in which the suspenses make the readers wonder in curiosity while the surprises are able to answer the readers' curiosity in an acceptable and reasonable way, for example, the first surprise answers the the first suspense, in which it reveals the identity of the unknown young woman as Ruby, a dancer from Majestic Hotel. This revelation can be achieved because of the testimony from Josie Turner, the cousin of Ruby, who testifies that the body indeed belongs to her cousin. As the identity is already testified by Josie, this proves that the first question of the first suspense is answered in an acceptable and reasonable way.

Christie has managed to deliver an interesting story which is full of mystery to the readers through her creation of suspenses and surprises as well as the twist she creates at the end of the story. She captivates and shocks the readers from the start to the very end. This novel is also a proof to the readers that Christie is the "Queen of Crime" and "Queen of Mystery". I agree with the critic that says that this novel is unique and, in my opinion, is worth analyzing and definitely worth reading.