

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

After reading and analysing the *State of Fear*, I come to the conclusion that the author, Michael Crichton, has the ability to create a good plot. Crichton succeeds in presenting moments of suspense through various actions, events and grand technologies, to create appropriate elements of plot that result in a well-arranged story.

The first suspense is about how George Morton, the millionaire who is supporting NERF and is planning to donate a significant amount of money to the organization, suddenly decides to withdraw his support. This suspense makes the reader curious about the reason behind his decision, especially because Morton is previously known as a very enthusiastic supporter of NERF. The suspense is answered by a surprise when John Kenner reveals the involvement of the extremist ELF organization and its connection to NERF, which Morton has discovered and become the reason for him to refuse to continue supporting NERF with his money. It is evident that the first suspense and the first surprise are acceptable and believable.

The second suspense happens when George Morton is involved in a car crash, and is presumed to have died. In the banquet held by NERF before the accident, Morton shocks almost everyone who attends when he announces his decision to withdraw his support for NERF. His announcement creates an atmosphere of anger and disapproval among the audience, which also includes the head of NERF itself, who clearly shows his anger. The situation makes the reader curious about whether the car crash is truly an accident or not. The suspense is answered by a surprise when George Morton turns out to be alive. Morton stages the accident and fakes his death so that he can continue his investigation around NERF and ELF more freely. It is apparent that the second suspense and the fifth surprise are believable and hence, acceptable.

The third suspense happens when the group of protagonists reveals the locations where the extremist organization ELF plans to carry out their major events, the first of which is the Antarctica. The reader immediately wants to know what ELF plans to do in the Antarctica, and whether the group of protagonists will be able to stop the plan. The suspense is answered by a surprise when the group of protagonists arrives at the Antarctica and figures out that ELF is planning to break off a huge part of an iceberg when an environmental conference is held by NERF. ELF wants to attract the media so that they will believe in the negative effects of global warming. Furthermore, the group of protagonists is also able to stop ELF from completing their plan in the Antarctica. ELF uses special bombs that will be placed in a specific pattern to achieve their plan, which is disrupted and foiled when John Kenner disturbs the pattern of the bombs. From the analysis above, the third suspense and the second surprise are believable and acceptable.

The fourth suspense shows when the group of protagonists discovers the location where ELF plans to carry out their next major event, which is McKinley State Park. ELF is revealed to possess the technology that can even control the weather, which makes the reader excited to find out what ELF is planning to achieve by attempting to control the weather, and whether the group of protagonists will be able to stop them or not. The suspense is answered by a surprise when ELF is shown to control a storm that is intended to cause civilian casualties, to attract the attention of the media to the danger of global warming. It shows how much ELF is willing to do to achieve their objective. The reader is also surprised when the group of protagonists is shown to successfully prevent the loss of innocent lives. ELF manage to carry out their plan to strengthen the storm enough to cause floods in the park, but the group of protagonists is able to disrupt and prevent ELF from causing a truly dangerous flash flood. It is clear that the fourth suspense and the third surprise are plausible and acceptable.

The fifth suspense happens when the group of protagonists goes to the last location where ELF plans to carry out their last major event, which is Resolution Bay on the island of Gareda where ELF is revealed to have prepared advanced and sophisticated equipment. The suspense makes the reader curious about what ELF is planning to do with such sophisticated equipment in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and also whether the group of protagonists can stop the plan from happening. The suspense is answered by a surprise when the equipment that ELF has prepared is revealed to be capable of creating waves of tsunami that are targeted to strike California, half a world away. Once again, ELF is planning to use technology to attract the media and make people believe that the unnatural

disaster is caused by global warming. Furthermore, the reader is also surprised by the fact that the group of protagonists is able to fight against ELF and prevent them from devastating California despite the unfavorable situation. The group manages to take advantage of an opportunity to attack the ELF base when John Kenner creates a distraction, and hence succeeded in turning off one of the machine that is essential in creating the tsunami. From the explanation above, it is apparent that the fifth suspense and the fourth surprise, as well as the sixth surprise are believable and acceptable.

The sixth suspense shows how dangerous the situation is for the group of major characters, as they are ambushed and captured by a tribe of cannibals on the island of Gareda. After one person from the group dies at the hand of the cannibals, the reader wants to know if the rest of the group will survive. The suspense is answered by a surprise which shows that George Morton is actually alive after being assumed to have died in a car accident earlier in the story. He staged the car accident to investigate NERF and ELF, which leads him to the island where the group of major characters also goes to. Morton witnesses the moment when the group of major characters are captured, follows them to the village of the cannibals, and helps them escape from the village. It is obvious that the sixth suspense and the fifth surprise are plausible and acceptable.

Based on my analysis, I can conclude that *State of Fear* is a well-made novel. The novel tells the story not only about global warming but also about the struggle between the people and the organization with conflicting beliefs around the issue of global warming. In my opinion, Michael Crichton has presented an interesting real-life issue and fascinating technology to make a logical

development of the plot. He is good at delivering the suspense that is intertwined with moments of mystery, and often wondrous technology, in such a way that the reader feels curious about what will happen next. Crichton is also skillful at surprising the reader with unexpected surprises that logically and appropriately answer the reader's curiosity. As the conclusion, the connections between all the suspense and the surprises in the novel are acceptable and plausible and create an artistic unity that makes *State of Fear* very interesting to read. In addition, I think Michael Crichton presents all the elements of plot in a balanced proportion, without highlighting one element more than the others. Consequently, *State of Fear* presents numerous moments of exciting suspense that is balanced with the right number of unexpected surprises in the story, which results in a good artistic unity and a continuously enjoyable story.