

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **CONCLUSION**

After I finished reading and analysing the novel, I conclude that Agatha Christie is very clever in creating such a good murder mystery story. She creates a story that is full of mystery and also a good surprise ending. In addition to that, she is very good at raising the readers' tension and curiosity. This makes the story have good elements of plot.

After analysing the elements of plot, I am of the opinion that this book has four suspenses as the important part to build the readers' tension. The first suspense is when the author tells that there is someone who is writing a scheme of a murder that will be executed in September. Furthermore, the readers know that September is the time the reunion will be held in Gull's Point. The murder scheme makes the readers question about who the murderer is and who is going to be the victim of this murder plan.

The second suspense is when Lady Tressilian is found dead. The readers may expect the possible victim is one of three characters who are involved in a major conflict about divorce. They are Nevile Strange, Audrey, and Kay. When

the readers find out that the victim is Lady Tressilian, the readers may think that the death of Lady Tressilian may have connection with the conflict yet the reason why she becomes the victim makes the readers question about the motive of the the murderer to kill her. This event rises the reader's tension and curiosity; the readers will read further to reveal the mystery.

The third suspense is when the police find out that the fingerprints on the niblick used to kill Lady Tressilian belongs to Nevile Strange and Mr. Strange is also reported to be the last person who meets her before she dies and both of them has a quarrel at that time. Then, detective Battle decides to do more investigations to make sure of his suspicion. This situation rises a question in the readers' mind on whether it is true that Mr. Strange is the murderer.

The fourth suspense is when the readers are led to suspect Audrey by the dialogue between her and Andrew Mac Whirter, when he prevents Audrey from attempting suicide. Audrey tries to jump off the same cliff as the one where he himself tried to commit suicide a year ago. Audrey is reported to have said that she is afraid of being hanged. Then, during the several deeper investigations done by the detective, he finds out that the murderer could be a left-handed person as he finds the real tool used to kill Lady Tressilian has left-handed fingerprints on it. In fact, the only left-handed person who attends the reunion is Audrey. Her motive is expected to be the conflict about divorce. The fact that Audrey tries to commit suicide and the investigation done by the detective lead the readers to think that Audrey may have a bitter feeling towards Nevile Strange and she wants to take revenge on him because he has left her for Kay, a woman who is younger and

more beautiful than her. As a result, the readers wonder whether or not Audrey is the murderer of Lady Tressilian.

Another important element of this novel is surprise. In my own opinion, the third and the fourth surprises are good as both of them reveal the mystery of the murder case as a whole. The third surprise reveals the real murderer and the motive of the murder.

The third surprise answers the first and the fourth suspense, when the detective explains about the scheme of the murder plan and how the murder is done. The scheme of the murder is very nicely planned. In order to make the murder plan succeed, good physical strength is required. This brings detective Battle to determine that Nevile Strange is the murderer for he is a famous athlete with good physical strength.

The fourth surprise is when detective Battle finds out that the motive for Mr. Strange to kill his own surrogate mother is to make Audrey, his ex-wife, suspected as the murderer. He does such a crime because he wants to take revenge on his former wife, Audrey, who has left him for another man.

As for the artistic unity, I find that all suspense is answered by the surprise. Each of them has plausibility that can be accepted by the readers. The readers in the beginning is led to find out about the murder which according to the narrator will happen in September, right when the reunion is held. The readers' curiosity is answered when the murder finally happens. Nevile Strange, who has a bitter feeling towards his ex-wife, manages to run a scheme of murder in order to frame his ex-wife, Audrey, who is the main target of this murder plan. She is planned to be suspected as the culprit of the murder. Mr. Strange does not kill her

directly though he really hates her because he thinks that framing Audrey to be a criminal who has to deal with the punishment of the court will make his ex-wife suffer more than killing her directly. He chooses his own surrogate mother to be the victim to cover his crime. He believes it will make everyone think that it sounds like something impossible for a person to kill someone who has been like a mother to him. Mr Strange makes such a clever plan to put himself firstly suspected by making all the evidences lead to him blatantly to create an image that someone else deliberately does that to frame him. Then, his final purpose is to make the suspicion turn to Audrey as the one who wants to frame him.

In my opinion, Agatha Christie's success in writing this novel has come from the interesting subject of the novel and the good development of the plot, especially by using suspense and surprise. Christie has successfully written such a good story as the answers of the mystery are held back until the end of the story in order to raise the readers' tension and curiosity. She provides so many events to mislead the readers in order to make a surprising ending which is not expected by the readers.