Rachel's Struggle to Reveal Political Conspiracy through the Conflict in Dan Brown's *Deception Point*

THESIS

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree of English Department Faculty of Letters and Humanities State Islamic University of SunanAmpel Surabaya



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I, hereby certify that the thesis I wrote to fulfill the requirement for Sarjana Degree of English Department Faculty of Letters and Humanities UIN Sunan Ampel Surabya entitled "Rachel's Struggle to Reveal Political Conspiracy through the Conflict in Dan Brown's Deception Point" is truly my original works. It does not incorporate any materials previously written or published by another person, except those indicated in quotation and bibliography. Due to this fact, I am the only person

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ABSTRACT

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Advisor : Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M. Hum. Key Terms : Conflict, Politic, Conspiracy.

In this study, the researcher focuses on one of the literary works of Dan Brown entitled *Deception Point*. There are conflicts that must be faced by the main character of this novel. But in this study, the researcher discusses the external conflict.

This study uses the qualitative descriptive method to draw a description about revealing political conspiracy through conflict in the novel. The researcher uses some theories: new criticism, conflict, and secondary theory about conspiracy.

This study tries to reveal mostly about the conspiracy through the conflict in the novel. There are several characters involved in the conflict, but Rachel's character becomes the researcher's center of discussion. She is struggling to reveal the conspiracy created by William Pickering. William Pickering is NRO's director. He is person which conspiracy plan. The researcher concluded that Rachel fight to reveal political conspiracy through the conflict that occurred. This shows that Rachel struggle to survive all the attacks that she faced was the way to uncover the truth.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The 20th century literary theory gets a very rapid development. Various theories have sprung up, from the view of structuralism, semiotics, sociology and psychoanalysis (Zaimar 29). The development of the emerging theories is inseparable from the research of literature.

In literature, there are many ways to express ideas, especially in a literary work. Literary works are created based on the creativity and imagination.

Imagination and creativity are materials to make literary works such as drama, poetry, and prose, as Luken says that literature is traditionally described as the corpus that exists because of inherent imaginative artistic qualities (3)

One of the kinds of literary works is novel. Novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the equality or value of human experience or conduct (Taylor 46). Kenney states that novel is generally thought of as containing about forty five thousand words or more (103).

Reading a novel is the action to assume the general realization. This action is similar as the action of audiences watching unveiled screen in a theatre.

An audience is ready to find an overall world, but it is not perceptual world.

Besides, the world is mental imaginations well. Reading is to analyze a meeting with unreal world to sign (Sartre 146). It means when reading a novel the readers will be able to describe it in their minds. We have our own concept about story when reading the novel.

There are some elements in novel including plot, character, theme, characterization, setting and conflict. Plot is the sequence of events showing characters in conflict (Luken 97). As Abrams says that through the plot, every event is described and the characters involve in there because plot and character are interdependent (224). So, every event happening in the story, especially novel, occurs in a plot.

Dan Brown's *Deception Point* is a mystery and suspense thriller that combines in depth knowledge of classified intelligence with high tech weaponry and presidential politics in a very fast paced, suspenseful novel. There are many plot twists and surprises throughout the story and a wealth of interesting conflict (http://www.bookrags.com/studyguide-deception-point/#gsc.tab=0).

Conflict in this novel begins when the new satellite NASA found evidence of an object which is very rare buried in permafrost Arctic. The space agency found difficulties to announce the victory they desperately need. This victory will have great impact on the space policy for the United States and the presidential election which will come. To verify the correctness of the invention, the president sent an intelligence agent of the White House, Rachel Sexton.

This novel contains many interesting issues to discuss. One of them is the political conspiracy. The conspiracy in the story is created to protect one of the institutions owned by the government, namely NASA. In the end, the readers will be surprised by the presence of antagonist mysterious figures, the mastermind behind all the conspiracies that happened.

Conspiracy was an aspect of the long standing populist strain in

American political culture, an especially intense strain, to be sure, and one that
can have violent, racist, and anti democratic effects (as well as salutary and
democracy enhancing ones) on the political and social order, but a strain that was
neither independent from nor necessarily threatening to the country's political
institutions and political culture (Fenster 9). It means these aspects have long
existed in the American political culture. Political culture in the wake of
conspiracy occasionally has a violent impact between the two parties. Do not
deny if it could threaten the existing institutions within the government.

Belief in conspiracy theories is more than just the belief in an occasional underhand plot. It is a belief system that asserts that world events are being governed in secret by a group of ultra powerful puppeteers behind the scenes.

While little may be done about this sorry state of affairs, at least we can have the satisfaction of having worked out what is going on (Kate Tuckett 9).

Two propositions dominated to discussions of conspiracy theory. The first maintains that conspiracy as the conviction is a secret, omnipotent individual or group covertly controls the political and social order or some parts thereof,

circulated solely on the margins of society. The second proposition, equally prominent when concerned commentators discuss conspiracy, maintains that conspiracy has come to predominate American political culture (Fenster, 1).

This study is chosen because the researcher is interested in studying literature. The researcher gets profound knowledge from the object of the study in Dan Brown's *Deception point*. After reading and studying this novel, the researcher can give some information and experience concerning the novel based on the conflict of the story. As a result the reader of this research can get more understanding about political conspiracy that happens in this novel.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Based on the background of the study, the researcher formulates the problems as follows:

- 1. How is conflict described in the novel *Deception point*?
- 2. How does Rachel struggle to reveal the conspiracy that happens in the story?

1.3. Objective of the study

Based on the statement of problem, the researcher formulates the objectives as follows:

- 1. To describe the conflict that happens in novel *Deception point*.
- 2. To elaborate the way Rachel struggles in revealing the conspiracy of that happens in the story.

1.4. Scope and limitation

In order to make this research focused, the researcher gives the scope and limitation for the discussion. The scope of this discussion concerns with conflicts that happen in the novel. The novel *Deception Point* has a very interesting conflict, especially external conflicts. Conflicts generally are divided into two types, they are the internal conflict and the external conflict. In this research, the researcher will only discuss about the external conflict.

There are several characters involved in the conflict, but Rachel's character becomes the researcher's center of discussion. The main character is Rachel that struggles to reveal the conspiracy created by William Pickering.

William Pickering is NRO's director. Rachel works under Pickering and she is very honor. Pickering is known as an expert in intelligent strategy.

1.5. Significance of the study

Since the research must have significance, the researcher hopes that this kind of research will give the readers significance that is useful. Here the researcher divides the significance into two categories practically and theoretically.

Practically, the researcher hopes that this research can give understanding to the readers about literature and how the story reflects some thoughts on conflict in the story. It is also hoped that readers will understand the novel after reading about of the conflict that happens in the novel.

Theoretically, by finishing this research, the researcher hopes that the final discussion of this research can give contribution and improve knowledge in studying literature.

1.6. Method of the study

1. Research design

To answer research problem the researcher conducts a library research, since this research is supported by any related literature. In conducting the research, the researcher uses a qualitative descriptive method to draw a description about revealing political conspiracy in this novel.

2. Research object

The research focuses on intrinsic aspect which is the conflict of the story. Analyzing the conflict aims to describe the political conspiracy that happens in this novel.

3. Research data

To support the finishing of this research, the researcher uses novel entitled *Deception Point* by Dan Brown as the source of data. The secondary is taken from some theories to support the data of the research.

1. Main data

The main data of this research is citations in the novel that are related to the conflict and Rachel's struggle to reveal political conspiracy in this story. The researcher uses citations from the novel to answer the research questions. After reading this novel

comprehensively, the researcher uses citations to record the aspects that give detail descriptions about the problems previously stated.

2. Supporting data

The supporting data of this research is derived from books, articles, and other references. The researcher uses any references which are related to the novel to support this research. The researcher also uses several theories concerning the research problems.

3. Data collection

The researcher needs reading to comprehend this novel. The researcher collects some note from the novel, which have similarity in data with this research. The data of this research is paragraph quotation in the novel and several books of literary theory.

4. Data analysis

Data analysis will be divided into descriptive analysis. The researcher analyzes the conflict in this novel and then analyzes Rachel's struggles in revealing the political conspiracy.

1.7. Definition of key terms

- Conflict : Conflict is a struggle against opposing forces, occurs when the protagonist against an antagonist or opposing forces (Luken 99-100)
- 2. Politic : Politic is the art and science to gain power constitutionally and non constitutional. In addition, politic can also be traced from

different viewpoints, among other things: politic is an effort taken by citizens to realize the common good (Aristotle).

3. Conspiracy: The way of person or group set some plans to get something secretly whether or not laws are broken by their plans in order to make their plans success (Newton v).



CHAPTER II

Literature Review

The second chapter consists of the theories used to analyze the novel, Dan Brown's *Deception point*. This study tries to reveal mostly about the conspiracy through the conflict in the novel, so the researcher uses some theories: new criticism theories, conflict, and secondary theory about conspiracy. Those are explained as follows:

2.1. New Criticism

The New Criticism is an Anglo-American variety of Formalism that emerged in the early decades of the twentieth century and dominated teaching and scholarship until the early 1960s (Castle 122). New Critics is introduced to America and called "close reading" has been a standard method of high school and college that used in literary studies for the past several decades (Tyson 135). New criticism is one of the theories that have been used by scholars since long time ago for analyzing literary work. The most important concepts of this theory are concerning the nature and importance of textual evidence (135). It means that it emphasizes on the text as sole evidence which its language that is organized in literary work. Tyson says that the way to know the author's intention or reader's interpretation is by examining carefully the formal elements of text such as characterization, setting of the time and place, point of view, plot, images, metaphor and symbols so that it can find the theme (137). As formal

elements, plot is one of important tools that can be used to analyze the literary work.

New Criticism asserts that text of literary works is a complete system or structure. As complete structure of literary works, text of literary works is constructed by elements of literary works which have correlation each other to make a meaning. In this way, a new critic attempts to study the "formal elements" of the text, such as characters, setting of time and place, point of view, plot, images, metaphors and symbols to interpret the text (Tyson 135).

Based on those elements, this study only focuses on conflict that happens in Dan Brown's *Deception Point*. This element is to complete the first and the second statement of the problems. Since conflict happens in plot, this studies also employs the concept of plot to support the analysis in order to expose the way of the main character participates on the conflict in the story.

2.2. Concept of Conflict

Conflict is one of the important elements in the story. Without it, the story in the literary works will be not interesting, flat, and meaningless. Conflict usually brings into climax of the story in literary work which tries to explore feeling, thought or portrait of life based on the author.

Conflict in the story can happen in personal or two in group. Conflict in personal usually happens between two characters or one character with another character. In other hand, conflict in groups can happen when the problem gets wider, like civilization, ethnics, races, and classes. As Bartos and Wher say that

conflict is defined as a situation in which the actor uses behavioral conflict with each other to achieve goals that are incompatible or to express their hostility and this situation not only for individuals but also groups (13). According to Robert and Jacobs says that the conflict is the opposition between two characters, between large group of people, or between protagonist and larger parts such as natural objects, ideas, modes of behavior, public opinion, and the like (1694). However, conflict here is not always involved fighting or some overt fight because there are some conflicts are "latent" and not involve overt fighting.

There are three main causes of social conflict such as incompatible goal, hostility, and conflict action or behavior. First cause is incompatible goal which has two approaches to determine reliably whether goals are in fact incompatible. Second is hostility which has the differentiation with incompatible, what makes it different is rational and non rational behavior in hostility. Third is conflict action or behavior which has three important parts such as coercive action, non coercive conflict action, and degree of coerciveness (Syifa' 20).

Conflict generally is divided into two types, they are the internal conflict and the external conflict. Internal conflict is the condition facing the character within her/his character and also giving the impact to the character. Internal conflict is the war against oneself. It is a struggle between elements within the characters of personality what the dominance is. It is a battle needing

a decision between two or more choices and requiring a personal decision to achieve some goals. The internal conflict is called the psychological conflict because it is a fight inside a human between strength and weakness; love and hate, etc (Holman 118). Tomlinson says that the basic conflict may be one that occurs within main character, called *person against-self* (26).

Problems coming from the world are called external conflicts.

Character in the story will fight to face circles of external conflict. When the struggles against internal conflict happening within character, it is not easy to face external conflict. External conflict is something more complex because it presents issues of society, community, nature, government and also other characters. External conflict shows itself as man versus man, man versus nature and man versus society

The first is Man versus man. Conflict occurring between men is a fundamental of external conflict. The conflict happens when the characters struggle against other characters. The struggle can grow in moral, religious or social difference so a conflict begins between man and man and it does not consider position or age of the characters. Conflicts with peers, problems with sibling rivalries and stories of children rebelling against adult are *person-against-person* (Tomlinson 26).

The second is Man versus nature. Man versus nature conflicts occur when the characters find the situation to struggle against nature. The characters in the story face the problems that can give threat to the character such as cold,

storm, flood, earthquake etc. A conflict is usually found in survival stories when struggle that the character has with the forces of nature called as *personagainst-nature* (Tomlinson 26)

The third is Man versus society. Man versus society is the situation when conflict happens because there is man struggling against government and culture or social traditional. Conflict in children's stories is most often either about the environment being destroyed by new technology or changing times or about children caught up in political upheaval such as war. That kind of conflict is called as *person-against-society* (27).

2.3. Conspiracy theory

Black's Law Dictionary defines a conspiracy as a combination or confederacy between two or more persons formed for the purpose of committing, by their joint efforts, some unlawful or criminal act. Conspiracy can be roughly defined as a belief that an organization made up of individuals or groups was or is acting covertly to achieve some malevolent end. The fact that thousands of conspiracies exist and have been amply documented does not mean, of course, that every theoretical conspiracy is true. Some are absurd, transparently ridiculous, or even physically impossible (Newton iv).

The conspiracy theory view of the world has entered into the mainstream with the help of other forces, as well. One was the development of a willing political culture in which seemingly any idea that promotes one's cause, however implausible is embraced. In such a culture, conspiracy can be a

profoundly useful idea to attack one's political foes. After all, conspiracies are hidden and undercover with so lack of evidence is not necessarily a problem, especially if the idea is heavily promoted by enemies with an agenda. In the court of public opinion, the case for conspiracy can be made as easily with innuendo as evidence and on many occasions it (B. Arnold 2).

After World War II, fears of conspiracy became more prominent. This gradually attracted the notice of writers interested in understanding current impulses in American society. After the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963, the conspiracy theory worldview seemed to be increasing. Pondering this phenomenon, historian Richard J. Hofstadter published a groundbreaking study of the topic the following year "The Paranoid Style in American Politics" (6).

Hofstadter noticed that the tendency toward a conspiracy theory world view was often found among people with extreme right-wing views, but he realized that this impulse was much broader than that. Indeed, what was true when he wrote his essay is even truer today; the conspiracy theory mindset is distributed across American life. Equally at home among liberals, conservatives, and political agnostics, it knows no bounds. Although widely dispersed, conspiracy theory still draws. To the extent that they are sympathetic to this outlook, most people seem to identify with only part of what conspiracy theories say. And so while many Americans may believe, as public opinion polls suggest, that a conspiracy was involved in the assassination of John F. Kennedy, they do not necessarily believe that a vast conspiracy is controlling

modern events. As a literal worldview, conspiracy theory is well known, but for the most part it has only been accepted in a piecemeal (7).

Conspiracy becomes an interesting object in literary analysis and this study comes as an example which is interested in such matter; the conspiracy that appears around the main character of *Deception Point*. Conflict becomes an important thing in this study since it focuses on the conspiracy around the main character named Rachel Sexton. By analyzing the conspiracy around her, more knowledge about the conspiracy can be achieved.

2.4. Review of related studies

In order to broaden knowledge about this study, the researcher reviews previous studies that use the novel by the same author Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. Both novels are bound to each other in terms of planning a conspiracy and scandal that is full of lies. If *The Da Vinci Code* focuses on the scope of religion, *Deception Point* focuses on political conspiracy.

Another previous study has been done by Ahmad Syifa' a student of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya (UINSA). His thesis entitled *A Study of Conspiracy in* Robert Ludium's *The Bourne Identity*. In this research, the researcher focuses on the conspiracy represented in the story of Robert Ludlum's *The Bourne Identity*, and he tries to connect a conspiracy in the novel with a description in the Quran.

The difference with Ahmad Syifa's study is that he focuses on the conspiracy represented in the *Bourne Identity*, and he describes the main

character, that is Bourne's life based on the reflection with the Quran. In this study, the researcher focuses on the conflict in the story. The researcher analyses how conflicts are described in this novel and how the main character reveals political conspiracy that happens.

Based on that previous study, the researcher wants to analyze the conflicts which are underground by the main character. The researcher chooses *Deception Point* to be the object of the study entitled *Rachel's Struggle to Reveal Political Conspiracy in the Conflict in Dan Brown's Deception Point*.

CHAPTER III

Rachel's Struggle to Reveal Political Conspiracy through the conflict in Dan Brown's *Deception Point*

In this chapter the researcher analyzes the conflict as seen through *Deception Point*. The analysis is in accordance with the formulation of the problems which is the focus of the research. The researcher will verify clearly on how the main character participates in a conflict. Furthermore, the researcher hopes to gain profound knowledge about that way clearly of the author's depiction of a conflict in the story. After having had a basic background of the main character, the more intensive study is intended to reveal a political conspiracy by the main character. Inside this analysis process, the researcher uses Conspiracy and Conflict theories to support the analysis in order to expose the way the main character participates in political conspiracy.

3.1. The depiction of Rachel's participation in the conflict

The story opens with a prologue that shows the beginning of the conspiracy made. This story tells about a political conspiracy in which Rachel is dragged into it. Rachel is an intelligent member who works under the United States government-owned institution. She is send by the president to verify the truth of the NASA's discovery. NASA's satellite found evidence of a meteorite-like object buried in Arctic ice cover. NASA's discovery impact is so great for the United States space policy and the impending presidential election. To

investigate the validity of the invention president Zach Harney sent an intelligence agent, Rachel Sexton into the North Pole. Accompanied by a group of experts, including an academician named Michael Tolland, Rachel unload scientific fraud previously unimaginable, a conspiracy that can encourage Americans in contention.

3.1.1. Rachel's Conflict with the President

Rachel Sexton is a white house intelligence agent. She works as an NRO's agent. NRO is one of the government institutions. Rachel now works as a "gister" and serve as an intelligence liaison to the White House. She is commission to create data reports, by analyze the complicated report and then distill them into a clear and concise report. She then continues the filter material to a security adviser to the president.

"Not to sound belittling, Agent Sexton, but the White House has access to plenty of qualified gisting personnel if they need it. If it's an internal White House job, the President should know better than to contact you. And if not, then he sure as hell should know better than to request an NRO asset and then refuse to tell me what he wants it for. (15)"

Rachel works under the leadership of NRO's director, whose name is William Pickering. William Pickering is the number one in the NRO.

Rachel works under Pickering and she is honor. Pickering is known as an expert in intelligent strategy. His Clarity in judgment earns him the nickname the "Quaker".

When Rachel comes to the NRO's office, she gets an unusual task. Pickering informs that the president want to meet Rachel in person. That news makes Rachel curious, because as an agent that normally works to summarize the information for the White House, but it is uncommon for president to want to meet her in person.

Pickering removed his glasses and gazed at her. "Agent Sexton, the President called me about a half hour ago. In direct reference to you."

Rachel shifted in her seat. Pickering was known for getting to the point. *One hell of an opening,* she thought. "Not a problem with one of my gists, I hope."

"On the contrary. He says the White House is impressed with your work."

Rachel exhaled silently. "So what did he want?"
"A meeting with you. In person. Immediately."
Rachel's unease sharpened. "A personal meeting? About what?"

"Damn good question. He wouldn't tell me." (15)

President's command makes Rachel quite worried. This is because Rachel's father is a political rival for President Zach Harney in the upcoming American presidential elections. At the time, Rachel's father receives considerable support from the public. The political constellation that is as warm as it makes anything can happen.

"Your father is gaining political momentum," Pickering said.
"A lot of it. The White House has got to be getting nervous."
He sighed. "Politics is a desperate business. When the
President calls a secret meeting with his challenger's daughter,
I'd guess there's more on his mind than intelligence gists."

Packet of falls a distant shill. Pickering's handes had an

Rachel felt a distant chill. Pickering's hunches had an uncanny tendency to be dead on. "And you're afraid the White House feels desperate enough to introduce *me* into the political mix?" (15-16)

From the previous quotations, belief in conspiracy theories is more than just the belief in an occasional underhand plot. It is a belief system that asserts that world events are being governed in secret by a group of ultra powerful puppeteers behind the scenes (Tukket 9). This means that conspiracy happens through something that is public. Political Conspiracy is possible to use against the opponent who is winning an attention of the public. Every step taken by conspirators should be covered to keep the complex strategy and as good as their calculation. Conspirator uses secrecy as their main tool to implement the strategy. By running an exit strategy from public attention, it makes the strategy works without getting any obstruction from the opposition because no one knows where the plan.

Rachel agrees with the president in giving her the mission to go to the North Pole. Rachel goes to there with a fighter plane that belongs to NASA's space agency. Rachel does not know what mission she should do. She just feels that if this journey will be slightly different. The President does not tell clearly the task of what she should do. President Harney only says that Rachel will immediately know after she arrives.

"You're now off-the-grid," the President said. "All your responsibilities at work have been covered. You will not speak to anyone else today without express permission from myself or the NASA administrator. Do you understand?"

Rachel stared. Did the President just steal my cell-phone?

"After the administrator briefs you on the discovery, he will put you in contact with me via secure channels. I'll talk to you soon. Good luck."

Rachel looked at the hangar door and felt a growing uneasiness. President Harney put a reassuring hand on her shoulder and nodded toward the door. "I assure you, Rachel, you will not regret assisting me in this matter." (31)

From the previous quotations, it can be seen when Rachel agreed to accept the task of the president. Although Rachel did not know what the president task given to her, she tried to stay calm. All she did was to focus on the task and try to run with the best. Rachel situation above implies covert activities that become the president's hidden plan. Talking about covert activities in conspiracy means that there is a correlation between conspiracy and secrecy. Yet conspiracy beliefs involve two distinguishable forms of secrecy such as a group may be secret or known, and its activities may be open or hidden (Barkun, "Culture of Conspiracy" 3).

NASA became very hot issue for the public talk. At the present,
NASA is an institution associated with the outer space. NASA became the
object of political discussion in every debate in the TV show. It is because
this space agency was considered never given any useful contribution
toward the nation. That fact makes Sedgwick Sexton that is Rachel's father
want to make the NASA's issue in order to gain political support from the
American people.

"So why hasn't NASA gone public about this recent success?" Rachel challenged. "They certainly could use some good news right now."

"NASA is being silent," the President declared, "because I *ordered* them to be."

Rachel wondered if she had heard him correctly. If so, the President was committing some kind of political hara-kiri that she did not understand.

"This discovery," the President said, "is... shall we say... nothing short of astounding in its ramifications." (29)

Based on quotation, NASA's issue becomes an important thing. Sometimes, there is a conspiracy which often involves a set of goals of specific characteristic. The conspiracy is basically a form of organized crime in the ordinary sense is an attempt to manipulate the circumstances in the search for power, as in the Watergate scandal (Gordon 3). And then, during the Watergate crisis of the 1970s, government officials did covert activities to influence electoral politics and thwart the discovery of misdeeds. These and other actual conspiracies do present situations worthy of public scrutiny. In corporate America, too, there have been attempts to hide known dangers to public health and safety. Cases such as these give pause to reasonable persons to be sure (5). An undertaking to gain the attention of the public is done by bringing up something that is of their concern. Thus, the NASA's issue is part of an effort to carry out the plan of conspiracy.

Rachel arrived at the North Pole with a feeling of worry. She arrived in the area covered with inland ice. She was greeted by a NASA's

administrator named Lawrence Ekstrom. Ekstrom was the leader of NASA, he was known as a former aerospace strategist and operation adviser at the Pentagon. Ekstrom looked at Rachel with a looked that was not so friendly. It was because her father was one of the most people who want to disband NASA. However, He invited Rachel to see the NASA's discovery.

The NASA's administrator tells if the NASA's system had discovered something. The President gave a task to the administrator to inform about the findings to Rachel. NASA discovered a huge meteorite buried in the ice. At first, Rachel thinks that is not an exceptional discovery because NASA often founded meteorites before. However, this meteorite was a little different from the other meteorites ever founded by NASA, because there are fossils of insects in it. Rachel thought if this was an issue that deliberately exaggerated by NASA and the White House to win back the NASA's good image.

"That is the nature of the game. All anyone needs to do is cast a faint doubt, saying that this discovery is some kind of political fraud concocted by NASA and the White House, and all of a sudden, I'm facing an inquiry. The newspapers forget NASA has found proof of extraterrestrial life, and the media starts focusing on uncovering evidence of a conspiracy. Sadly, any innuendo of conspiracy with respect to this discovery will be bad for science, bad for the White House, bad for NASA, and, quite frankly, bad for the country." (75)

From that quotation, according to Gordon, he says that the conspiracy could be everywhere and could be planted for everyone. In our

daily lives, conspiracy could disguise the attention of the public in order to lead them to the purpose of the conspirators wanted, primarily through entertainment media, such as a political thriller, murder mystery, science fiction and other genres and for audiences of all ages (5). In this case, the issue became a NASA's political conspiracy for a particular purpose.

NASA's meteorite discovery was a scientific thing wrapped up with a plan behind it.

NASA's discovery becomes the issue to gain support for president Harney to regain the presidency. NASA greatly contributed the public support at this institution. As it was known, NASA's image in public opinion was now being bad. NASA was considered as an institution that can only be a waste of money. Many NASA's programs are failed.

To know the scientific truth about the meteorite, Rachel was helped by the experts appointed by the president. They consist of various experts in their respective scientific fields. Rachel met one of the people whose were recruited by president to her accompanies. As in the quote "Mr. Tolland will take it from here, "(50). Tolland is one of the famous scientists in America today. Tolland is an expert in documentary whose documentation event often shown on television.

Shortly after Rachel and Tolland talking about the discovery of the meteorite, Tolland invites Rachel to his office. Tolland introduces Rachel

to his coworkers and also as Tolland's friend. He is a civilian scientist who is an expert in the field of astronomy.

"Marlinson!" Tolland yelled, looking around. No answer. He gave a frustrated sigh and turned to

Rachel. "He probably got lost trying to find cream for his coffee. I'm telling you, I went to Princeton postgrad with this guy, and he used to get lost in his own dorm. Now he's a National Medal of Science recipient in astrophysics. Go figure."

Rachel did a double take. "Marlinson? You don't by any chance mean the famous Corky Marlinson, do you?"

Tolland laughed. "One and the same."

Rachel was stunned. "Corky Marlinson is *here*?" Marlinson's ideas on gravitational fields were legendary among NRO satellite engineers. "Marlinson is one of the President's civilian recruits?" "Yeah, one of the *real* scientists."

Real is right, Rachel thought. Corky Marlinson was as brilliant and respected as they came. (52)

Corky Marlinson was one of the scientists whose were recruited by the president to investigate the truth of the meteorite stone. Corky invited Rachel and Tolland into his office. Corky began to explain his theories about the meteorite; how the meteorite could be buried in the ice and how the process of the fall of the meteorite. Rachel and Tolland listen carefully to what is described by corky. Corky really knew for sure about extraterrestrial rocks. He explained in detail how there could be fossils of insects such as beetles which could be attached to the meteorite.

Impossible! she gasped, and yet as she stared at the rock she realized her definition of "impossible" had just changed forever. Embedded in the stone was a form that in an earth specimen might be considered commonplace, and yet in a meteorite was utterly inconceivable.

"It's..." Rachel stammered, almost unable to speak the word. "It's... a *bug*! This meteorite contains the fossil of a bug!" Both Tolland and Corky were beaming. "Welcome aboard," Corky said. (56)

In the previous quotations, Rachel was shocked and still did not believe in corky. Rachel still did not believe how the insect's fossil can stick to the meteorite. Life in outer space still cannot be accepted by science until now. Although NASA has found many signs of the sort, but this fossil clarifies everything. Rachel thought if NASA had discovered a remarkable discovery for science and even for the world. Similar fossil-shelled insects such as beetles came from outer space.

Now Rachel realized that NASA had founded evidence that could not be refuted any more about fossils in the meteorite. She then remembers what William Pickering said that she will be used for presidential political purposes. Although Rachel was the daughter of a man who campaigned on NASA as a waste for the space program, she eventually did not agree with his father. Rachel still works professionally as the White House intelligence liaison that takes care of clarification and validation of data.

"Then why did the President send you up here?"

"He hasn't told me yet."

An amused grin crossed Corky's lips. "You're a White House intelligence liaison who deals in clarification and authentication of data, right?"

"Yes, but nothing scientific."

"And you're the daughter of the man who built a campaign around criticizing the money NASA has wasted in space?"

Rachel could hear it coming.

"You have to admit, Ms. Sexton," Ming chimed in, "a deposition from you would give this documentary a whole new dimension of credibility. If the President sent you up here, he must want you to participate somehow." (63)

In the above quotation, the political interests of a person would be important when the opponent won public support. It is inseparable from the role of the mass media as a means of public information. As Arnold says whether it is intentionally or not, American entertainment media has aggressively promoted the conspiracy theory theme since the 1950s in a succession of movies and television shows. This theme, which could easily be molded to it within a number of popular movie and television genres, was quickly embraced by the public (5).

NASA is a tool that is mostly effective in a case of this situation as the agency that is very well-known to the public. Though Rachel is not the people who play a direct role in the interest, she is the daughter of Senator Sexton. Everyone already knows the identity of Rachel as a child from Senator Sexton, including corky and Tolland. She works under the NRO, specialize agency which was underscored by the government. Rachel does not want to be likened to the behavior of her father whose very badly was NASA's disband. She also does not want to participate in her father's political elections. She just wants to work that has nothing to do with something like that.

NASA brought the meteorite out of the ice sheet. Everyone gathered at the ice floor in the middle of NASA's hebisphere. NASA's officials were worked under the leadership of Norah, one of the four civilian scientists sent by the president.

The NASA's agents soon lift the meteorite using a large pulley.

Rachel immediately can see the meteorite which contains fossils of insects raised in front of him. Underneath it, there is a big hole from the melting ice.

The discovery of the meteorite becomes something of a great pride for all parties, especially NASA and the president. Incidentally, NASA discovers something important when the president is experiencing a lack of support from the American people. Shortly after the appointment of a meteorite, Rachel finally gets a call from the president. President wants to tell Rachel about her task. The president spoke through digital connections which are directly connected to the White House.

"As I'm sure you will agree," Herney said, his voice growing more serious now, "in a perfect world, the ramifications of this discovery would be purely scientific in nature." He paused, leaning forward, his face filling the screen. "Unfortunately, we don't live in a perfect world, and this NASA triumph is going to be a political football the moment I announce it." (75)

In that statement, the president tried to convince Rachel to verify the data which acquired from civil-scientists. Rachel gave a good assessment of NASA's discovery. Rachel considered the request of the president and said "And you think your opposition will cry conspiracy simply for political reasons?" (164). Rachel knew if she was in a position to connect this message to the White House.

"That is the nature of the game. All anyone needs to do is cast a faint doubt, saying that this discovery is some kind of political fraud concocted by NASA and the White House, and all of a sudden, I'm facing an inquiry. The newspapers forget NASA has found proof of extraterrestrial life, and the media starts focusing on uncovering evidence of a conspiracy. Sadly, any innuendo of conspiracy with respect to this discovery will be bad for science, bad for the White House, bad for NASA, and, quite frankly, bad for the country." (75)

In that statement, the president explained that NASA's meteorite discovery would be published. President sent Rachel and four other scientists only to prove the truth of this. President pointed Rachel to explain it to his staff at the White House. Appropriately, Rachel's position in the NRO was a liaison whose job is to verify data to the White House. The President was sure if Rachel was the right person to announce this discovery to the White House staff. President knew that this case would be a political fight for him.

A conspiracy can be used in every aspect of life. A political conspiracy can be as a tool to drive a common concern to distance from the truth. In this case, NASA is an ace card for the president. Rachel's statement that NASA has found evidence of extraterrestrial life would cause a public outcry that could have an impact on science. The

conspiracy desired at all costs to conceal its activities, so it would use to control over knowledge production and dissemination to mislead those who sought to expose it (Barkun, "Culture of Conspiracy" 11).

Rachel initially refuses the president's request to announce this discovery to the White House's staff. She does not want to tell about this discovery to them, but the president continues to urge Rachel to announce it. According to the president, she is considered the most appropriate person to tell it. It is because Rachel's work in the NRO is to verify any data and after finding out about the truth, she will report it to the White House.

Rachel felt herself flush. "But then... what endorsement did you have in mind?"

"One more appropriate to your position."

"Sir?

"You are my White House intelligence liaison. You brief my staff on issues of national importance."

"You want me to endorse this for your *staff*?"

Herney still looked amused by the misunderstanding. "Yes, I do. The skepticism I'll face *outside* the

White House is nothing compared to what I'm facing from my staff right now. We're in the midst of a full-scale mutiny here. My credibility in-house is shot. My staff has begged me to cut back NASA funding. I've ignored them, and it's been political suicide." (76)

From those statements, Rachel's support for the president is very precise since Rachel's position as an intelligence liaison to the White House. Rachel is a suitable person to give a short briefing to the White

House staff about the invention of NASA. The president has not been notifying them NASA's discovery.

"Rachel," the President said, leaning toward the screen. "Remember, you compile and relay data for a living. It's what you do. Just talk about what's going on up there." He reached up to flick a switch on his video transmission gear, but paused. "And I think you'll be pleased to find I've set you up in a position of power." (77)

Rachel did not have another option to accept assignments from the president, although she did not want to get involved in the political fight between the president and her father. Rachel knew that she was a member of the intelligence agency and therefore should be able to work as a professional.

The President had planned on Rachel's participation in this mission very well. Rachel felt that the president was very careful in conducting political action. NASA will be a political victory for the president as soon as thing news is announced. Rachel knows if this invention should be announced as a fact of science.

3.1.2. Rachel's conflict with the Delta Force

The conflict that happens between Rachel with the Delta Force is very interesting in this story. The Delta force is assigned to kill Rachel and her friends in a confidential manner. The Delta Force gets the task of the conspirator after Rachel realizes the irregularities found in the

meteorite. Through a very neat way, the Delta force tries to carry out their duties.

When Rachel saw it, she froze. In an instant, the bewilderment she had been feeling turned to terror.

These "hailstones" were man-made. The ball of ice on her sleeve was a flawlessly shaped spheroid the size of a large cherry. The surface was polished and smooth, marred only by a linear seam around the circumference, like an old-fashioned lead musket ball, machined in a press. The globular pellets were, without a doubt, man-made.

Ice bullets...

As someone with military clearance, Rachel was well acquainted with the new experimental "IM" weaponry— Improvised Munitions—snow rifles that compacted snow into ice pellets, desert rifles that melted sand into glass projectiles, water-based firearms that shot pulses of liquid water with such force that they could break bones. Improvised Munitions weaponry had an enormous advantage over conventional weapons because IM weapons used available resources and literally manufactured munitions on the spot, providing soldiers unlimited rounds without their having to carry heavy conventional bullets. The ice balls being fired at them now, Rachel knew, were being compressed "on demand" from snow fed into the butt of the rifle. (111)

Rachel as a member of the intelligence agency knew the risks she faced. As happened in the world of intelligence, as soon as was known by someone, the person would be one of the targets. Although she was attacked by a group of special operation forced, Rachel still was trying to survive. Eliminating the target is the task given by the conspirators to kill them. Rachel thinks if the information she knew about the truth of this meteorite is very important. Rachel realized that she and her friends could not resist the attack of an armed enemy. They

were attacked by the United States Special Operations. Although Rachel did not know who the mastermind of the conspiracy, she knew if that person is a person who has an influence. The reason is that the ice bullets fired at Rachel is a special bullet used only by the United States military units.

Delta Force consists of a group of well trained assassins. They killed the target one by one by not leaving a trail of murder. The entire act will be created as an accident. This task was part of a structured and well-planned murder.

The woman was wearing a thick, black, thermal suit and had a welt on the side of her face. Her breathing was short and labored. One of the IM ice rifles had found its mark and knocked her unconscious.

Now it was time to finish the job.

As Delta-One knelt down beside the oblivious woman, his teammates trained their rifles on the other targets—one on the small, unconscious man lying on the ice nearby, and one on the overturned sled where the two other victims were hiding. Although his men easily could have moved in to finish the job, the remaining three victims were unarmed and had nowhere to run. Rushing to finish them all off at once was careless. Never disperse your focus unless absolutely necessary. Face one adversary at a time.

Exactly as they had been trained, the Delta Force would kill these people one at a time. The magic, however, was that they would leave no trace to suggest how they had died. (115)

Rachel thinks that all the reasons start to make sense. Rachel sees Norah is dead at the hands of the Delta Force. Although Rachel is wounded by Delta force ice bullet, Rachel tries to escape by air balloons

together with Tolland and corky. Rachel tries to survive although she is in a state that does not allow her to do that. The only important thing now for Rachel is just to survive.

Conflict that Rachel face is the struggle for survival of the attack gained from her discovery of the truth. As Luken says conflict is a struggle against opposing forces, occurs when the protagonist against an antagonist or opposing forces (99-100). Conflict is very stressful as Rachel reflection in her struggle to survive.

3.1.2. Rachel's conflict with William Pickering.

Conflict between Rachel and William Pickering is very unpredictable in this story. At the end of the story, Pickering emerges as the actor of all conspiracies that happened. Pickering is the person who has made the conspiracy of the meteorite. As a conspirator Pickering is very good in hiding his true identity.

There was a long pause. Finally the voice said, "I'm coming down."

Rachel felt her muscles tighten. Coming down?

"I am unarmed," the voice said. "Do not do anything rash. You and I need to talk face-to-face."

Before Rachel could react, the chopper dropped onto the *Goya*'s deck. The passenger door on the fuselage opened and a figure stepped out. He was a plain-looking man in a black coat and tie. For an instant, Rachel's thoughts went totally blank. She was staring at William Pickering. (250)

In previous quotations, Rachel must be carefully because no one who has shadowy and undercover can life accepts everything without

knowing the reason can be trusted or not (Tenet xvi). Pickering hides his identity as the mastermind of a conspiracy. Pickering hides it very neatly.

William Pickering stood on the deck of the *Goya* and gazed with regret at Rachel Sexton. He had never imagined today would come to this. As he moved toward her, he could see the dangerous combination of emotions in his employee's eyes. Shock, betrayal, confusion, rage.

All understandable, he thought. There is so much she does not understand. (253)

Rachel was very surprised to see someone dropped out of a helicopter that was riding by the delta force. Rachel saw someone who is very familiar. It was William Pickering, Pickering walks towards Rachel and Tolland to explain this incident to them that the entire conspiracy plan created was for NASA.

"Rachel," Pickering said. "We can still work this out. There's a lot I need to explain."

Rachel Sexton looked aghast nauseated almost. Tolland had the machine gun now and was aiming at Pickering's chest. He too looked bewildered.

"Stay back!" Tolland yelled.

Pickering stopped five yards away, focusing on Rachel. "Your father is taking bribes, Rachel. Payoffs from private space companies. He plans to dismantle NASA and open space to the private sector. He had to be stopped, as a matter of national security." (251)

In those quotations, Pickering tried to explain to Rachel why this conspiracy happens. He did this to protect the NASA's space agency that is still needed. In the upcoming presidential election, Rachel's father intends to make NASA as a privately owned institution.

Pickering's all arguments cannot be accepted by Rachael. What Pickering has done to protect NASA by using lies about meteorites was really inappropriate. In this case, Pickering was the only person who planned this conspiracy. He did not involve president Harney and NASA's administrator in the conspiracy plan. According to Pickering, the meteorite was a final act to save NASA. If president Harney was reelected as president of America, he should have helped in this way. This way was what must be done to win the support of the American people. Pickering realized that the president really did not want NASA to disband. The president wants NASA to become space agency that plays a big role in science. Therefore, Pickering planed this conspiracy.

"Rachel," Pickering said, "the information you just faxed off this ship is dangerous. You must understand that. If it gets out, the White House and NASA will look complicit. The backlash against the

President and NASA will be enormous. The President and NASA know nothing, Rachel. They are innocent. They believe the meteorite is authentic."

Pickering had not even tried to bring Herney or Ekstrom into the fold because both were far too idealistic to have agreed to any deceit, regardless of its potential to save the presidency or space agency.

Administrator Ekstrom's only crime had been persuading the PODS mission supervisor to lie about the anomaly software, a move Ekstrom no doubt regretted the moment he realized how scrutinized this particular meteorite would become. (253)

Rachel is aware of all that has been done by Pickering. Rachel has to get all the evidence about the meteorite's falsehood. Rachel knows if the stone was not real meteorites and the rock was a fake. A

large stone was buried in the ice and was given animal fossils from the sea that seems like an insect. Everything has been planned and arranged so neatly. Rachel and Tolland know that the mastermind of all that is Pickering. They were both in a state of urgency darting on Goya's ship. They know if their current state is in danger. Tolland knows if Pickering and delta force were just delaying the time until the right time to kill them both.

Tolland's hands felt sweaty on the machine gun as he gripped it, aiming the muzzle at William Pickering's chest. The NRO director was still pressuring Rachel to tell him where the data had been sent, and Tolland was starting to get the uneasy feeling that Pickering was simply trying to buy time. *For what?* (255)

In that statement, according to Bartos and Wehr conflict is a behavior that helps the parties to achieve its objectives. It does not match that of the opponent or who express hostility toward him (22). Pickering asked Rachel where she sent the information about the falsity of the meteorite. Pickering tried as much as possible to accomplish his plan in a neat way. He tried to influence Rachel to believe it. At the same time, Tolland saw the ruse of Pickering and he is pointing a gun towards Pickering's chest.

3.2. Rachel's struggle in revealing the political conspiracy

Rachel's efforts in revealing the conspiracy started when Rachel saw

Tolland standing near the extraction hole. Rachel and Corky approached Tolland
who were looking into the hole. The three of them were surprised after seeing the

drawing hole; the water in the hole was glowing with green colored dots that flicker.

Corky burst out laughing. "Mike, be serious!"

"I am serious."

"No chance, Mike! Believe me, if NASA had any inkling whatsoever that there were extraterrestrial organisms living on that rock, you can be damn sure they never would have extracted it into the open air."

Tolland looked only partially comforted, his relief apparently clouded by a deeper mystery. "I can't be for sure without a microscope," Tolland said, "but it looks to me like this is a bioluminescent plankton from the phylum Pyrrophyta. Its name means fire plant. The Arctic Ocean is filled with it." (87)

The three of them find flagellates in water from the extraction hole.

Something that for them is strange in the polar ice layers. Polar ice is very thick layers and there can be no flagella that live in it.

In the ice layer of North Pole consists only of the freshwater, whereas flagellate can only live in the ocean water. Irregularity about the flagella makes Rachel feels suspicious about the truth of NASA's discovery. Rachel began tray to find out why the flagella can live with the slushy ice

3.2.1. Rachel's first action in revealing the political conspiracy

Rachel tries to reveal irregularities that exist in the meteorite. The irregularities cannot be justified before getting the facts clear. Meanwhile, the White House will soon hold a press conference to the public to announce the discovery of the meteorite.

"All I know," Rachel said, "is that I just briefed the entire White House staff and told them this meteorite was discovered in a pristine matrix of ice and had been sealed there, untouched by outside influence since 1716, when it broke off of a famous meteorite called the Jungersol. This fact now appears to be in some question." (94)

That statement, states that Rachel gives information that has not been certain to the White House. The fact to showing the truth of the authenticity of the meteorite is still not accepted. The only way is to start a research on the meteorites truth from the beginning. Norah explain his plan to test the ice sheet above it. Ekstrom agrees with Rachel and her other fellow scientists go outside habisphere to examine the ice. The fact that the meteorite still appears has not really been facts. As Barkun says that Conspiracy how often claimed first that what the world in general terms as the facts fiction, and secondly that what appears to be fiction really facts (27).

Rachel and her friends were on top of glacier outside habispher.

They want to prove the truth of the meteorite with GPS by taking photos of the places they studied. Rachel tried to gather evidence about the awkwardness of this meteorite. There are many awkward things that could alter the facts about the truth of the meteorite. Rachel started with the flagella that are in the center of the meteorite's hole. Previously, Norah said that the polar ice cap is very thick and there is no ocean water can flow in.

Information about the evidence of the conspiracy is the main thing.

Rachel had to gather all the evidences before reporting to the president.

Rachel is sure if the president is not involved in this case.

The presence of a military covert operations unit brought with it a second, even more terrifying realization: The probability of surviving this attack was close to zero.

The morbid thought was terminated as one of the ice pellets found an opening and came screaming through the wall of gear on the sled, colliding with her stomach. Even in her padded Mark IX suit, Rachel felt like an invisible prizefighter had just gut-punched her. Stars began to dance around the periphery of her vision, and she teetered backward, grabbing gear on the sled for balance. Michael Tolland dropped Norah's tether and lunged to support Rachel, but he arrived too late. Rachel fell backward, pulling a pile of equipment with her. She and Tolland tumbled to the ice in a pile of electronic apparatus.

"They're... bullets...," she gasped, the air momentarily crushed from her lungs. "Run!" (112)

As stated in the previous quotations, it shows how Rachel tries to get information from the fake meteorite. At that time, she fight against the enemy in an ice storm and then Rachel can escape from them. Rachel faces a conflict which is created by the conspirator to anyone who knows this conspiracy plan. Here, Bartos says in his book about the conflict. It is defined as a situation in which the perpetrator uses behavioral conflict against each other to achieve goals that are not compatible and to express their hostility (13). This means that the conspirator express hostility to Rachel because she knows the plan and is considered a threat. The conspirator sends Delta Force to kill Rachel so that his plan will be

uncovered. This makes the lives of Rachel and her groups threatened. They struggle to escape from the attacks that they get from the Delta Force.

After Rachel know about the falsity of meteorite and fossils were actually planted in it. This all is a conspiracy that has been created by someone, but Rachel does not know who does this. At first she wanted to preach this lie to Pickering. She is a member of the intelligence agent to know if this is a huge scandal that is highly confidential. So, the person who first gets to know about this news is her director. Rachel does not have sufficient evidence that can explain this lie but she is sure if she will soon find it.

Rachel tries to survive in a wounded state after coming under attack from the Delta Force. Having survived from the Delta Force Rachel was rescued by a submarine defense agency. After they recover from faint, Rachel tries to contact the president to explain the truth which she gained about the meteorite. Rachel thinks that the president does not know about this. Rachel wants to reveal the truth to the president about the meteorite before president releases the discovery to the public.

My God! she thought, stunned. It's only 7:51 p.m.? Rachel had the impression hours had passed since she passed out. It was not even past eight o'clock? The President has not yet gone public about the meteorite! I still have time to stop him! She immediately slid down off the bed, wrapping the blanket around her. Her legs felt shaky. "I need to speak to the President right away."

The captain looked confused. "The president of what?" "Of the United States!"

- "I thought you wanted William Pickering."
- "I don't have time. I need the President." (144)

In those quotations, Rachel was being in a difficult situation, which required her to take a decision. She must convey the truth of this meteorite to the president. She barely had time because the president would preach to the public about the discovery of the meteorite.

3.2.2. Rachel's struggle to collect evidence of the meteorite

Rachel struggles to gather more evidences about the truth of the meteorite after an attack from Delta Force who made her life in danger in The Milne Ice Shelf. She is now trying to uncover a conspiracy. Rachel and her friends try to stop by to Tolland's ship. This ship is at sea for shooting a documentary. Rachel tries to test the meteorite Sample in a laboratory vessel. Previously, Tolland say if his friend has information about the oddities in the meteorite which NASA has found.

Tolland eyed her intensely. "How important do you think it is that we talk to Xavia before we talk to your boss?"

"If she has something to say about chondrules? I'd say it's critical. Mike," Rachel said, "at the moment, we've got all kinds of contradictory data. William Pickering is a man accustomed to having clear answers. When we meet him, I'd love to have something substantial for him to act on." (197)

As explained in those statements, Rachel considered to finding evidence about the truth of the meteorite. Rachel as an intelligence agent knows if she will not act and speak to the director before finding clear

evidence of the meteorite irregularities. Rachel thought that speaking to Pickering without having clear evidence could not be accepted.

On the way to Tolland's ship, the conspirator's team followed Rachel by helicopter. The helicopter was an advanced aircraft that could fly undetected by radar. The plane was boarded by a team of assassins who previously failed his duty to kill Rachel and her friends. Delta force was given the next task by the conspirators to kill Rachel and her friends.

As Delta-One and his men lifted off the runway, Delta-One could still hear the words of his controller.

You have another mark. It seemed an egregious under-statement considering their new target's identity.

Delta-One reminded himself, however, that it was not his place to question. His team had been given an order, and they would carry it out in the exact method instructed—as shocking as that method was.

I hope to hell the controller is certain this is the right move. (198)

In those quotations, the next task becomes very important for the killer team. They must not fail again in doing the job. The conspirator was once again assigning them to kill Rachel. After Rachel managed to escape from them, now they are very careful. From the explanation, the researcher founded that a successful conspiracy requires intelligence, careful planning and organization, and the people in the majority often do not want to admit that other group members can have characteristics (Gordon 3). Mature planning becomes the main point in performing the task. Furthermore,

Rachel as a member of the intelligence agency never resemble that she becomes a part of conspiracy's planning and organization.

3.2.3. Rachel's struggle against the Delta Force

Rachel's struggle trying to unravel the conspiracy is not easy. She must deal with the special surveillance team in order to kill them in secret. The Delta Force is the squad sent by the conspirator to kill Rachel and her friends. It also shows that this group is used to infiltrate and kill the target quickly and hidden. Each operation of this group is completely confidential and they always keep their identity secret. Based on their background and activities that should be secret, it means that a secret society is acting discreetly as in type 1 by the combination of secrecy and openness that the combination of the secret group acting secretly is a staple of conspiracy (Barkun, "Culture Conspiracy" 4).

Rachel's struggle to survive the Delta Force not only happens at Milne Ice Shelf but also in the goya's ship. Rachel, together with Tolland and Corky, has to deal with the Delta Force on the ship after the Delta Force failed to kill Rachel and friends in the Milne Ice Shelf.

A surveillance team assigned to kill Rachel has failed to carry out their duties. They previously believe that their target is dead. But it turns out that she could escape from the killer team who tried to kill her.

The controller reacted with shock. Killing, although an authorized last resort, obviously never had been part of the controller's plan.

Later, the controller's displeasure over the killings turned to outright rage when he learned the assassinations had not gone as planned.

"Your team failed!" the controller seethed, the androgynous tone hardly masking the person's rage.

"Three of your four targets are still alive!"

Impossible! Delta-One had thought. "But we witnessed—"

"They made contact with a submarine and are now en route to Washington."

"What!"

The controller's tone turned lethal. "Listen carefully. I am about to give you new orders. And this time you will not fail." (167)

As the previous quotations, not all conspiracy can achieve the planned target. Task commanded to kill Rachel did not succeed in the process. There were some conspiracies that succeeded during the process and the results actually returned to the conspirator. The combination of secrecy and openness are very important in the conspiracy. To run their combinations as well as a concept, conspirator required specific information about the target (Barkun, "Chasing phantom" 3). However, the conspiracy did not succeed because some strategy a failure occurs during operation.

The conspirator participated in the second mission to kill Rachel and her friends. The conspirator thought nothing goes as planned. The difficulty to keep confidential information is something that is hard to do because it is not according to the plan. There are no other ways to eliminate people who already know about a conspiracy. The conspiracy that he created changes all his plans.

Wailee Ming. Norah Mangor. Both dead.

The bold kill that had just taken place at the FDR Memorial.

Soon to be added to the list were Rachel Sexton, Michael Tolland, and Dr. Marlinson.

There is no other way, the controller thought, fighting the growing remorse. Far too much is at stake. (209)

In those quotations, kill all the targets who know his entire plan is a thing to be done. Although the conspirator feels sorry about that, he should do it because he has no other choices. Everything must go according to the plan to get the goals to be achieved.

3.2.4. Rachel's struggle against William Pickering

Pickering wants to kill Rachel because of an unexpected accident in the plan of the conspiracy that Rachel accidentally knew. Rachel has already had clear evidence from the meteorite and the fossils in it.

Pickering also wants to kill all the people who have helped Rachel.

Pickering realizes that everyone who tries to help Rachel also become one of the targets, because they are helping Rachel which means a threat to him. As Bartos and Wehr state that severe physical injuries that showed up hurting or killing the opponent or destroying his property need to be done to those who might be a threat in the future for the conspirator (23). From that statement, there are no other ways for Pickering to kill Rachel and her friends that pose a threat to him. Rachel realizes that her life and her friends are in danger.

Pickering sighed. "NASA, for all its flaws, *must* remain a government entity." *Certainly she can understand the dangers*. Privatization would send NASA's best minds and ideas flooding into the private sector. The brain trust would dissolve. The military would lose access. Private space companies looking to raise capital would start selling NASA patents and ideas to the highest bidders worldwide!

Rachel's voice was tremulous. "You faked the meteorite and killed innocent people... in the name of national security?"

"It was never supposed to happen like this," Pickering said. "The plan was to save an important government agency. Killing was not part of it." (251)

from the previous quotations, according to Bartos and Wehr, there are two different objectives in the same place, it is logically impossible for both goals to be achieved simultaneously if each party has their own desire to get more results better than the other (14). From that statement, different views between Pickering and Rachel about NASA are visible. Pickering considered that the best way to save NASA was the way he did, creating fake discovery of the meteorite which contains fossils of insects in it. He made a conspiracy that aimed to maintain NASA. Rachel, however, views that what Pickering did was wrong. Rachel considered if there was a better way than making a lie like that.

"We needed to rebuild NASA's image," Pickering was saying.
"Their declining popularity and funding had become dangerous on so many levels." Pickering paused, his gray eyes locking on hers.
"Rachel, NASA was *desperate* for a triumph. Someone had to make it happen." *Something had to be done*, Pickering thought.

The meteorite had been a final act of desperation. Pickering and others had tried to save NASA by lobbying to incorporate the space agency into the intelligence community where it would enjoy increased funding and better security, but the White House

continuously rebuffed the idea as an assault on pure science. *Shortsighted idealism.* With the rising popularity of Sexton's anti-NASA rhetoric,

Pickering and his band of military powerbrokers knew time was running short. They decided that capturing the imagination of taxpayers and Congress was the only remaining way to salvage NASA's image and save it from the auction block. If the space agency was to survive, it would need an infusion of grandeur—something to remind the taxpayers of NASA's *Apollo* glory days. And if Zach Herney was going to defeat Senator Sexton, he was going to need help.

I tried to help him, Pickering told himself, recalling all the damaging evidence he had sent Marjorie Tench. Unfortunately, Herney had forbidden its use, leaving Pickering no choice but to take drastic measures. (253)

The secret strategy that consists of the information relating to the objectives and strategies fits enough to be called a conspiracy. There are three principles that are found in the conspiracy, the first is nothing happens by accident, the second is nothing happens as it seems, and the latter are all are connected (Barkun, "Culture of Conspiracy" 8).

Conspiracy of those three principles above indicates that each strategy Pickering does consists of principles. First, Pickering makes the meteorite discovery occurs naturally. NASA discovers a very hard rock in the ice. Secondly, all seem to fit to what has happened. All such plans made by Pickering are about the meteorite discovery. Unfornately, Rachel knows that the meteorite is fake. And lastly, all are interconnected that the purpose of Pickering create such a conspiracy is to help president Harney win the presidential election and to protect NASA as a national institution.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

This chapter draws a conclusion based on the discussion in the previous chapters. The researcher wants to give the conclusion of this study that was written from the starting until finishing. According to the theme, the researcher chosen a novel *Deception Point* as the subject of the thesis entitled *Rachel's Struggle to Reveal Political Conspiracy in the Conflict in* Dan Brown's *Deception Point*. Selection of this theme because there are many plots twists and surprises throughout the story and interesting conflict.

The researcher concluded that there are some conflicts that happened to the main character. Being in the midst of Several times conflict makes Rachel almost lost her life. Firstly is Rachel's Conflict with the President. She did not want to tell about meteorite's discovery but the president continued to urge Rachel to report to the White House staff. Rachel does not have another option to accept assignments from the president. President had planned Rachel participation in this mission very well. Secondly is Rachel's conflict with Delta force. The Delta force was assigned to kill Rachel and her friends in a confidential manner. Conflict that Rachel faced was the struggle for survival of the attack to her. Thirdly is Rachel's conflict with William Pickering. This conflict was very unpredictable in this story. Pickering was the person who made the conspiracy of the meteorite.

Rachel's struggle trying to reveal the political conspiracy is not easy. She tries to uncover the truth of meteorite with her friends. Rachel's first actions in uncovering irregularities meteorites are shown in collecting evidences that exist. There are some problems occur in Rachel's life when she is revealing political conspiracy. First, Rachel struggles to collects evidence more clearly about the truth of meteorite, although she got an attack from Delta Force who made her life in danger. Second, Rachel's struggle against the Delta Force, Delta Force is the squad sent by the conspirator to kill Rachel and her friends. Delta Force consists of a group of well trained assassins. Rachel tries to survive in wounded a state after coming under attacked from the Delta force. Third, Rachel's struggle against William Pickering, Pickering is a man who planned the conspiracy. He is NRO's director. Pickering wants to kill Rachel because she knows about Pickering's plan. Pickering sent Delta Force to kill Rachel.

Finally, it is concluded that Rachel fight to reveal political conspiracy in the conflict that occur. Rachel's struggle requires a combination of confidential strategies and activities to uncover the conspiracy of William Pickering. This shows that Rachel struggles to survive all the attacks that she face is the way to uncover the truth.

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