

**Short Fiction in Indian Literature**  
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**Lecture-1A**

**Plotting the Story world of "In the Flood" by Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai**

Hello and welcome back this is the second part of the first lecture on plotting story world in the flood.

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Now where in Chennan's dog story and we are looking at the events that fill out the story and also that complicated and also move it towards its resolution. I want to go back to you know a couple of events or that you kind of recall the things that happen before. So we did take a look at the activities of some of the frogs on the roof top and then we had a look at the recitation of the Ramayana and its implications for the people were caught on the flood.

And we did observed some carcasses floating in the water. So all these events setup the story world as well as kind of complicated and move the story a long towards its resolutions whatever that maybe and as I said events kind of also I help the readers anticipate about the things that are going to come or happened the storage and they also complicate the set of events.

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## Chennan's Dog

◆ A boat appears in the morning.

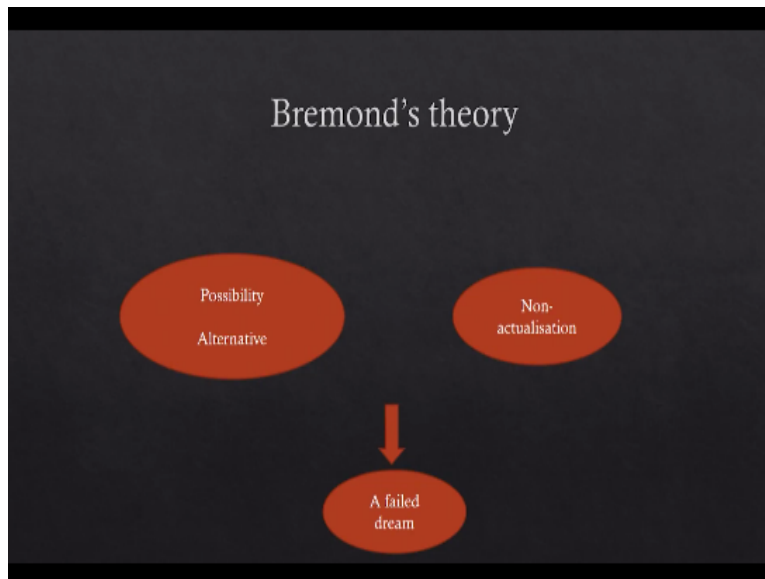
◆ "A small boat appeared in the distance and steadily drew closer. It moored under a coconut tree close to the hut. The dog wagged its tail, stretched, yawned, growled under its breath. The man in the boat climbed the tree, lopped off a coconut, sliced it open, drank its contents and then rowed away."

In this part of the story we have a boat appearing in the morning very very interesting event because of the first time the dog is getting excited about the possibility of getting away from the flood waters. So we have a small boat that appeared in the distance and steadily drew closer, it moored under a coconut tree close to the hut. The dog wagged its tail, stretches, yawned, growled under its breadth.

The man in the boat climb the tree lot of a coconut sliced it open, drank its content and then rowed away. So as soon as the boat appears the dog is extracted happy which you can see from the lines which tell you about the dog wagging its tail, stretching its body in anticipation of getting onto the boat and it also draws which is possibly you know something you do with happiness not to anger.

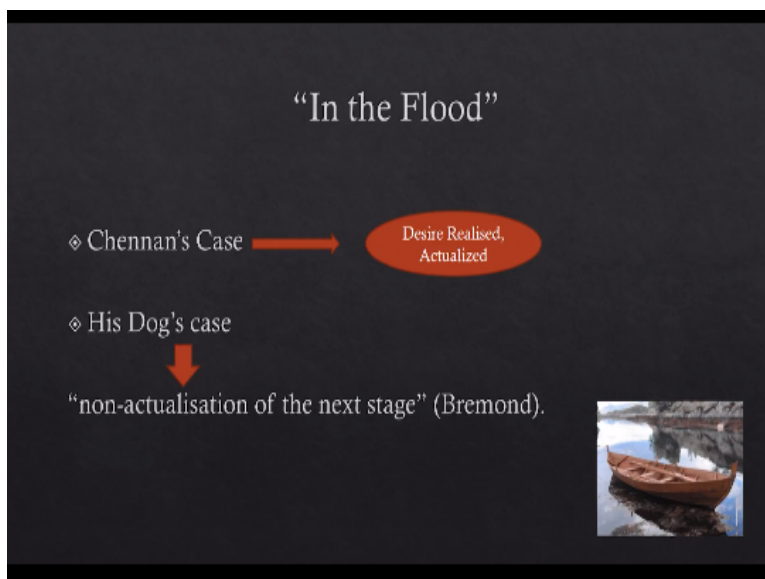
And it is very interesting that while the dog is highly excited the man in the boat a heater something totally contrary to the dogs expectations, he climbs coconut tree, slice of coconut and then drink the coconut water and disappeared. So very nice contrast the bills on the people in the situation while the man is blissfully unaware about the anticipation of the dog, the dog is kind of waiting for the man to respond to the crisis the dog is end.

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If we look at the scene through Bremond's theory of actualization or non actualization, we have a possibility on alternative in the appearance of the boat and while it does not and it does not give the dog and escape. So there is unknown actualization of the possibility which results in a failed dream for the dog. However if we contrast this seen with Chennan's situation at the beginning of the stories we can clearly see that his desire is realise.

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His desire is actualized have which it does not happen in the case of the dog, there is a non actualization of the next stage in the narrative and therefore the narrative just floats along hoping for other reasons to quit intervene and bring it to it its reality or end. Now again another boat appears in the story, it happens in the afternoon, a small robot drifted by with 2 men in it.

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## Chennan's Dog's Story: Events

- ◆ A boat appears in the afternoon.
- ◆ “ a small row boat drifted by, with two men in it. The dog began barking joyfully, jumping up and down in its happiness. Its demeanour, the way it was trying to express itself, seemed almost human. It went down to the water's edge, ready to jump into the boat.”

The dog begin barking, joyfully jumping up and down in a happiness is demeanour the weii.t.ght with find Express itself seemed almost human it went down to the water's edge ready to jump into the boat. So there is almost and mirror of the previous boat scene and we can see the dog is again very joyous it works excitedly, it jump up and down and happiness and even its cries it is mining and its barking seems almost human according to the narrator of the story.

And it is it goes down to the water's edge, on the rooftop and is ready to jump on to the rescue boat or what it thing is a rescue boat, that too occupies in that bored and one of them is slightly sympathetic towards the dog while the other one is not and this is the conversation that happens in relationship that scene.

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## “In the Flood”

- ◆ “Look, a dog,’ one of the men said. The dog began to whimper in a peculiar key—it was almost as though it was responding to the compassion in the man's voice.
- ◆ ‘Let it be’, said the second man.
- ◆ It tried twice to jump into the boat, and was rebuffed both times. The dog howled. It was heart-rending.”



He says one of the man said look at dog and the dog began to whimper in a peculiar key, it is almost as though it was responding to the compassion in the man's voice, let it be said second man he tried the dog tried twice to jump on the board and it was rebuffed both times the dog howled, it was heart rending. In the scene we can clearly see through the word that the narrator does want us to realise how pathetic the dog, the dog situation is.

It is look at the word howling heart rending, a whimper, all these words clearly indicate the emotional distress that the dog is suffering and this emotional distress is nicely contrasted with the current heart listeners of the man who does not, who do not want to take this dog on boat. So whatever reason they might have but we do not know these reasons. They are not clearly explain.

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Chennan's Dog's Story: Events

- ◊ Intensifies the interaction between the dog and the human
- ◊ Contrasts the situation of the dog and the humans
- ◊ Pathos



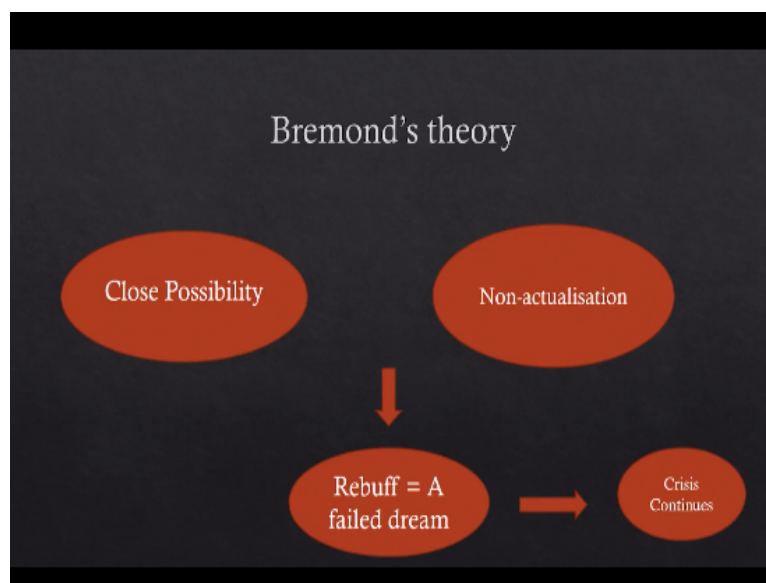
We just see such indications some words that hinder the when do not want to talk on boat that is about it. So this seen contrary to the first and in which the boat appears in the morning intensifies the interaction between the dog and the human, if you go back that earlier scene where both of us in the morning there is no interaction peruse between the dog and the man who drink the coconut water.

They are almost like 2 boat metaphorically speaking at passing each other there is no interaction how are in this particular scene about the boat in the afternoon, there is an interaction where one man response to the dog situation and the dog kind of try to get the attention of the men on the robot that trying to get on the boat, but it is kind of repulsive or

push away is a clear note the dog here in the scene where is the previous scene with the boat the man does not even appear to notice the dog on the risen.

And this particular scene this picture especially pathetic because of that refusal that the dogs at was at the hands of the man who can rescue the dog who have the power to rescue this dog and at that increases the theatres in this particular moment in the story. Again if we look at this particular moment Bremond theory we see another close possibility for the dog to be rescued from the flood.

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But again this is known actualize a known realised, so this rebuke this refuses that he gets from the 2 man again make his dream of failure dream to escape from the flood a failure clear failure and the crisis for the dog continuous and the narrative floats along this week. Now we have another boat coming in, so 3 times boats appear very interesting in the story and the last time it appears is at night.

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## Chennan's Dog's Story: Events

- ◇ Another boat comes at night.
- ◇ Repetitive Pattern
- ◇ Intensifies vulnerability and the desire for escape.
- ◇ Escape is so close yet out of reach; narrative flows on.

And this is a set of repetitive pattern which has a lot of symbolic significance which kind of unpacking and one of her later sessions. So this boat kind of highlights this symbol of rescue highlights the vulnerability that the dog is end, and end its desire for escape, escape so close on with the boat so close but if I can out of reach because the men refused to save this creature and narrative clothes along and put something else comes to intervene in the critical situation and refused the dog or he also rescue it.

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## Chennan's Dog's Story: Events

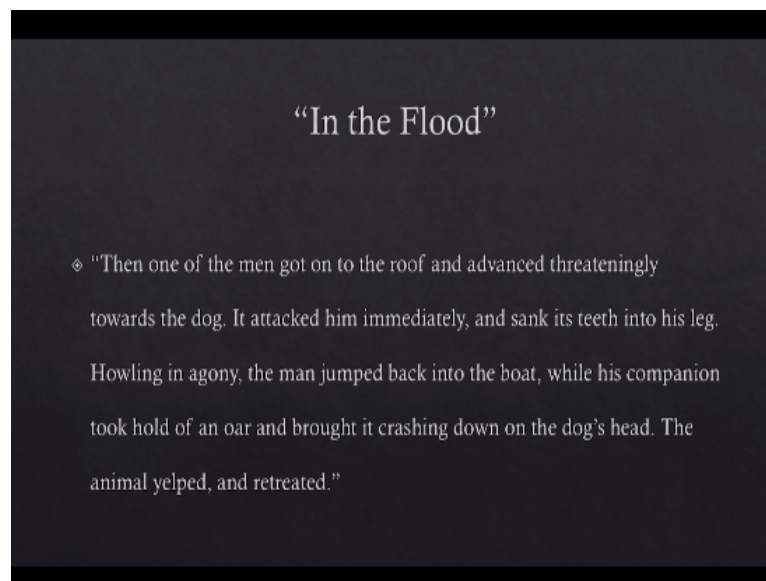
- ◇ "heavily loaded with coconuts and bunches of bananas. It stopped beside a banana tree close to the hut.
- ◇ ...the dog leapt at the thief who was trying to steal Chennan's bananas. The man tumbled down into the water, the dog with him. The thief's companion pulled him to the boat, while the dog swam back to its rooftop. It clambered back on, and shook the water off its coat, barking furiously all the while. The thieves lopped all the bananas off the trees, and loaded them on to the boat."

So third boat that we see at midnight is heavily loaded with coconut and bunches of bananas and that in itself is an indication that this is no ordinary boat and this was stops decide a banana tree close to the hut and this very clear indication that this is a boat that has a lot of stuff stolen goods on it. So the dog left at the people trying to steal Chennan's bananas, the man trembled down into the water the dog with him.



The thief companion full them onto the boat while the dogs from back to its rooftop, it clambered back on and shook the water off its coat, barking furiously all the while. The thieves lopped all the bananas of the trees, and load them on to the boat. So the dog tries to prevent this robbery from happening pretty violently, pretty vigorously and it attack the man and one of the thieves who tries to steal on the stuff falls on to the falls into the water and he gets back onto the boat while the dog comes back on the rooftop.

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Then one of the men caught on to the roof in advanced threateningly it towards with dog, this is the second part of the attack or the fight scene that happens at in the store. It attack him immediately and sank its teeth into his leg, howling in agony the man, jump back into the boat while his companions took hold of an oar and brought it crashing down on the dogs head, the animal yelped and retreated.

So we can clearly see that victory is not with the dog but would achieve who attacked the animal and the animal who treats as if it is retreating from battle unable to bear the violence that is inflicted on him by the 2 men, by the 2 thieves. But it is interesting about this incident is firstly that the dog realises that this is not a rescue boat, it is not excited to see the man on the boat here it is not wetting its tail, it is not mistaken, it is furious and it becomes while in pretty soon on saying that the men are trying to rob his master's property.

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## Chennan's Dog's Story: Events

- ◆ The dog immediately realises that it is not an ordinary boat.
- ◆ Epic struggle between the dog and the humans
- ◆ High point of the story.

And you can have tried this a struggle as a king of epic battle between this animal, this guardian of the house and the man who come to hack the home and steel it off it property and I would call this one of the high points of the story the climax almost of the story. So we can clearly see that the purpose of the boat on the scene is not only the rob, but it attack protector of the home.

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## "In the Flood": The third boat

- ◆ its purpose is not only to rob
  - ◆ but to attack the guardian of the house
  - ◆ denies not only the desired actualization,
  - ◆ offers a more cruel act of non-actualisation.
- Resistance
- Vulnerable

And protected does offer fears resistance and they become anger by this right resistance offered by the dog and the try to repay the dog an incline by attacking it, so this scene not only offers a sort of realisation of a possibility of an escape but it officer most cruel act of non actualization is this is very cool because I am the humans are the only ones who have the capacity to save the dog from this valuable situation.

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## Chennan's Dog's Story: Events

- ◆ The boats fail to give the dog's desire.
- ◆ The carcass offers a promise of satiation.

Catalyst

But they are the ones who invent the maximum agony on this creature. So to wrap up this incident the both failed to give the dog desire that the door do not offer any kind of sucker or salvation instead something else tries to offer that which is the carcass dead body of a creature floating in the flood waters. The characters of is the promise of salvation. This salvation is about the piece in the dog's hunger.

We got to remember that this dog is stranded on the rooftop for hours together and it is apparently hungry. So that when it says the carcass floating in the water what it tries to do is it ok to eat it and this incident becomes of catalyst which means the narrative towards it still yours towards the conclusion towards the end. So this is the moment the very interesting moment one moment of salvation almost metaphorically speaking.

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## “In the Flood”

An enormous bloated carcass of a cow drifted up to the house, and snagged on the roof. ... Galvanized into activity, its tail wagging, grunting, the dog rushed down the roof to where the carcass was still within reach, and began tearing at the flesh, sating its terrible hunger. Just then, with a loud cracking noise, the entire carcass was dislodged from the roof, and the dog, which was eating from it, went with it. The carcass rolled over in the current, and the dog disappeared from view. Now one could only hear the sound of the gushing wind, the cacophony of frogs, and the sibilant whisper of the waves. There was no other sound.

And enormous bloated carcass of a cow drifted up to the house it can ideal drifting up gently moving towards the house, if you recall one of the earlier incidents in connection with the crocodile, the crocodile also gently moves alongside the rooftop. So this drifting of gently moving are very very interesting words that kind of convey a particular idea on the mind of the reader when it in practice totally otherwise the other side of it.

So the carcass drips up onto the hut drips up on to the house and it snag on the roof, it caught on the roof, galvanized into activate, it is energized into activity, the dog's tail wagging, granting, the dog rush down the roof to where the carcass was still within reach and began carrying out the flesh sitting is terrible hunger. So the dog eats greedily you can see from its harvard eating of the meat from the carcass just then loud cracking noise entire carcass is dislodged from the roof.

So there is a some imbalance in the rooftop and that probably brought on by this drawing a movement of eating that the dog does of the therapist and this whole set of movements dislodges the carcass as well as the dog from the roof and the dog which was eating format went with went for the roof, the carcass is rolled over in the current and the dog disappear from there.

Now one can only hear the sound of the gassing winter cap of any of the frog the noise the countries noise of the frog and the sibilant silky whisper of the wave, there was no other sound, the carcass takes the dog with it everything disappear into the water. So we can see at a very simple level the flood itself offers a resolution it is a resolution alright but it is a cool resolution.

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## In the Flood

- ◆ The flood itself offers a resolution in a cruel sense.
- ◆ A carcass in the flood tempts the dog to its death.

Because the resolution does not mean happily ever after with a dog that means death, a tragic death by drowning death by being eaten by the crocodiles. So the carcass in the flood attempt the dog is death. So h the carcass in the flood waters becomes this large of catalyst and that kind of resolve the flood, it very interesting that the story does not end here, it does not stop here.

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## “In the Flood”: Ending

- ◆ The story does not stop here.



If they had they would been like 2 stories floating by in this narrative in this text called in the flood one will be the story of Chennan and the other will be the story of Chennan's dog. SO what the narrator, what the writer does is he brings Chennan back into the store at the very end. So once the rains have stop, once the flood waters have exceeded Chennan returns to the place where his hut wants store.

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## “In the Flood”

- ◊ Under one of the coconut trees, he saw the corpse of a dog , gently rocking in the eddies of the shallow water. Chennan turned it over with his foot to check if it was his dog, he thought it might be. One of the animal's ears was missing. You couldn't even tell what colour the dog was, for its skin had rotted and sloughed away.

And this is what he sees, and one of the coconut trees, he saw the corpse of dog gently rocking in the eddies of the shallow water, Chennan turned it over with his foot to check if it was his dog, he thought it might be one of the animals ears was missing, you could not even tell what colour the dog was, for skin had rotted and sloughed away. So Chennan comes back finds his dog dead and gently blocked in the waters.

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## Chennan's story and his dog's story

- ◊ Merge, Entwine
- ◊ Chennan escapes, his dog dies.
- ◊ Alternate possibility realised and non-realised.

So as I said the few story merge here the kind of employing at this point in the narrative and is clear the Chennan has escapes because he is there physically watching his dead dog in the waters in the shallow water while his dog is not that lucky is project end and so the alternate possibility the possibility of getting away is awarded to Chennan life it is not realize for his dog, there is no possibility but that for the creature.

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## Chennan's story

- ◆ Chennan's returns to the story.
- ◆ The outer story envelops the inner story.
- ◆ Chennan apparently impassively looks on without any comment.
- ◆ Is the tragic tone minimized?

So the Chennan returning to the story the outer story so speak Chennan story kind of envelopes in a story takes the inner story inside into it confines and Chennan currently looks in possibly at his dead dog we do not know what he thinks.

If we go back to the earlier description which is very very interesting and which I kind of evaluate quite light on in one of other sessions, but if you look at this passage right now you can see that there is no mention of what is passing through Chennan's mind right here . So it is very interesting in itself and but Chennan is standing by are looking at his dead dog is the traffic to minimise if it is a question that we need to ponder on how is it intensified that also another very interesting question to dwell on in if he answer to .

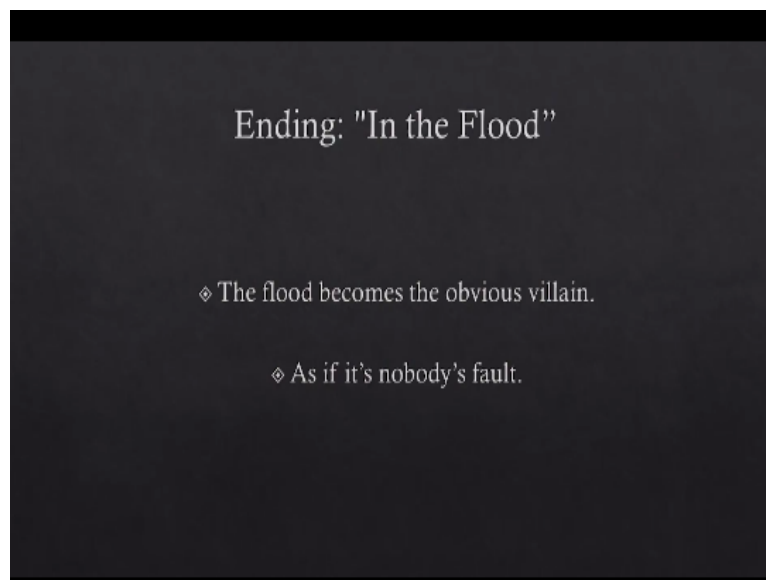
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## "In the Flood"

- ◆ The dog is gently being rocked by the waters, as if to sleep.
- ◆ It is almost as if the dog had willingly quit this life, shed its trappings, and is waiting for its next birth.

I like to see because the death of the dog is putting a very very gentleman manner with a dog being worked as if it's rocked by cradle or by the arms of a mother as if it is being put to sleep and its almost of the dog willingly quit this life, shed is trapping if can and you know it year and think like that and it almost waiting for its next birth death in all its glory aspect is kind of tools down is smooth away to give a very very peaceful a vial to this dog.

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Because it seems to be apparently sleeping and at the end the right to make the flood as the most flat at the most obvious villain in the story because the flood offers the carcass and the dog becomes tempted by the characters it starts to eat it and it falls into water and is eaten consequently by the crocodiles as well. So the flood becomes the monster easy monster there while the other monsters looking you know behind on the flood.

As well something we need to think about the creature and by making the flood easy villain the easy monster the apparent evil want the writer makes it seem as if it's nobody's fault as if the death of the dog is nobody's fault that seems to be one very easy interpretation to take away from this story, thank you for watching I will catch up with you the next session.