

# Deus ex machina & Eucatastrophe

*Deus ex machina*: god from the machine

- Refers to ancient Greek theater
- A god is mechanically brought on stage to resolve the plot
- The hero is saved from doom
- Viewed negatively
- Strains ***suspension of disbelief***

*Eucatastrophe*: good catastrophe

Greek *eu* (good) and *catastrophe* (destruction)

- More than a happy ending
- It is a sudden, joyous “turn” in the story.
- It is a miraculous grace.
- Does not deny the existence of sorrow and failure
- Does deny a universal final defeat, giving a fleeting glimpse of Joy.

# Deus ex machina & Eucatastrophe

## *Deus ex machina*

- Unbelievable
- Doesn't fit with the story
- Comes from the outside
- Happy ending—neatly ties loose ends
- Hope is not a factor
- Artificial, random, forced

## *Eucatastrophe*

- Believable
- Fits with the story
- From within the story
- Happy ending—mixed with sorrow and failure
- Hope prevails
- Natural part of the story

## *Similarities between both*

- Sudden
- Unexpected
- Miraculous
- Happy Ending