

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the novel, I can conclude that Agatha Christie has succeeded in creating a very good story. In her mystery novel, *The ABC Murders*, she makes a detective rather hard to guess the murderer of a serial murder. He gets a letter every time a murder will happen. Victim by victim is killed until it stops at the fourth victim. Believing Mr. Cust, a stocking seller, as a murderer, Poirot as a very skillful detective feels a bit strange about this. Yet, Poirot's clever thought leads him to the real murderer, Franklin Clarke, at the end of the novel. From the simple explanation above, it can be seen that Christie's story is well-told because she succeeds in keeping the tension until it reaches the climax so that the reader feels the real surprise at the end of the novel.

First of all, the first suspense begins when Poirot receives a letter from an initial ABC. The reader feels curious about who actually ABC is. Nevertheless, this suspense is not answered directly.

As the story tells about a serial murder, repetition of suspenses is unavoidable. The second suspense has the same type of question as the fourth, sixth, and the eighth suspenses. In these four suspenses, the reader shares Poirot's curiosity to know who actually ABC is. However, these four suspenses which ask about the real murderer are not answered directly after each suspense emerges.

The third suspense happens when the reader wants to know whether the suspect of Mrs. Ascher's murder is her own ex-husband. However, the first surprise comes right after the third suspense appears. It turns out that the suspect, Mr. Ascher, Mrs. Ascher's husband is not ABC.

After the first murder happens, there comes the second one with Betty Barnard as a victim. In the fifth suspense, again the reader feels even more curious to know about the real murderer. So, the reader agrees with Poirot's accusation to a suspect name Donald Fraser. Shockingly, Donald Fraser is not the killer of Betty Barnard, which means he is not ABC.

The tension keeps rising when another victim, Carmichael Clarke, is killed. The reader's curiosity continues and the reader agrees with Poirot's suspicion towards Miss Grey in the seventh suspense because Miss Grey is seen talking to a stranger on the day Carmichael dies. Surprisingly, Miss Grey is only meeting a stocking seller who tries to persuade her to buy his products.

So far, all the clues cannot answer who the real ABC is. In the eighth suspense, Poirot and a police officer are sure that Mr. Cust, the stocking seller is the

real murderer for he is there every time a victim is killed. What really surprises the reader is that Mr. Cust proves to be the real ABC so far. Every proof leads to him.

As the real ABC is known, the story seems to come to an end. Yet, another suspense arises when Mr. Cust denies his being the murderer of all the four victims. The previous questions which have not yet been answered, along with this suspense, is answered in one big surprise. As a skillful detective, Poirot, thinks again and connects all the information he gets; he concludes that actually Franklin, Clarke, the brother of the third victim, is the real ABC.

Concerning the arrangement of events in the story, I am of the opinion that Agatha Christie as the author has succeeded in making a very interesting plot. Making some of the suspenses unanswered for some time is a smart way of the author to keep the tension of the story. In doing so, the author has indirectly forced the reader to keep on reading, until the surprise is revealed at the end of the story. The unanswered suspenses make the reader keep on thinking of the real ABC. The novel succeeds in building the reader's tension while reading it.

Based on the above analysis, I can conclude that the arrangement of events in *The ABC Murders* is systematically arranged. Moreover, the relation between each suspense and surprise is acceptable and believable so that the events are artistically unified. Therefore, this novel is a well-written novel as well as a worth-reading novel.