

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the novel, I come to the conclusion that *And Then There Were None* is an extraordinary mystery novel by Agatha Christie. The novel starts with ten guests who are invited to an unpopulated island by a mysterious host which is not there when they arrive. The mystery starts when suddenly there is a recording which mentions each of the guests' crimes from the past and one by one the guests are killed. The suspicion is directed to the mysterious host, Mr. Owen, but when they find out that there is no one else on the island, they realize that the murderer is one of them. The mystery is unsolved until all the guests die and a confession letter of the murderer is found. The letter reveals all his plans and it turns out that the murderer, Judge Lawrence Wargrave, is one of the guests. Christie's story is well-told and from the brief explanation above, it can be seen that Christie has succeeded in keeping the tension until the very end of the story when the real surprise is revealed.

There are many suspenses and surprises in the novel which are arranged in such a way to build the tensions for the readers. It begins with the first suspense

when the readers start to wonder about the reason for the host to invite the ten guests to the island. The suspense is answered directly with the first. It turns out that they are all invited because they all have committed a crime in the past yet they are not found guilty. This fact is stated in the recording which is suddenly played after the first dinner in the house on the island.

The remaining guests start to wonder about the one who has invited them to the island, Mr. Owen, and suspect him as the murderer and this becomes the second suspense. But then, it is answered after they discuss and search for Mr. Owen on the island. They do not find any one else on the island and conclude that Mr. Owen is one of them. After the second suspense, the third suspense happens. It is when suddenly two of the guests die in a short period of time. It does not look like a murder so the reader at first wonder whether it is a coincidence or whether it is a murder. However, the second surprise answers the suspense directly when another guest is dead and from the way he dies it is clear that it is a murder.

From the last event above, the guests start to suspect one another and wonder who the murderer is as the story continues and one by one the guest is found dead. The repetition of the suspense is unavoidable because every time a guest falls as a victim, the questions about who the murderer is among the remaining guests and what his motives are keep occurring. That is why the fourth, sixth, seventh, eleventh suspenses share the same question. However, these five suspenses are not answered directly until the end of the novel.

The fifth suspense happens when there is another guest who dies and the remaining guests realize that the procedures of the murders have been designed

according to the nursery rhyme hanging in every bedroom. In this suspense, the reader and also the remaining guests start to wonder about who is going to be the next victim and whether it is true that the murder will happen according to the nursery rhyme. This suspense is answered directly as the next event happens in the novel. Miss Brent is the next victim and the way she dies is in accordance with the nursery rhyme.

The tension keeps rising when one by one the guests are found dead and the readers will become more curious about who the murderer is. Later, a guest, Armstrong, is suddenly missing and the other guests start to suspect him as the murderer. The readers will also agree that the missing Armstrong could be the murderer in the eighth and ninth suspenses. However, the two remaining guests find Armstrong's dead body. The last two guests start suspecting each other but then they are all dead in the end and there is no clue about who the real murderer is.

The epilogue of the novel is the murderer's confession letter and it reveals the murderer's motives, reasons, and plans in murdering all the guests. The readers' expectation is answered quite surprisingly because it turns out that the real murderer, Judge Lawrence Wargrave, is one of the ten guests, who should have died in the middle of the story. Yet, the letter explains how he managed to do all his plans carefully and made all the murders possible to happen.

From the analysis above I can conclude that the events in *And Then There Were None* are systematically arranged. The connection between each suspense and surprise is acceptable and believable as each suspense is answered clearly by

the surprises, so that the events are artistically unified. Agatha Christie as the author has succeeded in making the arrangements of events in the story to be an extraordinary plot, which is very interesting for the readers. She managed to keep the tension of the novel from the beginning to the end by making some of the suspenses unanswered until the surprise is revealed at the end of the novel. The fact that there is no detective in the story also strengthens the power of mystery in the novel. The readers are forced to think by themselves about who the real murderer is without any clue. They will keep on reading the novel until the end for they want to know the answer to the miystery and Christie has succeeded in building the tension while the readers are reading the novel. Hence, Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* is well-written and it is a worth-reading novel.