

MYSTERY IN AGATHA CHRISTIE'S "MRS. MCGINTY'S DEAD"



A Skripsi

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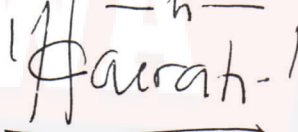
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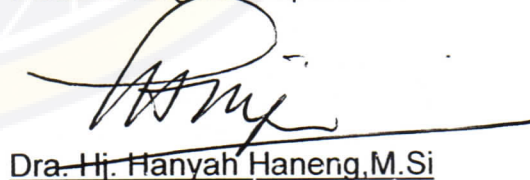
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HALAMAN PENERIMAAN

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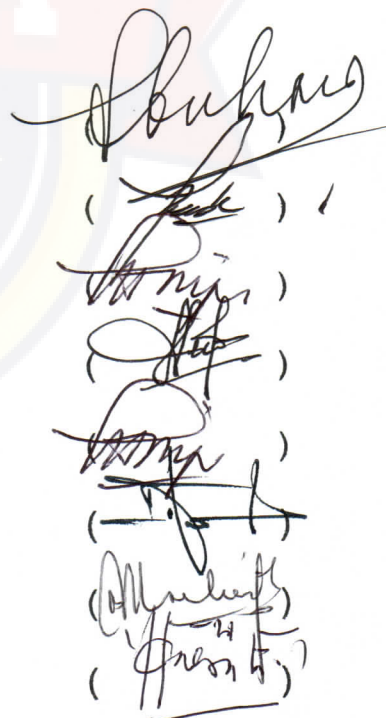
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Praise to the almighty Allah SWT for the universe for his blessing, mercy and guidance. So I am able to finish this skripsi. This is written to fulfill one of the requirements to obtain the Sarjana Degree At Faculty Of Letters English Department At University "45" Makassar.

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini berjudul *Mystery in Agatha Christie's "Mrs. McGinty's Dead"*. Novel ini merupakan salah satu karya Agatha Christie's, yang menceritakan tentang tragedi pembunuhan.

Penelitian ini bertujuan : (1) Menganalisis misteri yang terjadi dalam novel, (2) Mengungkap penyebab terjadinya misteri pada novel, (3) Memaparkan akhir dari misteri yang telah terungkap.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian primer yakni mengumpulkan data langsung dari sumber penelitian (literature dan internet), dan metode penelitian sekunder yaitu metode pustaka sebagai pendukung untuk mendapatkan teori tentang misteri. Data yang terkumpul dianalisis secara deskriptif.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pembunuhan yang terjadi merupakan misteri yang harus diungkap oleh seorang detektif terkenal. Motif yang melatarbelakangi misteri pembunuhan pada "Mrs. McGinty's Dead" adalah harta kekayaan. Misteri pembunuhan terungkap berkat sebotol tinta serta sebuah photo.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Mystery in Middle English was spelled *mystery* which means any matter that is hidden, secret unexplained or inexplicable beyond human knowledge or comprehension, such as a religious truth known only from Divine Revelation. As a common term, mystery can be defined as a reality which we cannot fully grasp intellectually, or for which we have no reasoned explanation. However, mystery has another meaning. It is a kind of genre of film involving mystery as the main element and is a long running television series that premiered on PBS in 1979 and produced by WGPH. The show has allowed a large number of detective series and television movies, most of them British productions from the BBC or various TV companies, to air on American Television.

Besides as a genre of film, a mystery is another term of a detective with a puzzling crime. The crime is usually solved by one of the characters in the story, which sometimes is a detective. Since mysteries are fiction the reader a kind of game when they read a detective novel. They want the intellectual change of solving the crime

before the detective does, and the pleasure of knowing that everything will come together in the end.

Agatha Christie is one of the famous author of detective story or mystery. She is also known throughout the world as the Queen of crime. She had created 80 detective novels during her life, a novel in which the reader is challenged to solve a puzzle before the detective explains it at the end.

Like other kind of novels, mystery is also built through some element such as theme, setting, character, plot and symbol. It also has the preference to describe the reflection of surrounding life including the social prevail values at the time. A novelist can make us think seriously and critically about the real world by creating characters, event everyday life in reality.

A novel usually represent the author's biography and vice versa. Mrs. McGinty Dead by Agatha Christie is talking about a murder that happened in Broadhinny. The victim was an old lady who helped around the small village. From house to house, doing the household chores. Her death was a mystery because Mrs. McGinty had known to have no enemies dan was not rich, either. The native of her murder was

a mystery as well as the weapon used by murdered to kill her. It is nowhere to find.

Another mystery in Mrs. McGinty Dead is the appearance of four ladies in Sunday Comet & their presence. Those ladies are well-known for tragical murder they have committed. From the beginning until the end of the story, it is full of mystery. The mystery makes this novel thrilling and interesting to read. For that reason, the writer would like to analyze the mystery along the story of Mrs. McGinty Dead, the causes and also the resolution of the existing mystery.

1.2 Identification of Problem

The writer identifies some problems that become a central attention which will be discussed in the research as follow :

1. The role of characters in the story
2. Reason behind the tragedy of the story
3. Mystery of Agatha Christie's "Mrs. McGintys Dead"

1.3 Scope of the Problem

Many problems can be researched in the novel, but the writer only focuses on the mystery in the story.

1.4 Problem Statement

Considering the items which is emphasized above, the writer took out all of the problem statement as follows :

1. What is the mystery in the novel "Mrs. McGintys Dead"
2. Why do such mysteries happen in the story?
3. How to resolve on the mystery of the story?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

This research is done for the following purposes :

1. To explain the mystery that exist in the story
2. To reveal the causes of the mystery that happens in the story
3. To explain the resolution of the existing mystery of the story.

1.6 Method of Research

1.6.1 Method of Collecting Data

The writer tried to search and to collect the data of the novel by doing library research. The writer read the novel and tried to make an analysis on it according to the problem the writer wants to analyzed. The order way, is to complete the data with some literature that relates to the novel, from books and website.

1.6.2 Method of Data Analysis

In this writing, the writer tries to analyze data by using descriptive method, because the writer will describe and explained about the mystery in the novel "Mrs. McGinty's Dead".

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Definition of Mystery

A term mystery is derived from the latin word *mysterium*. To have better understanding about the meaning of mystery, the writer intentionally present arguments of same authors or writers. According to Georgia Southern encyclopedia, Mystery is closely related to the latin word *mysterium tremendum*, which is a term used to express the overwhelming awe and sense of unknowable mystery felt by those to whom some aspect of good or of divine is being revealed. Mystery is an event or situation that appears to over whelm understanding. Its province is the unnatural, unmentioned , and unseen.

As stated and explained in the previous chapter, the word "mystery" is an ambigue word. It can refer to a common term, understood by common people as something secret, hidden, unexplained far beyond human knowledge or comprehension. Nevertheless, it also refers to a kind of genre of film or a detective novel with a puzzling crime involving mystery as the main element. At the end

the crime will be solved and explained by one of the character which usually is a detective.

Mystery covers the usual suspects. The plots probably revolve around some crime whether it be murder, theft, or kidnapping. The detective story is very prominent in many forms : police procedurals, private eyes, the ex-cop, the amateur, the comedy parody, and the gusty female. Espionage and spy stories, thrillers and courtroom dramas are included because very likely a mystery, a puzzlement, or an inconsistency must be explained in order to successfully complete the serpentine plot.

2.2 Setting and Subjects Of Mysteries

Popular characters include the neighborly grandmother, the cat owner, the psychopathic killer, the burglar, and the hard-nose and cynical police detective as stated by Ginny Wiehardt in her book "*Your Guide to Fiction Writing*".

Settings abound in the Mysteries are likely in a building rather than an open space to limit or the crime scene. Those setting are :

1. Locked rooms
2. English country-house
3. Strip Joints
4. Libraries
5. Book Stores
6. Hospital
7. Colleges

The subjects of the mysteries covers some aspects. Those subjects are stated as follows :

1. Historical Mysteries
2. Psychological Suspense Novel
3. Sports, cooking and art mysteries

“Mystery is a genre of fiction in which a detective, either an amateur or a professional, solves a crime or a series of crime. Because detective stories rely on logic, supernatural elements rarely come into play. The detective may be a private investigator, a policeman, an elderly widow, or a young girl, but he or she generally has nothing material to gain from solving the crime”.

2.3 The Plot Synopsis of “Mrs. McGinty’s Dead”

Hercule Poirot was the former police officer. He was the great one in his job who could and revealed many cases in criminal world. After retired from his job, he wanted to live peaceful and felt bored to the brutality it was fashion at his early days as the police officer. In his retired time, he really wanted to enjoy his life by having food in expensive restaurant and plan to have comfortable house that possessed lovely garden.

Hercule Poirot was the main character of the major character in the novel “Mrs. McGinty’s Dead”. He was the excellent detective because he could reveal this case. Actually, he was not interested in this case but his friend. Spence (superintendent of kilchester police), invite him to reveal the case where he had known it via magazine but at the time, it was not interested one and he thought usual case.

He did this investigation because Spence told him that the court had accused James Bentley as the murderer of Mrs. McGinty. According to Spence, he was not guilty from this case because he had asked and found some evidence that indicated James Bentley was not he actor for this play.

Hercule Poirot began his investigation to prove that Bentley was not guilty by speaking some information about Mrs. McGinty from all appearance. He took several theories and guessed some motive, which caused that murder. In Mrs. McGinty's death was very enigmatic where she was hit on the back of her head with some sharp heavy implement. Her savings about thirty pounds in cash were taken after her room had been ransacked. That place was not broken into, no signs any tampering the windows or lock.

In this investigation, he always asked himself about the death, how she died? It was always a puzzle to him and difficult to reveal. He had used plenty of theories but it did not show anything that concerned to the case.

In the end of his investigation, he got the certainty of this case. This murder was caused by a photograph found by Mrs. McGinty who knew the secret of it in the basis of the name found on the back of it that she knew from a magazine which she read from *Sunday Companion*. It is told about the heredity of the murderer, he was an adopted son from Mrs. Upward where his mother did not know if her son was an adopted son. Automatically, when it was known by his mother not all inheritance could come to him so to avoid being known, he murdered Mrs. McGinty.

In the court, Hercule spoke out to the judge that the real murderer was not James Bentley but he was Mr. Upward. By this winning, he saved individual's life from hung sentences and he had enforced the law based on justice.

2.4 The Characters

1. Main Characters

The main character in the novel "Mrs. McGinty's Dead" is Hercule Poirot. He is a retired police officer became a private detective. He has good appetite and great life style but pertaining to the law enforcement. He will do everything to win justice without any demands related to financial point of view.

2. Secondary characters

The secondary characters are supporting characters. In "Mrs. McGinty's Dead" these character supported the main characters.

a. Spence

He was wise man in giving his point of view without any compulsory in order his opinion taken. He was police officer who would be retired in six months. He did everything

without demanding lots of finance. He did based on the law enforcement where he did together with Poirot. In investigating, he did closely with full consideration and keep cooperating with his partner, Poirot, to save human's life from death sentence who didn't do the murder.

b. Evelyn Hope / Robin Upward

He was crazy very much about legacy that would be inherited to him from his foster mother as long as his origin wasn't know as the son of the famous murderer because of that her murdered Mr. McGinty.

c. Mrs. McGinty

She was the murder's victim in this story, as center of it. She was the simple woman, she lived as common individuals. She lived individuality and difficult to believe someone but she did religious routine continuously without involving in its daily routines.

d. James Bentley

He was the person who was accused in the murder's case, McGinty. He was common plan man, polite and kind man to everyone.

e. Mrs. Mauren Summerhayes

She was loved and kind woman to everyone and she liked animal very much.

f. Mr. Mauren Summerhayes

He was forgetful man but he was friendly enough to anyone.

2.5 The Setting

The setting of Mrs. McGinty's Dead is in a quite pretty and Rural Village called Broadhinny. Broadhinny is about a quarter of a mile off the main Drymouth and Kilchester road. There's quite a good bus and train service, post office and village shop. Broadhinny is a small village which has lately become residential with one or two retired people, an engineer, a doctor, and also agricultural laborers. Mrs. McGinty died in her cottage, lied on the parlour floor. She had been hit on the back of

the head with something rather in the nature of a meat chopper with a very sharp edge. Drawers were pulled open and things strewn about, and the loose board in the floor in her bedroom had been pinned up. All the windows were closed and shuttered on the inside.

2.6 The Autobiography of The Writer

Agatha Christie is known throughout the world as the Queen of crime. Her books have sold over administration billion copies in English with another billion in 100 foreign language. She is the most widely published author of all time and in any language, out sold only by the bible and Shakespeare. She is the author of 80 crime novels and short story collection, 19 plays and 6 novels written under the name of Mary Westmacott.

Agatha Christie first novel. *The mysterious affair at styles* was written towards the end of the First World War, in which she served Administration VAD. In it, she created Hercule Poirot, the little Belgian Detective who destined to become the most popular detective in crime fiction since Sherlock Holmes. It was eventually published by the Bodley head in 1920.

In 1920, after averaging a book a year, Agatha Christie her masterpiece. *The murder of Roger Ackroyd* was the first of her books to be published by Collins and marked the beginning of an author-publisher relationship, which lasted for 50 years and well over 70 books. *The Murder Of Roger Ackroyd* was also the first of Agatha Christie's books to be dramatized under the name alibi and to have successful run in London's West end. *The mousetrap*, her most famous play of all opened in 1952 and is the longest running play in history.

Agatha Christie was made a dame in 1971. She died in 1976, since when a number of books have been published posthumously. The best selling novel *sleeping murder* appeared later that year, followed by her autobiography and the short story collections *Miss Marple's final cases*, *problem at Pollensa Bay* and *while the light lasts*. In 1988, *black coffee* the first of her plays to be novelized by another author, Charles Osborne.

CHAPTER III

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

3.1 The Mysteries

Mysteries are presented along the story of "Mrs. McGinty's Dead". The mysteries are started with superintendent Spence who is feeling doubtful about the case. Needed help, he went to see Poirot, and old friend of his with great reputation. In order to give clear view about the mysteries, the writer presents the mysteries as follows :

3.1.1 Spence Doubtful

Poirot was enjoying his time by having a great meal. He was satisfied and happy. He is a kind of person who had taken his stomach seriously. For him, eating was now not only a physical pleasure, it was also an intellectual research. He spent quite a lot of time searching out and marking down possible sources of new and delicious food. As a retired policeman, he felt bored for being idle. When the hour of leisure arrives, he fills it with eating. As he arrived home from restaurant, his manservant, George, told him that there is a gentleman waiting to see him. He is superintendent Spence of the Kilschester Police. He visited

Poirot because he wanted something dealing with McGinty case, and old woman in a shop or a house. Poirot recalled vaguely a small photograph in the papers. It had not been an interesting murder, but he still asked.

“How did she die?

She was hit on the back of her head with some sharp, heavy implement. Her savings, about thirty pounds in cash were taken after her room had been ransacked. She lived alone in a small cottage except for a lodger. Man of the name of Bentley. James Bentley.”

(Christie, 2002 : 15)

James Bentley was the only tenant in Mrs. McGinty's lodger. The day of Mrs. McGinty's Death, police had found blood on Bentley's coat sleeve and hair same blood group and the right hair. The place of Mrs. McGinty wasn't broken into. No sign of any tampering with the windows or locks. Bentley was hard up had lost his job, and owed two month's rent. The money was found hidden under a loose stone at the back of the cottage.

Because all the evidence goes to Bentley, so he arrested and verdict guilty by the jury. He condemned to death. As an experience police officer, superintendent Spence felt the case was wrong.

"I don't know, what I mean is, I can't give a reason a concrete reason. To the jury I dare say he looked like a murderer – to me he didn't – and I know a lot more about murderers than they do." (Christie, 2002 : 19).

Spence doesn't want to see an innocent man hanged for something he didn't do he doesn't like a murderer. He was just scared stiff.

"For one thing, he wasn't cocky. Not cocky at all. And in my experience they usually are. Always so dammed pleased with themselves. Always think they're stringing you along. Always sure they've been so clever about the whole thing. And even when they're in the dock. And this James Bentley – he was not like that." (Christie, 2002 : 20).

So he asked Poirot to help him, because he knows Poirot will be able to see the case from different side, and Poirot did agree.

3.1.2 The Motive

Together, Spence and Poirot spent quite many hours discussing every possibilities. The first thing they were trying to figure out is the motive of the murderer.

"Now, since for every murder there must be a motive, what, in the case of Mrs. McGinty, could the motive be? Envy, revenge, jealousy, fear, money? Let us

take the last and the simplest? Who profited by her death?"

(Christie, 2002 : 24)

Mrs. McGinty has a niece who will profited by the death of her aunty. But Spence doesn't think the niece could have taken over because she and her husband didn't want to. They've got a small modern council house of their own of which they are extremely. They will not committed the murder for only two hundred pounds. It is not very much.

"We consider niece, of course. She is thirty eight, married. Husband is employed in the building and decording trade a pointer. He's got a good character, steady employment, sharp short of fellow, no fool. She is a pleasant young woman, a bit talkative, seemed fond of her aunt in a mild short of way." (Christie, 2002 : 25).

Since two hundred pounds is not much and the money was found outside the house in a place easily found, Poirot suggested another kind of motive.

"Eh bien, we have exhausted the motive of money. Let us pass to other theories. Had Mrs. McGinty an enemy? Was she afraid of anyone?"

"NO evidence of it"

“What did her neighbor have to say?”

“Not very much. They wouldn't go to the police, perhaps, but I don't think they were holding anything back she kept herself, they said. Mrs. McGinty passed the time of day with the neighbors but they weren't intimate.”
(Christie, 2002 : 33)

3.1.3 Poirot Investigation

Poirot began his investigation by visiting Broadhinny. There he stayed in Long Meadows owned by Mr. and Mrs. Summerhayes. Mrs. Summerhayes had red hair and attractively freckled face and was usually in a distracted state of putting things down. Poirot had tried to find a chance of a conversation with her about the late Mrs. McGinty.

“And you found Mrs. McGinty always reliable and honest?

You had trust in her?”

“Oh, she'd never pinch anything not even food. Of course she snooped a bit. Had a look at one's letters and all that. But one expects that sort of thing. I mean they must live such awfully drab lives, mustn't they?”
(Christie, 2002 : 45)

Being unable to get a chance of a conversation with Mrs. Summerhayes, Poirot continued his investigation by visiting Bessie Burch, Mrs. McGinty's niece. Burch is a big, plump woman with a

healthy color and a good, humored mouth. Her small house is neat clean and smelt of furniture polish and brasso. She doesn't like what had happened to her auntie because it caused her trouble police kept asking her questions.

"Very unpleasant, it's been," she went on. "Having poor auntie murdered and the police and all that. Tramping round everywhere, and ferreting about, and asking questions. With the neighbors all agog." (Christie, 2002 : 51)

Her mother in law has been downright nasty about the murder, because nothing of that's kind ever happened in the family put she thanks god because it's all over now. Then Poirot asked her opinion about James Bentley, about the possibility of being innocent. Bessie Burch did not agree with the possibility. She said that she had told her auntie.

"Nonsense, of course he isn't innocent. He did it all right. I never did like the looks of him. Wandering about muttering to himself. Said to auntie, I did : "You oughtn't to have a man life that in the house. Might go off his head." I said. But she said he was quiet and obliging and didn't give trouble. No drinking, she said, and he didn't even smoke." (Christie, 2002 : 52)

Mr. Scuttle was a brisk, bustling man, with a hearty manner and is now talking to Poirot in his office. Poirot was visiting him to talk about his former employee, James Bentley.

"I am opening a further inquiry into James Bentley's case – at the request of certain relatives of his.

Didn't know he had only. Anyway, he's been found guilty, you know, and condemned to death." ((Christie, 2002 : 55)

James Bentley use to work in Messrs Breather and Scuttle. He was one of junior clerks. Nothing against him. He seemed a perfectly decent young fellow, quite conscientious but no idea of salesmanship. When Poirot asked about his impression of James Bentley, the possible of killing Mrs. McGinty, Mr. Suttle agreed.

"So I ask you again what was your impression of James Bentley? Between ourselves – strictly between ourselves – you think he killed the old woman?"

"Of course"

"And you think, too, that it was a likely for him to do psychologically speaking?"

"No, not really. Shouldn't have thought he had the guts. Tell you what, if you ask me, he as barmy."

(Christie, 2002 : 62).

James Bentley had a bad impression on people. Murderers that Poirot had known are most people had found with full of charm. As he thought, Poirot made his way to the post office where he met the postmistress, Mrs. Sweetiman, a middle – aged with sharp, bright eyes. He then bought envelope and papers when Mrs. Sweetiman started the conversation. Poirot explained the business that brought him to Broadhinny. Mrs. Sweetiman knew Mrs. McGinty very well, as well as anyone in Broadhinny. She couldn't believe and in doubt that James Bentley would kill her. To her, James Bentley is a shy and not dangerous fellow.

“Well, it wouldn't be the first time the police got hold of the wrong man – though I wouldn't say they had in this case. Not that I should have thought it of him really. Ashy, awkward sort of fellow, but not dangerous or so you'd think. But there, you never know, do you?”
(Christie, 2002 : 79)

But it would be difficult to imagine the murderer if it wasn't Bentley. Mrs. Sweetiman told Poirot. She met Mrs. McGinty on Monday, she came to the post office to buy a bottle of ink, she was pleased about something. According to Mrs. Sweetiman, she was different that day, and was about to write a letter.

3.1.4 Four Mysterious Ladies

A bottle of ink that Mrs. McGinty bought two days before her death became very helpful. That was a clue to make new step. As he got the information, Poirot visited Mrs. McGinty's had never bought a bottle of ink and never wrote a letter. But suddenly, she wanted to buy a bottle of ink and sent a letter.

Based on that clue, Poirot searched another possibility and found a newspaper, Sunday Comet of Sunday, November 19th at the top of the middle page were are these woman now? Below the caption were four very blurred reproductions of photographs dearly taken many years ago. The subjects of them did not look tragic. They looked, actually, rather ridiculous, since nearly all of them were dressed in the style of a baygone day, under each photo was a name.

1. Eva Kane, The Other Woman in the Famous Craig Case

Eva Kane was a young nursery governess in the house of Craig Case. She was nineteen, pretty, helpless and rather simple. She feel desperately in love with Craig and he with her. Mrs. Craig had the misfortune to marry a tiresome and temperamental wife.

One day, Mrs. Craig had never left her house. She was murdered by her own husband.

“Mrs. Craig had not left for Riviera. She had been cut in neat pieces and buried in the Craig cellar. And the autopsy of the remains showed poisoning by a vegetable alkaloid.” (Christie, 2002 : 93)

Craig was arrested and sent for trial Eva Kane was originally charged as an accessory. Craig in the end made a full confession and was sentenced and executed.

2. Janice Courtland, the ‘Tragic Wife’ Whose Husband Was a Friend in Human Form.

Janice Courtland had certainly been unfortunate in her husband. His peculiar practices had been suffered by her for eight years. Then Janice made a friend with an idealistic and unworldly young man who was horrified by a scene between husband and wife. He attacked Janice’s husband & killed him by accident. He was only sentenced five years because the jury had found that the young idealist had no intention of killing.

“Has she forgotten? We hope so. Somewhere, perhaps is a happy wife and mother to whom those years of nightmare suffering silently endured, seem now only like a dream...” (Christie, 2002 : 95).

3. Little Lily Gamboll, Tragic Child of Our Overcrowded Age

Lily was a well developed and muscular child for her twelve years. She had been removed from her overcrowded home. And aunt had assumed responsibility for Lily's. One day Lily wanted to watch TV, but her out did allow her to do so. Then, Lily Gamboll a child of twelve, took a swing at her aunt with a meat chopper and hot her aunt hard enough to kill her.

“Lily had wanted to go to the pictures, aunt had said ‘no’ Lily Gamboll had picked up the meat chopper which was lying conveniently on the table and had aimed a blow at her out with it.” (Christie, 2002 : 96)

4. Vera Blake, Unsuspecting Wife of a Killer

Vera Blake was clearly one of those woman with whom everything goes wrong. She had first taken up with a boyfriend who turned out to be a gangster wanted by the police for killing a bank watchman. She had then married a respectable tradesman who

turned out to be a receiver of stolen goods. Her two children were the same. They were shoplifter and caught by the police.

Poirot leant back and studied the four photographs. Eva Kane with tousled curly hair over her ears and an enormous hat, held a bunch of roses up to her ear like a telephone receiver. Janice Courtland had a cloche hat pushed down over her ears and a waist round her hips. Lily Gamboll was a plain child with a adenoidal appearance of open mouth, hard breathing and thick spectacles. Vera Blake was so tragically black and white that that no features showed.

For some Mrs. McGinty had form out the photographs and all it is impossible for her to keep it just because the stories interested, because she had kept very few things during her sixty- add years of life, she had torn the news out on the Sunday and on the Monday she had bought a bottle of ink for writing letters, if it had been a business letter, she would probably have asked somebody as she always had but it wasn't a business letter.

Poirot's eyes looked over the four photographs one again and come to a conclusion that one of them, might have been in Broadhinny

3.1.5 Mystery of the Sugar Hammer

Mrs. McGinty died on the night of November 22nd. Police Surgeon put the time of death as being between 7 and 10 p.m. She had her supper which she usually had about half past six. The next morning, Mrs. McGinty was found died lying on the parlor floor. She was found by Mrs. Elliot. She'd been hit on the back of the head with something rather in the nature of a meat chopper with a very sharp edge. Drawers were pulled open and things strewn about, and the loose board in the floor in her bedroom had been prised up and the money was gone. All the windows were closed from inside. No signs of anything being broken into from outside. Somebody that Mrs. McGinty knew, who had knocked on the door of her cottage and had struck her down. Gave a fake appearance of robbery. However, the weapon of killing her is never found. The police had hunted for it, but not found it, woods had been searched as well as ponds.

“The weapon had never been found. Why had that not also been found on the scene of the crime? Any moon knew enough to wear gloves or rub off fingerprints. Why then had the weapon, which must have been a heavy one with a sharp edge, been removed? Was it because it could easily be identified as belonging to someone? Something in the nature of a meat chopper, the police surgeon had said- but not,

it seemed, actually a meat chopper.” (Christie, 2002 : 56)

Mrs. McGinty cottage had been searched really carefully, but there was nothing missing from Mrs. McGinty’s kitchen. Police had never traced any purchase of a meat chopper. In his investigation, Poirot had also asked about the weapon to Mrs. Elliot. The murderer had wanted the money found, but he had not wanted the weapon to be found, because the weapon would point to somebody.

“Unless he wanted it found. “You did not, by any chance, miss a chopper-or an axe?”

“No, sir, I did not. The police asked me that. Asked all of us in the cottages here. It’s a mystery still what he killed her with.” (Christie, 2002 : 76)

It won’t be a mystery if the police can figure out the weapon, its handle, the sharpness of its cutting edge when suddenly Poirot saw it. It had stood on the littered top of the bookcase near the window in Long Meadows. Right when he picked it up, weighed it in his hands, examined it, balanced it, Maureen came in though the door.

“Hallo, are you playing with the sugar cutter?”

“Is that what it is? A sugar cutter?”

“Yes, A sugar cutter – or a sugar hummer – I don’t know what exactly is the right term. It’s rather fun, isn’t it? So childish with the little bird on top.” (Christie, 2002 : 198).

Poirot turned the implement carefully in his hands. Made of much ornamented brass, it was shaped like an adze, heavy, with a sharp cutting edge. It was studded here and there with colored stones, pale blue and red. On top of it was a frivolous little bird with turquoise eyes. Maureen said that the sugar hammer is a lovely thing for killing anyone. Before leaving Poirot’s room, Poirot asked whether she still remember where she had bought it.

“I got it at the B. and B. at Christmas.”

“B and B? Poirot was puzzled”

“Bring and Buy.” Explained Maureen. At the vicarage you bring things you don’t want, and you buy something. Something not too frightful if you can find it. Of course there’s practically never anything you really want. I got and that coffee pot. I like the coffee pot’s nose and I liked the little bird on the hammer.” (Christie, 2002 : 200).

Poirot picked up the sugar cutter again and took it to the window. On the cutting edge were faint, very faint, discolorations. Being hesitated for a moment, Poirot carried the sugar hammer out of the

room and up to his bedroom. There he packed it carefully in a box, did the whole thing up neatly in paper and string, and going downstairs again and left the house. Poirot did not think that anyone would notice the disappearance of the sugar cutter.

The sugar hammer then sent to the office to be examined, was surely the weapon use in the Mc\Ginty murder. Doctor who determined, was surely the weapon used in the McGinty murder. Doctor who examined it agreed.

“That sugar hammer is the weapon used in the McGinty murder. Doctor agree it’s exactly suitable of the type of blow. And there has been blood on it. It was washed, of course – but they don’t realize now days that a microscopic amount of blood will give a reaction with the latest reagents. It’s human blood all right.” (Christie, 2002 : 239)

3.2 Another Mystery

Robin and Mrs. Oliver went to the theater to watch a play which was written by Robin upward, Mrs. Upward adopted son. Before going, Mrs. Upward who liked keeping secret, told him that she was going to call some people to company her. Robin had helped her. But when they came back from the theater, the house was completely ark.

There were no lights on, and Mrs. Oliver who entered the house before Robin was a bit curious. She thought that Mrs. Upward was being economical. Rich people were so often economical. There was a smell of scent in the hall, something rather exotic and expensive. For a moment Mrs. Oliver wondered if she were in the right house, then she found the light switch and pressed it down.

The light sprang up in the low oak – beamed square hall. The door into the sitting – room was ajar and she caught sight of a foot and leg Mrs. Upward, after all, had not gone to bed. She must have fallen asleep in her chair, and since no lights were on, she must have been asleep a long time. Mrs. Oliver went to the door and switched on the lights in the sitting – room she realized what had happened.

“Her hand wet up to her throat, she felt a tight knot there, a desire to scream that she could not put into operation. Her voice came out in a whisper.

“Robin – Robin”

It was some time before she heard him coming up the path, whistling, and then she turned quickly and ran to meet him in the hall.

“Don’t go in there – don’t go in, your mother – she – she’s dead – I think – she’s been killed....” (Christie, 2002 : 229)

Superintendent Spence was angry. Mrs. Upward was killed easily because she was unsuspecting. She was killed by someone that she knew.

“Neat and ugly, she was strangled. Silk scarf – one of her own silk scarves, one she’d been wearing that day – just passed around the neck and the ends crossed – and pulled. Neat, quick, efficient. The thugs did it that way in India. The victim doesn’t struggle or cry out – pressure on the carotid artery” (Christie, 2002 : 231)

Someone whom she had coffee together. A cup opposite her and one opposite the guest. Prints had been wiped off the guest’s cup very carefully but lipstick is more difficult. There were still faint traces of lipstick.

The murderer was expected a woman because of the lipstick. She took an opportunity that seemed good to her. Her son and Mrs. Oliver were going off to the theatre. She rang up the person concerned and asked that person to come and see her. She was playing detective. She knew something and wanted to find out more. She didn’t realize that what she was doing might be dangerous. So many people think of murder as a game. It is not a game. Poirot has told Mrs. Upward so, but she wouldn’t listen.

“When young Robin started off with Mrs. Oliver and ran back into the house his mother had just finished telephoning to someone. She wouldn’t say who to. Played it mysterious.” (Christie, 2002 : 233)

3.3 The Photographs

Mrs. Upward died because she recognized a photograph as Mrs. McGinty. But when Poirot asked her which photograph that she recognized, she did not tell. She wanted to play detective, to play a lone hand.

“Mrs. Upward recognized one of those photographs the photograph of Lily Gamboll. So it ties up with the McGinty murder. “Yes, said Poirot, it ties up with the McGinty murder.” (Christie, 2002 : 232)

People keep photographs, particular photographs for some reasons. It could be because vanity, to reminds someone about who she was, or for sentiment reason or it can be because hate, for revenge. To keep a desire for revenge alive. In this case, revenge might be connected with the murders. Somebody in Broadhinny kept a particular photograph, and Mrs. Upward had seen it.

“Mrs. Upward was, in some ways, a secretive woman. She liked to manage things her own way. I showed the photographs, and she recognized one of them. But then, for some reason, she wanted to keep the identification to herself. She wanted, let us say, to deal with a certain situation in the way she fancied. And so, being very quick-witted, she deliberately pointed to the wrong picture. Thereby keeping her knowledge to herself.” (Christie, 2002 : 267)

Mrs. Upward only wanted to play a lone hand. It wouldn't be blackmail since she was an extremely wealthy woman, a widow of a North Country manufacturer. The reason was more likely beneficence rather than blackmail. She quite like the person and that she didn't want to give their secret away. But nevertheless she was curious. She intended to have a private talk with that person. And make up her mind whether or not that person had anything to do with the death of Mrs. McGinty.

Mrs. Upward meant to get it touch with the person in question at the first opportunity. That came when her son and Mrs. Oliver went over to the Repertory Theatre at Cullenguy.” (Christie, 2002 : 268)

3.4 The Resolution

Hercule Poirot after the inquest was over, invited Broadhinny's residence to long Meadows. He took a position at the end of to room. Mrs. McGinty was killed, and a man, James Bentley was arrested. For certain reasons, superintendent Spence, the officer in charge of the case, was not convinced of Bentley's guilt eventhough the evidence was strong. Poirot did not want to explain in a difficult and complicated way.

"I will not make you the long and complicated histories. I will say only that as simple a thing as a bottle of ink gave me a clue. In the Sunday Comet, read by Mrs. McGinty on the Sunday before her death, four photograph were published." (Christie, 2002 : 305).

Mrs. McGinty recognized one of those as a photograph she had seen in one of the houses were she worked. She spoke of this to James Bentley though he wasn't interested on the story. He barely listened, but he had impression that Mrs. McGinty had seen the photograph in Mrs. Upward's house. The photograph in question was Eva Kane, a woman in the famous Craig Murder case.

On the next evening Mrs. Upward was killed. She was killed for the same reason that Mrs. McGinty was killed. But before Mrs. Upward died, there woman received telephone calls. All three calls were a message from Mrs. Upward asking the person in question to come and see her that evening. Scent and traces of lipstick on a cup but it is easy to remove lipstick from a cup.

“There was no one in the house. But tat was not done. I asked my self? And the answer seemed to be a deliberate stress of feminity, and underlining of the fact that it was a woman’s murder. I reflected on the telephone calls to those three woman – all of them had been messages. In no case had the recipient herself spoken to Mrs. Upward. So perhaps it was not Mrs. Upward. So perhaps it was not Mrs. Upward who had telephoned. It was someone who was anxious to involve a woman – any woman – in the crime. I asked why? And there can only be one answer – that it was not a woman who killed Mrs. Upward – but a man.”
(Christie, 2002 : 309)

The crimes were committed by a man. Those two murders were committed for the simplest reason which is for money. In Mrs. Upward’s house there was a book found and on the flyleaf of that book is written Evelyn Hope. Hope was the name Eva Kane took when she left England, and gave it to her son. So her son’s name is also Evelyn

Hope. Then Eva Kane's son comes to England. He is talented and he attracts the attention of a very rich woman who know nothing about his origin.

With a sudden moment, Poirot pointed to Mr. Upward and emphasized that his real name is Evelyn Hope. Robin Upward cried out and denied it.

"You really cannot hope to deny it. There are people who knew you under that name. the name Evelyn Hope, written in the book, is in your handwriting – the same handwriting as the words "my mother" on the back of the photograph." (Christie, 2002 : 313)

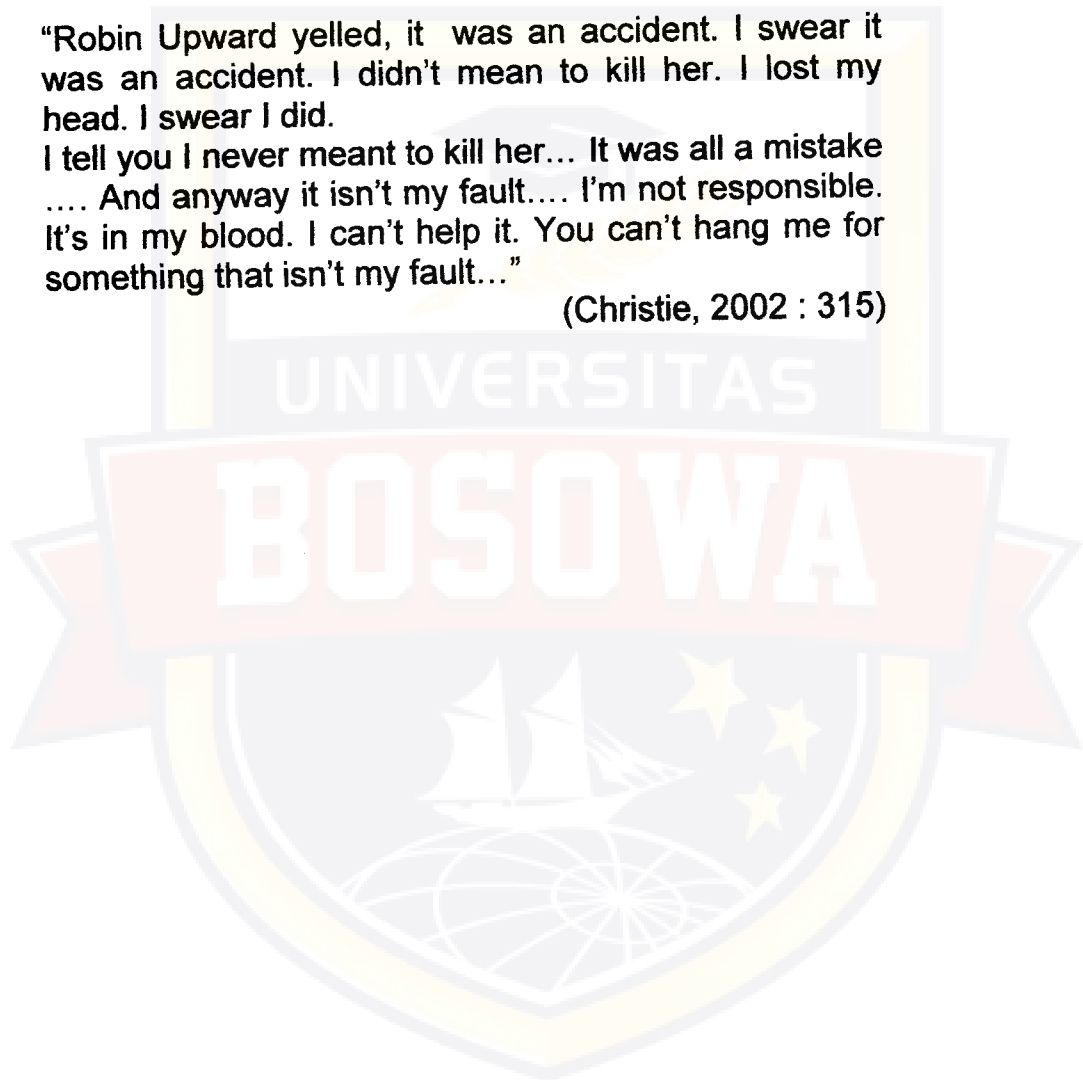
Mrs. McGinty saw the photograph and the writing on the photograph when she was tidying. She spoke to Robin about it after reading the Sunday Comet. Mrs. McGinty assumed that it was a photograph of Mrs. Upward when young, since she had no idea that Mrs. Upward was not Robin's real mother. And Robin knew that if once she mentioned the matter so that it came to Mrs. Upward's ears, heredity. She would not tolerate for a moment an adopted son who was the son of a famous murderer. So, Mrs. McGinty had to be

silenced. Robin promised her a little present for being discreet. Robin called on her the next evening on his way to broadcast and killed her.

“Robin Upward yelled, it was an accident. I swear it was an accident. I didn’t mean to kill her. I lost my head. I swear I did.

I tell you I never meant to kill her... It was all a mistake And anyway it isn’t my fault.... I’m not responsible. It’s in my blood. I can’t help it. You can’t hang me for something that isn’t my fault...”

(Christie, 2002 : 315)



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

The mystery in "Mrs. McGinty Dead" by Agatha Christie mainly discussed about unsolved and suspense story in the novel. The mystery however began with the death of Mrs. McGinty, an old woman who help doing domestic chores from house to house. The victim was a young man, James Bentley, who is the only lodger in Mrs. McGinty, superintendent Spence, who is incharge for that case was in doubt. So, he ran for help and asked Hercule Poirot.

Together, Spence and poirot spent quite many hours discussing every possibilities. The firs thing they were trying to figure out is the rootive of the murderer. It can be envy, revenge, jealousy, fear or money. Mrs. McGinty has a niece who will profited by the death of her aunty. But Spence doesn't think the niece could have taken over because they have already a small modern council house and very proud of it. They will not committed the murder for only two hundred pounds. Then, another kind of motive is suggest. A threat of an enemy.

The Novel "Mrs. McGinty's Dead" is full of Mysteries. The motive, the four ladies reported missing from the society and had committed crime in the past, the photographs, the implement used to kill Mrs. McGinty which was not found anywhere. Everything was so blur that Hercule Poirot had to work even harder to unrevealed what is hidden behind the two murders.

After the suffering Poirot had experienced while doing the case in Broadhinny, he then got a very tiny clue which led to the murderer. The reason of doing the murderer was for the classic reason, for money. And the murderer was an adopted son of a very wealthy widow.

At the end, at all the mysteries surrounded the case was solved, and James Bentley who is innocent is released from the prison and became a free man, because of the photograph and a bottle of ink which are the main clues to resolve the mysteries.

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