

THE ANALYSIS OF MURDER IN MARY BURTON'S *I'M WATCHING YOU* THROUGH THE LENS OF CAWELT'S DETECTIVE FORMULA

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Abstract : The research is mainly to find out cause of murder and how the murder happened in Mary Burton's novel entitled *I'm Watching You*. In conduction her research, the writer uses qualitative research since the data collected are in form of words not number. In analyzing the data, the writer applies detective formula proposed by John G. Cawelti. The findings show that murder can be revealed in the story *I'm Watching You*. The murder began from someone that call him self as The Guardian, and he want to protect his niece Lindsay, by killing someone who harms Lindsay. And in the and of the story, the murder can be revealed. And everyone know who The Guardian is, and why the murder happened.

Keywords : *Conflict, conspiracy, mystery*

INTRODUCTION

Murder is the unlawful kill of another human without justification or valid excuse, especially the unlawful kill of another human with malice aforethought. This state of mind may, depending upon the jurisdiction, distinguish murder from other forms of unlawful homicide, such as manslaughter. Manslaughter is kill committed in the absence of malice, brought about by reasonable provocation, or diminished capacity. Involuntary manslaughter, where it is recognized, is a kill that lacks all but the most attenuated guilty intent, recklessness.

Most societies consider murder to be an extremely serious crime, and thus that a person convicted of murder should receive harsh punishments for purposes of retribution, deterrence, rehabilitation, or incapacitation. In most countries, a person convicted of murder generally faces a long-term prison sentence, a life sentence, or capital punishment.

There is no offence of "homicide" as such. A person cannot be charged with or convicted of "homicide". Homicide means

the kill of a human being and may be lawful-where, for example, fatal force was necessary to defend oneself. The two most important offences of unlawful homicide are murder and manslaughter. Although both are common law offences, elements of murder and manslaughter have been modified by Acts of Parliament of UK and the penalties for each are statutory.

Nevertheless, crimes of homicide, and specially murder, are regarded as the most serious and abhorrent crimes. The taking of life and the impact that it can have on the family and friend of the victim give a special significance to offences involving the kill of another human being. The seriousness with which they are regarded is reflected in the maximum penalties.

So many cases of murder in this world. But in this story, Mary Burton write her idea in Novel with the title *I'm Watching You*, is the story describe about the secret of murder. Some people in this story feel curious about who is the killer. Mary Burton describe Pete Myers as the character of the killer or known as a The Guardian. Mary Burton using this character to explain about how love Pete Myers to his niece, he wants

to protect his niece from danger but with the wrong way.

Murder is the crime of unlawfully killing a person especially with malice aforethought (Merriam Webster). Murder is a kind of crime. Crime is a phenomenon in human societies. Durkheim emphasized the point further when he says "Crime is normal in human societies because the fundamental condition of social organization logically imply it". A society exempt from crime would require a standardization of the normal concept of all individuals, which is neither possible nor desirable". (Meaning nature of crime: 18)

I'm Watching You is written by Mary Burton. It is a spellbinding novel of violence, love, power, and murder. As shown at the beginning of *I'm Watching You*, Lindsay O'Neil works with abused spouses and runs Sanctuary Women's Shelter. She's a fierce champion for battered women and lives for her job. Lindsay O'Neil has herself a Guardian. He watches over her. What Lindsay is about to find out is that she now has a Guardian. He's a psychotic killer and he's decided to help Lindsay by killing abusive husbands and eventually, anyone else who harms Lindsay. He sends her the hands of his victims as a tribute.

Based on the explanation above, the study is conducted to reveal the murder and find out who the killer in Mary Burton's *I'm Watching You*. The writer hopes that the study will give something valuable for another student of English Education Department who has interested in literary works, especially in Mary Burton's work. The result of this research will give clearly information in the field of literature about how to interpret and appreciate the literary works. They also can get deep understanding about the content of the novel.

Murder

Murder is the most serious case from the opinion of society that's why murder is one of the big criminal. Murder is a kind of

criminal. According to Terence Morris, "Crime is what society says is crime by establishing that an act is a violation of the criminal law. Without law there can be no crime at all, although there may be moral indignation which results in law being enacted." Therefore, in order to know the nature and the content of crime we must first of all know what 'Law' is, because the two questions "Crime" and "Law" are so closely related with each other that it is very difficult to understand one without knowing the other. "Law", is the aggregate of rules set by men politically superior, or sovereign, to men as politically subject. Law is a command enjoining a course of conduct to be observed by all the members of the society and is backed by a sanction.

British criminologist has tended to describe murder as statistically uncommon, socially contained, and morally equivocal, a mundane problem whose gravity has been somewhat overblown by popular and press misconceptions centered on the reporting of egregious cases. (Rock, 1998: 8). The classic and commonly agreed definition of murder is attributed to Sir Edward Coke embedded in the Crime against the Persons Act 1861 who stated that : Murder is when a man of sound memory, and of the age discretion, unlawfully kills within any county of the realm any reasonable creature in rerum nature under the King's peace, with malice aforethought, either expressed by the party or implied by law, so as the party wounded or hurt etc. die of the wound or hurt etc. within a year and a day after the same.

A lot of criminal with murder is happens in this world and there so many kind of murder, but in this story Mary Burton describe the Guardian as the killer. Someone takes the initiative to be the Guardian for the life and safety of Lindsay. The Guardian is Lindsay's uncle. But no one know about that, even Lindsay. This Guardian takes action which is considered a truth in the name of this women. His killing

people with professional technique to hiding his track from the detective.

And began a series of heinous murders accompanied by mutilation of the victim's left hand, as a sign of offerings to Lindsay. The victims found in the different locations and in the different times. And the victims don't know each other. But they have one of similarity, they know who is Lindsay.

For Lindsay, the murders have the impact for her job, and her life. She is afraid, and she is feeling like no one can protect her. Every murder happened, she is always accepting the left hand from the victims, with the written message that tell if Lindsay is not alone, and she has the Guardian to protect her. The Guardian has a wrong sense of the justice. He believes that when he meets with Lindsay, it is a second chance from God to him for fix the situation. By doing a murder. Because in the past, he fails to help Lindsay's mother from her death. And now, he wants to protect Lindsay.

Definition of Literature and novel

Popular literature in English is writing which has shown wide and continued acceptance, measured by sales, frequent imitation, adaptation to other cultural forms and general commercial success. The word "popular" is meant as a synonym for "successful," not as an antonym for "serious." Certain books are carefully tailored by authors and publishers to capture the attention of a wide range of potential readers.

In analyzing popular literature, formula is a valuable thing that we should to note. According to John G. Cawelti in his book: *Adventure, Mystery and Romance: Formula stories as Art and Popular Culture*, formula is a narrative construction or dramatic principle that is used in a number of literary works. Formula can be used to name plot. Then, formula refers to the plot that embodies the type of story which inspired the author to write the story. Thus, the formula is part of a structural component

(plot) that has detailed themes which forms a type of literary work.

Cawelti also stated that the definition formula in the popular literature is the same with the term genre in the discussion of classical literature. Formula is a configuration or blend of a number of specific cultural conventions with a more general story form or archetype. (Cawelti : 6). If in the discussion of classical literature we know the distribution of genres such as novels, plays, poetry, then in the popular literature there is adventure, mystery, romance, alien being and state, as well as the melodrama or tragedy.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This is a qualitative research. One of the characteristics of qualitative research that distinguishes it from quantitative is the form of data, as a stated by Bogdan and Biklen "qualitative research is descriptive. The data obtained are in the form of words or picture rather than numbers" (Bodgan and Biklen, 28). It can be said that the research contains quotations from data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation. It is in accordance with Gay's statement, he says that "descriptive research involves collecting status of the subject of the study" (Bogdan and Biklen, 12).

The writer chooses this qualitative descriptive research to gathering the data from the novel itself and from the other sources that relevant with it. This research also is done to find out the detailed meanings of symbols here. In doing this research, the writer collected the data from primary and secondary sources. The primary source is the novel itself and the secondary sources are the books of literary, background of the novel, internet and the other books relevant with it.

In analyzing the data, the writer applies detective formula as stated by John G. Cawelti, detective genre is a story that reveals the mystery through collection and interpretation of signs (1976:80). It means that detective genre is a story that full of

mystery that have to be opened and it reached by clues that presented in the story.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

What is Murder?

The taking of another human life is generally considered a homicide. But what separates murder from homicide? What is murder? Murder, in its simplest definition, is the unlawful and premeditated killing of another human being. Murder differs from homicide in that it is unlawful and planned. Murder is not justified by circumstances such as self-defense and involves the intent to take the life of another. The specific classification of homicide as murder of manslaughter affects the legal consequences and punishment that one will face if found guilty of killing another.

Homicide and Murder are synonyms. In an early, Lunde defines murder as the unlawful killing of human being with malice aforethought. (Lunde, 1977: 3)

Murder is criminal and a negative thing. There is a lot of criminal in this world but in this novel Mary Burton tells about murder. Novel *I'm Watching You* describe the murdered. And so many secret story in this novel. About who the killer, and what is the reason.

The Murder

Some killers are of the depressive type, and they seldom have police or criminal records. They are often under the care of mental health practitioners and are not considered psychopathic. They may believe that life is hopeless and not worth living. Such individuals are likely not only to commit suicide, but also take loved ones with them. They view their acts of murder subjectively as acts of love.

"The mysterious figure crouched in the darkness beside Harold Turner's lifeless body, amazed that excitement, not shame, was surging within him. Feeling powerful and right. God's call for him to be The Guardian has never been clearer." (Burton, 2010:5)

Quotation above proves that The Guardian kill someone to protect Lindsay. And he

believe that the murder subjectively as acts of love.

The murder happens because some people involved in conflict with Lindsay. Someone even tried to kill Lindsay. Knowing about that, The Guardian searched for these people, and killed them. Because for The Guardian, who hurts Lindsay, he must die. And the victims are Harold Turner, Burt Saunders, and Marcus Greenland.

The Death of Harold Turner

The first kill happens on July 07, at 4 a.m. and the victim is Harold Turner. Harold Turner is a lawyer. The Guardian killed Harold with a gun. And the murder took place in a shelter for abused women. That place is where Lindsay works. The Guardian invited Harold to meet by provoking him with drugs. Because Harold is a drug addict.

"The Guardian adjusted Harold's tie over the increasingly wide pool of blood staining the lawyer's shirt. He had spent countless hours for planning this first murder, strategizing and worrying until his energy almost ran out. And finally, luring Harold here only required promising him illegal drugs. Meanwhile, firing a .45 caliber bullet into Harold's chest was a very easy action." (Burton, 2010:6)

The quote above states that a murder occurred. And this murder is the first murder in this novel. It is clear that the actions carried out by The Guardian constitute murder. Because he had taken someone's life by shooting him. And he believes that revenge is his.

After killing Harold, The Guardian cut off Harold's left hand. And after that, he sends it to Lindsay. He put the hand into the box of flowers. As described under quotation:

"The moonlight reflected off the knife before the sharp object descended in a single blow that severed the flesh and bones of Harold's left hand. Blood spurted onto Harold's face and shirt, and also onto The Guardian's gloved hands. The blood looked brown in the moonlight as it flowed out through and pooled on the dry ground around the lawyer's body." (Burton, 2010:9-10)

The quotation approves that after killing Harold, The Guardian cut off Harold's left

hand. The Guardian didn't think it was enough just to kill Harold. He wanted something more. That's why he cut off Harold's left hand.

"After taking Harold's hand out of the black traveling bag, The Guardian wrapped it in the green paper and put it under the flowers. Iris flowers were chosen based on inspiration. She will understand the meaning. Friendship, hope, wisdom, courage. After closing the flower box, the Guardian tied the box with a neatly knotted red silk ribbon, took out a card that said 'to Lindsay'." (Burton, 2010:11)

The quotation above make it clear that the left hand of Harold send it to Lindsay. The Guardian want to Lindsay know that he stand for Lindsay. And he hopes Lindsay will understand that she never be alone. She has The Guardian to protect her. And The Guardian sent Harold's hand as a gift, and to proof that anyone who hurts Lindsay would be suffer the same fate as Harold. And The Guardian took the left hand as a trophy.

The reason why The Guardian kill Harold because, he's been in fight with Lindsay. Harold hates Lindsay because Lindsay try to tell his wife, Jordan to leave him. As describe under quotation:

"A few moment later, Harold come to me at the party. He told me to stay away from Jordan. I answered that he should be stop beating his wife. Then we had a big fight. Then I left the party." (Burton, 2010:146)

Lindsay just want to help Jordan from domestic violence. She doesn't want that the other women have a same fate with her mother. That's why Lindsay tell Jordan to leave her husband. But when Harold know about Lindsay's plan, he come to Lindsay and then they had a big fight. And when The Guardian know about that, he makes decision to kill Harold.

"Jordan told Lindsay everything: about Harold's habit of using illegal drugs, the beating he took, and the harsh words he liked to say." (Burton, 2010:53)

That's how Lindsay know about what happen to Jordan. And because of that Lindsay want to Jordan to leave her husband.

The Death of Burt Saunders

The second kill happen on July 08. Same with Harold, the Guardian using drugs to make Saunders come to him. But The Guardian didn't kill Saunders right away. He just makes Saunders unconscious.

"From his pocket, The Guardian took out a pouch filled with white powder. Saunders threw the money onto a chair the grabbed the bag. As he turned to leave the van, The Guardian pressed an electric shock device to Saunders's neck. 'Revenge is mine', The Guardian whispered, unscrewing the anesthetic needle and stabbing it into Saunders arm. And then Saunders's vision getting blurry." (Burton, 2010:81-82)

It was easy to The Guardian to makes Saunders come to him. But this time The Guardian didn't kill Saunders just like Harold. He just makes Saunders faint. Because this time he didn't need to rush. There was no feeling of fear and nervous just like that night with Harold.

After that, The Guardian took Saunders to his hiding place, and kill him. And same with Harold, The Guardian cut off Saunders' left hand too.

"'We are in underground, Mr. Saunders. A very remote one. Very closed off.' The pair of red eyes focused on The Guardian. Confusion replaced with anger. Saunders jerked his knots. The Guardian was happy, 'You're not going anywhere. Not until you've learned a few lessons.'" (Burton, 2010:288-289)

The quotation above proves that The Guardian took Saunders to his hiding place. And he wants to kill Saunders at that place.

"With one swift slash, The Guardian lowered his machete and severed Saunders' left hand from his wrist. Blood splashed in all directions. Saunders body began to shake. The man was in shock. The Guardian watched, waiting for the river of blood. He expected Saunders to bleed out in a few minutes, but minute by minute, his blood flow began to slow down. Ten minutes later only a little blood flowed. Saunders still breathing. The Guardian grabbed a knife from the workbench and sliced a vein in Saunders' leg. Saunders screamed. And this time the blood flowed profusely. Saunders was dead in five minutes." (Burton, 2010:290-291)

Just not like Harold, The Guardian did not immediately kill Saunders and then cut off his left hand. But he cut off Saunders' left

hand first, then let Saunders to die slowly. The method is crueler than before. The same thing is, The Guardian cut off the left hand from his victims.

The reason why The Guardian kill Saunders because, Saunders trying to kill Lindsay, as describe in under quotation:

“Saunders moved so fast, wrapping his arms around Lindsay’s neck. With one rough push, he dropped Lindsay onto the hot metal of parked car body. The pressure in her throat make it different for Lindsay to speak. Lindsay grabbed Saunders’ hands and tried to free them from her neck, but Saunders’ grip tightened. She coughed and was out of breath. Soon she would be pass out.” (Burton, 2010:236)

The quotation above is an evidence of how Saunders want to kill Lindsay. Saunders knows that Lindsay came to see his wife Gail Saunders while she was in the hospital. Lindsay wants to help Gail to not to be abused again by her husband, and she gave her business card to Gail. But know about that, Saunders became angry and want to kill Lindsay. Of course know about what happen to Lindsay, The Guardian makes the plan to punished Saunders, and kill him.

The Death of Marcus Greenland

The third kill happen on July 09. The Guardian approached Greenland. He pretended to be looking for someone to move a piano. And he offers money to get Greenland to fall into his trap.

“I’m looking for a sturdy man who can lift heavy objects. I have a piano that needs to be moved.’ Greenland sees to the old man. The man put his hand in his pocket and took out a hundred dollars. ‘This job will not take more than an hour of your time.’” (Burton, 2010:376)

The Guardian used various methods to punish the victims. He doesn’t mind if he should to use his money too. Because everything he would do just for Lindsay. The Guardian took Greenland to a place far from the city. When they were far from the city, The Guardian kill him.

“He raised the machete high above his head. The knife glinted in the moonlight before it came down and sliced through the flesh and small bones of Greenland’s wrist. Greenland shouted until his throat felt dry. His blood pooled around his body, soaking the ground beneath him. The Guardian

raised his severed hand and shouted with satisfaction. That was the last sight Greenland saw before he died.” (Burton, 2010:383)

And once again, after kill them, The Guardian cut off the left hand from his victims. He can not stop to kill people. Everyone should know, that people like Greenland would not be safe from him.

The reason why The Guardian kill Marcus Greenland because, The Guardian wanted revenge for what Marcus Greenland did to his child and his wife. Marcus never treat his family well.

“Frustrated with his own failure, Marcus takes out his anger on his wife and children.” (Burton, 2010:98)

By looking at the quotation above, it is very clear how Marcus never treat his family well.

“I spoke with Aisha Greenland on the phone a few nights ago. I sat in the middle of my living room and talked about the divorce. The woman was scared. The Guardian must have been watching and listening.” (Burton, 2010:408)

The Guardian know about divorce of Marcus and Aisha, and he want to punish and revenge.

“Revenge is mine.” (Burton, 2010:383)

The quotation above tell that The Guardian felt that he as The Guardian had to avenge the victims of domestic violence, bye kill the perpetrators of violence.

Why Commit Murder?

Peter Morral in his book *Murder and Society* (2006) stated that: attempting to make sense of why people can in some circumstances appear all too obvious. That is, motivation for murder is explicit (for example, jealousy, loss-of-face, or monetary gain). However, the obvious may actually be complex. Evolution, genetic, biochemical, psychological characteristics and social factors could be underlying determinants.

There is some reason why people want to kill someone, the economic problem and the social condition of life become the reason why people want to kill, but in this novel Marry Burton describe about the man who want to kill people because of he want

to protect his niece. And The Guardian didn't want the bad things from the past to happen again. The guardian don't want that Lindsay have a same fate with her mother, Debra. Since she was young, Lindsay lost her parents. Her mother died because she was killed. And the one who killed her mother was her father. And after kill her mother, Lindsay's father killed himself. As Mary Burton describe:

"Sweet Debra, died at the age of three to nine years, her life was taken by her own husband. The memory of Debra and her daughter caused feeling of sadness and regret. Debra used to scream for help. She wants to get out of her marriage. She wanted a new beginning. But no one come to save her. Nobody cares what goes on behind the closed door of her house. And than Debra's husband killed her. The man cruelly beat her to death, and than, you coward, he fled and killed himself." (Burton, 2010:8-9)

From the quotation above shows clearly that Lindsay's mother death because of her father. And than because of that the Guardian want to protect Lindsay from someone who wanted to hurt Lindsay. So that Lindsay can live in peace, and not can be the same with her mother. That's why The Guardian kill everyone who want to hurts Lindsay. Because he fails to protect Lindsay's mother, so now he doesn't want lost Lindsay too.

How the Murder Revealed

The murder revealed because of the detective do their work very well. They continued to a look for the clues and the evidence.

The first clue about The Guardian came from a cemetery. When Lindsay went to her mother's grave to visit, it was there that Lindsay found a message written on a piece of paper, which was placed with roses. The flowers and message were placed on the mother's meal.

"She saw a piece of white paper. She pulled it out and opened it. Written in bold Times New Roman typefaces is a statement, you are stronger than her. The Guardian." (Burton, 2010:367-368)

The quotation above explain that The Guardian was also there. And he knew that Lindsay would visit that place. The

Guardian wants to Lindsay know that she stronger than her mother. And that she had someone she could rely on.

To get the clue, Zack checked the CCTV in that place. And after they checked the CCTV, they saw someone coming to Lindsay's mother's grave and placing flowers on it.

"In the screen showing a white van passing through a snow-covered road in the distance leading to the cemetery. This vehicle entered the complex but stopped at the top of the hill. Zack touched the screen where a vehicle stopped. 'The driver didn't stop so far. It was enough for us to see the vehicle number or his face. But if you look closely, you can see that the driver was carrying a bunch of roses, which he left at Deb Hines' grave. Lindsay O'Neil's mother's grave.'" (Burton, 2010:443)

The quotation above proof that The Guardian was there. And he left the message for Lindsay. It is the first clue about who The Guardian.

The detective does their job. And they check some van to find who the owner. And Warwick find out that he saw the name that he knows.

"'Strange.' 'What do you mean?' 'I know one of the names.' Warwick swallowed hard as if he was struggling with himself now. 'Pete Myers. He runs the boxing gym where I train.' He shook his head. 'This must be just a coincidence. Pete is a good guy.'" (Burton, 2010:446)

And after that, they come to Pete Myers place. Then they find some clue in that place. And maybe it could be the evidence from the murder. And one by one the truth appears.

When their arrive, their looking for something that can give them a clue. And Zack find some photos. As describe in under quotation:

"Then he noticed the black-white photo hanging in the corner of the bulletin board on Pete's desk. In the photo there is a man in his twenties and a girl. 'Is it Pete?' 'Yeah. I don't know who that kid.' The five years old girl seemed familiar. 'Oh my God. This kid looks like Lindsay.' 'No way. Look at their clothes. This photo was taken in the early 1960s.' Zack turned the photo over. In messy writing someone wrote Deb and Pete, 1963 in bold letters. 'You right.'" (Burton, 2010:450)

The quotation above proof that Pete Myers is a Lindsay's uncle. And Pete is her mother's brother.

Another clue that proves The Guardian is Pete Myers, when Zack playing the videotape and he know about that.

“*The Guardian was kept an eye on Lindsay all this time. And the cameras are placed in the living room and kitchen. Nothing is installed in the bathroom or bedroom. Private places where a good uncle wouldn't go.*’ Zack put a videotape in the television. Inside was a cassette tape dated July 11th. He tuned on the television then pressed the ‘play’ button. In an instant, a black and white image of Lindsay’s face appeared. She was standing in Ruby’s living room. The time was less than an hour ago. ‘Lindsay stayed over at Ruby’s house last night.’ Warwick went pale. ‘Oh my God.’” (Burton, 20210:451)

The quotation above proves that The Guardian is a Pete Myers. He always keeps an eye on Lindsay. That’s why he always knew what Lindsay do. After watch the videotape, they check the basement and they found other evidence that The Guardian was Pete Myers.

“*The first thing they saw was blood. The entire floor was covered with blood. This is The Guardian’s kill room. No doubt Saunders’ DNA will be all over this place.*” (Burton, 2010:453)

Quotation above proves that The Guardian is a Pete Myers. And that’s how they revealed the murder. That’s how they found who the killer.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the novel *I'm Watching You* especially the Murder, the writer can conclute that the novel by Mary Burton describes about the murder, how the murder reveal, there are some investigation to reveal the mystery, and need an effort to reveal the murder. In the formula detective contains of situation, pettern of action, characters and relationship, and the last is setting.

Whatever the reason or reasons for personal violence, society many never truly understand the root cause or causes of the perpetration of personal and fatal violence. But we are of the belief that there is no single cause for the molding of the

murderous personality, partly because murder is such a complex issue. There is no one single motivation for taking another person’s life. The method of killing also vary, as does victim selection. For some who kill, murder is utilitarian, the result of an impulse, or a response to psychological need.

Burton describes in this novel that the investigation of the murder is continue and never give up until the murder revealed. The crime will not always be in power forever, one day will unfold and the truth will be the winner.

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