

SYNOPSIS

The setting of *The House Gun* is in South Africa about 1996's. Two years after the end of apartheid in South Africa. This novel talks about the life of white's family who change after the event of murder. They are Duncan, Harald, and Claudia Lingard. Before the murder case which happened to Lingard's son, they live without any unimportant problems. Duncan is architecture and twenty years old. Harald is an executive in insurance company and Claudia is a doctor in clinic. Duncan is accused by the police because he murders his friend, Carl Jespersen in Jespersen's house by shooting him. The gun which is used by Duncan is Jespersen's mine. It puts on the table near with the position of Jespersen sit. Duncan murders Jespersen because of jealousy. He meets his girlfriend making love with Jespersen. After he murders Jespersen, he backs to his house.

When the others friend of Jespersen back to the house, they meet the corpse of Jespersen in sofa. Then they call the police. The police do investigation to find the murderer. When the police investigate to the outside of the house, they found gun in the mud. In the outside of the house, there is a gardener. The gardener tells that he sees Duncan throw something in the mud but he does not know that it is a gun. The police go to the Duncan's house and accuse him.

After the accused of Duncan, he has to face a trial. To face this trial, the family of Lingard gets a black lawyer, Hamilton Motsamai. For the first time, Claudia as a Duncan's mother does not believe to the lawyer's ability. Because

the lawyer is black and she feels that black does not have enough experience to handle the case. Besides, the judge is white. She is aware that it is difficult to have a relationship with the different skin color especially in court. But the awareness of Claudia does not approve. The lawyer could handle Duncan's case perfectly because Duncan just gets seven years in prison. In Statute Book, if a person does a murder, they have to get death penalty. In handling the case, the lawyer investigate the life of Duncan since he is still a child include the religion and the school life. The lawyer finds that the childhood of Duncan far from the violence. He makes a conclusion that Duncan does not have criminal instinct. It makes the judge gives him seven years in prison.