

"NEVER LET ME GO" BY KAZUO ISHIGURO: A POIGNANT EXPLORATION OF HUMANITY AND ETHICAL DILEMMAS

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***Abstract:** Kazuo Ishiguro, the winner of the 2017 Nobel Prize in literature, is one of the most famous novelists in contemporary British literature. This article discusses about Kazuo Ishiguro's genre of writing, in addition, the issue of humanity, character development and ethical dilemmas within the novel "Never let me go".*

***Keywords:** dystopia, post-human, imagery, characters, humanity, dehumanization, ethical dilemmas, clone, literary, exploration of identity.*

Kazuo Ishiguro's novel, "Never Let Me Go," is a haunting masterpiece that transcends traditional dystopian narratives, delving into the complex interplay between humanity, identity, and ethical dilemmas. Published in 2005, the novel unfolds in an alternate England where human clones are raised to donate their organs, providing a rich canvas for Ishiguro to weave a narrative that is as emotionally profound as it is morally challenging.

The story follows Kathy H., Ruth, and Tommy, who grow up in Hailsham, a peculiar boarding school that gradually reveals the grim reality awaiting its students. As these characters navigate their predetermined destinies, Ishiguro artfully explores the ethical dilemmas surrounding cloning, organ harvesting, and the dehumanization of individuals. At the heart of the novel is the theme of identity and humanity. Ishiguro presents a world where clones are created for a singular purpose – to provide vital organs for non-cloned individuals. The characters' struggle for selfhood within a

society that commodifies their existence is palpable. Kathy's introspective narrative serves as a poignant lens through which readers witness the delicate vicious circle between a desire for individuality and the societal constraints imposed on these clones.

The dehumanization of the characters is another thematic layer that Ishiguro masterfully unveils. The clones, raised in isolation, are stripped of conventional markers of humanity. Their experiences are eerily reminiscent of real-world ethical debates surrounding the value of life and the consequences of reducing individuals to mere commodities for the benefit of others. Ishiguro prompts readers to confront uncomfortable questions about the limits of scientific advancements and the potential dehumanizing effects of such progress. Ethical dilemmas permeate every facet of "Never Let Me Go." Cloning and genetic engineering, as depicted in the novel, raise profound questions about the morality of manipulating human life for medical purposes. The commodification of organs becomes a stark metaphor for the ethical complexities of sacrificing individual lives for societal benefits. Ishiguro's social and political commentary embedded in the narrative invites readers to reflect on contemporary issues surrounding medical ethics, societal values, and the potential consequences of unchecked scientific progress. "Never Let Me Go" is not a conventional dystopian thriller; it is a meditation on the human condition. Ishiguro's prose is delicately woven, inviting readers to empathize with characters facing the inevitability of their fate. The emotional impact is heightened by the characters' acceptance of their roles, creating a poignant narrative that lingers long after the last page is turned.

At its core, Ishiguro's narrative weaves a delicate tapestry of human experiences through the lives of Kathy H., Ruth, and Tommy, students raised in the eerie confines of Hailsham. The novel's emotional resonance lies not only in the stark reality of the characters' predetermined destinies but also in the deeply human responses to their circumstances. One of the primary themes driving the exploration of humanity is the characters' quest for identity. Kathy, the novel's narrator, serves as a compelling lens through which readers witness the struggle for selfhood within a society that views

clones as mere commodities. Ishiguro skillfully captures the nuances of Kathy's introspection, inviting readers to empathize with her desire for individuality despite the constraints imposed by a predetermined fate. The dehumanization of the characters further underscores the novel's exploration of humanity. Raised in isolation, the clones in "Never Let Me Go" are denied the conventional markers of what it means to be human. Ishiguro forces readers to confront uncomfortable questions about the moral implications of reducing individuals to their biological functions and the consequences of a society that views certain lives as expendable for the greater good.

Ethical dilemmas, intricately woven into the fabric of the narrative, serve as a catalyst for reflecting on the essence of humanity. The cloning and organ harvesting depicted in the novel prompt readers to grapple with the morality of manipulating life for medical purposes. Ishiguro's subtle yet impactful social and political commentary invites us to consider the ethical boundaries of scientific progress, challenging prevailing notions about the value of life and the potential dehumanizing effects of unchecked advancements. Ultimately, "Never Let Me Go" is a literary masterpiece that goes beyond the dystopian genre. It is a meditation on the very essence of humanity—our desires, fears, and the universal quest for meaning. Ishiguro's prose, elegant and evocative, pierces through the heart of ethical dilemmas, leaving readers with a profound sense of introspection. As we journey alongside Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy, we are compelled to confront the fragility of our humanity and the ethical responsibilities that come with our scientific pursuits. The novel's strength lies in its exploration of love and loss against the backdrop of an ethically fraught society. Ishiguro's characters confront their destinies with a quiet resignation, heightening the impact of the novel's emotional landscape. Kathy's introspective narration becomes a vessel for the characters' shared experiences, and her journey serves as a conduit for readers to contemplate the depths of human connection. As readers traverse the pages of "Never Let Me Go," Ishiguro's narrative challenges preconceived notions about humanity, morality, and the consequences of unchecked scientific progress. The

novel's beauty lies in its ability to transcend the dystopian genre, offering a nuanced exploration of the human spirit within the confines of an ethically complex world.

In conclusion, "Never Let Me Go" is a literary triumph that transcends genre boundaries. Kazuo Ishiguro's exploration of ethical dilemmas within a dystopian framework challenges readers to confront uncomfortable truths about the potential consequences of scientific advancements on our humanity. Through the eyes of Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy, Ishiguro invites us to ponder the delicate dance between individuality and societal expectations, ultimately leaving an indelible mark on our understanding of what it means to be human.

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