

NEVER LET ME GO

Kazuo Ishiguro

Setting: New England

Dystopian, donate 3-4 organs

Book separated into 3 parts

Characters

They live in the imitation of the outside world

Because of how they are shaped within

→ signs: Ruth's dream future is just based on what she sees in the magazines

Her dream office

STYLE

A) Point of view: we see everything through this first-person. (direct, observant) 2-3 examples

Style

Always says " anyways" " maybe because I was keen.." " I remember"

= it's as if she's storytelling, this is her diary

Sometimes bringing it back to the present

When Kathy describes Tommy and his character, very narrative and direct and you can tell it's all from her memory. Simple language

A) Narrative perspective *unreliable narrator

The whole story's style is written in Kathy's narrative perspective.

It's as if we were traveling back in time with Kathy uncovering what had happened.

It also goes back to the present from time to time, where she picks up hidden clues

As readers, what we comprehend, reflect and feel while reading is based on Kathy's narration.

Her narrative is a process of recovery and an attempt to make sense of her memories. She admits to forgetting and misremembering details, showing that memory is just as fragile as it is powerful.

She has total control over her narration

Her narrative speaks for itself, showing the depths of her humanity in ways that Madame and Miss Emily are not capable of doing.

*because this story is written from a narrative perspective, the long term effect from Ishiguro chosen style is that we develop a sense of personal connection with Kathy.

EFFECTS FROM NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Characters: Ishiguro made it seem as if Tommy was gonna go out with Kathy, but at the end he chose Ruth.

Because the book was written from her perspective

So we get these surprising endings

Through the book, it was established and through Kathy's natural observation characteristics that she understood Tommy better.

From the start already, narrative

Ex. My name is Kathy H, I'm 31 years old and I've been a carer now for over eleven years.

*but her narration isn't chronological

Skips ahead

Nostalgia

First-person, we can picture as if we're in her shoes

Ex. "I'm not sure when the bad tempers started. My own memory of it is that Tommy was always known for his temper. Even in the infants, but he claimed to me they only began after the teasing got bad. Anyway, it was those temper tantrums that really got people going, escalating everything and around the time I'm talking about - the summer of our senior 2, when we were thirteen, that was when the persecution reached its peak. (pg 21)

Her first-person narration also highlights the absence of other characters' memories. Ruth and Tommy only appear as reflected through Kathy's memory, which means that their own thoughts and motivations remain somewhat ambiguous.

Dialogue: connect better and how she recalls her memory, creating the scene and the tone and feel of what happened at the time. Contributes to imagery

Direct with her emotions : no confusing lines, we know how she feels directly, doesn't spin in circles like poetry. To the point

Ex. I was genuinely angry because I thought he was lying to me, just when I deserved to be taken into his confidence. (pg 24)

Description with scenery/ character

“Miss Lucy.. she had a squat, almost bull doggy figure and her old black hair when it grew upwards so it never covered her ears or chunky neck.

Kathy

protagonist narrator, from a career to a donor
But written from her perspective
Very subjective
Notice everything

Tommy

Self-conscious and bad-tempered.
Straightforward
Expresses his confusion
Kathy has romantic feelings, but won't confess

Ruth

A natural leader among people
Both raised in Hailsham
A close friend with Kathy
The mind game she invented along the boarding members show her ability to control
Dances to her favourite song “ never let me go”
Will do things to fit in better

Chapter 1 - 2

- Kathy, 31 carer
- Held this job for over 12 years

- Gained special opportunities to choose her donors
- Tends to choose donors from Hailsham, where she grew up, and others might resent her
- But that's her way of saying how she connects and reflects back her time with Tommy and Ruth
- Recalls many events but they aren't all chronological
- Tommy accidentally hits Kathy, getting mud all over her shirt, because of the football match
- He apologizes so much but Kathy says it's alright

Chapter 3- 4

Introduces Ruth,

- Goes back into the present and when Kathy drives past certain places she gets reminded
- And she'll catch herself thinking to about her again
- Signs of the controlling game already
- Ruth says I'll let you be here guardian horse

The narrative style of introduction ruth

"she wasn't someone I was friends with from the start. I can remember doing things with hannah and laura but not ruth

Chapter 18.

Present day, runs into hailshman student laura

Also a carer

Kathy decides to become ruth's carer

Kathy's encounter with Laura recalls their shared childhood, bringing back memories of both Hailsham and the Cottages. It also highlights the fragility of such connections, showing Laura to be an exhausted shadow of the girl whom Kathy remembers. **Their conversation again highlights**

Kathy's unreliability as a narrator.

Losing everyone she loves

She clings onto her memories, the only thing she remembers